



Mililani Hongwanji  
P.O. Box 893308  
Mililani Town, HI 96789

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 2  
Wahiawa, HI 96786

Address Service Requested



Happy  
Holidays!



# Dharma Connection

December 2022

The Newsletter of Mililani Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Volume 45 Issue No. 12

## WE ARE FULLY OPEN

Welcome back! We are continuing our traditional Sunday Services. With the end of the mask mandate for indoor activities, our Sunday Services will include singing, chanting, and socializing in temple facilities. This has been a long time coming and many have not been to temple in awhile. **Due to the recent rise in COVID cases, we are highly recommending the use of masks.** Other temple activities are starting up again however, you should contact your program coordinators for specific details.

Namo Amida Butsu

## December 2022

## January 2023

- 4 9:00am Bodhi Day Family Dharma Service (Speaker Ms. Christina Gervais) & Dharma School Activity
- 9 6:00pm BWA Dinner Meeting
- 11 9:00am Joint Memorial & Family Dharma Service
- 11 10:15am General Membership Meeting, Followed by new BOD meeting.
- 18 9:00am Annual Temple Clean Up and Short Service
- 25 9:00am Shoshinge and Wasan Chanting Service

- 1 10am- 11:30am New Year Day—Walk Through & Ring the Kansho
- 8 9:00am Joint Memorial and Family Dharma Service & Installation of Officers
- 15 9:00am Ho'onko (Shinran Shonin's Memorial Service) Guest Speaker Rev. Blayne Higa & Dharma School
- 22 9:00am Family Dharma Service & Dharma School
- 29 9:00am Family Dharma Service, Guest Speaker Mr. Pieper Toyama & Dharma School

### Annual Temple Clean Up - December 18, 2022

All members and users of facilities, please come and help clean our Temple. Just as we clean our own houses so that we can start the New Year out right in a clean house let us begin the new year 2023, with a clean temple in which to hear the Buddha Dharma.

WHEN: Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022, 9:00am to done  
 WHERE: Mililani Hongwanji Buddhist Temple  
 WHAT TO WEAR: Work clothes & masks recommended  
 WHAT TO BRING: Rags, buckets, short ladders, scrubbing materials, etc.  
 WHAT TO DO: List of tasks will be available, but use your initiative

Refreshments: Voluntary, Coffee & water to be provided. A short service will be conducted. Please come out to this annual clean-up for fun, fellowship and a great cause.





# Minister's Message



Sharing Reverend Kojun Suehira's message below.

## The Message in Commemoration of the 45th Anniversary Of the founding of Mililani Hongwanji Mission

Dear Rev. David Fujimoto and members of the Mililani Hongwanji Mission,

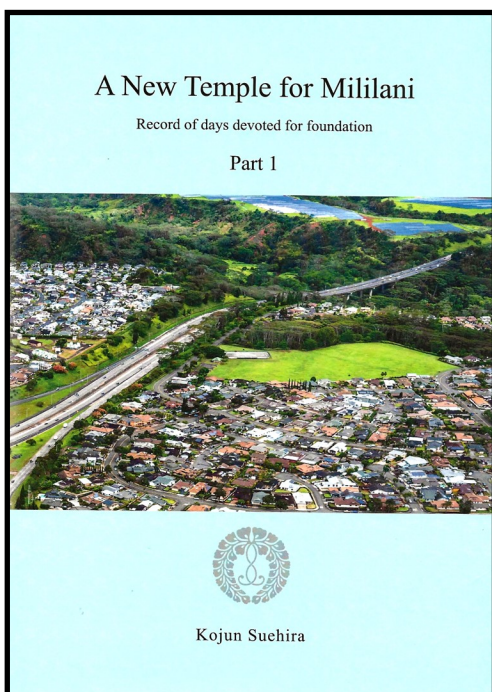
In commemoration of the 45th anniversary of the founding of Mililani Hongwanji Mission, I am sending you this message of heartfelt celebration from the distant land of Hiroshima, Japan.

When I consider that it has been 45 years since the foundation of Mililani Hongwanji Mission, I cannot help but feel that time truly flies. I have been keeping up to date on the lively activities of all of the members through the newsletter. Looking back on the past, I am sure that each of us would recall variety of different events.

Although it was more than 45 years ago, to me it seems like just yesterday that I served at Mililani Hongwanji, working together with all of the other members to achieve our ideal mission. I never forget how everyone cooperated together to ensure the success of one big event after another, or how happy everyone looked once those events were finished and holding small celebrations in the temple hall or in the garage at the ministers' residence. I remember those days with nostalgia as I recall how young and energetic everyone was at the time.

However, some of the good friends with whom I worked hand-in-hand to build the foundation of our temple community have unfortunately already passed away, which makes me feel a bit lonely.

Most of the members who were in their 30s at the time are now in their late 70s or early 80s and are likely feeling their bodies decline day-by-day. I'm sure that their children and grandchildren have already taken up central roles in the mission. We would very much like to pass on what we built to them.



Around the time that I finished writing A New Temple for Mililani: Part 1, I fell ill and had to rest for recuperation for a while, so it ended up taking a long time to write and publish the Part II. I have now recovered from my illness, and A New Temple for Mililani: Part II will soon be released by the publishing company. I hope to send all of you a copy as soon as I get them.

