



WAIPAHU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
(A Shin Buddhist Temple)

GOLDEN CHAIN

Monthly Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2024

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments



Amida Buddha's Vow and my wish

Jeffrey Soga, resident minister

I'm writing this in the middle of January now. It has been a tough start to the new year. The war between Ukraine and Russia has been ongoing for a long time, and we can't seem to see the end. There is the continuing conflict between Palestine and Israel. On New Year's Day this year, there was a large earthquake with the epicenter near the Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa Prefecture, followed by a Tsunami. As of January 15, while I write this message, 200 deaths have been confirmed. Many people are continuing to live in facilities and are experiencing a very difficult life every day in the cold winter of Hokuriku. In addition, there was an accident in which a Japan Airlines plane collided with a plane that was about to take off to deliver supplies to Ishikawa Prefecture. Also in Hawaii on New Year's Day, there was a terrible incident in which two police officers were injured by shooting in which the suspect later died.

It was the start of a year of grief and hardship for many people. If Buddha or Shinran Shonin were here and observed such worlds, what would they say? As I see people fighting and hurting each other, I always recall the first vow of Amida's 48 Vows. I want to quote:

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

To explain in my words:

Amida Buddha vows there is no JIGOKU (hell), GAKI (hungry spirit) and CHIKUSHO (beast or animal) in my (Amida Buddha's 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 hell have nails which are very sharp like a knife, when they grab each other, meat is cut, flesh and blood is scattered, and after that nothing but bones and pieces of body are left over. After the fighting, cool wind blows over the bones, the body is healed and continued fighting and suffering occurs. And this suffering will continue and never end.

(Continued to Page 2)

(Amida's Vow and my wish, From Page 1)

It is kind of gross, however, in war and battle, this happens daily, not with nails, but with weapons and warfare. Individual soldiers may not have any hate and reason to kill the other personally, but when they encounter incidentally, they have to start to fight each other. If the soldier could kill the enemy and survive, he/she has to live with the awful memories for his/her whole life.

In our everyday life, war is not the only place where people hurt each other. If we have greed and anger, and start to grumble with each other, the words that come from your mouth could be a 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 a realm of hell, hungry ghosts.

I believe Amida Buddha observes such a realm, or our human being's spiritual lives, and then Amida Buddha vowed, as the first vow, in my Pure Land there is no such realm. Those young soldiers of Russia, Ukraine, Israel and Palestine 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.

I wish all of you, who're reading my message here, continue to listen to the Amida Buddha's Vow and learn about Pure Land. The Pure Land is not the realm where you go after your end of life. The Pure Land is the work of Amida Buddha to illuminate a real world of human beings in which people are hurting each other and suffering together.

And then, please recite the nembutsu as you listen to the Amida Buddha's Vow and receive the Buddha's Great Compassion. I humbly ask you to find peace and happiness by uttering nembutsu in your everyday lives. And then YOU wish your heart of happiness and peace will spread throughout the world and continue to future people, our children and grandchildren.

Please take care of yourself and have a wonderful nembutsu life throughout this year 2024.

In gassho,

NEW YEAR PARTY WAS A SUCCESS!

Aloha, On behalf of the committee members of New Year Party 2024, I'd like to extend my appreciation and gratitude for all who participated and supported the New Year Party. I believe all people who were at the party enjoyed lunch, entertainment and many prizes.

Jeffrey Soga, General Chair for New Year Party 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Evan Watarida, President of Waipahu Hongwanji

Dear Waipahu Hongwanji Sangha,



We had a fun New Year's Party celebration on January 14. Thank you to all those who attended and volunteered their time to plan the event and with set-up and clean-up. We were delighted to have special performances by Hanayagi Dance Studio, Madoka No Kai shamisen group, and Ryugen Taiko. Everyone had a blast and there were tons of prizes given away that day. It was a great way to start off the year.

