



JIHO  
April 2024



# Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

*Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments*

Please join our services in April. 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 face masks is optional in temple. While there are no COVID-19 restrictions, please take any necessary precautions with mutual respect for the health and safety of everyone. We look forward to seeing you in person or online!



**Hanamatsuri (Buddha Day) Service**  
Sunday, April 7, 2024, at 10:00 am  
Guest Speaker: Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki  
Retired Hawaii Kyodan Minister



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 14, 2024, at 10:00 am

**Dharma Family Service**  
Sunday, April 21, 2024, at 10:00 am  
Minister's Assistant Linda Nagai will lead service and share a Dharma Message

**Dharma Family Service**  
Sunday, April 28, 2024, 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  
Kealakekua, HI 96750

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 1  
KEALAKEKUA, HAWAII 96750

Aloha Sangha members,

In March, we celebrated our 12th Annual Buddha Day sponsored by the Hawaii Association of International Buddhists (HAIB). This celebration of the birth of Sakyamuni Buddha was very special because Buddhist Sangha members from all corners of the island attended the celebration. It was so nice to see friends that we haven't seen for several years, as well as connecting with members from the Koyasan Shingon Mission of Hawaii, the Daifukuji Soto Mission, Kona Koyasan Daishiji Mission, Taishoji Soto Mission, Nechung Dorje Drayang Ling, and the Triratna Buddhist Community. Thank you to the Jr. YBA and everyone who helped create a beautiful Hanamido for the celebration.

On March 29, the BWA members went on an outing joined by members and friends of our Sangha to the Islander Sake Brewery at the Hapuna Golf Course. Besides learning how sake is brewed here in Hawaii, we all were offered the opportunity, if we wished, to taste Hawaiian sake.

Here we are now in the month of April, at the peak of the spring season, and the dreaded tax season. However, in April, we will be celebrating a very important Birthday. On Saturday, April 6, the BWA will be hosting a manju making class. We will be making our traditional Hanamatsuri manju and are inviting any Sangha members and families who would like to learn how to make our manju to join the BWA beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 6. It will be a great time for fellowship and to learn the art of manju making. Lunch will be provided, and you will be able to take some manju home for your enjoyment.

Also on Saturday, April 6, some of our Sangha members will be decorating our Hanamido for our Hanamatsuri (Buddha Day) service the following day. We are asking for donations of flowers for our Hanamido. It is said that flowers bloomed and gentle sweet rain fell when Siddhartha Gautama, who became Sakyamuni Buddha, was born in the beautiful Lumbini Gardens. Thus, we decorate the Hanamido (flower hall) in which a statue of the Baby Buddha is placed with beautiful flowers, and at our Hanamatsuri service, we come before the statue of the Baby Buddha in the Hanamido and pour sweet tea over the baby, thus depicting the day of the Buddha's birth.

On Sunday, April 7, at our Hanamatsuri service, as you pour sweet tea over the Baby Buddha, take a moment to show your gratitude to Sakyamuni Buddha, our teacher, master, spiritual guide, and friend, and make one wish for yourself and the world: to live each day to its fullest, to think pure and beautiful thoughts, to do good and kind deeds, and to help save all living beings.

In Gassho,

Linda

## **Our Messy Yet Beautiful Lives**

**Rev. Blayne Higa**

We celebrate the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha during Spring when the world wakes from its wintry slumber. We eagerly welcome the return of light and life as the promise of renewal and new beginnings are kindled within our hearts. I can't help but think how the sacred story of the Buddha's birth is truly a lesson about spiritual transformation and hope.

The baby Buddha is said to have taken seven steps and declared, "In heaven above and on earth below, I am the most honored one. I shall dispel the suffering that fills this world." As we know, this probably didn't happen, but this story is rich in symbolism and meaning. The seven steps signify that he would go beyond the six realms of suffering and take the extra step into the awakened life of a Buddha. His announcement proclaims his future attainment of Buddhahood, and it also reveals the Buddha's wish to help all of us understand our own potential for enlightenment and liberation from spiritual suffering.

As we face life's many challenges, which can sometimes seem overwhelming, we should reflect on the Buddha's fundamental teaching of impermanence and how there is always the potential for transformation and change. Whatever situation or circumstance we find ourselves in is never permanent. Just like how happiness and good fortune are fleeting, so are sadness and misfortune. Impermanence means we are never stuck in life.

