

Kalyana Mitra

“Good Friend”

*A Monthly Publication
Volume 51 Issue 1*



*Windward Buddhist Temple
268-A Kuulei Road
Kailua, HI 96734
Phone: 262-4560*

January 2019



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I would like to at this time, take this opportunity to express my sincere best wishes to all of you, for a peaceful and healthful New Year. As I do so, let us all reflect with gratitude for all the benefits that we received this past year, and look forward to 2019 with renewed anticipation as we approach our 51st year of existence as an independent temple in the Kailua community. As we enter the New Year, it is with a renewed sense of exhilaration that we go into a new phase serving the wider Windward area with a new name, the Windward Buddhist Temple. With this new designation, we will anticipate further growth of our Sangha throughout

the wider community.

Going into the second year of my ministry at the Windward Buddhist Temple, I want to truly express my appreciation to all the sustaining members, the Board and volunteers who have given much of their valuable time and effort in helping to make us a vibrant community of Shinshu followers. I also thank all of you for your patience as I transition to this wonderful sangha and ask for your continued guidance.

As we approach the year 2019, let us reflect on the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's Theme and Slogan for the coming 2019, "Embrace Change: Transformation (Walk in Peace), a basis for lives that are continuously full of growth and meaningful experiences that are supported by a dynamic and vibrant temple community.

Let us find ways to be all-embracing of new-comers to this temple and to continue to develop active participation and fellowship, creating a warm and welcoming sangha.

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Dr. Bert M. Sumikawa
Minister



2019 Windward Buddhist Temple Officers & Directors



January 2019

6	First Sunday Family Service (Activity to follow – see article)	Speaker: Rev. Bert Sumikawa M.C.: Cynthia Rodriguez
9	Board Meeting	6:30 p.m. @ the temple
13	Hoonko Service <i>(Shinran's Memorial Service)</i> 9:00 a.m.	Guest Speaker: Rev. Thomas Okano M.C.: Annette Tashiro
20	Family Service 9:00 a.m.	Speaker: Bob Nishita M.C.: Gerald Matsuda
29	Family Service 9:00 a.m.	Speaker: Rev. Bert Sumikawa M.C.: Stephen Ochikubo

Temple Prep: Jan. 1-13 by Team Ginger (Prudence)
Jan. - Feb. 10 by Team Camellia (Janet)

Reverend Thomas Okano Hoonko Guest Speaker

Reverend Thomas Okano was the first son of Rev. & Mrs. Ryoshin Okano of Pearl City Hongwanji. During WWII, his family spent time in the Crystal City, Texas internment camp.

After graduating from Waipahu High School, and attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa where he obtained degrees in Sociology and Japanese. He then went to Kyoto and graduated from Ryukoku University with a Master's degree in Shin Buddhism and three years later obtained a Ph.D. In 1967 he completed Fukuoshi course at Dendo-in.



Reverend Okano returned to Hawaii and served as resident minister of the following temples: Moiliili Hongwanji, Lihue Hongwanji and Wahiawa Hongwanji before becoming Rimban (Head Minister) at Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin in 1990. Ten years later, he served as the Director of the Buddhist Study Center in Honolulu. In May 2007, Reverend Okano became the 15th Bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. He retired in 2011 after 43 years of service to the Honpa Hongwanji Missions of Hawaii. Since 2012, he's volunteered his services to the Buddhist Study Center as their *shakuhachi* (bamboo flute) teacher.

Reverend Okano and his wife Michiko have a daughter and two sons and four granddaughters.



Best wishes for a Happy New Year!

I am again honored to serve as your President for a second year. I look back on 2019 and am grateful for the support I received from the Sangha as we worked together to create a place where we can not only learn but to practice the Dharma.

Some of the changes that occurred last year include changes in the altar. The Buddha's statue graced by the scrolls of Shinran Shonin and Rennyō Shonin now fills our main altar. The photo and writing of the new Gomonshu are hanging in the main hall. The beautiful altar cloth is used at all of the major services.

Reverend Sumikawa has office hours on Saturday and Mondays. In addition, he has started early Saturday morning chanting and walking meditation on Monday evenings. Several people interested in learning Buddhism have participated in these activities.