Please take good care of yourselves and live long healthy lives firmly grounded in the teachings of Buddha. I send this celebratory message along with my prayers for the continued growth and prosperity of Mililani Hongwanji Mission.

In Gassho,  
Kojun & Yoshie Suehira



Rev. David Fujimoto

# President's Corner

Aloha Mililani Hongwanji members and friends!

My term as temple president ends this year. It has been a privilege to serve as the temple president and I am grateful for our dedicated volunteers who have assisted the temple in various events and to the Board of Directors for their service. Mahalo to Mr. Clifford Togo, our newsletter editor, for another year of getting our newsletter published each month so we can keep up with the news of the temple.

Our annual election will be held at the General Membership meeting after service on Sunday, December 11th. Nominations may be taken from the floor during the election. Thank you to Co-chairs Rene Mansho and Claire Doi and the nominating committee members for their efforts to reach out to our members to develop the slate.

2022 has been a challenging year, but we were able to get through the year and resume our bon dance for two nights. The committee worked hard to make the necessary adjustments and our members, friends, and the community were able to enjoy the bon dance. With the winter season approaching, please watch your health and stay safe so we can start 2023 with renewed energy and dedication to share the Dharma with others and to support the temple.

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's 5-year Theme, "Building Healthy Sanghas", and Slogan for 2023, "Sharing Joy Together", is quite appropriate as more of members have begun to participate in various temple activities which will continue next year. However, please know that we still have a few groups that have decided to wait to 2023 to assess and decide when to restart activities. Please be patient and your understanding is appreciated.

Mahalo and with gratitude.



**Dean Sakamoto**

## Summary of November 9, 2022

### Kyodan Board Meeting

- The Mililani Hongwanji Board of Directors met via ZOOM with a quorum. Reverend David Fujimoto conducted the meeting.
- Treasurer's Report presented for the month ending October 31, 2022. Overall income and expenses are in line with annual budget ending December 31, 2022. Income from ADC and Bon Dance are above budget, however pledges are slightly behind but it is anticipated to increase at year end when pledges for 2023 are received. HHMH Combined Investment Fund has decreased in value since the beginning of the year and hopeful that it will rebound in 2023.
- The Board approved a CIP request to power spray wash the Ed Building & carport roofs on Dec. 1.
- Mililani Hale Adult Day Care lease has been extended that includes Saturday mornings.
- A special meeting of newly elected Board members will be held on December 11th, following the General Membership meeting.
- 111th (2023) Legislative Assembly (Giseikai) will be on Feb 10-11, 2023. It will be a hybrid meeting followed by the Living Treasures Luncheon on Saturday. Members are encouraged to attend.
- Diane Yoza: BWA will be having a dinner meeting on 12/9/22, Zippy's Fundraiser in ongoing, Ehime Maru cleanup on Nov. 5, 2022.
- Rev. Fujimoto: Visitation by Rev. Fujisawa from Zenkoji Temple in Hiroshima, received congratulatory message and gift from Rev. Suehira, meeting with Bishop regarding Bon Dance concerns, December 25th Service at 9:00 am, New Year's Open House is planned.



# BWA News

BWA members will be celebrating the end of the year with their annual membership meeting and potluck dinner on Dec. 9. This will be a special gathering since we could not have it the past two year due to the pandemic. If you are interested in joining this very vibrant, world-wide organization, please contact President Diane Yoza or Membership Chair, Joyce Ogawa. Membership dues of \$25 will be collected at the dinner meeting. We invite men and women to become members.

The Ehime Maru chairs, Debbie Hiya-kumoto and Janice Yasunaga, held the bi-annual clean-up on Nov. 5, and left the memorial sparkling clean. Aided by Warren Hahn, who provided the heavy man-power, they scrubbed and placed flowers on the memorial after the cleaning was done.



With 2023 quickly approaching, we are already scheduling the making of zenzai on January 15, 2023, in observance of Hoonko, a memorial service in memory of Shinran Shonin. Joyce Ogawa will chair the

event, and Joyce

Nishioka volunteered to cook the zenzai. They will be assisted by many BWA members, as the process requires cutting and broiling of mochi, and, of course, the serving of the hot zenzai soup. Temple members always look forward to this delicious, but time-consuming treat.



Joyce Ogawa will be starting up groups to support the TLC, which stands for Thursday Lunch Crew. The group consists of 8 - 10 men who maintain the temple and its grounds. Please support the TLC by letting Joyce know if you can help with the monthly luncheon.

Congratulations are in order to the following BWA members who reached that special Keirosha status this year -- June A., Martha I., Frances S., Joyce F., and Carol K. We honor you and are thankful for your dedication to the teachings of the Buddha and of your years of service to the Temple.





# Dharma School



November was a very special month because we celebrated our temple's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the entire month! And our Dharma School students helped make it special too.

At the annual Keirokai service on November 6<sup>th</sup>, our students helped pass out goodie bags to our 80+ year old Sangha members. After the service, we decided instead of doing our scheduled onenju making session, we offered the students the option to take beads and make their onenjus at home. If you're looking for an onenju, we have lots of beads and supplies or gently used onenjus that just need to be restrung—just inquire with any of the Dharma School teachers.

