The year 2019 has started. I hope that you will find joy and comfort in the events that you will experience during this year. I hope that those experiences will become somewhat beneficial and meaningful to your life. I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the members and friends of Moiliili Hongwanji Mission for your continuous support and dedication to our temple.

We have many things to take care of each day, and we feel like we are always running. Because of this, I feel that we sometimes forget to pause for a moment and think about our own lives. Let us find some time each day to contemplate upon how we have lived this life, how we are living this life, and how we will live this life.

One day I was watching news on the TV, and happened to see the Sakura “Cherry Blossoms” trees growing in Japan. It was the scenery of beautiful petals trembling by the wind and falling down to the ground. I was so moved by that beautiful scenery that I was almost crying. The Sakura has been a great influence into the life of the Japanese. The word “sakura” is often used in Japanese poems such as “Haiku” or “Tanka” to express the season of spring. Without realizing it, sakura influenced my way of thinking, my way of living, and my sense of value as a Japanese. The flowers of a sakura bloom so beautifully, yet fall to the ground so soon. Its life so fragile and short.

「明日ありと 思う心の あだ桜 夜半に嵐の ふかぬものかは」
“Cherry Blossoms that are felt to last until tomorrow, may well blow away during the night.”

This poem was sung by Shinran Shonin when he received the Tokudo Ordination at the age of nine. It was already late in the evening so that his master suggested him to conduct the ceremony on the next day. It is said that Shinran Shonin replied with that song. Through this song, the master sensed Shinran Shonin’s strong commitment to enter into the priesthood, so the master performed the ordination ceremony for Shinran Shonin immediately. In this song, Shinran Shonin beautifully expressed the truth of impermanence, and expressed that the life as a human being is indeed fleeting and unpredictable.

Another song with Sakura goes like this;

「散る桜 残る桜も 散る桜」
“Falling cherry blossoms; those remaining also will fall.”

This was written by a Buddhist minister named Ryokan. When the time comes, the petals fall down to the ground. But when we think about it carefully, it is not only the petals in the ground that encountered the truth of impermanence, but the remaining petals are also in the middle of the changing nature of existence. When we see sakura fully bloomed, we enjoy its scenery. But in this beauty of Sakura in full bloom, we also perceive the falling part of the reality. In the prosperity, we also see the downfall. I think we enjoy sakura because they bloom their short lives so beautifully, and we assimilate its transiency into our own lives.
Our lives are also like the sakura. We normally think that to live this day is natural and we take it for granted, and to die is surprising and unacceptable. But to die is actually a natural process and to live is actually surprising and filled with wonder. Our lives could end at any moment like Sakura, but through countless support, guidance, kindness, thoughtfulness, and sacrifices from others, we are living this very moment. In Buddhism we call these “causes and conditions”. There are countless number of causes and conditions that make my day. In other words, we are not living our lives only through our self-efforts, but we are enabled to live this day thanks to others.

Life will always be uncertain, filled with surprises and wonders, and at times daunting; but for me the Buddha’s teaching enables me to navigate it with strength, joy, and gratitude. For such a small existence like myself, there are countless number of causes and conditions which enable me to live this moment. Probably that is why we call this day “present”. When we receive this present, when we are awakened to this gifts from others, we naturally place our hands together, bow our heads, and express our feeling of joy and gratitude.

In closing, I would like to share one of my favorite Japanese poems.

「この秋は 雨か嵐か 知らねども 今日の務めに 田草をとるなり」

“I am not sure if this autumn will be rainy or stormy, but for today’s work, I shall weed my field.”

This is a song by a farmer. He is growing rice. If all the conditions mature in his favor, he will be able to have a good harvest in autumn. But who knows? The rains and storms might ruin all of his time and efforts. But he cannot worry too much about his future. All he can do is to appreciate this day, and do what he can to the best of his ability. Like this farmer, we do not know what our future holds, but let us always remember the countless gifts from others, and live each day and each moment with a sense of joy and gratitude.

_Namo Amida Butsu._

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani
MHM PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year’s theme for the Honpa Hongwanji in 2019 is Embrace change: Transformation (Walk in Peace). This reminds me of a recent trend in social media called the ten-year challenge. People post a picture of themselves ten years ago and another one from today. Most people have visible changes, while some look the same. I find myself a bit heavier in weight, a bit thinner up top, and I’m back to wearing glasses instead of contacts.

Not all changes are noticeable in a photo. Ten years ago, I had a different job. My son was going to Moiliili Hongwanji Preschool and my daughter was still in diapers. Today, they are both in middle school and getting bigger. I’m sure you have gone through many changes for yourself over the last ten years. For our temple as well, there have been many transformations. We have welcomed new members as well as said “aloha” to some of our members who have entered the Pure Land. I think our temple has changed with the times. Services are not only for Sunday anymore. We have a Tuesday night meditation service as well.

