

JIKO - "Compassionate Light"

MARCH, 2024 VOLUME 70, ISSUE 03

Monthly Newsletter of
The Aiea Hongwanji Mission

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments



MINISTER'S MESSAGE Showing Respect



In Buddhism, we are encouraged to be kind, courteous and respectful towards others. I would like to share a story from "The Teaching of Buddha" that encourages showing respect to the elderly.

Once there was a country which had a very peculiar custom of abandoning its elderly in remote mountains. A certain Minister of State could not bring himself to abandon his aged father. So, he built an underground cave where he hid his father and cared for him.

One day a god appeared before the King of that country and gave him some puzzling questions to solve saying that if he could not solve them his country would be destroyed. Neither the king nor the other officials were able to answer the questions. Each time, the Minister of the State went to his aged father and came back with the right answer and so the country was spared destruction. When finally asked by the King how was he able to find the answers, the Minister of State replied that it was not him, but actually the wisdom of his aged father. Hearing this, the King withdrew the law of abandoning old people and ordered that from now on the elderly should be shown respect, cared for, and treated kindly.

For fun, let's try to see if we can solve one of the questions. Please remember this is 2500 years ago. How can you weigh a large elephant? Answer is place it in a large boat and draw a line to mark how deep the boat sinks into the water. Then, take the elephant out of the boat, load enough rocks unto the boat until the water reaches the same line and weigh the stones. Let's try solve this Buddhist riddle. "Who is the person who, being asleep is awake and being awake is sleeping?" Answer is "The person who is pursuing enlightenment." The person who seeks enlightenment is awake when compared to those who are not interested in enlightenment, but considered asleep when compared to the Buddha who has attained enlightenment.

The story of the old father encourages showing respect to the elderly, but as I often mention in Buddhism we have stories which also encourage us to show respect to young people too. There is the famous story of "How Upali Became A Monk." Upali is a young barber boy who was born into the lower caste of Indian society. Thus, he was subjected to discriminatory actions by those higher on the hierarchal system. To make a long story short, though Upali wishes to become a disciple of the Buddha, everyone tells him he is unworthy of that honor because of

— continued on page 2

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
(Makuragyo or bedside
services), please call
Rev. Matsumoto on his
mobile phone:

808-488-5685

**Aiea Hongwanji
Mission,**

99-186 Puakala St,
Aiea, Hawaii 96701
Phone: 808-487-2626

Email:

aieajiko@gmail.com

Website:

aieabuddhisttemple.org

his position in society. Despite what others are saying, he finally musters enough courage to approach Sakyamuni Buddha who allows him to become a member of Sangha. Soon afterwards, aged aristocrats from a prestigious clan arrive and also ask for ordination which is granted to them, but Sakyamuni Buddha being aware of their erroneous views requests that they accept one condition that upon their ordination they must bow to all those who have been ordained before them. They agree. To their surprise, at the very end of the line of seated monks, they find Upali. The elderly aristocrats refuse to bow to him on the grounds that he is of (lower) caste. Through Sakyamuni Buddha's guidance the aged aristocrats are made to realize their attachments and wrong views and thus released of their blind passions and they are able to freely bow to the young Upali.

When you really look at these two stories or situations, we begin to understand that age is not the important factor. The respect shown in each case was shown not because of age, but because of the actions of the two individuals. The elderly father because of his knowledge and wisdom and young Upali because of his noble aspirations and actions in wishing to attain enlightenment. Again, it was their behavior, their actions that made other people respect them.

Finally, in Buddhism, I want to mention that respect is not limited to only people or fellow human beings. I remember the story of Rev. Asao Iwata and her father. The story centers on a childhood experience of Rev. Iwata. At one time, she relates she came running home for lunch and how she very noisily seated herself at the table to eat her meal. She rudely handled her bowls and tea cup. Her father at that point asked her to take out her hands. He attempted to pour hot tea into her hands. The young Rev. Iwata protested exclaiming "I'll burn my hands." Her father very calmly proceeded to explain to her. "That's right. That tea cup enables you to drink tea every day. Without it, it would not be possible. Please show some respect to the tea cup by handling it gently."

Yet another story that comes to mind is that of Rev. Sakakibara who places his hands together in gassho, a gesture of reverence and respect in Buddhism, to a daikon or Japanese radish. Rev. Sakakibara recognizes the sacrifice made by the radish. Each day he is able to live because of the plants and animals that ultimately sacrifice their life in order for him to live. He expresses his awareness and gratitude to them by placing his hands in gassho to them just as he would the Buddha.

