

**KANEOHE HIGASHI
HONGWANJI MISSION**

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Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji



JUSHIN

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JUNE– JULY 2023

A registered 501 (c) organization

Volume 13 Issue 3

Minister's Message

By Rev. Marcos Sawada

Religious FAITH and Shinran's Approach

We humans, without religion, cannot be human (Rev. Rijin Yasuda). Religious Faith is a strong belief, stronger than reason. It is the base that moves the human spiritual life. Sometimes it leads to fanaticism and extremism and results in ego collision, thus revealing the human face.

Today we realize there are lots of social problems like poverty, conflicts, lies, destructions, disrespect, false flag, information-disinformation, etc. Take me for example. My different perspectives are like a mixed salad of feelings working in my mind. When I judge a human like a homeless person, my feelings change from one situation to another. They are lazy, ignorant, dirty, dangerous, criminal, disturbing the area of us honest people. But in contrast, I think they are victims of society, people who don't have opportunities; they are drug addicted, models not to be followed; they are free people stronger than us, models of liberty in this society without freedom.

Everything is in my mind and I cannot escape from my ruler as logical, ethical, moral or passionate. It is the self, my ego, describing the world from my view or what I have in my background of records, memories, images, concepts. My mind tries to protect this self at first, but I cannot deny the mind of helping others to be happy and try to incorporate their hard life into me. Of course, this concept of hard life, unhappy also, lacks in truth too because I can't affirm that I'm happier than they are. Therefore, the feeling of compassion works inside of me. What is this feeling of meeting them in a perspective outside of my ego mind? I suppose it is a calling or working of something more important and latent in me that doesn't come from the ego mind.

For the JODO SHINSHU or Shin Buddhism perspective, Shinran's approach to humans is that in their whole life, they cannot escape from their own ideas of what is life, faith and the truth. Each human being has a way of interpreting and understanding them.

Shinran, before abandoning the monastery on Mount Hiei, tried everything to find the path to be an enlightened one. He realized that everything he was doing could never take him to the path of the truth or to be Buddha. He couldn't believe any monastic practices, even thoughts in his mind, were able to take him to the path of liberation or salvation. He added, "I don't have anything in me as sincere. Every practice (ZOGYO) I did or do are taking me to the non-realization. My mind cannot be trusted because I have a lot of inquiries, doubts and I don't have for sure any sincere-mind to follow the Buddhahood path to the Enlightenment! Why I continue suffering about my life, without finding a path?"

After 20 years living in the monastery on Mount Hiei, he heard about Master HONEN and the many lay people and others following him. Maybe Honen could give him a direction for his anxieties so he abandoned everything to follow Master Honen.

"Deep entrust in Buddha Amida is the path! Reciting the Name of Buddha Amida is the salvation! Go just one path, the path of Nenbutsu, reciting the name of Buddha Amida." Those words moved Shinran to find the real spiritual path for his inquiries.

Be saved by the name? Deep entrust or deep faith in Buddha Amida? How could Shinran find the strongest belief, stronger than human's reason? His life was not easy. Since he was 9 years old, he grew up in a monastery being a Buddhist monk faced with struggles, despair, hopelessness, sadness, madness. What is the real path of humanity? Who am I? Why was I born here? Where am I going? Questions and more questions about his existence. Shinran reflected upon those questions. He called this sense of not finding a secure port as human's darkness, the sensation of not belonging, being abandoned, feeling lonely, getting lost. I think we humans converge to the same anxieties and insecurities about being born as human. We want to follow what is the true one. Even if we start from something symbolic, we want the true one and we try pursuing it our whole life. Even if we think we got it, we want to know if it actually is. Where is this secure and safe port?

Shinran asked what is the true truth in contrast to what I think is the truth or true thing? He realized nothing is really the truth. Everything is provisional, symbolic and has meaning because there is a non-human component working, the true reality that guides us to the truth. This truth overcomes my ruler-judgmental mind. The conceptual interpretation of reality, the true reality is something I can try to describe, but it cannot escape from the discriminatory human mind. The true reality is absent of this self; it is selfless. Shinran said the truth and the true reality is the universal absent of dualistic interpretation. As humans who interpret things by concept, those concepts are symbols, but in the symbol, there is the true reality working.

Shinran realized that what moves me isn't generated by this self but by something that comes to me, an encounter that wasn't there before. Even with my dualistic mind, if there isn't the true reality in the back, provisional is only the way we humans understand the work of true reality. It isn't my decision or my point of view working to awaken me. If, in the symbols, tradition, humanity history and background, there aren't any works of the universal true reality, I couldn't stand here now as a seeker to find an actual faith that will be a long-term partner in my journey in this life. Even though my mind continues to be moved by my egotistical faith and doubts of the Buddha's realization, the work of awakening is constantly present.

There is the work of Truth right now, making me realize my base as human with plenty of worldly passions. The interface of this work is NAMUAMIDABUTSU. The working of Buddha (the doctor), the Dharma (the medicine), the Sangha (the patient) and Hongan (Buddha's aspiration to awake us to the true reality) is SHINJIN, the deep entrusting in the Buddhadharmas. Reciting the name of AMIDA BUDDHA is NENBUTSU. Provisional, Symbols represent my life, my real path is the Dharma, the natural law working as HONGAN. (Original Aspiration of Buddha).

