



WAIPAHU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
(A Shin Buddhist Temple)

GOLDEN CHAIN

Monthly Newsletter

APRIL 2025

Nurturing Nembutsu: Cultivating Awareness



**JODO SHINSHU, Teaching of Pure Land
Amida Buddha's Vow #33, (11th Vow) 3/2025
Jeffrey Soga, Resident Minister**

It's April. It is the month of the "Flower Festival" to celebrate the birthday of Shakyamuni Buddha. By extending our thanksgiving to the Buddha coming into this world, finding the "Dharma" that transcends life and death, and preaching to us, we have come to realize that we can live this precious life with care, which is only once and cannot be repeated. With that feeling of gratitude "Thank you", please recite the nembutsu "Namo Amida Butsu". This month, I would like to think about the "Eleventh Vow, the Vow of Certain Liberation and Extinction or Vow of necessary attainment of nirvana.

I quote the 11th Vow:

If, when I attain Buddhahood, the humans and devas in my land should not dwell in the stage of the truly settled and necessarily attain nirvana, may I not attain the perfect enlightenment.

(The Sutra on the Buddha of Immeasurable Life, Page 21)

(My interpretation): If I, Amida, should attain enlightenment as a Buddha, but all the people in my land do not dwell in the stage of the truly settled, and if they do not reach a state where great suffering, such as birth, aging, illness, and death, is eradicated and they are no longer subjected to this suffering, then I cannot become a Buddha of Enlightenment.

‘Dwell in the stage of the truly settled’ means undisturbed mind. It means no matter what happens to me at this moment, I will keep standing with my feet firmly on the ground, look at it, and live in peace. For example, what would you do if there was a big earthquake where you live right now? Earthquakes are truly terrifying. Why is it frightening? That's because I think I'm seriously injured and might die. More so, the place where we stand, this hard and solid earth, is absolutely safe. There's nothing more painful than knowing that something you've been counting on is no longer reliable. The same is true for illnesses. It's very painful when I realize that I thought my body was fine, but now, can no longer rely on it.

Here is a story of the Buddha.

For ten years, in the different Pavilions of Spring, Autumn and the Rainy Season, the

(Continued to next page)

(From Page 1, Teaching of Pure Land)

Prince was immersed in rounds of music, dance and pleasure, but always his thoughts returned to the problem of suffering as he pensively tried to understand the true meaning of human life.

“The luxuries of the palace, this healthy body, this rejoicing youth? What do they mean to me?” he thought. “Some day we may be sick, we shall become aged; from death there is no escape. Pride of youth, pride of health, pride of existence – all thoughtful people should cast them aside.

“A man struggling for existence will naturally look for something of value. There are two ways of looking – a right way and a wrong way. If he looks in the wrong way he recognizes that sickness, old age and death are unavoidable, but he searches among the same class of empty, transitory things.”

“If he looks in the right way he recognizes the true nature of sickness, old age and death, and he searches for meaning in that which transcends all human sufferings. In my life of pleasures I seem to be looking in the wrong way.”

Thus the spiritual struggle went on in the mind of the Prince until his only child, Rahula, was born when he was 29. This seemed to bring things to a climax, for he then decided to leave the palace and look for the solution of his spiritual unrest in the homeless life of a mendicant. He left the castle one night with only his charioteer, Chandaka, and his favorite horse the snow-white Kanthaka.

(The Teaching of Buddha, BDK)

The Buddha looked at our fundamental suffering of "life, old age, sickness, and death" and found a way to overcome it, a solid and powerful life that allows us to accept whatever happens with peace of mind. Amida Buddha has made the 11th Vow to make us aware of this path.

Please attend the HANAMATSURI “Flower Festival” Service with this thought of “Thank you, Buddha”.

To be continued...

