



the Messenger

*Embrace Change:
Action (Open Communication)*

OCTOBER 2017

| | | |
|--------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Sun | 10:00a | Tsuito-E Service |
| | 12:00p | Lunch in Social Hall |
| 4 Wed | 9:30a | Yoga (SH) |
| 7 Sat | 7:30a | Temple/Columbarium Cleaning |
| 8 Sun | 9:00a | Sunday Service |
| | 9:00a | Food Drop Off for Pantry |
| 9 Mon | | Holiday-Columbus Day (office closed) |
| 11 Wed | 9:30a | Yoga (SH) |
| 14 Sat | 7:30a | Temple/Columbarium Cleaning |
| 15 Sun | 9:00a | Sunday Service |
| | 10:30a | Board Meeting (BWA Room) |
| 18 Wed | 9:30a | Yoga (SH) |
| 19 Thu | 11:00a | Hospital Visitation (Project Dana) |
| 21 Sat | 7:30a | Temple/Columbarium Cleaning |
| 22 Sun | 9:00a | Sunday Service |
| | 10:00a | Sangha Strummers |
| 24 Tue | 10:00a | Waiialua Monthly Service |
| 28 Sat | 7:30a | Temple/Columbarium Cleaning |
| 29 Sun | 8:00a | WHM Craft Fair |
| | 9:00a | Sunday Service |
| 31 Tue | | Halloween |

NOVEMBER 2017

| | | |
|--------|--------|---|
| 1 Wed | 9:30a | Yoga (SH) |
| 4 Sat | 7:30a | Temple/Columbarium Cleaning |
| 5 Sun | 9:00a | Eitaikyo Service, Guest Speaker: Reverend Janet Youth |
| | 9:00a | Food Drop Off for Pantry |
| | 10:00a | Sangha Strummers |
| 8 Wed | 9:30a | Yoga (SH) |
| 9 Thu | 7:00p | Club Asoka (BWA Rm) |
| 11 Sat | 7:30a | Temple/Columbarium Cleaning |
| | 8:00a | Veterans Day Parade |
| 12 Sun | 9:00a | Sunday Service |
| 13 Mon | | Holiday-Veterans Day (office closed) |
| | 10:00a | BWA Meeting (BWA Rm) |
| 16 Thu | 11:00a | Hospital Visitation (Project Dana) |
| 19 Sun | 9:00a | Sunday Service |
| 22 Wed | 7:30a | Hosha Kai |
| 23 Thu | | Holiday – THANKSGIVING DAY |
| 24 Fri | 9:00a | Monthly Buddhist Service at The Plaza Mililani |
| 25 Sat | 7:30a | Temple/Columbarium Cleaning |
| 26 Sun | 9:00a | Sunday Service |
| | 10:00a | Sangha Strummers |
| 28 Tue | 10:00a | Waiialua Monthly Service |

Weekly & Bi-weekly Activities

| | | |
|-----|-------|-------------------------|
| Mon | 9:00a | Calligraphy |
| | 6:00p | Sunset Meditation |
| | 6:30p | Tai Chi for Health |
| Wed | 7:30a | Columbarium Cleaning |
| | 6:00p | Conversational Japanese |
| | 7:00p | Kendo |
| Thu | 7:30a | Hosha Kai (bi-weekly) |
| | 6:00p | Aikido |
| | 7:00p | Dancersize |
| Fri | 8:30a | Quilt Club (bi-weekly) |

◆ Reverend's Message ◆

Shinjin

Shinjin is one of Jodo Shinshu's teachings.



I found Shinjin in the book entitled *A Glossary of Shin Buddhist Terms*. This book said about Shinjin, "Entrusts oneself, Faith, Heart of Faith and Mind of Faith." However, I could not completely understand the meaning. Therefore, I read the Gobunsho (letters of Rennyō Shōnin) "Attaining the Entrusting Heart."

So, Shinjin means to understand the 18th vow, understanding the essence of Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu. Therefore, we hear about why Amida Buddha created the Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu. Amida Buddha wanted to save everyone by Shinjin.

I looked at the word "E-Ko" which means transference of merits to us. The point here is "to us." Yes, Shinjin is not "I" gain it from Amida Buddha. It is not my action. Amida Buddha's wish has already been given to us. What I realized about Shinjin is that I already have received Shinjin.

