



the Messenger

*Embrace Change:
Harmony (Accept Change)*

August 2018

11 Sat	7:30a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
12 Sun	9:00a	Sunday Service
	10:00a	BWA Meeting (Temple)
	10:30a	110 th Anniversary Meeting (BWA)
16 Thu	7:30a	Hosha Kai
17 Fri	7:00p	Mililani Hongwanji Bon Dance
18 Sat	7:30a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
	8:00a	WHM/BWA Sponsored Community Blood Drive (SH)
	7:00p	Mililani Hongwanji Bon Dance
19 Sun	9:00a	WHM Obon Service—Dharma Speaker, Reverend Jeffrey Soga
	2:00p	Annual Wahiawa War Memorial Ceremony at the District Park
21 Tue	9:00a	Blue Zone Walking Labyrinth
24 Fri	9:00a	Service at the Plaza at Mililani
25 Sat	7:30a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
	10:00a	Blue Zone Traditional Cooking (Main Kitchen)
	11:30a	Blue Zone Health Wellness Information (SH)
26 Sun	9:00a	Sunday Service
	10:00a	Social Hour
27 Mon	7:00p	OBE Meeting
30 Thu	7:30a	Hosha Kai

September 2018

1 Sat	7:00a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
2 Sun	9:00a	Sunday Service
	9:00a	Food Drop Off for Pantry
3 Mon		Labor Day Holiday
8 Sat	7:00a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
9 Sun	9:00a	WHM Special Grandparent's Day Service
	10:00a	BWA Meeting (BWA)
11 Tue	8:30a	9/11 Memorial Service at Bell Tower
	10:30a	Waiialua Monthly Service
13 Thu	7:30a	Hosha Kai
15 Sat	7:00a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
16 Sun	9:00a	WHM Ohigan Service-Guest Speaker, Reverend Hiromi Kawaji
22 Sat	7:00a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
23 Sun	9:00a	WHM Sunday Service-Guest Speaker, Mrs. Barbara Kawakami
27 Thu	7:30a	Hosha Kai
28 Fri	9:30a	Service at The Plaza at Mililani
30 Sun	9:00a	Sunday Service
	10:00a	Board Meeting (BWA)

October

7 Sun	10:00a	BWA Tsuito-E Service
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Weekly Activities

Mon	9:00a	Calligraphy
	6:30p	Tai Chi for Health
Tue	9:00a	Blue Zone Walking Labyrinth
Wed	7:00a	Columbarium Cleaning
	9:30a	Yoga
	6:00p	Conversational Japanese
	7:00p	Kendo
Thu	6:00p	Aikido

Reverend's Message

THE BON DANCE

We just finished the Wahiawa Hongwanji Bon Dance. It was very successful thanks to the temple members, as well as to the many other supporters. I appreciate all the help and support we received from everyone.



Before I came to Hawaii, I had heard that Bon Dance is very popular in Hawaii. I was surprised to hear that. So, I looked forward to seeing the Hawaii Bon Dance even though I am not a good Bon Dancer.

When I first saw Bon Dance in Hawaii, I really enjoyed seeing and feeling the history of the Japanese immigrants. But I thought about their struggles living in Hawaii. I had heard how they struggled to work to nourish their families in their daily lives. But they were allowed to hold the Bon Dance during the Obon season. That was a good time for them to forget the day-to-day sufferings and to truly enjoy the joyfulness of the Obon season. Then I remembered my own feelings when I saw for the first time the Bon Dance in Hawaii—I felt the hard work of the Japanese immigrants and thanked them for the joyful event we now know as Bon Dance.

Today, there are many people who enjoy the Bon Dance—not only the Japanese but also people of many other races and ages—all participants in the Bon Dance—whether dancers, observers, volunteers, food eaters—feel the joy of the evening at the same time and enjoy the atmosphere through the music. That situation is a purpose of Buddhism.

In Buddhist terms, there is “ichinyo,” which means oneness. There is no discrimination. Everyone is equal. The Buddhist teaching has told us about oneness from over 2500 years ago.

Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission

*Embrace Change: Harmony
(Accept Differences)*

PRESIDENT: Rod Moriyama

MINISTER: Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

Vice Presidents: Dale Shimaura
Carolyn Uchiyama
Karen Pang

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Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/WahiawaHongwanji

The Bon Dance is a good event that the Japanese immigrants left for us—to feel oneness and gratitude.

