



WAIPAHU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
(A Shin Buddhist Temple)

GOLDEN CHAIN

Monthly Newsletter

DECEMBER 2022

Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others.



JODO SHINSHU, Teaching of Pure Land “Amida Buddha’s Vow #14 (5th Vow) 12/2022 Reverend Jeffrey Soga, resident minister

Aloha Waipahu and Waianae Hongwanji Dharma Friends. There is only one month left in this year. How has this year been for you? Last year, you had to stay away from close family and friends. This year, gradually, it came back normal yet still pandemic is active and we must be careful. I wish next year, everything come to back normal, so we can hug each other and enjoy meeting together.

I'd like to continue sharing my thoughts of Amida Buddha's fifth vow. I quote fifth vow:

If, when I attain Buddhahood, the humans and devas in my land should not remember all their former lives, and thus be unable to know at least the events of the previous hundred thousand kotis of nayutas of kalpas, may I not attain the perfect enlightenment.

(The Three Pure Land Sutras, Volume II, Page 20)

I think this vow is ‘When I will be born in Amida Buddha’s Pure Land, I will be able to attain enlightenment and therefore I am able to realize all unseen and inconceivable lives which make my life possible.’

Last month I wrote that my grandson was injected with a triple vaccine. I'm sure you've received injections. Have you ever wondered how the drug is made? This is what I read in a book when I was in college.

The medicine for injection is made with the blood of animals. Inject the horse with germs. After a few months, drain all the horse's blood. After that, the blood is used to make serum. Make drugs from serum. The medicine is tested on mice, guinea pigs, dogs and cats. After the so many tests and only when Doctors think okay, the medicine will be used on humans. Please imagine this the next time when you get an injection.

The injection that my grandson received, just a little amount of liquid, however, contains many lives that are not visible. Think about it as follows:

There are children who die by polio, tetanus, measles, and suffer from the aftereffects.

There are fathers, mothers, grandfathers, and grandmothers who watch over their children with anxiety. If the child had died, they would have shed tears.

There are doctors and nurses who work hard to help the child.

There are lives of horses, cows and many animals to make medicines.

There is a small animal life to test the drug.

These lives, invisible lives, countless lives, are contained in the injection medicine my grandson received. The injections my grandson received are just a few pills, but they contain all the countless lives I could not

(Continued to page 2)

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR 2022 & 2023

DECEMBER

1st (2021)

December 12 James Kazuo Takemoto
 December 13 Michiko Takara
 December 15 Alvin Takeshi Fukuoka
 December 21 Ichiyo Koga
 December 27 Masao Harry Kitaguchi

3rd (2020)

December 20 Sumi Yasui
 December 31 Stanley Tatsumi Asamoto

7th (2016)

December 2 Kathryn Kimie Fujioka

13th (2010)

December 1 Herbert Yukikazu Oshiro
 December 9 Hazel Ayako Inouye
 December 22 Thelma Tomoko Tokairin
 December 29 Terue Tamura

17th (2006)

25th (1998)

December 7 Walter Hanyei Asato

33rd (1990)

December 7 Kame Oshiro
 December 25 Kiyoshi Miyashiro

50th (1973)

1st (2022)

January 13 Jon Satoshi Tokuhara

3rd (2021)

January 22 Walter Kazunori Matsumoto

7th (2017)

13th (2011)

January 16 Yateru Nakamatsu

17th (2007)

January 12 Nobutoshi Kohagura

25th (1999)

January 4 Seishi Yahata
 January 12 Yoshio Nagaji
 January 22 Ethel Isau Inoue

33rd (1991)

January 26 Katsumi Fujiwara
 January 30 Yoshiyuki (Tony) Fukeda

50th (1974)

January 8 Margarat Kaneyo Mitsumoto
 January 13 Kaoru Yoshida
 January 14 Sukeichi Kamikawa
 January 20 Koichi Akamine

(JODO SHINSHU, from Page 1)

have imagined here, and because of their work, my grandson is still alive and well today and gives me a smile. If you have small grandchildren or children around you, please think that when they are injected by the doctor, they are receiving such invisible and inconceivable lives and tears. At that time, Amida Buddha's fifth vow, if we are born into the Pure Land and receive the enlightenment of Buddha, we will be able to know all this invisible life. I can be informed that this grandson's life, my life, all my life, is supported by many other lives and is so precious.

