



# The Messenger

***Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness***

## Calendar of Events

### UPDATED January 2022

02 Sun NO Sunday Service\*

02 Sun 9:30 am - 10:30am Food Drive

09 Sun 9:00 am NO Sunday Service\*

16 Sun 9:00 am Hoonko Service - Please check the WHM website or call the WHM office for service information (in person or online).

16 Sun 11:00 am -Talk Story by Dept. of Health on Strokes - Zoom (see WHM website for link)

23 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service, WHM Board installation, WHM Board Meeting

30 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service & Activity

\*Please check our website for online recordings of seminars and presentations or tune in to “The White Way” on KZOO radio 1210AM or Spectrum channel 888 on Saturdays from 7:45am-8:00am.

### February 2022

06 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

06 Sun 9:30 am - 10:30am Food Drive

11-12 Fri.- Sat. Giseikai Legislative Assembly on Zoom

13 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

20 Sun 9:00 am Pet Memorial Service

27 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

## Columbarium Clean Up Canceled

Due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases, we have decided to cancel the January 8th clean up of the columbarium to protect our volunteers' health.

To our families that brought flower offerings and are able to, we would greatly appreciate it if you could please return to discard old flower offerings made by your family by January 8th.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

## Gojikai Dues

As the pandemic continues we're anticipating another challenging year. This is a reminder to those who haven't yet paid their 2021 Gojikai (Membership) Dues of \$175, to please do so as it is badly needed. We were fortunate that federal funding relieved us of some of the headquarters "dues" in 2021.

If you've already contributed, thank you for your continuous support!

For 2022, the Gojikai Dues remain the same at \$175. It can be paid in installments monthly or all at once. The annual contribution to headquarters normally amounts to \$200 per member. Because of the pandemic, several programs have not been done in person saving travel and food expenses that have been offset by technology upgrades. 2022 will introduce new challenges as we hopefully transition from a more isolated environment to a more "in-person" one.

***Thank you for your continued support to maintain and sustain the programs and the maintenance of the temple.***

# Minister's Message - Happy New Year



We are happy and grateful to say that this is the ninth year for my family and me to celebrate New Years at Wahiawa.

Through your help and support, we are having a great time and we really appreciate your support. Arigato Gozaimasu.

The Hawaii Kyodan's slogan for five years was "Building Healthy Sanga" and 2022's theme is "Connecting with others."

We may still have to face some challenging issues going on in 2022, however, not only focusing on the difficult situations let us continue to search for positive new ideas through this pandemic with the teachings of the Buddha and our loved ones in our heart. This year's theme is connecting with others. Our teachings are always teaching us how important it is to feel connection.

I would like to share the story of "Wind Phone." (Kaze no Denwa)

There is a telephone box in Iwate, Japan. After the Tsunami disaster, there is no electric cable into the box. But people often visit the box and pretend to call their family who died in the disaster. A family was asked why they pretend to call their loved one. They said, "even though we cannot see our loved one, we feel our loved one is saying something to us. Through the phone, we feel the connection with them."

In the poem of Hymns of the Pure land,

*When we say "Namo Amidabutsu,"  
The countless Buddhas throughout the ten quarters,  
Surrounding us a hundredfold or a thousandfold,  
Rejoice in and protect us.*

2021 was a hard and struggling year, but we could learn many important things which we would not normally have experienced. Hopefully, this coming 2022 is a better year than last year and let us keep listening to the Nembutsu teachings to feel a wonderful connection with others.



Shoshi in Portland, Oregon



Kano in Japan



Kojun and Takako in Hawaii

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,

Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

# President's Report



With the pandemic beginning to roar back with the Omicron variant, there is still a lot of uncertainty about the future of in-person services.

At our general membership meeting, we re-elected the same members of the board with the addition of Mavis Nakabayashi. We recognized many people for their contributions throughout 2021 including the hard work of the Hosha group, the volunteers for Obon (virtual) activities, and the support for fundraising. We had multiple takuan sales, drive-by food pickup, Antiques, Treasures, and Treats that kept us financially solvent for yet another year. Our efforts in our Eitaikyo Endowment Fund have been right on target to reach our \$1 million GOAL for 2028.

To date, we are close to \$500,000. Please continue to contribute and support this effort as it is key to our financial strategy.

If appropriate, you could contribute in two ways:

1. Qualified Charitable Donation: As part of the required minimum distribution (RMD) of your tax deferred IRA and other tax deferred savings, donations to a non-profit up to \$100,000 can be deducted from your adjusted gross income. To qualify, you must be 72 years old or older.
2. Specify in your will that Wahiawa Hongwanji be designated as a beneficiary upon your death. It can be for any amount and be directed to any special fund (Eitaikyo, Capital, or Columbarium Fund). This is a way to ensure your legacy of giving.

Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki, Director of the Buddhist Study Center, retired at the end of September and continues to lead voluntarily, a small discussion group on Mondays from 10:00 - 11:30 AM. Please contact me if you're interested in participating.

