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Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji



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**Minister's Message**

By Rev. Marcos Sawada

**My Religious Life: The Truth of My Fears**

*“How brazen and impudent a person I am. And, without a heart of truth or sincerity. But because the Name is transferred by Amida, its virtues pervade the ten directions.”* – Shinran Shonin

I rarely, in my daily life, concern myself with spirituality. Therefore, when I am confronted with a loved one's death or my ancestors' death, even my anxiety about my own death, a kind of strange feeling moves me. Funerals, memorial services and my relation with clergies are feelings of uncomfortable situations. It is like what I'm doing isn't "correct". It is like the sensation of being a sinner. This is not a Buddhist term, but I can say it is a feeling of not doing the necessary procedures. In simple words, I am afraid of making mistakes and falling into Hell.

Humans with their minds have a vision of reality, beliefs and faith. You expect others to live in the same world or cocoon. But, they are individually different from each other. Even though you have your own world or a kind of cocoon, everything flows to the same reality. The destination is the universal place. It doesn't matter whether you agree or not because the natural law works anyway.

We go or come back means to return to my origin or nature of being the basic human, pure human, naked from the heavy clothes of life that each one of us wore its whole life.

Master Shinran wrote that even a drop of water, a steam, goes to the ocean. The Ocean is like a mother that everyone goes to. The meaning of this symbolism is you do things pegged as "good" or "bad"; it doesn't matter if they "will go" to the Ocean or true reality.

Today's human incongruence on making war, destroying the environment, killing, lying, all of these things do not have a base to stand on. It is the individual belief that prevails over the things as it is. That means we do not stand in the actual base, but in the fantasies and in I think, I believe, I deserve delusions and illusions.

Shin Buddhism is a symbolic tool that allows me to listen to the wisdom of Buddha. Sensei Rijin Yasuda, one the famous Pure Land Buddhism thinkers, said: "Without religion, I can't be a human!" It means the Buddha's teaching is that you know about your true self, you as a human. It doesn't make you better than others, stronger or smarter; it only puts you in the place you are now, a human being. Come back to your origin! The original aspiration of Buddha works to make you realize you are not special; you are different--same like other humans. We are reconnected with our base of a human by the ancestry

which religion has a crucial role.

Listen as this message is for you alone. The reason we get lost in the SAMSARA cycle is this disruption from the actual base of humans, the natural law or Dharma. When I choose to guide myself and refuse to follow my roots, I collide with the truth, my origin or base as a human. That means my own reality is more important than the actual fact of my link or connection with my closest origin, the beloved ones. I put my frustration on those who disagree with me. Each one cannot enter into the other's world, but I think they need to follow my thoughts. My deception makes me mad and I generate my own suffering; my mind and emotions build this false reality.

Pure Land isn't a place to go, but to stand here now in what you have, what you are without any mask or beliefs only as you are, pure, original human being! So, which are you going to listen to? Your beliefs (mind) or the Dharma represented by the beloved ones that guide you to the natural path?

The interface to realize that the symbols are working is the deepest trust in the Buddha's wisdom that is expressed by calling the Buddha's name NAMUAMIDABUTSU. The dualistically Buddha and we humans become one. It represents that we are working at the same level as Buddha. Togetherness dualism.

"The light emanating from Amida's features illuminates all the worlds in the ten quarters, takes in all beings, and never abandons them." --Meditation Sutra

"Listen to this message as this is the last time you ever do so in your life!" --Master Rennyoo.

*“How brazen and impudent a person I am. And, without a heart of truth or sincerity. But because the Name is transferred by Amida, its virtues pervade the ten directions.”* – Shinran Shonin  
“Without religion, I can't be a human!” Sensei Rijin Yasuda

**CALENDAR APRIL - JUNE 2023**

**APRIL 2023**

2 (Sun) 2023 HBC HANAMATSURI SVC 9:30 am will be live streamed Hybrid Service  
9 (Sun) Joint HANAMATSURI with Windward Buddhist temple.Svc. 10:00 am \*YT Kailua  
13(Thu) to 25 (Tue) Sensei will be in Japan  
16, 23 (Sun) SS 9 am  
30 (Sun) Sunday Service 9 a.m. \*YT

