

KONA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE



E - JIHO



November 2013

Theme & Slogan 2013: Path of Entrusting: Live the Teachings!

COFFEE FESTIVAL BON DANCE

Keauhou Shopping Center

Saturday, November 9, 2013 at Sunset

In front of Longs Drug Store

Check with Taiko Club for practice dates

ANNUAL CLEAN UP

Sunday, November 17, 2013 at 7:30 a.m.

All Affiliate Organizations and Kyodan members are asked to help

Wall and screen washings on Saturday, November 16, 2013

Check with Morris Nagata for details

BODHI DAY SERVICE

Sunday, December 1, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

(Note change in time of service)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Ryoso Toshima

Farewell Luncheon for Rev. and Mrs. Shoji Matsumoto

To follow Bodhi Day Service at 10:30 a.m.

Bodhi Day is the day to commemorate Shakyamuni Buddha's attainment of awakening. Gautama meditated under the Bodhi Tree and awakened in himself complete Enlightenment. This historic event took place as the first faint light of day began to glow in the eastern sky. By his example he showed that it was possible for us to become a Buddha—a fully enlightened person. We are therefore in possession of this valuable potentiality—Buddha Nature—which when awakened and cultivated will enable us to achieve supreme wisdom and compassion.

Office Closure

The office will be closed on November 27, 28 and 29, 2013 due to Clerk's vacation and Thanksgiving holiday. For emergencies contact Rev. Matsumoto or Kyodan president Norma Matsumoto. Contact numbers listed below.

NEED THE ASSISTANCE OF THE MINISTER OR TO SCHEDULE SERVICES/ACTIVITIES

Please call the church office at 323-2993 Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Office will be closed on weekends and holidays. If unable to contact the office clerk, leave a message on the answering machine. In case of emergencies and unable to contact office clerk, call Rev. Shoji Matsumoto at 323-2993 or cell 987-9900, or Norma Matsumoto at 323-2552 or cell 989-3015.

NOVEMBER

3 Sunday	9:00 AM	English Family Service
4 Monday	7:30 PM	Bon Dance Practice
7 Thursday	7:30 PM	Bon Dance Practice
8 Friday	8:30 AM	Senior Activity Program
9 Saturday		IKEBANA CANCELLED
	8:00 AM	Omigaki #3
	Evening	Kona Coffee Festival Bon Dance @ Keauhou Shopping Center
10 Sunday	9:00 AM	English Family Service
16 Saturday	8:00 AM	Annual Wall Washing
17 Sunday	7:30 AM	Annual Clean-up
23 Saturday		Judo Club Promotion & Banquet
24 Sunday		NO SUNDAY SERVICE
27 Wednesday	11:00 AM ..	Preschool Thanksgiving Program & Luncheon

DECEMBER

1 Sunday	9:00 AM ...	Bodhi Day Service and Aloha Luncheon
2 Monday	TBA	Instruction Meeting w/Terminix Representative
8 Sunday	9:00 AM ...	English Family Service
11 Wednesday	7:00 PM ...	Board of Director's Meeting
13 Friday	8:30 AM ...	Senior Activity Program
14 Saturday		IKEBANA CANCELLED
	8:00 AM ...	Omigaki #1
15 Sunday		NO SUNDAY SERVICE
18 Wednesday ...	11:00 AM ..	Preschool X-Mas Program & Luncheon
20 Friday		"Pack-up" Facility for Fumigation
22 Sunday		NO SUNDAY SERVICE
23 Monday		Terminix Tenting of Social Hall/Preschool Bldg.
29 Sunday		NO SUNDAY SERVICE
30 Monday	7:30 AM ...	Jr. YBA Mochi Tsuki
	12:00 PM ..	Mochi Pick-up
31 Tuesday	7:00 PM	New Year's Eve Service

CUB SCOUTS & BOY SCOUTS

EVERY MONDAY CUB SCOUT PACK 12 MEETING AT 5:00 PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY CUB SCOUT PACK 12 MEETING AT 5:00 PM EXCEPT 1ST WEDNESDAY
EVERY TUESDAY BOY SCOUT TROOP 59 MEETING AT 7:00 PM

TAIKO PRACTICE

EVERY THURSDAY TAIKO PRACTICE AT 5:30 PM
TAIKO MEETING EVERY 2ND THURSDAY IN THE SOCIAL HALL AT 6:30 PM

JUDO PRACTICE

JUDO CLUB MEETING EVERY 1ST WEDNESDAY IN SCOUT ROOM
EVERY MONDAY AT 7:00 PM NIGHT CLASS
EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6:00 PM NOVICE; 7:00 PM NIGHT CLASS
EVERY TUESDAY AT 6:30 PM ADULT BEGINNERS
EVERY THURSDAY AT 7:00 PM CHOKE ARM BAR CLASS

IKEBANA

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY AT 9:00 AM IN THE SCOUT ROOM

