



JIHO

June 2023



Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together

Please join our hybrid services in June and July. 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

Sunday, June 4, 2023, at 10:00am

Military Remembrance Service

Sunday, June 11, 2023, at 10:00am

Father's Day Service

Sunday, June 18, 2023, at 10:00am

Dharma Family Service

Sunday, June 25, 2023, at 10:00am

Sangha Speaker: Linda Nagai

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

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 from Japan,

Wish you were here with us. It has been a wonderful experience, Although I visited Honzan 38 years ago, this visit seemed extra special. Maybe it's because I was traveling with fellow Kona Hongwanji Sangha members.

We took a tour of Hiunkaku, a building the houses the Nishi Hongwanji's National Treasures. Hiunkaku is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and what made it more meaningful was to have Blayne Nakasone, our soon to be Hawaii Kyodan Minister as our unofficial guide. It felt as though we had a VIP tour.

Rev. Blayne, Rev. David Fujimoto and I attended morning service at the Honzan, service began promptly at 6:00 a.m. Can you imagine, arriving in Kyoto and going to bed around midnight, then getting up early to be at Honzan by 5:45 a.m. However even with only a few hours of sleep, I can say that the experience was worth every minute. We began in the Amida Do (Amida's Hall) chanting the Sanbutsuge, then moving on the Goedo (Shinran's Hall) to chant the Shoshinge with about 200 other people including Ministers from around the world and Honzan. The Halls echoed embracing everyone in Amida's Compassion. This was a great way for me begin my stay in Kyoto attending both the joint celebration and the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention.

Besides attending services at Honzan and participating in the convention, visiting the Kyoto National Museum, and embracing Shinran's life through three floors of exhibits was a memorable once in a lifetime experience.

Then, Myrna, Betty, Norman, and I began our tour of Chubu area of Japan. We first visited Yoshizaki Betsuin, Rennyō Shōnin's Temple, and chanted the Juseige in the spot where Rennyō began the sharing the Nembutsu teaching which eventually reached people throughout Japan, having 10,000 people seeking out the Nembutsu daily, is unheard of today. Besides being in such a historic temple, it was Sensei Jikai that made it special. He greeted us at the bus parking, he gave a brief history of Yoshizaki Betsuin in his best English, sometimes amusing, however very understandable. We even participated in helping him pronounce the words from his "cheat sheet". As we travelled our way north sightseeing along the way, our final stop was Tokyo, where we visited the Tsukiji Hongwanji. We were greeted by Ministers and members of the Hongwanji, where we again chanted the Juseige, listened to the History of Tsukiji Hongwanji and finally was treated to music played on the towering pipe organ with 2000 pipes. Music rang throughout the Hondo. It was a great way to end our visit to Japan, beginning with the Celebration of Shinran Shōnin's 850th birthday, 800th Anniversary of the establishment of the Hongwanji, and the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention and music that whisked us in spirit into the arms of Amida's all encompassing Wisdom and Compassion.

In Gassho,

Linda Nagai

Gratitude for Shinran and the Pure Land Way, Part 2 **Rev. Blayne Higa**

What is remarkable about the Pure Land Path that Shinran Shōnin shared is that the practice of Nembutsu is grounded in the midst of our everyday lives. After leaving Mt. Hiei where he had trained as a monk for twenty years, Shinran married, raised a family, and lived the ordinary life of a householder while continuing to say the Nembutsu as his exclusive practice. Because of this, Shinran considered himself neither monk nor lay living in a spiritually liminal space that affirmed both the sacred and the profane within himself. Professor Takamaro Shigaraki describes his spiritual journey as walking the path of the "nembutsu of everyday life" in which "...we think on the Buddha and say the nembutsu in whatever condition—whether laughing or crying, angry or happy—that we may find ourselves in. Through this nembutsu practiced every day of our lives, a path opens up before us, and on that path we are able to realize the experience of true awakening and attain Buddhahood. This is the path that Shinran experienced and has revealed to us."



So, what happens when we live the Nembutsu? Shinran describes a person who lives with "the entrusting heart" of Shinjin as a "true disciple of the Buddha." Professor Shigaraki shares, "Shinran then explains that a true disciple of the Buddha is endowed in mind and body with two kinds of benefit...Hence, in Shin Buddhism shinjin means that we live with hearts and minds that are hard yet soft, gentle yet resolute. This is the

fundamental image of the lives of those who live in shinjin.” Living with a soft and gentle heart and a firm and resolute mind is the ultimate benefit of the “nembutsu of everyday life.”

Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani shares an appreciation for this way of living in the second part of his *Gratitude for the Jōdo Shinshū Teaching*:

*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.*

This is the benefit of a life of gratitude which is made possible through the compassionate working of Amida Buddha. This transformation of our heart and mind shifts our self-centered way of viewing life, enabling us to realize our profound connection to others within the embrace of Infinite Light and Life. Shinran writes in the *Kyōgyōshinshō (True Teaching, Practice, and Realization)*, “Sentient beings who encounter this light have the three defilements swept away, and they become soft and gentle in body and mind. They dance with joy, and the good mind arises in them. When those suffering the pain and travail in the three evil courses see this light, they all find respite and are freed of afflictions.”

How fortunate we are to be able to receive Shinran’s profound wisdom 800 years since the establishment of the Jōdo Shinshū Teaching. How grateful we are to celebrate his 850th birthday as a worldwide community of fellow travelers living the “nembutsu of everyday life” that he shared with us.

In reflecting on the significance of this celebration, Shinran’s heartfelt words from the *Shōzōmatsu wasan (Hymns of the Dharma-Ages)* comes alive with new meaning:

*Such is the benevolence of Amida’s great compassion,
That we must strive to return it, even to the breaking of our bodies;
Such is the benevolence of the masters and true teachers,
That we must endeavor to repay it, even to our bones becoming dust.*

How profoundly grateful we are to Shinran for sharing the teaching of Amida Buddha’s Compassionate Vow which offers us a life of spiritual transformation and change through the Nembutsu. 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*

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
(First Session June 28)**

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.

Welcome New Members!

Mahalo to Jack Nunberg, Hedi Casquilho-Gray, Jeffrey Ichishita, and George Klumb for becoming sustaining members. Welcome to our Sangha.



Dean, George, John, Morris, Norman, Jack, Satoru, Hiroki.

Missing but usually always there: Gary Kirihara, Alan (Green Machine) Matsumoto, Wayne Fukunaga

Shrub-a-dub-dub

That's what we do

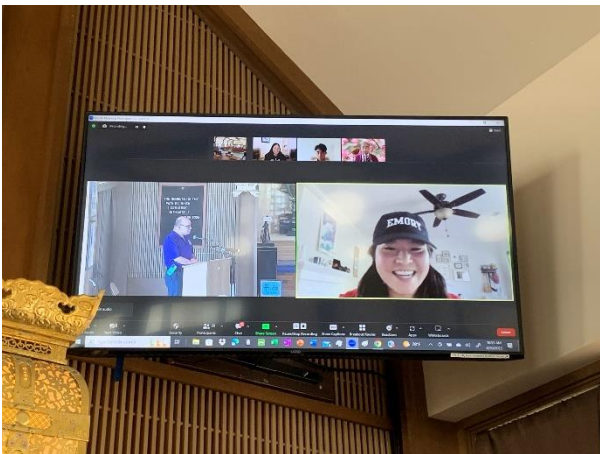
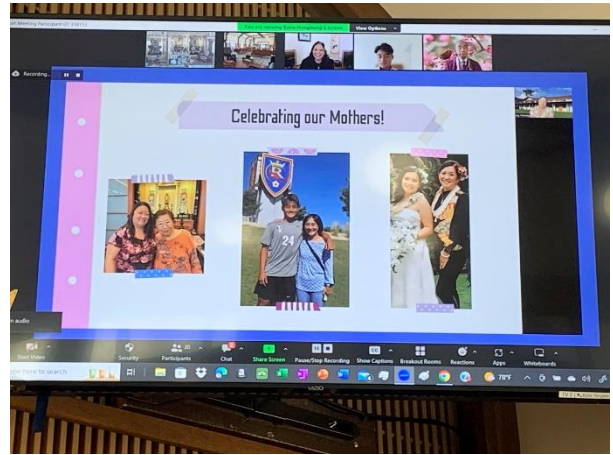
Thank you to the Crew!!

