



The Messenger

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness

Calendar of Events

July 2023

02 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
09 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
16 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
16 Sun 10:00 am Bon Dance Evaluation Meeting in the Social Hall
23 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
30 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

August 2023

06 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
13 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
20 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
27 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service



Thank You!
Volunteers!



“Nothing is more wonderful than someone who goes out of their way to make others’ lives beautiful.”

Thank you to all the wonderful people who made our lives beautiful at the WHM 2023 Bon Dance. We received many donations of time, craft items, baked goods, supplies, flowers, monstera leaves, produce and help! Our members, families and friends working together made it possible to hold our 2 night, in-person bon dance after 3 years of online bon dances. We are grateful to all the volunteers who worked countless hours, so that many people could enjoy dancing, delicious foods and shopping for handmade and homemade items.

Minister's Message - Love of Oneness



I read an article about Lady Takeko Kujo who was a founder of the Buddhist Women's Association. I would like to share the article about Lady Takeko Kujo written by Mr. Dojun Mitsuyama.

*Lady Takeko Kujo said that the world that comes to be revealed through one's religious belief is called the realm of **Ichinyō no ai** (Love of Oneness). It is where the heart and mind interact, assimilate, and become one, and respect and love each other. Unless you are born into this world of love of oneness where both oneself and others benefit, then it is impossible to break free from the world of conflict and fighting.*

Here, if the world's love is replaced with compassion, it is possible to comprehend Lady Kujo's message more deeply.

*In the realm of truth, the power that surpasses all others and whose working is inherent in everything and without limit is called Other Power, and Shinran Shonin is the person who referred to this as the power of the Primal Vow. He also clarified that the power of Primal Vow, which comes from the great compassion of Amida Buddha, ought to also be known as **Ichinyō no ai**. Despite this, I am during my own self-centered desires and agony, and since I am so strongly fixated on myself, it is difficult for me to break free from my bond. It is because of this that lady Kujo expressed deep sadness that human beings are all destined for hell. This sadness, however, is not mere pessimism. This is the view of a person who has received true entrusting and is looking deeply at the true situation of human beings. She explained that this sadness is the agony of being a human, and while we carry this agony with us, the world of love of oneness, where everyone is equal, opens to us. It is quite apparent that Lady Kujo's religious belief enabled him to live in the realm of **Ichinyō no ai** while carrying the sadness and agony of being a human.*

*Lady Kujo's eye for seeing human beings and the world may be said to be quite intellectual, but her intellect led her to realize the realm of **Ichinyō no ai**.*

We should remember that even though we have a difficult situation we are embracing the Amida Buddha's love of oneness.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,

Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission 808-622-4320
Office Hours Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturday from 9:00am - Noon
www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org
Columbarium Hours: Daily 10:00am - 3:00pm

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 able to volunteer, volunteers meet on Saturday mornings at 8:00 am.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

President's Report



Obon was extremely successful despite the rains. Throughout the whole month prior, and the day after, I was constantly struck by our teachings:

- Life is a Bumpy Road
- Our lives are interconnected
- Our lives are interdependent
- Our lives are GREAT!

We learned so many lessons! Lessons are through mistakes and misperceptions. We had almost a whole generation of new people trying to determine how best to do things logically and efficiently. “Common sense” was perceived differently by every person. Egos are tempted. People question each other along the way. Sometimes quietly, sometimes not. How does one maintain the “middle way” hoping things will turn out OK? How do we keep moving forward while caring for each other’s perspective?

Looking at the weather forecast, the weekend was headed for a perfect Bon Dance weekend of clear skies and sunshine. But “Life is a Bumpy road.” Friday was a preview with first a drizzle that continued to strengthen throughout the night. Shave Ice booth wasn’t experiencing its usual demand. The demand for carbonated soft drinks evaporated. But luckily, Taiyaki and mochi sustained the evening. The Country Store was visibly busy, and the Children’s Booth was holding its own. Amazingly, everyone was having fun just dancing in the rain!! The loud music and the beats of the rhythmic drums beckoned quite a few people to join in on the fun! In balance, it was a big success!

Saturday began again with a drizzle. By 6:00 PM, the crowds started gathering. People from all over the island, including the Jr. YBA State Convention delegates arrived. The lines for bentos, spam musubi, and drinks extended around the campus. Taiyaki, Mochi, Shave Ice, Country store, and the Children’s Corner were so busy, the lines never let up! By 8:00 PM, the rain stopped, and most of the bentos and spam musubi were sold out! We sold all of the popular new towel designs too! By the end of the evening, we were sold out at almost every booth!! It was truly a success with volunteers from the community, Leilehua High School, other temples, and a new generation of temple member helpers! The Wahiawa Hongwanji Bon Dance was BACK after 4 years!

At the end of both evenings, the feeling of connectedness and interdependence throughout the community was so very strong. I was also very lucky to meet new people on the temple tour from Alabama, and from Wahiawa who have never visited before. There is something very special at Wahiawa Hongwanji that has to be experienced firsthand to appreciate it.