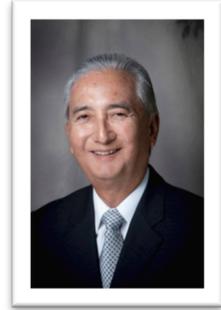
The most important thing about Bon Dance is to feel the joy with others.

In Gassho



President's Report

Almost the entire month of June was devoted to preparing for Obon, celebrating Obon, and then cleaning up. With 200 lanterns adorned with our Memorial ribbons decorating the entire parking lot, it is truly a remarkable celebration of joy, interrelations and interconnections in the community. How does all of this work? It is through the combined patience and simple courtesies that bring together so many diverse backgrounds. It is definitely hard work; but also tremendously satisfying and joyful work as things come together. It is the essence of living as a community and very much a part of a Buddhist way of life.



Hundreds of volunteers from the community, Leilehua High School, and other temples made it a truly successful festival. We are so grateful for all the dancers, even from Honolulu, who danced throughout the evening in concentric circles. Our Children's Lantern Parade this year was the largest ever.

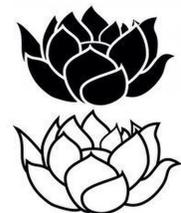
Because Honpa Hongwanji holds their Obon festival on the last weekend of June, and we hold our bon dance on the fourth weekend in June and because this year there were 5 weekends in June, we did not "clash." The same will be true for next year (2019), when again there will be 5 weekends in June. This brings people from all over the island to help us celebrate this wonderful time of year. Even with the rain on Saturday evening, our numbers were very satisfactory providing us with the much needed funds to operate. Obon weekend represents about a quarter of our annual budget monies.

Bishop Eric Matsumoto and his family came on Saturday with other ministerial families and friends. The Office of the Consul General of Japan was also represented with the Consul General Koichi Ito and his wife, Misako, coming on Saturday evening, touring the campus, and dancing. This was his first visit to Wahiawa. He said he felt very nostalgic being part of the celebration as it reminded him of home in Japan. He did say, however, that he has never been to an Obon celebration where such a diverse community was represented as well as so many modern songs. He and his wife actually met at an Obon festival so it was very special for them.

I can't say enough about how grateful and thankful we are to have so many outside volunteers and members who put in hundreds of hours doing heavy lifting, putting up booths, cooking and food preparations throughout the month, and finally manning the booths on both evenings. It is hoped that our Wahiawa Hongwanji Obon festival continues to be an integral part of Wahiawa's legacy as future generations remember all the good times enjoyed during the celebration. Namo Amida Butsu!

In Gassho,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert S. Wong". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.



Rod's Thoughts

What is the Point of Religion?

Throughout history, humankind has turned to religion during great social change. The great social change being experienced today is showing an interesting shift in how institutional religion is viewed.

Emile Durkheim, a nineteenth century sociologist (1858-1917), tried to answer the title question as Europe was undergoing tremendous change with the Industrial Revolution. Families were being torn apart moving from the country to the urban industrial areas. All the traditional mainstays of society were being subjected to tremendous change. New economic models were being tested like capitalism and socialism.

Capitalism provided tremendous hope and opportunity for a few while it created a populace that developed a higher propensity for depression and suicide. Capitalism provided individuals to reach for their dreams. It was viewed as a Protestant Ethic that stressed hard work for delayed gratification and future success. This individualistic thinking made some people tremendously prosperous at the expense of so many others. Durkheim studied the role of religion during this time of great social upheaval.

He said that religion provides social “cohesion” and social “control” to maintain society in a more stable environment. Religion represented the collective consciousness which became the fusion of all individuals. The danger of religion was that it could promote a danger to society if controlled by a few zealots that wanted things “their way.”

Religions flourish in times of great upheaval as people are looking for something or someone to believe in. We've seen this throughout history. Today, at a time where there is so much visible upheaval, anger and violence in the world, religious commitment in more “advanced” civilizations are actually showing a decline. Church attendance in Christians is below 40% in many states of America while in Africa, religious commitment remains quite high above 70%.

The great upheaval of today is “Globalization.” With the advance of technology and communications, change is occurring much faster than many of us can absorb. The current “reversal” back to “Nationalism” is an appeal for all of this change to “slow down.” Such an appeal has many negative consequences as well.

