



JIHO

March 2024



Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments

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 face masks is optional in temple. While there are no COVID-19 restrictions, please take any necessary precautions with mutual respect for the health and safety of everyone. We look forward to seeing you in person or online!

Eshinni & Kakushinni Day Service

Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 10:00 am

Guest Speaker: Rev. Barbara Brennan, Windward Buddhist Temple

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.

Hawaii Association of International Buddhists (HAIB) Buddha Day Celebration

“Conversations for Peace: Embracing Dialogue in the Spirit of Empathy”

Sunday, March 10, 2024 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Keynote by Ashleigh Loa, Executive Director of [CEEDS of Peace](#)

Please register online at <https://forms.gle/vumeDmcrYUeuPyE28>

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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KEALAKEKUA, HAWAII 96750

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Dharma Family Service

Sunday, March 17, 2024, at 10:00 am

Minister's Assistant Linda Nagai will lead service and share a Dharma Message

Dharma Family Service

Sunday, March 24, 2024, at 10:00 am

Spring Ohigan Service

Sunday, March 31, 2024 at 10:00 am

Guest Speaker: Rev. Shawn Yagi, Lihue 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.

Aloha Sangha members,

First, I would like to thank the Sangha for a vote of confidence, by electing me as your Kyodan President for a second term. I would also like to thank the Sangha for always being there in support of our temple. As the saying goes, "It takes a village", and our Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple village is filled with caring and supportive members.

The Kona Hongwanji mochi making demonstration team made a big hit at the Waimea Cherry Blossom Festival. Thank you, Dean, for leading the mochi pounding, including risking your hands as our mochi turner. Steven and Morris, for preparing the rice for pounding, Rory Akau from the Boys and Girls Club and Jason Sugibayashi, for putting their muscles into pounding the mochi along with the crowd. After the mochi was pounded, Lynn Katayama and sister MJ were instrumental in cutting the mochi so our mochi makers, Wendy, and her friend Alex, Helen, Betty, Lynn Gusman, and myself could prepare mochi for the mochi tasting. Again, it was the Sangha and friends of the Sangha that made it a successful event.

Our annual General Membership meeting and luncheon was well attended, as we recognized 19 members who attained the age of 80 and welcomed 9 new members to our Sangha. Thank you, Claudia, for organizing the lively Bingo game which was enjoyed by everyone in attendance. Wendy, thank you for organizing the delicious food we shared for lunch from the Kanoa Grill, and with everyone's attendance and participation, our General Membership gathering was a success. Zoom crew thank you for your usual attention to detail in overseeing the hybrid service and meeting.

Reflecting on the first two lines of "Our Pledge", "Reaching out to others, I will share a warm smile and gentle words..." Our ukulele players and Sangha singers traveled to Hilo Hongwanji Betsuin for the Annual Gathafest and shared with a warm smile a song entitled "Shinshu Style" written by our own Darren Katayama, the music is a spinoff from the song Island Style.

In March besides our regular Dharma Family Service, we will have three special services. The first service on March 3, is a BWA sponsored Eshinni and Kakushinni service. Lady Eshinni was the wife of Shinran Shonin also referred to as the mother of Jodo Shinshu, and Lady Kakushinni was his daughter who cared for him until his death and is credited for planting the seeds for the establishment of the Hongwanji. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Barbara Brennan of the Windward Buddhist Temple. Followed by the HAIB Buddha Day celebration on March 10. Our final special service for March will be our Ohigan service on March 31, and our guest speaker will be Rev. Shawn Yagi from Lihue Hongwanji. Ohgan is celebrated during the Spring and Autumn Equinox, this is when the earth is at equal time of day and night, and the temperature is said to be perfect, so Ohigan is a perfect time to listen to the Dharma that is shared through the Name of the Buddha, Namu Amida Butsu.

