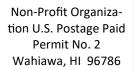
Mililani Hongwanji P.O. Box 893308 Mililani Town, HI 96789

Address Service Requested



April 2022 The Newsletter of Mililani Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Volume 45 Issue No. 4

WE ARE FULLY OPEN

Welcome back! We are reverting to 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. Of course you can continue wearing masks and social distancing if you choose. Other temple activities are starting up again however, you should contact your program coordinators for specific details.



2	1:00pm	Hanamido Decorating	

- 3 9:00am Hanamatsuri (Buddha's Birthday) Family Dharma Service
- 3 10:00am Dharma School Activity
- 10 9:00am Joint Memorial & Family Dharma Service
- 10 10:00am BWA Monthly Meeting
- 17 9:00am BWA Eshinni and Kakushinni Service
- 17 10:00am Dharma School Activity
- 24 9:00am Family Dharma Service
- 24 10:00am Dharma School Activity









All Family Services can be accessed through Mililani Hongwanji and 'Ewa Hongwanji's Facebook Pages and also through the Mililani & 'Ewa Hongwanji Facebook Channel (Simply type: <u>shorturl.at/evwCU</u> in the web address space on your browser for YouTube) (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Namo Amida Butsu



- 1 9:00am Family Dharma Service
- 1 10:00am Dharma School Activity
- 8 9:00am Joint Memorial and Family Dharma Service
- 8 10:00am BWA Monthly Meeting
- 15 9:00am Family Dharma Service
- 15 10:00am Dharma School Activity
- 22 9:00am **Gotan-e** (Shinran's Birthday, Family Dharma Service & Last Day of Dhar-
- 29 9:00am Family Dharma Service







What is YOUR Theology?

As a fourth generation Asian American growing up in Hawai'i and going to a Buddhist Elementary School, I was introduced to a form of Buddhism that was based on ministers whose primary language was Japanese and lacked the vocabulary to explain even the simplest concepts and understanding of Jōdo Shinshū Buddhism.

I think for many of you, you can relate to what I am saying. With that being the case, many times, the minister struggled to find a word that they knew or thought to mean in their native language, which sometimes is incorrect. However, we carried on that thought for many years, and passed it on to the next generation.

So now, as more and more ministers are proficient at English, and more and more books are published in English, we are at a crossroad to the understating of

what really is going on in Buddhism. Do we maintain what we leaned years ago, as word, or do we attempt to understand what the younger generation or understanding is?

For many, our understanding of Buddhism is based on our experiences over the years, and what has been passed on to us. We call this one's Embedded Theology. Embedded Theology turns in to Deliberate Theology when we hear the Dharma, get a better understanding of the Dharma, and live our lives in that understanding.

So then the question now becomes, "What is my embedded theology?" Shinran states, "As for me, I simply accept and entrust myself to what my revered teacher told me, "Just say the nembutsu and be saved by Amida"; nothing else is involved." We see here this change over from embedded to deliberate. He understood that he must say the Nembutsu and be save." But how" For years he contemplated that. Finally, he understood that there is nothing that he could do except entrust and accept what his teacher told him, "JUST say the nembutsu and be saved by Amida."

For us, it's easier said than done. We cannot be able to just accept. We have all these ideas going on in our head. "How do I say it?", "Do I have to say it loud?", "How do YOU do it?", "What if I say it only before I eat?" The list goes on and on.

This is the ego side of us, and that is what always get in the way of seeing things for what they really are. However, at the same time, it could be what we learned. "We MUST say it loud!" the minister may have said, but where in our texts does it say that? When we hear "Just say the nembutsu and be saved by Amida." It turns this embedded theology to a deliberate theology that fits into our Nembutsu Teachings.

In April, we celebrate the birth of the Historical Buddha. In that, let us reflect on where our own personal theology stands. As we hear the Dharma, and as we practice the recitation of the Nembutsu, we will slowly start to see ourselves start to evolve into that true entrusting person of Nembutsu. The Buddha sought to clarify his own theology to pain and suffering and left it for us to reflect on and understand. Now it's our turn to clarify our own theology and reflect on it.



