

Kalyana Mitra

“Good Friend”

*A Bi-Monthly Publication
Volume 55 Issue 1&2*



*Windward Buddhist Temple
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Jan. & Feb. 2023

Kailua Hongwanji Mission is doing business as Windward Buddhist Temple

Happy New Year Everyone!

Are you thinking what I'm thinking? "Where did 2022 go"? As we get older it seems the days pass much too quickly. Do we appreciate each day, or do they become forgotten with time?

In Buddhism there is the teaching of *Ichigo-ichie*, which means, "Every day is the first day and the last day of our life." One opportunity, one encounter, never to be repeated. As in the tea ceremony, the chance to drink another tea exactly like the one just served is not possible, which reflects the impermanence of life.

The Buddha considered having friends as the most important thing in following the path of Buddhism. Here at Windward Buddhist Temple, many of you have been good friends for a long time, and you also welcome new friends including those who have been away for a while. Yes, it is important to renew our ties with family and friends as we begin the new year.

Shinran Shonin, the founder of the Jodo Shin School of Buddhism, lived from 1173 to 1262 - over 700 years ago. Soon we will be observing Hoonko. On January 16th in Jodo Shinshu temples throughout the world, special Hoonko services are held in commemoration of the death of Shinran Shonin. (WBT's Hoonko service will be held on January 22, 2023.) At our services we sing a gatha titled "Ondokusan" which was written by Shinran Shonin. "Ondokusan" is the heart and essence of the Hoonko Service. This is when we honor Shinran's life and the teachings which he has given to us.

As a boy of 9 years, Shinran was ordained into the Buddhist priesthood and for 20 years, he practiced the contemplative and scholastic disciplines of Tendai Buddhism. At age 29, Shinran abandoned the ascetic disciplines and accepted the Teachings of Amida Tathagata. Buddhism had a new meaning for Shinran. He adopted a way of life for the common people giving himself the name of Gutoku, baldheaded one, neither priest nor layperson.

What makes Shinran Shonin's teachings relevant through the years and even in today's world? According to Rev. Akira Hata, Shinran followed the Nembutsu teaching with a singleness of heart. And he shared the teachings of spiritual attainment that was possible even for ordinary persons of the times. He shared that Amida Buddha's Vow tells us to come just as we are, with all our faults, limitations, and our egos. By putting trust in Amida Buddha's Vow with a sincere heart, to call his name and to be born in his land, this is the 18th Vow called *Hongan*. It is through the power of the Vow that we can receive *Shinjin* (pure faith).

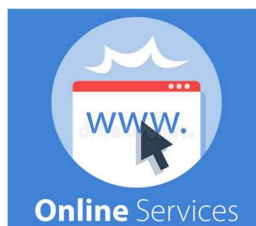
Here is a quote from Rennyō Shonin, the 8th Monshu (spiritual leader) of the Hongwanji dated 1477:

"The extent of Shinran's Benevolence is higher than the highest mountain and deeper than the deepest ocean. How can we fail to express gratitude? How can we not express appreciation? Thus, as an annual observation, this most important service is conducted for a period of seven days to specifically express our feelings of appreciation and gratitude."

In gassho,

Rev. Barbara Brennan

January & February 2023



We will continue to post the 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	Service	Speaker/MC
Jan. 1	New Year's Day Service (10:00 a.m.)	Speaker: Rev. Bert Sumikawa M.C.: Cynthia Rodriguez
8	Family Service	Speaker: Dennis Tashiro M.C.: Shirley Yanagisawa
15	Family Service	Speaker: Rev. Barbara Brennan M.C.: Linda Jaffe
22	Ho'onko (<i>Shinran's Memorial Service</i>)	Speaker: Rev. Bert Sumikawa M.C.: Neil Yamamoto
29	Monthly Remembrance Service If you would like to remember a loved one who passed away in the <u>month of January</u> (of any year), 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.: Fujikawa Family
Feb. 5	Family Service	Speaker: Barbara Brennan M.C.: Gerald Matsuda
12	Dana (<i>selfless giving</i>) Day/Pet Memorial Service	Guest Speaker: Sharyn Sekine M.C.: Naomi Kaneko
19	Nirvana Day Service (<i>Memorial for Shakyamuni Buddha</i>)	Guest Speaker: Rev. Satoshi Tomioka M.C.: Cynthia Rodriguez
26	Monthly Remembrance Service If you would like to remember a loved one who passed away in the <u>month of February</u> (of any year), 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: Barbara Brennan M.C.: Annette Tashiro
January 8 – 29 Group C (Merle Tashiro, lead) in charge of after service refreshments February 6 - 26 Group A (Lisa Fujikawa, lead) in charge of after service refreshments		



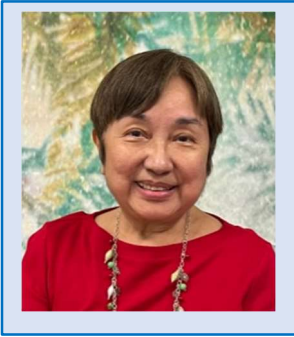
To schedule a memorial service or for other religious assistance, please contact
Rev. Barbara Brennan at (808) 221-3761

Sharyn Sekine

Guest Speaker

Dana (*Selfless Giving*) Day & Pet Memorial Service

February 12, 2023



Sharyn Sekine grew up about a mile from Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin in Pauoa Valley and so it was natural for her to attend Sunday services and dharma school there. Her involvement continued as a Jr. YBA and also choir member.

Sharyn graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa with a degree in Education and a Fifth Year Diploma in Elementary Education. She first taught part time at Aiea Elementary School and later retired as a college counselor from Aiea High School.

After retirement, she became more involved in the Buddhist Women's Assn. (BWA), serving as President of the Hawaii Betsuin BWA from 2010-2012, and as President of Honolulu United BWA from 2020-2021. She is also a member of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin's Board of Directors. Sharyn and husband Dennis have two children, Michelle and Jason, and two grandchildren, ages 15 and 17, all living in Southern California. Because of her empty nest, she is grateful for the social, emotional, and spiritual support she receives from her BWA and Hawaii Betsuin ohana.

Rev. Satoshi K. Tomioka

Nirvana Day Service - Guest Speaker

February 19, 2023

Rev. Satoshi Ka'imipono Tomioka was born in Shimane in the southern part of Japan. He is the youngest of three children.

He majored in Intercultural Communication and Shin Buddhism at Ryukoku University. He then completed graduate school and received a M.A in Literature Shin Buddhism.

It was his dream to become an overseas minister. In 2013, Rev. Tomioka's first assignment was at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin in Honolulu. He is currently the resident minister of Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple on the Big Island and also oversees Pahala and Naalehu Hongwanji temples.



Rev. Tomioka and his wife Haruka, have two cats, Kinako and Kuromame.



Sandra Togashi

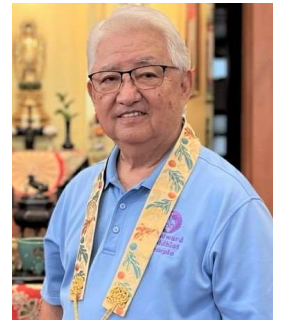
New WBT Member!

President's New Year Message

Happy New Year! Akemashite omedeto gozaimasu! Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!

As the new (second time around) president of Windward Buddhist Temple, I look forward to serving you once more.

Under outgoing president Prudence Kusano's stewardship, WBT was able to navigate through the pandemic and emerge with new ways of propagating the teachings. I am committed to working with the Board and temple members on building on that and using the momentum to move us forward. WBT is fortunate to have a multi-purpose building that was designed for dharma seekers as well as an inviting place to gather in fellowship. I encourage everyone to utilize the temple facilities and to take advantage of the activities currently being offered such as tai chi, exercise, and other programs.



In 2022, Sunday service attendance has steadily increased to near pre-pandemic levels. If you have not had the opportunity to attend service, I invite you to come to the temple and experience hearing the temple bell resonate, offering incense, singing gathas, listening to a dharma message and connecting with friends. There are also some fun activities after service on select Sundays such as crafts and bingo.

The 2023 Windward Buddhist Temple pledge cards have been sent out. Your annual pledges help sustain our temple and its programs. Thanking you in advance for your generosity and commitment to Windward Buddhist Temple.

I wish you and your family a happy, safe, healthy, and prosperous 2023.

In Gassho,
Dennis Tashiro, WBT President



Bodhi Tree Project

This holiday season the WBT Program Committee wanted to do a project that emphasizes *dana* ("selfless giving"). We partnered with The Salvation Army's Angel Tree program.

The Salvation Army's Angel Tree program is an annual program that helps fulfill Christmas wishes for keiki and kupuna. WBT received 29 Angel tags (containing wishes of the keiki and kupuna living in our Windward community) to hang on our Bodhi Tree. The Sangha of approximately 25 families that attend Sunday service supported this project wholeheartedly and we were able to fulfill wishes on the 29 Angel tags with a bicycle, ukulele, toys, clothing, headphones, books, and gift cards.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the holiday season a little brighter and happier for keiki and kupuna in our community.

Food Drive Project

WBT held its annual food drive for the 'Hawaii Foodbank' from October 16 to November 13, 2022. As a sangha, we collectively donated a total of 178 lbs. of food and \$45.00 in cash. Your contributions have helped to nourish and comfort those that are less fortunate than most. Let's continue our efforts to help in the years ahead. Thank you for participating in this community service project.

November & December



Welcome Desk



December Birthdays!



Miso soup on a cold Dec. day



Rev. Brennan's family visits WBT



Ryan recording the service for YouTube



Bodhi Tree Project



Pop-up Country Market



Offering of light & flowers



🌀 *Mahalo* 🌀

for your kind monetary donations

Roy & Cynthia Miyamoto - IMO Donna Yonamine
Sandra Togashi & family - IMO Satoru Togashi
Greg & Naomi Kaneko - IMO Emiko Goya & Gary Kaneko
Yi-Hsin Chen
Family of Miyuki Masuda - Inurnment & 49th day service
Leslie & JoAnn Yamamoto - IMO Sawayo Hiramoto
Samuel Cox & Barbara Ripple - Pohai Nani service
Shimabukuro Family - Rev. Yoshiko Shimabukuro
Shizue Miyasato
Matthew Stewart
Gerald & Lori Matsuda - IMO Sakiko Matsuda & Haru Matsuda

Bob & Joyce Nishita - IMO Tadayuki Nishita, Hisano Nishita
JoAnne Tanaka - IMO Kenneth & Jean Tanaka, Douglas & Glenn Tanaka
Jennifer Kane - Bodhi Day & general donation
Barbara Ueda
Allen & Prudence Kusano - IMO Alden Kusano
Ruby Nagao - IMO Taeko Tashiro
Gary & Annette Tashiro - IMO Taeko Tashiro
Dennis & Merle Tashiro – IMO Taeko Tashiro
Cynthia Rodriguez - IMO Amy Tatsuguchi
Tracy Aldridge
Jamelah Brown

Eitaikyo Donations

Keiji & Janet Kukino
Jennifer Kane
Myles Yamamoto
Cynthia Rodriguez
Allen & Prudence Kusano
Margaret Fujikawa
Greg & Naomi Kaneko
Ryan Miyamoto
Roy & Cynthia Miyamoto
Bob & Joyce Nishita
Kenneth & Loretta Kamei

Marjorie Ikeda
Paul Tatsuguchi
Beatrice Kaneshiro
Gary & Annette Tashiro
Ronald & Shirley Yanagisawa
Rose Nakata
Thomas Yagi
Kenneth & Lillian Kadomoto
Al & Heidi Katagihara
Masuo Kino
Stephen & Geraldine Ochikubo

Congratulations **2023 WBT Officers and Directors**



President: Dennis Tashiro
Vice-President: Cynthia Rodriguez
Secretary: Joy Nishida
Treasurer: Gerald Matsuda
Auditor: Roy Miyamoto
Past President: Prudence Kusano
Directors: Dana Arakaki
Keiji Kukino
Allen Kusano
Ryan Miyamoto
Joyce Nishita
Neil Yamamoto



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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



2023 Bishop's New Year's Message

My New Year's Resolution is...

Let me take this precious opportunity to wish you a sincere "Happy New Year!" More than any other time of the year, the start of the year is a time we are filled with hope and expectation for a brighter and better year.

While, we may have personal desires and goals for myself, let us not forget to also have more inclusive aspirations and goals which embraces all others. In the words of Mitsuo Aida, whose calligraphy piece for Gan (or Negai in vernacular Japanese) is reproduced here, he says very different from personal wishes centered only on oneself are wishes such as: may there be no wars, aspiring for peace and harmony in the world, and may our human contrivances not contribute further to the contamination of our natural environment of the land, sea, and air. When we sincerely embrace these sorts of wishes, they are referred to as "Gan" (or aspirations or vows). If held deeply in our hearts, even the tiniest aspiration will be reflected in our eyes and faces. May we embrace vows and aspirations within our means and contribute to a brighter prospect for our future.



When I look at Mitsuo Aida's calligraphy above, I am reminded of Amida Buddha's 48 Vows especially the Great Compassion of Amida Buddha which promises "If those who entrust themselves to my Vow should not be born [in my (Pure) land], I shall not become Buddha." which expresses Amida Buddha great aspiration by conditioning the Buddha's own Supreme Enlightenment with the Enlightenment of all others including you and me. Could there be a greater wish or aspiration? Please reflect on this matter.

Further, let us make manifest our Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Theme & Slogan for 2023 which is "Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together." As Shinran Shonin rejoiced in one of his poems, *The light of compassion illumines from afar; Those beings it reaches, it is taught, Attain the Joy of the Dharma, So take refuge in Amida, the great consolation.*

Do not keep that joy and happiness of the Nembutsu hidden within you. Culturally, for many of us, being reserved and somewhat stoic is a culturally emphasized trait, but when it comes to the Joy of Buddha-Dharma, "No enryo (Don't hesitate)" would be my recommendation. Let it flow from the depths of your being outward and allow it to be known to others. This is, one way, we are able to share our joy. Needless to say, this "Sharing Joy Together" is not limited to our close circle of family and friends, but it does start with them.

To conclude, once again, I hope you detached Gomonshu's "Our Pledge" from last year's Hawaii Kyodan Calendar and have it where you and others can see and recite it daily as it shares how we can live our life together. As I express my best wishes to you for a happy, joyous and meaningful New Year, please join me in awareness, joy and gratitude of Great Wisdom and Compassion which guides, nurtures, and embraces us (eventually transforms with birth in the Pure Land of Enlightenment), to recite Namu Amida Butsu or The Buddha's Name Which I Call (in gratitude) in response to Namu Amida Butsu or The Buddha's Name That Calls Me (to entrust). Namu Amida Butsu. Thank you and, once again, "Happy New Year" from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's Office of the Bishop.

In gassho/anjali, Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Bishop
January 1, 2023

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Thank You Rev. Sumikawa



On behalf of the WBT Sangha, I want to extend our gratitude for your guidance and willingness to explain the Dharma, and for your sense of humor and ability to encourage us at various events by being among us. We will miss your strong voice and equally hearty laughter.

You have slowly transformed the altar, piece by piece, and it is now complete. It is also enhanced by newer altar coverings that are available for regular and major services.

We know that you will be providing oversight for Rev. Brennan so we will still see you at temple from time to time. We look forward to talking story with you during those visits.



Our best wishes go with you, and we hope the memories you've made at WBT will sustain you whenever you need to smile and laugh.

With gratitude,
Prudence Kusano, WBT Past President