



WAIPAHU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
(A Shin Buddhist Temple)

GOLDEN CHAIN

Monthly Newsletter

JULY 2024

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments



**JODO SHINSHU, Teaching of Pure Land
Amida Buddha's Vow #25, (8th Vow) 07/2024
Jeffrey Soga, Resident Minister**

It will be July, the month of Bon Dance. Waipahu and Waianae Hongwanji Bon Dances are coming. In particular, Waianae Hongwanji Temple will close in two years. I wonder how future Bon Dance will be. Let's all work together for this year's Bon Dance, which cannot be repeated. I would like to continue to talk 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 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, happiness and sympathize for all the people in the country.

Now, I would like to ask you a question. Do you try to concern how people around you are thinking about their happiness? 'I want to make my wife happy', 'I wish I can make my husband happy, so what can I do?' Have you ever asked people around you, what is your true happiness, and how I can help it for you?

When I was about 40 years old at Kahului Hongwanji. Kumika, my wife and I were having lunch together. I bravely asked Kumika "I want to make you happy, what you want me to do? At that time, I thought she would say, "I want to go to Japan," "I want to go to Las Vegas," or "I want a Lexus." However, she quickly replied without hesitation. She said, "Please stop whispering and preaching to our children at mealtimes."

(Continued to Page 2)

(Jodo Shinshu, from Page 1)

When she said that, I got shocked and reflected upon myself. I used to talk to my children one by one during dinner time. Because my father did that to me and my brother same thing. I pointed out their behavior, such as 'you were yawning during Sunday Service', 'you were talking with your friend while daddy was talking', I was grumbling to them. Naturally, our dinner table became silent. Mealtime should be the most enjoyable time of the day, isn't it? Everyone has to smile and have a good time with happy conversation and delicious food. I was reminded of this by Kumika's words. I thoroughly reflected on it.

As I wrote in the previous issue, many people think, "I'm doing this for him/her, so he/she should be happy." If Buddha is here, I assume Buddha would say to you "should" is a selfish thought and comes from your ignorance, not from the truth or enlightenment. Therefore, I have a favor to you, please ask such question, 'what is your true happiness, what can I do for you?' If we can understand the hearts of the people around us, like Amida Buddha's Eighth Vow, we can act according to their thoughts. Yet, we can't do it. That's why it's important to ask them out loud. It can be embarrassing at times. Also, depending on the answer, it may hurt your mind. Please try to put yourself in the other person's shoes. I mean, if you are asked by someone, 'I want to make you happy, what can I do for you?' How do you find the answer for the question. If you are asked the question, you would have an opportunity to think yourself, "What is my true happiness?"

As such, people think thoughtfully of each other, make an effort to understand each other, and be concerned with their happiness. For that we must be humble with each other, to receive such power to break hesitation and pursue to ask the questions, in Amida Buddha's Eighth Vow.



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 Joggers * 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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Evan Watarida, President of Waipahu Hongwanji



Dear Waipahu Hongwanji Sangha,

Waipahu's bon dance is right around the corner to be held on Saturday July 13th. We look forward to seeing all of you there for fun and festivities. If you, your family, or your friends can lend a hand or donate items, please see below for ways you can help. Sign up in the social hall or call the temple (808 677-4221) or myself.

Bon Dance Volunteer Help.

These are the times we will need help.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Sun. July 7 – | 8 :30am – noon (Church clean-up, No Sunday Service) |
| Fri. July 12 | 8 :30am – noon (Kitchen Volunteers – cutting & packing food) |
| Sat. July 13 | 9:00am – noon (Set up tents, chairs, chochin lanterns, etc.) |
| | Noon – 3pm (Kitchen Volunteers, cooking & prep) |
| | 2pm-3pm (Spam Musubi making) |
| | 4pm – 7:30pm (Concession 1 st shift) |
| | 7:30pm – 10pm (Concession 2 nd shift & clean up) |
| Sun. July 14 | 8:30am – noon (Church clean-up, No Sunday Service) |

Chochin Lantern Donations

See Lori Noborikawa for details. Deadline for initial lantern purchases of \$20 is July 3rd. Renewals of existing lanterns is \$10.

Deadline for the donation of Obon Chochin lanterns is **July 3rd**. See Lori Noborikawa for details or call Waipahu Hongwanji.

Hapi Coat Donations

If you have hapi coats in good condition that you'd like to donate, you can drop them off to the temple as we plan to sell them during bon dance night.

Spam & Rice Donations

We are accepting rice and spam donation for musubi making. Drop off to the temple prior to July 7.

Thank you to all our volunteers and our community and sangha partners who are working together to share in the spirit of compassion. We look forward to seeing you soon.

