



WAIPAHU HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
(A Shin Buddhist Temple)

GOLDEN CHAIN

Monthly Newsletter

MARCH 2026

Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude



JODO SHINSHJU, Teaching of Pure Land Amida Buddha's Vow #43, (13th Vow) 03/2026 Jeffrey Soga, Resident Minister

It is already March. We are still experiencing some slightly chilly days. I hope you are all keeping well and not catching colds. This month as well, I would like us to reflect together on the Thirteenth Vow — the Vow of Infinite Life.

*"If, when I attain Buddhahood, my life should be infinite, limited even to a hundred thousand kotis of nayutas of kalpas, may I not attain the perfect Enlightenment."
(The Three Pure Land Sūtras, Volume II, Page 21)*

(My own interpretation)

If, when I, Amida Buddha, attain awakening as a Buddha, my life is limited and I am unable to stay close to all beings forever, then I cannot become a fully awakened Buddha.

Last month, I wrote about the origin of Amida Buddha's Name. How have you been reflecting on it? Amida Buddha gently embraces each of us with "Infinite Life," quietly staying close to us at all times. How about you? Are you, like Amida, gently staying close to your family and friends?

As I write this message, I am watching the Olympics. Seeing each athlete giving their very best brings tears to my eyes. Whether they win or lose, when I watch their wholehearted effort, tears naturally well up in my eyes. How about you? Behind every athlete, there are so many people supporting them — coaches guiding them, therapists caring for their bodies, designers creating their uniforms, people maintaining their equipment, stylists preparing their hair and makeup, and in the case of figure skating, even those who compose their music. And beside them are their families and friends who quietly watch over them. These supporters laugh, rejoice, cry, and encourage the athletes to take the next step forward. Their faces may not appear on television, but they are surely there — united in heart, walking together, living together.

When I think about this, I am reminded of Bodhisattva Dharmakara, who contemplated for five kalpas, making the great vow to become the Buddha of "Infinite Life" so that none of us would ever be alone. As I reflect on this vast and compassionate vow, the Nembutsu naturally comes to my lips. We are not living this life alone.

After we moved to Hawai'i, my mother and my wife Kumika's mother would send us packages from Japan two or three times a year. In those days, international calls were

(Continued to Page 4)

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR 2025 - 2026

<p>1st (2025) March 27 Tetsuo Douglas Okata</p> <p>3rd (2024) none</p> <p>7th (2020) March 1 Paddy Harue Shigeta</p> <p>13th (2014) March 23 Jean Junko Higa March 29 Betty Tsurue Koizumi</p> <p>17th (2010) March 28 Clifford Shoji Araki March 30 Toshiko Yamamoto</p> <p>25th (2002) March 8 Margaret Masae Yoshihiro March 20 June Kiyo Yamada March 22 Kiyoko Chinen March 30 Tadao Orita</p> <p>33rd (1993) March 16 Fred Masaru Yokota March 29 Yutaka Kimura March 31 James Shigeru Furumoto</p> <p>50th (1977) March 10 Mitama Takeuchi</p>	<p>1st (2025) None</p> <p>3rd (2024) April 8 Wallace Minoru Takushi April 29 Vivian Tomoe Takenaka</p> <p>7th (2020) April 15 Manabu Koga April 16 Katherine Kazuko Namba April 23 Miharuru Koga</p> <p>13th (2014) April 13 Kenneth Kenichi Tsumoto April 22 Harue Kanechika</p> <p>17th (2010) April 2 Jane Tetsuko Matsunaga April 19 Fumiko Oshiro April 11 Kenji Sakata April 24 William Yoshinori Uyeno</p> <p>25th (2002) April 1 Atsushi Yoshida April 28 Yoshiko Mikami April 29 Bob Seiji Kaneshiro</p> <p>33rd (1994) April 6 Katsumi Honda</p> <p>50th (1977) None</p>
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WAIPAHU HONGWANJI MISSION ADULT DAY CARE CENTER

Waipahu Hongwanji Adult Day Care Center is open to anyone on the island. Please visit our website at www.adultdaycarehawaii.org

**Reminder that Waipahu Hongwanji Members get a discounted rate.
94-821 Kuhaulua St. Waipahu, HI 96797**

Phone: 808-678-1770

E-mail: WHMADCC@hawaii.rr.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Evan Watarida, President of Waipahu Hongwanji



Dear Waipahu Sangha,

On February 1st we held our annual temple New Years' Party. Thank you to the planning committee who put everything together. We had food, bingo, and lots of door prizes. Thanks to everyone who donated gift cards and prizes, everyone walked away with something. The highlight was the wonderful entertainment by Hanayagi Mitsumi Dance Academy and Madoka no Kai shamisen. Alyssa Watarida also performed numbers on her guitar and flute.