On the same day, we held an induction ceremony for our elected kyodan board officers for 2024 - 2025. Some of the group will be attending the Gisseikai Legislative Assembly at Honpa on February 9th and 10th.

All temples in the state, and Waipahu is no exception, face ongoing challenges of declining and aging membership as well increasing operating costs and the need for more volunteers. These critical issues, along with more such as the fate of Lahaina, will be discussed amongst all the lay members and ministers of temples statewide as we navigate forward.



Installed Officers (1-14-24):

From left: Richard Kodama, Wilma Sumida, Jan Ro, Lori Noborikawa, Evan Watarida, Lisa Okada, George Sawa, Adrian Koizumi, Kumika Soga and Jeffrey Soga

(Continued to Page 5)

Waipahu Hongwanji B.W.A. (Fujinkai) NEWS

Our 2024 General membership meeting and luncheon was held Saturday, January 27. 13 members got together and had a meaningful time. We appreciated Ms. Lori Noborikawa for her leadership.

We have 2 new members. Ms. Shirlie Ishitani and Ms. Kirana Soga joined our group. They are very welcome and the BWA is very pleased to have them.



BWA GATHERING 1-27-24

They enjoyed the workshop which was provided by Lori Noborikawa. Thank you Lori.

WAIPAHU HONGWANJI NEWS



Top left: Refreshment after the New Year's Day Service, Mrs. Soga and her daughters worked hard to cook Japanese style OSECHI RYORI.

From left: Evan Watarida, President passed honorarium to Wilma Sumida for Sunday Service coordinator, Lori Noborikawa, Organist for Sunday Services, and Mrs. Kumika Soga for assisting Sunday Service.

NEW YEAR PARTY 2024 Sunday, January 14, 2024



Waipahu Hongwanji News / Leeward Judo Club Pearl City

Aloha Waipahu Hongwanji,

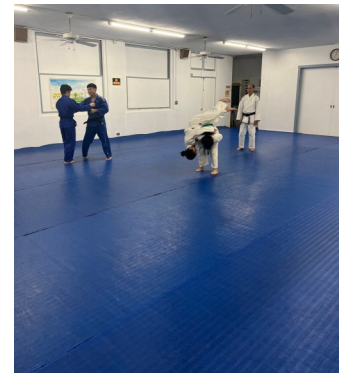


Instructors (Sensei)

From Left:

- Everett Pavo
- Derek Ishikawa
- Christian Pavo

Right:
Social Hall became beautiful DOJO.



We are so thankful for this opportunity to expand and bring judo to Waipahu Hongwanji. My brother, Christian Pavo, and I are the head senseis at Leeward Judo Club Pearl City. When I first started judo, I was 9 years old. At that time my dad was one of the main instructors of Leeward Judo Club and he taught alongside his head sensei, Fukushima. Looking back 30+ years, I truly believe that judo has made me the man I am today. Our club's motto is to build champions and leaders in life through judo. The support from my dad and all the senseis at LJC has been instrumental to my success and is priceless. I have also made lifelong friendships through judo. We encourage everyone to observe our practice and we are also accepting new members! Sensei Derek Ishikawa and Sensei Kevin Nishimura will be running classes every Tuesday from 5:30 PM-7:30 PM. We hope to see you there!

Waipahu Hongwanji B.W.A. (Fujinkai) NEWS (continued)

Special donation to BWA

Thank you for your generous donations: Jasmine Morrison, Kimi Koizumi, Cindy Ujimori, Masumi Murakami and Carol Nezu.

Waipahu Hongwanji BWA Dana Day service

Sunday, February 25, 2024 9am

Special Guest Speaker Ms. Stephanie Hagio Chin

Daughter of Former Waipahu Hongwanji minister Rev. and Mrs. Toyokazu Hagio.

She is a wonderful speaker. Please come and listen to her dharma message.

(Waipahu Hongwanji News)

MINI BAZAAR

Waipahu Hongwanji is collecting donations in **GOOD CONDITION**.