Rev. David Fujimoto





From Your Kyodan Board Summary of March 9, 2022 Meeting



- The Mililani Hongwanji Board of Directors met via ZOOM and in-person with a quorum. Immediate Past President Dean Sakamoto conducted the meeting.
- Cliff Togo presented the Treasurer's Report for the month ending February 2022. Report reflected the 2022 Approved Budget amounts. Bank of Hawaii's online bill payment service has expedited the payment process and saves the temple funds. Checking account balance reflected the transfer of \$50,000 into the CIP account.
- Finance Committee Chair Gordon Watanabe presented a Revised Operating Budget for 2022. A few line items were amended with updated information. The proposed Amended Budget was approved.
- Reverend's parsonage appliances (washer/dryer) needs to be replaced. To be funded with CIP funds.
- Kumon's facilities use contract will be renewed for another year with same terms and conditions.
- Rene Mansho & Claire Doi will be co-chairs for the BOD Nominating Committee.
- Mililani Town Association (MTA) will hold a Sr. Health & Hobby Fair on May 18, 2022, 9:00 am—
 1:00pm. Mililani Hongwanji will participate. MH parking lot will be used.
- Temple to purchase 25 folding "Z" mats for martial arts program.
- Updated Membership Handbooks to be mailed shortly.
- For planning purposes, the 2022 Bon Dance will be a traditional in-person live event as done prior to the pandemic. It is planned for the Admissions Day weekend, August 19 & 20, 2022. Volunteers are needed to make this a success. Please KOKUA.
- Sangha Day, an Oahu Hongwanji District Council family fun activity at Blaisdell Park planned by Aiea Hongwanji was well attended by Mililani Hongwanji.
- Various reports from VPs and unit representatives were presented.
- A report from Adopt-a-Highway Coodinator Tyler Oshiro was circulated. Will re-introduce the sign up sheet. More and new volunteers are needed to lessen the workload. May 21, next clean-up.
- BWA held its first in-person meeting this month since the pandemic. BWA's Zippy's Fundraiser is in full swing. Redemption deadline is April 30. Eshinni Kakushinni day service on April 17, light lunch to be served.







Apríl Memoríals

Those who have passed during the month of April.

George Ando Susumu Ando Tsuruko Asato Chad Cortez Hatsuno Fuji Flora Fujimoto Jane Hamamoto Tsuki Hashimoto Satsuma Hayashi Gilbert Hirano Nancy Hirata Larry Hyakumoto Kona Itagaki Kenichi Ito Masanobu Kawahara Chiyoko Kayatani Kay Yukiko Kobayashi Shinichi Mashiba Mitsuko Masuda Taka Matsumoto

Carl Mutobe Hatsue Nakagawa Anna Nakamura Yaeko Nakaue Makoto Nishioka Edith Ohara Susumu Ono Sumie Rodero Donald Sakahara Beatrice Sato Noboru Sato Ronald Minoru Sato Kazuki Tanioka Saichi Tanioka Masayuki Tashima Sally Tateishi Hatsue Togashi Toby Tsunezumi-Shin Benton Yamanaka Inao Yoshino Dianne Yoshizawa

Please call the minister at (808) 625-0925 and/or email <u>dharma.connection@gmail.com</u> 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 2020 3rd Year 2016 7th Year 2010 13th Year 2006 17th Year 1991 23rd Year 1998 25th year

1990 33rd year 1973 50th year 1923 100th year







As we near the end of long COVID restrictions, there will no longer be Zoom as part of our meetings. Hereafter, meetings will be help in-person in the education building. We wish to thank Program Chairs, Joyce Ogawa and Janice Yasunaga, for coordinating the preparation and serving of the zenzai. After a 2-year hiatus, it was wonderful to welcome back such a delectable treat, said to be a favorite of Shinran Shonin. Thank you to all who had a hand in serving this. In observance of Eshinni-Kakushinni/Peace Day on April 17, we will have Barbara Brennan as guest speaker on video-tape. Eshinni was the wife of Shinran Shonin, and Kakushinni was the youngest daughter of Eshinni and Shinran Shonin. Both women are important in their influence of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. The role of Eshinni became apparent through the letters she wrote, which were discovered in 1921, describing important historical events during Shinran Shonin's life. Kakushinni is considered the protector of Shinran Shonin's legacy. The BWA will provide a light lunch that day.

To prepare for Hanamatsuri on April 3, the Religious Services Committee is making an appeal to all Sangha members to help with the decoration of the Hanamido on April 2, at 1:00 pm. If you have flowers or green foliage to donate, or questions in general, please contact Claire Doi.

