

JIKO – “Wisdom – Light”

NOVEMBER 2023

VOLUME 69, ISSUE 11

Monthly Newsletter of
The Aiea Hongwanji Mission

AIEA HONGWANJI
MISSION

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together



MINISTER’S MESSAGE

“Thank you” to Thanksgiving!

Reflecting upon this time of the year, it seems that November and December including the New Year, is a time when food plays an especially important role in festivities. At Thanksgiving, we have turkey, pumpkin pie, corn on the cob to name a few. Then, as Christmas approaches, we have family dinners and parties. One week later, it is New Years. Again, with food such as “Year-end buckwheat noodles” (toshikoshi soba) and “Japanese soup containing mochi rice cakes” (o-zoni) being an important part of the celebration.

With the Thanksgiving Holiday just around the corner, let me share an interesting story entitled “Thank you, Thanksgiving” by David Milgrim published by Scholastic. It’s a story about a little girl who as she goes on an errand, along the way, says “thank you” to almost everyone and everything. For example, she says thank you to the boots that keep her feet warm, she says thank you to the music she hears playing, she says thank you to the pretty clouds in the sky, she says thank you to rabbits and ducks she passes along the way and so forth and lastly, she thanks the Thanksgiving Holiday. She is expressing gratitude for the wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday that has brought her so much joy and happiness as she enjoys the warmth of family, the good food and all the things that have made the Thanksgiving Holiday possible including the Thanksgiving Holiday itself. And so, at the end of the story, she says “Thank you, Thanksgiving.” Now, this may seem a bit strange, in that normally, we do not say thank you to a holiday or observance. However, when we deeply reflect what she is expressing is very appropriate. If it wasn’t for the Thanksgiving Holiday, all that she enjoyed and treasured would not have happened and so as she says we should appreciate even the holiday itself which provides us with the opportunity to gather as family and friends to express our gratitude.

This story, then reminded me, of something that we emphasize in Buddhism as part of the “Four Gratuities,” and that would be Gratitude to other Sentient Beings. For it is due to other sentient beings that we are able to live our life and do the things we do in our life. As Buddhists, let us not forget to express gratitude or say “thank you” not only for the food, but also to the food. There is only one word that differs in these two expressions “Thank you for the food” versus “Thank you to the food”, but the meaning of the expression changes drastically (because of it) and that is what I would like to emphasize with this message. We are used to hearing and using the expression “thank you for the food,” but saying “thank you to the food” is not a common expression in English or America. This is a reflection of our attitude or perspective about food.

In the Buddhist Tradition, gratitude is expressed both to the food and for the food. The two traditional Japanese expressions which beautifully express this, are the Japanese Words of Thanksgiving Before and After Meals which at its simplest is saying the words “Itadakimasu” before a meal and “Gochisosama Deshita” after a meal. At the end of a meal, we say “Gochisosama Deshita.” This expression, based upon the Chinese characters that are

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used to write it, has the meaning of “running horse”. Thus, the image that comes to my mind is of our host or cook busily running around shopping gathering all the ingredients by horse with a carriage or cart to prepare the meal which you have just enjoyed and thus the saying of, “Gochisosama Deshita” acknowledges the generosity, the effort extended by our host or cook. It expresses



FOR ASSISTANCE OF THE MINISTER

Please call:

Reverend

Eric Matsumoto

808-487-2626 (AHM
office)

If he is not
available, leave a
message on the
answering
machine.

For religious
Emergencies
(Makurago or bedside
services), please call
Rev. Matsumoto on his
mobile phone:

808-488-5685

**Aiea Hongwanji
Mission,**
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appreciation for the food one has just eaten especially acknowledging, thanking the host or cook. On the other hand, to me, the expression "Itadakimasu" expresses appreciation to the food. The expression "Itadakimasu" can be translated as "I humbly and gratefully (even reverently) partake of this food" expressing gratitude to the food itself. It expresses my gratitude to the food with my expressing my humbleness in receiving this food. I lower myself below the food before partaking of it to express my humility and gratitude.

It, also, expresses my awareness or understanding that this food that I am about to eat is not a given. It is something very rare and very precious. It is another life. Other life is supporting my life. It is my acknowledging that because of the sacrifices of others, in this case, the plants and animals including the elements of nature, my life and my living is made possible. It is "arigatai" so precious and rare. Further, the attitude of "mottainai" which commonly manifest itself as feeling that one is "undeserving of this food" and being sure "not to waste."

Some people have mentioned that after hearing a message such as this, they feel guilty about eating. Please be assured that the intent of the message is not to make us feel guilty about eating. It aims at trying to bring about a certain awareness, an understanding, a realization, as to the preciousness of all life including the food we eat and just how grateful we ought to be.

