



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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JULY 2019

### BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop Eric Matsumoto



#### A Whole New World Opens Up Before Your Eyes

What is the Obon Season? The 5 R's might help us to understand. Obon is a time of reverence, remembrance, reflection, realization and responding in gratitude. At Hongwanji, we gather to humbly pay reverence to All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion known as Amida Buddha or Namo Amida Butsu, The-Buddha's-Name- That-Calls-Us (to entrust), as we remember and honor those who came before us especially our departed loved ones of family and friends.

As we gather in remembrance, it is a time to reflect and come to some realizations which can change our life. One of the great messages of Obon is interdependence. Hatsugo Ohsuga wrote, "For man to live is not simply a matter of having blood ties with our parents and siblings, we are also linked to the rest of the world. All living things born into this world, not just people, but animals and plants, coexist as part of a greater life that they share."

His Eminence Gomonsu Emeritus Koshin Ohtani of Nishi Hongwanji encourages "Think more expansively of your connectedness to life." "All things on earth, all things in the Universe, are in the fold of a great life-force linking us all together. In this world, there is no life that was ever lived in vain. There is no life that is meaningless. All life is linked together. All of us share in the light that Amida Buddha shines upon us- this is what Buddhism teaches."

All life, all existence, regardless of whether they lived in the past, are living in the present or will be born in the future are illuminated and nurtured by the Buddha's Light of Wisdom and Compassion. Just as when the light is turned on in a darkened room and we are able to see, likewise, with the Buddha's Light shining upon us we begin to see and understand ourselves and the world in a different light. It is through this understanding that our life changes. This is what happened to Mogallana and his Mother. They found themselves living in a new awareness that life and living is made possible by innumerable others not limited to our fellow human beings. May we, too, come to realize the equality and preciousness of all life including plant and animal life, actually all existence and move away from self-centeredness and selfishness to a world filled with respect and appreciation for and of one another.

Further, at Obon time, we express our joy as we come to realize that Amida Buddha embraces us just as we are, including our deceased loved ones, promising us the great Enlightenment equal to the Buddha's

own Enlightenment. Thus, we refer to Obon as “A Gathering of Joy” at Hongwanji as we rejoice in the fact that we are all (living and deceased) embraced by Great Compassion. The life of a Shin Buddhist is one of “Responding in Gratitude” in which I gratefully recite The-Buddha’s-Name-That-I-Call (in gratitude), Namo Amida Butsu and try to live a life in accord with the Buddha’s Teachings which aspires for more peace, harmony, and happiness in the world.

I end by expressing my ardent wish and hope that you will attend Sunday services to learn and experience more fully the Great Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha. Namo Amida Butsu.

### **SADAKO’S PAPER CRANE (ANOTHER) FINDS A NEW HOME ON BOARD THE USS MISSOURI, PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII**

How fortunate we are in Hawaii! A second paper crane folded by Sadako Sasaki has found its home here in the Islands, manifesting her aspiration for peace, “I shall write Peace on your wings and you shall fly all over the world.” Sadako died of leukemia in the aftermath of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

The presentation ceremony took place in the Captain’s Cabin on board the USS Missouri on June 29, 2019, as the 87th Annual US Mayors Conference was being hosted by Mayor Kirk Caldwell and the City and County of Honolulu. Sadako’s nephew, Yuji Sasaki of the Sadako Legacy, presented the tiny paper crane to Meghan Rathbun, Curator of the USS Missouri Memorial Association Inc. The crowd of local dignitaries included the Consul General Koichi Ito of the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu and even a few international guests from Japan.



*Yuji Sasaki holds a box with Sadako’s crane with Bishop Eric Matsumoto, Robyn Omuro-Osaki of the USS Missouri Memorial Association (left), and Megumi Sasaki (right)  
Photo courtesy: Robyn Omuro-Osaki, USS Missouri Memorial Association*

Edwin Hawkins organized the ceremony and emceed the event, introducing each of the evenings speakers: the Honorable Mayor Kirk Caldwell, Yuji Sasaki, Meghan Rathbun, and Bishop Eric Matsumoto of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Bishop Matsumoto’s reflection is available on the following: <https://hongwanjihawaii.com/message/reflection-offered-at-sadako-paper-crane-presentation-062919/>

Earlier in the day, Bishop Matsumoto addressed the 62nd Jr. YBA State Convention where he credited and applauded the Hawaii Federation of Jr. Young Buddhists Associations for their successful endeavors in establishing “Peace Day” in Hawaii (September 21), propelling Hawaii Kyodan’s involvement for world peace.

## SPIRITUAL CARE IS HEALTH CARE: LEARNING HOW TO CARE FOR THE WHOLE PERSON AT THE 2019 ISPEC TRAINING IN HAWAII

From July 9-11, 2019, HHMH participated in an international gathering of hospital chaplains and medical professionals to learn how to integrate spiritual care with medical treatment. Our goal was to develop a resource network of ministers to support hospital chaplains serving Buddhist patients throughout the State of Hawaii.

Dr. Trace Haythorn, PhD, Executive Director/CEO of The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) based in Atlanta, GA wrote: "I had the pleasure of serving as a member of the leadership team for an ISPEC program with Pacific Health Ministry, our ACPE Center in Honolulu. ISPEC is a program of the George Washington Institute for Spirituality and Health, founded by Dr. Christina Puchalski. The program brings together pairs or small groups from institutions, usually anchored by a spiritual care professional, to explore how we can more fully integrate spiritual care into our health care settings. Through work with case studies and standardized patients, teams not only develop new skills for assessing spiritual distress, they also deepen their knowledge and appreciation of one another."

