



# ONENESS

## KAPAA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

May 2022

### BISHOP'S CORNER

#### “Dharma Message for a 49<sup>th</sup> Day Service in honor of the Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh” (Part 2)

Bishop Eric Matsumoto

This message was given at a 49<sup>th</sup> Day Service in honor of the Venerable  
Thich Nhat Hanh at Honokaa Hongwanji on March 12, 2022

*(Continued from Bishop's Corner for Headquarters Update March 2022)*



In the Mahayana Pure Land Tradition, there is the story of Honen Shonin who founded the Pure Land Tradition centered on verbal recitation of the Name of the Buddha Amitayus-Amitabha or Amida Buddha in Japanese, as an independent school in Japan. When he was about to pass away over 800 years ago, a similar conversation took place in which a disciple said, *“From olden days, memorial temples were built for distinguished masters. However, there are none in praise of your great achievement. Where shall we build a temple in honor of you?”* Honen Shonin replied, *“The Nembutsu Teachings will not permeate among the people if you build a temple in my honor. I*

*have devoted my entire life to spreading the Dharma because I want people everywhere to receive the Nembutsu teachings. Therefore, any place, whether a king's palace or a thatched hut, any place where people recite the Nembutsu is my temple.”*

Shinran Shonin of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji probably inherited this perspective from Honen Shonin for as we know Shinran Shonin did not attempt to build any temples nor did he have any attachments to his physical body. According to records left by Shinran Shonin's grandson, Shinran Shonin is known to have requested that after he dies his body should be left in the Kamo River as food for the fish. His understanding, probably based on interdependency, was that during his lifetime the fish he consumed provided him with sustenance, at least, at minimum, now as he discards his body, let him be of benefit to the fish.

For Shinran Shonin too, his main focus was the Dharma or Teachings, in his case it was living the life of Shinjin-Nembutsu or to Realize the Buddha Endowed Awakened Mind of True Entrusting-Reciting the Nembutsu of Awareness, Joy and Gratitude in response to the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light, Amida Buddha's Great Wisdom and

Compassion, which promises this “spiritually foolish being” that I am assured the great enlightenment at the end of this finite life by the Compassionate 18<sup>th</sup> Vow of Amida Buddha by simply wholeheartedly entrusting in Great Compassion.

For Shinran Shonin, for people everywhere to rejoice in Amida Buddha’s Great Wisdom and Unconditional Compassion was most important. Thus, we have records of Shinran Shonin having exclaimed, *“If you are rejoicing in the Nembutsu know that there are two people rejoicing, if there are two people know that there are three people, for that other shall be I, Shinran.”* Shinran Shonin’s unending gratitude and also his commitment and dedication to sharing the Nembutsu Dharma, in response to Amida Buddha’s Great Compassion, is expressed by his words known to us today as “Ondokusan” which goes like this *“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.”* These words have been dearly embraced by our Jodo Shinshu predecessors, both minister and lay, for centuries and has brought us to the present. Honokaa Hongwanji Temple, Temple of Amida Buddha’s Primal Vow, is a testament of it.

Again, from the perspective of many great Buddhist leaders throughout the ages, more important than holding memorial rites, more important than even passing on a physical structure of a temple, is our living the Dharma or Teachings and passing the Dharma on to future generations. I believe this is what the Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh also said when he had to flee Vietnam that most important is that Buddhism remained alive in people’s hearts and minds.

To me, the words of the Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh *“I am not in here.”, “I am not out there either.”* and especially the third and last phrase, *“I may be found in your way of breathing and walking.”* is emphasizing that he continues to exist, live on when people continue their practice, continue to live their lives in the Dharma. This is his encouragement. This is his last teaching to those who follow the path that he dedicated his whole life to. Generally speaking, due to the truth of interdependence, while we do have our individual existences, at the same time, we are all interconnected and interrelated as the metaphor of Indra’s Net shares and we are not as separate and completely independent of each other as we think we are. The Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh often referred to “interbeing.” We are all a part of each other’s life regardless of our current state of being. Thus, today, while it is sad that the physical presence of a revered Buddhist Teacher respected by so many around the world can no longer be seen by our human eyes, but his presence is still here. He has not completely disappeared forever.

