



# The Messenger

*Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness*

## Calendar of Events

### REVISED April 2023

- 02 Sun 9:30 am Hawaii Buddhist Council Hanamatsuri Service at Jodo Mission of Hawaii and on YouTube Live - HBC YouTube channel.
- 08 Sat 9:00am - 3:00pm Meditation Retreat in the Social Hall with Dr. Patrick Jichaku
- 09 Sun NO Sunday Service
- 16 Sun 9:00 am WHM Buddha Day/Hanamatsuri Service
- 23 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 30 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

### May 2023

- 07 Sun 9:00 am Baccalaureate Service
- 14 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 21 Sun 9:00 am Gotan-E Service
- 28 Sun NO Sunday Service

## Columbarium is Open

Thank you for your patience. The columbarium is now open from 10:00am - 3:00pm. We are experiencing a volunteer shortage, so we kindly ask that if you bring a flower offering, you come back in a week's time to remove your flowers and wash the vase. If you are interested in volunteering in the columbarium, please call the WHM office at 808-622-4320. Volunteers usually meet on Saturdays from 8:00am - 9:00am.



## Hanamatsuri Flowers Needed

HANAMATSURI is a service held in April to honor the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha in Lumbini Garden, in India.

We are in need of flowers to decorate our hanamido for Hanamatsuri. If you are able to, please drop off the flowers at the WHM Social Hall on Saturday, April 15 from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm. If you are unable to come at this time, please contact Amy at 808-621-8893 to make other arrangements. Thank you!



## 2023 Baccalaureate Service

If you know of a Spring 2023 high school, college or technical school graduate that would like to participate in our Baccalaureate Service on May 7th, please contact Amy Kanemaru at 808-621-8893 or email [amy.kanemaru@gmail.com](mailto:amy.kanemaru@gmail.com) by April 9th.

# Minister's Message - Myo-go



Our primal practice is listening to the teachings of the Buddha.  
How should we receive the Jodo-Shinshu teachings?  
What thoughts of gratitude should we be thinking?

1. *Who* - Buddha
2. *Whom*- Me
3. *When* – Now
4. *Where* – Here
5. *Why* – to learn and preach the teachings of the Buddha
6. *Result* – Through Amida's compassion, I am accepted into the Pure Land.

The Buddha taught us the teachings which lead me to be born into the Pure Land ( a deeper state of awareness) now while in this world. The image of Amida Buddha is always portrayed standing and leaning forward. The Buddhist word for this posture is “Myo-Go”. “Myo” means name and “Go” means to project in a loud voice. This word expresses that someone calls my name loudly.

Imagine if your child is going to a dangerous place and might get injured. You cannot say a word of caution to your child by sitting on a chair. You would stand up immediately and in a loud voice warning him/her of the obvious dangers. From the Buddha's view, we are in a dark room and we cannot see anything. However, we are always seeking to find the truth. So, our Buddha cannot sit by and watch us. Our Buddha stands and tries to guide us with his voice. That voice is Myo-Go or “Namo Amida Butsu.” So, the “Myo-Go” gives us an image that Amida Buddha is calling our name loudly and guiding us to the Pure Land (a deeper state of awareness of the Truth).

We should remember that Amida Buddha is always present as a Nembutsu voice wherever we are.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,



Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

## WHM New Year's Party - February 26, 2023



A fun time was had by all who joined in, whether online or in person!

One of the games at the in person party was “Pass the Pineapple”. The final 3 were June Ibara, Carl Matsuura, and Lori Fukuoka, with Carl taking home the grand prize! Don't worry about the other party goers, everyone went home with a prize!



# President's Report



How do you describe the experience of “joy” and “friendship” after many years of separation? Sangha Day 2023 for the Oahu District was coordinated and co-chaired by Carolyn Uchiyama and Henry Kitagawa. It was Wahiawa’s turn to host the event and many people jumped in to help. Just putting on the event requires a lot of cleaning, planning, cooking, and coordination. Thank you all for your help. It was wonderful to see more than 140 people attend.

Steven Bolosan and Ku’uipo Garrido were our special guest speakers who talked about “Sustainability: Ancient Practices in a Modern World.” At the time when the world is concerned about war, climate change, a divided country, and a divided world, the remarkable similarities of old Hawaiian Practices and Buddhism truly resonated. Everyone later enjoyed an opportunity to brainstorm action items to sustain our future generations.

