

KONA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE



E - JIHO
October 2015



Theme & Slogan 2015: Embrace Change: Awareness (Seek Opportunities)

OCTOBER EVENTS

Sunday, October 11, 2015-----Burning of Religious Artifacts
at cemetery following 9:00 a.m. service

Sunday, October 18, 2015-----Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.
Note change in time of service---HIUHBWA Convention

Saturday, October 24, 2015---Manju Making at 7:30 a.m.
Kyodan Fundraiser for Education Fund
Volunteers are Welcome
Education Fund supports Dharma School and Jr. YBA Students, Teachers and Leaders

Sunday, October 25, 2015-----Manju Sale/Pick Up ---8:00 a.m. to 12 noon
No Sunday Service

EITAIKYO SERVICE

Sunday, November 1, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.
Speaker Reverend Bruce Nakamura
Offertory specified for Hawaii Kyodan Dues

Perpetual Memorial Service or Eitaikyo, is a Japanese Buddhist observance. It is a memorial service to pay tribute to predecessors. This service is dedicated to all those who lived and died as Buddhist in due respect of their contributions to the growth of the local sangha. It is an opportunity to express gratitude to the Buddha, the Dharma and Sangha.

Jodo Shinshu A Guide (April 2004)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 22, 2015---Annual Clean Up

Sunday, December 6, 2015-----Bodhi Day Service

NEED THE ASSISTANCE OF THE MINISTER, contact Rev. Bruce Nakamura at 323-2993 or Emergency only 987-9900 or Norma Matsumoto at 323-2552 or 989-3015.

To schedule services or activities, call the church office at 323-2993 Monday thru Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on weekends and holidays. If unable to contact the office clerk, leave a message on the answering machine.

E-MAIL ADDRESS: Church - konahongwanji@twc.com

Rev. Bruce - brucejunshin@gmail.com

OCTOBER

1 Thursday..	10:00 AM ..	Minister's Meeting @ Honokaa
2 Friday	3:00 PM ...	Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast Set-Up
3 Saturday ..	7:00 AM ...	Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast
4 Sunday ...	9:00 AM ...	English Family Service
7 Wednesday ..	9:30 AM ...	Service @ Hualalai Regency
	11:00 AM ..	Service @ Life Care Center
9 Friday	8:30 AM	Senior Activity Program
	5:00 PM ...	Cub Scouts Induction Nite @ Scout Room
11 Sunday ..	9:00 AM ...	English Family Service & Joint Birthday/Memorial Svc.
	after service	Religious Artifacts Burning
14 Wednesday..	7:00 PM ...	Board of Director's Meeting
17 Saturday ...	-----	HIUBWA Convention Prep
18 Sunday ...	9:30 AM ...	English Family Service.
	-----	HIUHBWA Convention
21 Wednesday ..	7:00 PM ...	Round-Table Forum
23 Friday	-----	Prep for Fundraiser
24 Saturday	-----	Fundraiser - Manju Baking
25 Sunday	-----	NO SUNDAY SERVICE
	8:00 am ...	Fundraiser - Manju Pick-up
27 Tuesday ...	9:00 AM ...	Preschool Temple Visitation
30 Friday	11:00 AM ...	Preschool Luncheon & Program

NOVEMBER

1 Sunday	9:00 AM ...	English Eitaikyo Service
4 Wednesday ..	9:30 AM ...	Service @ Hualalai Regency
	11:00 AM ..	Service @ Life Care Center
7 Saturday	-----	Judo Club Promotion Banquet
8 Sunday	9:00 AM ...	English Family Service & Veteran's Appreciation Day
9 Monday	7:30 PM ...	Bon Dance Practice
11 Wednesday ..	-----	Peace Concert sponsored by BWA
12 Thursday	7:30 PM ...	Bon Dance Practice
13 Friday	8:30 AM ...	Senior Activity Program
14 Saturday	-----	Coffee Festival Hoolaulea @ Keauhou Shopping Ctr.
15 Sunday	9:00 AM ...	English Family Service & Joint Birthday/Memorial Svc.
18 Wednesday ..	7:00 PM ...	Round-Table Forum
21 Saturday	-----	Annual Wall Washing for Clean-up
22 Sunday	7:30 AM ...	Annual Clean-Up
24 Tuesday	9:00 AM ...	Preschool Temple Visitation
29 Sunday	-----	NO SUNDAY 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 6:45 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 ONLY
EVERY THURSDAY AT 7:00 PM KATA CLASS