To summarize and slowly conclude, let me share a quote from “The Teaching of Buddha” by the Society for the Promotion of Buddhism/BDK in hopes that it provides some comfort and provides an aspiration. It says:

*“When the moon sets, people say that the moon has disappeared; and when the moon rises, they say that the moon has appeared. In fact, the moon neither goes nor comes, but shines continually in the sky. Buddha is exactly like the moon: He neither appears nor disappears; He only seems to do so, out of love for the people that he may teach them.”*

*“Whether Buddha appears or disappears, Buddhahood always remains the same. Knowing this principle, one must keep (to) the path of Enlightenment and attain Perfect Wisdom, undisturbed by the apparent changes in the image of Buddha, in the condition of the world, or in the fluctuations of human thought.”*

*“Do not seek to know Buddha by his form or attributes; for neither the form nor the attributes are the real Buddha. The true Buddha is Enlightenment itself. The true way to know Buddha is to realize Enlightenment.”*

As a final reflection-aspiration, I would like to share a slightly adapted poetic rendition of how we honor the Buddha by A. Ferdinand Herold and translated from French by Paul C. Blum which is one of my favorite quotes. Our remembrance of the Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh does not end at the conclusion of this 49 Day Service in his honor. Please join me in anjali/gassho.

*“Listen: the air is joyous with songs in honor of the Buddha. But the Buddha is paid a more enduring honor. Monks, nuns, all believers, all those who see the Dharma. All those who live within the Dharma, they are the ones that do the Buddha supreme honor. Therefore, live according to the Dharma and even in the most trivial matters always follow the Sacred Path of the Dharma.”*

For those who wish, please remain in gassho/anjali, as I end, today, as we traditionally do in our Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji Tradition of Pure Land Buddhism by reciting The Buddha Amitabha-Amitayus’ Name Which I Call in awareness and joy in grateful response to Namo Amida Butsu, The Buddha Amitabha-Amitayus’ Name That Calls Me to entrust. Namo Amida Butsu/Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion.

Thank you/Mahalo iā ‘oukou.

**Gatha Writing Workshop  
May 15 and 22 at 1:30 - - 4:00 pm  
Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin**

If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please contact workshop facilitator, BJ Soriano at [bj@bjsoriano.com](mailto:bj@bjsoriano.com) for more information.

## CONDOLENCES

Mr. George Takashi Okamoto, a member of Wailuku Hongwanji Mission, passed away on March 9, 2022. Mr. Okamoto served as the President of Wailuku Hongwanji Mission for 10 years. He was also active in statewide Hongwanji activities and served on many committees. The Ingo of SHOU-RYUU-IN 紹隆院 which means “One who contributed to the flourishing of the Buddha-Dharma” in recognition of his life of Nembutsu was conferred by Bishop Eric Matsumoto on April 3, 2022.

Mrs. Emiko Serikaku, a member of Waipahu Hongwanji Mission, passed away on February 3, 2022. Mrs. Serikaku served as a board member of Waipahu Hongwanji Mission for many years. She was also Waipahu Hongwanji BWA president and supported temple a lot. The Ingo of GON-GO-IN 嚴護院 which means “One who firmly protected the Temple” in recognition of her life of Nembutsu was conferred by Bishop Eric Matsumoto on April 9, 2022.

Reverend Midori Kondo, a retired minister of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, passed away on Sunday, March 27, 2022, at her home in Keaau, HI, at the age of 87. Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii sponsored funeral service is scheduled for Saturday, May 28, 2022, at Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin under the officiation of Bishop Eric Matsumoto. Visitation will be held from 9:30 am to 11:00 am, followed by the funeral service at 11:00 am. The family requests no flowers. Rev. Midori Kondo became a Kaikyoshi Minister in 2004, and served the following temples:

July 1999 - November 2004	Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin
December 2004 - October 2009	Lihue Hongwanji Mission
October 19, 2009	Retired

## MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Rev. Shinji Kawagoe, the Resident Minister of Papaikou Hongwanji Mission and also the Oversee Minister of Honohina Hongwanji Mission and Honomu Hongwanji Mission, will resign from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as of April 30, 2022. Rev. Kawagoe has been serving Hawaii Kyodan as a Kaikyoshi Minister since July 2013. During the absence of the resident minister starting May 1, 2022, ministers of Hawaii District are tasked with providing support and guidance.



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Rev. Kazunori & Mrs. Noriko Takahashi welcomed a baby boy. Hironori Takahashi (高橋 弥法) was born on April 8, 2022, weighing 9lb. 1oz. He is their first child. Rev. Kazunori Takahashi currently works at Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin as Rimban. Congratulations to Rev. & Mrs. Takahashi!