In trying to understand what is happening today, upheaval appears to have come in the United States because a large segment of the population felt isolated and ignored. Buddhism provides a very good vehicle to be open and inclusive. Do our daily practices actually display this openness? How can we improve our own behavior to be more open to suggestions and criticisms made by people who have very good intentions to improve our situation? This is the “stress” described as “dukha” or “suffering” in our teachings. It is certainly a challenge for all of us.

Namo Amida Butsu!

In gassho,



WHM BWA Sponsored
Community Blood Drive



Date: Saturday, August 18, 2018

Time: 8:00am-12:00pm

Place: WHM Social Hall

YOU CAN HELP! 1-hour saves up to 3 lives. To make an appointment, just call 392.3253 or go online to BBHdonor.org

Meals and refreshments will be provided to all donors

**SPECIAL GRANDPARENT'S DAY
SERVICE AT WHM**
Sunday, September 9, 2018 at 9:00am

Please bring your children, grandchildren and great-grand children to our Special Grandparent's Day Service as we honor, celebrate and thank YOU, our Grand-, and Great-Grandparents for the wonderful lives we enjoy today. Sign up at office by calling 622-4320, M-F, 8:00am-12:00pm. Let us know how many family members will be attending.

In conjunction with this service, we are asking all temple families to send us a "family photo" either electronically (office@wahiawahongwanji.org), or by dropping off at the office. We will leave up to you whether black and white or color, and how far back in your family line you wish to go. Some may have only recent photos, while other families may have pictures of great, and great, great grandparents. Please have your name and phone number on all photos and let us know if you wish to have hard-copy photos returned.

We will try to reserve one 8-1/2 x 11 page per family, depending on participation, in which case you can send one photo of older generation and another more recent photo, as long as they both fit on one page. Please identify everyone in your photos as best you can.

We will begin accepting photos immediately. Call 392-3253 if any questions.

AFFIRMATION RITES CEREMONY (KIE-SHIKI)

Date: October 21, 2018

Time: 1:00pm

Place: Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission

Affirmation Rites Ceremony will be officiated by Bishop Eric Matsumoto. During the Rites each participant will receive his/her own Homyo, or Dharma Buddhist name. It is a ritual that gives the recipient an awareness that he/she is becoming a follower of the Buddha's teachings, and is further hoped that through this ritual, one would gain conviction in his/her religion and that it would be a start into a life of a Buddhist.

If you wish to receive the Affirmation Rites, please call the temple office for more information and application form. Office Hours: M-F, 8:00am-12:00pm. Deadline: Friday, September 14, 2018.



Western Japan Flood Disaster Relief Fund

Summer 2018 flooding throughout Western Japan has killed over 220 people and dislocated many thousands. High temperatures and shortages of drinking water, food, and electricity have compounded the disaster. Members of 116 Jodo Shinshu temples were affected, with nearly 40 dead or missing.

Temple members in Hawaii can help by contributing to a **Special Relief Fund** established by Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. To contribute, please make out a check to: **Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission** and write "**Japan Flood Disaster**" on the memo line or use the Donate link at hongwanjihawaii.com. This special collection runs through August 31, 2018.

Namo Amida Butsu
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Acknowledgements *for May and June*

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Memorial Service

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Hatsubon

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Beatrice Adaniya
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Earl Wakamura
Edward Uyeda
Chiyoko Takata
Norman Fuji

Obon

Sumiko Yaji
Stanley K. Ibara
Marrion M Johnston
Charles & Helen Moriyama
Terri Nakasone

Obon-Memorial Ribbons

Lois Yamachika
Elaine J Kawamoto
Earl & Shirley Lee
Roseanne Sakamoto
Stanley K Ibara
Betsy T Mizuno
Hatsue Yanagida
Tanya Oshiro
James Sakane
M. Hisamoto, Trustee
Jay & Beverly Shintaku
Joanne Ancheta
Stanley T & Lillian M Shimoda
Ruth Maki
Margaret Kimura

Obon-Memorial Ribbons (cont'd)

Helen Ibara
Howard Hisamoto
Midori Hiromoto
Donald Hashimoto
Cynthia Kimura
Harry Endo
L Yoshikami

Temple Donation

Allen Murayama
Melvin Oshiro
Mabel Gushi
Elaine J Kawamoto
Peggy Tsukida
Robert & Bernice Koike
Martin Matsuura
Peggy Tsukida

有難う
ございます

"In the end only three
things matter:

How much you loved,
how gently you lived,
and
how gracefully you let
go of things not meant
for you."

Buddha