



The Messenger

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness

Calendar of Events

<p><u>November 2022</u> 06 Sun 10:00 am Sunday Service 06 Sun 9:30 am - 10:30am Food Drive 13 Sun 9:00 am No Service - Clean Up 13 Sun WHM Board Meeting - after clean-up 20 Sun 9:00 am Eitaikyo Service - Rev. Thomas Okano 27 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service & Activity</p>	<p><u>December 2022</u> 04 Sun TBA Hybrid Hawaii Buddhist Council Bodhi Day Service 04 Sun 9:30 am - 10:30am LAST Food Drive 11 Sun 9:00 am No Service - Clean Up & General Membership meeting 18 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service 25 Sun No Sunday Service</p>
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Antiques, Treasures and Treats (AT&T)

We are planning an AT&T sale on November 26 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon so please save the date. You'll never know what you might find at the sale for yourself and/or for gifts.

If you are able to volunteer during the sale and/or with donating treats, please call the WHM office at (808) 622-4320. We are accepting donations of homemade treats such as snack mixes (party mix, muddy buddies, pretzel mix), brownies, dessert bars (lemon bars, nut bars, fruit bars), mochi, cookies or other treats packed in baggies ready to sell.



Temple and Campus Clean Up

It has been almost 3 years since we've held our annual temple and campus clean up. To catch up, we've devoted 2 Sundays to cleaning this year. We hope you and your family will be able to help. It's a great time to see old friends or make a new friend! Here's our schedule for each day.

<p><u>Sunday November 13th</u> 9:00 am - 11:00 am Clean Up 11:00 am - noon Lunch Noon WHM Executive Board Meeting</p>	<p><u>Sunday, December 11th</u> 9:00 am - 11:00 am Clean Up 11:00 am - 11:30 am WHM General Membership Meeting 11:30 am Lunch</p>
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If you and/or your family are able to help on one or both of our cleaning days, please call the WHM office at 808-622-4320 or sign up online at <https://bit.ly/3Dx3t3B>

Minister's Message - Interconnection

Thanksgiving Day is coming this month. Do you know why Thanksgiving Day became a holiday? According to Wikipedia, it was not a big special event at that time. It was just the event that they say, "Thanks to God for a plentiful harvest." Then the event spread throughout the world.

Let's think about the Thanksgiving Day as a Buddhists. There are three fundamental teachings of Buddhism --- "Mujo", "Engi" and "Pure Land".



The second word "Engi" means all things are connected. Thanksgiving Day was started 398 years ago. About 2600 years ago, the Buddha expressed this same feeling by saying "We should thank all things because we are connected and are supporting each other."

We always put our hands together before meals. Why should we put our hands together before eating? Recently, I heard someone say: "Why should I put my hands together for the food. I bought these foods with my money. It is not necessary to thank the foods. It is all mine"

Is this correct? Perhaps not. Actually, he brought the food with his money, but he forgot a very important thing - the Buddha's statement that we are living because of another's life. In the Golden Chain of Love, we say, "I am a link in Amida Buddha's golden chain of love." We are all connected with others, including animals and plants. We should thank the connection and dedication. That is why we put our hands together and say "Itadakimasu".

Why do we say "Itadakimasu" before the meals? "Itadaku" means to respectfully receive. Itadakimasu means I respectfully receive your life as my life. We cannot live without the meals. The food comes from another life. It is not only animals but also plants. Who raised these animals and grew the plants? Not us. Someone else did it for us. "Itadakimasu" also means thanking the people who grew and raised these foods.

By the way, do you know how many times we eat in our life? I calculated that. We have three meals a day. Therefore, in 1 year we have one thousand ninety-five meals. How many years will we live? We are not sure of that, but if we can live to a hundred years, we have one hundred times nine thousand five hundred meals. How many kinds of foods do we eat at a meal? I gave up calculating.

We receive many lives in our life. The word "Gassho" is in our teachings. This word means we are living together. It expresses thought of "Engi" which means all things are connected.

We have many things in this world, so we sometimes misunderstand and think that we can do everything by ourselves. But how true is this? We have to help and support each other in order to live. When we realize that, we put our hands together naturally.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,



Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

White Way Radio Program

White Way is a public service radio program of Moiliili Hongwanji. The programs are on KZOO radio 1210AM or Spectrum channel 888 on Saturdays from 7:45am-8:00am.

November 2022

5 Mr. Blayne Nakasone

12 Rev. Alan Urasaki

19 Rev. Kazunori Takahashi

26 Rev. Joshin Kamuro

President's Report



In early October I attended the Ministers Lay Assistant Retreat. It was a very full weekend. Saturday was a 12-hour day. This is the second time I attended this retreat. I met some tremendously dedicated people at a time when many ministers are shared between temples. These Lay Minister Assistants did so many things including doing the services every Sunday. It occurred to me how fortunate Wahiawa was, to have so many lay assistants as part of the Hosha group, helping in the office, handling donations and paying our bills, doing fundraisers, etc. We are also very fortunate to have a full-time minister to handle the many services that we have even during the pandemic.

The Bishop's opening remarks encapsulated my feelings throughout the event. Our job is to create a safe spiritual environment where people can experience that certain feeling of gratitude and security. When people attend the service, there should be a "chicken skin" experience. All of the rituals learned, and sutras chanted, are to have this effect.

