

DECEMBER 2012

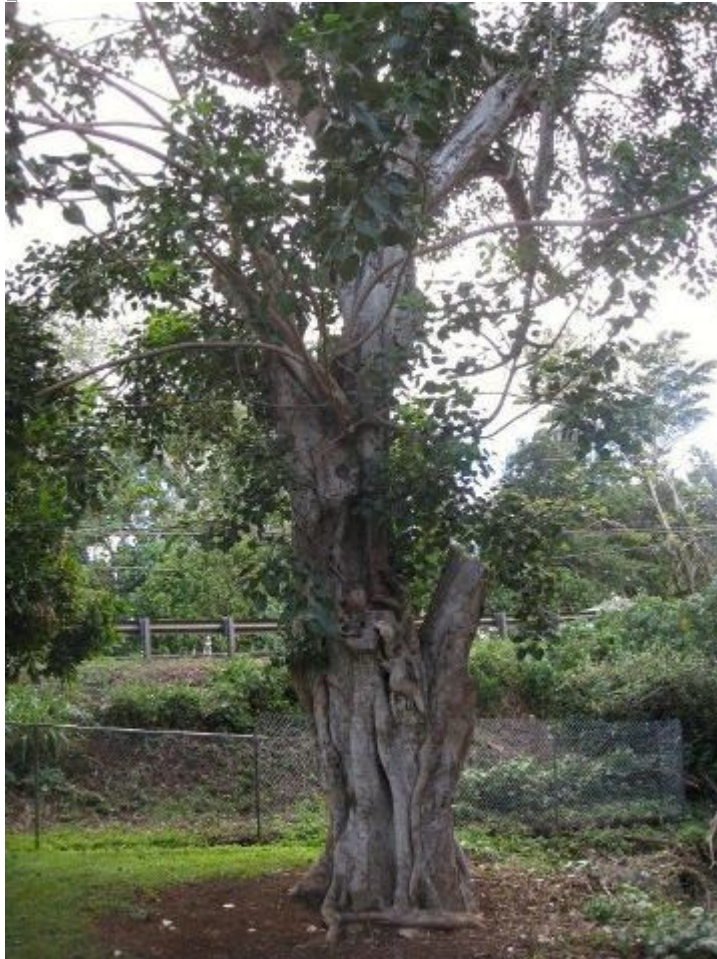


Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission

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



Did you know...

We have our own Bodhi tree in the temple's back yard. It sits behind the temple on the California Avenue side. Please come and visit the tree to celebrate Bodhi Day with us on December 2, Sunday. Service starts at 9am.

Mary Foster planted a cutting from the Sri Lankan Bodhi tree on her estate. A direct descendant of the tree under which Prince Siddhartha Gautama, in the sixth century B.C., achieved enlightenment to become the world's first Buddha. After her death, the estate became the Foster Botanical Garden.

Mary Foster's name still graces a handful of temples and hospitals in India and Sri Lanka, and a donation helped build the first Buddhist temple in Honolulu in 1889—the Honpa Hongwanji Mission.

Bodhi Day is a Buddhist holiday that commemorates the day that the Buddha achieved enlightenment. Bodhi Day is celebrated on the eighth day of the 12th lunar month. The Buddha was born as Siddhartha Gautama into a noble, privileged Hindu household.

When he was close to 30 years old, he abandoned his material lifestyle and retreated to the forest seeking answers to the problem of suffering, specifically old age, sickness and death. According to tradition, he initially sought bodhi (enlightenment) through meditation, self-mortification and practicing other austerities.

After several years of intense practice, he realized that bodhi was found through a Middle Way, away from the extremes of self-mortification and self-indulgence. The story goes that he meditated in Bodh Gaya under a Sacred Fig tree (a species of Banyan fig), now famously known as the Bodhi tree, and resolved to continue meditating until he achieved bodhi (enlightenment). It is believed that after 49 days of continuous meditation, Gautama achieved bodhi (enlightenment) at the age of 35. Since then he was known as the Buddha (enlightened one).