2022 is coming to an end. Thank you for your help this year as well. We look forward to working with you again next year. Happy Holiday Season!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Evan Watarida, President of Waipahu Hongwanji

Dear Waipahu Hongwanji Sangha,

It's hard to believe that this year is already coming to a close. After undergoing the ups and downs of several years of social distancing and cancelled events, I am grateful that we could resume our temple activities and start to reconnect again.

Looking back on the highlights this past year, we had our in-person bon dance which had the biggest attendance in recent memory.

Many new faces came from all over the island to celebrate. We had our first obon service for pets which was well received and hope to become an annual event. We even had our mini-bazaar and ohana day which also had big turnouts. And we could not have done all of these without the generous support of our members, volunteers, and friends of the temple. It was extremely gratifying for me to see the traditions being kept alive and honoring those that worked so hard to keep Waipahu temple going after 120 years that we honored during our recent Etaikyo service.

Now we are headed into the holiday season. It's a time to come together with family and loved ones in the spirit of thankfulness and good cheer. And although in the Buddhist tradition, we don't celebrate Christmas which is the birth of Christ in the literal sense, there are many parallels that we can come together on. The traditional Christmas message of "peace on earth and goodwill toward man", is essentially the same tenet expression of the Buddha's "love and compassion to all beings". So, in spite of the seemingly endless conflicts and polarizing differences we see in the news, we are all truly aligned in our core beliefs and are seeking the same universal love and compassion no matter what religion we follow.

Moving forward to the new year in 2023, we will continue bringing back our traditions by resuming our annual new year's party once again on January 22. It's an event that means a lot to our members and I want to make sure we have the opportunity to enjoy one another's company.

In closing, I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of you for your work and support of Waipahu Hongwanji. And I wish all of you a safe and joyous holiday season.

In Gassho,



FUJINKAI (Buddhist Women's Association) NEWS



Sunday, November 20, 2022 FUJINKAI celebrated combined Service of HOONKO and 110th Anniversary. The guest Speaker was Mrs. Tamayo Matsumoto.

From left: Rev. Soga, Beatrice Sonoda (MC), Mrs. Matsumoto (guest speaker), Mrs. Soga and Evan Watarida (President)

Monthly meeting in December:
Sunday, December 11, 2022 after the Sunday Service

BWA VISITATION



Halloween Sunday, October 23, 2022

WAIPAHU HONGWANJI NEWS

2023 New Year Party

Date: Sunday, January 22, 2023
Place: Waipahu Hongwanji Social Hall
Time: (tentative)
9 a.m. General Membership Meeting
10 a.m. Program
11 a.m. Lunch (lunch cost will be announced in the next month GC)
Follow to Entertainment, Bingo, Door Prizes, etc.

Please call Reverend Soga (808) 677-4221, **IF:**

1. **YOU** attend,
2. **You** know anyone who is 80 and older for **KEIROKAI**
(the person become 80 years in 2023)
3. **You** can donate door prize, bingo and lucky number
4. **You** can do entertainment, such as Karaoke, Magic, Dance, etc.

Reverend Soga will be in trouble if you attend without calling, because they may not be enough lunch. Please make sure to call temple (808) 677-4221, no later than **January 15, 2023, Sunday.**

Year End General Clean-up

Sunday, December 18, 2022, 8 a.m.

Waipahu Hongwanji is your temple.
Please join and clean temple and welcome together the new year 2023.

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

December 31, Saturday, 2022
10 a.m. (morning service)
TOSHIKOSHI SOBA will be served.

NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

January 1, Sunday, 2023
9 a.m. (morning service)
Refreshment will be served.