To conclude, this is how the Buddhist teachings can help us to live better and more meaningful lives. So this Holiday Season, as we enjoy the Season and all that it offers us, I hope that it will be not only a happy and safe Holiday Season, but with a little bit of reflection guided by the Dharma, it will also be a very meaningful Season, one we can celebrate both in joy, reverence and gratitude. Please have a good, safe and meaningful Holiday Season! Namo Amida Butsu.

In gassho, Eric Matsumoto

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To Our Sangha,

On September 29th Aiea Buddhist Temple held its inaugural "Young Peoples Gathering" in the Lotus multi-purpose room. This event was led by Reverend Eric Matsumoto and Emi Hashi. The subsequent gathering was held on October 27th. The next gathering will be held on November 17th at 5:30pm at the same location. Its purpose is to provide a convenient venue for the younger generation to gather informally to reflect on the Dharma and for fellowship with others of their age group. It is open to anyone between the ages of 18 to about 40 who share the Hongwanji values of harmony, mutual respect, etc.



On Sunday, November 19th we will have a special guest speaker, Reverend Sol Kalu, for our Sangha Perpetual Memorial Service (Eitaikyo).

On December 3rd, we will be livestreaming the Hawaii Buddhist Council Bodhi Day Service in the Aiea Buddhist Temple for those who prefer not to attend it in person. Also in December, the Temple Beautification Day has been revised to Sunday the 17th instead of the 10th which is now scheduled for the Bodhi Day Family Service followed by our welcome luncheon for Reverend Eric Matsumoto and his wife, Tamayo. Please call in or email your RSVP for this luncheon and place your box lunch order by December 4th (See page 9 for details). Our traditional Mochitsuki (mochi-pounding & making) event is scheduled for Saturday, December 30th, from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Volunteers are requested to show up as early as 3:00 am to help with rinsing the rice and cooking it. Help is also needed on Friday evening to wash and soak the rice among other preparatory activities. The following day, our New Year's Eve Service will be at 3:00 pm.

Notable events in January 2024 include our New Year's Day service at 10:00 am, Hoonko Memorial Service for Shinran Shonin on the 14th, and the New Year's party and annual membership meeting on the 27th which will also serve to honor our Keirokai members.

Work on our social hall foundation strengthening is wrapping up and repairs to the cracked walls will be underway in November. The social hall and adjacent kitchen vinyl composition tile flooring will then be removed and replaced with new VCT. Other upcoming maintenance projects for the first quarter of 2024 include the tent fumigation of the temple, Lotus, and minister's residence, replacing the carpet in the Lotus exterior lanai area, and replacing the interior and exterior carpet of the temple.

As a reminder, if you have not done so already, please pay your membership dues for 2023. The 2024 dues will become due in January 2024. See page 9 for dues amounts.

As the tax season approaches, many of you who are faced with taking Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your retirement accounts could avoid paying taxes on the amounts donated to qualified non-profit organizations, such as Aiea Hongwanji Mission, directly from your retirement account. See page 9 for more details on this.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all the hardworking volunteers who unselfishly give of their time and energy to plan and execute the various events and activities for all to participate and enjoy, as well as to the diligent "Hosha" who quietly work behind the scenes in maintaining our grounds and facilities.

In Gassho with our hands together,
Boyd Marumoto

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii - HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 ** Phone: (808) 522-9200 Fax: (808) 522-9209

Web: www.hongwanjihawaii.com Email: hqs@honpahi.org

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

“Authentic Individuality”

Today, we witness many sad news of hate, violence, and discrimination. A human criticizes, discriminates, hates, and hurts other human beings. It is truly a tragic thing. We are all different in our appearances, socioeconomic status, race, language, lifestyle, etc. Even family members who live in the same household have different thoughts and viewpoints. But we are all unique and beautiful. We all shine beautifully.

We seem like surfers who try to ride on a massive range of waves: waves of our life’s challenges. Some waves are small, and others are too large for a single person to overcome. Sometimes, we succeed in riding on the waves; sometimes, we are overwhelmed and fail to ride on it. It would be wonderful if we could work together. It would be wonderful if we could freely extend our compassionate hands to those needing help. But it seems like we are all too busy in the pursuit of our own happiness. We are all too busy catching the waves right before us. In the ocean of our lives, we often fail to understand and care for the people around us. Perhaps we are too focused on catching the waves we want and feel that the people around us should not belong in the ocean we enjoy. Driven by such narrow viewpoints, we have no moment of peace. Such viewpoints are the primal cause of hatred and discrimination.