Project Dana Caregiver Support Program

Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Topic: Cyber Awareness & Online Safety

Speaker: Troy Villar,

Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)

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

Saturday, April 12, 2025, 10:00 am to 11:30 am

- Topic: Caring for the Caregiver
- Speaker: Allyson Furukawa, Furukawa Living Treasure
- Location: Zoom and Waipahu Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
(94-821 Kuhaulua Street, Waipahu, HI 96797)

Saturday, April 26, 2025 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Topic: Personal Connections and Action Starters

Trainer: Dorothy Colby, Positive Approach to Care Certified Trainer

- Location: 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

csg@projectdana.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Evan Watarida, President of Waipahu Hongwanji



Dear Waipahu Hongwanji Sangha,

Haru ga kita. Spring is here and exciting things are under way at Waipahu Hongwanji for 2025. On March 2nd, Pearl City Hongwanji hosted their Oahu District Sangha Day. Waipahu members joined a total of about 140 others from central and leeward Oahu for a day of dharma reflection, fun, and music. Special guest, Roy Sakuma, shared a personal story of his childhood and how music brought him out of depression and into love and compassion. And how it is his purpose to share that love with the world through music, and especially to children. The dharma school children in attendance then did a performance for the group with instruments they made that morning. It was wonderful to fellowship with so many other members from Oahu temples.

Last month's calendar listed a family service scheduled for March 30, however there will be no service on that day since it is the 5th Sunday of the month. There will also be no service on April 6th, since there is an island-wide Buddha Day service at Soto Zen Mission in Nuuanu.

Services at Waipahu will resume on April 13th with Hanamatsuri. Volunteers are welcome to come on Saturday April 12th at 9am to help decorate the Hanamido statue in the temple. Donations of flowers and greens to adorn the Hanamido are welcome and can be brought that morning.

Our planning for Bon Dance is well under way. This year Waipahu's bon dance will be held on the first weekend of July on Saturday the 5th. We moved the date because there are six bon dances on Oahu being held on the 2nd Saturday. The only other bon dance on the 1st Saturday is at Moili'ili. We're expecting a larger crowd this year and we're making preparations for it. We are working to expand the dance ring around the yagura and trying to secure more parking options.

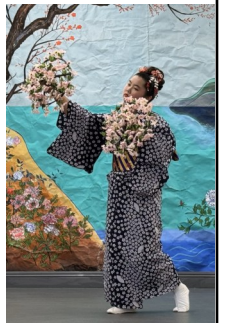
In anticipation of larger crowds, we also need more volunteers for the event. Help will be needed in food preparation, concession booth, food servers, choba and donation tent, runners, parking attendants, and set-up and clean-up crews. Sign up sheets will be posted in the social hall in the upcoming months. An online Google docs form is in the works too. Or you can contact the temple or myself.

Thank you everyone for your hard work and support.
In Gassho,

Waipahu Hongwanji News



SANGHA DAY @Pearl City Hongwanji
March 2, 2025



Above photos were at New Year Party which was held on 2/23.

A Big Mahalo!

I just want to say, “thank you” to everyone for helping to make this year’s New Year’s Party (Shinen Enkai) a huge success! Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

A Big “Mahalo” to all who generously gave their time, hard work, and monetary donations to help make the party something special. And lastly, a special “thanks” to Sheree Tamura for being such a wonderful MC and for providing all the table decorations, centerpieces and for wrapping all of the prize giveaways!

Take care and have an awesome 2025 and beyond!!!

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR 2025

<p>1st (2024) April 8 Wallace Minoru Takushi April 29 Vivian Tomoe Takenaka</p> <p>3rd (2023) None</p> <p>7th (2019) April 13 Tadashi Miki April 17 Kazuko Nakamura April 18 Nobuo Uyehara</p> <p>13th (2013) April 18 Shigeru Oshiro April 26 Miyuki Puckett April 30 Kameko Nitta</p> <p>17th (2009) April 1 Kimiko Matsuda April 16 Elaine Sumie Yoshimura April 23 Michiko Adachi</p> <p>25th (2001) April 5 Willian Tsugio Koga April 19 Amy Emiko Umetsu April 23 Takeshi Kimura</p> <p>33rd (1993) April 16 Tadao Shimaoka</p> <p>50th (1976) April 3 Torayo Yoshihiro April 8 Takashi Takushi April 18 Suma Torikawa</p>	<p>1 (2024) May none</p> <p>3 (2023) May 14 Yachiyo Yasuda Kono</p> <p>7th (2019) May 26 Jean Mitsue Uyeno</p> <p>13th (2013) May 8 Yoshie Oda May 12 Robert Hachiro Tanabe</p> <p>17th (2009) May 1 Linda Kazuko Shinozawa May 1 Kurt Yoshinori Sonoda May 4 Charles Hideo Sawa May 5 Kikuyo "Peggy" Nakagawa May 5 Nancy Shizue Ige May 24 Ruth Aiko Kimura</p> <p>25th (2001) May 22 Howard Isao Uchida May 26 Warren Genichi Adachi</p> <p>33th (1993) May 4 Shizuko Shimabukuro</p> <p>50th (1976) May 1 Julie Kayo Nakamura May 16 Kameichi Saito</p>
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Please "Kokua"

