Ohigan Service (The Other Shore of the River) to be held on March 8

The spring Ohigan Service will be held at Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple on Sunday, March 8, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Shaku Arthur Kaufmann, resident minister at Lihue Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, will be the guest speaker.

What is Ohigan? The literal meaning of Ohigan is “the other shore of the river,” the river symbolizes life here with its impermanence and suffering, while the other shore represents things like Awakening, Enlightenment, or liberation from this world. Ohigan centers on spring and autumn equinoxes. At the time of equinox, the sun sets due west and the day and night are equal. In Pureland Buddhism, the sun setting west symbolically indicates the world of the utmost serenity and bliss of nirvana to which the Buddha has been guiding all sentient beings.

In Jodo Shinshu, the observance of Ohigan is simply the expressing of our gratitude to Amida Buddha for awakening us to Boundless Compassion and Wisdom. We should put into action the Compassion which comes to us vertically from Amida Buddha and to apply it horizontally in our relationship with man and other living beings. This appreciation in our daily life is the Jodo Shinshu way of expressing our gratitude and thanksgiving for the wondrous virtues extended to us unconditionally and equally to all.

Our guest speaker requests that he be addressed as “Shaku” and not “Reverend.” He said that “Reverend” means, one who is to be ‘revered,’ while Shaku, a Sanskrit word, means, ‘Disciple of Buddha’. He would dearly love to be “revered” and be “highly respected,” but he feels that he is not worthy of such a title. He feels that such a title fosters separation between himself and the rest of the Sangha, as if he were someone special. He, as Shinran put it, a dogyo or dobo, a fellow traveler on the Shinshu path. He is travelling with all of us as part of the Sangha. Come hear his talk on March 8, at 9 a.m.

Central Maui Hanamatsuri (Flower Festival) to be held on Sunday, April 5

Director of Activities Danny Topp would like to encourage temple members to attend the Central Maui Hanamatsuri Festival, which will be held on Sunday, April 5, at the Velma McWayne Santos Community Center in Wailuku beginning with a service at 9:00 a.m. He reported that Wailuku Hongwanji is in charge of refreshments. Our temple will be participating in the entertainment portion of the festival. Reverend Shinkai Murakami invites all members to participate in this joyous event to observe the birthday of Buddha.

Lunches for Wailuku Hongwanji members will be prepared at a cost of $3 for single and $5 for two or more family members. Please call the office at 244-0406 to let us know the count. Reservation deadline is Sunday, March 22.

Maui United BWA Spring Assembly to be held at Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple on Saturday, April 18

The Maui United BWA Spring Assembly will be held at the Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple on Saturday, April 18, beginning at 9 a.m. United BWA President Sharon Nohara reported that MUBWA will be participating in the Community Soup Project (Souper Women of BWA Unite). She asks that members bring soup and canned goods to the meeting, which will be collected and donated to the Maui Food Bank.

The assembly will begin with a short service, followed by a business meeting. A special program has been planned featuring a speaker on environmental issues. Following the meeting, lunch will be served. The cost for the bento lunch will be $15. Members may select regular or vegetarian lunch. Please let President Janet Kubota know if you plan to attend by Sunday, April 12.
Namo Amida Butsu

Hi everyone. I hope you are rejoicing in the spiritual blessing of the Nembutsu through Amida's great wisdom and compassion. This month, I would like to share with you my understanding of Nembutsu.

When we come to the temple or attend a religious gathering, we recite the Nembutsu. However, if someone asks you, "What is the Nembutsu?" How would you answer that question? I believe that many of you may not be able to answer the question and that you may find it difficult to explain something about Jodo Shinshu. It's like someone trying to explain the difference between Amida Buddha and Shakyamuni Buddha. Some of you may know the answer while others may be reluctant to answer. "If I give the wrong answer, I may be embarrassed."

As Jodo Shinshu followers, we should know that Amida Buddha is "Infinite Light and Life" which is our homage and Shakyamuni Buddha is the person who attained Enlightenment and explained to us about Amida's great wisdom and compassion.

Let me share with you my interpretation of the Nembutsu. Nembutsu is written with two Chinese characters. The first letter "Nem" is originally "Sati" in Sanskrit and it is means "to learn" or "to deeply think" or "to be very careful" or "to realize" and the second letter "Butsu" which is the Buddha or Enlightened One. So, the term "Nembutsu" means, "Deeply thinking of the Buddha, to learn Buddha's true heart which is his guidance. So for us, Nembutsu means to recite Amida Buddha's Holy Name with true a mind of gratitude and appreciation." This is a simple and direct translation of Nembutsu.

By the way, a temple member asked, "Sensei, which is the correct way for us to recite the Nembutsu? Do we recite "NAMU Amida Butsu" or "NAMO Amida Butsu"? Are there differences between these two ways of recitation? For me, Namo or Namu is not a big issue, but for the lady, she didn't want to make a mistake in front of others. So, I explained to her about this issue. Originally, Nembutsu, in Chinese character, was spoken in two ways—"Namo Amida Butsu or Namu Amida Butsu." However, at our Mother temple it is "NAMO Amida Butsu." But, even if it is set at the Hongwanji temple, many of the Hongwanji ministers, still recite Nembutsu as "NAMO Amida Butsu." However, I believe both are acceptable. As long as we recite Amida Buddha's Holy name with the mind of gratitude and joy, it is fine.