Professor Kenneth Tanaka talked about “authentic individuality.” Buddhism is the teaching to cultivate this authentic individuality. Authentic individuality means that each of us is unique, each of us can contribute to others, and each of us is precious and has dignity. “Oneness” that we talk about in Buddhism does not mean being the same. Say you are an apple; Oneness does not mean that you and others must be pineapple. Oneness means that an apple can exist as an apple, and a pineapple can exist as a pineapple. Apple has its dignity and place, and pineapple has its dignity and place. The Buddhist teaching of oneness teaches us that we are all, no matter who we are, illuminated and embraced by the Buddha’s Wisdom and Compassion just as we are. In that awareness, we become aware of our self-centeredness and limitations and, at the same time, endeavor to cultivate peace and harmony, compassion for self and others, and live with confidence, conviction, and dignity. I understand this as the meaning of “authentic individuality.”

A narrow viewpoint, characterized by limited personal experiences and a strong selfish attachment to oneself, can have far-reaching consequences that lead to hatred and discrimination. Buddhism teaches us the dignity of all lives and that all lives must be affirmed, respected, and appreciated.

Namo Amida Butsu
Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani

NEW YOUTH SPECIALIST



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii welcomed Emi Hashi as the new Children and Youth Activities Specialist (Youth Specialist).

Emi was a very active participant in the HHMH programs, such as Jr. YBA (Maui & Federation President), YBICSE, BWA Exchange Student, YESS Camp counselor, and BSC Fellowship Club. She is originally from Maui and currently participates in the Aiea Hongwanji Mission’s services and programs.

Her official starting date was Wednesday, October 4, 2023, and her office will be at the Buddhist Study Center (BSC). She works on Mondays and Wednesdays as a part-time employee.

As the Youth Specialist, Emi will develop, organize, and direct youth and youth-related activities such as Jr. YBA, YESS Camp, BSC Fellowship Club, Dharma School, and Young Adults. She will assist the operation of the BSC and OBE in matters relating to children, college students, and young adults.

We sincerely hope that this new assignment will be beneficial for the HHMH in propagating the teaching of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, especially to the children and young adults who will bear the future of the HHMH.

MAUI WILDFIRE

The State Ministers Association and the Maui District Minister’s Association hosted the Maui Wildfires Memorial Service on September 24, 2023, at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin. Under the officiation of Bishop Umitani and the HHMH Ministers, the participants of about 400 people (in person and online) placed their hands together in Gassho. Rev. Tomo Hojo, the President of the State Ministers Association, gave the opening message. Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani and Rev. Ai Hironaka delivered Dharma Messages. The service touched all of our hearts. The Nembutsu came out of our mouths naturally during the service. The service is now

available to watch on the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii YouTube channel. You can feel it through this recorded video. Please share this video link with your temple members and friends. <https://youtu.be/clyxKab2un0>

The Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist Women's Federation of Japan provided financial aid to Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii to be used by Rev. Ai Hironaka to purchase the ministerial robes and supplies that were lost due to the fire.



Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani, together with Dr. Warren Tamamoto (Hawaii Kyodan President), Rev. Daido Baba (Executive Assistant to the Bishop), and Mrs. Yoshiko Umitani (Hawaii Federation of BWA Honorary President), joined the Kahului Hongwanji Mission's Sunday Service on October 1, 2023, for the official presentation of robes to Rev. Ai Hironaka.

In the spirit of compassion, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii established the Maui Wildfires Disaster Relief Fund. All donations collected will go to support Lahaina Hongwanji Mission and relief efforts on Maui. If you could help support this effort, we would truly appreciate it.

You will find a large button for Maui Wildfires Disaster Relief near the top of our Donate page: <https://hongwanjihawaii.com/donate/>

QR code for Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund through PayPal



Updates for Maui Wildfires Disaster will be shared on our website at <http://honpahi.link/fire>
Mahalo for your generosity and support during this time of tragedy.

2023-2024 SOCIAL CONCERNS FUND DRIVE

The month of November is a special time for reflecting on gratitude. Observing Eitaikyo and celebrating Thanksgiving are opportunities to appreciate the innumerable causes and conditions which sustain our lives and how we are deeply connected to the world around us. It is in this spirit of profound gratitude that we kick-off our Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive.

Your generosity enables the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii with the ability to support worthy organizations and programs making a difference in our community. Your selfless giving also enables us to provide compassionate aid during times of disaster and the ability to skillfully respond to issues affecting our local and world communities.

Through our Social Welfare Fund, we were able to immediately support relief efforts on Maui in the aftermath of devastating wildfires, giving over \$25,000 to various organizations and affected individuals. Your generous support ensures we have the ability to respond quickly when disasters strike.

