



Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission

JULY2013

Phone: 808.622.4320 * Mon-Fri 8 am to 12 noon * email: office@wahiawahongwanji.org

Website: www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org

President: Mr. Glenn Hamamura * Minister: Rev. Kojun Hashimoto

Promoting Democracy

Adapted from Foreign Policy Association magazine, 2012

It was July 4, 2012 and another beautiful day in paradise. Cheryl was preparing a traditional Independence Day cookout dinner and I thought about democracy and Buddhism and like so many things, democracy is taken for granted in the United States. I belong to a discussion group of eight men where, once a month, a controversial topic is discussed. Each volunteered to lead a topic and I chose, "Promoting Democracy."

Since 1974, the number of countries meeting the minimum criteria of "democracy" has increased from 25% to 60%. What is that minimum criteria?

This criteria is: "...that all the people of a society can participate in choosing and replacing their leaders in regular, free and fair multiparty elections." It was noted that the Middle East still has an exceptionally high preponderance of authoritarian regimes.

Why are democracies so good for our country? Democracies don't fight each other. All threats come from authoritarian regimes like North Korea, Iran, China and Russia. Democracies make better trading partners and are more reliable in adhering to their commitments. Commitments are sustained and grounded by public opinion. It is the foundation for peace and security.

Education and literacy are key elements for any kind of democracy. In order to have a democracy, the

public must be well informed to make effective decisions. This implies a relatively literate society. In the Middle East illiteracy is still very high. In many authoritarian countries, education is suppressed. As an example, in Morocco, where women are still very much repressed, illiteracy is at 85%.



How is democracy promoted? Many advanced democratic countries like the United States, provide other countries in need with aid. This aid is first targeted toward basic survival needs like access to sanitary water, food, and healthcare. Education is also a big part of this program along with student exchange to promote better cultural understanding. There is direct governmental funding; however, a big part is played by non-governmental agencies (NGO). Through these agencies like Doctors Without Borders, American Red Cross, and

Green Peace, funding and assistance are managed into poorer countries. NGO's are generally nonprofit and go after government funding but are not run by the government.

What is a key challenge in providing aid to oppressed countries? In 1648 at the end of the Thirty Years War, the Treaty of Westfalia stated that "the territorial integrity of sovereign states...including determining their own policies and structures" cannot be interfered with. This "principle of non-intervention" is the basis for diplomatic relations. Aid can be provided but how it is distributed and used may not necessarily have the intended outcome.

Continued on page 4...



**WHM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

PRESIDENT
Glenn Hamamura

PAST PRESIDENT
Yukio Kitagawa

VICE PRESIDENTS
Carolyn Uchiyama, 1st
Dale Shimauro, 2nd
Rod Moriyama, 3rd

RECORDING SECRETARY
Arlene Ogata

TREASURER
Alan Kakazu

ASSISTANT TREASURERS
Richard Adaniya
Stanley Murakoshi

TRUSTEES
Damon Bender
Elaine Kawamoto
Brian Kimura
Barbara Ladao
Alfred Paulino
Calvin Takeshita
Neal Tomita
Jack Tsujihara
Vernon Yamamoto
Rusty Nakagawa

LEGAL ADVISOR
Yoshiro Nakamura
Marcus Oshiro

ADVISORS
Sonny Abangan
Shuichi Nagai

CLUB PRESIDENTS
Dale Shimauro, BWA
Aki Kakazu, Club Asoka
Carolyn Uchiyama, Dharma School



WHM newsletter is published by friends of the Dharma. Volunteers are welcome to serve on the committee. Please send comments and change of address to WHM office or email at news@wahiawahongwanji.org.
Roy Higa, Editor



President's Message

Glenn Hamamura

I am preparing this note before we run our Bon Dance, and so I will provide an update to that event in the next month. However, we just had the Hatsubon Service on Saturday (June 15), and it was well received. The temple was filled with family and friends of the 37 individuals who has passed away since the last service in June 2012. We estimated that perhaps as many as 170 to 180 people attended. It was a beautiful evening, and Reverend Bert Sumikawa from the Kapolei Sangha was our guest, and gave a great Dharma talk. I am encouraged that many friends of our members also came to offer incense, in addition to their families.

