



ONENESS

KAPAA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

May 2020

BISHOP'S CORNER



First, let me express my hope that you are safe and well. More than ever, in these challenging times of the COVID-19 Pandemic we are need of both Wisdom and Compassion.

Right now, many of us, are feeling isolated, separated and alone. I believe the Buddha's Teaching has something to offer us which could change the way we feel by changing the way we look at things. There is a beautiful and meaningful metaphor known as Indra's Net found in the Garland Sutra which expresses the profound truth of the interconnectedness and interrelatedness of all life, all existence. Every phenomenon, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant, has an effect on all existence in the universe and conversely that the totality of everyone and everything in the universe including the universe is dependent on the individual parts which comprise it. I am able to exist because of all others and all others are connected to me. This awareness or understanding, then, leads us to appreciate all others for without them I would not exist. From this awareness or understanding arises a profound gratitude and an aspiration to also help or be of benefit to others.

Applying this Wisdom to our circumstances with COVID-19, let us see that our individual actions and behaviors such as staying indoors/at home as much as possible, quarantine when needed or applicable, wearing masks, but leaving PPE equipment for health care providers and those who critically need them, not hoarding, practicing good hygiene and physical distancing with social solidarity and the like which are being recommended by our local government contribute to the total picture of all of our well-being. Let this perspective or view of interdependence guide us.

Another unexpected outcome of this gratitude which comes from this understanding of interdependence is the sense/feeling/thought of knowing that we are never alone or completely cut off from others. Granted, as human beings social interaction and human relationships are important. However, our relationship with others is not limited to only fellow human beings. In Buddhism, we often speak of "Gratitude to all sentient beings." I do not and cannot live all by myself. My life and living, day to day, even moment to moment is made possible by the contributions and sacrifices of so many others including the natural environment including the food I eat each day. It is because of the gift of life of the plants and animals that I am able to live. This realization results in a deep sense of humility, indebtedness and gratitude to the natural world and animal and plant life. This perspective or understanding destroys my

arrogance, sense of superiority, nurtures a feeling of mottainai and arigatai or “How undeserving and yet I am preciously receiving all that is necessary for me to live.” Surprisingly, it also addresses, believe it or not, isolation, loneliness and separation. Even, right here in Hawaii, I have heard of individuals who are so grateful for the food they eat that it changes the way they feel. They feel so supported and connected to the food they consume each day that it changes the way they look at their own life and living. They do not feel isolated and alone, but see the support they are receiving even if no human person is around them.

The Dharma shares with us that all life is precious. For Shin Buddhist, there is a deep lament that one is the cause of suffering for other forms of life. The ultimate goal is to eventually attain an enlightened state of being so as not to be a cause of others’ suffering with birth in the Pure Land. However, even in the midst of samsaric life, imperfect as I am, there is an aspiration to try to be of some service to society.

In Japanese Buddhism, the equality and preciousness of all life came to include even the inanimate world. The presence of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light is always ever present and includes all. There is no time or place in which Amida Buddha is not present. Of course, we are human and so we do long for human companionship and thus I am not saying we have no need for human love and relationships, but there is another force or presence which also makes a difference in our life and that is the presence of Wisdom and Compassion which never leaves our side and is always with us and makes us aware that we live because of others!

To finally conclude, as we honor Shinran Shonin in May with the observance of Shinran Shonin’s Birthday Celebration or Gotan-E, let us reflect on his words,

“A verse of the Garland Sutra states, ‘On seeing a bodhisattva, Perform various practices, Some give rise to a good mind and others a mind of evil, But the bodhisattva embraces them all.’ ”

“Although I too am in Amida’s embrace, Passions obstruct my eyes and I cannot see the Buddha’s Light; Nevertheless, Great Compassion is untiring and illumines me always.”

“This Buddha pervades the countless worlds; it fills the hearts and minds of...(all) beings. Thus, plants, trees, and (even the) land all attain Buddhahood.”

Namo Amida Butsu

In gassho,
Eric Matsumoto, Bishop

**DIRECTIVES & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII
HEADQUARTERS - COVID-19 MEMO #5 (APRIL 24, 2020)**

No in-person services & activities until further notice. HQ will work with Districts to decide on when it is safe for them to reopen. We need to follow Federal, State & County mandates and recommendations or guidelines to determine when it will be safe to resume in-person services and activities at the temple. Please be advised that opening of temples could vary from county to county. Please keep in mind that higher risk individuals (older people 65+, those with compromised immune systems or other underlying medical conditions, etc.) are urged to stay home to the greatest extent possible.

