



JIHO

April 2023



Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together

Please join our hybrid services in April and May. All services will begin at 10:00 am (unless otherwise noted). A Zoom link to join the service will be emailed a few days before. Please contact the office to be included in our email list to receive weekly temple updates, zoom links, and other interesting information. Wearing of face masks and sanitizing of hands continue to be required in temple. We look forward to seeing you in person or online!

Dharma Family Service

Sunday, April 2, 2023, at 10:00 am



Hanamatsuri (Buddha Day) Service

Sunday, April 9, 2023, at 10:00 am

Guest Speaker: Rev. Steven Toyoshima
Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii



We celebrate the birth of Siddhartha Gautama the one who would become Shakyamuni, the historical Buddha. We revere him as the great teacher who turned the wheel of Dharma for the liberation of all beings. Join us for our Flower Festival celebrating the Buddha's birth!

Dharma Family Service

Sunday, April 16, 2023, at 10:00 am

Sangha Speaker: Linda Nagai

Dharma Family Service

Sunday, April 23, 2023, at 10:00 am

Dharma Family Service Honoring Mothers, Children, and 2023 Graduates

Sunday, April 30, 2023, at 10:00 am

*****No Services on May 7 and May 14*****

Gōtan-E Service (Shinran Shōnin's Birthday)

Sunday, May 21, 2023, at 10:00 am

Guest Speaker: Rev. Joshin Kamuro

Associate Minister, Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin

Dharma Family Service

Sunday, May 28, 2023, at 10:00 am

For Assistance

Office Clerk: Ramah DeMello (Phone: 808-323-2993 Email: konahongwanji@twc.com)

Resident Minister: Rev. Blayne Higa (Emergency only 808-383-9153)

Temple President: Linda Nagai (Emergency only 808-936-6079)

KONA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

P.O. Box 769

Kealahou, HI 96750

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

PERMIT NO. 1

KEALAKEKUA, HAWAII 96750

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Aloha Kona Hongwanji Sangha members,

No sooner than we said Aloha to February, here comes March coming in with the roar of a lion. After weathering the storms, we were able to observe our March special services.

At our HAIB Buddha Day service, we were honored to have as our guest speaker Dr. Bart Aoki, a homegrown Kona boy who spoke on the topic of Buddhism and Mental Health. In his talk, he focused on having resilience in our lives and how Buddhism can strengthen our resilience. To listen to Dr. Aoki's message please visit our YouTube page and click on "HAIB Buddha Day".

Our Spring Ohigan service is held during the spring equinox, when the day and night are both equal, lending itself to nice conditions. A message by our guest speaker Rev. Tomioka from Puna Hongwanji, reminding us to rely on Amida's Wisdom and Compassion, brought balance back into our lives, as we harmonized with the world around us, and March graciously went "out as a lamb".

In April we will be celebrating the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha, the historical Buddha, whose teachings focused on understanding human problems through insight into the changing nature of existence, and understanding that things are continuously changing in the law of impermanence. Shakyamuni taught us that we live lives characterized by difficulties. As a Shin Buddhist we strive to live a life of unending gratitude. Hanamatsuri is a time when we can show our gratitude for Shakyamuni Buddha's teaching of the Dharma.

Please join us on Sunday, April 9, to pour sweet tea over the Baby Buddha as we celebrate Hanamatsuri (Buddha's Birthday),

In Gassho,

Linda Nagai

A Life of Creativity and Imagination

Rev. Blayne Higa

As we welcome Spring with its promise of renewal and new beginnings, we celebrate the birth of Shakyamuni, the historical Buddha, for sharing with us the life-giving path of liberation and peace. For over 2,500 years, the Dharma he shared continues to offer hope for personal and societal transformation and change.

In the *Tannishō (A Record in Lament of Divergences)*, Shinran describes the Pure Land Way as the "path of unobstructed freedom" because our assurance of attaining enlightenment is made possible through the compassionate Vow of Amida Buddha. Resolving this matter of our Birth in the Pure Land when our human life is fulfilled, opens us up to living a life of unlimited potential and possibility in the here and now.

The Buddha's Teachings does not give us ready-made answers to life's problems and challenges, rather it honors the unique circumstances of our lives by pushing us to go deeper into our own human experience enabling us to discover the answers within. This is a path of deep self-reflection which reveals to us a life of profound creativity allowing us to respond appropriately.

In *Shin Buddhism: Bits of Rubble Turn into Gold*, Rev. Dr. Taitetsu Unno shares, "Since Buddhism is primarily descriptive and not prescriptive, each person is challenged to respond creatively to a given situation. Whatever the challenge may be—whether physical, mental, social, institutional, or historical—we face reality as it is, realizing our limited, imperfect, vulnerable, and mortal self, which is sustained by boundless compassion. On that basis we proceed to respond creatively to the world, coming up with solutions unique to the problem at hand."