Let me explain to you about Nembutsu. Namo Amida Butsu is the Japanese way of pronouncing a Sanskrit phrase that is very difficult to pronouncing perfectly. The Chinese pronunciation is "Namo Ami ta bu fo," and the Sanskrit pronunciation is "Namo Amita bha" or "Namo Amita yus." However, the meaning of this phrase is "Infinite Light and Infinite Life." However, when Pure Land Teachings were transmitted from China to Japan, the leaders of the Tendai sect read it as "Namah Amida Butsu" instead of the Chinese way of pronunciation. Since then, people started to use the Japanese way of pronunciation which is "Namo Amida Butsu." However, because it was written in the Chinese characters and can be read as "NAMU Amida Butsu" many followers, including some ministers, were reading and reciting it as "NAMO Amida Butsu or NAMU Amida Butsu." Today, even in Japan and many foreign countries, Hongwanji members are reciting in both ways.

"Namo or Namu" means, "to rely upon" or "entrust oneself to." "Amida" is a word taken from the first part of "Amitabha" and "Amityus," which means "Infinite Light and Infinite Life." Thus "Amida" has a meaning of "Infinite." "Butsu" is the Japanese way of pronouncing Buddha, which means, "the Enlightened One" or "Awakened One." So putting it all together, "Namo Amida Butsu or Namu Amida Butsu" refers to the fact that eternal truth in the forms of "Infinite Light" which is Wisdom of Amida and "Infinite Life" which is the Compassion of Amida penetrates and continually works toward our highest goal which is enlightenment.

When we say "Aloha," are we thinking of its meaning or are we expressing our gratitude or appreciation? I think this word comes naturally from our mouth. When Hawaiians say "Aloha" they are expressing gratitude and appreciation, so it's not necessary to think about what they are saying. I think "Nembutsu" is the same, when we recite Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu, we don't need to have any reason or purpose. Amida Buddha is always working with us. As long as we recite the Nembutsu, we are one with Amida. Why? Whenever we recite this Holy Name, Amida Buddha is reciting together with us; we are one with Amida.

So, when you come to the temple, offer incense and recite the Nembutsu. I believe you will feel comfortable and tranquil. Why? Because you are one with Amida and receiving his great wisdom and compassionate heart.

On March 8, we will be observing our Spring Ohigan Service with the Shaku Arthur Kaufmann of Lihue Hongwanji Mission, who will be our guest speaker. Ohigan is time for all of us to reflect upon our lives. May this be an opportunity for all of us to re-evaluate ourselves and if we are able to be aware of Namo Amida Butsu is a similar understanding of the Aloha spirit, I think we are living with joy and happiness with Amida Buddha's infinite wisdom and compassion.

So, with these great minds of appreciation and great feeling of tranquility, naturally Nembutsu flows out from our mouth as "Nan man da-bu, Nan man da-bu." I believed that Nembutsu is a precious gift from Amida Buddha.

Namo Amida Butsu, Namo Amida Butsu, Namo Amida Butsu.
Editor’s Note: In our temple’s calendar, I noticed that on March 2, there is an activity called “Hongwanji Day” (observed on March 1). I wanted to know what is “Hongwanji Day?” See article below about “Hongwanji Day.”

“Hongwanji Day” to be observed on Sunday, March 1

TEMPLE MEMBERS ARE invited to attend the “Hongwanji Day” Service, which will be held on Sunday, March 1, beginning at 8 a.m. The service honors the Reverend Soryu Kagahi, the first Jodo Shinshu minister who arrived on March 2, 1889 and conducted his first service on March 3, 1889. Therefore, March 2, has been officially declared “Hongwanji Day.”

In “A Grateful Past, A Promising Future, p. 1” it was written, “Anyone passing by Kojima Hotel at #1 Beretania Street in Honolulu the evening of March 3, 1889 would have heard sounds never before heard in the kingdom of Hawaii. The clear sweet striking of a small gong. The sonorous rhythm of a sutra chanted in Sino-Japanese. The first Shin Buddhist service in these islands was being held by the Reverend Soryu Kagahi, a young priest from the Kyushu province of Oita-ken.” He came to Hawaii to propagate the faith among the Japanese laborers on the sugar plantations.

He visited laborers on the Big Island, Kauai, and Maui. His aim was to comfort the workers and try to alleviate their extreme physical and spiritual hardships. After only seven months, he returned to Japan to urge Honzan to send more ministers to Hawaii to continue his work.

Wailuku’s Hanamatsuri and Infant Presentation Day set for April 12

REVEREND SHINKAI MURAKAMI WOULD LIKE TO invite temple members, along with parents and grandparents, to participate in Wailuku Hongwanji’s annual Hanamatsuri (Buddha Day) Service and Infant Presentation Ceremony (Hatsumairi or Shosan-shiki) that will be held on Sunday, April 12, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

He stated that Hanamatsuri, which literally means flower festival, is celebrated on April 8, the birth of Siddhartha Gautama. Siddhartha became enlightened as Sakyamuni Buddha and this marks the release of all sentient beings from suffering and sorrow.

The Infant Presentation Ceremony (Shosan-shiki) gives each family the opportunity to present their child to Amida Buddha and the Sangha for the first time.

