

# *Kalyana Mitra*

*“Good Friend”*

*A Monthly Publication  
Volume 51 Issue 8*



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

---

*August 2019*

Kailua Hongwanji Mission is doing business as Windward Buddhist Temple

---

## **How Stories Lead to Teachings**

When I was growing up in Kailua, there were a number of times that students would ostracize and pick on a new student simply because he or she was new and therefore “looked” different or “acted differently”. The presence of the new student upset the normal routine of the daily occurrences at the school -- they now had to contend with something they were not used to, something out of the normal routine of the class structure. This would continue until the class realized that instead of being a threat to what they were used to, the new student enhanced the activity of the class. Finally, the new student was accepted as one of them.

There is a well-known story about a man named Bennen of Mt. Itajiki in present day Ibaragi Prefecture. About 800 years ago, while Shinran was living in the Kanto area, he frequently took the pathways of Mt. Itajiki to get to the other side of the mountain to propagate his Jodo Shinshu teachings.

Bennen, who was a mountain ascetic or a *Yamabushi* was increasingly getting envious of Shinran because he was losing a great number of believers of his magic to Shinran and the teachings being propagated.

So Bennen, out of frustration, jealousy and bitter anger, decided to confront Shinran and even considered taking his life if the situation warranted. Although Bennen lay in wait along the mountain path many times, he was never able to meet up with Shinran.

He became increasingly frustrated, and decided to confront Shinran at his home in Inada. But when Bennen met him face-to-face, Shinran’s true, honest and real humanness of compassion struck Bennen’s heart, and in realizing his arrogant, selfish and foolish attitude, and repenting in his evil intention, he immediately asked Shinran to take him as his disciple. Bennen was given a new name, Myoho-bo and lived the next 30 years of his life truly rejoicing in the nembutsu teachings.

He had described his new life of peace embraced in the Compassion of Amida Buddha in a poem and carved on a rock on Mt. Itajiki:

*The mountains remain the same,  
As do the trees and streams....  
All that has changed  
Is my heart.*

A parallel story in the bible speaks of a man named *Saul* who was determined to persecute believers of Christ.

On the way to Damascus, he was stopped by a blinding light that said, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” Saul asked, “Who are you?” and the reply came that he was Jesus and so he followed him into the city and soon his zeal in persecuting Christians was re-channeled into preaching the Gospel. He was renamed Paul and became one of the apostles.

This relationship may be compared to Saul and Paul. Saul was a man bent on persecuting Jesus. Paul was a man who faithfully followed the footsteps of Jesus. Are these two men different or the same? The same relationship is seen in the life of Shinran.

*(continued on page 2)*



# August 2019

## No Sunday Dharma Services for the month of August

14 Board Meeting

6:30 p.m. @ the temple

### AUGUST Temple Prep (cleaning & flowers only):

August 4 - Team Pikake (Shirley)

August 11 - Team Ginger (Prudence)

August 18 - Team Camellia (Janet)

August 25 - Team Ginger (Prudence)

(Continued from Page 1 "How Stories Lead to Teachings")

Bennen may correspond to Saul in that he was bent on persecuting Shinran. Myoho-bo known as Bennen before he was converted by Shinran, would correspond to Paul. Is Bennen different from Myoho-bo or is he the same?

According to T'an-Luan one of the seven Masters in Shinran's development of Shin Buddhism, they are different and the same in that the meaning of "birth" is a spiritual transformation that takes place in man's mind at the experience of conversion. Of course, although T'an-Luan did not know either Saul or Bennen, the teachings are nevertheless the same.

It is through stories like this that we come to the realization that we are truly embraced by the Buddha and are very fortunate to have come to be exposed to so many good teachers along the way.

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Bert Sumida



Summer is Obon season, when we honor our family and friends who have passed on. As part of obon, families go to the *hatsubon* service and/or dance at the many bon dances.

But we should not forget to also honor our family and friends who are still with us by caring for and visiting with them. There are many in our community who live alone or can no longer drive or catch the bus, who do not have someone to help them. You can help by becoming a volunteer with Project Dana. It just takes a few minutes a week to bring joy and contentment to someone's life. If you'd like more information on being a Project Dana volunteer, please call Jean Fukumoto at 247-0514.

