



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 522-9200 Fax: (808) 522-9209

Web: www.hongwanjihawaii.com Email: hqs@honpahi.org



MARCH 2019

BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop Eric Matsumoto



Today, as I address you, as part of our effort to upgrade the Headquarters Update with this "Bishop's Corner," I would like to express my deep sadness and deepest condolences to those who were killed at the two New Zealand mosques and their families and friends including the local Muslim community here in Hawaii. The intensity and frequency of these terror attacks filled with hate is alarming to say the least and we should all be concerned. It can happen, anywhere and anyplace. While we should not let panic and fear rule our lives, it would be prudent to be prepared and have a plan of what to do in the event that something similar should happen locally.

As I reflect, a thought came to mind that possibly the greatest protection against such an attack occurring, in one way, may be our own individual awareness of ourselves. We are all human. We have ideals which we embrace and try live up to, but at the same time we are fragile and can be volatile. Our own worst enemy may not be someone else, but could be our own self. At Chinese and Japanese Buddhist Temples, many times, one will find a lion(s) depicted among peonies. The symbolism is that our worst enemy is not an external physical enemy of another, but rather the internal enemies of arrogance, self-centeredness, ignorance and hate to name a few which plague us. Just as the mighty lion has few external enemies, but a little parasite inside the lion's stomach can make the King of Beasts ill and can be cured only by the medicinal properties of the peonies. I remember a quote by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said, "Man is not our Enemy" "intolerance, fanaticism, dictatorship, cupidity, hatred and discrimination" are the real enemies" "which are present...in our very hearts and minds." If each and every person could come to this kind of realization it might contribute to a more peaceful and harmonious world through our humility.

For we, of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, let us focus on our Theme and Slogan "Embrace Change: Transformation (Walk in Peace)." May our temples resound with earnest Dharma discussion about what happens when we encounter Amida Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion. I have been emphasizing "Responding in gratitude to Amida Buddha's Great Wisdom and Compassion" from 8 years ago. I have stated that all positive thoughts and actions arise from shinjin and/or our being nurtured by the Buddha's 12 Lights especially the Lights of Wisdom, Purity and Joy which address our ignorance, our greed and our anger/hatred like the peonies which save the lion. The inspiration and motivation comes from the Buddha and our (responsive) actions are guided by the Dharma or Teachings. Again, I ask, please embrace Gomonshu's "A Way of Living as a Nembutsu Follower" as a guide and the compilation which I have shared, many times, "Passages on (nurturing) the Sangha as reference for Dharma Messages and

aspirations for meetings and gatherings, so that Nembutsu-sha/people of Nembutsu who reflect the Dharma are nurtured and contribute towards world peace and harmony through awareness and humility. As we, the Sangha, are nurtured and try to live the Dharma our temples can become, even more, places of refuge where people can experience less of the trauma and drama of samsara.

In our 130th year in Hawaii, let us embrace our Theme of “Embrace Change.” In celebration of our 130th Anniversary, please remember my request that you observe our 130th Anniversary at the temple level so that more people will be able to celebrate our Anniversary (and not only those who can travel afar). Aside from the 130th Anniversary Inaugural Service we held at Giseikai or this year’s Legislative Assembly, we will not be having a separate State-wide service and/or conference due to the fact that we just had the HHMH Joint Conference in 2018, we will be having the BWA World Convention this year in 2019 in San Francisco and coming up in 2023 there will be Shinran Shonin’s 850th Birthday Observance and the 800th Anniversary of the Founding of the Denomination to be held in Japan.

An idea for 2019 is to use the Hawaii Kyodan Calendar one Sunday to go over the history of Hawaii Kyodan, but please refer to our Centennial publication, “A Grateful Past, A Promising Future” for more details and other information to honor the past, inspire (us of) the present and hopefully get the interest of future generations. Also, please focus on projects and programs as a way to celebrate our 130th Anniversary. Another project I ask of each temple and sangha including affiliate organizations and internal components is that of inviting or interacting with 1-2 target audiences that you as a temple or organization have never reached out to or interacted with. Please, I beseech you, please share your Joy, Gratitude and Awareness of Amida Buddha’s Immense Wisdom and Compassion with others! Let us become, ever more, aware of Amida Buddha’s Great Wisdom and Compassion, a compassion so great that it is known as a non-dichotomous great love or compassion which rejects no one and also become more wisely and acutely aware of our sometimes negative tendencies. Let us not forget and lose sight of the hope and the encouragement we receive from Amida Buddha. Even as bonbu or a spiritually foolish one, illuminated and nurtured by the Buddha’s Lights of Wisdom and Compassion, may we embrace (in grateful response) Shinran Shonin’s aspiration of “May there be peace in the world, and may the Buddha’s Teaching spread!”

