

AUGUST 2014 Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission

Phone: 808-622-4320 [Mon-Fri 8 am to 12 noon] email: office@wahiawahongwanji.org Website: www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org President: Mr. Glenn Hamamura Minister: Rev. Kojun Hashimoto (emergency calls only— cell # 772-1904)

<u>Joy Amidst Sadness</u> Permission to reprint by Rev. Koshin Ogui White River Buddhist Temple

I once met a person who was able to find joy amidst sadness. It was back in 1979 when I was living in Cleveland, Ohio. I received a call from the chaplain of the Metropolitan Hospital. The chaplain said there is a patient with AIDS who is near the end of his life and has requested prayers from various local world religious leaders. He called to ask if I could offer the patient a prayer as a representative of the Buddhist religion. Honestly, I did not want to go to visit this patient. But being that I was the only Buddhist minister in the Cleveland area, I felt that I had no choice but to comply with the chaplain's request.

Back in 1979, research on AIDS was still new and not much was known about this scary disease, let alone any proper known treatment. When I arrived at the hospital, I was asked to put on a gown, mask and rubber gloves and was then escorted into the patient's room. The patient was a Caucasian man lying in bed on his side, his face drawn, his eyes sunken in. I couldn't find any proper words of prayer to offer this man. As I stood there silently, he spoke to me with a very weak voice, "I am going to die soon. Please offer me a Buddhist prayer." When I heard his words,"....I'm going to die," for some reason, these words moved me to respond in this strange way. "I am going to die too. I drove here today to see you. On my way home, I may be involved in a traffic accident and who knows, I may die before you." Rolling his large, sunken eyes at me, he said to me disappointedly, "You're a strange priest. Other priests who have come to visit me had wonderful words of prayer for me." Not being able to meet his expectations, I apologized to him and left the hospital. That night, I laid in bed reflecting on the day.

The next day, to my surprise, I received a call from the hospital chaplain again. He said that the AIDS patient that I visited yesterday would like to see me again. Reluctantly, I went back to the hospital. Upon entering his room, the patient said to me in a shortened breath, "You know, last night I couldn't sleep at all. I was up all night thinking. What you said to me was true. All I was thinking about was my own death. Like you said, you could have died before me on your way home in a car accident, and I would still be alive because I can't drive and therefore, there was no chance of me being in such an accident."

From that moment on, my meeting with this AIDS patient took on remarkable meaning and it led to my meeting with him a number of more times after. Each time, I would have to gown up, put on a mask and rubber gloves, and disinfect myself prior to entering his ICU room. At times, I thought this was such a pain. But in my once a week visits with him, I gradually became moved by his interest and enthusiasm.

The following event happened during my third visit with him. It happened to be lunchtime when I arrived at his room. He was complaining about how awful the hospital food was. Just as he was about to put a piece of beef in his mouth, I grabbed his arm and asked him, "What's that?" Startled, he looked up at me with a frightened look and replied, "It's beef." I responded by saying, "Ah, so the cow sacrificed its own life so that it could help to sustain your life....YOU who is about to die!" After a moment of silence, his hand began to tremble and tears began to roll down his cheeks. Then he said, "The food on the plate is shining! Life is shining!" Moved by his words and action, I, too, was moved to tears. Before I knew it, I had placed my hands in gassho.



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WHM newsletter is published by friends of the Dharma. Volunteers are welcome to serve on the committee. Please send comments and change of address to WHM office or email at news@wahiawahongwanji.org. Roy Higa, Editor



President's Message

Glenn Hamamura

I hope you were able to participate in the June Obon activities this year. We are continually improving our work efforts towards this temple and community activity. The Jan-

terns and memorial ribbons went up a few days earlier this year, and they provided a visual reminder of the events for the last weekend in June. The Bon Dance debuted the temple's 'Take-Daiko' performers (bamboo drumming), and we had a new Bon Dance towel design from a painting by Neal Tomita. We had new food dishes, more children's games, new dances, temple guides, and many other smaller changes. To make this event a reality, temple members, their families, and the community volunteered for the many roles required in this event.

Thanks to all the volunteers – besides your work contribution towards a successful event, we hope that you also had a good experience at the Bon Dance.

