



The Messenger

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness

Calendar of Events

April 2024

- 07 Sun 9:00 am Hanamatsuri Service
- 14 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 14 Sun 10:00 am Ko Discussion Group
- 21 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 28 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

May 2024

- 05 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 05 Sun 10:00 am Ko Discussion Group
- 12 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service - Mother's Day
- 19 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 19 Sun 10:00 am WHM Board Meeting
- 26 Sun 9:00 am Gotan-E Service



Hanamatsuri Flowers Needed

HANAMATSURI is a service held in April to honor the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha in Lumbini Garden, in India.

We are in need of flowers to decorate our hanamido for Hanamatsuri. If you are able to, please drop off the flowers at the WHM Social Hall on Saturday, April 6 from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm. If you are unable to come at this time, please contact Amy at 808-621-8893 to make other arrangements. Thank you!



Calling all Crafters

Please donate to our Bon Dance Country Store

We are seeking donations of items to sell in our store such as:

- scrubbies
- dish towels
- kitchen towels
- hot pads or pot holders
- New or gently used happi coats
- Other handmade craft items for the home
- New or gently used yukata

You may drop off donations Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9:00am - noon from now until June 8th. Please include your name and phone number, and label your donation "Bon Dance Store". Unfortunately, we are unable to accept clothing and household items.

Minister's Message - Honolulu Rainbow Ekiden



The primal of Jodo Shinshu teachings is sharing our gratitude with others. In March, our Wahiawa Hongwanji family group, “Dharma Shaka” participated in the Honolulu Rainbow Ekiden. The Ekiden is a team race marathon. The team usually is composed of 5-runners, but there are also 3-runner teams. Kids have fun running and walking for 3 miles. Our teams were composed of 5 runners and each runner ran 3 miles to pass the Tasuki (Sash) to the next runner. I like to participate in the Ekiden, because in a regular marathon, an individual person aims to reach the goal, but in Ekiden, the members of the team aim to reach the goal together. So, each runner runs very hard for the sake of the team.

Ekiden expresses “Oneness.” We could feel how important it is to pass our Tasuki to the next runner and feel the joyfulness when we could pass the Tasuki to the next runner. Five years ago, our team received the “Aloha Spirit Award.” This award is presented to the team in the event who best shares joyfulness in the race. The reason why our team was selected for this award again was because our team cheered not only for our team members, but also our team cheered for all participants! When we thought of this result of the Ekiden as a Buddhist, I felt joyfulness to receive the efforts of others and rejoiced in passing it on to the next generation as we received our ancestor’s efforts with our gratitude.

The joyous feeling we experienced can involve and encourage others. Through this event, we shared our glee with others in a public place, and we reconfirmed how wonderful the teachings we are receiving. We should remember that our attitude as a Buddhist influences others wherever we are. My wish is for more temple members to participate in this event next year and the years to follow.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,

Reverend Kojun Hashimoto



WHM’s Rainbow Ekiden team (L-R)
Cy Acohido, Shoshi Hashimoto, Rev.
Hashimoto, Jay Acohido and Jon Acohido

Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Office Hours:
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 9:00am - Noon
808-622-4320 www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org
Columbarium Hours: Daily 10:00am - 3:00pm

President's Report



In March, Hawaii witnessed one of the most horrific murder-suicide of an entire family. When I first heard it on the news, I was appalled and stricken with grief. What were the circumstances that caused such a travesty? We discuss in our weekly/monthly discussion groups the causes and conditions by which we are all surrounded. It isn't until it hits close to home, that this reality can be truly horrific! Our deepest condolences to all the friends and families personally impacted by this travesty. We hope that the living of our lives in gratitude renders some solace as we appreciate every moment of our precious lives.

March was spent planning for Obon and defining our 5-year plan for our campus. If anyone noticed, during the Spring Break, it was like a circus where our Social Hall, Kitchen, and all of Ho'ala school were tented for termites. Thanks to the Hosha team, Ho'ala school, and the workers who executed this huge task, with minimal disruption, and maximum efficiency. Part two will happen during May when our temple, office, and minister residences will be covered. It will be an even bigger job!

The Triple Celebration of the 135th anniversary of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, the 850th Anniversary of the birth of our founder, Shinran Shonin, and the 800th Anniversary of the Jodo-Shinshu Sect of Buddhism is on September 7 and 8 at the Ala Moana Hotel. It will be a huge event for all of us. Please register as soon as possible! The early registration of \$250 ends on March 31. After that, it will be \$300.

