

# *Kalyana Mitra*

*“Good Friend”*

*A Monthly Publication  
Volume 52 Issue 3*



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

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*March 2020*

Kailua Hongwanji Mission is doing business as Windward Buddhist Temple

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## **Spring Ohigan (Equinox), A Time to Reflect** by Rev. Bert Sumikawa

Buddhist countries throughout the world observe the Spring Equinox from March 18 – 24<sup>th</sup> annually. At the Windward Buddhist Temple, we will celebrate this day on March 15 with a special guest speaker from the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji, Rev. Koen Kikuchi.

This equinox also occurs in the Fall, with the observance of the Autumn equinox. During both of these times of the year, Buddhist families visit ancestral graves and temples where the family ashes are kept, to observe the Equinox or Ohigan memorial services. However, the true meaning of Ohigan is often neglected.

Ohigan is every Spring and Fall during the equinoxes when both the day and night are equal in length. In Buddhism, this balance of light and darkness symbolizes the Middle Way, and expression of Buddhist Awakening.

When the Dharma or Teachings are applied to our daily lives, it is called the Middle Way, and it avoids the extremes of suffering and pleasure, pessimism and optimism, as well as the extremes between purely material perceptions of the world versus mental perception, and tries to walk the practical “in-between.”

One of the ancient Buddhist scriptures likens the Middle Way to the tuning the strings of a harp, which can be neither too tight nor too loose to create a perfect melodic note.

Ohigan observance is a reminder to Buddhists that our aim is to discover the True Middle Way and to walk carefully through life on the path to awakening. This path is through the practice of the six paramitas or “perfections” that brings one from this shore (shigan) or the shore of delusion and self-centeredness to the Other Shore (ohigan).

During ohigan, we can bring to mind these six perfections or paramitas and consider how they relate to our lives, and with our interaction of others. These six paramitas are part of the path of the bodhisattva, one who vows to leave behind self-centeredness and practices perfection in order to become a Buddha for the sake of all beings. Though we are imperfect and limited beings, the six paramitas are realized through the heart and mind of entrusting faith; in this way we are brought to perfection through the working of Amida’s Compassionate Vow.

The Six Paramitas are:

1. Dana: May I be generous and helpful!
2. Sila: May I be pure and virtuous!
3. Ksanti: May I be patient of others!
4. Virya: May I be strenuous, energetic and persevering!
5. Dhyana: May I practice meditation and attain mindfulness to serve all beings!
6. Prajna: May I gain wisdom and be able to guide others to awareness!

So, as we approach the Spring Ohigan season, let us all ponder on these words:

When Amida’s Infinite Compassion is realized,  
There arises within us a natural expression of gratitude  
For our assured salvation.

Thus, Ohigan is a time for us to simply express  
Our gratitude to Amida Buddha for awakening us to  
His boundless Wisdom and Compassion.

Applying the six paramitas in our daily lives  
Is the expression of our gratitude and thanksgiving.

Namo Amida Butsu,

# March 2020

1	<b>Family Service</b> ( <i>Intergenerational Activity to follow see article</i> )	Speaker: Keiji Kukino M.C.: Jean Fukumoto
8	Family Service 9:00 a.m.	Guest Speaker: Rev. Clarence Liu M.C.: Dennis Tashiro
11	Board Meeting	6:30p.m. @ the temple
15	<b>Special Ohigan (Spring Equinox) Service</b> 9:00 a.m.	Guest Speaker: Rev. Koen Kikuchi M.C.: Jennifer Kane
22	Monthly Remembrance Service 9:00 a.m.	Speaker: Joy Nishida M.C.: Jason Gelwick
<b>Remembrance:</b> If you'd like to remember a loved one who passed away in the month of March (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.		
29	<b>NO Service at WBT</b> – We will have a booth at the Taste of Hongwanji at Hawaii Betsuin on Pali Highway. Several temples are working together. Please support this event.	
<p>Temple Prep: March 1 by Team Camillia (Janet) March 8-29 by Team Pikake (Shirley)</p>		

## Reverend Koen Kikuchi Ohigan Service Guest Speaker

Rev. Koen Kikuchi was born in Akita, Japan, the second son of a temple family. He received ordination as a minister of Higashi Hongwanji at the age of nine. After graduating high school, he entered Kanda University of International Studies majoring in English language. In 2007, he spent a year in the Malta Republic studying English and upon his return to Japan, enrolled in the graduate school of Otani University majoring in Shin Buddhism. From 2009, he was a minister at a Buddhist temple in Chiba Prefecture for five years, then was assigned to Higashi Hongwanji Betsuin in Honolulu. In 2018, he was the minister at Waimea Higashi Hongwanji on Kauai. Currently, Rev. Kikuchi serves as the resident minister of Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji.



Welcome NEW WBT Members: Leslie & Joanne Yamamoto

**Rev. Clarence Liu**  
Guest Speaker March 8, 2020

Rev. Clarence Liu is a retired hospice chaplain. Although, he and his wife Pat, live in Nuuanu, he takes pride today in being called a “Kailua Boy.” The family house still stands on Maluniu Ave, in Coconut Grove.