A big shout out to students Brennan and Dayton for leading the Pledge of Allegiance at our 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party on November 19<sup>th</sup>. And kudos to Maya, Mari, and Tanner for their awesome dance performance. Maya even participated in the karaoke singing—a very talented family.

Just in time for the Thanksgiving holiday, we made Thankful Trees on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The students cut out tree trunks then wrote what they

are thankful for on multi-colored leaves, which were then stuck on to the tree branches. It's a daily reminder of all the many people and things that we are grateful for. And we continued our meditation lessons with "Sgt. Rainbow" (teacher Stephen Chinen).

And to end our busy month, on November 28<sup>th</sup>, our students created handmade holiday cards to give to the Mililani Hale Adult Day Center, who we share our Ed building meeting space with. Our student (and adult) elves worked their creative magic and made 40 festive holiday cards to share with the daycare's clients.



Here is our schedule for the month of December:

Sunday, December 4th, 10am: Book reading, trail mix making, & Knockerball fun



We'll be taking the rest of December off to enjoy the holidays. However, we encourage our Dharma School families to take part in the annual temple clean up on December 18<sup>th</sup> if you are able.

Here's wishing everyone a happy holiday season! It's a great time of year to spend with family and friends and make wonderful new memories.

If you know a student (preschool to high school), in Mililani, Hawaii, or even on the mainland, who would like to join in on our sessions, please contact Claire Doi at [clairedoi@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:clairedoi@hawaiiantel.net)



to be added to our email list to get our meeting agendas and links. Or please feel to contact us if you have any questions or need more info about our Dharma School sessions.

# Nominating Committee Report

Mililani Hongwanji - 2023 Slate

Position	Name
Minister	Reverend David Fujimoto
Immediate Past President	Dean Sakamoto
BWA Representative	Diane Yoza
President	Fill from Director
VP (Operations)	Fill from Director
VP (Facilities)	Fill from Director
VP (Religious & Temple Activities)	Fill from Director
Secretary	Fill from Director
Treasurer	Fill from Director
Auditor	Fill from Director
Auditor	Fill from Director
Advisor	Masami Nishimoto
Advisor	Melvin Hayase

Position	Name	Remarks
Director 1	Clifford Togo	Elected in 2021 (2 <sup>nd</sup> year)
Director 2	Rene Mansho	Elected in 2021 (2 <sup>nd</sup> year)
Director 3	Stephen Koito	New 2-year term
Director 4	June Asato	New 2-year term
Director 5	Dennis Oshita	Elected in 2021 (2 <sup>nd</sup> year)
Director 6	Brandon Hee	Elected in 2021 (2 <sup>nd</sup> year)
Director 7	Kevin Asato	New 2-year term
Director 8	Roger Babcock	Elected in 2021 (2 <sup>nd</sup> year)
Director 9	Janice Yasunaga	New 2-year term
Director 10	Gay Tanaka	New 2-year term
Director 11	Brad Wakahiro	New 2-year term

Nominating Committee Co-Chairs: Rene Mansho and Claire Doi  
 Committee members: Sharon Freitas, Clifford Togo, Diane Yoza, Melvin Hayase, Brandon Hee.



## Adopt-A-Highway Clean-Up Tyler Oshiro

A big Mahalo to all who attended our last quarterly Adopt-A-Highway clean-up on Saturday, November 19, 2022. As always, this project would not be possible without the dedicated members of the Sangha—Brandon, Cliff, Gay, Lester, Stan, Stephen, and Warren!

Upon returning from their assigned areas along Kam Hwy., the group gathered outside for McDonald's breakfast snacks, coffee, water, and fellowship.

Lookout for the 2023 quarterly schedule that will be published in the January 2023 newsletter. And we're always looking for people to join us. Anyone 12 years or older are welcome to join us. For those in middle and high school, this community service project will look good on your college applications!

Thank you to all who participated in the clean ups this year! 2023 will bring another year of this great program, which helps to beautify our community and gives you the opportunity to spend a Saturday morning with members of our Sangha. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [tylerkoshiro@gmail.com](mailto:tylerkoshiro@gmail.com).



Mahalo to all of you who participated in Foodland's Give Aloha Program. In addition to your contributions, your efforts raised an additional \$448 for Mililani Hongwanji in the month of September.

## 2022 Keirosha Honorees



June Asato, Joyce Fujimoto, Martha Ishii, Carol Kakehi (Karl proxy), Frances Saito (missing Thelma Kushimi)



## **June Miyasaki Asato,** born on June 5, 1942, to parents Hisao

and Shigeyo Muramaru Miyasaki, grew up in Honokaa, on the Big Island of Hawaii. June has 5 sisters and 1 brother.

One of June's first memory growing up around the age of 3 or 4 were the blackouts and bunny masks that they had in their home during the war. Lights had to be turned off and black curtains and paper were hung on windows to prevent any enemy attacks. The oldest relative that June could remember was her great-grandmother who lived in Hilo who she visited with her mother during trips to Hilo going to the dentist, movies, and celebrations.

June's parents met at a beach restaurant in Kawaihae where her mother worked with her parents. June's father, a teacher in Pa'auilo would drive 50 miles after school to deliver groceries to the restaurant several times a week and then back home to prepare for school teaching the next day!

