



# ONENESS

**KAPAA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE**

**April 2021**

## BISHOP'S CORNER

**As we observe Buddha Day (*Hanamatsuri*)...**

Bishop Eric Matsumoto



For Buddhists especially in the East Asian Traditions, one of our most important and significant observances Buddha Day, when we celebrate the birth of Prince Siddhartha Gautama or the soon to be Historic Buddha Sakyamuni, will soon be here. Unfortunately, due to the Pandemic, much of our observance of *Hanamatsuri* (Flower Festival) will be virtual or online, once again. I am saddened that so many of us will not be able to visit temple and participate in the traditional pouring of Sweet Tea which has been a custom in East Asian Buddhist communities for over 1,500 years. Though we are not able to throng to our temples and pour Sweet Tea to celebrate Buddha Day that does not make this year's

celebration any less significant.

We are all familiar with the life of the Buddha marked by his birth, enlightenment and passing away to enter into Parinirvana. However, today, I would like to highlight a fourth occasion or event of the Buddha's life and that is the Buddha's sharing of the Dharma or the contents of Enlightenment with others so that others may also attain the same peace and happiness, and wisdom and compassion too. This is a very important point. The ultimate goal in Buddhism is not only one's own enlightenment, but the enlightenment of all others too. Unless, all are happy and at peace, one cannot be happy and at peace and the peace and happiness of one is dependent on the peace and happiness of all others. The Buddhist aspiration is the peace and happiness of all existence whether human or otherwise, animate or inanimate, visible or unseen, those living in the past, present and future, not limited to Earth, but extends to the farthest reaches of space including other dimensions. It is compassion which, literally, knows no bounds and includes all.

This compassion is intricately linked/connected with wisdom. Sakyamuni Buddha became aware of many universal truths with the attainment of enlightenment, and one of the most fundamental and basic universal realizations was that all existence is equal, precious and interconnected. Due to this new realization, this new mindset, the Historic Buddha was able to equally treat all with loving-kindness, respect and compassion. He was opposed to the caste system with its insistence that birth and class made an individual noble and instead proclaimed that wholesome good deeds

are what makes a person noble. He, also, refuted that gender hindered the attainment of enlightenment. Thus, people of all walks of life were accepted into the Sangha. The following is a quote of the Buddha from [www.Buddhanet.net](http://www.Buddhanet.net) website which recognizes the equality of everyone in the Sangha. *"Just as, O monks, the great rivers Gangâ, Yamunâ, Aciravati, Sarabhû, and Mahi, on reaching the ocean, lose their earlier name and identity and come to be reckoned as the great ocean, similarly, O monks, people of the four castes (vannas)... who leave the household and become homeless recluses under the Doctrine and Discipline declared by the Tathâgata, lose their previous names and identities and are reckoned as recluses who are sons of Sâkya" (Udâna 55).* There is also a comment on the website which shares that *"The Buddhist position regarding racism and racial discrimination made explicit at such an early age is one reflected in the moral and scientific standpoint adopted by UNESCO in the present century (Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice, UNESCO 1978).*

In short, the Buddha did not approve of any kind of discrimination and treated all that came before him with respect, equality and compassion. As the Sangha, let us be guided and inspired by the Buddha-Dharma and share Enlightenment's message of the preciousness, equality and interconnectedness of all life, all existence to address the suffering in the world and nurture peace and harmony. It is with such intent and hope that the Office of the Bishop released a statement speaking out against the violence against Asians which was jointly authored with a few members of the Committee on Social Concerns, Rev. Blayne Higa Chair.

As we observe Buddha Day (*Hanamatsuri*), let us take a moment to reflect upon the deep significance of the Buddha's birth and the Buddha's wish that one and all are freed from suffering and sorrow. Please have a happy and joyous Buddha Day, but most importantly a meaningful Buddha Day!

## **MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS**

Reverend Kazunori Takahashi, currently serving at the Headquarters as the Executive Assistant to the Bishop and at Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin as the Acting Rimban, was relieved from the position of Chaplain at the Pacific Buddhist Academy as of March 15, 2021.