MOCHI TSUKI

Thursday, December 29, 2022,
9 a.m.

Waipahu Hongwanji Social Hall

If you need MOCHI for New Year,
please call Reverend Soga (808) 677-
4221. He can help you.

We need man power a lot. Please help,
pound, making mochi, clean up, etc.



SPECIAL DONATION

Noboru Hironaka ... \$100
Special

Thomas & Sachi Kaneshiro ... \$1,000
Special

Nomura Family ... \$800
Funeral for Richard Nomura

Ann Saruwatari ... \$100
Special

Francis Uyeno ... \$500
Building Fund

Watanabe/Taniguchi Family ... \$100
In memory of Jean Watanabe

Musashi International ... \$200
Special

Edith Ihori
Special... \$150
Social concern ... \$100

Kimura Family ... \$1,000
Funeral for Masako Kimura

Lisa Okada ... \$100
Special

Peggy Tsukida
In memory of Noboru Yamauchi ... \$100
In memory of Nancy Inouye ... \$100

Watanabe Family ... \$200
In memory of Jean Watanabe

Mark Yamauchi ... \$300
Funeral for Noboru Yamauchi

ETAIKYO:

Milton Fujioka, Marjory & Henry Funasaki, Daniel & Lois Hanaoka, Roy & Dorothy Hirata, Steven & Jan Honda, Edith Ihori, Nancy Inouye, Robert & Margaret Itagaki, Caran Iwata, Thomas & Sachie Kaneshiro, Janet Kaya, Richard & Sueko Kodama, Adrian & Gale Koizumi, Kimi Koizumi, Frances Matsumoto, Wilfred & Mae Matsushige, Flora & Lionel Minemoto, Carol & Andrew Miyasato, Daniel & Jasmine Morrison, Masumi Murakami, Fumiko & Stephen Nii, Lori Noborikawa, Jenny Nomura, Lisa Okada, Clarence & Edna Otsuka, Jan Ro, Ann Saruwatari, George Sawa, Annette Sekine, Thomas Sekine, Haruo & Jane Shigeta, Beatrice Sonoda, Harriet Sugimoto, Calvin & Wilma Sumida, Craig & Christi Tadaki, Jane Tanaka, Lilly Tokuhara, Barbara & Felix Torricer, Robert Tsumoto, Sachiko & Russell Tsutsui, Kuniomi & Akemi Uehara, Ellen Ujimori, Masao & Yukiko Uyeda, Francis Uyeno, Setsuko Uyeno, Evan Watarida, Helen Yonashiro & Lynn Fujikawa, Janet Yoshida

SOCIAL CONCERNS:

Edith Ihori, Nancy Inouye, Yoshito Kamikawa, Janet Kaya, Frances Matsumoto, Daniel & Jasmine Morrison, Helen Niitani, Lori Noborikawa, Emiko Onaga, Clarence & Edna Otsuka, Beatrice Sonoda, Jane Tanaka, Ellen Ujimori, Craig & Megumi Uyeno, Setsuko Uyeno

OHIGAN: Kimi Koizumi, Carol & Andrew Miyasato, Calvin & Wilma Sumida

GOTANE: Kimi Koizumi

Membership 2022: Ayabe, Alison/Lena
Tanouye, Vanassa

Okazaki, Melani
Toguchi, Barbara

Fukeda-Hanna, Diane
Toguchi, Sharon

Mebmership 2023: Oshita, Robert/Joyce

浄土真宗の教え 2022年12月 「阿弥陀様の願いその13（第五願）その3」

駐在開教使 曾我大円

今年もあと一ヶ月となりました。皆さんにとって今年はどうな年だったでしょうか？今まで、コロナ疫病のお陰でじっとしていたけれど、少しずつ外に出ることや、お友達と会うことを楽しむ機会が増えてきたのではないですか。来年はもっとそんなことが出来るようになればいいですね。しかし、まだまだこの疫病は続いています、油断しないように日々をお過ごし下さい。

