



@wailukuhongwanji



DECEMBER 2024 // VOLUME 61

FRIEND OF THE DHARMA

WAILUKU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
A JODO SHINSHU COMMUNITY TEMPLE



IN THIS ISSUE

**General New Year's
Clean Up Service**

**Reminder: 2024
Membership Dues**

WAILUKU HONGWANJI MISSION
1828 Vineyard Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

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TEACHINGS FROM REVEREND

Truth and Trusting

Reverend Shinkai Murakami

Namo Amida Butsu

Wow, time seems to pass so quickly—it's already December! As we reflect on this past year, December offers us a wonderful opportunity to look back on the events we've encountered over the last 11 months and express our appreciation for everything that has happened in our lives. Naturally, we don't always get perfect results in everything we do. We've experienced both happy and sad memories, but we can still express gratitude for the events and lessons we've encountered along the way. In doing so, we can truly feel grateful for the experiences we've had.

For example, in September, we celebrated the Hongwanji Triple Celebration, and in October, we marked the 125th anniversary of our Wailuku Hongwanji Mission on October 20th. In the Homages, it is said, "Hard it is to be born into human life; now we are living it." The Buddha's teachings remind us that "Life is impermanent and constantly changing." This truth is reflected in everything around us—our health, the economy, society—everything is changing, often without notice.

In my own life, I had the opportunity to plant cucumbers and green onions with the support of Michael Nishimoto and Margaret Honda. The cucumbers were planted in mid-April, and by the end of September, we had a small harvest from our tiny garden. We took several pictures before we harvested what little we had. By the end of the month, most of the cucumber plants had withered, and I felt sad. But at the same time, I felt deeply appreciative of the little I was able to harvest, knowing that it was all thanks to the support of Mother Nature. The sun, soil, weather, and water all worked together to help the plants grow. It wasn't just the crops that I appreciated, but the entire experience of gardening itself. It reminded me that life is truly wonderful, even in its small moments.

Sadly, we often overlook this truth because we are focused on "I" instead of "we," and forget the many blessings we receive from the world around us. We take so much for granted, but the reality is that everything around us—nature, people, and even the smallest things—help us live and enjoy our precious lives.

One of the Nembutsu followers, after undergoing major surgery for cancer, realized, "My life is a gift from my parents, and

I must enjoy and take care of it." He shared some notes with us that express his gratitude: "Even though I may have rheumatism in my fingers, I am truly a fortunate person. Why? Because every day I can meet wonderful people and hear the precious words 'Good morning' or 'How are you?' I am so grateful that when I wake up, I can see the world around me and move my fingers and body. I am fortunate because I've never had to ask anyone for help, yet everyone around me is so kind and helps me live this precious life. Arigatai, Arigatai, Okagesamade—I am so grateful because people around me make my life great."

This person's words show the depth of his gratitude, especially after his hospital stay. Though his condition will take time to heal, the great sense of appreciation he feels will help guide him through this difficult time. Gratitude can foster a positive mindset, making life feel more meaningful.

For me, and for all of us, I ask: "Have I expressed my gratitude and appreciation in the past 11 months, even when I faced bitter or sad experiences? Did I complain about something that happened over the past year?" How about you?

I am certain that life is a precious gift from our parents, and that every experience, good or bad, is meant to help us learn the truth about life. Our lives are always interdependent, and we share and support one another in this precious journey. The meals we eat are made possible by the help of others, who sustain us so that we can live. If we are aware of these truths, the great mind of Arigatai, Okagesamade—"I am so grateful"—will naturally arise in our hearts.

This December, let's take a moment to reflect, in silence, on our lives and express our sincere gratitude for all the things and people around us. When we do so, we may notice something stirring in our hearts, and perhaps we will join our hands in Gassho, and the great name of Amida—"Namo Amida Butsu"—will arise from our lips.

We will hold our traditional Year-End Service, including a Candlelight Service, on December 31 at 11:15 p.m. This significant event allows us to express our gratitude and appreciation toward the Buddha. May we all welcome the new year, 2025, with the guidance of Amida Buddha and the Nembutsu.

Okagesamade, Namo Amida Butsu

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join Our Temple Community Today!

Join us at Wailuku Hongwanji and become a cherished member of our temple community! We embrace diversity and welcome individuals and families from all backgrounds with open arms.

Membership: Support our shared spiritual journey by becoming a regular gojikai member through annual dues; your contribution ensures the vitality of our community.

Financial Support: Everyone's circumstances are unique. If dues present a challenge, reach out to discuss a rate that works for you. Your presence matters most, and we're happy to accommodate.

Ohana: Joining our ohana enriches your spiritual journey. Attend services, events, or activities to experience our vibrant community firsthand.

Membership Benefits: Enjoy special rates for temple programs, facility rentals, and a voice in decision-making at meetings. Embrace the warmth of community and join us today!





Thank you for your time, effort, and monetary donations. We are so fortunate to have your support! Through your donations, we continue to service multiple temple programs and work towards securing our future by accomplishing many goals in our 2030 Modernization Strategy. We are extremely grateful for any and all donations towards helping our congregation and advancing our community-minded efforts.



Pamela Miyagawa & Sharon Higa

125TH ANNIVERSARY

Margaret Honda	Reiko Kondo	Yukimi Shoda
Elaine Akashi	Janet Kubota	Dale Sugiki
Charles Araki	Tamara Manley	Yuki Lei Sugimura
Richard & Amy Blue	Wayne & Sandra Matsuda	Michael & Colleen Suyama
Aileen Cockett	Shizue Miyasato	Faith Tengan
Glenn & Sherri deSilva	Machiko Moriyasu	Mary Tamiko Tokumaru
Randy & Patti Endo	Floyd & Sharon Nagoshi	Sarajeon Tokunaga
Lisa Fujiyama	Audrey Nashiwa	Douglas & Harriet Toyama
Claire Fujii Krall	Michael Nishimoto	Wayde & Naoko Toyama
Derrick & Dawn Fujiwara	Nelson Okumura	Jeffrey Tsai & Laurie Fukushima
Earlyn Ginoza	Janet Shimada	Jody Vinoray
Troy Hashimoto	Nancy Shimoda	Yaeko Watanabe Yamamoto
Ronald Hiyakumoto	Rumi Shoda	Alan & Janet Watanabe

EITAIKYO

Ed Fujinaka Lydia Furomoto Dennis Ouchi
Roy & Flora Tamiya - *In memory of Masao & Hisako Tamiya*

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Elaine Akashi Ed Fujinaka
Lydia Furomoto Margaret Honda
Calvin & Terri Kaneda Kea Valley LLC
Janet Kubota Carol Mae Kurisu
Michael & Lori Munekiyo Barbara Rodrigues
Sarajeon Tokunaga Raymond & Betty Toyama
Yukimi Shoda - *In memory of Seimu Shoda & George Shoda*

KYODAN

Lahaina Hongwanji Lloyd & Sharon Sodehani Susan Takeda
Grace & Teri Hamasaki - *In memory of Richard & Doris Nishizawa, and the Izuo Family*
Hideo & Joyce Kawahara - *In memory of Douglas Sodehani*

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Anonymous – Altar flowers, Assorted snacks, Plastic straws,
Brown paper bags, Assorted wish list items, Wooden chopsticks, Newspaper, Yard and campus maintenance, Assorted fruits,
Luncheon plates, Dessert plates

