



# The Messenger

*Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness*

## Calendar of Events

<p><u>May 2022</u></p> <p>01 Sun 9:00 am Baccalaureate Service          07 Sat 11:00am - 12:00pm Mother's Day Lunch Fundraiser Pick Up          08 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service          08 Sun 9:30 am - 10:30am Food Drive          15 Sun 9:00 am Gotan-E          22 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service &amp; Activity          29 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service</p>	<p><u>June 2022</u></p> <p>05 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service          05 Sun 9:30 am - 10:30am Food Drive          12 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service          19 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service          25 Sat. 7:00 pm Online Bon Dance on Zoom          26 Sun NO Sunday Service</p>
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### Statement on Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

On February 24, 2022, Russia aggressively began its invasion of Ukraine through military force.

It has been reported that in cities across Ukraine, many civilians including children have become victims in addition to the well over one million Ukrainian citizens forced to flee becoming refugees.

We, the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist organization, strongly condemn taking human life lightly as well as using military force to unilaterally try to change reality through violent actions for no matter what reason.

In addition to the invasion of Ukraine, the reality is that terrorist attacks and military warfare continue across the world. Reiterating our stance against violence, it is our fervent hope that a peaceful resolution may be realized as soon as possible and that there be a safe return to peace for the people of Ukraine.

Overcoming conflict that arises through mutual exclusion and differences in thinking and values, I firmly believe that through joint efforts, the path to perpetual peace will open up to a life of spiritual richness.

March 8, 2022

IWAGAMI Chiko  
 Governor General  
 Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

## Statement on the Invasion of Ukraine

We have watched in sadness and horror the destruction caused by the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine. Our hearts go out to all those directly involved in and affected by this conflict. The senseless loss of human life and the trauma of war will have lasting repercussions on so many for we are all interconnected.

The poisons of greed, hatred, and ignorance are at work in our world causing immense suffering. Shinran Shōnin, the founder of Shin Buddhism reflects on our capacity for unwholesome and destructive actions, “Human beings are such that, maddened by the passions of greed, we desire to possess; maddened by the passions of anger, we hate that which should not be hated, seeking to go against the law of cause and effect; led astray by the passions of ignorance, we do what should not even be thought.” Illuminated by the Buddha’s Light, we reflect on our human proclivity for violence as we actively cultivate the conditions for peace and the well-being of all people.

We should acknowledge that we are all too often swayed by fear, insecurity, distrust, and doubt. As peoples and nations of the world, we should come together to deeply hear each other’s concerns with the aspiration to alleviate suffering, assuage historic wounds, and work towards creating a lasting security and peace for the entire world.

Guided by the Buddha’s Teachings, we deeply lament this war and compassionately call for an immediate end to the conflict. We support humanitarian aid for victims and have made donations to Doctors Without Borders and World Central Kitchen for their work on the ground in Ukraine and neighboring countries. Let us all support relief efforts and call for an end to the aggression and violence.

As Shinran Shōnin encouraged during a troubled time in the past, “I hope that everyone will, deeply entrusting themselves to the nembutsu and firmly embracing prayers [for peace in the world] in their hearts, together say the nembutsu.” May the light of all-inclusive wisdom and all-embracing compassion guide our thoughts, words, and actions along the difficult journey to peace.

Bishop Eric Matsumoto  
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair  
Committee on Social Concerns

March 25, 2022

# Minister's Message - Mother's Day



Why should we thank our mothers?  
Because mothers gave us many treasures.

What is our treasure?

The true treasure is that we can feel happiness in our heart when we touch or have something. It is not money, jewelry, fame etc. The true treasure never disappears from our heart.

Do you remember when your mother took your hand to walk with you when you were a child? Do you remember when you were sick, your mother took care of you and you felt a relief when you saw your mother's face?

Mothers taught what compassion is to the children. Now we understand the compassion of a mother. Knowing a heart of gold or compassion is truly our treasure.

Buddhism teaches us that the link or relationship is our treasure. "Engi"

Let me share a story.