We continued our advocacy for improving mental health care, addressing homelessness, and alleviating food insecurity in our community by donating to the Samaritan Counseling Center of Hawaii, Spill the Tea Café, Hope Services, and the various food banks on each island. This year, we also awarded several Golden Chain Grants to help nurture Sangha-based compassionate action.

The fund drive will begin November 1, 2023, and run till August 31, 2024. We request that temples submit their collected donations by the end of September 2024. Envelopes have been provided to temples wishing to use them. Extra envelopes are available in limited supply. Please make all checks payable to YOUR TEMPLE. Your temple will then remit one combined check to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

Your support of our Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive is greatly appreciated. Mahalo!

In Gassho,

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, Bishop
Dr. Warren Tamamoto, President
Rev. Blayne Higa, Social Concerns Committee Chair

OBITUARY NOTICE

Mr. Jay Kunio Hamai, a member of Moiliili Hongwanji Mission, passed away on May 12, 2023. Mr. Hamai served as the Treasurer of Moiliili Hongwanji Mission for close to 45 years. The Ingo of EI-HO-IN 映芳院 which translates as "One who shines brightly with rare fragrance" in recognition of his life of Nembutsu was conferred by Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani on August 31, 2023.

Mrs. Mary Fujitani, wife of retired minister, Rev. Shigeaki Fujitani, passed away on September 4, 2023, at the age of 94 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Her Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, November 25, 2023, in Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as a private service. Visitation will be held from 2 pm, followed by the funeral service at 3 pm. If you would like to join the service, please RSVP to Mrs. Caryn Okuda carynokuda@gmail.com by November 15, 2023.

Mahalo nui loa!

It is with heartfelt gratitude that Tamayo and I express our deep gratitude to the Sangha of Aiea Hongwanji Mission especially the Board of Directors for your support of Pacific Buddhist Academy as we were honored at PBA's Lighting Our Way Awards Banquet on October 13, 2023. It was such an unexpected honor to be recognized as Honorees and to receive such support from the temple.

As I thought of your generosity and support, the words of Shinran Shonin from one of his letters came to mind, "I have gratefully received... your gift... Please convey my gratitude to the people. With this reply, please give my thanks to them also."

Needless to say, PBA by itself is worthy of our support, but that you manifested such tremendous support for the School as we were honored deeply touches our heart. Though it has been only a few months since we have moved here, but your commitment to the community and support of the well-being of the community truly shines through and touches us greatly.

Once again, your generous support of PBA at this year's Lighting Our Way Awards Banquet means a lot to us and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Arigatou gozaimashita/Thank you very much!

In gassho, Eric & Tamayo Matsumoto

The following is Rev. Eric Matsumoto's Appreciation Message given at the Awards Banquet at the Prince Waikiki.
Aloha Kakou!

First, allow me to congratulate tonight's other Honorees (Alicia Moy of Hawaii Gas, Suzanne Vares-Lum of the East West Center and Organizational Honoree, Kupu). It is an honor to share this stage with you and also thank you to PBA for this honor. Congratulations and thank you!

You know, I really don't know where to begin. There are so many to thank, but I have to start somewhere and thus let me begin by expressing my gratitude to what I consider the fountainhead and ultimate source of my gratitude which would be All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion-the Amida Buddha, and Shinran Shonin who shared the wondrous Nembutsu Dharma which has enriched my life beyond words. However, tonight, I must also thank the Third Jewel (Treasure) of Buddhism, and that would be the Sangha, the Membership, both clergy and lay, including Friends and Supporters of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. These 3 Jewels/Treasures, truly, have brought a brilliance, a radiance, an illuminating presence into my life. They have lighted the Way for me and tonight I give thanks and credit to them for this honor that my wife and I are receiving.



As (for myself) I see it as I am a mere recipient of the guidance, kindness, and benevolence of others. I have not done anything special. If I have accomplished anything and my words are worth anything I am only a vehicle. I only share what others have shared with me and I do it out of gratitude. Thank you to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii for allowing me to be your Bishop. It has been a privilege to represent you in the Larger Community.



Also, tonight, I also express my appreciation to the Larger Community for welcoming me and allowing me to be a part of your world and I humbly ask that you, please keep the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii in your hearts.

Needless to say, all of us here tonight deeply understand the significance of education. However, education is more than just knowledge. The final expression and goal of true education, to me, is to impart wisdom or, at minimum, guidance which provides for a better world not only for oneself, but others too. Thus, when I began my term as Bishop and was asked to provide an inspirational quote for PBA, I selected the saying "Simultaneously, benefiting oneself and others" with the hope that the students of PBA would endeavor and live their lives in a way that would benefit both themselves and others. It is not a way of life in which one does something for oneself and then does something else for others, but one in which everything one does, simultaneously, just as it is, bring happiness and benefit to one and all. To be sure, it is a virtue of the Buddha, but I hope it can guide us.