Rev. Liu trained for the ministry, first locally on the Windward side of the Pali, then in the California Bay Area and completed studies in theology at Berkeley. He pastored in Central Oahu churches before finding his niche in clinical chaplaincy with the homeless, then at the State Hospital and retired from Hospice Hawaii in 2012.



A heartfelt THANK YOU to all sangha members present when I spoke at the Dana Day Family service. Your generous offertory collected that day has been sent to the Project Dana office. As with other volunteer organizations Project Dana is partially funded by the Elderly Affairs Division of the City and County of Honolulu. All other funds needed to maintain the program comes from generous donations of our clients and members of the Windward Buddhist Temple. Your continued support of our site program with funds and volunteers will enable us to continue to serve our senior community.

----- Jean Fukumoto

The first session of Family Promise will be held from March 15–22, 2020 at Hawaii Betsuin. Mahalo to all our Windward Buddhist Temple ohana members who have volunteered for this session.

WBT will be serving dinner on Thursday, March 19 and breakfast on Friday, March 20. If you would like to help with either meal, we could use one or more volunteers. The set up for the sleeping areas for the families will be at 1:00 p.m. on March 15 (we need one more volunteer for this) and disassembling will be on March 22 at 7:00 a.m.

If you'd like to volunteer for this worthwhile activity, President Prudence Kusano will be serving as the coordinator for the March session. Please see her at any Sunday service by March 15. Mahalo.

----- Shirley Yanagisawa



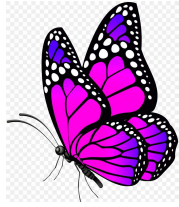
## Dharma School

On February 9, WBT Dharma School students explored “interdependence” in nature by investigating connections in local ecosystems. On March 8, the class will be studying *limu* (seaweed) -- its presence and place in our local ecosystem as well as the impacts of humans, both positive and negative, on the welfare of *limu*. The students will be identifying native and non-native *limu*, the traditional uses of the native *limu*, proper gathering techniques and learn about Isabella Abbott, an educator and ethnobotanist who was the first native Hawaiian woman to receive a PhD in science.

Honolulu District Dharma School Association is holding its quarterly family event on Sunday, March 1 from 9:00am - 1:30pm at Kailua Beach. To RSVP for this event, please contact Joy Nishida at [jwnishida@gmail.com](mailto:jwnishida@gmail.com) or (808) 371-8849.

----- Joy Nishida

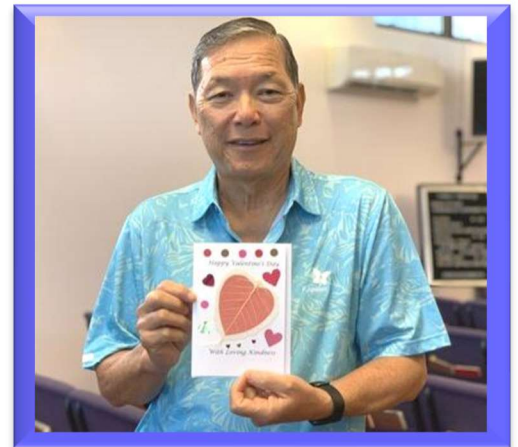
## Activities Corner



# March's Inter-Generational Activity: Spring Butterflies



## Feb. Activity: Valentines Crafts & Cards



### EXERCISING, STRENGTHENING & WALKING



Tuesdays & Thursdays  
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.

### 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.



### IKEBANA

(Flower Arranging)

This month's Ikebana class is on **March 21 & 28** 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.

# Adult Buddhist Dharma Classes

Study of Buddhism through group discussion  
based on the book by Rev. Marvin Harada  
“Discovering Buddhism in Everyday Life”  
Conducted by Rev. Bert Sumikawa



Classes will be 1:00-2:00 p.m.  
on the following Saturdays:  
March 21, April 4, April 18,  
May 2, May 16, May 30,  
June 13 & June 27

- \* Classes will meet at Windward Buddhist Temple (see address below) and are open to all who are interested in learning about Buddhism.
- \* There is NO fee and purchase of the textbook is optional.

There are several ways to sign-up. Select the option that best suits you:

- ✓ At the temple
- ✓ Call Rev. Sumikawa (808)492-7254
- ✓ Email Rev. Sumikawa – [bertsumi@gmail.com](mailto:bertsumi@gmail.com)

## Windward Buddhist Temple

aka Kailua Hongwanji Mission  
268-A Kuulei Road  
Kailua, HI 96734  
(across from the Kailua Public Library)  
(808)262-4560

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 ***Mahalo*** 

*for your kind monetary donations*

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Kiwanis Club of Kaneohe

Isao & Susan Asada – In memory of Otojiro Asada

Bob & Joyce Nishita – In memory of Otojiro Asada

M/M Yoshiaki Kimura – In memory of Otojiro Asada

David Kagawa – In memory of Sue Saito

Richard & Pauline Horita – In memory of Masako Horita

Allen & Prudence Kusano – In memory of Yukie N. Uno

Keiji & Janet Kukino – In memory of Sharon Yukie Kukino

Rhea Alexander McWilliams III

Keith & Lisa Fujikawa

Roy, Cynthia & Ryan Miyamoto- In memory of Thumper & Tofu and for Dana Day

Jennifer Kane – Dana Day

20 donations for Hoonko