

A Monthly Publication Volume 51 Issue 7

July 2019

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

Kailua Hongwanji Mission is doing business as Windward Buddhist Temple

Floating Lanterns and Obon

Rev. Bert Sumikawa

A few years ago, the Honolulu District Minister's Association had a meeting with a guest speaker, Rev. Ezaki of the Haleiwa Jodo Mission. We asked him to clarify the meaning of the Floating Lantern Festival, or *Toro Nagashi* as observed here in Hawaii, during the Memorial Day observance at the Ala Moana Beach Park and also at the Haleiwa Beach front.

The "*toro nagashi*" was first observed after World War II in Hiroshima, Japan, in about 1947. Residents there would make paper lanterns, write the names of their lost loved ones and float them down the river. It was a way of remembering loved ones and to express gratitude for their lives and their gifts of love and aspirations that they observed this "ritual." For them, it was an act of closure for the thousands of loved ones lost in the Hiroshima Atomic bomb dropping. It was a way to express and to realize closure of their loss. It just so happens that the atomic bomb was dropped on August 6 and 3 days later in Nagasaki, coinciding with the Obon season.

Similarly, in Honolulu, during Memorial Day, literally thousands of people gather at the Ala Moana Beach Park to purchase floating lanterns, write the names of lost loved ones, and together float them into the ocean at dusk. For the many military families whose loved ones were taken away from them in faraway places, for lost family members who died in accidents, or through illness or aging, this is a profound way to have closure in their lives.

I was speaking to a woman who recently took part in the event at the Ala Moana Park. She had lost her son in an accident. She found it very comforting, to float a lantern in his memory that evening.

This is very distinct from a religious ceremony, and does not convey the meaning of returning spirits back to the Pure Land after visiting with family as is thought in some religious sects. As such, this observance in Honolulu has become, a profound act of interdependence and oneness. It joins people of all races, cultures and religious persuasion. This, I believe, is Buddhism in action, or Living Buddhism.



July 2019

3	Board Meeting	6:30 p.m. @ the temple
6	Yagura (Musicians	' stand) Set-up 8:00 a.m.
7	Hatsubon/Obon Service 9:00 a.m.	Speaker: Rev. Bert Sumikawa M.C.: Gerald Matsuda
10	Bon Dance Practice – 7:00 p.m.	
13	Yagura Decorating & Final Grounds Set-up 8:00 a.m. BON DANCE 7:00- 10:00 p.m.	
14	NO SERVICE: Dismantle Yagura 8:00 a.m.	
21	Family Service 9:00 a.m.	Speaker: Michael Jaffe M.C.: Fujikawa Family
28	Monthly Remembrance Service 9:00 a.m.	Speaker: Joy Nishida M.C.: Jean Fukumoto
	Remembrance : If you'd like to remember a loved one who passed away in the month of July (of any year), you will be given the opportunity to do so during this service. A sign-up sheet will be available at the reception desk.	
Temple Prep: July 7-28 by Team Camellia (Janet)		



New Members: Jason Gelwick and Jean Rubanick

Check out our website on the internet <u>https://www.windwardbuddhisttemple.org</u> (The site is updated <u>weekly</u> with photos and information.) Also on



A child concerned about snacks. Young parents our children. Retiree where to travel. Twilight years live for here and now. Be a Project Dana volunteer and help someone in their twilight years live in their here and now. ------ Jean Fukumoto



The last session of Family Promise will be held at the Jikoen from August 11 - 18 2019. Windward Buddhist Temple (WBT) will provide and serve dinner on Tuesday, Aug. 13 and breakfast on Wednesday, Aug. 14. The following volunteers are needed: **4** for dinner, **4** for the breakfast, **4** to setup Sunday, Aug.11, **4** to take-down on Sunday, Aug.18, someone to sleep over on Tuesday, Aug.13 and someone to launder the linens. Please let Shirley know if you can help.

----- Shirley Yanagisawa

Windward Buddhist Temple Visits Waimanalo Cemetery

On June 10, 2019, 12 members and guests from Windward Buddhist Temple visited the **Bellows Japanese Cemetery** in Waimanalo.

