

Kalyana Mitra

“Good Friend”

A Bi-Monthly Publication
Volume 55 Issue 3&4



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

March & April 2023

Kailua Hongwanji Mission is doing business as Windward Buddhist Temple

Aloha Everyone!

On March 19th Windward Buddhist Temple (WBT) will observe Spring Ohigan with the Rev. Alan Urasaki as guest speaker. Higan is one of the Hongwanji's major services. It is the time when there is harmony in the universe, when day and night are equal in length, when the sun rises directly from the east and sets directly in the west. It is a time for reflection, to recall and try to put into practice the Six Paramitas or Perfections to achieve a balance in our lives. These are: Giving/Charity, Behavior/Morality, Endurance/Patience, Endeavor/Right Effort, Right Meditation, and Right Wisdom. This is an opportunity to think on the harmony of nature and in turn, think on the harmony in our lives.

The word Higan comes from the Sanskrit word Paramita, which is translated as “other shore.” The “Other Shore” is Enlightenment or Nirvana or the Pure Land. We are able to arrive at or reach the other Shore as the Six Paramitas serve as a bridge spanning across this wide sea. These Six Paramitas teach us the essential Buddhist way of life which we should follow every day. By putting the Paramita into practice, we are expressing our gratitude and thanksgiving to Amida Buddha for awakening us to his boundless Compassion infinite Wisdom.

The Six Paramitas or “Perfections,” encompass the virtues of the Eightfold Path, while emphasizing the benefit for others through the addition of *dana*, or *generosity*, as the first virtue. Wisdom is the final element of the Six Paramitas, implying that benefit to self of receiving wisdom comes through the awareness of benefiting others. Higan becomes an observance that is suited to helping us to hear and listen to the Dharma of Namu Amida Butsu.

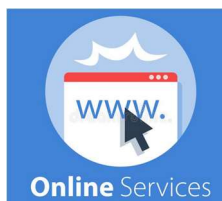
WBT will be observing Buddha Day (Hanamatsuri) on April 9th. Hanamatsuri, literally flower festival, commemorates the birth of Siddhartha Gautama in India, over 2500 years ago. He was born on April 8, 566 B.C., the son of King Suddhodana and Queen Maya. There are accounts of flowery descriptions of the scene at his birth, including celestial birds singing beautiful songs, beautiful flowers, and a sweet gentle rain bathing the baby Buddha. It is not necessarily the beauty of the flowers, the sounds of the celestial birds, nor the sweet gentle rain that fell, but the vibrant fact that on this day was born the greatest of sentient beings who became the Enlightened One, the Buddha. Siddhartha became enlightened as Shakyamuni Buddha. Hanamatsuri is a time for us to show our gratitude and rededicate ourselves as we contemplate the importance of our teacher, the enlightened one.

You are invited to attend a new Adult Buddhist Dharma Class series covering Basic Buddhism. Rev. Bert Sumikawa will be conducting the Saturday sessions which begin on March 11 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the temple. (A flyer with additional information is found on page 6 of this newsletter.)

Namu Amida Butsu.


Rev. Barbara Brennan

March & April 2023



We continue to post the services online shortly thereafter 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/MC
March 5	Family Service (followed by 1 st Sunday Activity)	Speaker: Prudence Kusano M.C.: Myles Yamamoto
12	Family Service	Speaker: Rev. Barbara Brennan M.C.: Merle Tashiro
19	<p style="text-align: center;">Spring Ohigan (Equinox) Service & Monthly Remembrance Service</p> <p>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. Please add the name of your loved one to the list at the sign in desk and if you have a photo, please bring it to the service.</p>	<p>Guest Speaker: Rev. Alan Urasaki M.C.: Jenn Kane</p>
26	<p>NO SERVICE at WBT Hongwanji Spring Bazaar at Hawaii Betsuin on Pali Highway (8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)</p>	
April 2	<p>NO SERVICE at WBT Hawaii Buddhist Council Buddha Day Service 9:30 a.m. at Jodo Mission of Hawaii (1429 Makiki Street)</p>	
9	<p style="text-align: center;">Buddha Day <i>Hanamatsuri</i></p> 	<p>Speaker: Rev. Bert Sumikawa M.C.: Shirley Yanagisawa</p>
16	Eshinni/Kakushini Day	<p>Guest Speaker: Lois Toyama M.C.: Myles Yamamoto</p>
23	<p>Monthly Remembrance Service</p> <p>If you'd like to remember a loved one who passed away in the month of April (of any year), you will be given the opportunity to do so during this service. Please add the name of your loved one to the list at the sign in desk and if you have a photo, please bring it to the service.</p>	<p>Speaker: Joy Nishida M.C.: Cynthia Rodriguez</p>
30	Family Service	<p>Speaker: Rev. Barbara Brennan M.C.: Linda Jaffe</p>