Three main themes were defined: Educate, Community Connections, and Healthy Lifestyles including cooking and eating good foods and exercise. As a result, the Oahu District committed to further implementing the “Green Hongwanji Initiative” passed in a Legislative Assembly resolution in 2016. Stay tuned for more action.

As part of the exercise, leadership skills were developed as people were trained to facilitate discussion in a structured way and summarize eight different groups of ideas. This training is essential in the development of our future leaders in all the temples.

Finally lunch was distributed and we had lucky number drawings. Carolyn and Henry visited a number of businesses in the community and gathered many prizes and gift certificates. The glee of “unearned income” was really infectious! It was a terrific idea that we should continue to encourage in the future! Over 95 prizes were distributed...pies, brownies, dinners, Wahiawa shirts, and more! Thank you Carolyn and Henry for all your efforts!

On March 12, Ho’ala School’s, Darlene Dela Cruz, and parent, Venus Oshiro gave a presentation about Ho’ala. It was excellent and very well received. Ho’ala’s focus on students and parents was a refreshing look at how children should be raised with Responsibility and Respect.

The next three months will focus on Obon and preparing for it. We’ll need volunteers as well as leadership skills and commitment to train in all the details needed to make this a successful community effort! Please call the office at 808-622-4320 with names and preferences/skills.

In gassho (gratitude),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodney S. Moriyama". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rodney S. Moriyama, President

**Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Office Hours:**  
**Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 9:00am - Noon**  
**808-622-4320**  
**www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org**  
**Columbarium Hours: Daily 10:00am - 3:00pm**

# Wahiawa Hongwanji T-shirt Order Form

We are introducing a new t-shirt with a design that represents Wahiawa Hongwanji! Our new design incorporates sakura, wisteria, pineapples and a sagarifuji. The design is similar to our new WHM happi coats and WHM tenugui (bon dance towel). We are selling these shirt first to our members at the prices listed below. We will have shirts available for sale at our Bon Dance in June at a higher price, so don't miss your chance to purchase shirts at a reduced price!



Illustration of back of shirt

The shirts are black and the front left of the shirt will have a small sagarifuji and the words Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission. The drawing shows what the back of the shirt will look like. Ladies, there are V-neck shirt samples in the temple office if you are unsure of your size (Office hours T,Th,Sat 9am-12pm)

Deadline for orders is **April 16, 2023**. You will be notified when your order is ready for pick up at the Temple.

Thank you for your support

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate quantity ordering of each size in the boxes below											
Style	Youth S	Youth M	Youth L	Adult S	Adult M	Adult L	Adult XL	Adult 2XL	Adult 3XL	Price	Total
T-shirt										x\$12	
										x\$15	
Ladies V-neck										x\$12	
										x\$15	
Please make checks payable to: Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission <b>Orders due: April 16, 2023</b> Please submit orders to: Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission - Shirts 1067 California Avenue, Wahiawa, HI 96786									Temple Donation		
									TOTAL		

Office Use Only

Date received \_\_\_\_\_ Cash/Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Check \_\_\_\_\_ Received by \_\_\_\_\_

# A Short Story by Terry Dobson

## - a master of Aikido and conflict resolution

THE TRAIN CLANKED and rattled through the suburbs of Tokyo on a drowsy spring afternoon. Our car was comparatively empty - a few housewives with their kids in tow, some old folks going shopping. I gazed absently at the drab houses and dusty hedgerows.

At one station the doors opened, and suddenly the afternoon quiet was shattered by a man bellowing violent, incomprehensible curses. The man staggered into our car. He wore laborer's clothing, and he was big, drunk, and dirty. Screaming, he swung at a woman holding a baby. The blow sent her spinning into the laps of an elderly couple. It was a miracle that she was unharmed.

Terrified, the couple jumped up and scrambled toward the other end of the car. The laborer aimed a kick at the retreating back of the old woman but missed as she scuttled to safety. This so enraged the drunk that he grabbed the metal pole in the center of the car and tried to wrench it out of its stanchion. I could see that one of his hands was cut and bleeding. The train lurched ahead, the passengers frozen with fear. I stood up.