Looking ahead, we are very happy to report that O-Bon is a "go" this year. Co-Chairs of the event, Cliff Togo, Dean Sakamoto, and Rev. Fujimoto, welcome any help and suggestions you may have. This is a huge undertaking -- especially after a 2-year absence, so please give of your time and kokua to make this a success as in years past.

Did you know we have a great library...

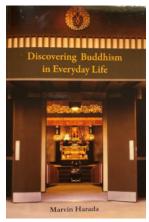
right within our temple's walls? Located on the wall adjacent to the men's restroom, is a bookshelf full of excellent books on everything Buddhism. Go check it out next time you're at temple. Feel free to borrow any book. You don't need a library card—just let Rev. Fujimoto know that you're borrow-ing a book.

A recent addition to our library is "Discovering Buddhism in Everyday Life" by Bishop Marvin Harada. We aquired 6 copies of the Bishop's book through the generous donations received as part of the 2021 Spring Nembutsu Seminar sponsored by the Honolulu and Oahu Hongwanji Councils and the Office of Buddhist Education. Bishop Harada, who is the current Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America, was also the seminar's guest speaker and spoke about "Buddhism &

Everyday Life."

From the book's introduction Bishop Harada shares, "Buddhism is all around us, if we have the eyes to see it, the ears to hear it, and the heart to feel it. Quite often we tend to think that Buddhism lies in books, or libraries, or in the brains of Buddhist masters and teachers. I think that Buddhism, the truth of the Dharma, lies nowhere then right in front of my own eyes."

The book is filled with short stories as told by Bishop Harada of seeing Buddhism in our everyday life and sharing examples from Shin Buddhists whose everyday life experience is their greatest teacher. It's a very easy read full of heartfelt and impactful stories. So please consider borrowing and reading it soon!



Dharma School

We had a great lesson on February 27th led by Ms. Jill who read the book, "Change Sings: A Children's Anthem" by Amanda Gorman. The book was a musical journey of hope and inspiration that will remind us all that change is good and necessary.

Ms. Jill then reviewed Rev. Fujimoto's Dharma talk about the current conflict and suffering in Eastern Europe. She then read "Dogku", a story of a homeless dog that finds a home with a nice family, written all in haiku. The students were then asked to write a haiku poem. Most students chose to write about peace and ending conflicts.

On March 20th, we played Buddhist bingo or Shin-o. The



students were first tasked to create their own Shin-o playing card. Each column had words that represented the Teachings, People/Places, Items, Eightfold Path or Observances. Everyone received cool prizes. We were also happy to have the Osborne family, who were temple members before they moved away ten years ago, participate in our class during their visit to the islands.



The students and Dharma School 'ohana will be again creating and sending out Spring cards to some of our temple members to celebrate Spring and Hanamatsuri.

On Sunday, March 27th, we watched the movie, "Encanto", our first movie day in a long time! The movie was about the family Madrigal, whose members each get a magical "gift" except for young Mirabel. Here is our schedule for April:

Sunday, April 3rd, 10am (Hybrid class): Famous Buddhist Figures project presentation Sunday, April 17th, 10am: The Golden Chain presented by Danny Noia Sunday, April 24th, 10am: Mother's & Father's Day Craft

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 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.

Decorating the HANAMIDO Saturday, April 2nd, 1:00 p.m.

To the Mililani Sangha and Dharma School families! Please join us in decorating our Hanamido (floral altar in preparation for our Hanamatsuri Service celebrating Buddha's Birthday on Sunday, April 3rd We will be meeting at the temple on SATURDAY, April 2nd at 1:00 p.m.! We welcome any flowers or greenery that you can donate! Let's have fun decorating while enjoying the sangha! Any questions, please contact the Religious Service Committee or Claire Doi, email: claire-

doi@hawaiiantel.net



6



Open Invitation to All...



State Dharma School Gathering Sunday, May 1, 2022

Dot" discussion

10:50 AM: DS Families/Adult Sessions End

11:00 AM: DS Teachers/Educators Gathering Session Begins

12:00 PM: End

RSVP Deadline is April 16. Click on the following link to register: https://forms.gle/krPJPKHMqmp7VpBdA

Any Questions? Contact: Debbie Kubota at dekub88@gmail.com

Gathering Zoom Link will be emailed to participants by Friday, April 29.