Following services are permitted:

Bedside / Makuragyo services

Other End of life related services

Funeral services

Temple Hondo / Main Sanctuary can be used only for the above services.

The above services must be conducted with less than 10 people, physical distancing, and other precautions as dictated by the Federal, State and County mandates. Please keep abreast of local county ordinances (which could vary from county to county) too.

Online Services are permitted.

Any type of services including Sunday services can be held online, however this must be done from the minister's home.

Virtual marriage ceremonies are not permitted by State law.

Recommendations and suggestions for safety and security for websites and when using social media will be distributed.

All air travel except for emergencies is suspended until further notice.

HQ staff including BSC continues working remotely from home until further notice.

All temples are also asked to comply with minimum basic operations until further notice including following good hygiene, physical distancing, wearing of face masks, etc.

The situation with COVID-19 is still fluid that matters could change anytime and very quickly. Currently, in addition to State-wide requirements, counties also have practices in place. Please keep yourselves informed about local requirements too. Ministers and temple leaders, please use your best judgement. Further memos will be issued as needed. Let us be safe, patient with each other and not let fear overrun us. Let us go to the Buddha-Dharma for guidance.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully,

Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Bishop and Dr. Warren Tamamoto, President

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii believes that food security is an essential and basic need in our community. Recently, the Committee on Social Concerns made donations, totally \$5,000, to food banks which are providing food in their communities as part of its regular effort to help our communities across the State.

In addition, due to the significant increase in families seeking food assistance, many now experiencing financial difficulties because of COVID-19, the CSC has sent subsequent donations to food banks and other programs to help replenish food inventory. In collaboration with the Office of the Bishop and State President, donations have been sent to:

A \$2,000 donation to the Hawaii Food Bank (Oahu)

A \$1,000 donation to the Food Basket (Big Island)

A \$1,000 donation to the Maui Food Bank

A \$500 donation to the Hawaii Food Bank, Kauai Branch

A \$500 donation to the Kauai Independent Food Bank

A \$1,000 donation to Honokaa Hongwanji's "Feed the Keiki and Kupuna" program

Funding for community giving is made possible through the Social Welfare Fund administered by the Hawaii Kyodan Committee on Social Concerns. This is the power of your Dana (Selfless Giving) at work. Mahalo for your support of the Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive!

BWA MEMBERS MAKE MASKS FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS AND MORE

Members of the Buddhist Women's Associations have been busy making masks to help protect hospital workers, residents of care homes, and community volunteers during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Hawaii Betsuin members have been sewing masks for several weeks now, some of the women working 4 to 8 hours a day to provide masks for about 1,500 people thus far. Aiea, Mililani, Moiliili, Puna, Makawao and Jikoen Hongwanji members have joined the effort.

Masks have been donated to Hawaii Pacific Health, Kaiser, Craigsides, Kahala Nui, and residents at various nursing homes. Kona BWA seamstresses are sewing masks for Kona Auntie's Angels. They are in particular need of 1/8" elastic for the masks, so if you have any in your sewing kit, please consider donating.

Directions for making the masks are available in this YouTube video:

If you'd like to join the mask making team, please contact HFBWA president, Lois Toyama. Each person who sews masks does so at her own home to comply with social distancing recommendations.

NEW REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR CHORALFEST 2020

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's Choralfest 2020 will be held this year on September 26 and 27 at Hawaii Betsuin. This is the eighth such event since 2005. If you wish to participate as one of upwards of 150 singers in the festival choir, please register with your temple office by April 30. For a small fee of \$30, you will receive in May a booklet of choral gathas, a practice CD with which to learn your vocal parts over the summer, all meals at the two-day event, and the chance to sing with friends under the guidance of one of Hawaii's top choral directors, Nola Nahulu, who is also the esteemed conductor of the Hawaii Opera Chorus. Five beautiful choral gathas will be featured, including a remembrance of Hiroshima and Nagasaki seventy-five years ago and a BWA World Convention theme song of 1998 by the Lady Noriko Otani. Whether you are a singer or listener, please note the dates - Choralfest 2020 on September 26 and 27.

Because of current uncertainties arising from public health concerns, singers considering participating in Choralfest 2020 will have until June 15, 2020 (previously April 30) to send in their registration forms. Thank you for your understanding and interest.

KAHUKU HONGWANJI SCHOLARSHIP

The Kahuku Hongwanji Mission closed its doors in February 2013 after serving its membership for 111 years. To maintain the legacy of the Kahuku Hongwanji Mission and to develop the future generations of the Hongwanji, Kahuku Hongwanji Mission established a scholarship to support students at the college level.

