



WAIPAHU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
(A Shin Buddhist Temple)

GOLDEN CHAIN

Monthly Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2024

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments



**JODO SHINSHU, Teaching of Pure Land
Amida Buddha's Vow #27, (9th Vow) 09/2024**
Jeffrey Soga, Resident Minister

September is here, and Ohigan (Autumn equinox) is approaching. As the hot summer gradually gives way to cooler weather, I hope everyone at the Waipahu and Waianae Hongwanji temples is doing well.

I would like to continue to Amida Buddha's 9th Vow.

"If, when I attain Buddhahood, the humans and devas in my land should not possess divine feet, and thus be unable to go beyond at least a hundred thousand Kotis of nayutas of Buddha-lands in a thought –moment, may I not attain the perfect enlightenment."
(Three Pure Land Sutra, Volume II, Larger Sutra Page 21)

(My Interpretation):

If I (Amida) attain enlightenment as a Buddha, all the people of my land will be able to get the super divine feet and get to where they want to go in a thought of moments. If I can't do that, I can't be a Buddha of Enlightenment.

As I read this 9th vow, many thoughts come to mind. First and foremost is the importance of considering those who are far away. It's crucial to have a way to contact them quickly in case of an emergency. If we've drifted apart from someone important, reaching out might be seen as intrusive or even burdensome. Therefore, it's essential to maintain communication, such as sending New Year's cards or handwritten letters.

Another important point is that you, the reader, are considered precious by those who live far away. My daughter in Hilo, Hawaii, is expecting a baby this September. Several friends have asked if I plan to visit my grandchild. However, I believe that my presence would be more of a burden than a help, as my daughter would have to take care of me. So, I tell them, "My wife will go, but I won't. I'm looking forward to meeting my grandchild when they're a little older."

I remember a similar experience after the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011. When I visited Fukushima and Miyagi a month later, I was told by a Fukushima city official that many young volunteers had been coming to help, but they had become more of a burden than a help as people had to worry about their accommodations and meals. This highlights the fact that one cannot care for others if one cannot care for oneself.

(Continued to Page 7)

SPECIAL DONATION

Shirley Kon ... \$200
In memory of Calvin/Yukiko Yoshida

Joyce Oshita ... \$200
In memory of Hatsuko Horio

Jean Sawa ... \$300
Special

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

Kirana Soga ... \$500
Special

Tochiki Family ... \$100
Inurnment Service for Tochiki Family

Takenaka Family ... \$300
In memory of Vivian Takenaka

Peggy Tsukida ... \$100
In memory of Ronald Watarida

Tsumoto Family ... \$100
Special

Linda Tsuruma ... \$500
Funeral for Milton Doi

Family of Charles Uyehara ... \$400
Special

Waipahu Soto Zen Temple, Taiyoji ... \$100
Orei—Bon Dance Parking

Leonard Tangonan ... \$300
In memory of Vivian Takenaka

Family of Ronald Watarida ... \$500
In memory of Ronald K. Watarida

Yamaguchi Ohana ... \$500
Special

Yoshida Family ... \$100
In memory of Calvin/Yukiko Yoshida

Da Andagi Guy ... \$570
Obon

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



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*

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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,

Summer is coming to an end and the kids are headed back to school. It's time for them to get off their phone screens and get back to learning in the classroom. As adults, I hope you haven't stopped growing and learning as well. Just because we're not in school, doesn't mean we stop learning new things. Every day is filled with opportunities for us to learn and gain wisdom through our daily lives, if we choose to pause and reflect.

On September 7 & 8, a bunch of Waipahu members will be deepening our dharma awareness by attending the long-planned Triple Celebration at Ala Moana Hotel. It marks the 850th birthday of Shinran Shonin, the 800th anniversary of Jodo Shinshu establishment, and the 135th anniversary of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii. It's a day and a half of fellowship, special services, and workshops led by guest speakers. Registration capacity was filled a few months ago and it is not often that we have large events to gather with sangha members statewide.

On September 22, after Sunday service, we'll have an informational seminar on Medicare enrollment and updates to benefits by Milton Tanji, followed by a Q & A session. And keeping on the learning track, Rev. Soga has been teaching us about stories in the major sutras during his sermons. And later, we will be re-starting our dharma discussion talk-story sessions. This is when we devote time to discuss teachings, share experiences, and ask questions as fellow travelers down the path of awakening and self-realization. Dates and time to be announced later.

Honpa Hongwanji recently launched their Living Gratitude Endowment Campaign. The goal is to build up the Honpa endowment funds to a point where it will alleviate and one day possibly end the need for temple assessments and collection of member dues to support headquarters. You'll be hearing more on the campaign moving forward.

Coming up on October 19th, due to popular demand, we'll be restarting our Fall Bazaar with a white elephant sale and food sales. More details are coming, but now is the time to declutter and help the temple. We are accepting donations up until October 12th. Please try to keep donations to new and gently used items, things that you would like to buy yourself.