----- Jean Fukumoto

## Activities Corner

**DHARMA SCHOOL ACTIVITY: No activity in August – on vacation**

### EXERCISING, STRENGTHENING & WALKING



Tuesdays & Thursdays  
**\*NO CLASS on August 8\***  
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](mailto:dhtashiro@gmail.com) or call 226-0339.

### GARDENING

Gardening class will be on Sunday, **Aug. 11, 2019** at 2:00 p.m. There is no sign up – everyone is welcome to attend.



### IKEBANA

(Flower Arranging)

This month's Ikebana class is on **August 24, 1:30 p.m.** at the temple. Cost is \$5 per class plus the cost of the flowers/foilage (\$5-8). Instructor needs a count of participants as flowers are purchased for each class.

### 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.



The last session of Family Promise for 2019 is scheduled for August 11 – 18, 2019 at Jikoen. We are in need of 2 volunteers for the set-up of the sleeping areas on August 11 at 11 a.m. and 4 volunteers to dismantle the sleeping areas on August 18 at 7 a.m. If you're able to help, please see Shirley at the temple or call her at 341-2925. Mahalo for your continued support of the Family Promise program.

----- Shirley Yanagisawa

## Windward Buddhist Temple (WBT) 2019 Bon Dance

The 2019 WBT Bon Dance was held on Saturday, July 13, 2019. We were fortunate to have great weather and the social media postings (Facebook) during the day and night, by our webmaster Ryan Miyamoto, were well received and acknowledged by 500+ people.

The food concession was a success with andagi selling out by 8:30 p.m.! (Normally, andagi lasts until just before we close up.) 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. This year we had a Country Store inside the hall that sold the in demand WBT's takuan and several varieties of manju, chutney, bittermelon namasu, etc. Miniature plants called Kokedama sold well. Gently used books and creative photo cards were also available. That was a fun new project.

Once again, beautiful, creative ikebana (flower arrangement) were on display by the Ohara School of Ikebana.

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

WBT is a small temple of 75 member families, but you would never know it because everyone is so generous with their donations of time and goods 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! At the end of the night, we also provided a meal for the performing troupes 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, Dana, Maya  
Asada, Isao & Susan  
Chang, Josh  
Cluney, Sean  
Davis, Mike  
Diffenderfer, Daniel & Cherilynn  
Fisher, Tammy  
Fujikawa, Lisa  
Fujikawa, Margaret  
Fukumoto, Jean  
Fukumoto, Royce & Reese  
Gelwick, Jason  
Hee, Mike  
Horita, Richard & Pauline  
Ikeda, Margie  
Inouye, Roy & Amy  
Izuka, Deanna  
Jaffe, Michael & Linda  
Kagawa, David  
Kane, Jennifer

Kaneko, Naomi & Greg  
Kikuchi, Nancy  
Kukino, Keiji & Janet  
Kusano, Allen & Prudence  
Kusano, Perrin  
Kusumoto, Julia  
Matsuda, Gerald & Lori  
McWilliams, Alex  
Mendes, Kay & Shelby  
Miyamoto, Mitsue  
Miyamoto, Roy & Cynthia  
Miyamoto, Ryan  
Morisato, Rodney  
Munoz, Luciano  
Nagao, Ruby  
Nakagawa, Art  
Nakao, Ron  
Nishida, Joy & John  
Nishikawa, Diane  
Nishita, Bob & Joyce

Ochikubo, Gerry & Stephen  
Okamoto, Mats & Betty  
Rodriguez, Cynthia  
Rubanick, Jean  
Tashiro, Dennis & Merle  
Tashiro, Gary & Annette  
Tashiro, Gavin  
Tashiro, Geoffrey  
Tashiro-Liang, Jenn  
Terakawa, Janice  
Tomaso, Stan  
Tsutsui, Craig & Fran  
Ueda, Tak  
Ward, Trent  
Wasai, Florence  
Yamada, Craig  
Yamamoto, Gary & Susan  
Yamamoto, Neil  
Yanagisawa, Ron & Shirley  
Young, Eugene





**Bon Dance  
July 13, 2019**





# What happened BEFORE and AFTER Bon Dance



**INSIDE THE TEMPLE**

Takuan, Manju, Mochi  
Cupcakes, Mango Bread,  
Bitter Melon Namasu, &  
More!

