



# The Messenger

*Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness*

## Calendar of Events

### REVISED February 2025

07 Fri - 08 Sat 2025 Legislative Assembly (Giseikai) - online and in person  
 08 Sun 11:00-2:15 50th Annual Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ Recognition at Hilton Hawaiian Village  
 09 Sun 9:00 am Pet Memorial Service - Dharma Message by Rev. Yamagishi of Kamuela Hongwanji via video recording  
 16 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service  
 23 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service  
 23 WHM New Year's Party

### March 2025

02 Sun No Service at WHM - Sangha Day at Pearl City Hongwanji  
 09 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service  
 09 Sun No Service - Honolulu Rainbow Ekiden (WHM team running)  
 16 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service  
 23 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service  
 30 Sun 9:00 am Spring Ohigan Service with Rev. Shigenori Makino



## WHM New Year's Party - Sunday, February 23rd

We can't wait to see everyone! See the last page of this newsletter for more information and to sign up! 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 the office at 808-622-4320 and leave a message or email [office@wahiawahongwanji.org](mailto:office@wahiawahongwanji.org)



## WHM Dharma School



We are excited to announce that Dharma School will be held on the **first and third Sunday** of each month from **9:00 to 9:30 AM** for children ages **5 to 13 years old**. The classes will be led by **Lillian Lee**, who is looking forward to guiding our young learners in their exploration of the Dharma.

If you have children who are interested in participating, please send an email to [office@wahiawahongwanji.org](mailto:office@wahiawahongwanji.org) to register or for more information. We look forward to welcoming all of our young students.

## Wahiawa Hongwanji Bon Dance 2025

Mark your calendars! Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission's annual **Bon Dance** will be held on **Friday, June 13** and **Saturday, June 14, 2025**. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community to dance, shop, eat, and enjoy the festivities!

Whether you're a seasoned dancer or a first-timer, there's something for everyone at our Bon Dance. We also invite you to volunteer and help make this event a success. If you're interested in volunteering during the event or assisting with preparations, please send an email to [office@wahiawahongwanji.org](mailto:office@wahiawahongwanji.org).

We look forward to seeing you there!



## Minister's Message - Rather than trying to become a good person, realizing that I am an evil one is more difficult



I would like to share the article written by Mr. Katsumi Shozo

It seems that nearly every day, startling crimes are being reported in newspapers and on television. It is unbelievable how many cases are being reported of parents murdering their children, children murdering their parents, husbands murdering their wives, or wives murdering their husbands. Morally, ethically, and legally speaking, those culprits are "evil person." I wonder if this "evil person" and the "evil person" that Shinran Shonin speaks of are the same. My conclusion is a definite No. Shinran Shonin regarded himself as a "foolish being filled with blind passion. "Bonno gusoku no Bonbu."

"Foolish being as expressed in the parable of the two rivers of water and fire, we are full of ignorance and blind passion. Our desires are countless, and anger, wrath, jealousy, and envy are overwhelming, arising without pause; to the very last moment of life, they do not cease, or disappear, or exhaust themselves." [In Ichinen tanen shomon]

I wonder if perhaps there is no connection between this foolish being and myself. For a foolish being, there is not even a one percent chance for attaining Buddhahood. However, the entity whose number one purpose is to save the evil and foolish being is Amida Buddha's Compassion-True Compassion- is such that he cannot but desire to liberate those evil person who have no place to go but to hell. Thus, rather than attempting to carry out good deeds using one's sly, self-power efforts, by turning oneself over one hundred present and leaving everything up to the Buddha, this is the way that the evil person will unmistakably be liberated.

This article reminds me of a Japanese poem

*Sodatuhodoni Kobega tareru inahokana* "The rice ears bow as they grow."

