



# JIHO

March 2023



## Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

*Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together*

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### Dharma Family Services

Please join our hybrid services in 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. Wearing of face masks and sanitizing of hands continue to be required in temple. We look forward to seeing you in person or online!

#### **Eshinni & Kakushinni Day Service**

Sunday, March 5, 2023 at 10:00 am  
Guest Speaker: Rev. Charlene Kihara  
Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin

Eshinni and Kakushinni were the wife and daughter of Shinran Shonin, who are remembered for their support in bringing his teachings to all. We honor their immense contributions to the development of Jodo Shinshu. Rev. Kihara will join us in person.

#### **Hawaii Association of International Buddhists (HAIB) Buddha Day Celebration**

Sunday, March 12, 2023 9:30 am to 11:00 am

Keynote by Dr. Bart Aoki, Clinical Psychologist speaking on "Resilience in Our Lives" focusing on Buddhism and Mental Health.

Please register online at <https://forms.gle/3YN3xq66Z6ZU1Mzo6>

#### **Spring Ohigan Service**

Sunday, March 19, 2023 at 10:00 am  
Guest Speaker: Rev. Satoshi Ka'imipono Tomioka  
Resident Minister, Puna Hongwanji Mission

Ohigan services occur twice a year around the spring and fall equinox when the daylight and nighttime are equal. In many ancient cultures, it was a time of celebration to remind us of our deep connection to the rhythms and cycles of the earth and the entire universe. Ohigan translates as "the other shore" and is a metaphor for crossing from this shore of ignorance, anger, and greed to the other shore of nirvana and peace. Rev. Tomioka will join us in person.

#### **Dharma Family Service**

Sunday, March 26, 2023, at 10:00 am

#### **For Assistance**

**Office Clerk:** Ramah DeMello (Phone: 808-323-2993 Email: [konahongwanji@twc.com](mailto: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

Aloha Kona Hongwanji Sangha members,

As life is getting back to pre-Covid days, we see many more people traveling, more Sangha members attending our Sunday services in person. We are also welcoming members from our community as well as visitors at our Temple who come to listen to the Dharma. It really does seem that this year's Hawaii Kyodan's theme "Sharing Joy Together", is beginning to take root.

We began February by sharing our Joy of mochi pounding with the community at the Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival. Visitors to the islands as well as Kamaaina's enjoyed pounding and sampling the mochi that they actually helped create. Thank you to Dean for the awesome job of turning the mochi rice, and keeping the novice pounders in check with his "1, 2 and me" chant.

The mochi pounding demonstration was followed by our Annual Membership meeting on February 19, which was attended in person by about sixty Sangha members and friends, who enjoyed a delicious lunch, and many going home with fabulous door prizes. Thank you to Wendy for coordinating the delicious lunch, The BWA and Sangha members for the desserts. Thank you to Claudia for organizing the door prizes and thank you to our Sangha members who also donated to the door prize part of our luncheon. I hope you had a great time at this year's General Membership meeting and Luncheon.

If you missed our February services and events, please be sure to join us at our services and events in March. On March 5, the BWA will be sponsoring the Annual Eshinni and Kakushinni Day service, this service is to honor and remember Eshinni who was the wife of Shinran and Kakushinni his youngest daughter who cared for him until his death. Both women are very instrumental in the spreading of the Nembutsu teaching, because as they say, "behind every man is a good woman." Eshinni dedicated her life and supported her husband's propagation activities and Kakushinni established a foundation from which the Jodo Shinshu teachings could be transmitted through many generations. Following this service will be our HAIB Buddha Day service, where we will be joined by other Buddhist denominations, celebrating the Birth of Shakayamuni Buddha, and finally our Spring Ohigan service, celebrating the Spring Equinox a time when we can see and feel harmony in the world around us.

Please join us in person or on Zoom in March.

In Gassho,

Linda Nagai

### **The Nembutsu and the Science of Awe** **Rev. Blayne Higa**

Intuitively we all know the difference between a house and a home. A house refers to a physical building while a home is a place filled with life and love. In similar fashion our physical body is the container in which flows true and real life. However, how many of us go through life unaware of the difference?