Please clean your house and bring them by **March 9**.

Note: We cannot accept furniture and electronic items.

2024 HONGWANJI CALENDAR is available at Waipahu Hongwanji office, please pick up as soon as possible. Please call Reverend Soga at (808) 677-4221 when you can come.

(President's Message, From Page 3)

We are now beginning planning for our Mini Spring Bazaar for March 16th. Now that the New Year's party is done, we have some storage space. If you have new or gently used items that you feel would be easy to sell and have market appeal, you may drop them off to the social hall. Clothing, handbags, household items, kitchenware, children's items, and plants are some of the things we are looking for. We are also seeking volunteers who can help sort and price items as they come in.

2024 has the foreshadowing of a year that will bring much uncertainty and change. With ongoing conflicts between nations and an election year which is bound to be fraught with conflicts between political groups and individuals, people need to hear the dharma messages more than ever. Even if everything seems like it is changing too fast or for the worse, there's something that remains constant. And that is Namu Amida Butsu. If there is turmoil all around me, and I want to change the actions people, circumstances, or outcomes. Then the answer is not on the outside. Change can only happen inside each of us. There is actually very little I can do to alter events or what people say or do. But I can change how I react to events and those around me.

Let's strive to be mindful about our reactions to life, find calm by centering ourselves in the present moment, and reflect on things we are grateful for. Then we can quiet the chaos around us, quell our unwanted stress, and our inner stillness will shine as an example of peace to the world and overpower all the outside noise.

In Gassho,

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR 2024

FEBRUARY

1st (2023)

February 7 Setsuko Uyeno
 February 12 Gene Hisami Inoshita
 February 15 Toshiyuki Roy Tanamachi

3rd (2022)

February 3 Emiko Serikaku
 February 9 Susumu Fujita
 February 13 Takeo Tanouye
 February 21 Michael Michio Nagaji

7th (2018)

February 20 Shigeo Higa
 February 25 Matsuko Matsui

13th (2012)

February 22 Kimie Nellie Tatsutani

17th (2008)

February 11 Masako Miyakaku
 February 18 Gladys Haruko Hanaoka

25th (2000)

February 8 Tokuichi Tamura
 February 19 Koiso Tamura
 February 22 Masayuki Takemoto

33rd (1992)

February 3 Hiroshi Yonashiro
 February 19 Haruji Shinno
 February 25 Yoshio Inoshita

50th (1975)

February 21 Kamada Nakamura

MARCH

1st (2023)

March 6 Gayle Chiyomi Miyamoto

3rd (2022)

7th (2018)

March 2 Thomas Keiji Tochiki

13th (2012)

March 2 Ethel Haruno Iboshi
 March 2 Harry Haruo Kamikawa
 March 14 Michie Yoshimoto
 March 24 Michael Takeo Morimoto

17th (2008)

March 17 Toshie Elaine Shinno

25th (2000)

March 8 Kenichi Ueno
 March 9 Richard Mitsuo Okada

33rd (1992)

March 14 Robert Shigeru Umeno

50th (1975)

REMINDER

2024 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES \$300

Please send your check PAYABLE TO :
Waipahu Hongwanji Mission
 94-821 Kuhaulua St., Waipahu, HI 96797

SPECIAL DONATION

Anthony & Maitri Marzi ... \$500
Special

Sonobe Family ... \$100
Special

Margy Kodama ... \$50
In memory of Jon Tokuhara

Patricia Narusaki ... \$200
In memory of Rodney Narusaki

Sun Noodle ... \$40
Special

Edna Otsuka & Family ... \$400
Funeral for Clarence Otsuka

Lilly Tokuhara ... \$500
In memory of Jon Tokuhara

Peggy Tsukida ... \$100
In memory of Clarence Otsuka

John Toma & Family
Funeral for Shigeo Toma... \$450
49 days for Shigeo Toma ... \$200

