

KONA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE



E - JIHO



August 2013

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

KONA HONGWANJI BON DANCE

Saturday, July 27, 2013

Lantern Parade at 6:30 p.m.

Bon Dance at 7:00 p.m.

HATSUBON SERVICE

Sunday, July 28, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Reverend Shigenori Makino

CEMETERY BON SERVICE

Sunday, August 11, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

Service will be held at the cemetery

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Sunday, September 15, 2013 --- 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Social Hall

Please read "For Your Information" in this Jiho for details

AWARENESS

The ultimate measure of a person is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience but where they stand in times of challenge and controversy.

Dr. Martin Luther King

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.

<u>AUGUST</u>		
4 Sunday	9:00 AM ...	English Family Service
9 Friday	8:30 AM ...	Senior Activity Program
10 Saturday	Boy Scouts Court of Honor
11 Sunday	9:00 AM ...	Cemetery Bon Service
14 Wednesday ...	7:00 PM ...	Board of Director's Meeting
18 Sunday	9:00 AM ...	English Family Service
24 Saturday	8:00 AM ...	Omigaki #2
25 Sunday	9:00 AM ...	English Family Service

<u>SEPTEMBER</u>		
1 Sunday	9:00 AM ...	English Family Service
6 Friday thru 8 Sunday	Honpa Hongwanji Lay Association 50 th Annual Convention at Aiea Hongwanji Mission	
8 Sunday	9:00 AM ...	English Family Service - Grandparent's Day
15 Sunday	NO SUNDAY SERVICE
	8:30 AM ...	Strategic Planning Session
22 Sunday	9:00 AM ...	Peace Day Service
28 Saturday	8:00 AM ...	Hosha #3; Food Prep #2; Omigaki #1
29 Sunday	9:00 AM ...	Autumn O-Higan

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 JULY and AUGUST, 2013

First Year (2012)	August	3	EMIKO SATO
	September	28	KAZUYE OZAKI
Third Year (2011)	August	22	YOSHITAKA TAKASHIBA
		25	CALVIN TADASHI HATA
	September	7	ERNEST KATSUKUNA URADS
Seventh Year (2007)	August	2	HARRY NOBUYUKI HONDA
		3	TAMOTSU OYAMA
	September	8	HIDETOSHI TANIGUCHI
Thirteenth Year (2001)	August	9	TADASHI KONDO
		14	RONALD T. KANAI
		14	RICHARD S. YANO
		26	FRANK T. NISHIMOTO
Seventh Year (1997)	August	9	TORAO TESHIMA
	September	1	CLARENCE YOSHITO NOZAKI
Twenty-fifth Year (1989)	August	22	ARTHUR MASAO NAKATANI
		26	CARY SHIZUO FUJIKAWA
	September	27	JANE TOMIKO SONODA
		28	YUMIKO KAKU
Thirty-third Year (1981)	August	11	DENZO YAMADA
		15	SHIZUYO TAKAUYE
Fiftieth Year (1964)	August	4	YATARO SONODA
		29	CHIYOJI NISHINA
	September	29	MAKOTO KAIKI
One Hundredth Year (1914)	August	6	ASAE KOGA
		7	KICHITAKA SHIROTA
		16	SUMIE UJIMORI
		22	KATANO ETO
		27	FUMIKO HIRAYAMA
		28	ITSUKI MIZUNO
		30	KEN YANO
		30	KIJIRO OISHI
	September	9	KIJIRO OISHI
		13	MITSUO HONKAWA
		21	ENSO SHIBAGAKI

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Norma Matsumoto

In this year thus far, we have lost so many members of our family, our Sangha and the community at large. Each of them has left a mark, and their loss gives us a chance to reflect on our own impermanence in this O Bon season. Please be sure to visit your temple, nokotsudo or haka to honor your family members or friends, now gone.

We have four temples in Kona with vibrant O Bon activity. The O Bon at Kona Daifukuji will be followed by Keei Buddhist Church on Saturday the 20th, Kona Hongwanji on the last Saturday night in July and Kona Koyasan Daishiji Mission on Saturday, August 10th. Come out and enjoy the music and the live taiko drumming.

Our 'Summer Nembutsu Seminar' might have sounded like a starchy, preachy, evening, BUT YOU MISSED OUT!!! Dr. Mark Unno was a great speaker. He had our closest attention as he reflected on his very sick pet cat, Taata, of twelve years. He said even though his pet had barely any control over his bodily functions before he left Oregon (and he, with his PhD cleaning up after him constantly...probably not what his parents had in mind for him to do with his PhD); he felt his pet, humbly and with some embarrassment and without words, communicate 'oneness' and appreciation for his efforts and care. A situation where the 'down and dirty', unpleasant aspects of caring for another living thing brings 'oneness', contentment and balance is true Dana. Anyone who is a caregiver knows that getting to that point is a journey. It is not an automatic thing to come to balance and 'oneness'; it takes conscious effort, and it is not easy. That is my journey at present and Dr. Unno's message was so powerful, just by sharing a simple pet story. Another 'arigatai' moment!!!! My thanks to Dr. Unno.