We should remember this poem and never forget the feeling of humility.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,

Reverend Kojun Hashimoto

### WHM Calligraphy & Japanese Classes

Sunday	8:00am-8:40am	Calligraphy
Monday	9:00am-10:00am	Easy Reading, Writing and Conversational Japanese for traveling to Japan
Wednesday	5:30pm-6:30pm	Conversational Japanese

Cost: One session of 5 classes

Wahiawa Hongwanji Member \$25.00

Non Wahiawa Hongwanji Member \$37.50



If you are interested in registering for classes or have any questions, please call the WHM Office at 808-622-4320 and leave a message for Takako Hashimoto

**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 Report - Meet Our Co-Presidents



Hello, everyone. I'd like to introduce myself to the members of Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission. My name is Carolyn Uchiyama, and I have been elected your co-president with Venus Oshiro for the year 2025.

I was born at the old Wahiawa General Hospital and attended Wahiawa Elementary School, seventh grade at the Wahiawa Hongwanji Gakuen, and graduated from Leilehua High School. After that, I continued my education at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and graduated with a degree in elementary education. Following graduation, I taught at Waipahu Elementary School, Nanakuli Elementary School, and finally Helemano Elementary School.

Though my grandparents, Keiji and Kishi Tsujimura, were members of Wahiawa Hongwanji, my sons and I were introduced to Buddhism by Rev. Thomas Okano. From those early beginnings, I have slowly learned about Jodo Shinshu and experienced spiritual growth as I continued as a member.

My hope is that the officers, Reverend Hashimoto, and the Board of Trustees walk with members and new friends down the Nembutsu path of gratitude together. Let us work in harmony for an exciting year filled with the Buddha's Teachings and enjoyable activities with each other.

In Gassho,  
Carolyn Uchiyama  
Co-President

Akemashite omedetō gozaimasu! Happy New Year! My name is Venus Oshiro, and I am the new Co-President of the Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission. I wanted to briefly introduce myself.

I have lived in this wonderful town of ours my entire life; a true Wahiawa girl through and through. I attended Wahiawa Elementary School, Wahiawa Intermediate School, and graduated from Leilehua High School in 2000. I went on to continue my education at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, majoring in Business. I only attended UHM my freshman year because I was too homesick living in Manoa and being so far from Wahiawa. I moved back home after my first year and enrolled at Leeward Community College, where I received my Associate in Arts Degree, and then moved on to the University of Hawaii West Oahu, where I graduated with my Bachelor's Degree in General Business.

After I graduated, I worked at McCabe, Hamilton & Renny in their Human Resources Dept. for a few years. I have been with my high school sweetheart since 1999, and last November, we celebrated 25 years together. In 2017, I earned the job of my dreams. I became Mommy to my now almost 8-year-old son, Aaric, and in 2020, I had my daughter, Freyja. I have been a stay-at-home mom ever since.

In 2022, I started my own small business, It's ScratchMade, where I make Asian-inspired treats, breads, and pastries that I sell at various craft fairs and on Instagram. In October of 2023, my life's path led me back to the Wahiawa Hongwanji when I met Rod, our previous fearless leader, and WHM President. He invited me to be on the board, and now, a little over a year later, here we are.

I am looking forward to connecting with you all and getting to know everyone better over the next year.



In Gassho,  
Venus Oshiro  
Co-President



“Our life is filled with warmth in sharing life with others.”

# 2025 WHM Board of Trustees



(Left to Right) Immediate Past President Rod Moriyama, Co-President Carolyn Uchiyama, Amy Kanemaru, VP Dale Shimaura, Co-President Venus Oshiro, Co-Secretary Joy Okimoto, Lillian Lee, Marcus Oshiro, Co-Secretary Jan Fukada and Trustee Emeritus Glenn Hamamura. 2nd row Resident Minister Rev. Kojun Hashimoto (Missing: Brian Fukuhara, Denise Okouchi)

On January 12th., WHM swore in its new Board of Trustees, marking an exciting new chapter! These new leaders bring a wealth of experience and a shared commitment to the growth and vitality of WHM. Together, they will continue to support WHM's spiritual, cultural, and educational programs, enriching the community for years to come.