Eligibility:

The applicant must be a member of the BSC Fellowship Club or an active member of a Hawaii Kyodan organization.

The applicant must be a full-time student of an accredited college, university, or a post-high school program in the State of Hawaii, and earn a minimum of 12 college credits per semester.

The applicant must have a required minimum college GPA of 2.5.

The applicant must be of college age up to 35 years old.

The applicant must submit the application form with an essay on "Dharma and My Life".

Application Deadline: July 31, 2020

Scholarship Amount: \$2,000.00 each / two recipients

For more information of this scholarship, please contact the HHMH Headquarters at (808) 522-9200 or email at hqs@honpahi.org

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Statement on Covid19 Pandemic

The Covid19 pandemic has spread throughout the world and shows little sign of ending. Here in Japan, we have entered a new stage with the announcement of the state of emergency.

First, I wish to express our sincerest condolences to those in Japan and the rest of the world, who have passed on due to Covid19 pandemic. And to those who have become ill, we send our best wishes for a speedy recovery. Moreover, we express our deepest admiration and gratitude to all the doctors, nurses and medical staff for their heroic effort to treat and save the patients, even at the high risk of danger to themselves.

During this crisis, people around the world are confronting the enormous set of challenges by working together through mutual cooperation and encouragement. However, it has been pointed out that one of the causes for the spread of the disease lies in the actions of asymptomatic people who are unaware that they have contracted the virus. We must, therefore, understand its dangers and the correct response to the virus and act accordingly. We are requesting everyone to show genuine concern for one another so as not to allow the spread of any kind of discrimination and prejudice. Let us act properly based on our careful consideration of the implications of our action.

The Buddha taught us that ignorance and afflictions are the cause of our suffering. And Shinran Shonin revealed to us of the truth of our self-centeredness that lurks at our core through the words, “we foolish ordinary beings possessed of afflictions.” Given these truths, isn’t it important that we share in the joys and pain precisely because we are in such a difficult time? In Buddhism, we value the teaching of ‘interdependence,’ which points to the reality that ‘all things exist by being connected through the workings of causes and conditions’ and are, therefore, ‘without any fixed substantial entity.’

The spread of Covid19 is due to the person-to-person contact. Consequently, we no longer feel relief but, instead, anxiety about our ‘human connectedness,’ which was originally something that was highly cherished. Therefore, we must not come to regard our ‘human connectedness’ negatively as something of great danger. Precisely because we are now facing this worldwide pandemic, we must

become even more cognizant of the original meaning and the importance of our 'human connectedness.'

What is crucially important at this time is for us to be guided by the Buddha's wisdom and to work cooperatively together within the workings of Buddha's great compassion. In so doing, we can reaffirm the importance of being alive and to bring an end to the spread of this disease. It is not the governmental announcement of the state of emergency that will defeat this Coronavirus crisis. Instead, it is the thorough and appropriate actions of each one of us, in cooperation with many others, which will determine whether or not we can bring the current crisis to its end.

Precisely because my very existence is made possible within the connectedness with the people of the world, we shall be able to rejoice with them when we eventually overcome this difficulty together. Within our respective personal circumstances, we are encouraged to think about what we can do to combat this crisis without diminishing the Lamp of Dharma and our tradition. And we shall cooperate and pool our resources as we receive the mind of Nembutsu that reaches us from Amida Buddha, promising to "liberate us just as we are." So, let us do our part to the best of our abilities in order to regain our society, in which everyone can live with a peace of mind.

April 14, 2020

Chiko Iwagami
Governor General, Jodo Shinshu Hongwanjiha

from the president's corner...

The merry month of May brings colorful blossoms which will brighten your day.

We are thankful that you are staying healthy as we continue to work together to stop the spread of the mysterious corona virus. Although we are faced with challenges, we are still able to enjoy life, unlike many who were less fortunate. We extend our deepest condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones.

Our heartfelt gratitude to the health care professionals, first responders, essential workers and all who tirelessly care for those in need as they risk their lives.

We thank Bishop Eric Matsumoto, President Warren Tamamoto, Rev. Kazunori Takahashi and HQ staff for thoughtfully keeping in touch with memos and goto meetings to assure the health and safety of all.