Namo Amida Butsu!

In gassho (gratitude),



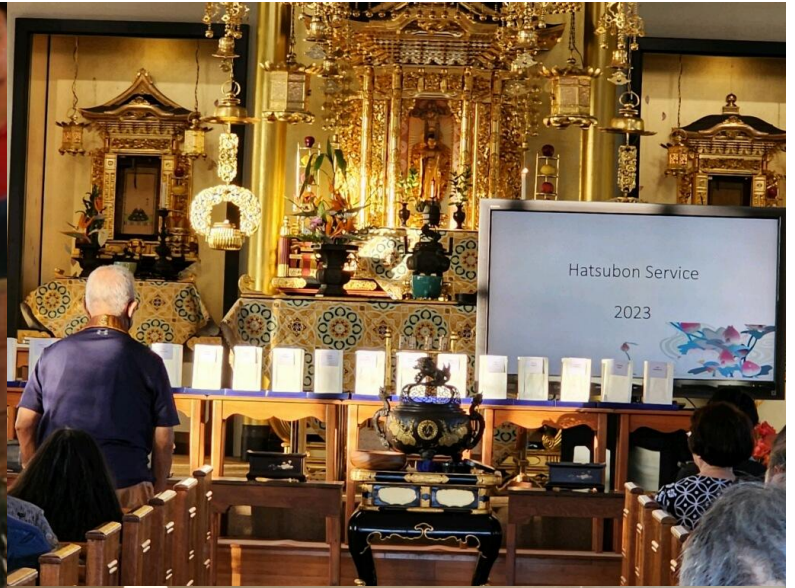
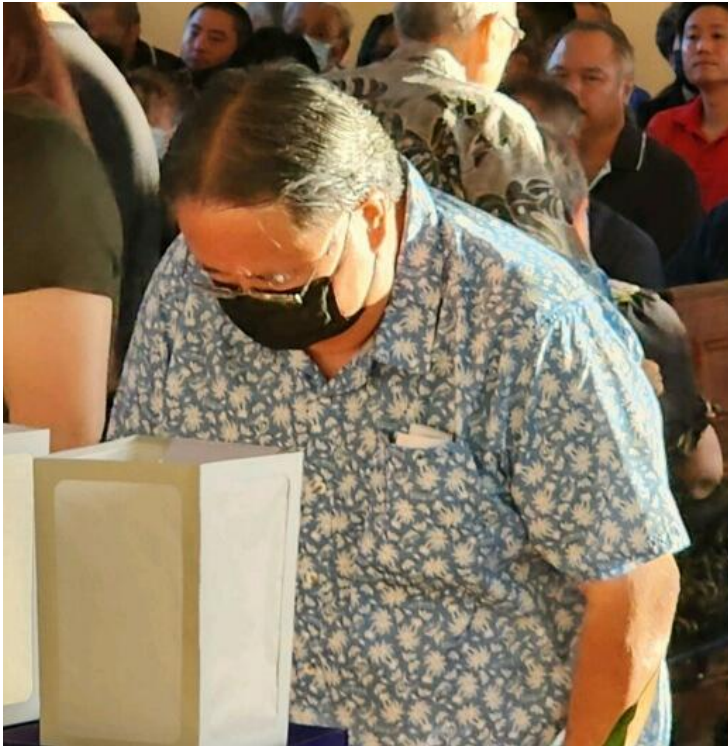
Rodney S. Moriyama, President



Check our next issue (August 2023)
for photos of our WHM bon dance



Wahiawa Hongwanji Hatsubon Service



SPONSORED BY THE HONOLULU & OAHU HONGWANJI COUNCILS
& THE OFFICE OF BUDDHIST EDUCATION

DIVERSITY & ACCEPTANCE IN BUDDHA'S VOW

NEMBUTSU SEMINAR

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12 - 9:00 - 11:30 AM (HST)

BUDDHIST STUDY CENTER IN-PERSON
OR VIA ZOOM



REV. KO'E A. UMEZU
WEST LOS ANGELES
BUDDHIST TEMPLE

SEMINAR DESCRIPTION

Join us to reflect on what diversity and acceptance means within The Fundamental Vow of Amida Buddha (Hon-gan). The seminar will feature a screening of "A Profound Silence" which was produced by Gardena Buddhist Church Ichi-Mi, followed by a group discussion.