One day, a grandmother and grandchild went to the graveyard to offer flowers and incense. At that time, the grandchild said to the grandmother, "Grandma, I appreciate that you were born here. You were born here and you got married to grandpa. That is why my mother could be born here and I could be born here, too. Thank you, grandma."

The grandma was so happy when she heard what the grandchild said. It is not easy for her to live but she thought she appreciated that she was born here at that time.

If you heard such a wonderful word from your children or grandchildren, what do you feel?

May is a good month to tell your mother of your appreciation or show your happiness to your mother.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,

Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

## Living Treasures of Hawai'i™



Kenny Endo



Keali'i Reichel

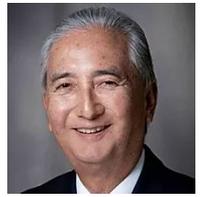


Patrick Kirch

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i, Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ Selection Committee has selected three individuals who have made significant contributions in their respective fields and positively impacted the quality of life in our local communities and the whole of Hawai'i. The Honorees for this 47th year event are Kenny Endo (Taiko Master), Patrick Kirch (Archaeology Researcher), and Keali'i Reichel (Kumu Hula, Musician Scholar and Community Leader).

Honorees will be recognized in a special TV program. The program will air on: ▪ May 22, 2022, at 6:00 pm (KHNL and live streamed on the Hawaii News Now Facebook page) ▪ May 26, 2022, at 7:00 pm (KFVE)

# President's Report



War rages on in Ukraine. Concerns and protests over the devastation have continued to be raised including formal protests from Hongwanji-Ha (headquarters in Kyoto, Japan) as well as Honpa Hongwanji HQ Social Concerns Committee. Please refer to the documents attached.

Discussions are going on about the spiritual teachings of the Buddha with regard to this new violence in the world. This was evident in the Hawaii Hongwanji Council's Hanamatsuri Service at Jodo-Shu Temple on April 3. Most of the major sects of Buddhism participated.

Discussions at the Buddhist Study Center also concluded that doing sanctions against Russia was the proper response from a Buddhist standpoint as it did not condone killing. The concern was that there was a continuous escalation against Putin as well as the Russian people. As a country, we have been in some continuous conflict ever since World War II. What are the perspectives of our enemies as well as our internal attitudes within our own country? As Buddhists, having an open mind is key. Looking back on history, it is no question that humankind has a long way to go in developing a sense of gratitude and peace for everyone.

On March 27, Luanne Bongiorno was our guest speaker. Her topic was the role of music therapy in caregiving. It was a joyous, fun-filled service with many Misora Hibari songs and even a video with Tsuruta Koji. As our monthly activity, Carolyn Uchiyama and Takako led us with singing Japanese children's songs which brought back many memories.

On April 9 we had the third installment of Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka on his monthly series of "Ocean 2."

April 10, we celebrated our own Hanamatsuri Service as we get ready for more activities surrounding the Obon season right around the corner.

On Saturday, April 30, we'll be having the 2022 Spring Virtual Nembutsu Seminar featuring Rev. Blayne Higa of Kona Hongwanji.

On Sunday, May 1, we'll be having an in-person Baccalaureate Service for our graduates in 2022!! We wish all our graduates well as the venture out into the next chapter of their lives.

**This year, we will NOT be having a live Obon festival. We are opting for a drive by bento sale and Zoom Virtual Bon Dance on Saturday June 25th.** Please check next month's newsletter for information about our drive by bento sale. Also on that evening, we will be opening the Social Hall to our WHM members for viewing, eating, and reacquainting with friends.. The crowd will be limited to the first 70 people who sign up for the event. More details to follow in the June Newsletter.

Reflecting on several meetings and discussions, the road through life and enlightenment is a bumpy one. With each bump and experience, we grow with just a little more insight into our own selves. Please continue to reflect on your experiences every day!

In gassho (gratitude),

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rodney S. Moriyama".

