



The Messenger

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness

Calendar of Events

March

- 07 Sun 9:00am - 12:00pm Online Sangha Day
- 14 Sun 9:00am Online (YouTube) Dharma Message by Rev. Hashimoto
- 14 Sun 9:00-10:00am Food Drive
- 21 Sun 9:00am Online (Zoom) Spring Ohigan by Rev. Kano Hashimoto
- 21 Sun 10:00am WHM Board meeting
- 27 Sat 9:00am Online Spring Nembutsu Seminar with Bishop Marvin Harada
- 28 Sun 9:00am Online (YouTube) Dharma Message by Rev. Hashimoto

REVISED April

- 04 Sun 9:30am Online Hawaii Buddhist Council Hanamatsuri
- 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

Online Dharma Messages and Services

Links to weekly online Sunday Dharma Messages can be found at our website



<https://www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org/> or you can view them on YouTube at your convenience. In addition, Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission is also offering major, important and special services online. Please check our calendar of events and our

website for links to these services. If you have any questions, please call the temple office at (808) 622-4320.



Connect to WHM on LINE

There are only some quick and simple steps. First, your phone needs to be connected to the internet by wifi or mobile internet. Then search "Line Download" which also guides to the download link. After the option of "Go to download." click "Download" from there, there are simple instructions to follow.

After successfully downloading the app, all there's left is to scan the QR code below with your cell phone's camera. The link to the group will pop up on the top of your screen. When you receive the welcome message from Wahiawa Hongwanji, you have joined the temple group line successfully. Although it may sound like a long process it only takes 4-5 minutes so please give it a try and enjoy our new communication system.



Minister's Message - What is Nembutsu

I would like to share my message for the 109th legislative assembly memorial service.

As a Jodo Shinshu follower, our primal practice is reciting the nembutsu and listening to the Nembutsu. The Nembutsu is most important for us, but how many people can explain what the nembutsu means, when a non-Buddhist asks, how can you explain your state of being when you recite the nembutsu?



I would like to deliver my understanding of nembutsu to you today. (念仏) This is the Chinese character of Nembutsu. Nem(念) means wish or desire, Butsu (仏) means Buddha. When we recite the nembutsu, we are supposed to be listening to the Buddha's wish. What is the Buddha's wish? It is known to be forty-eight vows or Juseige.

Juseige is a poetic summary of the basic intention of the forty-eight vows made by the Bodhisattiva Dharmakara who then became Amida Buddha. Dharmakara promises to attain supreme enlightenment; to save the poor and suffering and to declare the universal availability of salvation - through the name through the universe. Their vows promise to create a perfect world where no suffering or evil exists.

In the Juseige P55 4th line,

*“If, for countless kalpas to come,
I should not become a great benefactor
And save all the destitute and afflicted everywhere,
May I not attain perfect enlightenment.”*

In other words, the Buddha made the vows wishing for all to be born into the Pure Land. The question is how we can feel the Buddha's wish when we recite the nembutsu. The Chinese character Nem guides how to feel when we recite the nembutsu. Nem (念) is consisted of two Chinese characters. The upper part is 今 meaning “now” and 心 meaning heart. When we recite the nembutsu, we feel the Buddha in our heart now. Yet, how many people can feel the Buddha when reciting the nembutsu? Honestly, it is difficult to feel the Buddha in our heart every moment because we do not imagine what kind of a Buddha we have in our heart or mind, every minute of the day.

In my understanding of the Nembutsu, the Chinese character Butsu explains specifically more who the Buddha is. The left-hand side of Butsu is 人. We call it Ninben which means human beings. The right-hand side of Butsu is 坐 which is a symbol which someone is sitting.

I envision it like this,



The left symbol is with other beings and the other is trying to support.

Shakyamuni Buddha's last teaching was;

The true Buddha is not a human body: it is enlightenment. A human body must die, but the wisdom of enlightenment will exist forever in the truth of the Dharma, and in practice of the Dharma. He who sees merely my body does not truly see me. Only he who accepts my teaching truly sees me.

(The teaching of Buddha p25)

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(Minister's Message Continued...)

In the Shiran Shonin's Gorinmatsu no Goshō, 一人居て喜ばは二人と思うべし、When you have a moment of happiness, understand there is another person with you.

二人居て喜ばは三人と思うべし、In a moment of happiness within two people, understand that there is a tree.

