

JIKO-"Wisdom-Light"

February 2020

Volume 66, Issue 2



Monthly Newsletter of the Aiea Hongwanji Mission Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity and Openness

NEED THE

ASSISTANCE OF THE MINISTER?

Please call Rev. Shawn Yagi at 488-5685 (residence), or 487-2626 (office). If he is not available, leave a message on the answering machine.

For religious emergencies (Makuragyo or bedside services), please call Rev. Yagi on his cell phone, 364-2825.

Temple President, Warren Tamamoto, is also available for assistance. His pager number is 576-4136.

Aiea Hongwanji Mission,
99-186 Puakala St,
Aiea 96701
PH: 487-2626
Email:
aieajiko@gmail.com

Website:
aieahongwanji.org

Minister's Message

Difference between *Gojikai* Dues and *Orei*

This is a frequent question. In terms of financial support for a temple, what is the difference between *Gojikai* membership dues and the traditional system of *Orei*? If you don't care to read further; the answer to this question is - attitude.

The character *rei* (礼) was originally a pictograph of a man kneeling and placing an offering on a table. It is a word of many meanings; propriety, good manners, ceremony, politeness, thanks, acknowledgement, etc. It is one of the many translations of the Sanskrit term *dana*. When an honorific prefix is added to the word, it becomes *Orei*. *Orei* then is an expression of gratitude and appreciation. Quite different in attitude is the payment of dues or fees. When one pays dues or fees, the natural question to ask is "What do I get for this?" It is an agreement between giver and receiver, almost contractual in attitude. *Orei*, on the other hand, is giving as an expression of thanks and appreciation. There are no conditions placed on this giving. In Japan, *orei* is further divided into more specific terms of giving:

Gobutsuzen – 御仏前 – honorific Buddha-before: *Gobutsuzen* means placed before the Buddha, and is an offering of money or goods placed on a table in front of the altar of a temple. When visiting other temple, it is customary to make an offering with the word *Gobutsuzen* on the envelope or goods.

Oiwai – 御祝 – honorific celebrate: This is written on the envelope or gift to a person celebrating an anniversary, special occasion, a debut performance, etc.

Orei – 御礼 – honorific gratitude: A more general term of thanks for a wide variety of occasions where one wishes to express his appreciation and gratitude. Given the nature of the intent or attitude of giving, there are no set amounts. Since it represents the expression of the giver's feelings, the amount varies with the circumstances of the relationship between the giver and recipient.

In *Jodo Shinshu*, gratitude is given the status of a religious experience. In the same way that humility is the result of deep self-reflection, it is the same with gratitude. You can not will oneself to be grateful, or humble - no more than you can will oneself to be happy. Gratitude and humility are results of deep self-reflection. Our temples, therefore are not run as a business and those that have tried, have never been successful.

Our unique form of Buddhism depends on the harmony of the Sangha, which we define as the community of fellow-travelers in the Dharma. In the same way that you cannot run your extended family like a business with a managerial hierarchy, wages, job specs, etc., the same goes for a temple sangha. Fundraising, therefore is of the Dana-giving kind. The attitude of Dana, of appreciative giving, has sustain



our Sangha for over two thousand years.

continued from page 1

Your dues, generous donations and *Orei* are supporting our Temple, Hawaii Kyodan, Jodo Shinshu and Buddhism. Thank you for your continued support, kindness and spirit of Dana.

Namo Amida Butsu
Rev. Shawn K. Yagi

EVENTS OF FEBRUARY 2020

2	Sun	9:00am	Family Service & Dharma School
		11:30am	O'ahu United Jr. YBA Meeting at Pearl City
3	Mon	7:30pm	Sr. YBA Meeting
6	Thurs	9:00am	BWA Meeting
			Hawaii Kyodan Board of Directors Meeting & State Minister's Association Meeting
7-8	Fri-Sat		108th Legislative Assembly (Giseikai)
8	Sat	11:00am	Living Treasures of Hawaii Recognition Luncheon
9	Sun	9:30am	Dana Day Service/Dharma School
13	Thur	9:30am	BWA Dana Day Activity with Lotus Adult Day Care
15	Sat		Nirvana Day
16	Sun	9:00am	Family Service & Dharma School
17	Mon		President's Day Holiday (PreSchool & Lotus Closed)
18	Tues	7:00pm	Annual Membership Meeting @ Aiea Hongwanji Mission
			Board of Directors' Meeting to follow
23	Sun	9:00am	Family Service & Dharma School