In Gassho

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

By Mary Katayama

Honolulu Magazine Article: The July 2013 Honolulu Magazine article titled, **Buddhism in Hawaii: Fading Tradition**, is printed in this Jiho for your information. By reading this article, let us focus on our temple and help with the survival of Kona Hongwanji beyond 2020. Your participation in the strategic planning session is very important.

Rev. Shoji's retirement: Rev. Shoji informed the Bishop and our Board of Directors that his last day as resident minister will be December 6, 2013. He and Sandra will be moving to Florida. Due to the minister shortage, he extended his retirement from December 2012 to December of 2013. Thank you Rev. Shoji for extending your retirement as Kona Hongwanji was without a resident minister for 15 months (May 25, 2006---September 1, 2007).

Strategic Plan: Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 15, 2013, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to update the 2007 Strategic Plan. Carol Ikeda will be our Facilitator. Lunch will be served. It is very important for members to participate and give input to the future of our temple. The morning session will be to review goals of 2007 and discuss the strengths, weakness and concerns of the organization. In the afternoon session the board will develop short and long term goals with strategies to meet the goals. **If you are interested in reviewing the 2007 Strategic Plan a copy will be available in the office after August 1, 2013**

Pre-School Director: Miss Elsie will be retiring at the end of July. We have advertised in West Hawaii Today for Pre-School Director. Qualification includes a degree in Early Childhood Education or equivalent. Applications may be obtained from Judy at the church office. Help us find a replacement.

Mahalo to Volunteers: To **Betty Takeoka** for doing a great job in coordinating the Nembutsu Seminar. To the weekly **Tuesday group (Jane Kunitomo, Gary Kiriara and Clara Uechi)** who cleans the Columbarium and refresh altar flowers. To **Alan Matsumoto and Lynn Katayama** for hanging the Obon lanterns in the Hondo.

Project Dana – Senior Activity Program: Mark your calendar for the **second Friday of every month, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon**. Join us for fun, fellowship, games and crafts! It is good time for members to meet, talk story, enjoy companionship with fellow members and enjoy the delicious snacks and lunch.

Hongwanji's Future: Barely Survive or How to Revive?

Submitted by Daren Katayama

The article "[Buddhism in Hawaii: Fading Tradition](#)" (reprinted below) was posted in the June 2013 edition of "[Honolulu Magazine](#)" (see the web link below). The article provides a very candid & fair assessment of the decline of Hongwanji in Hawaii, the struggle to keep temples open, and the barriers we face in attracting new members... it examines the survival of Jodo-Shin Buddhism in Hawaii. It includes interviews with **Bishop Eric Matsumoto**, **Reverend Earl Ikeda**, **Jacob Chang**, **Satsuye Tanaka** and **George Tanabe**. The article is lengthy, but if you are at all interested in the future of Hongwanji in Hawaii, this is a "***must read***".

"Buddhism in Hawaii: Fading Tradition"

By: Tiffany Hill, Photos by Elyse Butler & Matt Mallams; Honolulu Magazine / June 2013

<http://www.honolulumagazine.com/Honolulu-Magazine/July-2013/Buddhism-in-Hawaii-Fading-Tradition/>

This summer, Japanese Buddhist temples across the Islands are lit with lanterns and abuzz with bon dancers. But the sad fact is these temples are otherwise in trouble. Memberships have dwindled; the most active participants are the elderly, who are trying to keep the temples open and the traditions alive. Is Hawaii about to lose something unique?

"Can everyone please close their eyes as we have a moment of silence?" asks Rev. Earl Ikeda. It's a warm Sunday morning. Inside the Moiliili Hongwanji Mission temple, near UH Manoa, 40 members, most of them elderly, close their eyes. In a clear voice, Ikeda begins singing "Amazing Grace." After singing the first verse, he stops.

It's strange to hear a Christian hymn in a Japanese Buddhist temple, being led by the minister, no less. But Ikeda had a reason. "I was invited to do a funeral service recently," he explains. "I talked with the family and mentioned that it didn't have to be a strict service done in the Buddhist tradition." He explained to the family that they could choose a *gatha*, or song they felt would best honor their loved one. They chose "Amazing Grace." In fact, adds Ikeda, when it came time to sing, the Buddhist minister himself led the mourners in the Christian hymn.

Speaking to us earlier in his modest office upstairs, Ikeda, sporting his usual attire of T-shirts and shorts, says, "I like that song, and the meaning really fits what Buddhism is about. In Buddhism, the idea is to live the moment. We can't be attached to certain ways of thinking, that's exactly what Buddhism isn't." It was a story he wanted to share with his membership.

Ikeda's message about being unconventional is apropos. Japanese Buddhism—of which there are seven sects; Jodo Shinshu, the one he ministers, is the largest in the Islands—is going through a transition in Hawaii. The once thriving religion is fading, as did the plantations where its original followers propagated the teachings of Buddha. Today, when most kamaaina think of Buddhism, they probably picture colorful bon dances. Visit the temples during the summer festivals, and you might think they are flourishing. In truth, temple memberships are declining, and have been for years. Some temples have closed altogether. Buddhism in Hawaii is at a crossroads; its older members intent on keeping tradition and their children and grandchildren noticeably absent, while the religion's leadership tries to bridge the gap. It's been more than a century since Japanese immigrants brought Buddhism to the Islands; can it survive another 100 years? Who will rejuvenate the religion?

