

Kalyana Mitra

“Good Friend”

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*Kailua Hongwanji Mission
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December 2018

HAPPY HOLIDAYS MESSAGE

As you read this article, all will be anticipating Christmas. Cheers and of “Merry Christmas” or “Happy Holidays” will ring throughout the country.

It is a time of merriment, a time when we give gifts of appreciation to people, and an acknowledgment of the interconnection that we share with each other. It is a truly Buddhist Holiday, when the words “Okagesama de” rings true. This phrase is deeply steeped in Buddhism. It means that through the benefit of the millions of beings and things that I am indebted to, I am able to live this life, this wonderful life that we have, never to be repeated again. When we give, the giver experiences more benefit than the receiver. It is a truly Bodhisattva experience, that what makes others happy will also make me happy.

But there is another side of Christmas that we need to look at, as members of the world society. That is the deep aspiration from time immemorial, from cultures around the globe, a deep wish for Peace on Earth and Goodwill toward men.

A hope that is repeated each year around this time of the year, even in the midst of wars, devastation, famine, racial discrimination, starvation and homelessness. A wish on Christmas cards sent to family, friends and other loved ones.

In a Sutra, it is written that, “In the Pure Land there are many kinds of wondrously rare and beautiful birds of various colors, such as white geese, peacocks, parrots, sarikas, kalavinkas and jivam-jivakas.”

In this story, it is about this strange bird, the jivam-jivakas. This bird lives in the Pure Land and has 2 heads with human faces and 2 minds that share one body.

It sings with such a beautiful voice, a voice that no one has ever heard before. It is said that at one time, there existed one especially beautiful jivam-jivakas bird with beautiful feathers and voice. After a while, both heads began to think that they were the best in the world, and that if only there were only one head, then there would be no doubt as to which head was number one in the world. They envied and hated each other day after day. One day, one head came up with an idea. He mixed poison in another’s food to poison him. Of course, he soon died. However, since they both shared one body, the poison travelled to the other head, and soon both died.

After this event took place, it is said that in the Pure Land, Jivam-javikas sings the following song: “The way to destroy others is the way to destroy myself. Respecting and supporting others is the only way to live in peace.

Don’t we often think, ‘How can I become happier than others?’ But, oftentimes, by thinking of our own happiness, we bring unhappiness to others. In this way, aren’t we pushing our unhappiness on to others unconsciously? The story of the Jivam-javikas is not just a good story, but it is a story that is telling us to reflect on our own lives.

So during this Holiday Season then, let us think of all the gifts that we receive, and especially gift of life itself. Let us realize the true nature of the interdependence we have with one another, even with our pets. And, may we have peace in our hearts not only at this time of the year, but throughout our lives as well.

Namo Amida Butsu

Reverend Bert Sumikawa



December 2018

2	<p align="center">Bodhi Day Service at Higashi Hongwanji Mission <i>Sponsored by the Hawaii Buddhist Council</i> (NO SERVICE at Kailua Hongwanji Mission)</p>	
9	<p>KHM Bodhi Day Service 9:00 a.m.</p> 	<p>Guest Speaker: Rev. Sherman Thompson M.C.: Merle Tashiro</p>
<p align="center">Followed by KHM General Membership Meeting, Installation of 2019 Officers and lunch at New Mui Kwai Restaurant. (A lunch sign-up sheet is at the temple.)</p>		
12	Board Meeting	6:30 p.m. @ the temple
16	<p>Family Service & FIRST SUNDAY ACTIVITY 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Speaker: Rev. Bert Sumikawa M.C.: Allen Kusano</p>
23	<p>Remembrance Service 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Speaker: Rev. Bert Sumikawa M.C.: Fujikawa Family</p>
<p>Monthly Remembrance Day: If you'd like to remember a loved one who passed away in the month of December (of any year), you will be given the opportunity to do so during this service. A sign-up sheet will be available at the reception desk.</p>		
30	<p>Family Service 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Speaker: Prudence Kusano M.C.: Linda Jaffe</p>
<p align="center">Temple Prep: Dec. 1 - Dec. 16 by Team A (Shirley) Dec. 22 - Dec. 31 by Team B (Amy)</p>		



Reverend Bert Sumikawa's availability

Office hours: Reverend Bert will be at the temple on the following days.

Mondays: 3:00-5:30 p.m.

Saturdays: 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Please ring the doorbell or call him on his cell phone. (Unfortunately, we are unable to leave the doors open for security reasons.) All other days/times, available by appointment.

Visitations: Rev. Bert is willing to visit individuals at home, in a hospital, rehabilitation center or nursing home.

Services: He is available for memorial services, funerals, weddings, house "blessings" and more.

Contact Reverend Bert Sumikawa at: (808) 492-7254 or via email bert@sumidds.com



As the upcoming holiday season from Thanksgiving to New Year's approaches, let us take a few moments to be grateful for all that happened to us this year. Here are a few quotations I'd like to share with you on this subject:

- Thank you for the good times, the days you filled with pleasure. Thank you for fond memories, and for feelings I'll always treasure.- Karl Fuchs
- As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. – John F. Kennedy
- Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow. - Melody Beattie
- We often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude. - Cynthia Ozick

----- Jean Fukumoto

Santa's Workshop at Kapiolani Medical Center

KHM Community Service Project

Kailua Hongwanji Mission is collecting items for Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children's Santa's Workshop, which provides presents to hospitalized patients.



They are looking for **new** and **unwrapped** gifts for hospitalized keiki and their siblings ages newborn to 21 years and also for moms-to-be who are on bed rest. Items should be non-toxic. No food or plush (stuffed animal) items. Gifts are distributed not only during the holidays but year round.

Suggested items: infant rattles, balls, Lego kits, cars, trucks, Play-doh and tools. Also, for moms: robes, house slippers, toiletries, craft items, puzzles. For general items: gift cards \$10-\$30 (for Amazon, Target, Walmart, VISA, restaurants or grocery stores); Craft kits for all ages, crayons, markers, books for infants & toddlers, etc. Another option is to write a check to Kailua Hongwanji and give it to our Treasurer or Joy Nishida (*please note on it: For Santa Workshop Project*).

Please bring them to temple Sundays (up to December 16) or on December 20, 6-9 p.m. Mahalo.



Dinner & Movie Night
November 11, 2018



Activities Corner

FAMILY SUNDAY ACTIVITY

Providing Dharma Education is a primary goal of Kailua Hongwanji Mission. We have planned family activities focused on providing fun activities for youngsters. Please join us the first Sunday of each month:



December's Activity Holiday Ornament

November Activity: Planting Amaryllis and Making Thankful Cards!



TAI CHI

Tai Chi classes continue at the temple as follows: **Tuesday 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**
Friday 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

If you're interested and have not already signed up for tai chi class, please contact Dennis Tashiro by email at dhtashiro@gmail.com or call 226-0339.

GARDENING

Gardening class will be on Sunday, **Dec. 9, 2018** at 2:00 p.m. There is no sign up – everyone is welcome to attend.

EXERCISING, STRENGTHENING & WALKING



Tuesdays & Thursdays
8:30 a.m. at the temple

MEDITATION - Mondays 6:30-7:30 pm

Guided meditation, walking meditation and offering of incense, and chanting of a sutra. Followed by a short "talk story" section. Meditation is conducted by Rev. Dr. Bert M. Sumikawa.

IKEBANA

Ikebana classes are suspended until further notice.



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE



1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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November 2018

ANNUAL APPRECIATION GATHERING FOR THE RETIRED MINISTERS AND THEIR SPOUSES

The annual appreciation gathering for the Retired Ministers and their spouses was held on November 7, 2018. 11 retired ministers and spouses attended this year's gathering. The Opening Service was held at the Pacific Buddhist Academy Founders' Hall. It became an opportunity for some participants to see the new school building after its completion last year. At the service, Bishop Eric Matsumoto and Mr. Pieper Toyama expressed their appreciation on behalf of the current active ministers and the members of HHMH. This service was also dedicated to the late Rev. Kenjyo Ohara who passed away this year. After the service, Mr. Josh Hernandez Morse, the Head of School, showed the school building.



COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS

Western Japan Flood Relief Fund

Thank you very much for your generous donations to the Western Japan Flood Relief Fund special collection. A total of \$21,628 has been collected and was sent to Honzan to support Hongwanji temples and members who were impacted by this disaster.

2018-2019 Social Concerns Fund Drive

The 2018-2019 Social Concerns Fund Drive have begun and once again we humbly ask for your support on this annual fund drive. A list of the donations that have been distributed in 2018 will be included with the Committee on Social Concerns annual report provided to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Legislative Assembly.

Donation to Project Dana



A donation of \$2,112 was made to Project Dana for financial assistance to Maria Morales, a University of Hawaii at Manoa graduate student and Project Dana's Caring for the Caregiver Support Group Coordinator, to attend the Health, Wellness, and Society Conference 2018. The conference was held at Imperial College London held on September 20-21, 2018. Dr. Michael Cheang, Associate Professor of University of Hawaii at Manoa, Human Development and Family Studies, and Rose Nakamura, Founding Administrator of Project Dana, also attended the conference and they presented the research and data which was completed with Project Dana's Support Group members. After the conference, Cyndi Osajima, Project Dana Executive Director, and Maria attended the Committee on Social Concerns meeting on November 3rd and Maria provided a report on the conference to the committee members.

Donation presentation by Dean Sakamoto, Chair, Committee on Social Concerns, to Cyndi Osajima, Project Dana Executive Director

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☸ ***Mahalo*** ☸

for your kind monetary donations

Brandon Tanaka – House blessing

Stanford Oyama – Funeral & 49 day service for Kazuko Oyama

Jennifer Kane in appreciation of KHM President Prudence Kusano & our Sangha

Betty Morimoto – KHM 50th Anniversary

Jo Ann Yamane

26 donations were received for the Honpa Hongwanji Social Concerns Committee