



# ONENESS

## KAPAA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

JULY 2020

### BISHOP'S CORNER

A further reflection on our troubled nation from a Jodo Shinshu Perspective



*\*Photo (repost) from Silent March around the Hawaii State Capitol Building after the June 17, 2015 Charleston, South Carolina incident. Credit: Charles St. Sure*

Today, further reflecting on the situation of racial discrimination and law enforcement in our nation which continue to, in some instances, involve violent acts and most tragically the continued loss of human life, may we go to the Buddha-Dharma for guidance. In Jodo Shinshu (or Shin Buddhism), the 18<sup>th</sup> Vow of Bodhisattva

Dharmakara/Amida Buddha is the Primal Vow which unconditionally promises Supreme Enlightenment. But, currently, my thoughts also dwell on the significance of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vow: “If, when I attain Buddhahood, the humans and devas in my land should not all be the color of genuine gold, may I not attain the perfect Enlightenment.” Several of Bodhisattva Dharmakara’s 48 vows address the stark reality of samsara with suffering and inequality that is born from anger, greed and ignorance.

In Buddhism, the approach and goal is the advancement of each unenlightened being through a transformation of each person’s heart and mind culminating in the attainment of supreme enlightenment. In the case of a total and immediate transformation, the person becomes enlightened like Prince Siddhartha did to become Sakyamuni Buddha. In the case of a “spiritually foolish being” (bonbu) like myself, total positive transformation awaits at some future point. However, illuminated by Amida Buddha’s Light, there results a new awareness of oneself and the awareness of a Wisdom and Compassion which unconditionally embraces – the Buddha’s aspiration for the peace and happiness of all sentient beings. On one hand, knowing that Amida Buddha’s Compassion reaches out to all natures within oneself the understanding that all life can be happy and at peace – thus, I can identify with those who are suffering/hurting as victims of ignorance facing inequality and discrimination. On the other hand, the Light of Wisdom allows me to relate even to those who are

manifesting unwholesome actions by making me understand that if conditions were different, I might find myself in their shoes and unable to see life differently and how my actions were causing harm. If we continue to see ourselves only in the polarity of exclusive opposites, we will remain divided and it will be difficult to come to resolution. There is a saying, that the wise seek neither victory nor defeat. This is an opportunity for both personal and societal transformation through critical self-reflection and compassionate action. Buddhist teachings have always addressed suffering and inequality, from the rejection of the caste system in India, to occupational discrimination in Japan, to support of LGBTQ rights in the United States, etc.

Today, we, the people, including the Buddhist Sangha in communities across our nation and the world, are particularly addressing the suffering of Black people. Black Lives Matter! As we bring about changes to the external conditions of our society with new laws, policies, procedures and reform, it is essential that we also address the deep causes of suffering which arise from ignorance and its manifestations, including arrogance, pride, self-centeredness and fear. Let me emphasize that it is the inner transformation of each of us that will result in true harmony and the lasting positive change that we seek. Each of us must change for a true transformation of our society, nation and world. We need a transformative revolution of our hearts and minds. This is how we will dismantle systemic racism and uplift those who have been left at the margins of our society for too long. As a Buddhist saying reminds us, “Human beings tend to move in the direction of their thoughts.”

However, it is indeed challenging to bring about the kind of awareness and change that we are speaking about on our own especially in this Last Dharma Age. Hence, the Pure Land Tradition speaks of Amida Buddha’s Light of Wisdom and Compassion which illuminates, nurtures and embraces. For a “spiritually foolish being” like myself, my ultimate transformation takes place at the end of my finite life with birth in the Pure Land of Enlightenment made possible by the Buddha’s Compassionate 18<sup>th</sup> Vow. Guidance and insight can be derived, however, on how I should try to live each day even in my unenlightened state of being by the Pure Land of Amida Buddha. Let me state clearly the intent is not to create the Pure Land on Earth, but we can gain a vision of what we should aspire to now and forever. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Vow addresses our tendency to discriminate based on skin color – racism – thus vows that all in the Pure Land will be of the same precious golden color. The color gold is not to be taken literally and is not implying that other colors are of lesser importance. Instead, the significance of gold is that almost universally it is appreciated and valued throughout the world as being very precious. I fully realize that this “spiritually foolish being,” Eric, is unable to live perfectly, but the Vows provide me with guidance on how I should try to live, that is, without discriminating, and in ways that help secure respect and equality for all. The Buddha-Dharma provides guidance, insight and encouragement.

