



WAIPAHU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
(A Shin Buddhist Temple)

GOLDEN CHAIN

Monthly Newsletter

MARCH 2022

Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others.



JODO SHINSHU, Teaching of Pure Land “Amida Buddha’s Vow #7 03/2022 Reverend Jeffrey Soga, resident minister

Gradually, sun rises earlier, sun sets later, and sun light is getting warmer. How are you living every day? The Corona pandemic still continues. I hear a news that Russian troops may invades Ukraine. I wish no war. Why do people use precious tax money to make weapons and use them to destroy historical buildings, hurting and killing each other. I assume it’s not easy, but they should try to talk, understand, compromise, find harmony, and then they can finish this conflict and soldiers can go home peacefully.

On this issue, I’d like to write here about Amida Buddha’s Vow through a war. The sutra describes 48 vows of Amida Buddha. The first vow writes:

If, when I attain Buddhahood, there should be hell, the realm of hungry spirits, or the realm of animals in my land, may I not attain the perfect enlightenment.

Amida Buddha vows there is no JIGOKU (hell), GAKI (hungry spirit) and CHIKUSHO (beast or animal) in my (Pure) Land.

Master Genshin (942 – 1017) wrote about detailed JIGOKU in his book. I’d like to write brief sentence.

At first there is TOHKATSU JIGOKU (hell of living equally and continuously). People in this hell have an aggressive and hurting mind. If people who don't know each other and should encounter each other for the first time, they start fighting. Because people in the hell have a nail which is very sharp like a knife, when they grab each other, meat is cut, fresh and blood were scattered, and after that nothing but bones were left over. (omission) After the fighting, cool wind blows over the bones, the body was heeled and continue fighting and suffering.

It is kind of gross, however, after the war and battle, it could be happened. One individual soldiers don’t have any hate and reason, without any reason, they encounter incidentally, they start to fight each other. If the soldier could kill enemy and survive, he/she must live with the awful memories for his/her whole life.

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MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR 2022

1st (2021)

March 22 Meuki Amaral
March 24 Janet Shizuka Sato

3rd (2020) None

7th (2016) None

13th (2010)

March 28 Clifford Shoji Araki
March 30 Toshiko Yamamoto

17th (2006)

March 6 Kiyoko Calpito

25th (1998)

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

33rd (1990) None

50th (1973) None

1st (2021)

April 16 Francis Hideo Yoshida
April 29 Hideko Nancy Oshiro

3rd (2020)

April 15 Manabu Koga
April 16 Katherine Kazuko Namba
April 23 Miharuru Koga

7th (2016) None

13th (2010)

April 2 Jane Tetsuko Matsunaga
April 11 Kenji Sakata
April 19 Fumiko Oshiro
April 24 William Yoshinori Uyeno

17th (2006)

April 5 Hatsuko Tamura
April 8 Sally Sadame Kanno
April 9 Toshiko Kahagura

25th (1998) none

33rd (1990)

April 1 Taro Takushi
April 10 Chise Matsushima
April 11 Tadao Okada
April 20 Isamu Kamisato

50th (1973)

April 13 Shizuko Kameya

(Jodo Shinshu, From Page 1)

In our everyday life, war is not the only place where we hurt each other. If we have greed and anger, and start grumble with each other, the words that come from your mouth could be sharp knife and hurt each other. We end up suffering together. A deep scar remains in the heart. If you do as such, it is the same as creating such realm of hell, hungry ghost.

I believe Amida Buddha observes such realm, or our human being's spiritual lives, Amida Buddha vowed, as the first vow, in my Pure Land there is no such realm.

Those young soldiers of Russia and Ukraine have their father, mother, wife, husband, child, and friends. They're all waiting to come back safely. As I read Amida Buddha's Vow, I wish all soldiers, without hurting and killing each other, are able to go home where their families are waiting.

In gassho,



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Evan Watarida, President of Waipahu Hongwanji

Aloha everyone,

Recently in February, the 2022 Gisseikai Legislative Assembly in which all temples and ministers meet to approve matters for the upcoming year was held virtually. Here is a summary of the resolutions that passed during the assembly.