The Traditional Elders

Satsuye Tanaka was born and raised on the Big Island, the daughter of immigrant coffee farmers. "I remember going to church in the evening, which was good for the coffee farmers," she says. Tanaka says the temple fostered a closeness in her small plantation community. Today, Tanaka, in her 70s, is active at the urban Moiliili Hongwanji, which was established in 1906 and is part of the Jodo Shinshu sect.

The person most credited with establishing Buddhism in the Islands is Bishop Emyo Imamura. He came from Japan in 1899 to examine life at the plantations, and he was instrumental in building temples in plantation towns. Plantation workers converted plantation homes to create the first temples. By the mid-1920s, there were more than 170 temples in Hawaii. They were the lifeblood of the plantation towns, where they served not only as the place of worship, but as a community center and as the nucleus for political and labor discussions as the Japanese fought for a place in the Islands.

There are 33 temples still open on Oahu. Visit one of them today and you'll find a small number of devoted members, all of whom pay annual dues to keep the temples open. It is not uncommon for

ministers to speak in front of memberships comprising a dozen members, sometimes fewer. It's also likely that a temple's most active members are in their 70s, 80s, sometimes even 90s.

These seniors are the backbones of the temples. Every Monday morning, Tanaka, along with a handful of other elderly ladies, meet in Moiliili Hongwanji's annex for their weekly quilting session. For the temple's centennial celebration in 2006, the women made special altar cloths, sewn in Hawaiian quilt patterns. It took them 1,000 hours. They also diligently craft quilts to donate, often to the disabled or immobile elderly who participate in the temple's Project Dana program. Project Dana was started at the Moiliili Hongwanji, and provides home visits and transportation to 1,000 frail seniors or disabled people statewide.

In fact, several of the women are Project Dana volunteers themselves. "I just joined Project Dana and then underwent surgery," says Tanaka, taking a break from quilting to help prepare lunch—chicken and squash stew with rice. "I tell you what, these ladies can cook. They fed me every day for a month and a half."

"We're a senior group of ladies that grew up with the Buddhism background," adds Helen Hamasu, who is also part of the Moiliili Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association. "Most of us have altars at home where we present rice."

Across the island at Waipahu Hongwanji, established in 1902, Rev. Jay Okamoto says a core of elderly members—there are 200 members total—regularly clean the temple's altar, which was sent to Japan last year to be restored. (It cost more than \$150,000 to do so.) "The active members are old," says Okamoto. "Compared to our membership, I am very young," says the 39-year-old.

Seniors such as Tanaka and Hamasu keep the temples running. But as the elderly get older, the task becomes more difficult. During one of the Moiliili temple's recent services, a woman announced funeral services for three members who had passed away that week. The absence of younger members in many temples is glaring.

That's why, more than ever, longtime temple members are reaching out for new members; at Moiliili Hongwanji, there's even a special announcement made during Sunday services for newcomers, and a potluck afterward. "One reason younger members leave is cultural barriers," says Okamoto. Yet both he and Ikeda say that many older members prefer Buddhism's old traditions, such as chanting in Japanese and performing the formal rituals. "They've had their routine for 20 years and it's comfortable for them," says Okamoto.

This scenario is clearest in rural communities, where the plantations have all closed, and younger people have moved to more urban areas, or left Hawaii altogether. Over the past two decades, dozens of temples have closed. The most recent casualty on Oahu is the Kahuku Hongwanji, which shuttered this past December. Before it closed, four members were attending regularly—eight on a good day—says Barbara Tatsuguchi, who attended the temple regularly with her husband, Isamu, for 17 years.

"It was very sad when we had the last service," she says, but, pausing, adds that it was also kind of a relief, because keeping it open was a lot of work, especially on the shoulders of a few elderly members and the minister. "The minister worked hard to keep it going, but it was a losing cause. It was doomed because of the location." The Kahuku sugar mill closed in the 1970s, and, says Tatsuguchi, it was only a matter of time before the hongwanji closed, too. "The second generation moved into town, and no one commuted." The Tatsuguchis and some former members of the Kahuku temple now go to the Wahiawa Hongwanji, when they're able.

George Tanabe, a retired UH professor of religion, thinks that eventually even urban temples will face this same predicament. "It takes a certain foresight to develop something for our kids," he says, adding that many of the older members, and the local leadership, approach the situation with "a real fatalism." "The people who are in power now, they have their values, they have their likes, they have their tastes, and they're going to insist that that's how it's going to be, even though, for the next generation, it doesn't speak to them."

In addition to a shrinking membership, Hawaii's Japanese Buddhist temples are also facing a shortage of ministers. Take Okamoto. For the past six years, he's not only been the minister of the Waipahu Hongwanji, but also the temples in Ewa and Waianae, neither of which have had their own resident ministers in 30 years. The Ewa temple has 30 members and the Waianae temple has around 50, he says.