HIGHLIGHTS OF MARCH 2020

1	Sun	9:00am	Sangha Day @ Pearl City/No Service @ Aiea
		1:00pm	O'ahu United Jr. YBA Meeting at Wahiawa
2	Mon		Hongwanji Day (Observed March 1)
5	Thur	9:00am	Aiea BWA meeting
5-6	Thur-Fri		Ryukoku University-BSC Spring Seminar
8	Sun	9:00am	Family Service & Dharma School
15	Sun	8:00am	Quarterly Temple Beautification Day
16-20	Mon-Fri		Pre-School Break
17	Tues	7:00pm	Aiea Hongwanji Mission Board of Directors' Meeting
22	Sun	9:00am	Buddhist Dedication Day Service (Spring Higan-Equinox)
26	Thur		Prince Kuhio Day (State Holiday)
29	Sun	9:00am	Family Service & Dharma School

Aloha Members and Friends

- Just a reminder to please send in your dues — Aiea's Gojikai dues are \$125 for the year (*just a little over \$10 a month*), and Associate dues for members age 40 and below are only \$50. To avoid confusion for our Treasurer, please put "Gojikai dues" and the year for which you are paying in the corner of your check, especially if you are paying for previous year(s). And if you are paying for another person, please send a note with the pertinent information. If you wish to clarify your situation, please call temple office at 487-2626, or email aieajiko@gmail.com Please leave your name and phone number on the answering machine if there is no answer.
- FYI: In 2014, the Legislative Assembly (Giseikai) passed a resolution defining Membership as: based on family units as shown below:
 - Two persons joined in marriage or civil union and their legal dependent(s).
 - A single parent with his/her legal dependent(s),

If you are homebound, in a care home or in the hospital, and would like me to visit, please call me, Reverend Yagi at 488-5685 to make arrangements.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi everyone,

I hope you are well. We had a great New Year's Party last night! Once again, thank you to our many helpers. The Hosha gang (thanks Ito) and BWA prepared all of the food and it was delicious! Alvah organized the liquid refreshments. Our members and friends donated *pupus* and desserts-always my favorite part!



We were entertained by the *Afuso Ryu Choichikai Hawaii-Shibu*, Aiea Dojo. They were followed by the Pacific Buddhist Academy taiko group - *Hyaku Sen Ki Kai*. Then, our Aiea Hongwanji Judo Club put on a demonstration of judo techniques. The entertainment was great thanks everyone! The Sr. YBA and Jr. YBA helped by purchasing the Bingo and door prizes, calling Bingo numbers and passing out the prizes. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Importantly, all of the tables were clean when we put them away! This year's crowd seemed a little larger than in years past. Hope this trend continues.

Terrible news this morning-one of the great NBA basketball players of all time, Kobe Bryant died in a helicopter crash. Bryant's daughter Gianna also died in the crash along with 7 other people. I don't watch as much sports now as I did a few years ago. I remember watching Kobe Bryant's athleticism on the court and his desire to win when he was at his peak. With 3 seconds left on the clock and the game on the line, two names come to my mind - Kobe Bryant and Larry Bird (I'll be happy to discuss this further with anyone in person). Messages of condolence have poured in from all over the world. Our condolences as well go out to Kobe's family and the families of all of the victims. Namu Amida Butsu.

Another item in the news caught my eye today. Glaciers in Antarctica (and all over the world) are melting faster than scientists have been predicting. Sea levels are rising, and they may be rising faster than expected. It appears that global warming is real. Modern scientists agree that the changes in climate are related to human activity and that climate change is driving the sea level rise. The concern is that global warming affects not just the rising sea level but will have many other bad effects on our environment. Sensei Shawn's message this morning was about conservation and being good stewards of our environment. Sensei Shawn reminded us that we can all do our part to reduce our "footprint" on this earth. Let's try to do better.

