



WAIPAHU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE  
(A Shin Buddhist Temple)

## GOLDEN CHAIN

Monthly Newsletter

**FEBRUARY 2022**

Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others.



### **JODO SHINSHU, Teaching of Pure Land “Amida Buddha’s Vow #6 02/2022** Reverend Jeffrey Soga, resident minister

Greetings, one month has passed since we received new year 2022. Corona Pandemic is still threatening us and the number of positive patients is large. I hope and wish that all of you received happy new year. Although we keep a social distance, Waipahu Hongwanji enjoyed activities. Thank you very much for your support last year, and I humbly ask you your understanding and support for Waipahu Hongwanji as well as me, Reverend Jeff.

I’d like to continue to talk about “Amida Buddha’s Vow”. Amida Buddha’s Vow is written in ‘The Sutra on the Buddha of Immeasurable Life.’ Buddha Shakyamuni taught us the sutra 2500 years ago. In this sutra, Shakyamuni Buddha introduced Amida Buddha. “Why Amida Buddha became enlightened Buddha.” “What kind of Buddha Amida is.” “What Amida Buddha does.” “For whom Amida Buddha became compassionate Buddha.” “What is the meaning of Amida.” Shakyamuni Buddha introduced and explained such details of Amida Buddha.

In the sutra, Shakyamuni Buddha also explained about detail of human beings. I believe Shakyamuni Buddha kept human beings under observation. Shakyamuni Buddha is explaining a cause or origin of suffering, why human beings suffer and how human being suffer. Buddha explained many examples. One of the examples, Buddha taught as follows:

“In the midst of worldly desires and attachments, people are born alone and die alone, come alone and go alone. In accordance with their deeds, they go to a place of either pain or pleasure. They themselves receive their due consequences and no one can take their place.”

Does it make sense to you “NO ONE CAN TAKE THEIR PLACE.” No one can switch your suffering. I believe you realize that you have only one life to live. What is the most pain suffering in your one time life? It is that not even one person is able to understand your physical and spiritual pain in your life. No one can realize how sad you feel. You have to carry on those burdens by yourself alone. Shakyamuni Buddha taught Amida Buddha observed all suffering, a life is only lived once, yet people follow greed and make competition., people get tied up with their attachment, then people get anger, therefore people grumble and unpleasant other people around. Then people realize such loneliness.

(Continued to Page 2)

## MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR 2022

<b>1<sup>st</sup> (2021)</b> February 9 Asako Miki February 28 Nobuo Ishimaru	<b>1<sup>st</sup> (2021)</b> March 22 Meuki Amaral March 24 Janet Shizuka Sato
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> (2020)</b>  <b>7<sup>th</sup> (2016)</b> February 8 Fujie Shimizu	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> (2020)</b> None <b>7<sup>th</sup> (2016)</b> None
<b>13<sup>th</sup> (2010)</b> February 25 James Takeo Uyeno February 22 Gordon Soichi Serikaku	<b>13<sup>th</sup> (2010)</b> March 28 Clifford Shoji Araki March 30 Toshiko Yamamoto
<b>17<sup>th</sup> (2006)</b> February 24 Thomas Toyomi Tatsutani	<b>17<sup>th</sup> (2006)</b> March 6 Kiyoko Calpito
<b>25<sup>th</sup> (1998)</b> February 2 Clarence Seibin Kishaba February 26 Benjamin Umeo Nakamoto	<b>25<sup>th</sup> (1998)</b> March 15 Yoshiaki Sonoda March 15 Seichi Ige March 21 Fumio Hashimoto March 25 Larry Katsumi Shigeyasu March 30 Gary Kazumi Miyakado March 30 Torie Uemori
<b>33<sup>rd</sup> (1990)</b> February 8 Kame Kamisato February 15 Namie Tanaka	<b>33<sup>rd</sup> (1990)</b> None <b>50<sup>th</sup> (1973)</b> None
<b>50<sup>th</sup> (1973)</b> February 1 Tsuru Tasato	

(Teaching of Pure Land, from Page 1)

Amida Buddha vowed never leave such people alone. Life is once, therefore people must live with peace and happiness, and a fulfilled life. If people can't find peace, I am not able to achieve my enlightenment. Thus Amida Buddha vowed.

We still have to live with patience because of the corona pandemic. When you feel lonesome, please think Amida Buddha knows about your feeling and never leave you alone. When you are sad, Amida Buddha is sad. When you are happy, Amida Buddha smiles, too. With such thoughts, please say, 'namo amidabutsu' so called nembutsu. Please think, you too eventually will be such kind person like Amida Buddha, and embrace people who are living with the lonesome feeling and suffering. Please live your one time life with such meaningful life.