One tradition that many people do in the New Year is to make a New Year’s Resolution. The most popular one, I think, is to transform one’s body into a healthier one. Sometimes it’s about losing weight. Sometimes about quitting smoking. I’m hoping that you can embrace the second part of the 2019 theme and Walk In Peace by fulfilling your spiritual self and not only our physical one.

By taking opportunities to listen to the Dharma, or teachings of the Buddha, you can gain a better insight into yourself and your relationship to others. This is not only a religion that was started 2500 years ago, but one whose teachings still resonates today. We have transformed how we share Buddhism. We have a multimedia Sunday service to make it easier to follow along with the service.

In addition to just listening to the Dharma Message every Sunday, we also usually have a talk story session after each Sunday service. There where we can discuss various topics such as the Dharma message of the day, current events, and how things can be seen through Buddhist eyes.

We have had discussions on Buddhist perspectives on current events to better our understanding of Buddhism. Would you like to transform yourself and join us?

We have a Facebook and Instagram page along with our temple’s website. There, you can see our members and activities we have had and also get information on upcoming events.

These are ways we are trying to reach out to people outside the walls of the temple to share with them Buddhism and Buddhist teachings in different ways. Our reach with these technologies is worldwide.

Mahalo for your support as we continue the transformation to be a modern temple while respecting the traditions of Moiliili Hongwanji in Hawaii.

Namo Amida Butsu

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Dear Dharma Friends,

This is a link to a GoFundMe account. Moiliili Cemetery is trying to raise $74,000 by April 2019 to repave the entire cemetery to make it more safe for patrons and friends.

Laura Ruby

Please go to:

https://www.gofundme.com/moiliili-japanese-cemetery-beautification-project

or

www.moiliili.info

or mail donation checks payable to:

Laura Ruby

P.O. Box 283245

Honolulu, HI 96828

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Celebrating Project Dana’s 30th Anniversary

On January 27, 2019, more than 80 members, volunteers, and friends gathered at the temple to celebrate MHM’s Project Dana’s 30th Volunteer Appreciation Service. It was in 1989 that the late Shimeji Kanazawa started this organization to help care for the frail elderly and disabled and was patterned after the Catholic Church’s Project R.E.S.P.E.C.T. with guidance by Sister Joan Chatfield and Sister Mary Powers. Other early pioneers included Rose Nakamura, Dr. Mary Bitterman, the late Ruth Tabrah and Rev. Yoshiaki Fujitani. Records show that 55 volunteers assisted 110 participants the first year and this has grown to 170 volunteers assisting 200 participants each year. Specifically, we recognized 23 new volunteers from Moiliili Hongwanji in 2018 with a certificate and lei. Appreciation was extended to all the volunteers at Moiliili Hongwanji for their support and dedication of the past 30 years.

Besides hearing from Founding Administrator, Rose Nakamura and MHM resident minister, Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, we were privileged to hear the keynote message by Rev. Yoshiaki Fujitani, a true Moiliili boy, who at age 95 now, can still recall the historical beginnings of Project Dana. He thanked the volunteers for their chance to serve the community because of three factors: “desire, ability and opportunity.”

More than twice he challenged all of us on this question: “What will we do in the next 30 years?”

After the service, fellowship was enjoyed by those with delicious homemade refreshments. It was heartwarming to see familiar faces smiling and new friends meeting others.

Let’s thank Project Dana’s Executive Director Cyndi Osajima and Martha Samson, Advisory Council chair and look forward to Project Dana’s state-wide event celebrating our 30th Anniversary on September 28, 2019 at the Pomaikai Ballroom, Dole Cannery with our special Guest Speaker, Dr. William Thomas creator of the “Eden at Home” program.

(shared by Donna Higashi, MHM Site Coordinator)
Chinese New Year will be observed on February 5, which is the Year of the Pig.

On February 4 the Gee Yung International Martial Arts Dragon and Lion Dance Association will perform their lion dance for the preschool. The children will “feed” the lions their lycee and take pictures with them. What an exciting morning!

During the month of February we will also be focusing on the zoo animal theme. There will be cute animal crafts made by the children in their classrooms.

February 14 is Valentine’s Day. The Emphasis will be on love and friendship.

The preschool will observe Grandparent’s and Senior Day on February 15. There is much anticipation for a fun morning with grandparents. A light lunch will follow.

Wendy Harman
Preschool Director
Moiliili Hongwanji is most grateful for your generous donations. If you would like to have a receipt for your donation, please call the temple office at 949-1659. Oftise for funerals, memorial services, and other services are not listed. If you prefer that your name not be listed, please let the office know.