However, the Dharma does not give us ready-made answers to life's problems and challenges, rather the Teachings honor 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 and insight which reveals to us a life of profound creativity, compassion, and spiritual awakening.

In *Shin Buddhism: Bits of Rubble Turn into Gold*, Rev. Dr. Taitetsu Unno writes, "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 flexible and creative. Critical and out-of-the-box thinking that Buddhism uplifts offers us realistic hope for living in this world of samsara.

The writer L.R. Knost shares an insightful reflection on the complex beauty of living, “Life is amazing. And then it’s awful. And then it’s amazing again. And in between the amazing and awful it’s ordinary and mundane and routine. Breathe in the amazing, hold on through the awful, and relax and exhale during the ordinary. That’s just living heartbreaking, soul-healing, amazing, awful, ordinary life. And it’s breathtakingly beautiful.”

This captures the essence of living in this ephemeral “world of dew” which is transforming from moment to moment always held within the dynamic embrace of great wisdom and compassion. This is why a verse from the Gatha *Gassho To Amida* declares, “In the clear bright morning sun, In the fading light of day, In the darkness of the night, I Gassho to Amida.” Wherever we are and no matter what challenges we face, we are never alone or without hope.

As we celebrate the Buddha’s birth, we also celebrate our awakening to unlimited possibilities and profound hope found in living our messy yet beautiful lives. Namo Amida Butsu.

### **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](http://www.hilobetsuin.org)) under Scholarship and Awards. Applications must be postmarked by April 6, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact Stella Miyashiro at (808)959-7919 or [makistar44@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### **Hanamatsuri Flowers Needed**

Flowers are needed to decorate the Hanamido for our Hanamatsuri Service on April 7.

**Please drop off flowers on Saturday, April 6 by 10:00am.** Buckets will be placed by the conference room door near the temple bell.

Mahalo!

### **Project Dana Senior Activity Day**

Every second Friday of the month  
9:00am-Noon  
KHBT Social Hall

Join us for a fun-filled senior activity day each second Friday of the month. We play Mahjong and Hanafuda as well as other activities enjoying delicious food and warm fellowship. All seniors welcome! For more information please contact Elaine Nakagawa, Project Dana Coordinator at [obachan3@icloud.com](mailto:obachan3@icloud.com)

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**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.

### *Morning Chanting Service*

**Mondays and Fridays @ 8:30am  
(Except Holidays)**

Begin and end the week with a moment of reflection and gratitude by chanting the Shoshinge (Hymn of True Entrusting) written by Shinran Shonin. Sutra chanting has a meditative quality which settles our heart and mind, helping us to hear the calling voice of Wisdom and Compassion in our lives.

### **Monthly Meditation**

**Last Wednesday of Each Month  
6:30pm to 7:30pm**

Enjoy a moment of contemplation and self-reflection at our monthly meditation session. Engage in quiet sitting, guided mediation, and sutra chanting. As we calm our mind and body, we can focus on the present moment revealing our profound connection to all beings. No experience necessary.



## **Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii TRIPLE CELEBRATION**



HHMH celebrates 800th anniversary of the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu, 850th anniversary of the birth of Shinran Shonin and 135th anniversary of the mission from September 7 & 8, 2024. Start with a beautiful service, there will be various workshops and lectures, panel discussion and fellowship luncheon. Let us together join this memorable celebration! Please see updates and more detail information at the HHMH website.

Triple Celebration web page:  
<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/triple-celebration/>

QR code to the webpage



## **Hawaii Island Gathafest**



On February 25, our Sangha members headed to Hilo for the 50th Annual Hawaii Island Gathafest hosted by Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin. We shared our Gatha "Shinshu Style" and enjoyed the wonderful sharing of joyful music and song from temples around the island. It was truly a Nembutsu Moment! Namo Amida Butsu!

## HAIB Buddha Day Celebration



On March 10<sup>th</sup>, we hosted the 12th Annual Buddha Day Celebration sponsored by the Hawaii Association of International Buddhists Hawaii Island Chapter. It was a beautiful day of reflection, song, and fellowship as we celebrated the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha as one Sangha of Dharma-friends of various traditions. Our keynote speaker was Ashleigh Loa, Executive Director of Ceeds of Peace who shared a wonderful message on empathy and welcome as the foundation of a more peaceful world. Big mahalo to everyone who donated flowers and to our amazing Jr. YBA for decorating the Hanamido! Namu Shakyamuni Butsu!