I also remember a famous poem by the late Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh in which he says "May I cut you, little flower, gift of Earth and sky? Thank you, dear bodhisattva, for making life beautiful." There is a strong sense of indebtedness and gratitude, of interrelatedness and interconnected in Buddhism and this is expressed by showing reverence and respect to others.

Lastly, I would like to say, please have respect for yourself too. Take care of yourself and always try your best. By taking good care of yourself physically, mentally, spiritually and always trying your best you are respecting yourself which is important too. Know that you are important. Know that you do make a difference.

Lastly, you may ask "Where does this mutual respect come from in Buddhism?" It comes from an understanding that ultimately, we are all equal. Yes, relatively speaking, on the relative level, there are differences, but in the world of the Absolute, we are all the same and equal and thus we should equally show respect to each other. In Buddhism, we keep in mind the relative, but also try not to forget the ultimate.

I would like to close with the quote, "If one wishes to follow the Buddha's Teaching one must not be egotistic or self-willed, but should cherish feelings of good-will toward all alike; one should respect those who are worthy of respect; one should serve those who are worthy of service and treat everyone with uniform kindness."

Namo Amida Butsu/Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion.

In Gassho/Anjali,

Reverend Eric Matsumoto

If you are homebound, in a care home or in the hospital, and would like Reverend Eric to visit you, please contact him at (808) 488-5685 to make arrangements.

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

HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII 112TH GISEIKAI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BISHOP'S WELCOME MESSAGE



Fellow travelers of the Dharma, Good morning. Welcome to the 112th Giseikai Legislative Assembly of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Your participation is truly appreciated. If this is your first Giseikai, welcome on board. I hope this will be a meaningful and joyful experience for you. If you are a veteran, welcome back, and thank you for your continued support and participation. What we will discuss at Giseikai sets the course for the future of the HHMH. I extend my welcome and appreciation to every one of you for taking the time, despite your busy schedule, to attend the Legislative Assembly.

I would like to welcome our special guests from our sister organizations. We welcome Mr. Glenn Inanaga and Mrs. Michiko Inanaga from the Buddhist Churches of America, Ms. Laura Sugimoto from the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, and Reverend Kiyonobu Kuwahara from the Jodo Shinshu International Office. In order for the Hongwanji to survive and thrive in the future, Hawaii, BCA, Canada, and JSIO must build a close relationship and work hand in hand to tackle various issues. The magnitude may differ, but we all share similar challenges and obstacles, as well as joy and pleasures as Nembutsu followers. I hope you will get to know more about Hawaii Kyodan, and we would also like to know more about you and your organizations. I hope you will enjoy your stay in Hawaii and our Legislative Assembly.

The first time I attended the Giseikai was in 2002, and it was held at the newly built Sangha Hall at the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin. As a new minister, I had difficulty understanding what was happening at that Giseikai. I only remember that Bishop Chikai Yosemite introduced me as an eligible bachelor and asked the delegates to find the “better half” for me so that I would continue to live in Hawaii. Believe it or not, it was at that very Giseikai that I first met my wife, Yoshiko, who was invited to the meeting as a guest with her sister. I will not share with you how we deepened our romantic relationship.

What I wanted to say is that we always talk about causes and conditions in Buddhism. “Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you’re gonna get.” We are the recipients of countless causes and conditions, and we never know which ones produce a particular result. But one thing we can clearly state is that we are here today because we are nurtured and guided by our Nembutsu forefathers.

Shinran Shonin expressed his joy in encountering the Nembutsu teaching as follows.

“Such is the benevolence of Amida’s great compassion,
That we must strive to return it, even to the breaking of our bodies;
Such is the benevolence of the masters and true teachers
That we must endeavor to repay it, even to our bones becoming dust.”
 (“Ondokusan” – Hymns of the Dharma-Ages #59)

Shinran Shonin expressed his profound gratitude to Amida Buddha’s Compassion and the masters and teachers who have transmitted the Buddha’s heart of compassion to him. His sense of gratitude was so deep that he felt compelled to repay that debt of gratitude by sharing the Nembutsu with others. Like Shinran Shonin, we, too, received wonderful conditions to immerse ourselves in the compassionate heart of Amida Buddha together with our fellow travelers. Each condition is unique, and each of us has a story to share. With a feeling of joy and gratitude, let us now endeavor together so that the actions we take today will bring fruitful and meaningful results. Hopefully, those results will serve as wonderful conditions for others to be a part of the Hongwanji movement.

Let us remember that what lies as the foundation of our organization is *Hongan*, the primal vow of Amida Buddha. As a community of people joined together to take refuge in the teaching of Shinran Shonin, let us first and foremost listen to the Nembutsu, the voice of Wisdom and Compassion, recite it in our daily lives, and move. And when I say “move,” I mean for us to “walk the talk” and put our joy of Nembutsu into

action, no matter how large or small, for the realization of a compassionate society in which all lives are equally affirmed and appreciated.