I believe that our members find support from one other as we gather after each service to enjoy refreshment that fellow members have prepared. I am grateful for the many members who work "behind the scenes" such as the temple grounds maintenance crew, the newsletter editor, those who change the weekly service program, the team leaders of the temple prep teams, to name a few. There are many others who volunteer to fill various needs for Sunday service. To all of these members, thank you. To all of you who attend Sunday services and other temple sponsored activities, thank you. Without you we will not have the third Treasure: The Sangha.

We begin to use our new name Windward Buddhist Temple this year. With this change our community expands to include the other Windward communities and we need to find ways to spread the Dharma to those communities.

I am grateful for what we have accomplished this past year to share the Dharma through our services and programs. I look forward to work with the Board of Directors to find more ways to meet the spiritual needs of the members and the community.

Wishing you a Happy, Healthy, Safe and Peaceful New Year.

In Gassho,

Prudence Kusano
President
Windward Buddhist Temple

Happy New Year!

With the start of a new year, many of us make resolutions of better menu choices, more exercising, and overall healthy lifestyles. We should also resolve to reach out to friends and acquaintances we haven't seen or spoken to for a while. The saying, "what was old is new" would fit perfectly for the new year.

----- Jean Fukumoto



Effective January 1, 2019, Kailua Hongwanji Mission will be doing business as **Windward Buddhist Temple**.

We've serviced the entire windward community (Waimanlo, Kailua and Kaneohe) for many years. Our new name now reflects this and will help as we work to be more inclusive and expand our temple's programs and spread the Dharma.

Activities Corner

FAMILY SUNDAY ACTIVITY

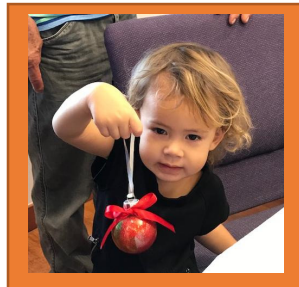
Providing Dharma Education is a primary goal of Kailua Hongwanji Mission. We have planned family activities focused on providing fun activities for youngsters. Please join us the first Sunday of each month:



January's activity: **Botamochi/Ohagi making**

(Japanese sweet made with glutinous rice, rice and sweet azuki paste)

December: Ornaments



EXERCISING, STRENGTHENING & WALKING



Tuesdays & Thursdays
RESUMES Jan. 8, 2019
8:30 a.m. at the temple

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.

GARDENING

Gardening class will be on Sunday, **Jan. 13, 2019** at 2:00 p.m. There is no sign up – everyone is welcome to attend.





Aloha Kakou and Happy New Year! “NAMO AMIDA BUTSU”

Our Theme & Slogan for 2019 is **Embrace Change: Transformation (Walk in Peace)**. It is our last year with the theme of “Embrace Change.” Have you noticed a change in yourself? Have you noticed a change in our organization (Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii/Hawaii Kyodan)? Have you noticed a change in the world?

Indeed, these are complex and challenging questions to answer. Perhaps an answer we can all agree upon is “Not enough.” Yes, how difficult it is to change for the better because my ego continues to get in the way. An important aspect of “Walking in Peace” is to become aware of my limited self, but rest assured that there is hope. A great hope, the encouragement of Namo Amida Butsu, The-Buddha’s-Name-That-Calls (Myogo) and The-Buddha’s-Name-Which-I-Call (Nembutsu). Amida Buddha fully understands the plight of this spiritually foolish “I” full of imperfections and thus reaches out, unconditionally, vowing never to forsake with the promise of attaining the Perfect Peace of Nirvana with birth in the Pure Land of Enlightenment (at the end of this finite life). However, the journey of “Walking in Peace” begins from the moment when True Entrusting occurs.

