

Kalyana Mitra

“Good Friend”

A Bi-Monthly Publication

Volume 55 Issue 7 & 8



Windward Buddhist Temple

268-A Kuulei Road

Kailua, HI 96734

Phone: 262-4560

July/August 2023

Kailua Hongwanji Mission is doing business as Windward Buddhist Temple

Obon

As Shinran Shonin observed, *“all sentient beings, without exception, have been our parents, and brothers and sisters in the course of countless lives in the many states of existence”* (Tannisho, Chapter 5).

Obon is a time when Buddhists remember those who have left this world before us, with gratitude for enabling us to exist and to encounter the dharma.

Quote from Rev. Bert Sumikawa: *“Though we focus on Obon once a year, it is really a matter for everyday reflection. According to Japanese tradition, the ancestors return to commune with their descendants during this season. However, the ancestors, our parents and loved ones, as well as many others who shape our modern life, have never left. We live in the light of their contributions.”*

In Hawaii, July and August are the months in which we hold services and festive celebrations for Obon. Obon (pronounced "On-bone") has its origins in the scripture Ullambana Sutra spoken by the Buddha. The scripture describes how the monk Mogallana, by practicing meditation, gained spiritual insight and vision which enabled him to see his mother's true condition. He saw his deceased mother suffering in the realm of the hungry ghosts and consulted the Buddha regarding what could be done to ease her pain. The Buddha advised him to practice compassion and to give offerings to the monks who had finished their rainy season retreat on the fifteenth day of the seventh month. Having completed these instructions, Mogallana saw his mother relieved of her suffering. At that time, Mogallana and his fellow monks were so overwhelmed with gratitude that they began to dance with joy. This story originated in ancient India and by way of China came to influence Buddhism from earliest times. In the 7th century Japan, Prince Shotoku established it as a major festival to be held on the 15th day of the 7th month of the lunar calendar.

Some people think of Obon as a time to make offerings to the spirits of the deceased and generate merit or “good karma” and as a way to help departed loved ones find peace in the afterlife. While this understanding is affirmed by many Japanese Buddhist traditions, our Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition focuses the Obon celebrations on joyful gratitude for what we have received from our departed loved ones, rather than what we might be able to do for them in the afterlife.

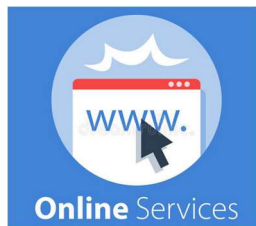
Shin Buddhism, as well as other sects, believe the Buddha's compassion reaches us through nature, family and community. According to Shin Buddhist belief it is the ancestors who liberate us through their love and compassion in life. As Shinran, the founder of our tradition, once said to his followers, *“I have never said the nembutsu even once for the repose of my departed father and mother.”* (Collected Works of Shinran, p. 664). The nembutsu or reciting the name of the Amida Buddha in the words "Namo Amida Butsu," is celebrated in our tradition as the most powerful Buddhist practice, and yet Shinran tells us that he has never once done this practice as a way to aid his departed parents in the afterlife. The reason is that the power of the Nembutsu practice comes from the Buddha's wisdom and compassion not from our own efforts.

“The spirit of Obon expresses our awareness of our connectedness to others in the web of human life and nature which provide the foundations for our spiritual life. It challenges us to nurture our faith and encourage a sense of responsibility and humility in our responses to the awesome questions of life and death emerging from our technocratic culture. As a sangha, a spiritual community, and as individuals, we should seek the flexibility and compassion that will enhance the life of all people.” (Dr. Alfred Bloom)

Namo Amida Butsu.

