



Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission

MARCH 2014

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 (emergency calls only— cell # 772-1904)

102nd Legislative Assembly February 7 - 8, 2014 By Carolyn Uchiyama

Some of you are wondering what is the Legislative Assembly. It is a body represented by all the temples throughout the state that are part of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. This group meets once a year in February to elect officers and directors to lead the Hongwanji. This year your representatives from Wahiawa Hongwanji were Glenn Hamamura, Dale Shimaura, Rod Moriyama and Carolyn Uchiyama.

What does this body do? They go through resolutions like membership, pension plans for ministers, and line of credit for Pacific Buddhist Academy, to name a few items. The biggest item is the budget that will provide funds for the administration and programs of Honpa Hongwanji.

Aside from the meetings on Friday and Saturday, there was a gathering of representatives from all the islands at the RAP session on Thursday evening. The topic for this session centered on the revitalization of small temples but actually it applied to us all. It was an open discussion session and there were representatives from these small temples who had never attended the Legislative Assembly before which made the session meaningful.

There are no easy answers to their questions: Could something have been done to help Kahuku Hongwanji survive?

1. Buddhism needs to change to sustain Honpa and the temples. In what ways should it change?
2. We cannot wait for the strategic plan to kick into action. What do we do in the meantime?
3. The biggest resource are people. We need to communicate with them better. Ask questions. Talk to them. To gain members now, we need to share how Buddhism applies in their life by our example. New members are recruited to help cut the grass, for example, but is that why they came to the temple? Bring people to temple for the social activities and

recreational activities. Make them feel comfortable. How do we do this?

4. How do you become community oriented to attract a diverse group of people to the temple and to add value to people's lives?
5. What are strategies to support the temples? A suggestion was to invite other temples for services or to join their services.

The guests from the Buddhist Churches of America shared about the Minister's Assistant Program (MAP) that helps with the shortage of ministers. With the MAP program, lay individuals are trained to conduct Sunday services with chanting and giving Dharma talks. In BCA they have 125 MAP graduates who assist at many temples. 75% of them will be getting their Tokudo ordination.

Rev. Jay Okamoto takes care of Waianae, Ewa, and Wai-pahu Hongwanji. Currently in Oahu District besides Rev. Jay, we have Rev. Hashimoto and Rev. Mariko Nishiyama. Since Rev. Mary David has been assigned to Honpa, Rev. Jan Youth has been called out of retirement to assist Mili-lani. Therefore we currently have 8 temples with only 3 ministers plus Rev. Jan. This (MAP) program would help ministers in Hawaii fill the gaps we currently have. We have started a MAP program in Hawaii but how many people are aware of it? We have very few people certified.

On Saturday Glenn shared with the group what has occurred at Wahiawa. Small things like the welcoming committee, who take information about visitors and introduce them at the end of service with a lei, changes the climate of the temple. We now have a member sit with the visitor during the service to explain what is occurring. It makes their visit warm with kind words from a member. They leave that day with the knowledge that Wahiawa Hongwanji is an inviting place.

For those of you in the audience today, what do you feel could improve our services and activities. What Dharma speakers would you like to hear. You may have an idea that has been "stewing in your brain", so this is the time to share it and we will try to act upon it, if possible.

Continue on page 5....



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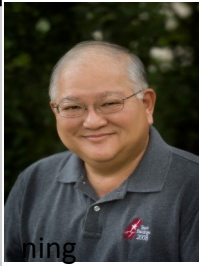
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WHM newsletter is published by friends of the Dharma. Volunteers are welcome to serve on the committee. Please send comments and change of address to WHM office or email at news@wahiawahongwanji.org. Roy Higa, Editor



President's Message

Glenn Hamamura

Welcome to March. The first quarter of 2014 is almost over. We've started new programs this year, and they are beginning their activities. The feedback has been very good. The taiko group is meeting and practicing, and the family activities group has scheduled its events.

Your board is hard at work. We should be completing our planning at the February meeting (this article is being written before that meeting) and I will share that with you in a subsequent communication.

Giseikai – the budget for the HQ operation (and many activities) is a little over \$1,300,000 this year. This is partially offset by income from various sources. Oahu District pays 19% of this, divided among the temples based on temple size. We are the largest temple in Oahu District, and as a result pay our share of this. Your membership dues, donations, and our fund raising efforts pay for this and our temple operating expenses.

Wahiawa was invited to provide a special presentation on some of our programs and activities. I presented this for our delegates to the Giseikai, and for all of you, our members of our temple. We'll find a way to share this presentation with you, if you are interested.

This year is the 125th anniversary year of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, and there will be District level celebrations held this year. Our Oahu District celebration will be combined with Sangha Day, held in March.