Bodhi Day is celebrated in many mainstream Mahayana traditions including Zen and in Pure Land Buddhist schools in China, Japan and Korea. Buddhists commemorate this day by meditation, studying the Dharma, chanting sutras (Buddhist texts) and performing kind acts toward other beings.



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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@wahiaawahongwanji.org. Roy Higa, Editor



President's Message

Glenn Hamamura

December 2012

We have come to the end of another eventful year at the temple. Thanks to the help of volunteers, and the commitment of the officers and board, many, many projects were completed, and the learning and growth of the temple has been significant.

We entered the year with the departure of Reverend Kuniyuki, and for the first half of the year and beyond, through many heroic efforts, the volunteers continued to provide the services that our members desired and needed. Dale Shimauro, Jack Tsujihara and the office volunteers coordinated many funerals and memorial services, balancing family needs and our ability to schedule ministers from other temples. Carolyn Uchiyama and the volunteers who provided Sunday service were creative and flexible, and the schedule was maintained. Calvin Takeshita, Alfred Paulino, Masato Tsujimura, Ken Kumasaka, and many others worked under very difficult deadlines to ensure that the residence and car were ready and in excellent condition for the Hashimotos. Roy and his collaborative team of editors developed and printed the newsletter. Elaine Kawamoto and her team maintained the altar and flowers. Vicki Hoshibata and her columbarium and temple cleaners kept the respective areas clean. Alan Kakazu and Brian Kimura managed collections and finances, Arlene Ogata was the hub for our board meetings. Rod Moriyama, Damon Bender, and Gerri Watanabe kept the Shin Buddhist Project productive. I know I am leaving out many people, but please accept my thanks for your great contributions.

Reverend Hashimoto and his family have brought a new era to the temple, and we are the beneficiaries of his ideas and energy.

In November, we had a very productive health fair thanks to the hard work of Alan and Annette Kakazu, and many others. We participated in the Veteran's Day Parade, well coordinated by Alfred Paulino and Dale Shimauro. Bishop Eric and his family, Rev. Mari Nishiyama of Pearl City Hongwanji and Mrs. Okamoto and her children of Waipahu Hongwanji attended as well. We completed the Columbarium roof renovation at the end of October, a repair effort that should last for decades.

The future looks busy. In 2013 we will need to continue building repairs, and are considering a major fundraising effort to place us in good stead with a renovation fund for the year and the future as our facility continues to age. 2013 will also contain opportunities for change: in how we run some of our programs, the changing of responsibilities to build capacity, and in obtaining new ideas and energy. Change is hard on all of us, but we can only grow through challenge and change.

***BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR
VOLUNTEERS AND MEMBERS FOR A RICH
AND FULL NEW YEAR.***

In Gassho,



REVEREND'S MESSAGE

What Is the Difference Between Human Beings and Animals?

A few years ago, I was watching the Japanese news on NGN TV. There was a very interesting bit of news about a mother Dalmatian feeding her milk to an abandoned tiger cub in China. It was an unusual situation. A doctor who was researching animal behavior said, "Abandoning a baby is not unusual in the animal world. If the animal cannot take care of its baby, it will abandon the baby, or some animals may even eat that baby." I was surprised to hear that. They only give birth, and after they give birth, they don't take care of the baby. This seemed very selfish. But then, I thought that since the animal world is so hard to live in, they may be forced to do that.

At this time, please think about the differences between human beings and animals. For example, humans can walk on two legs, but almost all animals walk on four legs. Humans can make fire, but animals can't. Animals live by instinct, but humans can control their instincts, etc. "The greatest difference between human beings and animals is whether or not they are able to thank others," the doctor who was researching animal behavior said. Animals take care of their baby for a few years. After that, the parents abandon their young. That is why their young do not know how to express thankfulness to the parents.

That is the animal world. But we, fortunately, know how to show our thankfulness to our parents and other beings. This is the greatest difference between a human being and an animal.

Though we know how to express gratitude, recently, as I watched the news on TV or read the newspaper, I felt so sick. As you know, some people kill others or even their own child; they even wage war on others. It seems that people act selfishly. Can we say this is "being human?" I don't think so.