Sheree Tamura, who emceed our party, was one of five distinguished inductees to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission Living Treasures of Hawaii on February 21st. She was recognized for her lifelong commitment to perpetuating the Japanese arts. A luncheon in their honor was held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village and Waipahu Hongwanji members were in attendance as they joined about 500 others to celebrate these outstanding community leaders. We are so happy that Sheree was recognized for her lifetime work.

The day prior to the luncheon, the Giseikai legislative assembly of lay members and minister representatives of all Hawaii temples was held. I will provide highlights of what was announced from Honpa in next month's newsletter.

On Saturday March 21, we will be holding our Bazaar and Rummage Sale. It will be from 8:30am to Noon. Drop off donations of new or gently used clothes, household items, kitchen items, toys, bags, children's books, plants or other sellable items to the social hall. The trendy activity now is thrifting and looking for vintage items so bring in your clutter and someone may view it as a treasure.

We are looking for volunteers to help sort and price items each week. Times are each Monday & Wednesday after 12:00 p.m. and Tuesday & Thursday morning from 8:30 a.m. to noon. We could also use volunteers for the day of the bazaar for cashiers and sales. And if you are willing to make baked goods that we can sell that day along with our tsukemono and spam musubi, please contact the temple.

Other events at the end of March will be our Ohigan Service, March 22, with guest speaker, Reverend Shigenori Makino and the BWA state convention at the Ala Moana hotel on the 28th and 29th.

We hope you can join us at services and events as we traverse along the dharma path.

In Gassho,

WAIPAHU HONGWANJI NEWS

OHIGAN (Spring Equinox) Service

Sunday, March 22, 2026, 9 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Reverend Shigenori Makino, retired minister

BAZAAR

Saturday, March 21, 2026

Schedule for sorting and pricing items for sale
Mondays and Wednesdays — 12 noon to 3 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays — 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



New Year Party was held on Saturday, February 1.
From left: Sheree Tamura, MC, two student dancers from Sheree's class, Alyssa Watarida, Madoka no kai Shamisen class, Alyssa and Evan Watarida,

(Jodo Shinshu, from Page 1)

expensive, but we would still call to say, "Thank you." My mother would always ask, no matter how many years had passed, "Are you eating properly? Be careful not to drink too much." By then I was already over forty, yet I would simply reply, "I'm fine. Kumika makes delicious meals for me, and I'm eating well." Now, I find myself saying the very same words to my own children on the phone.

For five kalpas, Amida Buddha has been thinking of each one of us, vowing that we would never be left alone, becoming the Buddha of "Infinite Life" for our sake.

As I watch the Olympic athletes striving with all their might, and as I imagine those who support them — rejoicing together, crying together, encouraging one another to take the next step — I am reminded of Amida's Vow of Infinite Life, always walking with us, step by step.

In March, we observe Ohigan, a special service in which we are given the opportunity to listen to the teachings of Amida's Pure Land. I warmly invite you to come and attend the service together with your family and friends.

In gassho,

SPECIAL DONATION

Albert Au ... \$100
Special

Angelita Cook ... \$200
Special

Judith Kakazu ... \$50
In memory of Charles & Jean Watanabe

Amy Omoto
Funeral for Kenneth Omoto... \$450
Inurnment Service ... \$200

Arnold & Gail Tanaka ... \$500
In memory of Jane Tanaka

Lilly Tokuhara ... \$500
In memory of Jon Tokuhara

Uyeda Family ... \$200
Funeral for Amy Uyeda

Pearl Bayes ... \$500
In memory of George Serikaku

Wesley Hama ... \$200
In memory of Leatrice Hama

Kimiko Kanno Ohana ... \$300
In memory of Kimiko Kanno

Oshiro Family ... \$100
In memory of Gladys Oshiro

Edna & Brian Otsuka ... \$500
In memory of Jane Tanaka

Lynn Tam ... \$100
In memory of Harry Kanemoto

Peggy Tsukida ... \$300
In memory of Sakamoto, Serikaku & Omoto

Wesley Iamoka ...
In memory of Itsuo Imaoka

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New Year Party: Richard & Sue Kodama

HOONKO: Richard & Sueko Kodama, Fumiko Nii, Ann Saruwatari, Betsy Yamada

ETAIKYO: Jasmine & Daniel Morrison, Ann Saruwatari

SOCIAL CONCERNS: Jasmine & Daniel Morrison

PET OBON: Gary Maeda

MEMBERSHIP: Albert & Marian Au, Wesley Hama, Mitsue Hanabusa, Daniel & Lois Hanaoka, Doreen Harada, Robin & Mariko Hirata, Steven & Jan Honda, Irene Kamikawa, Janet Kaya, Richard & Sueko Kodama, Adrian & Gale Koizumi, Chizuko Kono, Reuben & Akiko Liboy, Wilfred & Mae Matsushige, Carol & Andrew Miyasato, Betty Namba, Fumiko Nii, Lori Noborikawa, Lisa Okada, S & D Sano, Ann Saruwatari, George Sawa, Gladys & Noreen Shinozawa, Harriet Sugimoto, Edna & Randy Takaki, Bobby & Rieko Toguchi, Craig & Megumi Uyeno, Duane & Michelle Uyeno, Francis Uyeno, Betsy Yamada, Henry & Gladys Oshiro, Janet Yoshida, Brian & Christine Yoshimura