Namo Amida Butsu/Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion

RECOGNITION FOR CONTRIBUTION IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY

The Hawaii State Legislature Native Hawaiian Caucus Co-Chairs, Senator Jarrett Keohokalole and Representative Daniel Holt, with 43 of their colleagues, sponsored Hawaiian Caucus Week and Hawaiian Caucus Day to honor community leaders that have contributed to the advancement of Native Hawaiians and to recognize the contributions of ‘ōpi’o (youth), makua (parents), kūpuna (elders), Hawaiian at Heart supporters, and ‘ahahui (organizations).



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii received the recognition on February 7, 2019 by the 13th Legislature of the State of Hawaii as organization enriching the society and the Native Hawaiian Community and honoring individuals who have demonstrated excellence and high achievement in their particular field of endeavor as “Living Treasures of Hawaii.”

YBICSE – YOUNG BUDDHIST INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL STUDY EXCHANGE

JULY 15-27, 2019

Hongwanji-sponsored educational trip to Japan

- Visiting Jodo Shinshu historical sites including the Hongwanji (mother temple) in Kyoto
- Fellowship with new friends from US Mainland, Canada, South America, and Japan
- Homestay Program
- Learn & experience Japanese Culture
- Share joy of living in the Nembutsu Teachings
- Many other life-changing experiences

Candidate Qualification

- A person who appreciate the Jodo Shin Buddhism
- A Person who is currently in 9th grade through age 25
- In good health

*Fifteen (15) delegates will be selected.

Registration Fee: \$1,600.00

*Rest of the travel expense will be covered by Hongwanji.

*Some meals and other personal expenses are not included.

*Inter-island airfare within Hawaii is not included.



2017 YBICSE participants at Honzan and Tokyo Disneyland

****Application instruction and travel itinerary will become available soon.**

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS

Donation to A Cup of Cold Water

A donation of \$1,000 was made to A Cup of Cold Water (ACCW) on March 5, 2019. ACCW is a community Care-Van outreach program on the Island of Maui. The program is a food and clothing distribution service for the poor and needy in the community. From left to right:



Kit Hart (ACCW)
Jeanne Abe (ACCW)
Janet Shimada (Kahului Hongwanji)
Paula Baldwin (ACCW)
Rev. Richard Tennes (Kahului Hongwanji)
Charlotte Wilkinson (Kahului Hongwanji)
and in front, Mele, the ACCW Mascot

Donation to Project Dana

A donation of \$12,000 was made to Project Dana on March 7, 2019, in support of their 30th Anniversary event which is planned to be held in September 2019. The donation will help Project Dana to plan a celebration to express their appreciation to their many site coordinators and volunteers, and used for other related expenses in support of their program.



Donation presentation by Dean Sakamoto, Chair, Committee on Social Concerns, to Cyndi Osajima, Project Dana Executive Director

Donation to Honolulu Hongwanji Council

A donation of \$1,000 was made to the Honolulu Hongwanji Council in support of their participation in the Family Promise Program to host homeless families. The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, through the CSC, have also provided donations to Family Promise Hawaii. Information on the Family Promise Program can be founded at familypromisehawaii.org.

Donation to Hawaii Food Bank, Kauai Branch

A donation of \$5,000 was made to the Hawaii Food Bank, Kauai Branch. The donation from the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will help the food bank to support the families on Kauai as the need is continuous and food supplies require replenishment, especially after the Kauai flood disaster. Lihue Hongwanji also conducted a food drive and donated over 300 pounds of food to the food bank.



From left to right: Wes Perreira (Hawaii Foodbank Kauai Branch manager), Reverend Arthur Kaufmann, Gail Shibuya, and Carol Valentine (Lihue Hongwanji), and Michelle Panoke (Hawaii Foodbank Kauai Branch office manager). Carol is a member on the Committee on Social Concerns representing the Kauai District.

PBA'S ANNUAL FESTIVAL FEATURES UNITED STATES' PREEMINENT HIGH SCHOOL TAIKO PERFORMERS

The nation's premier high school taiko program will take the stage with a showcase of student, faculty and guest talent on Sunday, April 7, at 4 p.m. at the Pearl City Cultural Center. The theme of Pacific Buddhist Academy's 13th annual Taiko Festival is **Together**. Guest performers include Chad Okawa from Hongwanji Mission School, PBA's neighbor across the Pali Highway.

Tickets for the festival are \$25 for general admission and \$20 for senior citizens and students. They may be purchased in person at PBA's Weinberg Building at 1754 Lusitana Street, online at www.pacificbuddhistacademy.org/pbas-13th-annual-taiko-festival, or by returning forms sent in recent mailings to PBA's Advancement Office. For information about sponsorship opportunities, please call Rüdiger (Rudy) Rückmann at 532-2649, ext. 412, or 321-0372.