"Be your own light"

Warren Tamamoto

Mettabhavana Meditation

Amida Buddha
surrounds all men
and all forms of life
with Infinite Love
and Compassion.
Particularly does
he send forth
loving thoughts to
those in suffering
and sorrow, those
in doubt and
ignorance, to
those who are
striving to attain
Truth; and to those
whose feet are
standing close to
the great change
men call death,
Amida Buddha
sends forth oceans
of Wisdom and
Compassion.

Namu Amida Butsu.

AIEA HONGWANJI HALL WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday	Dharma Service (temple)	9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday & Thursday	Hosha Work Days	8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Monday - Wednesday, & Friday	Preschool Use	8:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Monday & Thursday	Kumon Class	2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Monday & Wednesday	Zumba Class #1	6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday only	Zumba Class #2	7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	Judo	5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	Sanshin Class (classroom or Lotus)	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
1st Thursdays	BWA Meeting (kitchen)	9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

**Aiea Hongwanji
Preschool and
Kindergarten:**
PH: 488-0404

**Lotus Adult Day
Care Center:**
PH: 486-5050

Virya Biography Essay

By: Chad Okawa

The paramita, Virya describes someone who is not afraid to take big risks, dedicates themselves to others, gains diligence and knowledge from experience, and someone who takes on challenges and adversity with an enthusiastic attitude and effort. Mrs. Claire Tamamoto, also known affectionately by many temple and Jr. YBA members as “Aunty Claire,” is in my mind an example of someone who used Virya throughout her life. Mrs. Tamamoto is and continues to be a very involved member in the community, being the President of the Aiea Community Association, a strong contributor in all of the Aiea Hongwanji committees, the director for the Aiea Hongwanji Preschool and Lotus Daycare, as well as a sage advisor for the Oahu and Federation of United Jr. YBA (Youth Buddhist Association.)

One of the traits of Virya that Mrs. Tamamoto expresses is confidence and how she has used courage to persevere. Mrs. Tamamoto correlates confidence with age and experience. She says that when you get older, you will become more confident about the person you want to be when you live your life. Part of it is that people can't always take themselves so seriously and think their way is the only way. There is always another point of view to everything. She also said that people may not have always experienced it, so they don't understand a differing perspective.

Mrs. Tamamoto also credits her courage and perseverance from just being opinionated. She got it from her dad whose favorite saying was, “I'm not opinionated, I'm just always right!” Mrs. Tamamoto is one who tends not to leave a task undone or give up when the task seems difficult and instead persevered.

Even though she is seen as wise and outgoing, Mrs. Tamamoto claimed that she was not a confident person in high school. It wasn't until college, when she had a “clean slate” to grow as a person and remember the confidence her parents gave her by words and examples. This is proof that when you get older, you will become more confident about the person you want to be when you live your life.

Another aspect of Virya Mrs. Tamamoto relied on is how she developed knowledge and diligence. When asked, “What knowledge or experience did you gain through being a member and advisor of several organizations?” She said she learned a lot about relationships, about people's viewpoints and differing backgrounds, politics and different personalities. This is important to recognize because having some similarities can bond people together as well as encourage them to learn from each other.

When asked how teens can learn how to grow and become more confident, Mrs. Tamamoto said that the next generation cannot be afraid to be wrong and make mistakes. She said that and instead use the experience as a learning opportunity. We learn from our experiences, whether they are positive or negative. It is important that young teens put all their experiences in proper perspective; nothing is perfect.

Another trait that Mrs. Tamamoto practices is selflessness, which she dedicates herself to other people. When asked how dedicating herself to people made her a better person, she brings up the new Aiea Library. She states that various activities and organizations all have people that share a common vision and that it is rewarding to accomplish a goal. When participants feel needed, success grows confidence and all the positive energy makes people feel good about themselves. Mrs. Tamamoto also says it's important to remember that we don't know everything and that there is always room to learn and grow as a person.

