

Kalyana Mitra

“Good Friend”

*A Monthly Publication
Volume 52 Issue 12*



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

December 2020

Kailua Hongwanji Mission is doing business as Windward Buddhist Temple

Peace and Goodwill to All

Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu wrote in one of his Letters that was compiled and placed in the *Collected Works of Shinran*, section on “A Collection of Letters,” page 560, “May there be peace in the world.” However, peace first begins with each of us, then we can act accordingly. It is with the Nembutsu teaching that we are able to attain peace within ourselves and realize the importance of the Buddha’s teaching. With this understanding, we can wish for peace in the world, and wish for the spreading of the Buddha dharma.

In the Jodo Shinshu teaching, peace is deeply related to the preciousness of life. In the realization of the true value of all of life, whether young or old, good or evil, regardless of gender or sexual orientation; the Bodhisattva Dharmakara made 48 Vows to liberate us.

On another note, we tend to see things according to their usefulness. If a person is useful to our society, he or she is deemed important and is admired and respected. On the other hand, if a person is not seen as useful, he or she is treated differently.

It’s the same with tools or other things we use. When something is new, we tend to take care of it, wiping after each use and putting it carefully away. When an item is broken and useless, we discard it and replace it with a new one.

The Buddha’s approach to this is different. All life and things are precious and irreplaceable by anyone or anything. Each life has absolute value. It matters not whether one is seen as “useful” or not. You may think that your life is meaningless; the Buddha said that your life is precious and should be taken care of. Even if we wish harm on a person, he or she is nevertheless enveloped in the Buddha’s embrace and is recognized in the eyes of the Buddha.

As we reflect on the words of the Buddha, even gift giving to loved ones become expressions of gratitude – as a way of sharing your life with family and friends, who in turn have graciously shared their lives with you. We express gratitude to co-workers, for without them, our lives would be much more difficult. Especially during this time of the seemingly everlasting pandemic, let us be mindful of the many expressions, either by word or deed, and express our deepest gratitude to the healthcare and other essential workers that have put their own lives at risk so that we might live safely.

All things will pass. With the availability of COVID-19 vaccines in the coming months, we will once again in the coming year, begin to live life as it was with a renewed sense of interdependence and interconnectedness.

May the year 2021 bring you peace in the Nembutsu.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND MAY YOUR LIVES BE FILLED WITH JOY,
HAPPINESS AND GOOD HEALTH IN THE ASSURANCE OF
BEING IN THE EMBRACE OF THE ALL-COMPASSIONATE ONE.

Namu Amida Butsu.

Rev. Bert Sumikawa

December 2020



Although there are NO in-person services being held at Windward Buddhist Temple, we do offer 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
6	NO SERVICE
13	Bodhi Day Service – Rev. Bert Sumikawa
20	Shirley Yanagisawa
27	Rev. Bert Sumikawa (Monthly Remembrance Service) If you'd like to remember a loved one who passed away in the <u>month of December (of any year)</u> , 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 (optional) to Rev. Sumikawa at Windward Buddhist Temple 268-A Kuulei Rd. Kailua, HI 96734 by Sunday, December 13, 2020

President's Message

It is hard to believe that 2020 is coming to a close soon. The New Year will bring us closer to having a vaccine that will begin to control the virus and with patience we will have a new normal life. As each month passed since we closed the temple, I was hopeful that we could return to live services followed by the usual social hour. That was wishful thinking on my part. The reality is that our lives will never be normal as before the pandemic. We will have a new normal that may be even better than the old normal because this experience is teaching us how to be resourceful, patient, grateful, compassionate and resilient.

We have learned to live each day as it is, following the guidance of masking, social distancing, avoiding groups, washing hands, sanitizing everything we touch. This has been a real-life example of how the virus easily spreads because we are interdependent. Hard as it is to curb our natural tendency to be close to each other, for the time being we need to follow the guidance so that we can keep each other safe. We are learning to appreciate the people and things we have taken for granted now that we no longer can be with the people or do the things we always did.