He stated that raising a child or even a grandchild is one of the most important tasks in one’s life. It is something that should be done with a great deal of thought. Other than the gift of life, the Dharma is one of the most important gifts you could present to your child or grandchild. He said that this ceremony is our temple’s way of celebrating Hanamatsuri—the birth of Buddha.

During the ceremony, the parents will take a solemn vow to do all in their power to guide the spiritual growth of their child according to the high ideals set forth in the teaching of the Buddha. The parents are, in effect, revealing their commitment to raising this child in such a way that the child will hopefully see the merit of the parent’s chosen religious path and after that choose it as their own. The temple and its followers are also revealing their commitment to support and cherish that child. At this ceremony your child will receive a gift of its first Onenju.

For an application form to participate in the Infant Presentation Ceremony, parents and grandparents may contact Reverend Murakami or pick it up at the temple office.

Graduates’ Banquet to be held on Sunday, May 3

THE WAILUKU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST Temple 2020 Graduates’ Banquet will be held at Tante’s Island Cuisine, 100 W. Kaahumanu Avenue, Kahului, on Sunday, May 3, beginning at 11 a.m. Cost for the buffet lunch is $28 per person. The luncheon will commence with a brief baccalaureate service conducted by the Reverend Shinkai Murakami. The keynote speaker will be Dayna Taketa, a math teacher at Maui High School.

A list of 2020 graduates is currently being compiled. Members can help the committee prepare the list by providing them with known graduates. Please call Shelley Quipotla or Sharon Higa (244-0406) as soon as possible so no graduates are left off the list. As of January 1, the following graduates have been identified: Rusty Abalos, Jamie Celis, Waipuilani Estrada-Beauchamp, Donavan Ikeuchi, Noah Murata, Kara Nakahashi, and Dylan Pena.

Please note that a student’s family need not be temple members or even of the same religion to attend the banquet. The main purpose of this event is to extend congratulations and best wishes to graduating seniors, who through their membership or their participation in temple sponsored activities, have been a part of the Wailuku Hongwanji Mission family.

Buddha’s Quotes

“Happiness is a journey, not a destination.”

“Be vigilant; guard your mind against negative thoughts.”
MEMBERS OF THE BWA WILL HOLD THEIR LADY Eshinni and Lady Kakushinni Memorial Day Service, along with World Peace Day on Sunday, April 26, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Sandy Hirata is the chair for the service. Janet Shimada, a member of the BWA Kahului Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, will be the guest speaker. The service is dedicated to Eshinni, wife of Jodo Shinshu founder, Shinran Shonin, and his daughter, Kakushinni.

Following the service, refreshments will be provided by Group F members. Group F consists of Sharon Higa, Itsuyo Kusuda, Bette Nomura, Helene Shiigi, Pat Tomita, Gwen Hiraga, Gail Kushiyama, Yuki Jones, and Molly Imoto.

Why BWA holds special service in memory of Lady Eshinni and Lady Kakushinni

In 1978, at its convention in Sao Paulo, Brazil, the World BWA (comprised of BWA organizations of Japan, mainland U.S.A., Hawaii, Canada, and Brazil) passed a resolution to conduct annual services in memory of Eshinni. Then in 2002, the World BWA passed a resolution to similarly honor Lady Kakushinni. At Wailuku Hongwanji Mission, BWA members honor both at a service on Sunday, April 26. Please plan to attend and to learn more of these two special women of our Shin Buddhist tradition.

Lady Eshinni, the wife of the founder of our Jodo Shinshu sect, Shinran Shonin, and Lady Kakushinni, the youngest of their six children, both played significant roles in the history of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Lady Eshinni was born in Niigata Prefecture in 1182 and married Shinran about 1210. Little is known about her except through ten letters she wrote to Lady Kakushinni during the waning years of her life. She lived in Kyoto with Shinran. These letters provided a personal glimpse of the conditions of the times. Shinran's own process of coming to terms with the Nembutsu teachings is reflected in the letters. The depth of Eshinni's understanding and awareness of the Nembutsu path sheds light upon the relationship between her and Shinran. Just as he taught his followers, he may have taught his wife, Lady Eshinni as well.

The 10 letters were discovered in Hongwanji (mother temple of the Jodo Shinshu sect in Kyoto, Japan) archives in 1921. They cast light on many “holes” not only on our knowledge about her life but Shinran’s as well. Lady Eshinni died at about age 89 in Niigata prefecture. There were those who questioned whether Shinran himself was an actual historical figure until the letters of Lady Eshinni were discovered in the Hongwanji archives.
Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity and Openness

As she is revered for her dedication to Shinran during his productive years, Lady Kakushinni is known for being her father’s caregiver in his final years. She was about 30 years old when Shinran died at the age of 90. After Shinran’s death, Lady Kakushinni is revered for planting the seeds that were to grow into today’s Hongwanji.

Ten years after Shinran’s passing, Lady Kakushinni built a Memorial Hall for his remains, and established the means for insuring the Hall and the property it was built on would belong to the Jodo Shinshu Sangha in all future generations. This was the beginning of Ohtani Mausoleum and of the Hongwanji. A monument stands in front of the Butsudan (Hondo) at the Ohtani Mausoleum to pay tribute to Kakushinni’s contributions.

