

Office hours: 8am-12noon
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Buddhism in a Christian World

Have you ever been approached by close friends and family members who were strong Christians asking you to convert because they were afraid you'd go to hell?

As a person raised as a Buddhist in Lahaina, then attending Kamehameha Schools in the 70's, becoming an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, and serving as a chaplain and resident advisor at Kamehameha Schools for many years, Reverend Sherman Thompson provided a very thoughtful Dharma Talk and subsequent Q & A session with over 20 participants. We had people from Kahuku, Waialua, Mililani, Pearl City, and Honolulu attend the service.

It was Buddhism that helped this young student understand Christianity when he entered Kamehameha. At Kamehameha, he attended compulsory chapel and was welcomed by the Chaplain who really worked on "religion" being a spiritual experience for all.

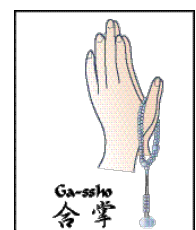
Rev. Thompson described the fundamental difference between Christianity and Buddhism in a metaphor. "It's like going from Honolulu to Wahiawa . . . you have to cross the Kipapa Gulch bridge." In Christianity there are two worlds, God's world and Man's world. The bridge to get to God's world is Jesus Christ. In Buddhism, there is only ONE world. Amida Buddha's universal compassion "saves" everyone. Amida accepts the entire being . . . both the good and not so good parts.

The fundamental quest of mankind is a yearning to find meaning in our lives. Through the centuries, man has worked at developing belief systems that help define that meaning. The Christian belief system has its origins in Judaism which in turn, was based on Greek and Roman philosophies. Buddhism is based on a more spiritual than a religious belief system. Both Shakyamuni and Shinran Shonin were teachers and spiritual leaders.

Buddhism accepts this life of impermanence and interconnectivity. Everyone is connected to everyone else from the past, present and into the future. This is illustrated when one looks in the mirror. You can see that you have your mother's or grandfather's eyes. They are always a part of you. Buddhism is a practice of being aware and appreciative of these connections and living this life in balance.

So what do you say to those who are afraid you'll go to hell as a Buddhist? Tell them, "It's OK. If I go, Amida will save me anyway." Namu Amida Butsu!

In gassho,



Reflections on "Rent" the Musical

Have you ever heard of "Rent" the award winning musical on Broadway? "Rent" won both the Pulitzer Prize and the Tony for best musical. They even made a movie version of the musical. It wasn't on my radar until Rev. Kevin mentioned the beautiful song, "Seasons of Love" that is the introduction to the musical. Rev. Kevin says the young folks at YESS camp came up with their favorite songs that really had a beautiful message aligned with Buddhism.



"Five Hundred Twenty-five thousand Six Hundred Minutes...." begins the "Seasons of Love." It's such a catchy inspiring song. What's behind it?

At first glance, I noticed that the musical is about homeless, but creative people living in New York. They are faced with AIDS, homosexuality, drug addiction, alcoholism...all the things we were brought up to shun as we grew up. I was a bit skeptical to say the least...but it was a beautiful song.

I watched the movie version of "Rent" and was so moved by it. It reminded me of what we learn in Buddhism. "To accept everyone and everything as they are." "Let love and compassion be your guide." This musical does just that! It transcends your initial prejudices and lets your own feelings open to the close friendship and love shared by the main characters.

They say that soldiers in combat form an unbreakable bond amongst their own unit. This feeling actually remains with them after they return home because they can never replicate this bond. This musical portrays a similar bond when individuals are thrown together in deep suffering and poverty. The songs throughout the musical are heart rendering and captivates the emotion so well shared by these characters.

It made me think of how appropriate Buddhism reflects this emotion through love and compassion. It also describes the comradery achieved in a community coming together and sharing their experiences in our own Sangha (Buddhist community) be it the BWA, the Hoshu group, or the Bon Dance group.

I highly recommend watching this film...with adults only...and having a discussion about the transition in your feelings afterwards.

Namo Amida Butsu!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rod".

