



The Messenger

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness

happy new year

Calendar of Events

January 2023

- 01 Sun No Sunday Service
- 08 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 15 Sun 9:00 am Hoonko Service - Guest Speaker
Rev. Bert Sumikawa followed by WHM Board
Installation
- 22 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 22 Sun 10:30 am WHM Board Meeting on Zoom
- 29 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

February 2023

- 05 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
Board Planning Session
- 10 Fri - 11 Sat 2023 Legislative Assembly (Giseikai)
- 12 Sun 9:00 am Pet Memorial Service
- 19 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 26 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 26 Sun TBA WHM New Year's Activity

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

WHM Clean up Day December 11, 2022

During the very busy holiday season, we appreciate all the volunteers who came out to help at our second WHM Clean Up Day. Our clean up was followed by our annual general membership meeting and a delicious chicken curry lunch prepared by Barry & Lori Chun. No meal is complete without dessert! Thanks to Vivian Murayama and Karen Pang for the homemade desserts!



New Year's Greeting



Happy New Year, everyone! At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my best regards to you all.

In view of the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022, as Nembutsu followers who have deeply inscribed in our hearts and minds Shinran Shonin's message of "May there be peace in the world," we firmly stand against the military infringement of the other nation's sovereignty, and also aspire for immediate return of peace in Ukraine.

Over the last year, COVID-19 continues to be a global pandemic. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to those who fell victim to the disease and express my sympathies to those who are undergoing treatment. I would also like to express my respect and sincere gratitude to the doctors, nurses, and other frontline medical professionals who have been engaging in the treatment of infected people, as well as all essential workers who have made it possible for us to continue with our lives.

The pandemic has forced us to learn firsthand that we will continue to be confronted by unexpected situations even in modern times despite technologies both in science and medical fields being highly developed. Sakyamuni Buddha, who passed on the Dharma to us, made clear that there is no life nor entity in this world that lasts forever. This truth, the principle of impermanence, has never changed even in this time and age approximately 2500 years since his time. Another fact that does not change is our inability to accept this truth as it is, and because of this, we continue struggling.

This is the very reason why, regardless of the pandemic, we can rely on the Jodo Shinshu teaching clarified by Shinran Shonin, which guides us as a spiritual foundation that enables us to move forward even when being overwhelmed with difficulties. A gathering at the temple with Amida Buddha as its center provides a great opportunity to receive the Dharma as well as an occasion in which people can support and reassure one another as fellow practitioners who follow the same teaching.

I hope you will continue to share the teaching within the greater society through various ways and your temple will or continue to serve as a place where people can gather and find comfort in its activities. I humbly ask for your understanding and cooperation in support of your temples. I would like to conclude my new year's greeting with my heartfelt appreciation to you all.

January 1, 2023

OHTANI Kojun

Monshu

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

2023 Bishop's New Year's Message

My New Year's Resolution is...



Let me take this precious opportunity to wish you a sincere "Happy New Year!" More than any other time of the year, the start of the year is a time we are filled with hope and expectation for a brighter and better year.

While, we may have personal desires and goals for myself, let us not forget to also have more inclusive aspirations and goals which embraces all others. In the words of Mitsuo Aida, whose calligraphy piece for Gan (or Negai in vernacular Japanese) is reproduced here, he says very different from personal wishes centered only on oneself are wishes such as: may there be no wars, aspiring for peace and harmony in the world, and may our human contrivances not contribute further to the contamination of our natural environment of the land, sea, and air. When we sincerely embrace these sorts of wishes, they are referred to as "Gan" (or aspirations or vows). If held deeply in our hearts, even the tiniest aspiration will be reflected in our eyes and faces. May we embrace vows and aspirations within our means and contribute to a brighter prospect for our future.



When I look at Mitsuo Aida's calligraphy above, I am reminded of Amida Buddha's 48 Vows especially the Great Compassion of Amida Buddha which promises "If those who entrust themselves to my Vow should not be born [in my (Pure) land], I shall not become Buddha." which expresses Amida Buddha great aspiration by conditioning the Buddha's own Supreme Enlightenment with the Enlightenment of all others including you and me. Could there be a greater wish or aspiration? Please reflect on this matter.

