



The Messenger

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness

Calendar of Events

REVISED October 2024

06 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
 12-13 Sat-Sun all day - Minister's Lay Assistant
 Retreat at Honpa Hongwanji HQ
13 Sun NO Sunday Service
20 Sun 9:00 am BWA Tsuito-E Service (postponed from Oct. 6th) with Rev.Barbara Brennan
 27 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

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

BWA Tsuito-E Service Postponed to Oct. 20th

The annual Tsuito-E Service honors all deceased members of the Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Buddhist Women's Association. This year's Tsuito-E service will be on Sunday, October 20th at 9:00 am. This year's speaker will be Rev. Barbara Brennan.

If you have any questions or need additional information about this BWA service, please contact Dale Shimauro at 808-392-3253 or email her at dshimauro@yahoo.com



LEILEHUA HIGH SCHOOL

Leilehua Agriculture Learning Center
 October 19, 2024 (Saturday)
 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
 No Entry Fee



- PUMPKIN PATCH: PICK & PURCHASE YOUR VERY OWN PUMPKIN!
- BAKED GOODS
- FOOD BOOTHS & FOOD TRUCKS
- FRESH PRODUCE SALE
- STUDENT MADE PRODUCTS
- MULES LOGO ITEMS
- GAMES
- TRAIN RIDE
- CASH ONLY EVENT



Oahu District Buddhist Education Committee

The Oahu District temple families, children, and friends are invited to the Leilehua High School FallFest on October 19, 2024. We will be at the event from 9:00 am – 11:00 am.

Please see the last page of this newsletter for more information.

ZIPPY'S



We still have a limited amount of tickets left! Tickets are \$11 each and have a later expiration date than tickets sold previously. These tickets would make a great Halloween treat! The tickets may be redeemed at any Zippy's location until **NOVEMBER 17, 2024** for one of the following:

- Meat & Egg Breakfast with Small Coffee or Regular Soft Drink (redeemable during breakfast hours only. Orange Bang and Lilikoi drinks are not included.)
- Cornbread (5 pieces)
- Portuguese Bean Soup (1.5 lbs.)
- Zippy's Chili in Original, Vegetarian or No-Bean (1.5 lbs.)

If you wish to purchase tickets please call Carolyn at (808)255-5758 or email carolyn2048@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!

Minister's Message -

I recently attended the 125th anniversary of Buddhist Church America and the Triple Celebration of Hawaii Kyodan. It was a great experience for me. It made me remember the efforts of the late temple members and the countless compassion of Amida Buddha.



In Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, we call Amida Buddha "Oya-sama," which means parent. I want to explain why we call Amida Buddha "Oya." To explain, let's look at the Chinese character "親" (Oya). This character is made of three parts. The top-left part "立" means standing, the bottom-left part "木" means wood or tree, and "見" means watching or seeing. So, the whole character shows someone standing and watching from a high place, like a parent watching over their child.

I started to understand the meaning of "Oya" after I became a parent. My wife and I always think about our children, even though they are taller than us now. We wonder, "How is their school? Do they have many friends? Are they facing any problems?" Then, I realized my parents also worried and cared for me in the same way.

Sometimes, my parents send us boxes from Shiga or Kagoshima. There is nothing very special inside the box, but I can feel their love. This makes me happy every time I see the box from them. At that moment, I realized why Amida Buddha is standing. Just like parents who cannot sit down quietly when thinking of their children, Amida Buddha is always standing and leaning forward a little. Amida Buddha's figure shows this feeling of "Oya," or parent. That is why we call Amida Buddha, "Oya."

Shinran Shonin said in a poem Jodo Wasan:
*When a person realizes the mind of nondiscrimination,
That attainment is the "state of regarding each being as one's only child"
This is none other than Buddha-nature.
We will awaken to it on reaching the land of peace.*

(Jodo Wasan)

The view of Buddha is that everyone is his child. Amida Buddha is a parent for all people; the state of compassion that is extended equally to all and without discrimination.

We feel joy that we have common Oya who never abandons us.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,



Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

Lillian Lee, Certified Lay Minister's Assistant

Lillian Lee has reached a key milestone in her journey to becoming an Army chaplain. On Sunday, September 15, she was presented with a certificate signed by Bishop Umitani and a special motoshikisho. She has been training for months with Rev. Kojun Hashimoto and Rev. Takako Hashimoto to achieve this recognition.



Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 9:00am - noon

808-622-4320

www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org

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

President's Report



The inspiring Triple Celebration of the 135th Anniversary, 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin, and 800th Anniversary of Jodo Shinshu was a huge success. I was so privileged to be part of the entire weekend. From the very beginning, it was such an inspiring event. It cannot be truly appreciated without being physically present. There will be recordings of the event but the feelings generated are “indescribable.”

Keynote Highlights: The Unexplainable and Limitless

Rev. Dr. Takeshi Miyaji, Dean of the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, was the keynote speaker. His explanation of Amida Buddha and the momentary glimpses of the “unexplainable” and “unimaginable” made so much sense. He had examples throughout his life when he experienced the unexplainable. Because we are human, our ego-centric nature prevents us from seeing the Truth.

One example was his grandfather. Another family adopted his grandfather to continue the family name. He had to move to another household across a body of water. He would visit his biological mother occasionally and recalled her calling him from a distance as he arrived. When he became older, he was conscripted to go to Manchuria.

During this period, his biological mother passed away. Her cremated remains were placed at the Daizen-Ji temple. Daizen-Ji temple was firebombed and everything was lost. He returned to the site and discovered an unscathed wooden box. When he shook the box, he heard his mother calling out to him. It was her urn that he found. That unexplainable moment, that feeling of joy is what Rev. Miyaji identifies as a moment of “Shinjin.” It is a glimpse of the unlimited compassion of Amida Buddha. He explains that our journey as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists is to seek this state of gratitude and kindness all the time. The portal for Spiritual growth between the “Limited” and the “Limitless” is the temple. This is why it is considered a sacred place. Coming to the temple provides us the opportunity to develop this spirituality within us! It takes practice!

I was so filled with Joy at this message and that moment. It's the feeling I get when for some unexplained reason, a parking spot conveniently opens for me at Ala Moana Mall or Kahala Mall. The entire weekend was this way as I met old friends, listened to the moving chanting of the new version of Shoshinge (the chant composed by Shiran Shonin regarding the story of the Seven Masters and Bodhisattva Dharmakara), the playing of the Gagaku instruments ended with a performance of Hawaii Aloha (and everyone sang spontaneously), the workshop on the progress and importance of Archiving, the fabulous luncheon buffet, Jodo Shinshu Workshop, the panel discussion of the Lahaina fire and the memory of Rev. Sherman Thompson, an ordained United Church of Christ minister of Kamehameha Schools. The role he played was a seamless example of someone practicing Christianity and Buddhism at the same time. Even the gift bag to each attendee was perfect! My expectations were not very high going into the event. But it was far exceeded and I am so grateful!

The Fall Season:

The Fall season provides ample opportunity to experience this feeling of Joy. On September 1st we had Rev. Charlene Kihara as our guest speaker, and the Fall Ohigan service (September 22) with Rev. Tatsuo Muneto, retired director of the Buddhist Study Center. Peace Day was celebrated on Friday, September 20, with the ringing of the Bonsho under a new roof! On September 28th, we had a fun-filled Fall Festival. On October 20th, we have the Tsuito-E service, and on November 17th, we'll have the Eitaikyo Service with Rev. Thomas Okano and our Shakuhachi Club. Please urge your family to attend at least one of these services and experience the joy of friendship together!

In gratitude and aloha,

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

Rodney S. Moriyama, President

2024-2025 Social Concerns Fund Drive: A Call for Compassion and Community Support

November is a time of reflection and gratitude. As we observe Eitaikyo and celebrate Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the many causes and conditions that sustain our lives. In this spirit, we are launching our Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive, inviting our Sangha to continue the work of supporting those in need through compassion and generosity.

What is the Social Concerns Fund?

The Social Concerns Fund, managed by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, is a community effort to provide financial support to organizations and initiatives that positively impact local and global communities. The fund addresses urgent social issues, supports disaster relief, and promotes compassion in action. It serves two primary purposes:

1. **Supporting Charitable Organizations:** We contribute to programs focused on mental health care, homelessness, education, food security, and other pressing needs.
2. **Disaster Relief and Humanitarian Aid:** The fund provides immediate relief and ongoing support to communities impacted by natural disasters and global crises.

How the Fund is Making a Difference

In 2023, the Maui wildfires devastated the Lahaina Hongwanji and broader Maui community. Thanks to widespread generosity, we raised nearly \$1 million through the Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund, distributing over \$300,000 to those affected. We continue to support Maui's recovery.

