



The Messenger

DECEMBER 2017

6 Wed	9:30a	Yoga-Social Hall
7 Thu	7:30a	Hosha Kai
	7:00p	Dancersize - BWA Room
9 Sat	7:30a	Columbarium Cleaning
10 Sun	8:30a	Temple Cleanup/General Membership Meeting/Lunch
		No Sunday Service
		No BWA Meeting
12 Tue	10:00a	No Monthly Service at Waialua
13 Wed	9:30a	Yoga-Social Hall
14 Thu	7:00p	Dancersize - BWA Rm
16 Sat	7:30a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
17 Sun	9:00a	Sunday Service
	10:00a	Sangha Strummers
21 Thu	7:30a	Hosha Kai
	11:00a	Hospital Visitation - Project Dana
	7:00p	Dancersize - BWA Rm
22 Fri	9:00-10:00a	Monthly Buddhist Service @ The Plaza Mililani
23 Sat	7:30a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
24 Sun	9:00a	CHRISTMAS EVE - No Sunday Service
25 Mon		CHRISTMAS DAY - Office closed
28 Thu	7:00p	Dancersize-BWA Rm
31 Sun	10:00a	Joya-E Service-Waialua Hongwanji
	5:00p-7:00p	NEW YEAR'S EVE - Bonsho Ringing
		Temple will be open to allow members to offer incense.



JANUARY 2018

1 Mon		HAPPY NEW YEAR – Office closed
4 Thu	7:30a	Hosha Kai
6 Sat	7:30a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
7 Sun	9:00a	Sunday Service & SOCIAL HOUR – Social Hall
	10:00a	Kyodan Installation of WHM Board Officers
9 Tue	10:00a	Monthly Service at Waialua Hongwanji
13 Sat	7:30a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
14 Sun	9:00a	Sunday Service
	10:00a	BWA Installation of Officers and Meeting
15 Mon		Martin Luther King Day - Office closed
18 Thu	7:30a	Hosha Kai
	11:00a	Hospital Visitation-Project Dana
20 Sat	7:30a	Temple/Columbarium, Cleaning
21 Sun	9:00a	HOONKO SERVICE - Guest Speaker: Reverend Thomas Okano
27 Sat	7:30a	Temple/Columbarium Cleaning
	6:30p	Sakura Matsuri - Social Hall
28 Sun	9:00a	Sunday Service & SOCIAL HOUR - Social Hall
	10:00a	WHM Board Meeting – BWA Room

あけましておめでとうございます。
Akemashite omdetou gozaimasu.





The Phone of the Wind

We welcomed Reverend Jan Youth as our special guest speaker at our recent Eitaikyo service. She told us about a unique activity in Japan. It is called "*The Phone of the Wind.*" Let me explain the background of this activity.



In 2011, a 9.0-magnitude earthquake tore through northeastern Japan and triggered a devastating tsunami. Together, the events destroyed the country, causing more than \$300 billion in damages and resulting in the loss of more than 15,000 residents. Some survivors are still grieving over the loss of their loved ones, and one coastal town has come up with a unique way of coping.

Positioned atop a grassy hill overlooking the Pacific Ocean, a "phone booth" in Otsuchi, Japan, allows living people to call their dead relatives and loved ones. Called the "*Phone of the Wind,*" the disconnected rotary phone positioned inside a glass booth allows callers to send verbal messages to those they've lost, which the wind then carries away.

When I watched the video of this on YouTube, I was really impressed with the words a couple of children used in speaking to their grandpa. The children said, "Hello, Grandpa. How are you? I will become third grade pretty soon. I finished my homework. We are all fine. Bye-Bye." In an interview with a lady who often visits the phone booth with her grandchildren she said, "even though we cannot hear his voice, my grandchildren say they can feel his voice when they call to him."

When I heard their comments, I thought about the similar feelings I get when I chant the sutras. As Buddhists, we often read or listen to the sutras in different situations. The Sutras are what Shakyamuni Buddha said--they explain the history of Buddhism. Shinran Shonin said, "Difficult it is to hear the teachings of the blessed one; now we hear them." Shinran Shonin did not think the sutras were just sutras. He always had felt the history of the sutras which someone handed down enabling us to hear them today.

Our sutras have the wishes and silent voices of countless number of our loved ones. Instead of the "phone booth," we have "the sutras" which enable us to "feel" our loved ones. As Buddhists, we should keep chanting and listening to the sutra as a message from our ancestors.

In Gassho,

Reverend Hashimoto



President's Report



A beautiful Eitaikyo Service on November 5 was highlighted with a moving Dharma Talk by Rev. Jan Youth. Sensei Jan had everyone misty eyed as she emotionally reflected on the Eitaikyo ceremony watching so many members pay tribute and show gratitude to their loved ones who have passed away.



She began her talk introducing the concepts of “significance” and “profound.” She said that in a typical breakfast, the contribution of the eggs is “significant,” but the contribution of bacon is “profound.” She was moved by the thought of decades of contributions made by those honored that day, and the many generations, both very young and old, doing “oshoko” (incense offering) in gratitude.