Finally, tonight, I would be amiss if I did not express my gratitude to my family-my grandparents, parents and brother Alan, of course, Tamayo and her family in Japan, and my children Chika and Caden for all their understanding and support for without them I would not be standing here tonight either.

To close, this award and honor tonight is not about me or us. It is what others in our life have shared and provided for us. This evening, we accept this award in gratitude to all those who have made our life! Let's continue to all work together!

In gassho "Thank you/Mahalo nui and "Namo Amida Butsu."



Photo courtesy of Pacific Buddhist Academy taken by Mr. Alan Kubota.

Junior YBA Happenings

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! In this season of appreciation, please take some time every day to think about what (or who) you are grateful for. If you would like to share any of your gratitude at our next Jr. YBA meeting, your advisors would love to hear what you are thankful for.



We are still promoting being good stewards of the environment by bringing our dishes for after temple refreshments and using our reusable flatware! As an on-going fundraiser, we are selling sterling steel utensil sets which includes a fork, spoon, knife and chopsticks in a case that comes in red, blue, or black. Each set is \$7. This is the same set that was given to the summer convention attendees with the hope that it will be used instead of plasticware. Please contact a Jr. YBA member if you would like to purchase one of these sets! Available while supplies last!



A few of us were able to participate in the Ohana Day activity at the Loko I'a Pā'aiau Fishpond at the end of September. We had a lot of fun learning about the history of the fishpond and hearing the stories that were shared. It was also fun to fish and work side-by-side with the kupuna and see the community working together.



We are still planning various activities for our United but we were able to have a successful Hawaii Buddhist Youth (HBY) Month fundraiser for our Oahu District temples. Thank you very much to all who placed orders and made donations. We really appreciate your support! We made over 1100 pieces of manju and don't forget we will be having the fundraiser for Mililani and Ewa Hongwanji members at a later date.



Just a reminder that you are welcome to join Jr. YBA even if you are not a member of the temple so bring your friends! Membership is open for students entering 6th grade through students up to 2 years after high school graduation. Please contact Jr. YBA member or Auntie Arynn Ishikawa (advisor) at arynn.m.ishikawa@gmail.com if you'd like more information. Follow us on Instagram! @jrybafoahu and @hawaiiifedjryba



Manju making volunteers



2023 MINISTER LAY ASSISTANT RETREAT

On October 7 & 8, eleven Minister's Lay Assistants (MLA) from Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii Island gathered at Hawaii Betsuin in Honolulu to participate in various workshops to prepare for helping their ministers with temple services. The retreat offered the opportunity to review and enrich the knowledge of the participants in the rituals and traditions of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha.

This year, two tracks were offered to nurture those just starting as MLAs and also support Certified MLAs to further hone their skills and knowledge.



New instructors Reverends Hashimoto and Soga led the well-

received workshops on altar setup, service order, and chanting. Reverend Kuniyuki provided insights on providing Dharma education and talks. Bishop Umitani reviewed the role of MLAs as part of the Kyodan policy on the Shin Buddhist Ministry in Hawaii. Dr. Dexter Mar discussed opportunities for MLAs beyond worship services to help share the Dharma at our temples.

The 2024 MLA Retreat will be held on October 12-13, 2024. Please mark your calendars and plan to join this group of fellow travelers in learning how to support your ministers and temples.

<p>MENTAL HEALTH</p> <p>FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CONTACT TEMPLE OFFICE AT (808) 949-1659 DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED</p>	<p>MOILILI HONGWANJI PRESENTS</p> <p>FREE FALL SEMINAR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023 9:00AM TO 11:00AM 902 UNIVERSITY AVE.</p> <p>GUEST SPEAKER BUD BOWLES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNITED SELF HELP</p> <p>TOPIC MENTAL HEALTH *MOST IGNORED ORGAN IN THE BODY - ALL ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH*</p>	<p><i>Manju Makers</i></p> <p><i>Making Preschool Garden Beds</i></p>	<p>LINK TO PURCHASE TICKETS: https://ohanaarts.ticketleap.com/peaceonyourwings/</p> <p>PEACE ON YOUR WINGS A New Musical</p> <p>Moanalua High School Performing Arts Center November 4th, 2023 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM</p> <p>TICKETS & INFO: \$35/\$25 General \$15 (Students 18 and under) ohanaarts.org</p> <p>Presented by ohanaARTS</p>
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Attendees of the Young People's Gathering held on Sept. 29, 2023 at AHM Lotus Room



