



September 2018

Flying Geese and the Dharma

By Rev. Bert Sumikawa

When I was in Canada for the World BWA Convention, there was a small lake inhabited by a goose and her goslings. It reminded me of the nature of geese. Geese are fascinating creatures and give us the Buddhist teachings of Interdependence and the six Paramitas, a guide to interact with others, as they fly together in a V-formation toward their goal or destination.

- **Sharing a common goal:** As each goose flaps its wings it creates an “uplift,” an aerodynamics orientation that reduces air friction for the birds to follow. By flying in a V-formation, the whole flock achieves a 70% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.
 - The lesson we can learn here is that people who share a common direction and goal can get where they are going quicker and with less effort because they benefit from the momentum of the group moving around them. *When we have a sense of community and focus, we create trust and can help each other achieve our goals.*
- **Importance of Teamwork:** When a goose falls out of formation it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back to take advantage of the lifting power of the birds in front. Lesson learned? *As we stay focused and in “formation,” we will be willing to accept their help and give help to others.*
- **The importance of sharing:** When a goose tires of flying up front it drops back into formation and another goose flies to the point position. Outcome: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks. *We should help and respect and protect each other’s unique skills, capabilities, talents and resources.*
- **The Importance of Empathy and Understanding.** When a goose gets sick, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to the ground to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Outcome: If we have as much sense as the geese we will stand by each other in difficult times, as well as in good times. *It is easy to always be part of a winning team, but when things get difficult and people are facing challenges, that’s when we need each other the most.*
- **The Importance of Encouragement:** Geese flying in formation “honk” to encourage those up front to keep up with their speed. *We need to make sure our “honking” is encouraging.*


Although they are birds, geese can teach us a lot about the Buddha dharma, and a lot about life as well. We can learn from the geese that we are karmically bound to each other, that we are interconnected and that we are not separate from one another. Like in the mythical Indra’s Net, we are all bound together like a web, and each is as precious as the other, shining brilliantly and reflecting a beautiful like upon one another. We like geese can work together and accomplish much more together than we would if we were to try to do it ourselves.

Shinran Shonin understood this reality of interdependence with regard to living life together in a community or a sangha. He referred to us, or our sangha in the phrase, *Ondobo, Ondogyo*, or fellow travelers on the Nembutsu Path, or fellow travelers on the Dharma Path. I truly believe that this term, although a strictly religious one, can be applied here, as essentially, everything that we do in the community of the temple, is the dharma, for in each and every instance, there are lessons to be learned, not only to see ourselves as we truly are, but also on the path to become a true human being.



September 2018



2	<i>NO Service</i>	
9	 <p>KHM 50th Anniversary Special Service 9:00 a.m. at the temple</p> <p>(Followed by Luncheon at Mid Pacific Country Club – by invitation only)</p>	
12	Board Meeting	6:30p.m. @ the temple
16	“First Sunday” Service & Activity 9:00 a.m.	Speaker: Prudence Kusano M.C.: Gerald Matsuda
23	Fall <i>Ohigan</i> (Equinox) Service 9:00 a.m.	Guest Speaker: Rev. Yuika Hasebe M.C.: Linda Jaffe
29	<i>NO Service</i> (Choralfest at Hawaii Betsuin)	
<p>Temple Prep: Sept. 1-23 by Team A (Shirley) Sept. 29-30 by Team B (Amy)</p>		



No matter your age, everyone may require the assistance of emergency personnel. Being prepared for such an event requires some advance planning. Preparing for the worst can make it easier when it happens. Create a folder with some pertinent information: 1) List of current medications, 2) your health care provider, 3) People to contact with their phone number and relationship who can provide other confidential information if needed.

-----Jean Fukumoto

FAMILY PROMISE

The last Family Promise session for this year was held at the Jikoen Hongwanji Mission from July 29 to August 5, 2018. Mahalo to the following Kailua Hongwanji Mission ohana for volunteering, Ryan Miyamoto, Daichi "Bob" Nishita, Annette Tashiro, Dennis Tashiro, and Ronald & Shirley Yanagisawa. Your continued support of Family Promise and KHM's coordinator is very greatly appreciated. Mahalo!!

----- Shirley Yanagisawa

Activities Corner

FAMILY SUNDAY ACTIVITY

Providing Dharma Education is a primary goal of Kailua Hongwanji Mission. We have planned family activities focused on providing fun activities for youngsters. Please join us the first Sunday of each month:



September Peace Dove Project

July: Summer Treat Activity



Tai Chi

Tai Chi classes continue at the temple as follows: **Tuesday 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**
Friday 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

If you're interested and have not already signed up for tai chi class, please contact Dennis Tashiro by email at dhtashiro@gmail.com or call 226-0339.

EXERCISING, STRENGTHENING & WALKING



Tuesdays & Thursdays
8:30 a.m. at the temple

GARDENING

Gardening class will be on Sunday, **Sept. 16, 2018** at 2:00 p.m. There is no sign up – everyone is welcome to attend.

IKEBANA

Is suspended for the month of September.

Former KHM Resident Minister, **Rev. Noriaki Sumi** visited us on July 1, 2018. Here he is (looking young as ever) with Kuki.



