



WAIPAHU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
(A Shin Buddhist Temple)

GOLDEN CHAIN

Monthly Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2022

Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others.



JODO SHINSHU, Teaching of Pure Land “Amida Buddha’s Vow #13 (5th Vow) 11/2022 Reverend Jeffrey Soga, resident minister

Aloha Waipahu and Waianae Dharma Friends, How are you doing?

I’m writing November issue. There are only two months left in this year. Gradually, end of the year getting close, then people will be busy and rushing around. Please keep calm and live safe and in peace. YUKKURI in Japanese.

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.’ How many lives do you realize in your day. When you eat steak, fried chicken, sushi, porkchops, etc. you may realize you are receiving their lives. I wish that you will express your gratitude to their sacrificed lives when you receive meal. How many tablets of medicine do you take every day? When you put them in your mouth, do you say ‘thank you’ because they include so many unseen lives. Medicines are always tested on smaller animals, such as mouse, guinea pig, dog, cat, etc.. After the test, you receive those medicine and you trust your doctor who prescribed the medicine. In the small tablet, such sacrificed lives are included, and OKAGESAMADE because of such unseen kindness, you’re able to live today’s life, aren’t you?

I am blessed by two grandchildren; Kosei is four years old and Rui will be two years old in December. When my grandchildren were born, same as my children, they received the triple vaccine injection. They were polio, measles and tetanus. These diseases are life-threatening. And even if you survive, it is a disease that will leave aftereffects. I have an aunt who was always dragging her foot. One day, my aunt told me that she had polio when she was a small child. Due to the after-effects of the illness, her legs were different in length, and she had to drag her leg her whole life.

Now, speaking of my grandchildren, when my granddaughter was born safely, she received the injection of the vaccine. A doctor pinched her skin on the upper part of her buttocks, and in no time at all, she was pierced with a needle and injected with a little liquid. At that time, she cried hard and had a little fever. So KAWAISO, it was so pitiful. However, at that time, I thought about my aunt who dragged her leg.

(Continued to page 2)

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR 2022

NOVEMBER

1st (2021)

November 21 Carol Ayako Fujita

3rd (2020)

November 30 Masunori "George"
Morimoto

7th (2016)

November 27 Henry Kameichi Oshiro

13th (2010)

17th (2006)

25th (1998)

November 9 Fred Katsuyoshi Tamura

33rd (1990)

November 4 Niichi Saiki
November 12 Ralph Minoru Saito
November 16 Goro Murakami
November 23 Hiroshi Takatani

50th (1973)

November 2 Kiju Higashi
November 10 Kazuto Ogasawara

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)

(JODO SHINSHU, from Page 1)

If this vaccine had been given to my aunt when she was a child, she would have been able to run and jump. Not only the aunt, but her father and mother who watched over their young daughter could have died of polio. Also, the doctors and nurses who were treating the infant aunt when they were caring for her without any medicine to help. All of them were in deep sadness and disconsolate.

When a small newborn life was affected by such a disease, babies lost their lives. Parents cried because of their loss. Tears of father and mother, unrequited efforts of doctors and nurses, and inconceivable anguish of many people would result from the deaths. When Amida Buddha observe all, how deep the Buddha's sadness.

Continued to next month...



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Evan Watarida, President of Waipahu Hongwanji

Dear Waipahu Hongwanji Sangha,

It's already November and the year is nearing an end. We're entering the holiday season soon. And it's evident by just walking through the stores as they try to get you in the holiday mood. It's the time of year when people value family and goodwill. People start to act a little nicer and their hearts are open to giving. I believe Thanksgiving is that transition when people begin to look up from their hectic daily lives and become aware of relationships because right around the corner will be Christmas. People become a little more cheerful, peaceful, and charitable to others.

And speaking of gratitude and giving, we are putting a call out for more temple volunteers who can help with routine temple cleaning. On Saturday November 12 at 8:30am, Rev. Soga will conduct an orientation on properly cleaning the altar area. Our Hosha volunteers routinely come on Saturday mornings to prep the temple for Sunday service. But as our regular volunteers dwindle, we welcome new helpers because more hands make light work.

In addition to Hosha, we also have our hard-working Thursday gang who selflessly volunteer their time each week to do maintenance, cleaning, and miscellaneous projects to keep our temple property looking and running great. The projects are never-ending and they can always use more volunteers to help out in any way along with the added benefit of socializing after.