And finally, I'd like to highlight the great work our Waipahu Adult Day Care does and the compassionate staff that we have. Voted in Star Advertiser's Hawaii's Best for many years, our day care consistently receives high praise for its warm and friendly space, caring staff, and engaging activities. We currently have space available for new clients. And as a reminder, we offer bonuses for referring new clients AND as a Waipahu Hongwanji member, we offer discounted rates.

So, let's continue to learn and grow as we walk down the dharma path together. I look forward to seeing you at our events.

In Gassho,

WAIPAHU HONGWANJI's FALL BAZAAR is coming

Saturday October 19

8:30am – 12noon

Accepting donations until Oct. 12

New or gently used clothes, household items, bags, toys, kitchenware, plants, etc.
Please no baby seats, strollers, wheelchairs or walkers.

AUTUMN OHIGAN (Equinox) SERVICE

September 22, Sunday, 2024

9 a.m. Waipahu Hongwanji

10:30 a.m. Waianae Hongwanji

Wednesday, September 11 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Topic: Nursing Home Partners –

Senior Care Options: How Can We Help?

Speaker: Vance Yamamoto, Nursing Home Partners

Location: Zoom and Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin
(1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813)



Saturday, September 14 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Topic: What is Home Care?

Speaker: Tita Pulido and Tyler Nakamura, Always Best Care

Location: Zoom and Waipahu Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
(94-821 Kuhaulua Street, Waipahu, HI 96797)

Tuesday, October 1 1:45 pm to 2:45 pm

Topic: Planning Ahead for Your Future with the University of Hawaii
Elder Law Program (UHELP)

Featuring: Professor James Pietsch, JD, Dr. Lenora Lee, PhD, and
University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law Students

Location: Zoom and Moiliili Hongwanji Mission
(902 University Ave, Honolulu, HI 96826)

Please call or email if you are interested in attending or need more information:
Maria Morales, Program Coordinator (808) 945-3736

cgsg@projectdana.org

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR 2024

SEPTEMBER

1st (2023) **none**

3rd (2022)
 September 1 Sumiko Ishimaru
 September 19 Richard Katsuto Nomura

7th (2018)
 September 16 Tomio Hirayama
 September 17 Amy Yoshiko Yoshimura

13th (2012)
 September 4 Chitose Oshiro
 September 9 Errol Tooru Matsumura

17th (2008)
 September 6 Yukiko Yoshida

25th (2000)
 September 8 Yoshiko Ayakawa
 September 22 Shosaburo Akamine
 September 24 Mitsugu Yoshimoto
 September 29 Noboru Yamamoto

33rd (1992)
 September 2 Toshio Yamamoto
 September 14 Makoto Suzuki

50th (1975)
 September 3 Kimiko Yamamoto

OCTOBER

1st (2023)
 October 7 Fred Jiro Edamatsu
 October 12 Clarence Katsumi Otsuka
 October 27 Vanassa Tanouye

3rd (2022) **none**

7th (2018)
 October 17 Doris Michie Igarashi

13th (2012)
 October 10 Tsuneo Hari
 October 14 Ranko Kawaguchi
 October 23 Sumiye Tanabe

17th (2008) **none**

25th (2000)
 October 21 Donald Fujito Morishige
 October 21 Kenkichi Ishikawa
 October 28 Kenso Kuwabara

33rd (1992)
 October 1 Shoichi Tachihata
 October 11 Thelma Kimiko Miyamoto
 October 12 Yachiyo Kusunoki
 October 16 Toyo Kawashita
 October 17 Toru Ohara
 October 29 Kinu Tokumoto

50th (1975)
 October 17 Richard Katsuyoshi Yoshida

(From Donation Page)

OBON

Daniel & Lois Hanaoka, Noboru & Alan Hironaka, Elaine & Lawrence Kanemoto,
 S & D Sano, Harriet Sugimoto, Mark Yamauchi

Membership Dues Musashi and Miyako Shiota

浄土真宗の教え 2024年9月
「阿弥陀様の願いその27（第九願） 神足如意の願（その2）」
駐在開教使 曾我大円

ひがん きせつ あつ なつ お すこ すず
九月です。お彼岸の季節です。これから暑い夏が終わり、少しずつ涼しくなってくることで
しょう。ほんがんじ げんき す おも
しょう。ワイパフ、ワイアナエ本願寺の皆さん、お元気でお過ごしのことと思います。
つづ あみださま
続いて、阿弥陀様の第九願をいただきます。

ぶつ え こくちゆう にんでん じんそく え いちねん
たとひわれ仏を得たらんに、国中の人天、神足を得ずして、一念のあひだにおいて、
したもせんおくなゆた しょぶつ くに ちょうか いた しょうがく と
下百千億那由他の諸仏の国を超過することあたはざるに至らば、正覚を取らじ。