Although, the Waipahu Hongwanji Mission was established in 1902, the current temple building and its supporting infrastructure was constructed in 1952. As you can imagine, being over 70 years old, upkeep of the temple is a constant and never-ending endeavor.

To help accomplish this monumental task, a small group of volunteers, referred to as the "Kokua Gang", meet almost every Thursday to perform maintenance and repairs on whatever needs fixing at the time. Although, this group of volunteers have been able to perform these tasks up to now, the lack of younger, abled bodied members are rare, if not non-existent. This may soon require us to contract out some of the work, which will also require a lot of money. Therefore, we would prefer to avoid having to get to that point.

Therefore, we would like to ask anyone that is willing and able to join our Kokua Gang, to come out and lend a helping hand. As mentioned earlier, the Kokua Gang meets on Thursday mornings, usually around 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. and works until around noon, at which time, we normally enjoy a small lunch and talk story.

So, if you are sitting at home and have some free time or just want to lend a helping hand to maintain our wonderful temple, feel free to come by and join our Kokua Gang. Mahalo!

SPECIAL DONATION

Lawrence Kanemoto ... \$100
In memory of Elaine Kanemoto

Masami Murata ... \$100
Special

Sharon Sano ... \$100
Dedication Service for New Condo

Kirana Soga ... \$500
Special

Sheree Tamura ... \$180
New Year Party

Susan Ushijima ... \$100
In memory of Kosei & Kameko Oshiro

Cindy Woo ... \$50
In memory of Kosei & Kameko Oshiro

Shirley Kon ... \$100
In memory of Elaine Kanemoto

Steven Oshiro ... \$50
In memory of Kosei & Kameko Oshiro

Sugitaya Family ... \$1,000
Funeral for Florence Sugitaya

Yuta Tomonaga ... \$200
Special

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

Carol Ann Yamaguchi ... \$100
Special

Wayne Yokota ... \$200
In memory of Fred Yokota

SPRING OHIGAN: Milton Fujioka, Daniel & Lois Hanaoka, Roy & Dorothy Hirata, Steven & Jan Honda, Doris Kakugawa & Iris Tsuha, Thomas & Sachie Kaneshiro, Clyde & Lynette Kishimoto, Richard & Sueko Kodama, Gary Maeda, Frances Matsumoto, Flora Minemoto, Masumi Murakami, Lori Noborikawa, Jenny Nomura, Lisa Okada, Edna Otsuka, Ann Saruwatari, George Sawa, Thomas Sekine, Brian Serikaku, Thomas & Fay Shimizu, Robert Tsumoto, Ellen Ujimori, Craig & Megumi Uyeno, Francis Uyeno, Jerry & Amy Yoshimura

HOONKO: Ann Saruwatari
GOTANE: Ann Saruwatari

2025 Dues: Patsy Fujii, Gail Fujimoto, Doris Kakugawa & Iris Tsuha, Clyde & Lynette Kishimoto, Ruby Kohagura, Henry & Gladys Oshiro, Jo Ann Oshiro, Winton & Laura Wong Saito, S & D Sano, Ann Saruwatari, Thomas & Fay Shimizu, Bobby & Rieko Toguchi

BWA News:

Hoonko Donation: Lawrence Kanemoto, Jasmine Morrison, Masumi Murakami, Emiko Onaga, Edna Otsuka, Jan Ro, Helene Tanimoto, Cindy Ujimori, Ellen Ujimori, Craig Uyeno, Helen Yonashiro

Eshin ni & Kakushin ni Memorial Service — Please mark your calendar!