その一人は親鸞なり。One of them is me, Shinran

My understanding is that Shakyamuni Buddha and Shiran Shonin wanted to present the part(△).

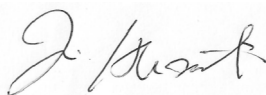
"I am here by you even though you cannot see me. What I left for you is my life. My life is always with you as a Buddha."

Today, we gathered for this memorial service. Through this memorial service, we should remind, think, and feel what was left for us. They left their life and their lives and teaching are always with us.

Who is our Buddha? Our loved ones are our Buddha. When we recite the nembutsu, we feel our loved ones and their wishes within our hearts.

Namo Amida Butsu.

In Gassho,



Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

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

Wahiawa Kendo Club

Currently we do not have much activity because of the Tier 2 stage. We started COVID-19 vaccination in Hawaii though the supply is not coming in fast enough. Federal government working on ramping up production, distribution and inoculation of vaccines. As Hawaii receives vaccines, State government will speed up inoculation efforts. Lieutenant Governor expects and hopes that we can open up some of our activities by May. Let us make extra efforts to avoid contracting the virus by wearing masks, keeping personal distances and washing hands frequently.

No tournaments are set for the foreseeable future. However, I told one female *kenshi who* recently contacted me to prepare for Pacific Northwest Kendo Federation's Women's Tournament normally held in July, 2022.

Iwao Sato

Chief Instructor, Wahiawa Kendo Club

Club website - www.wahiawakendoclub.com



President's Report

This year's Giseikai was a historic first virtual meeting ever! Over 150 people attended; it was well planned, organized, and executed. Despite the challenges of separation with COVID-19, it was a terrific forum for idea exchange and sharing. There was a feeling of belonging and excitement that there is a future of Jodo-Shinshu Buddhism in America. Hopefully, it will be made available for people to view the presentations by key speakers. Here are some highlights:



- Buddhist Churches of America Bishop Marvin Harada, President, Dr. Kent Matsuda, and President-Elect, Terri Omori attended. Buddhist Churches of Canada Bishop Tatsuya Aoki and Jodo Shinshu International Office Director, Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, also attended, showing the global reach of the session.
- All temples throughout the country are challenged during this pandemic and there is an opportunity to get a loan to cover 5 pay periods (2.5 months) of 2021. The loans are from Central Pacific Bank and the Small Business Administration and may be forgiven. In 2020, our loan of over \$450,000 was forgiven to help pay for salaries and benefits. A reduced budget reflecting the lower cost of meeting face to face was unanimously passed.
- Martin Luther King Video produced by the Hawaii Federation of BWA was an impressive example of what's possible with technology. <https://youtu.be/kBOP73UWge8>
- Our own Rev. Kojun Hashimoto gave the opening day Memorial Service talk of our Ingo recipients in 2020. It was very well received.
- Ewa Hongwanji Mission and Kapolei Buddhist Sangha were merged.
- Pacific Buddhist Academy (PBA) Headmaster, Josh Hernandez Morse, recognized a number of successful graduates and students including our own Kano Hashimoto for her Tokudo ordination. Tuition at PBA is \$18,000 and currently has 76 students enrolled (the highest ever). The focus at PBA is promoting Peace and Gratitude. [About PBA | Pacific Buddhist Academy](#)
- Rev. Kerry Kiyohara talked about Makawao Hongwanji's programs and the use of social media to expand their reach globally. He emphasized providing entertaining Dharma talks to capture the children, to capture their parents, and finally to capture grandparents. <https://www.facebook.com/MakawaoHongwanji>
- Bishop Marvin Harada's presentation about how to grow our membership
 - There has been a ten-year (28%) decline of all institutionalized religions, and we are no exception. The opportunity is to target the unaffiliated population that is 17% of the population.
 - Four key strategies to implement:
 - **Buddhist Education** - link Buddhism in general with Jodo Shinshu Education. Buddhism at a very simple, practical level is the fastest-growing segment of disciplined practice (like meditation). Do an Introductory session on Buddhism for the community at least monthly.
 - **Practical Buddhism** - Bridging the GAP between traditional Truth Level Buddhism (Rituals) vs. Practical Level Buddhism. The average person isn't interested in rituals until they first understand the basics. Teach them the basics and build their interest. [Everyday Buddhism | helping each other along the Bodhi path](#)
www.everydaybuddhism.org
 - **Welcoming Sangha** - Vista Temple has a number of focused programs including Drug and Alcohol Addiction support. Open your temple to the public to see how you can be a service. Jodo Shinshu is open to all. Go after all segments and religions. There are many paths to the top of the mountain. [What We Offer | Vista Buddhist Temple \(vbtemple.org\)](#)

