



# JIHO

May 2023



## Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

*Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together*

Please join our hybrid services in May and June. 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!

**\*\*\*No Services on May 7 and May 14\*\*\***

**Gōtan-E Service (Shinran Shōnin’s Birthday)**

Sunday, May 21, 2023, at 10:00 am

Guest Speaker: Rev. Joshin Kamuro

Associate Minister, Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin



This service celebrates the birth of Shinran Shōnin (May 21, 1173-January 16, 1263) who was the founder of Shin Buddhism. His life and teachings represent one of the most significant developments in the history of Buddhism. Before then only the privileged and educated received spiritual instruction. Shinran taught that everyone was equally embraced by the Buddha’s infinite light and compassion, and the truth of the Dharma and shinjin awakening are accessible to everyone without discrimination.

**Dharma Family Service**

Sunday, May 28, 2023, at 10:00 am

**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

**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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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

Aloha Kona Hongwanji Sangha members,

We began April with the celebration of Shakyamuni Buddha's birthday, and I must say it was celebrated in grand style. Our Hanamido (flower hall) was decked with beautiful flowers, which were donated by our Sangha members. Putting it together and making it a Hall fitting for the baby Buddha was Janet Maeda, Myrna Kunihiro, Pauline Oshiro, and Nathan and Cheryl Kurashige. It felt like the beautifully decorated Hanamido was calling out to everyone in Temple to come and pour sweet tea on the Baby Buddha and wish him a Happy birthday. As beautiful flowers is not unheard of for Hawaii, to see different types of flowers come together holding hands creating the beautiful Hanamido was a site to be seen.

For many years, the BWA made their famous manju and held their annual manju sale during Hanamatsuri, however with the arrival of COVID, this project has been put on hold. However, the BWA couldn't see a tradition go by the wayside, so Glenda Yamagata-Passalacqua, Fujie Ichishita, Helen Nagata, Morris Nagata, and myself, got together and made the traditional Manju for the service refreshment, and for people to take home. Thank you to our Sangha for making this a special day, and a special day couldn't have been possible without everyone's participation, including those who participated via Zoom or in person.

Our next celebration was on April 30, when we celebrated three events, the first and very special is honoring our young members achieving their educational goals. Colette Masunaga Liang, daughter of Gail and Margaret Masunaga, received her Masters in Nursing from Emory University in Georgia. Colette, joined us via Zoom all the way from Georgia. Congratulations Colette on your achievement, hope to see you in Kona soon Our celebration wouldn't have been complete if we didn't add Children's Day and Mothers Day. To our little ones, a bright future lies ahead keep holding your heads up keep on reaching for the stars, and to our Mothers, thank you for all you do for your family remember you are the pillar and support for your family.

My next message will be written while I'm in Japan, attending the 850<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of Shinran Shonin, and 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of the Hongwanji, as well as the 17<sup>th</sup> World BWA Convention. I wish everyone could attend this celebration with me. I'm not a photo bug, however, with Reverend Blayne, Myrna, Betty and Norman with me I think we will be bringing back lots of pictures of the highlights of the celebration and our tour after the celebration to share with you.

In Gassho,

Linda Nagai

## **Gratitude for Shinran and the Pure Land Way, Part 1** **Rev. Blayne Higa**

2023 marks the 850<sup>th</sup> birthday of Shinran Shōnin. Born on May 21, 1173, Shinran was a revolutionary thinker who shared the liberating teaching of Amida Buddha's Compassionate Vow. However, Shinran is revered not just as a great religious teacher but as a remarkable human being who lived a life of critical self-reflection and spiritual honesty who called himself "Gutoku" (foolish, stubble-haired one). I have always marveled at his humility and self-awareness, and how profoundly relatable Shinran truly is.



Shinran writes in the *Gutokushō (Gutoku's Notes)*, "The shinjin of the wise is such that they are inwardly wise, outwardly foolish. The heart of Gutoku is such that I am inwardly foolish, outwardly wise." Here we can see his spiritual maturity which is a lesson for us to live with that same awareness of self.

