



The Messenger

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness

Calendar of Events

REVISED December 2024

01 Sun 9:30 am Hawaii Buddhist Council Bodhi Day Service at Nichiren Mission of Hawaii 33 Pulelehua Way, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 (No service at WHM)

08 Sun 9:00 am WHM Bodhi Day Service

15 Sun 9:00 am Temple Clean Up and General Membership Meeting

22 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

29 Sun No Sunday Service

31 Tue 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Joya no Kane

January 2025

05 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

11 Sat 9:00 am- 11:00 am Wait....Don't Die Yet! presentation by Annette Kam

12 Sun 9:00 am Hoonko Service with Rev. Yuika Hasebe.

19 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

26 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

Temple and Campus Clean Up

It is time for our end of the year temple and campus clean up. 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 the day.

Sunday, December 15th

9:00 am - 11:00 am Clean Up

11:00 am - 11:45 am lunch

11:45 am General Membership Meeting



If you and/or your family are able to help, please sign up at <https://bit.ly/WHMclean>, leave a message at 808-622-4320 or email a message to office@wahiawahongwanji.org.

Wahiawa Hongwanji Happenings

By Carolyn Uchiyama

WAIT . . . DON'T DIE YET!

We are honored to have Annette Kam as a special guest speaker on January 11, 2025, from 9:00 – 11:00am in the Social Hall. She has spoken in many places throughout Hawaii. We found the information she provides useful and timely.

As Annette says, "You may not like to think about it, but avoiding it will not solve the problems you or your loved ones leave behind." The book is a step-by-step guide for adult children and spouses who are either preparing for death or preparing for someone else's. It covers the basic of what you need to do to get your affairs in order, while also teaching you the mundane tasks you must complete in or around the time of death. It is a comprehensive tool to empower you to tackle this task.

To register for this class, please use this link <https://bit.ly/whmAKam> by January 6, 2025. For more information, email Carolyn Uchiyama at carolyn2048@gmail.com



Minister's Message - Joya no Kane



Before we welcome the New Year, we always hold a big ceremony at the temple. Do you remember what it is?

We hit the bell (Bonsho) on New Year's Eve. We call this "Joya no Kane." It is a traditional Japanese ceremony. Usually, we hit the temple bell 108 times, but most people don't know where this number comes from. I would like to explain why we hit the bell 108 times.

In Buddhist teachings, the number 108 expresses our worldly desires or "Bon-No." We have at least 108 worldly desires. On New Year's Eve, the purpose of hitting the temple bell 108 times is to remove our worldly desires from the old year to welcome the New Year with a pure heart.

Why is the number 108? There are some theories about the number 108. According to a traditional Japanese thought, we have eyes, ears, a nose, a tongue, a body, and a heart, and each part has three feelings:

1. comfortable feeling
2. bad feeling
3. no feeling.

Then, these three feelings have two aspects:

1. pure
2. unclean.

6 functions of the body × 3 feelings × 2 aspects = 36 Plus, three ages are calculated: Past, Present, and Future. $36 \times 3 \text{ ages} = 108$

However, this number should not be taken too seriously. The important thing is that we realize we have many desires that we don't notice. That's why we have this special occasion to reflect on ourselves and try to decrease our desires in the coming year to become better people.

We open the temple and Bonsho area from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM on December 31st. Please come and join the bell-hitting ceremony on December 31st. Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,

Reverend Kojun Hashimoto



President's Report



We just completed a very successful Eitaikyo Service! We had over 80 people attend! Marcus Oshiro was the Master of Ceremonies and did a wonderful job! Adding to this service of gratitude toward all of our ancestors, we had the Shakuhachi Club create a moving experience while people offered incense to their families and friends. As a prelude to the service, we also displayed pictures of 2024 and pictures of 2018, our 110th Anniversary!

Reverend Thomas Okano, former Bishop and minister at Wahiawa was a guest speaker! He related how he too was acutely aware of the contributions made by so many people, and the reality of his failing health and aging. His wife, Michiko, and son, Brian, also attended. Brian is a graduate of Leilehua High School!! The entire service experience emphasized the basic teachings of interconnectivity and impermanence, an important part of living a fulfilling, positive life.

After the service, we had a small reception to provide an informal venue for families to gather and create new friendships!

We are happy to announce that our Eitaikyo Endowment Fund is fast approaching the \$600,000 mark! If you haven't donated to it this year, please do so! It is an important part of our long-term strategy to sustain the health of our temple. In addition, we have concluded negotiations to rent a portion of the old minister's residence to Bridge Tax Consulting Inc. providing us with another dependable income stream.

As we approach the end of the year, please sign up to help with our temple cleaning and general membership meeting on Sunday, December 15.

In closing, I'd like to express my deep gratitude for all the support and encouragement for over ten years! I will be active with Wahiawa Hongwanji representing Wahiawa at headquarters; it is time to introduce a new generation of leadership and ask that you continue to support them. Our focus for the coming years will be toward building our presence in the community, and actively pursuing major events in concert with our special services! Please be sure to communicate your interests and contribute your time and efforts to make Wahiawa Hongwanji a significant presence in the community.)

In gassho (gratitude),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodney S. Moriyama". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rodney S. Moriyama, President



**Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 9:00am - noon
808-622-4320**

www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org

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

Wahiawa Veterans Day Parade - November 11th

Thank you to everyone who marched or cheered on our marchers. It was a wonderful parade!



