

Kalyana Mitra

“Good Friend”

*A Monthly Publication
Volume 52 Issue 2*



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

February 2020

Kailua Hongwanji Mission is doing business as Windward Buddhist Temple

NIRVANA DAY

On Sunday, February 16, the Windward Buddhist Temple and its Sangha will be observing Nirvana Day with a special speaker. Nirvana Day, is the day that Shakyamuni Buddha, the historical Buddha, passed away at the age of 80, culminating 45 years that he spent in the propagation of the Buddha Dharma. It is a celebration, not of his death, but his leaving of this world and the beginning of a new kind of existence.

Shakyamuni was a real person, born a prince of the Shakya tribe in about 463 BCE, in the northern part of India which is modern Nepal. He left his home at the age of 29 to seek answers to the problem of life and death. Having abandoned 6 years of ascetic practices, after drinking the milk pudding offered to him by the princess Sujata, he went to a grove near Bodhagaya, where he sat under a pipal tree until attaining enlightenment.

Filled with compassion, he preached and taught people how to live right up until the time of his death and attained Nirvana.

As you all know, Nirvana is a Sanskrit word meaning, “to extinguish”. This is not to meant to end, or like putting out a candle. To me, Nirvana means to extinguish the fires of attachment or the so-called Three Poisons of greed, anger and unawareness, the fire that rages through our minds and bodies because of our egos and foolish vanities.

The Buddha’s last words at the end of his life were:

Behold, O brethren, the final extinction of the Tathagata
Will take place before long.

Therefore, be lamps unto yourselves.
Rely on yourselves, and do not rely on external help.

All component things must grow old and be dissolved again.
Seek for yourself that which is permanent,
And work out your salvation with diligence.


With his own life, the Buddha provides us with an example of what a blessing it can be to believe in the Dharma, how to live in this world of illusions and passions, filled with suffering and sorrow, and how to associate with our fellow beings. In commemoration of Shakyamuni Buddha’s Parinirvana (nirvana-after-death which occurs upon the death of someone who has attained nirvana during his or her lifetime), let us take time to look within and reflect upon ourselves from the standpoint of our limited abilities and strive to take a small step toward the Buddhist goal of attaining the Perfect Peace, a statement within the Golden Chain of Love that we recite each Sunday during Dharma School services.

With Hands Together in Gratefulness,

Namu Amida Butsu.

Rev. Bert Sumikawa

February 2020

2	Intergenerational Sunday (Followed by Activity)	Speaker: Michael Jaffey M.C.: Stephen Ochikubo
7-8	Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Legislative Assembly (<i>Giseikai</i>)	Temple representatives will meet at Hawaii Betsuin on Pali Hwy.
9	Dana Day Family Service 9:00 a.m. (Also, Children's Dharma School Session)	Speaker: Jean Fukumoto M.C.: Merle Tashiro
12	Board Meeting	6:30p.m. @ the temple
16	Nirvana Day / Pet Memorial 9:00 a.m.	Guest Speaker: Rev. Sol Kalu M.C.: Jean Fukumoto
23	 WBT's Founders Day & Monthly Remembrance Service 9:00 a.m.	Speaker: Rev. Bert Sumikawa M.C.: Annette Tashiro
<p>Remembrance: If you'd like to remember a loved one who passed away in the month of February (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.</p>		

Temple Prep: to Feb. 2 by Team Ginger (Prudence)

Feb. 9- March 1 by Team Camellia (Janet)

Rev. Sol Kalu

Guest Speaker for Nirvana Day (2/16)

Rev. Sol Kalu was born and grew up in the Philippines. He received a degree in nursing and served as a nurse in the U. S. for many years, specializing in dialysis.

On a visit to Kyoto, Rev. Kalu encountered the Jodo Shinshu teachings; which led him to the study of Buddhism and receiving a Tokudo ordination in 2007 and full Kyoshi ordination in 2010. Rev. Kalu has served at the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin, Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple on Maui and is currently assigned to the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin.

Rev. Kalu speaks Japanese and enjoys writing *kanji* (Japanese writing using Chinese characters). His interests include snorkeling, martial arts, science and travel.



Pet Memorial Service

2/16/20

We will be observing our first Pet Memorial Service on February 16, 2020 in conjunction with Nirvana Day Service. We invite all members and non-members to attend and bring pictures and/or urns of their deceased pets.



Our first session of Family Promise will be March 15–22 at Hawaii Betsuin.

March 15 – Sunday (1 p.m.): we have 2 volunteers for set up and **need 2 more volunteers.**

March 19 – Thursday: **4 volunteers are needed** for preparing dinner, serving (and socializing, eating with the guests). **1-2 people to sleep overnight.**

March 20 – Friday: **4 people to prepare/serve breakfast**

March 22 – Sunday (7 a.m.): **4 volunteers are needed** for the dismantling of the sleeping areas. *(If there are any changes in the time for set up or dismantling I will let you know.)*

Launder Linens: **1 or 2 people are needed** to do our share of the laundry.

I know that our WBT ohana will actively participate in this wonderful project that helps homeless people with children until Family Promise is able to find housing for them. Please call me at 341 – 2925 © or inform me at our temple service if you are able to help. Mahalo for your continued support!

-----Shirley Yanagisawa

Memorial Services

Memorial services are significant occasions to remember our deceased loved ones in gratefulness and love. It is an opportunity to pay tribute to and to recall the cherished memories of the departed while listening to the Buddha Dharma. It is therefore; an acknowledgement of their influence on our lives.

If you would like to arrange for a memorial service, please contact Windward Buddhist Temple (WBT) 262-4560. Services may be held at the temple, at a home or anywhere convenient for you and your family.