Margaret Honda – Altar flowers, Nokotsudo & Flower cleaning, Office support

Gail Tagashira – 33 & 18 gallon biodegradable trash bags, 12 cup coffee filters, 7 inch biodegradable dessert plates,
biodegradable cups, paper cups & lunch plates, 12 oz. compostable paper bowls

Danny Topp - Audio/Visual support for services, workshops, meetings, and events

Richard & Amy Blue – Yard maintenance

Dharma Strummers – Sunday service music

Jeral & Karlynn Fukuda – Altar flowers

HOSHA Gang – Temple cleaning

Calvin & Teri Kaneda – Altar flowers

Carol Mae Kurisu – Altar flowers

Minae Murakami – Sunday service organist

Celeste Rabang – Office support

Dale Sugiki – Sunday service organist

Ed & Joan Tamori – Altar flowers & yard maintenance

Linda Ann Unemori – Office support

Cubs – Temple yard & Campus cleanup

FT – Campus maintenance & Yard cleaning

Alvin & Martha Fukunaga – Altar flowers

Eric Ikeuchi – Campus maintenance

Janet Kubota – Yard maintenance

Machiko Moriyasu – Altar flowers, Altar flower arrangements, Office support

Mike Nishimoto – Yard maintenance & Bougainvillea hedge trimming

Nancy Shimoda – Nokotsudo & flower cleaning, office support

Toshiko Sugiki – Office support

Mary Tokumaru – Office support

Alma Yoshimori – Bounty paper towels

If you would like to donate to any services or programs, please make checks payable to Wailuku Hongwanji Mission and send to Wailuku Hongwanji Mission at 1828 E Vineyard St. Wailuku, HI 96793. If you would like to volunteer time on any of the upcoming or ongoing projects, please contact the office at (808) 244-0406, Monday-Friday between 8:00am and 12:00pm.

EDUCATION



WAILUKU HONGWANJI PRESCHOOL

144 Kaniela Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 * Phone: (808) 244-9545
 Email: whpreschool808@gmail.com * Hours: Mon-Fri, 7:30am - 4:30pm

Jody Vinoray



Congratulations to Mrs. Amy! We will miss you.

REGISTRATION

Regular Session:
August to May

Summer Session:
June to July

Closed during public school holidays and breaks, except teachers' institute day and teachers' end-of-semester day

Contact Information:

Phone: (808) 244-9545

Email: whpreschool808@gmail.com

Site: <https://www.wailukuhongwanji.org/index.php/preschool>

HIRING: Preschool Teacher

Contact:

Wailuku Hongwanji Preschool at
 (808) 244-9545 or email
whpreschool808@gmail.com.

Working Hours:

Monday - Friday
 7:30am - 4:30pm

Requirements:

- AS Degree in ECE/CDA
- 6-12 months classroom experience working with children ages 3-5 years old
- Creativity & Flexibility
- Infant/Child CPR & First Aid Certification



Trunk or Treat: Such a fun time with our parent volunteers and our craft ladies



EDUCATION

Gakuen Japan Trip 2024!

Eri Nomura

This fall, Gakuen families joined Reverend Shinkai Murakami on an educational journey through Japan, immersing themselves in the country's rich history, culture, and landmarks. The Cabral family shares their experiences from this memorable trip.

The journey began in Fukuoka, Reverend Murakami's hometown, where the group explored the bustling city. The Disaster Prevention Center was a key stop, where both children and adults participated in live simulations of earthquakes, hurricane-force winds, fire evacuations, and even flooding. The evening lights of Fukuoka's modern cityscape were a highlight, offering a sense of both excitement and safety.

From Fukuoka, the group traveled by express train to Huis Ten Bosch, a theme park designed to replicate a Dutch town. Here, families enjoyed the "Sky Castle" obstacle course, a thrilling roller-coaster, and learned about the enduring relationship between Japan and the Netherlands, dating back to the 1600s.

Next, the group journeyed to Hiroshima, where they first visited Miyajima Island and Itsukushima Shrine. The iconic 50-foot O-Torii Gate greeted them as they arrived by ferry, and the sacred deer on the island delighted the children. The group also had the opportunity to explore Hiroshima Castle, which was rebuilt after being destroyed in the atomic bombing. A somber visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum followed, where they reflected on the tragic history of the atomic bomb. The group also visited the Children's Peace Monument, dedicated to Sadako Sasaki and all the young lives lost during the bombing.

The trip then took them to Kyoto, a city known for its rich historical sites and traditional beauty. The group toured Himeji Castle, as well as several famous temples, including Kiyomizu-dera, Fushimi Inari, and Nijo Castle. Each location



Hiroshima Heiwa Koen / Peace Memorial Park overlooking the Genbaku Domu / Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Dome

offered unique insights into Japan's past, with architectural beauty and spiritual significance. One of the most memorable moments was a behind-the-scenes tour at Nishi Hongwanji, the mother temple of the Hongwanji sect, where Reverend Tabitha Kobata shared the sacred temple chambers with the group. The intricate craftsmanship, including hand-dyed images and decorations made from crushed shells, was awe-inspiring.

Throughout the journey, participants were also treated to Japan's incredible cuisine, which offered a truly authentic taste of the country. The trip provided an unparalleled opportunity for families to learn, connect with Japan's cultural heritage, and build lasting memories.

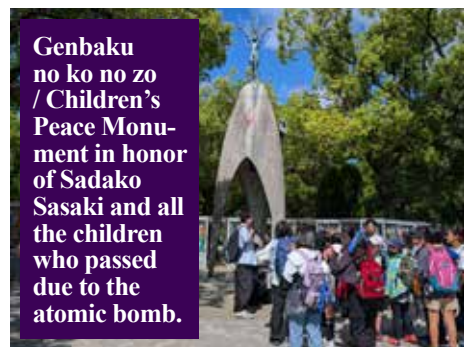
Given the overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants, Gakuen is excited to announce that planning is already underway for another educational trip. Be sure to stay tuned for more details on this unique opportunity to experience the beauty and history of Japan firsthand.



Himeji-jo/Himeji Castle



Shinkansen / bullet train



Genbaku no ko no zo / Children's Peace Monument in honor of Sadako Sasaki and all the children who passed due to the atomic bomb.



Kinkakuji / Golden Pavilion in Kyoto



Genbaku Domu / Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Dome



Nishi-Hongwanji Temple: the Head temple of the Hongwanji

EDUCATION

Dharma School Students Get “HAPPY” at 125th!

Joan Tamori



Students joyously sing “Living Gratefully” and “We are Ohana.”

On October 20, 2024, the Wailuku Hongwanji Dharma School highlighted the entertainment segment of the WHM 125th Anniversary Celebration luncheon program with songs and a dance! With the excellent accompaniment of the Dharma Strummers group of Florence Tanaka, Sandy Hirata, Danny Topp, Barbara Parr, and Lydia Furomoto, the students sang cheerfully to a favorite gatha, “Living Gratefully”, written and composed by Debbie Kubota of Hawaii Betsuin. “We Are Ohana”, written and composed by the late Haunani Bernardino, expressing our dharma school family, was sung next. Then

curtains were closed for a brief interlude to prep students with finishing touches for costumes and to finding places on stage in preparation for their Minion dance. Curtains opened to reveal the stage with large Minion drawings for a backdrop and students dressed as Minions themselves! Students on stage danced to Pharrell Williams’ “Happy”. Older students off stage, were “clappers”, clapping to the beat to accompany the dancing youngers. With months of practice, the students presented a great performance and were well received by the audience!



