

Kalyana Mitra

“Good Friend”

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

July/August 2021

Kailua Hongwanji Mission is doing business as Windward Buddhist Temple

Buddhist Lessons through Stories

Let us turn our thoughts today to people who through the teachings of the Onembutsu, truly followed and led a life of the Pure Land path. These wonderful people called *myokonin*, enjoyed and appreciated the Jodo Shinshu teachings and often expressed this in their work, words and in their daily lives. By studying them, we can learn what the teachings of Jodo Shinshu are all about.

One such person was Gensa Ashikaga, who lived in the late 19th to the early 20th century, in a small village in Japan. At the young age of 18, he lost his father and began going to the temple and listening to the teachings very, very seriously. This spiritual quest led him to live a life of Jodo Shinshu.

One day Genza's mother asked him to go to the field and harvest some daikon (turnips). When he arrived at the field, he came upon some people stealing some of the daikon. What would we have done if someone was stealing our vegetables from our garden? Maybe we would shout, "Hey, stop stealing my daikon, what do you think you're doing?" Or maybe we'd pick up the phone and call the authorities? But Gensa went home without doing anything. When he got home, he told his mother, "Hey, Mom, it's not our turn today". Do you understand what he meant by, "It's not our turn today?" Usually, we think that these are my vegetables or those are my fruits. Because we grow them, we think that we have the right to harvest them and eat them.

If we were the vegetable or fruit that was dug up to be eaten, what do you think? "Gensa came to the garden and harvested me, took me home to be cooked in the kitchen and eaten. The thief came into the garden, harvested me and took me into someone's kitchen to be cooked and eaten." It doesn't matter who took us. In both instances, we are taken from the garden and cooked in a kitchen and eaten or thrown away sometimes. From the farmer's viewpoint, a thief is stealing his or her crop that was painstakingly grown. However, from the viewpoint of the vegetable or fruit, both the thief and Gensa are the same. Both take the lives of other things or beings.

What Gensa meant when he said, "Hey Mom, it's not our turn today," was "Hey Mom it's not our turn today to steal their lives". Gensa had respect for the vegetable's life and he didn't think that they were his vegetables. He meant that it was not their turn to take a life. In Gensa's view, he was not upset or angry when he saw a stranger stealing the daikon that he had grown. Instead, he had respect for the life of the daikon.

The Buddha Dharma and the teaching of Jodo Shinshu transformed Gensa. It is said that when we receive the Light of Buddha, we become soft and gentle in our body and mind. This is because, by listening to the teachings, we realize that we are not alone in this world, that we and all life is interwoven and interconnected. We are supported by many people and many lives. With this realization, this "I" who was confined to a rigid ego is transformed and will mindfully think beyond the self. The teaching of Jodo Shinshu brings us to this kind of transformation. What we have taken for granted will no longer be thought of in such a way. We can thus be grateful for what sustains our life and makes our existence possible. We are grateful to be embraced by the Wisdom and Compassion of the Buddha.

Let us all take a moment to reflect on our own lives and the infinite Wisdom and Compassion that has been bestowed on us through the Nembutsu teachings that has been revealed to us by Shinran Shonin.

Namu Amida Butsu.


Rev. Bert Sumikawa

July 2021



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: www.youtube.com/windwardbuddhisttemple
- 3) FaceBook: facebook.com/windwardbuddhisttemple

Date	Service / Speaker
4	 Obon Special Service Guest Speaker: Rev. Alan Urasaki
11	Family Service – Speaker: Bob Nishita
18	Family Service – Speaker: Rev. Bert Sumikawa
25	Rev. Bert Sumikawa (Monthly Remembrance Service) If you'd like to remember a loved one who passed away in the <u>months of July or August (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, July 18, 2021

August 2021

No new services for the month of August. But feel free to access our website (www.windwardbuddhisttemple.org) or YouTube (www.youtube.com/windwardbuddhisttemple) to enjoy past services and a special "best of" dharma talk series.

Family Obon Services

WBT will not hold its annual "Hatsubon" (*first bon since a loved one's passing*) Service this year.