In Gassho, NAMUAMIDABUTSU!!

*"Nevertheless, I have now decisively departed from the "true" gate of provisional means and, [my self-power] overturned, have entered the ocean of the selected Vow. Having swiftly become free of the mind leading to the birth that is non-comprehensible, I am assured of attaining the birth that is inconceivable. How truly profound in intent is the Vow that beings ultimately attain birth!
Having entered forever the ocean of the Vow, I now realize deeply the Buddha's benevolence. To respond with gratitude for the supreme virtues, I collect the crucial passages expressing the true essence of the Pure Land way, constantly saying, out of mindfulness [the Name that is] the inconceivable ocean of virtues. Ever more greatly rejoicing, I humbly receive it." (Shinran in the Gutoku Sho)*

CALENDAR JUNE - AUGUST 2023

JUNE 2023

4 (Sun) SS 9:00 am
11 (Sun) SS at 9:00 am *YT
13 (Tue) District Ministers MTG 1 pm
6/14 (Wed) to 7/11(Tue) Minister's vacation
18 (Sun) Members SS at 9 am
25 (Sun) SS Guest Minister at 9 am or Hilo Dharma Gathering with Rev Fujimori (Palolo) 10 a.m. By *Zoom from Hilo Higashi

JULY 2023

2 (Sun) SS at 9 am Guest Minister
7 (Fri) & 8 (Sat) Betsuin's Bon Dance
9 (Sun) Kaneohe members can go to help Betsuin Cleanup their Bon Dance
11(Tue) Larger Sutra Study 6p.m.*Zoom
13 (Thu) OKO Tea time Shinran's Wasan 3 pm * Zoom With Betsuin ask Rev Toyoshima
16 (Sun) Sunday Service 9 a.m.
23(Sun) Sunday Service 9 a.m.
29 (Sat) Hatsu (First) Bon Service at 2 pm in person, by Zoom on requesting
30 (Sun) Bon Service 09 a.m. *YT

AUGUST 2023

6(Sun) SS at 9:00 am

8 (Tue) Larger Sutra Study 6p.m.*Zoom
10(Thu) OKO Tea time Shinran's Wasan 3 pm * Zoom With Betsuin
13 (Sun) SS 9:00 am, 10:00 am *YT
20(Sun) SS 9:00 am
27(Sun) SS 9:00 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



Mary Matsuda, Kerri Kahapea & Stan Sato

UP COMING SERVICES & EVENTS

May 28(Sun) Sunday Service with Waimea-Kauai Local Dharma Gathering, " The Larger Sutra." By Rev. Marcos Sawada 10 a.m. *ZOOM

July 2 (Sun) SS, the invited Minister will conduct the Sunday Service 9 a.m.

July 29 (Sat) HatsuBon Service at 2 pm with refreshments for family members invited to it.

July 30 (Sun) Bon Service at 9 am for general members and friends

HatsuBon Service Invitation for immediate families

Families of the following beloved ones, please confirm your presence at the First Bon Service at Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji on July 29 (Sat) at 2 pm.

Milicent Misao Lurito 08/03/22; Helen Mieko Maki 09/24/22; Karen S. Higashi 11/18/22; Kenneth T. Oka 11/27/22; Harumi Furuya 12/24/22; Jerry E. Kasamoto 01/06/23; Tsuneaki Shimizu 01/15/23; Thomas T. Hamada 01/25/23; Theodore T. Yoshizaki 03/06/23; Ali'ikoa Estepa-Chang 03/27/23; Janet A. Waki 04/11/23.

The temple will send a letter with more details. Feel free to call Rev. Sawada at 808 247-2661 or email kaneohe@hhbt-hi.org

JUSHIN EDITORIAL MEMBERS

Contributors: Rev. Marcos Sawada, CharlAnn Nakamoto, Jean Crozier, Stan Sato, Mary Matsuda, Norma Sawada, Coleen Kasamoto (Hilo), Bill Yamanaka,

Assembling and Sending: Stan Sato, Norma Sawada, Rev. Marcos Sawada, Eleanor Tokunaga, Joyce Matsumoto, Roy-Mary Matsuda

Member's Voice

A Member's Perspective
By Bill Yamanaka

Warm greetings to all. I am grateful for the opportunity to express some thoughts because they are bringing me renewed purpose and a positive outlook. I find I am growing spiritually by reconnecting with the faith of my childhood. I grew up in southern California attending West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple (Jodo Shinshu). But after I finished college and began a career in the Navy, I drifted away from my practice of Buddhism. I now have the chance - in my 7th decade on earth - to get reacquainted with Shin Buddhism. I'm finding it offers me a more whole life.

From the 1960s on, Hawaii was my second home due to my many relatives here. I was also stationed on a ship out of Pearl Harbor from 1987-1990. It wasn't until 2014 that I settled on Oahu permanently. I came to be with my mother in her twilight years. She was 93, healthy, but obviously on the downslope of an amazing life. We remained in Kailua until her passing, three weeks shy of her 97th birthday. I was a caregiver for Mom and worked on a corporate contract supporting the military.