As Shinran Shonin said in one of his letters, “One must seek to cast off the evil of this world and to cease doing wretched deeds; this is what it means to reject the world and to live the nembutsu.” Let us deeply self-reflect and, while lamenting our imperfections and deeply appreciating Great Compassion which unconditionally embraces, gratefully respond by trying

to live in a way that one and all – but especially the disadvantaged and those who have been denied fair access to happiness without fear, equal benefits and opportunities, and freedom – can live fulfilled lives.

In recognizing that “Black Lives Matter,” may we address the real enemies of anger, greed and ignorance (the root causes of suffering and inequality) and peacefully and thoughtfully transform the conditions which perpetuate suffering, inequality and the use of excessive force against the marginalized and minorities. Again, in grateful response to All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion, let us find ways we can contribute to be(com)ing a more peaceful, equitable, and harmonious world. Let us each ask ourselves “What can I do?”

As a closing reflection, please join me for “Our Pledge” by Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani.

Reaching out to others,

I will share a smile and gentle words.

Just like the Buddha, who always calls out with Aloha.

Breaking away from my greed, anger and ignorance, I will try to live in peace and harmony.

Just like the Buddha, who shares tranquility and kindness with all.

Moving forward from self-centeredness,

I will share a life of joy and sorrow with others.

Just like the Buddha, whose caring heart always embraces us.

Realizing that I live because of others,

I will strive to live life to the fullest with an attitude of gratitude. Just like the Buddha, who promises to embrace us all.

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

Thank you. In gassho/anjali,

Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Bishop

***The following messages are also available on the HHMH Website:***

A reflection on our troubled nation (June 1, 2020)

[https://hongwanjihawaii.com/message/a-reflection-on-our-troubled-nation-bishop-matsumoto- 060120/](https://hongwanjihawaii.com/message/a-reflection-on-our-troubled-nation-bishop-matsumoto-060120/)

2020 Memorial Day message from Bishop Eric Matsumoto (May 25, 2020)

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/message/2020-memorial-day-message-bishop-matsumoto/>

Bishop Matsumoto’s Video Messages

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5p2UQ0W-gN4Up41QotZr6OsqcptoYVyE>

## COVID-19 COMMUNICATIONS & RESOURCES ON HHMH WEBSITE

The Office of the Bishop has issued a series of memos (1-8) to provide directives and recommendations regarding temple activities and procedures during the COVID-19 outbreak. The latest memo was issued on June 2, 2020 when the four counties have made allowances for “Places of Worship” to reopen, subject to restrictions and requirements for safety. These memos are also available in the following page of our Hawaii Kyodan Website:

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/blog/2020/03/13/covid19/>

This page includes additional important resources which would be helpful to temples, affiliates, and individual members. You can check it periodically to see if there are resources that can help you.

## PREMIERE OF BON SERVICE FOR HAWAII JULY 11-12, 2020

July 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. (HST)

July 12, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (HST)

YouTube: Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDuOZdicW9mWq-DNlf19Pyg>

Presented by Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Office of the Bishop, State Ministers Association,

New Expressions Committee, Monshinto Task Force

**Bon Service for Hawaii** is an online “virtual” service dedicated with deep gratitude and appreciation in the memory of dearly departed sangha members and friends of the Hongwanji Temples in the State of Hawaii.

**Bon Service for Hawaii** will premiere on Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii’s YouTube Channel on Saturday, July 11 at 7:00 p.m. (HST) and Sunday July 12 at 10:00 a.m. (HST).

Sangha members and friends of Hongwanji Hawaii temples that will host in-person and/or online Bon Service are encouraged to attend or view the service of their Temple, and watch Bon Service for Hawaii at their convenience.