August is the month we are now having the Obon services, both English and Japanese. Please check the calendar for the date. The Hatsubon service is also in August, and will be held on a Saturday evening. This service celebrates the first year memorial for temple members who have passed away in the year since the last service.

Please check the newsletter for other activities that are being planned for you and your families. We continue on our journey to make the temple a collaborative environment at which we can create positive life experiences for all of us.

In Gassho

Glenn Hamamura



Buddhist Thoughts

Filling gaps

As 2013 came to a close, I found myself faced with the tradition of getting "our house in order" completed before year's end. It took me two days to do my assigned duties. In the process, it provided yet another opportunity to reflect on how lucky I am for all that we have.

I remembered us doing the same thing growing up in Wahiawa. My mother was a real stickler in cleaning windows just perfectly...with Bon Ami and razor blades and old newspapers! I remember at the time, how I thought this was such a pain, as we all knew that the next day, Wahiawa's rain would again spot those windows.

They say that one tends to marry a woman who has Rod Moriyama similar traits as mother. My wife is no exception. Thank goodness! I am NOT a perfectionist by any means...she is! So cleaning anything, the entry way,

the two balconies, the glass sliding doors, the cars, etc., become real points of contention. Because she has to babysit our grandsons, I used that opportunity to do some cleaning on my own. Otherwise, I could never finish anything because she would always have yet another comment about where I missed something.

Of course, it doesn't matter if prior to my cleaning, the (fill in the blank) was filthy, and the result was at least 150% better. Do we get credit for getting something DONE??

In Buddhism, we are "accepted as we are." But I guess this doesn't mean, "No need for improvement!" This tradeoff of perfectionism and "good enough" haunts us throughout modern society. Having a positive focus for improvement AND accepting a little progress is the delicate balance of how Buddhists may approach life. Can you think of examples?

I am so lucky that I am accepted as I am by my wife of 42 years, with all my "bonbu" faults. Our lives are intertwined and we balance our relationship constantly. We fill each other's gaps! She stays up late, I go to sleep early. She does things in an exacting way, including presenting every meal just right. I tend to get through things as quickly as possible. In preparing dinner (rare occasion), I cook with getting things ready to eat in mind, but not how it's presented. It's taken her 42 years, to get me to improve to where I am. I wonder what's in store for me todav.

Namu Amida Butsu! In Gassho,



Continue from page 1...

After a few moments passed, he shouted in a crying voice, "I am being allowed to live because of the life of the cow! I am being allowed to live because of the life of the vegetables! I am being allowed to live this life because of so many things! Why didn't I realize this before?" What a wondrous experience this was. To myself, I thought, how could such a reaction and how could such words come from a person in this situation. How wondrous it all was.

A few days later, I had a meeting with the patient's doctor and nurse. They said to me, "You must have really had an impact on him. He now puts his hands together and is able to express his gratitude and say thank you to us." Up to now, he did nothing but complain and feel sorry for himself, criticize others and become angry at not knowing what was going to happen with his life. He became nothing but a problem and a pain to his doctors and nurses, and all other people that he came in contact with. It got to a point where no one wanted to go into his room.

Upon subsequent visits, when I entered his room, he greeted me each time with his hands in gassho. From then on, our meetings with each other began by putting our hands together in gassho towards each other. On occasion, we may not have had much to say to each other. Our meetings, however, were moved by the warmth that was in both our hearts and mind.

Near the patient's pillow, taped to the headboard, was a piece of paper with the following words:

"My life is not only my life, but the life of other's sacrifices, kindness, thoughtfulness and patience. I am grateful. Gassho."

About three weeks later, I received a call from the hospital chaplain. He informed me that the patient had passed away. In a letter the patient wrote and left for me, he said, "Because of AIDS, I was able to meet you. And I was able to meet with such a beautiful and wonderful teaching. I was also able to learn how to put my hands in gassho. I was able to realize how fortunate I was to have been born a human being and to live this life. Now I am grateful to AIDS. I don't have much money left, but please have a drink on me. Thank you very much. Gassho. "There, in the envelope together with the letter, was some money.