Year of Passing	Type of Memorial Service
2019	1st year
2018	3rd year
2014	7th year
2008	13th year
2004	17th year
1996	25th year
1988	33rd year
1971	50th year

Taste of Hongwanji is coming on **March 29, 2020** at Hawaii Betsuin. There will be food, crafts, white elephant sale and more. Windward Buddhist Temple will have a booth selling our popular takuan and more. Look for additional information in the March temple newsletter.

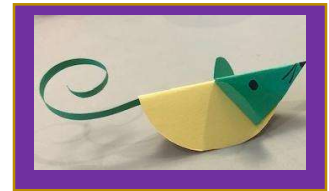
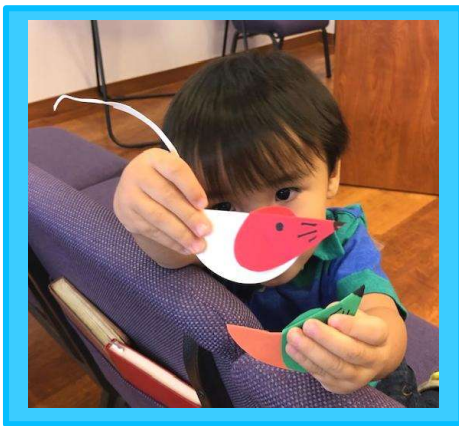


Activities Corner



February's Inter-Generational Activity: Valentine Craft & Cards

Jan. Activity: Year of the Rat



EXERCISING, STRENGTHENING & WALKING



Tuesdays & Thursdays
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.

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.



IKEBANA

(Flower Arranging)

This month's Ikebana class is on **February 1st and 22nd** at 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.



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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FEBRUARY 2020

BISHOP'S MESSAGE

“NAMO AMIDA BUTSU AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!”



At the start of the New Year, let me begin by expressing my deepest appreciation and gratitude to the entire Sangha and Friends of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii who have supported our Organization for over 130 years in Hawaii. It is because of Amida Buddha's Great Wisdom and Compassion, the guidance received from the Revered Masters and Teachers like Shinran Shonin who shared the Teachings and the Sangha that we have been able to come this far. Thank you to one and all!

Deeply reflecting, I have noticed that we speak a lot about the Buddha and the Dharma (teachings), but we seldom speak about the Sangha. However, the Sangha is also essential. Out of this awareness, our next 5 Year Theme and Slogans will focus on the Sangha. The Sangha (which is you and I) tries to live the Dharma as shared by the Buddha. There is no doubt that the thoughts, words and actions of every individual is very important and makes a difference.

Let us receive guidance from “The Teaching of Buddha” in which it shares about clergy that *“Those who wish to teach the Buddha's teachings acceptably must be concerned about four things: first, they must be concerned about their own behavior; second, they must be concerned about their choice of words when they approach and teach people; third, they must be concerned about their motive for teaching and the end they wish to accomplish; and fourth, they must be concerned about great compassion.”* Further it shares *“Lay followers should not only believe in the Three Treasures...by themselves, but also they should, as far as they are able, help others...to awaken in them an unshakable faith in the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha, so that they, too, may share in Buddha's compassion.”* Let us, the Sangha, clergy and lay, jointly together share our awareness, joy and gratitude for Buddha-Dharma.

In Jodo Shinshu Teachings, Shinran Shonin shared that when we (regardless of whether we are clergy or lay) realize true mind (shinjin), we unflinching gain ten benefits in the present life. I would like to mention three of the ten: the benefit having great joy in our hearts, the benefit of being aware of Amida's benevolence and of responding in gratitude to his virtue, and the benefit of constantly practicing great compassion.” In regards to “practicing great compassion,” Shinran Shonin quotes a sutra *“What is “great compassion?” Those who continue solely in the nembutsu without any interruption will thereby be born without fail in the land of happiness at the end of life. If these people encourage each other and bring others to say the Name, they are all called “people who practice great compassion.”*

Further, let us keep in mind the thoughts of our 3rd Spiritual Leader Kakunyo Shonin who said, *“(Our) Prosperity is dependent on the quality and depth of the Shinjin of our Followers.”* Rennyō Shonin, our 8th Spiritual Leader, further shared, *“...be careful not to let the mind run its course unbridled...be sure to control it. It is wrong to allow the mind to take its course unchecked. We are enabled to control the (our) mind due to the Other-Power.”* Finally, our 25th Spiritual Leader, His Eminence Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani shares *“By listening to the Primal Vow and how it was established by Amida Tathagata, we are enabled to become conscious of our own ignorance and self-oriented inclinations, and through such awareness, we naturally become gentle in word and deed in our efforts of minimizing our egoistic way of thinking.”* *“Even though our efforts may pale in comparison to the Buddha's Compassion, we are at least guided in the proper direction by the Buddha Dharma.”*

As I have been emphasizing the life of Shin Buddhist is one of responding in gratitude to the Wisdom and Compassion of Namō Amida Butsu by reciting the Nembutsu and we try to live our life guided by the Dharma in grateful response until our life culminates (at death) with our entering the Pure Land of Perfect Peace and Happiness to attain Perfect Peace of Enlightenment. May the New Year be truly prosperous in the truest sense of the word. Happy New Year!

In Gassho/Anjali,
Eric Matsumoto, Bishop

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 ***Mahalo*** 

for your kind monetary donations

Rhea McWilliams

Gary & Annette Tashiro

Emi Troeger

Ronald Nakao – 1 yr. memorial service for his wife