All Japanese Buddhist ministers must be ordained in Japan before they can work in Hawaii and on the Mainland. This often makes it difficult to attract local men and women in the first place, because they have to speak Japanese for their studies. Often, Japanese ministers end up serving in Hawaii's

temples, but, says Okamoto, they, too, face linguistic and cultural challenges. It's a catch-22.

The Apathetic Youth

Jake Chang believes his generation will be the one to rekindle Buddhism locally. Chang, a semi-recent college graduate, is the children and youth activities specialist at the Buddhist Study Center. The center, located on University Avenue, has ties to both UH and the Honpa Hongwanji Mission, the Jodo Shinshu headquarters just off the Pali Highway. Its aim is to provide resources, education and fellowship to Buddhists and preliminary training to Buddhist ministers.

Every August, Chang spearheads a young adults retreat at the center for those 20 to 35. "We do a lot of dialogue to develop their personal understanding of Buddhism," he says. "The people we tend to lose to other religions or entirely, is because it's not relevant, it has no meaning to them." Chang would know: He grew up in a Buddhist family, but lost interest in the religion in high school. He attended one of the center's first retreats, though, and says it helped regain his passion and maintain it throughout college and beyond.

Chang says one stumbling block for new members is the misconceptions people have about Buddhism. "People think it's just a Japanese religion," he says. "We're trying to get away from strictly funeral [rituals] and traditions. A lot of that worked for the Issei and Nisei, but that doesn't work for the current generation." He acknowledges that this shift in the temples is gradual, however.

Ikedo, who has been a minister for more than a decade, agrees. He says that, while history and tradition serve their purpose, it's important to embrace change, particularly for future generations. For Buddhism in today's society, that means separating the religion from its Japanese roots. "Buddhism should be considered a universal religion, not a cultural religion," he says.

While temples aren't overhauling how they operate, small adjustments are being made.

Each year, more *gathas* (hymns) are translated, and chanted in English. Today, services are primarily in English, although ministers still hold services in Japanese. In the meantime, Chang and other Buddhists his age socialize at the study center's fellowship club, where they can talk about issues that matter to them, in a casual setting. "I think we're going to see more growth, 10, 15 years down the road," he says, of those in their 20s and 30s being engaged in Buddhism.

The Established Leadership

The Obon season may be the most visible activity of the Buddhist temples across the Islands, but the hongwanji headquarters have been active in the community socially, and even politically, for a number years. Before Gov. Neil Abercrombie signed civil unions into law in 2011, the headquarters committee on social concerns publicly supported the rights of same-sex couples, and even distributed pamphlets with a written resolution. Next year, Project Dana, which has 850 volunteers, will celebrate its 25th anniversary.

More than \$5 million has been raised to build new facilities for Pacific Buddhist Academy, a private co-ed high school focused on peace education.

"We're looking at improving society," says the soft-spoken Rev. Eric Matsumoto, who for the past two years has been bishop of the headquarters, an esteemed position. "Whereas, in the past, we may have focused more on our own community."

But that's the goal, improving society, not recruiting new converts. "My personal understanding is that, as we carry out these programs and projects, people will begin to see the beauty and the value of the Buddhist teachings and the organization," he says, which, he adds, may indirectly lead to new members. "We do not do these projects and programs to increase our membership or convert people to Buddhism."

While Tanabe applauds the outreach efforts, he says large-scale growth won't happen unless there's a significant change in the way the temples operate internally. He says to attract a younger membership, temples should embrace a more current style of music. "Where's the Buddhist hip-hop, the Buddhist jazz, the Buddhist rock and roll?" he asks, adding that many Christian churches have embraced playing contemporary music. "Ritual Japanese is still used for chanting ... You can mouth the sounds, but you have no idea what you're saying. You're not going to get younger people coming, at least in terms of the music, if these hymns are going to do be done in the same old somber style."

Another of Tanabe's suggestions, which he says local Buddhists tell him is radical, is cutting all ties with Japan. This means that, instead of having all Japanese Buddhist ministers be ordained in Japan, Bishop Matsumoto would do the honors and they would receive all ministerial training at facilities such as

the Buddhist Study Center. (The study center does provide some training, but the official ordination ceremony still takes place in Japan.)

"It's a lack of leadership, a lack of courage, a lack of guts to do what the founders did, which is break away from the past and start something new," says Tanabe, referring to Hawaii's unique temple architecture and pews in the temples. "The vested interests are too strong and it's partly a consequence of institutionalization. These are big institutions and part of it is money."

While Matsumoto doesn't see it as a lack of leadership, he does think that someday Hawaii's Buddhist temples will ordain its own ministers, "just has [Japanese ministers] no longer go to China, and the Chinese do not go back to India," he says. "However, before it can happen we need fully qualified teachers and mentors who are able to train people here in the West ... Learning Buddhism is not an academic exercise that takes place in a sterile classroom from only books, but must be lived and experienced."

