



Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission

OCTOBER 2013

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Website: www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org

President: Mr. Glenn Hamamura - Minister: Rev. Kojun Hashimoto



Carrie Kawamoto member of the Mililani Hongwanji Mission wrote two very inspiring lyrics, both of which have won first place in the last two State Music Committee Gatha Lyrics Contests.

May Peace Prevail

Lyrics by Carrie Kawamoto,
Music by Takeo Kudo

Let Peace live as we talk
With kindness in our voice
Embraced in Buddha's Light
May Peace, Tranquility,
Prevail Throughout the World.

Let Peace live as we learn
With eyes that self-reflect
To always light our way
May Peace, Tranquility, Prevail
Throughout the World.

Let Peace live as we help
With rays of gratitude
Connecting hearts and hands
May Peace, Tranquility, Prevail
Throughout the World.

Let's talk with everyone
Let's learn from everyone
Lend help to everyone
That Peace, Tranquility may Spread
Throughout the World

Namo Amida Butsu
Namo Amida Butsu
Namo Amida Butsu

Buddha's Great Light

Lyrics by Carrie Kawamoto,
Music by Jennifer Taira

In times of difficulty I say Namu Amida Butsu
Doing my best with a calm heart,
Thankful for my life as it's given
Living in embrace of Buddha's Great Light
Of Wisdom and Compassion.

In times of gratitude I say Namu Amida Butsu
Doing good no matter how small,
Reaching out with a warm heart
Always in embrace of Buddha's Great Light
Of Wisdom and Compassion.

With hands of heart in gassho I say
Namu Amida Butsu
Spreading spirit of living with brave hearts
Spreading spirit of caring, helping others
Buddha's Great Light shines into all hearts.
Namo Amida Butsu, Namu Amida Butsu.
Namo Amida Butsu, Namu Amida Butsu.



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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



President's Message

Glenn Hamamura

President's Report October 2013

We are again rushing towards the end of another calendar year. There are many activities and events yet planned, and I encourage you to check the calendar and participate in the ones that offer you value.

We completed a review of the Bon Dance a few weeks ago, and have identified the areas in which we are doing well, and also opportunities for improvement in the future. The time we have spent over the past five years are producing results. Under the leadership of people like Dale Shimauro, Elaine Kawamoto, Alfred Paulino, Lana Bender, Carolyn Uchiyama, and Jerry Ogata, the signature booths and activities that define the Wahiawa Hongwanji Bon Dance continue to improve. Our alliances with several of the varsity sports teams from Leilehua High School are providing energy and manpower to propel the activities. New leaders have stepped forward to run events that are generating significant profit – JoAnn Nagatori ran the silent auction, and Amy Kanemaru and Charlene Acohido supported the General Store. Thanks also to Neal Tomita, for his towel design, part of our strategy for creating a Wahiawa Hongwanji brand. My apologies for the many other leaders whose names I did not list.

Our focus for the next Bon Dance will consider sustainability – from the perspective of volunteers and leaders as well as activities and events that will continue to engage the attendees. Oh, and we want to keep the revenue increasing.

Reverend Arthur Kauffman was our guest speaker at the Fall Ohigan service. I enjoyed his Dharma talk, and in particular, reflected on a statement he made about Memorial Services – that the service was a gift from our past family members to us, to allow us an opportunity to collectively reflect on our lives, and how we have been influenced by our interactions. When Reverend Makino spoke earlier this year, a statement he made also resonated with me, and is consistent with my understanding of the value of the service. He said that there is a Japanese saying that a person dies twice: once at the passing of the physical body, and the second time when the last person who knew him/her passes away. From this perspective, our Memorial Service practice continues our relationship with our past family members, and they continue to influence our desire to live the best possible lives we can.

Our infrastructure continues to challenge our Hosha members. After completing the major reroofing project in early August, they had to deal with a plumbing emergency that required significant work over the Labor Day weekend. I asked them to keep for me the section of pipe that had broken, so if anyone needs to be convinced that our buildings are aging, come into the office and ask to view the broken pipe segment. Our philosophy continues to be 'don't pass any problems down to the next generation – fix it now'.

We should be starting our multi-year fund raising effort soon. I hope that you will consider participating in it to help the temple continue its support of our members and the community.