In Shin Buddhism, our spiritual practice of Nembutsu helps us to know and to nurture this life that flows within us. According to the late Rev. Dr. Taitetsu Unno, "The goal of Buddhism—enlightenment, satori, or shinjin—is to awaken to this true and real self, so that we become truly human. Many of us, however, are ignorant of the distinction between the two—the container of life and life itself—and mistake the container (physical self) for true and real life (true self)." In our tradition, we encounter that which is true and real within the voicing of Namo Amida Butsu which is life expressing itself through us. Through the working of the Nembutsu, we come to know how precious, remarkable, and awe-inspiring life truly is. This ancient practice is truly life-giving and life-transforming spiritual wisdom for living in our modern world.



I recently listened to a podcast featuring a conversation between journalist Krista Tippett and psychologist Dascher Keltner who discussed the "Science of Awe." In her introduction, Tippett shares how to her "...one of the most fascinating developments of our time is that human qualities we have understood in terms of virtue — experiences we've called spiritual — are now being taken seriously by science as intelligence — as elements of human wholeness." And how Keltner's research "...led him deeper and deeper into investigating the primary experience of awe in human life — moments when we have a sense of wonder, an experience of mystery, that transcends our understanding. These, it turns out, are as common in human life globally as they are measurably health-giving and immunity-boosting. They bring us together with others, again and again. They bring our nervous system, and heartbeat, and breath into sync — and even into sync with other bodies

around us. This science is a wildly accessible, minute-to-minute invitation to practice a common human experience that is literally life-giving, and nourishing, and actively good for this world of pain and promise that we inhabit.”

This fascinating conversation led me to reflect on how the Buddha’s teachings have guided us in experiencing awe for thousands of years.

The Nembutsu is the activity of Amida Buddha which connects us to true and real life. It connects us to awe. 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.

The poet Saichi expresses his joy of awakening to true and real life within the Nembutsu:

*Namu Amida Butsu  
Is like the moon, like the sun;  
It is like the rising sun.  
My mind grows warm, so does the body.  
Let me take a rest for a while here.  
Namu Amida Butsu, Namu Amida Butsu!*

Last month, as I happened to view the moon in its fullness, I was filled with awe as the Nembutsu rose from deep within and rolled forth from my lips in gratitude for this fleeting moment of sublime beauty.

So how do we spiritually attune our lives to experience greater awe? Being together as Sangha is the practice of awe. Our chanting of sutra is a meditative act which settles our heart and mind enabling us to experience that which is greater than ourselves. Our simple voicing of Namo Amida Butsu with a heart and mind of true entrusting is the experience of awakening to true and real life that flows within us. The teaching of Nembutsu is the science of awe.

For over twenty years, scientists like Dascher Keltner have studied the science of awe and have found the research suggests that “experiencing awe may lead to a wide range of benefits, from happiness and health to perhaps more unexpected benefits such as generosity, humility, and critical thinking.” Maybe science is catching up to what we have always experienced through living the Dharma that the Buddha taught.

Journeying together on the path of Nembutsu, we live connected to the dynamic flow of Amida’s infinite life enabling us to live with profound wonder and awe. This is why we bow our heads and place our hands together in gassho entrusting in the dynamic activity of all-inclusive wisdom and all-embracing compassion saying the Nembutsu in gratitude, joy, and awareness. 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*

## **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

## Postal Delays

We sincerely apologize for the recent delays in receiving the printed copy of our monthly newsletter. The post office is experiencing a staffing shortage and has not been able to process bulk mail on a timely basis.

If you would like to receive the e-version of the JIHO and are not already on our email list, please contact the office to be included. Mahalo for your understanding.

## Calling all 2023 Graduates!

If you have a child or grandchild that will be graduating or has graduated from high school, college, or a professional school this year, please let the temple office know by Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

We would like to honor all 2023 graduates at our Dharma Family Service on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to join us!