**While supplies last!**



Whew! ~~~~





# 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](http://www.hongwanjihawaii.com) Email: [hqs@honpahi.org](mailto:hqs@honpahi.org)

July 2019

### COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS

#### Donation to Saint Elizabeth Episcopal Church

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii presented a donation of \$2,500 to Saint Elizabeth Episcopal Church to support their Wallyhouse Peace Garden Project. The Peace Garden will serve the surrounding community (Kalihi-Palama) with the following objectives: "We aim to grow fresh food for the community. We aim to provide a nurturing activity for local youth in gangs, to help focus their energy in creative and uplifting ways, decreasing the levels of theft and vandalism in the neighborhood. We aim to provide an enriching and creative outlet for the houseless and for the immigrants, fostering peace and nonviolence in the neighborhood. We aim to provide a space for community gatherings where a cross section of peoples can share and enjoy together on a regular basis. We aim to practice urban permaculture, regeneration of the land and ample food to share." Dean Sakamoto presented the donation to David Catron (a Wallyhouse Catholic Worker) at their Wednesday liturgy on May 29, 2019.



#### Donation to Samaritan Counselling Center Hawaii

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii presented a donation of \$5,000 to the Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii to support their mission of providing affordable, professional counseling sensitive to the spiritual orientation of individuals, families, and communities in Hawaii. Dean Sakamoto and Alan Goto presented the donation to Rev. Dr. George Clifford (President) and Rachelle Change (Executive Director) on June 6, 2019.

### PBA STUDENTS PARTICIPATE RSG SEMINAR

Ryukoku Sogo Gakuen (RSG) will be holding the 67th Religious Education Seminar at Honzan Hongwanji on August 3-5, 2019 and four students from Pacific Buddhist Academy (Chaperone: Ms. Liane Vilorio) will travel to Japan to participate in the seminar.

The object of this seminar is to provide religious education to the students of RSG schools, and to develop the sense of awareness as the students of Sogo Gakuen by participating in the various programs with fellow students from other schools. The theme of this year's seminar is "Transforming Our World to Ensure No One is Left behind – what we can do now." RSG is a federation of 24 Hongwanji School Institutions which comprise a total of 68 schools. PBA has sister school arrangements with a number of the RSG Schools.

### RSG EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING IN PBA

Ryukoku Sogo Gakuen (RSG) will be holding the Educational Program for International Understanding at Pacific Buddhist Academy on August 1 - September 12. The object of this program is to nurture individuals with an international orientation founded on Buddhist values and perspectives through deepening their mutual understanding of differing cultures and societies. 21 students from 13 RSG high schools in Japan will have a homestay in Hawaii and attend PBA with the PBA students.

**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

 ***Mahalo*** 

*for your kind monetary donations*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Russell & Dana Arakaki  | Allen & Prudence Kusano                             |
| Gary & Susan Yamamoto   | Ronald Nakao  |
| Naomi Kaneko  | Patsy Michihara                                     |
| Gerald & Lori Matsuda   | Jean Fukumoto                                       |
| Roy & Amy Inouye & Cherilyn IMO Don Diffenderfer  | Gary & Annette Tashiro                              |
| Ryan Miyamoto IMO Shizue Yonamine & Tofu Miyamoto   | Miyamoto Family IMO Shizue Yonamine & Tofu Miyamoto |
| Richard & Alice Kakuhina IMO David J. Tomasa  | Stanley Tomasa and Family                           |
| Thomas Okamura  | Grace Nomura  |
| Sadie Serikawa  | Judith Lum IMO David, Rosemary & Kiyo Tomasa        |
| Margaret & Carl Fujikawa IMO Tsuya Imai   | Paul Tatsuguchi IMO Alice & Douglas Sato            |
| Edwin & Carol Igarashi IMO Ellen Miyasato   | Julie Yamashita & Jeffrey Hamada – wedding          |
| J. Fujioka – 17 <sup>th</sup> yr. memorial for Masuo Fujioka  | John & Carmen Isabelo                               |
| Ronald & Shirley Yanagisawa IMO Toshio Inaba  | Keiji & Janet Kukino                                |
| Dennis & Merle Tashiro IMO Wataru & Takeo Tashiro and Shizuko Kanda                                       |   |
| Marjorie Ikeda IMO – Laverne Morisato, Hiroshi Ikeda, Toshichi & Shizu Ikeda, Toyoki, Kito & Mitsuru Koba |   |