What a remarkable way of viewing and responding to life's challenges? Since we are not confined by rigid rules or prescriptive answers, our problem-solving can be imaginative and creative. Critical and out-of-the-box thinking is a hallmark of the Buddhist tradition that offers us realistic hope for living in this world of samsara.

Despite being considered an "easy path," Shin Buddhism is quite difficult in that it forces us to do the hardest thing of all—to truly see ourselves illuminated by the light of wisdom and compassion. And within this light, we come to realize our full imperfect humanness which is always embraced by Amida's compassion. This is how we discover a life of "unobstructed freedom" and creativity that is made possible through the working of Namo Amida Butsu.

As we celebrate Shakyamuni Buddha's birth in April, we also celebrate our awakening to a life of unlimited possibilities found in the Dharma. How truly grateful we are to receive this gift of the Buddha's Teachings! Namo Amida Butsu.



Compassionate Care

The Dharma offers guidance and support for our whole lives, especially during times of difficulty. I am here to be a compassionate presence and companion to you on life's journey. I am available for pastoral care and counseling via phone or video conference. I am also available for bedside end-of-life services and grief care. Please contact me at 808-323-2993 or for emergencies only at 808-383-9153.

*Aloha,
Rev. Blayne*

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

*** Contact the office for more information ***

HP Laserjet Print Cartridges 410A (for HP Laserjet Pro M452, M477; Black, Cyan, Magenta Yellow)

HP Laserjet Print Cartridges 85A (for HP Laserjet Pro P1102, P1102W, M1132, M1212, M1214, M1217; Black)

Netgear Orbi Whole Home WIFI system

Preschool News

We are looking for:

1. Qualified preschool teachers to work part-time and possibly full-time as well as substitute/on call preschool teachers.
2. Temporary part-time and substitute/on call preschool teacher's aides.

We welcome friendly, positive, highly motivated individuals who love and care about children, are open minded, team players and are willing to work hard. If you are interested in working with preschool aged children and have an educational background in Early Childhood, visit the PATCH Registry website

<https://www.patchhawaii.org/programs/dhs-hawaii-early-childhood-registry/>, complete and submit Form 1 to the PATCH office. The Registry documents qualifications based upon training, experience and professional achievements in early childcare and education. DHS licensing rules will determine the positions for which you are qualified.

3. On call after school cleaners

If you are interested in any of those positions, please stop by for an application or call us at (808)323-3737 to set up a time to meet. We look forward to hearing from you.

2023 Temple Membership Update Form

Please complete and return the enclosed Membership Form to renew your temple membership for this year. If not already a member, we cordially invite you to join our Sangha as a sustaining member. Your financial support is vital to ensuring our temple is able to continue serving the community through our many programs and activities. Mahalo nui loa for your support of Kona Hongwanji as we strive to cultivate a vibrant spiritual home embodying the Buddha's Teachings for all who seek refuge.

Calling all 2023 Graduates!



If you have a child or grandchild that will be graduating or has graduated from high school, college, or a professional school this year, please let the temple office know by Monday, April 17th.

We would like to honor all 2023 graduates at our Dharma Family Service on April 30th. Please plan to join us!

Flowers Needed for Hanamatsuri

Flowers are needed to decorate the Hanamido for our Hanamatsuri Service on April 9. Please drop off flowers on Saturday, April 8 by 10:00am. Buckets will be placed by the conference room door near the temple bell.

Buddhist Women's Association Scholarships

The **Hawaii Island United Buddhist Women's Association** has two \$1000 scholarships for graduating high school seniors. Applicants must be of Shin Buddhist Faith, whose parents are dues paying members of any Hongwanji temple on Hawaii Island. The scholarships are to be used at any accredited college, university, or technical school. Application forms are available on the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin website. (www.hilobetsuin.org) under Scholarship and Awards. Applications must be postmarked by April 7, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact Stella Miyashiro at (808)959-7919 or makistar44@gmail.com.

Kona BWA Scholarship of \$1,000 is also available for a graduating high school senior. Deadline is April 15. Contact the temple office or see Rev. Blayne's weekly email update for an application.