We are grateful to the Minister's Association for the Sunday Services which we look forward to. Last Sunday we had the opportunity to observe the Eshinni-Kakushinni Day Service with Rev. Tomo Hojo of West Kauai Hongwanji. The next service will be held on Sunday, May 3 @ 10:00 a.m. The service will be conducted by Rev. Shawn Yagi of Aiea Hongwanji. He was also a resident minister at Kapaa Hongwanji. Please tune in to youtube on our website to be connected to the service. The ministers are providing you with an opportunity to listen to the Dharma message and participate in the service while you are in the comfort of your home.

Happy Mother's Day! (May 10th) *"A mother is special, she's more than a friend. Whenever you need her, she'll give you a hand."* George W. Zellars

Happy Birthday to Shinran Shonin our founder of Shin Buddhism. We commemorate Shinran Shonin's Birthday (Gotan-e) on May 21. "Shin Buddhism is the path of gratitude and humility."
Namo Amida Butsu

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May to honor the men and women who have died while serving in the military. This year it will be celebrated on May 25.

Do you know the distinction between Memorial Day and Veterans Day? On Memorial Day we memorialize the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. Let us remember and honor the countless veterans who have served our country so we can enjoy the luxury of freedom today.

We express our sincere gratitude for your continued support. We understand that everyone is having financial difficulty due to the shutdown. Many have lost their jobs, business, and are not receiving an income. Unfortunately, the temple is also experiencing the loss of income and lack of funds. Our sincere appreciation for the generous donations we have received. Your contribution will help with the operational expenses to maintain our temple.

We hope you will wake up each morning with a *smile* on your face and a heart filled with gratitude. May you be happy, healthy and safe.

Mahalo for Your Contributions and Support

March 21-April 19

Memorial Service

In memory of

3rd Masumi Hayward

- Ralph Kitashima

50th Richard Tadashi Takemoto

- Eleanor Seshiki

Bedside Service

In memory of

Hanae Mitsuma - Irwin Haraguchi & Family

Membership

Haven Kuboyama

Kim & Yasuko Murakami

Bryan Tanaka

Brian Yamamoto



Donations

Hisao Maeda - support

Eleanor Seshiki - Richard

Memorial Service

May

Hideo	Tanaka	23rd	5/7/1998
Hanako	Fujita	23rd	5/8/1998
Hiroshi	Furumoto	50th	5/11/1971
Clyde Hideo Sr.	Ishii	27th	5/15/1994
Akiyo	Wasao	17th	5/17/2004
Clyde	Nakamura	3rd	5/23/2018
Toshiaki	Mitsui	23rd	5/26/1998
Ellen	Higa	1st	5/27/2019
Yoshio	Shiraki	17th	5/29/2004
Teruo	Okasako	7th	5/29/2014

June

Victor	Holender	3rd	6/1/2018
Aki	Hishimitsu	50th	6/9/1971
Alice Akiko	Hatakeyama	3rd	6/13/2018
Michael Kazuo	Hatakeyama	3rd	6/25/2018
Frank Sakuichi	Sunada	27th	6/26/1994
Tadao	Sunada	13th	6/28/2008
Masami	Oda	1st	6/28/2019
Matsuyo	Kano	23rd	6/30/1998

From Minister's Desk

One of the reason Buddhism took root in Japan is the epidemic of infectious diseases.

The oldest historical book in Japan, *Nihon Shoki*, suggests a pandemic of smallpox in 585.

Buddhism was introduced to Japan for the first time around that time. The Emperor of Korea gifted a Buddha statue to Japanese government. At that time, Japanese didn't have sense of religion and respecting gods was established as a custom that had been handed down from ancient times.

The outbreak occurred after the Buddha statue was presented to Japan and some people thought the epidemic was caused by the Buddha statue. People who couldn't accept Buddhism burned the Buddha statue, and the incident triggered a political battle. Some politicians believed that the disease had spread because the Buddha statue had been burned. That was the first political power struggle in Japan: small pox and a Buddha statue.

Prince Shotoku was born shortly after the Buddha statue incident, but in his time there was another epidemic, leprosy.

Under such a chaotic situation he wrote the first constitution in Japan. The constitution was supported by the spirit of harmony in Buddhism.

As the epidemic spread, the spirit of compassion in Buddhism moved people greatly, and the first hospital and pharmacy was established in Japan.

Namo Amida Butsu

KAPAA HONGWANJI MISSION

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ONENESS

The Newsletter of
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In Memoriam...

Mrs. Hanae Mitsuma

Kapaa Hongwanji Mission extends
its deepest sympathy to families who
have recently lost their loved ones.



Namo Amida Butsu.