



# The Messenger

*Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness*

## Calendar of Events

### November 2024

03 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service  
 10 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service  
 17 Sun 9:00 am Eitaikyo Service - Rev. Thomas Okano + Shakuhachi Group  
 24 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

### December 2024

01 Sun No Sunday Service - Hawaii Buddhist Council Bodhi Day Service  
 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



## Veterans Day Parade

Let's salute and honor our veterans by marching in the 78<sup>th</sup> Wahiawa Lions Club Veterans Day parade. The parade is on Monday, November 11, 2024 at 10:00 am. The parade BEGINS at WAHIAWA DISTRICT PARK and ends at Kaala Elementary School.

Marchers, wear comfortable walking shoes and if possible, a WHM shirt or purple shirt. Parade coordinators are asking that marchers be at WAHIAWA DISTRICT PARK by 9:00 am.

Please sign-up by calling the WHM Office at 808-622-4320 by November 5th.

## Annual Memorial Service (Eitaikyo)

### November 17th at 9:00 am

Please join us for this special service that pays homage to all who have passed before us. Families gather to express their gratitude to their parents, grandparents, siblings and friends.

Our Dharma speaker will be Rev. Thomas Okano, retired and past minister of WHM

We will be having a light reception following the service. We welcome donations of desserts for the reception. If you are able to donate a dessert, please call the WHM office at 808-622-4320 and leave a message or email [janfukada@gmail.com](mailto:janfukada@gmail.com)  
 Thank you!

## Tsuito-E

The annual Tsuito-E Service that honors all deceased members of the Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Buddhist Women's Association was held on October 20th. This year's speaker was Rev. Barbara Brennan.



# Minister's Message

Although I forget about the Buddha from time to time, the Buddha never forgets about me.

~ Kanai Takahisa



I would like to share the article with you.

This quote reveals how we are all the time buried in [trivialities of] the secular world. When I listen to the Buddha Dharma, I feel in the midst of the teaching, but when I return to the reality of everyday life, the Buddha Dharma seems to go somewhere.

Simply said, there is a dualistic type of thinking that the Buddha Dharma is the Buddha Dharma and everyday life is everyday life. A person who had come to a Dharma gathering at my temple once told me, "I like coming to the temple. It feels to me like it cleanses my mind and heart. But when I return to [the routine of] my everyday life, I once again become brutal and mean." The reason for this is [they think] that going to the temple to hear the Dharma is a place to escape from life.

I believe that there are many people who feel this way, that the Buddha Dharma is for things involving the Buddha Dharma only and everyday life is for things involving everyday life only. So, they adeptly decide and divide everything in this manner. I feel that no matter how much I would hear the Buddha's teaching, if I were to listen in this manner, it would never become the reliable foundation upon which I could base my life.

An acquaintance of mine who had resided in the United States for a long period and graduated from an American university taught me the term "nightstand Buddhist." This refers to people who maintain an occupation in society during the day, then in bed at night read the Buddhist scriptures. When morning comes again, they return to the harsh conditions of their workplace. It is a term that really makes you think.

No matter where I may be, I am who I am. Even when I am at work or listening to the Buddha Dharma, I am who I am. I am not [and can never be] someone else. No matter where I may be, I want to encounter the Truth (teaching), that penetrates my being.

We often lose our way under certain influences, but core teaching never changes and supports us.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kojun Hashimoto".

Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

**Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 9:00am - noon**  
**808-622-4320**  
**[www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org](http://www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org)**  
**Columbarium Hours: Daily 10:00am - 3:00pm**

# President's Report



The highlights of October's activities:

- the Bloom-Futaba Lecture with Rev. Dr. Jeff Wilson from the University of Waterloo on October 11.
- the Minister Lay Assistant Retreat on October 12, 13
- Tsuito-E service on October 20 with guest minister, Rev. Barbara Brennan

Dr. Wilson's presentation featured our founder, Shinran Shonin, as a radical thinker. He opposed the idea that reaching enlightenment was based on "earning" the privilege. Organized institutional religion of the time had many rules and conditions for getting to a "better place." The "better place" can be defined as "a meaningful life fulfilled with no stresses, wars, disease, etc."