Rev. Bert Sumikawa is available if your family wishes to hold a private family Hatsubon or Obon service. To make arrangements, please contact Rev. Sumikawa at (808)492-7254 or via email bertsumi@gmail.com



Rev. Alan Urasaki Obon Service – Guest Speaker



Rev. Alan Urasaki is originally from Hilo. He was an active member of the Junior YBA (Young Buddhist Assn.) at Hilo Betsuin. While attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa (majoring in Communication), Rev. Alan served on the first YESS (Young Enthusiastic Shinshu Seekers) Camp committee and was active in the Buddhist Study Center Youth Fellowship group and Senior YBA, as well as a Jr. YBA advisor at Moiliili Hongwanji.

In 1989, after attaining a Master's Degree in education from UH, he decided to pursue the ministry at the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS), in Berkley, California. Upon graduation from IBS, he went to Japan and received his Tokudo ordination in 1991. He was assigned as a Kaikyoshi-ho, or minister's aide at the Hawaii Betsuin in August 1991. After a year of "on-the-job" training, he returned to Kyoto to receive his Kyoshi, or teaching credential. He was now a "full-fledged" minister. He was assigned as an Associate Minister at the Hawaii Betsuin in 1992. In December 1995, he was assigned as the Resident Minister of Aiea Hongwanji where he served until January 2002.

He left temple ministry to accept a chaplain position with the Federal Bureau of Prisons and is now the Supervisory Chaplain at the Federal Detention Center, next to the Honolulu airport. Rev. Urasaki was the first Buddhist chaplain in the Federal Prison system.

Rev. Urasaki's past service to the community includes: volunteer Honolulu Police Department chaplain; School chaplain for the Pacific Buddhist Academy; Aiea Intermediate School PTA. He is currently a volunteer chaplain with the State Sheriff's and Honolulu Fire department.

Rev. Urasaki and his wife Cheryl, have 2 children Chase, and Kylie, both attending UH Manoa.

❁ *Mahalo* ❁

for your kind monetary donations

Suzanne Yanagisawa	Dennis & Merle Tashiro – IMO Shizuko Kanda	
M/M Paul Hironaka – Spring Equinox	Brenda Kanno	
Alex McWilliams	Keiji & Janet Kukino	
Victoria Leo	Lisa & Wyatt Fujikawa	
Edwin Noma	Shizue Miyasato	
Family of the late Satomi Kawasaki		
Bob & Joyce Nishita – Gotane, Obon, IMO of Satomi Takashiba and Wallace Fujikawa		
Roy & Cynthia Miyamoto – Hanamatsuri, Gotane, IMO Walter Seisho Yonamine		
Allen & Prudence Kusano – Gotane, IMO Sadao Uno & Wally Kusano		
Ryan Miyamoto – Gotane, IMO Walter Seisho Yonamine		
Leslie & Joanne Yamamoto – Gotane, IMO Harry "Mike" Hiramoto		
David Kagawa – IMO Hiroshi Kagawa -17 year & Agnes Fumiye Kagawa – 7 year memorials		
<u>Gotane (Shinran Shonin's Birthday) Donations:</u>		
Marjorie Ikeda	Gary & Annette Tashiro	Nancy Kikuchi
Thomas Yagi	Marian Yamashiro	Amy Abe
Rose Nakata	Ronald & Shirley Yanagisawa	George Kitano
Paul Tatsuguchi	Beatrice Kaneshiro	Cynthia Rodriguez
Naomi Kaneko		

WBT Bon Dance Bento Sale

Have you been hankering for our Bon Dance dinner plates?

Well, you're in luck! Although we are not quite ready to resume temple activities, here's an opportunity to purchase a Windward Buddhist Temple **Bon Dance Bento**! The Bon Dance Bento will contain the same items as our best seller dinner plate: 2 BBQ sticks, hotdog, potato mac salad with imitation crab, rice, homemade tsukemono and/or our famous takuan. The cost is just \$10.



This project will afford temple members a chance to volunteer and work together once again. We want our members, the community, our supporters and friends to know that WBT is preparing to welcome you back.

- Bon Dance bentos will be by **pre-order/ pre-payment only**.
- **Pick up is Sunday, August 22, 2021 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.** at the temple.
- **Mail your order and payment to the temple (address below)**
- **Deadline to order: July 31, 2021**



(cut and remit with your check)



WBT Bon Dance Bento Order:

For pick up Sunday, August 22, 2021 (12-2:00 p.m. at WBT)

Name: _____

Contact Phone number: _____

Number of Bentos: _____ **x \$10 = Total amount enclosed:** _____

Please make your checks payable to Windward Buddhist Temple.

