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Obon 2016

Twelve months of planning, three weeks of set-up, and many, many volunteer hours went into making this major event a reality!! Words cannot adequately express my gratitude for the teamwork, the enthusiasm, and the FUN that made this year's Obon a roaring success!! Thank you all! A special thanks to the team leaders who worked tirelessly from early morning to late at night.



On the Sunday after the celebration, everything in the parking lot had been dismantled and restored in 5 hours. Just amazing! It was an opportunity for reflection.

What was all of this for? Yes, it was an annual celebration for ALL of Wahiawa town and beyond. It was a time for connecting memories of our loved ones from the past AND of the present! It was a time to freely volunteer services and just be part of a happening much bigger than ourselves. It was a time for good food like mochi, shave ice, taiyaki, kimchee pancakes, plate lunches, and andagi! It was a chance to renew old friendships and reminisce good times and make new friends too! It was a time to share this tradition with both young and old. It was a time to reflect on how lucky we all are to enjoy this moment . . . rain or perfect weather!

The feelings of interconnectivity and friendships are priceless. Let's always hold these thoughts as we annually continue this tradition.



It's what makes *Obon*
. . . *Obon*.



A stunning aerial view of WHM obon. Photo taken by a drone

Reverend's Message



OYA (Parents)

In Jodo Shinshu of Japan, they call Amida Buddha "Oya-sama." I would like to tell you why they call Amida Buddha "Oya."

First of all, please focus carefully on the Chinese character "親," "Oya" means parents. It consists of three Chinese characters. The character on the top left "立" means standing. On the bottom left "木," this character means

wood. "見" means watching or seeing. So this character "親" symbolizes a person standing and watching from a high position.

I now understand the meaning of Oya after I myself became a parent. My wife and I are always thinking and worrying about our children even though they are already taller than we are. We wonder, "How is their school life?" "Do they have friends?" or "Do they have any problems?" Then I realized my own parents must have also worried and thought about me in the same way.

Sometimes my parents send packages from Shiga prefecture or Kagoshima prefecture in Japan. The items received are appreciated, but more important is their thoughtfulness in thinking of us. So I am happy whenever I receive a box from them. At those times, I realize that Amida Buddha is standing over us, and I understand why Japanese call Amida Buddha "Oya."

When we think of our children, we cannot sit down. We are always standing or walking around. Amida Buddha also has the same feelings as a parent. That is why Amida Buddha is standing and is inclining slightly forward. Amida Buddha's posture expresses the feeling of "Oya." For this reason Amida Buddha is referred to as "Oya."

Shinran Shonin said in Jodo Wasan:

*When a person realizes the mind of nondiscrimination,
That attainment is the "state of regarding each being as one's only child"
This is none other than Buddha-nature;
We will awaken to it on reaching the land of peace.*

Buddha's view is that everyone is his child. In this regard, Amida Buddha is a parent for all people, the state of compassion that is extended equally to all and without discrimination.

We feel joy that we have a common "Oya" who never abandons us.

In Gassho,



MINISTER

Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

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President's Report

The entire month of June was devoted to getting ready for Obon. Thank you to all the volunteers who participated in making this another wonderful community event. There were so many people involved before, during, and after the event. As I wrote this report, women volunteers were busy preparing a light dinner for the Hatsubon service.

The Hatsubon service is a special memorial service honoring those members who passed away during this past year. Their families were invited to participate as a way to help in the grieving process by just being together with friends and family.

I participated in Honpa Hongwanji's Compassionate Care Committee discussion involving a changing focus on what heretofore was part of the Grievance Committee. The Grievance Committee provides the support needed to those families experiencing a loved one who just passed away or nearing death. They assist in the planning of the funerals and memorial services, as well as provide support to the family and the community.

In our discussion, we had resources from the Pacific Health Ministry, social workers, and ministers from the Honolulu and Oahu Districts. We discussed the need to expand the scope of what is provided to our families in terms of providing a better understanding of services, and the kinds of decisions that can be made as one approaches death. Decisions regarding caring for the people with dementia or Alzheimer's, as well as those decisions made for Advanced directives, were discussed in detail.

Training for both lay and ministers was key to the success of such programs. How do we provide support so one can approach death with dignity? In the past, Advanced Directives telling caregivers how to approach resuscitation or artificially prolonging life mechanically are stipulated. Today, there is a document called the Physician Order Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) that goes into much greater detail. Providing a chance for families to have a discussion about such a document that is signed by both the patient and the doctor is what is being planned. The key is to have such discussions WHILE ALL parties are still relatively healthy.

There is a website called the Conversation Starter Kit : <http://theconversationproject.org/starter-kit/intro/> that begins to ask in an open way, just what is important to you, and how you can communicate this with your loved ones. Our biggest challenge will be getting over the stigma of avoiding any discussion about dying. Our American society is so "youth oriented" that many do not want to have any such discussion. We'll need to think about ways to make such an opportunity possible for our members. I was surprised that such discussions are critical even for younger families as NO ONE can really predict sickness or death.

