

Kalyana Mitra

“Good Friend”

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Windward Buddhist Temple
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Nov./Dec. 2022

Kailua Hongwanji Mission is doing business as Windward Buddhist Temple

Bodhi Day

The word “Bodhi” is a Sanskrit term signifying the illumination or awakening through which one’s blind ignorance, illuminated by wisdom-light, loses its negative power, thus ending one’s suffering in life. It is like seeing a new day as the sun rises above the ocean over the horizon.

Prince Siddhartha left the palace and all the trappings of a princely life and set out on a long journey in search of a path that would lead to the end of suffering. For six years, he sought teachers that would give him the answer, but he failed to find the means to liberate man from the suffering of birth, old age, sickness and death.

After crossing the Nairanjana River, he entered into a retreat in the Village of Uruvilva where he began to take up his ascetic practices. Despite religious austerities, which made him into nothing but skin and bone, he still found no light to illuminate his dark mind. The Prince, however, realized that he was not able to attain true wisdom in a weak and emaciated body and drank milk that was offered him.

Upon regaining his strength, the prince went to a place that was later referred to as Buddha-gaya. A young boy offered him some fresh grass for him to sit on. There, he sat under a Pippala tree and made a firm resolution that he would not rise from his seat until he attained enlightenment. He entered into a quiet meditation to learn the true nature of himself. There, Mara, the evil one, appeared and attempted to stop him from attaining the path to his goal, but the Prince remained steadfast. He continued his meditation, disposed of Mara and finally attained enlightenment, and became the Buddha. Who is Mara? He is not a mysterious supernatural being. It is none other than himself, his own illusion of himself that prevents one from seeing the true nature of things. He then revealed his first sermon at Deer Park, near Benares, known as the Four Noble Truths.

Bodhi Day is also a time for us to reflect on our own lives. As we think deeply on the life of Shakyamuni Buddha and his awakening, we can also look at how our lives have been impacted, enabling us to live our lives in deep gratitude and appreciation for what has been given us through the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha.

Like Siddhartha, we should find time to calm our hearts and minds and allow ourselves to reflect upon our actions and their consequences and take responsibility for our lives. We can learn from others, by receiving inspiration from their successes and reflect upon the vast and marvelous workings of the Dharma.

In observing Bodhi Day, let us all reflect on our own lives and express gratitude to Amida Buddha that in spite of our shortcomings it is through the spirit of the Nembutsu that we are delivered.

On another note, I will be ending my active ministry with the Windward Buddhist Temple on January 1, 2023. It has been a wonderful almost 5 years serving you. I began here in December of 2007 as a kaikyoushi-ho and was re-assigned to the Kapolei Buddhist Sangha 8 months later. I returned to WBT in March of 2018 as a retired kaikyoushi. It has been quite an experience for me here and I am thankful for the support I received, as we follow on the Nembutsu path together. I will still be connected to the WBT as its supervising minister for Rev. Barbara Brennan, as she begins her ministry on November 1 and will continue to be responsible for all major services, funerals and weddings.

May Amida’s Light continue to shine upon all of you.

Namo Amida Butsu.

Rev. Bert Sumikawa

Nov. & Dec. 2022



Services will be posted online 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	Service	Speaker/MC
Nov. 6	Intergenerational Sunday/Veteran's Day	Speaker: Rev. Barbara Brennan M.C.: Linda Jaffe
13	ETAIKYO Special Service	Guest Speaker: Rev. Kojun Hashimoto M.C.: Gerald Matsuda
20	Family Service	Guest Speaker: Rev. Bert Sumikawa M.C.: Annette Tashiro
27	Monthly Remembrance Service If you'd like to remember a loved one who passed away in the <u>month of November (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.: Fujikawas
Dec. 4	NO SERVICE at WBT (Hawaii Buddhist Council Bodhi Day Service to be held at Jodo Mission of Hawaii, 1429 Makiki St., Honolulu 96814, 9:30 a.m.)	
11	BODHI DAY Special Service	Speaker: Rev. Barbara Brennan M.C.: Merle Tashiro
----- Annual WBT General Membership Meeting (Refer to related article on page 8.)		
18	Monthly Remembrance Service If you'd like to remember a loved one who passed away in the <u>month of December (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.: Shirley Yanagisawa
25	NO SERVICE	
After Service Refreshments	Nov. 6:	Group C (Merle Tashiro, lead) in charge of after service refreshments.
	Nov. 13 to 27 th :	Group A (Lisa Fujikawa, lead) in charge of after service refreshments.
	Dec. 11 & 18:	Group B (Dana Arakaki, lead) in charge of after service refreshments.



The refreshment teams are welcoming volunteers who wish to participate in providing refreshments after Sunday services.

Teams rotate on a 4-week schedule and in essence are called upon once a quarter. By working together, you can help build a stronger Sangha at WBT! Please contact Prudence Kusano (808)262-9319 if you're interested or would like more information about the refreshment teams.

Rev. Kojun Hashimoto
Etaikyo Special Service Guest Speaker
Nov. 13, 2022



Reverend Kojun Hashimoto hails from Shiga Prefecture in Japan.

In 1997, Reverend Hashimoto graduated from Ryukoku University in Kyoto, Japan.

He then served at Kagoshima Betsuin until 2003 when he moved to Hawaii to serve the Honpa Hongwanji Missions of Hawaii. His first assignment was at the Hawaii Betsuin on Oahu and then to Kauai at West Kauai Hongwanji. Reverend Hashimoto currently serves as the resident minister at Wahiawa Hongwanji on Oahu.

Reverend Hashimoto's wife, Takako, is an instructor of Japanese conversation (*Shodo*). They have two children, Kanno (22) and Shoshi (20).

Congratulations WBT CMLAs!

The Honpa Honwanji Missions of Hawaii has a Certified Minister's Lay Assistant (CMLA) program. Volunteer lay temple members complete a training course at the Buddhist Study Center and also receive additional instruction from their temple minister.

Earlier this year, four (4) members of WBT received their certifications as Certified Minister's Lay Assistants. They are (L-R): Keiji Kukino, Prudence Kusano, Dennis Tashiro and Cynthia Rodriguez.



Currently, WBT has two additional candidates who are on the path to CMLA certification.



New Temple Members

Natasha Lopes
Myles Yamamoto



October 16 to November 13, 2022
Non-perishable items are being
collected at the temple.

WBT President's Message

December 31, 2022 will be my last day as the President of WBT. It has been a challenging and rewarding five years.

I began my first term in 2018 as we welcomed many people to join us at the temple's 50th anniversary service and luncheon. We had a new name: *Windward Buddhist Temple*. This gave the Sangha a boost of energy as we embarked on new activities at the temple and more people began to attend Sunday services. It was not unusual to have 50 people on Sundays enjoying the Dharma together. Then came March 15, 2020, with the country and city closing any large gathering in its effort to contain the spread of COVID. As Buddhists, we braved the pandemic knowing that nothing is permanent—even the pandemic. If we keep a positive attitude and challenge ourselves to find ways to continue sharing the Dharma, time will pass and so will COVID. We adopted the government guidelines to keep ourselves safe. Many of us learned new things such as using *Zoom* on the computer for WBT Board meetings and to participate in virtual Buddhist education sessions. We began to video tape weekly services and share them through YouTube. This allowed us to reach many members, former members, friends, and relatives who do not live in Hawaii as they accessed services from the safety of their homes. We reached people who are now active members of the temple, all because we continued our work to spread the Dharma, in any way we could.



Although my term as President would have ended in December 2020, I agreed to do another term to see WBT through the pandemic with hopes that by the end of 2022 the pandemic would end and WBT could return to “normal”. Although COVID is still evolving and challenging the drug companies to develop new drugs, our Sangha has been back to live services for almost a year which is as close to “normal” for now. (There are 40+ participants at Sunday services!)

I am grateful to my predecessors who kept this temple relevant for its members; to those who educated and supported me in learning about and growing into the role as President; to the dedicated Board and Committee members; and to the many volunteers who work together to make WBT a thriving, warm, welcoming place. To all the people who let me walk along with you on this Nembutsu path, thank you for making the past 5 years memorable ones.

----- Prudence Kusano



Aloha Windward Buddhist Temple members! My name is Barbara Brennan. I will be your part-time minister beginning November 1, 2022. During the transition period, Rev. Bert Sumikawa will continue to be an important mentor, familiarizing me with the duties that are involved in being your minister.

I grew up in Mesa, Arizona. My family and relatives were devout Jodo Shinshu followers. I attended “Sunday School,” was a member of the Junior YBA at the Arizona Buddhist Temple and was a Sunday school teacher during high school.

After graduating from the University of Arizona with a major in Asian studies, I was a flight attendant with Pan Am, which is what brought me to Honolulu in the late 1960s. I received my Masters in American Studies at the University of Hawai'i and later a dental hygienist certification. That became my vocation for 30 years – helping patients improve their oral health until my retirement in 2010.

As a member of Hawai'i Betsuin, I've been a Dharma School teacher, BWA member and was a volunteer and trainer with Project Dana. In July 2016, I attended Tokudo training in Kyoto, Japan. I've also served on Kyodan's Propagation Grant committee, and prior to the pandemic organized a Buddhist information series at a senior residence in Honolulu.

Now I have this wonderful opportunity to become a part of the Windward Buddhist Temple. You are a very active and dedicated Sangha who I will look to for support and to learn from as I begin this new role. I look forward to getting to know you and to sharing the Dharma with you and the windward community.

In gratitude, Barbara Brennan

Windward Mall Bon Dance Festival

Windward Buddhist Temple (WBT) partnered with Windward Mall in Kaneohe for their Bon Dance Festival held on Saturday, October 1, 2022. Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji also took part in the community event that ran from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This was the second year WBT participated in the Mall's bon dance festival.

The bon dance drew a huge crowd to Windward Mall. Many spectators joined in the dancing, especially when the live music was performed. For some it was “*natsukashi*” (nostalgic) – a reminder of dancing when they were teenagers, perhaps on the neighbor islands.

The WBT “sales area” featured numerous foods such as *andagi* freshly made on site, various homemade baked goods, our loved *takuan* and *bitter melon namasu*. WBT members also made nenju, greeting cards and framed bodhi leaves for sale. A popular item, especially among the children, were the fans that could be colored and personalized. As a side note. . .the demand for the *andagi* was so great that it created an extensive line. We were grateful that our customers were very patient and understanding. A BIG MAHALO to the members, family and friends that made this event a success!



⚓ *Mahalo* ⚓

for your kind monetary donations

Autumn Ohigan (Equinox)

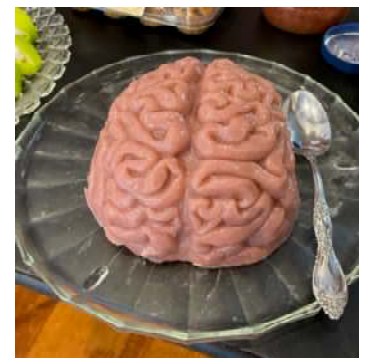
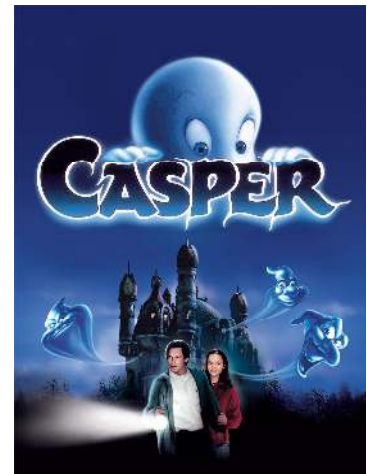
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Other Donations

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Nancy Kikuchi - Obon
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Matthew Stewart
Thomas Agyemang
Irene Ahlo - IMO Mrs. Miyuki Masuda
Family of Miyuki Masuda - Funeral
Family of Tatsuo & Chisawo Watanabe - Inurnment
Samuel Cox & Barbara Ripple
Claude Shelverton

Dinner & A Movie Night!

WBT held a free dinner and a movie night at the temple on Saturday, October 15, 2022. The evening began with dinner of pizza, salads, fried chicken and homemade desserts. It was followed by the showing of the movie "Casper"





Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE



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

September 2022

2022 KAUAI HONGWANJI COUNCIL NEMBUTSU SEMINAR

Kauai Hongwanji Council will host a **Zoom Nembutsu seminar with Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji on Friday, November 18, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** The topic is "A Look at Shinran Shonin's Life and Thought." Registration is required. Please go to the link (<https://forms.gle/52xuXUflDuCuXh1PA>) and fill out the information. When you complete the seminar registration, you will receive an automatic confirmation email from Google forms. Registration deadline is Friday, November 11. Maximum capacity is 100 people, first come first serve. We will email you a Zoom link three days prior to the seminar. Registration fee is free but donations can be made to "Kauai Hongwanji Council ". If you have any questions, please contact any of the Kauai temples.

Description:

Shinran Shonin, the founder of the Jodo Shinshu school of Buddhism, sought enlightenment while practicing as a Tendai monk on Mt. Hiei. But as we look at the various episodes that develop in his life, we will come to see how he gradually turns over to the Great Working of Amida Buddha. How did this happen? What does this mean? What can it mean for us?

In this seminar, he will provide possible interpretations as to how certain events in Shinran's life helped to shape his religious thought. In addition, we will look at some of his writings and review the key points in his teaching, which will bring forth to light just how significant his contribution was to the development of Buddhism as a whole.

TEMPLE CELEBRATION

November 13, 2022	West Kauai Hongwanji Mission 25 th Anniversary
November 20, 2022	Puna Hongwanji Mission 120 th Anniversary
The year of 2022	Aiea Hongwanji Mission 120 th Anniversary
The year of 2022	Buddhist Study Center 50 th Anniversary

National Faith & Blue Service

On October 23, 2022, WBT hosted a Law Enforcement Appreciation Service at the temple. The guest speaker was Lt. Michael Oakland of the Sheriff Division.

Retired Hongwanji minister, Alan Urasaki, who is one of the Sheriff Division Chaplains, also was in attendance.

National Faith & Blue Weekend is a collaborative effort to build understandings between law enforcement and the community.



Chaplain Urasaki, Lt. Oakland, Rev. Bert Sumikawa & WBT President Prudence Kusano

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WBT Members:

The Annual **General Membership Meeting and installation of the 2023 WBT officers** will be held at the temple on **SUNDAY, Dec. 11, 2022** immediately following the Sunday service.

There will be an electronic **RSVP** sent to you via email for members who would like to join us for the short meeting followed by a catered lunch. (*We do need a count for lunch.*) Those without email will be mailed the information and the RSVP request. A sign-up sheet will be available at the temple on Sundays leading up to Dec. 11. Mahalo.

New Year's Eve, Sat., Dec. 31, 2022 – 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Rev. Sumikawa will be at the temple. You may come by to hit the kansho (bell), offer incense and have some tea.

New Year's Day, Sun., Jan. 1, 2023 – 10 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

There will be a short service at 10 a.m. for those who want to offer incense and partake of some sake or tea/coffee. Temple will be open until noon.

**Special
Note**