



# ONENESS

## KAPAA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

March 2022

### BISHOP'S CORNER

#### “Compassion of my Religion’s Founder”

Bishop Eric Matsumoto



Recently, an invitation from Murabbi (Missionary) Matiullah Joyia of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Hawaii was extended to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Religions’ Conference with the theme “Compassion of my Religion’s Founder.” At the conference, 6 world religions (Baha’i, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism and Islam) presented a variety of chants or sacred readings and the compassion of their respective faiths. Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, Office of the Bishop was honored to be asked to represent the Buddhist Tradition while Rev. Yuika Hasebe chanted “The Tradition of Shinran Shonin” (Shonin Ichiryu no Sho) as our contribution.

I began by explaining that the Buddhist Tradition is vast and varied in its approach as it recognizes that people’s individual abilities and capabilities differ. Thus, I often refer to the illustration of a large tree or a spectrum to describe Buddhism. Further, as we all know, the Founder of Buddhism is the Historic Buddha, Sakyamuni, who was born in Ancient India as Prince Siddhartha Gautama, but for this presentation, I focused on Shinran Shonin, who we revere as the Founder of Jodo Shinshu or Shin Buddhism.

Although I have to admit I had to think about what I would share for as we know Shinran Shonin would never say about himself that he was compassionate. Of course, this is not to say that we of later ages cannot regard him as being compassionate for he truly was!

I decided to focus my presentation on Shinran Shonin’s gratitude for the Great Compassion of Amida Buddha. For Shinran Shonin, the Compassionate One is Amida Buddha, not himself. Shinran Shonin, out of awareness of Amida Buddha’s compassion, was moved to share that compassion with others. In a poem of hymn, he wrote

*Persons who truly realize shinjin  
As they utter Amida’s Name,  
Being mindful of the Buddha always,  
Wish to respond in gratitude to the great benevolence.*

Thus, for Shinran Shonin, even in exile, he devoted the latter half of his 90 year life to sharing the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha or the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light as expounded in the Larger Sukhavativyuha Sutra in which a universal Buddha whose reach is cosmic in proportion makes unprecedented vows to lead all with no exceptions to Supreme Enlightenment to the extent that this Buddha conditions the Buddha's own personal attainment of Perfect Enlightenment with the enlightenment of all other forms of life. In almost all of the 48 vows made by this Buddha, the phrase, "If, when I attain Buddhahood, (if such and such is not so) ...may I not attain perfect enlightenment." are part of the vows.

In the Jodo Shinshu or Shin Buddhist Tradition, Enlightenment reaches out to us, not as rigorous and demanding religious practices or even in the form of meditation, but the Calling Voice of Enlightenment beckoning us to please wholeheartedly entrust, just as you are, in the Compassionate 18<sup>th</sup> Vow. Shinran Shonin's reading of the 18<sup>th</sup> Vow, in part, is

*If, when I attain Buddhahood, the sentient beings of the ten quarter, with sincere mind entrusting themselves, aspiring to be born in my land, saying my Name perhaps even ten times, should not be born there, may I not attain the supreme enlightenment.*

Thus, in the Jodo Shinshu Pure Land Tradition, central is the Buddha's Name of "Namo Amida Butsu." It is the form in which the Buddha approaches us and at the same time the Great Practice and also our gratefully responding to it by reciting it in awareness, joy and gratitude of that all-inclusive and all-embracing compassion. Ultimately, even our awareness and gratitude are because of the Buddha's compassion not my own compassion or endeavor. Therefore, our entrusting can be described as an Endowed True Entrusting brought forth by Enlightened Wisdom and Compassion, that is Namo Amida Butsu, itself.

As a final point, I introduced the special characteristic of Shin Buddhism as experienced by Shinran Shonin, which truly expressed the all-inclusiveness and all-embracing aspect of Great Compassion which reaches out to save the "spiritually foolish being" (bonbu). I made sure to mention that this quote (to follow from the *Tannisho*) is often misinterpreted as endorsing negative behavior which it does not! It adds a new dimension to Great Compassion. If Great Compassion is great compassion it has to be equally accessible and applicable to one and all including those who by some other standards may not be included. Great Compassion reaches out to those who are not able to help themselves and thus only speaks of True Entrusting. For it is the nature of Great Compassion or the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light to include all. Thus, Shinran is known to have said,

*"Even a good person attains birth in the Pure Land, so it goes without saying that an evil person will." "It is impossible for us, who are possessed of blind passions, to free ourselves from birth-and-death through any practice what(so)ever. Sorrowing at this, Amida made the Vow, the essential intent of which is the evil person's attainment of Buddhahood. Hence, evil persons who entrust themselves to Other Power are precisely the one who possess the true cause of birth. Accordingly, he said, "Even the good person is*

*born in the Pure Land, so without question is the person who is evil.”*

Many people were confused about the true nature and intent of Great Compassion and thus Shinran Shonin devoted his entire latter part of his life clarifying what the Shin Buddhist Teaching was all about, a non-dichotomous Compassion.