I was young then, some 20 years ago, and in pretty good shape. I'd been putting in a solid eight hours of aikido training nearly every day for the past three years. I like to throw and grapple. I thought I was tough. Trouble was, my martial skill was untested in actual combat. As students of aikido, we were not allowed to fight. "Aikido," my teacher had said again and again, "is the art of reconciliation. Whoever has the mind to fight has broken his connection with the universe. If you try to dominate people, you are already defeated. We study how to resolve conflict, not how to start it." I listened to his words. I tried hard I even went so far as to cross the street to avoid the chimpira, the pinball punks who lounged around the train stations. My forbearance exalted me. I felt both tough and holy. In my heart, however, I wanted an absolutely legitimate opportunity whereby I might save the innocent by destroying the guilty. *This is it!* I said to myself, getting to my feet. *People are in danger and if I don't do something fast, they will probably get hurt.*

Seeing me stand up, the drunk recognized a chance to focus his rage. "Aha!" He roared. "A foreigner! You need a lesson in Japanese manners!" I held on lightly to the commuter strap overhead and gave him a slow look of disgust and dismissal. I planned to take this turkey apart, but he had to make the first move. I wanted him mad, so I pursed my lips and blew him an insolent kiss. "All right! He hollered. "You're gonna get a lesson." He gathered himself for a rush at me.

A split second before he could move, someone shouted "Hey!" It was earsplitting. I remember the strangely joyous, lilting quality of it - as though you and a friend had been searching diligently for something, and he suddenly stumbled upon it. "Hey!" I wheeled to my left; the drunk spun to his right. We both stared down at a little old Japanese man. He must have been well into his seventies, this tiny gentleman, sitting there immaculate in his kimono. He took no notice of me, but beamed delightedly at the laborer, as though he had a most important, most welcome secret to share.

"C'mere," the old man said in an easy vernacular, beckoning to the drunk. "C'mere and talk with me." He waved his hand lightly. The big man followed, as if on a string. He planted his feet belligerently in front of the old gentleman, and roared above the clacking wheels, "Why the hell should I talk to you?" The drunk now had his back to me. If his elbow moved so much as a millimeter, I'd drop him in his socks. The old man continued to beam at the laborer. "What'cha been drinkin'?" he asked, his eyes sparkling with interest. "I been drinkin' sake," the laborer bellowed back, "and it's none of your business!" Flecks of spittle splattered the old man. "Ok, that's wonderful," the old man said, "absolutely wonderful! You see, I love sake too. Every night, me and my wife (she's 76, you know), we warm up a little bottle of sake and take it out into the garden, and we sit on an old wooden bench. We watch the sun go down, and we look to see how our persimmon tree is doing. My great-grandfather planted that tree, and we worry about whether it will recover from those ice storms we had last winter. Our tree had done better than I expected, though especially when you consider the poor quality of the soil. It is gratifying to watch when we take our sake and go out to enjoy the evening - even when it rains!"

Continued on the next page

## Continued from previous page: A Short Story by Terry Dobson - a master of Aikido and conflict resolution

He looked up at the laborer, eyes twinkling. As he struggled to follow the old man's conversation, the drunk's face began to soften. His fists slowly unclenched. "Yeah," he said. "I love persimmons too..." His voice trailed off. "Yes," said the old man, smiling, "and I'm sure you have a wonderful wife." "No," replied the laborer. "My wife died." Very gently, swaying with the motion of the train, the big man began to sob. "I don't got no *wife*, I don't got no *home*, I don't got no *job*. I am so *ashamed* of myself." Tears rolled down his cheeks; a spasm of despair rippled through his body.

Now it was my turn. Standing there in well-scrubbed youthful innocence, my make-this-world-safe-for-democracy righteousness, I suddenly felt dirtier than he was. Then the train arrived at my stop. As the doors opened, I heard the old man cluck sympathetically. "My, my," he said, "that is a difficult predicament, indeed. Sit down here and tell me about it." I turned my head for one last look. The laborer was sprawled on the seat, his head in the old man's lap. The old man was softly stroking the filthy, matted hair.

As the train pulled away, I sat down on a bench. What I had wanted to do with muscle had been accomplished with kind words. I had just seen aikido tried in combat, and the essence of it was love. I would have to practice the art with an entirely different spirit. It would be a long time before I could speak about the resolution of conflict.

*Terry Dobson*



## Calling all Crafters

### Please donate to our Bon Dance Country Store

We are seeking donations of items to sell in our store such as:

scrubbies

dish towels

kitchen towels

hot pads or pot holders

New or gently used happi coats

Other handmade craft items for the home

New or gently used yukata

You may drop off donations Tuesday, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9:00am - noon from now until 6/22.