In gassho,
Rod



*Seasons of Love
Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
Five hundred twenty-five thousand moments so dear
Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
How do you measure, measure a year?
In daylights, in sunsets
In midnights, in cups of coffee
In inches, in miles
In laughter, in strife
In five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
How do you measure a year in the life
How about love?
How about love?
How about love?
Measure in love
Seasons of love
Seasons of love*

President's Report

In the midst of political furor of the 2016 Presidential election, and a rash of violence in the US and France, anger and fear appear to be reinforced and amplified. It's timely that the month of July was focused on Mindfulness.

On July 10, Reverend Sherman Thompson was our guest speaker and attracted a number of people interested in "Buddhism in a Christian World"(see article). The following week, Dr. Jeff Wilson presented his research on "Mindfulness in America" as part of this year's summer session at the Buddhist Study Center. Dr. Wilson traveled the following week, giving presentations throughout the state. He was very well received! He emphasized that to survive in any culture requires adaptability. This is how a Buddhist practice of meditation and mindfulness has really been integrated in many aspects of American life. With the intention of improving society as a whole, and calming the anger, this Buddhist practice can certainly be an important part of our own efforts for peace and happiness.



Board highlights:

- Preliminary results of OBON indicate a very successful event.
- Emphasizing the Eitaikyo Fund as an endowment fund is a critical part of our long term financial strategy.
- Summer Youth Program is proceeding quite well. We have completed the initial phase of enhancing the Eitaikyo service, and are working on cataloging/digitizing items in the archive.
- Construction:
 - Sewage Ejector project started.
 - The damaged rock wall caused by an accident was repaired.
 - Bee removal from the kitchen cabinet was completed
 - Motion sensor lights will enhance our security on campus.
- Events in August:
 - The Plaza in Mililani along with the WHM BWA ladies will put on a 2nd Annual Obon on Thursday, August 11, from 2:30-3:30 pm for residents, their relatives and friends.
 - BWA is hosting a 3rd Community Blood Drive on Saturday, August 20, from 8am-12:00 noon. There is a significant shortage of blood units and people are urged to donate.
 - Obon service at Wahiawa Hongwanji will be on August 14 at 9am. Reverend Bruce Nakamura will be the guest speaker.

The other day, I noticed we had a memorial service for a mother of a classmate of mine. His elder brother and younger sister attended the service. I had not seen these people in 60 years! I frequented their home almost weekly as we spent time reading comics or playing football in a large yard next door. It is these moments of connections with the past and renewing friendships that make me want to be a part of Wahiawa Hongwanji. Thank you all for your part in bringing joy to our community

Namo Amida Butsu!

In gassho,





Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission

*A place to use Buddhism to
navigate life*

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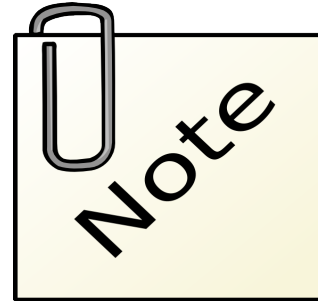
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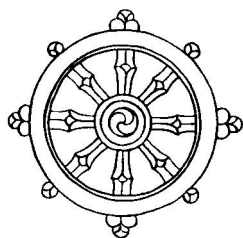
Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/WahiawaHongwanji>



Thank you
to all who have been
donating to the Food
Bank.

However, effective
immediately, please
hold any further
donations until we
receive word from St.
Stevens.



Please join us
for

Sunday Service on August 28 @ 9am
Guest Speaker will be Charlene Kihara



Charlene Kihara is a retired social worker who received her Tokudo Ordination 2016. She also received the Certificate of Completion of the Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course in 2013. Her work experience includes Supreme Court, Family Court, Aloha Nursing, and Ohana Health Plan. She was also a volunteer with American Red Cross as a Mental Health Specialist.

BEE ERADICATION!

No one knows how or why, but one day recently our main kitchen was found swarming with honey bees. Calvin Takeshita promptly suited up, and with help of a few Hoshu men, soon located their source of entrance just outside the kitchen.

Next, the help of a "professional" was solicited to locate and eliminate the "queen bee." The hive was found under the floor of the cabinet next to the main sink. A hole was cut in the floor and a "bomb" set off to rid the kitchen of the "queen" and her "worker bees."



