



@wailukuhongwanji



MARCH 2024 // VOLUME 61

FRIEND OF THE DHARMA



WAILUKU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
A JODO SHINSHU COMMUNITY TEMPLE



IN THIS ISSUE

**Calling All Help
Keirokai Wanted**

**2024 Graduate Banquet
April 16 @ 5pm**

WAILUKU HONGWANJI MISSION
1828 Vineyard Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Permit No. 39
Non-Profit Organization
Wailuku, HI 96793

TEACHINGS FROM THE REVEREND

History of Hongwanji Day

Reverend Shinkai Murakami

Namo Amida Butsu

On May 17, 1868, a pioneering group of Japanese migrants embarked on a challenging journey aboard the *Scioto* from Yokohama to Honolulu, Hawaii. Comprising 149 individuals, including 141 men, six women, and two children, they were known as *gannenmono*, or “first-year people,” arriving during the inaugural year of Japan’s Meiji era. This group faced a lengthy and arduous voyage, during which six births occurred. Upon reaching Hawaii, they assumed roles as laborers on sugar plantations, confronting formidable challenges that included demanding physical labor and pervasive discrimination. This early chapter in Japanese immigration laid the groundwork for subsequent struggles and the eventual establishment of Buddhist services in Hawaii.

In the face of such adversity, the immigrants sought support from the Japanese government, particularly through the consulate in Honolulu. Among their requests was the establishment of their own religious services at the plantations. While some Buddhist and Christian leaders had conducted death rites for the immigrants, it became evident that many longed for Buddhist ministers to guide them through their hardships. Plantation leaders, especially in

the Honolulu and Oahu regions, petitioned the Consulate General of Japan to allow the presence of Buddhist ministers and spiritual services to alleviate the struggles of the immigrant community.

Responding to this appeal, the Government of Japan turned to Hongwanji, specifically Nishi Hongwanji’s Mother Temple, for assistance. Most of the immigrants belonged to the associated Nishi Hongwanji (Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-Ha) sect. After careful deliberation by the Nishi Hongwanji cabinet and Abbot, it was decided to dispatch Reverend Soryu Kagahi to Hawaii to assess the importance of sending a minister to support the immigrants.

On March 1, 1889, Reverend Soryu Kagahi arrived in the Kingdom of Hawaii and conducted the first official Hongwanji service in his modest room at the Kojima Hotel in Honolulu on March 3, 1889. The milestone continued with the inaugural memorial service for Shinran Shonin held on the evening of March 15, 1889, at Emma Street in Honolulu, marking the establishment of the first official Hongwanji building in Hawaii. During these services, the familiar sounds of “Okyo – Shoshin-ge” resonated, evoking deep emotions among the leaders who fondly remembered their homeland in Japan.

Recognizing the crucial need for spiritual support in the daily lives of Hawaiian immigrants, Rev. Kagahi reported to the Mother Temple in Kyoto, Japan, advocating for the continued presence of Hongwanji ministers in Hawaii to offer Amida Buddha’s spiritual guidance.

Over the course of 135 years since the introduction of the Nembutsu in the Kingdom of Hawaii, the Buddhist community has flourished. At its peak, there were more than 35 temples and satellite locations (Fukyo-jo) throughout the state. Presently, despite the closure of plantations and other factors, we maintain 28 temples, a Hongwanji Mission school, a Pacific Buddhist Academy (high school), and a Buddhist Study Center. These institutions stand as beacons, offering a space for all, including the younger generation, to receive Amida Buddha’s infinite wisdom and compassion through the practice of the Nembutsu.

As we celebrate Hongwanji Day, let us collectively express our joy and happiness as a Hongwanji sangha. This occasion serves as a poignant reminder that we are entrusted with the profound guidance of the Nembutsu, a treasure meant to be shared with our Ohana.

Namo Amida Butsu

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join Our Temple Community Today!

A warm and heartfelt invitation awaits you to become a cherished member of our temple community. At Wailuku Hongwanji, we believe in the power of togetherness and welcome individuals and families from all walks of life with open arms.

Becoming a Member: By paying annual dues and becoming regular *gojikai* members, you not only join our temple community but also contribute to the vitality of our shared spiritual journey. These dues support temple services and activities, serving as a meaningful expression of gratitude for those who laid the foundation for our temple’s existence.

Financial Accessibility: We understand that everyone’s circumstances are unique. If the regular dues pose a challenge, we encourage you to reach out to us. Your desire to be a part of our community is what matters most, and we would be delighted to discuss a dues rate that works for you. Your presence is invaluable, and we welcome you to visit us at the temple office.

Ohana, Our Extended Family: Joining our ohana is a simple yet profound step toward enriching your spiritual journey. We are always excited to welcome new members, and you can explore our vibrant community by attending our services, events, or activities.

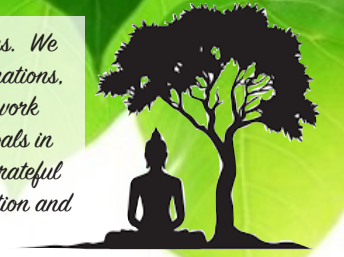
Gojikai Membership Benefits: As *gojikai* members, you become an integral part of our temple family, enjoying a host of benefits:

- Special membership rates for temple programs, including preschool and Japanese language school
- Access to facilities rentals, use of tables and chairs, and kitchen facilities
- A voice and vote at general membership and special meetings
- Eligibility to serve as a member of the Board of Directors

Embrace the warmth of community, the joy of shared experiences, and the spirit of ohana at Wailuku Hongwanji. Join us on this enriching journey today!

THANK YOU

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

125TH ANNIVERSARY

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Irene Arakaki | Roy & Gwen Hiraga | Frances Ota | Darren & Luly Unemori |
| Grant & Joyce Chun | Ann Igarashi | Raymond & Sharon Otsubo | Joy Unemori |
| Steve & Sandra Cross | Ronald & Sylvia Ishikawa | Dennis Ouchi | Linda Ann Unemori |
| Ed Fujinaka | Milton & Lisa Matsuoka | Dale Tagami | Wesley & Marie Wong Jr. |
| Ronald & Kay Fukumoto | Brian Miyamoto | Edward & Joan Tamori | Kenji Yoshizawa |
| Robyn & Brian Garner | Gary Murai | Jeffrey Tsai & Laurie | |
| Stanley Hashimoto | Gordon Muraoka | Fukushima | |

EITAIKYO SERVICE

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Elaine Akashi | Ann Igarashi | Gail Mun | Iris Takitani |
| Guy & Charlotte Arisumi | Sueko Ikeuchi | Gary Murai | Alan & Pamela Tamashiro |
| Eugene & Beryl Bal | Dennis & Grace Ishii | Francis & Katherine Nakamoto | Colin Tanaka |
| Lauren Chun | Wayne & Lena Kaneyama | Anna Nishihara | Michael & Lisa Tateishi |
| Steve & Sandra Cross | Joyce Kang | Kenneth Ogawa | Shelby Thompson |
| Elsa Ecsedy | Ritsuko Lana Kato | Toshiko Oki | Linda Ann Unemori |
| Ethel Fujii | Hideo & Joyce Kawahara | Dennis Ouchi | James & Sharon Uno |
| Lane & June Fujii | June Ko | Alan Satoshige | Lloyd Uradomo |
| Charles & Amy Fukunaga | Jane & Irving Kojia | Jane Shinoda | Dean Wakamatsu |
| Lydia Furomoto | Roy & Karen Mabe | Takeo Shishido | James & Jodi Yamagata |
| Ronald Hamai & Gail Iwamoto-Hamai | Ellen Matsui | Rumi Shoda | Alan Yamaguchi |
| Jane Hashimoto | Colbert Matsumoto | Yukimi Shoda | Jan Yamamoto |
| Valerie Hashimoto | Alan Miyazaki | Reyno Sugahara | Glenn & Minnie Yoshimori |
| Wally Heirakuji | Mona Morinaga | Shigemi Sugiki | |
| Raymond Hirayama | Glenn & Dawn Mukai | Dale Tagami | |

HO'ONKO SERVICE

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Richard & Amy Blue | Brian Hashiro | Shane & Jodi Komine | Richard Ouchi | Linda Ann Unemori |
| Stephen & Farron Cabral | Roy & Gwen Hiraga | Janet Kubota | Nancy Shimoda | Elaine Yokoyama |
| Calvin & Kayoko Endo | Sandra Hirata | Carol Mae Kurisu | Dale Sugiki | |
| Ethel Fujii | Margaret Honda | Machiko Moriyasu | Toshiko Sugiki | |
| Ed Fujinaka | Eric & Kathy Ikeuchi | Gary Murai | Florence Tanaka | |
| Grace & Teri Hamasaki | Debra Inenaga | Dennis Ouchi | Raymond & Betty Toyama | |

KYODAN

- Ronald & Sylvia Ishikawa - *In memory of Kazuji Ishikawa*
 Gary Murai
 Network of Good
 Glenn Okuda
 Robert & Sherri Okuni - *In memory of Yeiko Arakaki*
 Alan Satoshige - *In memory of Tsugio & Lillian Satoshige*
 Florence Tanaka - *In memory of Walter Manta, and Ralph & Hatsumi Tanaka*

NEW YEAR'S ACTIVITY

- Elaine Akashi
 Betsy Cardoza
 George & Alice Fukushima
 Troy Hashimoto
 Wayne & Kay Hedani
 Heidi Hiraoka - *In memory of the Sodetani & Kawahara families*
 Rogers & Karen Ishizu
 Ritsuko Lana Kato
- Jane & Irving Kojia
 Diane Kosaka
 Lester Kunimitsu
 Gail Kushiya
 Tom & Krystene Lam - *In memory of the Sodetani & Kawahara families*
 Kenneth Ogawa
 Helen Ohigashi
 Toshiko Oki

- Toshiko Sugiki
 Colleen Takamura - *In memory of Gilbert Takamura*
 Ileene & Steven Tanabe - *In memory of the Sodetani & Kawahara families*
 Leonard & Patricia Tomita
 Jeffrey Tsai & Laurie Fukushima

SOKAI

- Hideo & Joyce Kawahara

NOKOTSUDO

- Mari Ann Kato
 Hideo & Joyce Kawahara - *In memory of Clara Sodetani*
 Edwin & Thelma Seki - *In memory Hatsuko Seki*
 Linda Shibano
 Patsy Sodetani - *In memory of Herbert Sodetani*
 Bert Tagami
- Dale Tagami - *In memory of Mitsugi & Yoshie Tagami, and Chuhachi & Haru Tagami*
 Sidney Takenishi - *In memory of Shigeo & Yoshiko Ikeda*
 Joseph Yoda

SOCIAL CONCERNS

- Ethel Fujii

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.



MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Anonymous – Altar flowers, Assorted snacks, Craft items, Dessert plates, Plastic straws, Wooden chopsticks, Brown paper packages, Assorted Ziploc bags, Plastic forks, Lunch plates, Bottled water, Assorted teas, Assorted chips, hand sanitizing liquid soap
 Richard & Amy Blue – Yard maintenance
 BWA Ladies – Bougainvillea hedge trim, and Office support
 Cubs – Temple yard, campus cleanup
 Dharma Strummers – Sunday service music
 Jeral & Karlynn Fukuda – Altar flowers
 Alvin & Martha Fukunaga – Altar flowers
 Margaret Honda – Nokotsudo & flower cleaning
 HOSHA Gang – Temple cleaning
 Eric Ikeuchi – Repairs and maintenance
 Calvin & Teri Kaneda – Altar flowers & daikon
 Carol Mae Kurisu – Altar flowers
 Machiko Moriyasu – Altar flower arrangements
 Minae Murakami – Sunday service organist
 Mike Nishimoto – Yard maintenance
 Celeste Rabang – Office support
 Nancy Shimoda – Nokotsudo, flower cleaning
 Dale Sugiki – Sunday service organist
 Toshiko Sugiki – Nokotsudo cleaning, paper plates, bowls, trays, chopsticks, forks, portion cups, scrubbies
 Gail Tagashira – Forever Stamps
 Ed & Joan Tamori – Altar flowers & yard maintenance
 Mary Tokumaru – Office Support
 Leonard & Pat Tomita - Forever stamps, assorted Ziploc bags
 Linda Ann Unemori – Office support

EDUCATION



WAILUKU HONGWANJI PRESCHOOL

Jody Vinoray



Jessica (Zoey's mom) & Fabiola (Alma's mom) shared their careers as paramedics with us.



Ashley (Kayden's mom) visited to share her career as a Nurse with us.



Mirissa McCandless (Daynes grandma) from Rojac Trucking shared her career with us.



First field trip to the Maui County Bldg to see the Lion Dance & celebrate Chinese New Year!

6th Virtual Dharma School Gathering
SHARING JOY TOGETHER: THE GOLDEN CHAIN OF LOVE
 Sunday, March 10, 2024 via Zoom

8:45 am Dharma School Educators Session
 10:00 am Intergenerational Service
 10:40 am Breakout Room Activities
 11:30 Group Sharing Session
 12:00 End

POSTPONED

All are invited to attend this event.

Any questions, please contact Debbie Kubota
 Contact Debbie Kubota
 dekub88@gmail.com

Guest Speaker: D. Trinidad Hunt
 Granddaughter of Rev. Dorothy Hunt,
 author of the Golden Chain of Love

PRESCHOOL IS HIRING!

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

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>

EDUCATION

Dress Up Like Shinran!

Joan Tamori

In honor of our founder, Shinran Shonin, who passed away on January 16, 1262, the dharma school students held a “Dress Up Like Shinran” day following the January 28 Sunday service and refreshments. Heleonahe and Kaden - students, Donna Ikeuchi - church member, and Kawika Beauchamp – parent, volunteered to be “Shinran” models. Four groups of students, parents, and teachers including Rev. Murakami, assembled their supplies of scissors, scotch tape, white and black rolls of paper, and a rope (belt) and proceeded to create Shinran’s robes to dress each of their brave models. With pictures of Shinran in his monk’s robe to study and use as a guide, everyone worked together to cut, shape, and tape together their model’s outfit. Shinran cardboard hats and stiff branches cut to look like canes were passed out to models as well as students who wanted to join in the fun of wearing hats and holding canes. Rev. Murakami joined in the fun by donning a Shinran hat and wearing his minister’s robe.

After everyone finished dressing their “Shinran”, students Kellen, Erik, and Cara, took turns narrating “The Life of Shinran Shonin”. After every part of his life was read, the audience which included members, parents, and grandparents participated in the program by bowing their head and reciting the Nembutsu aloud. They recited “Namo Amida Butsu” together, a total of 14 times! It was indeed a fun and unique way to celebrate Shinran Shonin!



“Shinran” Donna holds still as Emma carefully cuts out her black robe as Risa analyzes the photo and gives instructions.



“Shinran” Kaden stands willingly as Rev. Murakami and Aaron finish dressing him.



Thank you to our excellent narrators, Kellen, Erik, and Cara!



Cara, teacher Shelley, and mom Sherri, join in the fun in dressing “Shinran” Heleonahe!

MODELS, DRESSERS, AND NARRATORS, TEAMWORK IN ACTION!



Remember Shinran Shonin! Models, students, narrators, and Rev. Murakami!



Naomi studies the photo of Shinran and wonders, does “Shinran” Kawika look like the real Shinran??

ADULT ORGANIZATIONS

Buddhist Women’s Association (BWA) News

Gwen Hiraga

At Tante’s Restaurant on February 11th, the BWA came alive with vibrant energy during our General Membership Meeting and Sokai. Members reveled in a delightful lunch, engaged in a lively gift exchange, and warmly welcomed Wendy Choi, our newest member. Applause filled the air for those achieving a remarkable 100% meeting attendance in 2023, with a special tribute to Reverend and Minae Murakami, our dedicated BWA advisors. The excitement doesn’t end there—let’s keep the momentum going!

Scholarship Alert! Attention BWA members with high school seniors graduating in 2024—the BWA Scholarship Committee is accepting applications. Reach out to Kyla Manley or Tamara Manley for all the details and open doors to new opportunities!

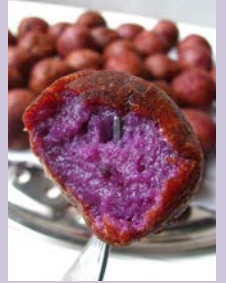
Save the date for the Maui United BWA 2024 Spring Assembly on March 16th at the Makawao Buddhist Temple. From 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., immerse yourself in the Assembly’s camaraderie, connecting with fellow BWA members across Maui County. Transportation? We’ve got you covered with bus services for attendees. Join us for a memorable day of unity and a scrumptious lunch.

And a collective “Happy Birthday” shout-out to our March-born members—Irene Arakaki, Gwen Hiraga, Mari Ann Kato, Bette Nomura, Nancy Shimoda, and June Toma Rose. May your birthdays be as bright and cheerful as the community we share.

Cubed Okinawa Sweet Potato Mochi courtesy of Gail Iwamoto-Hamai

- 2 cups Okinawan Sweet Potato
- 1 box Mochiko
- 1 tsp Baking Soda
- 1 ¼ cup water
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup sugar
- pinch of salt

Boil or steam potatoes, cool, cut into ½-inch cubes. Mix together all other ingredients, add water and stir. Add potatoes and mix well. Drop by spoonful or make patties and fry in hot oil.



YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Sakura 4-H Clubs ~ The Clover Report

Sammy Takamura

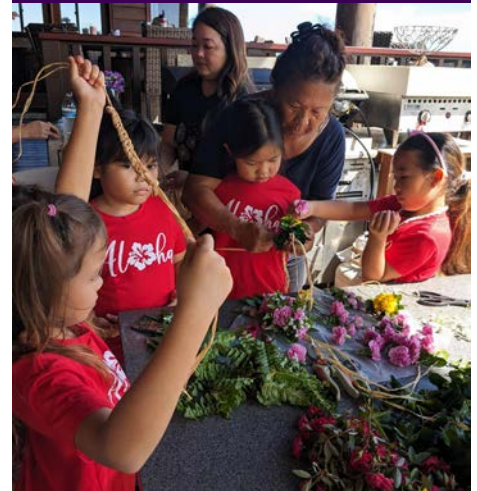
Aloha Girls: In late January, Aloha Girl's 4-H group got to use the "Hands" piece of 4-H. The girls made or helped to make their very own haku leis. The girls had to use their fine motor skills and concentration to braid together the beautiful flowers and foliage. Huge mahalo to Krystle Beauchamp and the Beauchamp 'ohana for hosting our 4-H get together!

Lōkahi Girls: In February the Lōkahi Girls made and delivered over 90 Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches to a Cup of Cold Water. The girls enjoyed working as a team and added a little message. They also met with Marilyn Hirashima who talked to the girls about the origins of their service and why and what they do for the community. The girls look forward to this newfound relationship and how they can continue to help. Thank you to Marilyn and Cup of Cold Water for your time and opportunity for the girls to spread some goodness.

Malama Dolphins: The Malama Dolphins have 6 members who are 5th graders from Pōmaika'i Elementary, Kahului Elementary, and St. Anthony School. Their project theme this year is outdoor adventures, which includes camping, learning about the environment, and participating in various outdoor activities. They kicked off the new year with a fun camping adventure at Waihee Refuge, immersing themselves in the area's history and native plants. They bonded over preparing dinner, enjoyed swimming in the river, and shared ghost stories late into the night. They look forward to their next camping adventure



Above: Aloha Girls showcase their haku leis. Below: Mama Jo Beauchamp teaches the girls how to make their haku leis.



Above: Malama Dolphins camping at Waihee Refuge. Below: Malama Dolphins enjoying their outdoor adventure.



The Clover Corner:

Aloha Girls: Grades 1-2

Leader: Farron Cabral

Lōkahi Girls: Grades 3-4

Leaders: Sammy Takamura & Farron Cabral

Malama Dolphins: Grade 5

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



Above: Marilyn Hirashima speaking to the Girls about those in need. Below: Lokahi Girls making Peanut Butter sandwiches.



YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Embarking on a Scout Adventure!

Celeste Rabang

Scout Sunday, a vibrant celebration of scouting, unfolded on February 4th, with our Troop taking charge of brunch for our church members. The culinary journey included a spread featuring miso pork, mixed vegetables, and hand-rolled sushi cones—a delightful departure from the usual brunch fare.

On a different day, our Boy Scouts embarked on a meaningful visit to "The Wall That Heals" at the War Memorial. Here, they delved into the Vietnam War's intricate details, gaining insights into the workings of the draft system. The experience was hands-on as they did rubbings of the names engraved on the wall, connecting with the poignant stories of those who served. Wartime relics served as silent witnesses, adding a tangible dimension to their understanding of history.

These two distinct events offered our Scouts a rich blend of culinary delights and a poignant historical journey, showcasing the diverse experiences they encounter on their scouting adventures. Scout's honor!

- Top Center: Aaron was the emcee for Scout Sunday.
- Middle Center: Logan making hand-roll sushi.
- Bottom Center: Scouts serving brunch.

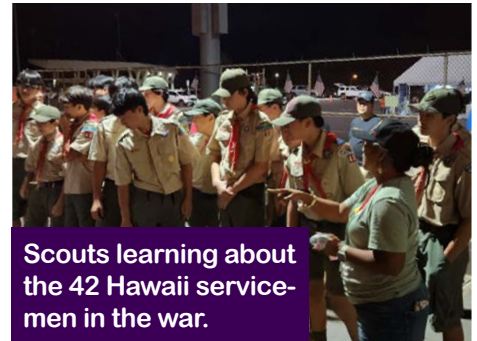
PACK & TROOP CHILD REGISTRATION

Registration Requirements:

- Pack Registration: Boys and Girls ages 6-10
- Troop Registration: Boys and Girls starting at age 11
- Registration fee, Uniform, Handbook: About \$108 upon joining
- Annual dues \$15 (due in January)

Contact Information:

- Pack Registration: (808) 280-1299 or cubpack40@gmail.com
- Troop Registration: (808) 250-1891 or msdel7@hotmail.com



Scouts learning about the 42 Hawaii servicemen in the war.



Dominic "name rubbing" Dan Bullock's name, who was only 15 years old. Dan lied on his application to get into the service.



Matthew standing next to his grandfather's donated boots.

RECREATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Buddha Reads Book Club is Five Years Old!

Danny Topp

The Buddha Reads Book Club embarked on its literary journey in March 2019 with the inaugural gathering. The chosen book was "American Sutra: A Story of Faith and Freedom in the Second World War," a book that unfolded its narrative over six months. Since that time, our reading pace has evolved, and from March 2019 to March 2024, our members have collectively delved into 29 diverse books.

Our selections span a wide array of genres, ranging from classics such as "For Whom the Bell Tolls" to science fiction gems like "Parable of the Sower." We've explored recent bestsellers like "Lessons in Chemistry: A Novel," delved into

historical narratives like "Lost Kingdom: Hawaii's Last Queen, the Sugar Kings, and America's First Imperial Venture," and immersed ourselves in Maui-related tales such as "The Three-Year Swim Club: The Untold Story of Maui's Sugar Ditch Kids and Their Quest for Olympic Glory." Additionally, our literary journey has embraced works with a Buddhist theme, exemplified by "The Dalai Lama: An Extraordinary Life."

Over the past five years, our book club has weathered the challenges of a global pandemic and witnessed the turbulence of the world. Adapting to the circumstances, we transitioned to Zoom meetings during

the pandemic, a change that proved valuable and will persist, considering three of our members reside on the mainland.

As we navigate the literary landscape, the Buddha Reads Book Club remains vibrant and resilient. We've recently selected the next three books to delve into, and a fresh list of candidate books awaits the democratic choice of our members for subsequent readings. If you share a passion for reading and discussing books, we extend a warm invitation to join our community. For more information, reach out to Danny Topp at Buddha.Reads@gmail.com. Happy reading!



On a cozy Sunday, February 4th, a virtual gathering via Zoom transported Sandy, Bob, Joan, Gary, and Danny into the rugged landscapes of A. B. Guthrie, Jr.'s "The Big Sky." This gripping Western novel unfolds the tale of Boone Caudill, a free-spirited adventurer who sets out into the untamed West in 1830. His journey, entwined with the companionship of Jim Deakins and Dick Summers, leads them through the mountainous terrains of present-day Wyoming and Montana, navigating the Missouri River, and living the life of trappers, traders, guides, and explorers.

Opinions on the book were as diverse as the characters themselves. Gary, a discerning Western aficionado, mused that while he'd recommend it to fellow enthusiasts of Westerns and American frontier history, it might not be everyone's cup of tea. Bob found the narrative vibrant, though the accents, like "buffler" for buffalo, added an extra layer of challenge. The ending, he noted, was both predictable and surprising. Sandy drew parallels to the group's previous read, "This Tender Land," highlighting how "The Big Sky" provides a unique perspective on Native Americans pre-dominance upheaval.

The treatment of indigenous tribes in the frontier west, from Flathead to Blackfeet, Crows, Assiniboine, and Sioux, caught Gary's attention for its even-handed portrayal. Boone, the central figure, emerged as an enigmatic, if not entirely likable, character. The tantalizing glimpse into the lives of supporting characters left a hunger for more.

"The Big Sky" kicks off a six-book series chronicling the opening of the Western frontier, with "The Way West" featuring Dick Summers as a guide for an Oregon-bound wagon train. Danny cleverly connected the dots to a past read, "The Indifferent Stars Above," revealing a timeline where the actions in "The Big Sky" seamlessly led to those in the harrowing tale of the Donner Party in 1849.

Eight votes were cast for the next literary adventure, and the three books on the horizon are:

- "Lock In" by John Scalzi
- "The Wager" by David Grann
- "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride

Get ready to delve into "Lock In" as we reconvene on March 3rd, 5:00 pm Hawaii time, to unravel the mysteries of Scalzi's creation via Zoom. Happy reading!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2024 Graduate's Banquet to be Held at Tante's Island Cuisine in Kahului on April 16th, starting at 5pm *Shelley Quipotla*

The Wailuku Hongwanji Mission 2024 Graduate's Banquet will be held at Tante's Island Cuisine, in Kahului on April 16, 2024, beginning at 5pm. The banquet will commence with a brief baccalaureate service conducted by Reverend Shinkai Murakami. The keynote speaker will be Macie Nakahashi, Educator at Lihikai Elementary School.

As of this publication, the following graduating seniors with ties to our church, have been identified and have been extended invitations to the banquet.

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Daniel Arashiro-Garcia | David Arashiro-Garcia | Caese Calaro |
| Royce Guzman | Zachary Kuraoka | Ty Matson |
| Trent Tsukiyama | | |

Mission members are invited to the banquet and are being asked to sponsor a graduate or make a monetary donation to help defray related costs. Seating is limited. Cost to attend is \$38 per person. Anyone wishing to become a sponsor or make a donation is asked to call Sharon Higa at (808) 244-0406.

If you know of other high school seniors with ties to our church, please email Joyce Chun at jchun.maui@gmail.com or Shelley Quipotla at shellquips@gmail.com or call 808-250-0726 and leave a message.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help Wanted!

Frank Hamasaki

Immerse yourself in the serene realm of service at Wailuku Hongwanji Buddhist Temple! Join our vibrant community as a dedicated volunteer, committing just one hour per week to uplift the temple's atmosphere. As our Serenity Steward, you'll ensure cleanliness by gathering and disposing of weekly trash, including floral waste from the temple's Nokotsudo. Every Friday, you'll gracefully escort bagged waste weighing between 10-35 pounds to the trash bin near the social hall, aligning with the pickup schedule of the commercial trash company on Monday. Embrace your role as a Guardian of Harmony by checking and bagging bottles/cans from recycle bins every two to three weeks. Store these eco-treasures in our dedicated storage room, where they can be separated and later taken to the recycling center, contributing to our temple's commitment to environmental



responsibility. Your efforts will make a profound impact on the tranquility of our sacred space. If you're ready to embark on this mindful journey, call our office at (808) 244-0406 during business hours and be a vital part of creating a space of peace and serenity.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calling All 80+ Year Old Members! *Pat Tomita*

Get ready for an unforgettable celebration at the 125th Anniversary luncheon on October 20, 2024! We're thrilled to extend a special invitation to all our incredible Keirokai members. If you or someone you know will be reaching the fabulous age of 80 or older in 2024, we want to hear from you! Join us in making this event truly spectacular by sharing your details with the church office at (808) 244-0406. Let's ensure your name shines bright on our Keirokai list for this momentous occasion!



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.

- 12 Cups and larger coffee filters
- Forever postage stamps
- 33 Gal. Trash Bags
- Paper Towels
- Hashi (chop sticks)
- 7" Dessert Plates
- 12oz Bowls
- Napkins
- Coffee: Folgers or Yuban
- Carton Packing Tapes
- 15# Bag rice
- 9" Lunch plates
- Blue Painters tape
- Antibacterial hand soap
- 9 oz. Cold cups
- 9 oz. Hot cups
- General Use Masking Tapes (1/2", 1")
- Ziploc bags (sandwich, quart, gallon sizes)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Date: WHM “Second Chance” Sale on April 27, 2024 Sandy Hirata

Kindly mark your calendars for Saturday, April 27, 2024, as WHM proudly presents its “Second Chance” sale at the Buddhist Temple. Formerly recognized as the “Yard Sale,” this event aims to extend the life of cherished items through the spirit of giving.

We are reaching out to our community for generous donations. When considering contributions, we encourage you to ponder, “Would you share this with your dearest friend?” Your thoughtful donations will contribute to the success of our event.

Stay tuned for additional details as we approach the date. Let us come together in the spirit of compassion and generosity. More information to follow soon.



MEMORIAL SERVICES
March Hoji Memorial Services



1st YEAR MEMORIAL - 2023

DAY NAME
07 Mitsugu Kawakami (SHO GAN)

3rd YEAR MEMORIAL - 2022

DAY NAME
09 George Takashi Okamoto (SHO RYU IN SHAKU) (TAI SEI)

7th YEAR MEMORIAL - 2018

DAY NAME
14 Harry Nobuyuki Furomoto (JO GYO)
28 Betty Ritsuko Oura (DAI CHI)

13th YEAR MEMORIAL - 2012

DAY NAME
07 Yuichi Harada (YU GAN)
09 Michiko Toyama (CHI JUN)
17 Shinji Suematsu (SHIN DO)
24 Janet Hiroe Okamoto (HO RAKU)

17th YEAR MEMORIAL - 2008

DAY NAME
15 Akie Ogasawara (KO NEN)

33rd YEAR MEMORIAL - 1992

DAY NAME
17 Masaki Nishihara (KOJO)
18 Shizu Shinoda (KOJUN)
20 Sunao Shimada (SHO TOKU)

50th YEAR MEMORIAL - 1975

DAY NAME
08 Riichi Shibano (JISHO) (ZEN SEI IN SHAKU)
15 Mariko Yorimoto (MYO RI)

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.

Our Deepest Sympathies



Ralph Takao Marushige (RYU KYO – Spread the Great Guidance), age 71, of Wailuku, passed away on January 11, 2024.

Namo Amida Butsu

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Ofuse: Thank You for Your Compassion

Carol Mae Kurisu - *In memory of Jane Kurisu*
Jay & Sonya Kurisu - *In memory of Jane Kurisu*
Gloria Nashiwa - *In memory of Kiyoko Komatsu*
Sylvia Sakaki
Katherine Teixeira - *In memory of Takeo Igawa*



Donations in memory of our ancestors and the recent passing of our family and friends may be made payable to Wailuku Hongwanji Mission and sent to Wailuku Hongwanji Mission at 1828 E Vineyard St. Wailuku, HI 96793. Please feel welcome to also note on the check to whose memory you are sending your donation.



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.

TRIPLE CELEBRATION SERVICE

BY REVEREND KAZUNORI TAKAHASHI
SERVICE DIVISION CHAIR



Rev. Kazunori Takahashi
Rimban, Honpa Hongwanji
Hilo Betsuin

"Sensei, the sutra chanting during this morning's service was so beautiful! What kind of chanting was it?"

I had the privilege of traveling to Kyoto in May 2023 to attend the Joint Celebration, the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching, and the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention. The day after arriving in Kyoto, prior to those events, I walked with several people on the early morning streets from my hotel to Honzan and attended the morning service starting at 6 a.m. After the service, some people asked me the question mentioned at the beginning.

It was the *Shoshinge* starting with the familiar words "kimyo muryo junyorai," but it was chanted in a different melody than usual. It was the *Shoshinge* of *Shinsei Gohonden Saho*, or the newly established *gohonden* (lit. 'Major Scripture') ritual, created for the Joint Celebration. In this new ritual, all the verses were selected from Shinran Shonin's main work, *Kyōgyōshinshō*, or The True Teaching, Practice, and Realization of the Pure Land Way.

There are two ways to chant the *Shoshinge* in this ritual. One is newly created, and this version was chanted during the morning service we attended. The other version is chanted with the familiar *Junirai* melody, and in the commemorative service that the Hawaii group attended in Kyoto, this version was chanted beautifully. After we attended the morning service in Honzan, several people expressed to me, "Sensei, let us chant the newly created version of *Shoshinge* in Hawaii," and now, I am pleased to announce that we will chant it together during the HHMH Triple Celebration in September 2024.

During the HHMH Triple Celebration, we will observe two commemorative services. On September 7, 2024, we will observe the service for the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching. This service follows the *Gohonden Saho*. In addition, during the service, traditional Japanese Gagaku music will be performed by the Yamaguchi Gagaku Kai, a guest group of Gagaku performers from Japan. On September 8, 2024, we will observe the Hawaii Kyodan 135th Anniversary Service and the Dharma message will be delivered by Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani. For this ceremony, we are looking for participants to join our Triple Celebration Choir. The selected gathas are "When I Look Up at the Sky" (*Ano Sora Mireba*) and "Moments Like This" (*Sonna Toki Watashi wa Kuchizusamu*).

At the beginning of the *Gohonden Saho*, prior to *Shoshinge*, there is a ritual in which Shinran Shonin's words are recited. In this passage, Shinran Shonin expressed his joy upon encountering the teaching as follows:

Ah, hard to encounter, even in many lifetimes, is the decisive cause of birth, Amida's universal Vow! Hard to realize, even in myriads of kalpas, is pure shinjin that is true and real! If you should come to realize this practice and shinjin, rejoice at the conditions from the distant past that have brought it about.

(*Kyōgyōshinshō* Preface: Collected Works of Shinran, p. 4)

If we reflect on various causes and conditions that enabled us to encounter the Jodo Shinshu teaching, we would be grateful that Shinran Shonin was born about 850 years ago, and for 800 years he has revealed the teaching, and for the past 135 years in Hawaii, his teachings have been continuously passed down to us.

The theme of the Triple Celebration is "Sharing the Joy of Nembutsu Together: Our Living Heart of Gratitude." I have already envisioned that the services will be filled with joy, with the sound of the Dharma, including the chanting of sutras, the singing of gathas, and the resonating sound of the Nembutsu throughout the venue. Let us meet at the Ala Moana Hotel in September. Namo Amida Butsu.

YOUTH REGISTRATION FEE AND ONLINE REGISTRATION

We are pleased to inform you that we set a youth registration fee of \$150.00 for those 25 years old or younger. It is our wish that the youth participate in this wonderful gathering and share the joy of Nembutsu together with their family.

Online registration and payment are available on the Triple Celebration website. It is very simple and easy so please encourage Sangha members to use the online registration as much as possible.

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

If you have any questions regarding the registration please contact us.

*Sharing the Joy of Nembutsu Together:
Our Living Heart of Gratitude*

About the Triple Celebration

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will commemorate the Triple Celebration on September 7 & 8, 2024. The year 2023 marks the 850th anniversary of the birth of Shinran Shonin, the founder of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition, and 2024 will be the 800th anniversary of the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu teaching and the 135th anniversary of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Accordingly, in 2024, we will observe commemorative services and workshops relating to those auspicious events.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Hope: Reunite Animal Fire Survivors

As we usher in the new year, there’s a heartfelt plea echoing through the aftermath of the August wildfires in Lahaina and Kula—a plea to reunite families with their cherished animal companions who defied the odds and survived the devastating fires.

Rescued from burn areas, over 500 cats and various other animals find refuge in the care of the Maui Humane Society and local rescues. Amidst the tragedy, a glimmer of hope persists as these resilient creatures await reunification with their families.

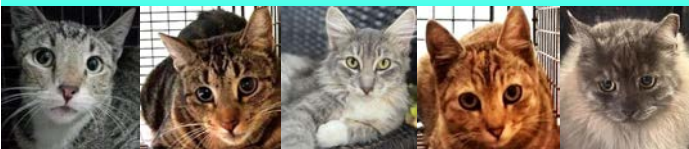
The reunion of over 150 cats and nearly 50 dogs with their families has brought immeasurable joy. For many, the news was unexpected, as they had resigned themselves to the belief that their pets were lost forever, grappling with grief and guilt.

Misinformation has cast a shadow on the survival of life in Lahaina, and it’s time for a widespread correction. This article serves as an urgent call to every community, urging them to share the vital information with their congregations.

Attached is a concise flyer containing essential details and links to the Maui Humane Society and the Lahaina Fire Lost & Found Animal (LFLFA) database. Through the power of spreading awareness, each community can contribute to bringing a small miracle to those who have endured profound loss this year.

Let compassion guide our actions as we strive to reunite families and bring hope to those who need it most.

100s OF WILDFIRE SURVIVORS



ARE WAITING TO COME HOME

Hundreds of animals - especially cats - have been recovered from Lahaina and are being sheltered at Maui Humane Society or with other local animal rescues. One of them may be waiting for you!

VISIT IN PERSON

Maui Humane Society (MHS) Mehamaha Loop, Puunene
MHS "Annex" Building (housing Fire Cats) 982 Lower Main Street, Wailuku

CALL

808-877-3680 (Main MHS number)
 808-446-4587 (MHS Annex number)

EMAIL

Reunification@mauihumanesociety.org

SEARCH ONLINE

[Lahaina Fire Lost & Found Animal \(LFLFA\) database](#)

search photos of found animals, sorted by colors/breeds
 compare lost and found animal photos side by side
 file a lost cat form

bit.ly/LFLFAsearch (or scan the QR code)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lahaina Buddhist Temples’ Disaster Relief

Luly Unemori

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.hawaiiibuddhists.org/news/support-maui>. Donations will support the Buddhist temples, their resident ministers and families, and temple members.

Lahaina Shingon Mission Hokoji

- GoFundMe link: <https://gofund.me/6317428c>
- Checks payable to “Koyasan Shingon Mission of Hawaii” with 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 link: <https://gofund.me/df1b0cf2>
- Checks payable 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 link: <https://gofund.me/ff77a520>
- Checks payable to “HHMH” with memo “Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief”
 Send Checks and cash donations to: Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, 1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813
- Online at www.hongwanjihawaii.com, click on the “Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief” button under the “Donate” tab



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 Wailuku.hongwanji.mission@gmail.com
Buddhist Womans Association (BWA)	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email Wailuku.hongwanji.mission@gmail.com
Building Fund Donation	Payable to Wailuku Hongwanji Mission Send to Wailuku Hongwanji Mission at 1828 E Vineyard St. Wailuku, HI 96793
Boy Scouts	Call (808) 250-1891 or email msdel17@hotmail.com
Buddha Reads Book Club	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email Wailuku.hongwanji.mission@gmail.com
Choir	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email Wailuku.hongwanji.mission@gmail.com
Cub Scouts	Call (808) 280-1299 or cubpack40@gmail.com
Dharma School	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email Wailuku.hongwanji.mission@gmail.com
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 Wailuku.hongwanji.mission@gmail.com
Hosha Day Clean-up (First Thursday of Month)	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email Wailuku.hongwanji.mission@gmail.com
Junior Young Buddhist Association (Jr. YBA)	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email Wailuku.hongwanji.mission@gmail.com
Judo Club	Call (808) 244-9094 or email rhiyakumoto@hawaii.rr.com
Karate	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email Wailuku.hongwanji.mission@gmail.com
Kendo	Call (808) 244-2650 or email michael.sone@gmail.com
Office Support	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email Wailuku.hongwanji.mission@gmail.com
Preschool	Call the Preschool at (808) 244-9545 or email whpreschool808@gmail.com
Social Concerns Fund Drive	Payable to Wailuku Hongwanji Mission Send to Wailuku Hongwanji Mission at 1828 E Vineyard St. Wailuku, HI 96793
Website & Facebook	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email Wailuku.hongwanji.mission@gmail.com
Yard & Facility Maintenance	Call the main office at (808) 244-0406 or email Wailuku.hongwanji.mission@gmail.com

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March / April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Gakuen Waiver Day (No school)	2 Hongwanji Day
3 8am Sunday Service DS class - grades 4-9 to prepare for Enlightenment Game 1-3pm: 4-H	4 Gakuen Waiver Day (No school) 5:30pm Dharma Strummers	5	6	7 8:00am HOSHA BWA ACCW RU BSC Spring Seminar 7pm Troop mtg	8	9 1pm MUBWA Spring Rep. Mtg @ MHM 5pm Cubs Mtng
10 9am Ohigan Sunday Service BWA Meeting 10:30am Cubs Mtg	11 5:30pm Dharma Strummers	12	13 5:30pm Obon Practice	14 7pm Troop mtg	15	16 9am MUBWA Spring Assembly at MHM
17 8am Sunday Service	18	19	20	21 BWA ACCW	22	23
Spring Break						
	5:30pm Dharma Strummers	6:30pm Cubs Mtng	5pm Kyodan Board Meeting	7pm Troop mtg		
24 8am Family Service 12:30-3:30pm 4-H	25 5:30pm Dharma Strummers	26 Prince Kuhio (Office Open, No Gakuen)	27	28 7pm Troop mtg	29 Good Friday (Office Open, No Gakuen)	30
31 8am Sunday Service BWA Scholarship Due 10am-12pm: 4-H	1 5:30pm Dharma Strummers	2	3	4 8:00am HOSHA BWA ACCW 7pm Troop mtg	5	6
7 9am Central Maui Hanamatsuri	8 Buddha Day (Office Closed) 5:30pm Dharma Strummers	9	10 5:30pm Obon Practice	11 7pm Troop mtg	12	13
14 8am WHM Hanamatsuri Sunday Service, DS decorates Hanamido, Hanamatsuri Egg Hunt 10:30am Cubs Mtg (Conf. Room) 12pm Social Hall Rental	15 5:30pm Dharma Strummers	16 6:30pm Cubs Mtng	17 5pm Kyodan Board Meeting	18 BWA ACCW 7pm Troop mtg	19	20
21 8am Sunday Service BWA Eshinni & Kakushinni Sunday AED Presentation	22 5:30pm Dharma Strummers	23	24	25 BWA Eshinni Day / Peace Day 7pm Troop mtg	26	27 WHM "Second Chance" Sale 1pm Cubs Blue & Gold
28 8am Family Service 12:30-3:30pm 4-H	29 5:30pm Dharma Strummers	30 6:30pm Cubs Mtng				