

Kalyana Mitra

“Good Friend”

A Monthly Publication
Volume 53 Issue 5



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

Sept. & Oct. 2021

Kailua Hongwanji Mission is doing business as Windward Buddhist Temple

Autumn Ohigan

I'm sure you are as disappointed as I am, that after over 18 months of not having *live* services at temple, the Covid-19 pandemic continues to prevent us from getting together. Although plans are on hold, we look forward to the time when we can be together as a Sangha once again.

This month, we are observing one of the six major services of the Hongwanji - *Ohigan* or Equinox, which occurs twice a year; once in Spring and then in Fall. It is a time when the length of the day and night are equal in length, and the world feels in balance and in comfortable harmony. The sun rises directly from the East and sets directly in the West. It is supposedly the most comfortable time of the year. But this Ohigan it may be difficult for us to realize and experience this with the trying times and the differing and conflicting views of how to resolve the predicament we are currently experiencing.

Ohigan teaches us two different mindsets. 1) This Shore, is living in the past, or pondering too much on the future. 2) The Other Shore, is living life as it comes. Buddhism challenges us to see that living a full and meaningful life is up to each of us and it starts by paying attention to and experiencing each moment of our lives.

Ohigan in Jodo Shinshu is called *Sanbutsu-e* or *Gathering to Praise the Buddha* -- Let us all gather, albeit virtually, during this season of Ohigan to praise Amida Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion which leads us to the Other Shore and appreciate all that has been given to us as we reflect on our lives and our interdependence with all of life itself, which is another way we can view Ohigan. Through the realization of interdependence we become truly embraced by the Buddha, which is what *Namo Amida Butsu* really means.

I would like to share a poem to keep in mind as we go through our daily lives and struggles. I feel it depicts what Ohigan is all about - reflecting on the concept of interdependence, *pratitya samutpada*. "Just Right" is a poem written by Goromatsu Maekawa, a devout Jodo Shinshu Buddhist and translated by Rev. Dr. Kenneth Tanaka in his book, *Oceans*.

You, as you are, you are just right.
Your face, body, name, surname,
For you, they are just right.

Whether poor or rich
Your parents, your children,
Your daughter-in-law, your grandchildren
They are, all for you, just right.

Happiness, unhappiness, joy and even sorrow
For you, they are just right.

Whether you go to hell or to the Pure Land
Wherever you go is just right.

Nothing to boast about, nothing to feel bad about,
Nothing above, nothing below,
Even the day and month that you die,
Even they are just right.

The Life in which you walk together with Amida,
There is no way that it can't be just right.

When you receive your life as just right,
Then a deep and profound faith begins to open up.

Let us be mindful during Ohigan to praise Amida Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion that leads all of us to the Other Shore of Enlightenment and appreciate the Utmost Happiness of Amida Buddha.

Namu Amida Butsu.

Rev. Bert Sumikawa

Sept. & Oct. 2021



Although there are NO in-person services being held at Windward Buddhist Temple, we do offer Sunday Services that start at 9:00 a.m. and are accessible 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	Speaker
Sept. 5	Family Service – Rev. Bert Sumikawa
12	Family Service – Guest Speaker: Ernie Morikubo, Moiliili Hongwanji Member
19	International Peace Day Service – Rev. Bert Sumikawa
26	<p>Autumn Ohigan & Monthly Remembrance Service</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Rev. Marcos Sawada of Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji</p> <p>If you'd like to remember a loved one who passed away in the <u>month of September</u> or (of <u>any year</u>), you will be given the opportunity to do so during this service. Please email the person's name and photo, if available, to Rev. Sumikawa at bertsumi@gmail.com OR mail the information and photo (optional) to Rev. Sumikawa at Windward Buddhist Temple 268-A Kuulei Rd. Kailua, HI 96734 by Sunday, September 19, 2021)</p>
Oct. 3	Family Service – Prudence Kusano
10	Family Service – Rev. Bert Sumikawa
17	Family Service – Jennifer Kane
24	<p>Monthly Remembrance Service – Rev. Bert Sumikawa</p> <p>If you'd like to remember a loved one who passed away in the <u>months of October</u> (of <u>any year</u>), you will be given the opportunity to do so during this service. Please email the person's name and photo, if available, to Rev. Sumikawa at bertsumi@gmail.com OR mail the information and photo (optional) to Rev. Sumikawa at Windward Buddhist Temple 268-A Kuulei Rd. Kailua, HI 96734 by Sunday, October 17, 2021)</p>
31	Family Service – Dennis Tashiro



New WBT Members:

*Edwin & Amy
Miyamoto*

Reverend Marcos Jinen Sawada

Autumn Ohigan Guest Speaker
(9/26/2021)



Rev. Marcos Jinen Sawada hails from Sao Palo, Brazil. He comes from a temple family where both parents served as Buddhist ministers.

Rev. Sawada is a graduate of Sao Paulo University in Brazil with a degree in Physical Education. After working in various vocations (as an educator, sports and events coordinator and owning his own business) he moved to Japan. There, he taught Portuguese language as well as served as a translator/interpreter for some government agencies.

In 2009 he received his tokudo ordination at Higashi Hongwanji, Otani Sect of Shin Buddhism to be a priest. He then studied Buddhism at Doho University in Nagoya to receive his minister's license in 2011.

Rev. Sawada first worked at Higashi Hongwanji's Honzan (headquarter temple) in Kyoto before being assigned as resident minister at Hilo Higashi Hongwanji Mission in September 2012. Since February 2021, he's relocated to Oahu and serves as the resident minister at Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji.

Rev. Sawada is married to his wife Norma and has a teenage son Nathan.

Ernie Morikubo

Guest Speaker (9/12/2021)

Ernie Morikubo was born in Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan. When he was 6 years old, the family relocated to Hawaii. Initially they settled in the Moiliili area, across from the old Moiliili Park. Then when he was 12, they moved to Manoa.

Ernie graduated from Roosevelt High School and attended the University of Hawaii.

His family was deeply religious and Ernie intended to become a minister of the Jodo Shinshu tradition. But his father became ill and he decided to take over the family's Pacific Woolen business. Ernie is an active member of the Moiliili Hongwanji Buddhist Temple as is his sister Norio who is their organist. His brother who lives in Seattle is a past president of the Seattle Betsuin.

Ernie is an accomplished guitarist and a member of the 808 Caravan group.



WBT Bon Dance Bento Sale

August 22, 2021



Dear Members and Friends,

It has been 18 months since we closed our temple due to COVID-19. It has been a challenging time for all of us. With the availability of vaccines and the decreasing number of cases we were excitedly looking forward to having live services in September. However, as much as we are eager to return to “normal” with the increasing cases due to new variants of the virus, the WBT Board has decided that we will postpone reopening of the temple to protect all of us.



The purpose of this letter is to update you by sharing some of the opportunities that the pandemic has created for us.

- Weekly on-line Sunday service began in August 2020. Since the temple was closed for Sunday service, we decided to bring the Dharma to you. This required many of us to learn new skills to record and post the weekly Sunday services. Many of you and others from the mainland and other countries have been tuning in to the weekly services link. In this way the pandemic has allowed us to spread the Dharma far and wider than we have ever been able to do so in the traditional format. We hope to continue on-line services to allow those who have been relying on our weekly service the opportunity to continue their Nembutsu path with us.
- On-line Dharma education has flourished during the pandemic. WBT has conducted virtual Adult Dharma Classes that reached people who live outside of the Windward area. Many temples in Hawaii and on the mainland have also made available virtual Dharma education. Those of you who have access to a computer will find many opportunities to hear various Dharma messages, from New York, California, all the neighbor island temples, the Buddhist Study Center and the Buddhist Churches of America.
- The use of the computer and technology has allowed the usual conferences such as the Lay Convention to continue virtually. More people across the State have been able to “attend” these virtual conferences since the cost of travel and housing was replaced by a free connection through the use of Zoom and other virtual means. These methods have allowed many to feel safe in their own homes and be able to take part in these conferences.
- Rev. Sumikawa led a limited group of people to conduct an Obon service at the Waimanalo Japanese Cemetery which is on the Marine Corp land. It was an opportunity for people with family members still buried there to visit them after many years. Hawaii Herald newspaper had an article about this visit.
- During this time the Board continued to meet virtually to ensure that necessary regulatory requirements, finances, and other obligations were met while keeping the Board members safe.

Fund raising has also been on-line. The WBT Country Store items were posted on the WBT website. In July takuan was sold and in August WBT bon dance dinnerplates were also sold.

The Board will continue to monitor the number of COVID cases and restrictions to determine when it is safe to return to live services. While you are sheltering in place, you can talk with Rev. Sumikawa for spiritual support by calling him at 492-7254. He is available to share the Dharma with you. Until the next time, please continue to be safe.

In Gassho,

Prudence Kusano, President
Windward Buddhist Temple

☸ *Mahalo* ☸

for your kind monetary donations

Memorial & Various Donations:

Suzanne Yanagisawa
Gilbert Miyasato
Edwin and Carol Igarashi
Allen and Prudence Kusano
Shinsato Engineering Inc.
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Jean Carroll
Dennis and Merle Tashiro
Ruby Nagao
Gary and Annette Tashiro
Rev. Bert Sumikawa
Shizue Miyasato
M/M Yoshiaki Kimura
Isao Asada and family
Florence Wasai
Natasha Parker

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David Kagawa
Thomas Yagi
Patsy Michihara
Julia Kusumoto
Gary Kimata
M/M Dean Sumikawa
Faye Yamauchi
M/M Paul Hironaka
Carolyn Towata



Bon Dance Bento Sale

Windward Buddhist Temple held its first ever “Bon Dance Bento Sale” on August 22, 2021. We are happy to inform you that 138 bentos were ordered and prepared.

A dedicated group of temple volunteers worked diligently to enable us to fill the orders. Mahalo to the following “crew” members:

Naomi Kaneko
Allen & Prudence Kusano
Roy & Cynthia Miyamoto
Ryan Miyamoto

Joyce Nishita
Stephen & Gerry Ochikubo
Cynthia Rodriguez
Gary & Annette Tashiro

Dennis & Merle Tashiro
Gary Yamamoto
Ron & Shirley Yanagisawa

The primary purpose of this sale was two-fold. Although this was a fundraising project, the focus was also on working together as a Sangha and reconnecting with our temple friends. Whether as a volunteer or as a purchaser, everyone had an opportunity to see one another – even if it was just for a brief moment.



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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Phone: (808) 522-9200 Fax: (808) 522-9209

Web: www.hongwanjihawaii.com Email: hqs@honpahi.org



August 2021

NEW STATEWIDE NEWSLETTER

We anticipate publishing a statewide newsletter for the Hawaii Kyodan with the first issue in late October 2021. The name for our newsletter will be ***Ka Leo Kāhea*** (The Calling Voice), a reference to our Shin Buddhist teaching that reminds us of “Namo Amida Butsu” which is the voice/sound of Amida calling to us and at the same time, it is our voice calling to Amida in response to Amida’s calling voice. This newsletter will inform us and connect us with every member of our statewide Sangha.

Bishop Eric Matsumoto, President Tamamoto and the newsletter team invite submissions to the ***Ka Leo Kāhea***. Our “readership” will be our Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Sangha (approximately 4,200 members).

Save the Date – September

2nd Annual Ring Your Bell for PEACE DAY

Dates: Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Times: 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. (HST)

Platform: Zoom

Register: <http://www.hongwanjihawaii.com/peaceday2021>

For questions, contact Rene Mansho, HHMH Peace Day Committee Chair, phone: 808-291-6151, / renemansho@hawaii.rr.com

For more detail, please check the July HQ Update.

YESS CAMP 39

Dear Hongwanji ‘Ohana, we’re very excited to announce “YESS Camp 39%”!

You must be wondering what’s up with 39%? Well, it’s because we’re using YESS Camp 39 as the platform to transport you (or your kids/nieces/nephews/grandkids) to a magical world of self-discovery and interdependence, just like Platform 9 ¾ in Harry Potter! When students arrive at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft & Wizardry they put on the mystical sorting hat, which reveals their most important character traits and sorts them into different houses. Through experienced speakers and fun activities, we hope to morph into the sorting hat, helping campers discover their important character traits too. We will then take it a step further and discover how knowing oneself can help improve teamwork abilities and interdependence; important skills when taking on daunting tasks like defeating Lord Voldemort or finishing a group science project.

When and where is this magical journey taking place? Camp will be held virtually on **October 23-24, 2021!** Registration is online at yesscamp.com **late registration ends 9/12/21**, so sign up early!

Early registration price is \$10 for one day or \$15 for both days. We also have a special for early registration: If campers refer 3 friends, and all 3 friends sign up before the early registration deadline, their registration is FREE! Yes, we said FREE! So please help us spread the word! We look forward to a magical, fun, enlightening camp!

For questions/more information, please contact yesscamp@honpahi.org

Gratefully,

Dwight Matsuo & Cristina Gervais, YESS Camp 39 Co-chairs

P.S. You can check out the YESS Camp Instagram account for exciting updates and important information

Windward Buddhist Temple
268-A Kuulei Road
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WBT Bon Dance Bento Sale
(more photos in this issue)

