



WAIPAHU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
(A Shin Buddhist Temple)

GOLDEN CHAIN

Monthly Newsletter

APRIL 2024

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments



**JODO SHINSHU, Teaching of Pure Land
Amida Buddha's Vow #23, (8th Vow) 04/2024
Jeffrey Soga, Resident Minister**

Recently, my son who moved to Seattle, Washington, sent me a picture of cherry blossoms in full bloom. I was reminded how much I miss the beautiful cherry blossoms in Japan.

How are you, Waipahu and Waianae Hongwanji Dharma Friends? For this month, I will write the eighth vow of Amida Buddha.

I quote (8th Vow, Perfectly realizing and understanding other's thoughts):

If, when I attain Buddhahood, the human and devas in my land should not possess the wisdom to see into the minds of others, and thus be unable to know the thoughts of the sentient beings of at least a hundred thousand kotis of nayutas of Buddha-lands, may I not attain the perfect enlightenment.

(The Three Pure Land Sutras Volume II, Larger Sutra, Page 21)

(My translation)

If, when I (Amida Buddha) attain enlightenment as a Buddha, all the people in my country cannot gain the wisdom to see the hearts of people besides me, and if I cannot know the thoughts in the hearts of people all over the country, then I cannot become a Buddha.

This is because the Amida Buddha hopes that we are all able to be born into the Pure Land and attain Buddhahood, and we will be able to have wonderful enlightenment of wisdom and understand the sorrows, sufferings, joys, and happiness and sympathize for all the people in the country.

I think all of you know the words, 'compassion.' It's written as 'JI HI 慈悲' in Japanese. Many years ago, when I was at Puna Hongwanji, I invited Reverend and Roshi, Robert Aitken, as a guest speaker for the Hanamatsuri service. I still remember what he said at the end of his sermon. He said, the meaning of 'compassion' is 'com' and 'passion'. 'Com' of compassion is companionship, meaning together. 'Passion' means suffering. Therefore, the meaning of compassion is 'together' 'suffering', which can also mean 'happy together' and 'suffer together'. You can find this expression in the 'Teaching of Buddha', meaning of compassion.

(Continued to Page 2)

(Jodo Shinshu, from Page 1)

It reads:

“Your suffering is my suffering, your happiness is my happiness, said Buddha, and just as a mother always loves her child, Buddha does not forget that spirit even for a single moment, for it is the nature of Buddhahood to be compassionate.”

(Teaching of Buddha, Page 28)

In Japanese, “JI HI” has two meanings. They are "Maitri" and "Karuna". This is an old Indian language that was used more than 2,500 years ago when Shakyamuni Buddha was there. This language is called Sanskrit or Pali.

These are the words that the Buddha told the people (sangha) at that time and recorded them. The following explains "compassion" and "sorrow." I will quote Hajime Nakamura's "Dictionary of Buddhism words".

The word "JI" is from the word "maitri" and based on the idea of friendship for all those who are suffering, the deepest friendship. It is a great understanding and unconditional love.

"HI" is “karuna”. This is when our thoughts of obsession, attachment, and craving selfishly begin to manifest themselves in various forms, such as suffering, pain, and anxiety. Out of this anguish comes a groan, a "great sorrow" arises, and compassion is born for it. This "great sorrow and mercy" is called Karuna.

The original meaning of Karuna is groaning and lamenting. Those who know their own groans will be able to empathize with the suffering of others, and will have a sense of closeness and friendship with all those who are suffering.

“Buddhist Words Dictionary, Hajime Nakamura”

This is a story I heard a long time ago.

A mother has given birth to a long-awaited child. Sadly, the child died at a young age. The people around her tried to understand her sadness, pain, suffering, and groaning, and they stayed by her to comfort her and gave her kind words. This is called “metta” in Sanskrit, which means friend or friendship. People want to do something for the mother who is in the midst of great sadness, however, they couldn’t help her grief.

At that time, there was a lady who was crying beside the mother. She didn't say a word, and she just cried with the mother. In fact, the woman also lost her baby. When one can understand the pain, suffering, and groaning of the heart is a friendship that transcends words, a friendship that truly understands the deep part of grief, sadness of those who have suffered the same pain, heartache, and groaning. This is called “maitri”.

