



The Messenger

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness

Calendar of Events

REVISED April

04 Sun 9:30am Online Hawaii Buddhist Council Hanamatsuri (see last page for registration information)

04 Sun 8:30-9:30am Food Drive

11 Sun 9:00am Hanamatsuri Service - Please call WHM office for a reservation by April 8th

18 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service - Please call WHM office for a reservation by April 15th

18 Sun 10:00am WHM Executive Board Meeting (in person and Zoom)

25 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service - Please call WHM office for a reservation by April 22th

May

02 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service - Please call WHM office for a reservation by April 29th

02 Sun 10:00am -10:30am Food Drive

09 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service - Please call WHM office for a reservation by May 6th

16 Sun 9:00am Baccalaureate Service - Please call WHM office for a reservation by May 13th

16 Sun 10:00am WHM Board Meeting

23 Sun 9:00am Gotan-E Service - Please call WHM office for a reservation by May 20th

30 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service - Please call WHM office for a reservation by May 27th

Rules for Sunday Services

Please understand that these rules are for everyone's wellbeing and safety. COVID-19 is highly contagious, with one person able to infect many others. In order to keep the temple doors open, please help us and follow the guidelines. Please be patient as things could change as we receive updated guidelines. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

- Please call the office for a reservation if you would like to attend a Sunday Service.
- Everyone must wear a face mask at all times
- Please enter from the ramp and keep a 6ft distance from those in front of you.
- Please sanitize your hands before entering the temple. There will be hand sanitizer at the entrance..
- The offertory collection bowl will not be passed during the service. Please place your monetary offering in the offering slot on the altar.
- Only members from the same household may sit together.
- To prevent the spread of germs, there will be no books or handouts. You may bring your own service book if you have one.
- To prevent the spread of germs through singing and chanting, there will be no chanting or singing by the congregation, only the minister will be allowed to do so. You may meditate or follow along quietly in your mind.
- To maintain good social distancing, bow, wave or show a shaka. Please do NOT hug, handshake, fist bumps or high five. We know everyone misses seeing each other, but please do not congregate and socialize before and after temple service to maintain social distancing.



Bishop's Statement

Statement Against Anti-Asian Violence

March 21, 2021

The recent killing of eight people in a series of mass shootings that took place at Asian-owned spas in Atlanta, Georgia are both shocking and horrifying. We mourn the loss of life and denounce the continued acts of violence against Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities across our country.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began a year ago, there has been an exponential rise in hate crimes directed toward Asian Americans. As with other marginalized groups, there is a long and painful history of racism, scapegoating, and exclusion of AAPI communities in the United States.

The conditions for violence have been fomented by the continued use of hateful speech directed toward Asian Americans. This kind of racist language has resulted in verbal and physical harm. We must all work together to stop these acts of violence.

The Buddha taught, "The mind is the forerunner of all actions. All deeds are led by the mind and created by the mind. If one speaks or acts with an agitated mind, suffering follows, as the wheels of a cart follow the ox pulling it. If one speaks or acts with a calm mind, happiness follows, as surely as one's shadow." Let us take great care to use language in ways that foster compassion and love, not anger and hate.

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is a spiritual community devoted to sharing the Buddha's teachings so everyone may enjoy lives of harmony, peace, and gratitude. We decry with deep lament all acts of hatred and violence and we stand in solidarity with all who walk the path of peace and equality.

May we be guided by the light of all-inclusive wisdom and all-embracing compassion in the difficult days ahead.

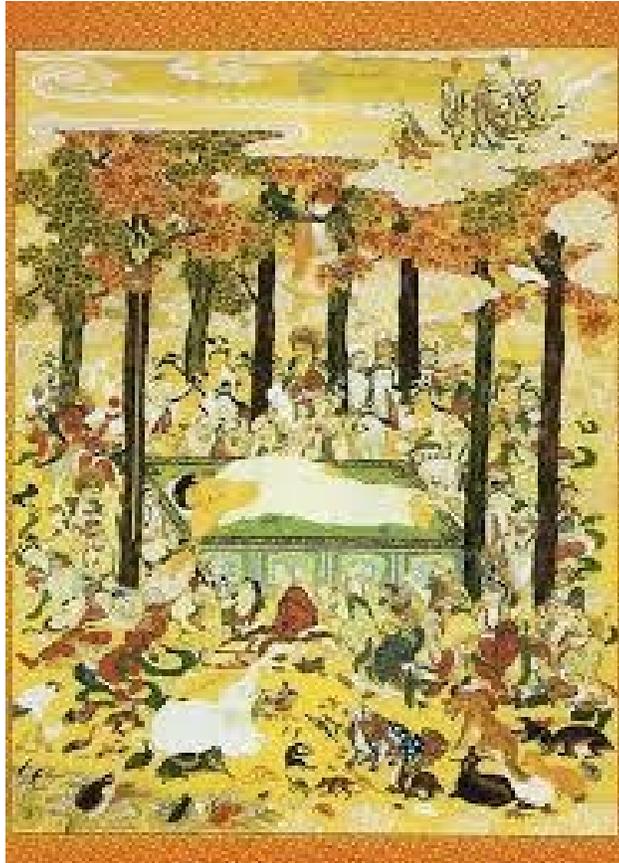
Namo Amida Butsu

Eric Matsumoto, Bishop Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Photo: A sculpture of the Buddha's hand in the Abhaya Mudra (Semui-in), which symbolizes protection, peace, and the dispelling of fear. The sculpture is in the stylized form of the Sukhotai Period of Thailand.



