



# the Messenger

*Embrace Change:  
Harmony (Accept Change)*

## October 2018

20 Sat	9:00a	<b>110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration</b>
21 Sun	9:00a	<b>110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration</b>
	1:00p	<b>Affirmation Rites (Temple)</b>
25 Thu	7:30a	Hosha Kai
27 Sat	7:30a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
28 Sun	9:00a	Sunday Service
31 Wed	7:00a	Columbarium Cleaning

**Happy Halloween**



## November 2018

2 Fri	8:30a	Quilt Club (BWA Rm)
3 Sat	7:00a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
4 Sun	9:00a	<b>Eitaikyo Service</b>
8 Thu	7:30a	Hosha Kai
10 Sat	7:00a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
11 Sun	9:00a	Sunday Service
	10:00a	BWA Meeting (BWA Rm)
12 Mon	8:00a	<b>Veteran's Day Parade</b>
13 Tue	10:30a	Waiialua Monthly Service
16 Fri	8:30a	Quilt Club (BWA Rm)
17 Sat	7:00a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
18 Sun	9:00a	Sunday Service
	10:00a	WHM Board Meeting (BWA Rm)
21 Wed	7:30a	Hosha-Kai
22 Thu		<b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b>
24 Sat	7:00a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
25 Sun	9:00a	Sunday Service
	10:00a	Social Hour



## December 2018

1 Sat	7:00a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
2 Sun	9:00a	<b>Bodhi Day Service</b>
6 Thu	7:30a	Hosha Kai
8 Sat	7:00a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
9 Sun		No Sunday Service
	9:00a	<b>Temple Cleanup/General Membership Meeting/Lunch</b>
15 Sat	7:00a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
16 Sun	9:00a	Sunday Service
	10:00	Holiday Sing-A-Long/Social Hour
20 Thu	7:30a	Hosha Kai
21 Fri	9:00a	Monthly Service at The Plaza at Mililani
22 Sat	7:00a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
23 Sun	9:00a	Sunday Service – "Appreciation Tree"
25 Tue		<b>Merry Christmas!</b>
29 Sat	7:00a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
30 Sun	9:00a	Sunday Service – "Appreciation Service for the past year"
31 Mon	5:00-7:00p	<b>New Year's Eve-Bonsho Ringing</b>

Temple will be opened to allow the offering of incense

### Weekly Activities

(This schedule is subject to change)

Mon	9:00a	Calligraphy
	6:30p	Tai Chi for Health
Tue	9:00a	Blue Zone Walking Labyrinth
Wed	7:00a	Columbarium Cleaning
	8:30a	Yoga
	6:00p	Conversational Japanese
	7:00p	Kendo
Thu	6:00p	Aikido
	7:00p	Dancersize (BWA Rm)

## Reverend's Message

### Onko-Chishin (温故知新)



Last month the World Kendo Tournament was held in Korea. The Hawaii team participated and decided their theme would be "Onko-Chishin." "Onko-Chishin" means that "we will create a new idea from the past to fit into the present time."

This is a great theme that reminds us of what our ancestors have done for us and also teaches us to respect what they have left for us.

Our religion cherishes traditional rituals which help us to remember what we have received from our ancestors such as the memorial and religious services. From now on we not only follow the traditional ritual, but we also find new ideas and ways for merging them with the present.

Since coming to Wahiawa Hongwanji and with your support, many and varied activities have been attempted, some of which continue today.

- ❁ Dharma students conduct Sunday Service with the minister once a month to give them experience and confidence in public speaking.
- ❁ Use of technology, video and Internet to do Sunday Services.
- ❁ Visiting member's homes to establish a closer relationship between members and minister.
- ❁ Creation of Japanese language and calligraphy classes.
- ❁ In place of the traditional New Year's Eve Service, we now have an "Appreciation Service for the past year." Temple and community members are invited to offer incense and to ring the Bonsho.
- ❁ Slide shows of our deceased members have been created for our Hatsubon Service, Tsuito-E Service, and Eitaikyo Service
- ❁ A Bon Dance team has been formed that has introduced new and lively dance music attracting many more young people. The dance team also goes out into area schools to teach interested youth groups to dance. These groups come to help in our booths and dance at obon.

### 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](http://www.facebook.com/WahiawaHongwanji)

- ❁ Wahiawa Hongwanji started doing the benediction and now the invocation for the Veteran's Day Parade. Also for the past 4 years, Wahiawa Hongwanji has been invited to do the invocation for the annual Wahiawa War Memorial Ceremony. There has never been a Buddhist service/temple participating in any community event before Wahiawa Hongwanji.

I understand that change is hard to accept immediately, but our task is to improve or transfer the treasures which our ancestors left for us.

