



JIHO

February 2024



Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments

Please join us for services and events in February and March. 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. We look forward to seeing you in person or online!

Nirvana Day (Nehan-E) Service

February 4 at 10:00am

Guest Speaker: Bishop Clark Watanabe, Shingon Mission of Hawaii



Shakyamuni awakened to Truth and became the 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 life of Shakyamuni Buddha, the other two being his birthday on April 8 and his awakening on December 8. Bishop Watanabe will join us in person.

Dharma Family Service

February 11 at 10:00am

General Membership Meeting and New Year's Luncheon

February 18 at 10:00am

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. The meeting will be followed by our New Year's Luncheon with ono food, fellowship, and prizes.

Please RSVP by Friday, February 9th by calling the office (808-323-2993) or filling out the online form at

<https://forms.gle/yofLgUi6MHbBBL7z6>

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

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Hawaii Island Gathafest at Hilo Hongwanji

February 25 at 9:30am

*****No Service at KHBT*****

Join us for the Hawaii District Gathafest where temples from around the island will share songs and joyful music with the theme of "Sharing Nembutsu Moments." This is the 50th Anniversary of the festival. The Kona Hongwanji Sangha will perform a song Daren Katayama has written "Dharma" lyrics to John Cruz's "Island Style" and our presentation will be accompanied by anyone wishing to play the ukulele. Please sign up when you attend service or call the office to let us know you plan to attend and if you need transportation.

Eshinni & Kakushinni Day Service

March 3 at 10:00am

Guest Speaker: Rev. Barbara Brennan

Windward Buddhist Temple

Hawaii Association of International Buddhists (HAIB) Buddha Day Celebration

March 10 at 9:30am

Dharma Family Service

March 17 at 10:00am

Dharma Family Service

March 24 at 10:00am

Spring Ohigan (Equinox) Service

March 31 at 10:00am

Guest Speaker: Rev. Shawn Yagi

Lihue Hongwanji Mission

Aloha Sangha Members,

We welcomed the New Year with two services; one at Kona Hongwanji and one at Holualoa Hongwanji to express our gratitude for Amida's All embracing compassion. It is my hope your New Years will be filled with Love, Peace, and happiness.

As we welcomed in the New Year we also welcomed to Kona Hongwanji our newest addition to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Ministerial staff. Rev. Blayne Nakasone Sakata, who was our guest speaker at our annual Hoonko Candle Light Service. A service that is celebrated in the memory of our founder Shinran Shonin. It seemed so fitting to welcome a new minister to our Hongwanji Ohana at a candle light service, signaling that the Light of the Dharma will continue to glow.

The month of February will be full of fun events. It will begin with the Cherry Blossom Festival in Waimea on Saturday, February 3. Kona Hongwanji will be participating in demonstrating the actual pounding of mochi. We will pack up our usu, and items needed to actually pound mochi. The public will have the opportunity to try their hand at making their own mochi and tasting the finished product.

Please come and visit us at the shopping center, **and if you know how to pound mochi, or turn the mochi, we could welcome your assistance.** Another added plus, our Taiko group will also be participating, and so you can also enjoy a bit of Bon Dancing too.

February 18, will be our annual General Membership meeting and luncheon. The meeting and service will be hybrid, however, to enjoy lunch and fellowship you need to be present, (Unfortunately technology hasn't been created to "Zoom" food). Please call Ramah at the Temple Office to RSVP by Friday February 9th if you plan to attend the luncheon as we need a headcount to prepare for lunch.

Reflecting on the first two lines of "Our Pledge", "Reaching out to others, I will share a warm smile and gentle words..." How about joining us on February 25, by traveling to Hilo for our annual Gathafest which is being hosted by Hilo Hongwanji. Our ukulele players and Sangha members will be singing a song entitled "Shinshu Style" words written by our own Daren Katayama, the music is a spinoff from the song Island Style. We could use more singers, and if you can play the ukulele, we could use your talents there too. We are having singing and ukulele practice after Sunday service. Let's share our "warm smile and gentle words" as we enjoy great fellowship with members from our sister temples on the Big Island. There is a signup sheet at the Temple or you can call Ramah let her know that you would like to attend, and we are also arranging for transportation, so a headcount is needed.

In Gassho,
Linda Nagai

How Should We Live?

Rev. Blayne Higa

In a story from Buddhist scripture, we learn of how Shakyamuni Buddha once cared for a dying monk. It is said he and his disciple Ananda came upon a gravely ill monk who was alone and covered in filth. Without hesitation, the Buddha and Ananda begin to clean and tend to the monk despite his objections of wanting to be left alone. The Buddha gently tells the monk,

“You must not be so proud,” the Buddha replied. “This body is nothing more than a double-end bag. Food goes in, excrement goes out. We are all the same. Your body is nothing to be ashamed of...” “You give this body too much importance,” the Buddha continued. “This bag that we carry throughout our lives is just a collection of impermanent parts. As a body, it has functions to fulfill, but it cannot fulfill those functions forever. Your body is destined to come undone. How can it be any other way?”¹



The Buddha and Ananda continue their careful ministrations, cleaning the monk from head to toe and as they finish, the monk tearfully admits how hard it is to let go. “It is, indeed,” the Buddha replied. “But that is the practice. Nothing more than that.”²

In tending to the dying monk, the Buddha demonstrated how we should live, how to die, and how we should care for others. He offers a profound lesson on how we should embrace the inescapable truth of impermanence and live mindfully and compassionately.

It is said at the age of eighty, the Buddha became gravely ill after eating spoiled meat and died soon after, attaining the perfect tranquility of *Parinirvana*. Ever the consummate teacher, his living and dying were profound lessons illuminating the eternal truths found in the Dharma. He shares in his final sermon, “My disciples, my end is approaching, our parting is near, but do not lament. Life is ever changing; none can escape the dissolution of the body. This I am now to show by my own death, my body falling apart like a dilapidated cart. Do not vainly lament but realize that nothing is permanent and learn from it the emptiness of human life. Do not cherish the unworthy desire that the changeable might become unchanging.”³ What a remarkable teaching for facing our own mortality with courage and dignity? What profound insight into our nature of clinging to the illusion of permanency?

While it might seem morbid to contemplate old age, sickness, and death, it is an incredibly wise teaching for how we should live each unrepeatable day of this impermanent life. When we truly embrace the transiency of our lives, how do we live with a sense of urgency, making every moment count? Can we let go of our anger and grudges? Can we offer greater compassion to ourselves and others? As Rennyō Shōnin writes in the *Letter on White Ashes*, “There is nothing more real than this truth of life. The fragile nature of human existence underlies both the young and old, and therefore we must, one and all, turn to the teachings of the Buddha and awaken to the ultimate source of life. By so understanding the meaning of death, we shall come to fully appreciate the meaning of this life which is unrepeatable and thus to be treasured above all else.” The Dharma asks us to deeply reflect on how we should be living this all too brief life we have. Maybe we should all simply love more? Namo Amida Butsu.



Congratulations to Minister's Assistant Linda Nagai for completing Tokudo Ordination in December 2023!

¹ Sasson, Vanessa. “This is the Practice.” *Lions Roar*, 23 May 2023. <https://www.lionsroar.com/this-is-the-practice/>

² Ibid.

³ *Learning the Wisdom of Enlightenment*. Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai. 2019



We welcomed the Year of the Dragon as sangha with Mochi Making on December 30, 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 New Year's Day Service at the Holualua Hongwanji. We truly celebrated all that binds us together as a community of friends and fellow travelers. May the new year be filled with wonder, gratitude, and hope! Namo Amida Butsu.

Celebrating the New Year



Hoonko Candlelight Service



On January 13, we held our special Hoonko Candlelight Service celebrating the life Shinran Shonin, founder of Shin Buddhism. Rev. Blayne Nakasone Sakata, Associate Minister of Hawaii Betsuin and Chaplain of Pacific Buddhist Academy shared a wonderful Dharma message on the significance of Hoonko and our profound indebtedness to Shinran for sharing the teaching of our awakening through the Nembutsu. We truly felt the presence of Amida's wisdom and compassion as a community of fellow travelers. Namo Amida Butsu!

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.

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

SHIN BUDDHISM 101
Saturday, February 17
10:00am-11:30am

Ever been curious about learning more about Shin Buddhism? Or need a refresher on the basics? Rev. Blayne will give a concise introduction to the tradition and practices of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and answer any questions you may have. We will meet in the Hondo for an engaging conversation.

Everyone is welcome!

Please register by Monday, February 12.

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/hUKZjhy1nwJ5rDxG8>

HMMH Triple Celebration

This year we will be celebrating the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth/800th Anniversary of the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching/135th Anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

Check out the following events:

- Monthly online **Buddhist Education series** [HMMH organizes Triple Celebration Buddhist Education Series – Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii \(hongwanjihawaii.com\)](https://www.hongwanjihawaii.com)
- **Triple Celebration on September 7-8, 2024 at the Ala Moana Hotel.** Exciting Keynote by Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyagi, engaging workshops, commemorative services, and luncheon. Early Registration Deadline: March 31 [Triple Celebration – Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii \(hongwanjihawaii.com\)](https://www.hongwanjihawaii.com)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—February 2024

IN MEMORY OF

Carol Zakahi, IMO Stanley Zakahi's 3rd Year

Anonymous, IMO Noboru Kitaoka's 17th Year

Emiko Kaneko, IMO Yoshiyuki Kaneko, Jay Kaneko, Sotaro & Iyo Komo

Adele Kitaoka, IMO Noboru Kitaoka's 17th Year

Lisa Kitaoka, IMO Noboru "King" Kitaoka

Jarett & Tyler Kitaoka, IMO Noboru "King" Kitaoka

Loretta Kitaoka, IMO Noboru "King" Kitaoka

Claire Oue, IMO Patricia Oue

Leeanne Oue, IMO Patricia Oue

Beverly Uemoto, IMO Gerald Uemoto

Anonymous, IMO Lionel Tatsutani

Anonymous, IMO Minohei & Michie Matsuyama

Anonymous, IMO Yoshino Matsuyama

Anonymous, IMO Hiroshi Matsuyama

Masae Okamoto & Ohana, IMO Wayne Okamoto

Dorothy Nicholson, IMO Nobuko Nagatoshi's 25th Year, Fumie Yoshida, and Mary Iwanaga

Acknowledgements continued:

Robert Ikeno, IMO Patricia Oue

Elaine Kawasaki & Ohana, IMO Chiyoko & Masayuki Kawasaki

Masae Okamoto, IMO Frank & Wayne Okamoto

Mr. & Mrs. Kelvin Mikami, IMO Miyuki Inouye

Mr. & Mrs. Minoru Tashima, IMO Kaoru "Speedy" Ogata

Sean Tatsutani & Ohana, IMO Lionel Tatsutani

Rian Tatsutani & Ohana, IMO Lionel Tatsutani

Elaine Tatsutani, IMO Lionel Tatsutani, Yoshino Matsuyama, Hiroshi Matsuyama, Minohei & Michie Matsuyama