If you stop by the office on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Fridays, we have a new receptionist joining the staff. Caity Ohashi has begun work, and will be a great addition to coverage at the office. I introduced Beverly Sabagala who works on Wednesdays and Thursdays in last month's newsletter.

The re-roofing project is underway on the classrooms, the social hall, and the kitchen, and will continue for a number of weeks more into the July time frame. The contractor is doing a very good job, and we anticipate that this repair will help ensure that the buildings can serve our members into the next generation. Your board is committed to maintaining our campus so that the key facilities that we use on a daily basis can serve our members' needs into the future. As you might imagine, this project is capital intensive, and we will be running a fund raising campaign in the fall to address these costs.

I have been working with other temples over the past year in assisting in their development of their strategic (long range) plans. It has been an honor to work with the leaders of these other temples, and also a great learning experience as I come to understand the history of the temples, and their journey and dreams for the future. Wahiawa began this process in 2004, when then President James Iha asked me to run our first session. Since then, the board has continued to review and update our plans, and hopefully, the improvements in facilities, programs, and culture of the temple has been of value to our Sangha. I always ask these questions to the participants at these sessions, and I propose them to you as possibilities for other organizations that you belong to, and perhaps even to your family units: What are the two or three things that we do especially well (these are called core competencies), that we are known for? Note that these are the BEST things we do well. Then, what would we want our ideal future to look like (this is vision). The dynamic tension between the current state (where we are) and the future state (the vision) is bridged through plans and actions shaped by the culture of our competencies. Without this dynamic tension of the pull of the future, there is limited opportunity for improvement.

Consider these questions with regard to your relationship to this temple, and let's see if we can align all our interests toward a common vision.

In Gassho

Glenn Hamamura



REVEREND'S MESSAGE

O- BON

When I hear the word of "O-Bon", It gives me good memories. It represents the home of our life-the place where we feel at ease.

We were born as humans, and when we are aware that we have been given human life, we can feel joy and pleasure. On the other hand, we must also feel sadness and suffering.

When we observe society and the natural world, we become aware that we are supported by other people and things around us.

People who try to be truly human become aware of selfishness in themselves. It is very sad. We do not want to accept our own selfishness. Therefore we suffer. Then we try to escape from such suffering. But we become aware that we cannot escape from it. That is why we all begin to look for the true meaning of our life.

Shakyamuni Buddha knew that all people must walk this road. That is why he preached to us the truth Buddhism.

Buddha is for the person who is unable to change his selfishness. When we are aware of the truth, we know that no matter how we live our life we surely are saved, and Buddha has already prepared the Pure Land for us. Buddha and my loved ones are always saying to me, " You are not alone. We are always with you." During the season of O-Bon, we can be aware of Buddha's voice and our loved ones' voices.

Through the O-Bon season, let us look back on our life and let us give thanks to Buddha and to our loved ones.

In Gassho,
Rev. Hashimoto

Buddhist Tales

Scorpion and the old man

One morning, after he had finished his meditation, the old man opened his eyes and saw a scorpion floating helplessly in the water. As the scorpion was washed closer to the tree, the old man quickly stretched himself out on one of the long roots that branched out into the river and reached out to rescue the drowning creature. As soon as he touched it, the scorpion stung him. Instinctively the man withdrew his hand. A minute later, after he had regained his balance, he stretched himself out again on the roots to save the scorpion. This time the scorpion stung him so badly with its poisonous tail that his hand became swollen and bloody and his face contorted with pain.

At that moment, a passerby saw the old man stretched out on the roots struggling with the scorpion and shouted: "Hey, stupid old man, what's wrong with you? Only a fool would risk his life for the sake of an ugly, evil creature. Don't you know you could kill yourself trying to save that ungrateful scorpion?"