Sangha members and friends of Hongwanji Hawaii temples that are unable to host in-person and/or online Bon Service are encouraged to view the evening or morning premiere of Bon Service for Hawaii.

During these most extraordinary of circumstances, one important thing we can do this Obon is to take a moment to remember our departed loved ones, to reflect upon their continued influence on our lives, and to rededicate ourselves to living this unrepeatable life in honor of their memory.

Illuminated by Amida's All-Inclusive Light of Wisdom and embraced by Amida's All-Encompassing Compassion, let us put our hands together in *gasshō anjali*, and say Na-mo Amida Butsu in joy and gratitude.

For more information about the 2020 Bon Service for Hawaii, please contact the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters at [hqs@honpahi.org](mailto:hqs@honpahi.org) or (808) 522-9200.

Bon Service donations may be made directly to your local temple, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, Pacific Buddhist Academy, or affiliated organizations, as you prefer.

If you would like to make a Bon Service donation online using any major credit/debit card, please visit [HongwanjiHawaii.com/donate](http://HongwanjiHawaii.com/donate) and click the links for the organization to which you'd like to make a donation.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii  
Hawaii District Temples  
Honolulu District Temples  
Kauai District Temples  
Maui District Temples Oahu  
District Temples Pacific  
Buddhist Academy Buddhist  
Study Center  
Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations

## **SAVE THE DATES: SUMMER SESSION, JUNE 22-26, 2020**

**“Interlinked: Understanding the Origins and Evolution of American Buddhism”**

The Buddhist Study Center will offer its 46th Annual Summer Study Session as a free online class series on June 22-26, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (HST) featuring the noted scholar, Rev. Dr. Duncan Ryuken Williams, author of *American Sutra*, a ground-breaking book published in 2019.

The study class series will cover the Foundations of American Buddhism, Buddhism in Hawaii during World War II, Religious Freedom and Buddhism during World War II, American Buddhism and Ecology, and Buddhist Social Engagement in a series of five two-hour lecture over five nights.

The study class series will be available online through a link available at the Buddhist Study Center website, <http://bschawaii.org>. Pre-registration is not required and the lectures are free and open to the public. Donations to the Buddhist Study Center are gratefully accepted in the spirit in which they are given. Detailed information and the full syllabus are available at <http://bschawaii.org>. For more information, please call the Buddhist Study Center at (808) 973-6555.



## HQ BOOKSTORE UPDATE

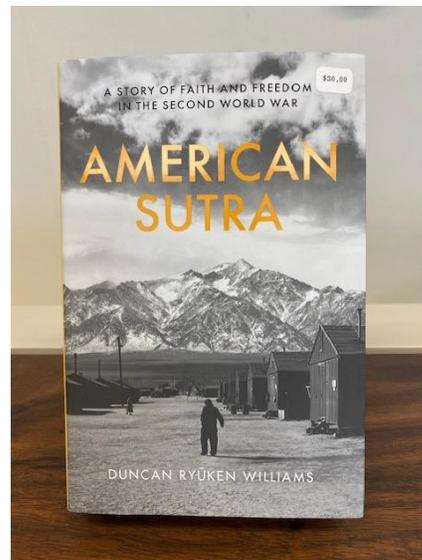
The HHMH Bookstore is currently available to receive your order by phone or e-mail. If you are interested in Bookstore items, please contact Yoshiko Umitani, by phone (808) 522-9202 or by E-mail [hqbooks@honpahi.org](mailto:hqbooks@honpahi.org)

You can check out Bookstore items through our web site <https://hongwanjihawaii.com/book-store/book-store-catalog/>

After we receive your order by phone or e-mail, I will prepare your order and set up the time for you to pick it up at HQ Bookstore.

We can also mail your order to your address by USPS. The shipping fee will apply. I am willing to mail Bookstore items to every customer who lives in Honolulu, Oahu, Neighbor islands or Mainland. You can pay your order by check or credit card. HHMH Bookstore offers 10% discount to orders from HHMH temples.