I am truly grateful for the ministers and temple leaders who work tirelessly at their temple, district, and the State, oftentimes spending many hours and actively serving the needs of your members and the people in the community. Indeed, great things in business are never done by one person. They are done by a team of people. It is certainly only through a team effort that the Hawaii Kyodan can move forward and share the living messages of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. As your new Bishop, I have visited some temples during the past six months. Each temple and each district has strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities. On the state level, Hawaii Kyodan faces challenges such as declining membership, the need for an alternate source of income, lack of human resources, deterioration of temple buildings, and personnel concerns. But Hawaii Kyodan also has strengths and opportunities. Take a look at the 2023 Annual Report and see how many activities and programs we have done last year. Many committees and individuals have worked hard in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities. And the greatest strength that we have are people who express their deep concerns about the future of our organization, seriously thinking about what they can do, and actively putting their ideas into action. Again, it is a team effort. I believe that even if the power of each individual is small, if we come together, we can make a big difference. Thank you, Rev. Yuika Hasebe, for your dharma message this morning. Indeed, we don't know the answer to the challenges we face. But, we are not alone in this journey. Let us share our collective wisdom and experiences toward these challenges and opportunities, and move toward the spread of the Buddha-Dharma to our contemporaries. I firmly believe that Buddhism and the messages of Shinran Shonin can contribute to building a more compassionate society.

Last year, the devastating wildfires on Maui destroyed Lahaina Hongwanji and affected many temple members and others in the community. The Hawaii Kyodan immediately established the Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund, and ever since then, we have received tremendous support from around the world.

Recently, Governor Bishop Shoshin Kumona from Honzan visited Hawaii. He is one of the three Governors at Honzan in charge of the Department of Social Affairs and Emergency Management. Governor Kumona was accompanied by Rev. Rie Fujisawa from the Hongwanji International Department. The three of us visited Maui on January 17 and 18.

I would like to report that the Honzan pledged to make another donation of 15 million yen, which is about \$100,000, toward the Maui Wildfire Relief in addition to their initial contributions of approximately \$140,000.

At Kahului Hongwanji, where we met Rev. Hironaka and 20 Lahaina Hongwanji members, we held a short presentation ceremony. We distributed the altar (Obutsudan), Onenju, Shikisho, etc., which were all donated from Hongwanji in Kyoto. At the end of the ceremony, Mrs. Aileen Cockett, the president of the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, delivered a message of appreciation to Governor Kumona, and I would like to quote a part of her message.

“It was not just losing a house or being displaced. We lost our HOME. A place where we had a sense of belonging, comfort, security, stability, and a place of refuge. And for those gathered here today, that is what Lahaina Hongwanji was for them. It's like going on a trip where you enjoy yourself and have a nice time, but in the end, you look forward to returning home. I think we ALL want to go back HOME. It may take a while, but I know one day we will be able to go back HOME.”

Hongwanji Temples are our spiritual HOME, where Amida Buddha and our Sangha members welcome us all with open arms. The Office of the Bishop is committed to supporting the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission together with the Committee on Social Concerns, the Maui Wildfire Emergency Response Committee, and all of you. There is a resolution of forgiving Lahaina Hongwanji's annual assessment. Your careful and compassionate deliberation on this matter is greatly appreciated.

Lastly, I would like to introduce two individuals who have joined the Hawaii Kyodan. I am sure many of you know them already since they are both full of energy and actively participate in our programs. This is the first Giseikai for them, so please welcome them warmly.

(Continued on page 10)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To Our Sangha,

We're only two months into the new year, but a lot of events have taken place and a lot more are planned ahead. The 112th Giseikai Legislative Assembly followed by the Living Treasures of Hawaii banquet topped off February's activities, the details of which are elaborated in Bishop Umitani's message. In

March, we can look forward to the Pacific Buddhist Academy's 18th Annual Taiko Festival. For details look for the flyer herein. Project Dana is sponsoring workshops on March 9th and 13th (see page 7 for details). Also in March is AHM's BWA Craft Fair and White Elephant Sale on the 22nd and 23rd. Refer to page 10 for details. **March 31st marks the deadline for early registration for the HHMH Triple Celebration at the Ala Moana Hotel on September 7-8, 2024. A copy of the registration form is included as an insert to this newsletter.** Details of the celebration's activities and schedules are on pages 6, 8, and 9. As a reminder, tent-fumigation of the temple and parsonage buildings is on schedule for March 29th and 30th, with preparatory work occurring prior to the 29th, and remobilization work after the 30th. Construction to renovate the exterior restrooms of the Lotus Adult Day Care Center will begin sometime in late March, starting with the demolition work.