The old man turned his head. Looking into the stranger's eyes he said calmly, "My friend, just because it is the scorpion's nature to sting, that does not change my nature to save."

Namu Amida Butsu

Continue from page 1...

Promoting the U.S point of view may not be as simple as it appears on the surface. When there's a revolution, like the one in Syria, an outside country cannot interfere with what's going on unless asked by the country in question. There is currently a fevered debate about how "aid" to Syria can be accomplished. Human rights are being violated, and many feel there should be more military intervention. At what point should this occur, as it would be looked upon as an act of war? This is why a United Nations approach is necessary, and it takes time.

After a successful toppling of an authoritarian government, outside countries may be asked to oversee an election but cannot interfere with how a government is set up. So it takes years for a government to be established with free elections in place and people to actually take part.

In 2011 the "Arab Spring" took place starting in Tunisia. Protests sprang up against the authoritarian governments in Libya, Egypt, Bahrain, Syria, and Yemen. With increased communication and world awareness, tolerance for living under a suppressed regime is wearing away. And yet, it won't be so easy to establish a stable government in its place as evidenced even today. The key ingredients are: 1) an educated populace, 2) free elections, 3) stable infrastructure, and 4) opposing parties that are free to *dialog and disagree*.

The ideal of a democracy is to be able to get many ideas and figure out a way to implement the best ones. So when elections are won by 2-5%, that is a "normal" thing and should be celebrated. I always thought that if people didn't think the way "I" thought, something was "wrong." In actuality, having the discourse over many ideas and a methodology to argue these ideas is what optimizes a community and society.

So how much does the United States spend in "promoting democracy?" The entire state department budget for "core diplomacy" is about \$59B or 1.56% of the federal budget*. Foreign aid to countries promoting education, healthcare, and food aid totals a whopping \$2billion! By comparison, the military budget request for 2013 is \$672.9 Billion or 17.7%. Isn't it interesting how our priorities are aligned? We have a long way to go in helping to balance the way of life for all peoples in the world.

In reflection, this is exactly what Shakyamuni Buddha taught 2500 years ago. The Four Noble Truths about life is fundamentally about facing reality and dealing with it through the Eightfold Path. The Eightfold path are principles for good living: wholesome view, wholesome thought, wholesome speech, wholesome conduct, wholesome livelihood, wholesome endeavor, wholesome mindfulness, and wholesome meditation.

So when election time comes around and you are disgusted with the political ads, take a hard look at what is being said and then "VOTE" for what you think is right. If you don't vote, only a small minority actually gets what they want and everyone else loses. Be grateful that the United States is the "grand experiment" in democracy...it is still less than 250 years old.

In gassho,
Rod Moriyama

[*http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013_United_States_federal_budget](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013_United_States_federal_budget)

ENJOY FREEDOM

To gain freedom from the SELF (permanent, independent, autonomous).

Recognize the three poisons of Buddhism, A (anger), D (desire), and D (delusion).

Then subtract A.D.D. To become NO SELF (impermanent, interdependent, no autonomous).

Happy Fourth of July!!!

Temple News

Oahu Hongwanji Council Obon Service

Sitting under the magnificent Bodhi tree at the Hawaii Plantation's Village, we were gathered for the annual opening of the Obon season on June 1st. The District ministers were present as well as our featured speaker Rev. Yamamura from the Nichiren Mission in Honolulu. Rev. Jay Okamoto was the MC and Rev. Yamamura led the service. It was an interesting exposure for those gathered to experience a Nichiren service and chanting.

During the Obon season we acknowledge the importance of our ancestors and Rev. Yamamura explained the reasons. We are the product of our parents and our parents are the products of their parents and so forth with each preceding generation. Our foundation is truly wide like the roots of a tree. Furthermore, we show respect toward our ancestors and how in the same manner, care will be shown toward us. Therefore, not only at Obon but throughout the year, we should continually have our ancestors within our hearts and minds.

To top off this gathering at the service, and to everyone's surprise, Rev. Yamamura entertained us with the song "Sen No Kaze Ni Natte", A Thousand Winds, in his beautiful melodic operatic voice.