Returning to the temple, I chanted a sutra by myself. Reflecting upon this remarkable encounter, similarly remarkable tears began to flow from my eyes. This experience was certainly beyond any ideal encounter, I was able to meet with someone who found *joy amidst great suffering and sadness.*

THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

What to Say & What Not to Say to Those Facing Illness

"Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment."

-Benjamin Franklin

hen facing the illness of a friend, family member or colleague, even eloquent and heartfelt words of comfort can make us sound cliché and awkward. We worry we'll say the wrong thing and make our loved one feel worse. Most of us simply do not know what to say when we first learn of a loved one's illness.

Although everyone deals with illness differently, experts advise not to avoid the issue. Initially, a simple statement—I heard about your illness; I'm so sorry—may be the right thing to say.

Here are some things **not** to say, with more appropriate words of support.

- What can I do to help? This question puts the burden back on the person who is ill. Instead, offer to help in specific ways, such as driving the person to and from medical appointments, picking the kids up at school, housecleaning for him/her, cooking her/his favorite meal and dropping it off, babysitting, dog walking, grocery shopping.
- My thoughts and prayers are with you. While this expression is well received by some, it is cliché. Instead, say, I love you, and pray without announcing it.
- Offering medical, alternative therapy or nutrition advice. People suffering from illness report being besieged by health advice from family, friends, acquaintances, complete strangers, all of whom mean well. If you feel compelled to offer advice, first ask if your loved one is open to receiving it.
- Everything will be okay. You don't know that to be true. Say, instead, I'm always here for you.
- You look great. Even if it's true, it will sound like a lie. Say, instead, I love that color on you. Or, your eyes are so bright and beautiful.

Submitted by Glenn Hamamura

PROJECT DANA NEWS

IN MEMORY AND WITH MUCH GRATITUDE TO OUR BELOVED FOUNDER, MRS. SHIMEJI KANAZAWA

Mrs. Shimeji Kanazawa, the Beloved Founder



Project of Dana. passed away on April 7, 2014 at the age of 98. Known as "Shim" to everyone, she is Hawaii's original pioneer of aging issues. She has been advocating for programs and

services that help our senior population for more than 45 years serving all of Hawaii's governors since Statehood. She led the Hawaii delegation to the White House Conference on Aging 3 times held once every ten years. She served as a member of the National Council on Aging, a body that advises the President and U.S. Senate on aging issues. Shim founded Project Dana in 1989, served as Advisory Council Chair and has a title of Chair Emerita of The Project.

In her memory and own words, the following are excerpts from an interview she gave. We hope this article, in a small way, provides insight to Shim's wisdom, foresight, compassionate caring and how she felt of The Project, her dream.

"The thought of starting Project Dana resulted from my first meeting as a Trustee of the National Federation of Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Inc. I was deeply impressed with the assistance given to those in need by people of many faiths across the country. It occurred to me that the Buddhist Community of Hawaii could develop a parallel program to meet the challenge given by Monshu Koshin Ohtani (an International Buddhist leader). In his Kyoso (teachings) on April 1, 1980..."Break out from the shell of isolation, egocentricity and selfishness and become actively concerned with the society and its wellbeing..."

"Virginia Schiaffino, Former Executive Director of NFIVC, Inc. has given us invaluable assistance and guidance to start. The leaders of Honpa Hongwanji encouraged Moiliili Hongwanji Mission to take the

leadership. Dr. Mary Bitterman, a member of the Advisory Council, prepared the first funding proposal to the Public Welfare Foundation of Washington D.C.

We were most pleased to have Rose Nakamura as administrator. She is a volunteer extraordinaire. She developed The Project into a very successful interfaith caregiving program with a small and capable staff and corps of well-trained and devoted volunteers. The Project serves as a community resource that perpetuates cultural traditions and fosters good citizenship and service to others.

The name "Dana" meaning selfless giving was recommended by the late Ruth Tabrah, Buddhist Minister and internationally known author.

Lessons learned:

We view in ever bolder relief the enormous value of the volunteers who provide important services to the elderly and to families in distress. Each volunteer makes life better for those in need by way of a smile, kind companionship, or a helping hand—priceless contributions given from the heart without expectation of praise or reimbursement. The Spirit of Dana and selfless giving have been significant values that motivate and inspire volunteers.