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Dharma School News
Sandra Hirata, Reporter

Jencyn Shishido to MC “Hongwanji Day” Service on March 1

JENCYN SHISHIDO WILL BE THE MISTRESS OF Ceremonies at the “Hongwanji Day” Service on March 1, beginning at 8 a.m. Ringing the kansho bell will be Kamauoha Tomita. Logan Tamori and Connor Wasano will each read an aspiration. Louis Fosbinder and Mason Kurokawa will welcome members and visitors to the service and do the collection of offerings. (See page 3 for information on “Hongwanji Day.”)

Donavan Ikeuchi to MC Ohigan Service on March 8

DONAVAN IKEUCHI WILL BE THE MASTER of Ceremonies at the Ohigan Service, which will be held on March 8, beginning at 9 a.m. Guest speaker for the service will be Shaku Arthur Kaufmann, Resident Minister at Lihue Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Ringing the kansho bell will be Jencyn Shishido, and Bee Shuster will read the aspiration. Kingston Poon and Gracelyn Nishida will welcome members and visitors to the service and do the collection of offerings.

Danny Topp to be Lay Minister at Sunday Service on March 15

DANNY TOPP WILL BE THE LAY MINISTER AND speaker at the Sunday Service on March 15, beginning at 8 a.m. He will also ring the kansho bell. Nancy Shimoda will be the Mistress of Ceremonies. Bobbie Parr will read the aspiration. Grace Hamasaki and Sylvia Ishikawa will welcome members and visitors. Brian Hashiro and Janet Kubota will do the collection of offerings.

Eric Ikeuchi to be Lay Minister at Sunday Service on March 22

ERIC IKEUCHI WILL BE THE LAY MINISTER AND speaker at the Sunday Service on March 22, beginning at 8 a.m. Donavan Ikeuchi will be the Master of Ceremonies and will ring the kansho bell. Louis Fosbinder will read the aspiration. Sam Marie Quiapotla, Ace Shuster, and Sophie DeMattos will welcome members and visitors to the service and do the collection of offerings.

Kamauoha Tomita to be Master of Ceremonies for service on March 29

KAMAUOHA TOMITA WILL BE THE MASTER OF Ceremonies at the Family Service on Sunday, March 29, beginning at 8 a.m. Ringing the kansho bell will be Karsten Shishido and Mason Kurokawa will read the aspiration. Logan Tamori, Benjamin Komine, and Connor Wasano will welcome members and visitors to the service and do the collection of offerings. Dharma School classes will follow.

Dharma students reminded to attend Central Maui Hanamatsuri on April 5

DARMA STUDENTS ARE REMINDED TO WEAR their Dharma School T-shirt when they attend the Central Maui Hanamatsuri Service at the Velma McWayne Santos Community Center on Sunday, April 5, beginning at 9 a.m. Many activities are planned for the students as well as parents. Hanamatsuri means “Flower Festival” and is a celebration of Shakyamuni Buddha’s birthday.

Jencyn Shishido to MC Hanamatsuri—Infant Presentation Service on April 12

JENCYN SHISHIDO WILL BE THE MISTRESS OF Ceremonies for the WHM Hanamatsuri/Infant Presentation Service, which will be held on Sunday, April 12, beginning at 8 a.m. Ringing the kansho bell will be Karsten Shishido and Evan Fenton will read the aspiration. Onawa Flores and Aaron Tsai will welcome members and visitors to the service and do the collection of offerings. Dharma School students are asked to report to the temple by 7:15 a.m. with flowers to decorate the Hanamido. Be sure to wear your Dharma School T-shirt.
TEMPLE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED to visit the **Free Book Library** (located on the Waihe’e entrance of the Social Hall). You may browse, take, and/or share books in the library. This library will provide a repository for temple members and friends in the community to take a book and/or share a book.

Jonathan, a member of Troop 40, prepared three book libraries for his Eagle Scout project. He stated, “I want to do this project because I have always found joy in reading a good book. Ever since I was in elementary school, I have loved to read. With this project, I hope to spread my love for reading with others, especially those who might not have access to books on a regular basis.”

Students in the Japanese Language School were the first to browse through the library for a book that they would like to read.

Shelley Pellegrino, Jonathan, and David Merchant stand by the “book library, prior to it being painted and doors installed.

Scouts, along with Jonathan’s helpers, stand by the completed “library” before being taken and installed at their permanent locations.

Jonathan, along with volunteers, stand beside the finished product after the blessing of the library.
Matt, Michael, Jonathan, Quinton, and Galen work together in hanging the fireworks that will be used at the New Year’s Eve Service.

Michael, Cody, Isaac, Caleb, Aaron, Chase, Noah, Cody, Adam, and two employees from Kihei Garden & Landscaping were part of the team who assisted Nick Gima complete his Eagle Scout project.

Working along Mill Street, scouts cleared and prepared the grounds, installed the irrigation system, and planted bougainvillea for the Preschool as part of Nick Gima’s Eagle Scout project.

Boy scouts from Troop 40 donated their time to wash the cars of visiting professional golfers at the golf tournament.

While waiting for a car to arrive, a scout threatens the photographer with a car wash brush.

Scouts from Troop 40 have their picture taken after taking a break from car washing.

Alex and Mickie have a pizza break after washing the golfers’ cars at the Kapalua Golf Tournament.
Members of the Buddhist Women’s Association and Dharma School program have their photo taken in front of Martin Luther King, Jr. monument.