We are also fortunate to have Project Dana that meets each 2nd Saturday morning in our conference room. Project Dana is specifically for the most special class of volunteers. People who are caregivers for the elderly. If you or anyone you know (open to all religious affiliations) is caring for a family member, Project Dana provides free caregiver support, training, and counseling. There is an immense burden placed on caregivers and oftentimes they will not ask for help. Project Dana provides a safe outlet and support system for these volunteers.

This past Sunday during service, Rev. Soga did an activity where everyone paired up and spoke words of praise and gratitude to their partner. It was very awkward. There was a lot of laughing. But it demonstrated that it's not natural for most of us to say how thankful we are or express how much others mean to us. So why do we feel shame or awkward? I thought about it and realized it's because of my ego and selfishness.

I realize I don't like to look silly or look vulnerable in front of others. My ego doesn't like it. So, therefore I don't say anything. But when I let fear control me, I'm basically preventing myself from telling someone dear to me how important and valued they are. I'm withholding kind words to someone who may really need it that day. How silly and tragic that would be!

Let's not stubbornness, fear, or selfishness stop us from brightening up someone's day. Just a small word of encouragement or praise could make a huge lasting impression on someone we care about. Taking that leap of faith could be a small step to spreading joy to those around us and to those around them.

In Gassho,

WAIPAHU HONGWANJI NEWS



Oahu United BWA Annual Conference
At Aiea Hongwanji on 10/8/22
From left: Ellen Ujimori, Bea Sonoda,
Janet Kaya and Annette Sekine



Halloween Sunday, 10 /23/22



From left: Chief Logan, Chaplain Soga,
Bishop Matsumoto and Reverend Baba
(Headquarters)



HPD Chaplain Program (Peer Support Team)

Reverend Jeffrey Soga is appointed as a Police Chaplain by the Honolulu Police Department. Congratulations to Reverend Soga upon assuming his new role as a Police Chaplain. His appointment was made on October 3rd. As a Police Chaplain, he will respond to emergencies requiring a calm voice and demeanor while helping families deal with a sudden loss of a loved one's life, especially at the scene of a crime or accident. He will be on call at any time of the day or night. Reverend Soga performed this same duty with the Maui Police Department and Hawaii Police Department in the past. Waipahu Hongwanji Mission takes great pride and support in recognizing Reverend Soga's commitment to community service as a Police Chaplain.

FUJINKAI (Buddhist Women's Association) NEWS

HOON KO SERVICE and 110th ANNIVERSARY

November 20, 2022, Sunday, 9 a.m. at Waipahu Hongwanji.

Guest Speaker: Mrs. Tamayo Matsumoto

TEE-SHIRTS FOR SALE

\$25 Men's, Women's sizes and styles

ALTAR CLEANING LESSONS

November 12, 8:30 A.M. at Waipahu Hongwanji main temple
Cleaning the altar and its various accessories involves several steps and procedures. Proper cleaning is necessary to avoid scratching, discoloring and scuffing.

Current and future Hosha volunteers are requested to attend.

Training by Reverend Soga



Are you caring for an aging loved one? By Maria Raiza Morales, Project Dana

Join Project Dana's "Caring for the Caregiver" Support Group program! The program offers educational meetings for individuals caring for an older adult. The meetings are a great way to connect with others also in the same situation and learning about community programs and services. Share your journey with others, as they can learn from as you learn from them. You can join meetings in person or by Zoom.

Meetings for November are:

Wednesday, November 9 at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, Topic: TBA.

Saturday, November 12 at Waipahu Hongwanji Buddhist Temple,
Topic: Valley of the Temples.

Wednesday, November 17 at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin,
Topic: Hospitalization and Discharge Planning

Shy or uncomfortable to share in a group? Project Dana staff provides counseling services too. Staff can provide support by listening to your troubles and brainstorming possible solutions or help available. A one-on-one training is also available if you are caring for someone with dementia or they are showing signs of memory loss.

Contact Maria Morales at (808)979-5365 or at cgs@projectdana.org for more information about the program and services.