Mahalo to Project Dana volunteers – special people who make life truly beautiful.

Vision for the future:

Project Dana's mission to assist the older adults to remain at home and age in place through volunteer services should continue. As the aging population increases, more seniors would need assistance and more volunteers would be needed in our ever-aging community.

Project Dana's vision is to foster a caring community in Hawaii by promoting volunteer opportunities for all ages, i.e. involve younger children with parents, and youth to be involved in the total aging process. The direction to encourage intergenerational experiential occasions is important."

At age 98, "A Heart of Gold" best describes Shim Kanazawa who has devoted her life to better Hawaii's communities.

Submitted by WHM Project Dana representative, Rusty Nakagawa

Temple News

Rev. Marvin Harada came to Hawaii to conduct the summer session at the Buddhist Study Center from July 28 - August 1, 2014. He also had a seminar at the Aiea Hongwanji on July 27. His presence in Hawaii reminded me of his book I encountered at the Federation of Dharma School Teachers League Conference in San Mateo, California two years ago entitled, *Discovering Buddhism in Everyday Life*. From the introduction of the book, Rev. Harada shared the following:

Buddhism is all around us, if you 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 in libraries, or in the brains of Buddhist masters and teachers. I think that Buddhism, the truth of the Dharma, lies nowhere than right in front of my own eyes.

This book was published to commemorate Rev. Harada's 25 years of ministry at the Orange County Buddhist Church. It is a collection of selected Dharma messages he had written in their monthly newsletter, the *Korin* (Wheel of Light) during that time. I have selected one of them to share at temple at the July 20 service while Rev. Hashimoto is vacationing in Japan for members who are not able to attend the workshops, but would still be able to hear his words.

SEPTEMBER 2009

A Farewell to Fluffy

Last month we lost a member of our family, our pet cat, Fluffy. Fluffy has been with us for nearly 17 years. She has grown up with our kids from pre-school until their college years.

I can remember the first day she came into our lives. Keiko was about 5 years old and was attending a pre-school in Garden Grove. Someone had discarded

a litter of kittens at the pre-school and they were trying to find homes for the kittens. Keiko came into our house carrying little Fluffy. She asked me, "Can we keep her?" How could anyone say no to that? I had grown up on a farm and we always had a pet dog and at least several stray cats who always found their way to our farm somehow. It was an easy decision to keep Fluffy.

I don't remember who named her, but I think it was Keiko. Of all of us, Keiko would become Fluffy's closest friend and companion, but we all loved her just the same. If there were four laps to be sat on, it was always Keiko's that she jumped on. They would play together and chase each other around the house. Keiko seemed to understand her and was able to communicate and connect with her on almost a cat like level.

When our kids were young, Fluffy was part of the going to bed ritual. Keiko would go to bed first, and Fluffy would lay with her until she fell asleep. Then later when Riki would go to sleep, she would lay with him on his bed until he went to sleep. Then sometime later when Gail and I would go to bed Fluffy would join us with her loud purring. It was like having one of the kids sleep with us. This was an evening ritual that Fluffy continued for many years.

I am sure that many of you have had a pet cat, dog, bird, or other animal and have experienced how they become a part of your family. It is no less of a loss as any member of a family to lose a pet.

After Fluffy died, we had a little service in front of our family Obutsudan, and we chanted the Juseige. I turned to my kids and gave a short message. I said that when we brought Fluffy home, an abandoned kitten, we gave her a home, but ultimately she gave more to us. Her companionship, her friendship, gave us much more than we ever gave her in a home, cat food, and kitty litter. How wonderful to live your life and to leave behind more than you took from life. How many humans can say when their life comes to an end, that they made a greater contribution to lives of others than they took from the world?

One little cat loved and warmed the hearts of a family for 17 years. Could I as a human even come close to that when my life someday comes to an end? I doubt it.

In Buddhism, all beings are regarded as sentient beings. Humans are not regarded as superior to other beings. Humans are merely one of many sentient beings. Animals are sentient beings, too. As humans, we stand on the same ground as all other beings, we begin to learn from other beings. We become humbled, because we realize that our legacies that we hope to leave behind, like fortunes and homes, real estate and fancy cars, are really not such great things as we might think they are. Can we leave behind a simple legacy, like that of warming the hearts of others, when we leave this world?

