



Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission

JUNE 2015

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WAHIAWA HONGWANJI BON DANCE

WELCOME TO WHM BON DANCE

**JUNE 26-27, 2015
FRIDAY, SATURDAY
7pm to 10pm.**

Come and purchase your special edition WHM bon dance towel and have it autographed by the artist, WHM member, Neal Tomita.

Obon Speaker for June 14th

Keith Haugen was our speaker last year, talking about Obon, which he based on his research and his years of experience attending Obon services in Japan.

He participated in the festivals and gained an appreciation of the value that the Japanese people had for the Obon festival. He continued participating in Hawaii, realizing that it was a community social event for all. It did not matter if you were Buddhist or not. Those of you who heard him speak last year, will recall his thoughts about the tradition of the festival and the changes in format and dances that he has observed here and elsewhere. He shared his insights about these changes and why they should be acceptable when today the religious meaning is fading.

He wrote and produced a one-hour program called "Obon", which is aired on Hawaii Public Radio near the beginning of the Obon season. It will be the basis of his presentation with some changes. Many of you expressed that you enjoyed his presentation and wanted to have him back this year. So hope you will make it on June 14th! Please encourage your family and friends to attend.

In Gassho, Yuki Kitagawa

Some Things To Look For:

- H&H (Homemade & Handmade) Country Store
- Silent Auction
- Food Booth
- Signature Mochi
- Andagi
- WHM Takedaiko Performance
- Children's Games
- Specialty Shave Ice
- Taiyaki
- Kim Chee Pancakes

Note of interest:

The guiding purpose of *Bon Odori* is to set aside the ego through "unselfconscious" dancing. Participation is customarily diverse—with young and old, formally trained and informally trained dancers, Japanese Americans and non-Japanese Americans and many others.

Come on out and enjoy an evening of dancing, eating, meeting of old and new friends, and just having a good fun time!

"Unselfconscious"-not suffering from or exhibiting self-consciousness; not shy or embarrassed.





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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
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President's Message

Glenn Hamamura

There are many reasons to be a part of the Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission. Our Bon Dance held during the 4th weekend of June is one of many family oriented events that we provide for our members and the general public. Its goal is to have a safe and fun activity celebrating part of the cultural heritage of the temple. On another level, it is an opportunity for our volunteers to develop their 'Buddhist Leadership' skills as they run different parts of the event.

One of the imperatives for our temple leaders is to have our actions and behaviors guided by our Buddhist values. I call this 'Buddhist Leadership', which I believe could be the basis for effective leadership in any organization. Leadership styles have been changing for the past 30+ years to align to the Knowledge Economy that is now dominant in the United States and most of the world. Its characteristics include a focus on collaboration and team building. Buddhism's core values align well to this leadership style. There may be many aspects to Buddhist values from different people, but here are my guiding principles for our leaders.

1. Remember that we are all connected, and that what we do affects others in some fashion.
 - a. This is the concept of interdependence in Buddhism.
 - b. For leaders, this means to consider all the key stakeholders in any situation, and to understand their needs. We may not be able to satisfy all needs, but thoughtful consideration is key. Listening is key.
 - c. Also consider the needs of the collective organization, which is our responsibility.
 - d. We could also consider 'Wisdom' as part of this thoughtful consideration.
2. Be guided by compassion
 - a. The universe provides this compassion, and we need to recognize that it can exist just as the three poisons also exist. But we choose how we act, and in that choice we can demonstrate and support compassion.
 - b. For leaders, this means how we lead and guide our volunteers. Are we using the right words and actions to ensure that they have opportunities to contribute and grow? We shape the opportunities in the present moment to demonstrate compassion, or other behaviors. It's a choice.
3. Be responsible for your thoughts and actions
 - a. This is Buddhist self responsibility.
 - b. For leaders, this is to take appropriate action, guided by the other two principles.
 - c. The world is complex, and leadership is required to listen, think, and act to the best possible fit to a particular situation. Buddhist Leadership needs to deeply consider the situation, knowing that we need to seek the best balance in all situations.

Our temple leaders will do our best to provide the best Bon Dance for you. Please join us in our leadership journey if you want to learn and practice these principles. Reading about them is one level, doing them, and feeling the result, is the desired level of learning.

— In Gassho, —

Glenn Hamamura



REVEREND'S MESSAGE

Dharma Talk Theme for this month is Han-Sei "Reflection"

We ≥ i

Have you seen this logo "HE>i" before? I often see this logo when I am driving. I did not understand what this logo meant. It occurred to me that this may be a teenager's fantasy about being in love. But when I researched this logo on the website, I understood what this logo meant.

