



WAIPAHU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
(A Shin Buddhist Temple)

GOLDEN CHAIN

Monthly Newsletter

MARCH 2024

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments



JODO SHINSHU, Teaching of Pure Land Amida Buddha's Vow #22 (7th Vow) 03/2024

How time flies - It's already the month of March. It's the season of the OHIGAN, spring equinox when beautiful sakura will begin to bloom in Japan. I hope my Dharma Friends of Waipahu and Waianae Hongwanji are doing well and living each day with Onembutsu.

Today, I would like to continue sharing Amida Buddha's 7th Vow. I quote:

“If, when I attain Buddhahood, the humans and devas in my land should not possess divine ears, and thus be unable to hear the teachings being expounded by at least a hundred thousand kotis of nayutas of Buddhas or remember them all, may I not attain the perfect enlightenment. (The Three Pure Land Sutras, Volume II, Page 20)

(My translation)

If when I (Amida) attain enlightenment as a Buddha, all the people in my country will have a heavenly ear (a wonderful ear, an ear that can hear and pursue the true understanding) and hear and understand what many Buddhas are saying. But, if they cannot hear and understand it, then I will not be able to become a Buddha of perfect enlightenment.

Amida Buddha hopes that if we are born in the Pure Land, we will gain enlightenment as Buddhas and we will have the ears of wonderful wisdom. To illustrate this wonderful ear, I quote a sentence from the "Sutra of the Buddha of Immeasurable Life" or "Larger Sutra", ("Sanbutsuge, Hymn in Praise of Buddha).

Your observance of precepts, learning, diligence, Meditation, and wisdom – The magnificence of these virtues is peerless, Excellent and unsurpassed.

(The Three Pure Land Sutras, Volume II, Page 15)

When people talk to you, you sincerely intend to understand the other person's words, thoughts, and meaning or expression behind the words. My Okusan (wife), Kumika, often tells me, "I told you." I'm sure she's talking to me, but I assume her voice is coming into my right ear and going out from my left, and her voice doesn't stay in my head. In other words, I'm not sincerely listening to and understanding my wife, as well as others. I'm just reflecting on it. This past new year, my son, Koshin, came home from Seattle with my grandson, Kosei.

(Continued to Page 2)

(Jodo Shinshu, from Page 1)

Kosei is now 5 years old. When he was a baby, he just cried and I couldn't understand what he wanted to say. When a child is crying and trying to convey something, parents listen carefully to the wordless words, 'are you hungry?' 'is it hot or cold?' 'Did the diaper get wet?' They are surely, with 100% concentration, listening hard and carefully.

With the "precepts" that I am your parent, or I want to be your parents. I will "listen to you" and understand what you want to say, in the deep part of your wish. In order to do so, we must always listen 'diligently', with 'concentration and meditation', and 'wisdom'. And that thought reaches the child, who trusts and relies on him/her. It's a very unparalleled appearance that this parent is okay with. Unfortunately, parents can only do this for their own child(ren) and it doesn't extend to others. That is the natural human reaction and realm of judgment. However, Amida Buddha listens to everyone equally, all sentient beings with the "wisdom of no judgment." It is this seventh vow of Amida Buddha.

If you ever feel like you are living in a world where words don't get through, where people don't understand you even though you are using the same language, or where you are lonely, please know that Amida Buddha is listening to your words and your voiceless words with this 7th vow. And when you think about that, please think that I too want to understand what the people around me are saying in a true way, like Amida Buddha. It is there that the voice of Nembutsu, "Namo Amida Butsu," will come out.

In gassho,

WAIPAHU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

BAZAAR

Saturday, March 16, 2024
9 a.m.—1 p.m.

All members are requested to support temple fund raising.

We would appreciate your support in various ways, such as by donation new or gently used clothing, kitchenware, baked goods, and small toys for children. We would also appreciate volunteers to help out on March 15 and 16. Please call temple @808 677-4221 for more information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Evan Watarida, President of Waipahu Hongwanji



Dear Waipahu Hongwanji Sangha,

On February 9th and 10th, several temple representatives attended the annual Giseikai legislative assembly at Honwaih Betsuin. It was a day and a half of discussions and decision making on the state-wide budget and activities for 2024 followed by the living treasures induction ceremony and luncheon at Hilton Hawaiian Village. Rev. Ai Hironaka spoke about his experience and the status of Lahaina aid and rebuild. There was also unveiling of the Living Gratitude campaign which is intended to grow our capital fund balance. This will eventually allow the fund earnings to sustain the expenses of the Hongwanji and wean off from temple assessments to members.

You'll be seeing more about the campaign this year. Also, registration is open for the Triple Celebration festivities on Sept. 7 & 8 at Ala Moana Hotel. There will be seminars and workshops in celebration of the 135th anniversary of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

Closer to home, our temple bazaar is scheduled for **Saturday March 16th** from 9am – 1pm. There will be a rummage sale, baked goods sale, and also food for sale.

