



# The Messenger

***Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness***

## Calendar of Events

### July

05 Sun 11:00am Zoom online "Talk Story" (see President's Message for more information)

12 Sun 11:00am Zoom online "Talk Story" (see President's Message for more information)

19 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service

19 Sun 11:00am WHM Board Meeting (online)

26 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service

### August

02 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service

09 Sun 9:00am Obon Service-Guest Speaker: Rev. Koyo Kubose

16 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service

16 Sun 10:00am WHM Executive Meeting

23 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service

30 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service

## Reverend Eric Matsumoto Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

### A reflection on our troubled nation

For the past several days, as I confront the feelings, some of which I am feeling too, of frustration, lament, sadness, and anger being felt by many in our country over the senseless death of George Floyd and others, my heart aches for those who are directly impacted by the racist tendencies and other discriminatory behaviors which are increasingly erupting in our society. The words of the song "Live and Light the World" come mind as I reflect on these tragic events and turn to the Dharma for guidance:



*We are born and given life, our own precious life,... Yet we are like the fabled bird whose two heads do fight, Blind to the precious life shared...*

*We are born and given hearts that fills with tears,... Seeing the hurt we have caused, seeing how we've wronged. Sharing our past, our fabled bird does sing a mournful song. We are born and given hope of dreams shining bright,...*

*Fabled bird, we heard your song. Sing of hope anew! Fly with love, now, in chase of dreams. Tomorrow's dream pursue!*

*Let's...live and light the world-let's all walk hand in hand! Together...let us walk the road to peace.*

We must continue to try to overcome discrimination, prejudice, ignorance, and inequality with the understanding that all human life is equally precious and should be respected.

May we be fortified with compassion, perseverance, self-reflection, and nonviolence to achieve the goals of mutual respect, peace, and harmony for all people everywhere through a transformation of our hearts and minds. Let us be guided by an All-Inclusive Wisdom and inspired by an All-Embracing Compassion to work together to become a more just and humane society for all people.

Reverend Eric Matsumoto Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

June 1, 2020

# Minister's Message

## Shogyomujo

One of the famous Buddhist terms is “Shogyomujo” which means all things are always changing. There is nothing to keep forever. I would like to quote the Shakyamuni Buddha's teaching;



*There are five things which no one is able to accomplish in this world: first, to cease growing old when he is growing old; second, to cease being sick; third, to cease dying; fourth, to deny extinction when there is extinction; fifth, to deny exhaustion.*

*Ordinary people in the world sooner or later run into these facts, and most people suffer consequently, but those who have heard the Buddha's teaching do not suffer because they understand that these are unavoidable. Quoted by The Teaching of Buddha*

From what Shakyamuni Buddha said, we realized that the true teaching is always fit to each era even though the teaching was said from 2600 years ago. What Shakyamuni Buddha said is true. When we view our present condition, literally the teaching is fitting to our society. Our lifestyle was changed by Covid19. However, the term of “Shogyomujo” means not only understand our situation, also learn something new in the situation. So, the change is not only negative things, we also have some positive things, like Sunday service. Most temple are using the temple service with technology. It is a good way to find a new style of service to care for people who cannot come to the temple because of the present situation.

Since the issue of the stay at home order has been declared, we have not done any memorial services at the temple. So, I started to do the memorial services for people who passed away in April, May, and June at the temple, and I also did a memorial service at Nokotsudo for appreciation to their efforts.

Please remember even though we are living in an impermanent world, we are always receiving permanent light with Amida Buddha with any styles.

In Gassho,

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

Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

## Office News

By Dale Shimaura

### GOJIKAI DUES AND FAMILY INFORMATION

We are still waiting for some of you to return your Family Record Forms. The information is critical and helps us to tie families together. Many of you have Parents and Grandparents who were members and who might also be in our Columbarium.

As the younger generation begins to take the lead in the operations of the temple, there needs to be a way for them to identify those who have passed, with surviving family members. Especially in the case of daughters who have married and now have different last names. This makes it very difficult to trace family lines.

As we are currently in the process of computerizing all office records we would appreciate it greatly if you would send us back those forms as soon as possible. If you need help filling them out please don't hesitate to call the office at any time. NOTE: Although the office is closed, all calls are being answered remotely.

For those who may not have received Gojikai Cards and Family Record Forms, please call the office (622-4320) and one will be sent to you.

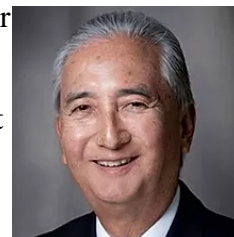
(Office News continued on page 4)

# President's Report- June 2020

This month has been filled with news of the gradual opening of Hawaii, tracking another wave of COVID-19, and the protests surrounding police brutality.

Our online services from a number of different temples including from the Ministers Association have centered on the importance of what it means to be a true Buddhist in light of all that is happening. Please go to our website, [www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org](http://www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org) and other Youtube sites for these services

at: <https://www.youtube.com/honpahongwanjmissionofhawaii>



The results of isolation at home in Hawaii have been quite successful. We are still not opening the state to tourists from outside Hawaii without the 14 day quarantine. Seniors (above 65 years old) are still urged to minimize going out at all. But slowly, more activities are permissible including gatherings of small groups, including church services.