Here is the explanation; "He must become greater and greater, I must become less and less. He is greater than I" (Quoted by HE>i website)

According to their website, the idea came in 2003 on the North Shore of Oahu. *While trying to think of something clever to put on the main screen of a Nokia phone, the '>' symbol seemed to stick out. John 3:30 (from the Bible) came to mind. It's one of our all-time favorite verses. It says, 'He must become greater and greater; I must become less and less.'* (Quoted by HE>i website)

When I understood the meaning of this logo, I remembered the poem below;

"Minoruhodoni Kobegatareru Inahokana"
The boughs that bear most, hang lowest.

This poem teaches us the following: When we get older, we are faced with many issues. At the same time, we realize there are many supports, like a cane, wheel chair, or other

people's kindness. Even though we are faced with many issues, we have many chances to appreciate others. This is a great opportunity.

In Jodo Shinshu teachings:

"The ice of blind passions melt and becomes the water of virtues." (Quoted by the collected works of Shinran Vol. I P62) And in the Shoshinge: *"All foolish beings, whether good or evil, when they hear and entrust to Amida's universal Vow, are praised by the Buddha as people of vast and excellent understanding; Such a person is called a pure white lotus."* (Quoted by Jodo Shinshu Service Book P17)

When we hear the Nembutsu teaching, we gradually reduce the thought of "I" and think of "We". Even though Amida Buddha is greatest for us, Amida Buddha views us equally as a Buddha.

In short, I thought of our Logo as a Buddhist is "We ≥ i". The point is "=", our Buddhist thought is Oneness. This logo says that even though we are all different personalities, we gradually become one under Amida Buddha. We praise each other as a Buddha.

In Gassho,

Rev. Hashimoto

Buddhist Thoughts

The Proper Funeral

In his book, *Tariki*, Hiroyuki Itsuki describes a passage in Shinran's memoirs. The scene is a funeral which Shinran attended. The "deceased love ones crowded around the body, weeping and lamenting." The monk was scolding them explaining that this should be a moment of celebration when the deceased enters the Pure land.

Shinran recommends otherwise. He instructs that the grievors should drink enough sake' to banish the sadness and evoke fond memories of the deceased so laughter fills the air.

Itsuki says:

"Every person is fared to die from the moment of birth. When we realize this, we are

bound to feel a fundamental, indescribable grief in our heart, our gut, our very bones."

There are four events completely out of our control. They are: birth, sickness, aging and death. To worry about this reality is not very productive...and yet we do.

What are we doing today to generate those fond memories AND relating those memories to our loved ones? These are the memories and stories that perpetuate the legacy of our being. Although both my parents died relatively young, and most of my time was spent away from Hawaii, I still hold on to their stories and lessons deep in my heart.

Just now, I was interrupted by my grandson. He wanted me to play the toy xylophone with him.

There are two songs I know by heart on the piano. They are "Twinkle, twinkle little star" and "Mary had a little lamb." These songs evoke memories of my mother's younger sister who taught me how to play the piano after Japanese school at the Morioka's on Mala Street in Wahiawa. When I play these songs, seemingly "by ear" on the xylophone, our grandson grins in delight to my wife's amazement! So many memories and good stories....

I know all of you must have so many of these hidden in your hearts. Tell them to your loved ones so your best experiences are shared and remembered. Namu Amida Butsu!

In gassho,
Rod Moriama

Be thankful for the bad things in life.

For they opened your eyes to the good things you weren't paying attention to before!



"By benefit of Infinite Light, true entrusting is magnificent. The ice of desire is melted to become the water of Nirvana. Our desires are the essence of Nirvana, like the relation of ice and water. The more ice, the more water: the more desire, the more Nirvana."

Quote from Shinran

So, be thankful for the bad things in life.

Plans For An Exciting 2015 Obon Festival In The Works

This year we feature the third, and possibly last, of our Limited Edition Bon Dance towels. The inspiration came from a water-color painting donated by temple member, Neal Tomita, for our 2012 Silent Auction. We will again set up a table where Neal will autograph your designer towels.

Our Country Store, now called the "H&H Country Store" (H&H for Homemade & Handmade), will feature what else, but "homemade" and "handmade" items. Note: Many things that go on sale will be "one of a kind!" Suggestion: Come early and make the "H&H Country Store" your first stop!

Members of our temple, BWA, Quilt Club and many others are busy creating and making things, often using material, yarn and other supplies donated to the temple. You'll find these items on display at the Silent Auction or for sale at the "H&H Country Store."

Check out the items at the Silent Auction in the Social Hall. First take a tour of all that's on display, then put in your "bids" for those items you wish to take home with you. Check back often throughout the evening to "up your bids" if you need to, or take your chances and hope you're the highest bidder. Winners will be announced between 9:00-9:30pm each night. Highest bidder wins!