If you are able to make items for the baked goods sale, let Mae Matsushige know. Those that can help bag and price baked goods can meet Friday 3/15 @ 9am in the social hall. Donation items for the rummage sale can still be dropped off to the social hall. Please bring your items in at least a week before the event so there's time to sort. Volunteers are meeting regularly in the mornings to sort items and they are asking for packing boxes if you have any to spare.

Volunteers for bazaar day are asked to arrive at 7am and park in the back driveway if possible. Contact Evan at 450-6041 if you can volunteer. We look forward to seeing these events that open our temple to the public and expand our outreach.

Here's some other dates to keep in mind. We have an AED training on March 21st @ 9am for our Automated Electronic Defibrillating device donated by the Sumida Family in memory of Setsuko Uyeno.

We also have our next Going Green E-waste recycling event in our parking lot on June 8. This is when the community can bring in their old computers, TVs, batteries, and printers, for disposal and keep them out of the landfills. United Cerebral Palsy will also be accepting used clothes and canned goods.

We have a lot of events lined up and I hope to see you there as we expand the dharma and community goodwill.

In Gassho,

WAIPAHU HONGWANJI NEWS



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

Dana Day: Sunday, February 25, 2024
Guest Speaker: Ms. Stephanie Hagio Chin
BWA Members welcome Stephanie.



Ewa Fukushima Bon Dance Club



Robin and Mariko Hirata, leader of EFBDC

My name is Robin Hirata and I am the Head instructor of the Ewa Fukushima Bon Dance Club. Our club was established in the Pre-War era from plantation workers at the Ewa sugar mill. I joined the club in 1973 at 12 years old, and it has been a prominent part of my life ever since, I've enjoyed playing the Fukushima Ondo throughout the years. It has been my goal to continue the tradition to the new generation. We start practices in February of every year, and we are accepting new members aged 12 and up! If you are interested, please send me a text to me, Robin Hirata, at 808-372-0372 with your name and phone number and I will get back to you as soon as possible. We hope to hear from you.

Mahalo EFBDC

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR 2024

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)

APRIL

1st (2023)

3rd (2022)
 April 6 Shizuko Yamauchi

7th (2018)
 April 20 Sachiko Murakami Paik

13th (2012)
 April 1 Eikichi Suzuki
 April 18 Theresa Yaeko Kishimoto
 April 19 Jennifer Hinano Toma

17th (2008)

25th (2000)
 April 2 Terue Hays
 April 7 Ushiko Miyasato
 April 8 Henry Kiyoshi Kurashige
 April 15 Tamotsu Nakagawa

33rd (1992)
 April 15 Nora Yaeko Igarashi

50th (1975)

April 5 Toyosuke Ujimori
 April 20 Kunita Yasui

REMINDER

2024 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES \$300

Please send your check PAYABLE TO :

**Waipahu Hongwanji Mission
 94-821 Kuhaulua St., Waipahu, HI 96797**

SPECIAL DONATION

Edamatsu Family ... \$300
Funeral for Fred Edamatsu

Gilbert Mikami ... \$100
Counseling of funeral

Hanaoka Family... \$300
In memory of Gladys Hanaoka

Tsunako Sakata ... \$50
Use of class room

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

Greg & Lyn Tam ... \$100
In memory of Harry Kamikawa

Toma Family ... \$200
Inurnment Service for Shigeo Toma

Helen Yonashiro ... \$200
In memory of Hiroshi Yonashiro

Membership

Harvey Asato, Adrienne & Ellen Ayakawa, Gary & Lynn Fujikawa, Roy & Dorothy Hirata, Wesley Imaoka, Tadao & Clara Ishii, Carl & Shirlye Ishitani, Janet Kaya, Elaine & Lawrence Kanemoto, Judith & William Kishimoto, Adrian & Gale Koizumi, Frances Matsumoto, Makoto & Mae Matsushige, Terumi Muraoka & Terry Muraoka-Stamm, Tadao & Carol Nezu, Lori Noborikawa, Edna Otsuka, Winton & Laura Wong Saito, Tsunako & Lily Sakata, George Sawa, Dixon & Jeanne Sasaki, Haruo & Jane Shigeta, Beatrice Sonoda, Naoko Toma, Masao & Yukiko Uyeda, Craig and Megumi Uyeno, Francis Uyeno, Duane and Michelle Uyeno, Glenn Yamauchi, Janet Yoshida

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Chiyono Kinoshita

HOONKO:

Janet Kaya, Richard & Sue Kodama, Adrian & Gale Koizumi, Francis Matsumoto, Wilfred & Mae Matsushige, Flora & Lionel Minemoto, Daniel & Jasmine Morrison, Masumi Murakami, Lori Noborikawa, Jenny Nomura, Emiko Onaga, Edna Otsuka, Calvin & Wilma Sumida, Jane Tanaka, Victor & Helene Tanimoto, Barbara Torricer, Robert Tsumoto, Ellen Ujimori, Janet Yoshida

HONPA HONGWANJJI MISSION OF HAWAII TRIPLE CELEBRATION

850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth
800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Honpa Hongwanji
135th Anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Saturday, September 7, 2024 & Sunday, September 8, 2024

At Ala Moana Hotel

Please call Waipahu Hongwanji more information, if you can participate this great event.