June's childhood home was on the Miyasaki property near their family store. Their family was so large, they had to renovate by adding the old storehouse as a big dorm-like bedroom. They went out in pairs at night to the out-house and did not have indoor plumbing until June was in the second grade. Bathing was done in the laundry wash house and a bath house was set up when June was in the fifth grade. June also lived in a teacher's cottage in Pe-pe'ekeo when her father taught there. June remembers running away from her mom with her sister to go across the playing field when the students came out for recess. Her dad then had to have some students bring them home!

Christmas was spent with her large family enjoying the resources that came from their grandparent's farm such as their Christmas tree, fruits, vegetables, flowers, and meat from cattle raised. Cleaning the house and then enjoying the special foods for New Year was a tradition along with visiting their older relatives. Living close to the school, June vividly remembers rushing home from school on Girl's Day to the smell of frying yeast donuts, warm and sugary! Every Fourth of July, they would pile into their car and go to Honokaa for the big parade.

June attended Pa'auilo Elementary and Intermediate school until the ninth grade and attended Honoka'a High School. June then attended the University of Hawaii Hilo Branch for two years and graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

June met the love of her life, Bob! After returning home from Chicago to work, Bob was asked to chaperone at a year-end Science Club banquet by his old UH buddy to take some of the single teachers home after the dance, and the rest is history! June and Bob married at the Honpa Hongwanji Betsuin main temple, the reception was held at the newly built Annex Social Hall officiated by Reverend Yoshiaki Fujitani. They then ran off to Kauai for their honeymoon, leaving the cleanup to the family!

June and Bob's children are Susan and Kevin. A coincidental story on June's first child's birth. June and Bob met their best man and his wife at Kapiolani Hospital, both giving birth to a girl, they share the same birthdate! The best man was June's Department Head and Co-Advisor and Bob's buddy who asked Bob to chaperone at the banquet!

June's favorite subjects were reading and writing in elementary school, mathematics in intermediate, and math and science in high school. Not having algebra in ninth grade, they had to double up to catch up. With good foundations and good teachers, they all did great!

One of June's favorite teachers was her sixth-grade teacher from Oklahoma who introduced her to musical Oklahoma and brought in a real author to help them critique the short stories they wrote. She read aloud from classic books like Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn.

June's siblings and children were and are her best friends as well as many others whom she met over the years attending the University of Hawaii. In addition, her dharma friends from Mililani Hongwanji are among her best buddies these days.

June's first paying job was as a babysitter for some of the staff at Pa'auilo school during her intermediate school years and grew up working at the family store and farm, and working part-time through her college years. June's first real job as a school teacher helped her to pay the rent for herself and her two siblings as they attended UH Manoa and started working. It was a great feeling to tell her parents that they did not have to send rent money anymore. June eventually purchased a car for \$2700 and kept the car until 1986!

## Asato— continued

June loved classroom teaching the most! Working with students on projects and student council activities. It was very rewarding when the students would come back to show their appreciation!

June's heroes are her parents and grandparents who lived through tough times and helped her become the person she is. Another hero is her husband Bob. June's favorite foods include crab and steak and all kinds of fruits and vegetables. June makes spare ribs, shira-ae, healthy salads, and sandwiches and loves to share her recipes with family and friends!

June was introduced to the Jodo Shinshu teachings when her parents and grandparents took her and her siblings to Dharma School, then called Sunday school. Attending Sunday school classes was required in order to participate in fun activities like field trips to other temples and performing in plays and programs. Throughout June's childhood years, she went to Sunday school and also became active in the Jr. YBA and YBA at Hilo College. It was at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Rainbow YBA where June met some of Mililani Hongwanji members like Mel Hayase.

A founding member, June along with Mel Hayase and other members, is fortunate to have had the opportunity to open our temple in Mililani and celebrate our Anniversary of 45 years!

Thank you, June for your continuous and lifelong years of dedication and support to the Jodo Shinshu teachings and your beginnings with Mililani Hongwanji. With much appreciation and gratitude!

**Thelma Kushimi** was born on April 30, 1942, in Paia, Maui. Her siblings are her brother Andrew Tamori and sister Ethel Yogi.

Thelma's parents met through an arranged marriage. Her father had a service station and they lived in the back of the station in Paia. Living close to the beach, their family spent many summers swimming.

Thelma's grandfather and some of his family lived at Camp One, a plantation camp in the Spreckelsville area of Paia. In Thelma's younger days, this is where she spent New Year's with her family pounding mochi with her grandfather, and their family would eat mochi every day for breakfast until it ran out!

Christmas was one of Thelma's favorite holidays. Thelma's mother made Christmas really special by decorating the Christmas tree and hanging their stockings on the eve.

Thelma Kushimi attended Paia Elementary School until the eighth grade. Her family eventually moved to Kahului and Thelma then attended Baldwin High School from the ninth grade until graduating from Baldwin High School. It is at Baldwin High School where Thelma met some of her close friends, Martha Ishii and Frances Saito among many other friends.

Thelma met her husband through a friend and got married at the Honpa Hongwanji Betsuin with a reception downstairs in the Social Hall. Reverend Fujitani was the officiating minister. Thelma remembers her wedding being a little hectic, however, everything went well!

Thelma gave birth to her son Lance in 1968. He arrived a little early around a month, and besides being a little underweight, he was okay! Thelma's family grew, with daughter Denise born in 1970 and daughter Kim born in 1975.