## Joya No Kane - December 31, 2024





## “Wait, Don’t Die Yet”

By Rod Moriyama

On January 10th, we had a very successful presentation by Annette Kam, retired nurse and author of her book, “Wait, Don’t Die Yet!” There were about 50 people in attendance and she ran out of books! She will be bringing extra copies available for \$20 at the office.

Annette herself was wonderful about the experience! She was an excellent presenter on a topic that most people try to avoid! She made it very real by referring to her own personal experiences. Her books have grown in popularity in 44 states and 18 countries. You can download an electronic copy for free at [www.annetekam.com](http://www.annetekam.com).

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## Hoonko Service

Rev. Yuika Hasebe was our Dharma speaker on January 12th for our Hoonko service. This service was a memorial service of our founder, Shinran Shonin.

Following the service the refreshment committee treated us to a delicious spread of foods which included pretty morimono platters, zenzai, shira-ae, kinpira and assorted sweet treats.



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## United Jr. YBA of Oahu News

In late 2024, we joined Aiea Hongwanji’s annual mochitsuki to make mochi for the New Year. The United of Oahu hosted the Winter Federation meeting on January 19-20 at Aiea Hongwanji, where we toured the Hōkūle‘a at Pearl Harbor, made mochi, and went bowling for some fun.

The Hōkūle‘a crew shared fascinating details about life on the vessel, including how they manage food, showers, and sleeping arrangements. We also learned about their use of solar panels and Starlink for safety. We helped the crew by assisting visitors, taking photos, and offering water. Conversations with Emily Lau and Kamekoa from Loko I‘a Pā‘ai highlighted the connection between the Hōkūle‘a’s mission of peace and our own teachings.

Thank you to Auntie Ann and Uncle John Ishikawa, Auntie Joyce Ogawa, Auntie Aileen Sato, Uncle Mark Funasaki, and Uncle George Kawaguchi for making mochi with various fillings, including Koshian, Hershey Kisses, Reese’s Peanut Butter Hearts, Peanut Butter, and Spam.

We also received a \$500 Dana Matching Grant for the O‘ahu SPCA, our HBY Month charity. We are collecting pet-friendly items such as blankets, towels, sheets, dog and cat beds, kitten and cat food (wet & dry), puppy and dog food (wet & dry), Martingale collars (especially XS), puppy pads, cat litter, office supplies, cat and dog bowls, working laptops or iPads, new mop heads, and brand new pillows. Items are being collected from January 26–February 23 at the following temples: Aiea, Ewa, Mililani, Pearl City, Wahiawa, and Waipahu.

The next Jr. YBA meeting will be held on Sunday, February 2, at Mililani Hongwanji at 12:30 pm.

For more information about Jr. YBA, contact Auntie Arynn at [arynn.m.ishikawa@gmail.com](mailto:arynn.m.ishikawa@gmail.com) or [jrybafoahu@gmail.com](mailto:jrybafoahu@gmail.com).



# 2025 WHM New Year's Party



## Sunday, February 23, 2025 10:30 am - 12:30pm

Join us for a New Year's Buffet Lunch in the Social Hall! Please complete the form below to RSVP and celebrate the start of the new year with us.

**Note:** This is a buffet-style lunch, so "grab-and-go" options will not be available."

Cost: \$15

Ordered by \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person(s) attending	Adult Lunch \$15	Kids (10 and under) \$0	Total lunches
1	\$		
2	\$		
3	\$		
4	\$		
5	\$		
6	\$		
7	\$		
8	\$		
Totals	\$		\$

**Mail/drop off completed form with payment by Friday, February 14, 2025**

Mail to: Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission, 1067 California Ave, Wahiawa, HI 96786

**Make checks out to: Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission**

----- For Office Use -----

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash / Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Chk \_\_\_\_\_ Rec by \_\_\_\_\_