Obon is around the corner on June 21, 20! Please be sure to participate as a volunteer, or just bring your family to one of Wahiawa's biggest community event. We will need help throughout June as we prepare and clean up for the event. Reunite with friends and family coming to our "hometown" and appreciating the memories and making new ones.

In gassho (gratitude),

Rodney S. Moriyama, President



The sky was gray, but the tents were still able to go up!



Goodbye termites!

2024 WHM Board of Trustees

President Rod Moriyama

Rev. Kojun Hashimoto

Vice Presidents (in alphabetical order): Karen Pang, Dale Shimaura, Carolyn Uchiyama

Treasurer Gaylen Yonamine

Assistant Treasurer Vivian Murayama

Secretary Amy Kanemaru

Past President Glenn Hamamura

Trustees in alphabetical order): Charlene Acohido, Norman Fujioka, Jan Fukada, Brian Fukuhara, Lillian Lee, Mavis Nakabayashi, Joy Okimoto, Denise Okouchi, Marcus Oshiro, Venus Oshiro

Oahu District Sangha Day

“Linking our Sanghas in the Countryside”

Saturday April 27, 2024 / 9:00am–2:00pm
At Waianae Hongwanji
85-762 Old Government Rd., Waianae 96792

Tour of Mouna Farm and Arts & Cultural Village

Hosted by Sooriya Kumar, Hongwanji Living Treasure inductee in 2016. As a master copper-work artisan, teacher, and peace activist, Sooriya founded Mouna in Waianae Valley. It is a non-profit organic produce and flower farm that is also a retreat that serves as creative space for artists and allows connection to nature and promotion of peace and sustainability.

Composting Presentation

Presentation workshop by Chikako Nago of EM Hawaii on how to compost food waste at home and use it for sustainable and healthy gardening. Presentations by district members on their own success stories and best practices. Separate activities for younger kids to be held simultaneously.

Tentative Schedule

8:00am - Registration begins at Waianae Hongwanji

9:00am—Opening Service

10:00am—11:30am—Activity Period 1

12:00pm—1:30pm—Activity Period 2

2:00pm—Day ends

Attendees will be separated in two groups due to limited farm access. One group will be on farm tour while other group will be at temple for compost presentation. Groups will switch in the afternoon.

Shuttles will transport people between temple and farm (<1 mile apart)



Registration deadline is April 9th.

To register, sign up at the WHM Office Mon-Thurs 9:00 am - noon, call the WHM office at 808-622-4320, or email the WHM office at office@wahiawahongwanji.org

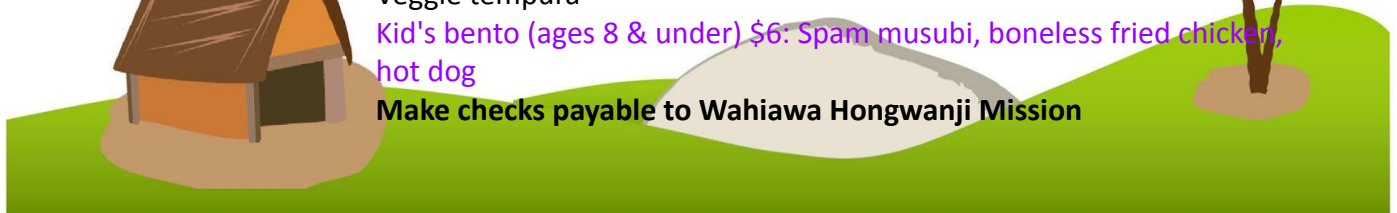
Lunch Information

Regular bento \$15: Rice, Fried chicken, Teri beef, Fried hoki, hot dog, spam, mandoo

Vegetarian bento \$15: Brown rice kamameshi, Nishime, Yaki tofu, Veggie tempura

Kid's bento (ages 8 & under) \$6: Spam musubi, boneless fried chicken, hot dog

Make checks payable to Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission



Jr YBA Happenings

We hope you all enjoyed your Spring Break! Please be mindful of the upcoming event dates that will be listed in the newsletter.

We've been keeping busy! In addition to our Manju Fundraiser, our United went to an escape room experience at Ala Moana followed by dinner and fellowship. This was a great opportunity to get to know each other better, learn effective ways to communicate, and have fun at the same time! It was a fun and enjoyable team building activity. Everyone participated and received cards at the end that celebrated each person's individual contributions to the game. We were able to complete this within the one hour time limit and it was agreed that we want to try this again.