Mrs. Tamamoto is seen as someone who wears many hats in her community. She is the director of the Aiea Hongwanji Preschool and Community Association. However, she said she has to remember to take one task at a time, do what she can, and not worry or get overwhelmed since that is when nothing gets done. She always encourages volunteers that try to get involved, “if everyone just did a little bit, no matter how small, it means one less thing someone else has to do”. She also had to learn that she can not do everything and has to let go to let others do some things even if it might not have been how she would've done the task.

Mrs. Tamamoto is a key example of Virya. She has the courage to persevere, the commitment to gain knowledge and experience, and to dedicate herself to others. She is someone who we can learn a lot from due to her experiences.

Citations:

Tamamoto, C. (2019, November 6). Email interview

O'Brien, Barbara. “Virya Paramita- The Perfection of Energy.” *Learn Religions*, <https://www.learnreligions.com/virya-paramita-perfection-of-energy-449709>. Accessed 6 November 2019.

HI-5 RECYCLABLE DONATIONS

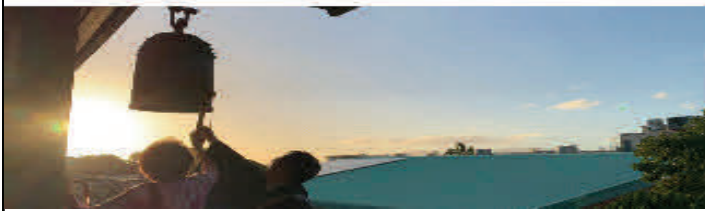
- If you would like to be recognized for your donation, please include your name.
- We are not able to recycle detergent bottles, milk bottles, ensure bottles. We can only recycle Hi-5 items. Please dispose of other items in your own blue bin.
- Please note—plastic drink bottles cannot be redeemed without the Hi-5 label. If label is detached, please roll it up and stick it in the bottle.
- *Thank you for your participation and continued support.* To improve the efficiency of our recycling program, could you please dispose of all caps from the bottles and do not include garbage and other non-Hi-5 items. Thank you for your efforts to keep Hawaii and Aiea Hongwanji GREEN.



Dec 28, 2019 Mochitsuki

Dec 31, 2019 Joya-e

除夜会



元旦修正会

Happy New Year 2020

Jan 1, 2020 Gantan Shusho-e



JAN 19, 2020
Shinran Shonin Memorial Service
Speaker: Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki



Family Highlights

Kacie and Ransen Tomoyasu, grandchildren of Kazu and Charlotte Tomoyasu, have been attending Sunday Family Services since they were toddlers.

Kacie, a recent graduate from Aiea High School, is currently pursuing a degree in Biology with the hopes of entering the field of Oncology in search for a cure for cancer. She recently completed her term as the Aiea Jr. YBA President. When she is not in school or studying, you might find Kacie at the Mall where she is gainfully employed.

Ransen is also an active Jr. YBA member at Aiea. He recently completed his term as the Treasurer and is currently the Secretary. In school, he is an ROTC cadet and like his older sister, excels in Math and Science. When asked about his aspirations, Ransen shared that he wishes to pursue a career in the United States Air Force.

Oahu Hongwanji Council Sangha Day “Planning for the Future” Making Decisions While You Still Can



Fun Activities for Children

- Date:** March 1, 2020, Sunday
Place: Pearl City Hongwanji
858 2nd Street, Pearl City
Time: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Program: ** Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. followed by service
** Guest speaker, James Pietsch, Professor of UH Elder Law Program, discussion on Hawaii Health Care Directive and Durable Powers of Attorney, followed by Q&A
** Fun activities for the children
** Door Prizes

Bentos will be \$10 with choice of vegetarian or regular bentos. Please sign up with your temple and submit one order, one payment per temple. Orders are due by February 9th. Checks can be made payable to Pearl City Hongwanji and payment can be made on that day.

Please provide the information listed below when submitting your order. Email your order to: hpearlcity@hawaii.rr.com

1. Temple
2. Contact Person
3. Phone
4. Quantity of Regular Bentos, Quantity of Vegetarian Bentos
5. Total Cost
6. Ages of children attending

Questions? Please call the Pearl City Hongwanji Temple office at 455-1680.

