

Kalyana Mitra

“Good Friend”

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

November 2020

Kailua Hongwanji Mission is doing business as Windward Buddhist Temple

Greetings to our Windward Buddhist Temple (WBT) members and friends. It has been a long while since we have had any kind of communication with you due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Thank you very much for your patience and I wish to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to all of you. Our lives have been directly impacted by the virus and have been challenged by it in many ways.

For those who may have been exposed to the virus and are struggling, we hope that you have recovered or are on the road to recovery. To those who have lost family members or friends, our deepest condolence goes to you, your family and friends. We worry deeply about those who have lost their jobs. Please contact us for assistance of any kind. We need to take care of ourselves, especially our kupuna, by wearing face masks, washing our hands frequently, keeping a safe distance from one another and trying our best to minimize exposure to the virus.

WBT has been severely impacted by the virus and have closed the temple to any activity except for small groups (less than 10 people) for memorial and funeral services. The pandemic has allowed us to be creative in ways unfamiliar to us before March of this year. We have instituted online weekly Sunday services that can be viewed on a computer, tablet or smart phone, not only at 9 am on Sunday, but any day or time thereafter. Accessing the service from a device allows you to stop/pause and return to the service at any time. (You may even walk away from the service and no one will know!)

Weekly Saturday Dharma classes using Zoom video conferencing has begun with 17 virtual attendees (joining in via their computers). Virtual memorial services and home blessings are being held using that media as well. With the Zoom technology, we regularly conduct temple Board and committee meetings, “attended” the annual Lay Association Convention and a Nembutsu Seminar.

Throughout this pandemic we have experienced many acts of kindness and compassion in our neighborhoods, our island and our state. It has provided us with opportunities to express our *living* Buddhist practices of *Dana*. Truly, we live not only for ourselves, but for others as well.

As our world has changed and continues to change rapidly, we are reminded of the lesson of impermanence that has been with us since time immemorial. Let us embrace the “new normal” that is with us at this time, realizing that this, too, will keep changing and evolving. Let us all continue to live with patience and awareness, and in time, we will once again, meet one another in person at the temple.

Thank you for your continuing support. We express gratitude to Amida Buddha for the guiding light of wisdom and compassion throughout our lives.

Namu Amida Butsu.

Rev. Bert Sumikawa

November 2020

CHECK THIS OUT!

Although there are NO services being held AT the Windward Buddhist Temple, there are Sunday Services that start at 9:00 a.m. and are accessible via:

- 1) Windward Buddhist Temple website: www.windwardbuddhisttemple.org
(or Google Windward Buddhist Temple)
- 2) YouTube: tinyurl.com/watchWBT
- 3) FaceBook: facebook.com/windwardbuddhisttemple

Date	Speaker
1	Prudence Kusano
8	Reverend Bert Sumikawa
15	Reverend Bert Sumikawa (Etaikyo Service)
22	Keiji Kukino (Also, Monthly Remembrance Service) If you'd like to remember a loved one who passed away in the month of November (of any year), you will be given the opportunity to do so during this service. Please email the person's name and photo, if available, to Rev. Sumikawa at bertsumi@gmail.com OR mail the information and photo to Rev. Sumikawa at Windward Buddhist Temple 268-A Kuulei Rd. Kailua, HI 96734 by Thursday, November 18)
29	Bob Nishita

Making a Donation is as Easy as 1-2-3!

It is through the generous donations from our members and supporters that Windward Buddhist Temple is able to continue to spread the Jodo Shinshu teachings. However, with the ongoing suspension of in-person services, having a convenient way to make regular offerings has been difficult.

Through Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, you can now make an offering or donation to Windward Buddhist Temple entirely online in three easy steps.



Step 1

Visit windwardbuddhisttemple.org/donate and click on the "Donate Now" button

Step 2

Select "Windward Buddhist Temple" from the "Use this donation for" dropdown.