It was the realization of his own limitations as a human being and how he was incapable of achieving enlightenment through his own self effort, Shinran awakened to the inconceivable working of all-inclusive wisdom and all-embracing compassion symbolized as Amida Buddha. That the heart of reality makes itself known to us as the Name, Namo Amida Butsu, which is the sound of the universe calling us home to ourselves.

Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani, the spiritual head of the Nishi Hongwanji, shares an appreciation for Shinran's understanding of the Pure Land Way in the first part of his *Gratitude for the Jōdo Shinshū Teaching*:

*Namo Amida Butsu.*

*"Entrust yourself to me. I will liberate you just as you are."*

*This is the calling voice of Amida.*

*My blind passions are embraced in the Buddha's awakening,*

*So the Buddha calls to me "I will liberate you just as you are."*

*Gratefully responding to the Buddha's call,*

*I find that I am already on the path that leads to the Pure Land.  
And the Nembutsu flows freely from my thankful heart.*

Here he captures the essence of Amida's Compassionate Vow to awaken all beings because we are trapped by our karmic bonds. And this Vow of liberation is expressed as Namo Amida Butsu which is the calling voice of Amida urging us to wake up from our spiritual slumber. Our natural response to this newfound awareness of Amida's working in our lives is our heartfelt saying of the Nembutsu in gratitude. This is a life of shinjin "the entrusting heart" which is the realization of our Buddhahood made possible through an awakening of faith.

What a remarkable way of living our ordinary everyday lives with a sense of humility, wonder, and joy? A path of gratitude which opens up a whole new world of understanding in which we realize that we do not journey alone but are embraced and supported by Infinite Life itself. How grateful we are! 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*

### **850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching 17<sup>th</sup> World Buddhist Women's Convention**

Rev. Blayne, President Linda Nagai, and a few members from Kona Hongwanji will attend the Joint Celebration and World Buddhist Women's Convention in Kyoto, Japan May 7-13. They will join a delegation of over 170 people from Hawaii who will participate in this special commemoration that happens once every fifty-years. This will be a great opportunity to express our appreciation for Shinran Shonin, who founded the Jodo Shinshu Tradition. Thanks to this universal teaching that excludes no one, we are enabled to live with peace of mind entrusting ourselves to Amida Buddha's compassionate working. The celebration will take place at our mother temple, Nishi-Hongwanji. We look forward to joining with fellow Nembutsu followers from the Buddhist Churches of America, Canada, South America, and Japan to celebrate this joyful event.

Namo Amida Butsu!

### **Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching**

Namo Amida Butsu.  
"Entrust yourself to me. I will liberate you just as you are."  
This is the calling voice of Amida.  
My blind passions are embraced in the Buddha's awakening,  
So the Buddha calls to me "I will liberate you just as you are."  
Gratefully responding to the Buddha's call,  
I find that I am already on the path that leads to the Pure Land.  
And the Nembutsu flows freely from my thankful heart.

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.

*-Kojun Ohtani  
Gomonshu (Head Priest)  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha*

## Celebrating Hanamatsuri



On April 9 we had a wonderful Hanamatsuri Service celebrating the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha. Rev. Steven Toyoshima of Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii shared a thoughtful appreciation of the Buddha's birth and its significance in our lives. The Buddha's birth and his Teachings give us hope for living in our troubled world. Mahalo to the talented team who decorated the Hanamido with all the beautiful flowers donated by temple members and the team who worked hard to make our famous manju. Our preschool students also celebrated the Buddha's birthday by pouring sweet tea! What a joyful Buddha Day celebration shared as a Sangha!

