

KANEOHE HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION

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Address Service Requested

The nowadays actual problems are because we try to solve every problem from the unique human's perspective!

人間が人間だけでやっていく、現代の問題はそこにある

Rev. Rijin Yasuda

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Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji

Volume 13 Issue 6 **DECEMBER 2023 – JANUARY 2024** A registered 501 (c) organization

Minister's Message

By Rev. Marcos Sawada

Recap of 2023

人間が人間だけでやっていく、現代の問題はそこにある

Nowadays actual problems are because we try to solve every problem from the unique human's perspective! Rev. Rijin Yasuda

Happy New Year!

As I recap 2023, I feel a little anxious about everything that is going on.

In 2024, we will be celebrating Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Mission's 100-year anniversary. Reaching 100 years means a century and for the majority of humans, it is harder to attain it. Therefore, every new year, humans have this expectation to be better in a new cycle or calendar. The moment shows us that things are going to be harder in life. The result confirms war, pandemic, conflict, genocide, poverty, chaos, hopelessness. Even though we continue having hope, the wish and aspiration for a better world is from the human perspective. In this small temple environment, there are many challenges to keep this temple alive. So, 100 years is an important symbol of perseverance and challenges of our historical Sangha.

Last year, we lost the oldest member, Mr. Susumu Okazaki. He was 104 years old, and I met him at his son's funeral in August and suddenly, he passed on the following month in September. I did his bedside service at the senior residence where he used to live. In his room, I saw an old small Butsudan (home Buddhist ALTAR) that he was caring for his whole adult life as a treasure from his family legacy. Elderly people usually take refuge more often in spiritual life. His history is like KHHM temple's history. When I saw inside the family NAIBUTSU (BUTSUDAN), a lot of memories came without knowing his background. From the Butsudan, I realized how that small room had the essence of KHHM and its Sangha. His father had donated a big area to build our temple. Mr. Susumu had the Butsudan as the center of his daily life, but most of us try to deny this fact as a base of living. My beliefs are in my material life: money, house, cars and my social clothes I have been wearing for a long time. What others are going to think about me? Every time we're focused on the external, MYSELF.

For us humans, we see things from the perspective of a span of time or cycles: starting with the past, living now as the present, and having expectations as the future. This cycle is the human perspective on trying to create a narrative of the process of how things happen. We are attached to concepts but they change constantly because we don't have a stable base to stand on.

Master Shinran tells us that for humans, the Buddhist symbols are the way--provisional ways to be touched by the ultimate reality. Symbols are concepts created by humans in their dualistic mind, so our human interpretation from our beliefs and judgment of it has to be this or that way. Even though symbols aren't the reality, they are the language that humans connect in and out of. Because of their polarized dual vision, the concepts become problems or solutions,

too. From Mr. Susumu, I deduced that in his 104 years, he was the oldest member of this temple. The Dharma, as Buddha's teaching and the Dharma as Buddha's Nature (even though it represents symbols) is the path to continue our journey in 2024. Dharma is the main base to stand on! Butsudan and reciting NAMUAMIDABUTSU are too. Even though we tried to cut our ego-self, the reality works only if you recognize your origin. From the Wisdom of Buddha's teaching, I realize my incongruent nature as a human. I do things I didn't want, I lie, I kill, I deny, I pretend and continue thinking I'm right and I don't care.

This is my crime, my sin, to think I'm the center of everything (EGO), thus disrupting my true nature. Are you part of this? "Yes!" we answer. But, by creating a world where you are the center of everything is to detach from your human nature. It is blinded by the ego, that whatever absurd thing I commit, I do not realize the absurdity of my actions. It isn't my business; I don't care! This is what Shinran said: the crime is thinking it doesn't matter or being insensitive to your real nature of being human, your origin. Sin isn't a Buddhist term, but it means to disrupt the moral or some power beyond the self. The work of Buddha is to realize our own nature. When we come back to our nature, our origin means it is before the self, our true self, selfless.

