



# The Messenger

*Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness*

## Calendar of Events

### June 2024

02 9:00 am Temple clean up - NO Sunday Service  
 02 Sun noon - 1:30 Public Bon Dance Practice  
 04 Tues 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Public Bon Dance Practice  
 08 Sat 8:00 am Yagura Set Up  
 09 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service  
 09 Sun noon - 1:30 Public Bon Dance Practice  
 11 Tues 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Public Bon Dance Practice  
 15 Sat 6:00 pm Hatsubon Service  
 16 Sun 9:00 am NO Sunday Service - Chochin Set Up  
 16 Sun noon - 1:30 Public Bon Dance Practice  
 18 Tues 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Public Bon Dance Practice  
 21-22 Fri. - Sat. 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Bon Dance  
 23 Sun 8:00 am Bon Dance Clean Up  
 30 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

### July 2024

07 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service  
 14 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service  
 21 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service  
 28 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service



## Temple Clean Up

Sat., June 2nd 9:00 - 10:30 am

To prepare for the many visitors we will have for our Hatsubon service and bon dance we will be cleaning our temple and columbarium. We hope you and your family will be able to help. It's a great time to see old friends or make a new friend! Please call the office at 808-622-4320 or email [amy.kanemaru@wahiawahongwanji.org](mailto:amy.kanemaru@wahiawahongwanji.org) if you are able to help. Thank you!



## Bon Dance Yagura decorations needed June 20th

We are in need of monstera leaves (various sizes) and heliconia (hanging ginger) to decorate our yagura on the morning of Thursday, June 20th. If you are able to donate, please email Amy at [amy.kanemaru@wahiawahongwanji.org](mailto:amy.kanemaru@wahiawahongwanji.org) or leave a message at 808-622-4320. Thank you!



# Minister's Message - O-Bon

When I hear the word "O-Bon", it gives me a good memory. It represents the home of our life.

We were born as humans and when we are aware that we have been given human life, we can feel joy and pleasure. On the other hand, we must feel sadness and suffering also.

When we observe society and the natural world, we become aware that we are supporting other people and things around us.

People who try to be truly human become aware of selfishness in oneself.

It is incredibly sad. We do not want to accept our own selfishness. Therefore, we suffer from this. Then we try to escape from such suffering. But we become aware that we cannot escape from it.

That is why we all begin to look for our true self.

Shakyamuni Buddha knew that all people must walk this path.. That is why he taught us the Four Noble Truths.

Buddha is for the person who is unable to change his/her selfishness. When we are aware of the truth, we know that no matter how we live a life we surely are saved, and Buddha has already prepared the Pure Land for us.

Buddha and my loved ones are always saying to me, "you are not alone. We are always with you."

During the season of O-Bon, we can be aware of Buddha's voice and our loved one's voices.

Through the O-Bon, let us look back on our life and let us give thankfulness to Buddha and to our loved ones.



Sensei's Dharma talk about altar flower arranging got everyone involved. Each person selected flowers or leaves to add to what the previous person did.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,

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

Reverend Kojun Hashimoto



On May 26th we celebrated Shinran's birthday (Gotan-e Service) with a special guest speaker, Rev. Kano Hashimoto. Thank you to Glenn Hamamura and Denise Okouchi for coordinating this service.

**Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission 808-622-4320**

**Office Hours Monday- Thursday, and Saturday from 9:00am - Noon**

**[www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org](http://www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org)**

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

We have very few columbarium volunteers. 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. If you are able to volunteer, volunteers meet on Saturday mornings at 8:00 am. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

# President's Report



The Oahu District Sangha Day on April 27, Saturday, was an inspiration! It started with a beautiful service at the Waianae Hongwanji temple. It brought back memories of my youth when I visited Waianae for Bon Dances. The decision to close the temple was made earlier and there was a sense of loss as another temple was closing due to lack of support.

The inspiration came from visiting the Mouna (Sanskrit for “inner silence”) Farm Arts & Cultural Center. In the past 15 years through a vision of a handful of people, it developed beyond just farming, into an Arts and Cultural Village. It has become a tourist attraction where people from all over the world come to experience meditation, a peace garden, a Bodhi Tree, ceramics and art, and Brother Sooriya, a designated “Living Treasure of Hawaii,” who works with copper sculptures. It was amazing how so much was developed “from the Waianae jungle.”

We returned on our Waikiki Trolley for lunch. We then had a fascinating presentation by Chikako Nago, from EM (Effective Microorganisms) Hawaii LLC. Her company is dedicated to changing the balance of microorganisms to help the environment and enhance our own “gut” health. They developed the Genki Ball project to clean up the Ala Wai Canal...and it's working!!

On May 5th, Children's Day, Sensei led everyone to make beautiful origami flowers! On May 12th, we celebrated Mother's Day. Carolyn Uchiyama was the guest speaker. She brought back touching memories reading from our 2008 Mother's Day booklet...wonderful memories of writing about their mothers and the sacrifices they made to improve our lives. Each person in attendance received a red long-stemmed rose. Both events were very well received!

Bon Dance Festivities at Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission is a community event and the major fundraiser for defraying our operational expenses. It will be on June 21, 22. We have opened the event for participation by multiple vendors to bring a variety of foods/crafts.

The primary purpose of our Bon Dance Festival is to:

- Share with gratitude, the memories and efforts of our ancestors,
- Be a focus for reuniting with old friends,
- Create new memories for our younger generation, and
- Just have fun in a secure and safe environment!

Please be especially generous in your donations this year. To expand participation, our net revenues will decrease. Monies will be used to complete our tenting for the termites, upgrade our commercial kitchen, and investigate how we can renovate parts of the old minister's residence and the technical infrastructure to sustain our community. Thank you for your continued support! Let's have a wonderful Obon festival!!

In gassho (gratitude),

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rod S. Moriyama". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rodney S. Moriyama, President



Sangha Day was hosted by Waianae Hongwanji and included a visit to Mouna Farm Arts & Cultural Village.





**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**



Planning is underway for bon dance and we are excited to welcome everyone to dancing with our own WHM Bon Dance Team, the Ewa Fukushima Bon Dance Club, and Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu Kai (Saturday only).

We'll need everyone's help to make this year's bon dance a success. We are looking for people help set up, help provide refreshments for our volunteers, to work in our booths (shave ice, taiyaki, mochi and country store), provide support during the bon dance and clean up.

**If you are interested in volunteering, please call the office at 808-622-4320 or sign up at <https://bit.ly/WHMObon>**



## Calling all Crafters and Bakers

### Please donate to our Bon Dance Country Store

We are seeking donations of:

scrubbies      dish/kitchen towels      hot pads or pot holders      Other handmade craft items for the home  
gently used happi coats, yukata and kimono

We are also seeking donations of baked goods, snacks, produce and flowers such as:

brownies      cookies      mochi      dessert bars      snack mixes      jams or jellies  
cut flowers      fresh fruits      fresh vegetables

If you are able to donate, please email [janfukada@gmail.com](mailto:janfukada@gmail.com) or leave a message at 808-622-4320.

You may drop off non perishables, jams and/or jelly donations on Mondays - Thursdays & Saturdays from 9:00 am - noon from now until 6/15. Please include your name and phone number, and label your donation "Country Store"

Please drop off perishable food donations on Fri., June 21st and/or Sat. June 22nd at the temple office from 9:00 am - noon. Please include your name and phone number, and label your donation "Country Store". Please also include a list of the ingredients (from greatest to least) with your donation if it has 2 or more ingredients.



## Children's Day Blossoms

On May 5th, Children's Day, Sensei taught everyone how to make beautiful origami flowers!