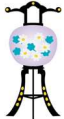

Rev. Barbara Brennan

July & August 2023



Services will be posted 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	Sunday Service (9:00 a.m.)	Speaker/MC
July 2	 Obon/ Hatsubon Service	Speaker: Rev. Bert Sumikawa M.C.: Prudence Kusano
8 (Sat)	Bon Dance 7-10 p.m. (For more information, refer to articles in this newsletter.)	
9	NO SERVICE	
16	Family Service <i>(followed by intergenerational activity)</i>	Speaker: Rev. Barbara Brennan M.C.: Cynthia Rodriguez
23	Monthly Remembrance Service If you'd like to remember a loved one who passed away in the <u>month of July of any year</u> , 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.	Speaker: Rev. Barbara Brennan M.C.: Naomi Kaneko
30	Family Service	Speaker: Michael Jaffe M.C.: Merle Tashiro
AUGUST	NO SERVICES – TEMPLE VACATION	
<p>July 2 - 16 Group C (Merle Tashiro, lead) in charge of after service refreshments</p> <p>July 23 – 30 Group A (Lisa Fujikawa, lead) in charge of after service refreshments</p>		

Dates to Remember!



- Sat., July 1 – Yagura (music platform) set-up (8 a.m.)
- Sun., July 2 – Obon/Hatsubon Service
- Wed., July 5 – Dance practice (7 p.m.)
- Fri., July 7 – Food Preparation (1-3:30 p.m.)
- Sat., July 8 – Yagura decorating (8 a.m.)
- Sat., July 8 – Bon Dance (7:00-10:00 p.m.)
- Sun., July 9 – Yagura dismantling (8 a.m.)

May Activity – Making Yarn Leis



Kuulei Road (Kailua) Clean-up
May 20, 2023

June B-days: Lori,
Cynthia & Ron



Congratulations!

New WBT Certified Minister's
Lay Assistants, Jenn Kane &
Shirley Yanagisawa!



June Activity:
Paper Cutting "Magic"





Mahalo



for your kind monetary donations

Gotane (Shinran's Birthday)

Jennifer Kane - Eshinni/Kakushinni Day
 In honor of all WBT Mothers & Fathers

Natasha Lopes
 Ronald & Shirley Yanagisawa
 Ryan Miyamoto - IMO Seisho Yonamine
 Roy & Cynthia Miyamoto - IMO Seisho Yonamine
 Dennis & Merle Tashiro - IMO Shizuko Kanda
 Kate Epstein
 Gary & Annette Tashiro
 Kapolei Buddhist Sangha
 Sharon Harada
 Yi-Hsin Chen
 Suzanne Yanagisawa
 Rev. Samuel Cox & Rev. Barbara Ripple
 Ralph Horii - Obon
 Leslie & Joanne Yamamoto - IMO Harry M. Hiramoto
 Carol Igarashi - IMO Ellen Miyasato
 Anthony & Lei Lum - IMO Wakako Yoshida - 1 year Memorial
 Bob & Joyce Nishita - IMO Satomi Takashiba
 Robert Makinodan
 Brian Brennan
 Kiwanis Club of Kaneohe
 Fred S. Takara, Jr. - Funeral & Inurnment Service
 Candace Teruya on behalf of Evelyn Kuwada

Gary & Annette Tashiro
 Beatrice Kaneshiro
 Dennis & Merle Tashiro
 Bob & Joyce Nishita
 Ronald & Shirley Yanagisawa
 Allen & Prudence Kusano
 Cynthia Rodriguez
 Jennifer Kane
 Masuo & Alice Kino
 Kiyoko Katagihara
 Alan & Rosemary Goto
 Rose Nakata
 Thomas Yagi
 Keiji & Janet Kukino
 Nannette, Joel, & Rose
 Mahine Ganotisi (also Spring Ohigan)
 Jean Fukumoto
 Wayne & Diane Nishikawa
 Paul Tatsuguchi
 Roy & Cynthia Miyamoto
 Greg & Naomi Kaneko
 Ryan Miyamoto
 Misae & Paul Hironaka
 Kenneth & Lillian Kadomoto