Our food booths will offer "ono" plate lunches, saimin, hot dogs, chow fun, andagi, our specialty shave ice and our signature mochi. We will also have our popular "yaki tori", "taiyaki" and "kim chee pancake". So bring your families, friends and relatives and plan to stay the evening for dining and dancing!

Bring the kids too and take them to enjoy the children's game booths. There will be our ever-popular Fish Pond, where everyone gets a chance to "hook that really BIG one!" Don't forget the Duck Pond, and other games, as we continue to improve and

expand on activities for our "keiki."

But let us not forget that the purpose of Obon is to honor all those who came before us. Besides attending the festivities, you can also honor your deceased family members by purchasing our traditional Memorial Ribbons. These ribbons will adorn the lanterns around the yagura. Special red bows will distinguish those observing their Hatsubon (1st year observance). What a wonderful way to honor your loved ones and enjoy the Obon festivities.

Your 2015 Obon Memorial Ribbon Order Form is included in this issue of the newsletter. Completed forms and payment are due in the temple office by 12noon on Friday, June 12, 2015. Handwritten ribbons will be available after the deadline.

Temple Visit

Many appreciated the opportunity last year for a close-up look at the inside of the temple. So, this year we will once again open our temple doors and invite all to come in. There will be temple guides to answer any questions.

Children's Lantern Parade

Our lantern parade at 7:00pm will open each night's festivities. The parade around the yagura will feature the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of our temple members.

We ask all parents to have their children dressed in their kimono or happi coats and lined up along the railing between the temple and office by 6:45pm on both nights. Please pick your children up at the same location.

Children's Dance

Our temple children will be inviting all children in the audience to join them when they dance the "Tanko Bushi," at approximately 7:20pm on both nights. An announcement will be made over the speaker.

Continued on the next page...

Bon Dance Practice

Dance practice for everyone will be held on Sunday — June 7, 14 and 21 in the Social Hall from 2:30-3:30pm.

Okinawa dance practice will be held on Monday, June 22 in the Social Hall from 7:00-8:00pm.

No refreshments, please!

No Parking in Temple Lot

Once again we thank you in advance for helping to keep all vehicles off temple grounds during the dance. The parking lot will be closed at 4:30pm on both days. Those who will be working throughout the night can park on the grass area, but remember that you must be parked by 4:30pm, and you will not be able to leave until after the dance. All deliveries and drop-offs after 4:30pm will be at the main entrance. The side gate (Plum Street) will be open for walk-in traffic only. Security will be present at both entrances.

Volunteer Help

Success of our Obon depends on your support. Please participate in whatever way you can.

We are looking for men and women willing and able to help us right now with preparations -- sewing, cooking, crafting, sorting, packing, bagging, etc.

If you are interested in helping, please call 622-4320, or come into the office to sign up. Office hours: Monday-Friday between 8:30-12:00noon.

If interested in working in one of the booths, you must be able to start at 6:00pm, to receive your assignment and instructions, so that we can begin food service on time.

All those who sign up will be contacted by a committee member.

Country Store/Silent Auction

Donations

Here are more ways in which you can get involved

with Obon. You can "make" or "bake" one of your favorite craft or food items to sell in our country store. Or, have you received a gift item which is still in your closet and you do not plan to use? We will take any new or unused item, preferable still in its original box, for our Silent Auction.

You can donate for Friday (6/26), or Saturday (6/27), or for both nights. Bring your donations to the office by 12:00 noon each day. Indicate on the item whether it's for the H&H Country Store or for the Silent Auction.

Non-perishable items will be accepted starting Monday, June 15, during temple office hours (M-F, 8:30am-12:00pm). Best to call the office (622-4320) first to make sure someone will be available to receive your items.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sun	June 07	No service Temple clean-up at 8am Bon dance leaders' meeting immediately following. Bon dance practice at 2:30pm
Thu	June 11	Yagura set-up by Hosha
Sun	June 14	Sunday Service at 9am. Guest speaker: Keith Haugen Bon dance practice at 2:30pm
Sun	June 21	No service Hanging of lanterns and Memorial Ribbons at 8am Bon dance practice at 2:30pm
Wed	June 24	Set up of tents, tables, chairs and decorate yagura at 8am
Thu	June 25	Food preparation at 8am
Fri	June 26	Food preparation at 8am Parking lot closes at 4:30pm Obon festivities begin at 7:00pm
Sat	June 27	Food prep at 8am Parking lot closes at 4:30pm Obon festivities begin at 7:00pm
Sun	June 28	No service Take down yagura, lanterns, ribbons, etc, and clean-up at 8am.

Yuki in charge of logistics (setting up and taking down).
Dale overall chair.

