

# Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together

## **Dharma Family Services**

Please join our hybrid services in February. 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, February 5, 2023, at 10:00 am

Nirvana Day (Nehan-E) Service

Sunday, February 12, 2023, at 10:00 am Guest Speaker: Rev. Cristina Moon Daihonzan Chozen-ji

Shakyamuni awakened to Truth and became a Buddha at the age of 35. After sharing the Dharma for the next 45 years, he attained perfect enlightenment or *parinirvana* with his death at age eighty. Nirvana Day is one of the three observances commemorating the remarkable life of Shakyamuni Buddha, the other two being his birthday on April 8 and his awakening on December 8. Rev. Cristina Moon, a Rinzai Zen Priest from Daihonzan Chozen-ji on Oahu will join us in person.

Temple General Membership Meeting and New Year's Luncheon

Sunday, February 19, 2023, 10:00 am

Please join us for our annual temple membership meeting and luncheon. We will have a short service in remembrance of Sangha members who passed away last year, honor our Keirokai members who have reached the age of eighty, and welcome new members. Meeting will be followed by our New Year's Luncheon with ono food, fellowship, and lucky number drawing.

Please register by <u>Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup></u> by calling the office or filling out the online form at <u>https://forms.gle/5cu6w6EB2dbvYBvk8</u>

Dharma Family Service & BWA Membership Meeting

Sunday, February 26, 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 Kealakekua, HI 96750

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

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED** 

Aloha Kona Hongwanji Sangha members,

Thank you to everyone for the support this past year. I can't believe that I will have been your President for a year this month. My how time flies when we're having fun. Yes, it's been a very busy first year with our celebration, and the many upgrades to our Temple, however with your support it seemed like it was a normal routine occurrence.

We began the New Year with a New Year service at Kona Hongwanji in the morning of January 1, followed by a New Year's service at Holualoa Hongwajnji in the afternoon, which as attended by more than 20 Sangha members and friends. It was a nostalgic moment for everyone, enjoying sitting and listening to the Dharma in their childhood Temple.

I would now like to invite everyone to our Kyodan Annual meeting, which will be on Sunday, February 19. We will begin with Morning service at 10:00 a.m. followed by our annual meeting. We will have our luncheon program immediately after the conclusion of the annual meeting. You will be able to join us by Zoom for the service and meeting, however unfortunately we cannot "Zoom" the luncheon. We will have great prize give aways at lunch, however you need to be present to win. I encourage you to start 2023 off by joining us in person at the Temple on Sunday, February 19 for the Annual meeting and luncheon. Please RSVP your attendance to Ramah by February 10, 2023.

Kona Hongwanji is our spiritual community and as we take refuge in a spiritual community, we become rooted in experience, wisdom, and consciousness of those who have gone before us. I ask that you join myself and the Kyodan Board as we go through the next year together as a Sangha. We will see our Temple continue to flourish, as our lives become fulfilling because we are going through 2023 not as an individual but as a sangha. A sangha that makes a sincere effort to practice and bring forth the positive seeds in its members is a true sangha. Kona Hongwanji is a true Sangha.

Looking forward to seeing you at our Annual meeting on Sunday, February 19, and at our Temple services.

In Gassho,

Linda Nagai

# A Finger Pointing to the Moon Rev. Blayne Higa

The story of Shakyamuni Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death reveals to us a spiritual journey of eternal becoming in which we discover our true and real inner light. In his final moments, he encouraged his disciples to, "Make of yourself a light. Rely upon yourself, do not depend upon anyone else. Make my teachings your light. Rely upon them, do not depend upon any other teaching." We continue to revere these words by reflecting on the infinite light and life of the Buddha and living with profound gratitude.

Shakyamuni Buddha lived an extraordinary yet mortal life and is said to have entered peacefully into perfect tranquility at the age of eighty. Teaching until his last moment, his living and his dying were lessons illuminating the eternal truths found in the



Dharma. According to Professor Takamaro Shigaraki, "Yet the teaching, or dharma, that he expounded represents a universal principle that pervades the world, reaching all places and remaining valid in all periods of time. Accordingly, both his teachings and his life are praised as being eternal. Spatially, they extend out to guide all people and turn them toward an infinite future."