## 2022 LIVING TREASURES OF HAWAI'I™

The Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ Selection Committee has selected three individuals who have made significant contributions in their respective fields and positively impacted the quality of life in our local communities and the whole of Hawai'i. The Honorees for this 47<sup>th</sup> year event are Kenny Endo (Taiko Master), Patrick Kirch (Archaeology Researcher), and Keali'i Reichel (Kumu Hula, Musician Scholar and Community Leader). This recognition takes into account social and cultural impact, professional commitment, and character that embodies the values of our distinct and diverse homeland.

The Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ Designation, sponsored by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i, is traditionally conducted through a celebratory luncheon at Legislative Assembly (Giseikai). However, due to Covid safety concerns, Honorees will be recognized in a special TV program.

For more information on the 2022 Honorees, please visit our website:  
<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/blog/2022/03/25/living-treasures-2022/>

The program will air on:

May 22, 2022, at 6:00 pm  
(KHNL and live streamed on the Hawaii News Now Facebook page)

May 26, 2022, at 7:00 pm  
(KFVE)



**Kenny Endo**



**Keali'i Reichel**



**Patrick Kirch**

**LIVING TREASURES OF HAWAII™ HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII**  
**1727 Pali Highway**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

HISTORY

The Living Treasures of Hawai'i™, established in 1976, drew its inspiration from the Living National Treasures (Ningen Kokuho) of Japan. Paul Yamanaka, a local insurance executive, felt there were many people in Hawaii who deserved similar recognition for their contributions to the preservation and perpetuation of the island's distinctive cultural and artistic heritage. He approached, then Bishop Yoshiaki Fujitani who instituted the program within the Hongwanji. Today, this recognition has been expanded to include contributions by individuals in all areas of endeavor.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ is to recognize and honor individuals who have demonstrated excellence and high standards of achievement in their particular field(s) of endeavor, and through their continuous growth, learning and sharing, have made significant contributions towards enriching our society.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Demonstrates continuous growth and learning in one's area of strength.

Shares consistently one's knowledge and understanding with others in particular field(s) of endeavor.

Makes significant contributions towards enhancing society resulting in a more harmonious and compassionate society for all.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

An organization or person may nominate a candidate for this recognition by submitting the following:

Nomination form with information on the nominee.

Letters of recommendation (maximum of three).

The nomination form is available at the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters Office located at 1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 or on our website [www.hongwanjihawaii.com](http://www.hongwanjihawaii.com). Completed nominations may be submitted in the following manner:

By mail.

By email – [admin@honpahi.org](mailto:admin@honpahi.org)

By fax – (808) 522-9209

Dropped off during office hours

The completed nomination (nomination form and letters of recommendation) must be received by the Living Treasures Committee no later than close of business on **AUGUST 1ST**. (If August 1st falls on a Sunday, then by close of business the next business day.) Any nomination received after August 1st will be considered for the following year. Presentation is made in February of the following year. For additional information, please call our office at (808) 522-9200.

# MAHALO FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS & SUPPORT

March 19 - April 17, 2022

## Memorial Service

*In memory of the late ...*

Junichi Iida - Sally Yokota  
Seichi & Kei Kawamoto -  
Raymond Kawamoto

## Ohigan Service

Gloria Shimizu  
Roberta Yanagawa

## Hanamatsuri Service

Mildri Cifuentes  
Ralph Kitashima  
Carol Saiki  
Gloria Shimizu  
Roberta Yanagawa

## Sunday Service

Yoshiko Dimples Kano  
Ralph Kitashima  
Angela Petel  
Carol Saiki  
Gloria Shimizu  
Roberta Yanagawa

## Columbarium Donation

Mie Shiraki

## Membership Dues

Walter Agena  
Sharon Contrades  
Ruth Kano  
Hidemi Okamoto  
Phil O'Rourke  
Mie Shiraki

## Miscellaneous Donations

Itsue Okada  
Hidemi Okamoto  
Mie Shiraki

## Hall Rentals

Lighthouse Outreach Center  
Lynsay Tsukamoto  
Ann Yempuku Otani

## Volunteer Support

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



## United Jr. YBA of Kauai

The Juniors participated in the Zoom Spring Federation Meeting on April 24. Madison and Taryn will be assisting with the State Dharma School Service on May 1<sup>st</sup>. They will lead the breakout sessions for the Dharma School Students. They are also preparing for the 65<sup>th</sup> Jr. YBA State Convention which will be held in person on June 17-19 at Hilo Hongwanji Mission. Madison Doo and Taryn Ramil will be representing Kauai.

