



The Messenger

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness

Calendar of Events

June 2023

04 Sun 8:00 am - noon Yagura Set Up - No Sunday Service
04 Sun 10:00 am Bon Dance Booth and Committee Chair Meeting in Social Hall
04 Sun 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Public Bon Dance Practice in Social Hall
11 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
11 Sun 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Public Bon Dance Practice in Social Hall
13 Tue 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Public Bon Dance Practice in Social Hall
17 Sat 6:00 pm Hatsubon Service
18 Sun 9:00 am No Sunday Service (Bon Dance Set Up)
18 Sun 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Public Bon Dance Practice in Social Hall
23 Fri 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Bon Dance
24 Sat 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Bon Dance
25 Sun NO Sunday Service - Bon Dance Clean Up

July 2023

02 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
09 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
16 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
23 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
30 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

Seeking Donors

Wahiawa Hongwanji will be having their Bon Dance on June 23-24, 2023. One of the food items we will be selling is Spam musubi. We are seeking Spam and rice donations. If you are donating contact Carolyn Uchiyama at carolyn2048@gmail.com by June 11th. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated.



Bon Dance Yagura decorations needed June 22nd

We are in need of monstera leaves (various sizes) and heliconia (hanging ginger) to decorate our yagura on the morning of Thursday, June 22nd. If you are able to donate, please email Amy at amy.kanemaru@wahiawahongwanji.org or leave a message at 808-621-8893. Thank you!



Minister's Message - Kangi

According to Shinran Shonin, “Kan” means feeling joyfulness with our body and “Gi” means feeling joyfulness with our hearts. Literally, Kangi means feeling joyfulness with all our senses.

When do we feel with all our senses? It is perceived as a rare feeling, but Buddhism teaches us that we should feel Kangi every day.

Let me share a story with you.

Long time ago, I watched the movie “Andrew.”

It is a story of the future. A robot lives with a family. Being a robot, he never gets old, never gets sick, and never feels pain. He is our wish come true.

Andrew understands human thought and works hard for the family who bought him. He also loves to play with children. As the children grow up, he gradually develops human emotions.

One day he realizes that humans grow old and die, but he never dies. He feels sadness of saying farewell to the members of the family as they pass away.

In the movie, Andrew says, “All people who I love pass away and only I remain. I am all alone. It is very sad. I, too, want to grow old.”

What do you think of this story? Andrew wishes for the opposite of what most of us wish – being young forever. If we have a choice, we don't want to grow old and we do not want to die. We should understand that our desire to never become old is one of our sufferings.

In the Shoshinge, the master of the Tripitaka, gave T'an-luan the Pure Land teachings, and T'an-luan, burning his scriptures on immortality, took refuge in the land of bliss.

Through the teachings of the Buddha, we understand the meaning of death, and death is not the end of our life. We understand that we have a world where our loved ones are waiting is one of our true joys.



Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,

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

Reverend Kojun Hashimoto



Temple Clean Up

Sat., June 17th 8:00 - 9:30 am

It has been almost 3 years since we've held our last bon dance, and to prepare for the many visitors we will have for our Hatsubon service and bon dance we will be cleaning our temple and columbarium. We hope you and your family will be able to help. It's a great time to see old friends or make a new friend! Please contact Kano Hashimoto at 808-295-1098 or Kanohashimoto.hi@gmail.com if you are able to help. Thank you!



President's Report



850 years ago, the founder of the Jodo Shinshu sect of Pure Land Buddhism, Shinran Shonin, was born on May 21, 1173. Fifty years later, his descendants created a new branch of Buddhism. It democratized thinking and accepted all seekers to live a life of gratitude and compassion...encouraging peace for all.

Thousands gathered from all over the world, to attend the 850/800th anniversary in May. Most ministers from Hawaii and many members participated in this significant event in Kyoto, Japan.

On May 21, 2023, we celebrated Shinran's birthday (Gotan-e Service) with a special guest speaker, Rev. David Nakamoto, and his wife, Rev. Irene Nakamoto. They had just returned from Japan after a quick 9-day tour which included Okinawa. They chanted in the main Hondo (HQ) with hundreds of others. It was 23 years since they last chanted there, getting their Tokudo Ordination.

Chief Abbot (Gomonshu) Kojun Otani, encouraged everyone to change the way we present our teachings in a more simple, clear language. It was a dramatic plea of how we needed to change our practices to be more open to everyone while sharing the joy of Buddhism.