In Gassho,


Glenn Hamamura



REVEREND'S MESSAGE

Mon-Po

I heard a minister from another sect say, “Jodo Shinshu teaching is so easy. You just listen to the teachings of the Buddha. You don’t need any hard practices. Can you become an enlightened one in the future by such an easy practice?”

Actually our Jodo Shinshu teaching says, “Listening to the Dharma is the most important practice. Just listen to the Dharma.” But I don’t think listening to the Dharma is such an easy practice. Even though the Nembutsu teaching says to just listen to the Dharma, it is hard for me to just listen to it. “Just listen” means I hear it as it is. However, I sometimes think of others things when I am listening to the Dharma. For instance, I think about lunch or another schedule.

The teachings of Buddhism can give different insights to different people. “Just listen” takes into consideration this difference. That is why I emphasize: please have your own questions to Buddhism and try to find the answers to your question by listening to the Dharma and connecting it with your life.

Let me share this story.

A minister asked a man, “Why don’t you come to the temple to listen to the Dharma?”

“Sorry, I don’t have time to listen to it. I am so busy at work,” the man replied.

“Why are you so busy?” asked the minister.

“I have to work,” answered the man.

“Why do you have to work so hard?” asked the minister.

“Of course, if I don’t work, I cannot eat anymore and I will die,” shouted the man.

Then the minister asked the final question, “Oh, you said if you cannot eat the food, you will die. That tells me if you keep eating the food, you will not die. Is this true?”

“Well, I cannot say I will never die even though I have food,” the man answered.

The minister wanted to tell the man that being “busy” is not a reason to not have the time to listen to the teachings. Having food does not lead to salvation from our suffering. The question of how we can live our life in our limited time can be found in the teachings. That is why we should listen to the true teachings to solve our problems.

In the book of the teachings of Buddha, the sun rises in the eastern sky and clears away the darkness of the world without prejudice or favoritism toward any particular region. In the same way Buddha’s compassion encompasses all people, encouraging them to do right, and guides them against evil. Thus, he clears away the darkness of ignorance and leads people to enlightenment.

Listening to the Dharma helps prepare us to overcome problems that we cannot control.

The eighth Abbot of Hongwanji, Rennyō Shōnin, said, “Don’t give the excuse that I don’t have the time to listen to the Dharma. You should make time for listening to the Dharma.”

So, do not hesitate to come to the temple and please listen carefully to the true teachings with your own questions. In the future, your questions will grow deeper as your understanding grows.

Buddhist Thoughts

Lychee and Other Memories

It's another babysitting day and we just returned from the outside after picking lychee. The giant tree in the backyard is full of luscious red lychee...yum! It was baby James' first experience with eating lychee and he loved it!

The lychee was very sweet and had a very small seed. We didn't "bolo" the tree because we always leave some for another day. It brought back memories of our lychee tree in Wahiawa that grew in our front yard. The link with taste buds and the times together with family sharing locally grown fruits is always with you. It could be bananas, lychee, guava, avocado, papaya, lilikoi, even pineapple! How lucky we are!

James, who is 15 months old, goes out daily from his Aiea Heights home with Nana to pick Surinam cherries! These red berries are rather tart and no one but Nana and James eats them. I suspect these will also imprint in James' memory as he grows up with these fond memories of Nana, painstakingly peeling little morsels of fruit to put into his waiting mouth.

When our children were growing up in southern California, we used to take visitors to the "country" to pick cherries and peaches. "All you can eat while you pick" was the slogan as we picked buckets of fruits and ate to our hearts content. I wonder if these memories are imprinted in their memories as well. It's not like picking them from your backyard, but the taste is unforgettable.

When we talk of memories in Buddhism, it must be these memories of tasting luscious fruit in concert with family get-togethers that make this experience part of the memories talked about for generations to come. This is what is meant when loved ones "live forever" in our hearts. Have you had those conversations? I believe it's an important part of life.
Namu Amida Butsu.