Bookstore has some new books and items. “American Sutra” by Dr. Duncan Ryuken Williams who is the speaker of this year’s BSC Online Summer Study Session is available now. One copy is \$30.00. (Yoshiko Umitani, HQ Bookstore)



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

### 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

Mahalo for Your Contributions & Support  
May 21-June 20

**Funeral Service**

*In memory of...*  
Satsuki Kodani - The Kodani Family

**Memorial Services**

*In memory of...*  
Hanako Fujita - David Funamura  
Alice Hatakeyama - Sharon Contrades  
Michael Hatakeyama - Sharon Contrades  
Masami Oda - Dora Naito  
Clyde Nakamura - Nakamura Family  
Yoshiichi & Nariko Yoshida - Rueben Yoshida

**Major Service - Gotane**

Ethel Aiko Oda  
Sidney Yanagawa

**Hatsubon**

*In memory of...*  
Toshiko Iida - Kathleen Taira  
Takeshi Yamamoto - Betty Yamamoto

**Obon (Choba) Donation**

Laura Asari  
Donald & Evelyn Nagamine  
Hidemi Matsumoto

**Donations**

Sharon Contrades  
Bonnie Ellamar  
Jo-Ann Harunaga  
Amy Isobe  
Neal Kakimoto  
Edwin Kawamoto  
Ralph Kitashima  
Nancy Masada  
Hisao Maeda  
Roy Morita  
Hiroko Oshima  
Tami Ramil  
Mae Sakamoto  
Carole Seshiki  
Joan Slingerland  
Dennis & Sadie Sunada  
Alice Taogoshi  
Glenn Yagihara  
Betty Yamamoto  
Sidney Yanagawa  
Family of Toshiko Iida  
Jill Yoshimatsu

**Chicken/Sushi Donation**

Gloria Shimizu

**Columbarium**

Katherine Matayoshi

**Social Concerns**

Helen Iwai

**Miscellaneous Donations**

Hidemi Matsumoto  
Calvin Sakai - security light fixtures  
Seiji Yotsuda - Installation of security lights  
Hand sanitizers

**Membership**

Helen Iwai  
Joan Slingerland  
Tami Ramil

**Volunteer Support**

Stanford Iwamoto  
Winston Kawamoto  
Haven Kuboyama  
Rev. Mieko Majima  
Milton Nakamura  
Gloria Shimizu  
Calvin Sakai  
Clyde Takekuma  
Keith & Thelma Tsukamoto  
Alison Yamamoto  
Brian & Wendy Yamamoto  
Sidney Yanagawa



from the president's corner...

*Warmest Mahalo to Everyone!*

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank each of you for your generous donation to help Kapaa Hongwanji remain as a vital entity in the community. As you know, we are faced with a serious financial shortfall which we hope we will be able to overcome with your support. Our goal is to make every effort to continue to serve you and the community with religious as well as cultural events. Our temple was established in 1912 and we are hoping to celebrate our centennial in 2022. We are most grateful and touched by your generous contributions which expresses your heartfelt support for Kapaa Hongwanji to continue its mission.

We hope you are all continuing to stay well and safe as the unpredictable nature of the pandemic continues to be of great concern to all. As the businesses reopen, it is best to observe the precautions and sanitation procedures to keep you safe. Please call 822-4667 if you need assistance to pick up medication, groceries or essentials.

The Board of Directors are planning to have a fundraiser to boost our financial recovery. The date will most likely be in August with our limited seating at Family OBon and Hatsubon Services. The date will be announced as soon as plans are confirmed.

The temple will be closed for Sunday Services until August since Rev. Majima will be in Japan. Memorial and Funeral Services can be arranged by calling the temple at 822-4667. Due to physical distancing and sanitation practices we will need to limit the number in attendance. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Many thanks to the anonymous donor for the bottles of hand sanitizers which are difficult to find and will be put to good use.

A BIG MAHALO to our yard crew of 4 senior men who tirelessly keep our grounds well groomed throughout the year. They meet on the second and last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 a.m. They could use some helping hands to maintain the large area.

### **Women's Association**

We extend our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Family of the late Mrs. Satsuki Kodani. We thank her for the many years she supported the organization. We will miss her.