Recently, WHM initiated a new program called the Summer Youth Program. Because so many of our young members who graduate from high school and go to college, become so preoccupied with activities outside of the temple, we decided on a limited basis to provide three of them summer jobs for ten weeks. They are taught Project Management techniques and will work on predefined projects for the temple. These projects will involve the digitization of our archives, developing a slide show for our Eitai-kyo Service in November, and other projects to augment our current staff and volunteers. Eventually, we'd also like for them to interview the older members ('older' is defined as older than 30 years old) and document their stories about the temple and growing up in Wahiawa. If we can sustain such a program, hopefully a new generation of leaders will be developed.

On July 10, our special speaker will be Rev. Sherman Thompson, who will talk about "Buddhism in a Christian world." We have invited temple members from all over to attend.

Thank you again for all you've done to make Obon at Wahiawa Hongwanji a very successful event!

In gassho,



Rod Moriyama



Koden and Eitaikyo Funds by Rod Moriyama

This morning I had the privilege of sitting in the Central Research and Planning Committee of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. The committee is made up of leaders from throughout the state with varied business backgrounds. The purpose of the committee is to look for alternative ways of generating income for the temples.

The topic of utilizing already available funds brought up the subject of Eitaikyo. Eitaikyo Service is one of the six major services in a temple and it is to perpetuate the memory of our ancestors. At Wahiawa Hongwanji, this is a truly special service as the names of the deceased are called out and displayed on a video screen. When the name is mentioned, friends and family of the deceased show their gratitude and respect via an incense offering. It is an opportunity for remembering good times and sharing stories of ancestors long past. It is a moving ceremony for those who attend the service.

There is a separate Eitaikyo Fund account for the perpetuation of the memory of the deceased. When properly managed, this becomes an endowment fund for the temple. How is this fund generated? Until now, Eitaikyo donations are put into a special Eitaikyo Fund. In Wahiawa, a minimum donation of \$300 entitles a family member to be remembered in perpetuity. I always thought that this was a form of honoring our ancestors. In Shin Buddhism, we believe that by honoring our ancestors, we can have a fuller appreciation of this life.

The question of the purpose of koden came up. Koden is usually given at the funeral of the deceased. Rev. Ai Hironaka clarified the original intent of koden. Ko means “incense.” In olden times in Japan, because of the high cost of incense, grains of incense were carried by all individuals. At a funeral, people would approach the altar and offer their own incense . . . or koden.

Bishop Matsumoto then clarified that during plantation days, immigrants usually gave some money to the families to help with the funeral expenses, as well as to help the families in times of an early death of the key provider. Detailed tablets were kept recording the gift amounts so people could be acknowledged. These tablets were also kept for reciprocating in the future.

Funeral plans and life insurance have changed the perception of koden. Many families specifically ask that “no koden” be offered at funerals. Families who have parents that have lived to a ripe old age, have difficulty with keeping track of koden. Other families ask that donations be made to favorite charities in lieu of flowers or koden.

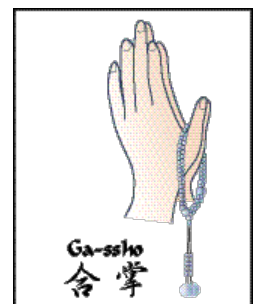
Would it make sense for a designated donation be made to the Eitaikyo Fund of a specific temple in the name of the deceased preserving in perpetuity the memory of the deceased? This means that as an option, the koden would be a donated to the Eitaikyo Fund in memory of the deceased.

This also preserves our interconnection with our ancestors which is celebrated annually at the Eitaikyo Service. For families whose younger generation have moved to the mainland, this may be a very nice way for them to keep connected and to participate in the perpetuation of the memory of their grandfather, grandmother, father, or mother.

Namo Amida Butsu!
In gassho,



Rod



It is said that the teru teru bozu brings "good" weather.



Obon is



...

... a time for connecting memories of our loved ones



... a time to reflect on how lucky we are to enjoy this moment—rain or perfect weather!



... a time to share this tradition with both the young and the old



... a time for good food



... a time to volunteer and just be a happening much bigger than ourselves



... a time to renew old friendship and reminisce good times & make new friends, too!



BWA BRIEFS

Obon at the Plaza. Last year The Plaza at Mililani asked for help in putting together its first ever bon dance for its Residents and their families. Rev. Hashimoto gave a brief explanation of what Obon is all about, then our WHM BWA ladies in their usual "loving and compassionate" style, put on their happi coats and got even the wheel-chair bound folks up to dance.

The Plaza is again calling on our BWA ladies to provide the same fun and dance for its Residents, and our ladies will again take up the challenge! Way to go ladies!!!

Blood Drive at WHM. Following a successful second community blood drive in May 2016 and at the request of the Blood Bank, the BWA will hold a third community blood drive on August 20, 2016. The blood mobile will be on the WHM campus starting at 8:00am.

Please remember that the need for blood becomes increasingly more critical as we near the holidays and celebrations. And to be successful, we know that we must rely on all of our temple members. If unable to donate yourself perhaps another family member, a relative, neighbor or friend can. No harm in asking! It takes about an hour out of your day and food will be served to all donors.

Remember that a pint of blood can save up to three lives. And more importantly, remember that the life you save could be your own or that of someone you love!