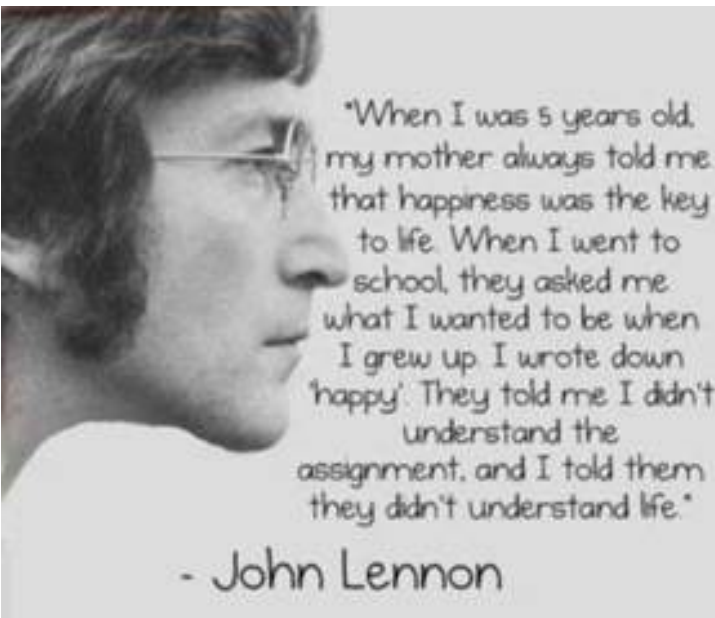
The world today as compared to that of the past is so different. Many years ago people had to go without many things. Our ancestors didn't want their children to live in such a poor world. So they worked hard so we could benefit from many things they had to go without. But think about it--are we better off in today's world? There are so many murders, crimes, and wars. Why did our ancestors work so hard? Did they want to make such a world?

Shinran Shonin said, "If you don't think of thanking other beings, it is not human. You are like a beast." I think the people who have beasts in their heart are increasing. Of course, we sometimes get angry and complain, but we should never forget to feel thankful. We are not beasts. We are humans who can be thankful for everything.

Because of our parents and ancestors, we could be born into this world. We would never be able to be born by ourselves. And when we leave this world, we will surely have people who are supporting us. They are Amida Buddha and our loved ones. So, let us put our hands together, and say the Nembutsu to people and all things that support us to show our gratitude.

In Gassho,
Rev. Kojun

WISDOM OF LIFE



Bombu-ness

On October 18, the ministers of the Honolulu District got together for their bi-monthly Benkyokai meeting. It's a meeting specifically to get to know each other and exchange ideas. Rev. David Nakamoto and Rev. Bert Sumikawa were in charge of putting on the session. They wanted something different and asked me to facilitate.

As a result of Gathering 2012, this was an opportune time to rally one group of ministers as part of our strategic direction to further unify and expand the implementation of realizing Shin Buddhism in our community. It was a privilege for me to be part of this very learned body. Participants were Bishop Eric Matsumoto, Reverends Toshiyuki Umitani, Kevin Kuniyuki, Tatsuo Muneto, Bert Sumikawa, David Nakamoto, Tomo Hojo, Richard Tennes and Earl Ikeda.

This facilitated exercise was a paired dialog as part of the Discovery Process in Appreciative Inquiry. It is a trust building exercise for people to get to know each other better. Appreciative Inquiry is a systematic way to find the best in people and organizations. To do a paired dialogue, two people interview each other and then present the other person's background and strengths. I had the tremendous privilege of interviewing Reverend Earl Ikeda.

My initial question to him was: "What made you want to become a minister?"

Reverend Earl thoughtfully responded that he always wanted to be like Shinran Shonin and live a life of humility and self-awareness. He had so much gratitude toward Shinran Shonin's explanation of life and living. This explanation revealed that Shinran was an extraordinary, "ordinary" man...a bombu. Rev. Earl will always be grateful that being a bombu was OK and that he was unconditionally embraced by Amida Buddha. Shinran Shonin came to that realization over 750 years ago and changed Buddhism in Japan. To take responsibility for this reality was the turning point of Rev. Earl's life. He received his Tokudo (first step toward being officially ordained) in

1972. It wasn't until 2000, twenty-eight years later that he finally was officially ordained.

All during that time, Rev. Earl felt privileged to be given the opportunity to "talk story" and learn about other people's lives. In doing so, he felt that he had accumulated within himself, the sum total of all these experiences, and his own perspective grew. By having that bigger perspective, he was able to help others through his "talk story" process. He was amazed to learn through his discussions, how similar people were in their "bombu-ness." He firmly felt that we need more people "ministering" people rather than studying or teaching religious dogma. Just as Shinran taught us, he felt that being at the same level as "regular" people was so important.

In Ocean, Dr. Kenneth Tanaka writes:

"Arriving at the realization that we are indeed foolish (bombu) is a product of intense self-cultivation to become Buddhas. Shinran Shonin is our model, for he did not see himself as foolish during his early training as a monk. But twenty years of intense training bore no satisfying results. Shinran Shonin found that his greed, hatred, and ignorance were deep seated and truly with no hope of eradication through his own effort.

This discovery, however, was actually liberating.This process is liberating precisely because one has finally awakened to how he really is, stark naked and stripped of all pretensions, defenses and self-images."

We are so fortunate to have such a benevolent, compassionate man amongst our ministerial team. The other ministers had similar stories and they were all committed toward this "calling." They had wonderful ideas and I look forward to our next session when we discuss prioritizing Shin Buddhist Principles and defining behaviors that reflect these principles.

In Gassho,
Rod Moriyama

Temple News

Veterans Day Service

Every year in November we honor our veterans by having a Veterans Day service. This year on November 11, we were fortunate to have Col. Keith Tamashiro as our Dharma speaker. Col. Tamashiro served as the Battalion Commander of the 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery of the Hawai'i National Guard for over 5 years. He led the battalion as part of the 29th Infantry Brigade's deployment in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom III.

As part of his Dharma talk, he shared the speech he made to his soldiers on the plane before they left for their deployment while his wife, Iwalani, shared the same speech with the wives and families outside the plane. Both of them shared that the unity between the men and families would be of utmost importance for the men to do well during their deployment.

Everyone in the audience enjoyed his talk and he was supported wholeheartedly by his Kakazu Ohana.

Dharma Sunday

November 18 was Dharma Sunday with MC May Kanemaru. The Dharma School students led the Vandana and Ti-Sarana and the chanting of the sutra "Juseige".

The Dharma talk was led by Carolyn Uchiyama and Elaine Kawamoto. They shared George and Willa Tanabe's new book, *Japanese Buddhist Temples in Hawai'i*. George Tanabe is professor emeritus at the University of Hawai'i. His wife, Willa Tanabe, is professor emeritus in the Department of Art and Art History and former dean of the School of Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Studies at the University of Hawai'i. The book explained the significance the altar objects as well as the temples of the various sects of Buddhism in Hawai'i: Tendai, Shingon, Jodo, Jodo Shinshu, Soto Zen, Rinzai Zen, and Nichiren. Carolyn told about the altar objects while Elaine pointed them out. Through the Tanabes' book, they found answers to the purpose of the objects as well as their location in the temple.

In December through February, there will be an exhibition at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i on the Tanabes' work. Samples of objects from various temples and sects of Buddhism will be

on display. There will also be temple tours scheduled. If you would like more information about the temple tours, go to the JCCH website.

December Services: Bodhi Day Service

On December 2 we will be celebrating Bodhi Day. It will be a Dharma Sunday and our MC will be Tre Acohido. Our special guest speaker will be Reverend Ryoso Toshima, recently retired minister of the Honpa Honwanji Hawaii Betsuin.

Special Dharma Speaker

On December 23 our Dharma speaker will be Lt. Col. Lynn Ishii, Rusty and Ethel Nakagawa's daughter, who is currently attending War College as part of her Hawai'i National Guard training and education. Her assignment is to speak to lay members as part of the requirements of her study. She had spoken to us previously at the temple's Veterans Day service several years ago. It will be interesting to see what has transpired in her life since that time.