Going in front of the family Butsudan (NAIBUTSU) and listening to the Dharma are important ways to confirm us as followers of the Buddha's wisdom. The primal or original vow works constantly so you can realize your path as a human. Actually, I want the truth, but I prefer to stay in my false comfort zone because the truth makes me disappear. It is egoless.

Living in the original is not having human selfish values as the center, but the Wisdom of Buddha as the center of my living. Listening to the Dharma is the essence of living. We respect the NAIBUTSU as a symbol of COMPASSION (WISDOM). Whoever teaches the seed becomes a tree. We see the tree, but forget the origin of the tree, the seed. Who made you stay in mom's uterus so you could grow? We only stay and mother nature cares. It is an illusion if you think you are doing everything here. There is one doing everything, and others only contemplating.

As our Dharma friend Coleen Kasamoto wrote: "Each day provides many moments that can be pleasant or unpleasant. Addressing you today is one moment. I can mess it up or I can make it meaningful or inspirational. Either way, it is our moment, here and now. And once the moment has passed, it cannot be changed.

Each encounter we have, be it with human, animal or nature, will provide the possibility of a significant moment whether it has a positive or a negative outcome. A pleasant moment will bring a smile and joy to our hearts; an unpleasant one will allow us to reflect and to learn something about ourselves which is one of the major teachings of Buddhism.

In GASSHO, NAMUAMIDABUTSU!

Minister visits members

The KHHM Minister, Reverend Marcos Sawada, will visit members from November 2023 to February 2024 to thank them for their support in 2023 and make a strong tie to 2024.

CALENDAR DECEMBER 23 - FEBRUARY 24

DECEMBER 2023

- 3 (Sun) HBC Bodhi Day Svc. at 9 am
- 10 (Sun) KHHM Bodhi Day Svc. at 9 am *YT
- 12 (Tue) Larger Sutra Study 6 pm *Zoom
- 14 (Thu) OKO Tea time Shoshinge 3 pm * Zoom With Betsuin
- 17 (Sun) Short SS + Temple Cleanup Day at 8:30 am
- 24 (Sun) SS (Sunday Service) at 9am
- 30 (Sat) Temple's Mochi Pounding (Not open for public) at 8:30 am
- 31 (Sun) New Year Eve - Joya -E (JOYA NO KANE) at 5 pm

JANUARY 2024

- 1 (Mon) New Year Svc. 9 am
- 7 (Sun) New Year Family Svc. at 9 am *YT
- 14 (Sun) SS 9 am
- 16 (Tue) through 18 (Thu) Ministers Retreat Rev. Dr. Bunsho Obata at 10 am
- 21 (Sun) SS at 9 am *YT
- 28 (Sun) General Membership MTG & Luncheon at 9:30 am *ZOOM

FEBRUARY 2024

- 3 (Sat) **New Class of Shin Buddhism in Daily Life** By Rev. Sawada 9 am
- 4 (Sun) SS at 9 am
- 10 (Sat) Rev Dr. Nobuo Haneda Ministers Retreat
- 11 (Sun) SS at 9 am *YT
- 13 (Tue) Larger Sutra Study 6 pm *Zoom
- 14 (Thu) OKO Tea time Shoshinge 3 pm * Zoom With Betsuin
- 18 (Sun) SS at 9 am
- 25 (Sun) SS at 9 am *YT
- * ZOOM Live Stream Need to get link. It will be sent by email.
- * YT YouTube Channel live Stream at Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji YT Channel

JUSHIN EDITORIAL MEMBERS

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

Assembling and Sending: Stan Sato, Norma Sawada, Rev. Marcos Sawada, Eleanor Tokunaga, Joyce Matsumoto, Roy Matsuda, Bill Yamanaka, Kerri Kahapea

Temple's Message

Message from our Chairperson:

Mary Matsuda

Let us examine what it means to be born a human being

Every four years or so, the Main Temple in Kyoto presents us with a major theme to guide us in our Buddhist journey. Two years ago, the theme presented to us was "Let us examine what it means to be born a human being."