Rev. David related that Shinran rejected the harsh discipline of Buddhism that favored the literate aristocracy. Instead, he embraced "naturalness" or "going with the flow." Becoming one with nature gets us closer to accepting the truth. Children are cute because they see the world simplistically without pretension. It's when layers of ego-centered thinking get added that we run into stress and worry.

Modern medicine tries to "harmonize with nature." Shinran felt the same way. Living a life without worry is very difficult to do, but constantly seeking the truth, the natural way, approaches this peace of mind. He never thought himself to be any kind of founder of a religious sect. He always presented himself as a fellow traveler in this life's journey. Shinran spread the teachings through one-on-one discussions or small group discussions.

Rev. David gave many examples of people coping with seeking the truth. A friend of his at Craigsidde has a wife who is suffering from dementia. He is at her side daily even though she no longer recognizes him. When asked how he copes, he replied "Row, Row, Row your boat, gently down the stream; Merrily, merrily, merrily merrily, Life is but a Dream!"

Only one more month before Obon! Please participate in all the activities! It is all about seeking naturalness and enjoying the moment. You'll be surprised at how much fun it can be! Thanks to all the leaders and volunteers for making this happen!

In gassho (gratitude),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod S. Moriyama". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Rodney S. Moriyama, President

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

We are currently experiencing a volunteer shortage. If you plan to bring a flower offering, we kindly ask that you come back in a week's time to remove your flowers and wash the vase. If you are able to volunteer, volunteers meet on Saturday mornings at 8:00 am.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

Gotan-e



On May 21, 2023, we celebrated Shinran's birthday (Gotan-e Service) with a special guest speaker, Rev. David Nakamoto, and his wife, Rev. Irene Nakamoto.

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. We are looking for people to work in our food booth, taiyaki booth and mochi booth.

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

Calling all Crafters and Bakers

Please donate to our Bon Dance Country Store

We are seeking donations of:

scrubbies dish towels kitchen towels hot pads or pot holders
gently used happi coats, yukata and kimono Other handmade craft items for the home.

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

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

We are seeking donations of:

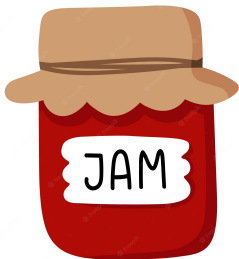
cookies brownies mochi dessert bars snack mixes
jams or jellies pickled vegetables pickled fruits cut flowers

You may drop off donations Thurs 6/22 – Sat 6/24 from 9:00am - noon

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

*Please indicate if items contain nuts or nut products.

If you are able to donate, please email Amy at amy.kanemaru@wahiawahongwanji.org or leave a message at 808-621-8893. Thank you!



2023 Obon Memorial Ribbon Order Form

After a 3 year break, WHM is having an in person Bon Dance June 23-24, 2023! You can still honor your loved ones with our traditional Memorial Ribbons. The ribbons will be tied to beautiful pink and white chochin which will be displayed throughout Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission during Obon. For those observing their Hatsubon (1st year observance), a special red ribbon will also be included.

To order Memorial Ribbon(s), please complete the form below and send it with your payment to the WHM Temple Office by **Saturday, June 10, 2023**. The cost per ribbon is \$20 (1 name per ribbon). If ordering more than one ribbon, find additional space on the back of this form. Please call **808-291-3102** if you have any questions.

Purchaser's name:													
Purchaser's Address:													
Purchaser's Phone:													
Purchaser's Email Address:													
Contact Name/Phone # (if different from purchaser):													

Return completed form and payment to temple office by noon on **Saturday, June 10, 2023**
 Mail orders to Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission-Ribbons, 1067 California Ave., Wahiawa, HI 96786

\$20.00 x _____ Ribbons = \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission – 2023 Memorial Ribbon

In Memory of	Last Name (one character or space per block)												
	One Name Per Ribbon (one person or one family name)												
	First Name (one character or space per block)												

From:	One character or space per block (15 characters, including space)												

If requesting more than 1 ribbon, additional space is provided on the back of this order form. Please pay for all your ribbons with one check.

***** (Office use only)*****

Date _____ Am't Pd _____ Cash \$ _____ Ck# _____ Receiver Name _____

