



JIHO

December 2023



# Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

*Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together*

Please join us for services in December and January. 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 and sanitizing of hands continue to be required in temple. We look forward to seeing you in person or online!

**Dharma Family Service**

December 3 at 10:00am

**Bodhi Day Service**

December 10 at 10:00am

Guest Speaker: Rev. Tatsuo Muneto

Retired Hawaii Kyodan Minister

Join for this service celebrating Shakyamuni Buddha's Enlightenment. Bodhi Day is when Siddhartha Gautama attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree and became the Buddha, the Awakened One. Rev. Tatsuo Muneto, a former minister of Kona Hongwanji will join us in person.

**Dharma Family Service**

December 17 at 10:00am



**\*\*\*No Service on December 24\*\*\***

**New Year's Eve Service and Bell Ringing**

Sunday, December 31 at 6:00pm

Please join us for the traditional ringing of the temple bell (Joya no Kane), a symbolic ringing away of our delusions and attachments that permeate our everyday lives. The last day of the year is an opportunity to reflect upon the past year in preparation for the coming year.

**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**

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**New Year's Day Service**  
Monday, January 1, 2024, at 10:00 am



The first day of the new year is a time to reflect and, with renewed dedication, to endeavor to live a life of gratitude and joy within the compassionate embrace of Amida Buddha. Let's begin 2024 by rededicating ourselves to hearing and sharing the Dharma together as a community of friends and fellow travelers.

**Dharma Family Service**  
January 7 at 10:00am

**Hoonko Candlelight Service**  
Saturday, January 13 at 7:00pm  
Guest Speaker: Rev. Blayne Nakasone Sakata  
Associate Minister, Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin

**Dharma Family Service**  
January 21 at 10:00am

**38<sup>th</sup> Annual Ellison Onizuka & Space Shuttle Challenger Memorial Service**  
January 28 at 10:00am

Aloha Sangha Members,

November was a very busy month. So many activities and events. We began the Month with a Veterans Appreciation Service honoring the Men and Women who served to protect and make our Country what it is today. This service was sponsored by our Cub Scouts. Thank you to our Scout leaders who also dedicate their time to help our children become leaders one day.

I would like to thank everyone who came out to help with our annual general clean-up, which began on Saturday November 18, with wall and screen washing as well as grounds beautification, then on Sunday the 19th the window cleaning, kitchen, Hondo, Pre-School, Social Hall, offices, and Conference room got a some needed cleaning. Thank you to the BWA for providing refreshments and lunch. Thank you to the men who helped prepare the water for coffee and drinking. This was a great help for our ladies. Thank you to Dale Kabei for providing the warabi for our warabi salad and Helen Nagata for the preparation of the salad. With so many hands this weekend, from Pre-School, to Cub and Boy Scouts, Jr. YBA, Shinwakai, BWA, Dharma School and our members, the job of Temple clean-up went very smoothly. Thank you so much for all you do for our Temple.

After filling our tummies and enjoying Thanksgiving with our loved ones, we are now into the next Holiday which is Christmas and New Years. Another opportunity for us to appreciate and enjoy this time with our loved ones, and also take some time for ourselves.

As we celebrate the holidays, let's reflect on line from a song that was written by Rev. Jiko Nakade, Minister from our neighboring temple the Daifukuji Soto Mission. This song speaks of Gautama Buddha's enlightenment. "Morning star rising in the sky, bringing a new day, bringing the light. Morning star rising in the sky, bringing a new dawn for humankind. Beneath the Bodhi Tree, his heart was freed from burning fires of delusion, hate and greed. Compassion filled his heart, warm as the sun..." Let's take this moment during the Holidays, to share compassion for everyone and everything that surrounds our life including yourself.

In Gassho,  
Linda Nagai

## The Healing Light of Awakening

Rev. Blayne Higa

Turning on the news or doomscrolling through social media, we are inundated with numerous stories of war, political violence, and acts of hate. It often feels like there is even more darkness creeping into our world these days. As we quickly approach the darkest season of the year, we naturally yearn for light and hope to illuminate our way in the darkness.

On Bodhi Day we celebrate the awakening of Shakyamuni Buddha, and we rejoice in the promise of universal liberation. It is said after spending the long dark of night under the leaves of the Bodhi Tree, Siddhartha Gautama would realize enlightenment when the morning star appeared in the eastern sky. Dispelling his spiritual darkness he would become the Buddha, the Awakened One declaring, “At this moment all beings and I awaken together.”