**Major Yearly
Memorial
Service
Schedule**

**For The Year
2020**

2019-1st year

2018-3rd year*

2014-7th year

2008-13th year

2004-17th year

1996-25th year

1988-33rd year

1971-50th year

* from the 2nd

anniversary,

please follow the
Japanese custom

of holding the
service the year
ahead.

Nokotsudo (Columbarium)

If you would like to visit the Nokotsudo, please call the residence at 488-5685 or the office at 487-2626 at least two days in advance so that arrangements can be made to open the Nokotsudo for you. The best days to visit the Nokotsudo are Thursday and Sunday mornings.

Family Memorial Service

In the Japanese Buddhist tradition, families hold memorial services (Nen-ki Hoyo) in memory of our loved ones, and to express our gratitude for Amida Buddha's Infinite Light.

The Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion embrace our loved ones in the land of peace and happiness. May we also remember Amida's embrace on our lives as we remember those who have departed.

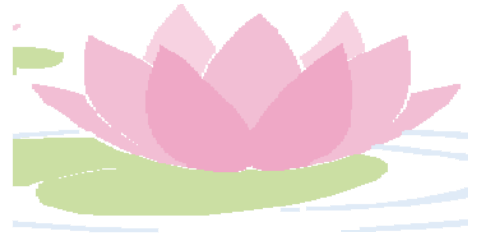
If your family would like to arrange a memorial service for your loved one, please call Rev. Yagi at 488-5685. (please leave a message if no one is available). You may schedule the service either before or after the memorial date. The ideal time is when as many family members as possible will attend.

February 2020

Mitsuyo Uyeunten	1st
Yasuto Kubota	3rd
Akira Mori	3rd
Helen Ishioka	7th
Yukie Muroda Hayashi	7th
Harue Hazel Chagami	7th
Kazumi Nishimoto	7th
Mary Etsuko Kono	7th
Kiyoko Aihara	17th
Melvin Yukio Miyata	17th
Hikoji Jike	17th
Neal Tadashi Shigemura	17th
Fujie H. Kanno	17th
Matsuno Nakagawa	25th
Hideki Kiyosaki	50th

March 2020

Elaine Yukiko Takata	1st
Colin Morikawa	3rd
Judith Tateishi	7th
Yoshie Tanimoto	13th
Richard Takeshi Kanno	17th
Tadashi Tasaki	17th
Koichi Ippongi	50th



We apologize if we have inadvertently made an error in printing the name of your loved one, or the date of memorial. Please inform the office of any errors at 487-2626 so that we may correct our records.

We appreciate your assistance in updating our memorial records and contact information when you call in for a Memorial Service. Thank you.

PROJECT DANA

Volunteers are needed to assist with transportation for doctor and dentist visits, shopping, and respite visits. for the frail, elderly and disabled living at home in the area from Waimalu to Salt Lake. A Big Thank You to Frank and Helen Takenouchi for their ongoing work with Project Dana.

Thank you for your donation

On behalf of Aiea Hongwanji Mission, we wish to extend our deepest GRATITUDE for all the donations received for 2020 New Year Party! If for some reason we overlooked your name, please accept our humble apologies and know that your generosity has been greatly appreciated.

Kenneth Kaneshiro	Smoke meat, sausage, piggy in the blanket
Burt Okura	5 case Juice
Frank Takenouchi	Ahi Poke
Earl & Cindy Asato	1 case Coke, 1 case Water
Shigeo Asato	\$20.00
Sally Ohira	Chips and salsa
Alice Suma	1 case Water, 1case Coke, 1case Sprite
Dennis Sekine	2 case Soda
Doreen Takata	1case Beer, 1case H2O
George Kawaguchi	Pupu (Opihi, Namako, Tako)
Thelma Kawaguchi	Sushi
Taketo Okamitsu	Bitsu Bitsu
Okamoto Ryan	Boiled peanuts
Morishige Susan	11 cans Truly settzer and Mochi arare
Ben Kaito	\$20.00
Ann Tomisato	Pork sausages
Marilyn Tamamoto	\$5.00
Judy Muramoto	\$5.00
Amy Nakagawa	Mundoo and Tskemono
Gary Yamaguchi	Kubota Sake and Reisling Spatlese
Diane Ishii	Pastries- 3 boxes
Sue Gaiariada	Lavosh, Melting moment cookies
Lynn Onaka	Cocoa Cake
Waller Yamamoto	Pumpkin Squares
Rüdiger Rückmann	Apfer strudec
Faye Yamaguchi	Blueberry cheese cake
Ann Tomisato	Chocolate cake
Warren & Claire Tamamoto	Poke
Aiea Judo club	\$100.00
Carol Fujimoto	\$20.00
Lucy Taniguchi	\$20.00
Leroy Nagasako	\$40.00
Walter Yamamoto	\$10.00