Cal returned a few hours later to remove the nest and honey. This was done in order to prevent the infestation of ants and other insects after the honey, which would have created yet another problem in the kitchen.

Louise Stevens and Doris Matsuoka helped to wipe the residue off the counters and washed the dishes in the area around the sink. Only thing left now is to repair the hole under the sink. This will be the next undertaking for Cal and the Hoshu men.

Thank you, Cal, the Hoshu men, Louise and Doris!



The hive was found under the floor of the cabinet next to the main sink.



Cal "suited up" & located the bees' source of entrance—just outside the kitchen.

Please kokua and donate at the BWA hosted 3rd Community Blood Drive

Date: Saturday, Aug 20, 2016

Time: 8am-12 noon

Place: WHM Campus

Call 622.4320 and leave your name and phone number. You will be contacted to set up an appointment time.

(Alfred Paulino, a very active temple member, is undergoing blood transfusions and needs our help and support).



BWA BRIEFS . . .

2nd Annual Obon At The Plaza In Mililani. After last year's very successful Obon at The Plaza, they are again asking our help in coordinating another dance this year. It was extra special as we spent time with the many temple members who now reside at The Plaza, including several who are BWA members. So ladies, if able, please sign up to lend a hand on Thursday, August 11, 2016 from 2:30pm to 3:30pm. Wear your purple temple shirt; dancers wear temple happi. Call 392.3253 to sign up; transportation will be available.

3rd Community Blood Drive. WHM BWA ladies holding a third blood drive on Saturday, August 20, 2016 to help fill the critical shortage of blood. The blood mobile will be on the WHM campus from 8:00am to 12:00pm.



This blood drive is especially important to us as we help one of our very own in need of blood. Alfred Paulino, a very active temple member, has been undergoing blood transfusions on an almost regular basis. That is, at least once a month, sometimes more often. And he is asking for our help and support. Please call the temple office and leave your name and phone number. We will contact you to set up an appointment time. If you are unable to donate on this date, please check with a relative, friend or neighbor who just might be able to. Your help will be very much appreciated.

Report From Jr. YBA. As promised, Cy Acohido, Jay Acohido, Kano Hashimoto and Shoshi Hashimoto each gave a report at the July BWA meeting of their experiences at the State Jr. YBA Conference on Maui. They were very poised and articulate as they spoke and fielded questions from the audience. How they have grown and matured over the years since they first began attending temple services.



Seated from L to R: Shoshi & Kano Hashimoto, Jay & Cy Acohido .

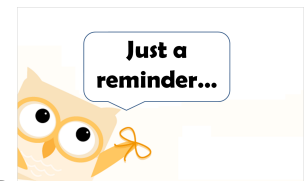


Mildred Segawa, the lucky winner @ the July BWA meeting!

BWA Members,

Mark these dates on your calendars:

- ♥ Sunday, August 7 at 10:15am, BWA Meeting, BWA Room
- ♥ Sunday, August 14 at 9:00am, Obon Service - Guest Speaker: Reverend Bruce Nakamura
- ♥ Sunday, September 11 at 9:00 am, Ohigan Service - Guest Speaker: Reverend Soga
- ♥ Sunday, October 2 at 10:00am, Tsuito-E Service - Guest Speaker: Mrs. Michiko Okano



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Gojikai

Helen Akagi
Dean Akita
Katherine Fujikawa
Charles Ichiyama
Phyllis Tanaka
Daniel Tanda
Alvin Miyatake

Gotan-e

Sachiko Komata

Hoonko

Katherine Fujikawa

Temple Donation

Joanne Ancheta
IMO Kei Nakahira
Todd Fukushima
IMO Tom T. Fukushima
Cynthia Kimura
IMO Aiko Yamamoto
Kaoru and Edith Oshiro Family
IMO Edith & Kaoru Oshiro
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IMO Tadashi Yoshida
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Oshiro
Peggy Tsukida
IMO Hichiro Tsukida
Sandra and John Lee
IMO Kaoru & Edith Oshiro
Damon Bender
Terri Koyonagi
Harry Endo
IMO Yoshitsugu Nishimura
Roy Yamashita
IMO Yanagisako family
Tony Suyetsugu

