



The Messenger

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness

To All Concerned,

After much deliberation, the Wahiawa Hongwanji Board of Directors has decided to cancel the Wahiawa Obon Festival originally scheduled for June 26 and 27, 2020. The health and safety of our temple members and the community in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak is the utmost importance to us.

With the uncertainty as to when we will emerge from this pandemic, we have decided to cancel rather than postpone the event. We are still in discussion about whether Hatsubon and Obon Services will be held later this year.

It is through situations like this that we are once again reminded how impermanent and interdependent we all are. It is also very clear how important communication with everyone is as we continue to go through this pandemic. With that in mind, we urge that you provide us with an email address or that of your family member so we may communicate news more efficiently.

Embraced by the Infinite Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha, we will get through this situation together. Let us continue to support each other and the temple as we move forward.

Namo Amida Butsu!

In gassho,

Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

Rodney S. Moriyama
President

Minister's Message

Life is a daily encounter with the Dharma

Hi, everyone. I would like to share a message written by Mr. Daiei Kaneko. His message told us what we should do in our daily life as Nembutsu followers.



One of Rennyō Shōnin's followers by the name of Zenju is mentioned in passage 197 of the Rennyō Shōnin Gichidaiki-kikigaki. He assisted Rennyō Shōnin in rebuilding the Hongwanji in Omi Kanemori (present-day Moriyama City, Shiga prefecture) where he resided. Once, someone asked Zenju, who was in his eighties, if he had ever been bored. Zenju replied that he had not and he explained as follows:

Since I always try to be mindful of Amida's benevolence and read the various Wasan and Shinshū scriptures, my heart is filled with happiness. Further, because I feel such reverence for Amida, I have never been bored in my life.

This is none other than a manifestation of the joy from the Dharma by someone who has been nurtured by the teaching of the truth. A Nembutsu follower, Zentaro, from Arihuku, Shimane prefecture stayed up all night with his Dharma friends, intoning the Nembutsu and talking about how grateful they were for Amida's teaching. In this way, Zentaro's life, which did not know tedium, was like the Nembutsu teachings every day. Similarly, another of Rennyō Shōnin's followers, Kyōmon-bo, said, *"Even if I were to listen to the Dharma my whole life, I would never get tired of it."* These are the words that we should deeply contemplate.

In Japanese, Monpo means "to listen to the Dharma teaching," and therefore also religious-oriented dialogs. This is because Monpo is to converse and discuss the Dharma; that is, to listen and converse, and to converse and listen. Monpo is not listening because you think that you are going to hear something new or wondrous. It is to hear one thing (the Buddha Dharma), and so it is important to have the mindset of listening to the revered Dharma teaching as if you were listening to it for the first time. Likewise, Rennyō Shōnin said, *"Listening to the Dharma (Monpo) is to listen to the truth in Buddha Dharma which never changes, and so one should listen as if one were listening to the Dharma for the first time."* This is how those people who have received Shinjin listen to the teaching.

During this uncertain time, we can take comfort in reviewing what we have listened to from the Dharma teaching.

President's Report

In times of isolation, staying connected in some way becomes so important. We are attempting to promote a better way of communicating through our social media (Facebook) and our website at wahiawashinbuddhists.org. Please go to our website where we have posted Dharma talks and services from many temples both here in Hawaii and on the mainland.



With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing worldwide, we prudently cancelled our Obon festivities on June 26,27. Since Obon weekend generates about 25% of our annual revenues, we really need to ask the membership and the public for their donations and support. These can include remembrances of family members online, annual Obon donations, and general donations via a new software called, Bloomerang. We will still plan on having our Hatsubon and Obon Services sometime in August when the “stay-at-home” restriction is hopefully lifted.

Bloomerang was approved for implementation. As a result of months of updating our manual database and finally, sending out our newsletters, and gojikai letters, we are now able to have a current way to generate donation letters, and solicitations, as well as IRS reporting letters. We will be able to analyze our data so that we can follow generational connections and announce special events such as Tsuito-E and Eitaikyo services.

We have been using electronic, online meetings capability throughout all of our meetings with the Board, the Executive Committee, the Oahu District meetings, and Honpa Hongwanji Board and Committee meetings.

In times of high stress and concerns, we continue to keep our community connected with phone calls and funny stories and emails. The term of “Social Distancing” is coupled with the idea of “Social Solidarity.” We hope that the world and our nation will see the true nature of this pandemic as a way to “WAKE UP” our self-centered focus and truly appreciate the important little things as we follow our teachings. Namo Amida Butsu!

In gassho,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rodney S. Moriyama". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Rodney S. Moriyama

Calendar of Events - REVISED

Events subject to change or cancellation due to COVID-19 State and/or City & County of Honolulu Rules, Orders & Proclamations

May

17 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service

17 Sun 4:00pm PBA 14th Annual Taiko Festival; Pearl City Cultural Center

22 Fri 9:30am Service at The Plaza at Mililani

23 Sat Oahu District English Seminar-Waipahu; Bishop Tatsuya Aoki, Canada

24 Sun 9:00am Gotan-E Service-Guest Speaker: Rev. Thomas Okano

30 Sat 10:00am BZ Cooking Demonstration-Ethnic Noodles

31 Sun No Sunday Service - 9:00am WHM Mid-Year Cleaning

Office Hours: By appointment 808.622.4320

Columbarium Hours: CLOSED until further notice

President: Rod Moriyama

Minister: Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

Vice Presidents (alphabetically): Karen Pang, Dale Shimaura, Carolyn Uchiyama

Secretary: Amy Kanemaru

Treasurer: Alan Kakazu

Website: wahiawashinbuddhist.org

Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission

1067 California Avenue

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