BOWING IN GRATITUDE

Members at Lahaina Hongwanji Mission were prepping that week for the upcoming Obon Festival on August 11th and 12th. It is ironic and poignant that we fretted a little about possible rain from Hurricane Dora. Then, on Tuesday the 8th the winds came . . . and the rest of the story is embedded in us forever, through personal experience, sharing of tales, and from the media. The fires in our beloved Lahaina town displaced about half of our 80 members. They are scattered over parts of Maui, the islands of Hawaii as well as the Mainland. We lost our Temple, Social Hall, Office, Minister's Residence and School Building. Weeks later we learned that one member, Matsu Osato, perished.

Even as we visibly or stoically weep over losses in lives, property, livelihood – one powerfully encouraging force is the overwhelming scope and depth of support we have received. This support has come from the innermost circles of family and ohana, friends, neighbors, from Lahaina Hongwanji members and relations. The support widened to the sangha of Maui Hongwanji temples, Honpa Hongwanji and statewide temples . . . and finally from the larger communities and agencies, local to world-wide.

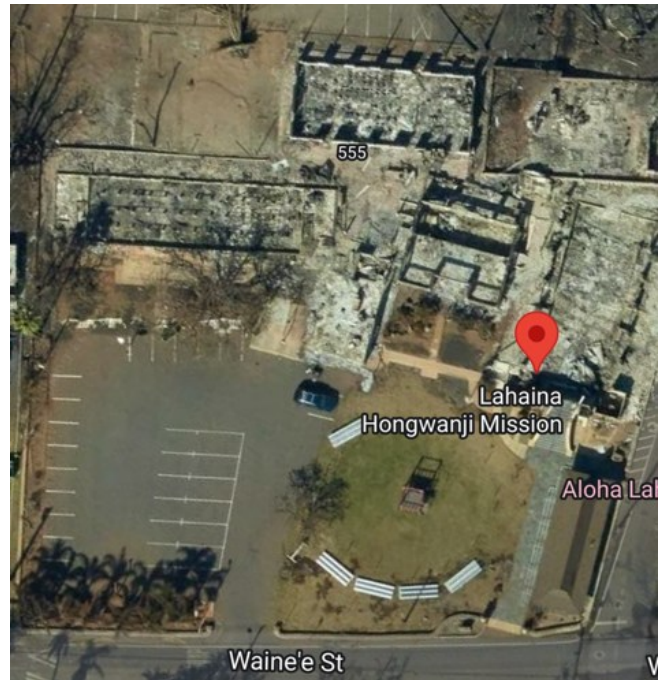
We bow in gratitude to the following:

- Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani, Honpa Hongwanji Headquarters staff, Social Concerns Committee and Maui Wildfire Emergency Response Adhoc Committee for setting up the Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund.
- Kahului, Wailuku, Lanai and Makawao Hongwanji Temples for offering familiar and comfortable places for Lahaina members to gather, and for invitations to attend their services, as well as donations of gift cards.
- Rev. Kerry Kiyohara and Rev. Shinkai Murakami, who offered their presence at weekly gatherings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Wailuku and Kahului Hongwanji Temples.
- Rev. Ai Hironaka, who has been a voice for Lahaina Hongwanji and its sangha . . . and, by common experience, for others displaced by the disaster.
- Our temple members, for being LAHAINA HONGWANJI STRONG and helping each other through group texting (cell phones rule!) and heart to heart hanashi.
- Island community groups, foundations and many organizations from afar who graciously bestowed monetary donations for displaced persons --- temple members and others.
- Last but not least, gratitude for: "ground zero" firemen, policemen, National Guardsmen, Red Cross, FEMA, and all others who served and are still serving.

To close on a "feel good" note – one post-fires photo online shows a portion of Lahaina Hongwanji that appears to have resisted the flames. It is a scene with a still relatively green lawn, which was so diligently watered and cared for by our member. On the lawn stands the red yagura ... dutifully repainted late summer for Obon. And the columbarium/nokotsudo still stands upright and seemingly intact. At roadside is the temple 'kiosk', and visible inside the glass protection is the name, LAHAINA HONGWANJI, as well as a poster advertising OBON on August 11 & 12, 2023.

We are still awaiting the day we will be allowed back at Lahaina Hongwanji Mission to assess what our future will be. In the meantime, we have a new mailing address since our Post Office was damaged in the fire. Our new mailing address is: Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, P O Box 12911, Lahaina, HI 96761. Our phone number remains as 808-661-6641 but is forwarded to Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

In Gratitude..... LAHAINA HONGWANJI SANGHA



WELCOME REVEREND ERIC MATSUMOTO AND TAMAYO!