She referred also to a podcast and an NHK special about a farmer who installed a “Phone of the Wind” on his property in Miyazaki Japan, which had been impacted by the tsunami. He had lost his wife and had the phone booth installed so he could talk to her. The telecast went viral, and many people came several hundred miles just for the opportunity to connect with their loved ones **too**. This profound connection wasn't about science or technology; it was about connecting with your heart! Namo Amida Butsu!

The end of the year is fast approaching and it is a season of Thanksgiving and goodwill to all. Many times we take so many things for granted that we don't appreciate all the work that makes our lives and our temple as successful as it is. Your donations toward our major capital projects are greatly appreciated as we saw the positive effect of connecting into the sewage system, repaving our parking lot, and repairing leaks and toilets that have plagued us for years. Our temple roof is still in need of repair but our funding has fallen short of our goal of \$400,000. We will need to extend our deadline into next year to meet this objective.

There are many unsung heroes behind the scenes that make possible the programs and the maintenance of our temple, and our gratitude goes out to them. Without them, our temple and columbarium wouldn't be cleaned, flowers and altar not ready for services, the grounds not presentable, and the programs would not get implemented. Finally, underlying all of these events is the foundation of providing refreshments and food, setting and cleaning of the social hall and BWA rooms. Thank you all for your efforts! We look forward to having more volunteers play an active role in sustaining our temple into the future.

Next year will be our 110th Anniversary! We plan to have the celebration as a two-day event during the weekend of October 20-21, 2018. We are working with Olelo to produce a video that will capture the memories of so many of our older members, as well as describe what we hope to have in the future. Please stay tuned!

Namo Amida Butsu!
In gassho,



Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission
A place to use Buddhism to navigate life



PRESIDENT: Rod Moriyama
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Carolyn Uchiyama
Damon Bender
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**WHM Keirokai
and
New Year Party
in Feb 2018**

We will be celebrating those who turned 75-years and 85-years old in 2017. Please help us locate all temple members born in the years, 1932 and 1942. Call temple office with names.



Beginning Jan 2018 everyone is invited to our newest member activity --
"WHM's Social Hour"



Place: Social Hall
Time: Immediately following
Sunday Service until 11:00am

Different activities each time or just come to talk story. Check calendar for dates.

A Tribute to Queen Lili`uokalani

By Carolyn Uchiyama

On October 29, 2017 the Honolulu Hongwanji Council held a centennial tribute to Queen Lili`uokalani at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin. Gratitude is a cornerstone of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and it was an honor to express our appreciation to Her Majesty Queen Lili`uokalani at this service.



In a difficult and challenging time, Her Majesty extended her compassion and kindness to the Japanese community and in particular the Hongwanji Buddhist Community by attending a special birthday service in honor of Shinran Shonin on May 19, 1901 at the Fort Lane Temple, forerunner of this current temple. Her presence along with Mary Elizabeth Mikahala Foster, who had extended the invitation to the Queen, encouraged the Hongwanji to proudly move forward. Her Aloha for the people of Hawaii made a tremendous impact on society at the time.

At today's service Bishop Eric Matsumoto delivered his Dharma message and presented here are excerpts of his message. "As the 16th Bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, it is with a heart full of gratitude and admiration that I express my deepest respect to Her Late Majesty, Queen Lili`uokalani on this 100th year since her passing. It was 116 years ago, during the time of our 2nd Bishop Yemyo Imamura that Her Majesty the Queen graced the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii with her presence."



"For us living today, it is perhaps very difficult to fathom the significance of Her Majesty's Visit and what it meant to the Japanese Community and especially to Bishop Imamura and the Buddhists of the early 1900's. It was a challenging time for Buddhists when Buddhism was not fully accepted in the Islands. Thus, the Queen's Visit was a significant historical event in our 128 year history in Hawaii. The Queen's Visit made the Buddhist religion acceptable in the eyes of many people. Truly we are indebted to people like Mary Elizabeth Mikahala Robinson Foster too, but the Queen's Visit to the Hongwanji made a huge impact as it made headlines, locally and even internationally, as it was reported in the news of many countries throughout the world."

"Her Majesty's willingness to visit a Buddhist Temple, I surmise, was an expression of who she was, in her own words, '...the acquisition of knowledge has been a passion with me during my life...'. I believe it was an expression of her openness, genuine quest for knowledge, her courage to help and willingness to embrace others. It was her Aloha! As I reflect on Her Majesty's life, though by 1901 the overthrow and annexation had already taken place by American Western accounts, I am sure life was not easy for Her Majesty. However, despite her own hardships and challenges, the Queen reached out and embraced others like we, of the Buddhist community. Today, as the Bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, I express my deepest and most sincere appreciation to Her Majesty and other individuals of Hawaiian ancestry like Mary Foster for the extreme kindness shown to us. It brings me great joy to know that Her Majesty found her visit to Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii to be a profound spiritual experience."