**MAY 2023**

7 (Sun) Sunday Service Local Dharma Gathering with Bishop Kawawata 10 a.m. \*Zoom  
9 (Tue) Larger Sutra Study I 6 pm \*Zoom  
11 (Thu) OKO Tea time Shinran's Wasan 3 pm \* Zoom With Betsuin  
14 (Sun) Sunday Service 9 a.m. and Omigaki (Polishing Buddhist Ornaments)  
21(Sun) Tanjo-E Service 9 a.m. \*YT  
28 (Sun) Waimea-Kauai Dharma Gathering & Sunday Service 10 a.m.  
\* By Zoom with Rev. Sawada

**JUNE 2023**

4 (Sun) SS at 9:00 am, followed by Palolo SS and Dharma Gathering Larger Sutra Rev.

Steve Toyoshima 10:00 am by ZOOM  
11 (Sun) SS 9:00 am, followed by Betsuin Dharma Gathering Larger Sutra Rev. Fujimori 10:00 am by ZOOM  
13 (Tue) Larger Sutra Study 6p.m.\*Zoom  
14 to July 11 rev. Marcos's vacation  
15 (Thu) OKO Tea time Shinran's Wasan 3 pm \* Zoom With Betsuin  
18(Sun) SS 9:00 am  
25 (Sun) Hilo SS + Dharma Gathering Larger Sutra Rev. Fujimori 10:00 am by ZOOM

JULY 09 (Sun) Sunday Service 9 a.m.

- \* ZOOM Live Stream Need to get link. It will be sent by email.
- \* YT YouTube Channel live Stream at Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji YT Channel



**UP COMING SERVICES & EVENTS**

**Honzan Japan Tour: From April 18 to 25, 2023. About \$ 3000 More Inf. WEB Site**

**April 9 (Sun) Joint HANAMATSURI with Windward Buddhist temple Svc. 10:00 am \*YT Kailua Windward Buddhist temple**

**May 7 (Sun) Sunday Service with Local Dharma Gathering, " The Larger Sutra." By Bishop Kenjun Kawawata 10 a.m. \*ZOOM**

**May 14 (Sun) Short Sunday Service 9 a.m. and Omigaki (Polishing Buddhist Ornaments )**

**GOJIKAI MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR 2023**

Send us your 2023 GOJIKAI Membership fee! It doesn't make you, as members, better, healthier or stronger, but calls you to be humble and listen to what we need. Give us reason to continue this temple! Your donation is very important to keep this temple alive! If you want to discontinue ask Rev. Marcos how to quit. Mahalo! Gassho!

**JUSHIN EDITORIAL MEMBERS**

Contributors: Rev. Marcos Sawada, CharlAnn Nakamoto, Jean Crozier, Stan Sato, Mary Matsuda, Norma Sawada, Coleen Kasamoto

Assembling and Sending: Stan Sato, Norma Sawada, Rev. Marcos Sawada, Bill Yamanaka, Eleanor Tokunaga, Ron Martinez

**EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS**



**Spring Ohigan in Betsuin**

10 members of Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji attended the service on March 19, 2023 . Rev. Kigoshi and wife (Japan)



## Chairperson's Message

By Mary Matsuda

Hello again to my fellow seekers!

After an absence of about three years, I have returned to Kaneohe and will be serving on the board again.

I am excited and look forward to many days of learning with each of you! It'll be good to be back in the camaraderie of the temple members, however few we are at this time. We are hoping that with the terrifying few years of living with Covid and the many months of shunning any group gatherings behind us (as it was in my case), we will be able to see more of you join us in temple services and activities.

**\*Nugget 1: The Buddha's teachings are present in our lives every minute of the day, whether you are awake or asleep. All we have to do is open our hearts and ears and become aware of that which is outside of our closed minds.**

At the very onset of the Covid virus, my husband had a huge medical challenge. We had been so fortunate that in our 47 years together we had not had any serious health issues so this was uncharted waters for us. After his surgery we obediently heeded doctors' cautions and advice to avoid contact with the public, isolate, sanitize, and be very vigilant because of his advanced age.