Students of the Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Dharma School program participated in the Peace Walk on Martin Luther King, Jr. day.

Participants in the Peace Walk were invited to the BWA’s craft table to create origami peace cranes.

To end our Chinese New Year celebration, the Preschool children all sat to watch a string of fireworks being lit. Kung Hee Fat Choy!

The students at the Preschool took a field trip to the County Building to watch the Chinese New Year’s Lion Dance. The children got to feed the Lions.

BWA members, along with Dharma School students, parents, and grandparents wait for the Peace Walk to begin.
Preschool News
Cathy DiMeo-Cole, Reporter

▲ Kung Hee Fat Choy! In celebration of Chinese New Year, the children got to have their own Lion Dance at the school.
► Jennifer (Jaxon’s mom) and her friend came in as our Community Helpers. They taught the children about the importance of their jobs as Dental Hygienists. Camille’s turn to practice brushing teeth.

Jordyn, Daniel, Mason, Tye, Duke, and Urijah played with musical instruments while their friends danced the Lion Dance.

Learning numbers in Hawaiian with Mrs. Kumu. The children held numbers from one to ten, and everyone else sang our number song in English and Hawaiian.
Cub Scouts News
Erin Ferrer, Reporter

Pinewood derby and assisting the Maui Food Bank keep scouts busy

Members of Cub Scouts Pack 40 were kept busy with their pinewood derby competition and assisting the Maui Food Bank.

Scouts, along with their parents, spent hours constructing, painting and testing their cars and getting it ready for competition. The hours of work paid off with their awards.

Webelo II scouts, along with their parents and leaders, donated their time to the Maui Food Bank by sorting, packing and boxing canned goods.

Cars #65, 67, 69, and 66 take their position on the racetrack as the lever is pressed to start the race.

The pinewood derby cars are lined up for the judging for the “Best in Show” trophy.

Logan was awarded 1st place in the pinewood derby competition.

Placing second in the pinewood derby competition was Kyren.

Cubmaster Jerry Dela Cruz awards Kaiehu his 3rd place trophy.

Presented with the “Best in Show” plaque was Landon.

“Best Kid Built” pinewood derby car was presented to Benjamin.

The “Most Original” car was awarded to Landon.

Ashton, Landon, Mason, and Logan watch the starting line as the countdown begin for the pinewood derby to begin.

Cars #65, 67, 69, and 66 take their position on the racetrack as the lever is pressed to start the race.

The pinewood derby cars are lined up for the judging for the “Best in Show” trophy.
Parents Veanne Matson, Kim Lee, and Jodi Komine are assigned the task of getting the derby cars ready for competition.

Derek, Landon, and Jacob watch the cars roar past the finish line as the scoreboard indicate the winner and finish time of each car.

Jonathan shows his collection of books to the scouts that will be placed in the “Free Library” located on campus.

Webelo II members place canned goods into plastic bags that will be distributed to the needy.

Webelo II, along with their scout leaders, pack canned goods into plastic bags that will be distributed by the Maui Food Bank.

Sachii is proudly sorting canned tuna at the Maui Food Bank.

Austin shows that helping the Maui Food Bank is fun.

Webelo II’s have their photo taken after completing the assignment of sorting canned goods at the Maui Food Bank.

Webelo II members find cart-full of canned goods that needs to be checked for expiration dates and packed in distribution boxes.
Gakuen News
Japanese Language School plans Cultural Day for March 11

AKUEN STUDENTS WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN Cultural Day activities on Wednesday, March 11, by making sushi. They will learn the history of sushi, the various kinds of sushi, the ingredients needed, and the skills needed to make the sushi. Sushi makers spend years perfecting the art of cooking the rice. The lesson is to introduce the children to one of Japan’s cultural traditions.

No school for Gakuen on March 16-20, and March 26

BETWEEN MONDAY, MARCH 16, through Friday, March 20, there will be no Japanese Language School because of the Department of Education’s Spring Break. On Thursday, March 26, there will be no school for students enrolled in the Japanese Language School because of the Prince Kuhio Day holiday. School resumes on Friday, March 27.

There will be no school on the Good Friday, April 10. Students are encouraged to participate in the “Field Day” on Saturday, April 11.

Gakuen to hold “Field Day” at Keopuolani Park on April 11

STUDENTS IN THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL will be holding a “Field Day” at Keopuolani Park on Saturday, April 11, beginning at 9 a.m. The purpose of the “Field Day” is to provide students with the opportunity to display their skills and to enjoy fellowship with other students.

Games planned for the students include: three-legged race, tug-o-war, ball throw, sack race, kick ball, water balloon toss, donut-on-a-string, etc.

Dis-n-Dat News

Temple office to close on Buddha Day, Wednesday, April 8; open on Good Friday, April 10

ON BUDDHA DAY, APRIL 8, THE TEMPLE office will be closed. In case of an emergency, please call Reverend Murakami at 214-3067. As Buddhists, we commemorate the birth of the Prince Siddhartha Gautama on April 8. He is the founder of Buddhism, and is also known as the Gautama Buddha.

On Friday, “Good Friday,” the office will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Editor’s Note: As you know, I love “visiting” other temple’s website. I enjoy reading (comparing) their temple’s newsletter—what’s going on, their activities, organizations, messages from the minister, officers, etc. From Hawaii, California, Canada, these Jodo Shinshu temples do the same/different activities and services, have the same/different difficulties.