In Gassho,

Rod Moriyama

Buddhism Facts

1. **Buddhists do not worship any God**; neither do they worship Buddha. They simply acknowledge him as the founder of the religion, and strictly follow his teachings of enlightenment. He is highly respected among the members of the religion, and his venerable teachings are incorporated into Buddhism doctrine.
2. **Buddhism is ranked as the fourth largest religion in the universe**, and it is more dominant in the Far East with an increasing prominence in the West. Similarly, it is one of the oldest religions; with over 2500 years of existence. The religion has managed to develop into different sects during its history, with a particular segment of the religion putting more emphasis on the worship of deities or the practice of religious rituals. The other segment of Buddhism rejects both, and advocate for pure meditation. All the Buddhists are, however, bound together by the common teachings of Buddha.
3. **Buddhism is branched into three**: Theravada, Vajrayana and Mahayana. Whereas Theravada is the oldest of the religion and stresses more on monastic life, Vajrayana is the unique sect of the religion that traces its roots to India and Tibet; and is under the leadership of the Dalai Lama. In spite of them sharing a common heritage, they all hold differentiated views on how life should be lived.
4. **Buddhism is built under strong principles** that work to help its members live a good life. These principles include: using senses correctly, speaking kindly, avoiding alcohol and drugs, never hurting any living organism and not taking advantage of what is not present. All the teachings will center around one thing- the right living.

TEMPLE NEWS

Next Calligraphy and Conversational Japanese Class Session. Interested parties should call the temple office at 622-4320 between 8:00am-12:00noon for dates, times and sign-up.

Member Orientation. Next Member Orientation will be on Sunday, October 27, 2013, following Sunday service. This session is meant especially for our new members, but everyone is welcome to join in. We will cover "everything you want to know about WHM."

Kagoshima Home Stay Program 2014. One of Rev. Hashimoto's goals is to spread the Nembutsu teachings by forging relationships not only within our community, but also throughout the world. Rev. Hashimoto has a special relationship with the Kagoshima Betsuin, where he was assigned in his earlier years in Japan. Through this connection he has been able to establish a home stay program between WHM and Kagoshima Betsuin, through which he believes we will be able to learn and understand the culture of Japan and history of our Nembutsu teachings.

It will be an exciting 7-night trip from March 15-23, 2014. The trip will include an overnight stay in Fukuoka, 2-nights at the Kagoshima Betsuin on tatami mats, and 4-nights home stay. Also included are tours to Chiran Peace Museum, Tateyama Nembutsudo, and Sakurajima, and experiencing a sand bath. On the last day we will visit Kumamoto Castle and Canal City for shopping before our return flight to Honolulu.

Approximate cost is \$1,700 - \$2,000 per person, based on double occupancy; single supplement +\$40.

There will be a meeting on Monday, October 21, 2014, at 7:00pm in the Fujinkai Room for anyone interested in this trip. All questions will be answered and applications distributed at this time.

Veteran's Day Parade. Mark your calendars for Monday, Nov. 11, 2013, for the 67th Annual Veteran's Day Parade. This parade is meant to honor and thank our many veterans who so honorably served our country. Theme this year is "Remember Our Veterans."

We will assemble at 8:00am in the WHM parking lot. This year we will be marching in the beginning half of the line-up so we won't have that long wait at Kaala School. This will make it easier especially for our young ones. Wear your purple temple shirt and comfortable walking shoes.

Thank our Veterans and support your temple by signing up to march or cheer.

2013 Mochi Project. Early reminder that our mochi project is right around the corner. Look for your Order Form in next month's newsletter.

Interfaith Celebration Friday, September 20, 2013 the Pacific Buddhist Academy celebrated "A Peace of Aloha" that brought together various members of the interfaith community to celebrate Peace Day. It opened with the powerful ringing of the kansho together with the taiko by the students of PBA. Bishop Matsumoto and the ministers chanted the Sanbujo and included the "raining" of colorful flower petals.

The evening was interspersed with reflections of peace by different members of the religious community. The following are selected thoughts by some of the speakers:

- Rev. Tatsuo Muneto of Hawaii Betsuin referred to Confucius who developed a way of becoming peaceful. A person who had beauty in character would create harmony that would bring order in a nation to bring peace in the world.
- Vicki Lepick of St. Andrew's Priory said that inner peace would lead to peace in the world.
- Rev. Sam Domingo of the Kilohana United Methodist Church quoted "Blessed are the peacemakers." There is a movement for better understanding of who we are and learning how to live together.

Masago Asai represented the Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace. Her mother is a survivor of the bombing at Nagasaki. Since coming to Hawaii she has found that people are accepted even though they are different. Her mentors in the interfaith community believe that a spiritual cleansing will bring peace into the world.

