



The Messenger

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity & Openness

Calendar of Events

March 2024

- 03 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 03 Sun 10:00 am Ko Discussion Group
- 10 Sun 9:00 am No Sunday Service - Rainbow Ekiden at Kapiolani Park
- 17 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 17 Sun Following Sunday Service WHM Board Meeting
- 24 Sun 9:00 am Spring Ohigan - Dharma Speaker: Lillian Lee
- 31 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

April 2024

- 07 Sun 9:00 am Hanamatsuri Service
- 07 Sun 10:00 am Ko Discussion Group
- 14 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 21 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service
- 28 Sun 9:00 am Sunday Service

Pet Memorial Service

On Sunday, February 18th, WHM held its annual Pet Memorial Service. Thank you to all who attended for being a part of this meaningful and heartwarming service to remember our pets who have enriched our lives with their companionship and love.

Mahalo to Jan Fukada and Carolyn Uchiyama for coordinating this service. Thank you to Joy Okimoto and Jan Fukada for the treats, for people, cats and dogs!



Spring Ohigan



Please join us for Spring Ohigan on Sunday, March 24th at 9:00 a.m. Our Dharma speaker will be our own WHM member, Lillian Lee. Spring Ohigan (Spring Equinox) means the "Other Shore." It is when we can see and feel the harmony in the world around us. Jodo Shinshu Buddhist gather to welcome in a new season. Ohigan occurs twice a year in the Spring and the Fall, generally in March and September. The sun rises directly from the East and sets directly in the West. The length of day and night are equal and the weather tends to be very mild. This is when conditions are right for the practice of selfless sharing, discipline, diligence, patience, loving kindness and wisdom. As Jodo Shinshu Buddhist it is a time for deep self reflection on all that we have received from others as well as from the world.

Minister's Message - Praise of our Relationship



We did a pets memorial service last month. It was a great opportunity for understanding how wonderful relationships are. We sometimes forget that we are living in a precious world, and we have precious lives.

Let me share with you a story about a fishing net.

One day, a boy caught a fish with his fishnet. One of the fishnet's holes said, "I got a fish!", but the hole next to it said, "I got a fish!" Next, they started arguing about who caught the fish. Then, one of the corners of the fishnet said, "We are connected with each other with strings. If one string was broken, it would make a big hole in the fishnet, and we won't be able to get any more fish. After hearing this wise remark, the two holes said to each other, "Thank you for helping to catch a fish.

We sometimes think "I" am living in the world and we make a border line or make a wall between others and ourselves – what a relief we feel

Let's look at the Kanji 人 "Hito". It means human being. It consists of two bars, which means we are connected to each other even though we cannot see the other person. We are human beings - we are connected to each other. We should never forget we are human beings and we depend on each other.

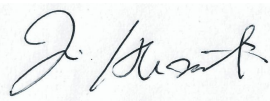
As you know, a memorial service is a good time to feel the connections or interrelationships with our loved ones even though we cannot see them.

We just put our hands together to feel the connection like our loved one and we are together.

In conclusion, please read "the Golden Chain of Love" and reconsider its meaning.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,



Reverend Kojun Hashimoto



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

President's Report



Every February begins with the Legislative Assembly (Giseikai). After several years of only Zoom meetings, we had a hybrid meeting that was quite enjoyable. It was nice to see old friends and meet new ones after so many years!

The Thursday evening Rap Session featured Rev. Dr. Jeff Wilson. He teaches at the University of Waterloo in Canada in the Department of Religious Studies. His topic was: “Engaged Buddhism for Engaging Youth.” His key message was: In trying to communicate Buddhism, don’t start with “suffering,” talk about Compassion as a way to live a more fulfilling life.

This Giseikai celebrated the Triple Celebration of 135 years of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, the 850th Anniversary of the birth of our founder, Shinran Shonin, and the 800th Anniversary of the creation of the Jodo-Shinshu sect of Buddhism. Despite the relatively few numbers, I am always moved by the singing and chanting of the sutra at the opening ceremonies. It captures the feeling of interpersonal relationships, interdependence, and impermanence. No recording can duplicate the feeling of that special moment!