May 4, Sunday, 2025, 9 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Ms. June Asato (Mililani Hongwanji Member & OUHH BWA President)

Reminder—Membership Dues

For those of you who have already submitted your membership dues for 2025, “Thank you very much for your support.

If you have not yet done so, please help us by submitting your dues at your earliest convenience. As a reminder, the membership dues are collected at the beginning of each year and remains unchanged at \$300 per year.

Thank you very much for your help and continued support!

Shirlie's corner

Siddhartha Gautama, The Lord Buddha, was born on 8th of April in the year 563 BC in Lumbini, which is in present day Nepal. His father was King Shuddhodana Gautama and his mother was Queen Maya. At the age of 29, the Prince renounced the privileged life of his father's kingdom to seek a solution to his spiritual unrest and the suffering of human life. He took on the persona of a homeless mendicant, and carrying a begging bowl, he traveled the countryside, seeking Enlightenment through meditation.

He spent six years as an ascetic seeking to achieve spiritual liberation. Eventually near death from his vigilant fasting, he accepted a bowl of milk from a maiden who lived in a neighboring village. After consuming the milk, he had the realization that physical austerities were not the means to achieve spiritual liberation. At Bodh Gaya ("enlightenment place"), he sat and meditated all night. When morning came, his struggle was over. He had reached Enlightenment and became Buddha ("enlightened one") at the age of 35.

Buddha spent the next 45 years walking around northeastern India spreading his teachings, until he passed away at 80 years of age at Kusinagara. Upon his passing, his followers began to organize a religious movement. The Buddha's teachings became the foundation for what would develop into Buddhism.

Buddha Bowl*

For the bowls

1 cup Cooked Brown Rice
1 cup Red Cabbage chopped
1 cup Baby Spinach
1 Avocado sliced

For the sweet potato

1 large sweet potato, cut into chunks
1 tsp olive oil
1 tsp salt

For the chickpeas

1 can chickpeas, drained
½ tsp garlic powder
1 ½ tbs sriracha
2 tsp maple syrup 1 tsp salt

For the dressing

½ c tahini	½ tsp turmeric	¼ c warm water	½ tsp sriracha
1 tsp maple syrup	1 tsp salt	¼ tsp cayenne pepper	

Preheat oven to 350F. Coat sweet potato in 1 tsp oil and season with salt and pepper. Place on baking tray and roast for 35 minutes, turning once halfway through the cooking time.

In a bowl, combine chickpeas, sriracha, maple syrup, paprika, garlic powder, salt and pepper. Mix to combine. Heat a saucepan and transfer chickpea mixture into saucepan. Cook for 5-10 minutes, until the chickpeas are slightly sticky and no longer watery. Set aside.

In another saucepan, wilt spinach. Transfer to a bowl and repeat the wilting process with the cabbage.

Once the sweet potato is cooked through, prepare your Buddha Bowl by placing your rice in the bottom of a bowl and then topping with the sweet potato, chickpeas, spinach, red cabbage and avocado.

Wisk all dressing ingredients together. Drizzle over your Buddha Bowl. Enjoy!

*The story behind the origin of Buddha Bowl is both humble and intriguing... It is believed that every morning, Buddha would wake up before dawn and walk through the villages of ancient India where the local people would then place bits of various foods in his bowl to be consumed by him as his main meal.