じんそくによい がん
(神足如意の願) (浄土真宗聖典)

わたし いやく
(私の意識)
あみださま ぶつ さと え とき かみ あし
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、神の足を
いっしゆん あいだ い ぼしょ どうちやく
得て、思い通りに一瞬の間に、行きたい場所へ到着することができる。もしそれが
しょうがく でき
出来なければ、私は聖覚の佛となることは出来ません。

ねが よ わたし ま とお はな
この願いを読みながら、私なりに思うことが色々あります。先ず遠くに離れている人のこと
を思いやることですね。何かあった時にすぐ連絡取れるようにしておくことは大切です。もし
とき れんらくと たいせつ
大事な人に疎まれていたら、何かある時に尋ねていこうとすると、面倒臭いと思われてしまう
だいじ うと たず めんどうくさ
と「小さな親切、大きなお世話」になってしまいます。そのためにも常に言葉を交わしておく
ちい しんせつ おお せ わ つね ことば か
ことは大切なことですね。例えば、年末の年賀状のご挨拶、そして日頃の手紙ですね。
たと ねんまつ ねんがじょう あいさつ ひごろ てがみ

もう一つ大事なことは、これを読まれてるあなたが、遠くに住んでいる人から大事な人と思
とお す だいじ
われていることです。この九月にハワイ島ヒロに住んでいる次女に子供が生まれます。数人の
こども すうにん
お友達が「生まれたら孫に会いにヒロに行くのか？」と尋ねて下さいました。でも、思うこと
ともだち まご
は、私のようなのが行っても、次女の方が私の面倒を見ないといけないので、手助けよりも
めんどう てだす
邪魔になってしまうのではないかと思うことです。だから「うちの奥さんが行きますよ、私は
じゃま
行きません。少し大きくなって落ち着いたら会えることを楽しみにしています。」と答えま
お つ こた
す。

(次のページへ)

(Jodo Shinshu, from Page 1)

Amida Buddha vowed to become a Buddha of immeasurable life and light, encompassing us with his warm compassion and wisdom. Buddha would never be intrusive or burdensome.

Now, I ask all of you reading this: do you think of your distant family and friends? Email or text messages are convenient, and video calls allow us to see each other's faces. However, it's also important to take the time to write handwritten letters from time to time. Life is short, so let's write many letters. Even if we can't be there for our loved ones in times of crisis, our thoughts and feelings can reach them. This is what I ponder as I reflect on Amida Buddha's ninth vow.

(浄土真宗の教え、6ページより)

そう言えば、こんなことがありました。2011年の3月、東北地震が起こり、津波が襲い、原子力発電所が爆発して、多くの方が迷惑しておられました。私は一ト月後の4月に福島、宮城へ行き多くの人たちにお会いし、その時はマウイのカフルイ本願寺におりましたので、マウイへ来て下さい、とお見舞いをしました。その時言われたことは、最近の若者が「自分探し」とか言ってボランティアに来るけど、泊まる場所、食べる場所、色々と心配してくれと頼まれて、それでなくても多用なのに邪魔になって仕方がない、とぼやいておられた福島市役所の職員のお話を聞きました。自分の面倒を見ることが出来ない人に、人の世話をやくことはできないということです。

阿弥陀様は無量の命と光の仏となる。私たちを温かい慈悲の力で包みこみ育てくださる智慧の仏となると願われたのです。決して私のお節介や邪魔になるようなことはないのです。

さて、これを読んで下さっている皆さん、皆さんは遠くに住んでいるご家族やお友達のことを思いやっておられますか？Eメールとかテキストメッセージもいいかも知れませんが、今ではフェイスタイムとか顔を見ながら電話でお話もできます。それでも月に一度くらい心をこめて直筆、手書きのお手紙を書いておくのも大切なことです。

一度しかない人生、沢山手紙を書いておきましょう。もし遠く離れた大切な人に、大変なことが起こって、すぐに行くことが出来なくても、思いだけは届けることができるように、らしをさせていただきましょう。阿弥陀様の第九願をいただきながら思うことです。

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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SEPTEMBER 2024

Address Correction Requested

Condolence
Waipahu Hongwanji extends deepest
Sympathy to the families of:

Charles Uyehara
Milton Y. Doi
Tomoe Takenaka
Tadashi Ayabe

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 (Autumn Equinox) Service

September 22, Sunday, 2024
9 a.m. Waipahu Hongwanji
10:30 a.m. Waianae Hongwanji

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Project Dana Caregiver Support Program
Saturday, September 14, 2024, 10 a.m.
Social Hall

Jr. YBA Manju Making for HBY Month
October 5, Saturday, 2024
At Waipahu Hongwanji
Please place your order by calling Waipahu
Hongwanji (808) 677-4221
Enjoy Manju and support Youth Program