



JIHO
July 2023



Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together

Please join our hybrid services in July and August. 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!

Obon Cemetery Service

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

Dharma Family Service

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

Dharma Family Service

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



Bon Dance and Craft Fair

Saturday, July 22, 2023, 6:00pm to 10:00pm

*****No Service on July 23*****

Obon Family Service

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

Guest Speaker: Rev. Kerry Kiyohara

Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple



During Obon we will take time to remember departed loved ones and celebrate our continuing relationship with them. If you would like to honor your loved one(s) at this service please submit their name(s) to the temple office by **Wednesday, July 26**. Please email konahongwanji@twc.com or call 808-323-2993.

Hiroshima Remembrance Service

Sunday, August 6, at 10:00am

*****No Service on August 13 and 20*****

Hawaii District Service

Sunday, August 27, at 9:00 am

Hosted at Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin

Guest Speaker: Dr. Jeff Wilson

University of Waterloo

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

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 1
KEALAKEKUA, HAWAII 96750

Aloha Sangha Members,

Summer has arrived, and we began June with our Boy Scouts Troop 59 sponsoring the Military Remembrance Service, a service to honor and remember the sacrifices of these brave men and women and their contribution to Peace in the world. Followed by our Father's Day service, to honor, and thank all of the fathers in our Sangha for their love and dedication to their families. We were also honored to have a father himself of two wonderful children, our current Bishop, Bishop Eric Matsumoto as our Dharma speaker. His visit was extra special, because he brought with him the original image of Amida that was housed in our Naijin, prior to the current image. There is a story behind both images, and although we have heard the story of how the second image came about, I personally didn't realize that there was a companion image. If anyone knows or has heard stories about the original image, please share it with Rev. Blayne or myself, it would be nice to put the pieces of the puzzle together and put it in the history books of Kona Hongwanji.

And the excitement continues into July... As we all know it's Obon season, and after a 3-year absence, we are excited to welcome the Sangha and the community to our Bon Dance on July 22. We will also be observing our Hatsubon service on this day. Hatsubon Service will begin at 4:00 p.m. followed by the Bon Dance at 6:00 p.m.

Because this day honors the memory of ancestors, especially parents, this year we will have a new addition to our Bon Dance event, we will be featuring "Memory Lanterns". We will have lanterns available at our Bon Dance, for people to write messages or remembrance of family members and friends who have passed on. These lighted lanterns will be placed in specified areas in and around the Temple. If you wish, you may take your lanterns home with you as you leave the Bon Dance.

In Japanese Buddhist communities in the United States, the Obon festival brings colorful Japanese cultural and religious traditions together. In the Jodo Shinshu tradition, It is also a time to remember and honor all those who have passed on before us, a time to remember and appreciate all that they have done for us (okagesama de), and a time to recognize the continuations of their deeds upon our lives.

In Jodo Shinshu another term for Obon is "Kangi e" A gathering of joy, so for me personally, When I see my lantern placed around the temple, I know in my heart that my late husband and parents are with me enjoying the Bon Dance. The light in the lantern also reminds me of Amida's all-encompassing compassion shining on us all. Please join me in lighting up our Bon Dance this year as we celebrate the Obon season.

Hope to see you at our Sunday Services, and at the Bon Dance, and let's all celebrate this this joyous night together, with memory lanterns, dancing, great food, and crafts available from various vendors.

In Gassho,

Linda Nagai

An Obon Love Story Rev. Blayne Higa

At the heart of Obon is a story. A timeless story of love, devotion, and memory. We reflect on this story each year at the height of Summer when we celebrate the fullness of life in all its glory. We dance in endless circles to the rhythmic beat of taiko drums with our hands and feet telling heartfelt and healing stories of their own under the night sky illuminated by brightly colored lanterns.