IKEBANA

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

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR OCTOBER and NOVEMBER 2015

First Year (2014)	October	12	HERBERT KENSO OUE
	November	4	ELLEN TAMAKI HARANO
		9	DORIS K. ARAKI
		26	FUSAE KITAOKA
Third Year (2013)	October	28	FUSAE KAMIGAKI
	November	10	TANE TANIGUCHI
Seventh Year (2009)	October	13	YUKIKO K. KUROZAWA
		22	MITSURU "IRENE" OKUMURA
	November	17	SATSUE WAGLE
Thirteenth Year (2003)	October	14	SHIZUE NOGUCHI
		30	TOSHIO YOSHIZAKI
	November	12	TAKASHI HIRANO
Seventeenth Year (1999)	October	9	RUBY SHIMEKO MURASAKI
	November	12	YOSHIO "CALVIN" HAYAMA
Twenty-Fifth Year (1991)	October	1	DIANE SHIROTA
		14	PEARL M. NAGATA
	November	5	JANE A. YOSHIMURA
		27	YASU AOKI
Thirty-Third Year (1983)	October	7	TEKI TANAKA
		9	FLORENCE NAKAMOTO
	November	28	OLIVER INOUE
Fiftieth Year (1966)	October	7	MOTOKICHI KANEO
		31	YOSHIKO AOKI
One Hundredth Year (1916)	October	10	HANA TAKATOKI
		11	KAMENOSHIN SUEKI
		18	TSUCHIYO YAMADA
		20	SANO MARUYAMA
	November	1	MATSU OKA
		19	MATSU MIYAMOTO
		22	JITSUO YOSHIKI
		24	YOSHIKO OKA
		26	MATSUE AZUMA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by: Norma Matsumoto

Very interesting Lay Convention on Oahu this year. As Kona Hongwanji is no longer the sole temple 'behind' in their assessments due to Hawaii Kyodan, a measure created to stem this trend, was passed. The action of passing this approved resolution paves the way for it to appear and be voted on by the Giseikai in February. In a nutshell, temples in arrears without 'an approved payment plan' for a year will have these 'sanctions'. The temple cannot have a director or officer position of the Hawaii Kyodan; the temple shall not be entitled to any delegates at the Giseikai (pending an bylaw change that says that 'all temples shall be represented'); the temple and its membership shall not be eligible to participate in subsidized programs of Hawaii Kyodan i.e Golden Chain Grants and travel subsidies. Note: Youth programs

are not affected by these restrictions and 'sub organizations' did not include BWA but examples mentioned were 'Lay Ass'n and Sr. YBA. Temples delinquent for **two years will lose their minister**. As Giseikai and Lay convention delegates are usually the same, it is my impression that this is a done deal. On the positive side, all temples agree that waning membership and diminished numbers of volunteers within this pool of members is a real phenomenon and Honpa budgets cannot continue to burgeon.

I had a chance to address the board. I emphasized that as a 'heathen and real greenhorn' newbie president at our temple, I had no idea of the doings of the Giseikai/State Board of directors/budgets and assessments. I told them that it was eye opening. I asked them to remember that sometimes the same guys get elected and the same guys go to make decisions at these conventions for the rest of us regular type members who don't really know or care about this stuff and have our hands full with just ordinary temple problems or just our own lives. I asked them to think about how the ordinary members at their temples would feel about a 6 million dollar purchase of a 'Ching Property' or subsidizing a great school that serves less than 300 students to the tune of millions of dollars; but have **no direct effect on improvement of their own local temples for these assessment monies**. I asked them if they thought these decisions made in the past would pass muster if individual regular members at each temple had to vote on them. I figure somebody at their temple thought that was a great idea but failed to explain this to members or it's future financial ramifications. This happened a lot with my teachers union experience...so I'm a bit jaded. At least my blood pressure is lower 'cause I got this off my chest. Ha Ha. I'm entertaining any request to have these big decision makers come to our temple to justify expenditures and decisions, since we won't have much representation heretofore.

In Gassho

THE "HALF TIME" REPORT...

by Daren Katayama, Finance Director

Recently Hawaii Kyodan sent questions to a group of temple leaders, inquiring about the current status and future outlook of their respective temples. Reverend Bruce Nakamura requested I summarize my responses. Please note, my comments are my own personal perspective as Finance Director, which may or may not be consistent with that of Kona's Kyodan Board of Directors. The questions were:

1. *How is your temple doing financially? Do you face serious financial problems in the next 5 years? In the next 10 years?*
2. *How is your temple doing with regard to manpower for projects and events? Do you face serious manpower problems in the next 5 years? In the next 10 years?*
3. *If nothing changes... if all trends continue just as they are, does your temple face possible closure in the next 5 years? In the next 10 years?*
4. *Does your temple need assistance from Hawaii Kyodan? What kind of assistance do you need?*

How is your temple doing financially? Simply put, we are struggling financially. We operate at a "loss"; and our cash reserves have declined over the years. This is not a new condition, Kona Hongwanji has been struggling for a very long time... as far back as the 1990's. Membership has dropped significantly from 400 members (2000) to 250 (2014). Over the past 25 years, we have suffered the effects of having either no minister, or a minister that no other temple would take. And we have deferred facility repairs that now must be done.