It is not my spontaneous heart. If, however, I try to believe that Shinjin or Amida Buddha that I am getting, then the action of trying to believe is made doubtful.

We can say trust. But we don't need the word trust or believe about Shinjin. We just leave ourselves to Amida Buddha as we are. We already were given Amida Buddha's wish. It is not



Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission



Embrace Change: Action (Open Communication)

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necessary that we do something special to receive Shinjin. That is why Jodo Shinshu teaching is never about your trusting or your believing Buddha's teaching. We just listen to Buddha's teachings seriously because we were already saved since we were born.

Realizing Amida Buddha's wish is Shinjin.

In Gassho,

Thank you from Bishop Eric Matsumoto

On behalf of the entire Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii especially Headquarters and specifically the Offices of the Bishop and President, I would like to wholeheartedly thank you for your earnest planning, effort and reception of His Eminence Gomonsu Kojun Ohtani on his first Official Visit to Hawaii Kyodan as Gomonsu. I received word that they have safely returned to Japan.



Unfortunately, the Official Entourage was not able to visit all temples throughout the State during their short visit, but it was heart-warming to see so many of you at the temples and sites including lunches and dinners that His Eminence did visit and attend. Aloha and Mahalo to you. Please extend my gratitude and appreciation to others who will not directly receive this thank you. As your Bishop, and I am sure I can speak for our President Pieper Toyama as well, it was an honor to travel with His Eminence as he visited the Big Island, Maui, Oahu-Honolulu and Kauai. I hope we represented you well and adequately served as hosts and guides. As I traveled I sensed a new energy and direction and am filled with optimism. I hope you feel it too.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the HQ Staff including my wife and especially Executive Assistant to the Bishop Rev. T. Umitani for his untiring effort and endeavors including numerous communications with Honzan without which the Visit would not have come to fruition. Finally, once again, a sincere thank you to all of you in the Districts, Temples, Affiliated Organizations like the Ministers Associations, State Lay Associations, PBA, and BWA to name a few, and also community organizations for warmly receiving His Eminence. It could only happen because we (ministers and lay) worked together as a sangha in harmony. Thank you for responding in gratitude. Mahalo nui loa!

In gassho,
Bishop Eric Matsumoto
September 18, 2017



Eitaikyo Service

Sunday, November 5, 2017 ✨ *9:30am*
Guest Speaker ✨ *Reverend Jan Youth*

*Etaikyo means **Perpetual Sutra Chanting**. This phrase suggests our participation with the past and future generations that allow us to hear the Buddha's teachings. This service brings past, present and future together as we celebrate the memories of our ancestors, while creating new memories with family and friends. A **Sutra** is chanted as an expression of gratitude from the family who has made a request that their loved one be placed in the **Eitaikyo Book** and that a **Sutra** is chanted perpetually. The family's request is accompanied by an offering of dana towards the **Eitaikyo Perpetual Fund**. A donation to the **Eitaikyo Perpetual Fund** will preserve the memory of a **Loved One** forever at the temple.*

Anyone wishing to participate in this year's Eitaikyo Service should arrange to make a donation by Mon, Oct 16. Contact the WHM office at 622.4320. Office hours are M-F from 8:00am-12:00 noon.

President's Report

The beginning of September was filled with anticipation. People worked tirelessly getting ready for the Gomonshu's (Spiritual Head of Nishi Hongwanji) visit to Hawaii and specifically to Wahiawa. My "bonbu" (ignorant) self was also very anxious about my welcoming remarks as I wrote and reworked so many drafts up to the evening before the event. I was so grateful for everyone's help and everything looked so good . . . except for the weather. Contrary to the weather report, it rained!



The Gomonshu had a very gruelling schedule and I really felt badly for him. I kept thinking about all the protocol that surrounded his visit, and how much he was shielded from the very people who he wanted to get to know better. It reminded me of how Shakyamuni Gautama was raised. I'm told as the day went by, he did have a chance to mingle and interact with children just as he had briefly with 2-year old William Agader and 3-month old Hironori Robert Tsujihara at our temple. It was a very quick, but very successful visit to Wahiawa Hongwanji.

From Wahiawa he visited Pearl City, Aiea and the Lay Convention, Jikoen, Moiliili, and the Buddhist Study Center in a whirlwind tour. On Sunday, he participated in Honpa Hongwanji's 100th Anniversary Kickoff in the morning, followed by the Confirmation ceremony where he bestowed Buddhist names to 69 members including, Vernon and Ethel Yamamoto and Ishtar Rodriguez Proctor from WHM.