Shakyamuni Buddha and Shinran Shonin left a legacy of no material value. Their legacy was of spiritual value. They not only warmed the hearts of others, their teachings and their way of living illuminated the hearts of others. They left a legacy of light, that illuminated their hearts and minds, and illuminated the hearts and minds of others, and they too illuminated the hearts and minds of others, and on and on, this light of the Dharma has been transmitted.

Fluffy teaches me that what person can give to the world can be something so simple, but yet so significant, so meaningful. To give warmth and light to others, that is something, our pets can give to us, it is something our loved ones give to us, it is something Buddha gives to us. If we can live our life and transmit even just a flicker of this light, if we can transmit just a few degrees of warmth, then our life would have been most worthy and valuable.

BWA MONTHLY BRIEFS

2014 STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM final de-

tails are being put in place for the welcoming of this year's exchange student from Japan, who will spend 2 nights in Honolulu, 2 nights with Oahu District, 2 nights on Kauai and 2 nights with Federation. While with Oahu District, we will be giving her the grand tour of the North Shore, making sure we stop at Matsumoto Shave Ice, of course! That night is potluck dinner at Mililani Hongwanji before the final stop of the day, "Kawamoto Bed & Breakfast". Thank you, Elaine and Richard, for your hospitality.

The next day will find us visiting Dole Plantation, Waipahu Plantation Village and Germaine's Luau. Second home stay night will either be at the Hashimoto's or maybe back at the Kawamoto's.

We do not see Ms. Tajima again until Wednesday, August 6, 2014, 12:00pm, at Hawaiian Airlines, where we will bid her good-bye as she returns to Japan.

BISHOP SELECTION.... the Hawaii Federation BWA has been asked to participate in the Bishop selection process. Bishop Eric Matsumoto's first term will be ending in early 2015, and while he is still eligible for a second term, the Bishop Selection Committee is seeking up to two nominations for the Bishop's position. An honor to be a part of the Bishop selection, WHM BWA members deliberated earnestly before unanimously voting to re-nominate Bishop Matsumoto for a second term. Thank you, ladies for your participation in this process.

OUHHBWA 56th ANNUAL CONVENTION is set for Saturday, October 4, 2014 from 8:30am - 1:15pm. Hosting temple is Pearl City Hongwanji. Guest speaker will be Joan Masaki, OUHHBWA Immediate Past President, speaking on, "Quilting in Japanese and Buddhist History". Please sign up with Doris by Sunday, August 3, 2014.

OUHHBWA RENGO MEETING Sunday, August 17, 2014, 1:00pm, at Waipahu Hongwanji. Directors representing WHM will be Doris Matsuoka, Lana Bender, and Dale Shimaura.

NEXT WHM BWA MEETING.... Sunday, August 24,2014 at 10:00am.

BWA DONATES NEW STOVE.... just in time! The new electric stove received almost immediate initiation as it was delivered just days prior to the start of Obon preparations! Thank you Alfred and Cal for picking up and installing the unit for us. A much needed item that the temple will make good use of for many years to come. Thank you, ladies for your generosity! (No more 2-hour heating time for pizzas!!!)

199,000 CRANES.... the Hawaii Federation BWA is participating in the Peace Day Campaign to fold 199,000 cranes to send to Hiroshima as part of this years Peace Day Celebration. WHM BWA ladies have already folded well over 1,000 cranes, and are continuing the effort by now involving their family members and friends. Leading the campaign for Wahiawa is Doris Matsuoka. Thank you, Doris, and thank you ladies for showing such spirit!

RETIREMENT OF HIS EMINENCY KOSHIN OHTANI...

. took place in June 2014. The Hawaii Federation BWA has asked Honzan to initiate and write a Resolution of Appreciation for Lady Noriko Ohtani, which they hope to present at the World Convention in Calgary, Canada in May 2015.