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浄土真宗の教え 2025年4月
「阿弥陀様の願いその33（第十一願） 必至滅度の願（その二）」
駐在開教使 曾我大円

四月です。お釈迦様のお誕生日をお祝いする「花まつり」の月です。お釈迦様がこの世に出て下さり、生死を越える「法」を見つけ、私たちに説いてくださったお蔭で、一度しかない、繰返すことのできない、この大切な人生を大事に生きさせていただくことに気がつかされたのです。その感謝の思い「ありがとうございます」と言う思いで、口にお念仏「なもあみだぶつ」と称えて下さい。今月も「第十一願、必至滅度の願」を皆さんと考えさせていただきます。

ごもん
先ず御文を頂きます。

たとひわれ仏を得たらんに、國中の人天、定聚に住し、かならず滅度に至らずは、正覚を取らじ
(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、
正定聚の位に住し、生老病死などの大きなわずらいが滅び、その苦しみから解放されること
となくなる境地に至らなければ、私は聖覚の佛となることは出来ません。

正定聚というのは、今私の身の上になにが起ころうと、しっかり足を地につけて、それを見つめて、心安らかに生かさせていただく(正定)人たちの集まり(聚)です。どうでしょう、もし今皆さんの住んでいる所で大きな地震が起こったらどうしますか。地震は本当に恐ろしいものです。なぜ恐ろしいのでしょうか。それは私が大怪我をして、死ぬかもしれないと思うからです。ましてや自分が立っている所、堅くてしっかりしているこの大地は絶対大丈夫と思っている私たちです。それが揺れるのですから、頼りにしていたものが、頼りにならないと知られる時ほど辛いことはないでしょう。病気にしてもそうでしょう。私の体は大丈夫と思っていたけど、頼りにならなかったと思い知られる時はとても辛いでしょう。

ここにお釈迦様の伝記を紹介させていただきます。

この後十年の間、太子は、春季、秋季、雨季それぞれの宮殿にあって歌舞管弦の生活を楽しんだが、その間もしきりに沈思冥想して人生を見きわめようと苦心した。
「宮殿の栄華も、すこやかなこの肉体も、人から喜ばれるこの若さも、結局この私にとってなんであるのか。人は病む。いつかは老いる。死を免れることは出来ない。若さも、健康も、生きていることも、どんな意味があるというのか。

(次のページへ)

(8ページより つづく)

人間にんげんがい生きていることは、結局けっきょく何なにかを求めていることもとにほかならない。しかし、この求めることもとについては、誤あやまったものを求めることと、正しいものを求めることの二つがある。誤ったものを求めることもとというのは、自分じぶんが老いと病やまいと死しとを免れることを得ない者ものでありながら、それらと反対はんたいのことを求めていることである。

正しいものを求めることもとというのは、この誤りをさとって、老いと病と死とを超えた、人間にんげんの苦悩くのうのすべてを離れた境地きょうちを求めることである。今のわたしは、この誤ったものを求めている者にすぎない。」
このように心こころを悩ます日々なやが続いて、月日は流れ、太子たいし二十九歳の年とし、一子いつしラーフラが生まれたときときに、太子たいしはついに出家しゅっけの決心けっしんをした。太子ぎしやは御者のチャンダカともなを伴い、白馬はくばカンタカにまたがって、住すみなれた宮殿きゅうでんを出て行った。そして、この俗世界ぞくせかいとのつながりを断ち切って出家しゅっけの身みとなった。
(仏教伝導協会 仏教聖典より)

お釈迦様しゃかさまは「生老病死しょうろうびようし」の私たちの根本こんぽんの苦しみくるを見つめられ、それを超えていく道みち、何が起ころうおとも心安こころやすらかにそれを受け入れていくことのできる、しっかりした力強い人生ちからずよ、確かな道たしを見つけてゆみちかれました。私たちにもそんな道あゆを歩んでくれと、阿弥陀様あみださまが大きな願いねがとして、私たちに知らせしてくださっているのです。お釈迦様、有難ありがとうございます、の思いもを持って花まつりの法要ほうようにお参りまい下さい。
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

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APRIL 2025

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.

Every Sunday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Ewa Fukushima Taiko Practice

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HANAMATSURI (Buddha’s Birthday)
April 13, 2025, 9 a.m.

We need flowers to decollate Hanammido.
Please bring flowers Saturday, April 12,
by 10 a.m.

ADULT DHARMA CLASS
Discussion Session

April, Sunday 27, 2025
Please attend and bring all your questions
about Buddhism and your life.

Project Dana Caregiver Support Program
Saturday, April 12, 2025, 10 a.m.
Social Hall

BWA (Fujinkai) Meeting
Sunday, April 20, 2025, 10:30 a.m.