We will celebrate our 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wahiawa Hongwanji this October. We should work hard to keep our treasures and carry them onto the next generation. Please continue your support as much as you can.

In Gassho,



## President's Report

September started out with a very meaningful and successful Joint Conference with the theme, Embrace Change - Harmony (Accept Differences). For the first time this conference brought together a number of organizations which had heretofore held separate conferences on their own. These organizations are: Lay Association, BWA Association, Jr. YBA Federation, the Minister's Spouses Association, and the Dharma Educators. The meeting was held at the Ala Moana Hotel and over 380 people attended. It was very successful!



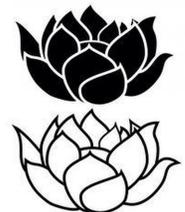
The following are my reflections of the event:

- The Jr. YBA played a significant role in helping to announce key events, being masters of ceremonies, and performing wonderfully as a fun-filled banquet. It was very good leadership training for the next generation.
- There were so many people from the neighbor islands in attendance. It was a great reunion of friends. Those who attend the Giseikai meet many people from the neighbor islands, but this conference truly provided us a chance to share ideas and meet many new faces.
- Many agreed that the Joint Conference *without the formal meetings* would be more fun and meaningful.
- The workshops were fun and everyone learned new things. I really enjoyed the workshop on the ukulele tips taught by a very talented band director of Kailua High School, Casey Kitano.
- Doug Chin, the Lt. Governor who recently lost in the primary election for our Congressional Representative position, was poised and well informed, and was able to cap his points with a great sense of humor. People were very impressed with his openness and wit. He talked about the stress associated with suing the President of the United States for his Executive Order against Muslim immigrants. He had gained support of federal judge, Judge Derek Kealoha Watson, and had won the support from three other judges on the Ninth Circuit Board of Appeals, only to be overturned by the Supreme Court. His lawsuit was based on the idea of "standing up against injustice for a people who are not protected."

### **"An attack on one group is an attack on all groups!!"**

He strongly correlated the similarities of what had happened during WWII when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 interning 117,000 Japanese Americans, many who were citizens. These citizens were interned "for national security reasons" on the assumption that "these people will NOT assimilate in the American culture."

- I sat listening to all of this while wishing that my children and grandchildren were able to hear this.
- There were a number of discussions relating to social justice, social concerns, and the need for more openness and understanding of all peoples.
- Bishop's key message was symbolized by a two-headed crane called the Gumyocho. The bird represents interdependence and harmony. The legend is that there was a two-headed bird that shared a body. Both heads thought as individuals and were jealous of each other. One day, one of the heads couldn't take it any longer and decided to poison the other head. Having a common body, both suffered and died. Upon reflection in the Pureland, they realized their interdependence and how important living in harmony was.
- Pieper Toyama emphasized the need for effective leadership and challenged that change begin AFTER the conference.
- The conference was very well planned and coordinated. Gay Tanaka and Rene Mansho, of Mililani Hongwanji, played major roles in changing the complete complexion of usual conferences. Dr. George Tanabe mentioned that it was the FIRST TIME, he ever attended a Hongwanji Conference that was actually FUN!! A great time was held by all--great meeting, great food, great music, and DANCING!



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### *I Alone*

The Reverend Dr. Jeff Wilson was our guest speaker at our annual Hanamatsuri service. It is the service that celebrates the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha in Lumbini Garden in India over 2500 years ago. It is told that Siddhartha Gautama's mother had a dream of a white elephant that approached her and she became pregnant. As was the tradition, she was on her way to her parents' home to give birth, when she started her labor contractions near Lumbini Garden.

When she gave birth, she did so standing up and the baby was born from her side. Unlike any normal baby, this baby stood up, took seven steps, bowed in the four directions, and then with one finger pointing up to the heavens and the other finger to the earth, he proclaimed: ***"I alone am the world-honored one."***

At this announcement sweet rains and flowers descended upon him. The gods and angels all rejoiced of his coming!

This is a story passed down for generations. The implications based on different times are vast. It is dependent on the environment and culture of the time. It is not unlike other legends and stories throughout history.

The story of the birth of the Buddha is symbolic. From the beginning, this baby prince is considered special. His mother, Maya, passed away soon after childbirth.

There are many interpretations about his actions after birth and two of these are:

- ❖ The Buddha is the center of the universe and all shall recognize this.
- ❖ The Buddha represents something we (all sentient beings) can be. The "awareness" or Buddha-nature, is in all of us and our life's journey is to continue to improve and seek this awareness.

Dr. Wilson says that the first interpretation is somewhat "ego-centric" and many Buddhist sects practice this "self-power" effort to awaken and seek enlightenment. The second interpretation is more in line with our Jodo Shinshu beliefs, and the shortened version of this "original" phrase is: "Namo Amida Butsu." This awakening can happen anytime during our lifetime and most assuredly will happen when this lifetime ends.