Step 3

Enter the amount and use your credit card, debit card, or PayPal to pay

President's Message

I hope that you are safe and well during this challenging time. With challenges come opportunities. Nothing is permanent so at some time even the coronavirus will be under control. Until that happens, I look at the opportunities presented to us.

The pandemic made it very clear of how we are interconnected, especially how we spread the virus. We had the opportunity to identify ways to protect ourselves and others. Our temple had to remove items and stop the practice of sharing items that are difficult to sanitize. Our future cleaning procedures will most likely incorporate the types of cleaning that we have currently implemented such as fogging.

This is an opportunity for us to replace the service program on an easel with a program projected on the screen which can be easily seen by those in the back rows. Instead of using our service and gatha books, we will be projecting the entire service on a screen.

The Board members had the opportunity to learn to use a video conferencing program called Zoom for their monthly virtual meetings since in-person meetings were prohibited. Several conventions were held virtually. People learned to use Zoom to attend the conferences. Zoom allows for many more people to attend conferences, meetings and educational programs via their computers, tablets and/or cellular phones.

However, there are things we did prior to the pandemic that I hope will still be possible. I would like to be able to chant, sing gathas, offer incense, have post service fellowship, and sit close together. The next few months will determine what our new normal will be. In the meantime, the Board and I will plan optimistically for 2021 as if we will have regular services.

Thank you for being understanding of the changes we need to make to keep our Sangha safe. We will keep you posted as the 2021 plans are made. I am eager to see what will be our new normal and look forward to seeing all of you in our new normal temple life.

*Prudence Kusano, President
Windward Buddhist Temple*

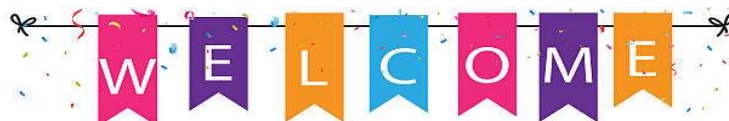


During this pandemic period, all Project Dana volunteers were asked to distance themselves from their clients.

Volunteers chose to stay in touch with their clients with phone calls or assisting by purchasing and delivery groceries and supplies.

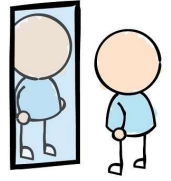
In order to help our clients and volunteers maintain a positive, happy and healthy attitude during this period, the WBT Project Dana sent each of them a gift. We look forward to being able to assist our community once again in 2021.

----- Jean Fukumoto



New WBT member: Neil Yamamoto

WBT Members' Reflections During COVID-19



Prudence

Since sheltering at home I have completed some projects on my to-do list. I purged boxes of family photos and plan to scan the remaining ones; sorted my fabrics and made different styles of masks (since mask-wearing might be a given for a longer time); collected items around my house and from my sisters for the WBT rummage sale; found time to read books and do puzzles. Since my hairdresser was closed for a long time, I have embraced my natural hair color.

I miss summer and autumn visits with my grandsons who live in San Francisco. I also miss visiting with the Sangha after Sunday service, traveling, ikebana classes and friends.

Gratitude and interdependence are teachings that are especially relevant to me during this time. I am grateful to the many essential workers who make my life better. I follow the healthcare guidance for what I do depends not only on my well-being but the well-being of others.

Dana

Since I am home all day now, I'm enjoying getting to know my neighbors better. I've started a vegetable garden and wish Mats still had his gardening class because I sure could use some advice! The thing I miss most is visiting my mother who resides in a nursing home where visitation has been restricted. The pandemic has challenged me to accept the transient nature of life and changes that occur on a daily basis at times. I feel interconnected with both of my neighbors and the larger world community as we struggle through our individual challenges together.

JoAnne

We have adapted to the changing times; however, do miss our weekly shopping at Marukai & eating out with the family and play trivia with friends every Sunday.

Our son got a smoker and he's been experimenting making smoked meats and sharing them with our neighbor, while our other son has made guacamole from avocados we received in turn from them. We also learned how to make "the pandemic drink"—dalгона. It's really refreshing on those hot, humid days.