The fundamental nature of being "human" shows that such stresses are constantly with us. Buddhist thinking brought down all forms of societal prejudices and castes. Buddhism is a systematic way to enjoy this life in a meaningful way for all sentient beings. Shinran's thinking brought this understanding to all people. He was banished and exiled for his position for many years as he threatened the norms of those in "power."

The ensuing weekend was filled with deep discussion regarding all the challenges facing all the temples. We were also taught about the discipline of rituals and why things were done the way they were done during services. I was intrigued by how sutras were chanted and how the same words are "sung" differently depending on the occasion. Many of the people attending Buddhist services have no idea what is happening. It is truly important to explain the significance of what's happening and the stories behind the sutras chanted. Our special services, memorial services, funerals, and weddings are an opportunity to explain these rituals so first-timers and non-members gain a better understanding. Otherwise, Buddhism is viewed as a mystery.

We always say that our services must be relevant to the audience. Having a friendly, welcoming environment speaks volumes about how people are viewed and treated in our community. We are a direct reflection of our teachings. Understanding them and reflecting on our actions based on these teachings is so important.

On November 17, we are having our Eitaikyo Service which honors our ancestors and families who have contributed so much to the temple and its teachings. Please urge your families to participate to experience the feeling of interconnectedness and gratitude for all that we enjoy! The Shakuhachi Club and Rev. Thomas Okano will be part of the service. We will have a reception after so we can all enjoy each other's company.

Finally, please don't forget to **vote by November 5!!** Being actively aware and connected to our community is an important part of Buddhism and as citizens. Let's all do our part!!

In gratitude and aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rodney S. Moriyama". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Rodney S. Moriyama, President



# Happenings at Wahiawa Hongwanji

By Carolyn Uchiyama

On October 19, the Oahu District Buddhist Education committee sponsored a Fall event for the Dharma school students and families. We had participation from Pearl City Hongwanji, Mililani Hongwanji, and Wahiawa Hongwanji. There were 16 families and 51 people in attendance.

Our group gathered at 9:00 am at Leilehua High School FallFest. Each family received a ticket for a free pumpkin at the pumpkin patch. The families were excited to walk in the Leilehua High School Agricultural Learning Center pumpkin patch, and they were able to choose any pumpkin they wanted. Everyone came prepared with a wagon, cart, or bag to carry their pumpkin and other goodies they purchased.

On display were a petting zoo, a cow milking station, and a pumpkin display for picture taking. Children climbed aboard a John Deere tractor train for a ride down the road. There were also games to play and cool refreshments to drink.

Many people came to peruse the wares from the Ag Center. Jackie Frietas, 2024 State Teacher of the Year and head of the Ag Center, sold products from her farm like: honey, long green squash, green onions, green eggplant as well as flowering plants like anthuriums. Delicious food from her tent consisted of smoked meat, crispy beef jerky, Portuguese bean soup, and fried noodles with BBQ stick.

There was also student work for sale like benches made at the woodshop; hats, shirts, and stickers from the LHS logo store; and games run by the students for the participants to play. Alongside the students were vendors who sold various kinds of food and drinks, clothing, and jewelry. To top it off, there was entertainment throughout the day like the Iliahi School Ukulele group.

At 11:00 am, the families returned to Wahiawa Hongwanji to play games, and we had many winners. Then Rev. Joshin Kamuro offered the words of thanksgiving, and everyone enjoyed chili with hot dog or rice, fruits like grapes, apples, and oranges. Rev. Kojun Hashimoto made a kinako cupcake with azuki and Terry Arakaki made an apple streusel cake.

After lunch, we had a story time with Terry Arakaki sharing pumpkin and Halloween stories. To end the day, Stephen Chinen shared his magic and the wonders of “belly breathing.”

A big mahalo to the kitchen crew of Joy Okimoto and Jan Fukada, set-up by Herbert Lum, and program with Rev. Joshin Kamuro, Terry Arakaki, and Stephen Chinen. Last, but not least, the participants from Pearl City, Mililani, and Wahiawa Hongwanjis that made this event such a hit! Everyone had a wonderful day picking a pumpkin, playing games and winning prizes, eating a delicious lunch, and the afternoon activities. We can hardly wait for the FallFest for 2025!



