

**KANEOHE HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION**

45-520 Keaahala Road  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
Phone: (808) 247-2661  
Email: [Kaneohe@hhbt-hi.org](mailto:Kaneohe@hhbt-hi.org)  
[Kaneohe@hhbt-hi.org](mailto:Kaneohe@hhbt-hi.org)

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Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji



**JUSHIN 樹心**



**OCTOBER–NOVEMBER 2023**

A registered 501 (c) organization

Volume 13 Issue 5

**Minister's Message**

By Rev. Marcos Sawada

**“People who look down on fools are fools who the Buddha wants to save.”** Rev. Shuichi Suwa Temple Shokyoji in Fukushima

In Chapter 2 of the Tannisho, Shinran says:

*Is the Nembutsu really the seed of rebirth in the Pure Land, or is it a karmic cause for falling into the lowest hell? Of such questions I know absolutely nothing. Even if I had been deceived by my master, Honen Shonin, and were to fall into hellish torment, I would have no regrets at all! The reason is that, had I been one who was certain to attain Buddhahood by striving at some other spiritual discipline, and yet fell into an infernal state through uttering the Nembutsu, I might well be justified in regretting that I had been deceived. But as I find myself totally incapable of any kind of meritorious deed, the lowest hell in any event would be my destined abode.*

After 25 years of studying Buddhism, Mr. Gary Link of New York couldn't understand this kind of confession. Then, he came to grips with his own limited self, filled with various delusions and defilements, including anxiety, fear, desire and depression. The brutal honesty of Shinran's writings lifted him, especially Shinran's struggles with following Tendai Buddhism. Shinran eventually abandoned the monastic life on Mt. Hiei and met Honen Shonin, who became his teacher and realized he couldn't live up to traditional Buddhist tenets. In reading Shinran's words, Gary felt he was a true friend on the path. That's why Gary committed himself to Jodo Shinshu and recently received his license as a Higashi Honganji priest.

To be incongruent in their actions is the human way. If some kind of circumstances appear in our life, we are moved to do things we did not want, like commit a crime. Being a fool is assured for me to be saved through the Buddha's compassion! Is this statement correct? It is hard to understand the term SALVATION. In the SHIN BUDDHISM or Pure Land Buddhism, there isn't any place like a paradise or hell, neither purifying soul or spirit, nor delusion enlightenment as the ideal of human dream. Everything is a delusion and illusion (fantasies of humans). Usually, we stand in the past memories or in uncertain projections to the future.

Encountering Buddhism means where we stand now! We prefer to stay in the fantasies, not stand in the reality. This gap makes distortions that we have no place to stand. Buddha's work is to bring back the base on which to stand, the true reality into my ego shell.

No one wants to be a foolish one. Instead, we want to be smarter than others. Therefore, some circumstances take us, even though we don't want to act, to agree with the most absurd thing. An example is to support a war using plenty of public money that doesn't make sense, instead of supporting people on needs like in the Lahaina fire. Most of us cannot agree, but we don't do enough to provide real support. Of course, ethically, we judge in that way too. We donate things, but the essence of the problem continues untouched. Human Ethics (Small Compassion) and Moral (Human Passion) are concepts of duality. So, Buddha's Wisdom is universal Compassion, conscious, common for everything without any discrimination.

Conditions and situations can be changed, but our existential base does not. Therefore, those dual contrasts work to show us our discrepancy. The Big Compassion, the work of Buddha's Wisdom, is the way to over-

come my attachment of the small compassion. From the Lahaina fire victims in their pain, we transcend to the pain of every sentient being who needs to be helped. It is realization; it is where I'm standing now.

If we do an analogy, the Wisdom of Buddha points to us as the sick. We are ill, but the doctor (Buddha) and the teachings (Dharma) can't do anything if we are not a patient. If you think that you are wiser, that you do not need to know any teaching to help you, you are sick! What do we need to be treated? The Doctor as Buddha and the Medicine as the Dharma because we are the patient.