The story of Obon comes from the *Ullambana Sutra* which describes how Mogallana, one of Shakyamuni Buddha's disciples, suffered over the death of his mother, feeling a deep sense of loss and regret. He worried that her lifelong devotion to him had been a barrier to her understanding and practicing the Dharma. However, the Buddha counseled Mogallana by asking him to reflect deeply upon this and he came to realize that his mother's devotion to him was based on an unselfish love which naturally embodied the Buddha's path. With this profound insight into his mother's life, Mogallana danced with joy as his regret and sorrow were transformed into appreciation and gratitude for her love which made his life possible.

Mogallana's story offers us a profound lesson about life. That when we love we will also experience the loss of those we love. This is the inescapable truth of our lives. Through our own stories of love and loss, we come to appreciate the significance of this present life which is precious and unrepeatable. Because of our deep



connection to our ancestors, we are enabled to live. By remembering them, we gain new appreciation for the unique causes and conditions which sustain our lives.

During this festival of joyful memories, the veil separating us from our departed loved ones thins as we welcome them home into our hearts. This act of remembering is healing because we realize they have never left our side as ever-present companions and guides along our own life journey to the Buddha's world of awakening.

In the *Amida Sutra*, one of the three sacred scriptures of Shin Buddhism, we find the teaching of *Kue issho* which refers to how we will all meet together in the Pure Land of Enlightenment. In our saying of the Nembutsu we experience *Kue issho*—a profound oneness with our loved ones who have become part of the timeless working of great wisdom and compassion that sustains our lives. Our recitation of Namō Amida Butsu is an endless conversation with limitless Light and Life itself.

Years ago, observing my paternal grandmother's first Obon after her passing was bittersweet yet healing. Taking time to uplift her memory through this ancient ritual was a profound emotional and spiritual release. Recalling our shared story through the movement of my hands and feet, we danced together as we joined with others in the flowing ring of life. My heart quickened and slowed to the rhythm of drums as tears welled up and *Namandabu* rose from deep within.

It felt like I was finally able to let go after holding my breath for so many months since her death. My sorrow was transformed through the healing power of time and attention. My deepening appreciation for her and my profound gratitude for her continuing presence in my life found its natural expression in my voicing of the Nembutsu.

My grandmother and all my ancestors are together with me in the dynamic and inconceivable working of Namō Amida Butsu which has no beginning or end.

During the Obon season, we celebrate life and love, always entrusting ourselves to the all-inclusive wisdom and all-embracing compassion of Infinite Light and Life. Let's all take time to remember our own love stories that nurture and heal. Namō 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*

Flower Toban Help

Looking for one or two volunteers to help the Flower Toban group every Wednesday from 8:00am to do the following:

- Change flowers in columbarium and temple
- Clean columbarium

Please contact the temple office at 808-323-2993 if you are interested. Mahalo for your help!



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.

Bon Dance Practice

Kona Hongwanji Social Hall
@7:30pm
Monday, July 10
Thursday, July 13
Monday, July 17
Thursday, July 20

SAVE THE DATE

Hawaii District Nembutsu Seminar 2023 with Dr. Jeff Wilson

*(Professor of Religious Studies and East Asian Studies at
Renison University College/University of Waterloo)*

Saturday, August 26, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
at Hilo Betsuin (In-person and Zoom)

His lecture will be based on his new book:
"Living Nembutsu: Applying Shinran's radically
engaged Buddhism in life and society"

District Sunday Service

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jeff Wilson
(Minister's Assitant for the Toronto
Buddhist Church, Canada)

Sunday, August 27, 9 a.m.
at Hilo Betsuin (In-person and Zoom)

Details to be announced

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.

Kona Daifukuji Soto Mission Bon Dance

Saturday, July 8

3:00pm to 6:30pm

Bon Dance Practice @ 7:00pm

June 20, 27, 29

July 4, 6

Emergency Preparedness

Hurricane season in Hawaii began on June 1st and will run till November 30th. It's important to have an emergency plan and kits ready to keep your family safe. Useful information on how to prepare for emergencies can be found on the following websites:

County of Hawaii Civil Defense

<https://www.hawaiicounty.gov/departments/civil-defense/emergency-preparedness>

Hawaii Emergency Management Agency

<http://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/>

Hawaiian Electric Emergency Preparedness Handbook

<https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/safety-and-outages/storm-center/emergency-preparedness-handbook>

Gotan-E Service



On May 21, we welcomed Rev. Joshin Kamuro, his wife Minako, and their son Yuma to Kona Hongwanji for our Gotan-E Service celebrating the birthday of Shinran Shonin. Rev. Kamuro shared a wonderful appreciation of Shinran's life and teaching and the significance of his birth. Yuma also played the violin for us! Happy birthday Shinran!