Thelma's first summer job was at the Kahului Cannery working as a packer at the conveyor belt. Something Thelma remembers is that she received scoldings from her supervisor and also remembers the acid from the pineapple, after continuous work, would hurt her skin.

Thelma's favorite subjects in school were the Business courses which led to Thelma attending Honolulu Business College after moving to Oahu. Thelma went on to pursue her first job as an Office Clerk at an Insurance company, worked for a while, and later stayed home to care for her young family. Thelma returned to the workforce and became an Office Clerk working at Kunia Elementary and later at Kipapa Elementary School where she retired.

Thelma found working at Kipapa Elementary most enjoyable. It was the experiences, the people, and the staff that made it special, and have made lifelong friends!

Thelma loves all sorts of food, however, one of her favorites is Guri Guri from Tasaka's Guri Guri on Maui, and makes every effort to buy it anytime that she is visiting Maui!

Thelma was introduced to the Jodo Shinshu and Buddhist teachings growing up in Paia at the Paia Mantokuji. After moving to Kahului attended Kahului Hongwanji where she joined the Jr. YBA.

We thank Thelma for her continuous support of the Buddhist teachings and the support of our community throughout the years! With appreciation and gratitude, Congratulations on this very special year!





## Martha Sumida Ishii

born on February 22, 1942, in Paia, Maui was the first of 5 children, Jerald, Baron, Sylvia, and Sandra to parents Sam and Alice Sumida.

Growing up, Martha lived in Kahului, Maui, and attended Kahului Union Preschool, Kahului School, and Baldwin High School. After graduating,

Martha attended Queen's School of Nursing and the Stenographic Institute of Hawaii.

Martha's fond memories were of her Aunt Setsumi Fuke who lived with her family, like a second mother and helped her family tremendously. Martha being the eldest, grew up with her Aunt helping her mother with cooking, cleaning the house, and watching over her siblings.

Holidays were celebrated with family gatherings at her Aunt M's home. They always enjoyed Christmas and New Year's and the traditional foods served.

Martha's first job was at the Pineapple Cannery on Maui as a packer. After her first year as a packer, she ended up quitting due to the conveyor belts causing her motion sickness. After returning the second year to the same table, Martha acclimated to the conditions and was able to continue working! Her first paycheck was spent buying shoes and clothes for school!

From 1967-1978, Martha was employed at the REHAB Hospital as a Medical Secretary and eventually worked with Dr. Robert Bart, Jr. as an Administrative Medical Assistant from years 1978-2007.

Martha married Harley Ishii who was from Hilo in 1964 at the Honpa Hongwanji Betsuin. They both met at a gathering of Hilo boys and Honolulu and Maui girls!

The Ishii's lived in Kapahulu, Oahu, moved to Kaneohe, Oahu in 1971, and in 1975 moved to Mililani Town at their present address. They have two children, Jason and April. Their first child Jason was born on October 3, 1968, and their second child April was born on April 29, 1972, both born at Kapiolani Hospital. They have five grandchildren, Jarrick, Tyler, Jeff, Serenie, and Seth which keep them very busy!

Mrs. Cecelia Soule, Martha's fifth grade teacher at Kahului School, was very nice, fun and enthusiastic! Her favorite subjects were Math and English.

Chicken onishime and chicken hekka are Martha's favorite foods, some of her mom's best cooking, and she also enjoys many other foods, too! Her favorite pastime activities are watching movies, Korean dramas, game shows, reading, and doing crossword puzzles!

The Ishii family were members of the Kahului Hongwanji for many years and re-united with the Hongwanji after moving to Oahu. Visits from Reverend Suehira in the Mililani area in 1979 and encouragement from Martha's father eventually led to the Ishii family joining Mililani Hongwanji in 1980! They became active in Sr. YBA, Sunday school with their children, and the Women's Club (BWA), participating in many activities such as Obon, bazaars, and currently the ukulele group over the years.

Thank you, Martha, for your commitment and the many years of dedication to the Jodo Shinshu teachings, our community, the temple, and your family! Congratulations on this very special year!



## Frances Y.

**Saito** born on August 25, 1942, in Makawao, Maui has a son Ross, Daughter Karen, son-in-law Chad and a grandson, Troy. Around the age of 4 years old, Frances with

her father visited the KGMB Radio Station in Maui. Not knowing what occasion was being celebrated, it could have been Girl's Day, Frances ended up singing solo, "Otete Tsunaide", a little nervous, but she did fine!

Frances remembers her father fondly who passed away at the age of 49 years old. He had his own business selling kerosene for domestic use. He would always take her with him. One of her special memories of the time she spent with her father was that he whistled when he delivered the kerosene. Whistling became something Frances enjoyed!

Frances's father, a Japanese American, was imprisoned at the Honouliuli Internment Camp during World War II due to his credentials as a Japanese School Teacher. He eventually returned home. During this time, Frances's mother was separated from her father after Frances was born. Hardships experienced, Frances's mother was able to bring up Frances with the help and support of friends, neighbors, and the camp community.

Without any relatives on Maui, Frances's family of three would celebrate quietly during the holidays. Frances would envy friends going to their relative's homes and feasting, however, at times, she would be invited to join other families. Frances's neighbors became her family, too! The Kohama family second owner of the Maui Potato Chips Factory was their neighbor. This is where Frances began her love for everything 'potato'. Any leftover unsold potato chips, broken down to small sizes from the factory were shared by the Kohama family. Frances topped her rice with potato chip pieces, like furikake!