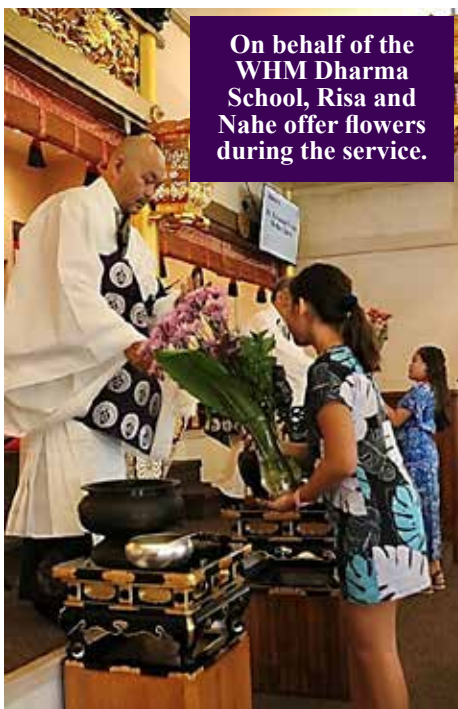
Thank you Dharma Strummers for your wonderful accompaniment for our two songs!



Students on-stage dance to “Happy” while older students off-stage on left and right “clap” to the beat.



DS student Nahe, presents a lei to Keirokei honoree, Franklin Hamasaki, as Tamara Manley looks on.



On behalf of the WHM Dharma School, Risa and Nahe offer flowers during the service.



Minions (DS students) doing the dance motions to “Happy!”



DS student Kamaouha greets and chats with Keirokei honoree, Joyce Kawahara!



Teachers, students, and Dharma Strummers assemble for a group picture!

ADULT ORGANIZATIONS

Buddhist Women's Association News

Gwen Hiraga

BWA members participated in the Senior Fair on November 2nd at the Maui Mall. The Craft and Sewing Group sold its Origami Lei. Sharon Higa assisted the ladies at the Senior Fair.

The Alzheimer's Walk was held on November 16th at the Queen Kaahumanu Center. Thank you to Sharon Higa for her assistance with registering our BWA members who participated in the Walk.

The BWA held its General Membership meeting on November 17, 2024. Following the General Membership meeting, the Craft Fair Committee held its evaluation meeting for the 2024 BWA Autumn Craft and Food Fair. The Committee appreciates the vendors' comments and suggestions.

The Maui United BWA held its Fall Assembly at the Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple on November 23rd.

The BWA will be taking part in the General Clean-up on December 15th. The BWA is responsible for cleaning of the Temple and Nokotsudo. Help is needed and all BWA members are encouraged to participate.

The day after the General Clean-up, on December 16th, a few BWA members helped with Omigaki and cleaned and polished the altar ornaments.

The BWA 120th Anniversary Celebration Committee met on December 1st. The Anniversary Celebration is tentatively scheduled for March 9, 2025. Details for the event will be provided in early 2025.

Happy Birthday to our BWA members born in December: Laurie Fukushima, Janet Kubota, Sandra Matsuda, Lori Munekiyo and Aileen Unemori.

Easy Pickled Cucumbers Courtesy of Elaine Akashi



Cut three (3) Japanese Cucumbers into bite size pieces and place in a gallon size Ziploc bag.

Toss $\frac{3}{4}$ tbsp salt, 1 tbsp Japanese vinegar and a little less than $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar into the bag with cucumbers.

Close bag completely and shake all ingredients until cucumbers are coated completely. Let cucumbers rest then shake many times until sugar and salt are dissolved.

Let sit in refrigerator overnight.



Maui County Senior Fair held on November 2nd.



BWA supporting the Alzheimer's Walk at Queen Ka'ahumanu Shopping Center.

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Cub Scouts' Fall Activities: Community & Fun!

Kawika Beauchamp & Paul Petro

Pack 40 had an exciting fall, full of outdoor fun and community engagement. In September, scouts gathered at Makani Olu Ranch for the Welcome Back Camp, where they learned fire safety and how to start a fire with flint and steel, led by Webelos den leaders Kawika Beauchamp & Paul Petro. After roasting s'mores and sharing campfire jokes, they enjoyed a refreshing swim in the Waikapu River to close out the day.

The Pack also supported the community through a fundraiser at Maui Lani Ace Hardware, where scouts sold popcorn and raised funds for the Aloha Council, thanks to generous local donations.

In October, Pack 40 teamed up with 4-H and the Boy Scouts for a fun-filled Trunk or Treat Extravaganza, where scouts enjoyed trick-or-treating at creatively decorated trunks.

These activities provided scouts with valuable skills, a deeper connection to nature, and an opportunity to contribute to their community.





PACK 40
WAILUKU HONGWANJI

**JOIN
NOW**

CUB SCOUTS

PACK 40



We have a variety of fun-filled activities for scouts to learn skills, earn badges, build camaraderie, and help the community - all while having fun!

OUR ACTIVITIES

- Pinewood Derby
- Holiday Events
- Raingutter Regatta
- Overnight Camping

CONTACT US



808.870.3493



wailukupack40@gmail.com



Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Boy Scouts: Trunk or Treat, First Aid, & Volunteering

Celeste Rabang

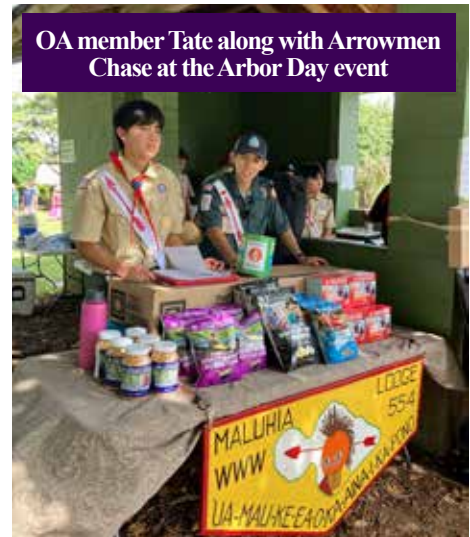
Boy Scouts had a busy month with activities. They held their annual Trunk or Treat for the Cub Scouts and this year paired with memberC of the 4-H club making it the most attended event with over 200 people! They had lots of decorated cars as well as games such as the toilet paper mummy!

The boys worked on their first aid skills by learning how to make bandages out of their neckerchief's and how to make a homemade stretcher.

The newest scouts of the OA (Order of the Arrow) volunteered at the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens Arboretum Day by cooking hotdogs and selling popcorn as well as helping set up and break down the event which gave free trees to everyone that came to the event.



OA members Dominic and Aaron



OA member Tate along with Arrowmen Chase at the Arbor Day event



Toilet paper mummy contest



Kellen and Ethan carrying an injured scout



Scout Caden in his costume



Scout Ayden practicing getting bandaged up



Scouts Ethan, Dominic, Nick, Tate, Aaron and Logan



Lots of fun costumes



Scoutmaster Celeste and son Dominic's plant vs zombies trunk

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Sakura 4-H Clubs - The Clover Report

Sammy Takamura

The Mālama Dolphins are now the Friends Forever club, they were busy in October recycling cans and bottles and had their 3rd club meeting for this year. They also learned new food preparation techniques and practiced knife skills to make easy game day pupus of taco dip and turkey rolls.