Total - \$3,065.00

SUNDAY SERVICE

Anonymous

Geri Ann Aoki Davidson

Darcie Asakura & Ohana

Mary Katayam

Diana Asakura & Ohana

George Klumb

Myrna Kunihiro

Janet Lindner

Lois Low

Steven Kaneko

Morris Nagata

Elaine Nakagawa

Lilly Ushiroda

Alan Matsumoto

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano

Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina

Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue

Mr. & Mrs. Hiroki Ishimaru

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Total - \$646.00

HI KYODAN/CAPITAL FUND

Sandy Iwashita

Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Sugiyama

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Yamauchi

HOLUALOA NEW YEARS SERVICE

Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sakata

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Tanaka

Patsy Nishina & Juergen Naggert

Kristoph & Anna Naggert

Total - \$135.00

HAKASOJI/NOKOTSUDO

Nancy Fujimoto

Diana Asakura

Mr. & Mrs. Daren Katayama

Mr. & Mrs. Pedro Poentis

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Sugiyama

Total - \$295.00

NEW YEARS SERVICE

Anonymous

Mary Katayama

Geri Ann Aoki Davidson

Sally Kusano

Janet Lindner

Norma Matsumoto

Karen Morimoto

Morris Nagata

Cynthia Nakamoto-Tomono

Kristoph & Anna Naggert

Patsy Nishina & Juergen Naggert

Masae Okamoto & Ohana

Acknowledgements continued:

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hiraishi

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Tanaka

Total - \$561.00

SERVICES

Sadayuki Inouye, Funeral & Related Expenses for Miyuki Inouye

Leslie Koshi, Shizue Sugimoto's 50th Year

Claire Oue, Funeral & Related Expenses for Patricia Oue

Ichishita Ohana, Joyce Ichishita's 7th Day

Elaine Tatsutani, Lionel Tatsutani's 1st Year

Mr. & Mrs. Shizuya Sakata, Ruby Murasaki's 25th Year

Total - \$2,900.00

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Anonymous

Yoga Class

Ruby Vaughn

Patsy Nishina & Juergen Naggert

Suisan Company, LTD.

Mr. & Mrs. Earl Ogata

Sandy Iwashita, Project Dana, Preschool, Jiho

Lilly Ushiroda, Hoonko

Edward Aoki, Social Concerns

Mr. & Mrs. Burt Kamigaki, Bodhi Day

Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo, Jiho

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Sugiyama, Jiho, Shinwakai, Taiko, Preschool, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts

Total - \$2,208.00



MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL 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)

02/14 Norman Sakata

03/23 Mr. Jay Moriguchi

02/21 Akemi Matsumoto

04/13 Akiko McAfee

THIRD YEAR (2022)

02/08 Chiyono Kobayashi

03/07 Matsuko Matsuda

02/20 Chizuko Nakamura

04/17 Mr. George Nakamoto

SEVENTH YEAR (2018)

02/12 Mr. Isamu "Joseph" Iha

03/11 Mr. Fred Uechi

THIRTEENTH YEAR (2012)

02/10 Mr. Kenneth Kadooka

03/28 Yasue Sugi

04/22 Mildred Midori Takahashi

03/23 Kiyoshi Shirai

04/06 Mr. Lance Guy Chang

SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2008)

02/24 Hajime Fukushima

04/14 Susumu Mizoshiri

02/26 Hideo Komo

04/20 Thelma Sachiko Kirihara

TWENTY FIFTH YEAR (2000)

02/03 Takeshi Kamigaki

02/15 Seiji "SK" Koshi

03/08 Dexter Tsumori Nozaki

04/19 Matsuyo Fukushima

02/08 Mr. Hideo Matsuoka

02/27 Isami "Fago" Okuno

04/13 Toshio Kameda

THIRTY THIRD YEAR (1992)

03/05 Lloyd Kenzo Sugimoto

03/14 Matsue Hirano

03/19 Hamayo Tokumura

03/31 Tokue Koshi

04/15 Tomeko Thelma Aoki

04/19 Ichi Mori

03/09 Toyochi Tabata

03/14 Kunio Terawaki

03/29 Helen Mieko Grace

04/09 Toi Kamei

04/17 Shizuyo Yamagata

FIFTIETH YEAR (1975)

02/25 Sue Tanaka

03/29 Gentaro Murakami

02/26 Samuel S. Shiraishi

04/23 Hiroshi Sato

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