- 1) Honpa assessments to temples were reduced for 2022 which will aid temples (Waipahu included) that had reduced income during COVID.
- 2) A statewide annual endowment campaign was approved. Funds collected would be added to Honpa's capital fund investments. Interest earnings would support Honpa's budget and reduce the burden of ongoing temple assessments as it grows.
- 3) Funding for the new Ka Leo O Kahea newsletter was approved for the four quarters of 2022. If you are a member receiving the Waipahu Golden Chain, you should be receiving the Ka Leo O Kahea from Honpa as well. If you are not receiving it, please contact the temple.
- 4) Approval of a \$50K subsidy to Pacific Buddhist Academy that will be used for tuition assistance and enrollment growth.
- 5) Hilo Hongwanji is constructing a new \$4M preschool and Honpa will provide a \$1M credit line in case their \$4.5M of pledges come in slower than building costs.
- 6) Papaaloa Temple on the Big Island closed, and membership will merge with Honohina Temple

Looking ahead to 2023, travel packages are being made available for the joint 850th anniversary of Shinran Shonin's birth and the 800th anniversary of Jodo Shinshu in Kyoto, Japan. Special services will be held during May 2023, which will coincide with the BWA World Convention in Kyoto. For those that prefer to stay closer to home, special celebration activities are being planned for 2024 to commemorate the 135th anniversary of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii. These events will be announced in the future.

Here at Waipahu, planning is currently proceeding on resumption of Obon, our bazaar, and other in-person temple activities this year as COVID cases and restrictions continue to decline. Details will be announced as we get nearer to those dates and we get better clarity on where guidelines are headed. Thank you to all our members and volunteers who continue to selflessly support our temple.

In Gassho,

WAIPAHU HONGWANJJI NEWS

February Activities



Mrs. Barbara Brennan,
member of Hawaii Betsuin.

Waipahu Hongwanji Dana Day service sponsored by BWA.

The guest speaker was Mrs. Barbara Brennan. She shared her life and deep concern about Dana that helped and gave power in her life.

Origami style fabric face masks are available at the temple for a small donation to the columbarium account. Please call the temple if you wish to pick one up.



DON DOKO DO—N

A Taiko Practice started. You can check it out on Sunday 2- 4 p.m. The February Board Meeting, we talked about our Bon Service and Dance. We still wait for the future condition. But if can, can, if no can, no can.



WAIPAHU HONGWANJJI FUJINKAI (Buddhist Women's Association)



BWA showed appreciation to the President, Evan Watarida by presenting a token of appreciation.

“Happy Girl’s Day”

We are very happy that six new members joined us. They are: Lisa Okada, Joyce Oshita, Ann Saruwatari, Wilma Sumida, Lilly Tokuhara and Carol Nezu.

However, Waipahu Hongwanji Fujinkai lost a member, Emiko Serikaku. She was a former President and very involved with Fujinkai. We miss her very much and extend condolences.

The next Board Meeting will be on Sunday, March 13, 2022 after the Sunday Service.

The Fujinkai dues is \$15/year.

Please make a check payable to: Waipahu Hongwanji Fujinkai
(not BWA)

Thank you for your Kokua.

Kumika Soga, President

SPECIAL DONATION

HOONKO

Adrian & Gale Koizumi, Wilfred & Mae Matsushige, Clarence & Edna Otsuka, Beatrice Sonoda, Jane Tanaka, Ellen Ujimori, Guy & Cindy Ujimori

New Years Guy & Cindy Ujimori

Memorial Akiko Kie Trust

Other Special Serena Nakano, Jerry Yoshimura

MEMBERSHIP

Au, M/M Albert	Ayakawa, Adrienne	Bayes, Pearl	Fujikawa, M/M Gary
Fujiwara, Janice	Fukeda-Hanna, Diane	Fukunaga, Jane	
Funasaki, M/M Henry	Ishimaru, Sumiko	Kamikawa, Jane	Kakugawa, Doris
Koizumi, Adrian	Kono, Chizuko	Miyasato, M/M Andrew	
Nezu, M/M Tadao	Oshiro, M/M Gerald	Oshiro, M/M Henry	Oshiro, Jo Ann
Otsuka, M/M Chuck	Ro, Jan	Saito, Winton	Sano, Sharon
Sekine, Annette	Shigeta, M/M Haruo	Shigeta, M/M Raymond	
Serikaku, George	Serikaku, Darryl	Serikaku, Jonathan	
Serikaku, Terrence	Tasnouye, Vanassa	Toguchi, Bobby	Tokuhara, Lilly
Tsukida, Peggy	Tsumoto, Robert	Ujimori, Ellen	Yoshida, Janet

