



WAIPAHU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
(A Shin Buddhist Temple)

GOLDEN CHAIN

Monthly Newsletter

DECEMBER 2024

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments



JODO SHINSHU, Teaching of Pure Land Amida Buddha's Vow #30, (10th Vow) 12/2024 Jeffrey Soga, Resident Minister

Aloha Dharma friends. I have come to write my message for this year's last temple newsletter. I am grateful and happy to have been able to live through this year safely. However, there is still one more month left. I do not know what will happen in these remaining days. I must live carefully and with mindfulness. Now, I will continue by writing about the Amida Buddha's tenth vow.

If, when I attain Buddhahood, the humans and devas in my land should give rise to only thought of attachment to their body, may I not attain the perfect enlightenment.
(Page 21, The Three Pure Land Sutras Volume II, The Larger Sutra)

(My interpretation):

If I, Amida, attain enlightenment as a Buddha, but all the people of my land have thoughts and attachments from ignorance, then I can not be a Buddha of Enlightenment.

Last month, I introduced the 'Ten Transgressions (*ju-aku*).' Please take another look at last month's issue. Killing (Destroying life), theft, and adultery (sexual misconduct) are actions committed with the body. Greed, anger, and wrong views (ignorance) are evils that arise in the mind. Now, (1) lying, (2) harsh words, (3) speaking ill of others, and (4) idle talk, are evil acts committed with the mouth. This passage seems to be explaining the "Ten Evils" in Buddhist teachings, which are harmful actions committed through the body, speech, and mind.

In our daily lives, we commit evils each with our body, and mind or consciousness. They are three each. However, there is one more evil committed through the mouth. That is why, Buddha is teaching us that we must pay attention to the movements of the mind and body, but we have to be extra careful with the movement of our mouth.

How is your daily life? For those of you reading this who are older, it may be physically difficult to commit acts like killing someone, stealing things, or adultery. Also, as you age, you may become more calm and reflective, looking at things with a softer heart, thinking, 'Ah, my greed is rising again, I'm getting angry... oh, I see, there's another perspective to consider...' with such flexible mind.

(Continued to Page 2)

However, what about this mouth? Some senior members often say to me, 'Reverend, I've gotten older, makule, so I've become weak, I can't hear well anymore, but my mouth is still the same, it moves energetically.' I listen to this with a smile, but I wonder, what kind of words are coming out from your mouth? If it's words of praise and gratitude, that's great, but I sometimes think that maybe unnecessary words are coming out instead."

This is a quote I found in a book written by Mr. Hiroyuki Itsuki, which I read a long time ago. It says, "Human beings are born crying, and the question is, how will we end this life that we started by crying...". I believe that everyone reading this also began their life in this world as a baby, crying as they entered it. We are born crying, bad words come out while you live, and you end this life with crying. Isn't that a little sad? Why were we born into this world? A life that begins with crying, but knowing that our lives are supported by many other lives and kindness, so called our lives are gift. If you aware of this, I hope, when your time comes to close, words of gratitude and joy gush from your mouth.

When I think about why Amida Buddha made this tenth vow, it seems that it was because he saw that we, due to our attachments, are bringing forth feelings of poverty and performing bad actions with our hearts, bodies, and mouths. Yet, Amida Buddha does not abandon us and continues to wish that we may come to the Pure Land." This passage reflects on the compassion of Amida Buddha, who, despite our flaws and wrongdoings, desires for us to be reborn in the Pure Land.

In the month of December, everyone becomes busy. Please be mindful of the words that come out of your mouth, and spend time with your family, friends, with words of gratitude.

(To be continued...)

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Evan Watarida, President of Waipahu Hongwanji



Dear Waipahu Hongwanji Sangha,

The end of 2024 is upon us. The year certainly has gone by quickly, hasn't it? The holiday season is already here. It is the season of goodwill and a time to spend with family and friends. Although, the truth is, at times I do get overwhelmed with feelings of anxiousness and stress and it doesn't feel very peaceful and festive. There always seems to be so much to do with shopping, errands, parties, events, and deadlines.

It's easy to fall into the trap of getting lost in busyness. To get caught up in material purchases while we find ways to keep up with others and then we lose sight of the beauty and wonder before us. When I snap out of my trance of running around, I take pause and reflect on what the true reason for the season is.

It's not about finding the perfect gift or being the perfect host. The true gift is the present moment. That realization that we may not pass this way again. And that we should enjoy and appreciate all the special moments we have and the company of those dear to us.