If you feel lonesome, please do not hesitate to call Waipahu Hongwanji and let's talk story with me, Reverend Jeff.

In gassho,

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Evan Watarida, President of Waipahu Hongwanji**



Happy Lunar New Year,

I hope your families are healthy and happy. I am optimistic and looking forward to an auspicious 2022 for our Waipahu temple and the return of more activities.

Recently I've been dealing with my aging father who does a generous amount of complaining. I've requested that before he asks for something or makes a negative comment, to follow Rev. Soga's suggestion and say "Namu Amida Butsu" first. Because it's hard to be in a bad mood or ungrateful when you say the Nembutsu. It gives us a slight pause from our reflex of complaining to realize, "Yeah, that might not sound so good if I say what I'm thinking." That's one of the powers of Nembutsu and I am rediscovering it now.

I played sports as a kid and I still am an avid sports fan. Before every game, every team prays for safety and to win the game. I often would think to myself, "isn't the other team praying for the same thing too? Well, one of us has to lose. Does that mean God has to choose a winner? Because one of these teams is going to be disappointed."

Many religions utilize prayer as part of their practice. People pray to a higher power to seek help or guidance to have a different outcome than their current situation. It puts one's desires out in the universe and then rely on faith that it will be miraculously fulfilled by another power.

But unlike many other religions where prayer is central, Shin Buddhism refers to the Nembutsu. The Nembutsu is not prayer. Where prayer is an outward action, the Nembutsu is an inward action.

During my 20 years as a practicing Christian, I reflected on what I used to pray for. And almost all of it was to benefit myself or those around me. All of a sudden, it seemed kind of selfish. I prayed for good health, more money, a better career, to find love, good fortune, etc. Shakyamuni Buddha taught us the one true cause of suffering is "attachment". And I was exclusively praying for more things to be attached to.

I came to realize, that instead of looking at my life and feeling like a victim to my circumstances and "praying" for a way to escape from them, Buddhism taught me a totally different view. The Nembutsu made me look inward. Not to look at my life and think "why are these things happening to me", but instead "why do these circumstances that happen to everyone, make me feel this way?"

The answer, "attachment". The solution, "Nembutsu".

In February, Honpa will be conducting its annual Gisseikai legislative assembly. I will be providing details of any initiatives that come out of it in next month's Golden Chain. I've also committed to our board that we hold an obon event for July 9<sup>th</sup> this year. The size and logistics will depend on COVID rules at that time, but I'm committed to putting it on in some form for our members. Other events are tentatively being discussed. But those will be announced in the future as protocols and safety allow.

In Gassho,

# WAIPAHU HONGWANJJI NEWS

December and January Activities



Toshi Koshi Soba  
at New Year's Eve Service



New Year's Day Service



MOCHI TSUKI was good fun



Mrs. Kumika and her daughters enjoyed  
to prepare New Year's Day refreshment

## WAIPAHU HONGWANJJI BUDDHIST WOMENS' ASSOCIATION (Fujinkai)



A HAPPY NEW EAR!!

How are you doing? 2021 was a very tough year because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Last year we lost 4 members, Mrs. Barbara Duarte, Mrs. Kazuko Ikeda, Mrs. Hideko Oshiro, and Mrs. Edna Saito. They were very involved with B. W. A. and were very influential in many positive ways. We miss them very much.

We want to say thank you to Mrs. Peggy Tsukida, Mrs. Masumi Murakami and Late Mr. Francis Yoshida for their special donation for B. W. A..

Just a reminder, our B. W. A. dues is \$15 since 2020.

I hope our 2022 will be safe and we will return to a more "normal" lifestyle.

Kumika Soga, President  
Waipahu Hongwanji B. W. A.

**DONATIONS continued.**

**NEW YEARS**

Edith Ihori, Charles & Ellen Kishimoto, Sheree Tamura, Sheera Tamura, Ellen Ujimori, Leroy & Taeko Braden, Lynn Tam, Peggy Tsukida (IMO Masao Tsukida)