On Sunday, April 14th, after the Hanamatsuri service, Reverend Eric will be performing Initiatory Rites for those who are interested. Please contact him directly for arrangements (phone: 808-488-5685). Also on April 6th, the Buddhist Study Center is presenting the Spring Festival featuring workshops focusing on the theme, "Nurturing Mind and Body", as further elaborated in the flyer on page 6.

With all of these wonderful events to attend, you will certainly have the opportunity to experience many "Nembutsu Moments". If you do, please be sure to share them with us as explained in the flyer on page 6.

All of these events are made possible by the many hardworking volunteers who dedicate their time and effort into bringing these projects to fruition. Please join me in expressing our appreciation and gratitude for their contributions, and honor them with our participation. Thank you.

In Gassho with palms together,

Boyd Marumoto

PACIFIC BUDDHIST ACADEMY
March 17, 2024
 YARAMAIKA! GO FOR IT!
18th ANNUAL TAIKO FESTIVAL

Moanalua Performing Arts Center
2825 Ala Ilima St, Honolulu, HI 96818
4:00 p.m.
Doors open at 3:15

Visit pacificbuddhistacademy.org or
email Megan Lee at megan.lee@pbahi.org
for more information

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY!



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Triple Celebration

September 7 – 8, 2024

Ala Moana Hotel

Sharing the Joy of Nembutsu Together: Our Living Heart of Gratitude



Schedule (Tentative)

Saturday, September 7, 2024

850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth &

800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching

- 9:00 am – 10:00 am Registration
- 10:00 am – 11:00 am Opening Service (Shinsei Gohonden Saho in commemoration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth & 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching)
- 11:00 am – 11:15 am Break
- 11:15 am – 12:15 pm Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji
- 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Lunch
- 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Workshop I
- 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Break
- 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm Workshop II
- 4:30 pm Hotel Check-in

Saturday evening – Dinner on your own.

Sunday, September 8, 2024

135th Anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

- 7:00 am – 8:15 am Continental Breakfast
- 8:15 am – 8:45 am Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 am – 10:00 am HHMH 135th Anniversary Commemorative Service
- 10:00 am – 10:15 am Break
- 10:15 am – 11:30 am Panel Discussion "Sharing the Joy of Nembutsu Together"
- 11:30 am – 12:00 pm Closing

Triple Celebration Registration:

Registration cost includes:

- One breakfast
- One lunch banquet
- Services
- Workshops
- Panel discussion

Early Registration: \$250 by March 31, 2024

Late Registration: \$300 by July 31, 2024

Youth Registration: \$150 by July 31, 2024 (25 years old or younger)

We will provide a \$200 subsidy per person for neighbor island participants.

Online Registration & Payment:

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/triple-celebration/>



Room Reservations at Ala Moana Hotel:

Please reserve your room at Ala Moana Hotel by August 6, 2024. After that date, we will release rooms in order to avoid paying a penalty.

Kona Tower	\$194.00 plus tax
Waikiki Tower	\$224.00 plus tax
No resort fees	



If you would like to reserve the hotel online, the link is:

<https://book.passkey.com/e/50708991>

If you wish to reserve by phone, please use one of these numbers:

Be sure to mention that you are with the Honpa Hongwanji Triple Celebration

Reservations Toll Free: (800) 367-6025

Reservations Local Phone: (808) 955-4811

Revised 1/31/2024



Commission on Buddhist Education & the Buddhist Study Center Committee

Sharing Your NEMBUTSU MOMENTS

2024 HONGWANJI SLOGAN
"Sharing Nembutsu Moments"

WHAT IS A "NEMBUTSU MOMENT?"
When you see or hear or experience something so beautiful, touching and profound that it leaves you speechless and all you can say is "Wow!" After that, as one continues to be in awe of that life changing encounter, you continue to say "Wow." This moment is explained in The Collected Works of Shinran, Volume Two as "...the moment of awakening of shinjin (True Entrusting) and saying the nembutsu is a moment both in and out of time."
---Reverend Eric Matsumoto

WE WILL SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES IN THE KA LEO KAHEA, TEMPLE NEWSLETTERS OR IN A COLLECTION FOR A BOOK.

SUBMIT YOUR EXPERIENCE HERE!
<https://forms.gle/6cVKBwqszqYg5XrHA>



??? QUESTIONS ???
Please contact Debbie Kubota dekub88@gmail.com



Buddhist Study Center Spring Festival "Nurturing Mind & Body"

Workshops, vendors, food, and activities.
Welcome to all students, faculty, and community members.
Located across the street from UH Manoa music department, at the corner of University and Dole.