Moiliili Hongwanji Mission extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of:

Ivan Yoshio Nishimura, 106, on January 4, 2019

May the Onembutsu provide solace to family members during this time of sorrow.
MOILIILI HONGWANJI MISSION
2019 SPRING SEMINAR
Saturday, March 16, 2019
9:00am – 12:30pm

Mind Body Naikan Therapy
A way of self-discovery and self-renewal

Naikan is a Japanese word which means “inside looking” or “introspection.” Naikan is a method of meditative self-reflection, psychotherapy and counseling founded in 1950s by Rev. Ishin Yoshimoto.

Lecturer is Reverend Mari Sengoku, PhD
Director of Mind-Body Naikan Center

Registration Fee: $10 (light refreshments included)
RSVP to Moiliili Hongwanji @949-1659 or email mhm@moiliilihongwaji.org by March 10

Moiliili Hongwanji
Invites you to a

Cultural Day
March 10, 2019
9:00 Family Service
10:00 Cultural Day Activities

Learn and experience

Origami, make oshizushi, calligraphy,
Learn ikebana flower arrangement
Sing Japanese songs
Learn to play hanafuda or karuta
Play bean bag games
Bon Dance
Learn karate techniques & more!

Any questions? Visit website @ www.moiliilihongwanji.org. or call 949-1659.
MOILIILI HONGWANJI
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2019

3  9:00 AM  Sunday Remembrance Service
10  9:00 AM  Nirvana Day Service with Bishop Kenjun Kawawata of Higashi Hongwanji
       10:30 AM  BWA Meeting
17  9:00 AM  Service at C’est Si Bon Ballroom 2nd Floor
       10:00 AM  Annual Membership Meeting
       11:00 AM  Shinnen Enkai
24  9:00 AM  Sunday Service with Donna Higashi

March 2019

3  9:00 AM  Sunday Remembrance Service
10  9:00 AM  Sunday Service
       Cultural Day
16  9:00 AM  to 12:30 PM  Spring Seminar with Reverend Mari Sengoku
17  9:00 AM  Spring Ohigan Service with Reverend Mari Sengoku
24  9:00 AM  Sunday Service with Reverend Tatsuo Muneto
31  9:00 AM  Sunday Service with Mr. Jaryd Oshiro of Jikoen Temple
       Taste of Honwanji at Hawaii Betsuin

April 2019

7  9:00 AM  Hawaii Buddhist Council Buddha Day Service  MHM service CANCELLED
14  9:00 AM  MHM Buddha Day Service
21  9:00 AM  Eshinni & Kakushinni Service
       10:30 AM  BWA Meeting
28  9:00 AM  Sunday Service with David Atcheson

REGULARLY SCHEDULED CLASSES & CLUBS

Mondays 10AM  Quilting
Mondays 5:15PM  Zumba
Mondays 6:30PM  Kids’ Karate
Tuesdays 6:30PM  Meditation Service
2nd/4th Wed. 10AM  Japanese Dharma Class
Thursdays 9:30AM  Ikebana
Thursdays 5:30PM  Zumba
Thursdays 6:45PM  Kids’ Karate
Fridays 2PM  Conversational Japanese

For More Information:
Temple Office (808) 949-1659

Subject to Change: Please call the Temple Office to confirm times and dates of any event.

WHITE WAY RADIO: SATURDAY MORNINGS A 7:45 am ON KZOO AM1210

Join us on Saturdays for White Way Radio on KZOO1210 at 7:45 a.m. for inspiring messages from a variety of speakers. We are truly grateful for our White Way Sponsors who make it possible to share the Dharma on the air every week. If you missed it go to www.moiliilihongwanji.org, Buddhist Teachings.

February 2019

2  Reverend Bert Sumikawa /The Miyasaki Family
9  Mrs. Nancy Shimamoto /The Morikubo Family
16  Reverend Thomas Okano /R. Kaneshiro and P. Uyeda
23  Reverend Shigenori Makino / Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sorakubo

March 2019

2  Reverend Tatsuo Muneto /The Kanazawa Family
9  Reverend Earl Ikeda /Mrs. Alice Shiroma
16  Mr. Joshua Hernandez-Morse /Ms. Donna Higashi
23  Reverend Kazunori Takahashi / John and Laura Moriyama
30  Mr. Alan Goto /Moiliili Hongwanji BWA
BWA Otoki

Reverend Umitani and Reverend Kuniyuki

Making Mochi

JR. YBA Federation of Maui

BWA Otoki
2019 Taste of Hongwanji and Spring Bazaar

Coming soon on Sunday, March 31st from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Honpa Hongwanji.

Moiliili BWA and Kyodan will have a booth! The BWA will be selling popular rice products: chirashi sushi, inarizushi, spam musubi, mochi and Wendy’s bead bracelets and necklaces. The Kyodan will be selling lumpia, okara, sanbaizuke & ice cream w/lilikoi butter and more. We hope you will come out and support us as we do our mini-fundraising for 2019.

Lots of other Hawaii Betsuin and Kailua Hongwanji food offerings, entertainment and a HUGE rummage sale.