A Foremost Scholar of Jodo Shinshu the late Rev. Jitsuen Kakehashi explains “The “turning of the heart” means forsaking the human-centered way of thinking and placing the teaching of the Tathagata at the center of our thought. Being saved means that with the Dharma-centered values, a new view of life is established in ourselves.” “In our daily life, we are liable to be dictated by self-centered thoughts, but in the mind of Nembutsu practitioners who are saddened and pained by this reality, there is a recurring transformation in which with the heart and mind of the Tathagata’s great wisdom and great compassion, we come to look back at our own thoughts and behaviors.” “...we come to reflect on our self-centered thoughts, reject our blind passions and make efforts to see things and live our lives in a way that can be approved by the Tathagata.”

As I have often emphasized, the life of a Shin Buddhist is one of responding in gratitude to the unprecedented and unparalleled Wisdom and Compassion of Namo Amida Butsu by reciting the Nembutsu in awareness, joy and gratitude that I am embraced just as I am with all my limitations and we try to live our life guided by the Dharma in grateful response to Unconditional Compassion until our life culminates (at death) with our entering the Pure Land of Perfect Peace and Happiness at which time the ultimate transformation to Perfect Buddhahood occurs. Or, more simply, out of gratitude, as The Golden Chain of Love shares “I will try to think pure and beautiful thoughts, to say pure and beautiful words and to do pure and beautiful deeds knowing that on what I do now depends not only my happiness or unhappiness, but also that of others. May every link in Amida Buddha’s Golden of Love be bright and strong and may we all attain Perfect Peace.”

In 2019, embraced, nurtured and inspired by the Buddha’s 12 Lights, may we be encouraged to contribute towards a more peaceful, compassionate and harmonious world until we enter the “Land of Immeasurable Light” and the “Land of All-Knowing Wisdom” only to find “my” enlightened Great Self returning (from Pure Land of Peace) to aid others in their quest for the Perfect Peace of Nirvana. Namo Amida Butsu (Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion).

In Gassho/Anjali,

Eric T. Matsumoto
Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Check out our website on the internet (The site is updated weekly with photos and information.)

[Windward Buddhist Temple - A Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temple](http://www.windwardbuddhisttemple.org)

<https://www.windwardbuddhisttemple.org>





Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 522-9200 Fax: (808) 522-9209

Web: www.hongwanjihawaii.com Email: hqs@honpahi.org



December 2018

BENEDICTION FOR THE 2018 INAUGURATION OF THE GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Bishop Eric Matsumoto



All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion/Buddha of Infinite Light and Immeasurable Life, at the conclusion of this Inauguration of our Governor, the Honorable David Yutaka Ige, and Lieutenant Governor Josh Green, illumine our hearts and minds with your Light of Wisdom and Compassion.

So, we may realize the interdependent nature of all life, all existence as shared by the metaphor of Indra's Net. The awareness of our interconnectedness and interrelatedness may be the single most important realization needed to bring about peaceful, harmonious and collaborative progress and change. When we are not aware of our shared interdependence, "we tend to think...that our own perspective is the only one that is right and justified. This is what causes conflicts to arise."¹ It is said, from the awareness of interdependence arises a heightened respect and deep appreciation of others with a sense of responsibility for our actions because of the effect it has on others including the 'aina, our natural environment. "The weakness of our relationships with each other is (our) thinking about ourselves more than others."² More than ever, let us treasure the relationships we have with each other.

Wise words always encourage us to "not be egoistic or self-willed, but...cherish feelings of good-will toward all alike; ...respect those worthy of respect; ...serve those who are worthy of service and treat everyone with uniform kindness."³

Let us keep in mind that "Thousands of people may live in a community, but it is not a true community until all people know each other, trust each other and there is harmony."⁴ In such organizations and such a community, we will find unity and various virtues will abound.

Perhaps more than anywhere, though we may have our variances, the people of Hawai'i, with the Spirit of *Aloha*, sense of *Ohana*, and attitude of *Okagesama de* and gratitude (*arigatai*), exhibit the qualities of a fine community Under the leadership of the 8th Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Honorable David Ige and his administration with all of us respectfully working together, may our Hawai'i Nei become a shining example of a more harmonious and peaceful world by "Moving Forward Together."