Frances attended preschool at Kahului Union Church, Kahului School, Baldwin High School, and Western New Mexico University.

Frances met her husband while residing at the Soto Mission Dormitory. Her future spouse and all of his friends would come over for many gatherings. Frances' wedding ceremony was officiated by Reverend Nagao at Honpa Hongwanji in March of 1966, Kuhio Day. The reception was at the Honpa Hongwanji Hall. A healthy baby boy, Ross was born on August 14, 1967, at Kapiolani Medical Center and both mom and dad were so happy!

Frances's favorite subject in high school was Science, and Psychology in college. Frances' favorite teacher was Mrs. Soule who was kind and explained everything in an easy manner. She called Frances, Francois, the French version of Frances. She is the one teacher who recommended Frances to join Girl Scouts which helped build her self-confidence and Frances learned a lot of fun things with others!

Frances' friends are Martha, Thelma, and Pat who passed away this year, all classmates from Maui. Frances is so fortunate to have them as her friends and always have fun doing things together!

Frances's first job was working for a company as an Office Manager. Her favorite job was at the Department of Defense handling complaint calls, and accounting, learning how to use the computer to work on contracts for concessionaires and vendors. Frances saved her first paycheck!

Some of Frances's favorite foods are fish, chicken, vegetables, and natto! Frances's neighbor the Okazaki family who owned Maui Natto had taught Frances how to prepare and eat natto by frying mochi to a crispy texture, adding natto, shoyu, and nori!

Meeting Reverend Suehira while he was visiting the Mililani area began Frances's introduction to the Jodo Shinshu teachings. She began attending Sunday services, taught Sunday school, and became a member of the BWA.

Thank you, Frances, for your many years of hard work, continuous support, and dedication to the temple, our community, and the Jodo Shinshu teachings! Congratulations on this very special year!



**Carol A Kakehi** was Born on May 30, 1942, in Hilo, Hawaii, and was the youngest of five siblings.

One of Carol's first memory of growing up was visiting family and friends, and playing with their children. Some of the games played were jacks, bean bags, and fiddlesticks, and she also made stilts with tin cans.

At the age of 4, Carol remembers her father, while brewing coffee on the morning of April 1, 1946, looked outside toward the ocean and thought it was strange when the water started to recede. He woke her brothers and sisters up and

took them out quickly and headed towards Hala'i Hill to safety! The tsunami demolished their home and others along the bay area. Carol and her mother were visiting her oldest sister in Honolulu and returned to Hilo the next day. Her father was truly their family's hero for saving her siblings that day!

Carol's family stayed with a close friend after the tsunami until finding a place of their own, on Kino'ole Street, right in Hilo town. Conveniently located, Carol could walk to school, around town, and to Hilo Hongwanji, a little farther away.

Christmas Eve was celebrated with the Nakamura's in upper Kaumana, Hilo, just before the Saddle Road area. Carol enjoyed going there as the home was located at a higher elevation and the weather was cold. As a result, they had a fireplace with stockings hanging and a beautiful Christmas tree! They could see the lights of Hilo Town and Hilo bay from their huge picture window! Pounding and shaping of mochi at a friend's home started a few days before New Year's which was spent with family and friends enjoying the usual New Year's Day food.

Carol attended Hilo Hongwanji Pre-School, Hilo Union, Hilo Intermediate, and Hilo High School. She also attended UH Hilo for 2 years, then transferred to UH Manoa with a degree in Elementary Education and received her Fifth Year Certificate after another year at Manoa.

Carol met Karl through mutual friends going on dinner and movie dates! They were married at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin and held their reception at the Ala Moana Center Banquet Hall. Carol and Karl's first child Janice, was born soon after arriving at Kapiolani Hospital. She was their "practice" baby as they had twins Audrey and Lena, three years later!

Carol's favorite school subjects were Reading and Social Studies (Elementary), English and Literature (Intermediate), and History and French (High School). Carol enjoyed school and liked all her teachers, however, she did have two teachers, a sixth-grade teacher Mrs. Teves, and Mrs. Elaine Kona, her Senior English and Homeroom teacher who was also her Sunday School teacher. They both took the time outside of school classes to read aloud chapter books and classics with a passion that fostered her love for reading! Many of Carol's teachers were all members of Hilo Hongwanji. Carol was a member of the Hilo Lotus 4-H Club, Jr. YBA, and a student at the Japanese Language School for 11 years. Carol enjoys luncheons with three of her classmates from High School and College and gathers every three months and also made many new friends since attending Mililani Hongwanji, all very caring and friendly!

Carol's first job as a Summer Fun leader at Keaukaha Hawaiian Homestead was being in charge of third-grade boys. During her second summer, she was a Summer Fun leader at Waiakea Intermediate in charge of second graders, playing sports and doing arts and crafts. Her first paycheck was given to her mom and she saved the rest!

## December Memorials

Those who have passed during the month of December.