TAI CHI CLASSES

EVERY MONDAY & WEDNESDAY AT 10:30 AM

DHARMA TALK CLASSES

EVERY TUESDAY AT 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM

KYUDO CLASSES

EVERY SATURDAY AT 1:00 PM IN THE JUDO HALL

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER and OCTOBER, 2013

First Year (2012)	November	5	KANEYO HIGASHI
		11	SATOSHI IWASAKI
		11	GUY TOYAMA
Third Year (2011)	November	15	MUNEO INOUE
		20	BESSIE K. MATSUYAMA
		23	ALAN JOHN PRATT
	December	27	TERUO EZUKA
Seventh Year (2007)	November	28	ALAN TODOMU NAKAMURA
	December	5	NOBORU "KING" KITAOKA
		5	MILTON M. "TOGO" MIYAZONO
		9	FREDERICK HARUO IWAMOTO
		20	WALLY K. SATO
Thirteenth Year (2001)	November	7	ITSUNO UEMURA
	December	4	MARY M. FUJINO
		10	TATSUO NAKAYAMA
		30	YASUO FUJINO
Seventeenth Year (1997)	November	7	CLARENCE SATORU KOMO
		9	HAROLD HIROMU HIRATA
		23	HAROLD YOSHIYUKI NAKAMURA
Thirty-third Year (1981)	December	5	HARUMI NAKAMURA
Fiftieth Year (1964)	November	21	HYAKUICHI HONDA
		21	CHISE SAKAMOTO
		?	YUKICHI KAWASAKI
	December	26	TORA ISHIKAWA
One Hundredth Year (1914)	November	8	KEIZO YAMASHITA
		18	GUNICHI SATO
		26	YOSHIYUKI NOZAKI
		28	TOSHIKICHI UEDA
	December	1	SHIMO SATO
		17	TOME YOSHIDA
		22	SEIICHI MATSUO
		26	EITSUCHI KANAYAMA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Norma Matsumoto

I have been so very lucky in being adopted by the Kona Community for the thirty some odd years I've lived here. Being born and raised in Kamuela, I still can't imagine going 'home' there to settle. I have the best of both worlds here in Mauka Kona. The weather in winter is just like Kamuela, except no gale strength winds! It is as quiet a town as Kamuela used to be.

I have shared fellowship with so many community groups through the years. There was fellowship at work and as my three boys grew, other fellowships formed through their activities. Our temple needs

fellowship. Other than Sunday service, there must be other ways we can enjoy each other's company around a shared activity. If any member has an idea about activities that can benefit others that ends with fellowship around a simple pupu table or simple meal...give me a call! Don't ask me, because my answer would have something to do with golf.

We will be bidding our Reverend Shoji and Dr. Sandra Matsumoto farewell on Dec. 1st, after Bodhi Day Service with a get together. Please join us if you and your family can make it. We'll really need to pull together when we don't have a resident minister. Hope to see you there!

In Gassho

TWO RENTALS BUILT, WHY CAN'T WE PAY OUR DUES... PART II

by Daren Katayama

A "Strategic Planning" session for Kona Hongwanji was held in September. Several financial issues came up and there appears to be misunderstanding and/or misconceptions regarding the Temple's finances. I thought the best way to help clarify the misconceptions is through a "Question and Answer" format.

We Paid Our Assessments Before, What Happened? Well, the Temple has historically operated at a LOSS... even "in past years" when we paid our assessment in full. Monies were transferred from savings accounts to cover the shortfall. From 2000-2005, ANNUAL operating losses ranged from (\$11,000) to over (\$40,000) in ONE YEAR! Common sense says, a business cannot operate this way for very long... paying out more money than you bring in.

REALITY: While it may have appeared that the Temple did "better" in the past, in reality, the Temple has consistently operated at a loss. The "change" that occurred, which resulted in our inability to pay our assessment in full, is the depletion of our operational cash accounts... simply put, the Temple's "unrestricted cash" had diminished to a critically low balance.

The Treasurer's Report Shows Significant Cash, Why Can't We Use It for the Assessment? Last year's Treasurer's Report reflected over \$800,000 in "Total Cash"; however, over \$765,000 were in "Reserved" Funds. For example, the "Living Memorial Fund" (LMF) accounts for well over \$400,000 of these "Reserved" Funds. The LMF is an "endowment fund" with a restriction that the "principal" remain untouched. As a tax-exempt organization, Kona Hongwanji has a requirement, an obligation, to adhere to all restrictions placed on monies received... violating any restriction risks losing our tax-exempt status. Other "Reserved" Funds include the Cemetery Fund and Capital Fund (reserved for facility costs).

REALITY: While it appears Kona Hongwanji has "lots of cash", over 90% of these funds cannot be used to fund operational costs, such as our annual assessment. We must comply with the rules and restrictions that govern the use of "Reserved" Funds.

Why Use Our Capital Fund to Build Rental Units Instead of Paying Down Our Assessment? Again, the Capital Fund cannot be used to pay our annual assessment. In light of that restriction, the decision to build new rental units was based on two key factors. First, two-thirds of our membership is 60 to 90 year olds, and donations are expected to decline as they pass away. The rentals will generate outside sources of income to offset that revenue loss. Second, the Capital Fund earned a very low rate of return from CDs. The new rental units are expected to generate a significantly higher rate of return.

