


SAVE THE DATE!

Honolulu's Largest Bon Dance is back!

Mō'ili'ili Summer Fest

Sat. July 2nd, 5pm—10pm
Varsity Theatre Parking Lot
Live Bon Dance, Retail, Food & More!





The White Way

Mo'ili'i Hongwanji is the center of Shin Buddhist spiritual growth, learning, and compassionate service to our Community.

Temple Office: (808) 949-1659 mhm@moililihongwanji.org www.moililihongwanji.org
Moiliili Hongwanji Preschool: (808) 946-4416 moililihongwanjipreschool.com
Project Dana: (808) 945-3736 info@projectdana.org

UNWAVERING CALL OF AMIDA IN THIS TIME OF TURMOIL



As I write this article, over a month has passed since the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Still, the war is unrelenting. I try to understand the devastation and fear that this war has brought, especially to the people of Ukraine whose daily lives were suddenly interrupted and disrupted. However, I can only imagine. I empathize feeling sad and helpless for those living their lives in the sense of fear and loss. I sincerely hope that the conflict ends soon and peace will come to Ukraine and the world.

In the *Tannisho*, there is a conversation between Shinran Shonin and Yui-En.

Shinran Shonin asked, “Yui-En, would you accept all that I say?” Yui-En replied, “Yes, I will.” Shinran Shonin repeated, “Are you sure that you won’t disobey me?” When Yui-En again agreed, Shinran Shonin continued, “Go, then, and kill a thousand people, and your birth in the Pure Land is assured.” Yui-En protested, “Even though that is your order, I’m afraid it is not in my power to kill even one person.”

“Then why did you say that you would obey whatever I requested?” Shinran Shonin went on, “By this you should realize that if we could always act as we wished, then when I told you to kill a thousand people in order to attain birth in the Pure Land, you should have immediately done so. But since you lack the karmic cause inducing you to kill even a single person, you do not kill. It is not that you do not kill because your heart is good. In the same way, a person may wish not to harm anyone and yet end up killing a hundred or a thousand people.”

Through this conversation, Shinran Shonin taught us that under the influence of our karmic condition, we human beings will do anything. Looking at the current situation between Ukraine and Russia from the Buddhist perspective, I cannot fully grasp the karmic conditions that led one country to violently attack another country. Still, I feel sad about the chains of causes and conditions that led one country to take action against another that hurts, injures, and kills. It pains me to see the causes and conditions that deprive people of their peace, freedom, and the lives of their loved ones.

Prince Shotoku, the Imperial Regent in Japan in the early 7th century, wrote as follows in the Seventeen-Article Constitution.

“For all men have hearts, and each heart has its own leanings. Their right is our wrong, and our right is their wrong. We are not unquestionably sages, nor are they unquestionably fools. Both of us are simply ordinary beings (*Bonbu*). ... For we are all, one with another, wise and foolish, like a ring which has no end.”

I think this is a stern admonishment. We easily criticize others, but it is difficult to see our true selves. *Bonbu* means that we cannot separate from our ego-centered and judgmental calculation. Buddhism teaches us that because we have such tendencies, wars break out and result in extensive bloodshed in the name of justice. Spiritually speaking, we are all simply a *bonbu*. Our true nature is not so kind and compassionate. When conditions change, we might be the ones who hurt others.

We create conflicts against each other because of our ego-centered way of life which is going to the opposite direction from the enlightened way of life. Shinran Shonin taught us that such a *bonbu* like ourselves are the primal target of Amida Buddha. Knowing that we are filled with *bonbu* nature, Amida Buddha promised to extend his Wisdom and Compassion. Amida Buddha promised that he would never stop working until he rescues all of us from the muddy ocean of ignorance. Such an unwavering commitment of Amida Buddha manifests on us as Namo Amida Butsu.

As we listen to this compassionate calling of Amida Buddha, we become aware of our true selves. Our hearts and minds are gradually nurtured by Namo Amida Butsu. Our minds of greed, anger, and ignorance are transformed into minds of generosity, love, and wisdom.