WELCOM NEW MEMBERS:

Reuben & Akiko Liboy, Dr. Randy & Edna Takaki

浄土真宗の教え 2026年3月
「阿弥陀様の願いその43（第十三願） 寿命無量の願」
駐在開教使 曾我大円

こんにちは。いかがお過ごしでしょうか？まだ朝は少し寒いですね。風邪など引いておられませんね。暖かくしてお過ごし下さい。今月も「第十三願、寿命無量の願」を皆さんと考えさせていただきます。お経の言葉をいただきます。

たとひわれ仏を得たらんに、寿命よく限量ありて、下百千億那由他劫に至らば、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、私の寿命に限りがあって、いつまでも寄り添うことが出来ないならば、私は正覚の佛となることはできません。

先月は阿弥陀様の名前の由来を書きました。どうでしょうか、阿弥陀様がそっと皆さんに無量の命となって寄り添って下さっています。皆さんはどうでしょう。阿弥陀様のようにそっとご家族やお友達に寄り添ってあげておられますか？

私は今この原稿をオリンピックを見ながら書いています。全ての選手が一所懸命に競技をする姿に涙が溢れてきます。勝っても負けても、一所懸命な選手の姿を見ていると、私の目から涙が溢れてくるのですけど、皆さんはどうですか？

この選手一人一人には、後ろで支えるコーチ、体の面倒を見るセラピスト、ユニフォームをデザインし作る人、道具の手入れをする人、また髪型やお化粧を考える人、フィギュアスケートだったら音楽を作る人、などなど多くの人がいるのです。そしてその傍でじっと見守る家族、お友達、その人たちが一緒になって笑い、喜び、泣き、また次に進もうと一歩踏み出すように応援しておられる、その人たちの姿はテレビには映りませんが、確かに心をつなげて寄り添い、共に生きておられるのです。そんなことを思うと五劫という長い間私に寄り添って下さる法蔵菩薩様の大きな願い「無量の命」を思う時、お念仏が口からこぼれてきます。一人で生きているのではないんですね。

私の母も、連れ合いの久弥香さんのお母上も、私たちがハワイに来てから、年に2-3回小包の箱に日本のものを入れて送って下さっていました。あの頃は高額でしたが「有難う」と国際電話をかけて、話をしておりました。その時私の母はいつも「きちっとご飯食べとるか？お酒の飲み過ぎには気をつけなさいよ。」と何年経ってもこの質問をしておりました。あの頃私も四十を過ぎた大人でしたが「大丈夫、久弥香さんがいつも美味しいご飯を作ってくれて、きちっと食べてるよ。」とそっけなく答えておりました。でも、今同じことを私は私の子供達に電話で話しております。

阿弥陀様は五劫という長い間この私のことを考えて、一人にはしないと「無量の命」の仏になると願って下さっています。

オリンピックで一所懸命活躍される選手の姿を見ながら、その選手を支え、共に喜び、泣き、笑い、次の一歩を進むように共に一歩一歩一緒に前に進もうとする姿を思う時、この阿弥陀様の「無量の命」の願いを思うことであります。

三月はお彼岸と言って、阿弥陀様のお浄土のお話を聞かせて頂くご縁をいただく法要があります。是非皆さん誘い合わせてお参り下さい。

Waipahu Hongwanji Mission

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Resident Minister: Reverend Jeffrey D. Soga

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MARCH 2026

Address Correction Requested

Condolence

**Waipahu Hongwanji extends deepest
Sympathy to the family of:**

Amy Uyeda
Junichi Yoneda

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Sunday: 9 a.m. Family Service
All are welcome.

Every Thursday: 9 a.m. Kokua Day
Help wanted

Every Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Hosha Day
Help wanted

1st and 3rd Thursday: 12:30 p.m.
Karaoke Club Everyone welcome

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OHIGAN (Spring Equinox) Service
March 22, Sunday, 2026

Guest Speaker:
Reverend Shigenori Makino,
retired minister

Project Dana Caregiver Support Program

Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 10 a.m.
Social Hall & Zoom

BAZAAR

Saturday, March 21, 2026

We need your help.

Please call Waipahu

Hongwanji at 808 6774221