I was grateful for the opportunity to see him in person. I wondered what was going through his mind as he gazed upon so many people who looked to him for leadership.

On Monday, September 11, we held a brief service at the Bonsho, and had all the students and teachers of Ho'ala, as well as our own members offer incense and ring the giant bell. This memorial service was well received by all who participated.

Carolyn Uchiyama, along with Roy and Barbara Higa, taught two classes on Peace Day at Ho'ala School. The first class was a presentation, and the second class was a lesson on how to fold cranes. The students really embraced the occasion and a chance to learn more about Peace Day on September 21.

The Joint District Ohigan Service featured President Elect of Buddhist Churches of America, Rick Stambul, as the keynote speaker. At a very early age (just out of high school), Rick participated in the Civil Rights movement in the Sixties and also fought for the rights and civil liberties of Japanese Americans during the movement for reparations. It was a very fearful time in US History filled with hate and bigotry. He converted to Shin Buddhism in the 1980's, when he realized that this was a religion that truly aligned with his core values. His speech was quite moving and brought tears to many who had memories of the turbulent sixties and seventies.

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Our final *First Steps in Shin Buddhism* ended with everyone agreeing to continue to meet once a month to further discuss the questions addressed during the two-month class. A strong bond was formed and it is hoped others will join us. Questions like: Who/What is Amida Buddha? What are the differences between Jodo and Jodo-Shinshu sects. What is the Pure Land?

On Sunday, September 24, Sensei talked about the close of Higan season (Autumn Equinox). He displayed an often used picture of The Pure Land depicted as the “other shore.” The picture shows Amida Buddha standing on the left shore, and Shakyamuni Buddha standing on the right shore. In between, people are being chased by wild animals and bandits. There are two rivers, one of fire and one of stormy waters, separated by a narrow white path. The right side depicts our lives as we are living it being stressed and tormented by the wild animals and bandits representing greed, anger, and ignorance. Amida Buddha beckons us to the “other shore” or Pure Land or Nirvana, urging us to cross the narrow bridge. Just a movement toward the bridge represents Shinran’s teaching of “Shinjin” or commitment. Even though the pictures look like a scary depiction of life, it really represents the acceptance of what is, and teaches us in life’s journey there are many lessons to learn.



The final three months will focus on celebrating the memories of loved ones with the BWA Tsuito-E Service on October 1 and the Eitaikyo Service on November 5. November 11 will start off with a remembrance of Queen Liliuokalani at 8:30am with the ringing of the Bonsho, followed by the Veterans Day Parade. There will be no mochi-making in December 2017.

As we are quickly approaching the end of this year, we ask that you please submit your suggestions to: office@wahiawahongwanji.org on how we can make our experiences an even more enjoyable one in 2018. We are constantly looking for new ideas as well as new active participants. Please join in on the fun!!

Namo Amida Butsu!

In gassho,

Rod's Thoughts ~ Connections

One of the key lessons of Shin Buddhism is to be aware of the interdependence of everyone and everything. Along with this interdependence is a connection with all of our ancestors. This is why we hold memorial services and chant the sutra in their remembrance and gratitude.

Why is this so important? The whole idea of Amida Buddha is that it represents the sum of all experiences and compassion in the universe. We call it "Oneness." It is not an external God. We are "One with it." In Shin Buddhism, we say it is "The Other Power." It is within us...not something objectified on the outside that is worshipped or prayed for favor, forgiveness, etc. This is why we say there is no "God" in Buddhism.

Every year in November, we have an Eitaikyo service. It is a general service to remember all of our ancestors and recognize their existence. Their contribution made our lives possible.

My paternal grandparents came from Kumamoto, Japan. I never knew my paternal grandfather as he died early in his life from cancer. He was quite a successful merchant and owned a general store called "Moriyama Shoten" near Aala Park in Kalihi. My grandparents had five children and lived quite well I'm told.

When cancer was discovered, it was customary to return to Japan to be cared for. My grandfather took his family home with him during the 1920's. He died, and with the impending conflict around the world, my grandmother chose to return to Hawaii.