October brought a unique opportunity for our 4-Hers this year as we joined the Scouts annual Trunk or Treat Event. Along with the scouts, our members dressed up in Halloween costumes and had goblins of fun. There were aliens, villains and heroes of all ages, a costume contest, games and of course yummy treats! The Sakura Clubs Thank both Scout groups for hosting such a wonderful night for both kids and parents alike!

On November 3rd the Sakura Clubs had their inaugural 4-H Sunday Service with special guest speakers, Nancy Ooki, Maui County 4-H Agent and Karyllyn Fukuda, 4-H alumni and current leader of the Maui Girls 4-H club. Karlynn spoke of her days in 4-H, the hard work put into the annual Fashion Show, Teach-in demonstrations and being selected as one of the delegates to represent Hawaii at the National 4-H Conference in Chicago. We especially liked seeing the pictures of many familiar 4-H alumni.

After refreshments hosted by our clubs we held our officers and members induction ceremony. Junior members pledged to accept their officer responsibilities for their clubs while Cloverbuds and new members pledged to uphold the 4-H values to the best of their ability and "Make the Best Better."

The Sakura Clubs would like to thank the Mission and its members for your past support of the 4-H program. The legacy left behind by previous members and leaders serves as inspiration for what we want to see in our children and clubs. We thank the Mission for its continued example as a leader in our community. We also thank Sensei, Sharon and the Board for supporting this new relationship between the Mission and our clubs. 4-H Sunday was a time to celebrate the values of head, heart, hands, and health that guide our 4-H members and leaders. May we continue to open our minds and hearts to the teachings of compassion, mindfulness, and community.



Guest speak Karlynn Fukuda at 4-H Sunday.



Friends Forever learning about food preparation.



Club Officers, Cloverbuds and new members being inducted to Sakura 4-H



Shining Stars in front of their Trunk or Treat.



Friends Forever learning the value of recycling.



Welcome Friends Forever and Lokahi Girls officers for the 2024-2025 4-H year.

Lokahi Girls running the Froot Slot machine.



The Clover Corner:

Shining Stars: Grades K-1

Leaders: Julie Petro & Jill Maki'i

Aloha Girls: Grades 2-3

Leaders: Farron Cabral & Krystle Beauchamp

Lōkahi Girls: Grades 4-5

Leaders: Sammy Takamura & Farron Cabral

Malama Dolphins: Grade 6

Leaders: Emi Orikasa & Jill Maki'i

What is 4-H? 4-H is a nationally recognized program aimed at providing life skills and community engagement amongst our youth that also promotes leadership skills and provides opportunities for lifelong learning and friendships. Through hands-on learning, our members gain confidence in public speaking and build positive relationships. 4-H stands for: Head, Heart, Hands, and Health and are the cornerstones of the program.

4-H Motto: "To Make the Best Better."

4-H Club Pledge: "I pledge My Head to clearer thinking, My Heart to greater loyalty, My Hands to larger service and My Health to better living for my club, my community, my country, and my world."

Interested in learning more about 4H? email WHMSakura4H@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENT

4-H Invites You to CPR Training on Jan. 26, 2025

Farron Cabral



Aloha Girls 4-H group welcomes you to attend a free CPR training hosted by Shiloh Cabatingan-DeGuzman.

When: Sunday, January 26, 2025

Time: 9:30am - 11:30am

Where: Wailuku Hongwanji Mission Conference Room (Above Social Hall)

What: CPR Training (note this is not a certification course)

Shiloh is a certified American Heart Association trainer for 6 years and has certified many MANY kama'aina in Hawai'i. She conducts CPR training for all industries, including Healthcare.

To sign up for this training or if you have any questions please email Farron Cabral at farron@wailukuhongwanji.org. Spots are limited to 20 participants so please sign up early if you are interested!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help Wanted *Frank Hamasaki*

Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple seeks a volunteer for an hour of dana each week. Responsibilities include taking out 5-10 trash bags (including floral waste) to the bin, ideally on Fridays, though Saturday or Sunday is acceptable. The bags weigh 10-35 lbs, and the waste is collected by the trash company on Mondays.

We are especially looking for a high school student seeking community service for college applications. If interested, please call the office at (808) 244-0406 during business hours: M-F, 8:00am - 12:00pm.

DHARMA TALK

I Volunteer

Danny Topp

125th Anniversary Planning Committee Chairman

Once again, I want to thank everyone who helped plan and execute our 125th Anniversary Celebration. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of the planning committee and the many volunteers who stepped up to help.

We have a wonderful Sangha, and our volunteers do so much more than help out with big events. Many are here regularly, tending to the garden, helping with cleaning, and supporting the day-to-day operations of our temple.

This spirit of volunteerism is part of being in a temple and an organization. While some people describe themselves as spiritual but not religious, the reality is that organized religion has lost some of its appeal over the last two decades. Scandals and some groups' exclusive beliefs can foster an "us versus them" mindset, creating resistance to new ideas and social progress.

These are pitfalls of organized religion, yet I believe our temple and the Hongwanji temples across the state have avoided them. In fact, we exemplify the benefits of organized religion. For example, Wailuku Hongwanji Mission fosters a strong sense of community, offering people a supportive network during difficult times. This sense of belonging is emotionally and mentally uplifting, creating lasting bonds through shared experiences, values, and traditions.

Our Dharma also provides a moral compass, guiding our decisions through shared ethical and spiritual values. For those who are "lone spiritual beings," there may be knowledge about the Dharma, but without others, there's no one to debate finer points of Buddhism or challenge assumptions. When I first joined the temple, George Okamoto would ask me questions about what I knew, believed, or didn't understand about Buddhism. Over time, my beliefs have strengthened, and I have given much thought to what Buddhism means to me and how I want to live my life.

There are likely many other benefits to belonging to an organized religion, but I'll focus on one more today. Our temple actively engages in charity and community service—whether it's providing food to the homeless, offering daycare, teaching Japanese language classes, supporting causes like Peace Day, or celebrating cultural events like Maui Matsuri. These initiatives would not be possible without the volunteers who worked so hard, including those of you who helped make our 125th anniversary celebration a success.

The impact of our volunteers is felt within the temple, the Maui community, and in each individual's life. Volunteering is deeply

rewarding, giving us a sense of purpose and fulfillment. It also offers the chance to learn and develop skills in leadership, communication, organization, and teamwork. These skills not only enrich our personal lives but also, in my case, help with my professional recertification as a Project Management Professional, which I need to renew every three years. The work I did for the 125th Anniversary was essentially managing a project.

Studies have shown that volunteering can reduce stress, combat depression, and enhance mental well-being. In some cases, the physical activity involved can even improve health and increase energy. Volunteering also connects people with shared values, fostering new friendships and broadening social and professional networks. It gives us a better understanding of others' challenges, building empathy and cultural awareness.

Volunteerism fosters unity and cooperation within communities. The first time I helped clean the temple, I felt a sense of pride and ownership, and with it, a deeper connection to our community. Volunteers act as role models, especially for young people, inspiring others to engage in service and positive social behavior.

As our temple considers new uses for the old YBA building, we envision a space that will benefit the entire community—not just our temple. This theme of community aligns with our volunteer efforts, which help boost morale and pride, fostering a stronger sense of identity and belonging.

Volunteerism can be transformative for both individuals and society. By promoting compassion, resilience, and a shared purpose, it strengthens communities and our larger social structure, helping build a more connected, supportive, and sustainable world.