## from the president's corner...

**ALOHA EVERYONE!** We hope the month of May finds all of you well and happy. As the saying goes, "April showers bring May flowers" to brighten your day.

We hope you are all keeping safe although most of the restrictions have been lifted. Please continue to be vigilant and enjoy many happy, fulfilling and peaceful days.

**Happy Mother's Day!** "Here's wishing you a Mother's Day that's filled with every pleasure, and a future that's as happy as the memories you treasure." ... anon

**Gotan-e Service** - Happy Birthday Shinran Shonin!

Gotane is an annual observance to express our gratitude for the birth and life of Shinran Shonin. He was born on May 21, 1173 and is the founder of Shin Buddhism. He taught us to put our hands together in gassho and recite the Nembutsu. Namo Amida Butsu.

**Memorial Day** - May 30

Memorial Day is a time to honor and remember those who sacrificed their lives while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Families visit the graves and place flowers in gratitude.

**Baccalaureate Service** - June 5, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

We will be congratulating and honoring Taryn Ramil who is a senior at Kapaa High School. She is an active member of the United Jr. YBA of Kauai and has served as the president and is currently the vice president and treasurer.

*We take this opportunity to thank all of you for keeping in touch by calling and sending us encouraging notes with gratitude. Your kindness, generosity and support are sincerely appreciated. We cannot survive without you.*

## Women's Association

We thank the West Kauai Hongwanji Women's Association, Rev. Tomo Hojo and guest speaker, Rev. Akiko Okada of Waimea Higashi Hongwanji, for the wonderful Eshinni and Kalkushinni Day Service we all enjoyed.

## Memorial Service

### May

Mitsue	Fukuda	27th	5/7/1996
Tsuruyo	Shimizu	27th	5/9/1996
Masao	Ninomoto	33rd	5/11/1990
Masami	Ohara	50th	5/12/1973
Toyoko	Ebesu	33rd	5/14/1990
Darryl Hisashi	Maeda	27th	5/14/1996
Yasuko Takeuchi	Nishimoto	13th	5/19/2010
Sato	Kimura	33rd	5/23/1990
Hajime	Inoue	50th	5/26/1973
Masako	Matsumura	13th	5/30/2010

### *In Memoriam...*

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

**Nancy Masada  
Mitsue Hirata**

Namo Amida Butsu.



### June

Kame	Yamane	33rd	6/1/1990
Kurato	Seshiki	33rd	6/13/1990
Mitoyo	Akutagawa	50th	6/25/1973
Kimiko	Hirai	27th	6/30/1996

### 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

### Gotan-E Service

KHM celebrates the birthday of Shinran Shonin, Gotan-E on May 22 at 9:00 am. Let's put hands together in gassho, and listen to the Dharma messages with gratitude.

### Temple Cleaning & Flower Arrangement

5/7/2022	Group 6	Mr. & Mrs. Keith Tsukamoto - Chair Mr. & Mrs. Brian Yamamoto, Mr. Winston Kawamoto	Ruby Ishida
5/14/2022	Group 1	Mrs. Marie Hashimura - Chair Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hiraoka, Mr. Milton Nakamura, Mr. Ray Paler	Joan Slingerland
5/21/2022	Group 2	Mr. Francis Nishizawa - Chair Mrs. Yasuko Murakami, Mr. Clint Saiki, Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Yanagawa	Kay Takekuma
5/28/2022	Group 3	Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Takekuma - Chair Mr. Stanford Iwamoto, Mrs. Erin Takekuma, Ms. Madison Doo, Mrs. Tami Ramil, Ms. Taryn Ramil	Rona Sakai
6/4/2022	Group 4	Ms. Gloria Shimizu - Chair Mr. Haven Kuboyama, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Sunada, Mrs. Pat Yamamoto	Ruby Ishida
6/11/2022	Group 5	Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Sakai - Chair Ms. Carol Saiki	Joan Slingerland

KAPAA HONGWANJI MISSION

4-1170 Kuhio Highway

Kapaa, Hawaii 96746



# ONENESS

The Newsletter of  
Kapaa Hongwanji Mission  
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Phone (808) 822-4667  
Email: [mail@kapaahongwanji.org](mailto:mail@kapaahongwanji.org)

## May 2022

### Dharma School Gathering

May 1, 2022, 9:30 am

### Mothers Day Service

May 8, 2022, 9:00 am

### Monthly Memorial Service

May 15, 2022, 9:00 am

### Gotane-E Service

May 22, 2022, 9:00 am

### No Service

May 29, 2022, 9:00 am