In 1986 Robert Fulghum wrote short essays in a book entitled, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." In one of his vignettes, he writes about watching a group of children from the second story office of his home, playing hide and seek. The children all squeal in delight and laughter each time they are found by the "It." Then in one game all but one child is giggling quietly to himself having completely stumped "It." Soon all the other children join in to help find the cleverly hidden child. The author mentally calls to the hidden child, "Get found, get found!" as he can see that some of the children are beginning to lose interest. The search continues but with less energy. Fulghum again "calls out" (silently) to the hidden child, "Get found, get found!" But the child is beaming with pride as the one who has stumped everyone. Soon the other children tire of the game and disperse.

We are often like that hidden child; beaming with pride having succeeded in "winning" the game but to what end? In the Game of Life, we may feel that we are winning because we have a better job, a newer car, the latest electronic gadget, a bigger house, etc. Still, with all these worldly goods and conveniences, our lives may be empty for we lack spiritual and emotional booty. How do we resolve this feeling of emptiness? By "Getting Found" by the Infinite Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha!

Save this date! Our temple celebrates its centennial next September 22, 2024. More details will follow in the coming months! The Buddha's teachings continue to bring comfort and wisdom to many, as Buddhism is timeless and true. 100 years in Kaneohe!

Annual membership meeting to be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 10:00 am. Please plan on joining us for a short service, our annual report to members, election of the Board of Directors for 2024 followed by lunch. Jot this down on your calendar.

We are also wanting to hear of your personal memories of interaction with the temple, whether it be from "small kid time" or how your parents went to temple to pray or socialize. How did your parents' beliefs shape your own values, ethics, and traditions?

Just a couple of sentences or even paragraphs are welcome! We would like to capture the voices of everyone who has touched, or has been touched, by our temple and its people before the voices are still and lost forever. Namu Amida Butsu.

A Gentle Reminder... gojikai (annual membership dues) are due in December for the upcoming year. For 2024, the gojikai dues are \$75 annually. These dues give families access to our ministerial services and activities. It also gives families access to placing family urns in our columbarium for a small fee. The minister cares for these urns by offering services throughout the year. As this year comes to an end, you should be receiving the 2024 district calendar in your mail; a suggested contribution starts from \$ 6 to cover costs, plus an added personal donation, is greatly appreciated.



Member's Voice

By Mike Meyer (Member of Palolo Higashi Hongwanji)
Tracing the Origins of Japanese Buddhism (Part 2)

Buddhism has gained influence in the modern world. It has been adopted and adapted by individuals in different cultures over time with less conflict than more traditional religions.

While it has competed with other belief systems over millennia, it can be either a culturally defining religion or a personal spiritual philosophy. The original teachings of Siddhartha Gautama are abstract enough to stand on their own as a practical guide to living without directly challenging the folk traditions of a cultural group. Buddhism in the modern world is increasingly free from ties to fixed cultural histories.

Specifically, I find the evolution of Buddhism from its earliest forms in Theravada to the spirituality of the Mahayana tradition fascinating. It is also one unique way of understanding the power and brilliance of the Buddhist path defined twenty-five hundred years ago. This brilliance is vital for the planetary challenges that we face today.

While Buddhism developed from the teachings of one monk in northern India, within two hundred years, it spread to the Hellenic world of Alexander the Great but more significantly to China of the Han dynasty.