To close, Shinran Shonin said, *“How joyous I am, my heart and mind being rooted in the Buddha-ground of the universal Vow, and my thoughts and feelings flowing within the dharma-ocean, which is beyond comprehension! I am deeply aware of the Tathagata’s immense compassion, and I sincerely revere the benevolent care behind the masters’ teaching activity. My joy grows ever fuller, my gratitude and indebtedness ever more compelling. Therefore, I have selected [passages expressing] the core of the Pure Land way and gathered here its essentials.”* Again, it was out of awareness, joy and (especially) gratitude of Amida Buddha’s Great Compassion, which he found embracing a “spiritually foolish being” that he saw himself as, that motivated Shinran Shonin to dedicate his life to sharing about Great Compassion so that others too would come know and experience Great Compassion. Thank you very much.

Namo Amida Butsu.

#### **MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS**

Rev. Tatsuo Muneto, was assigned as Acting Rimban of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as of January 1, 2022.

Rev. Yuika Hasebe, was assigned as Assistant Rimban (Fuku Rimban) of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as of January 1, 2022.

Rev. Arthur Kaufmann, currently serving at Lihue Hongwanji Mission as its Resident Minister, will be retiring from the active ministry of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as of February 28, 2022.

(Ministers of Kauai District Minister’s Association are asked to oversee Lihue Hongwanji Mission during the absence of the resident minister.)

#### **2022 YBICSE (CANCELLED)**

The Young Buddhist International Cultural Study Exchange (YBICSE) is a program for young Jodo Shinshu Buddhists (from 9<sup>th</sup> grade to age 25). Its basic purpose is for young Jodo Shinshu Buddhists to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the Nembutsu teaching by visiting our Mother Temple or Honzan, the Hongwanji, experiencing a home stay, and traveling to several historical and/or significant sites with fellow young Buddhists.

The YBICSE is held biennially and was originally scheduled for 2021. It was postponed to 2022 but Honzan decided to cancel it due to the current pandemic situation in Japan and other countries.

# 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](http://www.hongwanjihawaii.com) Email: [hqs@honpahi.org](mailto:hqs@honpahi.org)

### GISEIKAI MESSAGE

#### FROM THE JODO SHINSHU HONGWANJI-HA GOVERNOR GENERAL BISHOP CHIKO IWAGAMI

On the occasion of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii 110th *Giseikai*, which is being conducted online, 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 Jodo Shinshu and maintaining the temples within your respective districts.

I would first like to extend my condolences to those who lost their lives to COVID-19 and offer my sympathy to the people who are currently undergoing treatment for the disease.

With the surge of a new variant, the pandemic shows no signs of ending. Its influence goes far beyond the individual and health risks, and is leading to great social division as a result from the anxiety of being infected as well as the groundless rumors and disagreements on preventive measures. Being aware that these issues are caused by our own self-oriented mindset that every one of us possesses as a human being, I cannot help but renew my appreciation for the value of Buddhist life relying on the Dharma as the foundation.

In his Message on the Completion of the Inner Altar Restoration of the Hall of Amida Buddha at Hongwanji, Monshu Ohtani Kojun provides us with the following words: “Through upholding Shinran Shonin’s teaching and constantly reflecting on ourselves as foolish beings filled with selfish desires and attachments, we come to feel gratitude for the working that Amida Buddha extends us out of great compassion. In today’s world where we see so much social division and discrimination occurring, let us respect and support each other while spreading the Dharma and enlarging the circle of fellow nembutsu friends.” Receiving this message, let us listen to the teaching even more earnestly, living with the Dharma as our guide. Thus, we are able to strive to live each day to its fullest sharing in the joy and sadness of others.