- Rev. Timothy Mason of the Calvary by the Sea Lutheran Church feels that peace comes when people's stomachs are full. Being on the Board of the Foodbank he finds people have food insecurity - they don't know where their next meal is coming from. It is a danger to peace when people are hungry. To improve this condition, he suggested that we should go beyond ourselves to help, and befriend our neighbor, help them improve their property, and be of service to them with their homes. Harmonious relationships bring peace to our neighborhoods.

Dr. Pat Masters of the Hawaii Association of International Buddhists quoted the Dalai Lama, "Religion is kindness (metta)." We should extend our kindness to all—even those we might not like and in that way we will extend it in every situation. Kindness is a powerful emotion that will lead to healing and peace.

The entertainment ran the gamut from an *Oli* by Lehua Matsuoka to a taiko piece by Hyaku Sen Ki Kai Taiko *Hana Hachijo* to the song *Namaste* by the Calvary by the Sea Lutheran Church Choir to the PBA students singing *Let it Begin With Me* to the Hawaii Betsuin Choir singing *Where Peaceful Water Flow* to Brandi Yamamoto singing *Nada Sou Sou* in Japanese, English, and Hawaiian.

The highlight of the evening was hearing Yuji Sasaki singing "Inori." He composed this song imaging what Sadako was feeling during her illness with leukemia even though she did not complain about the pain she might have been experiencing.

Following Yuji's stirring rendition of "Inori", his father Masahiro explained that the crane represents the spirit of Sadako who passed away on October 25, 1955. Surrounded by family, friends, and teachers, she said, "Thank you, thank you," to everyone. Her tiny crane is a "small peace" from a compassionate heart that will lead to a "larger peace". On Saturday, September 22, Masahiro will go to Pearl Harbor for the unveiling of Sadako's crane. Even though Japan started the war with the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Sadako's tiny crane is a small compassionate "peace" that will begin to heal the world.

In Closing Rev. Kyle Lovett of the Church of the Crossroads ended with - the world is still broken, mouths are still unfed, many areas are still in constant danger. What do we do? Ease the suffering of others and fill your heart with confidence to walk on the path towards peace.

Dharma School News Dharma Sunday will be on October 13 and the MC will be Shoshi Hashimoto. Dharma School will be held on October 20 and 27. The students will also be learning about Sadako Sasaki whose family presented her crane to Hawaii. Students will continue studying about the lives of the Buddha and Shinran Shonin.

St. Stephen's Food Collection Thank you for your generous donations to the Food Pantry. Please turn in your canned goods on October 13, Dharma Sunday for the St. Stephen's Food Pantry. Let's work together to help the people in the Wahiawa community. A person's or family's day is brightened with your contributions.

Announcements October 5 - "Buddhism in the Living Arts" at Wahiawa Hongwanji

FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL — 9/11



BWA MONTHLY BRIEFS

Fifteen BWA ladies participated in the Elder Care Visitation to “Aged To Perfection” on August 28, 2013. Wahiawa Hongwanji BWA represented the Oahu District and spent the morning singing, dancing and doing a craft activity with the participants of the center. The program concluded with the presentation of a check for \$100 from the OUHHBWA, and the distribution of paper butterflies, hand-made by the members of the Wahiawa BWA, to everyone present. It was a very gratifying and most rewarding experience enjoyed by all. Thank you, Doris Matsuoka, for the hard work that went into planning and arranging this activity, and thank you ladies for your participation in helping to make this a successful event.



BWA ladies were also very visible at the Pineapple Festival Parade on Aug. 17, 2013, as they cheered the weary marchers on at the finish line. Many also helped in the kitchen with the preparation of lunch. Thank you all for your participation.

The annual Tsuito-E Memorial Service honors the deceased members of the Wahiawa Hongwanji Buddhist Women’s Association (BWA). The service enables us to remember loved ones who have passed on to the Pure Land.

Invitations were mailed in early September. Family members, relatives, friends and all interested parties are welcome to attend and participate in fellowship.

Date: Sunday, October 6, 2013
Time: 10:30am (Corrected time)
Place: WHM Temple

Lunch and fellowship to follow in the social hall.
Please call Dale at 392-3253 for any questions.

OUHHBWA 55th Annual Convention is being hosted by Waipahu Hongwanji on Saturday, October 26, 2013, from 8:30am – 1:30pm. This year’s theme is “Path of Entrusting, Live the Teaching”. Speaker will be Ms. Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, Volunteer Member of the AARP Hawaii Executive Council. Lunch cost is \$10.00.