Reverend Harada of the Orange County Buddhist Temple writes interesting articles. I’d like to share the following article because he may be talking to you, too. Happiness is ….

Look Within Yourself for Right Path to Happiness
By Reverend Marvin Harada
Orange County Buddhist Temple

HE DALAI LAMA, IN HIS BOOK, “THE ART OF Happiness,” writes, “I believe that the very purpose of our life is to seek happiness.”

All beings seek happiness. But why is it that the happiness we seek seems to slip away as soon as we think we have it? Why does it disappear like a mirage in the desert as soon as we approach it, or have it in the palm of our hand?

First of all, Buddhism teaches us that our search for happiness is misdirected. We are looking for it in the wrong places. Normally, we seek happiness in things that are external to us. We seek happiness in more money, a bigger home, a new car, or in the love of our life. We might achieve many or even all of those things, but we somehow feel unsatisfied.

More money is still not enough. A bigger house brings more repairs and headaches. A new car is nice for a while, until the next model comes out and our new car is already outdated. Even finding the love of our life can lead to heartache and sorrow if the relationship dissolves or if we lose our loved one tragically. With any of those things, our happiness disappears. What happened? Where did it go?

If you have ever felt the futility of searching for happiness in any of those external things, then you are ready to turn your search for happiness in the right direction.

Rather than looking outside of ourselves for happiness, we need to look within ourselves. We need to find in our life, a sense of inner fulfillment, a life of inner purpose, and an inner meaning to our life. When we turn the direction inward, we enter the right path to happiness. Once we enter the path, then in a sense, we have already arrived at our destination. The goal is the journey. That is why a person can dramatically change the situation of their life, even overnight.

It all depends on our perspective in life. A life of misery can turn into a life of meaning and fulfillment. A life of greed, anger and ignorance can be transformed into a life of wisdom and compassion. A life of self-pity, jealousy, and envy can turn into a life of philanthropy, generosity and kindness. A life in which we never get any breaks can become a life in which life itself is our biggest break, our biggest gift.

So how do we make that change? How do we unlock the key to a life of happiness?
First, we have to see that for our entire life, we have been looking at the world from a self-centered perspective, a "filtered" perspective, a view of life from the ego self. Life viewed from the ego self always falls short. There is never enough money or material happiness in the life of the ego self. Buddhism first points to our mistaken view of our ego self as not only a hindrance to a life of happiness, but it is the main source of the problem. It is the problem.

Naturally we react to such a teaching defensively. "Naw, I can't be the cause of my problems. My problems are because of other people. It's because of my boss, or my irritating neighbor, or this or that, ad nauseam."

We might come to accept some responsibilities for our problems. "Well, maybe sometimes I am the one who is wrong." "Maybe sometimes I am the one who is self-centered, but not all the time." We can easily point out someone in our life who is selfish all the time. "What about that guy," our ego self asserts. But even there, Buddhism challenges us to look within even deeper.

We then come back to ourselves, the one and only culprit, the source of our suffering and misery. Not anyone else. Not anything else. Just us. Just me.

But if we can come to accept that we are the culprit, we are the problem, then our transformation begins. Now we open ourselves up to the teachings. We open ourselves up to truly listening and learning. The more we listen and learn, the more we want to listen and learn. We begin to soak up the Dharma like a sponge, and then we realize that we are the sponge submerged in the water of the Dharma.

From our listening and learning, an inner happiness begins to emerge. Every insight, every realization, every little "aha" moment brings an inner sense of happiness and fulfillment that far exceeds any happiness we used to know from external things. We find that the inner happiness is more lasting, more consistent in our life. It doesn't just come and go like a flash in the pan. It stays with us in our hearts and minds. It builds. It grows. Eventually, it becomes fathomless.

Namuamidabutsu.

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**Editor’s Note:** Found this article in the Buddhist Churches of America newsletter, “Wheel of Dharma,” dated February 2020. Reverend Patti Oshita’s reflection on the opening day session of the California Assembly on January 6, 2020 should be followed by each of us, daily. I **bolded** the portion of her message that I felt we should follow daily.

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**The Honor of Serving as the Chaplain of California State Assembly**

**By Reverend Patti Oshita**

**Chaplain of California – State Assembly**

In 2016, after 33 years, Rev. Bob Oshita and I retired from the Sacramento Betsuin. Just months before retiring, we were invited by the Speaker of the California State Assembly, Anthony Rendon, to become the chaplains for the state Assembly.

We were truly honored to be asked, for this is not a position one can apply for or request. Understanding the commitment, we humbly accepted the invitation.

Not only were we the first Buddhist ministers to serve the Assembly, but Speaker Rendon added that we would also become the first husband and wife to serve in this capacity.

In December 2016, we were sworn in as chaplains and officers of the state Assembly to serve a two year term.

As chaplains, we are required to open each floor session with a prayer. Since petitionary prayer is not a part of our tradition, we open the Assembly sharing “Reflections.”

We end every reflection reciting O-Nembutsu. We have come to feel that when we use technical Buddhist words or phrases, they must be defined immediately. Otherwise, we are just mumbling sounds that have no meaning for those we are trying to reach. And so, after reciting “Namo Amida Butsu,” we add, “With Kindness and Gratitude beyond words.” We feel this captures the essence of O-Nembutsu.