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“Today, as we gather for this 100th Anniversary Tribute in her honor, I would like to quote her from 1895, ‘I have pursued the path of peace and diplomatic discussion, and not that of internal strife’ and ‘To prevent the shedding of the blood of my people, natives and foreigners alike, I opposed armed interference, and quietly yielded to the armed forces brought against my throne... and have pursued the path of peace...’ and say that her words resonate strongly in my heart and mind. Indeed, the Queen was a person of strength and character. It would have been so much easier to resort to violence and force, but I believe she had the welfare of the people of Hawaii in mind when she chose the path of peace.”

“Her Majesty, the Queen, I believe, ultimately, understood the meaning of the preciousness of life especially the loving and caring of the young, the children. The Queen spoke of heritage to all of us who call Hawai`i our home. You do not need to tell me that there is something special here in Hawai`i that can make a difference in our entire world. Let us share that heritage, the Gift of Aloha, with the rest of the world in hopes that it may become more peaceful and harmonious.”

“To conclude, the Queen’s Legacy of perseverance, courage, caring and sacrifice were truly noble. May we continue to be inspired by her words and actions, her songs, and her life.

Those in attendance at the service were fortunate to view Prof. Jackie Pualani Johnson, retired University of Hawaii-Hilo Drama Professor, portrayal of Queen Lili`uokalani. She recounted her visit to the Fort Lane temple and her experiences there. Everyone was mesmerized!



WHM Bodhi Day Service
on
Dec 3, 2017 was followed
by a “zenzai” treat.

Acknowledgements

Columbarium

Toshiko S. (Patsy) Ibara
Laura Takai
Linda Yoshikami

Eitaikyo

Amy Abe
Andy Abe
Shigeko Abe
Wallace Abe
Masanobu Arakaki
Donald Hashimoto
Toshiko S. (Patsy) Ibara
Merle Komata
Sachiko Komata
Edna Kondo
Kenneth Kumasaka
Nancy Kunimitsu
George Lee
Tsugio Miyahara
Keiko Nagai
Jerry Ogata
Edna Saifuku
Iwao Sato
James Shimokusu
Louise Stevens
Tony Suyetsugu
Shigemasa Tamanaha
Phyllis Tanaka
Isamu Tatsuguchi
Sumiko Yaji
Earl Yoshida

Eitaikyo Perpetual

Betsy Mizuno
Sunako Nakamura RLT
Neal Tomita
Tanya Oshiro

Gojikai

Kiley & Lawrence Lapenia
Sunako Nakamura RLT
Tanya Oshiro
Carolyn Uchiyama
Kiyoko Miyashiro

Ohigan - Fall

Miyo Abangan
Amy Abe
Andy Abe
Shigeko Abe

Ohigan - Fall (cont'd)

Wallace Abe
Jon Acohido
Beatrice Adaniya
Masanobu Arakaki
Terry Jean Arakaki
Akio Araki
Barry & Lori Chun
Harry Endo
Roy Enomoto
Brian & Wendy Fukuhara
Howard Hisamoto
Toshiko S. (Patsy) Ibara
Yoshio Isobe
Terry Iwanaga
Tomoe Kajiwara
Judith Kakazu
Amy Kanemaru
Richard Kawamoto
Edwin Kawane
Brian Kimura
Margaret Kimura
Yukio Kitagawa
Sachiko Komata
Sam Komori
Kenneth Kumasaka
Meryle Lee
Florence Matsuda
Katherine Matsuda
Yoshimi & Janet Matsunaga
Doris Matsuoka
Jane Matsusaka
Carl Matsuura
Tsugio Miyahara
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Rodney Moriyama
Ethel Nakagawa
Richard Nakasone
Jerry Ogata
Marilyn A. Onishi
Elaine Sato
Iwao Sato
Rachel Sato
Mildred Segawa
James Shimokusu
Robert Soma
Louise Stevens
Tony Suyetsugu
Shigemasa Tamanaha

Ohigan - Fall (cont'd)

Phyllis Tanaka
Isamu Tatsuguchi
George Terao
Matsuye (Barbara)
Tsujimoto
Carolyn Uchiyama
Sumiko Yaji
Gary Yamaguchi
Ethel Yamamoto
Ethel Yanagida
Linda Yoshikami

Temple Donation

Helen Uyeda
Janet Iwahori
Colleen Mau
Albert Tsujihara
Hirotaka Tsujihara
Helen Uyeda
Eugene Yamada
Frances Ching
Mabel Gushi
Jennifer Kimura
Melvin Oshiro
Eunice Watanabe

Capital Campaign

Amy Kanemaru
Jean Matsushige
Keiko Nagai
Joanne Hirata
Terry Jean Arakaki
James Sakane



Capital Campaign Update
For donations to be reflected
in your 2017 taxes, monies
should be received in the
Wahiawa Hongwanji Temple
office by noon on Friday,
December 29, 2017.

