



The Messenger

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness

Calendar of Events

December

05 Sun 9:30 am Hawaii Buddhist Council Bodhi Day - Watch online at WHM or at YouTube Premiere @ Hawaii Buddhist Council's YouTube Channel

05 Sun 9:30 am - 10:30am Food Drive

12 Sun 9:00 am Bodhi Day Service and WHM General Membership Meeting & Elections

19 Sun 9:00 am Temple Clean Up - No Sunday Service

26 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

31 Fri 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Joya no Kane (bell hitting ceremony)

January 2022

02 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

02 Sun 9:30 am - 10:30am Food Drive

08 Sat 9:00 am Columbarium Clean Up

09 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service (Ms. Carolyn Uchiyama) & Talk Story

16 Sun 9:00 am Hoonko Service and WHM Board installation

16 Sun 10:00 am WHM Board Meeting in person

23 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

30 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service & Activity

There is no need to make a reservation to attend Sunday Service. Please attend!

The Sangha's Generosity

By Carolyn Uchiyama

Wahiawa Hongwanji monthly food drive was held on November 7 after the Eitaikyo service. It was a longer service and our monthly contributors left their donations on the bench without our recognizing their monthly contributions. Thank you so much for your continuous support.

Members wonder about the contributions they can make. We have received the gamut from snacks like candies and popcorn to main meals like spaghetti and sauce to breakfast foods like cereal and crackers to lunch items like saimin. Let your imagination be your guide. This month we collected **126** items, **75** pounds of rice and monetary donations of **\$40** that were all given to St. Stephen's Church.

The Wahiawa Hongwanji Board of Trustees would like to thank you for your continued generosity for this community-wide need due to COVID-19. Your Dana is Dharma in Action.



Minister's Message - Number of Bells

It is the last month of 2021. How was the year of 2021 for you? Before we welcome the New Year, we always do a ceremony at the temple. Do you remember what it is?

We hit the bell on New Year's Eve. We call this "Joya no Kane". It is a traditional Japanese ceremony. Usually, we hit the bell 108 times, but most people don't know where this number comes from. I would like to explain why we hit the bell 108 times.

In the Buddhist teachings, the number 108 expresses our worldly desires or "Bon-No". We have at least 108 worldly desires. On New Year's Eve, the purpose of hitting the bell 108 times means we remove our worldly desires in the old year to welcome the New Year with a pure heart.

Why the number 108? There are some thoughts about Number 108. According to Japanese traditional thought, we have Eyes, Ears, Nose, Tongue, Body and Heart, and each part has three feelings.

1. Comfortable feeling
2. Bad feeling
3. No feeling.

Then, these three feelings have two aspects.

1. Pure
2. Unclean.

Six functions of body x 3 feeling x 2 aspects = 36

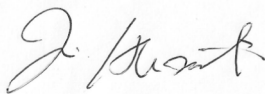
Plus, three ages are calculated: Past, Present, and Future. $36 \times 3 \text{ ages} = 108$

However, this number is not to be looked upon as a big deal. The important thing is that we realize that we have plenty of desires which we do not notice. That is why we have a special occasion when we can be by ourselves to reflect. This is when we will try to decrease our desires next year to become a better person.

We open the temple and Bonsho area from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on 12/31. Please come to join the hitting bell ceremony on 12/31.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,



Reverend Kojun Hashimoto



Mahalo for Your Support



Thank you to everyone who supported our Kahala Mall "The Very Merry Event" fundraiser. Don't forget to use your shopping pass at Kahala Mall from Friday, December 10th - Sunday, December 12th! Happy shopping!

Kahala Mall Hours

Monday - Saturday 10:00 am - 9:00 pm

Sunday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

President's Report

What? It's December already!! Does time go slower or faster without resuming "normalcy?" The total vaccination rate for our Hawaii population exceeds 75%. The rate of infections and death still doesn't seem to be slowing down, but as we approach the holiday season, things appear to be opening. What is the formula for keeping us focused on a broader, more meaningful life?



Our services continue to be attended by less than 15 people, but a whole new world of possibilities have opened with the use of technology. The year was spent in Zoom meetings almost every week. Discussion groups, book clubs, movie clubs, yoga lessons, Bon dancercize, and mindful meditation groups are all actively happening. We even spent a good part of the year rewording our ByLaws to allow for electronic business meetings.

On the bottom of our website's homepage, we have included some memorable recordings of these seminars. (www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org)

Reverend Marvin Harada, the Bishop of Buddhist Churches of America, gave a wonderful seminar on "The Three Poisons-The Six Realms of Existence." I always thought these Six Realms were the stages of reincarnation. These are: Heaven, Human, Animal, Fighting Demons, Hungry Ghosts, and Hell. When Siddhartha Gautama became "Aware" as the Buddha 2600 years ago, he saw this as a metaphor for man's struggle with this life. This life of *Samsara* is riddled with daily ups and downs peppered with Greed, Anger and Ignorance. These states of stress, anxiety, loneliness, and suffering can be minimized by understanding that everything is temporary (impermanence) and interconnected. Each of us is part of a whole journeying through this life. This is what Buddhism is all about. Developing friendships and working toward a bigger goal beyond our own egocentric self.

The brief moments of seeing people again at the temple, or volunteering at fundraising and Hosha are part of this journey. For those brief moments, we realize we are part of a bigger picture. This is what is so special! Thank you for your continued support and contributions. November is the special month of Thanksgiving!

Please have a healthy, and safe, holiday.

In gassho (gratitude),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodney S. Moriyama".

Rodney S. Moriyama, President

Antiques, Treasures and Treats (AT&T)

THANK YOU
Volunteers!
We couldn't do it without you

A huge arigatou to the many people who volunteered their time to help set up, sell and clean up for our sale. A huge mahalo to those who donated antiques, treasures and treats to our sale. A special thank you to our Hosha gang for their help and support. Last, but not least, thank you to everyone who came out to support our sale

by making purchases! See our January 2022 issue for photos from our sale!




Temple Clean Up - Sunday, Dec. 19th at 9:00 am

We weren't able to have our annual temple clean up last year, so please join us this year to help us clean up before the end of the year. If you are able to help, please wear a face mask. Donations of wiping towels and disinfecting wipes would also be appreciated. Thank you!

White Way Radio Program

White Way is a public service radio program of Moiliili Hongwanji. The programs are on KZOO every Saturday for 15-minutes from 7:45am-8:00am. Guest speakers are ministers from the state and abroad, as well as lay speakers who have an interest in Buddhism. You can also go to: www.moiliilihongwanji.org for past Dharma messages.

Speakers for December 2021 are:			Speakers for January 2022	
December 4	Ms. Charlene Kihara		January 1	Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani
December 11	Rev. Blayne Higa		January 8	Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani
December 18	Rev. Shinji Kawagoe		January 15	Dr. Warren Tamamoto
December 25	Rev. Satoshi Tomioka		January 22	Mr. Raymond Takiue Jr
			January 29	Rev. Bert Sumikawa

Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Office Hours: By appointment 808-622-4320 Columbarium Hours: Daily 10:00am - 3:00pm

During the holiday season, families may bring flowers to the columbarium between December 23rd - January 2nd. Please observe all posted rules during your visit. You must wear a face mask at all times and sanitize your hands before and after going into the columbarium, sink and vase areas.



Please come on Saturday, January 8th at 9:00 am to help clean the columbarium. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please wear a face mask.



We continue to look for people to help clean the columbarium on a weekly basis so families may resume bringing flowers to the columbarium. Please call the temple office (622-4320 or 392-3253) if you are able to help.