Here is a recap of events coming up. On Dec. 8, we will do our temple clean-up in lieu of Sunday service. The Oahu Jr. YBA has a "Toys for Tots" donation box set up at our temple. Donations of brand-new toys are being accepted until Dec. 15 and will be distributed to families in need.

For those interested in ways to stay active and fit without too much strain, we scheduled a Chair Yoga Class on Thursday Dec. 19, from 9 – 10 am in the Adult Day Care lanai. If there's positive feedback, we will schedule future opportunities.

Mochi making is on the morning of Sun. Dec. 29. There's no Sunday service so it is a great opportunity to bring the family together as a holiday event. Families will supply their own mochi rice and make their own mochi with fillings if they want. A sign-up sheet will be posted in Dec. to get an idea of how many pounds needs to be steamed.

Our 2025 New Years Party is scheduled for Sunday Feb. 23. Entertainment will be provided by Sheree Tamura and friends. More information will be coming later.

I am truly grateful for all of you in our Sangha family. I hope that you are safe and healthy in the holiday season. And I hope to see you at our upcoming events.

In Gassho,

JAPANESE STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

In Japan, Christmas is not a traditional holiday since only about 1% of the population is Christian. Christmas is more of a romantic holiday, like Valentines' Day. Couples go out for a special dinner, look at Christmas lights and exchange gifts. Families celebrate Christmas with their favorite holiday meal: Kentucky Fried Chicken and "kurisumasu keki" (Strawberry Shortcake). The KFC bucket has become so popular that families are placing orders for the "finger-licking good" favorite up to six weeks in advance, and Strawberry Shortcakes are sold on almost every street corner.



Couldn't get the recipe for Kentucky Fried Chicken but did find a recipe for Japanese Strawberry Shortcake from Catherine Zhang, a food blogger and self-proclaimed dessert lover. Here's Catherine's recipe.

Sponge Cake

4 large eggs, separated 1/2c cornstarch
1/4c whole milk 1/2c all-purpose flour
4 tbsp vegetable oil 1/2c granulated sugar

Simple Syrup

1/3c granulated sugar
1/3c water

Whipped Cream

2 1/2c whipping cream 1/2c granulated sugar
sliced
1 tsp vanilla extract

Assembly

2 1/2c strawberries,

Preheat oven to 300°F. Sponge cake: Line bottom of an 8-in cake pan with parchment paper. In a medium-size bowl whisk egg yolks, milk, and oil. Sift flour into egg yolk mixture and mix till combined. In a separate bowl, whip (with electric mixer) the egg whites with the sugar until stiff peaks form. Add 1/3 of the meringue into the egg yolk mixture and mix until smooth. Transfer this lightened egg yolk mixture to the remaining meringue and fold carefully until just combined. Transfer the batter to cake pan. Place cake pan in a water bath and bake for 70 minutes. Remove from oven and cool completely. Once cooled, run a knife around the edge of the cake pan and invert the pan. Wrap cake in cling wrap and refrigerate until ready to assemble. Whipped cream: Whip the cream with electric mixer, slowly streaming in the sugar. Beat until stiff peaks form. Assembly: Combine sugar and water in small bowl and microwave for 30 seconds until melted, cool. Slice the cooled cake into three layers. Lay one layer of the cake down and brush with the syrup. Spread on a layer of cream, and a layer of sliced strawberries, and cover with another layer of cream, repeat. Place last layer on top and give the cake a thin crumb coat before icing the entire cake with cream. Place star tip into piping bag and fill with remaining cream. Pipe border around edge of cake and decorate with remaining strawberries.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

SPECIAL DONATION

Edamatsu Family ... \$500
Funeral for Edward Edamatsu

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

Kirana Soga ... \$500
Special

Lee Yoshimoto and family ... \$700
Funeral for Yoshio Yoshimoto

Edna & Brian Otsuka
In memory of Clarence Otsuka
1 year Memorial Service ... \$ 700
New Butsudan (alter) Dedication ... \$500

Takemoto Family ... \$ 200
Burial Service for Raymond Takemoto

Gary Okumura ... \$500
New House Dedication

ETAIKYO:

Milton Fujioka, Marjory & Henry Funasaki, Daniel & Lois Hanaoka, Steven & Jan Honda, Thomas & Sachie Kaneshiro, Richard & Sue Kodama, Adrian & Gale Koizumi, Masumi Murakami, Fumiko & Stephen Nii, Edna Otsuka, Jan Ro, Thomas Sekine, Beatrice Sonoda, Robert Tsumoto, Kuniomi & Akemi Uehara, Masao & Yukiko Uyeda, Francis Uyeno

SOCIAL CONCERNS:

Thomas & Sachie Kaneshiro, Richard & Sue Kodama, Adrian & Gale Koizumi, Lori Noborikawa, Edna Otsuka, Tsunako Sakata, Ellen Ujimori, Masao & Yukiko Uyeda, Craig & Megumi Uyeno, Francis Uyeno, Janet Yoshida

WE NEED YOUR KOKUA, HELP WANTED,

Waipahu Hongwanji's "**Hosha Group**" needs new volunteers to help clean the temple's hon-doh (chapel) interior, conference room, temple office and occasionally the social hall's floor. No heavy cleaning is involved; mostly just vacuuming the carpet, wiping the pew cushions, and mopping the floors (in the conference room and office). Cleaning usually requires about 90 – 100 minutes each time. Individual volunteers come about once or twice a month. Volunteers arrange with Reverend Soga which days they will come. (The Hosha volunteers who did the cleaning in years past have either passed away or are now unable to help.)

Waipahu Hongwanji's "**Kokua Gang**" needs more kitchen volunteers to prepare lunch on Thursdays for the dozen or so Kokua gang members who maintain the temple grounds and buildings. Two or three kitchen volunteers man the temple's kitchen about one Thursday a month from about 9 AM to 12 noon. Volunteers plan the menu, go to the markets to purchase the items and then prepare the lunches. Save all receipts and be reimbursed by the temple (About \$50 per lunch). Contact Reverend Soga if you have any questions.

WAIPAHU HONGWANJI NEWS:

BWA (Buddhist Women's Association) HOON KO Service:

December 15, 2024, Sunday, 9 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Rev. Irene Nakamoto (retired)

All BWA members are requested to join the service.

A Waipahu Hongwanji member's requests:

"Eight plots for sale Mililani Memorial Park. Prime location, close to entrance. Discount for multiple. Please call Waipahu Hongwanji (808) 677-4221 if you're interested.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR 2024 & 2025

DECEMBER

1st (2023)

December 27 Gilbert Shigemi Mikami
 December 25 Yoshito Paul Sasaki
 December 1 Clyde Rikio Yoshimi

3rd (2022)

December 16 Ken Ikehara
 December 14 Shoko Kawasaki Roberts
 December 13 Linda Chieko Momohara
 December 4 Carol Chieko Inouye

7th (2018)

none

13th (2012)

December 26 Hiroji Miyashita

17th (2008)

December 3 Ellis Richardson Travis

25th (2000)

December 26 Asao Yabuno
 December 23 Harry Isamu Umeno
 December 19 Myles Michio Yoshihiro
 December 10 Eric Tadashi Ishii

33rd (1992)

December 25 James Shigeo Nishimura
 December 17 Shizue Yamato
 December 16 Eiko Oshiro
 December 15 Masayuki Kamisato

50th (1975)

December 29 Thomas Masayuki Miyakaku
 December 13 Takaichi Tanouye
 December 2 Masao Ishihara

1st (2024)

January 7 Daryl Hatsuo Valdez
 January 7 Jane Yasuko Tanaka
 January 9 Nancy Natsue Miyashita
 January 27 Pamela Mari Umemoto

3rd (2023)

January 14 Kimiko Kamisato
 January 31 Leroy David Braden

7th (2019)

January 12 Ross Haruo Yoshimura

13th (2013)

January 21 Tomiyo Fujiwara
 January 26 Harriet Yaeko Kusunoki

17th (2009)

January 28 Kuniko Tsujimoto
 January 28 Kiyoko Fujimoto

25th (2001)

January 3 Francis Mitsuo Mise
 January 5 Kumiko M Kodama
 January 26 Rachel Yasue Yasui

33rd (1993)

January 11 Stanley Susumu Abe

50th (1976)

January 3 Kamado Oshiro
 January 18 Shoichi Sanada

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR (Upcoming events in December & January 2025)

12/1/24 (9 a.m.) Bodhi Day Service
 12/8/24 (9 a.m.) Year End General Clean up (Rev. Jeff run Honolulu Marathon)
 12/15/24 (9 a.m.) Buddhist Women's Association HOON KO Service
 12/29/24 (8 a.m.) MOCHI TSUKI
 12/31/24 New Year's Eve Service

1/1/2025 (9 a.m.) SHU SHO E (New Year's Day Service)
2/23/2025 New Year Party



Halloween 2024 at Adult Day Care Center



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: adulthoodcarehawaii.org

Project Dana Caregiver Support Program

Wednesday, December 4 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Topic: Active, Happy, and Healthy Aging

Speaker: Dr. Kyoung Eun Lee, Associate Professor, Nancy
Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing University of
Hawai'i at Manoa

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



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

Topic: Hawaii Mobile Dental, Inc.