During this 3-day Workshop, Honolulu was host to about 70 participants of the 2019 ISPEC Training Session with attendees from the US Mainland, several countries from Asia and Africa and our own Hawaii. The ISPEC stands for "Interprofessional Spiritual Care Education Curriculum" and is endeavoring to make spiritual care of individuals become an integral part of health care. Rev. Blayne Higa was a member of the Course Faculty for the 2019 Training Session. Some Committee members of the HHMH Compassionate Care Committee



like Rev. Yuika Hasebe, Rev. Shawn Yagi, Rev. Bert Sumikawa and Bishop Matsumoto attended together with others who have previous associations with Pacific Health Ministries like Dr. Dexter Mar, Rev. Sol Kalu and Ms. Mernie Miyasato-Crawford. Plans are to share learned knowledge, skills and experiences.



On the eve of the conference July 8, Office of the Bishop and the Honolulu District Hongwanji Temples encouraged by Council President Dr. Dexter Mar hosted the Participants and also the local community to an Opening Reception at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin at which time Buddhism including Jodo Shinshu and the significance of chanting and memorial services were shared so Buddhist perspectives could add to the richness. The highlight was the simultaneous Japanese chanting of "Hakkotsu no Sho" and recitation of the English Translation of Rennyo Shonin's "On White Ashes."

Following this introduction, refreshments and temple displays hosted by Honolulu Hongwanji Council followed and the evening culminated with a public lecture by Dr. Christina Puchalski and panel members.

Needless to say, the Opening Reception and Training Session were an enriching experience for all participants! We express our gratitude to Rev. Anke Flohr, Executive Director of Pacific Health Ministries (PHM) in Honolulu for coordinating not only the Training Session with ISPEC, but also for making the arrangement so Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii could be an integral part of the 2019 ISPEC Training Session. We will continue to work with PHM to develop the HHMH minister-PHM chaplain network to provide spiritual care for Buddhists receiving hospital and hospice care.

## COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS

### Donation to Saint Elizabeth Episcopal Church

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii presented a donation of \$2,500 to Saint Elizabeth Episcopal Church to support their Wallyhouse Peace Garden Project. The Peace Garden will serve the surrounding community (Kalihi-Palama) with the following objectives: “We aim to grow fresh food for the community. We aim to provide a nurturing activity for local youth in gangs, to help focus their energy in creative and uplifting ways, decreasing the levels of theft and vandalism in the neighborhood. We aim to provide an enriching and creative outlet for the houseless and for the immigrants, fostering peace and nonviolence in the neighborhood. We aim to provide a space for community gatherings where a cross section of peoples can share and enjoy together on a regular basis. We aim to practice urban permaculture, regeneration of the land and ample food to share.”



Dean Sakamoto presented the donation to David Catron (a Wallyhouse Catholic Worker) at their Wednesday liturgy on May 29, 2019.

### Donation to Samaritan Counselling Center Hawaii

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii presented a donation of \$5,000 to the Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii to support their mission of providing affordable, professional counseling sensitive to the spiritual orientation of individuals, families, and communities in Hawaii. Dean Sakamoto and Alan Goto presented the donation to Rev. Dr. George Clifford (President) and Rachelle Change (Executive Director) on June 6, 2019.



## PBA STUDENTS PARTICIPATE RSG SEMINAR

Ryukoku Sogo Gakuen (RSG) will be holding the 67th Religious Education Seminar at Honzan Hongwanji on August 3-5, 2019 and four students from Pacific Buddhist Academy (Chaperone: Ms. Liane Vilorio) will travel to Japan to participate in the seminar.

The object of this seminar is to provide religious education to the students of RSG schools, and to develop the sense of awareness as the students of Sogo Gakuen by participating in the various programs with fellow students from other schools. The theme of this year's seminar is "Transforming Our World to Ensure No One is Left behind – what we can do now." RSG is a federation of 24 Hongwanji School Institutions which comprise a total of 68 schools. PBA has sister school arrangements with a number of the RSG Schools.

## RSG EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING IN PBA

Ryukoku Sogo Gakuen (RSG) will be holding the Educational Program for International Understanding at Pacific Buddhist Academy on August 1 - September 12. The object of this program is to nurture individuals with an international orientation founded on Buddhist values and perspectives through deepening their mutual understanding of differing cultures and societies. 21 students from 13 RSG high schools in Japan will have a homestay in Hawaii and attend PBA with the PBA students.

## PBA LIGHTING OUR WAY BANQUET

Pacific Buddhist Academy's **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Lighting Our Way Awards Banquet** will be held on **Friday, November 15, 2019**, from **5:30 to 8:30 p.m.** at **Waialae Country Club**.

We are pleased to announce that our honorees for 2019 include **Leslie Wilcox**, President and CEO at PBS Hawai'i and longtime board member and advisor for many philanthropic organizations; **Louise K.Y. Ing**, co-founder of the law firm Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing and recipient of many awards for her civic engagement; **Warren and Claire Tamamoto**, volunteer leaders with the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and numerous other community organizations; and the **Hawaiian Airlines Team Kokua Program**, home to the company's philanthropic and community service activities.

You can become a **sponsor**, purchase **individual tickets**, or make a **donation** to support the Banquet by going to PBA's Banquet website, <https://www.pacificbuddhistacademy.org/giving/events/lighting-our-way-banquet/14th-annual-lighting-our-way-banquet-sponsorships-and-tickets>.

or by calling or writing **Rüdiger Rückmann**, Director of Advancement, **(808) 532-2649**, email [rudiger.ruckmann@pbahi.org](mailto:rudiger.ruckmann@pbahi.org)

Sponsorship, individual ticket, and donation information is also included in the attached Banquet forms with this notice. Many thanks for supporting our wonderful honorees. We hope you can join us!