These changes may happen, someday. In the meantime, Buddhism in Hawaii will still be around for the next several decades, even if all of its temples will not. Members like Tanaka might encourage their younger family members to take over their temple duties when the time comes. Chang might encourage 20-somethings to become proactive about the future of the religion. Matsumoto might effectively engage headquarter leadership to enact a bold reorganization.

"At one point people will wake up," says Ikeda. "I don't know whether I'll be here to see it, [but there will be] a resurgence of the Buddhist teachings." He then gathers his papers to prepare for another Sunday service.

Hawaii District Nembutsu Seminar with Dr. Mark Unno

On Friday, July 5, Kona Hongwanji hosted the Hawaii District Nembutsu Seminar with guest lecturer, Dr. Mark Unno from the University of Oregon. Dr. Unno's topic was "The Power of Shin Buddhism." The seminar was sponsored by the Buddhist Study Center in Honolulu and was part of its summer session outreach program.

Dr. Unno is a very down-to earth person and an excellent speaker. He was able to provide a very good message while appearing to be talking story about his awesome and all-consuming experience of chairing the visit of the Dalai Lama to the University of Oregon while at the same time taking care of his sick cat Taata. Many of the attendees thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated his talk. Thank you, Dr. Unno!

In hopes of encouraging attendance at the seminar, flyers were sent to all island temples and to members of the Hawaii Association of International Buddhists (HAIB), BWA call trees were mobilized, announcements were made at temples services and ads were placed in the newspaper. Our goal was to have an attendance of at least 50 and I am happy to report that our goal was met! Thank you to all who attended, not only from our temple, but from outer districts, as well as within our community.

I am also most grateful for the many members of our Sangha who helped in so many ways to make the seminar a successful one. The generous giving of your time, expertise and energies (Dana) is most sincerely appreciated!

Gratefully in Gassho,
Betty Takeoka
Director of Spiritual Affairs/Buddhist Education

NEW MEMBER

Joining Hongwanji Kyodan is KELLEN MATSUMOTO of Kealahakua, Kona. He works as a property manager. If you read the article in this JIHO we welcome young members like him. Besides, he is the son of our Kyodan president, Norma Matsumoto.

JR. YBA NEWS

We've been so busy that there was no time to write JIHO news for the past couple of months. On June 21-23, 2013 5 members, 3 advisors, 3 chaperones and 1 consultant attended the 56th State Jr. YBA Convention held at Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin and Hilo Hawaiian Hotel. There were lots of work to be done as the Hawaii Island United was in charge so between Hilo, Puna and Kona Units, we had a successful convention.

Next on our agenda is our Bon Dance being held on July 27, 2013. We will be having food concession again. Instead of making bentos, we will be making Chicken Hekka Bowls (along with the Hot Dogs, Chili and Spam Musubis). Yum!! Please kokua and come and purchase food and drink items.

TAIKO GROUP NEWS

Oh my, it's been awhile since we did JIHO news. We had a successful Obon Festival held at the Keauhou Shopping Center on June 8, 2013. The crowd was larger than in past few years. Because other taiko groups that were invited had other obligations, our taiko group had to put together intermission performances with a tribute to the Military and First Responders in their own rendition of "God Bless the USA". They also did a Blue Man Group number, "Time to Start" where there was audience participation with Rock Concert Movements like head bobs and fist pumps. Thank you to DERRICK IWATA and RANDALL SMITH for also participating during the intermissions. Also filling in during intermissions was CODY SUGAI with his ukulele numbers and our very own JORDAN CIRIAKO.

On July 13, 2013 our taiko group was invited to participate at the Kona Daifukuji Soto Mission's Bon Dance. For the most part, there were lots of dancers when it wasn't precipitating. We also got to do our "Time to Start" as part of their intermission (just before the downpour of rain). They held the rest of the bon dance in their hall. Thank you Daifukuji Taiko Group for allowing us to participate with you. We had fun!!

Next on our agenda is the Keei Buddhist Church's Bon Dance. It will be held on July 20, 2013.

And our Kona Hongwanji Bond Dance, which will be held on July 27, 2013. Don't miss out as the group has been putting together another Blue Man Group song which they have asked the Kona Daifukuji's Taiko Group to drum with our group. Come and visit our boot too. There will be Li Hing Mui Lollipops and many more goodies to purchase.

THE HAOLE BUDDHA

by William Tokuko Lundquist

In Hawaii, we haoles are known for three things: we sunburn easily, we wear our outside shoes inside our homes, and we think we know everything. I can blame the first two on my Swedish ancestors. The human body manufactures vitamin D from sunlight, which the Scandinavians measure in a few hours each year. My ancestors would not have survived without pasty white skin that absorbs sunlight very quickly. Also, the body makes less vitamin D as it ages, so we had to lose our fine, thin hair in early adulthood to expose even more pale skin to the sunlight. As for wearing shoes indoors, homes in Scandinavia were freezing most of the year, and were shared with livestock in an attempt to keep everyone warmer. My ancestors had to watch where they stepped.

I can blame the third thing on the Greeks. The entire haole way of thinking comes from Greek culture, just as the Japanese way of thinking comes from China. It's not so much that we think we know everything, but the Greek philosophers believed there was an answer for everything, and that it could be discovered through logic and science, then explained to everyone else, the way I try to explain Buddhism to you each month.