Further, let us make manifest our Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Theme & Slogan for 2023 which is "Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together." As Shinran Shonin rejoiced in one of his poems, *The light of compassion illumines from afar; Those beings it reaches, it is taught, Attain the Joy of the Dharma, So take refuge in Amida, the great consolation.*

Do not keep that joy and happiness of the Nembutsu hidden within you. Culturally, for many of us, being reserved and somewhat stoic is a culturally emphasized trait, but when it comes to the Joy of Buddha-Dharma, "No enryo (Don't hesitate)" would be my recommendation. Let it flow from the depths of your being outward and allow it to be known to others. This is, one way, we are able to share our joy. Needless to say, this "Sharing Joy Together" is not limited to our close circle of family and friends, but it does start with them.

To conclude, once again, I hope you detached Gomonshu's "Our Pledge" from last year's Hawaii Kyodan Calendar and have it where you and others can see and recite it daily as it shares how we can live our life together. As I express my best wishes to you for a happy, joyous and meaningful New Year, please join me in awareness, joy and gratitude of Great Wisdom and Compassion which guides, nurtures, and embraces us (eventually transforms with birth in the Pure Land of Enlightenment), to recite Namu Amida Butsu or The Buddha's Name Which I Call (in gratitude) in response to Namu Amida Butsu or The Buddha's Name That Calls Me (to entrust). Namu Amida Butsu. Thank you and, once again, "Happy New Year" from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's Office of the Bishop.

In gassho/anjali, Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Bishop
January 1, 2023

**President's New Year's Message for 2023
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii**



Happy New Year! Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu! Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

I hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and in good spirits as we enter the New Year, 2023. The COVID-19 situation in the USA has improved over the past year with the development of effective and safe vaccines and antiviral treatments. However, over 1 million Americans (and much more worldwide) have died since the pandemic started in 2020. The COVID-19 virus still results in serious illness and death for susceptible people. Therefore, we must continue to be cautious and respectful of others. Simple guidelines that we can follow include vaccination, staying home when sick, handwashing and wearing masks when close to others. Please try to be safe as we re-open our temples.

As we move into the new year, we will reflect often on our theme and slogan for 2023, “*Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together*”. As we reflect, let us remember the concept of **ondobo-ondogyo** as a guide to our thoughts and action. Shinran used this phrase to explain that we are all fellow travelers, or companions on the Nembutsu path. Shinran saw himself as an ordinary person, a *bombu* (foolish person) walking the Nembutsu path along with his Dharma friends. In Shinran’s view, we are all equal. As fellow travelers, we share each other’s joys and sorrows, each other’s burdens and celebrations. In **ondobo-ondogyo**, there is a profound sense that we are equal and interdependent. Also, with the spirit of **ondobo-ondogyo** there is a natural experience of gratitude as we give support, and we are in turn supported by the presence of our fellow travelers.

As we look back on our journey for the past few years, let us express our appreciation to our ministers and temple leaders for their dedication, resilience and creativity in sharing the Nembutsu teachings with our community under difficult circumstances. And, let us continue on our journey in joy and gratitude for Amida’s universal and unconditional compassion for all.

With Gassho,

Warren Tamamoto

President, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Minister's Message - Happy New Year



This is the tenth time for my family and me to celebrate the New Year 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 is "Building Healthy Sanga" and 2023's theme is "Sharing Joy Together."

There is a word "Jiri-Rita" in the Buddhist term. This means to serve for the salvation of others, not for one's own benefit.

After Shakyamuni Buddha became enlightened, he just enjoyed it alone. But he decided to share the enlightenment with his former fellow practitioners. That is called "Shoten-Horin."

So, this story teaches us how important it is to share our joy with others.

One of my joys is that Kano will graduate Ryokoku University in Kyoto in March 2023. She said it was difficult because classes were taught in Japanese. Although it was hard, she never forgot to share her smile with her classmates who then became her friends. Kano helped her friends with their English, and her friends helped her with her Japanese.

It is a great example of "Jiri-Rita". Even though we have difficulties, if we share and support one another, we can overcome it. Hopefully, this is a better year than last year. Keep listening to the Nembutsu teachings to feel a wonderful connection with others.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,

Reverend Kojun Hashimoto



Treasures and Treats Sale

Our Treasures and Treats event on November 26th was a success! It would not have been possible without the many volunteers who spent hours sorting, pricing and displaying items to prepare for the sale, 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 sale.