Our financial strategy is to keep Kona Hongwanji operating for as long as possible. We prioritize our payments... first to items that must be paid or else our temple would shut down (e.g. payroll, taxes, utilities, etc.)... second, facility repairs that were deferred time and time again, but have reached a point of "must do" (e.g. septic tank).

Our largest annual expense is Hawaii Kyodan's annual dues (roughly \$36-\$38k). There has been much confusion over our payments, but the two most important facts to know: (1) we have paid a MINIMUM of \$12,000 every year to Hawaii Kyodan (often times significantly more); and (2) we have gotten better, last year, we paid \$30,000... only \$7,000 short! Keep in mind, our financial condition is not unique, other temples face the same crisis.

In the next five years, we can "survive" under current conditions. However, in ten years or so, unless conditions change significantly, we will run out of monies.

How is your temple doing with manpower? It is difficult to secure adequate manpower (i.e. volunteers) to assist with recurring temple operations, fundraising, and special events. We have a "core group" of dedicated volunteers, but this core group is severely "burning out". We also have difficulty getting new "leaders" to take charge of these events, which further burns out the core group.

Many of our current volunteers are aging; they no longer can drive, or cannot physically assist. Also, we have lost volunteers with specialized skills, particularly construction skills. A consequence is now we must pay for these services... increasing the financial burden.

We currently face manpower shortages, and will continue to do so in the next five to ten years. Similar to the financial struggle above, we can probably "manage" in the next five years. Beyond that, it will be very difficult.

If nothing changes... if all trends continue just as they are, does your temple face possible closure? Simple answer... *yes!* In five years, probably not; we have enough "inertia" to carry on for five more years. *In ten years or so, we will face the closure decision.* Of course, as we get lower on funds, we will re-prioritize our expenditures to make ends meet... e.g. we may not be able to support a resident minister; we may significantly cut back on services to our members and community. Re-prioritizing will buy us more time.

We have a twenty year cash flow analysis covering 2000 to 2020. The first ten years (2000-2010) has actual data; the last ten years (2011-2020) are forecasted. If all trends continue, the model forecasts running out of funds in 2020. The "good news", our forecast seems to be tracking accurately through 2014. The *"bad news", our forecast seems to be tracking accurately... meaning we will run out of funds*, if all trends continue.

Does your temple need assistance from Hawaii Kyodan? I see assistance in two general areas: Financial and Spiritual. On the financial side, Hawaii Kyodan can assist all temples by reducing their financial burden on the temples. For example, reducing the annual dues assessment by reducing their expenses; implementing a new assessment model that is fair, objective, transparent, and consistent; develop fundraising programs at the Hawaii Kyodan level that does NOT tap members or temples. Non-member sources of revenues would include seeking sponsorships from outside organizations; additional financial support from Honzan; rental income or other non-member sources of income.

On the spiritual side, Hawaii Kyodan must lead the change in the way we present our Jodo-Shin message. We must develop strategies to reach out to the young, and to the non-Japanese community; modernize our gathas and sutras; improve minister training and orientation to "local" culture and values; make it "fun" in learning the Dharma; employ technology and social media that is specific to the target group; accelerate the "lay assistant" program.

In the end, I truly believe the real solution lies in the Dharma and propagation. You might be able to collect more monies from our members, but that alone will not increase membership; in fact, that would probably discourage it. However, if you find a way to increase membership, the finances will take care of itself. So! How will the "second half" turn out? We shall soon see... Can we can make the needed adjustments? Do we have enough time?

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

By Mary Katayama

Lindsey Byars: In the absence of Rev. Bruce, Lindsey was Guest Speaker for Sunday Service on September 13, 2015. Attendance was much more than the usual Sunday service group. Lindsey shared an inspiring message on her college thesis on Church and Buddhism. She received an A, however her professor encouraged her to reflect on herself as a person. Lindsey should be very proud of herself as she lives by values instilled by her family, church and Buddhism. Kona Hongwanji is proud to have played a part in instilling Buddhist values as a Dharma School student, Jr. YBA member and participant in various Hongwanji activities and events. **Lindsey is a Role Model for parents and Dharma School children. Laureen, Colin, Grandma Helen and KHBT are very proud. Lindsey's message will be printed in the Jiho.**

New Kitchen Stove: We have a new stainless steel, digital stove in the kitchen. **Mr. Roy Onaka from General Appliance** graciously donated the new stove. It will replace the original stove that was donated in 1988 by Mr. Herbert Saito. Thank you to both Mr. Onaka and Mr. Saito for the generous donation.

Rev. Bruce: Rev. Bruce has established office hours. 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Mondays, to Wednesdays and Fridays. Thursdays will be his day off. He is available as needed from 12 noon to 4 p.m., and will be available for emergency at 987-9900. Rev. Bruce is also willing to make home visits. Call 323-2993 for appointments. He has joined the Kona Hospital Chaplain Program and Community Interfaith Group. Rev. Bruce developed a KHBT Brochure and Business Card. Brochures available in temple, Business Card per Rev. Bruce.