Meanwhile as we all know; the world could not stop and hide under a rock 'til the storm blew over. So, the world began to change from a more physical and social realm to an impersonal and mentally challenging world. Man is wired to be problem solvers the business world began to use telecommunications capabilities to its fullest extent.

Having worked in the telecommunications industry from 1985 to 2001 during what is known as the telecommunications revolution, I was aware that the infrastructure being installed at that time (the early 1990's) would be able to support remote meetings, telecommuting, instantaneous data sharing, etc. However, despite a gallant effort to market this capability at that time the world opted to stay with the familiar model of face-to-face transactions and meetings, working together in shared physical spaces, etc. Nothing wrong with that as America continued to thrive. Then Covid hit and everything changed. It was only when this style of working became dangerous and a threat to everyone did the world embrace the telecommunication's capabilities which had been available for over 25 years. Interesting, isn't it?

Amongst those who benefitted from the use of telecommunications were our Buddhist temples. They learned that they were now able to cast their net further and wider and share the teachings with many seekers from hundreds and thousands of miles away. I was able to study Jodo Shinshu with people on the U.S. continent and had access to many fine teachers. I belonged to a Buddhist book club in Tacoma, Washington in which we read and discussed books related to Buddhism. Some of the books we read were "Feeling Wisdom: Working with Emotions Using Buddhist teachings and Western Psychology" by Rob Preece, "Raising the Voices of Asian American Buddhists" by Chenxing Han, "The Buddhist on Death Row" by David Sheff, and my most favorite book of the syllabus, "Advice for Future Corpses (and Those Who Love Them): A Practical Perspective on Death and Dying" by Sallie Tisdale.

There are so many nuggets of Truth and profound teachings of the Buddha and Shinran Shonin, the founder of our sect, Jodo Shinshu. Throughout the year I wish to share these nuggets I have gathered throughout my lifelong journey as a seeker.

I was also able to listen to monthly lectures by Dr. Michael Conway who lectures from our main temple in Kyoto, and Nobuo Haneda Sensei from Berkeley's Maida Center. I belonged to a Buddhist chat group in Hawaii whose participants include a Quaker couple from Philadelphia, and also participated in Noriaki Fujimori sensei's oko group which includes people from Okinawa, Berkely and other parts of Japan. All this would not

have been possible without Covid pushing us to use what was always there for us to use.

**The point I am making is that although there are solutions to many of our problems, we tend not to see them until we are pushed against the wall, having exhausted all possibilities we think we have, only to find that the real solution has been there for us all along.**

Such are the Buddha's wisdom and compassion.

NamuAmidaButsu

## EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS



Sunday Service on February 05, 2023



Newsletter's helpers: Eleanor Tokunaga, Bill Yamanaka and Norma Sawada. Saturday, on February 04, 2023.

**SERVICES AND MEMORIAL SERVICES NEEDED WHILE THE KHHM RESIDENT MINISTER IS ABSENT FROM APRIL 13 TO 25, 2023?**

PLEASE CONTACT HAWAII BETSUIN AT (808) 531-9088 REV. STEVEN TOYOSHIMA OR PALOLO HIGASHI HONGWANJI AT (808) 732-1491 REV. NORIAKI FUJIMORI .

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: As of January 23 to February 18, 2023

**GOJIKAI:** Taylor Darling; Dennis Kajura; Kerri Kahapea; Jean Fukumitsu \$ 240

**Memorial Service :** Clarice Ayako Lee (IMO Kenneth T. Oka); Joy Sakurai (IMO Karen S. Higashi); Lois Miyamoto (IMO Junichi Miyamoto); Keith Furuya (IMO Harumi Furuya) \$ 1700

**DONATION:** Michael Takashita; Taylor Darling; Coleen Kasamoto; Joanne McCabe; Jean Fukumitsu; Gordon Fujimoto; Dennis Kajura \$ 220

**HONKO & NEHAN E:** Glen & Reiko Hatakeyama \$ 100

**Items Food Donation & Helpers:** Lloyd Antonio Vasquez; Setsu Meyer; CharlAnn Nakamoto; Kerri Kahapea; Norma Sawada; Darin Chung; Lois Miyamoto; Doug Crosier; Mary Matsuda; Dennis Kajura; Joyce Matsumoto; Bertha Nagata; Coleen Kasamoto; Claudia Uyeda; Ron Martinez; Taylor Darling.