The Family Memorial Service (Hoji)

Buddhists consider the memorial service a significant occasion to remember the deceased with feelings of gratefulness and love. For Jodo Shinshu followers, the significance of a memorial service is not for appeasing or consoling the spirits of the deceased, but is, rather, the opportunity to pay tribute to and recall cherished memories of the departed while listening to the Buddha-dharma. In other words, the Hoji is not for the sake of the deceased, but is, indeed, for the sake of the living. In remembering the deceased, we acknowledge the influence of the deceased on our lives. (From *Jodo Shinshu – A Guide*, p. 142.)

Extended members of a family and sometimes close friends will gather at a temple or home in memory of a deceased member of the family. Following the service, the family may go out to lunch or dinner or serve a potluck at the home, renewing and strengthening family ties. An important by-product of this custom has been the reinforcing of family ties with members beyond one's immediate family and a sense of continuity from generation to generation.

Memorial Services are held on the 1st, 3rd, 7th, 13th, 17th, 25th, 33rd and 50th years of passing. After the 1st year memorial anniversary, to figure out memorial service years, start counting from the year of death. Example, for a death in the year 2022, the first memorial anniversary would be in 2023, and the third memorial anniversary in 2024 (to figure out 3rd year anniversary, start with death year 2022 and add 2 more years to get year 2024). Below is the 2023 Memorial Service Schedule. Year 2023 is the Memorial Year for those who passed away in:

<u>Memorial Anniversary</u>		<u>Year of Death</u>
1 st Year	Isshuki	2022
3 rd Year	Sankaiki	2021
7 th Year	Shichikaiki	2017
13 th Year	Juusankaiki	2011
17 th Year	Juushichikaiki	2007
25 th Year	Nijuugokaiki	1999
33 rd Year	Sanjuusankaiki	1991
50 th Year	Gojukkaiki	1974

PLEASE NOTE: Unlike past years where everyone was sent the list of names of all those celebrating an anniversary (Nenkai), for 2023, Rev. Hashimoto will be sending out invitations only to families who have a deceased member anniversary coming up. Invitations will go out about a month in advance. Please make sure that the office has a current and correct name and address of the Point Of Contact for your family. The WHM office can be contacted at 808-622-4320 or by email at office@wahiawahongwanji.org

President's Report



Happy New Year!! There were so many magical moments in 2022! We are fortunate to have been part of the Hongwanji family to be part of all the activities that took place as we “came out” of the covid pandemic. With new technologies, we have expanded the reach of all temples to enjoy weekly dharma talks from all over the world. Also available, are many lectures and recorded discussions.

We're learning however that the true appeal of being part of the Hongwanji Ohana is getting together. We have weekly in-person services on Sundays. Volunteers come in weekly to help prepare and set up for these services. Sensei and Takako have managed to always keep our temple in a “ready” condition.

Our Hosha group meets every other Thursday to ensure our campus is “perfect!” We have had many challenges keeping up with all the repairs and somehow, things get done through these wonderful volunteers. Their selfless giving is very much a part of what Hongwanji represents.

Sensei also services Waiialua Hongwanji at the same time. This includes numerous memorial services, funerals, weddings, and baby blessings. We are looking for new ideas to expand these services into the community. We appreciate your thoughts and how you can be a part of this expansion. Wedding planning or birthday party planning anyone??

In 2023, we are privileged to serve another year in our positions. We added three new board members: Luanne Bongiorno, Norman Fujioka, and Lori Fukuoka. Norman and Luanne bring their entrepreneurial and management experiences while Lori will lead our efforts in our Youth programs. Please give them your ideas and help in expanding our roles in the community. It is essential that we develop a pipeline of young leaders to keep our temple vibrant.

Our board members have been very active in putting together a number of fundraisers. You know them: Karen, Carolyn, Dale, Amy, Gaylen, Vivian, Mavis, Wendy, Brian, Glenn, Jackie, and Charlene. Many volunteers have participated in making these very successful. Our financial status continues to be stable with all of your very generous contributions. We are very interested in your new ideas to make our Hongwanji, a meaningful place for all.

Buddhism is about living THIS life in a meaningful, joyful way! There are critical advantages in numbers as we think of fun things to enjoy while helping the community. Our campus is one of the most serene, and meditative places on the island. Cherry Blossom season is just around the corner. Please spend time taking advantage of this wonderful resource.

Namo Amida Butsu!