Wyatt and Rod Moriyama were one of the many prize winners.



Stephen Chinen shares the magic and wonders of belly breathing.



Kitchen Crew! Jan Fukada, Carolyn Uchiyama and Joy Okimoto.



Terry Arakaki reading aloud a pumpkin story.

# Jr. YBA Happenings

We've been a little busy!

We'd like to say a huge **THANK YOU!** to all of you who ordered manju for our HBY Month Fundraiser. We had over 350 orders from our temples across the district! As mentioned previously, we will be donating a portion of our proceeds to the Oahu SPCA. We hope that you enjoyed the manju we baked because we enjoyed making it for you!

We wanted to share some comments that we got from people who ordered manju.

"Your Manju is way better than the ones we've purchased commercially."

"It is better than store bought kine."

"I buy it for all my family because it's so good."

"They are all the same size" – We do try to make them as uniform as we can!

We truly appreciate your kind words, all your support and generous donations!

We were able to attend the Mililani High School Fall Pops to see Yuma perform in his first concert with the MHS orchestra. He and Taylor Rogers both play in the String Ensemble. The songs they performed were beautiful and we were treated to a very nice concert!

A couple of us participated in the Pride Parade in Waikiki before heading to the Hawaii Plantation Village for Haunted Plantation! The parade brought out so many groups and representatives who all walked together to promote inclusion and diversity. Then, once it got dark, for many of us, it was our first time going to the Haunted Plantation and it was a very spooky experience! We had fun amongst the screams and jumps and hiding behind each other. Definitely a nembutsu moment for us that night!

For the next couple of months, we are excited to collect donations for Toys for Tots! This is a new event for us so please see the attached flyer for the details. We will have a collection box at select district temples: Aiea, Pearl City, Mililani, and Waipahu. If you have anything you wish to donate, please contact us to help make arrangements. 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.

Happy Clergy Month to our Reverends! Thank you for all that you do to support our youth! The United gave an appreciation card to Reverend Soga and paid for his admission to the Haunted plantation. Mililani Juniors also gave a token of appreciation to Reverend Kamuro at service.

## Upcoming Important Dates:

**Next Meeting: Sunday, November 3, at Aiea Hongwanji at 12:30pm.**

## Save the Date:

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

We welcome any youth who are entering 6<sup>th</sup> 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 Arynn Ishikawa (advisor) at [arynn.m.ishikawa@gmail.com](mailto:arynn.m.ishikawa@gmail.com) or [jrybafoahu@gmail.com](mailto: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)



JR YBA PRESENTS  
**TOYS FOR TOTS**  
DONATE TOYS FOR THOSE IN NEED

**PUT A PRESENT UNDER A FAMILY'S TREE FOR THE UPCOMING HOLIDAY SEASON!**

**TOYS:**

- NEED TO BE UNUSED, SEALED IN ORIGINAL PACKAGING
- NOT TOO EXTRAVAGANT
- ITEMS FOR TODDLERS TO TEENAGERS

**WHEN:**

- TEMPLES WILL BE COLLECTING TOYS FROM NOW UNTIL DECEMBER 15

QUESTIONS? VISIT:  
<https://www.toysfortots.org>

# 2024 Wahiawa Hongwanji Eitaikyo Service Response Form



You may complete this form electronically at <https://bit.ly/whmE24> or by using the QR code

1. Name of person completing the form: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Best contact phone number (if we have any questions): \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who is/are your honoree(s)?  
Please list your honoree(s) below.

	Honoree Name Last Name, First Name, optional Middle name or nickname (Example: First name is Sachiko, but was also known as Sally)	Are you the point of contact for the honoree?
1		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
5		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Kindly let us know if you will attend	Number of People
5. Including yourself, how many of your family members and/or friends will be attending the Eitaikyo <b>service</b> ?	
6. Including yourself, how many of your family members and/or friends will be attending the Eitaikyo <b>reception (following the service)</b> ?	

Please return this form to Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission - Eitaikyo, 1067 California Avenue, Wahiawa, HI 96786 by **Saturday 12 noon, November 9th.**  
For questions, contact us at: 808-721-0092