Cemetery Volunteers: Mahalo to Jim Miller, John Tsue and Norman Takeoka, volunteers to empty cemetery trash containers. They have developed a weekly schedule. **Adult volunteers are needed for weed control.** Please leave your name and phone number at church

office (323-2993). Mary with assistance from Stanley Kunitomo and Joe Gusman will be coordinating a weed control plan. **Help is urgently needed.**

Kyodan Manju Fundraiser: This annual kyodan sponsored event is to raise funds to support our Dharma School and Jr. YBA students, teachers and leaders as they participate in events or activities sponsored by local, United, Federation or National organizations. **Volunteers, both male and female are needed on Saturday, October 24, 2015, beginning at 7:30 a.m. to make manju. Join us to support our youth and their leaders**

2016 Hongwanji Calendar: We will be ordering the 2016 calendars very shortly. Please contact the church office (323-2993), if you are interested. It is free to members.

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

MESSAGE BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

ON THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II IN HOPE FOR PEACE

With this year marking the 70th anniversary of the end of the Asia-Pacific War, I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to all across the world who perished during the war. The sorrow of those who lost their loved ones in the war can never be alleviated, and thus, deep agony from the war will continue to be felt by generations to come.

Approximately 2,500 years ago, Sakyamuni Buddha expounded, "Putting yourself in others' place, do not kill and do not make them kill others." However, being the innately ego-centered beings that we are, we have a tendency to feel affectionate to those who are convenient to us, while feeling hatred to those who are not. Even though we know in theory that every life is equally precious, we cannot accept others as they are and cannot help but fight with one another. Many lives are lost in any war. There is no act that is more foolish and reckless than humans killing one another.

Peace and renunciation of war is the path that human beings must take.

Monshu Emeritus Ohtani Koshin presented a message following the *Service for Promoting the Core Program and Pursuing a Society of Fellow Nembutsu Practicers* conducted at the Hongwanji in Kyoto, on March 20, 1997. In his message Monshu Emeritus stated, "Today, protection of the dignity of life, or preservation of fundamental human rights, is not an issue only within Japanese society but should be a concern shared by all humankind. Besides, it is the path to follow to actualize world peace." Now is the time for us to be aware that "dignity of life" is a keyword to bring peace and harmony to the world.

His successor, Monshu Ohtani Kojun, during the *Memorial Service Wishing for Peace* conducted at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park on July 3, 2015 also stated, "Although seventy years may have elapsed following the experiences of brutal warfare at an unprecedented global scale, have we really been alleviated from the deep sorrow and pain? As a result, has our aspiration for world peace and awareness really been deepened?"

Currently in Japan, debates are taking place concerning the peace and security of our nation, not only within the national Parliament, but nationwide in general. It is my hope that adequate discussion will result in detailed explanation that will satisfy everyone. As a Buddhist organization, we have been trying to figure out in what way we can contribute to eternal world peace while facing up to the regrettable, historical fact that our religious institute once supported the war campaign promoted by the then militarized regime. As a result of this effort, an interim report, "Summary of the Discussion on Peace" will be publicized shortly. Through the report, if we could deepen our understanding of the issue with various parties and individuals both within and outside of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha organization, it would be more than wonderful.

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the conclusion of World War II, let us be guided by the Buddha's wisdom and strive for realizing a society in which all life is respected and everyone is able to live a life of spiritual fulfillment.

August 10, 2015

Iwagami Chiko
Governor General
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

JINJI (MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS)

Rev. Tatsuo Muneto, currently serving as the Rimban (Chief Minister) of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, will retire from the active ministry of HHMH as of December 15, 2015.

Rev. Toyokazu Hagio, currently serving as the Fuku-Rimban (Assistant Chief Minister) of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, will be assigned as the Rimban of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as of December 16, 2015.

Rev. Joshin Kamuro, a new minister of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, will arrive in Hawaii on October 1, 2015. He will receive orientation from October 1, 2015 to December 15, 2015 under the supervision of the Executive Assistant to the Bishop and will be assigned to Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Associate Minister as of December 16, 2015.

Ministers of Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin are asked to continue to oversee Puna, Naalehu, and Pahala Hongwanji Mission during the absence of the Resident Minister.

2015-2016 SOCIAL CONCERNS FUND DRIVE

We celebrate gratitude in the month of November. The Thanksgiving holiday and the Eitaikyo observance are reminders of the countless blessings in our lives and how we live deeply connected to the world around us. It is in this spirit of gratitude that we begin our Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive.

Through the generous contributions of Sangha members, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is able to support worthy organizations and programs with funding to continue their work in our community. Your support also allows us to provide compassionate action during times of disaster and the ability to respond to social issues affecting our community.

Because of your commitment to promoting the Buddhist values of compassion and loving-kindness, we are able to lend our support to such organizations as Project Dana, The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii, Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii, Family Promise of Hawaii and the various food banks on each island. We were also able to raise over \$38,000 to help support relief efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Nepal last April.