In gassho (gratitude),



Rodney S. Moriyama, President

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Calendars and New Office Hours

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii 2023 Calendars have just arrived. Interested temple members, please stop by the office soon to pick one up. Only a limited number of calendars on a first-come, first-serve basis, so come soon! Limit one calendar per member.

After being closed during the pandemic, the WHM office is now open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9:00 am - noon.

Happi Coat Order Form

It's been a number of years since we had a new look at the Wahiawa Hongwanji Bon Dance! It's been **three years** since we have had a traditional Bon Dance festival at Wahiawa!! We are introducing a new 100% cotton happi coat with a unique design representing Wahiawa Hongwanji! We understand that the price is above our normal, therefore, we are selling it at cost to our members. Please don't miss your chance to be part of the Wahiawa Bon Dance "new look" in Obon 2023!

Deadline for orders is **January 31, 2023.** Please make checks payable to **Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission.** You will be notified when the happi order is received from the vendor and is ready for pick up at the Temple.

Thank you for your support!

Date: _____

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____



Size	Quantity	Price	Total
S		\$170	
M		\$170	
L		\$170	
XL		\$170	

Temple Donation _____

Grand Total _____

-----For Office Use-----

Date Received _____

Cash/Check # _____

Date of Check _____

Received By _____

Mochi Sale - December 17, 2022

Thank you to everyone who helped with the many tasks involved in our mochi sale! Everyone enjoyed reconnecting with old friends and getting to know our first time volunteers! It was great fun to work on this project after many years. Arigatou gozaimasu to those who purchased mochi! We hope you enjoyed it!

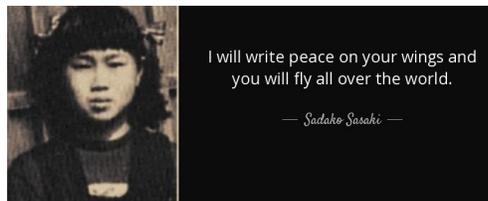
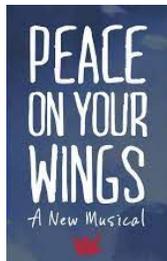


Explanation of the Major Services

By Dale Shimaura

Below are brief explanations we hope will give you an idea about our major services. We invite you to call the temple office at 808-622-4320 with any further questions.

- HOONKO (Memorial Service honoring Shinran Shonin) is a time to express our gratitude to Shinran Shonin, our founder, on the day of his death, January 16, 1262.
- SPRING/FALL OHIGAN (Spring/Fall Equinox) means the "Other Shore." It is when we can see and feel the harmony in the world around us. Jodo Shinshu Buddhist gather to welcome in a new season. Ohigan occurs twice a year in the Spring and the Fall, generally in March and September. The sun rises directly from the East and sets directly in the West. The length of day and night are equal and the weather tends to be very mild. This is when conditions are right for the practice of selfless sharing, discipline, diligence, patience, loving kindness and wisdom. As Jodo Shinshu Buddhist it is a time for deep self reflection on all that we have received from others as well as from the world.
- GOTAN-E (Birthday of Shinran Shonin) celebrates the birth of our founder Shinran Shonin who was born on May 21, 1173.
- OBON is a Japanese Buddhist custom of honoring one's ancestors. This annual event marks the return of deceased ancestors to Earth and is celebrated with food and, of course, a big group bon dance.
- EITAIKYO (Perpetual Memorial Service) is traditionally celebrated each year in November. It is a Japanese Buddhist observation that allows us to remember those who have come before us to share the Nembutsu teachings. The EITAIKYO LIST & EITAIKYO FUND are central to the observance. The Eitaikyo List records members who have donated to the Eitaikyo Fund. The Eitaikyo Fund provides a stand-alone fund for preservation of the temple in the face of emergencies or other situations. Members who have contributed to the Eitaikyo Fund are sent an invitation to participate in the service by coming forward to offer incense as the Eitaikyo List is read during the service. To arrange for any member of your family to be added to the Eitaikyo List, please contact the temple office at 808-622-4320.