Minister's Message - What is Nembutsu



Unseeing leads us:



Please look at the picture of Nirvana. You can see a person in the sky. It is his mother, Maya. She passed away 7 days after giving birth to Gautama. This picture expresses how she is concerned about her son when he passed away.

Let me share a story about a family. A couple had three boys, one 5 years old and two 3 year old twins. When the twins reached Kindergarten age, one of them had a high fever. The father took his son to the doctor. The doctor said "Do not worry. Even though your son has a fever, as long as he can eat and looks like he has energy, he'll be fine. But if he looks tired, please bring him to me any time."

Because the ill child played with his twin brother, the couple was relieved. That night, the boy fell down suddenly while taking a shower. He stopped breathing.

The father took his son to the hospital immediately. But it was too late. He never recovered.

A few weeks later, the family was having dinner. During dinner, the oldest son said, "Our family became four. I loved and enjoyed dinners when there were five of us. We will never come back to five, but if my brother, Ryo-chan, sees us

enjoying dinner, he will be happy to see that we are happy. So, let us enjoy the dinner."

Through his words, the father realized that he and his wife, in their grief, did not pay enough attention to their surviving sons. The older son was trying to encourage the parents. They realized an important thing by his words. Although it is a sad thing to say farewell, they can look forward to meeting our loved one again.

In Shinran-shonin's words,

"I received the Shinjin by Amida Buddha's true wish and I can live with Nembutsu. When my last moment comes, I will be born into the Pure Land as a Buddha. Then I can return to this world to help others."

The father realized even though he could not see his son, his son is always leading him to Nembutsu teaching as a Buddha.

Through this story, we are taught that the Pure Land is a place where we will meet our loved ones again. So, we should look face up and smile at our ancestors every day. Only we can do this for our loved ones. And our loved ones will surely feel joyfulness by our smiles.

In Gassho,

Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

Altar Flowers Needed

Every Saturday flowers are needed for our altar. If you are able to donate flowers for our altar, please call the office at 622-4320 or email hashimoto@wahiawahongwanji.org to arrange pick up or drop off.



President's Report

“Have you received your vaccination yet?” That seems to be the new greeting between friends and neighbors. I received my second shot at the end of February and was laid up with a low-grade fever, chills, and achy muscles for exactly 24 hours. After that, I was fine.



We had a very successful New Year Drive-by with over 150 bentos purchased! June Ibara, Stanley and Allison Uesugi, Randall Yoshida, and yours truly were honored for our 75th birthday (Keirosha). It was so nice to personally see and talk story with my old classmates from Wahiawa. It cemented my thinking about how

important keeping those old connections are and how we are so interconnected. We also had a very successful online BINGO session in the afternoon.

With the roll-out of the vaccines, we are in discussions about when we should open the temple for in-person services and activities. There are still people who are skeptical about opening too early. We will probably pursue a hybrid model of having both in-person and Zoom services. I think Zoom meetings will be the new model for the future.

During our Talk Story sessions on Sunday, we are asking people to suggest interesting speakers. In February, we had a very interesting talk by William Douglas Correa from Mililani Memorial Park. On March 28, Valeria Aniya Schmidt will give a presentation on how they prepared her son for college and making a video for a volleyball scholarship in the midst of a COVID pandemic. If you have any suggestions, please let us know. I'll be glad to contact people.

On March 27, Bishop Marvin Harada from the Buddhist Churches of America will be presenting “Buddhism and Everyday Life.” If you miss the session, it will be available on YouTube. It will be on our website at: www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org. Bishops Harada and Matsunaga, along with many new American ministers are leading the charge in changing how Shin Buddhism is presented and perceived by being more relevant in society.

We also had a very good sharing session with Moilili Hongwanji on how they are doing an Online Marketplace instead of an in-person Bazaar. We are looking for volunteers to help in this effort on an ongoing basis. We are looking at an “If can, can; if no can, no can” model to start slowly and improve as time permits.

Thank you so much for your generous donations and support as we continue to persevere during this pandemic. If you haven't noticed, you can now make donations directly into the Wahiawa Hongwanji account online.