In Gassho,

WAIPAHU HONGWANJI NEWS

O BON 2024

Saturday, July 13, 2024 (All are invited)

5 p.m. Hatsu Bon Service 7 p.m.—10 p.m. Bon Dance

Sunday, July 7, 8 a.m. General Clean up before Obon

Sunday, July 14, 8 a.m. Cleanup after Obon

(No Sunday Service)

We need much help for preparation: Chochin hanging, Yagura and parking decoration, Hatsubon Service, cooking, food booth, music booth, parking control, choba, first aid, etc. Please call Waipahu Hongwanji To volunteer for any activity.

OBON SERVICE for Family Pet Sunday, August 25, 2024, 9 a.m.

Please call Reverend Soga at Waipahu Hongwanji if you want to make a memorial service for your pet who was a part of your family and life.

Buddhist Women's Association (FUJINKAI) NEWS:

We visited our honorary members and families and everyone was fine. They miss our WHM.

Our activities are:

July 21, 2024, Sunday WHM BWA meeting,

October 26, 2024 Oahu BWA Annual Conference @ Mililani Hongwanji.

Our special Conference

3/28-29/2026 Hawaii State BWA conference @Ala Moana Hotel

The 18th World Buddhist Women's Convention at Honolulu Convention Center
September 11-12, 2027 (Please mark your calendar!)

Get ready for the two special conferences. Have a safe and enjoyable summer with your Ohana!

Kumika Soga, President

May and June Activities photo album



Sangha Day 4/27
Waianae Hngwanji



Baccalaureate Service 6/2 (below)
Left: Mrs. Lisa Okada, guest speaker
Right: Jadon Murakami, graduating student
Next row: Murakami Family



Below left side: Men worked hard for Mother's Day brunch 5/12
Below right side: All enjoyed wonderful food cooked by ladies for Father's Day 6/16



Kokua gang built the Yagura for OBON.



BWA Activities photo album



Eshin ni / Kakushin ni Day Service 5/19

From left: Evan Watarida, Lori Noborikawa, Jenny Nomura, Jaryd Oshiro (guest speaker), Flora Minemoto, Lisa Okada, Janet Kaya and Kumika Soga



BWA Visitation:

Right: Mr. Tom Kaneshiro and his son for Sachi Kaneshiro
2nd row, from left: Emiko Onaga, Peggy Tsukida, Kimi Koizumi, Janet Yoshida, Tsunako Sakata, and Helene Tanimoto



MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR 2024

JULY	AUGUST
1st (2023) none	1st (2023) August 17 Satsue Yamaguchi
3rd (2022) July 7 Teruko Yamashita July 9 Hisae Nomura July 9 Masako Kimura July 13 Alice Akiko Ayabe	3rd (2022) August 18 Noboru Yamauchi
7th (2018) none 13th (2012) none	7th (2018) August 4 Hatsuko Horio
17th (2008) July 6 Yukio Akamine	13th (2012) none 17th (2008) none
25th (2000) July 22 Shiro Yamauchi	25th (2000) August 23 Tamotsu Shimizu
33rd (1992) none 50th (1975) none	33th (1992) August 14 Hatsuyo Ueno
	50th (1975) none

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

SPECIAL DONATION

Thomas Kaneshiro ... \$1,000
Special

Miyashita Family ... \$300
In memory of Nancy Miyashita

Chizuko Kono ... \$50
In memory of Yachiyo Yasuda

Frances Matsumoto ... \$300
In memory of Noritaka Matsumoto

Fumiko Nii and family ... \$1,500
Funeral for Stephen Nii

Okazaki Family ... \$500
In memory of Walter & Lillian Okazaki

Oyama Family ... \$300
Funeral for Thomas Nii

Tsunako Sakata ... \$100
Use of class room

Kirana Soga ... \$1,000
Special

Russell Tsutsui ... \$50
In memory of Paul Sasaki

Yasuda Family ... \$100
In memory of Yachiyo Yasuda

Plantation Village ... \$50
Bon Dance Dedication

Sharon Higashi ... \$200
Special

Masami Murata ... \$100
Visitation

Peggy Tsukida ... \$100
In memory of Sachi Tsutsui 1 year

Lynne Yoshimura ... \$500
In memory of Mrs. Ho, Mrs. Fujioka and Judith

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

Membership :

(June) Taeko Braden, Doreen and Melvin Harada, Wendy Miyahara, Betty Namba, Emiko Onaga, Gerald and Helen Oshiro, Thomas and Kay Shimizu, Mae Sunahara, Craig and Christi Tadaki, Helen Yonashiro

