



The Messenger

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness

Calendar of Events

REVISED December

- 02 Saturday 9:30-2:30 Lanikila Catering Smoke Pork Pickup along with Ho'ala Winter Craft Fair
- 03 Sun 9:00 am WHM Bodhi Day Service led by Lillian Lee and Rod Moriyama followed by Ko Discussion Group
- 03 Sun 9:30 am Hawaii Buddhist Council Bodhi Day Service at **Nichiren Mission**
- 10 Sun 9:00 am Temple Clean Up and General Membership Meeting
- 16 Sat 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm WHM Mochi Sale pick up
- 17 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 17 Sun 10:00 am Executive Board Meeting
- 24 Sun NO Sunday Service
- 31 Sun 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Joya no Kane

January 2024

- 07 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 14 Sun 9:00 am Hoonko Service with Rev. Kuniyuki & WHM Board Installation
- 21 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 28 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

Temple and Campus Clean Up

It is time for our end of the year temple and campus clean up. We hope you and your family will be able to help. It's a great time to see old friends or make a new friend! Here's our schedule for the day.

Sunday, December 10th

9:00 am - 11:00 am Clean Up

11:00 am - 11:30 am WHM General Membership Meeting

11:30 am Lunch

If you and/or your family are able to help, please call the Amy at **808-621-8893** or sign up online at <http://bit.ly/46uJXzk> or use the QR code to the right..

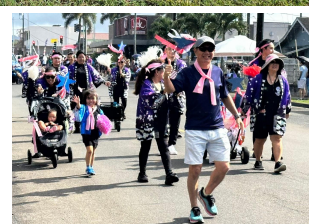
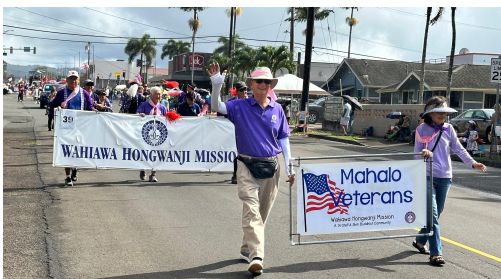


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Wahiawa Veterans Day Parade - November 11th

Thank you to everyone who marched or cheered on our marchers. It was a great day for a parade!



Minister's Message - Why Are We Making Mochi?



In December, most Buddhist temples will plan to make Mochi. It is a Japanese custom for people to get together to pound the mochi at someone's house in December. They make mochi, share the mochi, and decorate the entrance of their house or the most important room of the house to welcome the new year.

Immigrants from Japan brought mochi-making to Hawaii. Through the years, Mochi-Tsuki became a popular event in Hawaii.

Mochi-making is fun. We should understand why we make mochi at the end of the year as a Buddhist. The key is the word, "Mochi". This word expresses the word "Motsu" which means having something or having something for a long time. It reminds us of what we have or have had for a long time.

So, Mochi reminds us of at least two things as a Buddhist teaching.

1. Harmony
2. Interrelationship

Harmony

When we make a Mochi, we need many people, and we should work together because there are many processes to make a Mochi. And when we see mochi-gome in the box, there are countless mochi-gome. In the process of Mochi-Tsuki, we should smash each Mochi-Gome to connect with each other. If some mochi-gome (mochi rice) is still in there, the mochi does not taste good.

Interrelationship

When you try to separate fresh mochi, it is hard to separate..., like melting cheese. It expresses a strong connection. If you put a Mochi in the freezer, you can keep it long and when you warm up the mochi, it still has elasticity.

So, I realized that mochi tells us about the relationship between Amida Buddha and us.

We are all different like mochi-gome. Through Buddha's teachings, we remove our attachments and begin to support one another. We become "One". It is like the mochi-gome is smashed by the wooden mallet to make a nice mochi.

And after we connect Amida Buddha's link, it becomes a strong interrelationship.

When you make mochi or eat mochi, may we remember that we have a permanent connection with Amida Buddha.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,

Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

**Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 9:00am - noon
808-622-4320**

**www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org
Columbarium Hours: Daily 10:00am - 3:00pm**

President's Report



As the holidays approached, November was a very busy month! Thank you to all who made it a success for Wahiawa Hongwanji and the community!

Wahiawa's Bon Dance Team was the center of attention for the Wahiawa Hongwanji at the Veterans Day Parade in Wahiawa! The Bon Dance music and the beautiful happi coats and dancers were really a crowd-pleaser! Lt. Col. (retired) Lynn Ishii, was the first woman veteran to be chosen as the Grand Marshall! Lynn is the daughter of Ethel and Rusty Nakagawa, long time members.

On the same weekend, enthusiastic volunteers helped clean and prepare our temple for the Annual Memorial Eitaikyo Service. The service featured the Buddhist Study Center's Shakuachi Club as a prelude and during the incense offering of the service. Michael Usui, President of the Club, grew up in Wahiawa and learned to play from Rev. Okano when he was still in college. As one has conversations with the team, the interconnections between the team and the Hongwanji were amazing. One member was Rev. Kerry Kiyohara's cousin from Makawao Hongwanji. There are many people behind the scenes who help support the temple. Thank you all for your efforts!