## Eshinni & Kakushinni Day Service





On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, we celebrated Eshinni & Kakushinni, the wife and daughter of Shinran Shonin. Rev. Barbara Brennan of Windward Buddhist Temple shared a wonderful message on how these two remarkable women lived grounded in the Nembutsu teaching and were responsible for ensuring the success of the Jodo Shinshu movement. We also celebrated Girl's Day with a beautiful display of traditional dolls. Namo Amida Butsu!

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—April 2024**

**IN MEMORY OF**

- Nobuko Aoki, IMO Kiyoto Aoki's 13<sup>th</sup> Year and Tomeko Aoki's 33<sup>rd</sup> Year
- Edna Fukumitsu, IMO Yasuo Fukumitsu
- Fujie Inouye, IMO Takao Inouye's 25<sup>th</sup> Year
- Kiyoko Kamimura, IMO Shizuyo Yamagata's 33<sup>rd</sup> Year
- Gail Kurozawa, IMO George Kurozawa
- Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue, IMO Norman Sakata's 1<sup>st</sup> Year
- Xandria Tobarra, IMO Tomeko Aoki
- Claire Hayama, IMO Isamu "Joseph" Iha
- Shikimi Hayama, IMO Isamu "Joseph" Iha
- Jane Iha, IMO Isamu "Joseph" Iha
- Mr. & Mrs. Ken Love, IMO Kiyoshi Shirai, Lance Chang, and Fred Uechi
- Danny Nozaki, IMO Dexter Nozaki's 25<sup>th</sup> Year
- Iris Watanabe, IMO Yasuo Deguchi's 17<sup>th</sup> Year, Yasumitsu Deguchi's 25<sup>th</sup> Year and Kevin Deguchi's 1<sup>st</sup> Year
- Earl Ogata, IMO Kaoru "Speedy" Ogata's 25<sup>th</sup> Year
- Setsue Okuda, IMO Rikita & Ichi Mori
- Laraine Oura, IMO Kaoru "Speedy" Ogata's 25<sup>th</sup> Year
- Steven Waldon, IMO Yasuo & Setsuko Deguchi, Terry & Sharon Waldon
- Janis Walker & Ohana, IMO Hideo Matsuoka
- Mr. & Mrs. Oren Yamagata, IMO Doris Higashi
- Claudia Chang, IMO Yoshito & Kazue Aoki, Lance Chang, and Dale Aoki

Total - \$2,394.56

**Acknowledgements continued:**

**SUNDAY SERVICE**

Anonymous	Mary Katayama	Nora Koyanagi
Myrna Kunihiro	Janet Lindner	Alan Matsumoto
Linda Nagai	Morris Nagata	Elaine Nakagawa
Lilly Ushiroda	Darcie Asakura & Ohana	Diana Asakura & Ohana
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gusman	Mr. & Mrs. Hiroki Ishimaru	Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano	Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina	Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Tagawa
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka	Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue	
	Total - \$326.00	

**SERVICES**

Kenneth Komo, Hideo Komo's 17<sup>th</sup> Year  
Gloria Ichishita, Reed Ichishita's Inurnment  
Fumio Murasaki, Ruby Shimeko Murasaki's 25<sup>th</sup> Year  
Yukiko Northon, Funeral & Related Expenses for Jeffrey Northon  
Alan Matsumoto, Funeral & Related Expenses for Ann Matsumoto  
Sato Ohana, Toshiharu Sato's 1<sup>st</sup> Year  
Mr. & Mrs. Daryl Kurozawa, George Kurozawa's Memorial/Inurnment  
Total - \$2,050.00

**NIRVANA DAY**

Anonymous	Lisa Ciriako	Nora Koyanagi
Janet Lindner	Morris Nagata	Elaine Nakagawa
Suga Suzuki	Lilly Ushiroda	Rev. Clark Watanabe
Darcie Asakura & Ohana	Diana Asakura & Ohana	Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko	Rev. Masaaki Miyazaki
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano	Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina	Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Tagawa
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka	Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue	
	Total - \$470.00	

**ESHINNI & KAKUSHINNI DAY**

Anonymous	Mary Katayama	George Klumb
Myrna Kunihiro	Janet Lindner	Alan Matsumoto
Linda Nagai	Morris Nagata	Elaine Nakagawa
Suga Suzuki	Glenda Yamagata-Passalacqua	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gusman
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko	Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka	Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue	Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue
	Total - \$335.00	

**Acknowledgements continued:**

**SPRING OHIGAN**

Wayne Fukunaga  
Jimmy Nakagawa  
Helen Oishi

Claire Hayama  
Norma Nakamoto  
Mr. & Mrs. Ichiro Shikada  
Total - \$285.00

Sandy Iwashita  
Keith Nishihara

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Anonymous  
Sachiko Katoku  
Janet Lindner  
Lilly Ushiroda  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Higashi  
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko  
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Nagata  
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Emiko Kaneko  
Nora Koyanagi  
Janet Maeda  
Claudia Chang  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hiraishi  
Mr. & Mrs. Daryl Kurozawa  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano  
Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue  
Total - \$1,175.00

Mary Katayama  
Myrna Kunihiro  
Susan Nishioka  
Mr. & Mrs. Colin Byars  
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Love  
Mr. & Mrs. Takeo Nakasone  
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Uemura

**ELLISON ONIZUKA/CHALLENGER MEMORIAL**

Anonymous  
George Klumb  
Janet Lindner  
Sue Suzuki  
Shirley Matsuoka  
Mr. & Mrs. Hiroki Ishimaru  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Tagawa  
Mr. & Mrs. Terence Terada

Lisa Ciriako  
Nora Koyanagi  
Elaine Nakagawa  
Lilly Ushiroda  
Diana Asakura & Ohana  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano  
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka  
Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue  
Total - \$675.00

Mary Katayama  
Myrna Kunihiro  
Claude Onizuka  
Cheryl Marshall  
Asakura-Gallardo Ohana  
Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue

**HAKASOJI/NOKOTSUDO**

Jimmy Nakagawa  
Koji Hamada  
Fay Matsumoto  
Mr. & Mrs. Atsushi Matsumoto

Ellen Nishikawa  
Fay Nakamoto  
Mr. & Mrs. Derrick Kakizoe  
Total - \$630.00

Iris Watanabe  
Doris Masutomi  
Mr. & Mrs. Sadamu Koba

**SPECIAL DONATIONS**

Anonymous  
Claudia Chang

Boys and Girls Club  
Nora Koyanagi

Kay Matsuyama  
Sato Ohana



**Acknowledgements continued:**

Janet Yanagi

Fay Nakamoto

Mr. & Mrs. Takeo Nakasone

Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Kunitake

County of Hawaii

Ellen Nishikawa, Jiho, Dharma School

Albert Watanabe, Project Dana

Doris Masutomi, Jiho, Taiko

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko, Social Concerns

Mr. & Mrs. Burt Kamigaki, Ho'onko

Mr. & Mrs. Sadamu Koba, Jiho

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Love, Jiho

Total - \$3,239.30



## MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR APRIL, MAY AND JUNE 2024

**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 (2023)

04/13 Akiko McAfee

06/20 Toyoko Urada

### THIRD YEAR (2022)

04/17 Mr. George Nakamoto

05/01 Sumiko Yamamoto

05/21 Yukiko Nakayama

06/04 Mitsue Akazawa

06/18 Wally Ichishita

### SEVENTH YEAR (2018)

05/03 Henri-Ann K. Nagata

05/29 Yukito Takamoto

05/31 Fukue "Betty" Shiraki

06/26 Mrs. Hatsuko Shiraishi

### THIRTEENTH YEAR (2012)

04/06 Lance Guy Chang

04/22 Mildred Midori Takahashi

05/14 Joyce Lynn Yamagata

05/18 Kiyoto Aoki

### SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2008)

04/14 Mr. Susumu Mizoshiri

04/20 Thelma Sachiko Kirihara

04/23 Hiroshi Sato

05/10 Helen Fumiko Aoki

05/28 Theodore Toshiharu Fujii

06/09 Kimiko Aoki

06/23 Toshiko Ueno

### TWENTY FIFTH YEAR (2000)

04/13 Toshio Kameda

04/19 Matsuyo Fukushima

05/24 Takao Inouye

06/13 Fuako Oyama

06/23 Shizuo Uchimura

06/27 Shizuko Yamada

### THIRTY THIRD YEAR (1992)

04/09 Toi Kamei

04/15 Tomeko Thelma Aoki

04/17 Shizuyo Yamagata

04/19 Ichi Mori

05/04 Kelvin Haruo Fujino

05/10 Gary Hideo Yokoyama

06/22 Kaname "Lefty" Uemura

### FIFTIETH YEAR (1975)

03/29 Gentaro Murakami

04/23 Hiroshi Sato

06/15 Masaki Nishina

06/21 Itsuo Higashi

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