Entrusting in All-inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion / Namo Amida Butsu

Footnotes

- 1 From *Moving Forward Just As You Are* by Monshu Kojun Ohtani, Resident Head Priest of Nishi Hongwanji, 2017, page 48
- 2 *Ibid*, page 42
- 3 Adapted from *The Teaching of Buddha* by Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (Society for the Promotion of Buddhism), 2008, page 402
- 4 *Ibid*, page 448

More news from Headquarters:

HONOLULU OAHU DISTRICTS JOINT 2018 NEMBUTSU GATHERING

The Honolulu and Oahu Districts presented a joint 2018 Nembutsu Gathering, *Walking the Path of Change...Together* on Saturday, November 10 at Jikoen Hongwanji . A total of 71 participants attended this event. A delicious Blue Zones lunch was provided by the Jikoen BWA.

Bishop Eric Matsumoto shared his thoughts about the seminar theme, Dharma-Centered organization and relevancy. Pieper Toyama talked about organization/reorganization, “Montoship”, social media, social concerns, and community involvement. Alan Goto provided information on the budget and alternative income with current examples. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng, consultant to the Obama Foundation and co-founder of Ceeds of Peace, which creates peace building action plan workshops for educators, families and community leaders. She provided inspiration to work together on these initiatives by focusing on such topics as Embracing Change, Moving Outside Your Comfort Zone, Working with Those Who Resist Change and Living a Life of Harmony.

Small group discussions were held throughout the day with topics including being a Dharma-Centered organization, social concerns, alternative income, community involvement and social media.

Plans are being made for another joint Honolulu and Oahu District Nembutsu seminar in the Fall of 2019.



PACIFIC BUDDHIST ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE

A promotional graphic for the Pacific Buddhist Academy Open House. It features a portrait of a young man on the left. To the right of the portrait, the text reads: "Enlightened Learning for grades 9-12". Below this, there are four bullet points: "100% College Acceptance Rate", "6:1 Student-Teacher Ratio", "Accredited by HAIS and WASC", and "Member of Interscholastic League of Honolulu (ILH)". At the bottom left, it says "Open House Jan 30". At the bottom right, it provides the website "pacificbuddhistacademy.org" and the phone number "(808) 532-2649", along with the address "1754 Lusitana Street • Honolulu, HI 96813".

Pacific Buddhist Academy will be holding the Open House **on Wednesday, January 30, 2019**. It is an opportunity to learn more about PBA, its academic rigorous program, its inclusive and safe learning environment and get a personal tour of the new building.

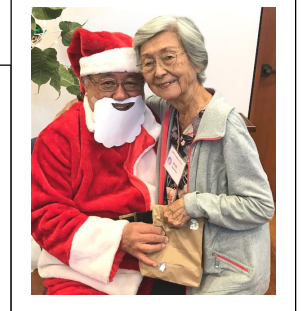
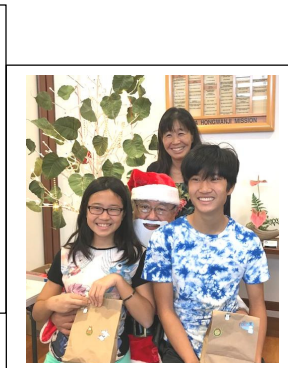
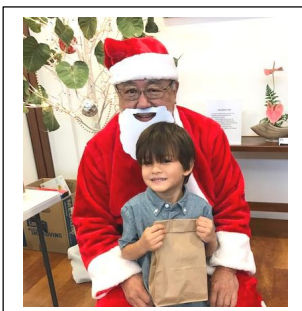
For more information, please visit the website at www.pacificbuddhistacademy.org or call (808) 532-2649.

HMH INSTAGRAM

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Social Media Team recently created the following Instagram account:

- Instagram: [@honpahongwanjihawaii_official](https://www.instagram.com/honpahongwanjihawaii_official)
- URL: www.instagram.com/honpahongwanjihawaii_official

Santa paid a surprise visit to the temple that was enjoyed by young and old alike!



Windward Buddhist Temple
268-A Kuulei Road
Kailua, HI 96734
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 ***Mahalo*** 
for your kind monetary donations

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Emi Troeger
June Becker
Joann Yamane
Jennifer Kane for Bodhi Day
Social Concerns donations
Santa's Workshop donations