Since I know who I am, I create my own world. Even though I try to explain my world to you, you won't be able to absorb it because you are not me and the word is an attempt to bring my reality to you. This is what Buddha realized. The true reality isn't my reality or your reality but our reality of the absolute without any individual conceptualization. This is because our individual interpretations are dragged to one channel for everything, and is not possible to be expressed in concept.

Then, is it impossible to be understood by humans, Sensei? Yes, because we humans can only interpret this world from dual concepts. The sensitive ability we have as humans is to recognize something even if they don't appear in shape but something is working to take us to a comprehensive approach from concept to another concept. The truth doesn't need our belief or proof; we just recognize it. This is what the Indian master Nagarjuna tells that in the Absolute, there is the part. And the Chinese Master Tan Luan said there are symbols, dualism, formats, shapes that are my world which are interpreted by the concept or word. It isn't the true reality, but for us, the symbols are only the way we have for understanding this world. Otherwise, we have a world which drains all of them, to one ultimate reality, the true reality, which doesn't have shape and cannot be conceptualized. This is the world of the Absolute, true reality. Here, I try to put it into words, but it overcomes any interpretation. It is absent of any self, it is before the self, it is our origin or starting point! I can just realize it now, not in the span of time, only moment by moment. Realizing is the moment, and the moment is the right now. The right now is absent of any personal or individual judgment. It is the Buddha's world arranged for us through human's concept.

This world that we aspire in our imagination is the illusion of beauty and a perfect world. But the Buddha's side is the Land of suffering of unmeasurable people who need to be saved.

Everything I wrote here, of course, doesn't reflect reality. They are symbols or as Shinran called them "Provisional." Humans only interpret the world by symbols. The big work of the Buddha's wisdom is to make us realize the work of the Absolute in dualism. It works in the condition of humans, here now! We come back to the human origin, our pure self, the self without you, selflessness. The origin is here now. We stand as pure, basic humans, naked, free from EGO and heavy clothes of identity like nationality, profession, roles, moral, logical, passions, gender. The Absolute is the work of Nature to bring me to my place where I am standing now, my base as an original human, where we encounter each other overcoming the karmic situations and conditions and recognizing the insight of my existence here now!

NAMUAMIDABUTSU is realizing this work of reality in my dual incongruent way of living. Humans aren't ideal or perfect, but to be free, liberated from the heavy clothes of the SAMARA (Countless cycle of birth and death) is to encounter NEMBUTSU as the center of my living. It is the hearing of the work of ultimate reality. True faith (SHINJIN) is fundamental! NAMUAMIDABUTSU!

**“People who look down on fools are fools who the Buddha wants to save”**  
愚か者めとさげむ人  
愚か者こそ救わんとする仏  
Rev. Shuichi Suwa Temple Shokyoji in Fukushima, Japan.

**CALENDAR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023**

**OCTOBER 2023**

1(Sun) SS Svc. 9 am \*YT  
7(Sat) Kaneohe Higashi & Windward Buddhist Temple Windward Mall Bon Dance from 4 pm to 8:15 pm  
8 (Sun) SS 9 am  
15 (Sun) EITAIKYO Svc. 9 am \*YT  
22 (Sun) Short SS 9 am OMIGAKI  
26 (Thu) Ministers Mtg at 10 am  
29 (Sun) Sunday Service 9 am

**NOVEMBER 2023**

5(Sun) Hoonko at 9 am \*YT  
10(Fri) Veteran's Day Observed  
11(Sat) District Hoonko Gathering at 1 pm & 12(Sun) District Hoonko Service at 10 am Guest Speaker Bishop Noriaki Ito, North America District.  
16(Thu) OKO Tea time Shinran's Wasan 3 pm \* Zoom With Betsuin  
19(Sun) Eitaikyo Service at Moilili Hongwanji 9 am Rev. Sawada Guest Speaker  
26(Sun) Sunday Service 9 am \*YT

**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 Shinran's Wasan 3 pm \* Zoom With Betsuin  
17(Sun) Short SS + Temple Clean-up Day  
24(Sun) SS 9 am  
30 (Sat) Temple's Mochi Pounding (Not open for public)  
31(Sun) New Year Eve -Joya -E 5 pm  
Jan 1 (Mon) New Year Svc.