*Mail this slip and your check to:
Windward Buddhist Temple
268-A Kuulei Road
Kailua, HI 96734*

(Deadline to order a Bon Dance Bento is July 31, 2021)

Takuan!

A Windward Buddhist Temple favorite. \$5

Although we are not having a Bon Dance this year, you can still enjoy **WBT's takuan**.

Limited quantities will be **available for purchase during the month of July**.

We recommend that you call **(808)262-4560**, Sunday & Wednesdays 10 am – 12 noon) before coming by the temple to confirm that we haven't sold out.

When: Available for purchase and pick-up at the temple from 10 am to 12 noon while supplies last:

- **Sunday**, July 4, 11, 18, & 25
- **Wednesday**, July 7, 14, 21, & 28

Where: Pick up at Windward Buddhist Temple, 268A Kuulei Road, Kailua

Price: \$5 per container. Cash only. Pay when you pick-up at the temple. Exact change, please.

Country Market

Mahalo for your continued support of our Country Market fundraiser.

While we've sold out of some of the original items, we are adding new items on a regular basis.



Braided Ribbon Lei

Handmade. Specify your own 2 or 3-color combination. \$4



Framed Bodhi Leaf

Actual bodhi leaf framed in a 9" x 11" black frame. \$8



Zippered Pouch

Handmade by a temple member. Multi-use and fully lined. 4" x 10". Assorted designs. \$8

Scan for additional items and larger photos on the website, or visit:



windwardbuddhisttemple.org/store



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



JUNE 2021

BISHOP'S CORNER

Like a good neighbor, Amida is here!

Bishop Eric Matsumoto



In June, the Hawaii Federation of Jr. Young Buddhist Associations will be having their Virtual 64th Jr. YBA State Convention. The theme is *“My Neighbor Amida”* based on the movie *“My Neighbor Totoro.”* It reminded me of some Buddhist quotes about friends and friendship *“An insincere friend is to be feared more than a wild animal. A wild animal may cause you physical harm, but an insincere friend can harm your mind.”* *“It is a person’s own mind, not an external enemy or foe, that lures one into unwholesome ways.”* *“To conquer oneself is a greater victory than to conquer thousands in a battle.”* and *“The one who protects one’s mind from greed, anger and ignorance, is the one who enjoys real and lasting peace.”*

Further, the Dharma encourages: *“speak...with kindness, work for their benefit, always be thoughtful, and treat them with honesty.”* *“...make (the) effort to prevent...friends from falling into wrong ways, protect their property...listen to their concerns when they have problems, lend them a helping hand in times of trouble, and support their family when necessary. Thus, the way of friends...will be one of peace without sorrow.”* *“A true friend, the one with whom a person may safely associate, will always stick closely to the right way, will worry...about one’s friend’s welfare, will console the friend in misfortune, will offer... a helping hand, ...will keep...secrets, and will always give...good advice. It is very difficult to find a friend like this, and, therefore, one should try very hard to be a friend like this. As the sun warms the fruitful Earth, so a good friend shines in society because of one’s good deeds.”*

Shinran Shonin, when he deeply reflected on himself though, lamented about himself *“Lacking even small love and small compassion, I cannot hope to benefit sentient beings.”* But at the same time he also gratefully remarked, *“Were it not for the ship of Amida’s Vow, How could I cross the ocean of painful existence?”* Shinran Shonin heard the Compassionate Call of Amida Buddha, who says *“Come at once single-heartedly with right mind. I will protect you. Do not fear that you may fall into the calamities of water (greed) or fire (anger).”* This message of Amida Buddha was so compelling that he (Shinran Shonin) had no doubt about its authenticity and experienced great joy in knowing that Amida Buddha accepted him just as he was, full of imperfections, unconditionally promising him the Great Enlightenment!