Another way of thinking this is that all of us are "ordinary people." It is an expression that confirms that we are all "ordinary" and despite this "ordinariness," we are still embraced by Amida Buddha through "Namo Amida Butsu." This means "Thank you, Amida Buddha," rather than the literal interpretation of "I alone am the world-honored one."

Other Buddhist sects interpret "Namo/u Amida Butsu" as "**please**." It is a kind of petitionary prayer to Amida Buddha. In Jodo Shinshu, we embrace the concept of Amida Buddha's compassion, and say "Namo Amida Butsu" simply as an expression of gratitude, a **THANK YOU!**

This short expression is simultaneously a shout of joy and a shout of independence. His seven steps away from his mother is symbolic of this. At the time, it was believed that there were six Realms of Existence. His seventh step transcended all the Realms. His turning back and bowing in the four directions is a symbol of gratitude to his mother, and all who came before him that made up an infinite number of lifetimes. This symbol of interdependence is fundamental in Buddhism.

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## *Eitai-kyo Endowment Fund*



The *Eitai-kyo Endowment Fund* is an emergency fund for the Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission (WHM). It was started decades ago as a way to recover from a catastrophe. A recent Board meeting approved a proposal to make it a true endowment fund with investment growth targets to sustain the temple into the future.

Monies will be invested and the dividends and interest from this investment will be accumulated for emergency funding when needed. As an example, if we were to have an endowment fund of \$1,000,000, we would have \$40,000 a year for special projects without risking the corpus. It is hoped that this Endowment Fund will grow to help future generations with the expenses associated with maintenance without impacting the original amount donated.

The goals of this endowment fund are:

- ❁ To perpetuate the *Eitai-kyo Endowment Fund* for future projects critical to WHM.
- ❁ To build a corpus to augment operational dollars for the maintenance of the campus through the use of investment dollars.
- ❁ Provide additional tax shelter for those members who can afford it.
- ❁ Provide a vehicle for future recognition in memoriam.

At our annual *Eitai-kyo Service* in November, we recognize those deceased members whose families have donated a minimum amount into the *Eitai-kyo Endowment Fund* in their memory. Families are invited to pay special tribute to their parents, grandparents, and friends. The Board approved a minimum of \$500 for this individual recognition. Monies can be accumulated over time.

If you have a question or would like to discuss further, or if you are interested in contributing into the Eitai-kyo Endowment Fund for your deceased family members or for your own future remembrance, please call the temple office for an appointment. Mon-Fri, 8:00am-12:00pm, 622.4320.

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The rest of September was filled with celebrating Grandparents Day featuring Vivian Murayama and Stephanie Oshiro, Fall Ohigan with Reverend Kawaji, and a special Poke' Bowl fundraiser that was very successful!

We have our 110th Anniversary Celebration coming up next month. Let's truly have FUN at this event!

In gassho,

(cont'd from pg 4)

All human institutions be it government, business or religion are based on stories passed on for generations. How these stories are interpreted for any specific time is critical to the survival of such institutions. In Jodo Shinshu through Shinran Shonin, we are told not to accept anything at face value. Our life journey is to understand and grow more aware of our own being in a balanced way by living this life in gratitude and appreciating our interdependence and impermanence.

Namo Amida Butsu!

In gassho,



## 2018 Veterans' Day Parade



### The 72nd Annual Lion's Club Veterans' Day Parade

on

Monday, November 12, 2018

Marchers and cheerleaders check in at the front of the temple by 8:00am. Wear your purple temple shirt\* or any purple, black or white shirt. Wear comfortable walking shoes, put on sunscreen and bring a hat. Cheerleaders don't forget your beach/lawn chairs. Marchers check in with Wendy Fukuhara upon your arrival at the temple. Cheerleaders check in with Mary Kawane.

Everyone is invited to join us for lunch in the Social Hall following the parade. Please sign up at the temple office so we can get an accurate headcount of marchers, cheerleaders and diners.

NEW THIS YEAR! We invite you to bring your pet dogs to join you in this walk and don't forget to sign them up, too! In keeping with the law, your pet must be on a leash and please have your baggies on you at all times.

For any questions, leave message for Wendy or Brian at the temple office. Monday-Friday, 8:00am-12:00pm, 622.4320.

\*A limited number of temple shirts have been received in the office for those needing to purchase.

## 2018-2019 Social Concerns Fund Drive

We celebrate gratitude in the month of November. The Thanksgiving holiday and the Eitaikyō observance are reminders of the countless blessings in our lives and how we live deeply connected to the world around us. It is in this spirit of gratitude that we begin our **Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive**.

Envelopes have been provided for your convenience. Your kokua is greatly appreciated. Mahalo!



*Gratitude  
is the best  
Attitude*