I continue to learn more about the dharma, about togetherness & tranquility. I love listening to the WBT dharma talks each Sunday.

Cynthia

Being at home, has opened my eyes with a better "understanding" of individuals that are unable to live independently (no longer drive, depend on others for shopping needs, etc.) and are confined to their homes. Also, the Nembutsu teaching of "interdependence" is noticeable while I am at home. The noise that is generated next door due to construction, throughout the 7 months and still ongoing has become a "lifeline" to the outside for me. It prevents me from feeling isolated knowing that there are people actively moving about.

I look forward to the time when we can look back at this lifetime experience with many lessons learned. In the meantime, I will give myself some time to do "nothing" so I can attain a balance of "inner peace".

Anonymous

I am like a lot of people - staying home -- watching lots of news about what is sadly happening to our country, reading, talking to friends and family, cleaning to give away the many things I inherited from my mom and things I bought and don't use now, etc.

I miss not going to our services, seeing and listening to our speakers in person, chanting and singing together with everyone and seeing our friends. But on the other hand, I've discovered that I like staying home. I don't miss the noise of cars, lots of people crowded together, and instead enjoy the quiet, listening to my CDs and reading.

The nembutsu teaching—makes me realize that I should have more compassion about some politicians on the federal level, and I tell myself that "I am terrible person, terrible Buddhist". That is one of the many things I need to work on to live a true Buddhist life. Namu Amida Butsu.



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE



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

October 2020

VIRTUAL APPRECIATION EVENT FOR MR. PIEPER TOYAMA, HAWAII KYODAN OUTGOING PRESIDENT & DR. WARREN TAMAMOTO, HAWAII KYODAN INCOMING PRESIDENT

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will be holding the Virtual Appreciation Event to honor and extend our deep appreciation to Mr. Pieper Toyama who provided wonderful leadership as the President of HHMH during the past 6 years, and to welcome Dr. Warren Tamamoto as our newly installed President of HHMH.

Traditionally, the Aloha Luncheon was held soon after a presidential transition occurred. However, we will be holding the Virtual Appreciation Event instead of the luncheon due to the current pandemic situation.

Date: Saturday, November 21, 2020

Time: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Online via Zoom

No Registration Fee

The registration form was sent to the temples. Each temple is requested to disseminate the information and **submit a participant list to HQ by Saturday, November 14, 2020.** This event will be held after the Special Session of Legislative Assembly, but everyone is welcome.

HHMH YOUTUBE CHANNEL PROGRAM

HHMH continues to provide online programs as listed below. Videos will premiere on HHMH YouTube channel and become available on-demand. Please share this information with your family and friends and subscribe to it to continue receiving updates.

<https://www.youtube.com/honpahongwanjimissionofhawaii/>

■ ONLINE DHARMA MESSAGE

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5p2UQ0W-gN4DTm65ALR0loYZc2_OHwwi

11/01	11:00am	Rev. Kerry Kiyohara (Makawao Hongwanji Mission)
11/08	11:00am	Rev. Jeffrey Soga (Waipahu Hongwanji Mission)
11/15	11:00am	Rev. Shawn Yagi (Aiea Hongwanji Mission)
11/22	11:00am	Rev. Toyokazu Hagio (Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin)
11/29	11:00am	Rev. Blayne Higa (Kona Hongwanji Mission)

■ HEALTH CARE HEROES MAHALO VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5p2UQ0W-gN5sjQAQfelHck0UAXLmO2Vb>

Wednesdays 12:00pm "Health Care Treasures" and Essential Workers

2020-2021 SOCIAL CONCERNS FUND DRIVE

We celebrate gratitude in the month of November. The Thanksgiving holiday and the Eitaikyo observance are reminders of the countless blessings in our lives and how we live deeply connected to the world around us. It is in this spirit of gratitude that we begin our Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive. The fund drive will be from November 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021 and we request temples to submit their collected donations in September 2021.