This immortalization of Shakyamuni Buddha is a realization that his death was only the end of the physical body because the true Buddha is Enlightenment itself and he would exist forever in the truth of the Dharma and in the practice of the Dharma. The Buddha is still teaching and lives on in the lives of all who practice the way of universal liberation he shared.

The late Buddhist master Thich Nhat Hanh believed, "We teach by our way of life. We teach with our hands while we are doing things, with our feet while we are walking, with our mouth when we are eating or speaking, and with our eyes when we are looking...This simply means teaching the Dharma by the way we live our daily life."

This is what Shakyamuni taught us as he lay dying beneath the twin sala trees. That if we were to only see his physical body, we were not truly seeing him but only by accepting and living his teaching, we would truly see him.

In Shin Buddhism, we strive to live with the spirit of *jishin kyo ninshin*, to "secure our own entrusting heart to the Dharma, guiding others to the same path." This is the life of nembutsu that was taught to us by Shinran Shonin. Our ordinary daily life is our place of practice where we encounter our true self within the embrace of great wisdom and compassion. This is how Shinran continues to live on through us as we walk the path he shared.

However, isn't this a most challenging task? It often seems like the life of Shakyamuni is so far removed from our own. That we need something to help connect us to that which is true, real, an eternal. In Buddhism we call this the "finger pointing to the moon."

Professor Shigaraki shares, "Between the finger and the moon lies a vast distance. As a result, we are able to see the moon for the first time only because of the finger—in concrete terms, only through the words of the teaching expounded by Gautama [Buddha], or through the human personality of those who have learned the teaching and walked the path before us."

He continues by saying, "If we were to look up into the heavens on our own, we might not look toward the moon. Without question, there must be a finger—the Dharma or person who can relate it to us—that can teach us about the moon. For us, the story of Amida Buddha is that finger. The entire teaching of Amida Buddha is the finger, but that teaching is not Amida Buddha itself. All of the many teachings that expounded Amida Buddha constitute the finger. The realm of awakening or enlightenment, which Gautama Buddha realized in his own life, as well as ultimate truth value, constitute the moon."

The nembutsu is the activity of Amida Buddha which connects us to the moon. It is the ultimate reminder of the world of awakening that is always present in our lives. Amida Buddha as Namo Amida Butsu is our simple yet profound practice of living within the embrace of all-inclusive wisdom and all-embracing compassion that sustains our lives.

Journeying together on the path of Nembutsu, we live connected to the dynamic flow of the Dharma. On Nirvana Day, we reflect on the eternal light of Shakyamuni that lives on in the truth and in the practice of his teaching. 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

#### SAVE THE DATE!

#### Understanding Jodo Shinshu through services & rituals

Time: March 11, 2023. 9 a.m. to 12 noon (lunch to follow)

Place: Papaikou Hongwanji Mission

Free in-person session

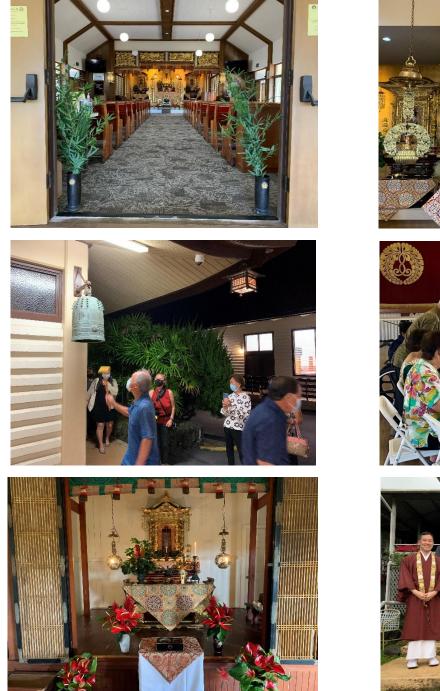
Sponsored by Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

For anyone who wants to learn and deepen their knowledge and skills associated with temple rituals and traditions of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Details to be announced.