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—MAY 2023**

### **HAKASOJI & NOKOTSUDO**

Anonymous	Nobuko Aoki	Judith Koyanagi
Geri Ann Aoki-Davidson	Stanley Kaku	Dwight Manago
Tomoko Matsuda	Sueto Matsumura	Chizu Nakashima
Kazumi Oshita	Elizabeth Saiki	Phyllis Shinno
Audrey Woo	Ronan Fukushima	Roy Hayama
Elbert Iwane	Hal Kamigaki	Janice Ikeda
Mildred Iwamuro	Gary Katoku	Sachiko Katoku
Ray Kawahara	Kenneth Kawakami	Karen Kawamoto
Jay Matsuoka	Norman Kimoto	Satsuko Matsuoka
Michitoshi Murakami	Elaine Nakagawa	Winnie Narusawa
Pauline Nishida-Miller	Warren Okabayashi	Carol Okuna
Laraine Oura	Jocelyn Sakata	Dayle Sato
Brian Takahara	Cindy Taketa	Xandria Tobar
Takie Toyooka	Beverly Uemoto	Raymond Ueno
Toyoko Urada	Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Nagata	Mr. & Mrs. Masamori Takaki
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Uemura	Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Ogi	Mr. & Mrs. Hiroki Ishimaru
Mr. & Mrs. Daryl Kurozawa	Mr. & Mrs. George Shimamoto	
	Total - \$2,360.00	

### **SERVICES**

Anonymous, Yoshie Hale's 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Memorial
Suzanne Delaries, Matsuko Matsuda's 1 <sup>st</sup> Year & Interment
Edna Fukumitsu, Yasuo Fukumitsu's 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year
Karen Kawamoto, Funeral and Related Expenses for Alice Kawamoto
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Nakamura, Chizuko Nakamura's 1 <sup>st</sup> Year
Anonymous, Torao Sakamoto's 25 <sup>th</sup> Year
Elaine Hirano, Funeral and Related Expenses for Toshiharu Sato
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Ogi, Kameju Tanouye's 33 <sup>rd</sup> Year
Rose Onaka, Yasue Nakayama's 33 <sup>rd</sup> Year
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Sakamoto, Sakamoto Ohana Interment
Elaine Tatsutani, Lionel Tatsutani's Interment
Martin Moriguchi, Funeral & Related Expenses for Jay Moriguchi
Total - \$4,900.00

### **HAIB SERVICE**

Total - \$300.00

### **SUNDAY SERVICE**

Total - \$485.00

**Acknowledgements continued:**

**SPECIAL DONATIONS**

Emiko Kaneko  
Boys & Girls Club  
Yoga Class  
Sachiko Katoku  
Brian Takahara  
Japanese Cultural Center of Kona  
June Gokan

Lori Marcello  
Patrick Komo  
Roy Hayama  
Jay Matsuoka  
Jeanette Tomono  
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Ogi

Keith Nishihara  
Clifford Tanouye  
Elbert Iwane  
Jocelyn Sakata  
The Ishikada Fund  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue

Anonymous, Preschool, Boy Scouts

Michitoshi Murakami, Dharma School

Elaine Nakagawa, Project Dana

Nora Koyanagi, Project Dana

Doris Masutomi, Taiko

Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Kunitake, NY Service

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko, Project Dana, Taiko, Dharma School, Jr. YBA