Kailua Hongwanji Mission's (KHM) 2018 Bon Dance

The 2018 KHM Bon Dance was held on Saturday, July 28, 2018. Great weather and social media postings by our webmaster Ryan Miyamoto, translated into one of the largest spectator crowds we have ever had!

The food concession had a very successful night, selling out of everything! As is every year, there was heavy demand for KHM's popular andagi and plate dinners. Mahalo to the United Jr. YBA of Honolulu for running their shave ice booth and to Mats and Betty Okamoto for donating and manning the plant sale desk. Unfortunately, this year we were unable to sell KHM's homemade takuan and we had many inquiries. We will ensure that next year, it will make a comeback!

Inside the hall, there was an ikebana (flower arrangement) display by the Ohara School of Ikebana. The beautiful arrangements were made by the students from our temple.

Live music from the Okinawan group, Aiea Taiheiji and Iwakuni groups highlighted the evening's festivities.

KHM has just 75+ member families, but you would never know it because they are so generous with their time and donations which are the foundations of our bon dance. 95% of the ingredients and supplies for the food concession are donated by member and friends of the temple. Those members and their relatives, friends (including the Kiwani's) constructed and dismantled the yagura (musician's stand). Not an easy task! Volunteers prepared the food for the concession and also brought food for the after dance meal for the performers and for temple members. Members John & Joy Nishida (JT Nish) provided the sound system and set up huge outside speakers. Bon Dance is a large undertaking – Mahalo everyone for your help and also mahalo to our guests that came to patronize our concession and enjoy the music and danced the night away. See you again next year!



The following individuals either volunteered their time and energy for the yagura or supported the food concession by donated goods, funds and/or their services to the concession. *(Apologies in advance, if we missed your name.)*

Arakaki, Russell, Dana, Maya & Max
Asada, Isao & Susan
Carroll, Jean
Chang, Josh
Cluney, Sean
Davis, Mike
Diffenderfer, Daniel
Fujikawa, Lisa
Fujikawa, Margaret
Fukumoto, Jean
Horita, Richard & Pauline
Ikeda, Margie
Inouye, Roy & Amy
Izuka, Deanna
Jaffe, Michael, Linda, Jenna & Brin
Jensen, Kasper
Kagawa, David
Kane, Jennifer
Kaneko, Naomi

Kikuchi, Nancy
Kukino, Keiji & Janet
Kusano, Allen & Prudence
Kusano, Perrin
Kusumoto, Julia
Mendes, Kay
Michihara, Patsy
Miyamoto, Mitsue
Miyamoto, Roy & Cynthia
Miyamoto, Ryan
Morisato, Rodney
Nagao, Ruby
Nakagawa, Art
Nishida, Joy & John
Nishikawa, Diane
Nishita, Bob & Joyce
Ochikubo, Gerry & Stephen
Okamoto, Mats & Betty
Rodriguez, Cynthia

Tamura, Terry
Tashiro, Dennis & Merle
Tashiro, Gary & Annette
Tashiro, Gavin
Tashiro, Geoffrey
Tashiro-Liang, Jenn
Tobita, Caitlin
Tomasa, Stan
Tsutsui, Craig & Fran
Ueda, Tak (& grandson)
Wasai, Florence
Yamada, Craig
Yamamoto, Gary & Susan
Yamamoto, Neil
Yanagisawa, Ron & Shirley
Young, Eugene

Yagura set-up crew



Bon Dance July 28, 2018 (and preparations)



Father & son, Allen & Perrin, after yagura construction



Gerry & Naomi prepare andagi mix



Mike's first spam musubi!



Hot seller: manju – an, sweet potato & apple



Kay – hard at work



Prudence's ikebana



Kuki & Patsy enjoy the night



Honolulu United Jr. YBA – Shave Ice Station



Yagura – 2018 Original Edition



Gavin with our popular andagi

Kailua Hongwanji Mission
268-A Kuulei Road
Kailua, HI 96734
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Kailua, HI 96734
Permit No. 118



⊗ ***Mahalo*** ⊗

for your kind monetary donations

Helen Arakawa, in memory of Aiko & Eric Arakawa

Diane Miyata, funeral, memorial & inurnment for Sue Furukawa

Gilbert Miyasato in memory of Ellen Miyasato

Edwin & Carol Igarashi in memory of Ellen Miyasato

Marjorie Ikeda & Family in memory of Laverne Morisato, Hiroshi Ikeda, Tashichi & Shinyu Ikeda, Toyoki,
Kito & Mitsuru Koba . Hatsubon for Laverne Morisato

Florence Wasai, Ruby Nagao & Dennis & Merle Tashiro – in memory of Wataru Tashiro & Helen Yamasaki

Friends of Kailua Library for Bon Dance Program

Nancy Kikuchi in memory of Wallace Kikuchi

Patsy Michihara – remembrance service

Family of Sadaye Nishimoto – inurnment

M/M Allan Fujimoto – Fujimoto Family – funeral and inurnment

Craig & Fran Tsutsui in memory of Yoshito and Lily Iwamoto

Numerous Obon donations received at Bon Dance