# **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

# **Celebrating the New Year**



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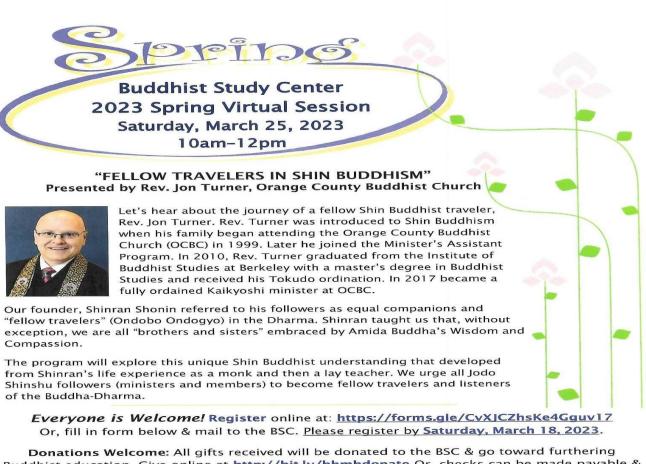
Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu! Hau'oli Makahiki Hou! Happy New Year! We welcomed the Year of the Rabbit as sangha with our Joya-E Service and bell ringing on New Year's Eve and our Shusho-E Service on New Year's Day. We also held a special New Year's Day Service at the Holualua Hongwanji which was the first service there in many decades. The temple was filled with the aloha of community members who have fond memories of this temple. The sounding of the Kansho, the lingering scent of incense, and the joyful chanting of Nembutsu was truly special. May the new year be filled with wonder, gratitude, and hope. Namo Amida Butsu.

# **Hoonko Candlelight Service**





On January 21<sup>st,</sup> we held our Hoonko Service celebrating the life Shinran Shonin, founder of Shin Buddhism. Rev. Landon Yamaoka, Assistant Minister of Palo Alto Buddhist Temple shared a wonderful Dharma message reflecting on how the Nembutsu teaching guides his life. Rev. Blayne also performed the Raiban Ceremony in honor of Shinran and offered a traditional reading of the Gobunsho. We were so grateful to have Rev. Landon and his wife Kyla join us for Hoonko. It was a beautiful evening of ritual, singing, and candlelight in gratitude to Shinran. Namo Amida Butsu.



Buddhist education. Give online at http://bit.ly/hhmhdonate Or, checks can be made payable & mailed to the Buddhist Study Center. Questions? Call the BSC office at (808) 973-6555.

~ Registration Form for 2023 BSC Spring Session ~

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Email/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Buddhist Study Center • 1436 University Ave. Honolulu, HI 96822

Temple (if applicable):

We are in the fourth year of our five-year theme: "Building Healthy Sanghas" with our slogan for 2023 being "Sharing Joy Together."

2020: Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity and Openness

2021: Building Healthy Sanghas: Nurturing Empathy and Respect

2022: Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others

2023: Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together

2024: Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments

According to the *Dhammapada*, "To live a single day and hear a good teaching is better than to live a hundred years without knowing such a teaching." strikes a deep chord when I read His Eminence Kojun Ohtani's *Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching*,

"Namo Amida Butsu.
'Entrust yourself to me. I will liberate you just as you are.'
This is the calling voice of Amida.
My blind passions are embraced in the Buddha's awakening,
So the Buddha calls to me 'I will liberate you just as you are.'
Gratefully responding to the Buddha's call, I find that I am already on the path that leads to the Pure Land.
And the Nembutsu flows freely from my thankful heart.
Living with the Dharma as my guide
Softens my rigid heart and mind.

Gratitude for the gift of life I have received

Frees me from becoming lost in greed and anger,

And allows me to share a warm smile and speak gentle words.

Sharing in the joy and sadness of others, I shall strive to live each day to its fullest".

The deep joy that I experience of being accepted as I am and forever embraced by Amida Buddha's allinclusive Wisdom and all-embracing Compassion sustains me through thick and thin and, naturally, there arises the wish that others too, can come to know and experience this joy and happiness. I nod in acknowledgement of the saying "Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared."

More than ever, let us continue to live the Nembutsu by responding in gratitude to Amida Buddha by "Sharing (the) Joy (of Namo Amida Butsu) Together" by talking about Amida Buddha to others and reciting Namo Amida Butsu making manifest the saying "As the light of a small candle will spread from one to another in succession, so the light of Buddha's compassion will pass on from one mind to another endlessly."