The Board of Directors have been maintaining the temple building, sharing the Dharma through virtual means and continuing programs that support those in need like the Food Bank, Family Promise, Project Dana and other local groups. Likewise, I hope that each of you are maintaining your health, learning new skills, sharing the Dharma, helping those in need, and keeping your spirits up for we know that nothing is permanent, even COVID-19. I look forward to 2021 and am optimistic that we will be seeing each other at the temple next year.

In gassho,

Prudence Kusano



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 Email: hqs@honpahi.org



December 2020

CONDOLENCE

Reverend Arthur Marutani, a retired minister of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, passed away peacefully in Honolulu and returned to the Pure Land on October 22 at the age of 93. The Private Funeral Service was held at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin on Saturday, November 14, 2020 under the officiation of Bishop Eric Matsumoto. The Ingo (Posthumous Title) of Jo-Sho-in 浄照院 has been conferred upon Rev. Arthur Marutani by the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Denomination in recognition of his exemplary achievements and accomplishments. "Jo-Sho" means "One who spread the pure illumination."

MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Reverend Bruce Nakamura, the Resident Minister of Honokaa Hongwanji Mission and the oversee minister of Kamuela, Kohala and Paauilo Hongwanji Missions, retired from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as of November 6, 2020. Rev. Nakamura served Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii for 32 years. Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii expresses our deepest appreciation and gratitude to Rev. Bruce Nakamura for his dedication and effort of spreading the Nembutsu Dharma to our members and community.

HMH YOUTUBE CHANNEL PROGRAM

HMH 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

12/06	No Online Dharma Message	
	*Hawaii Buddhist Council will premiere the Virtual Bodhi Day Service at 9:30am on HBC YouTube Channel (https://bit.ly/3pHKOsD). It will become available on demand. The guest speaker will be Dr. Kenneth Tanaka (Professor Emeritus of Musashino University)	
12/13	11:00am	Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani (Moiliili Hongwanji Mission)
12/20	11:00am	Rev. Richard Tennes (Kahului Hongwanji Mission)
12/27	11:00am	Rev. Shinaki Murakami (Wailuku Hongwanji Mission)
12/31	7:00pm	Rev. David Fujimoto (Mililani Hongwanji Mission)

■ HEALTH CARE HEROES MAHALO VIDEO <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5p2UQ0W-gN5sjQAQfeIHck0UAXLmO2Vb>

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

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

Leslie & Joanne Yamamoto - IMO Janet Hiramoto, Janet Hiramoto 1year memorial, IMO Sawayo Hiramoto
Allen and Prudence Kusano
Ryan Miyamoto - IMO Donna Yonamine and for Ohigan
Bob and Joyce Nishita - IMO Wallace Sumikawa & Tadayuki Nishita and for Etaikyo
Ronald and Shirley Yanagisawa - Ohigan
Roy and Cynthia Miyamoto - IMO Donna Yonamine & Emiko Goya and for Etaikyo
Jean Fukumoto – Ohigan & Peace Day
Naomi Kaneko - IMO Emiko Goya, Alpha Kaneko & Gary Kaneko and for Eitaikyo & Obon
Audrey Muramoto
Shizue Miyasato
Waipahu Hongwanji Mission - Visitation
Dennis and Merle Tashiro
George Kitano - Obon
Mitsue Miyamoto - IMO Emiko Goya and for Etaikyo
18 donations to social concerns

Fundraising

The WBT “mini” fundraiser with *Panda Express* was a success. This accomplishment enabled all of us to take a break from cooking, get out for a little fresh air, and brought in a few more \$\$\$ than last year’s partnership with *Panda*. Thank you very, very much for your kind support of this effort. We could not have done it without you!

Please remain safe, and we look forward to the day when we can meet again in person.

Happy Holidays ~ Fundraising Committee