Besides approving the Budget, the following resolutions brought forth many opinions on the floor:

- Lahaina Hongwanji’s Annual Assessment was forgiven for the next three years.
- A Development Associate position was created to manage the Living Gratitude Program.
- The closure of Kapolei Hongwanji was formally recognized.

There are many seminars, Youth programs, and even an opportunity to contribute to a book to be published describing Your Nembutsu Moment! Presentations by Rev. Ai Hironaka of Lahaina Hongwanji, Josh Hernandez-Morse of Pacific Buddhist Academy, and the Jr. YBA were emotional and positive. I left with a strong feeling of confidence that the Hongwanji will continue to thrive, despite its challenges, because of the people.

Wahiawa is the center for so much development investment. We’ll need everyone’s thoughts and ideas on how we can participate. Our Wahiawa community was also the recipient of new Sakura trees planted at Iliahi Park. Jack and Kazue Tsujihara were honored at the planting ceremony.

We are so grateful for your support and service as we continue to maintain and sustain this important community asset in Wahiawa.



In gassho (gratitude),



Rodney S. Moriyama, President



2024 WHM Board of Trustees

President Rod Moriyama

Rev. Kojun Hashimoto

Vice Presidents (in alphabetical order): Karen Pang, Dale Shimaura, Carolyn Uchiyama

Treasurer Gaylen Yonamine

Assistant Treasurer Vivian Murayama

Secretary Amy Kanemaru

Past President Glenn Hamamura

Trustees in alphabetical order): Charlene Acohido, Norman Fujioka, Jan Fukada, Brian Fukuhara, Lillian Lee, Mavis Nakabayashi, Joy Okimoto, Denise Okouchi, Marcus Oshiro, Venus Oshiro

WHM New Year's Party Sunday February 25th

It was wonderful to see everyone who came out for our New Year's party! We enjoyed a delicious lunch, yummy desserts, fun games and fantastic entertainment, tap dancing by Skylar Oshiro and Mattingly Miyahira, odori by Carol Kanayama, Karen Yamaoka, Charlene Acohido & Karen Pang and dancing led by our own WHM Bon Dance Team.

Thank you to Jan Fukada, Mary Kawane, Vivian Murayama, Joy Okimoto, and Karen Pang who donated desserts!



happy new year



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Triple Celebration
September 7 – 8, 2024



Ala Moana Hotel
 Sharing the Joy of Nembutsu Together: Our Living Heart of Gratitude

Triple Celebration Registration:

Registration cost includes:

- One breakfast
- One lunch banquet
- Services
- Workshops
- Panel discussion

Early Registration: \$250 by March 31, 2024

Late Registration: \$300 by July 31, 2024

Youth Registration: \$150 by July 31, 2024 (25 years old or younger)

We will provide a \$200 subsidy per person for neighbor island participants.



Online Registration & Payment:

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/triple-celebration/>

Room Reservations at Ala Moana Hotel:

Please reserve your room at Ala Moana Hotel by August 6, 2024. After that date, we will release rooms in order to avoid paying a penalty.

- Kona Tower \$194.00 plus tax
- Waikiki Tower \$224.00 plus tax
- No resort fees



If you would like to reserve the hotel online, the link is:
<https://book.passkey.com/e/50708991>

If you wish to reserve by phone, please use one of these numbers:
 Be sure to mention that you are with the Honpa Hongwanji Triple Celebration
 Reservations Toll Free: (800) 367-6025
 Reservations Local Phone: (808) 955-4811

Revised 1/31/2024

Schedule (Tentative)

Saturday, September 7, 2024

850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth &

800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching

- 9:00 am – 10:00 am Registration
- 10:00 am – 11:00 am Opening Service (Shinsei Cohonden Saho in commemoration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth & 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching)

- 11:00 am – 11:15 am Break
- 11:15 am – 12:15 pm Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji
- 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Lunch
- 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Workshop I
- 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Break
- 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm Workshop II
- 4:30 pm Hotel Check-in

Saturday evening – Dinner on your own.

Sunday, September 8, 2024

135th Anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

- 7:00 am – 8:15 am Continental Breakfast
- 8:15 am – 8:45 am Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 am – 10:00 am HHMH 135th Anniversary Commemorative Service
- 10:00 am – 10:15 am Break
- 10:15 am – 11:30 am Panel Discussion "Sharing of the Joy of Nembutsu Together"
- 11:30 am – 12:00 pm Closing

Revised 1/31/2024



MAHALO FOR SUPPORTING THE HHMH TRIPLE CELEBRATION!