Of course, those who identify as spiritual but not religious are free to volunteer in their communities, and I'm sure many do. But being part of a group amplifies the impact of individual efforts—just like a workout buddy, having partners in any endeavor helps keep us on track, pushing us to do more and better things together.

The intelligent way to be selfish is to work for the welfare of others.

-The Dalai Lama



DHARMA TALK

Celebrating 125 Years of Faith & Service

Danny Topp
125th Anniversary Planning Committee Chairman

On October 20th, our Wailuku Hongwanji Mission Buddhist Temple joyfully marked its 125th anniversary—a remarkable milestone that highlights over a century of faith, service, and community. The celebration brought together a tapestry of voices and hearts, reaffirming the temple's enduring legacy as a pillar of spiritual guidance and fellowship on Maui.

The event was graced by the presence of Bishop Umitani who assisted our own Rev. Shinkai Murakami along with clergy from our sister temples, Rev. Kerry Kiyohara from Makawao and Rev. Ai Hironaka from Kahului, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose. The service and follow-on lunch were well attended with well over 100 people attending to include members from Hongwanji temples in Kahului, Makawao, Lahaina and members of our affiliate organizations adding to the sense of community.

We were also honored to welcome distinguished speakers from both state and county levels. This included Mrs. Marina Martin of the Mayor's office, Councilwoman Yuki Lei Sugimura. They expressed heartfelt congratulations, emphasizing the temple's integral role in shaping Maui's history and culture. Through their words, we were reminded of the ways our temple has influenced countless lives, standing as a testament to the enduring power of Buddhism and a commitment to inspire and unite.

As we celebrated this milestone, we reflected not only on our temple's past but also on its vibrant present and promising future. The voices of those who gathered echoed with gratitude for the generations who came before us and hope for those who will continue this journey in the years ahead. Those who came before us are the Keirokai, or elders of the temple. They were singled out for their contributions to the temple.

Danny Topp, the chairman of the 125th planning committee sends out a special thank-you to everyone who participated, whether in planning, speaking, or simply attending. Your presence added to the spirit of the occasion and made it truly memorable. As we move forward, may this anniversary inspire us to deepen our faith, expand our service, and continue being a source of light and hope for Maui and beyond.

Here's to the next 125 years of faith, fellowship, and flourishing in our community!



RECREATIONAL GROUP

Buddha Reads: Snow Falling on Cedars

Danny Topp



The Buddha Reads Bookclub met via Zoom on October 27th to discuss the book *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson. The group was unanimous in its praise of the novel. Bob mentioned how the book weaves together many elements, such as a murder, a trial, a love affair, and the internment of Japanese residents. The novel is set on the fictional island of San Piedro in the Puget Sound region of Washington, shortly after World War II. The story centers on a murder trial in which Kabuo Miyamoto, a Japanese-American fisherman, is accused of killing Carl Heine, a fellow fisherman of German descent. The novel explores themes of love, prejudice, and justice in the small, racially divided community, especially in light of the lingering impact of the war and the internment of Japanese Americans.

Joan liked the characters in the book, especially the defense attorney, Nels Gudmundsson, and the reporter for the local paper, Ishmael Chambers. Danny remarked that, of all the books the book club had read about Japanese internment, *Snow Falling on Cedars* did the best job of showing the conditions in the camps.

Sandy followed up the discussion with some historical background. The

internment portion of the story is based on events that took place on Bainbridge Island, Washington. The Japanese residents were "evacuated" by ferry to the horse stables in Puyallup, and many were later sent to Manzanar, California. This event also had an impact on many farmers in the Kent Valley, whose fruit and vegetable farms were left in disarray. When they returned, it was difficult to rebuild their livelihoods. Even those who had promised to help sometimes faced hostility and were unable to properly care for the land.

The members of the club voted for the next set of books, and the results of the voting are as follows, showing the seven books we will read next, in order:

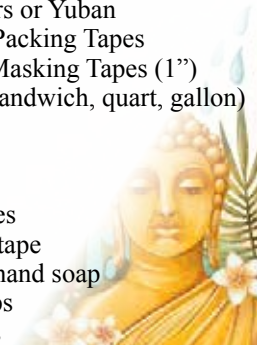
- *Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage* by Alfred Lansing
- *Secret Harvests: A Hidden Story of Separation and the Resilience of a Family Farm* by David Mas Masumoto
- *The Women* by Kristin Hannah
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
- *Redshirts* by John Scalzi
- *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane
- *The Tattooist of Auschwitz: A Novel* by Heather Morris

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Temple Wish List

We kindly request your support in contributing to our temple's wish list, which includes essential items to enhance our space and activities. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

- Aluminum Foil
- 12 Cups and larger coffee filters
- Forever postage stamps
- 33 Gal. Trash Bags (No Flex Tech)
- 18 Gal. Kitchen Trash bag w/ draw string (No Flex Tech)
- Paper Towels
- Hashi (chop sticks)
- 7" Dessert Plates
- 12oz Bowls
- Coffee: Folgers or Yuban
- Clear Carton Packing Tapes
- General Use Masking Tapes (1")
- Ziploc bags (sandwich, quart, gallon)
- Duct Tape
- Napkins
- 15# Bag rice
- 9" Lunch plates
- Blue Painters tape
- Antibacterial hand soap
- 9 oz. Cold cups
- 9 oz. Hot cups



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2024-2025 Social Concerns Fund Drive

Michael Munekiyo

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is again reaching out to its members asking for support of the Hawaii Kyodan's annual Social Concerns Fund Drive. Monies raised will support worthy organizations and programs, and will provide compassionate aid during times of disasters affecting our local, national and world communities.

The Social Concerns Committee has supported critical needs, including the distribution of approximately \$300,000 to members of Lahaina Hongwanji and the Maui community in the aftermath of the devastating wildfires of August 2023. Funds have also been provided for improving mental health care, building community resiliency, and humanitarian aid in Gaza, as well as relief efforts in Japan in the aftermath of the Noto Peninsula Earthquake.

The Committee continues to award Golden Chain Grants to help nurture Sangha-based compassionate action and launched the Dana Matching Grant Program to multiply the impact of charitable giving by organizations in the Hawaii Kyodan Ohana.

The fund drive will begin November 1, 2024, and run through August 31, 2025. Envelopes for donations will be distributed via our monthly newsletter, or can be picked up at the Temple office.

Lahaina Buddhist Temples' Disaster Relief

For anyone wishing to make a dana contribution to support the three historic Buddhist temples in Lahaina that were destroyed by the recent Maui wildfires: Lahaina Shingon Mission (established 1902), Lahaina Hongwanji Mission (established 1904), and Lahaina Jodo Mission (established 1912), please see the donation instruction below, or visit the HAIB Maui support webpage at <https://www.hawaiibuddhists.org/news/support-maui>. Donations will support the Buddhist temples, their resident ministers and families, and temple members.

Lahaina Shingon Mission Hokoji

- Checks to "Koyasan Shingon Mission of Hawaii" memo "Lahaina relief"
- Send to: Koyasan Shingon Mission of Hawaii, 457 Manono Street Hilo, HI 96720
- For further information please contact by email hikoybof@gmail.com

Lahaina Jodo Mission

- GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/df1b0cf2>
- Checks to "Jodo Mission" with memo "Maui fire relief fund"
- Send to: Jodo Mission of Hawaii, 1429 Makiki Street, Honolulu, HI 96814

Lahaina Hongwanji Mission

- GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/ff77a520>
- Checks to "HHMH" with memo "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief"
- Send to: Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, 1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI 96813
- Online at www.hongwanjihawaii.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

General Clean Up: Sunday, December 15

Your Support Makes a Difference!

