



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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AUGUST 2019

BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop Eric Matsumoto

Peace Day in Hawaii 2019 Message



As Peace Day in Hawaii (September 21st) approaches and our various Hongwanji Shin Buddhist Temples prepare to spread the important message of peace, harmony, non-violence and reconciliation, and other community organizations also observe remembrances related to World War II in August and September, I would like to share my message and aspiration for this year's Peace Day in Hawaii. I humbly ask that we all take some time to reflect guided by the Wisdom and Compassion of Supreme Enlightenment. May Amida Buddha's Light of Wisdom and Compassion illumine our hearts and minds so we may be able to deeply reflect, come to some life-changing realizations which has the potential of transforming myself and the world

and thus contributing to lasting peace and happiness.

As we lament about the suffering from wars including the mass shootings and bombings which are continuing to happen around the world and in our nation too, let us take a deeper look at ourselves and the world. Many times, as we look at situations of our life and world, we focus only on the conditions. However, with the Wisdom of Enlightenment to guide us, let us see the need to become aware of the deeper causes of suffering together with the conditions. Any fix by only addressing the conditions will be good only as long as the conditions do not change, but by addressing the cause of suffering we can snip the suffering at its root. It is, indeed, most difficult for us humans, people, to look at our own selves. My ego does not want to reveal itself even to its own self. With Enlightened Wisdom to guide, we are able to understand that the true cause of suffering in the world is ignorance and the afflictions which arise from it like arrogance, anger, greed, envy, self-centeredness, fear and so forth. Unless, we address the root cause which is ignorance and these afflictions which arise from it, we will continue to be plagued by negatives which in its extreme forms result in so much devastation, destruction and even loss of life which our normal minds cannot even fathom unless one has experienced it or seen it for oneself. Hence, the importance of listening to voices of those who have experienced the worst of humankind.

However, at the same time, we must also hear the voices, the Wisdom and Compassion, of those who have attained the highest levels of attainment, so we have hope, can aspire and begin to walk the path of peace and harmony. Thus, today, regardless of religious affiliation or even if you do not have one, let us embrace Wisdom and Compassion which aspires for the peace and happiness of not only one, a few, or

many, but all life, all existence. May we be guided by an All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion known as the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light whose Name is Namu Amida Butsu (the Buddha's Name That Calls Us (to entrust). May we be guided and our path be illuminated by a Presence which goes beyond our ego as a person, nation, religion, and even as humankind to realize true interdependence and realize the common wish of all life, all existence to be happy, free and safe. May the Buddha's Light of Wisdom and Compassion guide, nurture and inspire us! Please allow me to recite the Buddha's Name Which I Call (in gratitude) to conclude my message. Namu Amida Butsu.

2020 PEACE DAY RELATED EVENTS

■ Peace Day Lounge and Recognition at VegFest Oahu

Date: September 21, 2019
Time: 11:30 am – 5:00 pm
Place: Civic Grounds at Honolulu Hale
Hosted by: Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, Pacific Buddhist Academy & Honolulu Hongwanji Council

HHMH brings Peace Day awareness to the 4th Annual VegFest Oahu, held this year on Peace Day, September 21. HHMH will have a "Peace Day Lounge" throughout the event, a 15'x15' tent with banners and displays about Peace Day and our organizations, peace-related activities (e.g., crane folding), and a configuration that encourages talking story. Peace Day will be recognized from the event stage by the event producer, Bishop Matsumoto, and a performance by the Hawaii Betsuin Choir ("Golden Chain").



■ Peace Day Candle Light Vigil followed by video of "Peace On Your Wings"

Date: September 21, 2019
Time: 7:00 pm
Place: Lihue Hongwanji Mission
Hosted by: Lihue Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association

The Candle Light Vigil will be held on the front lawn of Lihue Hongwanji. When people arrive they will be given a candle in a candle holder and the words to the two songs. The vigil will begin after the ringing of the Kansho. There will be readings about UN International Peace Day history and the history of Hawaii Peace Day followed by singing "May Peace Prevail." After a short message from Shaku Kaufmann, candles will be lit around the circle, followed by a moment of silence and singing "Spread A Little Aloha." Following the Vigil, the DVD "Peace On Your Wings" will be shown in the Social Hall, with popcorn and drink provided.

MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Reverend Bert Sumikawa, a Retired Minister of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, was relieved from the position of Chaplain at the Pacific Buddhist Academy as of July 31, 2019. Rev. Sumikawa will continue providing ministerial services for Windward Buddhist Temple and Kapolei Buddhist Sangha.

Reverend Kazunori Takahashi, the Executive Assistant to the Bishop, has been appointed as the Chaplain at the Pacific Buddhist Academy as of August 1, 2019.

