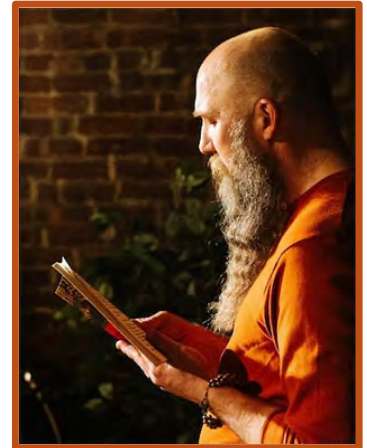


Dhammapada Talk Story: Generational Resilience and Wellness

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 | Honpa Hongwanji Hawai'i Betsuin

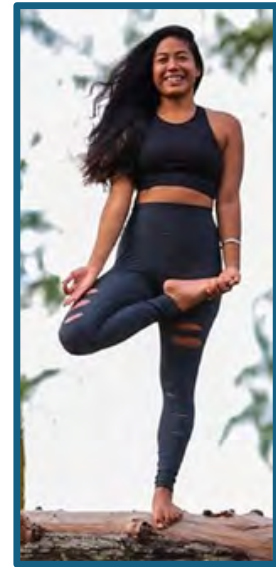
Speaker Bios

Jason Storbakken (keynote) is a spiritual practitioner and peacebuilder. He is currently the Senior Chaplain at The Bowery Mission and pastor at Manhattan Mennonite Fellowship. Alongside his wife, Vonetta, they co-founded Brooklyn Peace Center, a community center dedicated to peacebuilding, and Radical Living, a youth-centered, intergenerational environmental justice program. He holds a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary (NYC) and a Doctor of Ministry from Boston University. Jason has authored several books, including *Radical Spirituality* and *Last Stop on the Z Train*, and numerous articles. His latest book, *Dhammapada: A Sacred Path toward Liberation from Harm Cycles*, offers a trauma-aware, liberationist, and interreligious interpretation of this sacred text. Jason and Vonetta live in Brooklyn with their two teenagers (and dog named Bertha!).



Anastasha Schielzeth (respondent) is a counselor and practitioner in private practice. Her approach centers on storytelling, expressive arts, and trauma & healing-informed care rooted in Aloha. Anastasha believes cultivating a Pu'uhonua—a sanctuary within—is at the core of our health and wholeness. She is currently an ally and steward of Pu'uhonua O Pūnana'ula, a wahi pana dedicated to fostering life, hope, and healing for all people. She has collaborated with organizations such as Ka'ala Cultural Learning Center, PLACES Hawaii, Purple Mai'a Foundation, Compassionate Ko'olaupoko, and Kōkua Kalihi Valley. She is a facilitator and consultant in the community, prioritizing 'whole-istic' health and well-being. Anastasha has a Master's in Counseling Psychology from Bastyr University. She returned home in 2019 to give back to the communities that shaped her, thus reconnecting with our first ancestor, 'āina.

Laura Nohealani Emiko Toyofuku-Aki (respondent) (RYT-500, YACEP, Katonah Yoga Certified Teacher, Barre Certified, Certified Personal Trainer), co-founded Project Koa Yoga to educate, train, and mentor a generation of resilience-centered wellness practitioners, supporting the reindigenization of the people, land, and culture that are Hawai'i. Her certifications include 200hr Vinyasa yoga (Laughing Lotus NY), 200hr hatha yoga (Katonah Yoga NY), and 300hr hatha yoga (Susanna Barkataki and Ignite Yoga and Wellness Institute). She was certified by Liberation Prison Yoga to teach a trauma-conscious yoga and meditation practice for incarcerated adults, and also taught at the transgender ward at Riker's Island and Manhattan Detention Complex in NYC. She trained and apprenticed with Lineage Project and taught movement and mindfulness to incarcerated and at-risk youth in the NYC area. She is a graduate of Boston University with a Bachelors in International Relations.



Ryan Souza (respondent) is ordained through the Science of Living School of Ministry under Reverend (now Bishop) Jack Bomar, and the Barbara King School of Ministry (BKSM) in Atlanta, Georgia. Under the umbrella of Hillside United Network International, Ryan and Co-minister Rev. Johanna Kelly launched Hillside United Spiritual Center of Hawaii focused on merging Spiritual teachings, metaphysical Christianity and Hawaiian spirituality. Ryan's intentions and objectives are to be open to God's guiding light as he moves forward in ministry, always leading and teaching with

Aloha. Ryan hopes to help facilitate spiritual growth, connection and understanding within communities in Hawaii and throughout the world. He serves on the board of Hillside United Spiritual Center of Hawaii, and Kuana'ike (sharing Aloha through film, SpiritFest, retreats, educational programs, etc...). He is from Haleiwa and resides in Makiki.