Kona Jr. YBA



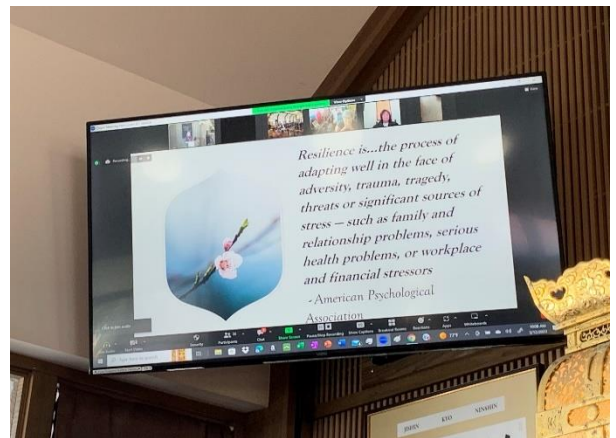
Mahalo to our Jr. YBA members for decorating the Hanamido for our Hawaii Association of International Buddhists Buddha Day Celebration on March 12. They did an amazing job with all the beautiful flowers donated by our temple members and friends! We are so grateful to be able to host this annual gathering celebrating the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha with fellow Buddhists from various traditions.

Spring Ohigan Service



Happy Spring! On March 19th, we held our Spring Ohigan (Equinox) Service with Rev. Satoshi Ka'imipono Tomioka of Puna, Pahala, and Naalehu Hongwanji Buddhist Temples. He shared a wonderful message on the power of Namo Amida Butsu which embraces and enables us to be born in the Pure Land of Awakening.

HAIB Buddha Day Celebration



On March 12th, we held the 11th Annual Buddha Day Celebration sponsored by the Hawaii Island Chapter of the Hawaii Association of International Buddhists. It was a wonderful event bringing together Buddhist groups of various traditions celebrating the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha who first turned the wheel of Dharma for the liberation of us all. Our Sangha member, Dr. Bart Aoki shared a wonderful message on Buddhism and Mental Health: Resilience in our Lives. Namu Shakyamuni Butsu!

Eshinni & Kakushinni Day Service



On March 5th, we welcomed Rev. Charlene Kihara from Hawaii Betsuin as our guest speaker for our Eshinni and Kakushinni Day Service. Eshinni was the wife and Kakushinni the daughter of our founder Shinran Shonin. Rev. Kihara shared her appreciation for their contributions in ensuring the survival of the Jodo Shinshu teachings and how their descendent Lady Takeko Kujo co-founded the Buddhist Women's Association with Lady Kazuko Ohtani in the early 1900's. We honor the significant contributions women have made and continue to make in the life of our Shin Buddhist Sanghas.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—APRIL 2023

HAKASOJI & NOKOTSUDO

Mr. & Mrs. Sadamu Koba	Patrick Imai	Fay Nakamoto
Ellen Nishikawa	Leinette Schaetzl	Lorrin Hayashida
Norine Parish		
	Total - \$545.00	

SERVICES

Susan Cox, Brandon Neal's 1st Year Service
Elaine Tatsutani, Funeral and Related Expenses for Lionel Tatsutani
Elaine Tatsutani, 7th & 49th Day Services for Lionel Tatsutani
Mr. & Mrs. Kiyoshi Watanabe, Setsuko Deguchi's 3rd Year Service
Doris Yamamoto, Frank Yamamoto's 7th Year & Umekichi Yamamoto's 50th Year Services
James Motoyama, Dennis Motoyama's Inurnment Service

Total - \$3,600.00

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Patrick Imai	Charlene Kihara	Yoga Class
Patrick Komo	Lori Marcello	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Uyeda
HAIB	Albert Watanabe	

Ellen Nishikawa, Dharma School, Jiho
Myrna Kunihiro, Social Concerns
Leinette Schaetzl, Jiho
Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo, Jiho
Mr. & Mrs. Sadamu Koba, Jiho

Total - \$1,238.00

HI KYODAN/CAPITAL FUND

Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo	Ellen Nishikawa
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ESHINNI & KAKUSHINNI DAY

Anonymous	Carol Ichishita	Miyuki Inouye
Hiroki Ishimaru	Mary Katayama	Nora Koyanagi
Janet Lindner	Alan Matsumoto	Ann Matsumoto
Morris Nagata	Elaine Nakagawa	Satoru Odaira
Suga Suzuki	Bart Aoki/Marty Low	Geri Ann Aoki Davidson
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Fujikawa	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gusman	Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko
Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina	Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue	Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue
	Total - \$350.00	

Acknowledgements continued:

SUNDAY SERVICE

Total - \$307.00

NIRVANA DAY

Anonymous

Lisa Ciriako

Hiroki Ishimaru

Mary Katayama

Nora Koyanagi

Janet Lindner

Alan Matsumoto

Morris Nagata

Elaine Nakagawa

Chizu Nakashima

Satoru Odaira

Lilly Ushiroda

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. Gail Masunaga

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano

Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue

Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue & Katie

Total - \$406.00

ANNUAL MEETING

Anonymous

Claudia Chang

Lisa Ciriako

D. Fukumoto

Carol Ichishita

Miyuki Inouye

Emiko Kaneko

Mary Katayama

George Klumb

Nora Koyanagi

Myrna Kunihiro

Janet Lindner

Janet Maeda

Alan Matsumoto

Ann Matsumoto

Morris Nagata

Elaine Nakagawa

Keira Nishihara-Estrada

Taylor & Kendra Nishihara

Satoru Odaira

Carol Okuna

Lilly Ushiroda

Janet Yanagi

Carol Zakahi

Glenda Yamagata-Passalacqua

Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Fujikawa

Bart Aoki/Marty Low

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Fujino

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. Gail Masunaga

Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Nagata

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano

Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina

Mr. & Mrs. Owen Nishioka

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Mr. & Mrs. Terrence Terada

Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue & Katie

Mr. & Mrs. Dean Uemura

Total - \$960.00

IN MEMORY OF

Valerie Char, IMO Frank Yamamoto and Umekichi Yamamoto

Lorraine Mito, IMO Gilbert G. and Aiko Yamane

Dorothy Nicholson, IMO Masayuki Nagatoshi

Leatrice Saito, IMO Frank Yamamoto

Nobue Teshima & Ohana, IMO Earl Teshima's 13th Year

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hiraishi, IMO Yasuo Fukumitsu, Lillian Yamamoto, Sue Taniyama, and Ron Lindner

Mr. & Mrs. Burt Kamigaki, IMO Nellie Kamigaki, Yuriko Kamigaki, and Shizuichi Sakanashi

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Ogata, IMO Tsuino Yoshiki's 3rd Year and Hisako Ogata's 13th Year

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Sugiyama, IMO Yoshio "Calvin" Hayama's 25th Year

Mr. & Mrs. Minoru Tashima, IMO Tsuino Yoshiki and Shirley Hisako Ogata

Mr. & Mrs. Kiyoshi Watanabe, IMO Mildred Morimoto

Elaine Chapman, IMO Peter "Hidemasa" Matsuoka, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Kunitomo, Mr. & Mrs. Albert Kunitomo,

Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Kunitomo and Jason Matsuoka

Total - \$1,960.00

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE 2023

Dear Members: It is the Buddhist Custom that Family members observe memorial services to pay their respects to those who passed away. Through the services, the families are reminded of the importance of religious life. The role of the rites is helpful in strengthening and aiding the families to lead a meaningful life in the guiding light of Amida Buddha's Compassion. Please note the list below and make an appointment at least **Three Months** prior to the service date.

FIRST YEAR (2022)

04/17 George Nakamoto

05/01 Sumiko Yamamoto

05/21 Yukiko Nakayama

THIRD YEAR (2021)

04/11 Hisako Hatta

04/13 Fujie Sato

04/14 Harumi Mildred Oda

05/10 Midori "Mae" Harano

SEVENTH YEAR (2017)

04/07 Suyeko Nishina

04/20 Masae Matsuoka

05/22 Duane Hajime Kurozawa

06/02 Fumikichi Matsuoka

06/24 Hatsumi Takimoto

THIRTEENTH YEAR (2011)

04/11 Ronald Allen Lindner

04/21 Nellie K. Kamigaki

05/25 Harold T. Hayashida

06/05 Nancy Hisae Manago

06/06 Kyle K. Matsumoto

06/12 Mikie S. Harada

SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2007)

04/08 Yuriko Kamigaki

05/13 Kazue Yoshiki

05/29 Shigeto Omori

06/10 Kikuyo "Kay" Kamigaki

06/15 Masayuki Sato

TWENTY FIFTH YEAR (1999)

04/01 Shizuichi Sakanashi

04/07 Aiko Yamaguchi

04/24 Stanley Saburo Horibata

05/13 Sueko "Sue" Ikeuchi

05/13 Michael Yukio Yanagi

05/15 Yoshie "Bessie" Tanaka

06/01 Rev. Shonen Tamekuni

06/06 Ronald Asaji Miyazono

THIRTY THIRD YEAR (1991)

04/15 Yasue Nakayama

04/17 Richard T. Shibata

06/06 Yoshio Noguchi

06/12 Mitsuyo Uemura

FIFTIETH YEAR (1974)

04/09 Goro Kuroyama

05/04 Sono Nakayama

05/10 William N. Kinoshita

06/01 Yoshio Fujikawa

NOTE: If you have any questions or corrections regarding the information listed above, please call the office at 323-2993. Thank you.