As a beneficiary of the countless causes and conditions, we now have an opportunity to encounter the calling of Namo Amida Butsu. Thus, I feel that we have a responsibility, with a sense of joy and gratitude to Amida's embrace, to share such a wonderful way of life with others. Knowing our limitations and ego-centeredness, we try our very best through our thoughts, words, and actions resulting in causes and conditions by those around us to NOT spread fear and violence but peace, love, and comfort.

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani
Resident Minister, Moiliili Hongwanji Mission

Memorial Services

As COVID-19 restrictions ease, Moiliili Hongwanji can now provide religious services such as Memorial Services and Funeral Services at our main temple (Hondo). Seating is limited to provide social distance. Please contact our temple office at 949-1659 for more details and to make an appointment.

We also provide Online Memorial Services via Zoom. Please go to www.moiliilihongwanji.org and complete the request form.

Year of passing	Type of memorial service
2021	1 st year
2020	3 rd year
2016	7 th year
2010	13 th year
2005	17 th year
1997	25 th year
1989	33 rd year
1972	50 th year

*From the Office of the Bishop,
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii*

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

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Rev. Shinji Kawagoe, the Resident Minister of Papaikou Hongwanji Mission and also the Overseer Minister of Honohina Hongwanji Mission and Honomu Hongwanji Mission, will resign from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as of April 30, 2022. Rev. Kawagoe has been serving Hawaii Kyodan as a Kaikyoshi Minister since July 2013. During the absence of the resident minister starting May 1, 2022, ministers of Hawaii District are tasked with providing support and guidance.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Rev. Kazunori & Mrs. Noriko Takahashi welcomed a baby boy. Hironori Takahashi (高橋 弥法) was born on April 8, 2022, weighing 9lb. 1oz. He is their first child. Rev. Kazunori Takahashi currently works at Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin as Rimban. Congratulations to Rev. & Mrs. Takahashi!



CONDOLENCES

Reverend Midori Kondo, a retired minister of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, passed away on Sunday, March 27, 2022, at her home in Keaau, HI, at the age of 87. Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii sponsored funeral service is scheduled for Saturday, May 28, 2022, at Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin under the officiation of Bishop Eric Matsumoto. Visitation will be held from 9:30 am to 11:00 am, followed by the funeral service at 11:00 am. The family requests no flowers. Rev. Midori Kondo became a Kaikyoshi Minister in 2004, and served the following temples:

July 1999 – November 2004
December 2004 – October 2009
October 19, 2009

Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin
Lihue Hongwanji Mission
Retired

DS Buddha Day Lunch for Firefighters

To celebrate Buddha Day or Hanamatsuri, the Dharma School students and families made a Buddha Day Lunch for the McCully Moiliili Fire Station on April 3, 2022.

From early in the morning under Arlyne T. and Ann M's guidance, the DS students were hard at work making ham with rice, broccolini, toss salad, potato salad and a berry crisp dessert. It was a potluck style lunch to thank our neighbors, the McCully Moiliili firefighters.

The DS students and families walked from the temple to the fire station to personally deliver and thank the essential workers in our community. The fire fighters were very grateful for the compassionate gesture of the Dharma School students. Way to go Dharma School students!





MŌ'ILI'ILI SUMMER FEST SCHEDULED FOR JULY 2

The annual celebration returns after a two-year hiatus

Organizers of the Mō'ili'ili Summer Fest have scheduled the annual Obon season celebration to return on Saturday, July 2, 2022. After a two-year hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Summer Fest will celebrate historic Mō'ili'ili with Honolulu's largest Bon Dance and modern street festival on Coyne Street and the former Varsity Theatre parking lot from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

"The Mō'ili'ili Hongwanji Mission has been holding Bon Dances in Mō'ili'ili for over 100 years," said Mō'ili'ili Hongwanji Mission President, Joanne Kealoha. "We're very excited to bring this event back in collaboration with our community partners. Prior to the pandemic, the Summer Fest was a very well attended festival that really highlighted the cultural diversity, history, and businesses of Mō'ili'ili."

