



The Messenger

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness

Calendar of Events

February 2024

04 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
 09-10 Giseikai Legislative Assembly
 10 Sat Living Treasures Luncheon at Hilton
 Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom
 11 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
 18 Sun 9:00 am Pet Memorial Service
 25 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
 25 Sun 10:30am WHM New Year's Party

March 2024

03 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
 10 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
 17 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
 17 Sun Following Sunday Service WHM Board
 Meeting
 24 Sun 9:00 am Spring Ohigan Service



WHM New Year's Party Sunday February 25th

We can't wait to see everyone who signed up for our New Year's Party! If you forgot to turn in your form, you may still turn it in to the office **before Feb 6th**. Join us for food, fun and fellowship!

We welcome donations of desserts for the party. If you are able to donate a dessert, please call Amy at 808-621-8893 and leave a message or email amy.kanemaru@wahiawahongwanji.org Please allow 24 hours for a return phone call.

Hoonko Service

Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki was our Dharma speaker on January 14th for our Hoonko service. This service is the memorial service of our founder, Shinran Shonin.

Following the service everyone was invited to have zenai in the Social Hall.. The mochi was made by the volunteers who came out in December to help with our mochi fundraiser. It was a delicious treat!



Caregiver Training Workshop

Free workshop for caregivers who meet the following criteria:

- Caregiver provides unpaid care to an individual at least 60 years old.
- Individual receiving care lives in the community and not in a nursing home or care home.

Seating is limited. Registration is required by Monday, February 12. Please call or email if you are interested in attending or need more information about the workshop: Maria Morales, Program Coordinator (808) 945-3736 cgs@projectdana.org

This training is funded under the Title III Older Americans Act, administered by the Executive Office on Aging, State of Hawaii through the Elderly Affairs Division, City and County of Honolulu.

Date	Saturday, February 24, 2024	
Time	10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	
Location	Aiea Hongwanji Mission Lotus Adult Day Care 99-186 Puakala St., Aiea, HI 96701	
Topic	Practice Communicating with Your Care Recipient	
Featuring	Joni Kamiya, Occupational Therapist Maria Morales, MSW	Mernie Miyasato-Crawford, LCSW Janice Takeuchi, MSW

Minister's Message - Pets



Have you had any pets? Have you done a memorial service for your pet before? When I visited the BCA temples, I asked a minister what kind of unique services have you done at the temple? He said he did a memorial service for pets. I was shocked when I heard that but, keeping an open mind, it was something to consider. I used to have a dog as a pet when I was child and since then, I lost several dogs. I felt so sad at each time, but I never thought to have a service for pets. I did a burial for them and recited the Nembutsu.

Today people have various animals as pets and consider them as part of their family. While the pet is alive, people care for it very well, but after the pet passes away, what kind of service do they do? Our teachings said each life is precious and bright, so even though they are animals, we should respect their lives.

The purpose of a memorial service is in appreciation for a loved one. Our teaching is not only for humans but "all sentient beings" including animals. In fact, when Shakyamuni Buddha passed away, there were various animals around Shakyamuni Buddha. It means Shakyamuni Buddha preached his sermon to not only people but also animals.

When I look at history, the relationship between humans and animals is so deep. So, I would like to announce that we will do a memorial service for pets on 2/18/24 9:00 a.m. at Wahiawa Hongwanji as a Pets Memorial Service. Let us give our aloha to our late pets. If you want to participate in the service, please bring a picture of your pet or your pet's urn.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,

Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

PACIFIC BUDDHIST ACADEMY
March 17, 2024
YARAMAIKA! GO FOR IT!
18th ANNUAL TAIKO FESTIVAL

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY!

Pacific Buddhist Academy (PBA) will host its 18th Annual Taiko Festival "Yaramaika" at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 17 at the Moanalua Performing Arts Center.

PBA's taiko sensei Jay Toyofuku said, "The theme Yaramaika, or 'go for it!' reflects that our world needs a new sense of urgency to tackle its biggest challenges – global conflicts, climate change, even our relationships with one another. We need to put new energy into the world and that is what the school's drummers are working hard to achieve."

Taiko drumming is incorporated into the school's curriculum as all ninth graders take Beginning Taiko as freshmen. Ticket sales help to support PBA and its taiko program.

PBA is the country's first Shin Buddhist high school, one of only two Buddhist high schools in the country. Through such activities as the practice of taiko, students nurture Japanese culture as well as spirit through perseverance and a more harmonious interdependence through listening and drumming together.

Tickets are \$40 for general admission and \$30 for students grades K-12 and seniors over 62. For more information and to purchase tickets, call Pacific Buddhist Academy at 808-532-2649 or email megan.lee@pbahi.org.

President's Report



Loneliness is a critical public health concern and can have a significant impact on our health and lifespan. According to a recent review published in Nature, over 90 studies that included more than 2.2 million people globally found that those who self-reported social isolation or loneliness were more likely to die early from all causes. The findings demonstrated a 29% and 26% increased risk of all-cause mortality associated with social isolation and loneliness, respectively (From “How Loneliness Can Impact Our Health and Lifespan” | Psychology Today). Please make an effort to connect with us by your participation.