The promise of awakening from the darkness of our greed, anger, and ignorance is the hope that the Buddha offers to us unconditionally. In Shin Buddhism, we understand this promise of spiritual transformation as the Vow of Amida Buddha embodied in the nembutsu. In the *Tannishō*, Shinran Shōnin shares “But with a foolish being full of blind passions, in this fleeting world—this burning house—all matters without exception are empty and false, totally without truth and sincerity. The nembutsu alone is true and real.” Namo Amida Butsu is the fulfilled promise of Amida that lights our way in the darkness of this world of suffering—this “burning house.”

*In The Fire Sermon*, Shakyamuni Buddha famously teaches how everything is “...burning with the fire of passion, the fire of hatred, the fire of delusion. I declare that it is burning with the fire of birth, decay, death, grief, lamentation, pain, sorrow, and despair.” However, through the insight gained from his awakening, the Buddha offers us a way to quench these fires through the cooling light of wisdom which illuminates our spiritual darkness.

The Buddha’s Enlightenment was truly a journey within himself in which he discovered the potential for awakening that everyone possesses. In realizing our inner darkness, we are able to encounter the light of wisdom unfolding as compassion continually within our lives. This is why no experience is ever wasted. There is always an opportunity for learning and growth in all that we encounter throughout our lives.

The late Rev. Kenryu Tsuji shares a profound understanding of how Enlightenment is a process of continual growth in the following passage from his book *The Heart of the Buddha Dharma*,

*It is a common belief that Enlightenment occurs suddenly and that it is the single great religious experience in life, but Enlightenment is a growing experience that never stops. Each day we experience the joys and sadness of life, and with each living experience we come to a deeper understanding of the totality of life—its beauty and ugliness, success and failures, victories and defeats, birth and death. Every activity of life has absolute meaning, for every motion, however significant, is the Enlightenment experience.*

The world of Awakening is always present, especially in our darkest moments. We can mend our brokenness and heal our world through the practice of the Buddha’s Teaching. Each of us is the light of the living nembutsu in this darkened world carrying the “great torch” of Namo Amida Butsu in the “long night of ignorance” as Shinran teaches. Amida’s healing light shines brightly into our heart of darkness transforming our lives and our world. The Buddha’s Enlightenment is truly the ultimate promise of our own. Namo Amida Butsu.

### 2023 Sustaining Membership

If you haven’t already done so, please remember to submit your annual membership pledge before the end of the year. This is also a great opportunity to update your current contact information with us!

We rely on your support to help ensure our temple is a spiritual home where we can create Sangha together through sharing the Dharma. Mahalo!

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**KHBT MOCHI SALE**  
**Saturday, December 30**  
**Pick Up 1:00pm-4:00pm (or until supplies last)**  
**Social Hall**

We will be selling mochi for New Year as a temple benefit project. A limited quantity of Plain and Okazari Mochi will be available for sale on a first come first served basis. There will be no pre-order this year.

**PLAIN KOMOCHI: \$7.00/Package (approximate weight 1-pound)**  
**OKAZARI: \$7.00/set (2 layers)**

Payment: Cash/Check/Credit/Debit

*Volunteers needed from 7:00am on Dec. 30. Please contact the temple office to let us know if you can help. 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)

**Holualoa Temple**  
**New Year's Day Service**  
**Monday, January 1 at 2:00pm**

Join us to welcome the New Year at this historic temple in Holualoa Village.

**Eitaikyo Service**



On November 12, we observed our Eitaikyo Sangha Memorial Service with a meaningful Dharma message by Rev. Tomo Hojo of West Kauai Hongwanji Mission. Eitaikyo is a time to remember our good Dharma friends and teachers who have enabled us to encounter the life-giving teaching of the Buddha and who have supported the temple through the generations. Let's continue to share the living Nembutsu so everyone can enjoy lives of harmony, peace, and spiritual fulfillment. November is truly a time for reflecting on gratitude. Namo Amida Butsu.



## Veterans' Appreciation Service



On November 5, we held our annual Veterans' Appreciation Service sponsored by the Kona Hongwanji Cub Scout Pack 12. Our Guest Speaker was Lt. Col. Tim Alvarado, Commander of Pohakuloa Training Area. We were also honored to remember Medal of Honor recipients Rodney Yano and Ellison Onizuka, our very own homegrown heroes. Thank you to all who serve our country.

## Annual Temple Clean-Up







On November 18 & 19, we held our annual temple clean-up. Our dedicated temple members and friends helped to power wash screens, walls, as well as clean and organize around the temple, social hall, kitchen, and preschool. It was a joyful time of fellowship and hard work to keep our spiritual home clean and beautiful for everyone.