REALITY: The Capital Fund is subject to the rules and restrictions applicable to tax-exempt entities. But more importantly, we are proactively planning for the expected decline in future revenues by creating outside sources of revenues that generate a reasonable rate of return... a business plan!

Do Other Organizations Do the Same Thing? Short answer, YES! The restriction on "Reserved" Funds applies to all tax-exempt entities, e.g. Hawaii Kyodan has over \$13 Million in cash and

investments; Pacific Buddhist Academy (PBA) has over \$2.8 Million in cash and investments... a majority in "Reserved" Funds. Otherwise, why not simply use those funds to offset their operating costs, thereby reducing assessments to all temples and reducing the need for Hawaii Kyodan's annual \$175,000 subsidy to PBA?

Kona Hongwanji has not been able to generate enough revenues to cover our costs. We operate at a loss, but such is true of most temples. The few financially stable temples are ones that have significant sources of non-membership revenues, such as large commercial rentals or highly profitable pre-school programs. No temple operates profitably with only direct membership revenues.

Conclusion: Hongwanji is a religious organization with "Compassion" as one of its cornerstone principles. If the church wants to preach compassion, they must practice compassion... unconditional compassion. Buddhists do not limit their compassion to only those who agree with their views, or to only those who pay their dues. And compassion means to help those that need assistance in a non-punitive way.

The subject of sanctions has been discussed at the District and State levels of governance. So far, it appears to be an issue by only a minority of delegates, and no official sanctions have been enacted. I hope Hawaii Kyodan will seek a compassionate path and provide assistance to all struggling temples. It does not have to involve direct monetary subsidies or reduced assessments (Kona has the 4th largest assessment in the state). For Kona, assistance could simply mean offering "patience" and "moral support", or assigning a solid resident minister after Rev. Shoji retires. Not only is the survival of Kona Hongwanji at stake... it is an opportunity to demonstrate true Buddhist values.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

By Mary Katayama

Farewell Luncheon: A farewell luncheon for Rev. Shoji and Dr. Sandra Matsumoto will be held on Sunday, December 1, 2013 following the Bodhi Day service. Membership Communication Committee headed by Susan Shiota will be contacting members for lunch count. Other committees are Betty Takeoka (service), Dean Uemura (program) and Lisa Ciriako (luncheon). Rev. Shoji's last day will be on December 6, 2013. They will leave for Florida the next day. **Please make every effort to attend the luncheon.**

Annual Clean Up: Kyodan members and Affiliate Organizations are asked to help in our Annual Clean Up on Sunday, November 17, 2013 at 7:30 a.m. The wall and screen washing as well as waxing of kitchen and Pre-School floors will be done on Saturday. Contact Morris Nagata for questions.

Office Volunteers: Mahalo to Chizu Nakashima, Betty Takeoka, Betty Shikada and Janet Kunitake who manned the office during Judy's 2013 vacation days. They answered phone, scheduled services /activities and other essential office functions to serve our members.

The volunteers thank Rev. Shoji for opening the office and brewing coffee for our volunteers. Mary thanks Betty T. and Morris for checking emails during Judy's vacation.

Kyodan Councils and Committees: The Kyodan has four (4) Councils. Administrative, Spiritual, Member Relations and Youth. Under each Council are committees established to carry out the operations of the temple under the direction of and policies set by the Board of Directors. Information of various committees will be provided to solicit interest in participating and helping our temple move forward with fresh ideas. **Special Committee on Members Death:** This committee is under the direction of the Spiritual Affairs Council Director, Betty Takeoka. The purpose of this committee is to meet with the family of each deceased member on behalf of the Kyodan to assist the family with funeral arrangements and to represent the Kyodan at deceased member's funeral service. Please contact Betty Takeoka, Shirley Matsuoka or Mary Katayama if you are willing to serve on this committee.

Information regarding Kyodan Councils, policies and direction set by the Board of Directors will be written in FYI column to keep membership informed.

TAIKO GROUP NEWS

We will be having bon dance practices for the upcoming Kona Coffee Festival's Bon Dance being held on November 9, 2013 fronting Longs Drugs Store at the Keauhou Shopping Center.

The dates are:

Thursday, October 24, 2013

Thursday, October 31, 2013

Thursday, November 7, 2013

Monday, October 28, 2013

Monday, November 4, 2013

All practices start at 7:30 p.m. and runs thru about 9:30 p.m.

2013-2014 Social Concerns Fund Drive

In November we celebrate the important holidays of Thanksgiving and Eitaikyo. Both remind us to be mindful of the countless blessings in our lives and how we live connected to the world around us. It is in this spirit of gratitude that we begin our Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive.

The generous contributions from Sangha members provides the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii the ability to support worthy organizations and programs with funding to continue their work in our community and to provide compassionate action during times of disaster. Your contributions also allow the Committee on Social Concerns to plan for future programs related to social issues affecting our community.

Because of your commitment to promoting the Buddhist values of compassion and loving-kindness we were able to continue lending our support to such organizations as Project Dana, The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii, and the various food banks across the state. Your generosity allowed Hawaii Kyodan to lead the fundraising effort to build the Sadako Sasaki Peace Crane exhibit at Pearl Harbor and to help bring the Sasaki family to Hawaii for the recent dedication ceremony and numerous Peace Day events.