After a three year break due to COVID, Kona Hongwanji is excited to announce that we will host a bon dance this year, to be held on Saturday, July 22nd, at the temple. The bon dance is open to the public, and we look forward to sharing our culture and traditions with the community. The bon dance will feature energetic dances, taiko drumming, food booths, and craft booths. This year, you will have an opportunity to honor a loved one with a Memory Lantern that will be placed in the temple.

A Hatsubon Service will be held at 4 pm in the temple, followed by the Bon Dance at 6 pm. No service will be held on Sunday.

Event: Hatsubon Service
(For families observing the first Obon since the passing of a loved one. Invitations will be sent.)

Date: Saturday, July 22nd

Time: 4 pm

Location: Temple

Event: Bon Dance

Date: Saturday, July 22nd

Time : 6 pm

Location: Temple parking lot

An event of this size and magnitude requires the work of many compassionate hands working together in harmony. The Bon Dance Committee is seeking volunteers who would like to help with the Bon Dance. Here are the volunteer opportunities:

Date	Task	Number of Volunteers Needed
Monday, July 10th at 7 pm	Clear Social Hall of Tables & Chairs for Bon Dance Practice	6 - 8 volunteers
Saturday, July 22nd at 8 am	Site Set-Up	
	Yagura (tower) set up	8 - 12 volunteers (heavy lifting)
	Tent Assembly	4 - 6 volunteers
	Lantern Strands	4 - 6 volunteers
	Set up chairs	5 - 6 volunteers
	Set up choba table / fold towels / signage	6 - 6 volunteers
	Set up Memory Lantern station	2 volunteers
Saturday, July 22nd at 5 pm	During & Post Dance	
	Assistance with Kimono Dressing	2 volunteers
	Choba crew (accept donations, hand out towels)	2 volunteers per shift
	Memory Lantern crew	2 volunteers per shift
	Refreshment Crew	2 volunteers
	Trash Monitors	2 -4 volunteers
Saturday, July 22nd at 10 pm	Post Dance Clean Up	12-14 volunteers
	Put away tables and chairs	
	Sweep & mop Social Hall	
	Take down yagura skirts	
	Take down lantern & lights	
	Empty trash	
Sunday, July 23rd at 9 am	Take down yagura	8 - 12 volunteers (heavy lifting)

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the temple office at 808-323-2993 or email: konahongwanji@twc.com, or contact Steven Kaneko at 808-228-2791 or email at: kaneko676@hotmail.com.

Joint Celebration at Honzan And 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention



In May, Rev. Blayne, Linda Nagai, Norman and Betty Takeoka, and Myrna Kunihiro attended the Joint Celebration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching and the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention in Kyoto, Japan. They joined a delegation of almost 180 people from Hawaii who participated in this special commemoration that happens once every fifty-years. This was a meaningful opportunity to express our appreciation for Shinran Shonin, who founded the Jodo Shinshu Tradition. The celebration was held at our mother temple, Nishi Hongwanji, and the convention was held at the Kyoto International Conference Center. We had an amazing time joining with thousands of fellow Nembutsu followers from the Buddhist Churches of America, Canada, South America, and Japan to celebrate these joyful events! Namo Amida Butsu!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—JULY 2023