A Blue Zone interview of Michael Osterholm, PhD, MPH, an internationally known expert in infectious disease epidemiology, revealed the following highlights:

- For people under age 55, obesity is the number risk factor for COVID-19.
- Physical Distancing is important; Social Distancing would be a mental health disaster.
- Wear masks always when indoors! Don't stay next to someone for longer than 5 minutes. If you're in a car with someone who has COVID-19, you'll get it too in just ten minutes even if he's wearing a mask..
- We are at 5% of the population who have gotten COVID-19. We need to get to 60-70% before the herd immunity kicks in with people over 65 who are at highest risk.
- There will be no cure or vaccine for at least 18 months.
- Being outside and exercising is very important against COVID-19 and our mental health.

Considering these issues, we have been carefully planning the opening of our temple. We have developed a set of procedures including seating arrangements, sanitizing, etc. described in an attachment. **Our current soft opening is set for the July 19th service.** Our reasoning was that it would be two weeks after the Fourth of July weekend where we may experience another increase in infections. We will also announce a limited access to the Columbarium without flowers.

The Food drive on June 11 for Wahiawa was a complete success with people driving by and dropping off food. The food was donated to ALEA Bridge which provides outreach homeless services to North Shore – Waialua – Haleiwa - Wahiawa – Mililani. We plan to have one more food drive on June 25th 10:00-10:30am.

We have been holding informal Talk Story sessions via Zoom on some Sundays at 11:00 after most services have been completed. It is open to anyone so please call us at 622-4320 if you'd like to be included. It is a great way to share what's happening.

On June 27th, we will hold our first Virtual Bon Dance. The Obon instructors will be gathering remotely and broadcasting a fun evening for everyone to enjoy!

We are asking people to make a special effort to donate in June for our Obon season as well as buying remembrance ribbons for those whose memories we cherish. Ribbons will be displayed inside.

Please be diligent in physical distancing and still have fun connecting with friends and family! Learn the many new Video tools available. Some are: Zoom, Hangup, Google Meets, Facetime, Skype and GoTo Meeting. It's an excellent way to SEE each other almost anywhere in the world!

In gassho,



Rodney S. Moriyama, President

## Online Obon Service

**Bon Service for Hawaii** is an online “virtual” service dedicated with deep gratitude and appreciation in the memory of dearly departed sangha members and friends of the Hongwanji Temples in the State of Hawaii.

**Bon Service for Hawaii** will premiere on [Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's YouTube Channel](#) on

**July 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. (HST)**

**July 12, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (HST)**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDuOZdicW9mWq-DNlf19Pyg>

Presented by Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Office of the Bishop State Ministers Association New Expressions Committee Monshinto Task Force

During these most extraordinary of circumstances, one important thing we can do this Obon is to take a moment to remember our departed loved ones, to reflect upon their continued influence on our lives, and to rededicate ourselves to living this unrepeatable life in honor of their memory.

Illuminated by Amida's All-Inclusive Light of Wisdom and embraced by Amida's All-Encompassing Compassion, let us put our hands together in gasshō anjali, and say Namō Amida Butsu in joy and gratitude.

Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission 2020  
VIRTUAL Bon Dance  
on Saturday, June 27th  
6:00pm- 7:00pm

Zoom - Meeting ID:860 6526 1715  
Password: 96786

Facebook - Wahiawa Hongwanji  
Mission Bon Dance Team



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### CLOTHING DRIVE

A reminder that our Clothing Drive will be on-going until we fill the Club Asoka Room from floor to ceiling. We are currently accepting all gently used clothing, linen, towels, blankets, shoes, purses, etc. We especially welcome those heavy items such as those old army blankets, heavy jackets, etc, as we will be paid by the pound.

Though the temple and office are still temporarily closed you may drop off your items on the tables next to the columbarium. Please label with your name and phone number.

Good time now to clean out those closets while we are still in quarantine!

***BIG MAHALO!*** *To all of you who have so generously sent in donations to help the temple get through these trying times, we are sincerely appreciative! Domo Arigatou Gozaimasu!*

***TO ALL!*** *Be well! Stay safe! If you must go out, don't forget your face mask! If you do not have a face mask, the office will provide you one. Just call us!*

## Explanation of the Major Services

By Dale Shimauro

For those of you who have called to ask, below are brief explanations we hope will give you an idea about our major services. Thank you for your interest, and we invite you to call back with any further questions.