In gassho (gratitude),

Rodney S. Moriyama, President

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

President: Rod Moriyama
Minister: Reverend Kojun Hashimoto
Vice Presidents: Karen Pang, Dale Shimaura, Carolyn Uchiyama
Treasurer: Alan Kakazu
Assistant Treasurer: Vivian Murayama
Secretary: Amy Kanemaru
Assistant Secretary: Wendy Fukuhara

Board of Trustees:
Charlene Acohido
Brian Fukuhara
Elaine Kawamoto
Brian Kimura
Barbara Ladao
Jackie Nakamura
Jack Tsujihara

Food Drive for Our Wahiawa

By Carolyn Uchiyama

Wahiawa Hongwanji held their monthly Food Drive on March 14th at 9:00 am. The date was changed due to the Sangha Day celebration held online with Mililani Hongwanji as the host. We are grateful for the members who dropped off their items in the office and we combined it with the ones collected on the 14th.

Thank you to all of you who continue to help Our Wahiawa community with your generous support. This month we collected **410** items of noodles, cereal, tuna, and canned vegetables among other items like cookies and popcorn. We also were able to donate a total of **110** pounds of rice.

St. Stephen's Church continues with 2nd and 4th Wednesday and Friday food service and canned goods pick-up in their drive-thru effort to assist the families in our community. Your support is encouraging them to continue their efforts during this pandemic. Let us hope the vaccine will help to lessen the burden on everyone as more individuals return to work.



Our next food drive is April 4th at 8:30-9:30am. Your contributions for this cause are greatly appreciated.

WHM Office News

By Dale Shimauro

- 1) If you would like a copy of your 2020 deductible temple donations for tax purposes, please contact the office (622-4320) to request that it be emailed or mailed to you. Deadline to request is April 15, 2021.
- 2) 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.
- 3) On-going Clothing Drive Fundraiser, accepting all gently used clothing; shoes; purses and handbags; beddings- sheets, blankets, pillow cases, comforters; towels; draperies. Place all items in 13-gallon bags, label with your name and phone number, and leave on the table just outside of the columbarium.
- 4) If you know of a Spring 2021 high school, college or technical school graduate that would like to participate in our Baccalaureate Service, please contact Amy Kanemaru at 621-8893 or email amy.kanemaru@gmail.com by April 16th.
- 5) If you are in need of help, please call the temple (622-4320 or 392-3253).

2021 WHM NEW YEAR & KEIROKAI CELEBRATION

By Dale Shimauro

Thank you all for your help and support at our recent and first ever, "Drive-By New Year & Keirokai Celebration." Big mahalo also to all our Board members who braved the rain and came out to meet and greet the car loads of folks driving by to pick up their bento (at a safe distance and wearing masks, of course!).

Our Keirosha honored this year were our temple President, Rod Moriyama, June Ibara, Dr. Randall Yoshida and Stan and Allison Uesugi. Each was presented with a lei and a special gift by Rev. Hashimoto and President Rod Moriyama. Congratulations to all!

Hope you enjoyed Zoom Bingo played from the comforts of your homes, where all who played were declared winners just for participating. Prizes were delivered to everyone!

NOTE OF INTEREST: Back in 2003, the total number of attendees at our NY & Keirokai Party was 180+. That number began steadily dropping over the years as we slowly started to lose our members. Last year, in February 2020, the total number that attended our in-person luncheon was at an all time low of 72. Yet, this year we had a total number of 157 bento orders! Go figure?!!!

Your thoughts and comments, and maybe even suggestions for next year's party will be much appreciated. Please take a moment to send me a thought or two. Send to: dshimauro@yahoo.com, or call me at 622-4320 or 392-3253.

One last request, if any of you took pictures, I would appreciate you sending me copies. Especially looking for photos of our Keirosha with Rev. Hashimoto and Rod.

Hawaii Buddhist Council
Virtual Buddha Day Service
“Hanamatsuri”

Celebrating the Birth of Shakyamuni Buddha

Date: Sunday, April 4, 2021

Time: 9:30 am (HST)

Where: Online via Zoom

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jeff Wilson



Rev. Dr. Jeff Wilson is a professor of Religious Studies and East Asian Studies at Renison University College, at the University of Waterloo, in Ontario, Canada. In 2018 he was the Numata Visiting Professor in Buddhist Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Dr. Wilson is the author of numerous books, including “Mindful America” and “Buddhism of the Heart.” His current research is focused on Japanese-American Buddhism and social engagement. He is also an ordained minister in the Honpa Hongwanji tradition.

*Please call (808) 522-9200 or (808) 531-9088
or email at mail@hawaiibuddhistcouncil.org for more information.*

REGISTRATION - FREE

Use the link to register or scan the QR code. (Deadline: April 3, 2021)



http://bit.ly/2021HBCBD_registration

DONATIONS WELCOME

Use the link or scan the QR code to donate. Thank you!



http://bit.ly/2021HBCBD_donations