## Flowers Needed for HAIB Buddha Day

Flowers are needed to decorate the Hanamido for our HAIB Buddha Day Celebration on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Please drop off flowers on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> by 5:00pm. Buckets will be placed by the conference room door near the temple bell.

Thank you for your help!

## Greetings for the JIHO

All the best to you

From all of us in the JIHO Crew!



Shelley, Molly(our retiring Bunny), Chizu, John, Norman, Mary, Rev. Blayne, June(our boss), Janet

(Missing: Hazel, Molly N., Ramah and Lily)

## Buddhist Women's Association Scholarships

The **Hawaii Island United Buddhist Women's Association** has two \$1000 scholarships for graduating high school seniors. Applicants must be of Shin Buddhist Faith, whose parents are dues paying members of any Hongwanji temple on Hawaii Island. The scholarships are to be used at any accredited college, university, or technical school. Application forms are available on the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin website. ([www.hilobetsuin.org](http://www.hilobetsuin.org)) under Scholarship and Awards. Applications must be postmarked by April 7, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact Stella Miyashiro at (808)959-7919 or [makistar44@gmail.com](mailto:makistar44@gmail.com).

**Kona BWA Scholarship** of \$1,000 is also available for a graduating high school senior. Deadline is April 15. Contact the temple office or see Rev. Blayne's weekly email update for an application.

*Honoring the  
Buddha's Birth*



**The Hawaii Association of International Buddhists invites the public to the  
11th Annual Buddha Day Celebration**  
*"Buddhism and Mental Health"*

**March 12, 2023**

**9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. HST**

**Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple**

**81-6630 Mamalahoa Hwy in Kealahou, Kona**

**(Ample parking in back of Bank of Hawaii)**

**Free Admission**

**In-person and via Zoom**

**Register for the Zoom link at <https://forms.gle/FuVvtH2USoRCNWQ27>.**

**The wearing of face masks is required inside the temple.**

**"Resilience in Our Lives" featuring keynote speaker Bart Aoki, PhD**



A graduate of Konawaena High School, Dr. Bart Aoki holds masters and doctorate degrees in Clinical Psychology. During his career of over forty years, he practiced psychology, conducted research, and led grant programs in the state of California. Dr. Aoki also developed community-based programs to strengthen social competence and resilience among Asian American adolescents.

For questions, please contact Rev. Blayne Higa at [bhiga@honpahi.org](mailto:bhiga@honpahi.org), 808-323-2993 or Rev. Jiko Nakade at [rev.jiko@daifukuji.org](mailto:rev.jiko@daifukuji.org), 808-322-3524.

## Welcome to our Sangha!



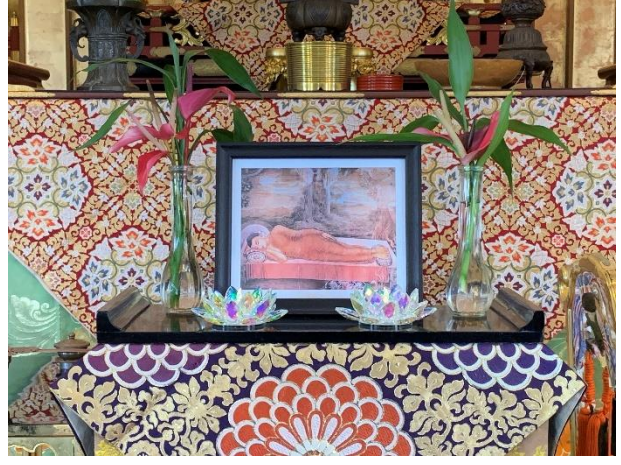
We welcomed new Sangha members Myrna Kunihiro and George Klumb at our Annual Meeting. Not pictured: Leanne Kirk, Dr. Daryl and Jane Kurozawa, and Vernon and Rae Nakamura. Thank you for joining our Ohana at Kona Hongwanji!