Join us on Sunday, December 15, at 7:30 a.m. for our semiannual General Campus Cleanup, a meaningful effort spearheaded by Board Chair Michael Munekiyo. Mr. Munekiyo shares, "We hope to see our members at this project; it's a good time for fellowship and support of our temple." We kindly ask temple members and affiliate organizations to lend a hand and enhance the beauty of our temple grounds fostering a sense of togetherness within our Sangha.

Please consider bringing tools, rags, newspaper, and any other items that may assist in the cleaning efforts. It is more than just a day of tidying; it is an opportunity to connect with fellow members and strengthen the bonds of our community. Lunch will be served after cleanup.

Mr. Munekiyo has organized specific assignments for affiliate organizations to streamline the process.

ORG.	ASSIGNMENT	LEAD
BWA	Temple & Nokotsudo	Gwen Hiraga
Boy Scout	Classrooms	Celeste Rabang
Cub Scouts	Social Hall floors, ceiling fans, & windows	Kawika Beauchamp & Paul Petro
4-H	Social Hall windows, & remove tapes from under the tables	Samantha Takamura & Krystle Beauchamp
Judo / Kyodan	Kitchen filter vents & woks (done Dec. 14)	Ron Hiyakumoto
Karate & Kendo	Karate / Kendo Hall	Ed Tamanaha & Mike Sone
Dharma School	Lunch	Sandy Hirata & Joan Tamori

Your participation is very crucial, and we appreciate the collective effort that makes our temple a welcoming place for all to enjoy. Thank you for considering this call for help. We look forward to your support on Sunday, December 15 as we come together for a day of community care and camaraderie.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome 2025 at Wailuku Hongwanji's New Year's Service

Michael Munekiyo

The Sangha and friends of Wailuku Hongwanji are invited to our annual New Year's Eve Service which will be held on Tuesday, December 31st at 11:15 p.m. Reverend Murakami will deliver his New Year's reflections at the service, which will be followed by the traditional lighting of firecrackers at 12:00 midnight. Fellowship time in the Social Hall will follow with light refreshments. Join us as we welcome the New Year of 2025 with joy and gratitude.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Officers & Directors for 2025-2026 Term Elected

Michael Munekiyo

Wailuku Hongwanji is pleased to announce its Board of Directors for the next two-year term (2025 through 2026). The following will be formally installed at the Wailuku Hongwanji Annual Meeting (Sokai) on January 18th at 5:30 p.m.

OFFICERS

Chair: Michael Munekiyo

Vice Chair: Gary Murai

Director of Properties: Ronald Fukumoto

Director of Records: Faith Tengan

Director of Religious Affairs: Tamara Manley

DIRECTORS

Gwen Hiraga

Eric Ikeuchi

Robyn Garner

Frank Hamasaki

Gregg Okamoto

Danny Topp

Joan Tamori

Laurie Fukushima

Susan Gushiken

Aldon Mochida

Shelley Quipotla

Luly Unemori

PRE-SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE (Non-Voting)

Jody Vinoray

We thank the officers and directors for dedicating their time and energy for the betterment of Wailuku Hongwanji.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

General Membership Mtng. Saturday, January 18, 2025

President Michael Munekiyo invites member of Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple to the Annual Sokai (General Membership Meeting) and Shinnenkai (New Year's Party), which will be held at the temple on Saturday, January 18, beginning at 5:30 p.m. At the Sokai, the Finance Committee will present the 2025 Kyodan Budget. In addition, the Tadaichi Fukunaga Dana Award will be presented.

After the meeting, members will adjourn to the Social Hall for the New Year's party. A donation of \$5 for each participating family (two or more individuals) and \$3 for each single participating member will be collected. The donation will help the committee get an accurate dinner count.

Please call the office at 808-244-0406 if you plan to attend. The deadline for your reservation is Sunday, January 5, 2025.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 WHM Calendar Available December 15

Make your way to the temple office during business hours and claim your copy of the 2025 Wailuku Hongwanji calendar. It is a must-have for the upcoming year!

Please note: Because of the inflated cost of mailing the calendar, you are asked to pick up your calendar in person; you get a chance to enjoy its unique features and take a moment to connect with your temple community.

Do not miss out come to Sunday Service to secure your 2025 calendar. Let us kick off the new year together!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder: 2024 Membership Dues

As we approach the year-end, our Finance Committee extends a friendly reminder to settle (finalize) your 2024 gojikai (membership dues). Your contribution not only reaffirms your commitment to Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple but also supports our community service initiatives.

Considering the upcoming tax season, we encourage you to chat with your accountant about exploring early payment options for your 2024 dues. Acting before the year concludes would be fantastic, and your prompt response is deeply appreciated. Mahalo!

Now, you might be wondering. "What is Gojikai?" It is your annual/quarterly/monthly financial contribution that fuels the heart of our temple's programs. While suggested amounts range from \$12 to \$30 monthly, remember, membership is not defined by the pledge sum- any amount that suits your capacity is welcomed and valued.

The funds from Gojikai are vital for our temple, covering operational cost, utilities, and much more. Being a member brings you a host of benefits, including voting rights, eligibility for the Board of Directors, event invitations, preschool priority, newsletter access, facility use, and participation in our affiliate organizations.

If you are considering joining or renewing your membership, swing by the office, grab a membership application, and become an integral part of our vibrant community today. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple!

Our Deepest Sympathies

Isamu Iwaishi (KO- SHO – Light of Happiness), age 95, of Wailuku, passed away on October 30, 2024.

Namo Amida Butsu

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Ofuse: Thank You for Your Compassion

Wally Heirakuji - *In memory of Phyllis Heirakuji*

Jay & Sonya Kurisu - *In memory of Phyllis Heirakuji*

Nokotsudo: Thank You

Hideo & Joyce Kawahara

Calvin & Kayoko Endo - *In memory of Eugene Endo*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 Temple Coin Design Contest *Danny Topp*

The WHM Temple Coin Committee is working on a new coin for 2025. The theme is INTERDEPENDENCE. The committee has decided to go to our Sangha for a design that shows interdependence. If you would like to submit a design, please send it to Danny Topp at Danny.j.topp@gmail.com or hand it to him in person. The original design can be a drawing or photograph and should illustrate in some way the theme. Entries are due by December 8 and the Coin Committee will judge which design will go on the coin. The winning designer will receive \$100. There will be a prize of \$50 for the second place design.



MEMORIAL SERVICES

December Hoji Memorial Services**3rd YEAR MEMORIAL - 2022****DAY NAME**

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 09 | Mark Alan Harbison (CHI KAI) |
| 14 | Aileen Yuriko Higa (JO KUN) |
| 28 | Alice Satoye Sakumoto (DA CHI) |

7th YEAR MEMORIAL - 2018**DAY NAME**

- | | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 30 | Yoshiko Ushiro (MON SHI) |
|----|--------------------------|

13th YEAR MEMORIAL - 2012**DAY NAME**

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 07 | Daisy Matsuura (SHO DO) |
| 17 | Colin Katsuji Murai (SHO GAN) |
| 20 | William Tets Yamaguchi (JO EN) |
| 27 | Larry Lee Baker (JI SHO) |

17th YEAR MEMORIAL - 2008**DAY NAME**

- | | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 01 | Edith Nakamura (SEI NEN) |
| 23 | Lily Hisae Tam (SAI ZEN) |
| 24 | Itsuo Hashiro (SE YU) |
| 25 | Julie Yuriko Sugahara (JO ETSU) |

50th YEAR MEMORIAL - 1975**DAY NAME**

- | | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 20 | Matsuyo Tengan
(CHISHO SHINNYO) |
| 31 | Sakuzo Fukuda
(JIKYU SHINSHI) |

To schedule your family member's memorial service, please contact the main office at (808) 244-0406, Monday-Friday between 8:00am and 12:00pm.