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



New Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Bon Towel

**UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS**

**Oct.** 7(Sat) Kaneohe Higashi & Windward Buddhist temple Windward Mall Bon Dance from 4 pm to 8:15 pm  
15 (Sun) EITAIKYO –PERPETUAL MEMORIAL  
22 (Sun) Short SS 9 a.m. **OMIGAKI.**  
**Nov.** 5(Sun) Hoonko Svc. 9 am \*YT ; 11(Sat) District Hoonko Gathering at 1 pm & 12 (Sun) District Hoonko Svc. at 10 am, Guest Speaker Bishop Noriaki Ito, North America District.  
19(Sun) Eitaikyo Service at Moilili Hongwanji 9 am, Guest Speaker Rev. Marcos Sawada

**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**

**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, Darin Chung



## Temple's Message

### RUMMAGE AND PLANT SALES, THANKS!

Dear Members and Friends:

On behalf of the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Mission we would like to sincerely thank you for your kind and generous donations to our 2023 "Mottainai" Rummage & Plant Sale. We were very fortunate to receive so many generous donations even up to the day of our sale which included beautiful plants, fresh tropical flowers, brand new household appliances, kitchenware, nice Aloha shirts, gently used clothing, collectibles, jewelry, books, sporting goods, tools, paint, homemade cookies, more! With everyone's selfless giving (dana), we raised a total gross of \$ 3,803.70 which will help support our temple projects and expenses.

Many of you were also so gracious in volunteering your valuable time, assisting with setting up the tents, tables, signs; also sorting, labeling, pricing our plants and goods; cashiering, wrapping and cleaning up. Also, a BIG mahalo to those that contributed by donating, cooking, baking goodies that were enjoyed by everyone as our ono Saturday lunch.

Although we have been faced with ongoing manpower challenges, because of your dana (selfless giving), your generous donations, hard work and kind support; we have been able to continue with this major temple project.

Please join us at the Windward Mall Obon Festival on Saturday, October 7, 2023 from 3:45 – 8:15 pm. Come by our table for our new bon dance towel. Bring your yukata, obi and we will be offering kimono dressing service available from 3:15 pm to 5:00 pm.

Thank you so much!

In gassho,

CharlAnn Nakamoto – Project Chairperson

## Member's Voice

By Mike Meyer (Palolo Higashi Hongwanji member)

### Tracing the Origins of Japanese Buddhism (Part 1)

The migration of Buddhism from the verbal tradition of northern India to Southeast Asia and then to China, Korea, and Japan shows a fantastic evolution of a very original spiritual system that, in many ways, seems designed for the problems of our world. One particular aspect is the movement from India to China and Japan.

The emphasis in the Japanese Jodo Shin tradition is very different from the early Buddhist monastic tradition of the Sangha as the center of Buddhism. But how did that evolve and retain the essential forms of Siddhartha Gautama's message?

A brief look at this history helps us understand the foundation on which the most successful form of Buddhism was built.

The history of any religion is difficult to assess. Religious beliefs define a cultural group's origins, social roles, characteristics, and ideals. These are sacred to that cultural group.

Any effort to redefine, confirm, deny, or historically adjust elements of that religious story directly attacks how a cultural group defines itself. As

history is the story of a people, the components of that story are not lightly changed or even questioned.

The scientific revolution heavily influences modern accounts and attempts to be accurate by dating original documents and events and attempting to understand the development of a religion based on shifting cultures over time.

Buddhism is unique among major religions in not defining itself as an origin story of a particular people but as a spiritual system to solve a specific human problem. That problem is the universal problem of existential pain. Yet, it became the cultural center for the cultures of most of Asia and beyond.

Buddhism gained two roles as the cultural defining story and, simultaneously, a more abstract spiritual philosophy not closely linked to a specific cultural record. For this reason, 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.

## EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS



THANKS! MOTTAINAI RUMMAGE and PLANT SALES. September 5 - 9, 2023.