## Congratulations Keirosha!



At our Annual Meeting, we honored Sangha members who will reach the age of eighty this year. Mahalo to Norman Takeoka and Janet Yanagi for joining us. Best wishes to our other Keirokai honorees: June Fujikawa, Hale Hamada, Roy Haraguchi, Carol Kawachi, Oscar Passalacqua, and Christine Yoshimura. We are so grateful for your steadfast support of our temple. Congratulations on this milestone year!

## Nirvana Day Service



On February 12, we were so fortunate to have Rev. Cristina Moon of Daihonzan Chozen-ji, a Rinzai Zen temple, join us for our Nirvana Day Service commemorating the passing of Shakyamuni Buddha into Parinirvana at the age of eighty. The Buddha continues to live on through the practice of the Dharma that he shared. May we follow his path of freedom and universal compassion until we, too, realize nirvana. Namo Amida Butsu.

## Annual Meeting & New Year's Luncheon





On February 19, we held our first in-person Annual Meeting and New Year's Luncheon since 2020. We began the day with a short service in memory of our dear Dharma Friends who attained birth in the Pure Land last year, welcomed new members, and recognized our Keirokai honorees turning eighty this year. We enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship, ono food, and lots of fun! We are truly living the Hawaii Kyodan theme of "Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together." Namu Amida Butsu!

## 2022 In Memoriam

The Kona Hongwanji Sangha extends its deepest sympathy to the families and friends of the following members who realized birth in the Pure Land. May you find comfort and peace in the Nembutsu. Namu Amida Butsu

Warren Kitaoka (January 8, 2022)  
Yasue Okino (January 12, 2022)  
James Sato (January 12, 2022)  
Richard Maeda (January 17, 2022)  
George Kurozawa (January 25, 2022)  
Chiyono Kobayashi (February 8, 2022)  
Chizuko Nakamura (February 20, 2022)  
Patsy Uchimura (February 28, 2022)  
Matsuko Matsuda (March 7, 2022)  
George Nakamoto (April 17, 2022)  
Sumiko Yamamoto (May 1, 2022)  
Yukiko Nakayama (May 21, 2022)  
Mitsue Akazawa (June 4, 2022)  
Wally Ichishita (June 18, 2022)  
Donald Fujiwara (July 22, 2022)  
Janet Sunada (September 2, 2022)  
Mildred Morimoto (September 3, 2022)  
Edna Kitagawachi (October 9, 2022)  
Francis Oue (October 9, 2022)  
Dennis Motoyama (November 8, 2022)  
Janet Kawamoto (November 30, 2022)



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—February 2023

### SUNDAY SERVICE

Total - \$271.00

### ONIZUKA/CHALLENGER MEMORIAL

|                            |                           |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Anonymous                  | Cheryl Marshall           | Shirley Matsuoka          |
| Alan Matsumoto             | Ann Matsumoto             | Suga Suzuki               |
| Elaine Nakagawa            | Nora Koyanagi             | Lisa Ciriako              |
| Chizu Nakashima            | Linda Nagai               | Satoru Odaira             |
| Mary Katayama              | Morris Nagata             | Janet Lindner             |
| Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina | Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka | Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko  |
| Mr. & Mrs. Claude Onizuka  | Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano  | Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue |
|                            | Total - \$665.00          |                           |

### HO'ONKO

|                           |                            |                           |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Anonymous                 | Lisa Ciriako               | Hiroki Ishimaru           |
| Mary Katayama             | Nora Koyanagi              | Myrna Kunihiro            |
| Janet Lindner             | Alan Matsumoto             | Ann Matsumoto             |
| Linda Nagai               | Morris Nagata              | Chizu Nakashima           |
| Lilly Ushiroda            | Carol Ichishita            | Geri Ann Aoki-Davidson    |
| Mr. & Mrs. Colin Byars    | Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gusman   | Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo     |
| Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano  | Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina | Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Tagawa  |
| Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka | Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue  | Mr. & Mrs. Michael Oshiro |
|                           | Total - \$475.00           |                           |