Cindy & Guy Ujimori ... \$100
New Year's Donation

Charijeane Watanabe ... \$100
New Year's Donation

Mark Yamauchi ... \$100
In memory of Noboru Yamauchi

Lynne Yoshimura ... \$500
Special

Yoshimi Family
Funeral for Clyde Yoshimi ... \$500
49 days for Clyde Yoshimi ... \$200

Tsunako Sakata ... \$50
Use of Class Room

Yoshito Kamikawa ... \$ 100
Building Maintenance Fund

Membership

2023: Kimiko Kanno, Jan Ro

2024: Pearl Bayes, M/M Clyde Fujii, Milton Fujioka, Janice Fujiwara, M/M Daniel Hanaoka, M/M Robin Hirata, Lonnie Iwai, Yoshito Kamikawa, M/M Richard Kodama, Kimi Koizumi, M/M Lionel Minemoto, Nancy Miyashita, Masumi Murakami, M/M Robert Oshita, Jan Ro, Thomas Sekine, Harriet Sugimoto, M/M Calvin Sumida, Robert Tsumoto, M/M Guy Ujimori, Lynne Yoshimura, Darryl Serikaku, George Serikaku, Jonathan Serikaku, Terence Serikaku

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Shirlie Ishitani, Brian Otsuka, Dixon Sasaki, John & Naoko Toma

SPRING OHIGAN: Beatrice Sonoda

OBON: Beatrice Sonoda

HOONKO: Adrienne & Ellen Ayakawa, Milton Fujioka, Marjory & Henry Funasaki, Daniel & Lois Hanaoka, Roy & Dorothy Hirata, Thomas & Sachie Kaneshiro, Kimi Koizumi, Lisa Okada, Jan Ro, Tsunako Sakata, Annette Sekine, Thomas Sekine, Beatrice Sonoda, Craig & Megumi Uyeno, Francis Uyeno, Helen Yonashiro

DONATION CONTINUED

NEW YEARS: Jasmine & Daniel Morrison, Zachary Taniguchi, Ellen Ujimori, Masao & Yukiko Uyeda, Francis Uyeno, Cindy & Guy Ujimori

DONATION FOR NEW YEAR PARTY (DOOR PRIZES)

George's Auto Parts (Serikaku Family) - Battery Chargers,
Janice Fujiwara - Donuts, Cookies and Goodies,
Richard Kodama - Cookies, Comet Soap, etc.
Sheree Tamura - Various Goodies

GIFT CARDS:

Janet Kaya, Adrian Koizumi, Michael Lee, Gary Maeda, Flora Minemoto, Lori Noborikawa, Jenny Nomura, Lisa Okada, Anette Sekine, Wilma Sumida, Craig Tadaki, Evan Watarida,
Sorry, The Donor of the Times Gift Card was not recorded.

Thank you for all donors. OKAGE SAMA DE, All attendees for New Year Party were able to receive many prizes.

**HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII
ONLINE BUDDHIST EDUCATION SERIES 2024**

February 3,	2p.m.	Development of Jodo Shinshu in Japan and Hawaii Part 1	
February 17,	2 p.m.	“ Part 2	
		By Professor Mitsuya Dake, Ryukoku University	
March 16,	2 p.m.	Significance of establishment of Jodo Shinshu Tradition	
		By Professor Eisho Nasu, Ryukoku University	
April 13,	10 a.m.	Kyogyoshinsho: Teaching	By Reverend Mutsumi Wondra
May 18,	10 a.m.	Kyogyoshinsho: Practice	By Reverend Yuki Sugahara
June 22,	10 a.m.	Kyogyoshinsho: Entrusting Heart	
		By Reverend Kyonobu Kuwahara	
July 20,	10 a.m.	Kyogyoshinsho: Realization	By Reverend Henry Adams
August 24,	2 p.m.	The world is waiting for Buddhism and Shinran Shonin: Joy of the Nembutsu	By Reverend Gene Sekiya

Please call Waipahu Hongwanji @ 808 677-4221 to register.