Coyne Street between University Avenue and Kaialiu Street will be closed for the event and feature food vendors and comfort areas. Food vendors and retailers who are interested in participating may email moiliili.events@gmail.com.

The Mō'ili'ili Summer Fest is produced by Kamehameha Schools, the Mō'ili'ili Hongwanji Mission, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, the Mō'ili'ili Community Center, and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.



Bon Dance 2022



Moiliili Hongwanji Bon Dance together with Moiliili Summer Fest, is scheduled for Saturday, July 2nd. We have had virtual Bon Dances for 2 years now and everyone is anxious for a real Bon Dance this summer!

Already in the planning are a yagura and bon dancing, food concession, food trucks and vendors, retail, etc. all at the old Varsity Circle site. Moiliili Summer Fest and Moiliili businesses are assisting with the planning. Manpower is needed so please volunteer your services.

A Bon Dance information and volunteer sign-up sheet will be sent out in May. Your kokua in any way, will be most welcome! Let's make this year's Bon Dance a reawakening success!



Dear Temple Members, Families and Friends,

I hope all of you are doing well and staying healthy.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude and heartfelt thank you to the Moiliili Hongwanji Mission for allowing the Preschool to thrive and grow for 60 years.

All good things must come to an end. The temple has decided to close our doors on May 27, 2022. We will be forever grateful for the opportunity in allowing us to serve the community for this length of time.

We will always remember the fond memories together with the hard work in making the Preschool a success.

Thank you to the Staff who have worked so hard during this time. Thank you to the parents for entrusting your child with us. Teaching them daily, watching them nurture and grow. A Special Thank you to Ann Miyasaki, Preschool Chairperson and her Preschool Board for their understanding, strength and continuous support. We could not have accomplished as much as we did in the last 5 years without your leadership. Thank you to Jon Fujinaka, Parent Teacher Organization President and his officers for the support and dedication to the Preschool.

Our thankfulness to Amida Buddha for his guidance and wisdom in supporting us.

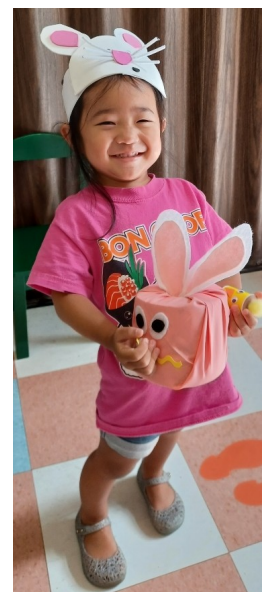
The Preschool will not be here, but all the memories will last in our hearts and minds forever.

With Deepest Gratitude,

Namo Amida Butsu

Wendy Harman

Director



PRE SCHOOL EASTER EGG HUNT

Lay Speaker Teresa Shimogawa



On March 27th, Moiliili Hongwanji was very fortunate to have Mrs. Teresa Shimogawa of Orange County Buddhist Church as lay speaker. She shared her life as a non-Buddhist married to a Buddhist, and raising their 3 children.

But how can life go on 'as usual' after a spouse suddenly passes away? That is a tough question for anyone, but especially for someone with young children ages 13 months, 3 and 6 years.

Teresa went on to become a lay minister's assistant at Orange County Buddhist Church. When asked what 'turned her on' to Buddhism, she said she likes chanting sutras, finding inner peace, Jodo Shinshu is intellectually stimulating, it's psychologically deep, learning about suffering and life in general, and finding meaning in life.

For more information on Teresa's writings, go to www.houseofteresa.com.



The banner the Dharma School made is supposed to remind people that we can become the start of change. In light of the Ukraine conflict, a lot of people seemed to lose hope of eventually creating a more peaceful world. However, if we truly want to achieve a goal like that, we don't need to wait for governments around the world to do it for us, as we all have the choice to start change ourselves.