BWA 15th WORLD CONVENTION.... to be held in Calgary, Canada in May 2015. There are still available spaces. Now open to all Buddhist women. Subsidy available for WHM BWA members who represent Wahiawa Hongwanji. Interested members should contact any WHM BWA member.

BWA 16th WORLD CONVENTION... will be held in San Francisco, California on August 31-September 1, 2019. The Buddhist Churches of America will host. Fundraising efforts to support this activity are currently underway at WHM.

Don't forget, if you miss a meeting, please make sure you stop by the temple office to pick up a copy of the meeting agenda and minutes, so you can keep up with all that is going on. Agenda/Minutes will be in an envelope in the BWA Box in the temple office. Ask if you are unsure where the BWA box is located. And please date and sign for your copy, and for whomever else you may be picking up for.

ATTENTION - ALL 2014 OBON VOLUNTEERS!

Everyone who participated in the preparation leading up to Obon, the two nights at the festivities, and clean-up on Sunday, please sign up to join us in our Post-Obon Get-Together" on Saturday, August 23, 2014 from 3:00-8:00pm in the temple Social Hall.

We will have hot food available during the entire time (including plenty of Alfred's "chicken papaya soup") so plan to drop by when convenient for you. All we ask is that you please sign up in the office by 12noon on August 19, 2014, so we can prepare adequately.

Our purpose is to personally thank as many of you as we can reach, and to enjoy a leisurely meal together. This will also be an opportunity for anyone wishing, to share their experiences or suggestions for the future.

We hope to see you there!

2014 Obon Committee

<u>Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin</u> <u>Buddhist Education Committee</u> <u>SAVE THE DATE</u>

AUTUMN OHIGAN-PEACE WEEK A "TALK STORY" WITH

REVEREND WILL MASUDA

Saturday, September 20, 2014 8:30 am to 12 pm JODO SHIN PERSPECTIVES ON PEACE: HOW TO

EXPRESS PEACE

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O - BON DANCE

Bon Dance Preparation

Temple members are working for the opening of 2014 WHM Bon dance festivities.



		Aı	August 2014	14		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1		128:30a-10:30a Quilt Club6p Waialua Hatsubon(BWA Room)7p-8p Waialua Bon1p-4p Mahjong - BWADanceRm	2 6p Waialua Hatsubon 7p-8p Waialua Bon Dance
3 9a-10a Sunday Service 10a-12p BWA Meeting (BWA Room) 10a-11a Sangha Strum- mers Takedaiko #1	4	5 11a Calligraphy #1	6 6p Conversational Japanese #1 7:30p Calligraphy #1	7 7:30a-10:30a Hosha Kai 1p-4p Mahjong - BWA 9:30a Conversational Rm Japanese #1	8 1p-4p Mahjong - BWA Rm	 9 7:30a Altar Awareness 6:30p-7:30p Hatsubon Service @ WHM 7:30p-8:30p Hatsubon Refreshment Hour - (WHM Social Hall)
10 8:30a-9:30a Japanese Obon Service @WHM 10a-11a English Obon Service @WHM Takedaiko #2	7	12 11a Calligraphy #2	13 6p Conversational Japanese #2 7:30p Calligraphy #2	14 7p-8p Club Asoka Meeting BWA Room 9:30a Conversational Japanese #2	15 8:30a-10:30a Quilt Club (BWA Room) 1p-4p Mahjong - BWA Rm 7p Mililani Bon Dance	16
 17 9a-10a Sunday Service- Kahuku Hongwanji Reminiscence @ WHM 10:30a-12p WHM Board meeting Takedaiko #3 	18	19 11a Calligraphy #3	20 6p Conversational Japanese #3 7:30p Calligraphy #3	21 7:30a-10:30a Hosha Kai 11a-12p Hospital Visita- tion (PD) 9:30a Conversational Japanese #3	22 1p-4p Mahjong - BWA Rm 6:30p Dharma Shaka	23 1p Dharma Shaka 3p Obon Thank yous
y Service ele Group eting	25	26 11a Calligraphy #4	27 6p Conversational Japanese #4 7:30p Calligraphy #4	28 9:30a Conversational Japanese #4	29 1p-4p Mahjong - BWA Rm	30
31 9a-10a Sunday Service Takedaiko #5	Notes:					