The Social Concerns Fund also supports mental health care through organizations like the Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii, fosters community resilience with Vibrant Hawaii, and extends global humanitarian aid, such as relief efforts in Gaza and Japan following the Noto Peninsula Earthquake.

Programs to Support Our Sangha

In addition to external support, the Social Concerns Fund nurtures compassionate action within our own community. **Golden Chain Grants** fund Sangha-based projects that directly benefit local communities. Our **Dana Matching Grant Program** further multiplies the impact of charitable giving within the Hawaii Kyodan Ohana.

How You Can Help

The 2024-2025 Social Concerns Fund Drive runs from **November 1, 2024, to August 31, 2025**. Please make checks payable to **WAHIAWA HONGWANJI MISSION**, which will then remit one combined check to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

Why Your Support Matters

Your donations make a real difference, from supporting disaster relief to improving lives through local and global initiatives. Your generosity reflects the spirit of Dana (compassionate giving) and helps us respond to urgent needs and create a more compassionate world.

Mahalo for your continued support!



Fall Ohigan Speaker Rev. Tatsuo Muneto

On September 22nd, WHM welcomed Rev. Muneto as our Dhrama speaker. He shared the children's book "Love You Forever" and related this story of a mother's love for her child to Amida's love for us. After the service we were treated to delicious refreshments prepared by Jan Fukada, Mary Kuwane, Joy Okimoto and Carolyn Uchiyama. Thank you also to Jennifer Okuma for her assistance in the kitchen following the refreshment hour.

Jr. YBA News

To kick off our final month, we held our United officer elections and Installation Service. Special thanks to Rev. Kamuro for officiating in Rev. Soga's absence, who was celebrating the BCA 125th Anniversary and Triple Celebration.

Congratulations to our new United officers:

- President: Yuma Kamuro (Mililani Hongwanji)
- Vice-President: Trevor Matsuwaki (Mililani Hongwanji)
- Secretary: Courtney Uehara (Mililani Hongwanji)
- Treasurer: Jamelyn Tomori (Aiea Hongwanji)

We also welcome our new members: Dean and Kim Tse-Castro, and Trevor Matsuwaki! Several other interested members will be joining our future events.

Our Juniors packed registration bags for the Honpa Hongwanji Triple Celebration on September 7-8 and had a Fall Federation Meeting. Oahu United will host the Winter Federation Meeting during MLK weekend. A big THANK YOU for supporting our HBY Month Manju Fundraiser! We will be donating part of the proceeds to the Oahu SPCA.

Upcoming Dates:

- HBY Month Manju Making: October 5, 11:00am, Waipahu Hongwanji
- Next Meeting: October 6, 12:30pm, Pearl City Hongwanji
- Haunted Plantation: October 27 (tentative)
- Winter Federation Meeting: January 19-20

Youth in 6th grade through 2 years post-high school are welcome to join Jr. YBA! Contact Aunty Arynn Ishikawa (advisor) at arynn.m.ishikawa@gmail.com for more info. Follow us on Instagram @jrybaofahu and @hawaiiifedjryba.

LEILEHUA HIGH SCHOOL

FallFest

Leilehua Agriculture Learning Center

October 19, 2024 (Saturday)

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

No Entry Fee



● **PUMPKIN PATCH: PICK & PURCHASE YOUR VERY OWN PUMPKIN!**

● **BAKED GOODS**

● **FOOD BOOTHS & FOOD TRUCKS**

● **FRESH PRODUCE SALE**

● **STUDENT MADE PRODUCTS**

● **MULES LOGO ITEMS**

● **GAMES**

● **TRAIN RIDE**

● **CASH ONLY EVENT**



Oahu District Buddhist Education Committee

The Oahu District temple families, children, and friends are invited to the Leilehua High School FallFest on October 19, 2024. We will be at the event from 9:00 am – 11:00 am. Each family will receive a ticket for a free pumpkin that you may pick from the LHS pumpkin patch.

At 11:30 am, please meet at the Wahiawa Hongwanji Social Hall to continue fellowship over lunch and games.

Please complete this form (one form per family) and submit it to Carolyn Uchiyama at Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission by October 7, 2024. If you have any questions please email her at carolyn2048@gmail.com

Registration

Name of person completing the form _____

Phone number _____ Email address _____

Number of adults attending (for lunch count) _____

Number of children attending (for lunch count) _____