YBICSE

The 2019 Young Buddhist International Cultural Student Exchange (YBICSE) program was held from July 15 to 27, 2019 at our Mother Temple or Honzan, the Hongwanji in Kyoto, Japan. Nine youth, Alexandrianna Harman (Hawaii Betsuin), Kayla Koyanagi (Aiea), Everett Suzuki (Pearl City), Lauren Suzuki (Pearl City), Koji Suzuki (Pearl City), Jay Rikio Acohido (Wahiawa), Shoshi Hashimoto (Wahiawa), Kai Okuni (Makawao), Donavan Ikeuchi (Wailuku), represented Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii in this program. Chaperones were Rev. Shinkai Murakami (Wailuku) and Ms. Gay Tanaka (Mililani).



There were 31 youth participants from four overseas districts, BCA, Canada, South America and Hawaii. They visited the Honzan, experienced a home stay and traveling to several historical/significant sites including Hino Tanjo-in (Shinran Shonin's birth place), Mt. Hiei where Shinran Shonin practiced Tendai Buddhism for 20 years, Shoren-in Temple where Shinran Shonin took tokudo ordination, Otani Honryo (Otani Mausoleum) where Shinran Shonin's ashes are buried together with other Hongwanji sangha member's ashes, Hongwanji Hiroshima Betsuin and Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, etc. Six participants attended the Confirmation Rites (Kikyoshiki) at Honzan and received Buddhist Name from Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani.



The Hawaii group also visited Ryukoku University which was established as a seminary of Hongwanji, and Tsukiji Hongwanji in Tokyo. They also did sightseeing in Kyoto and Tokyo including visits to Tokyo Disneyland, Tokyo Sky Tree, Asakusa, etc.

The following are the comments from some participants: *"Meeting other youth who were just as dedicated and involved expanded my view of the widespread effect of Buddhism across the world."*

"This has made me gain a more deeper view of Buddhism. Which before I only had a slim of the top layer of it but now I feel like I've gained a deeper view of Buddhism and what the teachings mean."

Rev. Murakami, the minister chaperone, said: *“It was a great experience for all of our youths and for them to learn not only from the books and lectures about Hongwanji and other historical places, but they also learned and received the great personal experiences through this special program. All of our youths learned not only about the histories of our Hongwanji, but also how our Hongwanji temples are assisting our communities with a sincere mind of care and bringing joy through the great guidance of the Nembutsu.*

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Honzan staffs for their selfless efforts and kindness which made this great program and very memorable for our youths. I am very grateful that our youths are able to experience this once in a lifetime learning opportunity. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii for allowing me be a part of the program. The youths on this trip have taught me many things along with the in-depth history about the different temples.”

HONOULIULI BON SERVICE

Hawaii Buddhist Council (HBC) and Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH) held the third Honouliuli Bon Service at the Honouliuli Internment Camp, located near Waipahu on Oahu, on Wednesday, August 14, 2019. Bishop Eric Matsumoto and Rev. Kazunori Takahashi represented the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and attended this service. Bishop Matsumoto delivered his Dharma Message during the service. The message is on the Hawaii Kyodan Website:

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/message/2019-honouliuli-bon-service-dharma-message/>



The Honouliuli Internment Camp was constructed to accommodate Japanese Americans also Italians and Germans during World War II. This camp was the only one built for prolonged detention on Oahu. It opened in 1943 and closed in 1946. In February 2017, the drum which was used for the Bon Services was found at the Nichiren Mission of Hawaii. Because of this discovery, HBC started the Bon Service in honor of those who had hardships at this camp. This site was designated as a National Monument in 2015, but it is not open to the public. JCCH is the organization to contact regarding this site.

HONPA HONGWANJI CALENDAR COMMITTEE

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE HHMH 2020 CALENDAR

New five-year theme: Building Healthy Sanghas
2020 Slogan: Embracing Generosity and Openness

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH) Calendar Committee invites individuals and groups to provide photos for the Hongwanji calendar. The photo will need to be able to be clearly enlarged. We welcome cell phone pictures as some now have the technology to take pictures to do so. You may submit

more than one photo. For each, please include a paragraph describing how the picture relates to the 2020 slogan: Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity and Openness.

Please encourage your temples and organizations to submit photos to us! If you have questions, please leave a message for Yumi Suzuki at the Hongwanji Headquarters Office Rev. Takahashi at 522-9200 or email address: hqs@honpahi.org. For photo submissions, please submit directly to Alan Kubota at lenscapes-hawaii@gmail.com. He will be able to respond to your technical questions. Thank you.

Please submit pictures that are landscape oriented (horizontal).
DEADLINE: Monday, September 23, 2019.

PBA LIGHTING OUR WAY BANQUET

Pacific Buddhist Academy's **14th 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

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!