阿弥陀様の願い 讚仏偈
駐在開教使 曾我大円

ワイパフ、ワイアナエ本願寺の皆様いかがお過ごしでしょうか？今年も大変な始まりでありました。日本では石川県の大地震そして津波、その地へ物資を運ぼうと飛び立とうとしていた飛行機に着陸してきた飛行機が接触、大事故となりました。そんな天災と人災から日本の新年は開けました。またハワイでは男がライフル銃を持って女の人を撃ち、オアフ島中を逃げ回って、途中女の人に銃を向けその人の車をうばい、最後はマノアの街で警官と撃ち合いになり、その時警官二人が流れ弾にあたり重傷を負いました。

そんな事故や事件から一ト月が経ちましたが、石川県ではいまだに天災で家族を失い、家を失い、悲しい思いをされている方、雪の降る石川県の避難所で不自由な生活をされている方々、どんな日暮らしをされていることでしょうか。また羽田空港での事故に関わった管制塔の人たちやそのご家族、命を落とされた方のご家族、事故の際に火災や救助に関わった人たち、飛行機の整備にあたられていた人達、ひと月経ちましたが心安らかに日々を過ごし、夜は心地よく眠れることができているだろうかと思うことです。このことはラハイナの大火災にあわれた方も同じです。恐ろしい火の海の中を生き延びた皆さんはどうされていることだろうと思うことです。

皆さんはどうですか？ラハイナの火災や石川県の天災、そして羽田空港での人災が教えてくれている如くとても儂く繰り返すことの出来ないこの命、大事に生きておられますか。毎晩ぐっすり眠ることができていますか。

大無量寿経の「讚仏偈」の一節に「吾誓得仏 普行此願 一切恐懼 為作大安」

私の意識

私は仏の覚りを得る時に誓います。全てのこの願いを行じて、恐怖と懼れの中に生きている一切の人々を、大安（大きな安らぎ）の心にさせる、と誓われてあります。

蓮如上人はこの姿を見て御文章に「朝には紅顔あって、夕べには白骨となれる身なり」とお手紙の中に読まれてあります。仏様の目から見ると私たちの命は本当に儂く、繰り返すことの出来ない一度きりの命なのだよ、とおっしゃっておられることでしょうか。

天災も人災も私たちの力ではどうすることも出来ません。どうすることも出来ないからこそ、今日一日無事に過ごせることを喜ばせていただかなくてはならないのです。そしてどうしても出てくる争いや愚痴、腹立ちの心を見つめながら、阿弥陀様は私をどんなに見守ってくださっていることだろうと、思っています。

皆様どうぞ阿弥陀様の大きな願いからのお働きのお念仏のお言葉を聞いて下さい、そして心に大安（大きな安らぎ）を持って、一日を大事に過ごして下さい。

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

Non Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
P A I D
Permit No. 5
Waipahu, Hawaii

FEBRUARY 2024

Address Correction Requested

Condolence

Waipahu Hongwanji extends deepest sympathy to the families of:

June Yoshimi
Clyde Yoshimi
Shigeo Toma
Fred Jiro Edamatsu

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

2nd Saturday: 9:30 a.m.
Project Dana, Caregiver Support Program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BWA Dana Day
Sunday, February 25, 2024, 9 a.m.

Guest Speaker:
Mrs. Stephanie Hagio Chin

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

Leeward JUDO Class
Every Tuesday 5-8 p.m.

Ewa Fukushima Bon Dance TAIKO Class
Every Sunday 2-4 p.m.

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

Project Dana
Care Giver Support Program
Saturday, February 10, 2023
9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

At Waipahu Hongwanji Social Hall
In person and Zoom,
Please call Reverend Jeff if you can attend.