**Altar's flower donation:** Stan Sato; Setsu Meyer;

**Total: \$ 2260 Gojikai dues & Donations**

### Thank You!

We appreciate your generous donations. Please contact Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji for inadvertent omission of donors or if you want to remain as anonymous, please inform us in your mail.

### Helpers Volunteers needed

For OMIGAKI , after the shorter Sunday Service on May 14, at 9 a.m. (Polishing Buddhist Ornaments).



Mrs. Setsu Meyer helping with flower arrangements on Fridays. Mr. Ron Martinez cleaning up yard on Saturdays.

Temple needs volunteer helpers to clean the yard up and hondo; flower arrangements and Newsletter assembling and mailing.

Please call Rev. Sawada 808 247-2661 or 808 800-7006.

### Thanks helpers!!



Mrs. Setsu Meyer helping with flower arrangements on Fridays. Mr. Ron Martinez cleaning up yard on Saturdays.



## MEMORIAL SERVICES

**1 Y** (Passed on 2022 & 2023) Mrs. Milicent Misao Lurito 08/03/22; Mrs. Helen Mieko Maki 09/24/22; Karen S. Higashi 11/18/22; Kenneth T. Oka 11/27/22; Harumi Furuya 12/24/22; (2024) Jerry Kasamoto 01/06/23; Tsuneaki Shimizu 01/15/23; Thomas T. Hamada 01/25/23;

**3Y** (2021) Mr. Howard Yim 03/14; Mr. Francis Isao Tachiyama 04/12; Mr. Michael Tadashi Onomoto 10/30;

**7 Y** (2017) Mrs. Lily Yuriko Horii 11/14;

**13 Y** (2011) Mrs Helen M Fujii 02/17; Mr Ryan Masanori Suenaga 04/24; Mrs. Chiyoko Onishi 05/23; Mrs Ruth Midori Nojima 07/23; Mr. Larry Isao Hayashida 08/23;

**17Y** (2007) Mr. Roy A. Sakata 02/17; Mrs. Hatsue Tanaka Urata 03/08; Mrs Midori Tsuyama 03/06; Florence Fusako Miyamoto 04/04; Mrs. Sumiyo Morioka 07/10; Mr. Hiroshi Yuhara 07/10; Mr. John M Yokote 07/28; Mr. Ralph Noboru Fujimoto 11/19; Mr. Edward Masuo Miyashiro 12/23/2007.

**25 Y** (1999) Mrs. Tazu Oda 12/15/98; Mr. Wallace Takayuki Hayami 02/06;

**33 Y** (1991) Mr. Masayuki Michibata 05/18; Mr. Harry T Watanabe 07/28;

**50 Y** (1974) Mr. Sotaro Arano 07/07; Mr. Fred Sakamoto 10/20; Mrs. Keiko Okabayashi 12/28/1974.

#The above dates reflect the memorial services for the entire year 2023. This year, we are keeping for the whole year because the pandemic's situation wasn't resolved. We are having in person's service at the temple, at home or by Zoom by requesting. Please call Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji (808 247-2661) for your service appointment, even if the date has passed. You can consult the resident minister for any information you need. Also please feel free to come and join our **Sunday Services**, starting from 09:00 am. For further information call Rev. Sawada at 808 247-2661. # First proceed (when a loved one almost going to pass or just passed away), for Bedside service: call immediately to Rev. Sawada 808 247-2661 or 808 800-7006.

### In Memoriam:

**Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the late:**

Jerry Kasamoto 01/06/23; Tsuneaki Shimizu 01/15/23; Thomas T. Hamada 01/25/23; Theodore Tooru Yoshizaki 03/08/23

### Thanks, visitors & helpers!!



Rev. Dr. Harry Kigoshi and Bishop Kawawata visiting KHHM on 03/16/23. At the Betsuin on 03/19/23.



CharlAnn Nakamoto (Kaneohe) and Carl Tokuda (Betsuin) clean-up at Betsuin after refreshment on March 19, 2023.