The Hawaii Kyodan will have a new president this year, Mr. Pieper Toyama from the Jikoen temple, and retired head of school of the Pacific Buddhist Academy. The Kyodan's current president, Alton Miyamoto, from West Kauai, served for six years.

Our religious leader, the Gomonsu, will be retiring this June, and will be succeeded by his son. There will be celebrations in Kyoto as this event gets closer. There is a special connection with Gomonsu and his wife, as they stayed in our new minister's residence when it was first built in the 1970's when they toured Hawaii. There is a picture in the BWA room with them in it.

Your board will have completed our planning for 2014 by this newsletter. We hope that you will find activities and actions that add value to your engagement with the temple.

In Gassho,

Glenn Hamamura



REVEREND'S MESSAGE

Dharma Talk Theme for this month is "Wa-Go "Harmony"

What is a difference between human and the animal?

Few years ago, I was watching NGN news on Japanese TV. It was from China showing a Dalmatian dog feeding her milk to a baby tiger. It was an unusual scene. That tiger cub had been abandoned.

The doctor who was researching animals said "Abandoning the baby is not so unusual in the animal world. If the mother animal cannot take care of its baby, she abandons the baby."

I was surprised to hear that. After birth, if an animal cannot care for the baby, it will abandon the baby. It seems very selfish. But I thought that living in the animal world is difficult. That is why they have to do that. It might be of help to them.

Think about the differences between humans and other animals. For example, humans walk upright with two legs but most animals walk with four legs. Human make fire but animals can't. Animals live by instinct but humans can control their instinct. The greatest difference between humans and animals is whether they have the heart to thank others or not.

The doctor who is doing the research said, "I think this is true. The animals take care of their babies for few years; it is an instinct. After that the parents abandon their children. That is why their children don't know how to be thankful to their parents. That is the animal world."

But we, fortunately, know how to be thankful to our parents and other beings. This is the greatest difference between humans and other animals.

Though we know how to be thankful, recently, I watched the TV news and read the newspaper, I was so shocked. As you know, some people kill others or kill their children. It seems that people do this because of their own selfishness. Can we say "This is human?" I don't think so.

Today's world is so different from the past. Material things were limited long ago. Parents did not want their children to live in such a poor world as they did. So, our ancestors worked hard to better our welfare.

Think about it. Do we live in the best possible world? There are so many murders, crime and war. Why did our ancestors work so hard? Did they want to make such a world?

Shinran Shonin said that "if you are not thankful to other beings, you are not human. You are a beast." I think there is an increasing number of people who have "beast" in their hearts.

Of course, we are sometimes angry and complain but we should never forget to be thankful.

Through our parents and ancestors, we are born in this world. We can never be born by ourselves. And when we leave this world, we surely will have people who are supporting us. This is Amida Buddha and our loved ones.

So, we should not forget why we put our hands together and recite The Nembutsu.

Respecting each other as a human is fundamental to our path to happiness.

Gassho,
Rev Hashimoto



Buddhist Thoughts

Reflecting on Babysitting and Learning

Jason is 5 years old! Wow! Where did time go so fast? It seems like yesterday that Jason started preschool. He was so shy and set a new record for crying every day when we left him at school. Now, he is just enjoying the entire experience! He has great friends, he is open and friendly, and even able to talk comfortably in front of a crowd of parents at the school programs.

James at 21 months is just beginning to say a few words. He is showing his independence as his favorite word is, "NO!" His personality is the polar opposite of Jason. We call him "Mr. Destructor." As Jason is neat and orderly, James enjoys messing things up! His eating area is a disaster with more food on him and all over the floor than what went into his mouth.

The classic example of this is when we went to Baskin & Robins for dessert after dinner one evening. There was a cardboard display of square boxes on a spindle. James went after that with such glee, spinning the boxes and generally having a great time! Big brother stood by just watching quietly as he enjoyed his Mint Chocolate Chip. Just as we were leaving, Jason quickly aligned all the boxes and quietly followed his little brother out.

Wyatt, at one year, is totally different. He is so quiet and mellow, and only now beginning to explore crawling and standing up. We are looking forward to seeing Wyatt develop as an individual.

Being a grandparent affords a

perspective not possible as a young struggling parent. The learning part IS the parenting experience while balancing career, finances, and family priorities. As grandparents, we can reflect on a different level, what learning is all about. Learning is an integral part of the enjoyment of living. Suffering through various challenges in life is how we all learn. How do we create an environment for learning that is a balance between "suffering and challenging" while creating a loving foundation for confidence to develop? Too much "spoiling" creates an individual unprepared for disappointment. Too much harsh discipline may also have negative consequences. Both affect self confidence and the ability to embrace new challenges.