Buddhism is all about accepting life's realities, interdependence, and impermanence. Our Dharma talk by Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki emphasized the importance of being together in a community that provides security, friendship, and healthy relationships. Our Ho'onko Service was well attended and very successful. We even had Ozenzai at the social hall after the installation of the Board members.

The Board of Directors met on Sunday, 1/21, for our tactical planning session. Glenn Hamamura facilitated the discussion emphasizing the necessity to understand Wahiawa Hongwanji's WHY. Every organization's existence is predicated on defining its value to the community and its membership. Bringing in a new generation of Board members and working together to make the Hongwanji's existence more meaningful to all of us is key to our success.

We will be completing our schedule of activities for 2024 and kicking off the New Year in time for our New Year's Party on February 25.

I have been sharing several good seminars and hope that we have more participation on Sundays at our regular service. Sensei has been providing very thought provoking Dharma talks relative to our daily living. We appreciate everyone's input on how Wahiawa Hongwanji can become a center for community activity and awareness.

In gassho (gratitude),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod S. Moriyama". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rodney S. Moriyama, President

2024 WHM Board of Trustees



(Left-Right) Past President Glenn Hamamura, VP Dale Shimaura, Joy Okimoto, Charlene Acohido, Marcus Oshiro, VP Karen Pang, Treasurer Gaylen Yonamine, Jan Fukada, VP Carolyn Uchiyama, Venus Oshiro, Rev. Kojun Hashimoto, President Rod Moriyama, Brian Fukuhara, Assistant Treasurer Vivian Murayama, Denise Okouchi and Norman Fujioka. Not Pictured: Lillian Lee, Amy Kanemaru, Mavis Nakabayashi

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



2024 Oahu District Poster Contest

Sponsored by the Oahu District Buddhist Education Committee (ODBEC)

Due on/before
March 31st!

Theme:

"I Say Thank You for This Moment"

This theme is to follow the Hongwanji's 2024 Theme and Slogan: "Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments." This year's poster contest celebrates this experience of appreciation and gratitude for the Boundless Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha, that all of us go through that causes us to say Namu Amida Butsu, thank you for this moment.

Materials:

12"x18" paper will be provided.

Media:

All forms (ink, crayon, pencil, paint, pen, charcoal, collage, computer-generated graphics) will be accepted. Entries must be relatively flat, easily transportable, and not fragile.

Message:

Encourage each child to include a message, title or caption on their poster.

Entries:

No limit on the number of entries per Dharma School. Entries will also be accepted from children of temple families who are not in a Dharma School.

Categories:

Division I Pre-school, Kindergarten
Division II Grades 1 - 2
Division III Grades 3 - 5
Division IV Grades 6 - 8
Division V Grades 9 - 12

Awards:

For each division as follows:

First place \$25
Second place \$20
Third place \$10
Honorable Mention \$5 (optional award at judges' discretion)

Judges:

Three people selected by the ODBEC will judge all poster entries.

Revised Deadline:

All entries should be submitted on or before March 31, 2024 to: Carolyn Uchiyama/Wahiawa Hongwanji, contact: carolyn2048@gmail.com.



Join Project Dana's Public Presentation Meetings!

Upcoming Events:

Meeting Date: Saturday, February 10, 2024
Time: 10:00 am to 11:30 am
Location: Zoom and Waipahu Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (94-821 Kuhaula Street, Waipahu, HI 96797)
Topic: "Tax Problems and Nowhere to Turn?" – Caregivers will learn that the Taxpayer Advocate Service is an independent organization within the IRS. It was mandated by Congress in 1998 and stood up in 2000. They are designed to assist taxpayers who have an ongoing problem with the IRS that they have not been able to resolve thru normal channels at the IRS. The presentation will cover who they are and how they can help caregivers who file taxes on behalf of their loved one and may encounter challenges.
Speaker: Gayvial James, Local Tax Advocate

Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2024
Time: 10:00 am to 11:30 am
Location: Zoom and Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin (1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813)
Topic: "Planning Ahead While Maintaining Control": – Learn that planning ahead for a time that you are not able to do things for yourself doesn't mean you lose your say now, or anytime soon. In this presentation, we will discuss Advance Health Care Directives, Financial Power of Attorneys, and Estate Planning. See how these simple documents can help your loved ones ensure you receive the care and help you need, when you need it, with full control of how, and when it happens.
Speaker: Grayson Harrop, We Go Notary LLC

*Zoom links will be provided by inquiry

Please call or e-mail if you are interested on attending public presentations or need more information about the program:

Maria Morales
Program Coordinator
(808) 945-3736
cggg@projectdana.org

Israel Through Millennial Eyes

February 25, 2024
2-4PM

Mystical Rose Oratory
Chaminade University of Honolulu
3140 Wai'alae Ave., Honolulu
*FREE EVENT

Easton Delacruz **Kyle-Jacob La'akea Gamiao**
Moderated by: **Michael Weaver**
Professor, Historical & Political Studies
Chaminade University

Responding to an invitation by The Interfaith Alliance of Hawaii, two Chaminade millennials joined in an eccumenical pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Join them as they share their experiences and impressions.

Sponsored by:
The BDK-Reverend Yoshiaki Fujitani Interfaith Program
at Chaminade University of Honolulu
For more information: Dr. Malla D. Wong, O.P. / mwong2@chaminade.edu