April 6, 2024 9:30 am - 2:00 pm
1436 University Ave.

Workshops
10:00 am Coping Skills
11:00 am Yoga
12:00 pm Healthy Cooking
1:00 pm Sustainable Living

... with booths and activities from
Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii
Buddhist Study Center Fellowship Club
Hawaii Federation of Jr. YBAs
Honpa Hongwanji Bookstore
Matcha with a Minister
Minister Lay Assistants
Flower Arrangement
Children's Games

Free Parking at the Lutheran Church
Overflow Parking at UH Manoa Lot 20
\$5/day

Food booths and live entertainment!



Join Project Dana's Public Presentation Meetings!

Upcoming Events:

Meeting Date: Saturday, March 9, 2024
 Time: 10:00 am to 11:30 am
 Location: Zoom and Waipahu Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (94-821 Kuhaulua Street, Waipahu, HI 96797)
 Topic: "Home Health" – Home health agencies offer a wide range of services that can be given at home for an illness or injury. Learn from one of the agencies in our community about this range of services and how home health offers more convenient and equally effective care compared to hospital or skilled nursing facilities.
 Speaker: Corrine Suzuka, Care Resource Hawaii

Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2024
 Time: 10:00 am to 11:30 am
 Location: Zoom and Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin (1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813)
 Topic: "Hawai'i Intergenerational Network (HIN) and HIN's Homesharing Hawai'i (HH) program as a Caregiver Resource": Martha Ross will describe the Hawai'i Intergenerational Network (HIN), nonprofit organization, and the HIN's Homesharing Hawai'i (HH) program. HIN HH helps independent kupuna remain in their own homes as long as possible more safely and healthily, without facing social isolation and loneliness. The program also helps increase the availability of affordable places to live on O'ahu. The presentation will explain how HIN HH brings together home owners and home seekers who are interested in home sharing in exchange for chores, rent, or some combination.
 Speaker: Martha Ross, HIN HH Director & Intake Lead

*Zoom links will be provided by inquiry

Please call or e-mail if you are interested on attending public presentations or need more information about the program:

Maria Morales
Program Coordinator
(808) 945-3736
cgsg@projectdana.org



Who: All youth aged 13-23
 When: May 25-27, 2024
 Where: Buddhist Study Center, Oahu, HI
 Why: Connect with new friends & learn about Jodo Shinshu Buddhism

YESS CAMP 40

Join us for games, bonding, dancing, community service, and Dharma discussion!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP!!!
DUE DATE: APRIL 15, 2024



Scouts at 2/4/2024 Scout Sunday Service

OFFICERS, ADVISORS, AND DIRECTORS OF HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII FOR YEAR 2024

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
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HHMH TRIPLE CELEBRATION



SHARING THE JOY OF NEMBUTSU TOGETHER:
OUR LIVING HEART OF GRATITUDE
SEPTEMBER 7 & 8, 2024
ALA MOANA HOTEL



Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin (1889)
Photo: Rev. Kazunori Takahashi

TRIPLE CELEBRATION SERVICE

BY REVEREND KAZUNORI TAKAHASHI
SERVICE DIVISION CHAIR

"Sensei, the sutra chanting during this morning's service was so beautiful! What kind of chanting was it?"

I had the privilege of traveling to Kyoto in May 2023 to attend the Joint Celebration, the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching, and the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention. The day after arriving in Kyoto, prior to those events, I walked with several people on the early morning streets from my hotel to Honzan and attended the morning service starting at 6 a.m. After the service, some people asked me the question mentioned at the beginning.

It was the *Shoshinge* starting with the familiar words "kimyo muryo junyorai," but it was chanted in a different melody than usual. It was the *Shoshinge* of *Shinsei Gohonden Saho*, or the newly established *gohonden* (lit. 'Major Scripture') ritual, created for the Joint Celebration. In this new ritual, all the verses were selected from Shinran Shonin's main work, *Kyogyoshinsho*, or The True Teaching, Practice, and Realization of the Pure Land Way.

TOPICS

- SERVICE - 1 & 2
- REGISTRATION - 2
- CHOIR - 3
- SPONSORSHIP - 3 & 4



Rev. Kazunori Takahashi
Rimban, Honpa Hongwanji
Hilo Betsuin

There are two ways to chant the *Shoshinge* in this ritual. One is newly created, and this version was chanted during the morning service we attended. The other version is chanted with the familiar *Junirai* melody, and in the commemorative service that the Hawaii group attended in Kyoto, this version was chanted beautifully. After we attended the morning service in Honzan, several people expressed to me, "Sensei, let us chant the newly created version of *Shoshinge* in Hawaii," and now, I am pleased to announce that we will chant it together during the HHMH Triple Celebration in September 2024.