HAKASOJI & NOKOTSUDO

Jimmy Nakagawa	Charles Nakamura	Lynn Nakamura
Val Ogata	Elaine Okura	Rose Onaka
Grace Rivera	Claudia Sato	Ruthie Sevy
Elsie Takeguchi	Karen Wong	Edna Yamashita
Fumie Yoshida	Dessa Yukawa	Suzanne Delaries
Esther Gesteuyala	Kent Iwashita	Melvin Kadohiro
Jean Kadooka	Yoshiko Kadooka	Melvin Kobayakawa
Kenneth Komo	Joyce Kudamatsu	Arlene Kusunoki
Carl Matsubara	Glenn Matsumoto	Danny Matsuoka
Sadie Miki	Glenn Mizoshiri	Joan Arakaki
Nadine Bason	Pauline Ege	Ilyn Ferreira
Hiroshi Fujino	Jeanette Fukuda	Melvin Harano
Roy Haruguchi	Shikimi Hayama	Carol Honda
Kevin Ichishita	Florence Idei	Akinori Imai
Linda Iwasaki	K. Oue Family	Emiko Kaneko
Nancy Katayama	Dianne Katsutani	Judith Kawakami
Winifred Kimura	David Komo	Delna Komo
Myrna Kunihiro	Rinko Matsuoka	Shirley Matsuoka
Kay Matsuyama	Joann Morimoto	Norma Nakamoto
Leatrice Saito	Molly Takashiba	Katy Uemura
Albert Watanabe	Doris Yamamoto	Doris Yoshitake
Shigeko Yonemori	Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina	Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Ogata
Mr. & Mrs. Claude Onizuka	Mr. & Mrs. Ichiro Shikada	Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Taguma
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Feldman	Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Fujikawa	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ikeno
Mr. & Mrs. Tami Murakami	Dale Agena & Daisy Sasaki	Mr. & Mrs. Francis Iwamoto
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Kadohiro	Mr. & Mrs. Russell Komo	Mr. & Mrs. Atsushi Matsumoto
Mr. & Mrs. Reginald Morimoto	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Nagata	Mr. & Mrs. Takeo Nakasone
Mr. & Mrs. Merton Ogata	Mr. & Mrs. Shizuya Sakata	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Sugiyama
Mr. & Mrs. James Tashima	Mr. & Mrs. Oren Yamagata	
	Total - \$4,535.00	

JIHO

Kenneth Komo	Ken Love	Melvin Harano
Shikimi Hayama	Akinori Imai	Emiko Kaneko
Helen Oishi	Katy Uemura	Doris Yamamoto
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Ogata	Mr. & Mrs. Ichiro Shikada	Mr. & Mrs. Gifford Matsuoka
Mr. & Mrs. Tami Murakami	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Nagata	Mr. & Mrs. James Tashima
	Total - \$625.00	

Acknowledgements continued:

SUNDAY SERVICES

Total - \$345.00

MOTHERS/CHILDRENS DAY & BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

Anonymous	Alan Matsumoto	Ann Matsumoto
Lisa Ciriako	Wayne Fukunaga	Mary Katayama
George Klumb	Nora Koyanagi	Myrna Kunihiro
Janet Lindner	Linda Nagai	Morris Nagata
Elaine Nakagawa	Chizu Nakashima	Suga Suzuki
Albert Watanabe	Bart Aoki & Marty Low	Geri Ann Aoki-Davidson
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko	Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano
Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina	Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka	Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue
Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue		

Total - \$550.00

HANAMATSURI

Total - \$217.00

PROJECT DANA

Doris Yamamoto	Albert Watanabe	Helen Oishi
Nancy Katayama	Kenneth Komo	Janet Maeda
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano		

Total - \$590.00

SERVICES

Norma Nakamoto, George Nakamoto's 1st Year
Janet Lindner, Ronald Lindner's 13th Year
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Harano, Mae Harano's 3rd Year
Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Ikeda, Matsuko Asuka's 7th Year