In Gassho,

Linda

Illness as a Good Friend

Rev. Blayne Higa

A line from a verse in the *Junirai* or *Twelve Homages* says, “All existing things are impermanent and without abiding self. They are like the moon reflected in water, like lightning, like shadows, like dew.” In poetically describing this basic truth of life, Nagarjuna, the first of the Seven Masters of Jodo Shinshu, encourages us to bow our heads in reverence to the truth of impermanence and to Amida, the Buddha of all-inclusive wisdom and all-embracing compassion for resolving our spiritual suffering and dis-ease in this life.



The foundational question at the heart of the Buddha’s teaching is how we can become liberated from old age, sickness, and death? In the sacred story of Shakyamuni Buddha’s life, it is said the young prince Siddhartha was sheltered from these truths until one day he ventured beyond the palace walls and encountered an old man, a sick man, and a dead man which stirred within him a spiritual struggle and a yearning for answers. Siddhartha declares, “The luxuries of the palace, this healthy body, this rejoicing youth! What do they mean to me?” he thought. “Someday we may be sick, we shall become aged; from death there is no escape. Pride of youth, pride of health, pride of existence—all thoughtful people should cast them aside.”

Despite the stark reality of these truths, we rarely think of them until they come knocking at our door and we are blown sideways off the path we think we are on. In my own life, I have come to know sickness intimately first by having Shingles the other year and most recently catching COVID for the first time and developing a rebound infection a few days after recovering from the first one. These encounters with illness remind me of what it means to be human and how there is no escape from this fundamental truth. Of how our bodies are truly remarkable by being both fragile and resilient at the same time.

Sometimes there are no rational answers to the problems we face, but this does not mean there isn’t hope for transformation and change. The truth of impermanence also means that we are never stuck in life, that the situations we find ourselves in are not permanent but are fluid and ever-changing, just like our bodies. What keeps us trapped is our ego and unwillingness to shift our perspective to discover opportunities and meaning in the challenges we face.

In his book *Discovering Buddhism in Everyday Life*, Rev. Marvin Harada, Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America shares the touching story of Scott Morris, a temple member, who was living with ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease) and how through illness, he came to a deeper understanding of life at its most basic level. In a temple support group for those living with illness, Scott shares the following poem:

*I have ALS—and I am grateful.
I am grateful to retire early to be with my family.
I am grateful I have family and friends that are so supportive and hopeful.
I am grateful I can still walk and get around.
When that is gone—
I am grateful I can still use my hands to feed myself.
When that is gone—
I am grateful I can still breath and laugh and feel.
When that is gone—
I am grateful I had a wonderful life.
And when that is gone—
Namuamidabutsu.*

What a remarkable shift in perspective relating to his illness through the working of the Dharma! He was truly living a life of spiritual transformation and change made possible through the Nembutsu. He discovered profound meaning, spiritual comfort, and an abiding gratitude in his journey through illness.

My own experiences with illness have provided me an opportunity to reflect on my life and to test the veracity of the Buddha’s teaching. I have come to understand the fundamental marks of existence a little better now. Of how I am constantly living and dying in each moment of life; of how I am never alone because my life is sustained by countless causes and conditions; and how there is lasting relief from my spiritual suffering through the Dharma. I’ve come to understand and appreciate the popular Shin Buddhist saying: “Illness, too, is my good friend (*kalyanamitra*).” How can we continually shift our perspective and discover profound meaning

in living our brief, challenging, yet beautiful lives? The Buddha's teaching offers us a path for truly living a life of spiritual freedom entrusting in the dynamic working of infinite light and life itself. Namo Amida Butsu.

2023 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 last year. May you find comfort and peace in the Nembutsu. Namo Amida Butsu

Gale Brumaghim
Vincent "Vinny" Chang
Kevin Deguchi
Gilbert Fujino
Annette Green
Keith Hayama
Joyce Ichishita
Caron Ikeda

Miyuki Inouye
Mary Iwanaga
Alice Kawamoto
Akemi Matsumoto
Akiko McAfee
Jay Moriguchi
Patricia Oue
Norman Sakata

Toshiharu Sato
Nancy Shibata
Hatsuyo Takashiba
Lionel Tatsutani
Alan Uemoto
Toyoko Urada
Edwin Uyeda
Fumie Yoshida



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) under Scholarship and Awards. Applications must be postmarked by April 6, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact Stella Miyashiro at (808)959-7919 or 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.