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 community service. 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 **(your 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!

Committee on Social Concerns
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Lindsey Byars, Guest Speaker - September 13, 2015

I have been attending church on Sundays since I was very young. Young enough that it was alright for me to lay across the pews and see through the morning services. I have since graduated from wearing lady bug dresses and jelly sandals and although I do admittedly zone out or nod off it would be a bit strange for me to stretch out and take a nap. But as I began sitting upright in church and paying more attention I began to participate more and more. From chanting and singing along with the Sangha, to being the MC for various services through the years, and once or twice even leading the morning service.

In high school I always advocated for the church, saying how many important values I had learned, urging young children and their parents to join us on Sunday mornings. I had memorized the Eightfold Path, the Golden Chain and was able to recite the Shinshu Pledge on the spot. I tried to show understanding and compassion to every living creature and instead of smashing the cane spiders on the walls, I would scream for my parents. Whether that was compassion or cowardice I'll leave up to you. I had lived my life, since I had become aware

of my religion, following the principles and teachings of the Buddha to the very best of my abilities. I was very confident that I knew the teachings enough that I would even be able to assist others who were just being introduced to them.

So it was a surprise when the fact that maybe I did not know everything when it came to Buddhism was brought to my attention. In my junior year of College at the University of Northern Colorado, I took an online class titled, "The Sociology of Emotions". Admittedly I knew next to nothing about Sociology. I had intended for this to be an easy course that since it was online I would only need to worry about it when assignments were due or I had a test coming up. As some of you may know, I had recently returned from studying abroad in Korea, where, to be honest, I had spent little time studying and more time having fun and partaking in certain "beverages". So I was not looking for anything too difficult. In her introduction to us, our professor told us, "While I would like you to learn about the basic principles of sociology in emotions, I also want this class to serve as a sort of mirror so you can look into your own self."

The class, I would later find out, turned out to be an intimate look into my own self as she asked us weekly questions on the nitty-gritty of our own feelings and emotions. By the end of the semester I was feeling a bit raw and sensitive but nevertheless completed my last weekly journal on the emotion of the week, which happened to be "love and kindness". I thought for a while, wondering exactly what I would write about and it eventually hit me. I could talk about church and Buddhism and how I was always taught to be kind and gentle to every living thing. With a newfound enthusiasm I wrote a few pages, about exactly what I do not really remember, and turned it in feeling confident. I don't want to brag or anything but I was right to feel confident as the paper came back with an A at the top.

But something hit me when I read the comments that she had included at the bottom of my paper. She told me that she had enjoyed the topic because she had actually studied many of Buddha's teaching and sayings because they also dealt with the self and emotions. She pointed out that although I had shown examples of the love and kindness I had given to others, I did not talk about the love and kindness that I should have been giving myself.

"The self is the most important, but also the most forgotten. Buddha also teaches that we must care for ourselves. Through the past few months I have gotten to know you, although we have never actually met. You have some strong emotions that I can see that you struggle with, so I would like to give you one last assignment that you can complete at your own pace. Write a letter to yourself, whether past or future, in which you give advice using the mistakes you have made and the experiences you've had. I think at the end it will give you a sort of peace of mind. All the best, Diane Schott."

I had put off her assignment until recently when I graduated college and entered the "adult life". I realize now that I had faced challenges and I sure had made a lot of mistakes and I know there will be many more of each. I completed my letter and will share it with you all, in hopes that you may begin to think and maybe even write letters of your own. And I hope that while you read this letter to my Future Self, that you can reflect on your own self, and learn to love yourself as I am now.

Dear Future Self,

Whether you are the me of tomorrow, the me a year from now, or the me 100 lifetimes from now, I want to impart to you something that I have learned during my 22 years of existence. You may be older and you are most likely wiser, but I feel like there may be something to learn from the places I've been, people I've met and the mistakes I've made. So please bear with me.

Firstly, know that I have made many mistakes in my day. A mistake can range from something that's so small and insignificant, to something that dramatically affects those around you. I can say that I have made both and all in between, but it is important to remember that it is just human nature. Everyone regardless of how perfect they may seem, makes them. It is good to learn from these mistakes, but do not dwell on them, because that often gives rise to guilt. Guilt is something that I hope you never have to live with for it grows like a sickness within us until it consumes all. So please, for our sake, learn to forgive yourself. I'm trying everyday and although it is hard, no one can help you. The Buddha once said, "We are shaped by our thoughts; we become what we think. When our mind is pure, joy follows like a shadow that never leaves." Make sure that you have the right kind of shadow following you around. There is nothing out there that you can't forgive yourself for. I mean, there is, but I hope that you Future Self know to stay away from mistakes like that.