Whenever I read this eighth vow of Amida Buddha, I am reminded of this story I heard a long time ago. Amida Buddha surely vowed to embrace and never leave alone the person who is groaning in the midst of sadness and sorrow. Amida Buddha hopes all people who live in Pure Land can embrace each other, with enlightenment, understands and sympathizes with each other and together.

(To be continued)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Evan Watarida, President of Waipahu Hongwanji



Dear Waipahu Hongwanji Sangha,

On March 16th, we had our temple bazaar. Thank you to all our hard-working volunteers who came in for weeks prior to get everything ready. We had a white elephant sale, with baked goods, shave ice, bentos, fried noodles, inari sushi, spam musubi, and tsukemono for sale. Many people said they really missed the years when we didn't have a bazaar and hope we have another one real soon. We made about \$4,500 for the temple budget.

On March 21st we had CPR and AED training in the social hall to get us informed and prepared in case of cardiac arrest incidents. We now have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) mounted between the temple and adult day care. The training was fun and simple and I think we are better prepared for possible medical emergencies. We'll try to have other annual trainings available for anyone interested in learning more.

Coming up this month, we have Sangha Day for all Oahu District temples. This event is co-hosted by Waipahu and Waianae temples on April 27. The day will include presentations on home composting and a visit to Mouna Arts & Cultural Village in Waianae Valley. Deadline to sign up is April 14th. Because Waianae temple announced they will begin the multi-year process of closing down their temple, we encourage members to make a visit. Waianae has committed to having their Bon Dance this year in July which is welcome news to many.

Our own Bon Dance is scheduled for Saturday July 13th. Please put it in your calendars and get the word out. We'll be asking for volunteers later to help with food preparation, spam musubi making, concession tent help, and parking lot help. There's always a big demand for HAPPI Coats, so if you have any to donate, please bring them to the temple so we can put them on sale for Obon. Let me or Rev. Soga know if you or others are available to help out. More hands means less work.

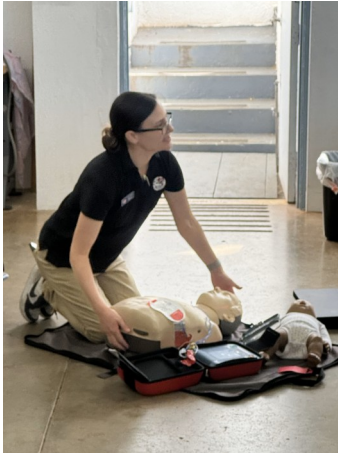
The statewide Triple Celebration is coming up in September 7 & 8 at Ala Moana Hotel. This year commemorates the 850th anniversary of Shinran Shonin, the 800th anniversary of Jodo Shinshu, and the 135th anniversary of Honpa Hongwanji in Hawaii. Registrations for the early sign-up cost of \$250 is due by March 31. Waipahu BWA has offered to subsidize the full cost for any Waipahu BWA member so please contact the temple for more info.

The year is in full swing and we have many fun events coming up soon. We look forward to seeing you at the next event as we bring awareness of the Dharma and Buddha's compassion to the world.

In Gassho,

WAIPAHU HONGWANJI NEWS

CPR and AED training (March 21) was held at social hall instructed by Sherry. About 30 people attended. The AED machine was donated by Uyeno/Sumida Family in memory of Mrs. Setsuko Uyeno. Thank you, Wilma.



BAZAAR was success! March 16, Saturday, 2024

Congratulations! Waipahu Hongwanji Bazaar was good fun and successful. Many new members worked together with veteran members. New items, bento, mustard cabbage tsukemono, were all sold out with spam musubi, shave ice, various cookies and baked goods, of course many jewelries, cloths, kitchen, white elephant, etc. etc.. We receive briefly \$5000 gross. We are still waiting all expenses, receipts coming for net. Good job all.



Come and join our wonderful Ohana at the...