Because of your kokua over the years, we have also been able to help with recovery efforts after natural disasters and assist members of our Sangha affected by misfortune and other emergency situations. We have also been able to establish the Golden Chain Grant program that promotes compassionate action through service to others in our community. Your generosity directly helps those in need and promotes a more humane world.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Please make all checks payable to **Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple**. The suggested donation is the cost of just one meal per person. Any donation you are able to give will make a difference in the lives of others. Your help is needed to continue our mission of sharing the Dharma through compassionate action. Mahalo!

In Gassho,

Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair
Committee on Social Concerns
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

From My Quotation Note (4)

by Rev. Shoji

"Women can do everything; men can do the rest." – Russian proverb

"It was the lucky and quite unexpected accident of my then husband being hired as plantation physician for Kohala Sugar Company on the Big Island of Hawaii that, in August 1956, I first met Buddhists and Buddhism. . . . I was struck by feelings I had not expected, as if in this temple I had found a comfortable home, a place where I belonged. The hush, the constraint, the separateness from ordinary life I had noticed in other churches was not here. These Buddhists were a part of life, not apart from it. How strange, and how unexpected, my certainty that here I had found a place where I belonged. That certainty stayed with me. Nothing I later read, nothing I later heard from eminent Buddhist scholars, no abstract, profound glimpses of the *shinjin* that is Shin Buddhism's affirmation of how-it-is-ness made as deep an impression on me as the experience of that first O-Bon."

– Ruth Tabrah

"I like to think of the young prince, Siddhartha, observing this hypocrisy of his native religion, perhaps touching or loving an 'untouchable,' and deciding there had to be a better way. A higher truth. I like to think of him leaving his cushy home and delightful family, his loving wife and adorable son, and striking out into the wilderness. Searching for a way humans could rid themselves of the hideous affliction of spirit that forced division and degradation of part of the human family imposes. [*sic*]

Which is to say, I felt the Buddha's spirit long before I began to study his words. I felt him not as a god or as the son of a god but as a human being who looked around, as any of us might do, and said to himself: Something here is very wrong. People are such beautiful and wondrous creations, why are they being tortured? What have they done that this should be so? How can there be an end to their suffering?"

– Alice Walker

"What is enlightenment? What was it that the young prince of the Shakya clan realized that caused him to be called Buddha, the awakened one? To answer in the usual discursive, conceptual way cannot convey the truth of this experience, an experience that is not limited to some past event, does not belong to some great historical figure, but is ours to discover. Enlightenment is not a thing, not a condition, not an event, not a goal, not an accomplishment. That which is without limits cannot be defined. Yet the question is a burning one for Buddhists. Even though we may be too hip to ask it, deep down, we want to know what it is that we are practicing. But in truth, we are practicing enlightenment! It is always and already here!" . . .
"But until this truth has been experienced, a little voice is always asking, 'Why?' 'What for?' 'How come?' We want an answer, we want access to someone else's understanding, we want some reassurance that what we are doing makes sense."

– Roko Sherry Chayat

"Birth, old age, sickness, and death — these were the four discoveries made by the pampered young Siddhartha that turned his mind toward the dharma. All are fraught with suffering; all are permeated by deep meaning. . . . Images of the previous night filled my mind as I settled onto my *zafu*. Breathing in ... life in this world begins on an in-breath. Breathing out ... this life ends on an out-breathing. Breathing in ... knowing the truth of change. Breathing out ... knowing in this moment with utmost clarity that there will be a time when I too will breathe in ... and will breathe out ... and will not breathe in again."

– Nancy Bardacke

"We remember one of the most powerful truths the Buddha taught that the forces in the mind that bring suffering are able to temporarily hold down the positive forces such as love or wisdom, but they can never destroy them. Love can uproot fear or anger or guilt, because it is a greater power."

– bell hooks

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

125TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will be celebrating its 125th anniversary in the year 2014, and the plan to hold district-centered celebrations was approved at the Hawaii Kyodan Board of Directors' September 2013 meeting. In order to carry out the celebration, the following members were selected as the Planning Committee members.

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| • General Chair | Mr. Alton Miyamoto / Bishop Eric Matsumoto |
| • Correspondence / Communication Chair | Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani |
| • General Consultant for Services | Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani |
| • Finance | Mr. Arthur Nakagawa |
| • District Co-Chairs (Kanji Ministers & Lay members) | |
| Honolulu | Rev. David Nakamoto |
| Oahu | Rev. Mary David |
| Maui | Rev. Ai Hironaka |
| Kauai | Rev. Kazunori Takahashi |
| Hawaii | Rev. Kosho Yagi |
| | Mr. Pieper Toyama |
| | Ms. Carolyn Uchiyama |
| | Ms. Janet Shimada |
| | Ms. Carol Valentine |
| | Mr. Morris Nagata |

****Information of the anniversary will be shared periodically through this HQ Update.***

JR. YBA NEWS

For the months of October and November, the Jr. YBA will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Food Basket. Our box will be at the front of the temple on Sunday services.