2023 marked the 850th anniversary of the birth of Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, and 2024 marks the 800th anniversary of the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu teaching as well as the 135th anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

We will celebrate these auspicious events at a Triple Celebration which will be held on September 7-8, 2024, at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu. A wonderful event is being planned which honors the rich heritage of Hawaii Kyodan, the many contributions our temples have made in communities across Hawaii and celebrates the joy of the Nembutsu. We invite you to be a part of this historic celebration.

Please consider supporting the Triple Celebration as a sponsor. Your financial support will help underwrite our speakers, workshops, special guests, and activities, ensuring a memorable and meaningful celebration for all to enjoy. The event registration fee includes the cost of food and only a portion of our total expenses. Your sponsorship will help support an exciting lineup of engaging workshops, an elegant lunch banquet, a special musical group from Japan, and a weekend of fun-filled activities for the whole family. We humbly ask for your support.

Please consider a gift at the following levels:

- Gold \$2,500+
- Silver \$1,000-\$2,499
- Bronze \$500-\$999
- Gratitude \$1-\$499

All donors will be recognized in the souvenir e-booklet and listed on screen during the event. Gold level sponsors may submit a company logo in recognition of their contribution. Fill out the attached form to send with your donation and mail to:

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
 1727 Pali Highway
 Honolulu, HI 96813
 Attn: Triple Celebration Sponsor

All donations must be received by **July 22, 2024**, to be included. Please contact Rev. Blayne Higa at 808-323-2993 or bhiga@honpahi.org for questions or more information.

YES! I want to support the
HHMH Triple Celebration

Enclosed is my gift of:

\$ _____

Name for Donor List:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____@_____

Check payable to: *Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii*

Credit Card No. _____

Exp Date: _____ CVV No. _____

Signature _____

Come experience a Sound Bath

March 19th 10:00am

Reasons why people are craving for a Sound Bath

Relieve Stress

Take a break from your busy day and let the soothing sounds wash over you, melting away stress and tension. Sound baths have been shown to stimulate the parasympathetic nervous system, promoting relaxation and reducing stress hormones.

Improve Sleep

Sound baths can influence brainwave patterns, helping to transition from the active Beta state to the more relaxed Alpha and Theta states, promoting better sleep and overall well-being.

Emotional Wellness:

Experience a sense of calm and inner peace, which can enhance your emotional well-being. Sound vibrations can positively affect mood and emotional health.

Self-Care

Prioritize your well-being and take a moment for self-care in the midst of your hectic schedule. Your health and wellness are essential!

Advance cash payment of \$25 must be made no later than March 14, to reserve your spot.

For information, please call or email

Phone: 808-291-3102 Email: office@wahiawahongwanji.org

Please bring a yoga mat or something to lay down for your comfort.

Buddhist Study Center

Spring Festival

“Nurturing Mind & Body”

Workshops, vendors, food, and activities.

Welcome to all students, faculty, and community members.

Located across the street from UH Manoa music department,
at the corner of University and Dole.

April 6, 2024 9:30 am - 2:00 pm
1436 University Ave.

Workshops

10:00 am Coping Skills

11:00 am Yoga

12:00 pm Healthy Cooking

1:00 pm Sustainable Living

Free Parking at the

Lutheran Church

Overflow Parking at

UH Manoa Lot 20

\$5/day

... with booths and activities from

Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii

Buddhist Study Center Fellowship Club

Hawaii Federation of Jr. YBAs

Honpa Hongwanji Bookstore

Matcha with a Minister

Minister Lay Assistants

Flower Arrangement

Children's Games



**Food booths and live
entertainment!**



Who: All youth aged 13-23

When: May 25-27, 2024

Where: Buddhist Study Center, Oahu, HI

Why: Connect with new friends &
learn about Jodo Shinshu Buddhism

YESS CAMP 40

Join us for games, bonding, dancing, community
service, and Dharma discussion!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP!!!
DUE DATE: APRIL 15, 2024