**HOONKO**

Milton Fujioka, Marjory & Henry Funasaki, Daniel & Lois Hanaoka, Edith Ihori, Nancy Inouye, Caran Iwata, Yoshito Kamikawa, Thomas & Sachie Kaneshiro, Janet Kaya, Richard & Sueko Kodama, Gary Maeda, Kara Mendoza, Flora & Lionel Minemoto, Jasmine & Daniel Morrison, Masumi Murakami, Lori Noborikawa, Jenny Nomura, Richard & Hisaye Nomura, Lisa Okada, Emiko Onaga, Jan Ro, Tsunako Sakata, Ann Saruwatari, George Sawa, Thomas Sekine, Haruo & Jane Shigeta, Wilma & Calvin Sumida, Craig & Christi Tadaki, Sheera Tamura, Sheree Tamura, Barbara Torricer, Robert Tsumoto, Sachiko & Russell Tsutsui, Kuniomi & Akemi Uehara, Masao & Yukiko Uyeda, Craig & Megumi Uyeno, Francis Uyeno, Setsuko Uyeno, Evan & Cristina Watarida

**BWA HOONKO**

Sheree Tamura, Sheera Tamura

**SPRING OHIGAN**

Sheree Tamura, Sheera Tamura

**GOTANE**

Sheree Tamura, Sheera Tamura

**OBON**

Sheree Tamura, Sheera Tamura

**AUTUMN OHIGAN**

Sheree Tamura, Sheera Tamura

**EITAIKYO**

Sheree Tamura, Sheera Tamura

**SOCIAL CONCERNS**

Sheree Tamura, Sheera Tamura

Waipahu Hongwanji Mission  
Board of Directors  
**NEW KYODAN DIRECTORS  
ORIENTATION**

February 26, 2022, Saturday

We are holding an orientation meeting for the new directors of the Kyodan (Board of Directors) in the social hall. This orientation will cover the activities of Kyodan and the overall operations of WHM. Current directors are also welcome to attend. (Orientation will occur immediately after the Hoshu group finishes cleaning the premises.)

**FOR ALL OF YOU TAIKO  
DRUMMERS WANNA-BEES!**

**EWA FUKUSHIMA BON DANCE CLUB**  
2022 Practice Schedule Date:

Newbies & Pre-season Conditioning Schedule  
(Kids age 6 grade and up)  
All Sundays in February and March,  
starting at 2 p.m. **SHARP** and ending at 4 p.m.  
(April, May & June to be announced later).  
Place: Waipahu Hongwanji temple grounds  
(outside).

COVID Safety requirements:

1. Wear Masks
2. Show COVID-19 vaccination card
3. Hand sanitizing & undergo temperature check upon arrival.

If you're interested in joining or observing, please call Waipahu Hongwanji (808) 677-4221 for more information.

**Please pick up.**  
HONGWANJI CALENDAR 2022 is available at Waipahu Hongwanji.  
Please call Waipahu Hongwanji at 808677-4221 when you pick up.

## SPECIAL DONATION

### MEMBERSHIP

Asamoto, Janet	Fujimoto, Gail	Fujioka, Milton	Hanaoka, Daniel
Hirata, M/M Robin	Hirata, M/M Roy	Imaoka, Wesley	Honda, M/M Stephen
Ishii, M/M Tadao	Iwata, Caran	Kaya, Janet	Itagaki, M/M Robert
Kamikawa, Yoshito	Koizumi, Kimi	Liu, Janet	Kodama, M/M Richard
Matsumoto, Frances	Maeda, Gary	Mendoza, Kara	Matsushige, M/M Makoto
Morrison/ M/M Daniel	Miyashita, Nancy	Noborikawa, Lori	Murakami, Masumi
Minemoto, M/M Lionel	Muraoka, M/M Terumi		Nomura, M/M Richard
Omoto, Kenneth	Okada, Lisa	Sakata, Tsunako	Saruwatari, Annn
Sawa, George	Sekine, Thomas	Shinozuka, Gladys	Shiota, M/M Musashi
Sugawara, George	Tamura, Sheera	Tamura, Sheree	Sumida, M/M Calvin
Tsutsui, Sachiko	Tanouye, Vanassa	Uyeno, Setsuko	Uyeda, M/M Masao
Yonashiro, Helen	Yoshimura, Lynne		

### REMINDER

**2022 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES \$300**

Please send your check PAYABLE TO :  
**Waipahu Hongwanji Mission**  
And state: membership dues for 2022

## 浄土真宗の教え 2022年2月 「阿弥陀様の願い その6」

駐在開教使 曾我大円

新しい年を迎え、はや一月が過ぎます。コロナの騒動も中々落ち着かず、いまだに多くの人がかかっておられます。皆様はご無事で新年を迎えられ、心安らかに二月を迎えられておられることと拝察しております。昨年は思うように行かないと辛抱しながらも、色々とお寺の活動を続け、どうにか一年をやりくりすることができました。今年も皆様のご理解とご協力をお願いいたします。