BWA 2014 Membership Dues of \$15.00 is now being collected by Treasurer Louise Stevens. Checks should be made out to: Wahiawa Hongwanji/BWA, and sent in by December 31, 2013. We are required to send Oahu District assessment in early 2014, which in turn will be forwarded to Federation by March 2014. Thanking you in advance for putting this matter on your “Priority List”.

-NEXT BWA MONTHLY MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2013 AT 10:00AM

NEWS FROM ABROAD

Letter to Doris . . .

Glad to hear you had a nice vacation. It seems like we have 2 different ends of the world yet have a great time. It is good to hear you get to see your brother and visiting different colleges. Sorry you didn't get rich overnight! Glad you didn't get poor though!

I am in a small island off Malaysia. The weather is perfect. I am lucky to be here at this time of the year. I am so blessed to meet all the great people around the world. There are no ATMs, no Internet cafes, no markets... all on solar energy. I have a little chalet right off the water. The community is mostly Muslim . This is the month of Ramadan and they mostly fast during daylight. There's still coral in the ocean and you don't need to snorkel far to find Nemo. At night we go fishing for squid at the pier and if you don't want to go home, you can sleep there. Nobody bothers you. It is so clean, everywhere. Can you imagine doing so in Hawaii? The owner is very kind. He would get me fruit when he goes to town which requires a boat trip. One guy caught 2 squids and he cooked them for us. I just love being here. Three Vietnamese work here in construction. They do not speak Malaysian so it is funny that I am here in the midst of nowhere and I can translate for the owner. There are also many French tourists and I enjoy speaking with them in French.

You take care. And please send my love and hugs to everyone. I often think of our temple when I see the mosques here... And I prefer our simplicity.

Ha Phan

(Following her retirement as an Engineer, Ha began attending Sunday services at WHM, until she decided to go on vacation. It's been over a year and Ha is still travelling, but she keeps in touch through her correspondence with Doris Matsuoka.)

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(First Blessing Service for Infant as a Buddhist)



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Please call the office 622-4320 to report any errors.

If you do not want your name to be published, please mark your donation
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October 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7p-9p Dharma Group Mtg (BWA Rm)	3 7:30a-10:30a Hosha Kai	4 8:30a-10:30a Quilt Club (BWA Rm)	5 7:30a-4p Temple/SH/BWA - Nembutsu Seminar. POC Carolyn Uchiyama (Entire campus - Temple\, BWA\, SH)
6 10:30a-2p Tsuito-E Svc & Social Hall	7	8	9	10 7p-8p Club Asoka Meeting BWA Room	11	12
13 9a-10a Sunday Service 10a-12p Soc Hall BWA Meeting	14 Columbus Day	15	16	17 7:30a-10:30a Hosha Kai 11a-12p 11:am Hospital Visitation (PD)	18 8:30a-10:30a Quilt Club (BWA Rm)	19
20 9a-10a Sunday Service and Dharma School 10a-11a Board Meeting	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 9a-10a Sunday Service	28	29	30	31 Halloween 7:30a-10:30a Hosha Kai	Notes: Rev. Dharma Talk Theme for this month is Mon-Po.	

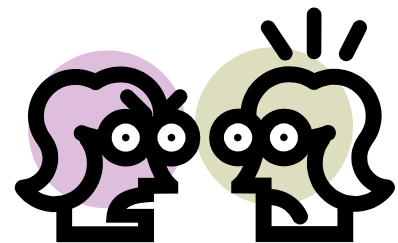
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Angry is a habit and Meditation can help make the change

It's easy to imagine habits like a beer before dinner, biting your nails or saying, "you know" after every sentence. An event or a time of day triggers us, and we go with the it. It's easier than exploring new territory--it's merely a thoughtless response to an incoming trigger. hab-

But emotions can become habits as well.
Distrustful is a habit.
Lonely is a habit.
Generous is a habit.



When that stranger doesn't do what you expect, is your response to assume that she's out to get you, trying to make an extra buck, looking for a shortcut? Or do you default to the habit of giving that new person a chance to explain herself?

Habits are great when they help us get what we want. Bad habits, on the other hand, are bad because the shortcut that satisfies us in the moment gets in the way of our long term goals.

Once you can see that your emotions are as much as a habit as cracking your knuckles, they're a lot easier to work with.