As we enter the autumn of our lives, learning takes on a whole new perspective. How do we continue to be grateful for all that we have right now, as the basis for our own happiness? What a terrific adventure life is!! Namu Amida Butsu...

In Gassho,
Rod Moriyama



Continue from page 1...

Meet in groups or write down your ideas. From time to time, we will be sharing our progress with the new ideas. Keep in mind the mission of the Honpa Hongwanji: "To share the living Teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism so all beings may enjoy lives of harmony, peace and gratitude."

For members reading this newsletter, if you have an idea, send it to Carolyn Uchiyama at Wahiawa Hongwanji, or leave a message at the temple office at 622-4320, and I will return your call. Everyone's suggestion will help to move Wahiawa into the next decade and beyond.

**Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
125th Celebration Inaugural Service
By Carolyn Uchiyama**

In 2014, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will be celebrating it's 125th anniversary in Hawaii. On February 7, the participants of the Legislative Assembly, lay and ministers, gathered in the Hawaii Betsuin Hondo to celebrate the 125th Anniversary Inaugural Service amid much pomp and circumstance. It began with the ringing of the kansho and booming of the taiko by the Pacific Buddhist Academy students.

The ministers began with the Zensho Kada, a gatha chanted at the beginning of the service. It acknowledged the presence of Amida Buddha, Great Bodhisattvas, and Sages. We were reminded of the presence of the Enlightened Ones, and praised the virtues of Amida Buddha and the Pure Land and prepared ourselves to listen to the Teachings.

During the chanting Bishop Eric Matsumoto ascended to the Officiant's Seat. He reverently paid homage to Amida Buddha through a series of motions such as "The 3 Respectful Bows," the rubbing of special incense and offering of incense with gassho.

Rev. Ai Hironaka and Rev. Kazunori Takahashi chanted Sanbujo, a chant composed by the Chinese Pure Land Master Shan-tao, and commonly chanted at the beginning of many formal services. It invited Amida Buddha, Sakyamuni Buddha, and All Buddhas of the Ten Directions to join us. It symbolized our willingness to open our hearts and minds to receive the Dharma. During the chanting, the other ministers within the altar area joyfully scattered flowers of welcome for Amida Buddha, Sakyamuni Buddha, and the Buddhas of the Ten Directions.


Sanbutsuge was chanted by the ministers and audience. It is a poem from the Larger Sutra. Bodhisattva Dharmakara praised the Buddha Lokeshvararaja before he made his Forty-eight Vows, thus establishing the Pure Land. Bodhisattva Dharmakara pledged to become Amida Buddha for the welfare and happiness of all beings. Through the chanting, followers joined in oneness with Dharmakara's aspiration to attain Buddhahood and work for the enlightenment of all beings.

Following the Sanbutsuge, Bishop Eric Matsumoto descended the Officiant's Seat to Gagaku music. He reverently paid homage to Amida Buddha through a series of gestures like offering of incense with gassho and the "One Respective Bow."


After the offering of incense by Hawaii Kyodan president, Alton Miyamoto, the representatives from Buddhist Churches of America, Ken Tanimoto and Lucy Hamai, followed, and ended with the representatives from each District Council throughout the state.


Rev. Tatsuo Muneto read the message from the Gomonsu. The Memorial message was given by Bishop Eric Matsumoto and ended with messages from members of the Fellowship Club. Students at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Brandi Yamamoto and Emi Hashi recounted their days at their respective temples and the impact they have had on their lives.


It was a truly fitting celebration for the 125th anniversary and opening of the 102nd Legislative Assembly.





Dharma School News




 March 9 - Dharma Sunday with Kano


 Hashimoto as the MC.

 March 16 & 23 Dharma School











St. Stephen's Food Collection



 Thank you for your generous donations to the Food Pantry, especially at this time of the year. Please turn in your canned goods on March 9, 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 will certainly be brightened with your contributions. Remember Peace begins with YOU.



**Capital Campaign Donations for
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Capital Campaign Update

The Wahiawa Hongwanji Board of Trustees appreciates your contributions to the Capital Campaign. Our goal for 2013 was \$100,000 and as of the end of

December we collected \$58,865.00. This newsletter lists the names of donors for December. All donations will bring us closer to our final goal of \$400,000 by 2017.