December Activities: Dharma School News

Dharma School will be held on December 9 and the students will be cleaning their classroom, the BWA room. On December 16, students will be working on clearing up their SYRAP I records.

Holiday Sing Along

Instead of going house to house this year to spread the cheer, we will have a group sing along on December 23 after temple service. The Sangha Strummers will provide the musical accompaniment for the singers. Join us in the Social Hall after temple service and be caught up in the holiday spirit in song.

2012 KADOMATSU PROJECT

Sixteen inch Kadomatsu, 2' Door Matsu and 6" Vase Matsu will all be on sale again this year. They may be picked up at the WHM Social Hall on Saturday, December 29, 2012 between 3:00pm to 4:30pm.

Look for the Kadomatsu Order Form (on green-color paper) in this newsletter. Fill it out and return it to the temple office with payment by Monday, December 17, 2012. Questions? Call Dale at 392-3253.

Temple News

CARPOOL TO KAHUKU HONGWANJI ON DECEMBER 31, 2012

Anyone needing a ride to Kahuku Hongwanji on Monday, December 31, 2012 to attend Kahuku's last temple service can sign up at the office. Deadline for sign-up is Sunday, December 23, 2012.

Approximate departure time from WHM will be 8:30am-9:00am. You will be called with definite information and car assignment.

2013 OBON – FISH POND COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP . . .

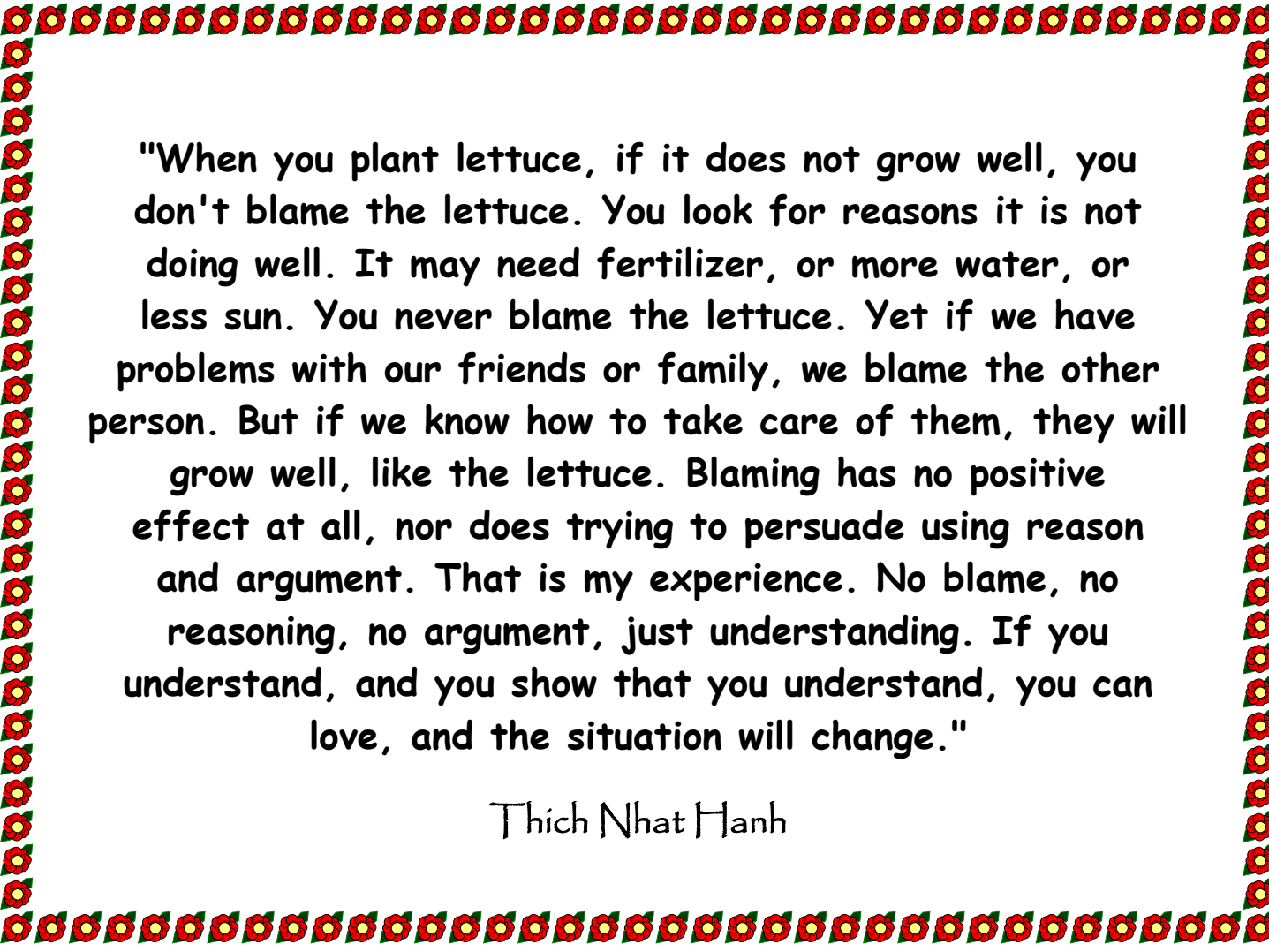
The Fish Pond Booth at our obon festival has been very popular with the children for the past few years. To keep the children coming back to our booth we need items that will be of interest to them.