Flowers Needed for HAIB Buddha Day

Flowers are needed to decorate the Hanamido for our HAIB Buddha Day Celebration on March 10th.

Please drop off flowers on Saturday, March 9th by 5:00pm. Buckets will be placed by the conference room door near the temple bell.

Thank you for your help!

Lost and Found Items:

Black Windbreaker

Nenju – rootbeer w/ purple tassel

Please contact the office to claim your item(s)



12th Annual Buddha Day Celebration
Hosted by the Hawaii Association of International Buddhists (HAIB)
March 10, 2024 9:30—11:30 AM

Conversations for Peace: Embracing Dialogue in the Spirit of Empathy
With Ashleigh Loa from Ceeds of Peace



In Person At Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple or through Zoom

*Following the service there will be an optional
30-minute workshop*

Refreshments will be available

*Donations to HAIB will be
gratefully accepted*

Register at

<https://forms.gle/cKDvugxs5kssb1Mj7>

or contact Rev. Blayne Higa at bhiga@honpahi.org or (808) 323-2993

Nirvana Day Service



On February 4, Bishop Clark Watanabe of the Koyasan Shingon Mission of Hawaii joined 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 spiritual freedom and universal compassion until we, too, realize nirvana. Namo Amida Butsu.

Annual Meeting & New Year's Luncheon



On February 18, we held our Annual Meeting and New Year's Luncheon. We began the day with a short service in memory of Sangha members who attained birth in the Pure Land in 2023, 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 embracing the Hawaii Kyodan theme of "Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments." Namo Amida Butsu!

Building Community and Nurturing Sangha





At our Annual Meeting, we recognized new members and honored Sangha members who will reach the age of eighty this year. Mahalo to everyone for your continued support of our temple!

Congratulations Officers and Directors!



- Officers and Directors for 2024-2026**
 President: Linda Nagai
 Immediate Past President: Joseph Gusman
 Vice President: Terence Terada
 Secretary: Helen Nagata
 Assistant Secretary: Claudia Chang
 Treasurer: Dean Uemura
 Assistant Treasurer: Steven Kaneko
 Auditors: Wayne Fukunaga & Wendy Terada
 Spiritual Affairs Director: Betty Takeoka
 Youth Director: Makiko Yamaguchi
 Member Relations Director: Carol Ikeda
 BWA Director: Glenda Passalacqua
 Director at Large: Morris Nagata
 Resident Minister: Rev. Blayne Higa

PRESCHOOL NEWS



Kona Hongwanji Preschool participated in the Great Kindness Challenge Week from January 22 to January 26, 2024.

The Great Kindness Challenge is a grassroots movement that is making our schools, communities, and world a kinder and more compassionate place for all. It is presented by Kids for Peace, a global 501(c)(3) non profit organization whose main goal is to create a culture of kindness for all through acts of kindness.

What we do as a preschool; promote self care, express kindness to friends and family, show appreciation to our community and kindness to everyone. Our activities included a photo booth, making friendship rocks and bracelets, making and delivering floral arrangements to businesses and sign waving.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—March 2024

IN MEMORY OF

Anonymous, IMO Tokiko Sakata's 7th Year
Danny Matsuoka, IMO Hideo Matsuoka & Bunji Matsuoka
Wayne Mitsunaga, IMO Tsutae Mitsunaga's 33rd Year
Kenn Mitsunaga, IMO Tsutae Mitsunaga's 33rd Year
Xandria Tobarra, IMO Tomeko Aoki's 33rd Year
Adele Kitaoka, IMO Warren Kitaoka's 3rd Year & Alice Kawamoto's 1st Year
Loretta Kitaoka, IMO Warren Kitaoka's 3rd Year & Alice Kawamoto's 1st Year
Lisa, Jarett and Tyler Kitaoka, IMO Alice Kawamoto & Haru Matsuda
Karen Kawamoto, IMO Warren Kitaoka's 3rd Year & Alice Kawamoto's 1st Year
Paula Kawamoto and Shane Domingo, IMO Warren Kitaoka & Haru Matsuda
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Love, IMO Norman Sakata, Chizu Nakamura and Takeshi Kamigaki
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Oshima, IMO Tsutae Mitsunaga's 33rd Year
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Ogata, IMO Kaoru "Speedy" Ogata's 25th Year

Total - \$830.00

SUNDAY SERVICE

Anonymous	Alan Matsumoto	Morris Nagata
Janet Lindner	Darcie Asakura & Ohana	Diana Asakura & Ohana
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko	Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko	Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue	
	Total - \$201.00	

SERVICES

Wayne Brumaghim, Funeral and Related Expenses for Gale Brumaghim
Gloria Ichishita, Reed Ichishita's 7th Day
Karen Kawamoto, Haru Matsuda's Memorial
Paula Kawamoto & Shane Domingo, Alice Kawamoto's 1st Year
Lisa, Jarett and Tyler Kitaoka, Warren Kitaoka's 3rd Year
Total - \$950.00

HOONKO

Anonymous	Sandy Iwashita	Satsuko Matsuoka
Linda Nagai	Norma Nakamoto	Keith Nishihara
Carol Okuna	Alan Matsumoto	Claudia Chang
Myrna Kunihiro	George Klumb	Elaine Nakagawa
Janet Lindner	Morris Nagata	Chizu Nakashima
Lisa Ciriako	Geri Ann Aoki Davidson	Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue
Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo	Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano	Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Fujikawa

Acknowledgements continued:

Mr. & Mrs. Takeo Nakasone

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Mr. & Mrs. Hiroki Ishimaru

Mr. & Mrs. Ichiro Shikada

Mr. & Mrs. Terence Terada

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Oshiro

Total - \$705.00

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Anonymous

Patrick Komo

Boys & Girls Club

Yoga Class

Lisa Okada

Shelley Ishimoto

Gloria Ichishita

Linda Nagai, New Years Service

Sandra Yoshioka, New Years Service

Roy Hayama, Jiho & Hakasoji/Nokotsudo

Glenn Sasaki, Jiho

Sandra Yoshioka, Jiho

Ray Takeguchi, Hakasoji/Nokotsudo

Total - \$2,321.00



MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 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)

03/23 Mr. Jay Moriguchi

04/13 Akiko McAfee

THIRD YEAR (2022)

03/07 Matsuko Matsuda

04/17 Mr. George Nakamoto

05/01 Sumiko Yamamoto

05/21 Yukiko Nakayama

SEVENTH YEAR (2018)

03/11 Mr. Fred Uechi

05/03 Henri-Ann K. Nagata

05/29 Yukito Takamoto

05/31 Fukue "Betty" Shiraki

THIRTEENTH YEAR (2012)

03/23 Kiyoshi Shirai

03/28 Yasue Sugi

04/06 Lance Guy Chang

04/22 Mildred Midori Takahashi

05/14 Joyce Lynn Yamagata

05/18 Kiyoto Aoki

SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2008)

04/14 Mr. Susumu Mizoshiri

04/20 Thelma Sachiko Kirihara

05/10 Helen Fumiko Aoki

05/28 Mr. Theodore Toshiharu Fujii

TWENTY FIFTH YEAR (2000)

03/08 Dexter Tsumori Nozaki

04/13 Toshio Kameda

04/19 Matsuyo Fukushima

05/24 Takao Inouye

THIRTY THIRD YEAR (1992)

03/05 Lloyd Kenzo Sugimoto

03/09 Toyoichi Tabata

03/14 Matsue Hirano

03/14 Kunio Terawaki

03/19 Hamayo Tokumura

03/29 Helen Mieko Grace

03/31 Tokue Koshi

04/09 Toi Kamei

04/15 Tomeko Thelma Aoki

04/17 Shizuyo Yamagata

04/19 Ichi Mori

05/04 Kelvin Haruo Fujino

05/10 Gary Hideo Yokoyama

FIFTIETH YEAR (1975)

03/29 Gentaro Murakami

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.