今月も続いて阿弥陀様の五番目の願いについて、私の思いを書かせていただきます。御文（ごもん）をいただきます。

設我得仏 国中人天 不識宿命 下至不知 百千億那由他諸劫事者 不取正覚

（私の意識）「もし私（阿弥陀）が仏として覚りを得る時、私の国の人たちが、その身に宿る不思議な命を識（し）ることができなければ、悟りを得ることはありません。」

この願いは、「私たちがお浄土へ行き、覚りを開いたならば、私を生かしてくれている全ての命を知ることが出来る」と願われてあるのです。

これを読んでおられるあなたもそして私も、数えきれない目には見えない命（これを百千億那由他諸劫事者と言います）に支えられて生かされているのです。日本語は有り難いですが、生きてるのではないのです、生かされているのです。どなたかこれを英語に訳していただければ、とても嬉しく思います。

先月は私の孫が三種混合のワクチンを注射されることを書きました。皆さん、病気になると注射を打たれ、薬を飲まれると思います。その薬がどうやって作られ、私に使われるのかお考えになったことがありますか？これは私が大学に通っている時本で読んだことです。注射に使われる液体の薬は動物の血で作られます。まず、ばい菌を馬に注射します。数ヶ月してその馬の血を全部抜きます。その血液で血清を作ります。血清から薬を作ります。その薬をネズミやモルモット、犬や猫で試します。そして、これで大丈夫だと確信して初めて人間に使います。私の孫が受けた注射液、ほんの少しの液体の中には、目に見えない多くの命が含まれています。どんな命があるか：

ポリオ、破傷風、ハシカになって亡くなられたり、後遺症で苦しむ子供さんの命があります。

その子供さんを不安の思いで見守るお父様、お母様、お祖父様、お婆様がいます。その方達は涙を流されながら、やるせない思いで過ごされることでしょう。

その子供さんを助けようと、お医者、看護師、薬を作る科学者が一所懸命勉強し、働いておられます。

薬を作るための馬や牛たちの命、その薬を試すための小さな動物の命があります。

孫が受けた注射液、それはほんの数滴ですが、その一雫（ひとしずく）のお薬の中には、ここにあげた思いも及ばない無数の命が全部含まれていて、そのお蔭によって私の孫は今日も元気で笑顔を私に送ってくれます。もし皆さんの周りに小さなお孫さんやお子さんがおられましたら、その子たちがお医者様から注射をされる時、こんなに見えない命と涙のお蔭ををもらっているのだなと思って下さい。そして「阿弥陀様の五番目の願い」に、私たちがお浄土へ生まれ、仏様の覚りを頂いたならば、この見えない命全てに気づかせていただくことが出来るのだよ。孫の命も私の命も、そして全ての命は他の多くの命に支えられ、こんなに尊いものなのだよ、と阿弥陀様が私に願ってくださることを受けとってほしいです。

2022年が終わります。今年もいろいろお世話になりました。来年もよろしく願いいたします。2023年、良い年をお迎え下さい。

Waipahu Hongwanji Mission

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Resident Minister: Reverend Jeffrey D. Soga

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DECEMBER 2022

Address Correction Requested

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Every Thursday: 9 a.m. Kokua Day

Every Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Hosha Day

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

1st Thursday: 7 a.m.
Meditation Class Everyone welcome

2nd Saturday: 10 a.m.
Project Dana, Caregiver Support Program

New Year's Eve Service
Saturday, December 31, 2022, 10 a.m.

New Year's Day Service
Sunday, January 1, 2023, 9 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
(Masks are recommended)

Project Dana
Care Giver Support Program
December 10, Saturday, 10 a.m.

BODHI DAY SERVICE
Sunday, December 4, 9 a.m.

BWA Monthly Meeting
Sunday, December 11,
after the Sunday Service

YEAR END GENERAL CLEAN UP
Sunday, December 18, 8 a.m.

MOCHI TSUKI
Thursday.
December 29.
9 a.m.