Total - \$550.00

HI KYODAN

Rose Onaka	Elsie Takeguchi	Wayne Fukunaga
Melvin Kobayakawa	Kenneth Komo	Janet Maeda
Danny Matsuoka	Hiroshi Fujino	Hale Hamada
Melvin Harano	Roy Haruguchi	Shikimi Hayama
Akinori Imai	Emiko Kaneko	Rinko Matsuoka
Shirley Matsuoka	Norma Nakamoto	Helen Oishi
Leatrice Saito	Albert Watanabe	Doris Yamamoto
Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina	Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Ogata	Mr. & Mrs. Ichiro Shikada

Acknowledgements continued:

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Taguma

Dale Agena & Daisy Sasaki

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Kadohiro

Mr. & Mrs. Atsushi Matsumoto

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Nagata

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano

Mr. & Mrs. Takeo Nakasone

Mr. & Mrs. Shizuya Sakata

Mr. & Mrs. James Tashima

CAPITAL FUND

Lynn Nakamura

Elsie Takeguchi

Edward Aoki

Wayne Fukunaga

Melvin Kobayakawa

Kenneth Komo

Janet Maeda

Carl Matsubara

Danny Matsuoka

Nadine Bason

Hiroshi Fujino

Melvin Harano

Shikimi Hayama

Emiko Kaneko

Nancy Katayama

Elaine Komo

Rinko Matsuoka

Shirley Matsuoka

Norma Nakamoto

Leatrice Saito

Katy Uemura

Albert Watanabe

Doris Yamamoto

Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Ogata

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Taguma

Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Fujikawa

Dale Agena & Daisy Sasaki

Mr. & Mrs. Atsushi Matsumoto

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Nagata

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano

Mr. & Mrs. Takeo Nakasone

Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Okahara

Mr. & Mrs. Shizuya Sakata

Mr. & Mrs. James Tashima

IN MEMORY OF

Clifford Tanouye, IMO Kameju Tanouye

Elaine Tatsutani, IMO Yoshino Matsuyama, Hiroshi Matsuyama, Minohei & Michi Matsuyama

Amy, Richard and Michael Ban, IMO Toshiharu Sato

Anonymous & Janet Sugimoto, IMO Hisako Hatta

Blanche Ito, IMO Goro Kuroyama's 50th Year

Anonymous, IMO Ronald Lindner's 13th Year

Nelson Harano, IMO Mae Harano's 3rd Year

Melvin Harano, IMO Mae Harano's 3rd Year

Steven Harano, IMO Mae Harano's 3rd Year

Nora Koyanagi, IMO George Nakamoto's 1st Year

Sandy Iwashita, IMO Matsuko Asuka's 7th Year

David Komo, IMO Satoro & Iyo Komo

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Sasaki, IMO Kameju Tanouye's 33rd Year

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue, IMO Edna Kitagawachi

Mr. & Mrs. Vaughn Miyauchi, IMO Goro Kuroyama's 50th Year

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Ogata, IMO Goro Kuroyama's 50th Year

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Ogi, IMO Jay Moriguchi

Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Harano, IMO Mae Harano's 3rd Year

Total - \$5,220.00

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 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)

07/10 Mutsumi Komo
07/31 Patsy Sueko Hamada
09/20 Asano Matsumoto

07/24 Norris Kenji Taniguchi
08/08 Richard Sasaki

SEVENTH YEAR (2017)

07/25 Kazuo Fukumitsu
08/31 Eleanor Yokomoto

08/15 Masao Obata

THIRTEENTH YEAR (2011)

08/22 Yoshitaka Takashiba
09/07 Ernest K. Urada

08/25 Calvin T. Hata

SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2007)

08/02 Harry Nobuyuki Honda
09/18 Hidetoshi Taniguchi

08/03 Tamotsu Oyama

TWENTY FIFTH YEAR (1999)

07/16 Harue Kawakami
08/13 Kikumo Fujikawa

08/11 Minoru Inouye
08/23 Masao "Masa" "Ninja" Hori

THIRTY THIRD YEAR (1991)

07/08 Shigeto Matsuda
07/27 Neil Y. Okumura
09/13 Misao Iwamoto

07/18 Kamalei Kunitomo
09/11 Mishiwo Murakami

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