AGENDA:

- 9:00am Welcome/Opening by emcee (5 min)
- 9:05-9:50am Rev. Umezu's presentation/Ichi-Mi project & video (45 min)
- 9:50-10:20am Video: "A Profound Silence" (30 min)
- 10:20-10:30am Break (10 min)
- 10:30-11:00am Breakout Group Discussion (30 min)
- 11:00-11:25am Q&A and *Breakout Group lead share group's discussion highlight (25 min)
- 11:25am Closing/Mahalo (5 min)
- 11:30am Seminar concludes

REV. KO'E A. UMEZU

Rev. Ko'e A. Umezu is an assistant minister and Community Outreach Coordinator at the West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple. She currently resides in Torrance, CA, with her spouse, Marie Miyashiro. Rev. Umezu and Marie are co-presidents of Ichi-Mi, an organization of Jōdo Shinshū Buddhists dedicated to providing a safe space for LGBTQ+ identifying people within the Sangha, their family members, and allies, in order to create conditions for everyone to safely hear the Nembutsu teaching.

DONATIONS ARE WELCOME!

Donations will be given to the Ichi-Mi Project. Check payable to Gardena Buddhist Church (include Ichi-Mi project in memo line) and mail to: Gardena Buddhist Church
1517 W. 166th St, Gardena, CA 90247



QUESTIONS? CALL MILILANI HONGWANJI OFFICE (808) 625-0925

REGISTRATION IS FREE! / REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

Online Registration Link | <https://forms.gle/N9nCqL14xpviooUf8>

OR Fill out the form below

NAME: _____ TEMPLE/AFFILIATION: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ PHONE (MOBILE): _____

I WILL ATTEND IN - PERSON ONLINE VIA ZOOM

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS SEMINAR? MY TEMPLE (EMAIL OR NEWSLETTER) / TEMPLE OR OTHER WEBSITE / SOCIAL MEDIA / OTHER

CIRCLE ONE ABOVE OR IF OTHER, PLEASE INDICATE HERE: _____

MAIL TO: MILILANI HONGWANJI,

ATTN: NEMBUTSU SEMINAR, P.O. BOX 893308, MILILANI, HI 96789

INVESTITURE CEREMONY AND WELCOME LUNCHEON FOR THE 17TH BISHOP, REVEREND TOSHIYUKI UMITANI

Reverend Toshiyuki Umitani was confirmed as the 17th Bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii at the 111th Legislative Assembly (Giseikai) on February 11, 2023. Please join Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii in celebrating this occasion by joining us at his Investiture Ceremony followed by the Welcome Luncheon.

Date: Saturday, August 5, 2023

Investiture Ceremony: Location: Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin,
1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu

Time: 8:00am

RSVP: not needed – please attend to show your support. More details are forthcoming.

Welcome Luncheon: Theme: Ko Ko Sho Gon (“Adorned with the Fragrance of Light”)

Location: Sheraton Waikiki – Kauai/Maui Ballrooms

Time: Registration - 10:30am Luncheon - 11:30am

Cost: \$90/person by check \$95/person by credit card

Attire: Aloha

RSVP by: July 20, 2023 to Dale at the Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Office at 808-622-4320



60TH LAY ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Theme: SHARING JOY TOGETHER!

When: September 15 & 16, 2023

Where: Kona Hongwanji Mission (81-6630 Mamalahoa Hwy. Kealahou, HI 96750)

As well as virtually via Zoom

Cost: Regular Registration Fee, by July 17: \$75.00

Regular Zoom Registration Fee by July 17: \$40.00

Late Registration Fee, after July 17: \$85.00

Late Zoom Registration Fee, after July 17: \$50.00

RSVP by: July 15, 2023 to Dale at the Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Office at 808-622-4320



2023 KAUAI HONGWANJI COUNCIL NEMBUTSU SEMINAR

Kauai Hongwanji Council will host a Zoom Nembutsu seminar with Rev. Tatsuo Muneto on Saturday, August 26, 10:00 am - 11:30 am. The topic is “Manifesting Amida’s Compassionate Heart – Legacy of the Nembutsu Followers in Hawaii.”

Registration is required. Please go to the link (<https://forms.gle/7tHn5Kw1XhnsJN7DA>) and fill out the information. When you complete the seminar registration, you will receive an automatic confirmation email from Google Forms. The registration deadline is August 19. The maximum capacity is 100 people, first come, first serve. We will email you a Zoom link three days prior to the seminar. Registration fee is free, but donations are welcome and can be made to “Kauai Hongwanji Council.” If you have any questions, please get in touch with any of the Kauai temples.

Description: The goal of the Buddhist Path is to be liberated (saved) from suffering and sorrow caused by one’s blind passion. And the ultimate goal is to achieve the bliss of Nirvana. In Jodo Shinshu, this goal is attained through awakening to one’s defiled self and the boundless compassion of Amida Buddha simultaneously. Are you walking this Nembutsu path here and now with your Dharma friends? In the 135 years of the history of Hongwanji in our Hawaii-nei, there were a number of Nembutsu followers who attained the joy of walking the path of freedom. They went through the search for spiritual awakening and left a number of poems describing how they attained Entrusting Heart (shinjin). They became humble and cheerful people who shared the Nembutsu path with others. Through the 2023 Kauai Nembutsu Seminar, Rev. Muneto will share the legacy of Nembutsu followers he met during his ministry on the Big Island and Kauai.