About 30 people attended the HatsuBon Service on July 29, 2023.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: As of July 16 to Sept. 9, 2023

### MEMORIAL SERVICE - \$ 1700

Thomas & Suk Cha Fujimoto (IMO Mitsugi & Jane Fujimoto); Donna & Susumu Okazaki (IMO Eric Okazaki); Liane Brigs(IMO Karen Higashi); Mabel Ishimoto (IMO Dorothy & Henry); CharlAnn Nakamoto (IMO Charliet Nakanishi); Jean Yoshizaki (IMO Ted Yoshizaki)

### DONATION - \$ 3400

Charles Iida, Haitsuka Family; Claudia Uyeda (Hilo); Bishop Kenjun & Jeanne Kawawata; Mike Takashita; Laverne Tarumoto; Earl Tsukamoto;

### OBON - \$ 1350

June & Barry Welled; Elizabeth Tokunaga; Janet Mukai; Thelma & Edward Sakamoto; Patrick Yoshihara (IMO James & Misao Yoshihara)

### HATSUBON - \$ 920

Jean Yoshizaki (IMO Ted Yoshizaki); Melvin & Glenn Waki and Lena Kanemori (IMO Janet Waki); Ruth & Dwyane Shimizu (IMO Tsuneaki Shimizu); Philip & Stacy Lurito (IMO Milicent Lurito); Coleen Kasamoto (IMO Jerry Kasamoto)

### OHIGAN: \$ 315

Mary & Roy Matsuda; Alan Nakamoto; Bishop Kenjun & Jeanne Kawawata; Joyce Mastumoto; Stanley Sato; Sandra Kawate; Dennis Kajiuira

**Rummage Plant & Donation & Helpers:** Harriet Yamada; Lloyd Antonio Vasquez; Setsu Meyer; CharlAnn Nakamoto; Kerri Kahapea; Norma Sawada; Darin Chung; Doug Crossier, Cheryl & Mr. Tyler; Mary & Roy Matsuda; Dennis Kajiuira; Joyce Matsumoto; Eleanor Tokunaga; Bill Yamanaka; Jean Kanda; Jean Yoshizaki; Stan Sato; Wendy; Vina; Corinne Moriki; Didi; Dennis Kajiuira; Leighton Sakamoto; Susan and Julian Ng; Norma Sawada; Jeannie Higa; Pam Kino; Jean Fong; Carl Tokuda; Kevin Kawawata;

**Rummage Plant & Donation:** Rummage Donation: Joyce Masada; Jeannie Higa; Harry & Ann Akagi; Carl Tokuda; Antonio Vasquez; Corine Moriki; Hilo Higashi Fridays members; J. Ogata; Harriet Yamada;

- The complete list will be in the next edition.
- Special Thanks for lunch donation to workers: Mrs. Jean Yoshizaki & Mrs. Cheryl Tyler

**Altar's flower donation:** Stan Sato; Setsu Meyer; Harriet Yamada, Wesley Hau; Laverne Tarumoto;

**Grand Total: \$ 7585**

## 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.

We appreciate your donation to help KHHM as BUDDHISM DOJO.

Next major services: EITAIKYO, HOONKO & BODHI DAY. GASSHO!

## 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 & 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; 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;

**3Y** (2021) SVC 2023: Mr. Michael Tadashi Onomoto 10/30; (2022) SVC 2024: Mr. Junichi Miyamoto 01/25;

**7 Y** (2017) Mrs. Lily Yuriko Horii 11/14; (2018) Mr. Isamu Furuya 01/16; Mr. Ben Fujikazu Takahara 03/12

**13 Y** (2011) Mr. Larry Isao Hayashida 08/23; (2012) Mr. Saburo Ienaga 01/19; Mrs. Rose Shigemi Yoshizaki 03/10; Mr. Francis Harada

05/30; Mr. Blame T. Arisue 06/26.

**17Y** (2007) Mr. Ralph Noboru Fujimoto 11/19; Mr. Edward Masuo Miyashiro 12/23/2007. (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** (1991) Mr. Harry T Watanabe 07/28; (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.

## Thanks, visitors & helpers!!



After the Bon Service, working on the JUSHIN. July 30, 2023.



CharlAnn Nakamoto was the guest speaker at Ohigan SVC at Betsuin, Sept. 17.



Visiting Gladys Sakata on Aug. 28.