During the HHMH Triple Celebration, we will observe two commemorative services. On September 7, 2024, we will observe the service for the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching. This service follows the *Gohonden Saho*. In addition, during the service, traditional Japanese Gagaku music will be performed by the Yamaguchi Gagaku Kai, a guest group of Gagaku performers from Japan. On September 8, 2024, we will observe the Hawaii Kyodan 135th Anniversary Service and the Dharma message will be delivered by Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani. For this ceremony, we are looking for participants to join our Triple Celebration Choir. The selected gathas are "When I Look Up at the Sky" (*Ano Sora Mireba*) and "Moments Like This" (*Sonna Toki Watashi wa Kuchizusamu*).

At the beginning of the *Gohonden Saho*, prior to *Shoshinge*, there is a ritual in which Shinran Shonin's words are recited. In this passage, Shinran Shonin expressed his joy upon encountering the teaching as follows:

Ah, hard to encounter, even in many lifetimes, is the decisive cause of birth, Amida's universal Vow! Hard to realize, even in myriads of kalpas, is pure shinjin that is true and real! If you should come to realize this practice and shinjin, rejoice at the conditions from the distant past that have brought it about.

(*Kyōgyōshinshō* Preface: Collected Works of Shinran, p. 4)

If we reflect on various causes and conditions that enabled us to encounter the Jodo Shinshu teaching, we would be grateful that Shinran Shonin was born about 850 years ago, and for 800 years he has revealed the teaching, and for the past 135 years in Hawaii, his teachings have been continuously passed down to us.

The theme of the Triple Celebration is "Sharing the Joy of Nembutsu Together: Our Living Heart of Gratitude." I have already envisioned that the services will be filled with joy, with the sound of the Dharma, including the chanting of sutras, the singing of gathas, and the resonating sound of the Nembutsu throughout the venue. Let us meet at the Ala Moana Hotel in September. Namo Amida Butsu.

YOUTH REGISTRATION FEE AND ONLINE REGISTRATION

We are pleased to inform you that we set a youth registration fee of \$150.00 for those 25 years old or younger. It is our wish that the youth participate in this wonderful gathering and share the joy of Nembutsu together with their family.

Online registration and payment are available on the Triple Celebration website. It is very simple and easy so please encourage Sangha members to use the online registration as much as possible.

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/triple-celebration/>

If you have any questions regarding the registration please contact us.

*Sharing the Joy of Nembutsu Together:
Our Living Heart of Gratitude*



Rev. Blayne Nakasone-Sakata joined the HHMH on June 1, 2023, and currently serves at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Associate Minister. He is also a School Chaplain at the Pacific Buddhist Academy. He is very young, energetic, talented, and has a deep respect and understanding of the Nembutsu teaching. He is the first-ever Kaikyoshi minister who graduated from the Pacific Buddhist Academy.

Ms. Emi Hashi joined the HHMH at the beginning of October as the Children and Youth Activities Specialist. She grew up attending Makawao Hongwanji Mission on Maui where I served as its Resident Minister when Emi was around middle school age. In the last “Ka Leo Kāhea” newsletter, Emi mentioned that her aunties and uncles at the temple shaped her into the person she is today. Again, we never know what causes and conditions would bring a particular result. I am so happy to have Emi back in the Hawaii Kyodan. She is currently working hard to reactivate youth programs such as YESS Camp and BSC Fellowship Club.

Please extend them your warm welcome.

Let us remember that people gather only where there is movement. I humbly ask for your active participation and support for the Hongwanji movement. Once again, welcome to the 112th Legislative Assembly.

Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani
February 9, 2024

GISEIKAI MESSAGE FROM THE JODO SHINSHU HONGWANJI-HA GOVERNOR GENERAL BISHOP GYOSHIN IKEDA

On the occasion of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii 112th *Giseikai*, I humbly extend my appreciation to you, the ministers and sangha representatives from throughout the state of Hawaii. I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you all for your continuing efforts in propagating the Jodo Shinshu tradition and maintaining the temples within your respective districts.

I would first like to extend my condolences to those who lost their lives due to the Maui Wildfire and express my sympathy to all who have been affected. Hoping for the area’s speedy recovery, we will continue our support for their efforts mentally as well as physically.