Serving that first term was a challenging honor. As our two-year term was ending, Speaker Rendon invited us to continue to serve as the Assembly chaplains for another term.

Wanting to highlight women in the Legislature, I was asked to become the main chaplain and Rev. Bob Oshita would be my alternate. This second invitation felt like an affirmation that our Dharma reflections have been resonating meaningfully.

This year, as we begin our fourth year as the chaplains for the California State Assembly, we continue to be honored to represent our Dharma tradition beyond the walls of our temples.

I’d like to close with the reflection I shared to open the first Assembly floor session on Jan. 6, 2020.

**Please join me in a moment of Reflection:**

*From the time I was very young, many of my family and friends would begin the New Year making a personal New Year’s Resolution. Most I cannot even remember now. But for the past few years, my Resolution has remained the same. It is this.*

**Let me try to live each day of this New Year, with more Patience, Gratitude and Kindness. Let me not forget that from the moment we are born, there is no guarantee of even one more day of life. Each day is a gift that I must try to live as best I can.**

**In the year ahead, let us all try to embrace each new day with open minds and warm hearts.**
Let us try to wake up each day, happy to be alive; and sleep each night, grateful for the day.
Namo Amida Butsu — With Kindness and Gratitude beyond words...

Krispy Kreme cards available at temple office

K RISPY KREME CARDS are now available in the temple office for $25 each. Please make checks payable to Wailuku Hongwanji Mission.

With the card, members may purchase any dozen donuts at regular price and receive one dozen Original Glazed Donuts free—that is $25 for 10 free dozen. However, there is a limit of 3 free dozens per visit with the purchase of 3-dozen donuts.

Recycle and help our temple!

D ID YOU KNOW THAT YOU may donate your bottles and cans to our temple? Just bring them to the temple during business hours or leave them by the men’s restroom on weekends or after business hours. We now have a separate account so we will know how much we earn during the year.

Temple seeks newsletter editor

WAILUKU HONGWANJI NEEDS AN EDITOR for the temple’s newsletter. The current editor is willing to assist the new editor as he/she transitions into taking over the duties completely. If you are interested, please contact Board Chair Michael Munekiyo at michael.munekiyo@gmail.com or Editor, Frank Hamasaki, at 244-0406.

Acknowledgments

KYODAN
Lau Hee, Thomas & Winona – In memory of Thomas Shoichi Ansai
Lau Hee, Thomas & Winona – In memory of Prudence Ota Nishida, Eleanor
Tokunaga, Sarajean – In memory of Alan Unemori

NOKOTSUDO
Hanada, Fumie – In memory of Katsumi Hanada Family
Hiraoaka, Heidi – In memory of Yukie Kawahara and Douglas Sodetani
Sekii, Edwin – In memory of Hatsuko Seki
Tagami, Dale – In memory of Chuhachi & Harue Tagami

Tagami, Dale – In memory of Mitsugi & Yoshi Tagami
Yoda, Joseph – In memory of the Yoda Family

OFFERTORY
Hashimoto, Troy

CHOW FUN DONATION
Otsuka, Curtis

FUKUNAGA DANA AWARD
Kawahara, Hideo & Joyce

OFFICE SUPPLIES
Nishida, Eleanor

NEW YEAR’S DONATION
Kunimitsu, Lester
Mochida, Aldon
Nagoshi, Floyd & Sharon
Shimizu, Eri
Tengan, Faith
Toyama, Douglas
Toyama, Frederick & Arlene
Toyama, Wayde Y.
Tsai, Jeffrey and Fukushima, Laurie
Yamauchi, Layce

HŌONKŌ
Arakaki, Tony & Irene
Kunimitsu, Lester

OFICE SUPPLIES
Nishida, Eleanor
SOCIAL HALL
Maui Bronco League

EITAIKYO
Ageno, Wilfred – In memory of Shizue Ageno
Akashi, Elaine
Araki, Irene
Araki, Claire
Beppu, Clifford
Beppu, Geraldine
Chun, Lauren & Norman
Hasegawa, Allan – In memory of Takae & Taeko Hasegawa
and Miyakichi & Misayo Sawamoto
Hedani, Wayne & Kay
Higashi, Stan
Honda, Arlene
Hozaki, Carolyn
Ishii, Dennis & Grace
Izumi, Carl
Jio, Lori
Kaneyama, Wayne & Lena – In memory of Nobue, Minoru, and Juji Hanada
Kawamata, Stanley & Harriet
Kimura, Arthur & Rene
Ko, June
Koyanagi, Kazuo
Kurisu, Carol Mae
Matsui, Ellen
Matsui, Jeffrey
Matsumoto, Colbert
Miyazaki, Alan – In memory of Masato & Tsugi Miyazaki
Miyazono, Floyd
Nagahiro-Takemoto, Rae R. & Gary
Nagato, Harold
Nakamoto, Francis & Katherine
Nakashima, Helen
Nishida, Eleanor
Ogasawara, Toni
Ouchi, Dennis
Seki, Lee
Seki, Tom
Shibano, Clifford
Shishido, Larry & Katsue
Smith, Linda & Allan, Sr.
Tanaka, Colin
Tanaka, Hideo & Cheryl
Thompson, Shelby
Tomimoto, Nancy
Tsuhako, Ronald & Elise
Unemori, Alan & Linda Ann
Wakamatsu, Mary
Yoda, Kiyoshi