We have little information on the missionary monks who first spread these ideas to China. Still, they took root there as elements of the Buddhist quest for knowledge echoed many similarities in Taoism. As a result, there were many years of confusion as Buddhist principles were not clearly stated in Chinese.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: As of Sept 10 to November 14, 2023

MEMORIAL SERVICE - CharAnn Nakamoto (IMO Charliet Nakanishi); Catherine Maki (IMO Helen Maki); Kamil Kuroda (IMO Yasumasa Kuroda); Donna Okazaki (IMO Susumu & Eric Okazaki) \$ 2550

GOJIKAI 2024 - Ernest Oda \$ 75

DONATION - Mary Matsuda; Mike Takashita; Ernest Oda \$ 300

HOONKO - Patricia Niita; James Hirakawa; Yoshiko Kawakami; Atsuko Nonaka; Tokie Yoneshige; Sakiko Nishimura; Joyce Matsumoto; Thelma Sakamoto; Jean Yoshizaki; Jean Kanda; Stan Sato; CharAnn Nakamoto; Glen & Reiko Hatakeyama; \$ 700

OBON - Eileen Onomoto; Debra Saiki; Margaret Goodheart; Glen & Reiko Hatakeyama; \$ 170

EITAIKYO - Jean Kanda; anonymous; \$ 200

BON DANCE - Marion Kanemori (Iwakuni Odori Aikokai); Emi Troeger; Joyce Matsumoto; Joy Sakamoto; \$ 325

Rummage Plant & Donation & Helpers: Harriet Yamada; Lloyd Antonio Vasquez; Setsu & Mike Meyer; CharAnn Nakamoto; Kerri Kahapea; Norma Sawada; Darin Chung; Doug Crossier, Cheryl & Mr.

Tyler; Mary & Roy Matsuda; Dennis Kajiura; Joyce Matsumoto; Eleanor Tokunaga; Bill Yamanaka; Jean Kanda; Jean Yoshizaki; Stan Sato; Wendy Tachikawa; Vina Yamashiro; Corinne Moriki; Didi Iwaoka;

Helpers & Donation: Julian & Susan Ng; Joyce Masada; Jeannie Higa; Harry & Ann Akagi; Carl Tokuda; Antonio Vasquez; Corine Moriki; Hilo Higashi Fridays members; J. Ogata; Harriet Yamada; Clayton & Gwen Fujie; Kathy Kawana; Lorraine Wong; Charlene Watanabe; Renee Evans; Terri Liwanag; Lynn Hirashima; Daryl Tanaka; Carol Yatsuoka; Linda Honda; Leighton Sakamoto; Cathy Maki; Pam Kimo; Rev. Steven Toyoshima; Jacob Chang; Jean Kanda; Gwen Ojiri; Marlene Hopkins; Edward Nishiyama; Yuriko Hamada; Janice Nagai; Cheryl Tyler; Jane Sasabuchi; Debra Saiki; Kevin & Jeanne Kawawata; Reiko & Glen Hatakeyama; June & Barry Weled; Coleen Kasamoto;

* Special Thanks for lunch donation to workers and for paying to cleanup garden: Mrs. Jean Yoshizaki

Altar's flower donation: Stan Sato; Setsu Meyer; Harriet Yamada, Wesley Hau; Jean Yoshizaki; Donna Okazaki

Grand Total: \$ 4320

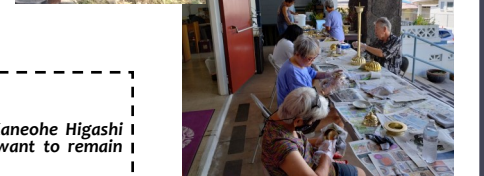
Thank You!

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

Volunteers needed

For all kinds of temple's daily life such as cleaning up hondo, rest rooms, yard, and kitchen; polishing; flowers; Newsletter mailing and temple events.