Bishop Umitani and his wife, Yoshiko, attended the service as our guest speaker. Some highlights of his talk that were memorable:

- Bishop was born in 1978, Etajima, Japan
- Came to Hawaii in 2001; and had various assignments throughout Hawaii including the Exec Assistant to the Bishop and Moilili Hongwanji Resident Minister. He started as Bishop in July, 2023
- Eitaikyo is a time to honor those who passed away before us, even if we didn't know them; we are all connected.
- Socialist Ray Oldenburg pioneered the concept of the "Third Place." The Third Place is a "hangout place," a community center, a home away from home. Home is the first place. Work is the second place. It is hoped that The Third Place can be the temple where people can safely hang out and be together and share stories.
- With new technologies, for many, the "Third Place" is virtual via Social Media like Facebook or Instagram. However, having a physical space and a sense of belonging is important. Experiencing this sense of belonging, the warmth of interconnectedness through the Nembutsu, is an important part of the temple.
- Regarding the Lahaina Wildfire, it is very difficult to help others get through their own sadness and regrets as one would wish.
- Developing our own spiritual sense of gratitude and positive feelings is what we are all about.

December will generally be devoted to cleaning the temple and getting ready for the New Year. Please come to help on December 10 and attend the General Membership meeting after.

We are truly grateful for any help to sustain our temple and its services.

In gassho (gratitude),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodney S. Moriyama". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rodney S. Moriyama, President

BWA Tsuito-e Service - October 29

Thank you to everyone who came out to this service. Rev. Kano Hashimoto was our guest speaker who shared her message of gratitude and her memories of Wahiwa BWA members. Thank you to Dale Shimauro for organizing this service.



Eitaikyo Service - November 12

On Nov. 12th, WHM welcomed Bishop Umitani and Mrs. Umetani. Bishop Umitani shared his vision for Honpa Hongwanji of Hawaii as well as his Eitaikyo message. During the calling of the names we enjoyed beautiful music provided by the Buddhist Study Center's Shakuhachi Group. After the service we were treated to delicious refreshments prepared by Jan Fukada, June Ibara, Vivian Murayama, Jackie Nakamura, Joy Okimoto, Jenni Okuma, Karen Pang and Ethel Yamamoto. Many thanks to all who helped to make this service possible.



Happenings at Wahiawa Hongwanji

By Carolyn Uchiyama

Wahiawa Hongwanji undertook a new challenge with a Zippy's fundraiser beginning in the month of September through November. We undertook this project by ordering 200 tickets. To our amazement, the response for tickets was overwhelming. In the end we ordered 600 tickets in all!

Due to the tremendous response, we earned \$4.50 per ticket and the temple earned \$2,700.00. Your generosity for this fundraiser with your donations equaled \$2,015.00. Our gratitude, to you our loyal members, for your support for our first Zippy's fundraiser.



Yoga Class

Yoga class is being held in the Social Hall on Wednesdays at 9:00 am. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat or towel to use to lie on and sit on the floor. Donations to WHM will be accepted. If you have any questions, please contact Karen at 808-291-3102

Social Concerns Fund

During the month of November many of us reflected on gratitude while observing Eitaikyo and celebrating Thanksgiving. These were opportunities to appreciate the innumerable causes and conditions which sustain our lives and how we are deeply connected to the world around us. It is in this spirit of profound gratitude that we kick-off our Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive.

Your generosity enables the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii with the ability to support worthy organizations and programs making a difference in our community. Your selfless giving also enables us to provide compassionate aid during times of disaster and the ability to skillfully respond to issues affecting our local and world communities.

Through our Social Welfare Fund, we were able to immediately support relief efforts on Maui in the aftermath of devastating wildfires, giving over \$25,000 to various organizations and affected individuals. Your generous support ensures we have the ability to respond quickly when disasters strike.

We continued our advocacy for improving mental health care, addressing homelessness, and alleviating food insecurity in our community by donating to the Samaritan Counseling Center of Hawaii, Spill the Tea Café, Hope Services, and the various food banks on each island. This year, we also awarded several Golden Chain Grants to help nurture Sangha-based compassionate action.

Your support of our Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive is greatly appreciated. Mahalo!

In Gassho,

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani
Bishop

Dr. Warren Tamamoto
President

Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair
Committee on Social Concerns

ONLINE BUDDHIST EDUCATION SERIES

What is Mahayana
Buddhism?

1

JANUARY 13, 10 AM
DR. DAVID MATSUMOTO

JANUARY 20, 10 AM
DR. MATSUMOTO

2

What is Pure Land
Buddhism?

Development of Jodo Shinshu
in Japan and Hawaii Part 1

3

FEBRUARY 3, 2 PM
PROF. MITSUYA DAKE

FEBRUARY 17, 2 PM
PROF. DAKE

4

Development of Jodo Shinshu
in Japan and Hawaii Part 2

Significance of establishment
of Jodo Shinshu Tradition

5

MARCH 16, 2 PM
PROF. EISHO NASU

APRIL 13, 10 AM
REV. MUTSUMI WONDRA

6

Kyogyoshinsho:
Teaching

Kyogyoshinsho:
Practice

7

MAY 18, 10 AM
REV. YUKI SUGAHARA

JUNE 22, 10 AM
REV. KIYONOBU KUWAHARA

8

Kyogyoshinsho:
Entrusting Heart

Kyogyoshinsho:
Realization

9

JULY 20, 10 AM
REV. HENRY ADAMS

AUGUST 24, 2 PM
REV. GENE SEKIYA

10

The world is waiting for
Buddhism and Shinran Shonin:
Joy of the Nembutsu



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TRIPLE CELEBRATION

September 7 & 8



850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth
800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching
135th Anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii