

Kalyana Mitra

“Good Friend”

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

January & February 2024

Kailua Hongwanji Mission is doing business as Windward Buddhist Temple

Minister's New Year's Message

Aloha and Happy New Year, everyone!

In this time of wishing joy and peace to all, it is hard to realize that there is hatred and violence halfway around the world. Recently, a statement was made by some leaders from churches in the Nuuanu Valley Interfaith community: "We may feel powerless to make any significant change in generations of conflict we don't even fully understand. We can; however, refuse to accept any expressions of hatred, violence, and antisemitism here, and call upon each other to remember the aloha with which we work and live every day." A statement well taken.

Monshu Kojun Ohtani writes: *"In order for there to be peace. We must first be aware that all things in this world are interconnected. We should care for and value other people's lives as well."* How do we attain peace as we seek in the world today? *In order to help stop problems such as war, terrorism, confrontations between nations and peoples, and political clashing, it is necessary that we first treat others with the same care and respect that we would ourselves."*

December quickly ended another year. Time doesn't stand still as we look to 2024, the Year of the Dragon, to make plans with family, friends and our Sangha.

During 2023 Windward Buddhist Temple (WBT) held many activities as we worked to keep our Hongwanji active and present in the community. One such activity was the Windward Mall Bon Dance last October. Many members and friends helped to make it a success. (We can't forget all the freshly cooked andagi which were in such great demand). It is said that "Teamwork makes the dream work!" Everyone worked selflessly from beginning to end. All sales proceeds were donated to the Maui Wildfires Fund through Hongwanji headquarters. Thank you for your hard work and contributions, which was a reflection of Dana in the truest sense of the word.

It is important to share the Buddha-Dharma whenever we can. When I started at WBT, I was surprised to learn that all WBT Dharma talks are available on YouTube. This is a dynamic way to share the Jodo Shinshu teachings. Kudos to Ryan for his diligence in filming, editing, and posting our talks online so that friends, family, and all those seeking to learn about Buddhism can enjoy being part of our Sangha. Remember, everyone is welcomed into the Sangha just as you are. It is Amida's Vow that reaches out to us and embraces us unconditionally. How fortunate we are to have the Buddha-Dharma as our guide.

The message of the Buddha and Jodo Shinshu is universal. The Buddha wants all people to live a happy and peaceful life. The Shin Buddhist Path is open to anyone. It does not require that you become a monk or nun. It does not require you to give up your home or your job. It does not require you to live in the mountains, or to learn Sanskrit, Chinese, or Tibetan. Man, woman, or child may follow the Shin Buddhist path. If Shin Buddhism is to reach a greater audience in the US and Western world, it will have to elaborate more eloquently, the universality of its teachings and tradition.

Let's continue to share the Dharma through our actions and contributions in the community.

It is with deep gratitude that I thank all of you for the kindness and support I've received. *Okagesama de (thanks to you).*

In gassho,



Rev. Barbara Brennan

January & February 2024



We will continue to post 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	Sunday Service (9:00 a.m.)	Speaker/MC
January 7	Family Service (followed by intergenerational activity)	Speaker: Rev. Barbara Brennan M.C.: Cynthia Rodriguez
14	 HO'ONKO SERVICE (Shinran's Memorial)	Speaker: Rev. Bert Sumikawa M.C.: Neil Yamamoto
21	Family Service	Speaker: Jennifer Kane M.C.: Linda Jaffe
28	Monthly Remembrance Service If you'd like to remember a loved one who passed away in the <u>month of January (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.: Gerald Matsuda
February 4	Family Service (followed by intergenerational activity)	Speaker: Rev. Barbara Brennan M.C.: Naomi Kaneko
11	Dana Day & Pet Memorial Service	Guest Speaker: Cyndi Osajima M.C.: Merle Tashiro
18	NO SERVICE AT WBT Visitation to Hawaii Betsuin (Those who signed-up to carpool, meet at temple 8:30 a.m.)	
25	NIRVANA DAY (Memorial for Shakyamuni Buddha) & Monthly Remembrance Service If you'd like to remember a loved one who passed away in the <u>month of February (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. Bert Sumikawa M.C.: Annette Tashiro

Jan. 7 – 28 Group A (Lisa Fujikawa, lead) in charge of after service refreshments

Feb. 4 – 25 Group B (Dana Arakaki, lead) in charge of after service refreshments



Moving? Please send us an updated address.

Cyndi Osajima
Dana Day/Pet Memorial Service Guest Speaker
February 11, 2024

Cyndi Osajima was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. She moved to Hawaii in 1978.

She has an associate degree in liberal arts from Kapiolani Community College; an undergraduate degree (Sociology) from California State University, Los Angeles and a master's degree in public health, sub-specializing in gerontology (the study of the aging process) from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Cyndi has worked for Project Dana for 30 years and currently serves as its Executive Director. She feels very grateful to be with project Dana and doing what she loves - helping the elderly and family caregivers.