- HOONKO (Memorial Service honoring Shinran Shonin) is a time to express our gratitude to Shinran Shonin, our founder, on the day of his death, January 16, 1262.
- SPRING/FALL OHIGAN (Spring/Fall Equinox) means the "Other Shore." It is when we can see and feel the harmony in the world around us. Jodo Shinshu Buddhist gather to welcome in a new season. Ohigan occurs twice a year in the Spring and the Fall, generally in March and September. The sun rises directly from the East and sets directly in the West. The length of day and night are equal and the weather tends to be very mild. This is when conditions are right for the practice of selfless sharing, discipline, diligence, patience, loving kindness and wisdom. As Jodo Shinshu Buddhist it is a time for deep self reflection on all that we have received from others as well as from the world.
- GOTAN-E (Birthday of Shinran Shonin) celebrates the birth of our founder Shinran Shonin who was born on May 21, 1173.
- OBON is a Japanese Buddhist custom of honoring one's ancestors. This annual event marks the return of deceased ancestors to Earth and is celebrated with food and, of course, a big group bon dance.
- EITAIKYO (Perpetual Memorial Service) is traditionally celebrated each year in November. It is a Japanese Buddhist observation that allows us to remember those who have come before us to share the Nembutsu teachings. The EITAIKYO LIST & EITAIKYO FUND are central to the observance. The Eitaikyo List records members who have donated to the Eitaikyo Fund. The Eitaikyo Fund provides a stand-alone fund for preservation of the temple in the face of emergencies or other situations. (It is not used for ordinary operating expenses of the temple). Members who have contributed to the Eitaikyo Fund are sent an invitation to participate in the service by coming forward to offer incense as the Eitaikyo List is read during the service. To arrange for any member of your family to be added to the Eitaikyo List, please contact the temple office.

## Takuwan Fundraiser Sale

### Cost: \$5.00

Please call Dale at 392-3253 to place your order



Thank you for your donations to help  
our Wahiawa Community!

Our next food drive is  
June 25th  
10:00am-10:30am

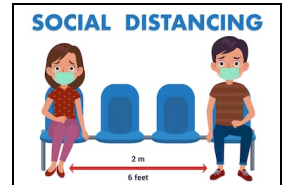




## Rules for Sunday Services

Please understand that these rules are for everyone's wellbeing and safety. COVID-19 is highly contagious, with one person able to infect many others. In order to keep the temple doors open, please help us and follow the guidelines. Please be patient as things could change as we receive updated guidelines. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

- Everyone must wear a face mask at all times
- Please enter from the ramp and keep a 6ft distance from those in front of you.
- Please sanitize your hands before entering the temple. There will be hand sanitizer at the entrance.
- Upon entering, everyone will be offered an individual container of incense for oshoko. Please oshoko before sitting. While waiting for your turn, please stand on the markings on the floor.
- The offertory collection bowl will not be passed during the service. Please place your monetary offering in the offering slot on the altar.
- To ensure social distancing, please allow an usher to seat you. Only members from the same household/family may sit together.
- To prevent the spread of germs, there will be no books or handouts. Everything will be shown on the screen. You may bring your own service book if you have one.
- To prevent the spread of germs through singing and chanting, there will be no chanting or singing by the congregation, only the minister will be allowed to do so. You may meditate or follow along quietly in your mind.
- To maintain good social distancing, bow, wave or show a shaka. Please do NOT hug, handshake, fist bumps or high five. We know everyone misses seeing each other, but please do not congregate and socialize before and after temple service to maintain social distancing.



## **Columbarium Reopening Rules** **July 19th - New Hours: Daily 10:00am - 3:00pm**

Our columbarium will reopen on July 19th. In order to keep the columbarium open, we ask all visitors to strictly observe the following rules so that everyone may visit safely:

1. **Park in one of the 2 stalls in front of the office window, to the right of the temple ramp. If there is another car there, please remain in your car until the people return from the columbarium to their car.** Exit your car after the other car has left. If your party arrives in more than one car, please have additional cars park in the lot.
2. Wear your mask and keep social distance. Use hand sanitizer before entering.
3. Limit of 10 people in the columbarium. Please keep your visit to 10 minutes so that others who may be waiting in their car may have their turn.
4. The powdered incense, incense sticks, and lighter have been removed to avoid high touch items. **Please bring your own lighter or matches and incense sticks, like when visiting grave sites.**
5. **For your safety, NO flower offerings.** Our sink area is closed to prevent the spread of germs on high touch surfaces and objects (faucet, vases, shears).



Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

# We're getting ready to see you on July 19th!



## 2020 Obon Memorial Ribbon Order Form

Although we have had to cancel Obon this year, we can still honor our loved ones with our traditional Memorial Ribbons. Special red bows will distinguish those observing their Hatsubon (1st year observance). Ribbons will hang in the columbarium until after our Obon service on August 9, 2020.

Ribbon cost: \$20 per ribbon; only one name per ribbon. Please complete the form below; if ordering more than one ribbon, write names on a separate sheet of paper following the same instructions and send it with payment to the temple office by noon on Friday, July 31, 2020. Feel free to call 622-4320 at any time for any questions.

[illegible][illegible]

**If requesting more than 1 ribbon, list names on a separate sheet; attach to order form; pay with one check.**

Purchaser's name:																															
Purchaser's Address:																															
Purchaser's Phone:																															
Purchaser's Email Address:																															
Contact Name/Phone # (if different from purchaser):																															

(Return completed form and payment to temple office by noon on Friday, July 31, 2020)

**\$20.00 x Ribbons = \$**

**Make checks payable to: Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission – 2020 Memorial Ribbon**

(Office use only)

Date	Am't Pd	Cash \$	Ck#	Receiver Name
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