Beyond Hawaii

What Buddhism Can Teach In This Moment Of Deep Divisions

No person is 'evil,' only 'mistaken.'

 By Jeremy David Engels / November 13, 2024
 ☉ Reading time: 6 minutes.


Democracy depends upon using words wisely. With the right words, citizens can live and work together, even in disagreement – and resolve conflicts peacefully.

Today, politicians routinely describe their opponents as “enemies,” disparaging them as “evil,” “monsters,” “demonic” and “garbage.” By creating the impression that people “on the other side” are irredeemable monsters, such talk undercuts the potential for civic cooperation — for what’s the point of trying to understand, and to work with, someone who is “evil”?

More fundamentally, this “us vs. them” rhetoric of “enemysip” — as I call it — undermines the chances for peaceful coexistence between people who see the world differently.

I am a professor of rhetoric who studies the power of words to build — and destroy — the world we share. I am also a longtime scholar, teacher and practitioner of mindfulness. My research draws on the wisdom of mindfulness and other spiritual practices to reimagine how we teach the basic habits of democratic citizenship.

A lesson from Buddhism seems particularly apt in this moment of enemysip: Treat the people you disagree with as mistaken rather than evil.

Everyone Has A ‘Buddha Nature’

There is a profound optimism at the heart of most Buddhist traditions, rooted in the foundational belief that everyone is blessed with the capacity to practice mindfulness.

Mindfulness is one of the eight steps along the noble path the Buddha described to reach enlightenment. To practice mindfulness is to shift from a reactive, to a more deliberate and considered, way of living life.

Practicing mindfulness, it is possible for a person to observe themselves having an experience — a craving, a happy thought, a doubt, a scary emotion — and not to im-

mediately react to that experience. Nor is it necessary to layer story after story on top of the emotion in a way that amplifies the craving, the joy, the doubt or the fright until they are overwhelmed by it.

Watching thoughts and emotions come and go without immediately reacting to them, it becomes possible to make choices about how we want to respond — and to decide more deliberately how we want to live our lives.

Mindfulness is the way to recover our inner freedom as human beings.

The Vietnamese Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh said that everyone has a “Buddha nature.” Everyone is capable of becoming a Buddha by mindfully paying attention to their habitual reactions to experiences, and choosing to cultivate habits of compassion, understanding and peacefulness — just as the Buddha did.

The Story Of Angulimala

To illustrate this point, Nhat Hanh told the story of Angulimala, a notorious murderer who lived during the Buddha’s time.

A painting showing a monk in saffron robes standing peacefully while a man holding a knife lunges toward him.

“The Defeat of Angulimala” painting at the Thai Buddhist temple in Wat Olak Madu, Malaysia. (Anandajoti Bhikkhu/Flickr, CC BY/Via The Conversation)

Upon entering the town of Shravasti one morning, the Buddha finds the streets empty, the doors locked and the windows closed. Angulimala is in town! Though the residents beg him to hide, without fear the Buddha continues his walk.

Angulimala spots him and shouts for him to stop, but the Buddha does not stop. “I told you to stop, monk. Why don’t you stop?” Angulimala demands, to which the Buddha responds, “I stopped a long time ago. It is you who have not stopped.”

This puzzles Angulimala. He asks for an explanation. The Buddha replies, “Angulimala, I stopped committing acts that cause suffering to other living beings a long time ago. I have learned to protect life, the lives of all beings, not just humans. Angulimala, all living beings want to live. All fear death. We must nurture a heart of compassion and protect the lives of all beings.”

Angulimala is struck by how the Buddha speaks to him: not as a monster, but with patience and a genuine desire to understand. The Buddha insists that Angulimala, too, can change, if he will only commit to developing his capacity for mindfulness —

and he offers Angulimala a model for how, and why, to change.

The two men continue their dialogue, and soon Angulimala reveals his deepest fear. He wants to change his ways because he is deeply unhappy. However, he is afraid that society will never forgive him for what he has done, and this fear prevents him from stopping long enough to try to reform.

So the Buddha promises that his community will protect him if he commits to living mindfully, without violence, in harmony with others — and if he agrees to make amends with the families and communities he wronged through compassionate acts. Angulimala does. Eventually he gets a new name: Ahimsaka, the “Nonviolent One.”

This parable reflects a worldview shared by many Buddhist traditions: No person is truly “evil,” in the sense of being an irredeemable monster, because everyone can learn to practice mindfulness.

At times humans commit acts worthy of being deemed “evil.” This is not because they are demons; it is because they are acting out of greed and ignorance and giving into fear. Greed can be overcome; ignorance can be enlightened; fear can be tamed. There is always a path out of darkness.

Mistaken, Not Evil

Consider the consequences of calling fellow citizens “evil,” “monsters” or “demons”: If the person you disagree with is “evil,” it would appear to make no sense to talk to them, and there seems to be no need to understand them.

Some may think that evil people can only be defeated, through violence if necessary. To call someone evil damages the civic fabric, for it undermines cooperation and promotes distrust between people who must learn to live, work and thrive together.

In June 2024, I participated in a two-week retreat on “Engaged Buddhism” at Nhat Hanh’s Plum Village monastery in France. There I heard a very different vocabulary — people on the other side of a disagreement were not “evil,” they were “mistaken,” “ill-informed,” “heedless,” “unskilled,” “unaware” or “unmindful.”

Making this small rhetorical change is not easy, especially in times of fear and uncertainty.

However, it makes a big practical difference. If someone is mistaken, it makes sense to talk with them, to attempt to understand them, and then, if the situation is right, to try to persuade them to see things differently.

REFERENCES

Organization & Project Sign-Up Info

Interested in joining an affiliate organization, club, association, or looking to volunteer or donate to a project? Below is a list of sponsored organizations and ongoing or upcoming projects at Wailuku Hongwanji and their contact information. We look forward to seeing you and your family, and thank you in advance, for any monetary donations you make to support our efforts!