The cemetery is located on the military base and requires permission and an escort to visit. Rev. Sumikawa held a brief service and flowers were placed on the approximately 30 graves, many of which date back to the 1910s. We are hoping to make this into an annual Obon service and invite the family members of those buried at the site.





DONATION ENVELOPES: To make it more convenient to submit donations for the 6 major services, beginning with Obon (in July), an envelope addressed to Windward Buddhist Temple will be included with the newsletter. When sent out, each donation envelope **will specify one of the following major services**: Fall Ohigan in September, Etaikyo in November, Hoonko (*Shinran's Memorial*) in January, Spring Ohigan in March, and Gotan-e (*Shinran's Birthday*) in May.





How can you help?

- Set up the yagura (musician's stand) on Saturday 7/6/19 at 8:00 -11:00a.m. Just bring yourself, friends and family that can be a part of the working crew. (Preferably, older teens and above in age this is not child's play.) You'll be carrying lumber and other items, assisting by holding things in place and/or working to secure the parts of the yagura that fit together.
- Food preparation on Friday, 7/12/19 at 1:00 3:30p.m. We will be preparing the barbeque sticks (cutting, skewering and marinating meat), prepping the saimin bowls with garnish and packing andaji mixes. Please contact Merle (247-5309) if you can assist.
- **Decoratie the yagura** and final grounds set-up on Saturday 7/13/19 at 8:00 a.m. Either bring hearty flowers (orchids, plumeria, torch ginger, bougainvillea) or help affix the flora to the yagura.
- **Concession** help on Saturday night 5:00-10:00 p.m. Counter and serving assistance is welcome. There will be two work shifts. Please contact Merle (247-5309) to volunteer.
- Take down the yagura on Sunday, 7/13/2019. Once again, we need a working crew to disassemble the yagura and store it away.

NEW Item on sale at Bon Dance:

Kokedama (a ball of soil, covered with moss, on which an ornamental plant grows). Price ranges from \$10-12.



DHARMA SCHOOL ACTIVITY

Providing Dharma Education is a primary goal of Windward Buddhist Temple. Please note: July's Dharma School Class for children will be held on July 21, 2019:

EXERCISING, STRENGTHENING &

WALKING

Tuesdays & Thursdays July classes: 9, 16, 23 25, 30

8:30 a.m. at the temple

MEDITATION

Mondays 6:30-7:30 pm

Guided meditation, walking meditation and offering of incense, and chanting of a sutra. Followed by a short "talk story" section. Meditation is conducted by Rev. Dr. Bert M. Sumikawa. All are welcome to participate. There is no fee.

GARDENING

Due to Bon Dance, Gardening Class is cancelled for the month of July. We'll resume in August.

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.*** *7/12 class cancelled

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

IKEBANA

(Flower Arranging)

This month's lkebana class is on Friday, **July 12**, 2:00 p.m. at the temple. Cost is \$5 per class plus the cost of the flowers/foliage (\$5-8). Instructor needs a count of participants as flowers are purchased for each class.



We Need Your Help!

June 30 – July 28, 2019

Honolulu Hongwanji Council Food Drive

The Honolulu District Temples are participating in a joint Food Drive for Kahauiki Village. Kahauiki Village provide long-term housing for Hawaii's homeless families in a community that embraces the plantation values of generosity, trust, dignity, and honor. Thirty families moved into Phase 1 last year and 30 more families will move into Phase II in August 2019. The Food Drive will support their village store. Please bring your donations of canned goods, rice, coffee and cereal to temple. Windward Buddhist Temple 268-A Kuulei Road Kailua, HI 96734 Address Service Requested

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



for your kind monetary donations

Jennifer Kane in memory of all Moms

Gary & Annette Tashiro

Ronald & Shirley Yanagisawa in memory of Hideo & Glenn Yanagisawa and David Inaba

David Kagawa in memory of Hiroshi and Agnes Kagawa

Patsy Michihara in memory of Taki Higuchi & Sotokichi Hishinuma

Jennifer Kane in memory of Ruth Abram

Bob and Joyce Nisihita in memory of Satomi Takashiba

In this issue: Bon Dance (7/13/2019) information