What got me thinking about all this was an article in the summer issue of *Buddhadharma* magazine called "Inventing the Buddha" by Annabella Pitkin. This was actually a review of a book called "From Stone to Flesh: A Brief History of the Buddha" by Donald Lopez, Jr. As Pitkin explains, Europeans didn't know what to make of Buddhism when they first ran into it in Asia. They guessed that it might be an ancient Egyptian or Germanic religion. The Buddha was portrayed and worshipped so differently throughout the vast continent of Asia that Europeans saw each version as a different local pagan idol. Looking at paintings and statues, they couldn't even identify the race or sex of the Buddha. Just look at the Kannon statue in the Daifukuji temple today and you can understand their confusion. They didn't know that Buddhist art made Buddhas and Bodhisattvas to represent both sexes and all races, because all beings have Buddha-nature.

Finally, the idea of the Buddha as an historical figure was created by Eugene Burnouf in Paris in 1844. In typical haole fashion, Europeans decided the hundreds of deities worshipped throughout Asia were actually just variations on the Buddha, an ancient Indian prince who had renounced wealth and taught the path to enlightenment. People naturally see what they are looking for, and the Europeans found an Asian Socrates or Aristotle, a wise man, not a deity at all. This is now the haole, and even Asian, view of the Buddha today, but I spent enough time in the Kona coffee country to know this is not how your ancestors viewed Amida Buddha, Shakyamuni Buddha or Kannon. They didn't just bow to a wise and compassionate man out of politeness. Listen to the first line of the English *Junirai*, to be uttered only by the priest: Gods and Men all bow in awe, to Amida, the revered." Just imagine the power of true gods, or even of the most powerful men in history, yet when in the presence of Amida Buddha, they are all so awestruck that they must fall on their faces. To your ancestors, and some of you today, the Buddha was a very real power, incomprehensible, but one that must be worshipped and honored. This Buddha had the power of life and death over each person, the power to save fishermen at sea or drown them, to bring the crops to harvest or make them wither, the power to heal a sick child or at least bring him to the Pure Land. In contrast, the haole Buddha is just a kind man with good advice on how to live a better life.

Don't feel bad. We haoles did the same thing to our ancient gods long ago. My ancestors worshipped mighty gods of lightning and thunder because they could be killed very quickly if they didn't. When Christianity came along, some of these were converted into saints, who still held the power of life and death over people. The thunder and lightning went to God himself, who was to be feared as much as worshipped. Break a commandment and Hell awaited. God's representative on earth was Jesus Christ, who would return in a fairly bad mood over how he was treated the first time around. Christians prayed on their knees not out of politeness, but because they fell to their knees in awe.

Nowadays, God is a god of love only. Jesus is everybody's best buddy, helping them land a high-paying job and making sure their football team wins the Superbowl. This is what we haoles do to things. We logically de-mystify anything that strikes us in awe. We explain it and reduce it. We refuse to fall to our knees or bow to the unknown. But what have we lost in the process?

Today, I believe in the wisdom, compassion and good advice of Shakyamuni Buddha, an ordinary man who discovered the best part of himself and us. Yet, in 2007, I was grasped by the power of Amida Buddha, something I don't understand, yet know is real. Nothing I know about myself or the world can explain this. There are mysteries out there, powers that can't always be explained or understood. Your Asian ancestors knew that some things must just be accepted. Sometimes gods and men should bow in awe.

FROM MY QUOTATION NOTES

by Rev. Shoji

In his book, *Under My Elm*, David Grayson says: "All my life I have been building up my anthology. Whenever words fly up at me from the printed page as I read, I intercept them instantly, knowing they are for me. I turn them over carefully in my mind and cling to them hard."

Following his example, I've read some books and jotted down the following quotations.

"The ancients have stolen our best ideas."
– Mark Twain

"Sensitive men and women throughout history agreed about certain basic approaches to life. They have expressed these ideas in very different ways, of course. But whether expressed in the language of the schools or the language of the streets, there must be truth in concepts that so many different people have believed in and lived by – and, in some cases, died for."
– John Cook

"I quote others only the better to express myself."
"This noble precept is often cited by Plato: 'Do thine own work, and know thyself.' Each of these two parts generally cover the whole duty of man, and each includes the other. He who will do his own work well, discovers that his first lesson is to know himself, and what is his duty."
– Michel Eyquem De Montaigne

"Beingness, doingness and havingness are like a triangle where each side supports the others. They are not in conflict with each other. They each exist simultaneously. Often people attempt to live their lives backwards. They try to *have* things, or more money, in order to *do* more of what they want, so that they will *be* happier. The way it works is the reverse. You must first *be* who you really are, then *do* what you need to do, in order to *have* what you want."
– Shakti Gawain

"You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, 'I lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.' You must do the thing you *cannot* do."
– Eleanor Roosevelt

"This we know. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family . . . Whatever befalls the earth, befalls the sons and daughters of the earth. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself."
– Ted Perry

"An anthropologist proposed a game to children of an African Tribe. He put a basket of fruit near a tree and told the kids that the first one to reach the fruit would win them all. When he told them to run they all took each others' hands and ran together, then sat together enjoying the fruits. When asked why they ran like that, as one could have taken all the fruit for oneself, they said, '**UBUNTU**, how can one of us be happy if all the others are sad?' Ubuntu is a philosophy of African tribes that can be summed up as 'I am because we are'.
– Jean-Pierre Hallet

Our country's motto – *E Pluribus Unum* – "out of many, one" – traditionally means that out of many states emerge a single nation. However, in recent years its meaning has come to suggest that out of many peoples, races, religions and ancestries has emerged a single people and nation – illustrating the concept of the melting pot.

