



WAIPAHU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
(A Shin Buddhist Temple)

GOLDEN CHAIN

Monthly Newsletter

MAY & JUNE 2024

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments



**JODO SHINSHU, Teaching of Pure Land
Amida Buddha's Vow #24, (8th Vow) 05/2024
Jeffrey Soga, Resident Minister**

Aloha Waipahu and Waianae Hongwanji Dharma Friends,

With the recent shift from cool weather to warm sunshine, it feels like May has truly arrived in Hawaii. While this warm spell can be relaxing, it's also a time when people are more susceptible to getting sick. Please take care of yourselves and stay healthy!

Speaking of staying well, I'd like to continue our discussion about Amida Buddha's Eighth Vow.

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 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.

Now, I would like to ask you a question. Do you understand the people around you and how they may be thinking or feeling? If you are married, do you want to make your husband/wife happy, and take their worries away from their everyday life?

After one Sunday service, I had the following conversation with a lady.

First, I asked the lady,

"Mrs., do you wish your husband to be happy? Do you realize what his happiness is or what you can do?"

(Continued to Page 2)

(Jodo Shinshu, from Page 1)

The lady replied:

"Reverend, he must be happy, because I'm doing this, doing that, doing everything for him, so he must be happy."

So I asked the lady again,

"Did you talk to your husband and he told you that he wanted you to do this?"

And the lady replied,

"No, reverend, I never asked about that."

At that time, I thought that this lady must be assuming, "I'm doing this, I'm doing that all for him, so he should be happy."

Well, what do you think? "Assuming" is not a true understanding of each other and being together. Whether between couples, parents and children, brothers or sisters, among friends, please try asking these questions once in a while.

"I want you to be happy, or I want to make you happy, what can I do for you?"

Easy to say, but I know it is very embarrassing and takes courage to ask this kind of question. But isn't it very important? I once asked this question to my wife. "I want to make you happy, what can I do for you?" Well, I'll leave that answer for the next time.

Please live your life everyday with Amida Buddha's eighth vow close to heart, which will enable you to understand what the people closest to you are thinking and need, and that is when you will reach enlightenment.

(To be continued)



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Evan Watarida, President of Waipahu Hongwanji



Dear Waipahu Hongwanji Sangha,

Because Rev. Soga will be on vacation in May, this newsletter will cover for the month of May and June. So, I'll try to cover as much of our upcoming events without leaving out things.

We had our Sangha Day for all Oahu District temples in Waianae Hongwanji on April 27. This event was co-hosted by Waipahu and Waianae temples and included presentations on home composting by EM Hawaii and a visit to Mouna Arts & Cultural Village in Waianae Valley. About 75 people attended and it was great to be able to visit the beautiful backdrop of Waianae Temple.

Mother's Day is coming up on May 12. We will have a combined Gotan-e service and Mother's Day brunch. We are asking our men volunteers who can, please come and help with cooking that morning.

We are hosting a Going Green E-Waste recycling event on the morning of Saturday June 8th. If you have any computers, TVs, monitors, printers, or rechargeable batteries that you want to keep from our landfills, you can bring them down for free disposal. Cerebral Palsy Foundation will be accepting used clothes. The Lions Club will be accepting old eyeglasses. Canned goods and HI-5 recyclables will also be accepted.

Obon season will be here before we know it. It starts off with Waipahu Plantation Village on June 1st. 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.

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. Waipahu BWA has offered to subsidize the full cost for any Waipahu BWA member so please contact the temple for more info.

Summer festivities are 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

HANA MATSURI SERVICE

Shakyamuni Buddha's Birthday was held Sunday, April 7, 2024.

Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Calvin and Wilma Sumida for donating greens and flowers. Especially, thank you to Mrs. Sumida for decorating the flower house.



FUJINKAI NEWS:

Eshinni and Kakushinni Day service

May 19, 2024, Sunday, 9:00am

Guest Speaker: Mr. Jaryd Oshiro (Jikoen Hongwanji Member)

Visitation for our honorary members

May 2, 2024, Thursday, We'll leave Waipahu temple at 9:00 a.m.

May 5th ,2024 (Sunday after service) will be our board meeting.

Recently, we lost a B.W.A. member, Ms. Nancy Miyashita.