Speaker: Dr. Bradley Hawkins

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

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

浄土真宗の教え 2024年12月
「阿弥陀様の願いその30(第十願) 不貧計心の願 (その3)」
駐在開教使 曾我大円

いよいよ、今年最後のこの寺報の原稿を書くことになりました。今年も無事に過ごさせていただいたことを、有り難く、嬉しく思うことです。しかし、まだあと一月あります。この間に何があるか分かりません。油断なく、大切に過ごさせていただかなければと思うことです。さて、続いて阿弥陀様の願いについて書かせていただきます。

たとひわれ仏を得たらんに、国中の入天、もし想念を起こして、身を貧計せば、正覚を取らじ。
(不貧計心の願) (浄土真宗聖典17ページ)

(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、もし想念を起こして、執着の心を起こすことがあるならば、私は聖覚の佛となることは出来ません。

先月は「十悪」を紹介させていただきました。先月号をもう一度よく見て下さい。殺生、偷盗、邪淫というのは身体です。貪欲、瞋恚、愚痴とは心に起こる悪です。残りの四つ、妄語、綺語、悪口、両舌は口で行う悪い行爲です。昔からこれを「しん三、く四の十悪」と教えられてきました。「しん」とは身と心のことで、どちらも「しん」と読みますね。「く」とは「口」のことです。私たちは毎日の生活の中で「意識」の上に、身体と心から三つずつの悪を行います。でも口は一つ多いのです。だからこそ、勿論、心の動き、身体の動きに注意しなければならないが、口はさらにもう一つ気をつけなければならない、と教えられてきたのです。皆さんの毎日はどうですか。これを読まれている方で、年を取られてる方は人を殺したり、ものを盗んだり、また淫らな異性との交わりをすることは体力的に無理があるかもしれません。また、年をとると少し落ち着いて物事を見て、「あー、また欲の心が起こっているな〜、腹を立てているな〜、あ、そうかそういう見方もあったか〜」と柔らかな心で過ごす事ができるようになるでしょう。

しかし、この口はどうでしょう。よくご年配の方が、「先生、年とった、マクレになった、耳もよう聞こえんようになってきた。じゃがの口だけはおなじ、元気でよう動く」と言われます。それを私は笑顔で聞きながら、この口からはどんな言葉が出てるんだろう。人をほめて、感謝の言葉が出るのならいいけど、

(次のページへ)

(前のページより)

あんまりいらん言葉が出てきて、周りにいる人を不愉快にさせているのではないだろうか、と思うことで
す。これは昔読んだ五木寛之氏の書かれた本に見つけた言葉です。「人間は泣きながら生まれてく
る、この泣きながら生まれてきた人生を、どう終わるか…」と書いてあったと思うのです。これを読んで
下さっている皆さんも、この世に赤ちゃんとして生まれてきた時は、泣きながらこの人生を始められた
ことと思います。泣きながら生まれ、口から悪い言葉を吐きながら生き、そして泣きながら終えていくじ
人生、これではちょっと寂しいではありませんか。何しにこの世に生まれてきたのでしょうか。泣きなが
ら始めた人生ですが、生かされてある命と知らされ、感謝と喜びの言葉で終わりたいものです。

なぜ阿弥陀様はこの十番目の願いを起こされたのだらうと考えてみますと、それは私たちの執着
の心から、貧しい思いを出だし、心や身体、そして口から悪い行いをしているからだ、とみられたので
しょう。そんな私たちを決して見捨てることなく、お浄土に来てくれよ、と願っていて下さっているの
ですね。

師走(12月)に入りますと、誰もが忙しなくなってきました。どうぞしっかり自分の口から出る言葉には
気をつけて、ご家族、お友達、周りの人たちと共に生きる喜びの思いを大切に、感謝の言葉で満ちあ
ふれ毎日をお過ごし下さい。

(つづく)

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

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DECEMBER 2024

Address Correction Requested

Condolence

Waipahu Hongwanji extends deepest
Sympathy to the family of:

Raymond Takemoto
Yoshio Yoshimoto

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

ADULT DHARMA CLASS

Discussion Session

December 22, Sunday, 2024

Please attend and bring all your questions
about Buddhism and your life.

Project Dana Caregiver Support Program

Saturday, December 14, 2024, 10 a.m.

Social Hall

BWA Hoon ko

December 15, Sunday, 2024

Guest Speaker: Rev. Irene Nakamoto

Year End General Clean up

December 8, Sunday, 2024, 8 a.m.—12 noon

MOCHITSUKI

December 29, Sunday, 2024