Secondly, enjoy life's many pleasures, but remember to keep in mind how much is too much. I have spent many nights with friends staying up late, partaking in certain "beverages". It seems like fun at the time but the morning always brings the feeling that I've swallowed a bucket of wriggling fish along with a pounding head that makes me feel like I've been hit by a semi truck. I know that I've made many promises that I'd never do it again, but when the next night rolls around I somehow always forgot how I had felt that morning. So please, learn a bit of restraint.

Thirdly, it might seem random, but know that I am terrified of babies. I hope that by the time I would be having my own children in the future that I get over this fear. I don't know what it is but their staring and the way that they cry just strikes a chord of fear within me.

Currently there is only one toddler who tolerates my extreme nervousness and fear of babies. Every time she comes walking up to me with little arms outstretched and a smile on her face, it makes me want to cry tears of joy. Since I only have this much experience with children I can only give you one piece of advice: "love your child unconditionally, but never coddle them. For how will they ever be able to walk on their own when they don't even know what the ground feels like?"

Finally, when it comes to love I am just, if not more clueless than I am about children. So I just have this to say: "love fiercely each and every day and never forget to tell the people in your life that you love them often. You never know when those 3 simple words could turn around a person's day, or life for that matter." This extends to everyone, your family, friends, significant other and most importantly, yourself. It is something that I have always had a hard time with, but please learn to love yourself. That doesn't mean that you should carry a mirror around with you and stare at your reflection all day. It is instead being able to look into a mirror and being happy with what you see, and also what you cannot see. You can change your appearance all you want, but you'll never be truly happy until you can learn to accept the inner you. And if your inner self is happy and accepts who you are then it becomes beautiful and that beauty will also show on the outside. Remember the quote that my Sociology professor shared with me. A quote that as a practicing Buddhist resounds within me. "You can search throughout the entire universe for someone who is more deserving of your love and affection than you are yourself, and that person is not to be found anywhere. You yourself, as much as anybody in the entire universe deserves your love and affection." Remember that to love others, you must first love yourself. It's something that I'm definitely working on.

I'm sorry that I do not have more advice for you but I think as long as you are yourself you'll succeed in life. Dr. Suess once said, "Today you are you, that is truer than true. There is no one alive more you than you." So keep your chin up kid. You'll be just fine.

Sincerely yours,
Lindsey

HQ Bookstore Update

HQ Bookstore recently started to sell new Items! **Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii original Grocery Tote Bag (\$3.00)** and **Insulated Tote Bag (\$8.00)** are now available for purchase. Both Bags are big and very useful for your grocery shopping. If you would like to buy these bags, please stop by HQ Bookstore or contact Yoshiko at (808) 522-9202 or send e-mail to hqbooks@honpahi.org.

We also sell a cute **Life is Wabi-Sabi, Dharma Cat Tote Bag (\$5.00)**.



BWA CORNER

by: Linda Nagai

The Kona BWA would like to thank everyone who assisted in our fundraiser at the Bon Dance in July.. It was a huge success, especially the teriyaki sticks which was made by Chad Yamamoto and the BWA ladies. Mahalo plenty to both Colin Byars and Chad for cooking the teri steaks. A **HUGE** Mahalo goes out to Jerry Egami for donating the delicious beef. I believe it was the combination of the beef and Chad's super secret sauce which made the teri sticks as they say "**Broke Da Mouth**". Saimin and Teri sticks what a combo! Thank you to Rev. Bruce, Dr. John and Shelly Tsue, Colin and Laureen Byars, Jim Miller and ladies from Groups 1, 2, 3 for working so hard to produce the delicious futomaki. It was a lot of teamwork mixed with FUN that made the futomaki making and sale a success. And adding to the futomaki was Sandy's Drive In **cone sushi**. Mahalo Sandy for your generous donation. We would also like to thank everyone in attendance at the Bon Dance for your support of Kona Hongwanji and the BWA. And lastly we can't forget Morris Nagata, who was our shopper! Without the precious ingredients there would be no futomaki. Arigato & Mahalo!! Thank you to everyone for your efforts, energy, and kokua. Together we make a great team, and together the Kona Hongwanji Sangha will grow and prosper. Hope to see you at our next event, **Onegai Shimasu**.

We will be hosting the Hawaii Island United BWA 61st Convention. The Convention will be held at the Kona Hongwanji Social Hall on Sunday, October 18th. We will begin with a morning Service at 9:30 a.m. in the Temple, followed by our business session in the social hall.

The morning service is open to everyone, so we encourage you to attend and have another opportunity to listen to the Dharma and renew and enjoy friendships.

We also would like to invite anyone interested in joining our BWA. If you wish to attend our convention, contact June Fujikawa, at 323-3453 or Linda Nagai at 936-6079. Our BWA is moving in a new direction beginning this year 2015-2016. We will be working with our community, so to begin this journey, we will be sponsoring and co-hosting with the Hiroshima Kenjin Kai and the Kona Coffee Cultural Festival, the "Big Island and Hiroshima Peace Concert 2015". This concert will be held in our Social Hall on Wednesday, November 11th (More information on the concert is forthcoming). We are also planning craft and cooking activities for starters. To kick off the cooking activity we have invited Derek Kurisu from KTA to do a cooking demonstration at our Convention on October 18th. Sounds like fun? Want to be a part of this new beginning? Ok then, contact June or Linda and let's go BWA ing together. And remember we also welcome men into our BWA, there is no gender discrimination in the BWA.