On behalf of the Waipahu Hongwanji BWA, I'd like to extend my deepest sympathy to the family of Mrs. Miyashita.



I visited the **Seattle Betsuin** in Washington and met Rimban/Reverend. Kusunoki.

I passed an Omimai donation \$500 from Waipahu Hongwanji BWA to the Betsuin for the fire damage that happened on January 1, 2024.

Have a nice spring with your Ohana.
Kumika Soga, President

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND PARTICIPATE
this coming summer activities:**

GOTAN E Service: May 12, Sunday, 9 a.m.

The Gotan-e Service is the service we celebrate a founder of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji, Shinran Shonin. He was born on May 21, 1173. Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will celebrate his 850 years birthday together with our mission's 135th birthday in September.

**Mother's Day Service and brunch together with GOTAN E Service:
Sunday, May 12, 9 a.m.**

All male members are requested to join cooking for our ladies.

**Going Green's E-Waste recycling at Waipahu Hongwanji Parking:
June 8, Saturday, morning**

WAIPAHU HONGWANJI OBON: July 13, Saturday

5 p.m. Hatsubon Service 7-10 p.m Bon Dance

WAIANAE HONGWANJI BON DANCE: July 20, Saturday 7 p.m.—10 p.m.

Baccalaureate Service: June 2, Sunday, 9 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Mrs. Lisa Okada

We will be congratulating all students who are graduating from high school and college this month. If you know of a family member or friend who is finishing school this month, please let Waipahu Hongwanji know so we may invite them to join us ASAP.

Reminder - Membership Dues

We are currently in the process of updating and reconciling our membership list. For those of you who have already submitted your 2024 membership dues, thank you for supporting and subsidizing our efforts to maintain our Sangha.

As you may know, the temple and its supporting structures are aging and in need of constant repair and improvements, therefore, any funds received, helps in our goal of keeping the Waipahu Hongwanji Mission (WHM) around for many generations to come.

Every year, a significant portion of each member's dues are also used to support the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and its mission. Therefore, it helps us out tremendously whenever we receive your submission in a timely manner.

Again, thank you all for your support and commitment to our WHM Sangha and we look forward to seeing everyone soon! Mahalo

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR 2024

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

JUNE

1st (2023)

June 1 Sachiko Tsutsui
 June 1 Wallace Ikuo Yasui

3rd (2022)

June 7 Yukiko Nakasone

7th (2018)

June 2 Sam Masami Nakaoka

13th (2012)

17th (2008)

June 7 Betty Kimie Kamisato
 June 8 Osamu Kataoka
 June 14 Makoto Hashimoto
 June 22 Emily Haruko Araki

25th (2000)

June 21 Hajime Takemoto
 June 26 Noboru Iwaoka

33rd (1992)

June 3 Kashin Uyehara

50th (1975)

June 24 Sachiko Toguchi
 June 27 Donato Arsiga

JULY

1st (2023) none

3rd (2022)

July 7 Teruko Yamashita
 July 9 Hisae Nomura
 July 9 Masako Kimura
 July 13 Alice Akiko Ayabe

7th (2018) none

13th (2012) none

17th (2008)

July 6 Yukio Akamine

25th (2000)

July 22 Shiro Yamauchi

33rd (1992) none

50th (1975) none

浄土真宗の教え 2024年 5月
「阿弥陀様の願いその24(第八願) 他心悉知の願」
駐在開教使 曾我大円

五月となります。ワイパフ、ワイアナエ本願寺の皆様、お元気ですか？寒かったのが、突然
あたたかくなってきました。こんな時はふと気が緩んで、病気になったりします。くれぐれも一
日を大事にお過ごし下さい。続いて阿弥陀様の第八願のお話をさせていただきます。

たとひわれ仏を得たらんに、国中の人天、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
(念)を知る事ができなければ、私は聖覚の佛となる事は出来ません。

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、また喜びや楽しみを心で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。