Bishop Eric Matsumoto, Buddhist Study Center Interim Director, Office of Buddhist Education, and the HHMH Commission on Buddhist Education



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—February 2023

#### HAKASOJI and NOKOTSUDO

Bessie Kakizoe	Pauline Ege	Laura Fujimoto
Gilbert Nakayama	Claire Oue	Stanley Tokunaga
Lorraine Haraguchi	Ray Takeguchi	Sandy Iwashita
Ann Hirota	Asako Shindo	Florence Idei
Anthony Nakamura	Karen Morinoue	Clara Uechi
Leanne Kirk	Claudine Souza	Susan Demotta
Karen Tashima	Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Nakamura	Mr. & Mrs. Gary Higashi
m/m Kenneth Sugiyama		
	Total - \$1,400.00	

#### <u>HI KYODAN</u>

Sandy Iwashita	m/m Gary Higashi	Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Sugiyama	Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Nakamura	Kevin Kunz & Kathleen Mishina
	CAPITAL FUND	
Sandy Iwashita	Mr. & Mrs. Gary Higashi	Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Sugiyama	Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Nakamura	

#### **SERVICES**

Jeffrey Ichishita, Interment Service for Wally and Aiko Ichishita, Aiko Ichishita's 1st Year

Saito Ohana, Ukie Saito's 3<sup>rd</sup> Year

Janet Maeda, Richard Maeda's 1st Year

Claire Oue, Funeral & Related Expenses for Francis Oue

Mr. & Mrs. Fumio Murasaki, Harumi Oda's 1st Year

Total - \$1,100.00

#### **EITAIKYO**

Total - \$427.00

#### HOLUALOA TEMPLE NEW YEAR SERVICE

Anonymous Naggert Ohana Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Kunitake Carol Zakahi Nora Koyanagi Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina Total - \$290.00 Carol Ichishita Robert Sakata Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue

## <u>JIHO</u>

Sandy Iwashita Mr. & Mrs. Gary Higashi Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Sugiyama Total - \$390.00 Hanae Okumura Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo

Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue

Lorraine Haraguchi

Clara Uechi

#### Acknowledgements continued:

David Johnson Wayne Fukunaga Satsuko Matsuoka Carol Okuna

#### **HOONKO**

Sachiko Katoku Fusaye Murayama Norma Nakamoto

Mr. & Mrs. Ichiro Shikada

Total – 200.00

#### **BODHI DAY**

Total - \$863.00

#### SUNDAY SERVICES

Total - \$917.00

#### NEW YEAR'S EVE

Total - \$1,006.00

#### SPECIAL DONATIONS

Janet Maeda	Lori Marcello	Sueto Matsumura
Helen Nagata	Yoga Class	Suisan
Anonymous	Ellen Nishikawa	Lisa Okada
Ann Hirota	Janice Kameda	Rev. Blayne Higa
Annie Fujino	Elaine Kawasaki	Kurt Kurasaki
Joyce Masaki	Mitsue Taniyama	Mark Thrift
Boys & Girls Club	Papaaloa Hongwanji Mission	Mr. & Mrs. Tami Murakami
Patsy Nishina & Jurgen Naggert	Mr. & Mrs. Earl Ogata	

Sandy Iwashita, Project Dana, Preschool
Rinko Matsuoka, Social Concerns
Satsuko Matsuoka, Project Dana
Doris Yamamoto, Social Concerns
Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue, Jr. YBA
Sachiko Katoku, Social Concerns
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Sugiyama, Shinwakai, Taiko, Cubscouts, Preschool
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue, Veterans Appreciation, Social Concerns
Total - \$5,670.00

#### **IN MEMORY OF**

Adele Harrington & Ohana, IMO Shigeji Yamagata Marcia Hiromasa, IMO Harumi Oda's 1<sup>st</sup> Year Masae Okamoto, IMO Frank & Wayne Okamoto's Birthdays Mr. & Mrs. Sukeji Yamagata, IMO Shigeji Yamagata Winifred Yamagata, IMO Shigeji Yamagata Helen Oishi Doris Yamamoto Keith Nishihara