Waipahu Hongwanji Mission ADULT DAY CARE CENTER

"Caring for our Elders with Love and Compassion"

* Music & Singing * Entertainment * Socializations & more
* Games & Memory Juggers * Exercise * Arts & Crafts

Full and Part-time Programs available with lunch and snacks

94-821 Kuhaulua Street, Waipahu * Phone: 808-678-1770
Email: whmadcc@hawaii.rr.com * Website: adultdaycarehawaii.org

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR 2024

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

MAY

1st (2023)
 May 14 Yachiyo Yasuda
3rd (2022)
 May 7 Kiyoshi Takushi
 May 9 Tammy Naomi Tamura
 May 26 Nancy Tsuyako Inouye
7th (2018)
 May 10 Teru Uyeno
 May 22 Lillian Shizuko Okazaki
13th (2012)
 May 7 Ellen Michie Kato
 May 13 Walter Yutaka Okazaki
 May 23 Miyako Kanetsuna Toguchi
 May 27 Tony Toshio Miyamoto
17th (2008)
25th (2000)
 May 7 Kaoru Uyehara
 May 12 Albert Keiichi Tsutsui
 May 13 Noritaka Matsumoto
 May 17 Yeisei Asato
 May 27 Mitsue Mitsui
33rd (1992)
 May 5 William Juichi Saiki
 May 28 Dorothy Mitsue Hiraki
50th (1975)
 May 22 Kame Yamauchi
 May 24 Satoshi Takeuchi

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.

SPECIAL DONATION

Kevin Agena/NMF Foundation... \$100
Special

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Hanaoka ... \$300
In memory of Gladys Hanaoka

Irene Kamikawa ... \$100
In memory of Harry Kamikawa

Chiyono Kinoshita ... \$200
Special

Mikami Family
In memory of Gilbert Mikami
Counseling ... \$100
Funeral Service ... \$500
Inurnment ... \$500

Carol Nezu ... \$50
In memory of Masako Miyakado

Mr. & Mrs. Shoichi Noguchi ... \$300
Special

Oshiro Family ... \$100
Special

SN & JL Oshiro ... \$50
In memory of Kameko & Kosei Oshiro

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

Sasaki Family ... In memory of Paul Sasaki
Funeral ... \$500
49 Days Memorial Service ... \$500

Tochiki Family ... \$100
In memory of Thomas Tochiki

Peggy Tsukida ... \$100
In memory of Paul Sasaki

Susan Ushijima ... \$150
In memory of Kameko & Kosei Oshiro

Uyeno Family ... \$200
In memory of Setsuko Uyeno

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Membership :

Janet Asamoto, Patsy Fujii, Kathleen Ikeda-Lee, Doris Kakugawa, Jane Kamikawa, Thomas & Sachi Kaneshiro, Sadao & Masako Kawamoto, Midori Kawano, Chizuko Kono, Gary Maeda, Jenny Nomura, Melanie Okazaki, Henry & Gladys Oshiro, Jo Ann Oshiro, Brian Otsuka, Kay & Raymond Shigeta, Sheryl Shimada, Norman & Laurie Tochiki, Ellen Ujimori,

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Sheryl Shimada

SPRING OHIGAN

Adrienne & Ellen Ayakawa, Milton Fujioka, Marjory & Henry Funasaki, Daniel & Lois Hanaoka, Roy & Dorothy Hirata, Steven & Jan Honda, Robert & Margaret Itagaki, Doris Kakugawa & Iris Tsuha, Thomas & Sachie Kaneshiro, Janet Kaya, Clyde & Lynette Kishimoto, Kimi Koizumi, Frances Matsumoto, Wilfred & Mae Matsushige, Kara Mendoza, Masumi Murakami, Lori Noborikawa, Jenny Nomura, Lisa Okada, Jan Ro, Tsunako Sakata, George Sawa, Thomas Sekine, Bea Sonoda, Wilma & Calvin Sumida, Victor & Helene Tanimoto, Lilly Tokuhara, Akemi & Kuniomi Uehara, Masao & Yukiko Uyeda, Craig & Megumi Uyeno, Francis Uyeno, Evan Watarida, Helen Yonashiro & Lynn Fujikawa, Jerry & Yoshiko Yoshimura

(浄土真宗の教え 2024年4月
「阿弥陀様の願いその23 (第八願) 他心悉知の願」
駐在開教使 曾我大円

四月となります。ワシントン州シアトルへ移住した息子が満開の桜の写真を送ってくれました。日本のお花見を懐かしく思う頃です。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？今月から阿弥陀様の第八願をいただきます。御文を紹介します。

たとひわれ仏を得たらんに、国中の入天、他心を見る智を得ずして、
下百千億那由多の諸仏国中の衆生の心念を知らざるに至らば、正覚を取らじ。
(浄土真宗聖典)