さて、今月も「阿弥陀様の願い」ということについて書かせていただきます。阿弥陀仏様の願いは「大無量寿経」というお経の中に書いてあります。これは約2500年前、この世に出られたお釈迦様がお説き下さったお経です。またお釈迦様が阿弥陀仏様を紹介されたお経です。阿弥陀仏様がどうして仏様になられたのか、どんな仏様になられたのか、何をしに仏様になられたのか、誰のために仏様になられたのか、ということをお私たちに知らしめんために、お釈迦様がこのお経を私たちに説いて下さったのです。

また大無量寿経の中には人間のことが説いてあります。お釈迦様がしっかりと人間というものを見つめられて、苦しみのたね（因）や苦しみの姿など事細かに説かれています。その沢山ある中の一つに次のようなことをお説き下さっております。

人在世間 愛欲之中 獨生獨死 獨去獨来 當行至趣 苦樂之地 身自當之 無有代者

「人、世間愛欲の中にありて、獨り生まれ獨り死し、獨り去り獨り来たる。行に当たりて苦樂の地に至り趣く。身みづからこれを當（うく）るに、代わるものあることなし」

これは人生は一度しかなく、誰も代わってくれる人はいないんだよ、とお釈迦様がお示し下さいました。

どうでしょう、誰も代わってくれることのできない人生、一度しかない人生です。皆さんの人生で一番辛いことってなんでしょう。それは私の心や体の痛み、私の悲しみをわかってくれる人がいない、一人で背負っていくしかない、そんな一人ぼっちな人生なんだと思うことが一番辛いんだよ、とお釈迦様はこの文章でお説き下さっております。そのことを全部わかっていて下さる阿弥陀仏様が、私が一度しかないこの人生で、欲を起し人と競ったり、こうじゃなきゃいけないと執着を持ったり、腹を立てたり、どうしようもない愚痴を言って周りの人を不愉快にしたり、そして気がついてみると一人ぼっちなになってしまっている、そんな私の姿を見つけられたのです。そしてその私に寄り添っていて下さる、共にいるから、心安らかに、一度しかない人生を大事に生きてくれよ、そうでないと私（阿弥陀）がさとりを成就できないと願って下さるのです。

どうぞ今年もまだまだ辛抱しなければならぬようですが、辛いなあ、そして一人ぼっちな寂しいなあと思った時、そのあなたの苦悩を阿弥陀仏様がほってはおけないと共に苦しんで下さる、嬉しい時は一緒に笑って下さる、とお念仏して下さい。そしていつかあなたがそんな仏様になって、同じような辛抱や苦悩をして一人ぼっちなと思って生きている人のそばにいてあげられるようになりたい、と一度しかない人生を大事にお過ごし下さい。

もし、これを読まれている方で、一人ぼっちな寂しいなあ、と思われている人がおられましたら、お寺に曾我開教使がいます、遠慮なく電話して下さい。

合掌

**Waipahu Hongwanji Mission**

94-821 Kuhaulua Street  
Waipahu, HI 96797  
Phone: 808 677-4221  
E-mail: waipahuhongwanji@hawaii.rr.com  
Resident Minister: Reverend Jeffrey D. Soga

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**Address Correction Requested**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

(with face mask)

**Every Sunday:** 9 a.m. Family Service  
All are welcome.

**Every Thursday:** 8 a.m. Kokua Day  
Your participation requested

**Saturdays , 8:30 a.m. Hoshu Day**

**1st and 3rd Thursday: 12:30 p.m.**  
Karaoke Club Everyone welcome

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**Ewa Fukushima Bon Dance Club  
2022 Practice Schedule**

(For Newbies & Preseason Conditioning)  
All Sundays in February and March  
2 p.m.- 4 p.m.  
At Waipahu Hongwanji Ground (outside)  
More detail: call (808) 677-4221

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(all activities require Face mask)

**New Board of Director's Orientation**  
Saturday, February 26, 2022

8:30 a.m. Hoshu Clean up  
Follow to  
Orientation Program  
All members are welcome.

**BWA DANA DAY SERVICE**  
Sunday, February 20, 2022. 9 a.m.  
**Guest Speaker: Mrs. Barbara Brenann**

**Culture Class**  
Tuesday, February 22, 2022  
10 a.m.  
SUSHI making 100  
(Reverend Jeff and Mrs. Kumika will teach  
Sushi rice in easiest way. Rev. Jeff needs  
head counts, Please call Waipahu Hongwanji  
if you can attend.)