Submitted by: Christopher Meade

Project Dana House Presentation

Part 2

by Karen Murakami

Mr. and Mrs. Kawamoto lived long lives. Mr. Kawamoto was born in 1895 and passed away in 1986. Mrs. Kawamoto was born in 1899 and passed away in 1995.

Mr. Kawamoto mentioned his regularly-scheduled walks to the Love's Bakery thrift shop which was located adjacent to the original site of Love's Bakery, on Kapahulu Avenue. He purchased many loaves of day-old bread which he used to feed birds who visited his property. He also combined bread with cooked carrots and protein to feed his dog who was blind. He fed cats living on his property too.

We recall a heartwarming incident when Nakookoo Street flooded due to heavy rainfall. Mr. Kawamoto reported that when he went outside to check on his blind dog, it was missing. He walked through elevated flood waters in search of his dog. When Mr. Kawamoto reached the house at the end of the block, he found his rain-soaked dog who had fortuitously climbed aboard a wooden door which Mr. Kawamoto had stored in his open garage. The door, with the dog on board, had drifted out of the Kawamoto property, onto Nakookoo Street until it reached the house at the end of the block and could go no further. The door served as a floating raft which saved the dog's life.

We are thankful to have had the opportunity to have known Mr. Masaru and Mrs. Kuniyo Kawamoto for many years. My sisters recall that Mr. Kawamoto periodically spoke of his wife's and his intention to donate their home and property to the Moiliili Hongwanji for its future benefit. Their donation was timely in providing a site for the Project Dana offices.

Mr. and Mrs. Kawamoto will continue to be remembered and appreciated for their generosity to, and foresight re: perpetuating the legacy of Moiliili Hongwanji as a Shin Buddhist temple.

Tangible memories of the Kawamotos include two gifts which my sisters have treasured for 60 or more years. My sister, Jean had studied the Japanese language for many years. She treasures a copy of the Shinshu Seiten (a Buddhist book translated as the Holy Scriptures of

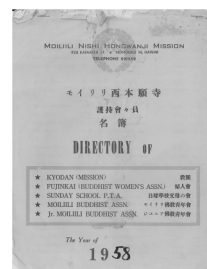
Shinshu) which the Kawamotos gave to her at least 60 years ago. The book, written in Japanese, was published in Japan during the Taisho period, sometime between 1912 and 1925.



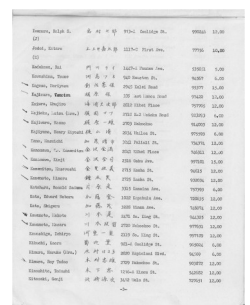
My sister, June loved to draw and paint. The Kawamotos gave her a collection of postcard-sized art reproductions. The postcards were



displayed in a photo album. Identifying information is written in Japanese, either on the tops and bottoms, or on the sides of each reproduction. June continues to treasure that album which she received over 60 years ago.



A 63 year-old copy of Moiliili Hongwanji's 1958 Membership Directory lists Mr. Masaru Kawamoto's name and the address of his



residence at 2720 Nakookoo Street.

"Seeds for the Future", the program booklet which was printed in commemoration of Moiliili Hongwanji Mission's Centennial Celebration in 2006, contains invaluable information re: the history of our temple and precious historic photos.

My sisters and I thank you for this opportunity to share our memories of Mr. Masaru and Mrs. Kuniyo Kawamoto, together with our recollections of Moiliili Hongwanji and the Moiliili community in the 1950s.

Our presentation would not have been possible without the time, technology-related expertise and historic materials which were generously shared with us.

We are grateful to: Donna Higashi, Osamu and Anne Kawabata, Emma Kie, Jolene Okamura Nakamatsu, Cyndi Osajima, Raymond Takiue, Jr., Naho Umitani and Riho Umitani.