SPECIAL DONATION

Cynthia Char ... \$100
Special

Roger Ishigami ... \$200
In memory of Alice Ayabe

Janet Kaya ... \$100
In memory of James Koizumi

K. Koizumi ... \$500
In memory of James Koizumi

Shirley Kon ... \$100
In memory of Dorothy Umebayashi

Maizie Miyashiro ... \$800
Funeral for Sumiko Ishimaru

Musashi International ... \$200
Special

Harriet Sugimoto ... \$300
In memory of Nobuko Sugimoto

Zachary Taniguchi ... \$100
In memory of Ted Taniguchi

Harold Teraoa... \$100
Special

Charijean Watanabe ... \$300
In memory of Ted Taniguchi

Lynne Yoshimura ... \$250
Special

AUTUMN OHIGAN:

Nancy Inouye, Kimi Koizumi, Gary Maeda, Maizie & Sumiko Miyashiro, Haruo & Jane Shigeta, Lilly Tokuhara, Craig & Megumi Uyeno

SOCIAL CONCERN:

Jane Fukunaga, Marjory & Henry Funasaki, Daniel & Lois Hanaoka, Roy & Dorothy Hirata, Steven & Jan Honda, Caran Iwata, Richard & Sueko Kodama, Kimi Koizumi, Wilfred & Mae Matsushige, Masumi Murakami, Lisa Okada, Jan Ro, Tsunako Sakata, Annette Sekine, Thomas Sekine, Raymond & Kay Shigeta, Robert Tsumoto, Sachiko & Russell Tsutsui, Kuniomi & Akemi Uehara, Masao & Yukiko Uyeda, Francis Uyeno, Helen Yonashiro & Lynn Fujikawa, Janet Yoshida

REMINDER

2022, 2023 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES \$300

Please send your check PAYABLE TO :
Waipahu Hongwanji Mission
And state: membership dues for 2022 or 2023

浄土真宗の教え 2022年11月 「阿弥陀様の願いその12（第五願）その2」
駐在開教使 曾我大円

今年もあと二月（ふたつき）となりました。感謝祭が過ぎるとすぐ年の瀬となります。慌ただしい日々が始まりますが、これからもしっかり足を地につけて、毎日を大事にお過ごし下さい。

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ます。日本語は有り難いですね、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。

私は今二人の孫に恵まれました。孫が生まれた時、私の子供の時もそうですが、生まれてすぐ三種混合のワクチンの注射をされました。三種とは、ポリオ、ハシカ、そして破傷風の厄介な病気です。これらの病気は命に関わる病気です。そしてもし命をとりとめても、かかってしまったらその後の後遺症が残る病気です。私の親戚にいつも足をひきずっている叔母がおりました。ある時その叔母から聞かされたのは、子供の頃ポリオになったそうです。その時の後遺症で足の長さがちがって、ずっと足をひきずって歩かなければならなくなったそうです。

さて、孫の話ですが、孫が無事生まれた時、その三種混合のワクチンの注射を刺されました。多分私の子供たちと同じようにワンワン泣いたことだろうと思います。皆さんもご存知のことと思いますが、ワクチンの注射をされる時は、お尻の上の方の皮をキュッとつままれ、あっという間に注射針を刺され、少しの液体を注射されます。その時は赤ちゃんはギャーギャー泣き、その後は少し熱が出て、ぐったりします。私の子供が注射を受けた時はかわいそうにと思いながら、足をひきずっていた叔母の姿を思いだしていました。もしこのワクチンが叔母が子供の頃に出来ていたら、叔母だって走ったり、飛んだりできていたのでしょうか。叔母だけではありません、かわいい幼子がポリオとなって死ぬかもしれない子供を見守っておられた、叔母様のお父上お母上はどんな思いで日々を過ごしておられたことでしょうか。また、幼子の叔母を診ておられたお医者様、看護師さんたちも、なすすべもなく幼子の叔母を看護しておられた時の思いはどんなであったでしょうか。やるせない思いでいっぱいであったことでしょうか。

生まれたばかりの小さな命がそんな病気におかされた時、かけがえのない子供の命、父親と母親の涙の量、それを看取るお医者様や看護師の方々のやるせない思い、その多くの人たちの苦悩をみられた阿弥陀様はどんな思いであったことでしょうか。

つづく

Waipahu Hongwanji Mission

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Resident Minister: Reverend Jeffrey D. Soga

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Condolence

Waipahu Hongwanji extends deepest sympathy to the families of

Noboru Yamauchi
Richard Nomura

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Every Thursday: 9 a.m. Kokua Day

Every Saturdays , 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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
(Masks are recommended)**

**Project Dana
Care Giver Support Program**
November 12, Saturday, 10 a.m.

**FUJINKAI (BWA)
HOON KO and 110th Anniversary**
Combined Service
November 20, Sunday, 9 a.m.

EITAIKYO Sangha memorial Service
November 27, 9 a.m.

MEDITATION CLASS

The first Thursday of each month, Reverend Jeff will conduct class. Please arrive about 6:45 a.m. please come to main temple, 7 a.m. class starts. Wear loose, comfortable clothes. Please call Waipahu Hongwanji if you plan to attend.