GOTAN-E

Adrienne & Ellen Ayakawa, Milton Fujioka, Marjory & Henry Funasaki, Daniel & Lois Hanaoka, Roy & Dorothy Hirata, Steven & Jan Honda, Thomas & Sachie Kaneshiro, Janet Kaya, Richard & Sueko Kodama, Kimi Koizumi, Gary Maeda, Wilfred & Mae Matsushige, Kara Mendoza, Flora & Lionel Minemoto, Lori Morikawa, Daniel & Jasmine Morrison, Masumi Murakami, Stephen & Fumiko Nii, Jenny Nomura, Lisa Okada, Emiko Onaga, Edna Otsuka, Jan Ro, Tsunako Sakata, Thomas Sekine, Beatrice Sonoda, Wilma & Calvin Sumida Victor & Helene Tanimoto, Lilly Tokuhara, Kuniomi & Akemi Uehara, Ellen Ujimori, Yukiko & Masao Uyeda, Craig & Megumi Uyeno, Michelle & Duane Uyeno, Helen Yonashiro, Janet Yoshida

HO ON KO: Gary Maeda

浄土真宗の教え 2024年7月
「阿弥陀様の願いその25 (第八願) 他心悉知の願」
駐在開教使 曾我大円

七月となります。ワイパフ、ワイアナエ本願寺の盆ダンスがやってきます。特にワイアナエ本願寺はあと2年で閉鎖します。将来どうなるかわからない盆ダンスです。繰り返すことのない今年の盆ダンス、皆んなで盛り上げてゆきましょう。
つづ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。
「他心悉知の願」 (浄土真宗聖典)

(私の意識)

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、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、また喜びや楽しみの心をわかってあげることができる、阿弥陀様が願っていて下さるのです。

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？奥さんを仕合わせにしたい、ご主人を仕合わせにするために私は何が出来るだろうか、思っただけではなく、声に出して聞いてみたことはありますか？

あれは私が四十歳になる頃でした。カフルイ本願寺の開教使住宅のキッチンで久弥香さんと二人きりでお昼ご飯を頂いている時、ふと尋ねたのです。「久弥香さん、あなたを仕合わせにしたいのだけど、私に何かしてほしいことがある？」と。その時は「日本に行きたい」とか、「ラスベガスに行きたい」とか、「レクサスが欲しい」とか、言ってくるかと思いました。しかし、彼女は長らく考えることもなく、即座に次のように答えてきました。「食事の時に子供達に小言やお説教を言うのをやめて下さい。」と言うことでした。

その時の久弥香さんの言葉を聞きながら自分のことを反省しておりました。よくよく考えてみると、お寺で子供たちの態度や色々気にかかることなんかを一つ一つ取り出して、子供達に「おまえはこの前お父さんがお説教してる時にあくびをしていたら、とか、

(次のページへ)

(前のページより)

となり
隣の人と話をしていたら、^{こごと}小言を言っていました。^{とうぜんこども}当然子供たちはおもしろくなくなり、^{だま}黙って夕ご飯を食べるようになっておりました。^{しょくじ}食事の時って、^{とき}一日のうちで一番楽しい時間ですね。^{じかん}みんな笑顔で美味しい料理と一緒に楽しい時間を過ごさなければなりません。^{えがお}みんな笑顔で美味しい料理と一緒に楽しい時間を過ごさなければなりません。^{はんせい}そのことを久弥香さんの言葉で気がつかされました。しっかりと反省しました。

ぜんごう
前号にも書きましたが、^か「私はこれだけしてあげてるから、あの人は幸せのはずだ」、と多くのおおの人が思っておられます。^{しあわ}「はずだ」と思っていることは、^{おお}自己中心的な思いで、^{ほんとう}本当のところではありません。^{ねがい}そこでみなさんにお願ひがあります。もし私たちが阿弥陀様のこの第八願のよ^{まわ}うに、^{こうどう}周りにいる人の心の中がわかれば、その人の思いにそって行動できますが、私たちには^{どうていむり}到底無理ですね。^{こえ}ですから、^だ声に出して尋ねることはとても大切です。^{たず}それは時には恥ずかしい^{たいせつ}ことかもしれません。また答へによっては心にグサツとくることがあるかもしれません。また、^{はず}立場を置き換えてみて下さい。もし、みなさんがこんな質問をされたらどう答へるか、^{かんが}考えてみて下さい。すると、私にとって真実の仕合わせって何だろう、と考える機会をもらえます。

こうやってお互いを思いやり、^{たが}理解しようと努力する、^{りかい}この力をもらうことが阿弥陀様の第八願の中にこめられてあると私は頂いております。^{どりよく}

続く

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

JULY 2024

Address Correction Requested

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.
(Month of July will be first Saturday, due to
Bon Dance

Leeward JUDO Class at Social Hall
Every Tuesday 5-8 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

O BON 2024

Saturday, July 13, 2024

5 p.m. Hatsu Bon Service
7 p.m.—10 p.m. Bon Dance

Sunday, July 7 General Clean up before Obon
Sunday, July 14, Cleanup after Obon
Both starting 8 a. m.

Reminder : Deadline for the donation of
Obon Chochin lanterns is **July 3rd.**
See Lori Noborikawa for details or call
Waipahu Hongwanji.

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

Project Dana Caregiver Support Program
Saturday, July 6, 2024, 10 a.m.
Social Hall