The Fish Pond Committee asks all members of our church to consider donating any "gently used" small stuffed animals, trinkets, toys or other items that will fit into a brown paper sack.

If you have any items that we can use and would like to donate them, please drop them off at the temple office throughout the months leading up to our obon season. Put items into a bag or box and label: OBON—FISH POND, and include your name and telephone number

ST. STEPHEN'S FOOD COLLECTION

Let us continue to show our gratitude for how much we have by helping others in need. Please turn in your canned goods on December 2 for the St. Stephen's Food Pantry. All our efforts continue to help people in the Wahiawa community.



"When you plant lettuce, if it does not grow well, you don't blame the lettuce. You look for reasons it is not doing well. It may need fertilizer, or more water, or less sun. You never blame the lettuce. Yet if we have problems with our friends or family, we blame the other person. But if we know how to take care of them, they will grow well, like the lettuce. Blaming has no positive effect at all, nor does trying to persuade using reason and argument. That is my experience. No blame, no reasoning, no argument, just understanding. If you understand, and you show that you understand, you can love, and the situation will change."

Thich Nhat Hanh

5 months later . . . Hashimoto's adjusting to WHM and life in Wahiawa



WHM CALENDAR DECEMBER 2012

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|-----|-----|-----------------------------------|-----|------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 9-Bodi Day Serv | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 8am-2pm Gen temple clean up and Mtg. No serv | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Hosha 7pm Club Asoka | 14 | 15 8-Mochi project |
| 16 9 Eng Serv 10-Sangha Stru 10-BWA Mtg | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 11a- Hospital visit (PD) | 21 | 22 |
| 23 9-Eng Serv. Spr Lynn Ishii | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Hosha | 28 | 29 7-Kadomatsu project |
| 30 9am-Eng Serv & Install of Officers | 31 9am-1pm Combined serv w/ Kahuku | | | | | |

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Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission

January 2013

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|-----|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----|
| | | 1 | 2 7p-Dharma grp Mtg | 3 | 4 8:3-10:30am Quilt Club | 5 |
| 6 9-Eng. Serv 10-Board Mtg | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Hosha 7p-Asoka Mtg | 11 | 12 |
| 13 9-Eng. Serv 10-BWA Mtg | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 11a-Hosp visit (PD) | 18 8:3-10:30am Quilt Club | 19 |
| 20 8:3-Hoonko Japa- nese Serv 10-Hoonko-Eng | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Hosha | 25 | 26 |
| 27 9-Eng. Serv | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |