

## Monthly Newsletter

March 2025  
Vol. XLIV, No. 3



慈光園

# Jikoen Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

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[www.jikoenhongwanji.org](http://www.jikoenhongwanji.org)

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### THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

*All scheduled Sunday services will be held in-person and via Zoom in the Hondo unless otherwise noted. All other in-person activities and events as noted. Please keep in mind that service schedules are subject to change without notice. Thank you for your understanding.*

*For all Zoom services and programs please contact the Jikoen office for access information.*

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun<br>3/2  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Spring Ohigan &amp; Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service</b><br/>Time: 9:00 a.m., Speaker: Rev. Bert Sumikawa</li></ul>                                                                             |
| Sat<br>3/8  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Jikoen BWA New Year's Party</b><br/>Location: Jikoen Social Hall</li></ul>                                                                                                                       |
| Sun<br>3/9  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Sangha Family Service</b><br/>Time: 9:00 a.m., Lay Speaker: Bryan Horikami</li><li>• <b>JrYBA Career Exploration Discussion</b><br/>Time: following service, Location: rear of Hondo</li></ul>   |
| Sun<br>3/16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Lay Speaker Sunday</b><br/>Time: 9:00 a.m., Guest Speaker: Norman Kaneshiro (Okinawan Music)</li><li>• <b>Virtual Board of Directors Monthly Meeting</b><br/>Time: 11:00 a.m., On Zoom</li></ul> |
| Sun<br>3/23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Sangha Family Service</b><br/>Time: 9:00 a.m., Speaker: Rev. Shindo Nishiyama</li></ul>                                                                                                          |
| Sun<br>3/30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Family Dharma Moments</b><br/>Time: 9:00 a.m., Lay Speaker: Joy Nishida</li></ul>                                                                                                                |
| Sat<br>4/5  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Jikoen Bazaar (see page 3 for details)</b><br/>Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Location: Jikoen Social Hall</li></ul>                                                                              |
| Sun<br>4/6  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>NO SERVICE AT JIKOEN (HBC Buddha Day Service)</b></li></ul>                                                                                                                                      |
| Sun<br>4/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Hanamatsuri Service</b><br/>Time: 9:00 a.m., Guest Speaker: Rene Mansho (Mililani Hongwanji)</li></ul>                                                                                           |

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Rev. Shindo Nishiyama

### 物差し

私はいつも自分の物差しですべてを見ている。

あの人は金持ちか貧乏か。

えらい人か、そうでないか。

強い人か弱い人か。

若い人かそうでないか。

病気が健康か。

自分にとって邪魔な人か、そうでないか。

自分にとって都合がいい人か、そうでないか。

そして生きている人か、死んだ人かと私の物差しは常に物事を分けて見ている。

仏の智慧の目は私のような物差しがない世界。無分別の世界。すべての命に智慧光と慈悲の心を注いでくださっている。それを何回も聞かされた私だがまだまだ仏の働きを疑うこの私。そんな疑いだらけの私を捨てることなく仏様の願いの中に抱き取ってくださったこの私。命がいつ終わろうとも終わりが無い抱きかかえて下さる世界に生きる私に気が付かした。その気が付かされた私も私の力ではない自分に気が付かされた。感謝。

### *Judgmental Eyes*

I see everything in my life through self-centered, judgemental eyes.

That person is rich or poor. He or she is or is not great. He is strong or weak. She is young or not so young. He is sick or he is healthy.

That person may or may not get in my way. That person may or may not be good for me. That person is dying,

but I am not...my judgemental eyes perpetually segregate things in my mind.

Unlike me, the Buddha sees through eyes of wisdom a world with no self-centered judgments, prejudice, or bias. Indiscriminantly, the Buddha pours onto all living things the light of knowledge and the spirit of compassion.

Although I am always reminded of the Buddha's equal embrace of all living things, I am still filled with doubt. Yet even with all of my doubt and ignorance, the Buddha continues to embrace me with his Primal Vow transforming my impermanent life into one of eternal wisdom and compassion. I come to realize that even this awakening is not by my own power, but through the embrace of Amida's infinite life and light. For this I am truly thankful.

## INTER-TEMPLE NEWS

### *113th Legislative Assembly*

This year's annual meeting of Hongwanji temple delegates from across the state was calm and orderly. All resolutions were passed unanimously without controversy. The assembled body met on February 7 and 8 and passed the annual budget of \$1,745,755. The budget covers the cost of personnel and operations of the Office of the Bishop and the Buddhist Study Center. It also supports the Pacific Buddhist Academy and all youth and educational programs across the state. Jikoen will pay approximately \$25,000 for its annual assessment, which will help to fund the 2025 budget for the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. On a normal year, the funds raised through



Dennis  
Sueo Agena



William Wallace  
Char, Jr. (Bill Char)



Neil Jacob  
Kaho'okele Hannahs



Victoria Holt  
Takamine



Dr. George  
Joji Tanabe, Jr.

*These five Living Treasures were honored by Bishop Umitani and Dr. Tamamoto at the February 8 luncheon.*

*(continued on page 3)*

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our BBQ Chicken Sale and Spring Bazaar pay for the annual assessment. Other resolutions approved included condolences for Rev. Mary David and Rev. Shoshin and Mrs. Akiko Kie.

After a day and a half of meetings and reports, the Legislative Assembly delegates joined hundreds of luncheon guests to honor five Living Treasures of Hawaii: Dennis Agena, Bill Char Jr., Neil Hannahs, Vicky Holt Takamine, and Dr. George Tanabe. Coach Agena has served Kalihi youth through his basketball program for decades, and Dr. Tanabe has been a long and strong

advocate for developing Buddhist teachings and practices that resonate with Americans. By the way, our own Marcie Moribe was a co-MC for the luncheon.

Interesting statistics were reported at the Legislative Assembly. Did you know that there was a total of 3,385 Hongwanji members in 2024? That is 323 fewer members than in 2023. There were 877 members in the Honolulu District and 852 members in the Oahu District. There are about 1,000 members on the Big Island, 276 on Kauai, and 572 on Maui. We have 23 ministers and 17 certified Lay Assistants. There is a total of 860 BWA members in

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## 2025 Jikoen BAZAAR

- Mark your calendars for Saturday, **April 5<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to Noon**. In addition to an array of donated items, we will be selling maki sushi, takuan, andagi and baked goods.
- Additional parking will be available at Kapalama Elementary School.
- We welcome the following donations: *gently used clothing, linen, kitchenware, crafts, handbags, toys, shoes/sandals, slippers, jewelry, fabric, Okinawan items, plants, flowers, fruits, and vegetables*.
- Beginning March 3<sup>rd</sup>, you may drop off items at the Social Hall between 8:30 am. to noon on weekdays (Monday-Friday). Call the office – (808) 845-3422 – before dropping off to be sure someone is available to receive items.
- We appreciate any volunteers willing to help with set-up from March 30<sup>th</sup> to April 4<sup>th</sup> and on April 5<sup>th</sup> (bazaar day). Don't miss this opportunity to work and socialize with our wonderful Jikoen members and friends!
- While we need donations for the bazaar, we **CANNOT ACCEPT** the following items. Please carefully review the list below and **DO NOT BRING**:
  - ⊗ Books (hard copy, paperback, encyclopedias), magazines, sheet music
  - ⊗ CDs, DVDs, cassette tapes, vinyl records
  - ⊗ Sporting goods – equipment, sport bags
  - ⊗ Luggage – suitcases of any size, duffel bags, overnight bags, etc.
  - ⊗ Audio/visual items – televisions, radios, record players, CD-DVD players, speakers, etc.
  - ⊗ Computers/laptops and accessories (monitors, keyboards, printers, etc.)
  - ⊗ Major appliances/equipment – stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, water heaters, fax machines, copy machines, vacuum cleaners, exercise machines
  - ⊗ Lighting fixtures, Halogen lamps, fluorescent light bulbs
  - ⊗ Office/home furnishings – metal desks, cabinets, mattresses, bed frames, etc.
  - ⊗ Hazardous waste materials – chemicals, paints, poisons, oils
  - ⊗ Infant/toddler/child car seats, cribs, strollers, walkers, high chairs, swings
  - ⊗ Medical aid equipment – shower seats, wheelchairs, bed pans, commodes, etc.



*We appreciate any help you can provide with this bazaar and look forward to seeing you.*

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the state. We have 445 judo students in Hongwanji judo clubs.

The Legislative Assembly is an excellent way to learn about what is happening across the state. If you are interested in attending next year, please contact Pieper at: ptoyama@honpahi.org.

## TEMPLE NEWS

### *New Year Gathering Features Jikoen Talent*

The Jikoen New Year Luncheon featured members of our extraordinarily talented Sangha. **Keith Oshiro** opened the morning with a dance that opened special events. His slow and fluid movements made us all feel like royalty. **Suki Hong** played her violin, accompanied by her father, **Justin**, on the piano. From that tiny violin, Suki spun out two beautiful pieces with confidence and artistry like a seasoned musician beyond her years. **Rev. Nishiyama** sang "Nadasousou," and the crowd showed



Keith Oshiro Sensei



Daughter and father team, Suki and Justin Hong.

its appreciation with dollar bills. In fact, I think I saw a \$20 bill sail through the air. It was good that Sensei came prepared with a basket to catch all the money because there was a lot. The Moribe Sisters, **Kaycie and Marcie**, were wonderfully energetic and joyful as they danced Tanchame. And only at Jikoen can one experience such a well-known Okinawan dance accompanied by live music, and not any music. It was Norman Kaneshiro-quality music that we heard. From the kitchen, our two master chefs showed that their talent extended beyond pots and pans to the open stage. **Dorene and Jimmy Toma** each delighted us with their beautiful voices. They truly sing as good as they cook. Of course, the program was not complete without a special



Kaycie (L) and Marcie (R) Moribe

heart-felt song sung by our own **Judy Muramoto**.

As always, the luncheon ended with a lively Kachashi. But this year, it seems there were more people dancing with enthusiasm and that included special guests, Bishop Umitani and Kyodan President Dr. Warren Tamamoto. If the liveliness of the program is any indication, 2025 will be a very good year.

### *Born Again Uchinanchu Drive-Thru Pickup for Preordered Books*

Please mark your calendars! BAU books are arriving by sea freight in March. The drive-thru pickup at Jikoen for **preordered** books has been scheduled for **Saturday April 12 and Saturday April 19**. Cost and pickup time to be determined.

Keep in mind schedule is subject to change. We will keep you updated. Thank you for your patience.

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## WHITE WAY RADIO

Mō'ili'ili Hongwanji's Weekly Dharma Message

⚡ **Saturdays at 7:45 am – 8:00 am on KZOO AM1210 or Spectrum 888 KZOO Radio**

⚡ Weekly messages go to [www.moililihongwanji.org](http://www.moililihongwanji.org)

### March 2025

- **01 Rev. Yuika Hasebe**
- **08 Rev. Kazunori Takahashi**
- **15 Rev. Shigenori Makino**
- **22 Rev. Tatsuo Muneto**
- **29 Rev. Toyokazu Hagio**

⚡ Japanese-language Dharma talks Saturdays on KZOO AM1210 on Saturdays 7:30 am – 7:45 am; on-demand dharma talks in Japanese

⚡ Dharma talks in Japanese are produced by Hawai'i Betsuin and are archived on their website

⚡ Your donation to Mō'ili'ili Hongwanji will be greatly appreciated to help support the White Way Radio broadcasts.





MILILANI HONGWANJI  
BUDDHIST TEMPLE



# SPRING FLING!

Saturday, March 22, 2025

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

95-257 Kaloapau St. (next to Rec.Ctr. 3)

**E Komo Mai! Please Come and Enjoy!**



**PLANT SHARE - 10:00-11:00 AM**

\* CRAFTS

\* FOOD

\* GAMES

\* ENTERTAINMENT

*Ono Homemade Foods:*

*Baked Goods*

*Sekihan Rice*

*Takuan*

*So Much More !!*

**Contact: [renemansho@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:renemansho@hawaii.rr.com) Ph: 808-291-6151**

<http://www.mililanihongwanji.org>

# CHORAL FEST 2025

**WHEN**  
**September 20 - 21, 2025**

**WHERE**  
**Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin**  
1727 PALI HWY, HONOLULU, HAWAII

**MUSIC SELECTIONS TO INCLUDE:**  
**TO MY DAUGHTERS —SURELY, WE WILL MEET**  
**AGAIN SOMEDAY— WHERE, OH WHERE—UPON**  
**CLOUDS—TO ALL WE OWE**

**PLEASE REGISTER FOR CHORALFEST WITH**  
**YOUR RESPECTIVE TEMPLES**

**LINKS FOR PRACTICE MATERIALS VIA GOOGLE**  
**DRIVE WILL BE PROVIDED**

**ALL ARE  
WELCOME!**

**CONDUCTOR:**  
Nola Nahulu

**PIANIST:**  
Francis Okano

**TENTATIVE  
SCHEDULE:**

**9/20:**

**PM Practice**

**Dinner Program**

**09/21:**

**AM Practice**

**Music Service**

**Fellowship**

**DEADLINE TO  
REGISTER:**  
**April 30, 2025**

**REGISTRATION  
FEE:**  
**\$35**



# YESS CAMP 41

**Final Deadline:**  
**April 8, 2025**

## MĀLAMA AMIDA

Bring a friend for a 50%  
registration refund!  
Neighbor island flight  
subsidies available.

- Bonding
- Games
- Service Project
- Dharma Learning
- Campfire

AGES 13-23

*Register Here*



OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[YESSCAMP.COM](http://YESSCAMP.COM)

**April 18-20,  
2025**

**YMCA  
Camp Erdman**

More info: Contact  
[yesscamp@honpahi.org](mailto:yesscamp@honpahi.org)

## SHOTSUKI JOYOUS MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE

Shotsuki Monthly Service is a time to remember our loved ones and a time to express gratitude in Gassho. This memorial service is usually held on the first Sunday of each month at 9:00 a.m., in memory of those whose date of death falls in that month. We also recognize the efforts of those who have passed and thank them for their continuing influence in our lives and for giving us the opportunity to share the Buddha-Dharma.

*Here are our loved ones who will be remembered in the month of April, 2025:*

Thomas Amii ~ April 13, 2012 (81)  
 Jinei Arakaki ~ April 25, 2020 (98)  
 Kamesuke Arakaki ~ April 6, 1992 (88)  
 Takemitsu Arakaki ~ April 25, 2016 (91)  
 Eisuke Asato ~ April 22, 1996 (74)  
 Tsuru Asato ~ April 4, 1990 (88)  
 Ginei Bise ~ April 28, 1990 (80)  
 Yoriko Daikoku ~ April 6, 2008 (85)  
 Kenneth Shinso Dote ~ April 16, 2012 (77)  
 Carol Hatsuyo Kaneshiro Espiritu ~ April 26, 2023 (76)  
 Laura Shigeno Maeshiro Freeman ~ April 3, 2018 (88)  
 Toshiko Fujita ~ April 27, 2015 (89)  
 Yasuo Gushi ~ April 29, 2003 (91)  
 George Isao Hieda ~ April 30, 2018 (90)  
 Laura F. Hieda ~ April 13, 2020 (84)  
 Katherine Matsui Higa ~ April 6, 1999 (86)  
 Kazue Higa ~ April 3, 2010 (86)  
 Maka Higa ~ April 1, 1992 (98)  
 Miyeko Higa ~ April 10, 1999 (76)  
 Mrs. Yoshi K. Higa ~ April 17, 2012 (81)  
 Eiso Hokama ~ April 18, 2005 (82)  
 Kame Ige ~ April 5, 1992 (90)  
 Fusa Iha ~ April 24, 2008 (92)  
 Harry Ishikawa ~ April 24, 2015 (75)  
 Kiyoko Ishikawa ~ April 6, 2014 (98)  
 Takashi "Rosa" Ito ~ April 7, 2021 (92)  
 Eleanor Mitsue Itomura ~ April 10, 2013 (81)  
 Lionel Jakahi ~ April 14, 2014 (71)  
 Mrs. Kazumi Kaneshiro ~ April 28, 2013 (90)  
 Kenneth Kiyoshi Kaneshiro ~ April 6, 2020 (90)  
 Kikue Kaneshiro ~ April 7, 2016 (98)  
 Mildred Kimie Kaneshiro ~ April 23, 2018 (103)  
 Richard Tsutomu Kaneshiro ~ April 2, 2012 (76)  
 Thomas Masaichi Kaneshiro ~ April 18, 2001 (73)  
 Margaret Naomi Kawashima ~ April 16, 2015 (58)  
 Hisashi Kikuchi ~ April 20, 2001 (85)  
 Kazuko Kinjo ~ April 30, 2021 (90)  
 Masao Kinjo ~ April 14, 2019 (90)  
 Shizue Kino ~ April 30, 2015 (101)  
 Chizuko Kishimoto ~ April 28, 2005 (92)

Shinichi Kiyabu ~ April 19, 1998 (68)  
 Shizuko Kohagura ~ April 30, 2008 (92)  
 James Yoshio Kotani ~ April 9, 2009 (78)  
 Toshiko Kotani ~ April 9, 2001 (79)  
 Muneo Machida ~ April 2, 2012 (64)  
 Sadako Matayoshi ~ April 19, 2004 (84)  
 Kenneth Katsuyoshi Matsumoto ~ April 23, 2020 (78)  
 Chosei Maekawa ~ April 11, 2022 (92)  
 Takemi Miyashiro ~ April 10, 2020 (92)  
 Tatsuko Miyasato ~ April 27, 2017 (94)  
 Shigeko Kiyabu Nakahara ~ April 3, 2016 (96)  
 Fukuo Nakai ~ April 5, 2016 (90)  
 Kyoko Nakama ~ April 18, 2000 (97)  
 Clara Mieko Nakasone ~ April 1, 2019 (98)  
 Nobushige Nakasone ~ April 8, 2003 (91)  
 Beatrice Kimiko Higa Nishizawa ~ April 12, 2015 (94)  
 June Hatsue Oganeku ~ April 26, 2021 (88)  
 Kikuye Okuhara ~ April 9, 2020 (97)  
 Henry Oshiro ~ April 15, 2013 (91)  
 Jeanette Misaye Oshiro ~ April 30, 2019 (73)  
 James Seiei Oshiro ~ April 12, 2003 (78)  
 Kosuke Oshiro ~ April 19, 1999 (94)  
 Lillian Yukie Oshiro ~ April 14, 2022 (81)  
 Russell Kazuyoshi Oshiro ~ April 29, 1992 (43)  
 Sadako Beatrice Oshiro ~ April 22, 2023 (97)  
 Michael Saito ~ April 10, 2010 (66)  
 Seitaro Sakihara ~ April 12, 1990 (74)  
 Akira Sakima ~ April 6, 2007 (88)  
 Aaron Sunao Shimabukuro ~ April 13, 2021 (70)  
 Shoyei Shimabukuro ~ April 25, 1992 (98)  
 Tsuruko Shimabukuro ~ April 20, 2008 (80)  
 Yoshiko Shinsato ~ April 4, 2013 (89)  
 Derek Ichiro Shiroma ~ April 27, 2019 (57)  
 Dr. Teitsu Shiota, Jr. ~ April 15, 2017 (75)  
 Kikuyo O. Sueyoshi ~ April 19, 2021 (89)  
 Yasuo Takamiya ~ April 27, 2012 (76)  
 Warren Seizen Tamanaha ~ April 11, 1990 (64)  
 Matsu Tamashiro ~ April 15, 1990 (92)  
 Rose Tokie Tamashiro ~ April 25, 2013 (84)  
 Hiroshi Tamayori ~ April 2, 2011 (94)  
 Chiyoko Jean Tamayoshi ~ April 18, 2008 (83)  
 Doris Miyome Tanaka ~ April 4, 2018 (100)  
 Tom Tomotaro Tasato ~ April 29, 2011 (87)  
 Dora Mitsue Tengan ~ April 21, 2009 (84)  
 Jared Makana Isamu Teruya ~ April 7, 2013 (12)  
 Chiyo Tokuda ~ April 17, 2008 (87)  
 Yoshiko Toma ~ April 23, 2013 (90)  
 Edward Kiyoshi Tomasu ~ April 14, 2014 (71)  
 Eric Matsuyoshi Toyama ~ April 9, 2023 (64)

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Toyo Uehara ~ April 5, 2006 (72)  
Karen Hatsuyo Uyehara ~ April 12, 2018 (54)  
Masako Wauke ~ April 21, 2002 (84)  
Shiichi Yamada ~ April 11, 1990 (64)  
Doris Toshiyo Yamaguchi ~ April 21, 2021 (90)  
Kame Yamaguchi ~ April 8, 2000 (101)  
Bertram "Bert" Seikichi Yasui ~ April 19, 2022 (80)

Reverend Chikai Yosemite ~ April 13, 2016 (84)  
Richard Masahiro Yokogawa ~ April 1, 2011 (65)  
Gerald Kazuo Yoza ~ April 10, 2018 (73)

### *Namu Amida Butsu*

If you would like to honor your loved one, please call the office at 808-845-3422 or email [jikoen.info@gmail.com](mailto:jikoen.info@gmail.com) with your name and contact information and we will get back to you.

## DONATIONS FROM JANUARY 17, 2025 THRU FEBRUARY 18, 2025

|                                    |                                     |       |                                        |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------|
| General Operations (\$1 - \$99)    | New Year's (\$1 - \$99)             |       |                                        |
| -----                              | -----                               | ----- | -----                                  |
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| General Operations (\$100 - \$399) |                                     |       |                                        |
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| IMO Kenneth Yukio Miyasato         | -----                               | ----- | -----                                  |
| -----                              | -----                               | ----- | -----                                  |
| -----                              |                                     |       | IMO Sadako Shimabukuro                 |
|                                    | New Year's (\$100 - \$299)          | ----- | -----                                  |
|                                    | -----                               | ----- | -----                                  |
| Hoonko (\$1 - \$99)                | -----                               | ----- | -----                                  |
| -----                              | -----                               | ----- | -----                                  |
| -----                              | IMO Steve Sadaaki Higa              | ----- | -----                                  |
| -----                              | -----                               | ----- | -----                                  |
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| -----                              | -----                               | ----- | -----                                  |
| -----                              | -----                               | ----- | BBQ Chicken Fundraiser (\$100 - \$299) |
| Hoonko (\$100 - \$299)             | -----                               | ----- | -----                                  |
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| -----                              | -----                               | ----- | -----                                  |
| Joya-e (\$1 - \$99)                | -----                               | ----- | -----                                  |
| -----                              | Lumbini Preschool                   | ----- | -----                                  |
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| Joya-e (\$100 - \$299)             | New Year's (\$300 - \$499)          | ----- | -----                                  |
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| -----                              | -----                               | ----- | -----                                  |
| -----                              | BBQ Chicken Fundraiser (\$1 - \$99) | ----- | -----                                  |
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| Joya-e (\$500 - \$599)             | -----                               | ----- | -----                                  |
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### *The Newsletter Gang*

Every month this group of Jikoen members and friends meets to prepare the monthly newsletters for mailing. After **Doris Oshiro** runs off 320 copies, the others fold them in half, apply stickers, and put on the mailing labels. The newsletters are then bundled in groups of 25 and taken to the post office by **LaVerne**.



That's the process, but the back story includes a lot of talk story among the volunteers about upcoming trips, family, events, recipes. There's laughter at ourselves and each other. There's counting and re-counting until we get it right, and there's laughter about that too.

When you get your newsletter, know that besides information, there's a lot of joy that went into it. We hope you can feel it!

### *Uchinanchu Design*

*(from a conversation with Keith Oshiro)*

Two iconic images we see in Uchinanchu (Okinawan) design are the cluster of four squares and the cluster of five squares. According to custom, the two clusters must always appear together, for it is together they derive their meaning. In Uchinaguchi (Okinawan language), the number "four" is "yuutsi" and the "world" is "yu." The number "five" is "itsitsi" and "forever" is "itsi mading". The sounds from the numbers four and five came to be associated with the phrase, *Unuyu Itsimading*, which means: You and I in this world forever. In this way, the clusters of four and five squares together came to symbolize love that lasts forever.



*The symbol for Unuyu Itsimading on an obi and towel.*

This design and its meaning originated in Yaeyama, where fishermen wore it on their obi and towels when they went to sea for good luck. The design became wide spread among the Yaeyama residents and eventually all over Okinawa until today it is recognized as a unique part of Uchinanchu design.

### *Come To Sunday Service For Your Health*

On February 2, **Suzie Nishiyama's** Dharma Message explained the health benefits of attending Jikoen Sunday Services. She first explained that regular deep breaths improve oxygen flow to our bodies, which in turn activates the parasympathetic nervous system. Activation of this system reduces stress and causes us to relax. In addition, deep breathing moves our diaphragm and improves blood circulation around our internal organs.

Then she pointed out that we actually practice deep breathing for 8-9 minutes at every Sunday Service when we chant the sutras! As we chant, we exhale for one whole phrase, and before we start on the next phrase, we naturally take in a breath. Voila! Rhythmic deep breathing!

Suzie also explained other health benefits of Sunday Services outlined in the Blue Zones key principles. These include belonging to a religious group that provides emotional support and a sense of belonging and surrounding yourself with the right people who are kind and compassionate. So join us at Sunday Services and live healthier and happier lives.

### *A Forever Gift Of Gratitude*

Question: Is there a way for me to leave a donation to Jikoen so that it continues giving as long as there is a Jikoen Buddhist Temple?

Answer: Yes. Leave a FOREVERGIFT OF GRATITUDE. To learn more about this opportunity, email Pieper Toyama at: [ptoyama@honpahi.org](mailto:ptoyama@honpahi.org).

#### **HUI O LAULIMA CULTURAL GRANT APPLICATION**

Hui O Laulima is pleased to announce that applications for the 2026 Cultural Grants are now being accepted. Hui O Laulima is seeking Requests for Proposals (RFP) from interested, qualified individuals and organizations to support impactful projects/programs aligned with our mission to preserve, promote, and perpetuate the Okinawan culture. Hui O Laulima is a women's organization that serves to "give a helping hand" to those whose goal is to achieve the same mission. We are offering grant funding to support Okinawan performing arts, language acquisition, and history education for communities in the state of Hawai'i.



A grant will be awarded based on it's projected success to fulfill a community need, enhance life experiences, and increase awareness and appreciation of Okinawan culture.



**PACIFIC BUDDHIST ACADEMY**  
**19th Annual Taiko Festival**



*Wabi Sabi*

**Sunday, March 16th**  
**at 4:00 PM**

**MOANALUA HIGH SCHOOL**  
**PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

**2825 Ala Ilima Street**  
**Honolulu, HI 96818**

*Event Policy: This event has a no refund policy.*

Pacific Buddhist Academy's 19th Annual Taiko Festival celebrates the theme Wabi Sabi, embracing the beauty of impermanence and imperfection. The event features the elite taiko ensemble Hyaku Sen Ki Kai led by taiko sensei Jay Toyofuku.

**Pre-show 3:30-4:00**  
**Show 4:00-6:30**

*Contact Megan Lee at [megan.lee@pbahi.org](mailto:megan.lee@pbahi.org) for more information*

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