Peace on Your Wings

“Peace On Your Wings” an Ohana Arts original musical based on the true story of Sadako Sasaki and her one thousand paper cranes, written by composer Jenny Taira and lyricist Laurie Rubin; directed by Cari Chung; and choreographed by Dani Hannah Bensky. Sadako Sasaki was made famous for having folded over a thousand paper cranes to fulfill an old Japanese legend that would grant one wish to anyone who would fold one thousand cranes. To this day she is a reminder of innocent victims of war, and her story of her thousand paper cranes have inspired a movement of folding cranes for peace. “Peace On Your Wings” was born from an idea sparked by Bishop Eric of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii to create a touring musical with a Buddhist message. Composer and Ohana Arts co-founder Jenny Taira suggested the writing of a musical adaptation of 12 year-old Hiroshima atomic bomb victim Sadako Sasaki’s true story.

Ohana Arts will be remounting the production this February 9th -11th, 2023 at the historic Hawaii Theatre. This short 1-weekend run will premiere a newly revised version of the show (with new songs!) that will be taken to Hiroshima next summer for its official JAPAN PREMIERE, starring this all-youth, Hawaii-based cast! There are only four performances, so be sure to book your tickets early. Honpa Hongwanji members receive a 10% discount using the code: HONPAFRIENDS (Please don’t share this discount code on the social media.) You may purchase tickets at <http://hawaii theatre.com/peaceonyourwings> Learn More about "Peace On Your Wings" at <http://peaceonyourwings.com> To learn More about Ohana Arts go to <http://ohanaarts.org>

Happenings at Wahiawa Hongwanji

By Carolyn Uchiyama

Activity #1

The temple activity was held on November 27th. Rev. Hashimoto shared a message about gratitude and after the service, the group created a wreath of gratitude. On origami hearts they wrote words that expressed what they are grateful for. The hearts were attached to the wreath and a string of hearts with gratitude spelled out spanned the wreath. A lovely memento to be placed in the temple until the end of December.



Activity #2

On December 4th, Wahiawa Hongwanji held the last food drive for St. Stephen's Church. We collected **439** items that included ramen, spaghetti and sauce, and cereal. The following items of Wet Wipes, bars of soap and snack bars help everyone. We also collected **30** pounds of rice.

We have been collecting food from June 11, 2020, till December 4, 2022. The effort filled a great need for Our Wahiawa during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board of Trustees appreciates the generosity of the temple members to help those less fortunate in our community. We have collected in total **158,988** items of various food items and **1,395** pounds of rice.

We are proud of the temple members who have supported this food drive from the beginning and donated food monthly. Some members also gave monetary donations to St. Stephens Church. For everyone's efforts a Big Round of Applause. With Much Gratitude!!!

Activity #3

On March 5, 2023, Wahiawa Hongwanji will host Sangha Day for the Oahu District. The other temples in our Oahu District will gather at our temple for fellowship and an opportunity to learn how we may make our future brighter,

The theme for the event is "Sustainability: Ancient Practices in a Modern World." We will have as our guest speakers Ku'uipo Garrido and Steven Bolosan. They will share how Hawaiians in old Hawaii sustained themselves for centuries as well as new ideas of Korean natural farming.

The flyer for the event is enclosed in this newsletter. It is open to people of all ages. Please join us by filling out the form and payment for lunch. Write Sangha Day on the memo line so the check may be reconciled properly. The form and payment may be mailed to the temple or dropped off at the temple office before February 5th.

Join us for a day of learning, conversations, and fun, fun, fun!!!

Sangha Day



Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission

March 5, 2023

8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Sustainability: Ancient Practices in a Modern World

Bento Choices (\$12.00)

- Bento 1: Teri Beef, Fried Chicken, Fish Tempura, White Rice, Shoyu long rice, Corn niblets
- Bento 2: Vegetarian Maki & Oshi Sushi, Sweet Potato Tempura, Vegetable Nishime, Yaki Tofu Steak, Namasu, and Hijki (black seaweed mix)

Sign up for your choices with your temple. Each temple will be sending in the total order by February 5, 2023 to carolyn2048@gmail.com. Payment will be collected on March 5, 2023.

Speakers:

Steven Bolosan
Ku'uiipo Garrido



Please return this bottom section to your Sangha Day Coordinator by February 5, 2023 (Carolyn Uchiyama)

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

attending: high school or adults: _____

of students in Pre-K to grade 2 _____

of students grade 3 to 5: _____

of students grade 6 to 8: _____

Lunch orders:

Bento 1 _____ X \$12 = \$ _____

Bento 2 _____ X \$12 = \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Please put form and payment in an envelope and drop off or mail to:

Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission

Attention: Sangha Day

1067 California Avenue

Wahiawa, HI 96786

Please make checks payable to: **Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission**