



The Messenger

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness

Calendar of Events

July 2022

03 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
 03 Sun 9:30 am - 10:30am Food Drive
 10 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
 17 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
 24 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service & Haiku Activity
 31 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

August 2022

07 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
 07 Sun 9:30 am - 10:30am Food Drive
 14 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
 21 Sun 9:00 am Obon & Hatsubon Service
 28 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service & Peace Day Activity

Obon Memorial Ribbons

Arigatou to all who purchased Obon Memorial Ribbons. Ribbons are hung in alphabetical order by last name beginning on the temple lanai, continuing in front of the temple's office and ending in the columbarium. Ribbons will remain up until August 21st.



Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Office Hours: By appointment 808-622-4320

www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org

Columbarium Hours: Daily 10:00am - 3:00pm

We are currently experiencing a volunteer shortage. If you plan to bring a flower offering, we kindly ask that you come back in a week's time to remove your flowers and wash the vase. All flowers and greenery should be disposed of in the GREEN bin outside the columbarium. If you are unable to return in a week, please call the WHM office at 808-622-4320.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Minister's Message - Hongwanji



Have you noticed that only Hawaii Kyodan temples and Higashi Hongwanji use the name of “*Hongwanji*” for their temples? In fact, Shin Buddhist temples on the Mainland don’t use the name of *Hongwanji*. I know some members don’t know why we use the name. So, I would like to explain “HONGWANJI.”

Hongwan means true wish and *Ji* means temple. I would like to explain *Hongwan* first. It means *Amida’s wish*. Hearing Amida Buddha’s wish is a primal Jodo Shinshu teaching. What is Amida Buddha’s wish? Amida Buddha wishes us to realize true happiness and to be born in the Pure Land where there is no suffering.

We hear Amida Buddha’s wish and realize that Amida Buddha embraces us all of the time regardless of what is happening to us.

Let me share this story:

There was a couple who did not have a baby for long time. They were strong Jodo Shinshu Buddhists. One day, the wife finally got pregnant. They were so happy to have a baby, but they learned of a big problem when they visited the doctor. The doctor said, “Your wife has developed a complication. I am sorry, but she cannot give birth safely. You should decide to choose your wife’s life or the baby’s life.” They were shocked. When they returned home, the wife begged her husband. “Please allow me to give birth. I know what will happen if I give birth. I will be okay because I know Amida’s wish. But my baby will not have had a chance to listen the Nembutsu teaching. I wish my baby to become a person who hears the Nembutsu teaching. I will wait for him until we meet again in the Pure Land, so you must take our baby to the temple to hear the Nembutsu teaching. Later, she gave birth and died. Her husband often took their baby to the temple, but when their baby became a teenager, he did not go to the temple because he was busy studying and going to sport practices. At that time, his father told him why his mother passed away and her wish. After he heard his mother’s wish, he realized his mother’s wish was always embracing him. Then he decided to go to the temple to hear his mother’s wish.

This story tells us that true wish never changes no matter how we are changing. *Hongwan* means Amida’s wish and our loved ones’ wish. So, Hongwanji is the temple where we hear the Buddha’s wish and our loved ones’ wish. We are so lucky to be a member of Hongwanji because we always feel the connection with others at the temple even though we are not able to see them.

So, together, let’s us all hear the true wish, Amida’s wish and our loved ones’ wish.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kojun Hashimoto'.

Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

White Way Radio Program

White Way is a public service radio program of Moiliili Hongwanji. The programs are on KZOO radio 1210AM or Spectrum channel 888 on Saturdays from 7:45am-8:00am.

July 2022

2 Mr. Josh Hernandez Morse
9 Rev. Kojun Hashimoto
16 Rev. Jeffrey Soga
23 Dr. Benjamin Bruch
30 Mrs. Juliet Kono Lee

President's Report



Our Obon festival was a resounding success! Because of the rising COVID infection rate, we decided in October 2021 to continue to do our successful hybrid Virtual Obon Festival with drive-by dinners. Thanks to so many people, it has been deemed successful in bringing together volunteers just to have fun doing it. Thank you to the Bon Dance Team, the Hosha group, the volunteer ladies who support and clean the temple, and Barry and Lori Chun who coordinated the food drive-by event. We opened the Social Hall with limited participation for members to have dinner and view the Virtual Bon Dance on the evening of June 25th. We also danced together LIVE with so much joy and happiness! It made me realize how important the experience of being together is so much a part of our spiritual development. **The acts of selfless volunteerism (Dana) is an important part of our practice.**

It's amazing how technology has changed how we view temple services and seminars. We are now able to view any number of dharma talks throughout the U.S. I have been attending Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka's 2022 Shin Buddhism Seminar which has a worldwide audience every second Sunday in Hawaii. He is broadcasting from Tokyo to people in Japan, Europe, Brazil, and all over the U.S. His series is based on two of his books, *Ocean* and *Jewels*. It visibly shows how so many people are interconnected and interested to learn more about Shin-Buddhism.

During the week of June 20, at the Buddhist Study Center, the 48th Summer Session was held nightly with **Dr. Scott Mitchell**, author of *Mid-Century Modern Buddhism*. He examined Buddhism in the United States before, during, and after World War II, when Nisei Jodo Shinshu Buddhists reacted to the trauma of racial and religious discrimination by laying claim to an American identity inclusive of their religious identity. This is also available online.

All temples are faced with the financial challenges of not having an in-person Obon Festival or a limited Obon Festival for (us) three years. We truly appreciate all the donations and contributions made throughout the year but especially, during Obon. Obon is our largest single fundraiser during the year. Because the public is not participating, our normal revenues are impacted dramatically. **It emphasizes our need to focus strategically on creating an Endowment Fund (Eitaikyo) that sustains the temple and promotes the spreading of the teachings.**

Since the creation of the Hawaii Hongwanji Mission over 110 years ago, the key measurement for the health of the temples has been "membership." All religious organizations are faced with decreasing membership, and we are no exception. Would the health of the temple be better measured by its financial assets AND its membership? Wahiawa Hongwanji has a strong following because of its traditions and value in the community. We receive donations from younger generations living on the mainland as well as from the community at large. Many choose not to be "members" but appreciate the value that Wahiawa Hongwanji brings to the community and their families.

The Eitaikyo Endowment Fund is an investment in our future and a way to sustain the legacy of our ancestors. It is a measurement of health beyond counting the number of members. Bringing value to the community while sharing our own gratitude is a prime example of our journey through this life together.

Thank you for your continued support and service! Namo Amida Butsu!

Namo Amida Butsu!

In gassho (gratitude),

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rodney S. Moriyama". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Rodney S. Moriyama, President

Happenings at Wahiawa Hongwanji

By Carolyn Uchiyama

Haiku Poetry

As an introduction to haiku poetry writing, our May activity centered on practicing how to write a haiku poem. BJ Soriano from Hilo Betsuin is planning to gather as many haiku poems centering on the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii slogan of “Connecting with Others.” She would like to compile them by the end of this year in a pamphlet or book.

Working together as a group, we looked at pictures and tried to evoke words that described the picture. From those words, a haiku was created. We’d like to share two of the poems we created from 2 pictures that came from the Honpa Hongwanji 2021 calendar. The month of June showed the bon dance team from Wahiawa in motion. Here’s the haiku we created.

Happy friends dancing
Happi coats and yagura
Clapping joyful hands



The second poem was created by looking at the December page that showed the Hawaii Federation of Jr. Young Buddhist Association at the Kilohana Hunting Station near Mauna Kea. This is the haiku the group created.



Connected Sangha
Enjoying the radiance
Mindful reflection

In July we will be writing haiku poems to submit to BJ Soriano’s efforts. Come join us in fellowship to work together to accomplish a joyful goal.

Wahiawa Hongwanji Food Drive

On June 5th, we had our monthly Food Drive to support Our Wahiawa. We appreciate everyone’s kind efforts to donate to St. Stephen’s Church. There were many interesting articles turned in such as facial bars, razors and toothbrushes. It’s the first time I have seen packaged meats like chicken and beef that do not require refrigeration.

We collected **215** items like canned goods, boxes of stuffing, cereal, and juices. We also received **55** pounds of rice.

Your willingness to donate and to continue with the program, speaks volumes of how thoughtful and kind you are to improve the lives of our neighbors. We will continue our monthly Food Drive. See you in July!!!



Congratulations to
Stacie Sakihara and
Kelsey Maeda who were
married by Rev. Hashimoto
in June.





Wahiawa Hongwanji Bon Dance 2022!



NEVER MISS A CHANCE TO
Dance

If you missed our bon dance, you can still view it online on YouTube. Go to <https://youtu.be/OgKMJXfEJNg> or search YouTube for 2022 Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Virtual Bon Dance