Waimanalo Japanese Cemetery Obon Visitation June 12, 2023




SPONSORED BY THE HONOLULU & OAHU HONGWANJI COUNCILS
& THE OFFICE OF BUDDHIST EDUCATION

DIVERSITY & ACCEPTANCE IN BUDDHA'S VOW

NEMBUTSU SEMINAR
SATURDAY, AUGUST 12 - 9:00 - 11:30 AM (HST)
BUDDHIST STUDY CENTER IN-PERSON
OR VIA ZOOM



REV. KO'E A. UMEZU
WEST LOS ANGELES
BUDDHIST TEMPLE



SEMINAR DESCRIPTION

Join us to reflect on what diversity and acceptance means within The Fundamental Vow of Amida Buddha (Hon-gan). The seminar will feature a screening of "A Profound Silence" which was produced by Gardena Buddhist Church Ichi-Mi, followed by a group discussion.

AGENDA:

- 9:00am Welcome/Opening by emcee (5 min)
- 9:05-9:50am Rev. Umezu's presentation/Ichi-Mi project & video (45 min)
- 9:50-10:20am Video: "A Profound Silence" (30 min)
- 10:20-10:30am Break (10 min)
- 10:30-11:00am Breakout Group Discussion (30 min)
- 11:00-11:25am Q&A and *Breakout Group lead share group's discussion highlight (25 min)
- 11:25am Closing/Mahalo (5 min)
- 11:30am Seminar concludes

REV. KO'E A. UMEZU

Rev. Ko'e A. Umezu is an assistant minister and Community Outreach Coordinator at the West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple. She currently resides in Torrance, CA, with her spouse, Marie Miyashiro. Rev. Umezu and Marie are co-presidents of Ichi-Mi, an organization of Jōdo Shinshū Buddhists dedicated to providing a safe space for LGBTQ+ identifying people within the Sangha, their family members, and allies, in order to create conditions for everyone to safely hear the Nembutsu teaching.

DONATIONS ARE WELCOME!

Donations will be given to the **Ichi-Mi Project**. Check payable to **Gardena Buddhist Church** (include Ichi-Mi project in memo line) and mail to: Gardena Buddhist Church
1517 W. 166th St, Gardena, CA 90247

QUESTIONS? CALL MILILANI HONGWANJI OFFICE (808) 625-0925

REGISTRATION IS FREE! / REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

Online Registration Link | <https://forms.gle/N9nCqL14xpviooUf8>
OR Fill out the form below

NAME: _____ TEMPLE/AFFILIATION: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ PHONE (MOBILE): _____

I WILL ATTEND IN - PERSON ONLINE VIA ZOOM

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS SEMINAR? MY TEMPLE (EMAIL OR NEWSLETTER) /
TEMPLE OR OTHER WEBSITE / SOCIAL MEDIA / OTHER

CIRCLE ONE ABOVE OR IF OTHER, PLEASE INDICATE HERE: _____

MAIL TO: MILILANI HONGWANJI,
ATTN: NEMBUTSU SEMINAR, P.O. BOX 893308, MILILANI, HI 96789



Buddhist Flag is flown at WBT. The Kiwanis Club of Kaneohe erected the flagpole. Thank you very much!!



Mahalo to Rev. Bert Sumikawa who donated the Buddhist flag, which he received during a trip to India a few years ago.



Jenna Jaffe graduated from Le Jardin Academy



(Peaches were given to fathers.)



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

BON DANCE IS SATURDAY, JULY 8



We welcome donations of hearty cut flowers (torch ginger, bird of paradise, jade, anthuriums, plumeria) for decoration of the yagura (music stand). **Please bring the flowers on Saturday (7/8) morning by 8:00 a.m.** Here is a picture of one of our uniquely decorated yagura.



Once again, there will be a **Country Market** in the building selling WBT's takuan, baked goods, kokedama plants, beaded bracelets, fabric bags, scrubbies, books, etc. And this year, there will be a **Rummage Sale** section with some Japanese porcelain items, clothing, toys, etc.

Last, but not least, the Jr. YBA of Honolulu will run a shave ice stand and we will have a food concession. WBT's ono andagi (freshly made on site) and dinner plates with barbeque meat, hot dog, homemade potato/mac salad and WBT's takuan, will be waiting for you. See you there!