We also had an 'ohana night which was intended to be for the junior's families to make vision boards together, however, it ended up being a Jr YBA craft night. Aunty Gay gave a short lesson of "SMART" goals: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely. We made vision boards and had a lot of fun cutting out images and words from magazines to create a board of inspiration, goals and things we enjoy.

The Oahu United is hosting the upcoming Spring Federation Meeting in April and we are working with our Federation executive board to secure a date so we can work on the details.

We are also encouraging participation in Sangha Day at Waianae Hongwanji on Saturday, April 27. There is also more information about this in the newsletter. Please register with your family or individually. We can also carpool so please see the carpool list on the Google drive. If you don't have access, please contact Aunty Arynn (contact at the end of article).

Young Enthusiastic Shinshu Seekers (Y.E.S.S.) Camp is May 25-27 and will cost \$30 for registration until April 15th. After that the registration cost will increase but you can still register. YESS Camp is open to youth ages 13-23 and is a great opportunity to bring your friends as well as meet other Buddhist Youth throughout the state. This year's camp will be held at the Buddhist Study Center. See Flyer in newsletter.

Lastly, our 67th Jr. YBA State Convention will be held on June 21-23 in Maui. Registration costs (not including airfare) are expected to be approximately \$280 so we will be looking at using our existing donations and fundraiser monies to subsidize members who wish to attend.

Other activities we will be planning in the upcoming months: Senior Celebration for Dymin Kakazu, Temple visits to attend services at other Oahu District temples, and joint activities with the United of Honolulu and our affiliate clubs (Judo and Aikido).

Save the Dates!

- *tentatively* Sunday April 14: Oahu hosting Federation Meeting
- Friday-Sunday, May 25-27: Young Enthusiastic Shinshu Seekers (Y.E.S.S.) Camp
- Friday-Sunday, June 21-23: State Convention in Maui

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 Arynn Ishikawa (advisor) at arynn.m.ishikawa@gmail.com if you'd like more information.

Follow us on Instagram! @jrybafoahu and @hawaii-fedjryba

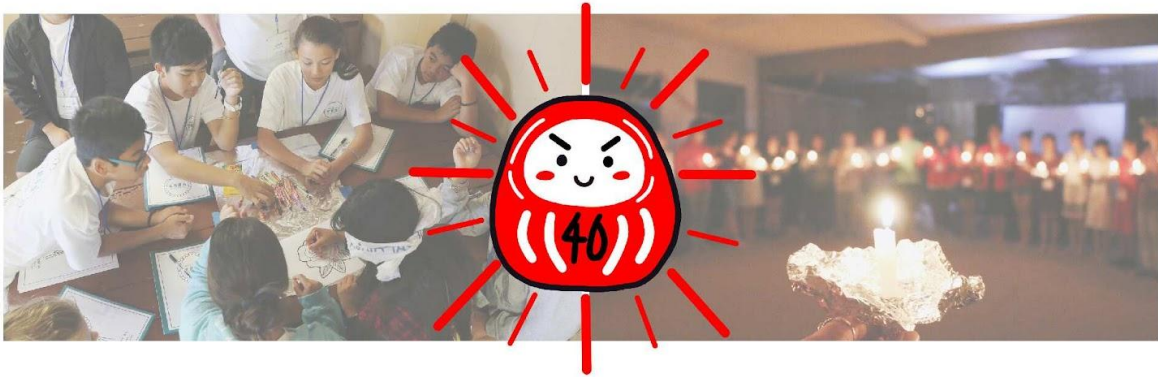




Young Enthusiastic Shinshu Seekers **40th Camp**

.....

Daruma & Me



YESS *we are back!* And excited to connect with you as we learn about Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and how we can relate to Shinran's teachings through games, bonding, community service, connecting to different Sanghas, and Dharma discussions.

We welcome all Youth aged from 13 - 23! Please join us on May 25-27 for the 40th YESS Camp at the Buddhist Study Center! We are grateful to have Reverend Kerry Kiyohara for this year's YESS Camp as we talk about resilience and how we connect to Buddhism resuming our lives from the pandemic.

Deadline for applications will be April 15, a few weeks away! →

Please feel free to contact us for any questions or concerns at yesscamp@honpahi.org. We hope to see you there!