CUB SCOUTS PACK 12

All You Can Eat Pancakes & Silent Auction

Saturday Oct 3 at the Hongwanji Social Hall (7:00-11:00am)

Mark your calendars!!! Plan to have a delicious Pancakes & things breakfast with us. Don't forget to bid on our silent auction items.

We are busily getting prepared for our fundraiser and the Scouts continue to sell tickets and promote our Scout Motto: Be prepared. They are diligently making signs and asking the families, aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends to purchase tickets.

The Pancake Breakfast raises "Seed" monies for our Cub Scout Pack to pay for leadership dues, Books, training, supplies (i.e. craft items, paint, paper, etc.) and activities (i.e. Community Service Projects, Camping trips, various day excursions, etc.) for our Cub Scouts because we are one of the few organizations that offer a 12 month, "All Year" around program. *Scout and Leader registration fees from Boy Scouts of America Aloha Council for 2015 has increased to 25% so we are working extra hard to raise funds.* Last year we paid over "One Thousand" dollars in fees to Aloha Council to Re-charter our Boy Scouts & Leaders alone!

The donations are slowly coming in. But, even the economy is slow to pick up. Each year, with so many organizations asking for help, donations seem harder to come by!

This year's tickets are \$7.00. Please contact our Cub Master Glenn Hirowatari @ 322-2278 (leave message) to purchase Breakfast tickets or to make a donation. We depend solely on the donations from the Community. Thank you in advance for your help and support

Once again, Breakfast will be served from 7:00-11:00am in the Social hall and please don't forget to Bid on Auction items too! Here are some of the items up for auction: Fairwind Cruises for 2, Body Glove Cruise for 2, Big Island Candies, Courtyard Marriott Breakfast for 2 and Mauna Lani Bay Terrace Restaurant's Sunday Evening Crab Feast Buffett for 2 just to name a few. See you all there...

Capt Cook Fire station Visit

Pack 12 was treated to a guided tour of the Capt Cook Fire station Thank to Fire Capt Winston Takamoto, along with his crew: Tai Scarborough, Gerald Batista, Shin Suba & Brent Northrop. Cub Master Glenn arranged with Fire Capt Takamoto for a "GO SEE IT" event. The purpose of this activity is to have the boys learn that people work in the community to protect them and keep them safe. The firemen were happy to show the scouts their facility, where they sleep, eat and exercise. They also opened all the compartments of the Fire Truck and the Ambulance, to show them what equipment they have and what it is used for. The scouts were all in awe when one of the firemen dressed in the Fire suit they wear while fighting fires. Paramedics gave the scouts an inside view of the ambulance. They had questions for the scouts and he was amazed at the answers they gave and their knowledge of the use of the ambulance.

We asked the scouts what the best part of the tour? It was a unanimous answer! "Shooting water out of the water hose", trying to knock down an orange cone with aim and accuracy.

Welcome New Scout:

Conlan Okagi, son of Kenneth Okagi and Erin Rene.

Upcoming Events:

Sept 24th - Visitation to Kailua-Kona Police Station
Sept 28 – Honaunau Elementary School recruitment
Oct 2nd – Friday Prep for Pancake Breakfast
Oct 3rd “All You Can Eat Pancakes & Silent Auction”
Oct 16- 17th – Cub-o-ree Overnighter Honokaia
Oct 24 – Cub Scout Leaders Pow Wow- (Hilo Stake Center)
November 13-14 HK and Kona District Camp o ree. Amy Greenwell

NEW MEMBER

Joining Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple is GAYLE NISHIKAWA of Albany, California. She is a retired teacher. She became a member because she has relatives here (member Ellen Nishikawa) and wants to keep close to her roots. She will probably be visiting now and then and hope she can participate in some activities at that time.

THE LIFE OF SIDDHARTHA GOTAMA SAKYAMUNI--BUDDHA (part 4 of 4)

by Bruce Y. Nakamura

Notably like no other teacher before him, Sakyamuni Buddha set aside a deeply entrenched caste system based upon thousands of years of Aryan, Vedic and Upanishadic tradition and practice. He offered a democratic model, made available to all who aspired to explore the Dharma directly by self-awareness, reflection, meditation and experience. For 45 years, he taught the rich and the poor, the powerful and the lowly, from beggars to sage with deep and abiding compassion for all.

