



# The Messenger

*Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness*

## Calendar of Events

### May 2025

04 Sun. 9:00am Baccalaureate Service  
 11 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service  
 18 Sun. 9:00am Gotan-E Service with Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki  
 25 Sun. 9:00am Temple Clean Up  
 26 Mon. 1:00pm -2:30pm Public Bon Dance Practice  
 31 Sat. 8:00am Yagura Set Up

### June 2025

01 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service  
 01 Sun 1:00pm -2:30pm Public Bon Dance Practice  
 07 Sat.6:00pm Hatsubon Service  
 08 Sun No Sunday Service - Bon Dance Booth Set Up  
 09 Mon 7:00pm - 8:30pm Public Bon Dance Practice  
 13-14 Fri.,Sat. WHM Bon Dance  
 15 Sun 9:00 Bon Dance Clean Up  
 22 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service  
 29 Sun 9:00am Sunday Service

### Upcoming Events

7/5 Going Green (free e-waste recycling) at WHM  
 8/4-8 Buddhist Study Center Summer Session featuring Rev. Dr. Enrique Galvan-Alvarez in an interactive learning series entitled: "The Path Comes to Meet Me" Awakening to Namu Amida Butsu

## Bon Dance Volunteers Needed

Planning is underway for Obon 2025! We'll need everyone's help to make this year's bon dance a success. Please volunteer to help! We're looking for help on **May 25th at 9:00 am Temple Clean Up Day**. If you are able to help, please email [office@wahiawahongwanji.org](mailto:office@wahiawahongwanji.org) or call the WHM office to leave a message at 808-622-4320. We would very much appreciate your time.

**If you are interested in volunteering to help set up, working in one of our bon dance booths or on our break down day**, please sign up using the QR to the right, going to <https://bit.ly/42AHF1O>, or call the WHM office to leave a message at 808-622-4320, .



## Help Needed for Yagura Set Up SATURDAY, May 31st at 8:00 am



As we prepare for this year's Bon Dance, we are seeking volunteers to assist with the setup of the yagura. If you are able to help, please contact the WHM office at 808-622-4320 or email us at [office@wahiawahongwanji.org](mailto:office@wahiawahongwanji.org).

For safety reasons, we kindly ask that no children or teen volunteers participate in this task. The assembly can be hazardous for younger helpers. Your kokua is deeply appreciated as we work together to make this a safe and successful day.

Mahalo for your continued support and understanding.

# Minister's Message - Buddha's Compassion



## Why Should We Thank Our Mother?

Because our mother gives us many treasures.

### What is our treasure?

The true treasure is the happiness we feel in our hearts when we experience love, warmth, and connection. It's not money, jewelry, or fame.

True treasure never fades—it stays in our hearts forever.

Do you remember when your mother held your hand as you learned to walk?

Do you remember when you were sick, and your mother cared for you, and you felt comfort just seeing her face?

Mothers are the ones who first teach us compassion. Now that we are older, we can truly understand and appreciate the deep kindness and love of a mother.

This understanding—this compassion—is our real treasure.

In Buddhism, we are taught that relationships and connections are among the greatest treasures.

I'd like to share a story about **"Engi,"** which means connection or karmic relationship:

One day, a grandmother and her grandchild went to the cemetery to offer flowers and incense.

The grandchild said, "Grandma, I'm so glad you were born here. Because you were born here, you met Grandpa, and that's why my mom could be born—and that's why I could be born, too. Thank you, Grandma."

The grandmother was deeply touched. Life hadn't always been easy, but in that moment, she truly felt grateful for having been born when and where she was.

If you heard such heartfelt words from your children or grandchildren, how would you feel?

May is a wonderful month to express your love and appreciation to your mother—to tell her how happy you are that she is your mother.

Namu Amida Butsu

In Gassho,  
Rev. Kojun Hashimoto



## Congratulations Skylar!

Congratulations to Skylar Oshiro, winner of Division II (Grades 1–2) in the O'ahu District Buddhist Education Committee's poster contest!

The theme, "I Share My Gratitude to Others," inspired students to express appreciation through art. Skylar's heartfelt and creative poster stood out among the entries.

Prize money was donated by the O'ahu United BWA, and winning posters will be displayed at O'ahu District temples during the Obon season.

Mahalo to Skylar and all who participated for sharing messages of gratitude with the community!

**Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 9:00am - noon**  
(Appointments are highly recommended)

**Phone: 808-622-4320**

**Email: [office@wahiawahongwanji.org](mailto:office@wahiawahongwanji.org) (allow 48 hours for email response)**  
**[www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org](http://www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org)**

**Columbarium Hours: Daily 10:00am - 3:00pm**

# President's Corner



Time passes so quickly. It seems we just celebrated New Year's Day and now we are passed the tax season. There are many activities occurring in the next couple of months. But first, I'd like to share the Hanamatsuri events. We'd like to thank Denise Okouchi and her crew for decorating the Hanamido with the beautiful flowers

our members donated. We truly appreciate these floral donations that brought such delight to our festive celebration. Rev. Hashimoto's explanation of the Buddha's birth and the significance of his seven steps and his first spoken words shed new light on our understanding of the Dharma. After the service, we had a delicious treat of sandwiches, fruits, and dessert. We are truly grateful for everyone's assistance and support.

We will be celebrating many activities and on May 4<sup>th</sup> we will be having our Baccalaureate service honoring Jake Eto. Join us in celebrating Jake's graduation from Mililani High School. On May 18<sup>th</sup>, we will have our Gotan'e service, celebrating the birth of our founder Shinran Shonin. Our special guest speaker will be Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki, retired minister of the Buddhist Study Center and former minister of Wahiawa Hongwanji.

For obon, we are asking for donations of items for the food booth. We would like the following items:

5 – 10 lbs. bags of rice

60 cans of spam

40 cases of water (if it is from Costco, then we would need only 20 cases)

The items may be brought to the office on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays between 9am-12 noon from May 13-31. Please leave your name with the items you have donated.

Bon Dance dates to remember:

- Temple clean up – May 25 at 9:00 am
- Yagura set up – May 31 at 8:00 am
- Hatsubon service – June 7 at 6:00 am
- Booth set up – June 8 at 9:00 am
- Yagura decorating – June 12 at TBD
- Bon Dance – June 13-14

In Gassho,  
Venus and Carolyn  
Co-Presidents



Thank you to our Hanamido decorators Doris Matsuoka, Denise Okouchi, Lori Chun, Carolyn Uchiyama and Takako Hashimoto



Baby Buddha with an ashoka flower from the WHM ashoka tree above his head.





# Calling all Crafters and Bakers

## Please donate to our Bon Dance Country Store



We are seeking donations of:

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

We are also seeking donation of baked goods, produce and flowers such as:

- brownies
- cookies
- mochi
- dessert bars
- snack mixes
- jams or jellies
- cut flowers
- fresh fruits
- fresh vegetables



If you are able to donate, please email [janfukada@gmail.com](mailto:janfukada@gmail.com) or leave a message at 808-622-4320.

You may drop off non perishables, jams and/or jelly donations on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays from 9:00 am - noon from now until 6/8. Please include your name and phone number, a suggested price, and label your donation "Country Store"

Please drop off perishable food donations on Fri., June 13th and/or Sat. June 14th at the temple office from 9:00am - noon. Please include your name and phone number, and label your donation "Country Store". Please also include a suggested price and a list of the ingredients (from greatest to least) with your donation if it has 2 or more ingredients.



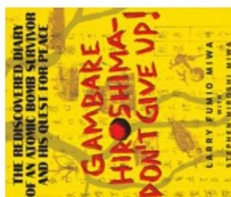
# "Celebration of Peace"

## You're Invited!



**May 17, 2025 - 2:00-4:00 PM**  
**Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission**  
**1067 California Ave.**

Contact: Rene Mansho, Kendrick Settsu  
[renemansho@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:renemansho@hawaii.rr.com) / [aieadragon@aol.com](mailto:aieadragon@aol.com)  
**Ph: 808-291-6151**



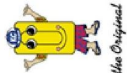
**PEACE ON YOUR WINGS**  
*A New Musical*

- The Wahiawa-Waialua Hiroshima Kenjin Kai and the Honpa Hongwanji Peace Day Committee invite you to an afternoon of wonder and awe. Meet author Stephen Miwa, who wrote of his father Larry Miwa's diary as an atomic bomb survivor in his quest for PEACE. Proceeds from his book are 100% donated to "Peace on Your Wings," who will be performing this summer in Hiroshima sharing Sadako's story.

\* The ROYAL HAWAIIAN BAND will share their songs of peace through their musical selections for our furusato, "our hometown of Wahiawa!"

**"Larry Miwa's diary is an important call to action, an important appeal to everyone to rise and do everything possible to ensure that there is no other Hiroshima."**

*Beatrice Fihn, executive director, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons*



**KC Waffle Dog**



# 2025 Obon Memorial Ribbon Order Form

WHM is having Bon Dance June 13-14 2025! You can honor your loved ones with our traditional Memorial Ribbons. The ribbons will be tied to beautiful pink and white chochin which will be displayed throughout Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission during Obon. For those observing their Hatsubon (1st year observance), a special red ribbon will also be included.

To order Memorial Ribbon(s), please complete the form below and send it with your payment to the WHM Temple Office by **Saturday, May 30, 2025**. The cost per ribbon is \$20 (1 name per ribbon). If ordering more than one ribbon, find additional space on the back of this form. Please call **808-622-4320** or email [office@wahiawahongwanji.org](mailto:office@wahiawahongwanji.org) if you have any questions.

Purchaser's name:												
Purchaser's Address:												
Purchaser's Phone:												
Purchaser's Email Address:												
Contact Name/Phone # (if different from purchaser):												

Return completed form and payment to temple office by noon on **Saturday, May 30, 2025**  
 Mail orders to Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission-Ribbons, 1067 California Ave., Wahiawa, HI 96786

**\$20.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ Ribbons = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Make checks payable to: Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission – 2024 Memorial Ribbon**

In Memory of	Last Name (one character or space per block)											
	One Name Per Ribbon (one person or one family name)											
	First Name (one character or space per block)											

From:	One character or space per block (15 characters, including space)											

**If requesting more than 1 ribbon, additional space is provided on the back of this order form. Please pay for all your ribbons with one check.**

\*\*\*\*\* (Office use only)\*\*\*\*\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Am't Pd \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_ Receiver Name \_\_\_\_\_