My wife and I moved to Kaneohe soon after Mom passed. As fate and timing would have it, next door to us was Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. I didn't know at the time that this temple practiced the same sect of Buddhism in which I was raised during my youth. I realized I wanted to rekindle my spiritual heartbeat and learn more about the faith I discarded for many years. So I began attending services and getting involved in temple events. What a great decision that was! I have found the people, purpose, and messages to be so meaningful as I navigate this time called life.

Although attendance at Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji is currently small in numbers, I find a beautiful sense of calm and purpose when I participate. For nearly two years I lived next door and didn't realize I could simply walk over and enjoy life enrichment through the Buddha's teachings, listening to the Dharma, and sharing in warm fellowship. This is an opportunity for me to grow - and also to give - no matter how limited.

I feel enriched and grateful being an active temple member. Listening to our minister's messages (and those of guests and other members) holds precious moments. I am enjoying learning and growing. I now know to listen to the Dharma and actually *hear* the message. And I'm learning we do this through each other.

In gassho, NAMUAMIDABUTSU!!

SERVICES AND MEMORIAL SERVICES NEEDED WHILE THE KHHM RESIDENT MINISTER IS ABSENT FROM June 14 TO July 11, 2023?

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

EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS



Hawaii Members Honzan Japan Tour, April 17 to 25 2023



Kailua Windward members, Mary Matsuda & Rev. Sawada at Windward Buddhist temple on 04/09/23 joint Hanamatsuri Service.



Former Treasurer Karen Higashi, Members MS on April 2, 2023



Members Sunday Service . Sunday, 16 & 23, 2023.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: As of March 08 to May 07, 2023

GOJIKAI: Ron Martinez; Susan & Julian Ng \$ 120

Memorial Service : Ruthie Shimizu (IMO Tsuneaki Shimizu); Jean Yoshizaki (IMO Ted Yoshizaki); Harriet Yamada (IMO Shigei Fukuda); Leighton Sakamoto, Doug & Jean Crosier; Susan & Julian Ng, Allen & Wynette Nagai; Kevin Azuma, Bill Yamanaka, CharlAnn & Alan Nakamoto, Roy & Mary Matsuda (IMO Karen S. Higashi); \$1295

DONATION: Anonymous; Michael Takashita; Coleen Kasamoto; Ronald Martinez; Diane Iwaoka, Eleanor Tokunaga; Bill Yamanaka, CharlAnn Nakamoto \$ 435

HANAMATSURI : Bill Yamanaka; Tokie Yoneshige; Sandra Kawate; Joyce Matsumoto; Jean Kanda; Evelyn & Thomas Nagano; Edith Miyasato; Roy & Mary Matsuda; \$290

OHIGAN: Glen & Reiko Hatakeyama; Harriet Yamada; Mary Matsuda; Stanley Sato; Alan, CharlAnn Nakamoto; \$170

Local Retreat: Eleanor Tokunaga; Bill Yamanaka; Stan Sato; Leighton Sakamoto; Joyce Matsumoto; Dennis Kajjura; Norma Sawada; CharlAnn Nakamoto, Coleen Kasamoto \$ 95

OBON: Carolyn Towata \$100

Calendar: Amy Abe \$ 50

Items Food Donation & Helpers: Lloyd Antonio Vasquez; Setsu Meyer; CharlAnn Nakamoto; Lisa Hoang; Kerri Kahapea; Norma Sawada; Dann Chung; Doug Crosier; Mary Matsuda; Joyce Matsumoto; Claudia Uyeda; Ron Martinez; Taylor Darling, Coleen Kasamoto, Kathy Kawana (walkers)

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

Harriet Yamada, Norma Sawada.

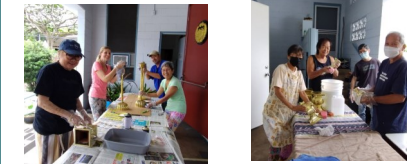
Total: \$ 2555 Gojikai dues & Donations

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

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



Please ask Rev. Sawada 808 247-2661 or 808 800-7006 for more information.

Thanks helpers!!



Member Ron Martinez moved recently to another place far away from Kaneohe. He used to help the temple even though he is a physically disabled person. Thanks for your dana!



Mrs. Setsu Meyer

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 hav-

ing 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:

Theodore Tooru Yoshizaki 03/08/23;
Ali'ikoa Stepa-Chang 03/27/23;
Janet Akie Waki 04/11/23

Thanks, friends & helpers!!



(1) From the left: Darin Chung, Dennis, Stan, Bill, Lisa, CharlAnn, Joyce, Norma. (2) Windward Buddhist temple members setting the Hanamido up with Rev. Barbara on April 08 (Sat).

(3) Rev. Marcos, Former Bishop Mine and Rev. Osa from Berkeley at Honzan Kyoto. (4) Mary Matsuda and Lisa Hoang at Betsuin. (5) CharlAnn, Rev. Patti Nakai (Chicago); Rev. Shu Izuhara (Marilia Brazil) and his wife Fabia at Honzan 04/21/2023.