As announced, the Joint Celebration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin’s Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching will be observed at Hongwanji in 2023, and we are preparing for the occasion. It would be wonderful if we are able to celebrate this special event together with all of you in Kyoto.

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 11, 2022

Governor General Iwagami Chiko  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

## 2022 BCA NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Ms. Cindy Alm (Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin) and Ms. Doris Oshiro (Jikoen Hongwanji Mission) will represent Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and attend the 2022 Buddhist Churches of America National Council Meeting which will be held via Zoom on March 5, 2022 and March 11-13, 2022. The meeting will be hosted by Central California District Council of the BCA.

### OFFICERS, ADVISORS, AND DIRECTORS OF HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII FOR YEAR 2022

President:	Warren Tamamoto (O)		
Immediate Past President:	Pieper Toyama (H)		
Vice Presidents:	Wendy Harman (H)	Evan Watarida (O)	Lynne Matsumura (K)
	Gary Murai (M)	Joseph Gusman (HI)	
Secretary:	Russell Nonaka (O)		
Assistant Secretary:	Sharon Nohara (M)		
Treasurer:	John Toguchi (H)		
Assistant Treasurer:	Alan Tomita (H)		
Advisors:	Alan Goto (H)	Dexter Mar (H)	Rodney Moriyama (O)
	Carolyn Uchiyama (O)	Alton Miyamoto (K)	Janet Shimada (M)
	Michael Munekiyo (M)	Ivan Nakano (HI)	Frederick Nonaka (HI)
	Harold Uyeno (HI)		
Honorary Advisors:	Roy Miyamoto (H)	Keiji Kukino (H)	
Directors:			
Honolulu (5)	Wendy Harman	John Toguchi	Alan Tomita
	Joanne Kealoha	Prudence Kusano	
Oahu (6)	Russell Nonaka	Myra Nohara	Rene Mansho
	Clifford Togo	Miles Tamura	Evan Watarida
Kauai (2)	Lynne Matsumura	Fay Tateishi	
Maui (4)	George Borg	Sharon Nohara	Carol Yamamura
	Gary Murai		
Hawaii (7)	Burt Tsuchiya	Edwin Hara	Earl Tanaka
	Delbert Nishimoto	David Oshiro	Joseph Gusman
	Jason Hashimoto		

MAHALO FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS & SUPPORT  
January 22-February 17, 2022

**Funeral Service**

*In memory of the late...*

Charles Kusaka - Maryanne Kusaka

**Memorial Service**

*In memory of the late...*

Masuo & Masayo Kamehiro - Jan Ota  
Masao Kawamoto & Takahashi Family  
- Raymond Kawamoto

**Nirvana Day Service**

Gloria Shimizu  
Sidney Yanagawa

**Membership**

Laura Asari  
James Jung  
Nancy Masada  
Evelyn Nakamura  
Ethel Aiko Oda  
Hiroko Oshima  
Carol Saiki  
Mae Sakamoto  
Joan Slingerland  
Camilla Sone  
Clyde Takekuma  
Lynsay Tsukamoto  
Thelma Tsukamoto  
Mildred Tsukuda  
Mitsuo Wakumoto  
Glenn Yagihara  
Alice Yamada  
Brian Yamamoto  
Etsuko Yoshii

**Friends of Kapaa Hongwanji**

Jay Hiramoto  
Baron Nakamatsu  
Carol Seshiki  
Alison Yamamoto

**Temple Donations**

Jonathan Kato  
Ralph Kitashima  
Ethel Aiko Oda  
Camilla Sone  
Clyde Takekuma  
Mildred Tsukuda

**Social Concerns**

Nancy Masada  
Mildred Tsukuda

**Keirokai Bento Volunteers**

Stanford Iwamoto  
Rev. Mieko Majima  
Lorna Nishimitsu  
Carol Saiki  
Calvin & Rona Sakai  
Gloria Shimizu  
Pearl Shimizu  
Clyde Takekuma  
Becky Wada

**Volunteer Support**

Madison Doo  
Marie Hashimura  
Stanford Iwamoto  
Winston Kawamoto  
Ralph Kitashima  
Rev. Mieko Majima  
Milton Nakamura  
Francis Nishizawa  
Tami Ramil  
Taryn Ramil  
Carol Saiki  
Calvin & Rona Sakai  
Gloria Shimizu  
Pearl Shimizu  
Joan Slingerland  
Clyde & Kay Takekuma  
Erin Takekuma  
Brian & Wendy Yamamoto  
Sidney Yanagawa