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



MEMORIAL SERVICES

1 Y (Passed on 2022) Kenneth T. Oka

11/27/22; Harumi Furuya 12/24/22 (Passed on 2023) Ford Takao Matsunaga 11/16; Kenneth T. Oka 11/27/22; Walter Tatewaki Hirao 12/24/22; Harumi Furuya 12/24/22; (2024) Jerry Kasamoto 01/06/23; Tsuneaki Shimizu 01/15/23; Thomas T. Hamada 01/25/23; Theodore T. Yoshizaki 03/08/23; Ali'ikoa Estepa-Chang 03/27/23; Janet A. Waki 04/11/23

3Y (2022): Mr. Junichi Miyamoto 01/25; Milicent Misao Lurito 08/03; Helen Mieke Maki 09/24; Ford Takao Matsunaga 11/16; Karen S. Higashi 11/18; Kenneth T. Oka 11/27; Harumi Furuya 12/24; Walter Tatewaki Hirao 12/24/22

7 Y (2018) Mr. Isamu Furuya 01/16; Mr. Ben Fujikazu Takahara 03/12; Patsy Hideko Matsunaga 07/25/2018.

13 Y (2012) Mr. Saburo Ienaga 01/19; Mrs. Rose Shigemi Yoshizaki 03/10; Mr. Francis Harada 05/30; Mr. Blame T. Arisue 06/26.

17Y (2008) Mr. Thomas Tadamasu Fukumitsu 01/08; Mrs. Kay Tokie Hayashida 03/20; Mrs. Rita Kiyomi Wannomae 03/25; Mrs. Machie Manzoku 03/29.

25 Y (1999) Mrs. Tazu Oda 12/15/98; (2000) Mr. Wallace Takayuki Hayami 02/06; Mrs. Soyone Fukumoto 04/08; Mrs. Kiyono Hironaka 05/20; Mrs. Sachie Murakami 10/3

33 Y (1992) Mrs. Stanley Masatoki Honda 03/09; Mrs. Nobuko Tanaka 10/06

50 Y (1974) Mr. Fred Sakamoto 10/20; Mrs. Keiko Okabayashi 12/28/1974. (1975) Mr. Shigeyoshi Chinen 03/13; Mr. Harumitsu Kinoshita 09/07; Mrs. Keiko Okabayashi 12/20/1975.

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 9 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.

Thank you for scheduling memorial services! Connecting with our ancestors brings us some feelings of being participative humans in the process of own nature. Action, word and thought represent you in this dimension. Gassho!!

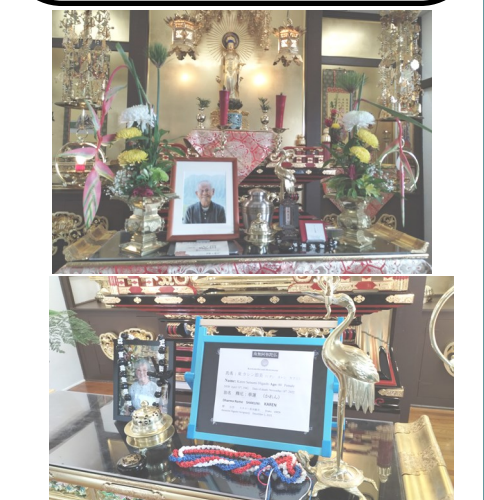
In Memoriam:

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

Mr. Eric Tokuo Okazaki July 18, 2023.

Mr. Yasumasa Kuroda Aug. 23, 2023.

Mr. Susumu Okazaki Sep. 22, 2023.



Susumu Okazaki funeral service 11/04; 1 Y service Karen Higashi 11/18

Member's Voice

Tracing the Origins of Japanese Buddhism (Part 2)

The second and third centuries Common Era (CE) led to the first Chinese schools of Buddhism. These schools became increasingly more sophisticated and distinct from the Chinese Confucian system, the Chinese rulers' official philosophy.

Bodhidharma was a significant individual in this era for China and later Japan. He was a semi-legendary Buddhist monk who lived during the 5th or 6th century CE, traditionally credited as the transmitter of Chan Buddhism to China, and is regarded as its first Chinese patriarch. Chan became Zen in Japan.