#### Acknowledgements continued:

Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Yamagata, IMO Shigeji Yamagata Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Passalacqua, IMO Shigeji Yamagata Mr. & Mrs. Cyrus Yamagata, IMO Shigeji Yamagata Mr. & Mrs. Oren Yamagata, IMO Shigeji Yamagata Dave Yamagata, IMO Shegeji Yamagata Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ikeno, IMO Francis Oue Clifford Tanouye, IMO Clyde Tanouye Edna Yamashita, IMO Richard Hideo Sakamoto's 17th Year Anonymous, IMO George, Alice and Kyle Kirihara Susan Shirota Nishioka, IMO Toshie Shirota's 7th Year Eva Yamashita, IMO George and Asano Matsumoto Jennifer Oba, IMO Shinzaburo Nakamoto Dr. Stuart Nakamoto and Ohana, IMO Shinzaburo Nakamoto Cynthia Nakamoto-Tomono and Ohana, IMO Shinzaburo Nakamoto Cathy Arakaki and Ohana, IMO Shinzaburo Nakamoto Sheila Lee, IMO Shinzaburo Nakamoto Janice Onaka, IMO Roy H. Onaka's 7th Year Setsue Okuda, IMO Mr. & Mrs. Rikita Mori Shawn Kushima, IMO Roy H. Onaka Masae Okamoto, IMO Wayne Okamoto Fusaye Murayama, IMO Masaki Motomura & Ohana Mr. & Mrs. Gary Higashi and Ohana, IMO Harue Hayama, Rie Hayama, Yoshio Hayama, Hide Nakayama Dawn Bvoderick & Ohana, IMO Richard Maeda Yuri Toyama & Ohana, IMO Richard Maeda Elaine Komo, IMO Yoshiyuki Kaneko's 1<sup>st</sup> Year Cheryl Marshall, IMO George Matsuoka Shirley Matsuoka, IMO George Matsuoka Mr. & Mrs. Deron Matsuoka, IMO George Matsuoka Leeanne Oue, IMO Francis Oue Nellie Reed, IMO Keith Reed Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Sugiyama, IMO Harue Hayama's 25th Year, Rie Hayama's 50th Year Edna Yamashita, IMO Ittoku and Tone Sakamoto Shigeko Yonemori, IMO Nisuke and Kimiko Yonemori

Total - \$3,595.00

# MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR February, March and April 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)

02/08	Chiyono Kobayashi	02/20	Chizuko Nakamura
03/07	Matsuko Matsuda	04/17	George Nakamoto
	THIRD YEAR	<u>R (2021)</u>	
02/05	Kenneth Kaku	02/09	Setsuko "Sally" Deguchi
03/07	Yasuo Fukumitsu	03/08	Tsuino Yoshiki
03/14	Masahi "Boston" Kitaoka	03/29	Hisako "Sue" Taniyama
04/11	Hisako Hatta	04/13	Fujie Sato
04/14	Harumi Mildred Oda		
	<u>SEVENTH YEA</u>	<u>R (2017)</u>	
02/03	Frank S. Yamamoto	02/20	Roy H. Onaka
02/22	Emi Emiko Ueda	02/25	Matsuko Asuka
04/07	Suyeko Nishina	04/20	Masae Matsuoka
	THIRTEENTH YE	<u>EAR (2011)</u>	
02/29	Masayuki Nagatoshi	03/21	Hisako Ogata
04/11	Ronald Allen Lindner	04/21	Nellie K. Kamigaki
	<u>SEVENTEENTH Y</u>	<u>′EAR (2007)</u>	
02/19	Evelyn Natsuyo Terawaki	02/25	Namiko Ide
03/05	Tsurue Morimoto	04/08	Yuriko Kamigaki
	TWENTY FIFTH Y	<u> (1999)</u>	
02/05	Satoo Ueno	02/26	Tsutayo Nagai
03/09	Torao Sakamoto	03/28	Eleanor Fusako Murata
04/01	Shizuichi Sakanashi	04/07	Aiko Yamaguchi
04/24	Stanley Saburo Horibata		
	THIRTY THIRD Y	<u>EAR (1991)</u>	
02/24	Kunio Morimoto	03/06	Kiku Kunitomo
03/17	Tsugi Nagata	03/18	Shizuko Stella Onaka
03/26	Kameju Tanouye	04/15	Yasue Nakayama
04/17	Richard T. Shibata		
	<u>FIFTIETH YEA</u>	<u>R (1974)</u>	
02/06	Umekichi Yamamoto	02/13	Yachiyo Ogata
03/18	Kira Iwato	04/09	Goro Kuroyama

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