



# The Messenger

*Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness*

## Calendar of Events

### UPDATED February 2022

- 06 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 06 Sun 9:30 am - 10:30am Food Drive am
- 11-12 Fri.- Sat. Giseikai Legislative Assembly on Zoom
- 13 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 13 Sun 10:00 "Talk Story" Managing through Challenging Times" with Luanne Bongiorno on Zoom (See WHM website for the link)
- 20 Sun 9:00 am Pet Memorial Service
- 20 Sun 11:00 am Executive Board Meeting
- 27 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 27 Sun 11:00 am Drive By New Year's Party

### March 2022

- 06 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 06 Sun 9:30 am - 10:30am Food Drive
- 13 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 20 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 20 Sun 10:00 am WHM Board Meeting
- 27 Sun 9:00 am Spring Ohigan Service

## 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.

Feb. 5	Mrs. Nancy Shimamoto
Feb. 12	Rev. Thomas Okano
Feb. 19	Rev. Shigenori Makino
Feb. 26	Rev. Tatsuo Muneto
March 5	Ms. Linda Nagai
March 12	Rev. Toyokazu Hagio
March 19	Dr. Dexter Mar
March 26	Rev. Shingo Furusawa

## Antiques and Treasures Sale

Did you miss our sales in August and November? Are you looking for something special for your home or as a gift? This month we are featuring a few treasures that are currently for sale. Please contact the WHM office 808-622-4320 if you are interested in any of these items.



Noritake China  
73 pieces  
\$150

Set includes: 12 small bowls, 12 salad bowls, 12 dessert plates, 12 coffee saucers, 10 coffee cups, 8 dinner plates, 1 soup taurine, 1 gravy boat, 1 oval serving bowl, 1 oval serving platter, 1 sugar bowl, 1 creamer

2  
chairs  
\$40  
each



## WHM Online Pet Memorial Service Sunday, February 20th at 9:00 am

Please join us for our Pet Memorial Service. If you would like your departed pet included in this service, please bring your departed pet's photo and/or ashes to the service.

### 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.

Over these past couple of years, we have had to adjust our lives in accordance with the scale of the spread of COVID-19. 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 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.

This infectious disease has not only greatly affected the life of each one of us, but also revealed many issues that had been contained in our society. Sakyamuni Buddha, who passed on the Dharma to us, made clear of the fact that we cannot see the truth because we are too attached to our own thought. Therefore, it is only natural that conflicts and divisions come about in a society in which those who, like us, fundamentally self-centered beings, act in accordance based on one's own thought.

In the following *wasan* poem, Shinran Shonin deeply reflected on himself and described what we humans are like,

Although I take refuge in the true Pure Land way,  
It is hard to have a true and sincere mind.  
This self is false and insincere;  
I completely lack a pure mind. (*Hymns of the Dharma-ages*)

As the *wasan* shows, we are basically incapable of accepting the reality of this world, such as, dependent origination, impermanence, and no-self. And because of this we constantly suffer. Only through being aware of and appreciating Amida Buddha's compassionate and salvific working, are we enabled to accept our true self. Shinran Shonin clarified that such ignorance is the very reason why Amida Buddha's salvific working has reached every one of us. Keeping in mind that we are always embraced in Amida's compassionate Light, let us live each day to the fullest, even though we have yet to see the end of the tunnel.

I feel truly assured hearing that many of you have been making efforts to share the Jodo Shinshu teaching within the greater society through various and innovative ways despite the current situation. It is my hope that your temples will continue serving as your spiritual home, and therefore, 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, 2022

OHTANI Kojun  
Monshu  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

**New Year Message**



The New Year has always been a time of hope, renewal and new beginnings. I am hopeful that the year 2022 will be brighter and happier for you and your Ohana of family and friends, and all of us! Needless to say, the Pandemic has adversely affected all of our lives in various ways including the feeling of isolation and disconnect. However, let us not despair. Please always fully understand that Amida Buddha as Namo Amida Butsu is always with us embracing us as Great Compassion. There is a Jodo Shinshu expression “Ki-Hou-Ittai no Namo Amida Butsu” or “Namo Amida Butsu of the oneness of Amida Buddha and those to be saved.” For this reason, we able to be born in the Pure Land to attain Enlightenment and, even in the here and now, we are never truly all alone!

Further, there is another dynamic in which we can appreciate the truth that we are always supported by others and thus never alone. I recall the life of an Oahu Hongwanji member who was always so grateful for the food she ate every day. She couldn't help, but place her hands together in gassho/anjali to express her appreciation and gratitude to the plants and animals for their gift of life and all others who played a role in her receiving the precious gift of the meals she ate each day. She was aware of the so many other lives which surrounded and supported her. She had to try to live her life as best she could out of appreciation and gratitude.

However, on the plane of human social interaction, yes, COVID has severely impacted our ability to interact with each other even among family members and as a Sangha at temple. I know many of you miss so dearly being able to come to the temple, the physical symbolic home of Amida Buddha. As the situation with the Pandemic slowly improves, please consider gathering, once again, at your temple. We must still be cautious especially with the discovery of the Omicron Variant, but when the time is right, please join us at the temple both current members and newcomers. Let us reconnect and connect with each other! The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii including your temple needs you! Please remember, there are three treasures not only two.