With the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine and reignited battle between Israel and Palestine, more and more countries have come to rely more heavily on armed military force, and in accordance with this tendency, a number of confrontations and conflicts are taking place across the world. Although while regaining relative normalcy in everyday life after strictly controlled days of COVID-19 preventive measures, we are thus forced to see another sad reality of human’s self-centeredness. At the same time, however, this anxious world situation reminds us of how important it is to share with as many people as possible the teaching that is founded on the undeniable truth, Buddha Dharma.

At Hongwanji Kyoto, the Joint Celebration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin’s Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching was successfully concluded last May. We are truly grateful for the large overseas delegation that attended the services. Preceding the occasion, Monshu OHTANI Kojun proclaimed the New *Ryogemon* (a way of appreciating the teaching) “Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching” in his effort of updating the original *Ryogemon* that is believed Rennyō Shonin composed. He concluded the introductory message on that passage that he hopes it “will be recited by everyone during various gatherings to share it with a wide range of people as well as the next generation.”

Despite the challenging world situation, let us each continue our own efforts to fulfill the Buddha’s aspiration toward the realization of a society in which everyone can live life of spiritual fulfillment.

In closing, it is my hope that the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will continue to prosper and that many fruitful results will arise from this annual meeting.

February 9, 2024

Governor General Ikeda Gyoshin
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha



March, 2024 JIKO

BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION NEWS



The Aiea BWA Craft Fair and White Elephant Sale will be held on:
Friday, March 22, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on
Saturday, March 23, 2024 from 8:00 am to 12:00 p.m.

There will be hand-crafted items, homemade food to grab and go, and gently used white elephant goods for sale.

Your white elephant donations are appreciated and can be dropped off on Sundays at the social hall from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information, please contact aieajiko@gmail.com or leave a message at (808)487-2626.



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.

March 2024

1 st Thomas Masami	Odagiri	13 th Michie	Takeshita
3 rd Amy Chieko	Nuibe	13 th Adrienne Mitsuko	Hosokawa
3 rd Itsuto "Ito"	Kurasaki	17 th Yoshie	Tanimoto
3 rd Stanley Sueo	Yamashita	25 th Matsuyo	Nadai
3 rd Akiko	Odagiri	50 th Toku	Nakahara
7 th Colin	Morikawa		

April 2024

1 st Nancy	Sakima	13 th Chiyoko Pauline	Higuchi
7 th Gladys Seiko	Minami	33 rd Guy	Yamaoka
13 th Stanley Hayao	Kage	33 rd Richard Saburo	Kamano

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

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 42
Aiea, HI 96701



Temple Calendar of Events for: March 2024

- | | | | |
|-------|-------------|----------------|---|
| 3 | Sun | 9:00AM | Hongwanji Day Sunday Service |
| | | 11:30AM | Jr. YBA Meeting (at Aiea Hongwanji) |
| 7-8 | Thur-Fri | | BSC-Ryukoku Ministers Spring Seminar (BSC) |
| 10 | Sun | 9:00AM | Sunday Service |
| 13 | Wed | 9:00AM-10:30AM | Preschool Temple Services |
| 17 | Sun | 9:00AM | Spring Higan & Rennyō Shonin Children & Adult Services |
| | | 4:00PM | PBA Taiko Festival at Moanalua High School Performing Arts Center |
| 18 | Mon | 7:00PM | Oahu District Hongwanji Council Meeting |
| 18 | Mon to 22nd | Fri | AHM Preschool Spring Break (Preschool not in session). |
| 21 | Thu | 10:00AM | Lotus Adult Daycare Center Service and Visitation |
| 22 | Fri | 5:30PM | Young People's Gathering at AHM at LADCC room |
| 22 | Fri | 5:00PM-8:00 PM | BWA Craft Fair and White Elephant sale |
| 23 | Sat | 8:00AM-12:00PM | BWA Craft Fair and White Elephant sale |
| 24 | Sun | 9:00AM | Sunday Service |
| 26 | Tue | 7:00PM | *AHM Board of Directors Meeting (Revised date) |
| 29-30 | Fri-Sat | | Temple Building & Parsonage Fumigation (Prep 03/28 & Re-entry 3/31) |
| 31 | Sun | 8:00AM | Temple Beautification Day (No Service) |