Come join us for lunch or just drop by to welcome and meet our new resident minister Reverend Eric Matsumoto and his wife, Tamayo.

WHEN: Sunday, December 10, 2023, at 11:00 am to 11:30 am for pick up; 11:30 am to 12:00 noon for lunch

HOW MUCH: \$25 for a Chef's Special Box Lunch from Natsunoya Restaurant

WHERE: Aiea Hongwanji Mission Social Hall

PLEASE INDICATE BELOW HOW MANY BOX LUNCHES YOU WISH TO ORDER:

QUANTITY		COST/EACH	TOTAL
	BOX LUNCHES X	\$25.00 =	
	Check mark if you are staying for lunch		
	Check mark if you are only picking up box lunch		

Include your payment with this form and mail or deliver to:

AIEA HONGWANJI MISSION

99-186 PUAkala STREET

AIEA HI 96701

RSVP by 12/4/2023 via PHONE and leave a message at (808) 487-2626 OR EMAIL to aieajiko@gmail.com to be sure your order is placed.

THANK YOU!

Qualified Charitable Distributions

A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is a distribution made directly by the trustee of your individual retirement arrangement (IRA), other than an SEP or SIMPLE IRA, to certain qualified organizations. You must have been at least age 70½ when the distribution was made. Your total QCDs for the year can't be more than \$100,000. If all the requirements are met, a QCD may be nontaxable, however if the QCD is nontaxable, you may not be able to claim it as a charitable contribution deduction. You may be able to claim a charitable contribution deduction if you claim the income you are deducting as a qualified contribution. See IRS Pub. 590-B, Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs), for more information about QCDs, and consult with your tax advisor to address your individual financial situation.

Aiea Hongwanji Mission is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation [Federal Identification Number (FIN) 99-111727]. Please contact AHM office at (808) 487-2626 if you need more information or email to aieajiko@gmail.com.

ANNUAL DUES REMINDER

The annual membership dues for Aiea Hongwanji Mission are \$125.00 for a **Family Unit** which consists of the Primary member, a spouse, and dependent children under 25 years of age. However, if the Primary member of a Family Unit is less than 40 years of age the annual dues is only \$50.00. Dues can be paid by checks made out to, "Aiea Hongwanji Mission" or simply "AHM", and mailed to 99-186 Puakala Street, Aiea, Hawaii 96701. (Note that the online payment feature at the AieaBuddhistTemple.org website has been deleted.)

REQUEST FOR CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ASSIGNED NICHE IN THE AHM COLUMBARIUM

To all families and/or individuals who have paid to use Columbarium niches or have inherited the responsibility to manage the use of the niches:

AHM is in the process of updating its database regarding contact information for Columbarium niches that are currently in use or those niches that payment have been made for their use, but are vacant. Please note that purchasers for the use of a niche who are active and able are required to be a dues paying member of AHM,. However the designated contacts are not required to be members of the AHM, although they are highly encouraged to be. It is important that the contact information is kept current and available to the AHM because all urn deposits and withdrawals must be authorized in writing by one of the contact persons. Voluntary surrender of a niche must also be in writing by one of the contact persons. Contacts for each niche must provide a current mailing address and telephone number. It is highly encouraged that contacts also provide an email address which will be entered into our Columbarium database. Please note that failure to maintain status as an AHM member as noted above, or failure to maintain current contact persons' information may result in forfeiture of the niche which would then revert to the AHM's Columbarium inventory.

Please use the form below to provide contact information for the niche that payment has been made for its use. If the Niche Number at the top of the form is unknown, please enter the name of the person who initially paid for the use of the niche.

Please return this contact information to Dean Yamaguchi c/o Aiea Hongwanji Mission, 99-186 Puakala Street, Aiea, HI 96701. Alternatively, a scanned version of the contact information may be returned to Dean Yamaguchi via email at deanyamaguchi4@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please contact Dean Yamaguchi via the above email address or by phone at (818)-371-2841. Thank you in advance regarding this request for Columbarium niche contact updates.

Niche Number: _____

The Niche must have two (2) contact persons with current mailing addresses and telephone numbers on file with the AHM.

Failure to maintain status as an AHM Gojikai member or to maintain current contact persons information may result in forfeiture of the Niche, which would then revert back to AHM's columbarium inventory.