Adopt A Family Program



This holiday season, WBT participated in the Adopt a Family program.

Adopt A FamilySM (AAF) is a seasonal program connecting individuals and families in need with donors in the community. Participants are referred to the program through a network of community partners, and donors make a difference by adopting a family and fulfilling their holiday wishes. Beneficiaries range from the elderly and disabled to single parent

households, domestic violence survivors to veterans, and many others struggling to experience the joys of the season.

WBT's adopted family consisted of a mother and father and their five children, ranging in ages from 5 to 17. A decorated tabletop Christmas tree, toys and \$2,200 in cash and gift cards (Target, Macy's, Foodland, Ross', VISA, Aloha Gas, Big City Diner, and Google Play) were donated. Twenty-two member families and friends of WBT contributed to this worthy cause. Mahalo everyone, for brightening up the holiday for this family. This was truly dana in action!

WBT's fall food drive for the Hawaii Foodbank yielded 195 lbs. of non-perishable food items and \$25 in cash. Your donations were delivered to the food bank in time for the Thanksgiving holiday. Mahalo!



New Temple Member
Edward Diehl

 **Mahalo** 

for your kind monetary donations

Ronald & Shirley Yanagisawa-Remembrance Aug./Sept./Oct.
Tak Ueda - IMO George Morimitsu Ueda
Marjorie Ikeda - IMO Hiroshi Ikeda
Bob & Joyce Nishita - IMO Tadayuki Nishita
Greg & Naomi Kaneko - IMO Emiko Goya
Leslie & Joanne Yamamoto - IMO Sawayo Hiramoto
Gary & Annette Tashiro - IMO Taeko Tashiro
Jennifer Kane - Bodhi Day
Beatrice Kaneshiro - Obon
Kenneth & Loretta Kamei - Fall equinox
Alex McWilliams
Kenneth & Myrna Nishihara

Social Concerns Committee donations (20) were forwarded to Honpa Hongwanji state headquarters.

Etaikyo:

Keiji & Janet Kukino
Stephen & Geraldine Ochikubo
Allen & Prudence Kusano
Greg & Naomi Kaneko

Etaikyo (continued):

Rose Nakata
Kiyoko Katagihara
Marjorie Ikeda
Masuo & Alice Kino
Thomas Yagi
Gary & Annette Tashiro
Cynthia Rodriguez
Ronald & Shirley Yanagisawa
Roy & Cynthia Miyamoto
Paul Tatsuguchi
Beatrice Kaneshiro
Keith & Lisa Fujikawa
Ryan Miyamoto
Wayne & Diane Nishikawa
Bob and Joyce Nishita
Wayne and Sandra Toma
Dennis and Carrie Kawamoto
Kenneth and Lillian Kadomoto
Kenneth and Loretta Kamei

Aloha Everyone,

2023 has passed by quite rapidly. It was another year of interesting, exciting, and fun activities at WBT.

Sunday service attendance has surpassed pre-pandemic levels! The after-service intergenerational craft activities and bingo games are enjoyed by many. Rev. Barbara Brennan delivers most of the dharma messages, with temple lay members and guest speakers rounding out the schedule.

The first Sunday of each month is designated as 1st Sunday Family Service. Dharma messages for these services are geared toward children and families and it is followed by an intergenerational activity.

WBT continues to offer adult dharma classes and in 2023, we have had Spring and Fall-Winter classes led by Rev. Bert Sumikawa. Tai chi and exercise classes are also ongoing. Bon fitness and ikebana classes are two new activities that began in 2023. We encourage everyone to utilize the temple facilities and to take advantage of the activities mentioned and any additional programs that are offered.

In July, we resumed holding a bon dance at the temple. It was a huge success thanks to the hard work of many temple members and friends!

In an effort to become more visible in the windward community, members have participated in social concerns and earth-friendly events. Rev. Brennan and others are involved with a windward interfaith group comprised of several different faith organizations. We also have an aikido club practicing at the temple twice a week.

E komo mai (*welcome*)! We'd like to see you at the Sunday Services and/or participate in WBT activities. Temple greeters and leaders are ready to welcome you and share their aloha at Sunday services.

Mahalo to the members of the WBT Board, temple committees and volunteers for your continued dedicated efforts in supporting the temple.

My best wishes to everyone for a 2024 filled with good health, peace, and happiness.

Thank you and In Gassho,

Dennis Tashiro, President

November & December Intergenerational Activities



Turkeys and Cards



Snowflakes and Trees



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General Membership Luncheon (12/10)



Bodhi Day Service (12/17)

Rev. David (guest speaker) &
Irene Nakamoto