**BSC 2022 SPRING SEMINAR**

**March 25, 2022 7:00 pm–8:30 pm, March 26, 2022 10:00 am–11:30am HST**

Title: Dharma Through the Eyes of Youth (Speakers: Jacob Chang)

Panelists on Friday will be the Federation of Junior YBA Hawaii Officers, Manami Alspach, Chihiro Okawa, Kana Suzuki, Jay Yokoyama, and Naho Umitani. There will be a Q&A Session after the Panel Discussion. Saturday presents Jacob Chang, former HHMH Youth Coordinator as our guest speaker, along with panelists Wayde Toyama, Dwight Matsuo, and Wayne Yoshioka. There will be a Q&A session after the talk.

Registration: <https://bit.ly/bcscspringseminar2022>



*Kauai Hongwanji Council Nembutsu Seminar*

# Women in Buddhism

- Historiographical Approach -

Tuesday, April 26, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm (HST): Zoom

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Mutsumi Wondra



Women's roles in the history of Buddhism and Jodoshinshu-Buddhism are vital. In the historiographical approach, this seminar talks about Sakyamuni's stepmother Mahapajapati, Śrīmālādevī described in Śrīmālādevī-siṃhanāda-sūtra, Queen Vaidehī in the Contemplation sūtra, and in the Pure Land Buddhism. Shin Buddhism has nurtured the Shin Buddhist women such as Shinran Shonin's wife Eshinni-sama, and daughter Kakushinni-sama who established the current Hongwanji. In the modernism time, Lady Takeko Kujo, the daughter of the 21<sup>st</sup> Gomonsu Myoyo Shonin, founded the BWA-Fujinkai in Japan in 1907 and established the first women university, Kyoto Women's University. We also explore the view of women by Shinran, Kakunyo, Zonkaku, and Rennyō Shonins.

Rev. Dr. Mutsumi Wondra was born in Kyoto, Japan, and graduated from Kyoto Women's University, founded by Lady Takeko Kujo. While being an active member in California, she aspired to study Buddhism and attended Kyoto Chuo-Bukkyo Gakuin, and Institute do Buddhist Studies (M.A.), Ryukoku University (M.A.), and Ryukoku University (Ph.D.) she received Hongwanji Gakkai Hokyo. She is currently the resident minister of the Orange County Buddhist Church (OCBC) in California and the Institute of Buddhist Study instructor.

Her research and teaching interests are the history of Shin Buddhism in premodern, the history of Shin Buddhist thought in modernism in America, and Women and Shin Buddhism in America. She is a co-translator of *Leaves of My Hear* by Lady Takeko Kujo.

**Registration Fee:** Free (Registration Required)

Donations can be made to the Kauai Hongwanji Council. Please make a check payable to Kauai Hongwanji Council and send it to Lihue Hongwanji Mission 3-3556 Kuhio Highway, Lihue, HI 96766.

**The maximum capacity is 100 people, first come, first served.** We will email you a Zoom link three days prior to the seminar.

**Click below to register!**

"Registration Deadline April 19, 2022"

<https://forms.gle/7oBvsVVrazFJM5ma6>



When you complete the seminar registration, you will receive an automatic confirmation email from Google forms.

**For further information, please contact:**

Kapaa Hongwanji at 822-4667, West Kauai Hongwanji at 335-3195 or Lihue Hongwanji at 245-6262.

## from the president's corner...

*Aloha Everyone! Goodbye to the cold winter months and hello to spring. We hope you are all well and looking forward to the warmer season with flowers blooming, and bird chirping merrily.*

*As we all know, the purpose of our temple is to share the Dharma, provide services and promote peace. We are truly grateful to our ancestors who worked hard to establish the temple and ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to listen to the Buddha's message and continue to promote peace.*

*We joyfully announce the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kapaa Hongwanji Mission on October 23, 2022. We are so thankful to all who made this momentous celebration a reality. Let us continue this legacy so we can all live together in peace and harmony.*

*Now with restrictions decreasing, it's time to once again return to the temple and connect with the Sangha members. Wouldn't it be nice to sit back in a peaceful setting, relax, and listen to Rev. Majima's Dharma message. We encourage all of you to join us and look forward to seeing you.*

*Our special thank you to all for attending Sunday Services, cleaning the temple and yard, donating flowers, arranging altar flowers, helping with fundraisers, assisting with special events, contributing generous donations and most of all being a dedicated and contributing member of our Sangha. Without you our temple will not be here today. Let's continue to express our gratitude and recite the nembutsu daily. Namo Amida Butsu...*

### Women's Association

The Kauai United BWA had a virtual meeting to organize the committees for 2022 and schedule annual events such as the Eshinni-Kakushinni Day Service, Fall Conference and Lonesome Grave Project at the Veteran's Cemetery. We will inform you of these events as the dates get closer.