Contact Persons

#1

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

email address: _____

Phone number: (Res.) _____ (Bus) _____ (Cell) _____

Date: _____

#2

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

email address: _____

Phone number: (Res.) _____ (Bus) _____ (Cell) _____

Date: _____

December 2023

3	Sun	9:30 am	Hawaii Buddhist Council Bodhi Day (Buddha's Enlightenment) Service – Livestreamed at AHM Temple
5	Tue	9:00-10:30am	Preschool temple services
8	Fri	10:00 am	Lotus Adult Day Care Activity in Social Hall
10	Sun	9:00 am	Bodhi Day Special Family Service
10	Sun	11:00 am	Welcome Luncheon for Rev. Eric & Tamayo Matsumoto; RSVP by Dec. 4th
11	Mon	7:00 pm	Oahu District Hongwanji Council Meeting
17	Sun	8:00 am	Quarterly Temple Beautification Day (No Service)
19	Tue	7:00 pm	Aiea Hongwanji Mission Board of Directors Meeting
21	Thurs	10:00 am	Lotus Adult Day Care Service and Visitation
24	Sun	9:00 am	Family Service
30	Sat	8:00-11:00am	Mochitsuki (volunteers start as early as 3:00 am)
31	Sun	3:00 pm	New Year's Eve Service

Family Memorial Service

Buddhist consider the memorial service a significant occasion to remember the deceased with feelings of gratitude and love. The memorial service provides an opportunity to pay tribute and recall cherished memories of the departed, while listening to the Buddha Dharma. The service is not for appeasing the spirits of the deceased or for the sake of the deceased, but rather for the sake of the living. In remembering the deceased we acknowledge their influence on our lives as well as the importance of living the Buddha Dharma.

If your family would like to arrange a memorial service for your loved one, please call Reverend Eric Matsumoto at (808)-488-5685, or leave a message on the office phone: (808)-487-2626. You may schedule the service either before or after the memorial date.

November 2023

7th	Ronald Masami	Oba
7th	Mildred Mutsuko	Nomura
13th	Juichi	Tokioka
17th	Todd Etsuo	Maeda
17th	Mitsuo	Hara
25th	Namie	Takaki
25th	Ethel Hatsumi	Kanbara
33rd	Juichi	Yoshioka
33rd	Yoshio	Tanimoto
33rd	Tsuru	Hayashi

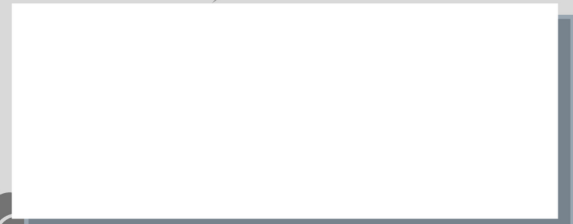
December 2023

3rd	Paulette Kikue	Watanabe
7th	Keiji "Bob"	Tokushige
7th	Joe Haruto	Taniguchi
7th	Mitsuko "Miriam"	Nishimoto
13th	Wataru	Minami
13th	Asayo	Fujii
25th	Mitsuo	Nagamine
25th	Harry Tadaichi	Kanbara
25th	Tomio "Tom"	Higuchi
33rd	Toshiaki Robert	Onaka
33rd	Katsuko	Omori

Aiea Hongwanji Mission
 99-186 Puakala Street
 Aiea, HI, 96701

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Calendar of Events for November 2023

1	Wed	Oahu District Ministers Association Meeting
2-3	Thurs-Fri	Ministers Continuing Education Seminar
5	Sun 11:30 am	United Jr. YBA of Oahu meeting at Pearl City Hongwanji
5, 12, & 26	Sun 9:00 am	Sunday Family Service
9	Thurs 9:00-10:30am	Preschool Temple Services
10	Fri	Veterans' Day Holiday (Preschool & Lotus Closed)
12	Sun	Buddhist Study Session Altar & Altar Etiquette Session 2
17	Fri 5:30 pm	Young People's Gathering
18	Sat 3:00 pm-5 pm	HAIB Zoom Dhammacakka Festival - Open to Public. For Zoom link Contact Rev. Eric at ematsumoto@honpahi.org
19	Sun 9:00 am	Eitaikyo (Sangha Perpetual) Major Service with Reverend Sol Kalu as guest speaker.
19	Sun 12:30 pm	Oahu United BWA 4 th qtr BOD mtg-Waipahu Hongwanji
21	Tue 7:00 pm	Temple BOD Meeting via Zoom
23&24	Thurs-Fri	Thanksgiving Holidays (Preschool & Lotus Closed.)
26	Sun 10:30 am	AHM Temple BWA meeting

See Page 11 for December 2023

January 2024 Notable Events

1	Mon 10:00 am	New Year's Day Service
14	Sun 9:00 am	Hoonko - Memorial Service for Shinran Shonin
27	Sat Evening	New Year's Party (Shin'nenkai) & Annual membership Meeting