To me, out of profound appreciation for the Buddha’s benevolence and a deep lament about his shameful self, Shinran Shonin, together with reciting the Nembutsu of gratitude, embraced the aspiration to reject the evil of this world. In Letter 19, he shares about a person of nembutsu *“Signs of long years of saying the nembutsu and aspiring for birth can be seen in the change of heart that had been bad and in the deep warmth for friends and fellow-practicers; this is the sign of rejecting the world.”*

For most of his life, Shinran Shonin did not live in a secluded monastery away from people, but rather like a good neighbor lived together with people and shared with them the wisdom and compassion including the joy of Namu Amida Butsu. We learn from him that Amida Buddha is not a Buddha far away in some distant Pure Land relevant only after we die, but that Amida Buddha as Namu Amida Butsu (or The Buddha’s Name That Calls Me to entrust) is right here, right now. Amida Buddha like a good neighbor is always inviting everyone to come to his house of enlightenment. Amida Buddha, now and forever, like a good neighbor promises to always be with us! When we look at the life of Shinran Shonin and Lady Eshinni, I see them responding in gratitude to the Buddha as they guided and cared for people.

Finally, today, let me share our Hawaii version of Gomonsu Kojun Otani’s “Our Pledge.”

Reaching out to others, I will share a smile and gentle words.
Just like the Buddha, who always calls out with Aloha.

Breaking away from my greed, anger and ignorance,
I will try to live in peace and harmony.
Just like the Buddha, who shares tranquility and kindness with all.

Moving forward from self-centeredness,
I will share a life of joy and sorrow with others.
Just like the Buddha, whose caring heart always embraces us.

Realizing that I live because of others,
I will strive to live life to the fullest with an attitude of gratitude.
Just like the Buddha, who promises to embrace us all.

47th Annual Buddhist Study Center
Online Summer Session
“Peace through Buddha-dharma”



Rev. Kodo Umezu

After 47 years of dedicated ministry and service to the Buddhist Churches of America, Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America, retired from the BCA ministry on March 31, 2020. Prior to assuming the position of Bishop and Superintendent of the Hongwanji- ha North America District in 2012, Rev. Umezu served as the resident minister at the Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple, Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, and the Buddhist Church of Oakland. Additionally, Rev. Umezu also served as the Director of the BCA Center for Buddhist Education, and Chancellor of the Institute of Buddhist Studies.

Monday - Friday

July 12-16, 2021

5-7 p.m. HST

www.bsawahii.org

Buddhist Study Center (BSC)

1436 University Avenue

Honolulu, HI 96822

(808)973-6555

BSC Summer Session

The BSC Summer Session held its first classes in 1974 with Dr. Alfred Bloom and Dr. Mokusen Miyuki. For over 40 years, distinguished teachers including Dr. Taitetsu Unno, Rev. Gyomay Kubose, Dr. George Tanabe, Prof. Takamaro Shigaraki, Dr. Mark Unno, Rev. Ruth Tabrah, Dr. David Matsumoto, Rev. Marvin Harada, Rev. William Masuda have shared their knowledge and perspectives on the Wisdom and Compassion of the Teachings of Buddhism.

CLASS SCHEDULE

<p>Monday, July 12, 2021 4:45 pm Meeting room open 5-7 pm Session (Opening Service) starts Lecture: Rev. Kodo Umezu “Peace through Buddha-dharma” (Opening remarks and introduction)</p>	<p>Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:45 pm Meeting room open 5-7pm Lecture: Rev. Kodo Umezu “World Peace”</p>
<p>Tuesday, July 13, 2021 4:45 pm Meeting room open 5-7pm Lecture: Rev. Kodo Umezu “Inner Peace”</p>	<p>Friday, July 16, 2021 4:45 pm Meeting room open 5-7pm Session (Closing Service) starts Lecture: Rev. Kodo Umezu “Peace through Buddha-dharma” (Closing remarks and summary)</p>
<p>Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:45pm Meeting room open 5-7pm Lecture: Rev. Kodo Umezu “Every Day Peace”</p>	<p align="center">To Register, please call the BSC or go to their website: www.bsawahii.org</p> <p>There is no fee; however, donations are welcome. A Paypal link may be accessed via the BSC website.</p>

Windward Buddhist Temple
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Kailua, HI 96734
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Look for our September “Kalyana Mitra” for details of WBT’s temple reopening and the resumption of temple activities!