Some key resolutions being presented at next year's Giseikai are:

1. Funding for the Ka Leo Kahea (Honpa Hongwanji Statewide Newsletter) to be published quarterly.
2. Hawaii Kyodan Annual Endowment campaign.
3. Subsidizing Pacific Buddhist Academy on an annual basis.

At a recent Talk Story, Dr. George Tanabe presented a very thought-provoking lecture via Zoom on American Buddhism, Shakyamuni Buddha, and Amida Buddha. Please go to our website to watch it. ([www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org](http://www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org))

Look forward to another exciting year!!

In gassho (gratitude),

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rodney S. Moriyama".

Rodney S. Moriyama, President

## Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Calendars

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii 2022 Calendars have just arrived. Interested temple members, please call the office (808-622-4320) to reserve your copy and to make arrangements for pickup. Only a limited number of calendars on a first-come, first-serve basis, so call early! Please do not come without an appointment as office remains closed.

# Antiques, Treasures and Treats Sale

The two Antiques, Treasures and Treats (AT&T) events this year were very successful fundraisers for WHM. It would not have been possible without the many volunteers who spent hours sorting, pricing and displaying items to prepare for the event, the many donors who made many donations of items to sell and the volunteers who helped to pack up and clean up after the sale. A big mahalo to all who volunteered, donated and to those who purchased items from the events.

The Antiques, Treasures and Treats (AT&T) Sale will be continuing with an online marketplace coming very soon.



This Girls Day doll set is one of the items that will be for sale on our online marketplace. If you would like more information about this set, please call the WHM office (808-622-4320).



# Gratitude

By Carolyn Uchiyama

## Activity One: Hearts of Gratitude

The Wahiawa Hongwanji temple service on November 21<sup>st</sup>, the week of Thanksgiving, was a gratitude service by Rev. Hashimoto with a service activity for Wahiawa General Hospital. The temple had previously made a poster for Peace Day in September and the same idea was used to uplift the spirits of the staff at Wahiawa General Hospital with 3 posters of “Hearts of Gratitude.”

Each group created beautiful posters matching their personality and style. Taeko Nakasone and Doris Matsuoka’s poster shared the many jobs that the staff work hard at daily. On the other hand, Jan and Carl Matsuura with June Ibara took a different tangent and showed the ways thank you is expressed in different languages. The smartphone comes in handy to find information. Finally, Rev. Hashimoto and Takako’s poster reflected the ways the staff work with people. Each poster sported the special piece that Takako Hashimoto created that showed the kanji for kانشa which means gratitude.

The 3 posters and 3 baskets of Cuties, bananas, and granola bars were presented to Brian Cunningham, the CEO of Wahiawa General Hospital by Rev. and Mrs. Hashimoto, Doris Matsuoka, Taeko Nakasone, and Carolyn Uchiyama. We hope during this season of gratitude the staff of Wahiawa General Hospital feel the support of Our Wahiawa.



## Activity Two: Wahiawa Hongwanji Food Drive

The Wahiawa Hongwanji Food Drive has been collecting food items for St. Stephen’s Church since June 11, 2020. We are truly grateful for our members who participate in this effort because the need for food continues until today. It is difficult to imagine in June 2020 that our life would be changed forever and we wonder when we will return to some semblance of normalcy.

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, the Wahiawa Hongwanji Food Drive was held with members donating from their heart. Our gratitude to those who scour the sales at Longs or at their favorite market for their donation. We have members going to Costco to seek items they may be able to purchase in bulk portions.

Your donations made many people have a merry holiday season. Your generosity continues to support Our Wahiawa.

# White Way Radio Program

White Way is a public service radio program of Moilili Hongwanji. The programs are on KZOO every Saturday for 15-minutes from 7:45am-8:00am. Guest speakers are ministers from the state and abroad, as well as lay speakers who have an interest in Buddhism. You can also go to: [www.moililihongwanji.org](http://www.moililihongwanji.org) for past Dharma messages

January 1	Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani
January 8	Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani
January 15	Dr. Warren Tamamoto
January 22	Mr. Raymond Takiue Jr
January 29	Rev. Bert Sumikawa

## Jr. YBA Happenings

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who supported our fundraiser this year! We are so grateful to your continued support and enthusiasm of our baked goodies! This year, we processed 372 orders and substantial number of donations! A portion of the amount raised will go toward our HBY Month charity, The Ronald McDonald House, which was chosen by the Federation during the 2021 State Convention. Thank you all so much!



Group from L-R: Diane Okawa, Jan Koyanagi, Claire Tamamoto, Mark Funasaki (former Jr. YBA Member), Kayla Koyanagi, Kana Suzuki, Kaylee Noda, Arynn Ishikawa, Chad Okawa



**Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Office Hours: By appointment 808-622-4320**  
**[www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org](http://www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org)**  
**Columbarium Hours: Daily 10:00am - 3:00pm**

We continue to look for people to help clean the columbarium on a weekly basis so families may resume bringing flowers to the columbarium. Please call the temple office (622-4320 or 392-3253) if you are able to help.