



The Messenger

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness

Calendar of Events

REVISED August

01 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

01 Sun 9:30 am -10:30am Food Drive

01 Sun 10:00am - 10:30 am CPR-AED 30 minute Knowledge Class. Please contact WHM office if interested

08 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

15 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

22 Sun 9:00 am ONLINE Sunday Service - Please see WHM website wahiawashinbuddhists.org for link

29 Sun 9:00am Obon Service with Rev. Kano Hashimoto

September

05 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

05 Sun 9:30 am -10:30 am Food Drive

11 Sat 8:00 am WHM 9/11 Memorial Bell Ringing

12 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

19 Sun 9:00 am Ohigan Service with Rev. Makino

21 Tue 9:01am ONLINE State 2021 Ring Your Bells for Peace

26 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

As of August 1st, there is no need to make a reservation to attend Sunday Service. Please come!

Wahiawa Hongwanji Food Drive

By Carolyn Uchiyama



On July 4th, Independence Day, Wahiawa Hongwanji held their monthly food drive after temple service. It was a beautiful day for the collection. We collected **243** items of canned goods, ramen, Vienna sausage, bags of candy, and candy leis. It was a wonderful way to share extra goodies from graduation with others. We also collected **45** pounds of rice.

We appreciate your efforts to support others during this time. St. Stephen's Church is also continuing to provide food on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays and Fridays of the month. If you know anyone that needs assistance, please let them know about the offerings at St. Stephen's Church.

The next food drive will be on Sunday, August 1st at 9:30 am. Please spread the word to your friends and family and if they would like to participate and support Our Wahiawa.

Minister's Message - Relationships

I would like to talk about the wonderful relationships we have. We sometimes forget that we are living in a precious world and we have precious lives.



Let me share with you a story about a fishing net.

One day, a boy caught a fish with his fishnet. One of the fishnet's holes said, "I got a fish!", but the hole next to it said, "I got a fish!" Next, they started arguing about who caught the fish. Then, one of the corners of the fishnet said, "We are connected with each other with strings. If one string was broken, it would make a big hole in the fishnet, and we won't be able to get any more fish." After hearing this wise remark, the two holes said to each other, "Thank you for helping to catch a fish."

We sometimes think "I" am living in the world and we make a border line or make a wall between others and ourselves – what a relief we feel! This relief is short lived as differences are built into these walls. Understanding each other is an important part of peaceful coexistence.

Let's look at the Kanji 人 "Hito". It means human being. It consists of two bars, which means we are connected to each other even though we cannot see the other person. We are human beings - we are connected to each other. We should never forget we are human beings and we depend on each other.

As you know, it is Obon season. It is a good time to feel the connections or interrelationships with our loved ones even though we cannot see them.

We just put our hands together, in gassho, to feel the connection with our loved ones. We are together.

In conclusion, please read the "Golden Chain of Love" and consider how we are all connected.

Golden Chain of Love

I am a link in Amida Buddha's Golden Chain of Love that stretches around the world. I must keep my link bright and strong.

I will try to be kind and gentle to every living thing and protect all who are weaker than myself.

I will try to think pure and beautiful thoughts, to say pure and beautiful words, and to do pure and beautiful deeds, knowing that what I do now depends not only my happiness or unhappiness, but also that of others. May every link in Amida's Golden Chain of Love be bright and strong, and may we all attain Perfect Peace.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kojun Hashimoto".

Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Office Hours: By appointment 808-622-4320
Columbarium Hours: Daily 10:00am - 3:00pm

President: Rod Moriyama

Minister: Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

Vice Presidents: Karen Pang, Dale Shimauro, Carolyn Uchiyama

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President's Report

The month of July is usually a month of recovery after our Obon Festival. However, other organizations are just beginning their summer season. We are peppered with a number of major events and seminars along with efforts by other temples to promote their own "Obon efforts and fundraising." I was privileged to attend this year's Summer Session during the week of July 12-16th.