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(President's Report continued)

- **Engaged Buddhism** - Be involved in the community. The younger generation is committed to any number of social concerns projects like tree planting, feeding the homeless, food drives for the needy, etc.
- **“Jodo Shinshu shows our ego-centered self and how we can overcome the challenges associated with this. Be the Dynamic Buddha, not the static one.”**
- Other temples presented their online services, online fundraising, and projects utilizing social media.
- Jr. YBA showed that they are very much a part of the Sangha and represent the future.

I am inspired by the efforts of so many dedicated individuals. I am confident we can implement and grow our sangha at Wahiawa and beyond. Let's focus on having fun and practicing gratitude daily. Please participate in our Talk Story sessions on special Sundays. Namo Amida Butsu!

In gassho (gratitude),



Rodney S. Moriyama, President

Food Drive for Our Wahiawa

By Carolyn Uchiyama

You all deserve a round of applause. Why? You have outdone yourselves in the Food Drive last month. On February 7th, the Food Drive collected **573** items of popcorn, canned vegetables and beans, spaghetti with sauce, cereal, and **60 pounds of rice**. This is the most we have collected in any month.



Thank you for spreading the word that we are collecting food because we now have members of our extended family and friends donating to this wonderful cause. According to the Buddha we are all connected and what we do affects those around us. Therefore, your generosity is aiding individuals who have fallen “down on their luck” in this ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Let us continue to help out our community.

St. Stephen's Church presses on with their 2nd and 4th Wednesday drive-by hot food as well as grocery pick-up. They have now added Fridays to the 2nd and 4th weeks of the month. This truly shows the difficult circumstances the families are experiencing.

Our next Food Drive will not be the first Sunday because we are celebrating the Oahu District Sangha Day. The next collection will be on March 14th at 9:00 am.

Let us persevere to help our neighbors in Our Wahiawa.

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.

WHM On-Going Clothing Drive Fundraiser

By Dale Shimaura

Thank-you to all who have been cleaning and then contributing all of your clothing, shoes, purses, towels, linen, bed spreads, blankets, jackets, curtains, etc. to our Clothing Drive Fundraiser. We still have lots of space for your gently used items. We especially appreciate those heavy items as we will be paid by weight.

Leave your tied bags of clothing under the tables in front of the Columbarium. Please put your name/phone number on a piece of paper in one of your bags.

2021 SPRING VIRTUAL NEMBUTSU SEMINAR

Sponsored by the Honolulu & Oahu Hongwanji Councils and the Office of Buddhist Education

Buddhism & Everyday Life

Seeing Buddhism in our everyday life by looking at examples from Shin Buddhists whose everyday life experience was their greatest teacher, but based on their deep listening and foundation of the Dharma.

Saturday March 27

9 am - 11 am (HST)

FREE Registration

Deadline: Sat. March 20

Featuring Bishop Marvin Harada (BCA)

of Orange County Buddhist Church where he has served since 1986.

agenda

- 9:00 am: Welcome/Opening
- 9:05-10:05am: Bishop Harada
- 10:05 am: Break
- 10:10 am: Q&A
- 10:55 am: Closing/Mahalo



donations

We welcome your donations, which will be earmarked to provide a copy of Bishop Harada's book, "Discovering Buddhism in Everyday Life" to all Honolulu/Oahu Hongwanji temples.

Please make donation checks payable to: Oahu Hongwanji Council. Mail registration form & checks to: Mililani Hongwanji, Attn: Nembutsu Seminar, P.O. Box 893308, Mililani, HI 96789

QUESTIONS? Please contact Mililani Hongwanji office (808) 625-0925

Name: _____ Temple/Affiliation: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

How did you hear about this Seminar? EMAIL | TEMPLE NEWSLETTER | TEMPLE WEBSITE | SOCIAL MEDIA

Circle one above OR if other, pls indicate here: _____

Questions for Bishop Harada: _____

Attached to this newsletter was the WHM 2021 Nenkai or Memorial Service List for 2021. If you would like a list, please contact the WHM office at 622-4320.