Richard Abe	Chiyoko Mutobe
Arnold Akamine	Ryujun Mutobe
Chiyoko Akasaki	Brian Nakamura
George Ando	Sadako Nakashima
Hatsune Araki	Seiji Nakatsu
Walter Fukuda	Charles Oishi
Grant Hirohata-Goto	Utsuke Okada
Fuyu Hironaka	Kazuo Okino
Takezo Hironaka	Donald Saito
Tokiko Iwamasa	Thomas Sakurai
Mitsu Kaneko	Yukino Sakurai
Toshio Kanno	Shigeru Shinsato
Satoshi Kawahara	Chizuko Takayama
Toshiye Kiyota	Sueo Tanabe
Ai Koito	Yuke-Hung Tengan
Yoshie Kyhos	Haruko Toma
Kay Macawile	Chikaji Tsurusaki
Satoshi Matsumoto	Lillian Ukita
Yoshino Matsumoto	Fumie Watanabe
Tetsuichi Mitsuda	Kazuo Watanabe
Paul Morikawa	Masae Yamamoto

Please call the minister at (808) 625-0925 and/or email [dharma.connection@gmail.com](mailto:dharma.connection@gmail.com) if there are corrections or additions to the published list. Families may call the minister to schedule special family memorial services for their loved ones. For 2022, special memorial years are observed for loved ones who passed away in:

2021 1st Year	2006 17th Year	1990 33rd year
2020 3rd Year	1991 23rd Year	1973 50th year
2016 7th Year	1998 25th year	1923 100th year
2010 13th Year		

Working with five-year-olds was one of her favorite jobs as they were enthusiastic, eager to learn, and enjoyed listening to and acting out parts of stories as well as doing motions and reciting nursery rhymes.

Seafood consisting of shrimp, broiled scallops, crab, chicken curry, and fruits are Carol's favorite foods.

Carol grew up as a Buddhist and remembers sitting at the Butsudan with her mother while she chanted a sutra and eventually memorized it and chanted with her. Her mother always said to be grateful to everyone whether they were alive or had passed away because they all had a part in her becoming a Buddhist.

Thank you, Carol, for your many years with the Jodo Shinshu teachings and your unending support, and dedication to our community, our temple, and the Buddhist teachings! Congratulations on this very special year!



# FYI.....



## Mililani Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Minister: Rev. David Fujimoto  
 Kyodan Pres: Dean Sakamoto  
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 893308  
 Mililani, HI 96789  
 Location: 95-257 Kaloapau Street  
 Mililani, HI 96789  
 Email: [dharma.connection@gmail.com](mailto:dharma.connection@gmail.com)  
 Phone: (808) 625-0925  
 Weekly Services: Sundays, 9:00am

### Dharma Connection Publication

3 ways to get the Dharma Connection:

1) By mail—US Post Office will deliver to your mailbox.—available by request only! (This edition is online at: [mililanihongwanji.org](http://mililanihongwanji.org))

2) In your “inbox”—available by subscription only! If you wish to receive the Dharma Connection by email, contact: [dharma.connection@gmail.com](mailto:dharma.connection@gmail.com)

3) download a copy from the temple website: [mililanihongwanji.org](http://mililanihongwanji.org)

For additional information check out our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mililani-Hongwanji-Buddhist-Temple/114271522485>

### Monthly Joint Memorial Service Change



Mililani Hongwanji’s monthly joint memorial service is on the **SECOND** Sunday of each month. There will be a small change in the format of the monthly joint memorial service. Mililani Hongwanji will continue to publish the names of the members and friends that will be honored in the monthly memorial services.

For families attending the joint memorial service, please sign in on the memorial service tablet on the counter, which will be made available every Sunday leading up the service.

For those who wish to add or remove family members or friends from the published list, please let Rev. Fujimoto know as soon as possible to ensure proper action.

### Adult Day Center at Mililani Hongwanji

Aloha! We would like to let everyone know that we are accepting applications for Adult Day Center enrollment. Do you know anyone caring for a loved one that needs respite or help caring for their loved one throughout the day? We are welcoming new clients in our **air conditioned** facility.

For any interested new applicants, we are offering tuition assistance. Please contact our ADC Director Trece White for more information at (808) 561-2147. We are OPEN 5 Days a week Monday thru Fridays from 8am-5pm; most Saturdays upon availability with shortened hours. Early drop off can be arranged beginning at 7am.

### Memorial Services

Mililani Hongwanji conducts memorial services in honor of those who have passed away. The Shotsuki Memorial Service is a general memorial service which are held monthly to remember members and friends who passed away during the month in which the memorial service is held. These services are held primarily for those individuals that do not fall in the yearly service interval cycle.

Nenki Hoyo Memorial Services are memorial services which are held separate from the monthly memorial services in yearly intervals. These separate private services can be held before, on or after the memorial dates. It is a personal opportunity to gather as a family to encounter and listen to the Buddha Dharma and remember your family members and friends who have passed on and through these services, we are able to reflect on all that we have received from them in our daily lives. It also gives families the opportunity to reconnect with members they otherwise would not see during the course of the year.

### Minister’s Private Visitation

Are you unable to come to the temple? Please call Rev. David Fujimoto at 808.625.0925 to request a private visit. The minister would love to reach out to you and be the bridge between you, the temple and the sangha!