さて、皆さんにお尋ねします。皆さんは周りにいる人たちのことをわかってあげていま
すか？もしご結婚されてる方でしたら、ご主人のこと、奥様のことを仕合わせにしてあげたい
と思っておられますか？皆さんのお子さんは何を考へておられるか、お父さんやお母さんや
友達が、時々辛いことを言うてくださる時、どうしてこういうことを言ったのか、その深いと
ころをわかっておられますか。以前いたお寺で一度この質問を日曜礼拝の後で、あるご婦人に
したことがあります。その時のご婦人とは次のような会話をしました。

まず私が、「奥さん、ご主人の仕合わせを願っておられますか。ご主人の仕合わせってなん
ですか？」と尋ねました。するとそのご婦人は次のように答えられました。

「主人は仕合わせですよ。だって、私がこれをして、あれをして、全部してあげてるから、
仕合わせなはずですよ。」と答えられました。

そこで、私がそのご婦人に重ねて尋ねました。「それはご主人と話をして、ご主人がこうし
(次のページへ)

(前のページより)

ほ
て欲しい、と言われたのですか？」するとそのご婦人は「いや先生、そんなこと話したことない
せんせい はな
ですよ。」と答
こたえ
られました。

ときわたし ふじん
この時私は、このご婦人は「私はこれをしてあげてるから、あれをしてあげてるから、仕合
し あ
せなはずだ」と思い込んでおられるのだろうか、と思ったことです。

みな ふうふ あいだ おやこ きょうだい しまい
さてさて、皆さんはどうですか？ご夫婦の間で、親子の間で、兄弟の間で、姉妹の間で、お
ともだち いちどつき き
友達の間で、一度次のように聞いてみてみたらどうですか、

ほ
「私はあなたを仕合わせにしたいのだけど、私にどうして欲しいですか？」と。
はず ゆうき たいせつ
これってとても恥ずかしくて、勇気がいることだと思えます。でもとても大切なことではないで
しつもん おくさま
すか？かくいう私も一度だけ、この質問を私の奥様にしたことがあります。「あなたを仕合わせ
こたえ じかい まわ
にしたいのだけど、私にどうして欲しい」と。さて、その答えはまた次回に回したいと思いま
す。

あみださま はちばんめ ねがい まわ なに かんが りかい
阿弥陀様の八番目の願い、周りにいる人が何を考
すご
えているか理解してあげる、そのことを思
いながらお過ごし下さい。 (続く)

SPECIAL DONATION

Kev & Megumi Agena ... \$100
Special

Ando Family ... \$500
Funeral for Sumiko Ando

Albert Au ... \$100
Special

Deborah Dwyer-Oshiro ... \$100
Special

Hidekazu Kamii ... \$150
Special

Kishimoto Family ... \$150
In memory of Theresa Kishimoto

Charles & Shirley Kon ... \$100
Bazaar

Eugene Makino ... \$100
Special

Miyashita Family ... \$500
Funeral for Nancy Miyashita

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

Edna Otsuka
In memory of June Tanaka
Burial Service ... \$400
Funeral Service ... \$400

Kirana Soga ... \$500
Special

Umemoto Family ... \$1,000
Funeral for Pamela Umemoto

Valdez Family ... \$600
Funeral for Daryl Valdez

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Membership :

Albert & Marian Au, Jane Fukunaga, Milton & Sharon Higuchi, Lynette & Clyde Kishimoto, Charles & Shirley Kon, Jasmine & Danel Morrison, Ann Saruwatari, Evan Watarida

SPRING OHIGAN

Richard & Sueko Kodama, Adrian & Gale Koizumi, Flora & Lionel Minemoto, Jasmine & Daniel Morrison, Emiko Onaga, Edna Otsuka, Ann Saruwatari, 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.

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

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MAY & JUNE 2024

Address Correction Requested

Condolence

Waipahu Hongwanji extends deepest sympathy to the families of:

Sumiko Ando
Thomas Nii
Pamela Mari Umemoto

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. Hoshia 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

**GOTAN E (Founder’s Birthday) Service
Mother’s Day Service/Brunch
May 12, Sunday, 2024, 9 a.m.**

Eshin ni/Kakushin ni Service
May 19, 2024, Sunday
Guest Speaker: Mr. Jaryd Oshiro

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Going Green’s E-Waste recycling
At Waipahu Hongwanji Parking
June 8, Saturday, 2024

Father’s Day Service/Brunch
June 16, Sunday, 9 a.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.