The 6th and 7th centuries saw a flowering of new and unique Chinese Buddhist traditions, including:

The Tiantai school was mainly founded by the efforts of master Zhiyi (538–597 CE) and was based on the Lotus Sutra and the works of Zhiyi.

The Pure Land tradition which is based on the veneration of Amitabha and the works of Pure Land masters like Tanluan (476–542), Daochuo (562–645), and Shandao (613–81).

Chan Buddhism is based on the teachings of various Chan masters such as Bodhidharma, Dazu Huike (487–593), Sengcan (?–606), Dayi Daoxin (580–651), and Hongren (601–674).

As you can see, the primary sources of Buddhism in 8th century Japan are part of this flowering.

Tiantai (Tendai in Japan) and Chan (Zen) were closely tied to the Pure Land tradition that Shinran brought to a new level of influence in a changing Buddhist world.

HAWAII BUDDHIST COUNCIL (HBC) DONATION CAMPAIGN FOR LAHAINA TEMPLES.

KHHM is a signatory member of this campaign to help the Lahaina communities to support their re-starting. Please, let's do a little gesture to rebuild the three temples which were destroyed. You can send your donation to HBC for Lahaina Fire. Check payable to: Hawaii Buddhist Council Memo: Lahaina Disaster Fund
Mail to: Hawaii Buddhist Council
 c/o Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii 1727 Pali Highway Honolulu, HI 96813

Minister visits

The KHHM Minister, Reverend Marcos Sawada, will visit members from November 2023 to February 2024 to thank them for their support in 2023 and make a strong tie to 2024.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOJIKAI Dues 2024 & 2024 Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District Calendar

As we enter 2024, we will be reaching the 100-year Anniversary of Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Mission (KHHM). You are KHHM because without you and our ancestors who started this temple, we would not have a place to gather together and hear the Dharma message. As members, you give us reason to continue having this temple. GOJIKAI Membership Dues are key to keeping the temple operating. Please send us your 2024 GOJIKAI Membership Dues of \$75 to help all of us enjoy a place to gather, grow and learn as Shin Buddhists. Additionally, we ask for a contribution to our denomination, Higashi Hongwanji, by purchasing the 2024 District calendar. The beautiful and informative calendar carries a theme of Higashi Hongwanji past, present, and future. Please send your Dana with 2024 GOJIKAI Membership dues of \$75. Each calendar costs \$ 6 to produce so we are asking for that amount plus donation. Your donation is important to keeping this temple alive and available to all. Mahalo! Gassho

General Membership Meeting & New Year Luncheon Invitation

All Gojikai members are invited to attend the annual general membership meeting on January 28 at 9:30 a.m. The temple's general report for 2023 and recognition of members, friends and volunteers will take place. We are very grateful for the support you provide such as maintenance work, flower arrangements, kitchen assistance, and other temple activities. We look forward to recognizing your selfless service. If you plan on attending, please RSVP by January 21 (Sun). Email kaneohe@hhbt-hi.org. By phone, please call 808-247-2661.

New Class of Shin Buddhism in Daily Life

Beginning February 3, 2024 at Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Mission at 9:00 am. Every first Saturday of the month. It will be a different approach to Buddhism with elements of daily life such as exercise, cooking and more. The base is the Buddha's Nembutsu teaching. Feel free to join us at Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji. For further information, ask Rev Sawada. Phone # 808-247-2661

EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS



KHHM HOONKO Svc. On Nov. 05, 2023 . Guest Ministers Rev. Akiko Okada and Rev. Ritsuko Sawada (Brazil)



District HOONKO Gathering (Bishop Noriaki Ito); HOONKO Service and Bill Yamanaka Confirmation Ceremony. Nov. 11 and 12, 2023.



International Abbot Yul Otani visited KHHM 11/10



Former Honpa Bishop Okano & wife, Rev. Fukakusa, Rev. Sumikawa and Rev. Sawada at Moiliili Hongwanji Eitaikyo svc. 11/19/23.