Deepest Sympathy
The Wailuku Hongwanji Mission extends deepest sympathy and condolence to the families of the following:

Sumie Suematsu (SEI DO – Path to the Pureland) Age 94, 139 Ka Ikena Street, Kahului; passed away on January 20, 2020.
Fumiko Hiyakumoto (CHI KAI – Ocean of Wisdom) Age 97, 382B Lakee Lane, Wailuku; passed away on January 29, 2020.
Stanley Okamoto (ZEN TOKU IN – Spread Great Virtues to all Beings; JO EN – Always Fulfilled Buddha’s Wisdom) Age 94, 13708 Kenwanda Drive, Snohomish, WA 98296-8239; passed away on January 31, 2020.

As of February 10, 2020

Hoji Memorial Services (March)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Year – 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 4</td>
<td>Hiraoka, Megumi (E SHO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 6</td>
<td>Tsuchiyma, Janet Tamiko</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Year – 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 14</td>
<td>Furomoto, Harry Nobuyuki (JO GYO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 28</td>
<td>Oura, Betty Ritsuko (DAI CHI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th Year – 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 2</td>
<td>Endo, Wallace (MYO DO)</td>
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<td>Mar. 5</td>
<td>Shigetani, William (SHO SHIN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 16</td>
<td>Fukumoto, Harue Elsie (SHUN DO)</td>
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<td>Mar. 18</td>
<td>Wada, Mamoru (SHIN DO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 29</td>
<td>Morimoto, Asae Jane (JI GAN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th Year – 2008</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Mar. 15</td>
<td>Ogasawara, Akie (KO NEN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th Year – 2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 8</td>
<td>Yonamine, Zenichi (GYOZEN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 22</td>
<td>Kajikawa, Haruko</td>
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<td>50th Year – 1971</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 10</td>
<td>Nakamura, Kaneo (TETSU JO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<td>--------</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 7:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. Meditation  
Hongwanji Day Service at 8 a.m.  
BWA Meeting | 1  
Hongwanji Day (Observed on March 1) | 2 | 3 | 4  
BWA Hosha Day Yellow Group A  
Preschool Service at 9 a.m.  
BSC Spring Seminar  
Professor Takeshi Hasegawa | 5 | 6  
Fed BWA meeting at Jikoen at 9 a.m.  
Cub Scout Blue & Gold Recognition | 7 |
| 8  
Spring Chigan Service at 9 a.m.  
Shaku Arthur Kaufmann, Guest Speaker | 9 | 10  
Gakuen Culture Day (Sushi Making)  
Properties Committee Meeting at 5 p.m.  
CUBS MEETING | 11 | 12  
Kyogakikai Meeting at Lahaina at 9:30 a.m.  
Boy Scouts Meeting at 6:30 p.m. | 13  
Lions Rental 5 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. | 14 |
| 15  
7:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. Meditation  
Sunday Service at 8 a.m.  
Danny Topp, Guest Speaker | 16 | 17  
BWA ACCW #3  
Kydodan Board meeting at 8 p.m. | 18  
BWA Hosha Day Blue Group B | 19 | 20 | 21  
Gakuen Spring Break - Gakuen Spring Break |
| 22  
7:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. Meditation  
Sunday Service at 8 a.m.  
Eric Ikeuchi, Guest Speaker  
Maiu IRWA Rep meeting at 1 p.m.  
Hall Rental at 12 p.m. | 23 | 24 | 25  
Prince Kuhio Day  
No Gakuen | 26 | 27 | 28  
IMC meeting  
Hall Rental | 29 | 30  
Hanamatsuri Mayor’s Proclamation at 9 a.m.  
BWA Scholarship Application Due | 31 |
| 3  
Buddha Day Minister’s Holiday (Temple Office Closed)  
Properties Committee Meeting at 5 p.m.  
CUBS MEETING | 4  
Kyogakikai Meeting at Wailuku at 9:30 a.m | 5  
Hanamatsuri Visitata at Hale Makua - Wailuku at 9 a.m | 6  
AJA Baseball Tournament Invocation at 2 p.m  
Hall Rental at 4 p.m | 7  
Good Friday No Gakuen  
Office Open | 8 |
| 9  
BWA Hosha Day Yellow Group A  
Boy Scouts Meeting at 6:30 p.m. | 10 | 11  
Gakuen Field Day at Keopuolani Park at 9 a.m  
Hall Rental  
Ministers’ Spouses Association Seminar (Maui)  
YESS Camp 37 (Camp Paiaheu) | 12  
Buddha Day Wailuku Hongwanji  
Hanamatsuri Service at 8 a.m.  
YESS Camp 37 (Camp Paiaheu) | 13 | 14  
BWA ACCW #4  
Kydodan Board meeting at 5 p.m. | 15 | 16 | 17  
Maui United BWA Spring Assembly at 9 a.m. at Wailuku  
Hongwanji Buddhist Temple | 18 |
| 19  
7:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. Meditation  
Sunday Service at 8 a.m.  
BWA Meeting | 20 | 21 | 22  
BWA Hosha Day Blue Group B  
Boy Scouts Meeting at 6:30 p.m. | 23 | 24 | 25  
BWA Peace Day  
Preschool Fundraiser | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity and Openness