Kapaa Hongwanji currently has 3 active members. We welcome new members to join us. The Women's Association supports the temple with various occasions and events which involve refreshments, flower arranging for the temple and columbarium altar, and when help is needed. We sometime have cooking, flower arranging and other activities.

### United Jr. YBA of Kauai

The Jr. YBA is actively participating in the Federation of Jr. YBA meetings and events. President Madison Doo also conducts monthly meetings to organize the events. We are currently fundraising by recycling cans and plastic bottles for the Ronald McDonald House. Each year the Federation decides on the Charity they would like to donate to. We are also having a membership drive to recruit new members.



## Memorial Service

March				April			
Katsuto	Harada	50th	3/4/1973	Alfred Susumu	Mori	13th	4/2/2010
Naka	Kakimoto	50th	3/4/1973	Niitsuma	Hanae	3rd	4/12/2020
Haruo	Nagaoka	50th	3/5/1973	Masato	Wakumoto	17th	4/13/2006
Satsuki	Kodani	3rd	3/5/2020	Jerry Mamoru	Yonemura	17th	4/17/2006
Yaku	Yoshida	50th	3/8/1973	Helen	Soma	23rd	4/24/2000
Glenn	Shimazu	1st	3/9/2021	Violet Kiyoe	Shiraki	17th	4/26/2006
Kaoru	Kato	50th	3/10/1973				
Takami	Kubota	50th	3/11/1973				
Albert Sadamu	Taogoshi	17th	3/20/2006				
Junichi	Iida	23rd	3/24/2000				
Kayo	Tsuchiya	33rd	3/28/1990				

### Spring Higan Service

March 20, 2022, 9:00 am

We invite you to Spring Higan service. It is an excellent opportunity to show your gratitude to Amida Buddha and to show respect to those left for the Pure Land before us.



### *In Memoriam...*

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

Namo Amida Butsu.

### From Minister's Desk

Please contact us at 808.822.4667 if you are planning to have a service or visiting the gravesite. Thank you for your kind support to keep our temple alive.

Namo Amida Butsu

## Temple Cleaning & Flower Arrangement

3/5/2022	Group 3	Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Takekuma - Chair Mr. Stanford Iwamoto, Mrs. Erin Takekuma, Ms. Madison Doo, Mrs. Tami Ramil, Ms. Taryn Ramil	Ruby Ishida
3/12/2022	Group 4	Ms. Gloria Shimizu - Chair Mr. Haven Kuboyama, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Sunada, Mrs. Pat Yamamoto	Joan Slingerland
3/19/2022	Group 5	Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Sakai - Chair Ms. Carol Saiki	Kay Takekuma
3/26/2022	Group 6	Mr. & Mrs. Keith Tsukamoto - Chair Mr. & Mrs. Brian Yamamoto, Mr. Winston Kawamoto	Rona Sakai
4/2/2022	Group 1	Mrs. Marie Hashimura - Chair Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hiraoka, Mr. Milton Nakamura, Mr. Ray Paler	Ruby Ishida
4/9/2022	Group 2	Mr. Francis Nishizawa - Chair Mrs. Yasuko Murakami, Mr. Clint Saiki, Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Yanagawa	Joan Slingerland

KAPAA HONGWANJI MISSION

4-1170 Kuhio Highway

Kapaa, Hawaii 96746



# ONENESS

The Newsletter of  
Kapaa Hongwanji Mission  
Minister: Rev. Mieko Majima  
[www.kapaahongwanji.org](http://www.kapaahongwanji.org)  
Phone (808) 822-4667  
Email: [mail@kapaahongwanji.org](mailto:mail@kapaahongwanji.org)

## March

No Service  
March 6, 2022

Monthly Memorial Service  
March 13, 2022 9:00 am

Ohigan Service  
March 20, 2022 9:00 am

Family Service  
March 27, 2022 9:00 am