March 5 – 26 Group B (Dana Arakaki, lead) in charge of after service refreshments
 April 2 – 23 Group C (Merle Tashiro, lead) in charge of after service refreshments
 April 30 Group A (Lisa Fujikawa, lead) in charge of after service refreshments

Rev. Alan Urasaki
Spring Ohigan (Equinox) Service Guest Speaker
March 19, 2023



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, he attained a Master's Degree in education from UH and 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 and was assigned as a Kaikyoshi-ho, or minister's aide, at the Hawaii Betsuin. After a year of "on-the-job" training, he returned to Kyoto to receive his Kyoshi, or teaching credential. As a "full-fledged" minister, he served as an Associate Minister at the Hawaii Betsuin and then as the Resident Minister of Aiea Hongwanji.

In February 2002, Rev. Urasaki left temple ministry and became a chaplain with the Federal Bureau of Prisons at the Federal Detention Center, next to the Honolulu airport. He was the first Buddhist chaplain in the Federal Prison system. After 20 years of government service, he retired as the Supervisory Chaplain, resigned from the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, and is currently an Assistant Minister at Shinshu Kyokai Mission of Hawaii. (Shinshu Kyokai is an independent Jodo Shinshu temple in Honolulu, not affiliated with the Hawaii Honpa Hongwanji.)

Lois Toyama
Eshinni/Kakushini Day Service Guest Speaker
April 16, 2023

Lois Toyama grew up in Winchendon, Massachusetts, the oldest of 10 children.

She is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, with a BA in English and from Northeastern University where she received her MEd in Counseling.

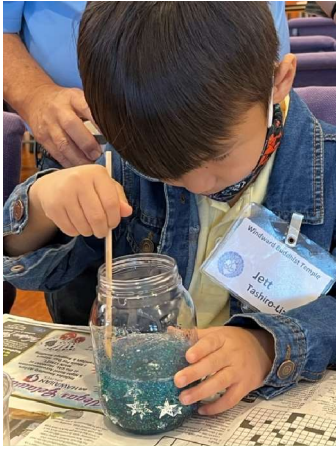
Lois worked for the Hawaii State Department of Education for 40 years as an educator, counselor, and a resource teacher. Over her tenure she was located in Hilo, Honokaa and Waipahu before ending her career at the State Department of Education as Section 504 resource teacher.



She has been active in the Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association both at her temple, district and state level. Most recently, she served as the Immediate Past President of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Federation (*state level*) of Buddhist Women's Association.

She is married to Pieper Toyama (past president of the Honpa Hongwanji Missions of HI). Lois and Pieper have two daughters and four grandchildren. Lois enjoys reading, walking, taking art classes, photography and keeping up with friends on Facebook.

January & February



January's Intergenerational Activity: Galaxy Glitter Jars

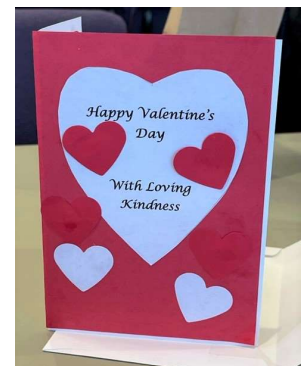
Feb.
Birthdays



Guest Speaker
Sharyn Sekine with
Rev. Barbara



Making Pop-up
Valentine's Day Cards





BINGO goes high tech at WBT.