### **United Jr. YBA of Kauai**

The Federation of Jr. YBA's will be having its 63<sup>rd</sup> State Convention on June 27, 2020. Due to the pandemic it will be a virtual convention. The Jr. members participating are Taryn Ramil-President, and Madison Doo-Treasurer. Rev. Majima-Minister Advisor and Roberta Yanagawa-Lay Advisor will also be participating. Best wishes for a productive and rewarding virtual experience.

## Memorial Service

### July

Misao	Nakamura	3rd	7/6/2018
Sekiko Higashi	Valpoon	7th	7/9/2014
Taka	Nishida	50th	7/17/1971
Takashi	Hashimura	3rd	7/21/2018
Thomas Himeo	Ishida	33rd	7/25/1988
Sakae	Hatakeyama	23rd	7/26/1998
Milton Atsushi	Hiranaka	13th	7/27/2008
Happy Sueno	Haraguchi	1st	7/27/2019
Asayo	Wakumoto	50th	7/30/1971
Toshiko	Iida	1st	7/30/2019

### AUGUST

Kazuo	Okinaka	33rd	8/1/1988
Mary Masae	Ishii	33rd	8/4/1988
Hideyo	Saiki	50th	8/6/1971
Albert Sadamu	Tsuchiya	13th	8/13/2008
Hazel Shizuyo	Fujimoto	23rd	8/14/1998
Masaki	Sakai	50th	8/16/1971
Kaichi	Kubota	50th	8/17/1971
Fusao	Haraguchi	27th	8/17/1994
Taka	Ueda	50th	8/20/1971
George	Nishida	17th	8/26/2004
Colin Kiyoshi	Sunada	13th	8/26/2008



## Temple Cleaning & Flower Arrangement

The cleaning and flower arrangement schedule resumes from August.  
Thank you very much for your support.

8/1/2020	Group 6	Mr. & Mrs. Keith Tsukamoto - Chair Mrs. Joan Slingerland, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Yamamoto, Mr. Winston Kawamoto	Ruby
8/8/2020	Group 1	Mrs. Marie Hashimura - Chair Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hiraoka, Mr. Milton Nakamura, Mr. Ray Paler	Rona & Joan
8/15/2020	Group 2	Mr. Francis Nishizawa - Chair Mrs. Yasuko Murakami, Mr. Clint Saiki	Kay & Roberta
8/22/2020	Group 3	Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Takekuma - Chair Mrs. Erin Takekuma, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Nishida, Mr. Stanford Iwamoto, Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Yanagawa	Roberta
8/29/2020	Group 4	Ms. Gloria Shimizu - Chair Mr. Haven Kuboyama, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Sunada, Mr. Lane Sunada, Mrs. Pat Yamamoto	Rona

## From Minister's Desk

Away: July 1 - July 21

Obon is the event which holds a memorial service for the ancestors. In Japan, we usually hold Obon between August 13th through 16th. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, All Bon Dance Festivals were cancelled on Kauai, so I would like to invite each family for the special private Bon Service. I hope that the family-level Bon service will lower the risk. For especially the family who has the first bon service this year, I really would like to invite all family members to the temple to honor their loved one and chant the sutra with me. It is a good opportunity to think how our loved one has contributed to our life and hold a sacred moment together. Please reserve your special day at 808.822.4667 or mail@kapaahongwanji.org.

There is a limitation for each person's life, but life is passed down from generation to generation and we live in the infinite life.

Namo Amida Butsu

KAPAA HONGWANJI MISSION

4-1170 Kuhio Highway

Kapaa, Hawaii 96746



## ONENESS

The Newsletter of  
Kapaa Hongwanji Mission  
Minister: Rev. Mieko Majima  
[www.kapaahongwanji.org](http://www.kapaahongwanji.org)  
Phone (808) 822-4667  
Email: [mail@kapaahongwanji.org](mailto:mail@kapaahongwanji.org)

### *In Memoriam...*

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

During this difficult time, Rev. Majima has been holding the memorial services for your loved one since March.

Namo Amida Butsu.