Greetings from your Kona Hongwanji Preschool

Hear Ye ! Hear Ye !

Bring your preschoolers here to us. Spaces available in both the Three year old group and the Four year old group!

This summer we welcomed MS. CAROLYN INOUE, as a fulltime teacher's aide to our staff. Ms. Inoue's work experiences and as a mother and grandmothers lends itself well for the position here.

In early June, we established a library schedule with our Kealahou Public Library. We met Mr. Kipapa and his wonderful staff. We now walk across to the library once a week on Tuesday mornings. This has been an exposure into books and the library. Now, we all are very excited about being in the library with so many books. The librarians read to us a variety of stories. We are later allowed to select books which in turn the school borrows and takes back to school. Our summer seems to be rapidly disappearing.

Summer was filled with activities that we had not covered during the regular school year, like water play, nature walks, holidays, nature crafts and picnics on the playground.

We still have wacky hair day- Monday, wear your favorite sports attire- Tuesday, On Wednesday we will be holding our first ever summer dance. We will decorate the classroom with streamers and balloons and play a variety of music for the children as well as the staff to dance too. Then on Thursday- it will be pajama and movie day (won't it be fun to see all the staff in their pajamas.) and then on Friday it will be our last day of school. We will finalize this day with water play on the playground and a pot luck lunch for all the children. We are asking the children and staff to please bring something to share with everyone. Now besides all this we are also continuing to spent time on reviewing other past curriculum themes.

As we wind down for the year...We want to say a "BIG MAHALO" to all of our families and parents along with our dedicated volunteers such as Janet Lindner, Elaine Nakagawa, Ethel Saito and Trent Terada. To our parents and families who assisted us as chaperones on our walking trips and who have committed themselves all year to assist us in a variety of ways. We are always very grateful and honored that you have selected our school to be at. To all the families and friends who have made donations to our school in one way or another to you also we say a very sincere and heartfelt "Thank You."

Reminders:

Orientation day is on Wednesday- July 24 at 8am to 11am. The parents will be meeting with Ms. Elsie in the scout room with all their supplies and necessary paper work.

Our first day of school will be August 5th- Monday.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, See you all soon.

Aloha,
Ms. Elsie

CUB SCOUTS PACK 12

RECRUITING

Kick off for recruiting new scouts will be beginning on August 1st at Konawaena Elementary Meet & Greet.

Pack #12 excepting boys between 1st and 5th grade. We are having a great time and keeping very busy. If anyone is interested in joining please call Lynn Gusman at 324-0708. Meetings are Mondays from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Extended days Wednesdays & Thursdays at 5:00 pm to 7:00pm.

JOHN IWANE

The scouting movement has suffered another loss of a Great Scouter & supporter, Mr. John Y. Iwane. Mr. Iwane passed away on June 12, 2012 at Kona Community Hospital. Born Jan. 13, 1917 in Koloa, Kauai, he was a retired county agent for the University of Hawaii Extension Service, chairman of the Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union and member of the Kona Lions Club, Boy Scouts of America, Farm Bureau, 4H Club and Christ Church Episcopal.

He had served several positions with the Boy Scouts of America District level, awarded the Silver Beaver Award and Award of Merit. He actively served in scouting for nearly 66 years. His last position was Finance officer for Friends of Scouting.

Like Mr. Kiyoshi Ide, they believed in the scouting movement and what it teaches the young boys to grow with great values.

Upcoming Events:

July & August – Summer Activities to be announced.

July 21 – Cub Scout closet clean up

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Grace, Use of Facility
Elaine Chapman, Gifford & Peter Matsuoka and the rest of the Chapman Ohana, for my Father,
Hanshichi Kunitomo's 33rd Anniversary
Wally & Aiko Ichishita, In Memory of Chiyoko Hiraoka
Wally & Aiko Ichishita, Belated Mother's Day In Memory of Kome Ichishita and Yasue Nakayama
Anonymous, County Use of Facility
Yooko Moriguchi, In Memory of Ernest J. Bond
Doris Nozaki, O-Bon
Rena Rainbow & Line Dancing Class, in Appreciation for Use of Facility
Ethel Saito, Project Dana & Jiho
Nancy Shibata, Jiho
Norman & Betty Takeoka, In Memory of Kikuyo Kamigaki's 7th year Memorial Anniversary
Mr. & Mrs. Alsworth Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo, O-Bon Festival @ Keauhou Shopping Center
Miyose Family, Graveside Inurnment Service for Anthony Miyose
Mr. & Mrs. Masakatsu Tsukahara, Jiho
Susan Wong, In Memory of Emiko Sato
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dollnig, O-Bon In Memory of Teruyo Marumoto Hirata and Frank Okamoto
Vicky Hamada, In Memory of Don and Sue Hamada
Carol Ikeda, Project Dana
Muriel Izumi
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Kitaoka, Use of Facilities
Lions Club Community Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo, Jiho
Okamoto Family, Father's Day In Memory of Frank Okamoto
Marjorie Fergerstrom, Social Concerns
Mr. & Mrs. Kenji Fukumitsu, Keopu Church Bon Service
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Higashi, Jiho
Tomie Honda, O-Bon In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Iwaki Honda, Mr. Harry N. Honda and Mr. & Mrs. Sahei
Matsumoto
Keopu Citizen's Club, Keopu Church Bon Service
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Umeno, Use of Facilities
Family of the Late Tsugio Yamano, In Memory of Tsugio Yamano
Anonymous, Tai Chi/Kyudo for June
Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo, Tai Chi
Ukie Saito, Buddha Day and Gotan-e

Total - \$3,480.00

Acknowledgments Continued:

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Masayuki & Fumiko Kai, In Memory of Takeshi Kitaoka's 25th Year Memorial
Masayuki & Fumiko Kai, In Memory of Yoshio Kitaoka's 33rd Year Memorial
Lisa & Warren Kitaoka, 25th Year Memorial Service for Takeshi Kitaoka
Lisa & Warren Kitaoka, 33rd Year Memorial Service for Yoshio Kitaoka
Loretta Kitaoka, 33rd Memorial Service for Yoshio Kitaoka
Loretta Kitaoka, 25th Memorial Service for Takeshi Kitaoka
Masashi Kitaoka, 25th Year Memorial Service for Takeshi Kitaoka
Masashi Kitaoka, 33rd Year Memorial Service for Yoshio Kitaoka
D & G Kurozawa, In Memory of Yoshi Kitaoka
D & G Kurozawa, In Memory of Takeshi Kitaoka
George Kurozawa, In Memory of Takeshi Kitaoka and Yoshio Kitaoka
Adele Marquez, 25th Memorial Service for Takeshi Kitaoka
Adele Marquez, 33rd Year Memorial Service for Yoshio Kitaoka
Keevan Matsumoto, Memorial Service for Kyle Matsumoto
Gladys Lovett, Hilda & Fusao Sugai and Betsy & Tom Nishioka, 13th Year Memorial Service for Satoru
Omoto
Lorraine Hayashi, Memorial Service for Keijiro Matsumoto
Honda Family, Matsumoto Family Service
Tomie Honda, Memorial Service for Keijiro Matsumoto
Stanley & Julie Kaku, Jean Murata, Lenora & William Kelley and Lilly Ushiroda, 50th Year Memorial
Service for Keijiro Matsumoto
Naoto & Sachi Katoku, In Memory of Keijiro & Majiu Matsumoto
Akikazu & Suemi Matsumoto, Matsumoto Family Service
Atsushi Matsumoto Family, Memorial Service for Keijiro Matsumoto
Florence Ogata, In Memory of Keijiro & Majiu Matsumoto
Satsuye Tanaka, Memorial Service for Keijiro Matsumoto
Toyoko Urada, Matsumoto Family Service
Esther Jenkins, Kunitake Memorial Service
Janet & Melvin Kunitake, Kunitake Memorial Service
Nelson & Lily Kunitake, 25th Year Service In Memory of Shigeo Kunitake
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Kunitake, Kunitake Memorial Service
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Ashihara, Graveside Memorial Service for Tsukao Ashihara
Verna Takamoto, Funeral Service & Related Expenses for Wally Takamoto
Atsushi & Misao Matsumoto, Memorial Service for Mr. Tsukao Ashihara
Total - \$2,615.00

HAKASOJI and NOKOTSUDO

Mr. & Mrs. Masakatsu Tsukahara	Nancy Shibata	Wendell Shibata
Mr. & Mrs. Kiyoshi Nakamura	Mr. & Mrs. Seiji Sasaoka	Mildred Morimoto
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Higashi	Mr. & Mrs. Kaoru Uyeda	Ukie Saito
Total - \$375.00		

JUNE and JULY SUNDAY SERVICES

Offerings Total - \$228.00

NEMBUTSU SEMINAR

Anonymous	Yasunori Deguchi	Mary Katayama
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Acknowledgments Continued:

Sachi Katoku
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Maeda
Rev. Jiko, Amy & Ryan Nakade
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Mr. & Mrs. Kazumi Oshita
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Clara Uechi

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Norma Matsumoto
Sally Murakami
Clayton Nishina
R. Okimoto
Susan Shirota
Dean Uemura

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Ethel Saito

Mr. & Mrs. Kiyoshi Nakamura

Nancy Shibata

HAWAII KYODAN DUES

Anonymous

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Higashi

Ukie Saito