As we begin a new year, this would be the opportune time for us to reconnect with family and friends. Depending on the situation with the Pandemic, it might not be physically just yet, but there are other ways to connect such as writing down (or video recording) your most precious thoughts, wishes and aspirations as in a journal or as letters as did Lady Eshinni and Lady Kakushinni, and even Shinran Shonin. What is that which is most precious to you? What are the best memories you have? Why is the Teachings of the Buddha and the temple so important to you? Would it make you happy if your family becomes part of the Hongwanji Sangha?

Let us make manifest our Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Theme & Slogan for 2022 which is “Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others.” Of course, this “Connecting with Others” is not limited to our close circle of family and friends, but with others around the world too. This year's Hawaii Kyodan Calendar highlights His Eminence Kojun Ohtani's “Our Pledge” which more concretely shares why and how we may connect with others. In this New Year, let me encourage you to begin reciting Gomonshu-sama's “Our Pledge” on a daily basis.

To conclude, please join me to recite Namo Amida Butsu or The Buddha's Name Which I Call (in gratitude) in response to Namo Amida Butsu or The Buddha's Name That Calls Me (to entrust). Namo Amida Butsu. Thank you and Happy New Year from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and the Office of the Bishop.

In gassho/anjali,

Eric Matsumoto, Bishop

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### President's New Year's Message



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, 2022. Last year, as I wrote my message, we had reason to hope that the year 2021 would be one in which we would have control of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, millions of people in our country (and more around the world) are still unvaccinated and therefore susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection. Also, the natural world is unpredictable - with new variants of the coronavirus appearing in different areas of the world. We do not know what effect the new variants will have on the COVID-19 pandemic.

The good news is that the vaccines have proven to be very effective at preventing or reducing the chance of developing severe COVID-19 disease. They are also proven to be very safe in all of the trials and young children starting at the age of 5 can now be safely vaccinated. The COVID-19 situation is much better than a year ago at this time and it is very likely that it will continue to get better.

Our theme and slogan for 2022, **“Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others”** is particularly appropriate for 2022. Buddhism teaches that everything is interconnected. No one is completely independent of other people or the environment surrounding them. We are connected with and dependent on everything around us, for example the the air that we breathe. As we carefully re-open our temples, let's all make an extra effort to connect with our Sangha, especially those we have not seen for a year or two.

The past two years have been difficult for all of our temples. At least one temple (Papaalooa Hongwanji) will close its temple doors permanently in 2022 and consolidate with Honohina Hongwanji. The COVID-19 pandemic was not the only factor in Papaalooa Hongwanji's closure, but it certainly hastened the process. Buddhism teaches us that all things are impermanent, everything changes, and that “the root of suffering is attachment”. However, Shinran reminded us that we are all “bonbu” - foolish beings. We still have attachments. So it is still difficult for us to have many fond memories of a place and time in our past and not feel sadness that it will not be there the next time we visit. We can still be grateful that Papaalooa Hongwanji shared Buddhist values with the Hamakua community for over 100 years and during that time planted the seeds of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in many people, including this writer. Namo Amida Butsu.

As I reflect on our theme, **“Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others”**, I start with being grateful that Amida Buddha, through his Teachings, is with me and wants me to be happy. I am grateful that I was introduced to Buddhism by the good fortune of being born to a wonderful family in a little plantation town on the Hamakua Coast of the Big Island of Hawaii. Grateful that Papaalooa Hongwanji was built by the issei and nisei in spite of severe financial hardship. Grateful that Aiea Hongwanji was there for us when Claire and I were looking for a temple for our family. Grateful that I have made a connection with so many of you through our involvement in the Hawaii Sangha. Let's continue to nurture these connections.

With Gassho,  
Warren Tamamoto MD  
President, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

# Minister's Message - Dana Service

Dana Day is normally the second Sunday of February. It was set aside at the BWA world convention. Dana is one of the six paramitas. Dana means the perfect practice of selfless giving or the act of giving which comes from the heart of the person involved. If the all people of the world can practice Dana, any wars or battles will disappear. So, we have to try doing Dana as Buddhists. The act of Dana seems hard for us to do, but it should be easy for us if we all aim for it as Buddhists. So, let me introduce the seven things that we can do to say we are practicing Dana.



First, 「眼施 (Gense) 」“Giving by eyes” means to give sharp or mean look to people. It is always good to have a twinkle in your eyes.

Second, 「和顔悦色施 (Waganetusjikise) 」“Giving by face” means to always have a gentle smile. The smile brings happiness to everyone around you.

Third, 「言辞施 (Gonjise) 」“Giving by mouth” means to use soft and gentle words. Don't use harsh or bad words.

Fourth, 「身施 (Sinse) 」“Giving by body” means to give of yourself and if someone asks you to do something, say “yes” gently. It is like volunteering time and effort for a worthy cause. This act of volunteerism may be to your family and friends and to the community.