Hatsubon at Wahiawa Hongwanji

The gathering of family and friends of loved ones who passed away between April 2012 and April 2013, created a memorable event at the temple on June 15. The front of the altar was lined with lanterns with flickering lights representing the dearly departed. Rev. Hashimoto led the Shoshinge as family and friends offered incense as each name was called.

Rev. Bert Sumikawa of Hawaii Betsuin and the Kapolei Buddhist Sangha shared his thoughts of Obon. "Your departed mother, father, sister, brother, spouse, or child have been keeping you in their thoughts, providing you with nourishment for your spiritual self. The void in your life is a reminder that things will never be the same. Our loved ones are no longer here to visit, talk to, share laughs or tears. But this doesn't mean that we have been abandoned or left alone. It only means that we must awaken to the mind and heart that transcends time and space so that we may continue to experience the embrace of our loved ones at this very moment.

I would like to read a poem that you may already

know. It is entitled, "A Breeze from the Pure Land", originally attributed to a Navajo Burial Prayer, and was translated into Japanese and made into a song called "Sen no Kaze."

Please don't cry before my grave . . .
That's not where I am,
Nor am I sleeping for eternity.
See,
I am already part of the breezes
 Numbering a thousand.
I am part of the light
 That brightens this world,
Like a diamond glittering in the snow,
Like the sun that coaxes seeds to sprout.
And in the fall, I become the gentle rain
 That nurtures all
When you open a window in the morning,
 I am the breeze
 That causes your hair to flutter,
And at night I am the star
 That watches over your sleep.
So please Don't cry before my grave.
 That's not where I am.
I am not dead;
I have been born anew.

In Jodo Shinshu, we observe the Obon season as a Gathering of Joy, and as we remember and as we appreciate the nourishment we receive by hearing the Dharma, we cannot help but say, Namo Amida Butsu in gratitude for them and all of life itself, in Amida Buddha's infinite "Wisdom and Compassion."

Family Day

On July 21 we will be celebrating Family Day. Our Dharma speaker on that day will be Rev. Blayne Higa, chaplain at the Pacific Buddhist Academy. Rev. Higa was a featured speaker at the recent YESS camp so it should be interesting to see how he interacts with our students as well as adults. Invite your children and grandchildren to this fun event we have every year. The sign-up sheets are out.

Dharma School News

Dharma Sunday will be on July 7 and the MC will be Thomas Kanemaru. Dharma School will be held on July 14 and 28. Students recently presented to the Sangha their thoughts and effects Shinran Shonin had on them and the world after reading about his life. In July they will begin practicing their song presentation at the Songfest on September 22.

BWA NEWS

Thank you to Rev. Takako Hashimoto for her informative and inspirational talk at the BWA Eshinni Day Service. At our June meeting, we voted to donate the Eshinni Day Service offering toward the establishment of a WHM Jr YBA Club in support of our temple youth.

The tea ceremony after our May 26 meeting was a sight to behold and was enjoyed by everyone. It was presented by Bishop Eric Matsumoto's wife, Tamayo, and four lovely kimono-clad students of Sensei Hideko Watanabe. The art of tea was explained as we were each presented with a sweet dessert (made by our own temple ladies), and then with tea in artful and distinctive tea cups.

Thank you to the BWA ladies who so generously assisted with Obon preparations. Whether you

helped in the kitchen, strung yagura lanterns, created and made quilts and blankets, sewed happi coats and vests, or made numerous craft items to sell at our Country Store and Silent Auction, or if you were one of the Bon dance instructors who taught the dances all those weeks leading up to Obon, you were all very much appreciated, and each of you contributed toward a successful 2013 Obon.



CPR/AED CLASS

We will be conducting a CPR/AED Class (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation/Automated External Defibrillator) on Sunday, August 4, 2013 in the Social Hall, at 10:00 am, following Sunday service.

This will be a non-certification educational course that will teach students how to perform Hands Only CPR, what to do for heart attacks, the difference between a heart attack and sudden cardiac arrest, and how to perform CPR on children and infants. The class will also cover how to use an AED.



All students will leave with the confidence and knowledge of how to save a life. If time permits, adult and infant choking will also be covered.

This class is recommended for everyone- even those who have taken a class or are currently certified. Hands Only CPR is easy to perform, more effective than traditional CPR and can save a life.

Please sign up at the temple office and reserve a seat for this very important class!

RECOGNIZING A STROKE

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify.

Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke .

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

S - Ask the individual to SMILE.

T - Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently - i.e. It is sunny out today)

R - Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

New Sign of a Stroke ----- Stick out Your Tongue

NOTE: Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue.. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other that is also an indication of a stroke. If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call 911 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

ARRIVAL OF NEW MINISTERS

Rev. Mieko Majima ... She has been studying Bukkyo-Gaku at Ryukoku University Graduate Course. She is scheduled to arrive at Hawaii on June 24, 2013.

Rev. Satoshi Tomioka ... Graduated Ryukoku University Graduate Course (Major: Shinshugaku). Successfully obtained R1-VISA. Rev. Tomioka will have an audience with Gomonsu and receive the official assignment to HHMH on June 27, 2013. He is scheduled to arrive at Hawaii on June 30, 2013.

Rev. Shinji Kawagoe ... Graduated Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin "Kenkyuka". Successfully obtained R1-VISA. Rev. Kawagoe will have an audience with Gomonsu and receive the official assignment to HHMH on June 27, 2013. He is scheduled to arrive at Hawaii on June 30, 2013.

*These three new ministers will go through the following orientation before being assigned to the temples as of August 1, 2013.

Orientation at HQ ... July 1-16, 2013

Orientation at Hawaii Betsuin ... July 17-31, 2013 (under the supervision of Rimban Tatsuo Muneto)

Orientation at Hilo Betsuin ... July 17-31, 2013 (under the supervision of Rimban Jeffrey Soga)

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

The 5th Young Adults Retreat will be held on August 9-12 at Camp Timberline, Oahu. The Young Adults Retreat is for 18-35 year olds, interested in learning about Buddhism as well as learning about themselves through wonderful interactions with new and old Dharma-Friends. For more information please visit the website at www.tinyurl.com/buddha-yar

JENNIFER TAIRA COMPOSES NEW GATHA

On May 21, 2013, composer Jennifer Taira was presented with a commission check of \$1,000 by Bishop Eric Matsu-moto for composing the music to the text of *Buddha's Great Light* by Carrie Kawamoto, winner of the 2011 Gatha Lyrics Contest. The music of the new gatha was designed for a contemporary feel and to be sung by congregation or by two- or three-voice choir. This new work is expected to be featured at Choralfest 2014, tentatively planned for early fall of next year at the Hawaii Betsuin.



An intergenerational retreat sponsored by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii End-of-Life Committee

For family and friends to listen and reflect on our elders' wishes and concerns

~ health, religious, cultural ~

To support them as they enter the twilight of their lives.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, September 28, 2013 8:30am ~2:00pm

Wahiawa Hongwanji, Oahu

Registration: \$20/\$10 for students

Forms are coming to your temple soon!

Questions? ernieoshiro@gmail.com

Acknowledgements

Gojikai Donations

Sachiko Brown
Yoshio Isobe
Sakuichi Iwahiro
Noriko Murakoshi
Takano Sawada
Geraldine Watanabe

Brian Kimura
Margaret Kimura
Yukio Kitagawa
Dixie Kurihara
George Lee
Betsy Maesaka
Florence Matsuda
Katherine Matsuda
Yoshimi Matsunaga
Doris Matsuoka
Carl Matsuura
Betsy Miyamoto
Kiyoko Miyashiro
Rodney Moriyama
Noriko Murakoshi
Yoshio Nakagawa
Fumiko Nakahodo
Kay Nakamura
Richard Nakasone
Masako Nishimura
Sachiko Nitta
Alfred Paulino
Emiko Rodby
Sadao Sawai
Mildred Segawa
Dale Shimauro

Emiko Tamayose
Hatsue Tanaka
Mary Tanaka
Isamu Tatsuguchi
George Terao
Neal Tomita
Hiroataka Tsujihara
Tomio Tsujimoto
Masato Tsujimura
Carolyn Uchiyama
Aiko Yamamoto
Ethel Yamamoto
Ethel Yanagida
Roseline Yano
Ethel Yoshida
Linda Yoshikami

Gotane

Pedro (Sonny) Abangan
Andy Abe
Shigeiko Abe
Wallace Abe
Kiyoshi (Richard) Adaniya
Harry Endo
Richard (Joyce) Fujimoto
Nora Fukuyama
Glenn Hamamura
Donald Hashimoto
Toshiko S. Ibara
Hisako Igarashi
Taeko Ishikawa
Terry Iwanaga
Judith Kakazu
Edwin Kawane

Spring Ohigan

Fumiko Nakahodo
Sachiko Nitta

Obon Donation

Marrion Johnston

Temple Donations

	In Memory of
Clarence Kanja	Sarah Nagai
Peggy Tsukida	Yukie Tsukida
Thomas Kashiwabara	Lillian Kiyoko Doi
Yukio Kitagawa	Sarah Nagai
Shirley Lee	Harold and Jean Shinohara
Keith Nagai	Sarah Nagai
Walter Nomura	Lillian Kiyoko Doi
Hideko Watanabe	The Katsuhira's
Wilfred Watanabe	Tsune Watanabe
Gary Yamaguchi	Sarah Yamaguchi
Aiko Yamamoto	Sarah Nagai
Ethel Yanagida	Lillian Doi
Judy Yanagida	Lillian Doi
Linda Yoshikami	Kelly Yoshikami

Mahalo Aloha 

~ July 2013 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:30p-9p Dharma Group. Dinner	4 Independence Day	5	6
7 9a-10a Dharma Sunday Service	8	9	10	11 7:30a-10:30a Hosha Kai 7p-8p Club Asoka Meeting BWA Room	12	13
14 9a-10a Sunday Service and Dharma School 10a-12p Temple BWA Meeting 1p-3p District English Seminar @Pearl City Hongwanji. Speaker: Rev Mark Unno	15	16	17	18 11a-12p 11:am Hospital Visitation (PD)	19	20
21 9a-1p Family Day Service and Activities	22	23	24	25 7:30a-10:30a Hosha Kai	26	27
28 9a-10a Sunday Service and Dharma School 10a-11a Board Meeting	29	30	31	Notes:		

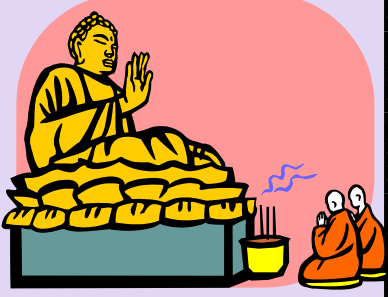
Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission
1067 California Avenue
P.O. Box 860265
Wahiawa, HI 96786-0265
Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WAHIAWA, HI
PERMIT NO 24

St. Stephen's Food Collection

Thank you for your generous donations to the Food Pantry. Please turn in your canned goods on July 7th, Dharma Sunday for the St. Stephen's Food Pantry. Let's work together to help the people in the Wahiawa community. A person's or family's day is brightened with your contributions.

If you want to learn about Buddhism, I suggest putting aside all assumptions. Put aside assumptions about Buddhism, and then assumptions about religion. Put aside assumptions about the nature of the self, of reality, of existence. Keep yourself open to new understanding. Whatever beliefs you hold, hold in an open hand and not a tight fist.



Please note that past newsletters are available for you to read at our website:

www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org

Young Buddhists Beach Retreat with
Dr. Mark Unno.
July 13, 2013 9am-3pm.
Waialua, Hi.
Please RSVP to Jamie at 973-6555 or email
bscassist@honpahi.org by July 3rd.