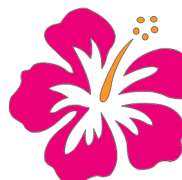
We regret that those who could have added to, confirmed or corrected what we remember, have passed away or are otherwise unavailable to provide their input.

Thank you for listening.



Mahalo

Temple Donations



Richard Abe
Marjorie Akey
Friend of Karen Murakami Family
Dennis Asato
Rohan De Silva
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IMO Joy Fujita
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Jean Ayako Shintaku

Covid Relief Fund

James Hatashima
Alyce Jenkins
Anne & Osamu Kawabata

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Contact the office for Zoom link)

May 2022

- 1 9:30 AM** State Dharma School Gathering
MHM Sunday Service **Cancelled**
- 8 9:00 AM** Remembrance & Mother's Day Service
with Ms. Ann Nakata
- 15 9:00 AM** Sunday Service with Rev. Umitani
- 22 9:00 AM** Gotan-E Service with Rev. Thomas Okano
- 29 9:00 AM** Sunday Service with Mr. Wayne Nishida

June 2022

- 5 9:00 AM** Remembrance Service
- 12 9:00 AM** Sunday Service with Dr. Michael Jaffe
- 19 9:00 AM** Father's Day Service
- 26 9:00 AM** Sunday Service

July 2022

- 3 9:00 AM** Sunday Service **Cancelled**
- 10 9:00 AM** Obon Service
with Rev. Mariko Nishiyama
- 17 9:00 AM** Sunday Service
with Rev. Bert Sumikawa
- 24 9:00 AM** Sunday Service
with Mrs. Laura Ruby
- 31 9:00 AM** Sunday Service

With Heartfelt
Sympathy

Moilili Hongwanji Mission extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of:

Pola Chong Sun Nakamura	83	2/6/2022
Alfred Kiyoshi Ono *	92	2/12/2022
Phyllis Cano	84	2/16/2022
Sue Hatsue Iwasaki	85	3/15/2022

* indicates Goji member

May the Onembutsu provide solace to family members during this time of sorrow.

WHITE WAY RADIO

Join us on Saturdays for White Way Radio on KZOO1210 at 7:45 a.m. for inspiring messages from a variety of speakers. We are truly grateful for our White Way sponsors who make it possible to share the Dharma on the air every week. If you missed it go to www.moililihongwanji.org, Buddhist Teachings.

May 2022

- 7** Rev. Shindo Nishiyama / The Yoshimura Family
- 14** Rev. David Nakamoto / Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sorakubo
- 21** Mrs. Irene Nakamoto / Francis & Susan Okano
- 28** Mrs. Lois Toyama / Mr. & Mrs. Roy Abe

June 2022

- 4** Dr. George Tanabe / Mrs. Thelma Ando
- 11** Rev. Shawn Yagi / The Hirai Family
- 18** Rev. David Fujimoto / The Miyasaki Family
- 25** Rev. Mariko Nishiyama / MHBWA

July 2022

- 2** Mr. Josh Hernandez Morse / The Matsumoto Family
- 9** Rev. Kojun Hashimoto / Ms. Jo-Ann Yokota
- 16** Rev. Jeffrey Soga / Mrs. Jo DesMarets
- 23** Dr. Benjamin Bruch / The Horii Family
- 30** Mrs. Juliet Kono Lee / The Yoshimura Family

White Way Donations

Thelma Ando
BWA
Donna Higashi
Wendy Nakanishi
Ruth Ono
Rev. Jeffrey & Kumika Soga
IMO all deceased minister's wives

MHM Hybrid Sunday Service

MHM members and friends enjoy attending the Sunday Service either in-person or via online (Zoom). You are always welcomed to join us. The service starts at 9:00am every Sunday.



Hanamido decorated by
DS students



Happy Strummers at Hanamatsuri



Get to know the Board of Directors gathering



Our centenarian
Shuku Najita



Eshinni/Kakushinni service
Guest speaker: Doris Oshiro