Hodge-Podge

Egg Puff Recipe

By Joyce Shimokusu

1 pound ham (or bacon or sausage)
12 eggs, beaten
1 (16 ounce) container cottage cheese
4 cups cheddar (or Monterey Jack cheese, shredded)
½ cup all-purpose flour
½ cup butter, melted (optional)
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt

Optional:

1 (7 ounce) can diced, green chili peppers,
Mexican-style with Monterey Jack cheese,
Mushrooms, Tomatoes, Spinach, Others???

Cook meat, if needed, and crumble. Mix together eggs, cottage cheese, cheddar cheese, and meat (and other veggies if desired). Stir in flour, baking powder, butter and salt. Spoon into 24 greased muffin cups and bake for approximately 25-30 minutes at 350 degrees.

WHITE WAY RADIO BROADCAST

Please tune in to Radio KZOO (1210AM dial) for Moiliili Hongwanji's White Way Radio Broadcast each Saturday from 7:45-8:00 a.m. Here is the upcoming schedule.

June	7	Rev. Richard Tennes
	13	Rev. Mieko Majima
	20	Rev. Kazunori Takahashi
	27	Rev. Thomas Okano

Donations for Nepal Disaster

- Through your local temple. Make checks payable to **Your Temple** and designate **ALOHA FOR NEPAL** in the memo section. All donations will be forwarded to Hawaii Kyodan Headquarters.
- Online through the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii website. Visit www.hongwanjihawaii.com and make a secure credit or debit card donation via PayPal.

Please send in your donations by Monday,
June 1, 2015.

Remember When

Short Story by Mutt Tsujimura-1999

Many decades ago, in my rice bag underwear days (-30s-), my classmates and I spent many hours at our Wahiawa Hongwanji.

During the week, after attending elementary school classes which were at the present Wahiawa Hospital, we would walk to our Japanese language class at our temple. Old class photos show that everyone, including girls, were mostly barefoot. Our temple at that time was a tiny wooden structure and our Sensei was Reverend Hino. Our Japanese school teacher was Mrs. Yamaguchi. The temple grounds were not paved as it is today so it was ideal to play marbles and other games before and after school. During our annual bon dance, the air was very dusty like an animal stampede. In the lower back yard, the church members built a baseball field and we had much fun playing games there. Early Saturday

mornings before Japanese class we practiced calligraphy on the wooden floor of the Temple using old newspapers to write on.

Occasionally, the Hakoda family showed movies *in the social hall and if it was a Japanese show a Benshi* (narrator) would tell the story on stage with much emotion.

During that period (30s), nearby Cane St. was the center of our little town and the railroad that hauled pineapple to Honolulu ran next to it. My favorite store was Tai Sing store which sold crack seed. Also, there was a big dance hall for the single Filipino plantation workers. The best restaurant on Cane Street was the Shibuya Railroad Café. There were also several pool halls for adults. The only store that is still open after all these years is Sawada store.

When WWII war started in 1941, our temple was closed down and the classrooms became part of Leilehua High School for the duration of the war.

June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9a Knit Class - BWA 7:45p Meditation - BWA	2	3 8a Columb Clean 6p Conv Japanese 7p Kendo - SH	4	5 8:30a Quilt Club - BWA 1p Mahjong - BWA	6 NO Temple Cleanup
7 8a Temple cleanup 9a NO Sunday Svc @ WHM 1p Takedaiko - SH 2:30p Bon Dance Prac - SH	8 9a Knit Class - BWA 7:45p Meditation - BWA	9	10 8a Columb Clean 6p Conv Japanese 7p Kendo - SH	11 7:30a Hosha Kai 7p Club Asoka - BWA	12 1p Mahjong - BWA	13
14 <i>Flag Day</i> 9a Sun Svc - Guest Speaker Keith Haugen 10a BWA Mtg - BWA 10a Budd 101 - BWA 1p Takedaiko - SH 2:30p Bon Dance Prac - SH	15 9a Knit Class - BWA 7:45p Meditation - BWA	16	17 8a Columb Clean 7p Kendo - SH	18 11a Hospital Visit (Proj Dana)	19 8:30a Quilt Club - BWA 1p Mahjong - BWA	20 7a SH-Clean No Temple Cleanup 6p Ewa HM Hatsubon 7p Ewa HM Obon
21 <i>Father's Day / Summer Solstice</i> 8a Obon Setup 9a NO Sun Svc 1p Takedaiko - SH 2:30p Bon Dance Prac - SH	22 9a Knit Class - BWA 7:45p Meditation - BWA	23	24 8a Columb Clean 7p Kendo - SH	25 7:30a Hosha Kai	26 7p WHM Obon	27 7p WHM Obon
28 8a Obon Clean up 9a NO Sun Svc 1p Takedaiko - SH	29 9a Knit Class - BWA 7:45p Meditation - BWA	30	Notes:			