(私の意識)

もし私(阿弥陀様)が佛としての覚りを得る時に、私の国のすべての人々が、そばにいる人の心を見ることが出来る智慧を得ることができなくて、そして国中の人々の心に思う願い(念)を知ることができなければ、私は聖覚の佛となることは出来ません。

これは、私たちが阿弥陀様の願われたお浄土へ生まれ、仏としての覚りを得たならば、素晴らしい智慧の眼をもたせて頂くことができる、そしてその国中の全ての人たちの憂いや苦しみ、また喜びや楽しみ的心をわかってあげることができると、阿弥陀様が願って下さるのです。

皆さんは「慈悲」という言葉を聞かれたことがあるでしょう。でもこの本当の意味をご存知ですか？

「慈悲」とは「マイトリー」と「カルーナ」という二つの言葉から出来た仏教用語です。このマイトリーとカルーナはインドの昔の言葉、2500年以上前お釈迦様がおられた時代に使われていた言葉です。これをサンスクリット語とかパーリ語といいます。お釈迦様がその時の人々(僧伽-サンガ)に説かれ、それを記録したものです。その「慈」と「悲」について次の様に説かれてあります。中村元師の「仏教語大辞典」から引用します。

「慈」とはマイトリー(maitri)という言葉が原意で、苦悩するすべての人に対する友情、最も深い友情という思いが根底にある。無条件の大きな愛です。

「悲」とはカルーナ(karuna)です。これは私たちの執着、妄執、渴愛の思いが種々の
(次のページへ)

かたち あらわ くのう おも うめ お かな お
形を現すようになる。この苦悩の思いの中から呻きが起こり、「大きな悲しみ」が起
こり、それに対してのあわれみが生まれてくる。この「大きな悲しみとあわれみ」がカ
ルーナという。カルーナの原意は呻き、嘆きである。自己の呻きを知る者は、他人の
くのう きょうかん くのう もの しんきんかん ゆうじょう
苦悩にも共感でき、苦悩するすべての者への親近感、友情をもつようになる。
「仏教語大辞典、中村元著」

むかしき はなし かあ ま ま さず
これは昔聴いた話です。あるお母さんが待ちに待ったあかちゃんを授けられたそう
です。しかし悲しいことにそのお子様が幼くして亡くされました。周りには
かあ かな つら くる うめ りかい なぐさ
はこのお母さんの悲しさ、辛さ、苦しみ、そして呻きを理解しようとし、慰めようと
そば よ そ やさ ことば ゆうじょう い
傍に寄り添い、優しい言葉をかけてあげました。これを友情と言います。これをサン
スクリット語でメッタ(metta)と言います。どうにかしてあげたい、やるせない思いで
す。でも、お母さんの悲しみをどうすることもできませんでした。

とき そば いっしょ な ことば
その時そのお母さんの傍で一緒に泣いておられる女の人がありました。なんの言葉もか
けず、ただ一緒に泣いておられる女の人でした。実はその女の人も生まれたお子様を亡
かた いた つら くる うめ おな
くされた方でした。その心の痛み、辛さ、苦しみ、呻きをわかってあげられるのは、同
じように辛いこと、心の痛み、呻きをされた方の、言葉を越えた友情、真に理解し合
ゆうじょう
うことのできる友情です。これをマイトリー (maitri) というのです。

わたし あみださま はちばんめ ねが き とき むかしき おも だ
私は阿弥陀様のこの八番目の願いを聞かせていただく時、この昔聴いたお話を思い出
しんじつ じ ひ おも
しながら、真実の慈悲ということをおもうのです。(続く)

Waipahu Hongwanji Mission

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E-mail: waipahuhongwanji@hawaii.rr.com
Resident Minister: Reverend Jeffrey D. Soga

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APRIL 2024

Address Correction Requested

Condolence

Waipahu Hongwanji extends deepest sympathy to the families of:

Gilbert Mikami
Daryl Valdez
June Yasuko Tanaka
Nancy Miyashita

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

HANAMATSURI
SUNDAY, April 7, at 9 a.m.

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OAHU DISTRICT HONGWANJI COUNCIL
SANGHA DAY

Date: April 27, Saturday
8:30 a.m.—9 a.m. Assemble and registration
9 a.m. Opening Service and Activities

At Waianae Hongwanji

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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.