Altar Flower Donations	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email whm@wailukuhongwanji.org
Buddhist Womans Association (BWA)	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email whm@wailukuhongwanji.org
Boy Scouts	Call (808) 250-1891 or email msdel17@hotmail.com
Buddha Reads Book Club	Call the main office at (719) 200-7300 or email Buddha.reads@gmail.com
Choir	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email whm@wailukuhongwanji.org
Cub Scouts	Call (808) 280-1299 or cubpack40@gmail.com
Dharma School	Call the main office at (719) 200-7300 or email whm@wailukuhongwanji.org
Dharma Strummers	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email Wailuku.hongwanji.mission@gmail.com
4-H	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email WHMSakura4H@gmail.com
Gakuen (Japanese Language School)	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email whm@wailukuhongwanji.org
Hosha Day Clean-up (First Thursday of Month)	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email whm@wailukuhongwanji.org
Junior Young Buddhist Association (Jr. YBA)	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email whm@wailukuhongwanji.org
Judo Club	Call (808) 244-9094 or email rhiyakumoto@hawaii.rr.com
Karate	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email whm@wailukuhongwanji.org
Kendo	Call (808) 244-2650 or email michael.sone@gmail.com
Office Support	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email whm@wailukuhongwanji.org
Preschool	Call the Preschool at (808) 244-9545 or email whpreschool808@gmail.com
Facility Rentals	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email whm@wailukuhongwanji.org
Sunday Morning Announcements	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email Wailuku.hongwanji.mission@gmail.com
Volunteer Opportunities	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email whm@wailukuhongwanji.org
Website & Facebook	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email whm@wailukuhongwanji.org
Yard & Facility Maintenance	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email whm@wailukuhongwanji.org

FRIEND OF THE DHARMA

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The Friend of the Dharma is published monthly. The opinions written by individual contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.

2025 HAWAII KYODAN MASTER CALENDAR

January 1 (Wed)	New Year's Day (HQ closed for holiday)
January 16 (Thu)	Shinran Shonin's Memorial Day (Hoonko/HQ closed for holiday)
January 20 (Mon)	M. L. King Jr. Day (HQ closed for holiday)
February 6 (Thu)	Board of Directors Meeting & State Ministers Association Meeting
February 7-8 (Fri-Sat)	113 th HHMH Legislative Assembly
February 8 (Sat)	113 th HHMH Legislative Assembly Aloha Luncheon & Living Treasures of Hawaii Recognition
February 9 (Sun)	BWA (Fujinkai) Dana Day
February 15 (Sat)	Nirvana Day
February 17 (Mon)	Presidents' Day (HQ closed for holiday)
March 2 (Sun)	Hongwanji Day
March 6-7 (Thu-Fri)	Ryukoku University-BSC Spring Seminar
March 15 (Sat)	Buddhist Study Center Spring Festival
March 17-23	Spring Higan
March 26 (Wed)	Kuhio Day
April 8 (Tue)	Buddha Day (HQ closed for holiday)
April 18-20 (Fri-Sun)	YESS Camp 41 (Camp Erdman)
April 25 (Fri)	BWA (Fujinkai) Eshinni Day/Peace Day
May 11 (Sun)	Mother's Day
May 16 (Fri)	PBA Baccalaureate Ceremony
May 18 (Sun)	PBA Commencement Exercise
May 21 (Wed)	Shinran Shonin's Birthday (Gotan-E)
May 26 (Mon)	Memorial Day (HQ closed for holiday)
May 30 (Fri)	Sanmu Meeting & Sanmu-Kanji Meeting (Online)
May 31 (Sat)	Board of Directors Meeting (Online)
June 3-5 (Tue-Thu)	66 th State Ministers Association Seminar (Online/Oahu)
June 11 (Wed)	King Kamehameha Day
June 15 (Sun)	Father's Day
June 19 (Thu)	Juneteenth Day (HQ closed for holiday)
June 20-22 (Fri-Sun)	68 th State Jr. YBA Convention (Honolulu)
July 4 (Fri)	Independence Day (HQ closed for holiday)
July 1-10 (Tue-Thu)	Young Buddhist International Cultural Study Exchange (Tentative)
August	BSC Summer Session (Date to be announced)
August 15 (Fri)	Statehood Day (HQ closed for holiday)
August 22-23 (Fri-Sat)	World BWA Representative Meeting
August 31 - September 1 (Sun-Mon)	Ministers' Spouses Association Seminar (Hawaii)
September 1 (Mon)	Labor Day (HQ closed for holiday)
September 5 (Fri)	Sanmu Meeting & Sanmu-Kanji Meeting (Online)
September 6 (Sat)	Board of Directors Meeting (Online)
September 12-13 (Fri-Sat)	Hawaii State Lay Association Annual Convention
September 20-26	Autumn Higan
September 20-21 (Sat-Sun)	Choralfest 2025 (Hawaii Betsuin)
September 21 (Sun)	Peace Day Hawaii
September 22 (Mon)	Ring Your Bell for Peace Day
October 25-26 (Sat-Sun)	Minister's Lay Assistant Retreat
November 6-7 (Thu-Fri)	State Ministers Continuing Education Seminar
November 11 (Tue)	Veterans' Day (HQ closed for holiday)
November 12 (Wed)	Appreciation Luncheon for Retired Ministers and Spouses
November 27 (Thu)	Thanksgiving Day (HQ closed for holiday)
November 28 (Fri)	Family Day (HQ closed for holiday)
December 8 (Mon)	Bodhi Day
December 12 (Fri)	Sanmu Meeting & Sanmu-Kanji Meeting (Online)
December 13 (Sat)	Board of Directors Meeting (Online)
December 25 (Thu)	Christmas Day (HQ closed for holiday)
December 31 (Wed)	New Year's Eve

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2024 / January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8am BWA Memorial Service DS Storyboard session; DS Parent session w/ Rev. Murakami	2 5:30pm Dharma Strummers	3	4	5 Bodhi Day & Site Visitation BWA Hosha Day BWA ACCW Delivery 7pm Troop Mtg.	6 9am Sanmu Meeting 1pm Sanmu-Kanji Meeting	7 Social Hall Rental 9am State Hongwanji Board of Directors Meeting
8 8:30am Bodhi Day Service at Kepaniwai Gardens (weather permitting) 10:30am-12:30pm Cubs	9 5:30pm Dharma Strummers	10 6:30pm Cubs	11	12 7pm Troop Mtg.	13	14 Social Hall Rental
15 7:30am General Cleanup (No Service)	16 BWA Omigaki 5:30pm Dharma Strummers	17 6pm Cubs	18 5pm Kyodan Board Meeting via Zoom	19 BWA ACCW Delivery 7pm Troop Mtg.	20	21 Social Hall Rental - Obon Practice
22 8am Sunday Service BWA Meeting Social Hall Rental	23 5:30pm Dharma Strummers	24 Office Open until 12:30pm (No Gakuen)	25 Christmas Day (Office Closed)	26 7pm Troop Mtg.	27	28 Social Hall Rental
Winter Break						
29 8am Family Service	30	31 11:15pm New Year's Eve Service	1 New Year's Day (Office Closed)	2 BWA Hosha Day BWA ACCW Delivery 7pm Troop Mtg.	3	4
Winter Break						
5 8am Sunday Service	6 Teacher Workday (No students) 5:30pm Dharma Strummers	7 Students return from winter break	8 5:30pm Obon Practice	9 7pm Troop Mtg.	10	11
12 9am Ho'onko Service 10:30am Cubs	13 5:30pm Dharma Strummers	14	15 5pm Kyodan Board Meeting via Zoom	16 Shinran Shonin Memorial Day (Office Closed) BWA ACCW Delivery 7pm Troop Mtg.	17	18 5:30pm Wailuku Hongwanji New Year's Sokai (General Membership Mtg) & New Year's Party
19 No Sunday Service	20 Martin Luther King Day (Office Closed)	21 6:30pm Cubs	22	23 7pm Troop Mtg.	24	25
26 8am Family Service DS Intergenerational Compassion activity 9:30p 4-H Meeting (CPR Training)	27 5:30pm Dharma Strummers	28 6pm Cubs	29	30 7pm Troop Mtg.	31	