Recently, on Saturday April 29th, a major grounds cleanup was performed around the Temple and Minister's cottage. Thanks to these hardy volunteers, six large truckloads were carted away in trusty Norman and Morris' trucks. Everything looks so much better now!!



Our Temple front stairs has been repaired and re-painted by Wayne Fukunaga. He did a big job! Take a look at it sometime, admire the beautiful new look. Thank you very much Wayne for volunteering your time!!

Celebrating Mother's Day, Children's Day and Honoring 2023 Graduates!



On April 30 we celebrated Mother's Day, Children's Day, and honored our 2023 Graduates. Joy Nishida, Advisor for the Hawaii Federation of Jr. Young Buddhist Associations shared a wonderful message on the lifelong lessons found in the Dharma. Congratulations to Colette Masunaga for completing her master's in nursing from Emory University and to Caden Matsumoto for graduating from Pacific Buddhist Academy. Best wishes to Colette as she begins a new job in Seattle, Washington and to Caden as he begins college at Pacific University in Oregon! You will always have a home at Kona Hongwanji!

NEW BON DANCE TOWELS: BACK TO THE FUTURE!

Saturday, July 22nd, mark your calendars for the first regular bon dance at Kona Hongwanji since 2019! Highlighting the renewal of this festive tradition will be the debut of our NEW bon dance towel that was designed by our very own **Loni Takeoka**! “Lon”, as she is known to many, is the daughter of **Norman & Betty Takeoka**, and she has phenomenal skills in the graphic arts arena! Working with a core group of temple members, Lon crafted a design that incorporated themes of: connecting the past, the present, and the future;

a modern motif that accentuates Kona’s history and culture; a multi-role design that can be used on other products; and something very unique and recognizable that says “Kona!”. The towel will be produced in Japan, has four colors, and the cloth is thicker... definitely a “quality” towel that will be a keeper! The JIHO is printed in “black & white”, so the images here do not show the beautiful and vibrant color schemes!

Graphics: **the old bon dancer with the hat** is from the old bon dance towel; the pattern of the Sakura on her kimono is a new design. **The new dancer is the younger generation** that represents the present / future; the lotus design on her kimono is from the 125th anniversary logo. The **branch of a coffee tree with berries and the “palaka” stripes** honor Kona’s rich history of coffee and ranching; the “palaka” design is “retro” and yet still “cool” today (an old - new connection). The **“Wisteria”** is the official crest of Jodo-Shinshu Hongwanji-ha; the **“Sakura”** symbolizes change; the **“rainbow”** reflects diversity and connectiveness. The **taiko drum** is played along with the music by our Taiko Group. And the message, **“Keep Calm & Say Namo Amida Butsu”** reminds us of Amida Buddha and taking refuge in his wisdom & compassion by reciting his name.

Our new **design is very modern, yet it incorporates our past...** a **“Back to the Future!”** feel; and **very unique as a towel!** So please help us restart our bon dance tradition on July 22nd and get your brand new bon dance towels!



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

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 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

07/24 Norris Kenji Taniguchi
08/08 Richard Sasaki

SEVENTH YEAR (2017)

06/02 Fumikichi Matsuoka
07/25 Kazuo Fukumitsu
08/31 Eleanor Yokomoto

06/24 Hatsumi Takimoto
08/15 Masao Obata

THIRTEENTH YEAR (2011)

06/05 Nancy Hisae Manago
06/12 Mikie S. Harada
08/25 Calvin T. Hata

06/06 Kyle K. Matsumoto
08/22 Yoshitaka Takashiba

SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2007)

06/10 Kikuyo "Kay" Kamigaki
08/02 Harry Nobuyuki Honda

06/15 Masayuki Sato
08/03 Tamotsu Oyama

TWENTY FIFTH YEAR (1999)

06/01 Rev. Shonen Tamekuni
07/16 Harue Kawakami
08/13 Kikumo Fujikawa

06/06 Ronald Asaji Miyazono
08/11 Minoru Inouye
08/23 Masao "Masa" "Ninja" Hori

THIRTY THIRD YEAR (1991)

06/06 Yoshio Noguchi
07/08 Shigeto Matsuda
07/27 Neil Y. Okumura

06/12 Mitsuyo Uemura
07/18 Kamalei Kunitomo

FIFTIETH YEAR (1974)

06/01 Yoshio Fujikawa

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