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Every effort has been made to accurately present these records. Please call the office 622-4320 to report any errors. If you do not want your name to be published, please mark your donation. "Do Not Publish." *Thank you very much.*

Gojikai Dues

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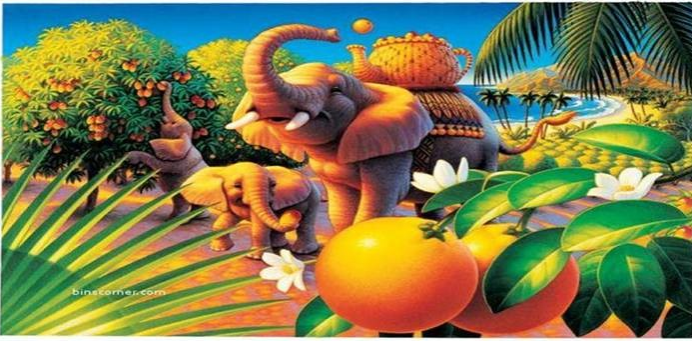
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Be a good listener
All communication problems
are because
We don't listen to understand;
We listen to reply...!!!

From manage to behave
Two things bring happiness
& success in life:
1. The way you MANAGE
when you have nothing, and
2. The way you BEHAVE
when you have everything!



Start-up of the WHM Takedaiko Group.

All instruments and equipment for the class were hand-made by students and friends of the Takedaiko group, starting with the bamboo which were individually selected by Takako-Sensei, harvested from one student's neighbor's yard and then turned into drums.

Below students make their own "bachi"

Photos by Dale Shimaura



March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10a-3p BWA New Year's Party/ Pacific Beach Hotel
2 8a-1p Sangha Day @ Waipahu Hongwanji 10a-12p Ohana Project (WHM Social Hall) 10a-11a Sangha Strummers 3p-4p Take Daiko (WHM Social Hall)	3	4	5 7p-9:30p Dharma Gp. mtg/BWA Room	6 7:30a-10:30a Hosha Kai 8a-11a Aloha Visitation @ Wahiawa	7 8:30a-10:30a Quilt Club (BWA Room) POC Ethel Yamamoto 625-1745	8
9 9a-10a Sunday Service 10a-12p BWA Meeting (BWA Room) 11:30a-12:30p Take Daiko (WHM Social Hall)	10	11	12	13 7p-8p Club Asoka Meeting BWA Room	14	15
16 8a-11a Aloha Visitation @ other area 9a-10a Sunday Service 10:30a-12p WHM Board Meeting 11:30a-12:30p Take Daiko (WHM Social Hall)	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 12p-5p Conference on Japanese Violence in Buddhism-(East-West Center)	20 7:30a-10:30a Hosha Kai 8a-5p Conference on Japanese Violence in Buddhism-(East-West Center) 10a-12p Aloha Visitation @ Waialua 11a-12p Hospital Visitation (PD)	21 8a-5p Conference on Japanese Violence in Buddhism 8:30a-10:30a Quilt Club (BWA Room) POC Ethel Yamamoto 625-1745	22 9a-1p 'Ohana Project (WHM Social Hall)
23 9a-10a Sunday Service 10a-11a Ukulele Group 10a-12p TENTATIVE-New Membership Orientation (WHM Campus)	24	25	26	27	28	29 8a-9a Altar Awareness
30 8:30a-9:30a Japanese Ohigan Svc - Rev T Umitani speaker 10a-11a English Ohigan Svc - Rev T Umitani speaker	31					

"Why Buddhism and the West Need Each Other "

scholarly journals.

by **David Robert Loy**, a professor, writer, and Zen teacher in the Sanbo Kyodan tradition of Japanese Zen Buddhism. He is a **prolific author**, whose essays and books have been translated into many languages. His articles appear regularly in the pages of major journals such as *Tikkun* and Buddhist magazines including *Tricycle*, *Turning Wheel*, *Shambhala Sun* and *Buddhadharma*, as well as in a variety of

Friday, March 28, 2014 at 6:30pm. 1436 University Avenue, Honolulu

Sunday, March 30, 2014 at 1pm. Mililani Hongwanji Mission

With gratitude,
Dexter Mar

Recipes by Elaine Kawamoto

Sesame Hoisin Dressing
Hawaiian Electric

1/3 cup sesame oil
1/4 cup sugar
1 teaspoon salt

2 Tablespoons apple cider vinegar
2 Tablespoons hoisin sauce
1/4 cup catsup

Combine all ingredients and mix well. Makes 1 cup. Store in refrigerator.

French Dressing

3/4 cup oil
1/4 cup white vinegar
1/4 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon Coleman Mustard
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
1 teaspoon table salt
1 teaspoon Worcestershire Sauce
1/2 cup Ketchup (I like Del Monte's tartness)
1 clove garlic, minced
1 rounded teaspoon round onion, minced

Combine all ingredients and mix well. Store in refrigerator.



CHINESE CHICKEN SALAD DRESSING

4 tablespoons sugar
4 tablespoons white vinegar
4 tablespoons salad oil
1 teaspoon table salt

1/4 teaspoon black pepper
1 teaspoon sesame seed oil
1 teaspoon sesame seeds

Mix all ingredients together; chill and serve.