## Omigaki Cleaning



Big mahalo to our hard-working Omigaki team who cleaned and polished the altar adornments in preparation for our Eitaikyo Sangha Memorial Service. Omigaki is held before the six major services (Hoonko, Spring Ohigan, Gotan-E, Obon, Fall Ohigan, Eitaikyo) during the year.



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—DECEMBER 2023**

### **SERVICES**

Claudia Chang, Vincent “Vinny” Chang’s 49<sup>th</sup> day  
Claire Hayama, Funeral and Related Expenses for Keith Hayama  
Jeffrey Ichishita, Aiko Ichishita’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Year  
Milton Fukumitsu, Flora Fukumitsu’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Year and Kikue Fukumitsu's 21<sup>st</sup> Year  
Sadayuki Inouye, Bedside service for Miyuki Inouye  
Scot Urada, Ernest Urada’s 13<sup>th</sup> Year  
Shirai Ohana, Asayo Shirai’s 7<sup>th</sup> Year  
Mr. & Mrs. Fumio Murasaki & Ohana, Harumi Mildred Oda’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Year  
Mr. & Mrs. Reginald Morimoto, Mildred Morimoto’s 1<sup>st</sup> Year  
Total - \$2,090.00

### **IN MEMORY OF**

Marcia Hiromasa, IMO Harumi H. Oda’s 3<sup>rd</sup> year  
Jeffrey & Wynn Ichishita, IMO Aiko Ichishita  
Barbara King, IMO Mary H. Iwanaga  
Anonymous, IMO The Fukumitsu Ohana  
Edna Fukumitsu, IMO Kikue Fukumitsu and Flora Fukumitsu  
Eva Takaki, IMO Tanizo and Tai Takaki  
Karen Tashima, IMO The Tashima Ohana  
Kosho Yukawa, IMO Shinya and Tetsuya Yukawa  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Hayama, IMO Yoshio Calvin Hayama’s 25<sup>th</sup> Year  
Jean Gokan, IMO Yoshio Calvin Hayama’s 25<sup>th</sup> Year  
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Uchimura, IMO Yoshio Calvin Hayama’s 25<sup>th</sup> Year  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sakamoto, IMO Yoshio Calvin Hayama’s 25<sup>th</sup> Year  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Hayama and Ohana, IMO Seiji Nakatsu’s 25<sup>th</sup> Year  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Fukumitsu, IMO Flora Fukumitsu’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Year  
Leslie Yamamoto & Ohana, IMO Kaichi, Akie, Tamako, Mitsugi, Yaeko and Tomoichi Matsumoto  
Mr. & Mrs. Owen Nishioka, IMO Diane Shiota’s 33<sup>rd</sup> Year  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hiraishi, IMO Flora Fukumitsu’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, Muneo Inouye’s 13<sup>th</sup> Year and Kikue Fukumitsu's 25<sup>th</sup> Year  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Love, IMO Doris Higashi, Ruby Murasaki  
Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Nagata, IMO Pearl Nagata  
Palani Kurashige & Ohana, IMO Pearl Nagata  
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Kurashige & Ohana, IMO Pearl Nagata  
Gaylyne and Robin Rivera & Ohana, IMO Pearl Nagata  
Guy and Mary Nagata & Ohana, IMO Pearl Nagata  
Jenny Nakashima, IMO Vinny Chang  
Lilly Ushiroda, IMO Harold Kaku, Hatsuko Kaku, and Norman Kaku  
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Kaku, IMO Harold Kaku, Hatsuko Kaku, and Norman Kaku

**Acknowledgements continued:**

Jean Murata, IMO Harold Kaku, Hatsuko Kaku, and Norman Kaku

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Kelley, IMO Harold Kaku, Hatsuko Kaku, and Norman Kaku