### SPECIAL DONATIONS

|  |                  |                    |
|--|------------------|--------------------|
| Anonymous  | Makiko Yamaguchi | Gene Nakashima     |
| Jung Byun  | Lavieen Singer   | Papaikou Hongwanji |
| George Guyer & Akira Heshiki   | Yoga Class       |                    |
| Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo, Jiho  |                  |                    |
| Jimmy Nakagawa, NY Service   |                  |                    |
| Ronald Shirai, Eitaikyo, Social Concerns   |                  |                    |
| Kurashige 2013 LLC, Hakasoji   |                  |                    |
| Gayle Nishikawa, Hakasoji  |                  |                    |
| Iris Watanabe, Hakasoji  |                  |                    |
| Lisa Kitaoka, Warren Kitaoka's 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Memorial Service               |                  |                    |
| Grant Kobayashi, Chiyono Kobayashi's 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Memorial Service         |                  |                    |
| Mr. & Mrs. Daryl Kurozawa, George Kurozawa's 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Memorial Service |                  |                    |
|  | Total – 2,874.00 |                    |



**Acknowledgements continued:**

**IN MEMORY OF**

Adele Kitaoka, IMO Warren Kitaoka's 1<sup>st</sup> Year

Loretta Kitaoka, IMO Warren Kitaoka's 1<sup>st</sup> Year

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Sugiyama, IMO Yoshio "Calvin" Hayama's 25<sup>th</sup> Year

Mr. & Mrs. Guy Kitaoka, IMO George Kurozawa's 1<sup>st</sup> Year

Mr. & Mrs. Terry Taniyama, IMO George Kurozawa's 1<sup>st</sup> Year

Loretta Kitaoka, IMO George Kurozawa's 1<sup>st</sup> Year

Adele Kitaoka, IMO George Kurozawa's 1<sup>st</sup> Year

Gail Kurozawa, IMO George Kurozawa's 1<sup>st</sup> Year

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano, IMO Sakae Egami

Total - \$525.00



## **MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 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)**

03/07 Matsuko Matsuda  
05/01 Sumiko Yamamoto

04/17 George Nakamoto  
05/21 Yukiko Nakayama

### **THIRD YEAR (2021)**

03/07 Yasuo Fukumitsu  
03/14 Masahi "Boston" Kitaoka  
04/11 Hisako Hatta  
04/14 Harumi Mildred Oda

03/08 Tsuino Yoshiki  
03/29 Hisako "Sue" Taniyama  
04/13 Fujie Sato  
05/10 Midori "Mae" Harano

### **SEVENTH YEAR (2017)**

04/07 Suyeko Nishina  
05/22 Duane Hajime Kurozawa

04/20 Masae Matsuoka

### **THIRTEENTH YEAR (2011)**

03/21 Hisako Ogata  
04/21 Nellie K. Kamigaki

04/11 Ronald Allen Lindner  
Harold T. Hayashida

### **SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2007)**

03/05 Tsurue Morimoto  
05/13 Kazue Yoshiki

04/08 Yuriko Kamigaki  
05/29 Shigeto Omori

### **TWENTY FIFTH YEAR (1999)**

03/09 Torao Sakamoto  
04/01 Shizuichi Sakanashi  
04/24 Stanley Saburo Horibata  
05/13 Michael Yukio Yanagi

03/28 Eleanor Fusako Murata  
04/07 Aiko Yamaguchi  
05/13 Sueko "Sue" Ikeuchi  
05/15 Yoshie "Bessie" Tanaka

### **THIRTY THIRD YEAR (1991)**

03/06 Kiku Kunitomo  
03/18 Shizuko Stella Onaka  
04/15 Yasue Nakayama

03/17 Tsugi Nagata  
03/26 Kameju Tanouye  
04/17 Richard T. Shibata

### **FIFTIETH YEAR (1974)**

03/18 Kira Iwato  
05/04 Sono Nakayama

04/09 Goro Kuroyama  
05/10 William N. Kinoshita

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