HI Federation of JR YBA Officers & Advisor Joy Nishida of WBT, visited on Sunday 2/12



111th Hongwanji State Legislative Assembly WBT Attendees (L-R): Ryan Miyamoto, Cynthia Rodriguez, Rev. Barbara Brennan & Dennis Tashiro 2/11-12

Pet Memorial Service 2/12



AmazonSmile Update

Amazon.com recently announced that its AmazonSmile donation program will end on February 20, 2023. Mahalo to those who designated WBT as their non-profit organization when shopping at Amazon.com.

Donate Online to WBT

Here are other convenient ways to donate to WBT without writing a check or licking a stamp:

- Scan the QR code to the right with your smartphone OR
- Visit windwardbuddhisttemple.org/donate with a web browser and you can donate via PayPal OR major debit/credit cards.



Hongwanji Spring Bazaar

(formerly called Taste of Hongwanji)

Sunday, March 26, 2023

8:30 am to 1:00 pm

- Rummage Sale
- Baked Goods (some Gluten Free)
- Various food items:
takuan, bittermelon namasu, barazushi, etc.
- Locally made Honey
- Plants
- Books (incl. Hongwanji Cookbooks)
- And More!

(WBT is one of the participating temples selling goods.)

BASIC BUDDHISM

Adult Buddhist Dharma Classes
Conducted by Rev. Dr. Bert Sumikawa

Saturdays, March 11 thru April 15, 2023
10:00 am to 11:00 am

Classes are open to all interested in
learning about Buddhism

No Fees

To register, call Rev. Sumikawa at
(808) 492-7254



Food Collection

To benefit
the Hawaii Foodbank

March 19 - April 16, 2023

Please bring your donations of non-perishable food items to temple. Especially welcome are canned meats, meals and rice. Other suggestions, canned vegetables & fruits, cereals, pasta, etc.



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



Bishop's Corner

FEBRUARY 2023

“Sharing Joy Together”

As we slowly transition from Winter to Spring, like the many flowers and trees in Nature, let us begin to prepare ourselves to fully blossom too. For me, every year, the gift of cherry blossoms from Kamuela, reminds me that Spring is just around the corner and brings joy to me. It warms my heart which motivates me to want to share that beauty and the joy with others. The joy we feel when we see beautiful flowers is seen by others around us. It is a very spontaneous expression and sharing which occurs very naturally. The Joy of the Dharma we feel is the same. It is not a contrived joy or a joy which I, calculatedly, try to share. For ultimately, the source of that joy is not me, but comes from the flowers themselves or in the case of the Joy of the Dharma from the Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion itself.



As Shinran Shonin explained in one of his poems, *The light of compassion illumines from afar; Those beings it reaches, it is taught, Attain the Joy of the Dharma, So take refuge in Amida, the great consolation.* Also, in his major writing “The True Teaching, Practice and Realization of the Pure Land Way,” he noted that *when we realize the diamondlike true mind (shinjin), we...unfailingly gain ten benefits in the present life. What are these ten?* Of the ten, number seven is *The benefit of having great joy in our hearts.* It is explained that this joy is a very special kind of joy. It is not one that will dissipate or fade after a while for it comes about *when they touch for the very first time that which is timeless (dharma-body), and therefore a joy that they have not known in the world of samsaric transmigration.* This deep joy is a very big part of Jodo Shinshu and the life of Nembutsu.

In 2023, especially, as our theme and slogan is *Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together*, let us freely allow our awareness, joy and gratitude of Namu Amida Butsu express itself. This is one major way in which we (you and I), as the Nembutsu Sangha, can share the Teachings of the Buddha and the temple with others. By our naturally expressing our joy and gratitude, let our family and friends wonder, and hopefully ask us, “Why are you always so happy and grateful?” For many, this will be the joyous condition that could lead to their discovery of Namu Amida Butsu. It will be the opportunity to introduce to them the Nembutsu and invite them to temple.