# Mahalo for your DANA

(October 18, 2022 to November 14, 2022)

## 45th Anniversary Celebration & Keirokai

June Asato

Claire Doi

Claire Doi

Theodine Hirai

Debra Hiyakumoto

Harley & Martha Ishii

Karl & Carol Ann Kakehi

Karen Oda

Lester & Joyce Ogawa

Lester & Joyce Ogawa

Frances Saito

Frances Saito

Margaret Tanabe

Margaret Tanabe

Margaret Tanabe

Ruth Wakimura

## 50th Anniversary Celebration

June Asato

### Building Fund

FOODLAND Super Market, LTD.

### Eitaikyo Service

Janet Abe

June Asato

Claire Doi

Sharon Freitas

Warren & Nora Hahn

Melvin Hayase

Sharon Kaneko

Mamoru & Ethel Kawahara

Masami & Joyce Nishimoto

Lawrence & Joyce Nishioka

Lester & Joyce Ogawa

Dean & Doreen Sakamoto

Charles & June Shimata

Richard & Gail Taira

Margaret Tanabe

Steven & Lani Yamami

Diane Yoza

### Joint Memorial Service

Anonymous

Trudy Akamine

Melvin Hayase

Rene Mansho

Carl & Aileen Matsuda

Carl & Aileen Matsuda

Margaret Tanabe

Wayne & Nora Toma

Wayne & Nora Toma

Yvonne Toma

Carl & Sheila Tonaki

Gordon & Lyn Watanabe

Diane Yoza

Diane Yoza

### Memorial Service

Gay M. Tanaka

Keirokai Recognition

45th Anniversary Service

Keirokai Recognition

45th Anniversary Service

45th Anniversary Service

Keirokai Recognition

45th Anniversary Service

Keirokai Recognition

45th Anniversary Gathering

45th Anniversary Service

Keirokai Recognition

45th Anniversary Service

50th Anniversary Donation via Give Aloha

Give Aloha '22 matching gift. Credit Bldg Fund

### General Donation

Mililani Crafters

James & Karen Nakasone

Rev. & Mrs. Kojun Suehira

Glenn S. & Minnie Yoshimori

Tomeo Yoshizawa

### Higan Fall Service

Gordon & Lyn Watanabe

### Dharma School

Margaret Tanabe

IMO Earl Onitsuka

IMO Yashiro Hayase & Takejiro Ueki

IMO Yashiro Hayase & Takejiro Ueki

IMO Rodney Mansho

IMO Cynthia Kitsu

IMO Kazukiyo Kuwata

IMO Grayce Nomura

IMO Shinji Toma

IMO Ronald Toma

IMO Ronald Toma

IMO Genchu Tonaki

IMO Chimo Sakutori

IMO Santa Yoza

IMO Ken Tagami

Memorial Service IMO Phyllis Tanaka (1 Yr)



In Gratitude.

**Namo Amida Butsu**

**Namo Amida Butsu**

**Namo Amida Butsu**



### ATTENTION

**Mililani Hongwanji Buddhist Temple  
Gojikai Members**

**Coming in your mailbox in December:**

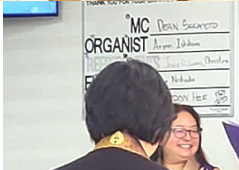
- **Your 2023 Pledge Letter for Mililani Hongwanji Gojikai (Dues)**
- **Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Social Concerns Fund Drive**

**Your Generous Donations will be greatly appreciated.**

**IN GASSHO  
Namo Amida Butsu**



# Photo Gallery





# EWA HONGWANJI MISSION

91-1133 Renton Road, Ewa, Hawaii

mail:

P.O. Box 60549

Ewa Beach, HI 96706

phone: (808) 681-5222

email: EwaHM1901@gmail.com



## NEWSLETTER

December 2022

### Calendar

Dec	15 (Thu)	9:00 am	Before service clean-up
	18 (Sun)	11:00 am	Bodhi Day Service
		~11:45 am	General Membership Meeting
Jan	01 (Sun)	8:00 am	New Year's Service

### President's Message



Hi. As an American citizen of Japanese ancestry and a Buddhist upbringing (whatever that was?), I never thought I would see the day when I thought our democratic country was in trouble. Hopefully, people will follow what the majority votes for? And the majority is for the common good of the country? Did compromising go out the door? Looking for a common ground could/can/will take forever. CHANGE and HOPE are powerful words. The Holiday Season approaches. I HOPE everyone has an enjoyable and safe next few months? My best wishes for everyone. Have a good everyday, everybody.

In Gassho,  
Craig T. Tsutsumi

**Reminder:** Ewa Hongwanji's General Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 18th, at about 11:45 am, after the Bodhi Day Service (11:00 am). If you won't be able to attend, please submit the Proxy Form before the meeting. Please also submit your Membership Registration Form before the end of the year. Mahalo!

### Mahalo for your Donations

#### Social Concerns Fund

Mrs. Jean Abe  
Mr. Frank Goto  
Mr./Mrs. Clint/Alison Hashiba  
Ms. Caran Iwata  
Mr. Rodney Takemoto  
Mr. Craig Tsutsumi

#### Ofuse

Mrs. Mary Tamura ~ Memorial Service  
for Mr. Hakaru Tamura

#### General

Mr. Michael Sawamoto  
TCS US Productions 20, Inc.

Correction to last month's Donations:

Ruth Wakimura ~ In memory of Mrs. Miyoko Kaneshiro