April, 2024

- | | | | |
|----|------|------------|---|
| 6 | Sat | 9:30AM-2PM | Buddhist Study Center (BSC) Spring Festival |
| 7 | Sun | 9:30AM | Hawaii Buddhist Council Buddha Day Service (Venue TBA) |
| 10 | Wed | 9:00AM | Preschool Temple Services |
| 14 | Sun | 8:00AM | Buddha Day Shrine/Hanamido Decorating |
| | | 9:00AM | AHM Buddha Day (Hanamatsuri) Family Service & Initiatory Rites |
| 16 | Tue | 7:00PM | AHM Board of Directors' Meeting |
| 18 | Thur | 10:00AM | Lotus Adult Daycare Service and Visitation |
| 21 | Sun | 9:00AM | Weekly Sunday Family Service |
| 28 | Sun | 9:00AM | BWA Eshinni & Kakushinni Day (BWA Peace Day) Sunday Family Service
(No AHM BWA Meeting.) |

Registration Form

Name: _____

Temple: _____

Phone #: Cell: _____ Home: _____

Email address: _____

Address: _____

Early Registration: \$250 by March 31, 2024 \$ _____

Late Registration: \$300 by July 31, 2024 \$ _____

Youth Registration: \$150 by July 31, 2024 (25 years old or younger)
\$ _____

Donation to support Triple Celebration \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Please enclose this registration form with your check and send it to Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Make checks payable to: **Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii** and please write "Triple Celebration" on the memo line.

Transportation: Do you need transportation on Saturday, September 7 from the airport to the hotel and Sunday, September 8 from the hotel to airport after the celebration?

Yes

If yes, please provide your flight numbers.

September 7: _____ Departure airport: _____

September 8: _____ Arrival airport: _____

No

I can help to provide transportation.

Revised 1/31/2024

Choir: Would you like to join the choir and sing at the HHMH 135th Anniversary Service on Sunday Morning?

Yes

No

Workshop: Select (1, 2, 3, 4) in order of preference for each workshops

Workshop I (2:00 pm – 3:00 pm)

Significance of Establishment of Jodo Shinshu Tradition and Doctrine – Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara

Historical Highlights of Hongwanji in Hawaii + Intro to Archiving - Archives Committee

Compassion in Action: Shin Buddhist Social Engagement - Social Concerns Committee

Greening the Hongwanji: Awareness and Connection - Green Hongwanji Initiative Committee

Workshop II (3:30 pm – 4:30 pm)

Significance of Establishment of Jodo Shinshu Tradition and Doctrine – Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara

Historical Highlights of Hongwanji in Hawaii + Intro to Archiving - Archives Committee

Compassion in Action: Shin Buddhist Social Engagement - Social Concerns Committee

The Giving Gratitude Tree - Dharma School

Refund Policy

Refunds will be issued in full for refund requests received on or before August 6, 2024. After August 6, 2024, no refunds will be issued.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Phone: (808)522-9200 (Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii)

Address: 1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813

E-mail: triple.celebration@honpahi.org

Revised 1/31/2024



**Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Triple Celebration
September 7 – 8, 2024**

Sharing the Joy of Nembutsu Together: Our Living Heart of Gratitude



Mahalo for supporting the HHMH Triple Celebration!

2023 marked the 850th anniversary of the birth of Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, and 2024 marks the 800th anniversary of the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu teaching as well as the 135th anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

We will celebrate these auspicious events at a Triple Celebration which will be held on September 7-8, 2024, at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu. A wonderful event is being planned which honors the rich heritage of Hawaii Kyodan, the many contributions our temples have made in communities across Hawaii and celebrates the joy of the Nembutsu. We invite you to be a part of this historic celebration.

Please consider supporting the Triple Celebration as a sponsor. Your financial support will help underwrite our speakers, workshops, special guests, and activities, ensuring a memorable and meaningful celebration for all to enjoy. The event registration fee includes the cost of food and only a portion of our total expenses. Your sponsorship will help support an exciting lineup of engaging workshops, an elegant lunch banquet, a special musical group from Japan, and a weekend of fun-filled activities for the whole family. We humbly ask for your support.

Please consider a gift at the following levels:

- Gold \$2,500+
- Silver \$1,000-\$2,499
- Bronze \$500-\$999
- Gratitude \$1-\$499

All donors will be recognized in the souvenir e-booklet and listed on screen during the event. Gold level sponsors may submit a company logo in recognition of their contribution. Fill out the attached form to send with your donation and mail to:

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1727 Pali Highway
Honolulu, HI 96813
Attn: Triple Celebration Sponsor

All donations must be received by **July 22, 2024**, to be included. Please contact Rev. Blayne Higa at 808-323-2993 or bhiga@honpahi.org for questions or more information.

YES! I want to support the
HHMH Triple Celebration

Enclosed is my gift of:
\$ _____

Name for Donor List:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____@_____

Check payable to: *Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii*

Credit Card No. _____

Exp Date: _____ CVV No. _____

Signature _____

HHMH is a 501 (c)3 tax exempt organization. Your gift is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.