

Kalyana Mitra

“Good Friend”

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

December 2019

Kailua Hongwanji Mission is doing business as Windward Buddhist Temple

TEMPLE BELLS

As we approach the Holiday Season and the much-anticipated New Year, our thoughts often turn to the ringing of the temple bell in commemoration of the “Big Event.” A few temples around the State have a huge bell called “*bonsho*,” called “*tsurigane*” or “*Ogane*.” These are often found in temples throughout the Japanese archipelago. These are struck by a beam suspended on ropes. On Oahu, it is found at the Wahiawa Hongwanji, Waialua Hongwanji and at the Byodo-in at the Valley of the Temples Memorial Park in Kaneohe.

Reportedly, temple bells started in China and was brought to Japan via Korea in the 6th century. The oldest existing large bell in Japan is located at the Myoshin Temple in Kyoto. It was made in 698 in Fukuoka Prefecture. The primary purpose of this bell was to let people know that a special temple service was about to begin. There were other reasons as well. For example, the sound of the temple bell gave solace to those with spiritual problems and was a gift of peace and serenity.

Then, too, a temple bell was used in the past to let people know the time of the day, and the bell would be struck at certain times of the day by the resident priest of the temple.

As people heard the ringing of the temple bell, they would then rush to the temple in time for the beginning of the service. There is a certain sequence to the ringing of the temple bell, depending on whether it was for a regular service, funeral, or a wedding. That was the way it was in former times, and is very nostalgic for the elderly, as they would envision people greeting each other as they approached the temple door. I recall many times as a child living in Pearl City before the war, when as the temple bell rang, people would greet each other as they approach the temple with a deep bow and exchange greetings that for a child my age thought that it took so long and sometimes unnecessary before entering the temple.

Soon, on December 31 people will again likely attend late evening services at their respective temples and take their turn in striking the temple bell at midnight or close to it. With the arrival of the New Year, the bell is struck 108 times symbolically relieving ourselves of the 108 evil passions of human nature.



In Jodo Shinshu however, the striking of the temple bell at midnight is a way for us to express our true gratitude and appreciation to Amida Buddha for his great Wisdom and Compassion, the guidance we receive through Infinite Light and Infinite Life. We also acknowledge with deep appreciation for the gift of life we all enjoy and for the countless benevolences bestowed upon us by our fellow beings, plants and animal life.

Namu Amida Butsu.

Rev. Bert Sumikawa



December 2019

1	<h2>BODHI DAY SERVICE</h2> <p>Speaker: Rev. Bert Sumikawa M.C.: Stephen Ochikubo</p>  <p><i>Temple Members: Service will be followed by the Annual General Membership Meeting at the temple. Sign up for 11:30 a.m. Lunch at Yen Yen Chinese Cuisine restaurant in Enchanted Lake Shopping Center</i></p>		
8	<p>No Service at WBT</p> <p><i>Hawaii Buddhist Council's Bodhi Day Service</i></p>	<p>At Hawaii Betsuin 9:30 a.m. Guest Speaker: Dr. Manulani Aluli Meyer</p>	
11	<p>Board Meeting – <i>(Special Training at 5:00 p.m)</i></p>		<p>6:30p.m. meeting begins @ the temple</p>
15	<p>Family Service 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Speaker: Rev. David Nakamoto M.C.: Linda Jaffe</p>	
22	<p>Monthly Remembrance Service 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Speaker: Rev. Bert Sumikawa M.C.: Jennifer Kane</p>	
<p>Remembrance: 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>			
29	<p>Family Service 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Speaker: Katsumi Takemoto M.C.: Naomi Kaneko</p>	

Temple Prep: Dec. 1-8, 2019 -Team Ginger (Shirley)

Dec. 15-29, 2019 to Jan. 5, 2020 - Team Pikake (Prudence)



Project Dana is distributing collapsible water jugs in collaboration with the Board of Water Supply and the State of Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. The collapsible container will hold up to 2-1/2 gallons of water and can be filled at the kitchen faucet. The instructions on filling and cleaning the container is printed on the container so it can never be lost! I will have a supply at the temple for 1 jug per household. If you need more, please give me a call at 247-0514. Further information on the project can be obtained from the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, Ms. Marsha Tamura at 733-4301 ext. 549.

----- Jean Fukumoto

Activities Corner

- No Inter-Generational Activity in December
- Dharma School on winter break. Classes resume in January 2020

Nov. Activity: Thanksgiving Cards



EXERCISING, STRENGTHENING & WALKING



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

Note: No Classes on Dec. 3, 5 & 10

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.

LAST GARDENING CLASS!



Instructor, Mats Okamoto, will be holding his last gardening class on Sunday, **Dec. 8, 2019** at 2:00 p.m. Thank you Mats!

MEDITATION

Mondays 6:30-7:30 pm

Meditation Sessions will be suspended for the month of December and will commence in January 2020.



IKEBANA

(Flower Arranging)

This month's Ikebana classes are on **Dec. 7 & 21** at 1:30 p.m. at the temple. Cost is \$5 per class plus the cost of the flowers/foilage (\$5-8). Instructor needs a count of participants as flowers are purchased for each class.

SAVE THIS DATE: January 7, 2020
Windward Interfaith Service
(Details will be in the January newsletter.)

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

 ***Mahalo*** 

for your kind monetary donations

Charlene Ono for Obon

Roy & Cynthia Miyamoto in memory of Donna Yonamine

Margaret Fujikawa, Keith, Lisa, Emma & Wyatt Fujikawa IMO Yoshiro Harada, Tamejiro & Kenji Imai

Tony & Lei Lum in memory of Dr. Alvin Yoshida

Hongwanji Mission School for Bon Dance

Russell & Dana Arakaki in memory of Mitsue Miyamoto

Ryu & Ruby Nagao

Yoshiaki & Kyoko Kimura, Isao & Susan Asada, in memory of Sumie Asada

Bob & Joyce Nishita in memory of Tadayuki Nishita

Eitaikyo Donations: Paul Tatsuguchi, Ronald & Shirley Yanagisawa, Jean Fukumoto, Roy & Cynthia Miyamoto, Ryan Miyamoto

AI Bloom Memorial Lecture: Rhea Alexander McWilliams III, Sam & Lily Domingo

19 Social Concerns Donations, to be sent to Headquarters to the Social Concerns Committee