Ohigan

Katherine Fujikawa
Helen Nitahara

Social Concerns

Jean Fukeda
Suzanne Mishima

Obon

Miyo Abangan
Amy Abe
Shigeko Abe
Wallace Abe
Kiyoshi (Richard) Adaniya
Masanobu Arakaki
Harry Endo
Roy Enomoto
Katherine Fujikawa
Wallace Hirai
Russell Hiroe
Midori Hiromoto
Mieko Hisamoto
Charles Ichiyama
Yoshio Isobe
Florence Iwanaga
Sandra Iwasa
Tomoe Kajiwara
Miyoko Kamida
Thomas (Rita) Kashiwabara
Richard Kawamoto
Sachiko Kiyon
Harold Komori
Sam Komori
Francis Kubota
Kenneth Kumasaka
Mitsue Machida
Katherine Matsuda
Yoshimi & Janet Matsunaga
Kiyoko Miyashiro
Yayoi Mondo
Keiko Nagai
JoAnn Nagatori
George Nakamura
Jean Nishikawa
Helen Nitahara
Jerry Ogata
Carol Price
Emiko Rodby
Gavan Sagara
Edward Sakima
Iwao Sato
Kathleen Sato
Mitsuko Sato
Sumako Sawai
R.K. or C. Shimabukuro
James Shimokusu
Steven Shintaku
Louise Stevens
Tamaribuchi Family

Tamaribuchi Family
Emeline Tamashiro
Emiko Tamayose
Hatsue Tanaka
Mary Tanaka
Isamu Tatsuguchi
Sharlene Teruya
Grace Tokihiro
Amy Townsend
Masato Tsujimura
Amy Uesugi
Earl Wakamura
Sumiko Yaji
Jo-Anne Yamada
Gary Yamaguchi
Ethel Yamamoto
Harry Yamanuha
Roseline Yano
Earl Yoshida
Reiko Yoshimura
Tomoyo Yuruki
Ellen Iwahiro
Ellen Jinbo
Judith Kakazu
Karl Kakehi
Betty Kono
Dayle Kurokawa
Keiko Nagai
Chikako Nishimura
Mildred Segawa
Stella Shima
Janice Shizumura
Tanda Family

Columbarium

Toshiko S. (Patsy) Ibara
Jeanne Ishikawa IMO Yamashita
& Ishikawa Families
Robert Kiyuna IMO Yutaka and
Fusayo Nakatsukasa
Janet Miura IMO Robert
Murakoshi
Timothy Oshiro IMO Kaoru & Edith
Oshiro
Linda Yoshikami IMO Kelly
Yoshikami

Capital Campaign

Amy Uesugi
Clifford & Myra Lau
Wayne Masaki
Dorothy Shigeoka
Chikako Nishimura
Laura Takai
Carol Mutter
Akio Araki
Nancy Kunimitsu

Yoshio Isobe
Katherine Fujikawa
Terry Jean Arakaki
Marrion Johnston
Carl Ohashi
Louise Stevens
Kenneth Tamura
Ellen Iwahiro
Amy Abe
Midori Hiromoto

Helen Ibara
Dorothy Aruga
Jerry Ogata
Mieko Hisamoto
Phyllis Tanaka
Mary Tanaka
Ellen Jinbo
Karen Flatt
Toshiko S. Ibara
Neal Tomita

Oops! Please accept our apology for the following errors in the July newsletter:

On pg. 8 of July's newsletter, the heading should have been

Capital Campaign
not
Columbarium



Mahalo



Every effort has been made to accurately present these records. Please call the office to report any errors. If you do not want your name published, please note on your donation, "Do not publish." Thank you very much.



for Obon Service

Flower Arranging:

Date: Saturday, August 13
Time: 8am

Altar Setup:

Date: Sunday, April 14
Time: 8am

Please call WHM temple office @ 622.4320 to sign up.



HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

NEW WEBSITE

www.hongwanjihawaii.com

FACEBOOK

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