Reverend Sol Kalu, currently serving at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Associate Minister, has been appointed as the Interim Chaplain at the Pacific Buddhist Academy as of March 16, 2021. Rev. Kalu will continue his assignment to Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Associate Minister.

## Statement Against Anti-Asian Violence

March 21, 2021

The recent killing of eight people in a series of mass shootings that took place at Asian-owned spas in Atlanta, Georgia are both shocking and horrifying. We mourn the loss of life and denounce the continued acts of violence against Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities across our country.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began a year ago, there has been an exponential rise in hate crimes directed toward Asian Americans. As with other marginalized groups, there is a long and painful history of racism, scapegoating, and exclusion of AAPI communities in the United States.



The conditions for violence have been fomented by the continued use of hateful speech directed toward Asian Americans. This kind of racist language has resulted in verbal and physical harm. We must all work together to stop these acts of violence.

The Buddha taught, “The mind is the forerunner of all actions. All deeds are led by the mind and created by the mind. If one speaks or acts with an agitated mind, suffering follows, as the wheels of a cart follow the ox pulling it. If one speaks or acts with a calm mind, happiness follows, as surely as one’s shadow.”

Let us take great care to use language in ways that foster compassion and love, not anger and hate.

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is a spiritual community devoted to sharing the Buddha’s teachings so everyone may enjoy lives of harmony, peace, and gratitude. We decry with deep lament all acts of hatred and violence and we stand in solidarity with all who walk the path of peace and equality.

May we be guided by the light of all-inclusive wisdom and all-embracing compassion in the difficult days ahead.

### CONDOLENCES

Mr. Yoshio Kijima, a member of Makawao Hongwanji Mission, passed away on February 13, 2021. Mr. Kijima served as the President of Makawao Hongwanji Mission and the treasurer of the Makawao Hongwanji Mission, Makawao Hongwanji Preschool in Pukalani, and the Maui Hongwanji Council. He also served the greater Maui community as treasurer of the Maui Hiroshima Kenjin-kai, and as a leader of the Maui Japanese Language School Association. The Ingo of CHUU-SHIN-IN 忠信院 which means “One who is sincere, loyal and true” in recognition of his life of nembutsu was conferred by Bishop Eric Matsumoto on March 6, 2021.

## Eshinni Kakushinni Service

April 25, 2021 from 9:30 am

The Kauai United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association will be observing the Eshinni & Kakushinni Day Service on April 25, 2021 at Kapaa Hongwanji Mission. Mrs. Lois Toyama will be the guest speaker. Let's watch the video message from Mrs. Lois at Kapaa Hongwanji Mission. Everyone is invited. This will be a virtual joint service with Lihue and West Kauai and Kapaa Hongwanji.

### Eshinni, from The Life of Eshinni by Yoshiko Ohtani

As Eshinni is revered for her dedication to Shinran during his productive years, Kakushinni is known for being her father's caregiver in his final years. She was about 30 years old when Shinran died at the age of 90. And after Shinran's death, Kakushinni is revered for planting the seeds that were to grow into today's Hongwanji. Ten years after Shinran's passing, Kakushinni built a Memorial Hall for his remains, and established the means for insuring the Hall and the property it was built on would belong to the Jodo Shinshu Sangha in all future generations. This was the beginning of Ohtani Mausoleum and of the Hongwanji.

### The Letter of Eshinni

"Dear Wakasa, I often think of your children and would like to hear the most recent news about them. I would really like to know about your oldest child. Oh, will there ever be a chance for me to visit you, or for you to come to see me once more while I am alive? Most likely not! I am ready to go to the land of bliss at any moment. In the land of bliss we will be able to know everything clearly, so I hope that you shall live the life of nembutsu and come join me there. I know that if we can meet in the land of bliss, everything will become clear." -- Eshinni, age 87 or 88.

#### References:

Dobbins, James (2004). *Letters of the Nun Eshinni*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

Hongwanji International Center (2002). *Jodo Shinshu: A Guide*. Kyoto: Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha.

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (2010). "Eshinni"

### **COMMUNICATIONS & RESOURCES ON COVID-19**

The Office of the Bishop has issued a series of memos (1-15) to provide directives and recommendations regarding temple activities and procedures during the COVID-19 outbreak. These are available in the following page of our Hawaii Kyodan Website. The latest memo was issued on March 21, 2021 following recent changes in vaccination eligibility and restrictions on the various islands.

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/blog/2020/03/13/covid19/>

from the president's corner...

***Aloha Everyone!***

We hope you are all well and recovering from the recent storms which have caused flooding, landslides and damaged many properties. Fortunately, there were no casualties and everyone is safe. We are concerned and would like to hear from you if you have been impacted by the storm.

**Verde Ticket Fundraiser**

May thanks to all who participated and made the fundraiser a success by selling and purchasing the tickets. We also extend our special thanks for the generous donation of 150 tickets which were all sold.

**Laulau Plate Lunch Fundraiser - Saturday, April 3, 2021 10:30-12:00 noon**

Thank you for your support and contributions for the fundraiser. We appreciate your assistance in selling and purchasing the tickets and responding with your payments.

It would be helpful in the future, if all outstanding tickets are returned on time so we can sell the tickets and get an accurate count on the number of laulaus to order. We look forward to another successful fundraiser which will raise the funds for our ongoing operational expenses.

**No Bon Dance** - The Kauai Buddhist Council has decided that we will not be having the 2021 Bon Dance due to continuing Covid concerns. Each temple will be having the Hatsubon and Obon services at their respective temples. We will inform you of our plans at a later date.

**Hanamatsuri - Sunday, April 4, 2021**

We have two virtual services available to us.

The Kauai Buddhist Council : Virtual Hanamatsuri Service on YouTube Kauai Buddhist Council channel at 9:30 am.

HBC: Virtual Hanamatsuri Service at 9:30 am. Guest speaker is Dr. Jeff. Wilson at 9:30 am.

**Women's Association**

The Kauai United Hongwanji Women's Association will be observing Eshinni & Kakushinni Day Service at each temple on Sunday, April 25, 2021. Kapaa Hongwanji's service will begin at 9:00 a.m. The Lihue Hongwanji Women's Association is coordinating the service with the temples.

Eshinni was the wife of our founder, Shinran Shonin and Kakushinni was his daughter.

The guest speaker Lois Toyama, the BWA Federation President will be doing a video presentation. Everyone is welcome to join us for the service.

**United Jr. YBA**

The Federation of Jr. YBA will be having a Zoom Spring Meeting on April 24. Each member is working on a short video about themselves which will be presented at the meeting.

# Mahalo for Your Contributions and Support

February 19-March 21

## Memorial Services

*In memory of ...*

*Shizuo Higashiyama*

Mitsuko Higashiyama,  
Clyde & Kay Takekuma,  
Roy & Leila Nishida  
Erin Takekuma, Tami Ramil

*Satsuki Kodani*

Kodani Ohana  
June Lizama

## Bedside Service

Jarrett Yoon - Grace Yoon

*In Memory of...*

*Machie Kubota*- Richard Kubota

*Mitsuyo Morita*- Wesley Morita

*Yuka Seshiki*- Kathleen Taira

*Miyako Takena*

Glenn & Dianne Sato & Family  
Lorna Nishii

*Kesa Takahashi*

Sakai & Yanagawa Family

## Installation Service

Jim Jung  
Ralph Kitashima  
Carol Saiki  
Gloria Shimizu  
Lane Sunada  
Clyde Takekuma  
Roberta Yanagawa

## Spring Ohigan Service

Jim Jung  
Dimples Yoshiko Kano  
Ralph Kitashima  
Phil O'Rourke  
Carol Saiki  
Gloria Shimizu  
Pearl Shimizu  
Kathleen Yamamoto  
Roberta Yanagawa  
Etsuko Yoshii

## Sunday Services

Jim Jung  
Dimples Yoshiko Kano  
Ralph Kitashima  
Phil O'Rourke  
Carol Saiki  
Gloria Shimizu  
Roberta Yanagawa

## Laulau Plate Donations

Douglas Fujii  
Amy Isobe  
Neal Kakimoto  
Winston Kawamoto  
Carol Saiki  
Patricia Sugai  
Rebecca Wada

## Hall Rental

Lighthouse Outreach Center  
Storybook Theatre  
Apologia Addiction Recovery Program

## Volunteer Support

Madison Doo  
Marie Hashimura  
Robert Hiraoka  
David & Ruby Ishida  
Stanford Iwamoto  
Winston Kawamoto  
Ralph Kitashima  
Haven Kuboyama  
Rev. Mieko Majima  
Milton Nakamura  
Ray Paler  
Tami Ramil  
Taryn Ramil  
Carol Saiki  
Calvin & Rona Sakai  
Gloria Shimizu  
Pearl Shimizu  
Joan Slingerland  
Dennis & Sadie Sunada  
Lane Sunada  
Clyde & Kay Takekuma  
Erin Takekuma  
Keith & Thelma Tsukamoto  
Alison Yamamoto  
Wendy Yamamoto  
Sidney Yanagawa

## Sunday Service Schedule

9:00 am @ Kapaa Hongwanji Mission

- 4/ 4 Hanamatsuri Service
- 4/11 Monthly Memorial Service
- 4/18 Family Sunday Service
- 4/25 Eshin-ni Kakushin-ni Service
- 5/2 Dharma School Joint Service



## Memorial Service

April			May		
Shigeru	Osaki	27th 4/13/1995	Margaret	Yamaguchi	13th 5/7/2009
Albert	Oshita	3rd 4/14/2019	Edna Hatsuno	Oshita	23rd 5/9/1999
Tsutomu	Morita	27th 4/16/1995	George	Yoshimatsu	17th 5/21/2005
Nancy Chizuko	Matsuda	7th 4/21/2015	Ellen	Higa	3rd 5/27/2019
Bert Hideo	Muraoka	23rd 4/22/1999	Masayo	Kamehiro	50th 5/29/1972
Kichiji	Sugibayashi	33rd 4/24/1989	Ruth Natsuyo	Ebesu	33rd 5/29/1989
Harumi	Inagaki	17th 4/26/2005			
Shiro	Hirata	50th 4/27/1972			

### HHMH Virtual Hanamatsuri Service April 4, 2021

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii invites you to observe the Hanamatsuri service. Let's get together at the temple and join the virtual service. It is a fantastic opportunity to share our gratitude to Shakyamuni Buddha and the joy of Nembutsu with friends on other islands.



### From the Minister

It was my honor to receive the Gojo at the 2021 installation service. I am still looking at this beautiful handmade Gojo often. Kapaa Hongwanji will have its 100th anniversary next year, and I look forward to wearing it for our anniversary service. We will start planning for the 100th-anniversary service. Thank you again for your generous donation.

Namo Amida Butsu

### Temple Cleaning & Flower Arrangement

	4/3/2021	No cleaning	Ruby Ishida
Group 2	4/10/2021	Mr. Francis Nishizawa - Chair Mrs. Yasuko Murakami, Mr. Clint Saiki, Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Yanagawa	Joan Slingerland
Group 3	4/17/2021	Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Takekuma - Chair Mr. Stanford Iwamoto, Mrs. Erin Takekuma, Ms. Madison Doo, Mrs. Tami Ramil, Ms. Taryn Ramil	Kay Takekuma
Group 4	4/24/2021	Ms. Gloria Shimizu - Chair Mr. Haven Kuboyama, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Sunada, Mrs. Pat Yamamoto	Rona Sakai
Group 5	5/1/2021	Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Sakai - Chair Mr. Leslie Tada, Ms. Carol Saiki	Ruby Ishida
Group 6	5/8/2021	Mr. & Mrs. Keith Tsukamoto - Chair Mr. & Mrs. Brian Yamamoto, Mr. Winston Kawamoto	Joan Slingerland

KAPAA HONGWANJI MISSION

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# ONENESS

The Newsletter of  
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*In Memory of our Dharma friend*

**Jarrett Yoon**  
**2/28/2021**

**Glen Shimazu**  
**3/9/2021**

Kapaa Hongwanji Mission extends its  
deepest sympathy to families who have  
recently lost their loved ones.