SAKYAMUNI'S FINAL JOURNEY

Today we know of at least six historical sites attributed to the life and teachings of Sakyamuni Buddha. Lumbini Garden is known as his birth-place. Buddha-Gaya is known as the site where Siddhartha experienced his spiritual awakening under the Boh Tree. Vulture Peak at Sarnath is the site of his first Dharma sermon to the five ascetics known as "The Turning of the Dharma Wheel". Rajigil is known as his residence.

The Bamboo Grove Monastery was his residence during the monsoon season. And Kushinagara is the site where Sakyamuni Buddha passed from human life into Pari-Nirvana or supreme enlightenment. These sites are found largely in India's northern states of Uttar, Pradesh and Bihar.

Even at the advanced age of eighty Sakyamuni tirelessly continued to spread the Dharma. His final journey took him from Rajagrhra to Sravasti. The World-Honored One was coming to the end of his human journey. He was deathly ill, having eaten either toxic mushrooms or improperly cooked pig-flesh according to varied accounts. Lying beneath the twin Sala trees, according to the sacred account, the Buddha revealed his final teaching:

"My disciples my last moment has come, but do not forget that death is only the end of the physical body. The body was born from parents and nourished by food; just as inevitable are sickness and death...

But the true Buddha is not a human body; it is enlightenment. A human body dies, but the wisdom of enlightenment spreads with no end in the truth and the practice of the Dharma. He who sees merely my body does not truly see me. Only he who accepts my teaching truly sees me...After my death, the Dharma shall be your teacher. Follow the Dharma faithfully and you will be true to me...

During the last 45 years of my life, I have withheld nothing from my teachings. There is no secret teaching, no hidden message; everything has been taught openly and clearly. My dear disciples this is the end. In a moment I shall pass into Nirvana. This is my final instruction..."

REFERENCES

"Jodo Shinshu: A Guide," c.2002; "A Young People's Life of the Buddha," c.1953; and "Siddhartha," 1951.

CONDOLENCES

Mr. Thomas Matsumoto of Kailua-Kona passed away on August 17, 2015 at a private care home at the age of 101.

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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Ramona Crivello, Use of Facilities
Laurie Grace, Use of Facilities
Hiroki & Yumi Ishimaru, Bon Service
Stanley Kunitomo, Hatsubon In Memory of Gladys Kunitomo
Betty Matsuo, In Memory of Albert Matsuo's 33rd Anniversary
Tadao & Miyoko Sakamoto, O-Bon
Susan Shiota, Social Concerns
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue, O-Bon
Yaeko Yoshioka, O-Bon
Lori-Ann Edmundson, Use of Facilities
Doris Higashi, Donation for flowers
Mr. & Mrs. Sadamu Koba, In Memory of Nozomu Uemura's 1st Anniversary
Rev. & Mrs. Kodama, Temple Visitation
Albert & Sharon Langsi, In Memory of Hazel A. Aoyagi
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Matsuyama, In Memory of our Mom, Hazel Aoyagi's 3rd Year Anniversary
Vivian Ontai, September monthly outreach service at Regency at Hualalai
Wyatt & Kelsi Akahoshi, New Home Dedication
Lisa Ciriako, Use of Refrigerator
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka, Social Concerns

Total - \$3,285.00

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Molly Enzer, 49th Day and Inurnment Service for Miyoko Mitsunaga
Aiko Ichishita and Larry, Fusako, Doris, Jean, Francis, & Rose, In Memory of our Grandmother, Kimi Nakayama's 100th Memorial Service
Stanley Kunitomo, 49th Day Service for Gladys Kunitomo
Mr. & Mrs. George Shimamoto, 49th Day Memorial Service for Miyoko Mitsunaga
Doris Higashi, Funeral Service & Related Expenses for Sanford Higashi
Mr. & Mrs. Don Inouye, 17th Year Memorial Service In Memory of Minoru Inouye
Keith & Carolyn Inouye, 17th Year Memorial Service for Minoru Inouye
Francis & Grace Iwamoto, Haruyoshi & Lily Iguchi and James Okimoto, 25th Year Memorial Service In Memory of Misao Iwamoto
Darrel Matsuyama & Family and Shelly Imaizumi & Family, 3rd Year Service for our Grandmother & Great Grandmother
Dr. & Mrs. James Mitchell, 17TH Year Memorial Service In Memory of Minoru Inouye
Ross Oue, Funeral Service & Related Expenses for Tatsumi Oue

Total - \$2,275.00

HAKASOJI and NOKOTSUDO

Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Zakahi
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Toshie Shiota
Sharon Langsi & Brenda Matsuyama
Total - \$245.00

Judith Koyanagi

Acknowledgements Continued:

JIHO

Lorraine Haraguchi
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo

Toshie Shirota

Total - \$175.00

AUGUST and SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SERVICE

Offerings

Total - \$847.00

CAPITAL FUND

Susan Shirota
Howard Yamasaki

Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Zakahi
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Toshie Shirota

HAWAII KYODAN DUES

Mr. & Mrs. Earl Matsuyama
Howard Yamasaki

Susan Shirota
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Toshie Shirota