At the same time, an important component which should be in place at every temple, is when people come to our temples we should be able to sincerely and happily welcome them. Thus, I would like to encourage every temple to have a Welcoming-Membership Committee which kindly assists those who come to our temples to continue their journey or quest including hopefully eventually become members. Our temples, and each one of us, should be inviting, welcoming, nurturing and supportive places centered on the Buddha-Dharma.

As a well-known Buddhist says goes *Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.* Also, let us keep in mind the saying *To live a single day and hear a good teaching is better than to live a hundred years without knowing such a teaching.* To make manifest the above Dharma Teaching, please know that Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii continues to share Buddhist teachings and perspectives by continuing to regularly have Sunday Services, Buddhist Seminars and Retreats such as the Spring Session, BSC Summer Session, MLA Retreat and YESS Camp, participate in interfaith and other community organizational events like UN Interfaith Harmony Week, and support other community programs like the Ohana Arts' youth musical “Peace on your Wings” so we may fulfill our Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Mission Statement *To share the living Teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism so all beings may enjoy lives of harmony, peace and gratitude* and our purpose as stated in our Hongwanji Constitution *The organization transmits the wisdom and compassion of Amida Tathagata to all people, and in doing so, contributes to the realization of a society in which everyone, both within and outside of the organization, is able to live a life of spiritual fulfillment.* This is our mission and vision that should unite and guide us in all of our endeavors.

In particular, as Jodo Shin Buddhists, let that deep joy that we experience of being accepted as we are and forever embraced by Amida Buddha's all-inclusive Wisdom and all-embracing Compassion express itself and let us naturally share it with others with the wish that others too, may come to know and experience the same joy and happiness. More than ever, let us live the Nembutsu by responding in gratitude to Amida Buddha by “Sharing (the) Joy (of Namu Amida Butsu) Together” by talking about Amida Buddha and reciting Namu Amida Butsu as a manifestation of the saying “As the light of a small candle will spread from one to another in succession, so the light of Buddha's compassion will pass on from one mind to another endlessly.”

Thank you and Namu Amida Butsu/Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion.

Windward Buddhist Temple
268-A Kuulei Road
Kailua, HI 96734
Address Service Requested

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for your kind monetary donations

Myron Shirasu & Shirasu family IMO Rev. Jukaku, Yoshie & Byron Shirasu
Kenneth & Loretta Kamei
KLM Corporation
Dennis & Carrie Kawamoto
Natasha Lopes
Isao & Susan Asada - 1 yr. service for Amy Oyadomari
Oyadomari Family - 1 yr. service for Amy Oyadomari
Genzo, Ai, Satoshi Tanaka - 1 yr. service Mikiko Tanaka
Pacific Health Ministry & Board of Directors in honor of Rev. Bert Sumikawa
Keiji & Janet Kukino - IMO Sharon Kukino
Greg & Naomi Kaneko - IMO Roy Goya
Takashi Ueda - IMO Lillian Kiyoko Ueda
Cynthia Rodriguez - IMO Alfred Tatsuguchi
Greg Yuen, M.D. - Tibetan Study Group
Christopher Diani & Stephen McCallian
Leslie & Joanne Yamamoto - IMO Takuichi Hiramoto
Matthew Stewart
Bob & Joyce Nishita - Dana Day
Ruby Nagao
Dennis & Merle Tashiro - T. Kanda 105th birthday
Roy & Cynthia Miyamoto - IMO Tofu & Thumper
Ryan Miyamoto - IMO Tofu & Thumper
Rev. Barbara Brennan
Samuel Cox & Barbara Ripple
Shizue Miyasato
Jennifer Kane - Nirvana Day

Shinran Shonin Memorial:

Jennifer Kane
Claude & Gaylin Shelverton
Arthur & Irene Nakagawa
Ronald & Shirley Yanagisawa
Rose Nakata
M/M Masao Kino
Al & Heidi Katagihara
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