NEW MEMBERS:

Fukeda-Hanna, Diane

WELCOME T OWAIPAHU HONGWANJI

Oshiro, Jo Ann

Sano, Sharon

浄土真宗の教え 2022年3月 「阿弥陀様の願い その7」

駐在開教使 曾我大円

少しづつ朝日が早く、そして日没が遅くなり、太陽の日差しも強くなってきています。いかがお過ごしでしょうか。まだまだコロナは続いております。またロシアの軍隊がウクライナへ侵攻しているとニュースを聞きます。なぜお金を使って兵器を作り、見ず知らずの人たちが傷つけあい、命を取り合うのでしょうか。どうにか話し合いをして、もちろん難しいことなのかもしれませんが、譲り合いと協調で傷つけあうことなく終わるように願うばかりです。

今月は戦争ということから、阿弥陀様の願いを考えてみたいと思います。四十八通りある阿弥陀様の願いの一番最初の願いは次のようにあります。

「原文」たとひ我仏を得たらんに、国に地獄、餓鬼、畜生あらば、正覺を取らじ

「意識」もし、私が仏となることができる時、私の国に地獄、餓鬼、畜生という世界があったならば、私は覺りをひらくことが出来ません。

私の国には地獄や餓鬼や畜生はないぞ、と願われたのです。

地獄とはなんでしょうか。源信という方が詳しく「往生要集」というご本の中に説明して下さっています。その文章を少しだけ紹介させていただきます。

意識を書かせていただきます。

初めに等活地獄（とうかつじごく）があります。この地獄の罪人はいつも人を傷つける心を抱いていて、もしたまたま出会うことがあれば、おのおの鉄の爪を持ってたがいに掴みかかって、ケンカを始めます。お互い傷つけあった後は、血も肉もボロボロになって、ただ骨が残るばかりです。（中略）その残骨の上を涼風きたりて吹き、体が元にもどって同じ苦しみを続けてゆかなければなりません。

戦争は悲しいことです。一人一人の戦士たちはお互いになんの恨みもなく、理由もないのに、たまたま出会ってしまったら、お互いが殺し合いを始めなければなりません。しかし、たまたま相手を殺して生き残ることが出来たとしても、その心の中には深い傷が残り、生涯その辛く苦しい思い出と共に生きてゆかなければなりません。

これは戦争に限ったことではありません。私たちの毎日の生活の中で欲の心を起こし、腹をたて、愚痴を言い、お互いにその心から発する言葉が鋭い刃のようになってお互いが傷つけあい、一緒に苦しみ、心の中に深い傷を残していくような生き方をされておられませんか？その姿こそ阿弥陀様が見られた私たち人間の世界であり、そのような世界は決して阿弥陀様の願われる世界には無い、と、先ず最初の願いをそこに建てられたのです。

若い戦士たちには私たちと同じように父があり、母があり、妻や夫があり、子供があり、友達があり、その皆が無事に帰ってきてくれることを願っておられることでしょうか。阿弥陀様の願いをお聞かせいただく時、同じように、戦士の一人一人が傷つけあうことなく、家族の待つ所へ無事に帰られることを願うばかりです。

Waipahu Hongwanji Mission

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Waipahu, HI 96797

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Resident Minister: Reverend Jeffrey D. Soga

Non Profit Organization

U. S. POSTAGE

P A I D

Permit No. 5

Waipahu, Hawaii

Address Correction Requested**Condolence:**

Waipahu Hongwanji extends deepest sympathy to the families of

Carol Ayako Fujita

Alvin Takeshi Fukuoka

***** *** ***** *** *****

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. Hosha Day

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(all activities require Face mask)

No family Service on Sunday, 3/6
Due to Sangha Day at Neal S. Blaisdell Park

OHIGAN (Spring Equinox) SERVICE
Sunday, March 20, 2022, 9 a.m.

Culture Class

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

10 a.m.

SUSHI making 200

(Reverend Jeff and Mrs. Kumika will teach
Sushi rice with advance cooking.
Rev. Jeff needs head count, Please call
Waipahu Hongwanji if you can attend.)