Aiea Hongwanji Mission extends its Deepest Sympathy to the families of the Late Mr. Kanji Akiyama, Ms. Iris Okura, Ms. Kikue Nakagawa and Mr. Kevin Kihara

BWA News

Our Annual New Year's Party, or Shinnen Enkai, was a wonderful way to welcome 2020! The hall was filled with a gathering of old friends and new! The evenings highlights included entertainment from the Afuso Ryu Choichikai Hawaii-Shibu, Aiea Dojo and Hyaku Sen Ki Kai Taiko, the performance group from Pacific Buddhist Academy. The evening was topped off with an excellent meal. prepared by our very own in-house Chef Ito-san and his crew of BWA ladies and Hosha men. Ito-san along with his crew of volunteers worked tirelessly to prepare a delicious menu days in advance up to the very hour before our doors opened on the day of our party. We also wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who shared their favorite dessert dishes. Dooom arigatoo!

This month, in the spirit of embracing generosity and selfless giving, the ladies of BWA, have planned an activity with the adults in our Lotus Day Care Center and will present their handcrafted heart themed cards and prepared goodie bags to new friends.

In Gassho,
D. Okawa

GOLDEN CHAIN OF LOVE

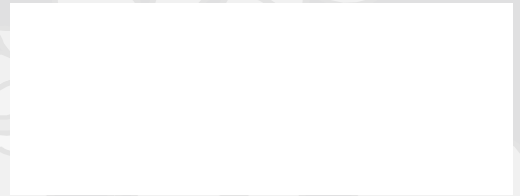
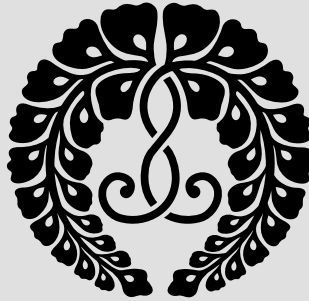
I am a link in
Amida Buddha's
Golden Chain of
Love that
stretches around
the world. I must
keep my link
bright and
strong. I will try
to be kind and
Gentle to every
living thing and
protect all who
are weaker than
myself. I will try
to think pure and
beautiful
thoughts, to say
pure and
beautiful words
and to do pure
and beautiful
deeds, knowing
on what I do
now depends
not only on my
happiness or
unhappiness but
also that of
others. May
every link In
Amida Buddha's
Golden Chain of
Love become
bright and
strong and may
we all attain
Perfect Peace.
Namo Amida
Butsu.

Aiea Hongwanji Mission
99-186 Puakala Street
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

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2/20



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

To all Aiea Hongwanji Members the Annual Members' Meeting will be held on:

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

at 7 pm

Social Hall/ Kindergarten Classroom

Please join us. If you are unable to attend, please stop by the office and fill out a PROXY form. Any AHM member in good standing may attend the meeting and may have 1 proxy vote in addition to their personal vote.

Topics will include annual reports by officers, review of past year's business and any other matter pertaining to Aiea Hongwanji Mission.

Pacific Buddhist Academy
14th Annual Taiko Festival
Aspirations

Pearl City Cultural Center
March 15, 2020 • 4:00pm

Tickets & Information:
www.PacificBuddhistAcademy.org

TICKETS:

General Admission: \$30.00

Senior (65+) & Student: \$25.00

Sponsorship Opportunities Available