The flowers displayed just so, the altar immaculate, candles and the sweet smell of incense burning, immaculate temple grounds, the music and chanting are part of this experience. Buddhism is undergoing tremendous change and focus on this spiritually uplifting experience.

I am so grateful to have this at our temple. The most important part of all is the friendships made amongst the Sangha. Such a simple concept but very difficult to sustain. I look forward to seeing many returning to the temple and being a part of this special "feeling." I'm also very interested in how we can make our services more meaningful.

We sent our third quarter letters to all those who donated in the third quarter. Thank you very much! Our final quarter is focused on cleaning the temple and getting ready for our Eitaikyo Service with Reverend Thomas Okano. In December, we'll be getting ready for the New Year with our General Membership meeting and Temple Cleaning. Thank you all for your support and generosity!

In gassho (gratitude),



Rodney S. Moriyama, President



Attention!



Let's salute and honor our veterans by marching in the 76th Wahiawa Lion's Club Veterans Day parade. The parade is on Friday, November 11, 2022 and at 10:00 am. It begins at Kaala Elementary School and ends at the Wahiawa Shopping Center. If you are not able to march, please participate by being a cheerleader.

Marchers, wear comfortable walking shoes and if possible, a purple shirt. Parade coordinators are asking that marchers be at Kaala Elementary School by 9:00 am.

Cheerleaders – bring a lawn chair and come early to get the best viewing spot of the parade.

Please sign-up by calling the WHM Office at 808-622-4320.

Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Office Hours: By appointment 808-622-4320

www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org

Columbarium Hours: Daily 10:00am - 3:00pm



Wahiawa Hongwanji Eitaikyo Service November 20, 2022 at 9:00 AM

Please celebrate the memories of our
families and friends with
Reverend Thomas Okano
as our guest minister.

Eitaikyo Endowment Fund

The Eitaikyo Fund is an emergency fund for the Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission (WHM). It was started decades ago as a way to recover from a catastrophe. A recent board meeting approved a proposal to make it a true endowment fund with investment growth targets to sustain the temple into the future. As an example, if we were to have an endowment fund of \$1,000,000, we would have \$40,000 a year for special projects without risking the corpus.

The goals of this endowment fund are:

1. To perpetuate the Eitaikyo Endowment Fund for future projects critical to WHM.
2. To build a corpus to augment operational dollars for the maintenance of the campus through the use of investment dollars.
3. Provide additional tax shelter for those members who can afford it.
4. Provide a vehicle for future recognition in memoriam. Families are invited to honor their families and ancestors at the Eitaikyo Annual Service.

At our annual Eitaikyo Service in November, we recognize those deceased members who have donated a minimum amount to the Eitaikyo fund. Families are invited to pay special tribute to their parents, grandparents, and friends. The board approved a minimum of \$500 for this individual recognition. Monies can be accumulated over time.

These monies will be invested. The dividends and interest from this investment will be accumulated for emergency funding when needed. It is hoped that this Endowment Fund will grow to help future generations with the expenses associated with maintenance without impacting the original amount donated.

Wahiawa Hongwanji Food Drive

by Carolyn Uchiyama

The Food Drive on October 2 and 9 was topsy turvy. It's okay because we still collected food on those two days. St. Stephen's Church appreciates your generosity every month. We collected canned goods, chips, and the Wet Wipes will go a long way keeping people safe. The collection amounted to 210 items and 30 pounds of rice.

Thank you to our members whose monthly contributions ensure that food is available, so adults and children aren't hungry in Our Wahiawa. We will continue to collect food till the end of 2022. Help us end our Food Drive with a bang in November and December.



Ready, Set, Shop!

The Holiday Season is just around the corner and WHM fundraising events are here just in time!

Shop early to avoid the last-minute rush. Here are 2 ways to shop early to save time and money and in doing so, help raise funds for the temple!

1) Shop at the Wahiawa Hongwanji's **Antiques, Treasures & Treats (AT&T)** sale on Saturday, November 26. The bargains are from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm in the Wahiawa Hongwanji Social Hall.

Some of the Items for Sale: Takuan, Bentos, Baked Goods, Antiques & Vintage items (dishes & Japanese Dolls, toys), Beautiful Quilts sewn by our temple members, Housewares, Fabric, Toys, etc.



2) Save by purchasing **“The Very Merry Event”** V.I.P. tickets. WHM will be participating in this fundraising event by Kahala Mall. This holiday shopping event gives V.I.P ticket holders access to discounts, sales and giveaways from participating shops and restaurants at Kahala Mall on December 9 - 11, 2022.

Also, ticket holders will have the opportunity to enter-to-win a (1) night Staycation at the Kahala Hotel & Resort with a breakfast for (2) at The Plumeria Beach House! The more tickets purchased, the more chances to enter to win!

To purchase tickets, please complete the order form below and return it to WHM by 12:00 noon on November 26, 2022. Pick-up your tickets during the AT&T sale on Saturday, November 26 between 9:00 am and 12 noon.

To have your tickets mailed to you, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for every 10 tickets purchased.

-----*(cut along the dotted line)*-----

Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission's Fundraiser – The Very Merry Event Ticket Order Form
Deadline to order is 12:00 noon on November 26, 2022

Date: _____

Name: _____ Phone #: _____
(First) (Last)

of tickets: _____ x \$5.00 = \$ _____ total amount for tickets

Donation to WHM (optional): \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

For office use

Date Rec'd: _____ Check Date: _____ Check #: _____ Amount: _____ Entered by: _____