Rodney S. Moriyama, President

**Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Office Hours: By appointment 808-622-4320**

**[www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org](http://www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org)**

**Columbarium Hours: Daily 10:00am - 3:00pm**

**Mother's Day - Memorial Day - Father's Day**

We are currently experiencing a volunteer shortage. If you plan to bring a flower offering, we kindly ask that you come back in a week's time to remove your flowers and wash the vase. If you are unable to return in a week, please call the WHM office at 808-622-4320.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

# Happenings at Wahiawa Hongwanji

By Carolyn Uchiyama

## Activity 1: Wahiawa Hongwanji Food Drive

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Wahiawa Hongwanji held their monthly Food Drive to donate to St. Stephen's Church in Wahiawa. It is difficult to believe that more than two years since the COVID pandemic began, we are still in need of food for many people. The Friday food pick at St. Stephen's stopped because the federal funds to pay for food has ceased, therefore, they are only doing the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month.

We appreciate the donations this month and we received **231** items of cereal, spaghetti and sauce, and canned goods. Rice is also an appreciated staple, especially in Hawaii, and we received **15** pounds of rice.

One donor commented that the price of food is rising, but whatever little I donate will help other people. Each donation added to another donation amounts to a lot of food to feed Our Wahiawa. Keep it coming!

## Activity 2: Spring Baskets

On Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> Rev. Hashimoto shared about the two branches of basic Buddhism-Hinayana and Mahayana. He explained that Hinayana's practice involved a circle of monks or priests trying to reach Enlightenment. In Mahayana's practice, ministers and lay people are entrusting in Amida Buddha.

He shared this illustration of his Dharma talk. He had boiled 4 eggs and asked Mrs. Hashimoto to peel two of them while he peeled two. She began peeling the eggs on a plate while he placed his eggs in a bowl, poured some water in it, capped the bowl, and shook it. He began peeling his eggs and was done before Mrs. Hashimoto had peeled her two eggs.

Rev. Hashimoto explained that his wife's efforts were like Hinayana's practice to achieve Enlightenment by herself, i.e. peeling of the eggs. His efforts were like Mahayana's practice by using the water and bowl that is like entrusting in Amida Buddha. Therefore, he was able to peel his eggs with ease. The two eggs together made it easier, like working with a friend, and increased the effort to get the job done. Rev. Hashimoto shared that Renny Shonin said you can enjoy the Teachings by yourself but sharing it with someone else becomes doubly enjoyable.

In keeping with the message, the spring baskets involved working together to create a useful basket for goodies. Each person received a double layered green and pink paper cut into strips to be woven. This was not the typical over and under everyone had learned in grade school. The green strip had to be separated so the opposing pink piece could be inserted. Then the opposing pink piece had to be separated so the green strip could be inserted. This continued till the piece was completed and the basket could be opened.

The photos will show the finished pieces and the goodies they received. Thank you to our participants – Jan and Carl Matsuura, May Yoshida, Doris Matsuoka, Rev. Hashimoto, and Takako Hashimoto. An enjoyable activity for Spring.



# The Sound of Music Therapy in Caregiving



Luanne Bongiorno was our guest speaker on March 27th. She shared how music helped as her mother's memory slipped away and how music helped her during journey as a caregiver. It was an enjoyable morning filled with music, laughter and reminders how music connects all of us and has touched all of our lives.



Thank you to the following people for donating flowers for our hanamido:

- Judi Kakazu
- Doris Matsuoka
- Vivian Murayama
- Taeko & Richard Nakasone
- Karen Pang
- Mildred Segawa

## Hanamatsuri 2022

It was wonderful to see families and friends at our Hanamatsuri Service on April 10th. Our WHM ashoka tree provided a flower that made a beautiful centerpiece on our hanamido.



## Joint Celebration in Kyoto, Japan

The joint celebration, the 850<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's birth and the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Hongwanji, will be held on May 10, 2023, in Kyoto, Japan. Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is conducting a tour for this occasion that is an opportunity to renew our appreciation for the Jodo Shinshu teaching.

After the joint celebration, there will be four tour packages available for you to join. The tours will be available for these areas: Hokkaido, Chugoku Kansai areas, Chubu area, and Kyushu and Okinawa.

If anyone is interested in participating in the joint celebration and tours, please contact Carolyn Uchiyama at [carolyn2048@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn2048@gmail.com)