And as a community service project, the United Jr. YBA will be collecting slightly loved stuffed animals which will be donated to a hospital for children of need. Collection will be made on October 31, at our bon dance practice.

We are continuing to collect Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education, however, we have not contacted a school to accept our donation yet. But please keep on saving them and dropping them off in our jar sitting on the shelf in the temple. Thank you.

Buddhism in the Movies

by William Tokuko Lundquist

If the entire dharma can be found in a single flower blossom, it should come as no surprise that you can find plenty of dharma in the movies. I'm not talking about Japanese or Chinese films here, which of course show lots of Buddhism because it is so intertwined with the cultures in which these movies are set. Nor am I talking about films made about the lives of Shakyamuni Buddha, Dogen or Bodhidharma, or documentaries about the Dalai Lama or Thich Nhat Hanh. No, I'm talking about popular movies that contain Buddhist themes like enlightenment or interdependence, though sometimes you have to overlook the sex and violence to find those themes.

I've been wanting to write this article for some time, but I'm certainly not the first to notice Buddhist ideas coming out of Hollywood. In Gary Gach's book, "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Understanding Buddhism," he discusses the connection between Buddhism and film. I think some of the most Buddhist movies ever made were "The Matrix" and its sequels, and Gach also mentions them in his book. This is the story of a man who thought the world he lived in was real, but actually he lived in a world where machines used humans as batteries, supplying them with nutrients through tubes as they lay stacked like cordwood. They used the humans' energy to power their world while they connected the humans' brains to a computer matrix that made them think they were living ordinary lives in a normal world. In fact, none

of the humans ever actually moved a muscle. The main character, played by Keanu Reeves (who also starred in "Little Buddha"), was freed by a group of rebels and learned the true reality of his life and world, exactly as Shakyamuni Buddha learned the true nature of this world as he gained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree. Like Shakyamuni, Reeves willingly went back into the computer matrix to bring others out of their false perception of the world. Because he sees the illusion of the computer world, he appears to have fantastic powers there, much as Shakyamuni did in his day, but Reeves eventually learns how to retain those powers in the real world as well. The mindless violence of these movies may well have contributed to the school shootings at Columbine, but for all their high-tech computer trappings, at heart the Matrix movies are about enlightenment and self-sacrifice. Pure Buddhism.

Ironically, several Christmas movies seem more Buddhist than Christian. Gach mentions "It's a Wonderful Life," and I agree. The film is pretty Christian on the surface, with God, Joseph and a guardian angel in the opening scene, but the entire story is about interconnectedness, how one life affects, and is affected by, all others. It could have just as easily been titled "Indra's Net." In it, George Bailey consistently sacrifices his own life to help others. Since no good deed seems to go unpunished in our world, Bailey's reward for all this ends up being the threat of bankruptcy and prison. He wishes he'd never been born, which his guardian angel magically makes happen. It turns out the world without him is a terrible place and the lives of all those he loves have been ruined without him. Once again, he thinks only of others, and begs to return to his old life, no matter his own suffering, so that the happiness of others will be restored. His wish is again granted by the angel, but instead of being greeted by more suffering, George returns to find all those he has helped have now rallied to help him. I watch it every year to remind me the good or bad karma I create will affect all other lives eventually.

I also watch a version of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" every year. It's a story of a rich but miserable man who cares for no one but himself, maybe not even that. We learn that he had been rejected by his father and everyone else except for his sister. When she dies, his suffering causes him to push everyone else away, even the woman who loves him. In the end, his only friend is his equally greedy and uncaring business partner. Scrooge's only reaction to his partner's death is satisfaction that he is inheriting the man's assets. The partner, however, learns a thing or two after death when he is condemned to walk the world dragging a long heavy chain that he claims he forged while he lived. This, to me, represents karma, the results of all the ill he did in life. As he walks, he now sees all the suffering in the world, but now he is powerless to do anything about it. It sounds like he has become enlightened, but too late. He pays a visit to Scrooge to try to save him from the same ghostly fate. Scrooge tells him he was not such a bad guy, just a good businessman. "Business?" the ghost shrieks in the most Buddhist line in the movie, "Mankind was my business!" It reminds me of a story where Ananda asks Shakyamuni Buddha if friendship is a part of the path. The Buddha replied, "Friendship is the path." Yes, once again the theme is interconnectedness. If we don't do all we can to help the countless lives we are connected to, if we try to turn our backs on humankind, we and they will suffer for it. Scrooge takes a lot more convincing, but in the end is enlightened himself and throws himself wholeheartedly into helping others. This brings immediate good results in the lives of others and brings Scrooge such joy that he is beside himself with happiness. It shows how good karma can spread from right actions.

Gach also mentioned "Groundhog Day," in which Bill Murray plays a shallow newscaster who finds himself trapped in a small town where he awakes to exactly the same day every day: Groundhog Day. He is the only one who remembers that every day is the same. He can't escape from this samsara world, even by killing himself, which he does in several ways. He just wakes up in the same town on the same day and everything starts over again. He tries to use his knowledge of what will happen to seduce Andie McDowell, but she always rejects him in the end. Finally, he begins to use his foreknowledge to help and protect the citizens of the town. He honestly falls in love with the girl and backs off, being content just to love her from afar. Only when he cares more about others than he does about himself is he able to finally move on from repeating the same day over and over. Surely Buddhism teaches this is how our world and our lives work.