The Summer Session featured Reverend Kodo Umezu, former Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America. He retired on March 31, 2020 after 47 years devoted to Shin Buddhism efforts along the West Coast. This included addressing the United Nations. The theme of the session was "Peace through Buddha-Dharma." He linked the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha through the ages to Shinran Shonin and more current masters. He did this by reciting the Larger Sutra and ending with Shinran's Wasans (poems/songs) enhanced with his personal stories. You can access recordings of his sessions at: [BSC Hawaii - YouTube](#)



The following are my reflections:

- Shakyamuni Buddha attained enlightenment at age 33. He spent several decades trying to help others understand the TRUTH that was revealed to him. Acknowledging how difficult it would be to "understand the indescribable," he promoted a way of living this current life that is meaningful and relevant.
- His stories begin with Dharmakara Bodhisattva making 48 vows to save all sentient beings and helping them realize "the perfect state of being, or ENLIGHTENMENT." Dharmakara becomes Amida Buddha. This perfect world or "Pureland," is the truth. It already exists. It is our own self centeredness that blurs our perspective from enjoying it as the TRUTH. This is the journey of Buddhism.
- This journey through life requires LISTENING, Deep Reflection, and Understanding. It doesn't happen overnight and deepens over time. Attending services and having discussions helps with our understanding, even though for that moment, it is fleeting.
- The Japanese term "enryo" is meant to be "deep thinking." note: I always thought "enryo" meant to "hold back." It is referring to second and third order thinking that is required when reading the sutras.
- Shinran Shonin focused on 5 of the 48 Vows. They are Vows 11, 12, 13, 17 and 18. Essentially, these say that the recitation of the nembutsu, or "Namo Amida Butsu" with true sincerity, is all that is needed to eventually realize enlightenment. It is Amida Buddha calling you...not the other way around. True sincerity means to live a life of gratitude and compassion as best as you can. As humans, we are "bomby" and cannot help ourselves in our self centeredness. We almost inevitably look to blame others or conditions. We don't understand that an infinite number of circumstances make us who we are and have strapped us with this singular perspective. This is why we say, Buddhism accepts everyone without prejudice.

Please join us in our Talk Story sessions when we have them to further try to understand from each other the different perspectives facing us.

The week of August 23rd, there will be a "Dharmathon" with different ministers giving thoughtful talks on "Building Healthy Sanghas: Nurturing Empathy and Respect."

Thank you for your continued support and donations. The final months of the year, we would like to make a big push to continue building our Eitaikyo Endowment fund, and celebrating our services of Ohigan, Tsuito-E, Eitaikyo, Bodhi Day as well as Peace Day on September 21.

In gassho (gratitude),

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rodney S. Moriyama".

Rodney S. Moriyama, President

WHM Office News from Dale's Desk

By Dale Shimauro

1) Looking for all able-bodied men and women to help clean and maintain the temple and grounds. The Hosha Gang meets every other Thursday from 7:30am. Please call the office if you can lend a helping hand.

2) If you are in need of help, please call the temple (622-4320 or 392-3253).



Oahu Hongwanji Council Celebrates Peace with Our Ohana September 21, 2021



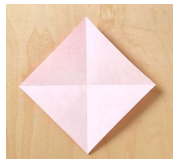
The State of Hawaii recognizes September 21st as Peace Day to promote peace programs, improve international relations, and increase educational awareness of peace.

Join the Oahu District temples to celebrate Peace Day by creating a unique origami wall hanging for each temple. The heart, the universal symbol of love, will represent our wish for a peaceful world. Fold origami hearts with your family, friends and Sangha. No one is too young or too old to participate in this one-of-a-kind creation.

Between now and September 1st, fold as many origami hearts and turn them into your temple. A temple representative will collect the hearts.

*Directions can be found online at www.bit.ly/ohanaday21

Directions for folding the origami heart:



1. Place a 6" x 6" square of origami paper colored-side down. Fold paper in half on the diagonal, bringing the top corner to the bottom one. Unfold and fold in half again, bringing the right corner to the left one. Unfold. Place the paper colored-side down with the corners facing top and bottom, left and right.



2. Fold the top point of the paper to meet the center crease.



3. Fold the bottom point up to meet the top fold.



4. Fold right side up diagonally to align with the center crease.



5. Fold the left side diagonally to align with the center crease.



6. Flip paper over. Fold right and left points in $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Fold top points down $\frac{1}{2}$ ".



7. Turn over your completed heart.

8. You may write a word or your wish for peace on some of the hearts.

*From "Parents" magazine by Amanda Kingloff 12/28/2014