じょうどしんしゅうのおしえ
浄土真宗の教え 2024年3月 「阿弥陀様の願いその22(第七願) 天耳遙聞の願」
あみださま ねが
ちゅうざいかいきょうし そがだいえん
駐在開教使 曾我大円
てんにようもん がん
天耳遙聞の願

ひがん きせつ
早三月となります。お彼岸の季節、日本では桜の花が開くころです。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？続いて第七願を引用します。

こくちゅう にんてん てんに え
たとひわれ仏を得たらんに、国中の天人、天耳を得ずして、下百千億那由多の諸仏の説くと
き じゅじ しょうがく と
ろを聞きて、ことごとく受持せざるに至らば、正覚を取らじ

いやく
(私の意識)

あみださま ぶつ さと え とき てんに すば みみ
もし私(阿弥陀様)が佛としての悟りを得る時に、私の国のすべての人々が天耳(素晴らしい耳、なんでも聞いて理解をしてあげることの出来る耳)を得て、多くの諸仏がお話しされていることを聞かせていただき、それを理解することができないならば、私は聖覚の佛となることは出来ません

あみださま じょうど さと すば
これは、私たちが阿弥陀様の願われたお浄土というところへ生まれ、仏としての覚りを得たならば、素晴らしい智慧の耳をもたせて頂く、と阿弥陀様が願っていて下さるのです。素晴らしい耳とはどんな耳なのでしょう。このことについて考えてみたいと思います。この素晴らしい耳のことを説明するために「大無量寿経 讚仏偈」の一文を引用します。

かいもんしょうじん さんまいちえ いとくむりよ しゅしょうけう
戒聞精進 三昧智慧 威徳無侶 殊勝希有
かい もん しょうじん さんまい ちえ いとく しゅしょうけう
戒、聞、精進、三昧、智慧 威徳ともからなくして 殊勝希有なり

ことば あじ
これを私の言葉で味わってみますと、

もくひょう きりつ まも せいかつ
戒とは目標を立てて、それに向かって規律を守って生活することです。

しんじつ りかい
聞とは「聞く」ということです。もっと言えば真実の理解をすることです。

く かえ しゅうとく
精進とは、毎日同じことを繰り返して習得していくことです。

まど しゅうちゅう
三昧とは、他のことに惑わされず、一心に集中していくことです。

ものごと どうり りかい
智慧とは、物事の道理をきちっと理解することだそうです。

ちえ さと いげん とく
威徳とは、その智慧の覚りからこぼれでる威厳と徳のことです。

むりよ いちばんすはら ゆえ しゅしょう けう
無侶「ともからなくして」とは、他に並ぶ人がいない、一番素晴らしいということです。故に殊勝にして希有なのです。

(次のページ)

(前ページより)

皆さんは人の言うことを一所懸命聞いておられますか？私はよく久弥香さんから「この前言ったで
しよ。」って怒られます。彼女が私に話しているのだろうけど、右の耳から左の耳へ言葉が通って、頭の
中に入っていないのです、真実に理解していないのでしょうか。反省するばかりです。でも、私の孫、弘成
がこの前の正月に帰ってきてくれました。弘成は5歳になりましたが、小さかった頃は言ってることも分か
らず、泣いてばかりでしたが、子供が泣きながら何かを伝えようとしている時、親はその言葉無き言葉に
しっかり耳をかたむけて、お腹が空いたのか、暑いのか、寒いのか、オムツが濡れたのか、一所懸命聞
いています。正に、私はあなたの親だよという「戒」を以って、「聞」真実の理解をする。その為には、
「精進」常に耳を傾け、「三昧」集中して、「智慧」しっかりと正しい理解をしようします。そしてそ
の思いが子供に届き、子供から信頼され、頼られるのです。とてもこの親なら大丈夫という、他に並ぶも
のがない姿ですね。ただ、親は自分の子供だけにそれができるのです。よその子までは気が回りま
せん。それを分別の世界と言います。しかし、阿弥陀様は「無分別の智慧」を以て全ての人に耳を傾け
て下さいます。その願いを持たれたのが、この第七願なのです。

もし皆さんの人生の中で、言葉が通じない世界、同じ言葉を使っても理解してもらえない世界、孤独な
世界を感じても、阿弥陀様がこの七番目の願いを以て皆さんの言葉、声無き言葉を聞いて下さる
と頂いて下さい。そしてそれを思った時に、私も阿弥陀様のように周りの人が言われることを真実の
ところで理解していこう、と思って下さい。そこに「ナンマンダブ」とお念仏の声が出てきて下さることでしょう。

合 掌

Waipahu Hongwanji Mission

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

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MARCH 2024

Address Correction Requested

Condolence

Waipahu Hongwanji extends deepest sympathy to the families of:

Yoshito Paul Sasaki

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

OHIGAN (Spring Equinox) Service
Sunday, March 17, 2024, 9 a.m.

BAZAAR

March 16, 2024 , 9 a.m.—1 p.m.

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

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

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A. E. D. Training
Thursday, March 21, 2024
9 a.m.
Social Hall