WHM Welcomes Rev. Okano

Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission (WHM) was honored to welcome back Rev. Thomas Okano on November 17th. Rev. Okano is a former WHM minister and the former Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji of Hawaii.

The service featured beautiful Shaku-hachi music, and a delightful reception followed, thanks to the dessert and food donations of Jan Fukada, Donna Goodwin, Mary Kawane, Joy Okimoto, and Ethel Yamamoto.

We appreciate Rod Moriyama for coordinating the service and Carolyn Uchiyama for organizing the reception. Thank you to all who contributed to this memorable event.



Jr. YBA Happenings

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and celebrated not only the turkey dinner but also the gratitude for all we have in our lives. We are so appreciative of our sangha and thank you for the continuous support you give us throughout the year.

As we are gearing up for the holidays, we are keeping our calendars full. A few members of the united attended Kagirinaki Ai to Jihi, the LGBTQ+ Equity & Inclusion Panel at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. We got to hear from Supreme Court Justice Sabrina McKenna, the first openly LGBTQ+ Asian American to serve on a state supreme court, Bill Kaneko, the president of the Japanese American Citizens League, and Aiden and his mom Martha, co-authors of the book *Two Spirits, One Heart*, who shared their experience with transgender issues. It was an interesting and eye opening discussion but also very informative.

We also participated in the Veteran's Day parade in Wahiawa to honor the people who served in the armed forces and defend our freedoms. We are very grateful that we have the freedom to be Buddhist and follow our beliefs. We walked with members from Mililani and Wahiawa Hongwanji and after the parade enjoyed the small fair at Ka'ala School where the food was super delicious!

On December 7th We will be having a membership drive and going roller skating at Kapolei Inline Hockey Arenas. We are encouraging anyone to attend if you are between 6th grade through 2 years after high school! Please invite your friends! The cost is \$15 for entry and skates; make sure you have socks!

We are excited to participate in the collection for Toys for Tots! We will have collection boxes at the following temples: Aiea, Pearl City, Mililani, and Waipahu. If you have anything you wish to donate please make sure it is a new, UNWRAPPED gift. Gifts need to be sealed in original packaging and not too extravagant. Donations for any age group, from toddlers to teenagers is appreciated. The donation boxes will be at the temples until December 15, at which time we will be taking them all to Aiea to be picked up by the Marines.

Upcoming Important Dates:

Membership Drive! Saturday, December 7 at Kapolei Inline Hockey Arenas: Meet at 5:30pm for skate time 6pm-8pm. Cost is \$15.

Next Meeting: Sunday, December 8, at Aiea Hongwanji at 12:30pm. We will be finalizing some details for the Winter Federation Meeting.

Sunday, January 19 – Monday, January 20: Winter Federation Meeting (Oahu is hosting)

We welcome any youth who are entering 6th grade through 2 years after high school graduation are welcome to join Jr. YBA! You do not need to be a member of a temple so bring your friends! Please contact a Jr. YBA member or Aunty Aryn Ishikawa (advisor) at arynn.m.ishikawa@gmail.com or jrybafoahu@gmail.com if you have questions or for more information.

Follow us on Instagram! [@jrybafoahu](https://www.instagram.com/jrybafoahu) and [@hawaiiifedjryba](https://www.instagram.com/hawaiiifedjryba)

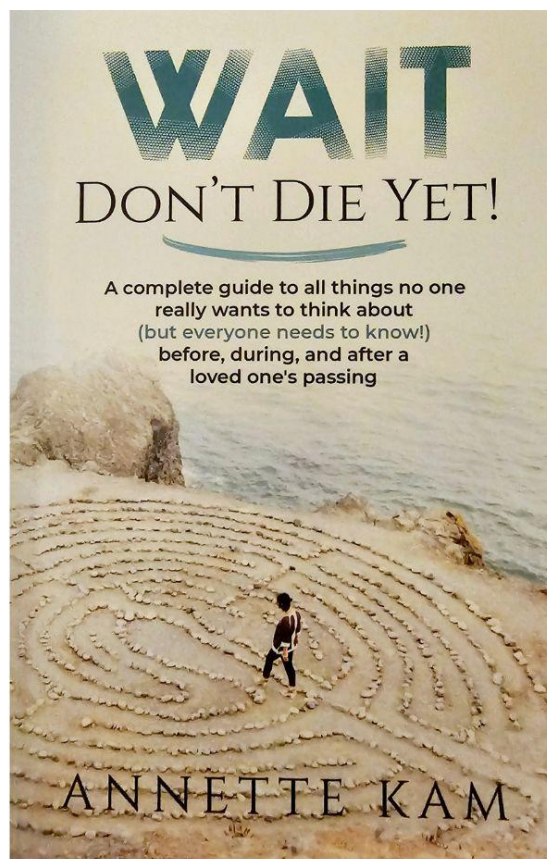


Wahiawa Hongwanji

January 11, 2025 9 to 11 am

In Social Hall

Special Guest
Speaker
Annette Kam



Many of us are not mindful of what those we leave behind must go through to take care of matters after we are gone. Annette Kam's book "Wait - Don't Die Yet!" shows us how to avoid such trauma! Come and learn her foolproof process to be prepared.

Sign up by January 6th at <https://bit.ly/whmAKam> or use this QR code