There are also many films about selling your soul to the devil in exchange for whatever or whoever you desire. My favorites are both the Dudley Moore and Brendan Fraser versions of "Bedazzled." Though the devil comes from Christian mythology, the Buddha would recognize this as being a story about greed and

desire. In the Fraser version, he plays an unsuccessful guy too shy to speak to the girl at work that he is attracted to. In exchange for his soul, the devil agrees to give him everything he desires, but devils are tricky beings. He asks to be made rich and powerful, and to have the girl for his wife. He gets that, but is rich and powerful because he has been turned into a Columbian drug lord, and his wife despises him and goes for his lieutenant instead. It ends badly and he next asks to be made a sports hero that women can't resist. He gets that too, except that he is not only stupid, but gay. Finally, he gets tired of the game and tells the devil he won't make any more wishes. The Buddha told us we have to stop wishing for things if we expect to find peace and contentment. While in jail in one of the episodes, Fraser is told by a Christ-like character that his soul always belonged to God anyway, so he couldn't sell it to the devil. I think the Buddha would have said he had no soul to sell in the first place.

You can probably think of many more films that have messages that sound very Buddhist. The filmmakers probably didn't intend it that way, but the Buddha understood the human condition so well that almost any story about people illustrates his teachings. The next time you watch a movie, don't just grab the popcorn, look for the dharma too.

WHAT DOES "PEACE" MEAN TO ME?

The following Dharma message was given by Daren Katayama at Kona Hongwanji's Peace Day / Family English Service on September 22, 2013:

Good Morning! Today, we are celebrating "Peace Day", and I was asked reflect upon: "What does 'PEACE' mean to me?" But first, how many of you have seen "Star Trek"? Yes, I'm a Trekkie! How many know the famous opening line given by Captain James Tiberius Kirk? (modified for "Peace Day")

"Peace... the final frontier. These are the voyages of the Hongwanji Sangha, its continuing mission to explore the Teachings of the Buddha, to seek out true life and compassionate realizations. To BODLY go where no bombu has gone before!"

So what is "**Peace**"? What does it mean to you? Does it mean no violent acts? No wars, like *peace* in the Middle East? *Peace* on Earth? *Peace* from my sister beating me up when we were kids? Does *Peace* mean a calm state? I must not have it at home, since Aunt Lynn (my wife) is always looking for "*Peace* and Quiet" at our house! These examples represent one perspective of "*Peace*"... an EXTERNAL perspective... a perspective that peace is something "outside", or around you in the physical world. However, another perspective of "*Peace*" can be from an INTERNAL perspective... the *peace within you*... an **inner peace**. This is the peace that I'd like to discuss, because this is what I believe our Jodo-Shinshu tradition focuses on.

I read an article entitled, "The Future of Jodo Shinshu in America", by Peter Hata of the West Covina Buddhist Temple, which can be found at www.livingdharma.org (the following discussion is based on his article). In Mr. Hata's article, he quotes Dr. Nobuo Haneda, a noted Buddhist lecturer, who says, "... *in order to insure a future, we must first make a distinction between two kinds of tradition in our temples.*" Dr. Haneda is referring to the Living Traditions vs. the Dead Traditions; he continues,

*"The living tradition of Buddhism is self-examination. **Self-examination is the process of examining and accepting** our shortcomings, our self-centeredness and arrogance. It is a humbling experience, but one which leads the way to the **desired attitude of a student, a seeker.**"*

For me, this means that through self-examination, my attitude would change to become a "seeker"... to be *more open and aware* in my search for "truth". The more aware I am of the *true nature of existence*... specifically, the true nature of myself, then I might be able to reduce the suffering in my life... and experience "JOY!"

Dr. Haneda contrasted the *living tradition* to the second type of tradition, which was termed the *dead tradition* (such as ancestor worship, chanting, etc.). The article goes on to say, Dr. Haneda did not mean that practices like ancestor worship and chanting should be abandoned, just that they are secondary priorities. He felt that of the two traditions of Jodo-Shinshu, *the living tradition of self-examination is the essence of Buddhism*.

So, I could be wrong... but for me, *the living vs. the dead tradition* correlates to the *internal vs. external perspective of "peace"*. The living tradition of self-examination is an *internal* approach to peace... finding inner peace, peace within myself; as opposed to creating *external* peace, trying to change the attitudes of others, an external change. The living tradition of self-examination puts the primary focus on changing *MY attitude* towards peace... an internal change.

There are things that I can control and things I cannot control. It could be very difficult, and perhaps impossible at times, for me to change your opinion. Thus, I have to find a way to change *MY* opinion; *MY* attitude; *MY* thoughts, words, and deeds. Remember the Golden Chain of Love... "*I* am a link"... "*I* will try to be kind and gentle"... "*I* will try to think pure and beautiful thoughts". The primary focus is on myself... it's an internal emphasis... the change has to occur *within ME!*

All that being said, it is very difficult to do an honest self-examination, and to honestly accept all of my shortcomings... arrogance, self centeredness, etc. This is far easier said than done! I try to... but I fail miserably! That does NOT mean I stop trying! This is where *interconnectedness* and *interdependence* comes in... I must seek help and rely on my minister, Rev. Shoji, to help with the **Teachings**; rely on other Dharma seekers, such as the **Sangha**; rely on and entrust in the infinite compassion and wisdom of **the Buddha**... ta-dah! The Three Treasures... Buddha, Dharma, Sangha!

If we, the Hongwanji, can focus on the *living tradition*, then perhaps Jodo-Shinshu would be more relevant, more meaningful to everyone... the younger generation **and** the senior generation; Japanese **and** non-Japanese; Buddhists **and** non-Buddhists... the living tradition is "universal"! Dr. Haneda stressed the need for Jodo-Shinshu to change... why it is necessary. He stated,

"our tradition comes from Shinran Shonin, himself a radical who broke away from the meaningless, out-of-date traditions of his time."

So let me conclude with this... let us focus on our living traditions... *Create a joyful life by creating inner peace... Create inner peace through the process of self-examination*. And, if we somehow are successful in accomplishing that, then in the words of a great philosopher... Jodo-Shinshu will (Vulcan hand sign) "*Live long and prosper!*"

CUB SCOUTS PACK 12

All you can eat Pancake Breakfast & Silent Auction Fundraiser

What a great day it was to have delicious pancakes, scrambled eggs, rice, Denver omelets, Portuguese sausage, smokies, spam, ham, pineapples, papayas, cantaloupes and watermelons all for \$7.00.

Of course the event is only successful with the help hard workers and donations. The parents of our scouts worked hard to help set up the hall, cut the fruits and guided the scouts in cracking the eggs Friday evening. On Saturday all parents help out by either: serving the breakfast, selling & collecting tickets or being runners. And we are so grateful for all those that stayed and helped to clean up.

To our special cooking crew: (who braved the wee hour @ 3:30 a.m.) **Dane Hiromasa, Nick Hiromasa, Tyrus Takimoto, Wayne Sakamoto, Kalani Keawe-Aiko, James Alani, Daniel Carse, Ben Wroten,**

Charles Keliipio, Calvin Gali, Bennie Ningeok-Ross, Alvin Iranon and our Pancake batter expert **Ken Ono**

This year our pancake and grill ace **Glenn Hirowatari** was assisted by **Dale Kabei, and scouts Riki Furuto & Dylan Ono-Bong**

Special Thanks to the following for their generosity:

Cal Kona – Brent Sasaki, Donated Round onions, Eggs, Green onions, Green peppers, Papayas, Cantaloupes and Pineapples.

Honaunau Market –Carol Kiriara, Donated Red & Green Peppers, Mushrooms, Round onions, Seedless Watermelons and Papayas.

Thank you to all the business' that donated either monies, gift certificates or merchandise towards our Silent auction.

Again a special Thank You to all the parents and Ohana of the Cub Scouts (especially Dee Ono for running the Silent Auction) for all your hard work to make this fundraiser a great success!!!

Veteran' s Day

November 11th will be that annual Veteran's Day Ceremony out at the Veteran's Cemetery in Kona. Kona District scouts will be participating in the (Flag) presentation and retrieving of colors during the Ceremony. Practice for the presentation of colors will be on Saturday November 9th. Please contact Boss Hanato if anyone has questions.

Welcome New Scout:

Koutaro Yamamoto, son of Shigeru & Midori Yamamoto

Upcoming Events:

Oct 18-19, 2013 Cub Scout Overnight Adventure & Cub O Ree @ Honokaia

Oct 28 – Trunk or Treat

Nov – Imiloa Trip

Nov 17th – Church Clean Up

Nov 23, 2013 – POW WOW Hilo LDS

Nov 23 PATH Bike Rodeo

Dec 9 – Christmas Caroling

Dec – Christmas Party

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Tadao Sakamoto, O-Bon

Nozomu Uemura, Jiho

Marsha Boyle, September 1st Sunday Service

Mr. & Mrs. Sanford Higashi, Hatsubon Service

Setsuyo Fujino, Urn Arrival Service

Tadashi Kaku, In Memory of Yumiko Kaku's 25th Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Kunitake, Use of Facility

Mr. & Mrs. Earl Matsuyama, Jiho In Memory of Hazel Aoyagi

Candace Nakamura, In Memory of Sam Nakamura

Lynn Tom, Graveside Inurnment Service for Sasae Murakami

Mae Harano, Jiho and Dharma School

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Kaku, In Memory of Yumiko Kaku's 25th Anniversary

Acknowledgements Continued:

Tomoyo Horiuchi

Mr. & Mrs. Takeshi Matsumoto, In Memory of James Kukita's 3rd Anniversary

Richard Shiozaki, October 4th In Memory of Mieno Yoshizaki's 1st Anniversary

Total - \$1,320.00

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Suyeko Nishina and Family, 50th Memorial Service for Chiyoji Nishina

Sakae Oshima, Memorial Service for C. Nishina

Mr. & Mrs. Earl Matsuyama, Funeral Service & Related Expenses for Hazel Aoyagi

Candace Nakamura, Graveside 1st Year Service for Sam Nakamura

Lynn Tom, Funeral Service & Related Expenses for Sasae Murakami

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Miyashiro, Joyce Nozaki, Mr. & Mrs. Ardevan Ikeda, Mr. & Mrs. John Yu,
Danny Nozaki, Mr. & Mrs. James Nozaki, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Nozaki and Mr. & Mrs. Stanley
Zakahi, Service In Memory of 17th Year for Clarence Nozaki, 33rd Year Ayano Nozaki
and 100th year for Yoshiyuki Nozaki

Mr. & Mrs. Naoto Katoku, 3rd Year Service In Memory of Harold Kaku

Asano Matsumoto, Memorial Services for Glen Matsumoto

Roger Nozaki, Memorial Service for Clarence Nozaki, 17th Year; Ayano Nozaki, 33rd Year and
Yoshiyuki Nozaki, 100th Year

Suzuko Nozaki, Memorial Service for Clarence Nozaki, 17th Year; Ayano Nozaki, 33rd Year and
Yoshiyuki Nozaki, 100th Year

Florence Ozaki, 1st Year Memorial Service for Kazuye Ozaki

Lilly Ushiroda, Stan & Julie Kaku, Lenora & Bill Kelley and Jean Murata, 3rd Year Graveside
Memorial Service for Harold H. Kaku

Setsuyo Fujino, Funeral Service & Related Expenses for George Fujino

Ukie Saito and Family, Memorial Service for Tamio Saito

Reed & Gloria Ichishita and Wayne & Jo Morimoto, 7th Year Memorial Service for Yachiyo Kukita

Mr. & Mrs. Takeshi Matsumoto, 7th Year Memorial Service for Yachiyo Kukita

Total - \$4,105.00

HAKASOJI and NOKOTSUDO

Wilfred Murakami

Hideyuki Nagai

Masako Uchida

Kenneth Kihara, In Memory of T. Kihara

Hanako Sheldon, Sept. 8th In Memory of Bob Sheldon's Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Earl Matsuyama, In Memory of Matsuno Muraki

Fred Motomura, In Memory of my Parents and Brothers

Total - \$700.16

SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER SUNDAY SERVICES

Offerings

Total - \$341.00

AUTUMN O-HIGAN SERVICE

Cash Offerings

Mr. & Mrs. Colin Byars

Mr. & Mrs. Kazuyoshi Aoki

Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Chong

Marsha Boyle

Lisa Ciriako

Acknowledgements Continued:

Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Fujikawa
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Ichishita
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko
Mr. & Mrs. Naoto Katoku
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kunitomo
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Matsumoto
Mr. & Mrs. Takeshi Matsumoto
Mr. & Mrs. Mitsuo Nagai
Mr. & Mrs. Morris Nagata
Chizu Nakashima
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Oshiro
Mr. & Mrs. James Sato
Mr. & Mrs. George Shimamoto
Suga Suzuki
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue
Ted & Nancy Teshima
Nobuko Aoki
Sandy Iwashita
Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo
Mr. & Mrs. George Nakamoto
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Yamamoto

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gusman
Mr. & Mrs. Reed Ichishita
Mr. & Mrs. Yoshiyuki Kaneko
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Komo
Gladys Lovett
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Matsumoto
Mr. & Mrs. George Matsuoka
Mr. & Mrs. Toshio Nagai
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano
Ellen Nishikawa
Helen Oishi
Mr. & Mrs. Ichiro Shikada
Susan Shiota
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka
Mr. & Mrs. Terence Terada
Betty Yamagata
Mr. & Mrs. Kenji Fukumitsu
Mary Katayama
Mr. & Mrs. Michitoshi Murakami
Daisy Sasaki
Sumiko Yamamoto
Total - \$1,071.00

Tamaki Harano
Hisako Hirai
Carol Kawachi
Edna Kitagawachi
Alan Matsumoto
Norma Matsumoto
Kimie Mizoshiri
Yooko Moriguchi
Rev. Jiko Nakade
Clayton Nishina
Ethel Saito
Saeko Sato
Toshie Shiota
Kimie Takamoto
Dean Uemura
Makiko Yamaguchi
Nobuyuki Fukuda
Daisy Kitaoka
Keith Nishihara
Hidetaka Sato

HAWAII KYODAN DUES

Howard Yamasaki

CONDOLENCES

Mrs. Kimiyo "Dorothy" Kondo of Kealahou passed away on August 26, 2013 at RAC Home at the age of 96.

Mr. Glen Fusao Matsumoto of Honolulu passed away on September 6, 2013 at Kaiser Moanalua Medical Center at the age of 54.

Mr. Fumio Matsuoka of Honaunau passed away on September 25, 2013 at Kona Community Hospital at the age of 94.

Kona Hongwanji extends our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family and relatives of those members who recently passed away. May the wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha surround you and your family with loving memories of your loved one in the years to come.