Total - \$1,720.00

**HI KYODAN/CAPITAL FUND**

Janet Yanagi

Margaret Fujikawa

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Higashi

Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Nakamura

Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Kurashige

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Thrift

**SUNDAY SERVICE**

Wayne Fukunaga

Myrna Kunihiro

Janet Lindner

Morris Nagata

Anonymous

Mary Katayama

Nora Koyanagi

Elaine Nakagawa

Suga Suzuki

Lilly Ushiroda

Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue

Diana Asakura & Ohana

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. Gail Masunaga

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano

Total - \$575.00

**PET APPRECIATION**

Anonymous

Mary Katayama

George Klumb

Myrna Kunihiro

Janet Lindner

Morris Nagata

Diana Asakura & Ohana

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue

Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue

Total - \$221.00

**EITAIKYO**

Anonymous

Lisa Ciriako

Mary Katayama

J. Kouchi

Nora Koyanagi

Myrna Kunihiro

Janet Lindner

Alan Matsumoto

Satsuko Matsuoka

Linda Nagai

Morris Nagata

Elaine Nakagawa

Suga Suzuki

Lilly Ushiroda

Claire Hayama

Wayne Fukunaga

Sandy Iwashita

Michitoshi Murakami

Keith Nishihara

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gusman

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo

Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue

Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Nakamura

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Oshiro

Mr. & Mrs. Burke Matsuyama

Total - \$845.00

**JIHO**

Margaret Fujikawa

Lilly Ushiroda

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Higashi

Mr. & Mrs. Masakatsu Tsukahara

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Love

Total - \$120.00



**Acknowledgements continued:**

Wayne Fukunaga  
Claire Hayama  
Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo  
Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue

Anonymous  
Mary Katayama  
Alan Matsumoto  
Suga Suzuki  
Mr. & Mrs. Hiroki Ishimaru  
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Jean Fujino  
Janet Yanagi  
Sharon Langsi  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Higashi  
Mr. & Mrs. Masakatsu Tsukahara

Anonymous  
Maurice Kaku  
Kona Marlins

Shirley Matsuoka, Autumn Ohigan  
Janet Yanagi, Dharma School  
Emiko Kaneko, Project Dana  
Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo, Annual Cleanup  
Mr. & Mrs. Ichiro Shikada, Autumn Ohigan  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hiraishi, Autumn Ohigan  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Oshiro, Autumn Ohigan

**SOCIAL CONCERN**

Nora Koyanagi  
Elaine Nakagawa  
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Nakamura

Total - \$360.00

**VETERANS APPRECIATION**

Lisa Ciriako  
Myrna Kunihiro  
Ann Matsumoto  
Shirley Matsuoka  
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko  
Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue

Total - \$365.00

**HAKASOJI/NOKOTSUDO**

Carol Honda  
Margaret Fujikawa  
Gaye Ishimaru  
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Nakamura  
Mr. & Mrs. Owen Nishioka

Total - \$2,850.00

**SPECIAL DONATIONS**

Lori Marcello  
Patrick Komo  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Hayama

Satsuko Matsuoka  
Sandy Iwashita  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Oshiro

Cub Scout Pack 12  
Janet Lindner  
Morris Nagata  
Darcie Asakura & Ohana  
Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina

Karen Tashima  
Maurice Kaku  
Hanako Sheldon  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Thrift  
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Kurashige

Yoga Class  
Linda Nakagawa  
Hi Island Hongwanji Council

Total - \$1,012.17

## MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 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.

### THIRD YEAR (2021)

12/10 Frances Abe

12/16 Doris Higashi

### SEVENTH YEAR (2017)

12/21 Masaaki Sakata

### THIRTEENTH YEAR (2011)

12/27 Teruo Ezuka

### SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2007)

12/05 Noboru "King" Kitaoka

12/05 Milton Mitsuo Miyazono

12/09 Fredrick Haruo Iwamoto

12/20 Wally K. Sato

12/29 Gerald "Jacko" Hisashi Uemoto

12/31 Jack Taichi Masuhara

### TWENTY FIFTH YEAR (1999)

12/08 Yasuko Mana

12/28 Kikue Fukumitsu

### THIRTY THIRD YEAR (1991)

12/19 Miko Honda

12/28 Eizo Moriguchi

### FIFTIETH YEAR (1974)

12/22 Shizue Araki Sugimoto

12/24 Seizo Tokumura

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

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## MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2024

### FIRST YEAR (2023)

01/04 Alice Kawamoto

01/18 Mr. Lionel Tatsutani

01/20 Mr. Toshiharu Sato

### THIRD YEAR (2022)

01/08 Mr. Warren Kitaoka

01/12 Mr. James Sato

01/12 Mrs. Yasue Okino

01/17 Mr. Richard Maeda

01/25 Mr. George Kurozawa

### SEVENTH YEAR (2018)

01/10 Mrs. Lorelei T. Yokoyama

01/19 Mrs. Tokiko Sakata

### SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2008)

01/10 Mitsue Murai

01/25 Mr. Junji Yamagata

### TWENTY FIFTH YEAR (2000)

01/29 Mr. Kaoru "Speedy" Ogata

### THIRTY THIRD YEAR (1992)

01/08 Mr. Richard Yoshio Honda

01/21 Tsutae Mitsunaga

### FIFTIETH YEAR (1975)

01/27 Kozaburo Baba

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