Please include your name and phone number, and label your donation "Bon Dance Store"

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF JATAKA TALES

Following the Hawaii Buddhist Council Buddha Day service at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, April 2, 2023, there will be a special presentation of Jataka Tales by Jeff Gere with a violinist Lesley Kline. Jataka Tales are Buddhist Teaching Tales in which the Buddha appears as an animal with life lessons. In this delightful family-friendly performance, popular Oahu storyteller JEFF GERE tells these simple profound tales in his animated dramatic style, and with shadow puppets. Innovative violin wizard LESLEY KLINE adds her rich musical textures. You can watch it as live presentation through the HBC YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/o-OUS-mwdow?feature=share> For those who live on Oahu, you can join the in-person event at Jodo Mission of Hawaii. (1429 Makiki Street, Honolulu)

# Sangha Day

## “Sustainability: Ancient Practices in a Modern World”

By Carolyn Uchiyama

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, Wahiawa Hongwanji hosted Sangha Day for the Oahu District’s 8 temples. The theme was “Sustainability: Ancient Practices in a Modern World.” We had guest speakers from Na Mea Kupono in Waialua. Ku`uipo Garrido shared about Hawaiian values and how that helped the Hawaiians work in their ahupua`a, or land division, from the mountain to the sea. In the Hawaiian way of life, everything had a reason or purpose. They respected the land and took proper care of it. They could not import food, like we do today, if they ran out!

Steven Bolosan shared with the adults about Korean Natural Farming. It’s another way of looking at farming compared to American farming today. This practice mimics nature. The forest is a naturally nourishing place because the leaves fall to the ground, decompose, and nourishes the soil. In Korean Natural Farming, the farmers collect that soil from under the tree to multiply the microbes to remedy the soil. It’s looking at how we may be friends with the soil and add microbes to condition and make the soil richer and better.

After the presentation, the adults and students were placed in small groups for a discussion about what they learned and how that may help them influence people in the community to create a more sustainable place. The groups were very excited to share their understandings and viewpoints. They chose 2 or 3 ideas that they presented to the whole group. Each person in the group had one vote to choose the ideas they felt would help move the sustainable idea into the community.

The idea that received the most votes was the Mottainai Project which means “No Waste” or “No Poho”. Temple members would bring their own plates, utensils, and containers for refreshment after Sunday service. The other idea that received a close second was the Green Hongwanji. The ideas encapsulated in this were about bokashi, recycling centers, temple gardens, and green seminars. Oahu Hongwanji Council will try to put these ideas into practice in 2023 and try to spread the ideas within their temples and communities.

After the delicious bento lunches and desserts, members participated in lucky number drawings. Wahiawa area businesses donated prizes for the event. Many members waited in anticipation for brownies from Kilani Bakery, gift cards from Shige’s Saimin Stand, gift cards from El Palenque Mexican Restaurant, Wahiawa t-shirts from Duke’s Clothing, and carrots and lemons from the Leilehua High School Agriculture Department and much more.

A fun-filled day for all by meeting old friends again, learning and sharing ideas, eating delicious bentos and desserts, and winning prizes! Can’t wait for Sangha Day 2024!!!



Tsuki Kitagawa, Judi Kakazu, Joyce Fujimoto, Doris Matsuoka and Ethel Yamamoto enjoy their bento lunch and delicious homemade desserts!



Skylar Oshiro reviews her Sangha Day materials.

# *Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Bon Dance*

1067 California Avenue

Happening on June 23-24, 2023  
from 6:00pm - 10:00pm

Food booths open at 6pm  
Dancing begins at 7pm



## Bon Dance Volunteers Needed!

After 4 years bon dance is back! Planning is underway and we are excited to welcome everyone back to 2 nights of dancing, eating and shopping!

We'll need everyone's help to make this year's bon dance a success. Please volunteer to help from home or in person!

Volunteer from home by making items to sell in our country store such as scrubbies, decorative towels and other handmade household items. Food items are also welcome. Jams, jellies, pickled vegetables, baked goods, homemade snacks, cut flowers, fresh fruits and fresh vegetables are always good sellers.

Volunteer in person for set up, working in one of our bon dance booths or on our break down day. The more the merrier!

**If you are interested in volunteering, please call Amy at 808-621-8893 (please allow 48 hours for calls to be returned) or go to <https://tinyurl.com/5f6f9th6>**