Through the generous contributions of Sangha members, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is able to support worthy organizations and programs with funding to continue their work in our community. Your support also allows us to provide compassionate action during times of disaster and the ability to respond to social issues affecting our community. Because of your commitment to promoting the Buddhist values of compassion and loving kindness, we are able to lend our support to organizations such as Project Dana, MA'O Farms, The American Red Cross Pacific Region, Ohana Arts, A Cup of Cold Water, and various food banks on each island.

The Golden Chain of Love Grant program was established to promote compassionate action through innovative community service projects. Your generosity directly helps those in need and promotes a more humane world. Many of the grants awarded this year were COVID-19 related, including temple projects to prepare and distribute meals and to make and donate masks (to schools).

Envelopes have been provided to temples wishing to use them. If your temple did not request envelopes but would like to use them, please feel free to ask as there are extra envelopes available in limited supply. Please make all checks payable to *Windward Buddhist Temple*. Your temple treasurer will then make one combined check to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

Your kokua is greatly appreciated. Please encourage your members to continue supporting the Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive. Mahalo!

Committee on Social Concerns
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

WEDDING

Reverend Satoshi Ka'imipono Tomioka, the resident minister of Puna Hongwanji Mission and the oversee minister of Pahala and Naalehu Hongwanji Missions, got married to Haruka Kuratate on July 18, 2020. The wedding ceremony was held at Windward Buddhist Temple officiated by Bishop Eric Matsumoto. Congratulations!

(continued from page 3_“WBT Members’ Reflections During COVID-19”

Dennis

Prior to the pandemic, I enjoyed - golfing, baking, crafts and watching TV. Since the pandemic, I've done less golfing and baking, but increased TV watching and snacking. My wife works from home. Maybe that's cause me to snack more.

While staying at home I've become more proficient at online shopping—Macy's and Amazon.

The Nembutsu teachings that seem especially relevant to me during these past few months are Interdependence and Gratitude. We need each other to do our part to keep ourselves safe and healthy. We are grateful to so many people especially first responders, healthcare personnel and essential workers.

☸ *Mahalo* ☸

for your kind monetary donations

Jennifer Kane
Paul Tatsuguchi
Louris Hayashida
Rhea Alexander McWilliams III
Lawrence Iwanaga and family
Margaret Kataoka and family
Cynthia Hee Wai and family
Frances Aoyama
Hideo Arakawa
Paula Lin-Smith
Isao and Susan Asada
Bob and Joyce Nishita
Rob and Mari Hoashi Wilson
Keiji and Janet Kukino
Carol Igarashi
Kenneth and Loretta Kamei
Gary and Annette Tashiro
Keith and Lisa Fujikawa
Jean Fukumoto
Leslie and JoAnne Yamamoto
Family of Miyako Ochikubo
Stephen and Geraldine Ochikubo
Haruka Kuratate
Gilbert Miyasato
Carolyn Tawata
Dr. Myron Shirasu

Faye Yamauchi
Julia Kusumoto
Mae Yamamoto
Yoshiaki and Kiyoko Kimura
Russell and Gail Okata
Marjorie Ikeda
Ronald and Shirley Yanagisawa
Allen and Prudence Kusano
Family of Sue Kidani
Annette Morimoto
Beatrice Kaneshiro
Dana Arakaki
Dennis and Merle Tashiro
Ryan Miyamoto
Mitsue Miyamoto
Roy and Cynthia Miyamoto
Family of Akira Harry Kawamata
June Kawamata
Irene Nohara
Dr. and Mrs. Sanford Saito
Gary and Susan Yamamoto
Harriet Yamada
Arthur and Irene Nakagawa
Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Ikemoto
Tamie (Sumikawa) Richardson

Please Be On The Lookout for information regarding a **joint fundraiser with the Windward Buddhist Temple and Panda Express**. This information will be provided to *members* at the beginning of November via e-mail or mailed directly to your home, for those that do not have access to e-mail. Your support is sincerely appreciated.

Thank you in advance.
WBT Fundraising Committee



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

WBT Contact Information:

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Reverend Bert Sumikawa:

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