On her trip back, her oldest daughter met her future husband on the ship. Her first son died of "consumption" (tuberculosis) in his twenties. She had three children to care for. Somehow, through distant cousins, she was matched to a man who I knew as my "Jichan." It wasn't until recently that I learned from my 101 year old aunt that my "Jichan" was a merchant marine who jumped ship on the way to Brazil when he arrived in Hawaii. This explained his large tattoo of crossed flags, one of US and one of Japan, on his arm. He was a distant cousin of my grandmother.

Out of necessity, she agreed to the marriage which involved moving with her two youngest children, my father and my aunt, to Kipapa 5 where my "Jichan" would work as a supervisor in the pineapple fields. Kipapa 5 or "K-5" did not have any running water or electricity. It was a far cry from the relative luxury to which my father was accustomed.

My father was around middle school age at the time. Most boys at that time completed 8th grade and dropped out of school to help by working during the depression. My grandfather insisted my father stay in school till he graduated. This decision paved the way for more choices in the future. The marked difference in lifestyle moving to the country, made an "activist" of my father as he was one of the principals of the union movement in the plantations and elected president soon after. When the communists began infiltrating the union movement, my father left the union and got into Personnel Management and Industrial Relations. He had a strong calling to help the "underdog" throughout his life. I remember him always saying that because we've been so lucky in our lives, we must always be cognizant of those needing help.

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2018 Peace Day in Hawaii

by Carolyn Uchiyama

The members of the Jr. YBA (Young Buddhists Association) sent a resolution to the State Legislature in 2007 with the help of State Representative Jon Karamatsu. The resolution was passed and Hawaii became the first state to celebrate Peace Day in Hawaii on the same day as the United Nations International Day of Peace on September 21.

Last year the members of the temple and Hoala School got together and rang the Bonsho bell. Rod Moriyama gave an explanation of the significance of Peace Day. This year the temple decided to prepare a deeper understanding of Peace Day and the symbols associated with it. Hoala School agreed to have students participate in the lesson on September 15.

We had students from 5th grade to high school participate in the lesson and discussion. The students saw the original musical play, "Peace on Your Wings," by Ohana Arts, a story of Sadako Sasaki. It helped the students understand how Sadako was affected after the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima during World War II.

Sharing and showing the resolution passed in the Legislature creating Peace Day in Hawaii helped the students understand that students their age have the ability to affect what happens with their lives and in their community.

The afternoon lesson was folding the cranes like Sadako. The students felt the purpose for the cranes were for:

- Peace
- Good health
- Good fortune and
- Hope

The students were asked how many cranes they would like to fold and after much discussion they decided to make 5 cranes each:

1. For peace
2. For good health
3. For good fortune
4. For hope, and
5. For themselves

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(cont'd from previous page-Rod's Thoughts)

So many choices affected my life through my grandparents' and parents' hard work, perseverance and the values they instilled. My life is so lucky because of their efforts to provide for us. Do you know your connections? Have you shared these with your children and grandchildren? With Eitaikyo and Memorial services, we use these moments to learn how the "power" within us makes us "One" with the universe.

Namo Amida Butsu!

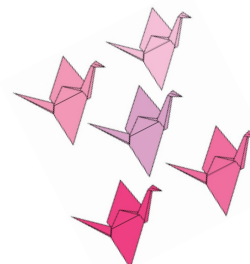
In gassho,



(cont'd from previous column-Peace Day)

Now what would they do with the cranes? One of Sadako's crane was presented to the National Park Service and is now displayed at Pearl Harbor. They wanted to send their cranes to a place with children. They voted and decided on sending the cranes to HUGS, an organization that works with young children and families.

The students persevered in folding the cranes even though for some it was the first time and took much time and energy. They certainly felt the sense of accomplishment when their cranes were completed. Thank you teachers from Hoala School and the Wahiawa Hongwanji temple members who assisted the students in folding the cranes. We hope to have another opportunity to work cooperatively with Hoala School.



Acknowledgements

Columbarium

Yukie Komyoji
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Every effort has been made to accurately present these records. Please call the office to report any errors. If you do not want your name published, please note on your donation, "Do not Publish." Thank you very much.

BWA News



BWA celebrated another successful Tsuito-e Service on Oct 1, 2017, with special guest speaker, Irene Nakamoto, BWA Federation President.



Change of meeting date:

BWA October Meeting is rescheduled from Oct 8 to Oct 22 (BWA Room) @ 10:15am.