Fifth, 「心施 (Sinse) 」“Giving by heart” means to have a deep feeling or compassion in your heart. If you don't have that feeling in your heart, you will have a difficult time doing anything positive. The Tsunami in Southeast Asia and Hurricane Katrina are two recent acts of giving from the heart.

Sixth, 「床座施 (Shyozase) 」“Giving by position” means to give up one's seat to the elderly and handicapped.

Seventh, 「房舎施 (Boshyase) 」“Giving by hospitality” means to offer the best to your guest. It not only means your special guests, but being nice to everyone with whom you meet and come in contact with.

These are the seven acts of Dana. I think you understand that all the acts aim at you giving to another person. They don't ask of actions done to you by another person. This is so difficult for many of us to accept. For example, if I say hello, but no one says hello in return, I will feel sad or angry. “How come, he doesn't say hello, in spite of my saying so.” You do something for a person and he doesn't say “Thank you.” How do I feel? How would you feel?

Dana is to just do or just give.

Shinran Shonin said “Never remember that you gave something. Just forget it. But never forget that you received something.”

We are receiving so many things in life. We should never forget that. Though the acts of Dana may be hard to do, we must never forget these actions as we move toward peace, make society a beautiful place to live, and aim toward becoming true humans.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,

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

Reverend Kojun Hashimoto



It was a rainy New Year's Eve. Thank you to everyone who braved the rain and came to our Joya no Kane.



# The Family Memorial Service (Hoji)

Buddhist 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 byproduct 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 2021, the first memorial anniversary would be in 2022, and the third memorial anniversary in 2023 (to figure out 3rd year anniversary, start with death year 2021 and add 2 more years to get year 2023 for 3rd year anniversary).

Below is the **2022 Memorial Service Schedule. Year 2022 is the Memorial Year for those who passed away in:**

## **MEMORIAL ANNIVERSARY YEAR YEAR OF DEATH**

1st Year Isshuki 2021  
3rd Year Sankaiki 2020  
7th Year Shichikaiki 2016  
13th Year Juusankaiki 2010  
17th Year Juushichikaiki 2006  
25th year Nijuugokaiki 1998  
33rd Year Sanjuusankaiki 1990  
50th Year Gojuukaiki 1973

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**PLEASE NOTE:** Unlike past years where everyone was sent the list of names of all those celebrating an anniversary (Nenkai), for 2022, 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.

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## Wahiawa Hongwanji Food Drive

Welcome to 2022! The New Year brings expectations of good health and happiness to all. Let's continue to be vigilant as the new Omicron variant enters the COVID scene. If we follow the CDC instructions of masking and washing hands, we should be healthy.

On the other hand, the need for food continues to plague our community. On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, we collected **118** items of food and **30** pounds of rice. Though this was fewer than the past months, St. Stephen's Church accepts all we can provide and is greatly appreciated.

In the following months, we will collect food items and donate to St. Stephen's Church. We are grateful for the members who donate monthly to this great cause.

Happy New Year!!!



# President's Report



February is Gojikai and Giseikai Month! Thank you for your early contribution! Giseikai (General Legislative Assembly) are discussing the following major resolutions:

- Budget reflects the anticipation of more COVID activity. Because of more technology being used for meetings and less travel/food expenses, the Budget is generally lower. The position of the Director of the Buddhist Study Center will not be filled as the function is being absorbed by the Bishop and the HQ staff.
- HHMH Bylaws will be amended to reflect more accurate and flexible governance.
- Consolidation of Papaaloo Hongwanji and Honohina Hongwanji.
- Up for approval is a Quarterly Statewide Newsletter for members that will cost \$1.25 per mailing/member. It will be part of an overall effort to increase communication during these stressful times.
- A Honpa Hongwanji Statewide Online Calendar is also being proposed.
- An Annual Endowment Campaign will be started at the HQ level to encourage additional funding from both inside and outside the organization.
- An Annual subsidy to Pacific Buddhist Academy will be presented and discussed.

On January 16, we had a Department of Health presentation on “The Risk of Stroke.” The people who signed up and participated found it to be very helpful.

We have made a concerted effort to get the IRS notifications out in a timely manner. In accordance with IRS guidelines, letters were sent out to those who donated \$250 or more during 2021. Please let us know of any issues.

We are in the planning stages of Obon 2022. Our current thinking is to have a Virtual Bon Dance Festival as controlling the crowds during the pandemic is very difficult. We have learned many things during our 2020 and 2021 Virtual Obon Dance Festivals and hope to make this year's event our best yet!

Thank you for your continued support and service!

In gassho (gratitude),

Rodney S. Moriyama, President

**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 are often asked when families may resume bring flower offerings to the columbarium. We, too, would love to see flowers in our columbarium once again. However, in order for that to happen, everyone wishing to bring flowers for their loved ones must also be willing to come back in a week's time to remove their flowers and clean up their own areas. Water left over a week begins to smell and petals and leaves begin to fall, leaving a mess and sometimes stains on the floors.

Please observe all posted rules during your visit. You must wear a face mask at all times and sanitize your hands before and after going into the columbarium, sink and vase areas.