Contact any BWA member or call the temple office and leave your name and phone number. We will call you to set up an appointment time for August 20th.

WHM Jr YBA Support. The BWA recently provided monetary support for some of our Jr YBA members to attend a conference in Maui. In appreciation the children have been helping our ladies with Saturday morning cleaning of the temple. Some of them also helped with the cleaning of the bathrooms following Obon. And as agreed they will each be sharing with our ladies at our next monthly meeting in July their experiences at the conference.

(NOTE: Parents/Grandparents, if you would like your children/grandchildren to have these same opportunities and experiences as the children in our WHM Buddhist Education, Jr. YBA and Dharma Shaka groups, please call the temple office and leave your name and phone number. We will call you with information).

Mark your calendars for these important events:

- Sunday, July 10, 2016 at 10:15 am, BWA Monthly Meeting, BWA Room
- Sunday, October 2, 2016 at 10:00 am, Tsuito-E Service.



A little bit of religion . . .
with a whole LOT of FUN!

Special Service:
July 10, 2016 @ 9am

Speaker:
Reverend Sherman Thompson

Topic
Buddha and Christ

Buddhism in



a Christian

If you were
ever curious about Buddhism or
Christianity, come join the

Since American society recognizes Christianity as its primary religious affiliation, Rev. Sherman Thompson addresses how Buddhism fits into a Christian culture. Chaplain Thompson who was raised in a Shin Buddhist family is an ordained United Church of Christ minister and currently serves as a Chaplain at Kamehameha Schools. He also serves on the Board of Pacific Buddhist Academy.

This Dharma talk will be a synopsis of the course he facilitates as part of the Dharma Light Program. Please come and participate. There will be a coffee hour after the service for questions, answers and discussions.

Please call us M-F 8:00-12pm to ensure a seat:
Phone: 622.4320

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

COLUMBARIUM

Ethel Nakagawa
IMO Rusty
Nakagawa

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IMO Kelly
Yoshikami

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Rachel Sato

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Grace Jarvis
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Shinayo Kakehi

Henry Shinohara
IMO Jean
Shinohara

Honpa Dharma
Sch Teachers
Assoc.

"Thank you"
for Keiki Day

Jan Youth

Janet Miura

Janice
Shizumura IMO
Yoshitsugu
Nishimura

Jerry Ogata IMO
Shinayo Kakehi

Karl Kakehi
IMO Shinayo
Kakehi

Laura & Stanley
Nakasone
"Thank You"

Lee and
Shinohara
Families
IMO Jean
Shinohara

Marian Tsue
IMO Lillian M.
Choo

Melvin Oshiro
IMO Jensho,
Sadano & Roy
Oshiro

Miyoko Kamida
IMO Chiyozo &
Matsui Daima

Peggy Tsukida
Mother's Day
Donation IMO
Yukie Tsukida

Robert Soma
IMO Cecilia A.
Soma

Ryan Sawai IMO
Shiro and Nancy
Sawai

Waipahu
Hongwanji
Mission
"Thank You -
Keiki Day"

Winston
Shigenaga IMO
Gilbert & Jane
Iwasa

Yukie Komyoji
IMO Nishihara
Family

Susan Crowell
IMO Hiroshi
"Bobby" Komori

Yoshio Isobe
IMO Alice Isobe

Ellen Jinbo IMO
Walter Jinbo

Oops! Please accept our apology for the following errors in the June newsletter:

Amy Abe-Spring Ohigan
Andy Abe-Spring Ohigan
Terry Iwananga-Spring Ohigan



Mahalo

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.

Book Launch

The book, *Picture Bride Stories*, by Barbara Kawakami will be unveiled on July 23, 2016, at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii from 10:30 am. The hardcover book will sell for \$39.95 and JCCH members qualify for a 10% discount.

Out of the hundreds of picture brides she interviewed, she has chosen to feature 16 stories and 4 of them are Issei women from Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission. They are:

- Mrs. Ayako Kikugawa who owned an okazuya in Wahiawa;
- Mrs. Ushii Nakasone who worked as a live-in maid at Schofield Barracks;
- Mrs. Fuyuno Sawai who opened up a pineapple stand
- Mrs. Kishi Tsujimura who learned to sew

SEE YOU THERE!!!



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IMO Mamoru
& Helen Yukiko
Sawai

Glenn Matsuura
IMO James
Hachiro
Matsuura

Fusayo H. Nagai
IMO Hideo
Nagai

Sumako Sawai
IMO Mamoru
Sawai

Nancy Shigeoka
IMO Minoru
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Miyahira

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Lillian Shimoda
IMO Robert
K.Nagai

Karen
Tamabayashi-
Higuchi
IMO Shimeno
& Isamu Iwasa

Wilfred
Watanabe IMO
Masaichi
Watanabe

Columbarium (May 2016)

Terry Jean Arakaki
Sadao Watanabe
Lois Yamachika
Craig Taguma
Hatsue Yanagida
Terry Iwanaga
Richard Nakasone
Ethel Yamamoto
Thomas & Luanne Bongiorno
Roy Hirata
Tsutomu Hakoda
Florence Matsuda
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