ATION . VIEW . THOU THE FOUR OBLE TRUT

We are offering Wailuku Hongwanji Mission's Gratitude Coin to help share the Dharma and for a donation of \$10.00. Proceeds will be shared with Kupuna organizations in need. These challenging times taught us a

lot about the value of caring, helping, respect, and appreciation for others.

- Buy a coin to carry around or keep in a special place, as a reminder to be grateful for what we all have
- . Give a coin to relatives, friends, and folks you meet to share our Buddhist Way, and being mindful
- . It is a simple reminder of gratitude and not an Omamori or good luck charm

Please purchase Gratitude Coins by clicking on this link: https://bit.ly/3GPrUHe

Mahalo for your support! Ms. Rene Mansho - renemansho@hawaii.rr.com ph: 808-291-6151

A Commission on Buddhist Education (CBE) Project of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

"Sangha Day" an Oahu Dístríct Famíly Fun Day

Aiea, Ewa, Mililani, Pearl City, Wahiawa, Waialua, Waianae, & Waipahu Hongwanjis









Blaisdell Park March 6, 2022

Service, PBA Taiko Performance, Peace Bell trek, Peace rock painting, luggage tag making, Bingo, Bento lunch and fellowship.















Mílílaní Hongwanjí Buddhíst Temple

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Kyodan Pres:	Dean Sakamoto
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 893308
	Mililani, HI 96789
Location:	95-257 Kaloapau Street
	Mililani, HI 96789
Email: dharr	na.connection@gmail.com
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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)

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

3) download a copy from the temple website: 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 DAN

General Donation

Nick & Clarynne Blanchard Warren & Nora Hahn James & Karen Nakasone Masami & Joyce Nishimoto **Ruth Wakimura** Tomeo Yoshizawa

Higan Spring Service

Janet Abe Frances Saito Margaret Tanabe Gordon & Lyn Watanabe **Diane** Yoza **Hoonko Service** Mamoru & Ethel Kawahara Joint Memorial Service Michie Ando Takashi Ando Sharon Kaneko Earline Kihara Carl & Aileen Matsuda Lawrence & Joyce Nishioka Social Concerns(HQ) **Melvin Hayase** Sharon Kaneko Albert & Margaret Kayatani

(February 23, 2022 to March 21, 2022)

In Honor Of Taylor Yasunaga & Alex Chang

For Major Services & Offertory IMO Ernest K. Wakimura



In Gratitude. Namo Amida Butsu Namo Amida Butsu Namo Amida Butsu

IMO Hayako Ando IMO Hayako Ando IMO Chieko Sako IMO Eyvinn Kihara IMO Matsuko Matsuda IMO Kikue lida



2022 Ron Dance

* * * * * * * * * * * *

August 19 & 20, 2022 A Traditional Ron Dance is being planned. \mathcal{M} e are now seeking volunteers for this event. $\mathcal V$ our support is needed and greatly appreciated. Look for more information in the coming months. Co-Chairs:

Cliff 7090, Dean Sakamoto, Rev. David Lujimoto

Photo Gallery













EWA HONGWANJI MISSION

91-1133 Renton Road Ewa, Hawaii Mail: P.O. Box 60549, Ewa Beach, HI 96706



NEWSLETTER

April 2022

Calendar Apr 21 (Thu) 9:00 am 24 (Sun) 11:00 am Thursdays 9:00am-11:00am 11:00am-12:00pm

Hanamatsuri Service Yard/temple maintenance "Exercise"

Before service clean-up

President's Message

This year, Ewa Hongwanji will once again have an Obon Fundraiser instead of our traditional Bon Dance. It will be similar to last year's fundraiser and we will have it on our usual Bon Dance day, Saturday, June $18 \sim 10:00$ am-1:00pm. Stay tuned for more information and our call for volunteers!

Have a good everyday, everybody.

In Gassho, Craig T. Tsutsumi & Board of Directors



Mahalo for your Ponations

Donations

Mr. Michael Sawamoto ~ General Ms. Amy Yamamoto ~ In memory of Mrs. Yemiko Yamamoto

Rev. David Fujimoto's office hours at Ewa Hongwanji ~ Thursdays 9:00 am-11:00 am. You may also contact him at 808-625-0925 (Mililani Hongwanji Office) or leave a message on Ewa Hongwanji's voicemail at 808-681-5222.

Keep informed of what's happening at Ewa Hongwanji - https://bit.ly/3bKGt2f