Mr. & Mrs. George Shimamoto, Eitaikyo, Project Dana, Jr. YBA, Gotane

Total - \$6,684.73

**HI KYODAN/CAPITAL FUND**

Anonymous

Doris Masutomi

Sachiko Katoku

Elaine Nakagawa

Nobuko Aoki

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. Dean Uemura

Chizu Nakashima

Elbert Iwane

Nora Koyanagi

Carol Okuna

Sueto Matsumura

Mr. & Mrs. Hiroki Ishimaru

Kazumi Oshita

Janet Lindner

Satsuko Matsuoka

Toyoko Urada

Ray Kawahara

Mr. & Mrs. Daryl Kurozawa

**SPRING OHIGAN**

Anonymous

Lisa Ciriako

Myrna Kunihiro

Ann Matsumoto

Linda Nagai

Chizu Nakashima

Carol Okuna

Sandy Iwashita

Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo

Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue

Tina Alcain

Wayne Fukunaga

Janet Lindner

Satsuko Matsuoka

Jimmy Nakagawa

Ellen Nishikawa

Terence Terada

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano

Mr. & Mrs. Ichiro Shikada

Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Oshiro

Ty Kolby Okamura

Carol Ichishita

Alan Matsumoto

Yooko Moriguchi

Norma Nakamoto

Satoru Odaira

Doris Yamamoto

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. Takeo Nakasone

Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Tagawa

Mr. & Mrs. Keith Hayama

Total - \$806.00

**Acknowledgements continued:**

**HANAMATSURI**

Anonymous	Chizu Nakashima	Janet Maeda
Alan Matsumoto	Ann Matsumoto	Yooko Moriguchi
Morris Nagata	Elaine Nakagawa	Chizu Nakashima
Keira Nishihara-Estrada	Satoru Odaira	Helen Oishi
Carol Okuna	Suga Suzuki	Lilly Ushiroda
Claudia Chang	Lisa Ciriako	Carol Ichishita
Miyuki Inouye	Mary Katayama	Sachiko Katoku
George Klumb	Nora Koyanagi	Myrna Kunihiro
Janet Lindner	Satsuko Matsuoka	Michitoshi Murakami
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue	Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo	Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Nagata
Mr. & Mrs. Takeo Nakasone	Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Oshiro
Mr. & Mrs. Terence Terada	Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue	Geri Ann Aoki-Davidson
Mr. & Mrs. Colin Byars	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gusman	Mr. & Mrs. Hiroki Ishimaru
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko	Mr. & Mrs. George Shimamoto
	Total - \$895.00	

**JIHO**

Sachiko Katoku	Ray Kawahara	Nora Koyanagi
Satsuko Matsuoka	Roy Hayama	Doris Masutomi
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko	Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo	
	Total - \$260.00	

**IN MEMORY OF**

Jaroleen Caspell, IMO Chizuko Nakamura
Wesley Deguchi, IMO Setsuko "Sally" Deguchi
Edna Fukumitsu, IMO Yasuo Fukumitsu
Milton Fukumitsu, IMO Yasuo Fukumitsu
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Fujikawa, IMO Yoshie Hale
Dorothy Kansako, IMO Chizuko Nakamura's 1 <sup>st</sup> Year
Kawamoto Ohana, IMO Alice Kawamoto
Lisa, Jarrett and Tyler Kitaoka, IMO Alice Kawamoto
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Nakamura, IMO Chizuko Nakamura
Aaron, Dee and Ohana, Alson, Margy and Ohana, IMO Chizuko Nakamura
Earl Ogata, IMO Hisako Ogata
Mr. & Mrs. Masamori Takaki, IMO Tanizo & Tai Takaki
Mr. & Mrs. Minoru Tashima, IMO Goro Kuroyama
Jeffrey & Wynn Ichishita, IMO Aiko Ichishita and Yasue Nakayama
Rose Onaka, IMO Roy Onaka, Stella Onaka, Aiko & Wally Ichishita, Chizuko & Kiyoshi Nakamura
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Sakamoto, IMO Torao Sakamoto's 25 <sup>th</sup> Year
Total – 2,300.00

## **MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR MAY, JUNE AND JULY 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)**

05/01 Sumiko Yamamoto

05/21 Yukiko Nakayama

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

05/10 Midori "Mae" Harano

07/10 Mutsumi Komo

07/24 Norris Kenji Taniguchi

07/31 Patsy Sueko Hamada

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

05/22 Duane Hajime Kurozawa

06/02 Fumikichi Matsuoka

06/24 Hatsumi Takimoto

07/25 Kazuo Fukumitsu

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

05/25 Harold T. Hayashida

06/05 Nancy Hisae Manago

06/06 Kyle K. Matsumoto

06/12 Mikie S. Harada

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

05/13 Kazue Yoshiki

05/29 Shigeto Omori

06/10 Kikuyo "Kay" Kamigaki

06/15 Masayuki Sato

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

05/13 Sueko "Sue" Ikeuchi

05/13 Michael Yukio Yanagi

05/15 Yoshie "Bessie" Tanaka

06/01 Rev. Shonen Tamekuni

06/06 Ronald Asaji Miyazono

07/16 Harue Kawakami

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

06/06 Yoshio Noguchi

06/12 Mitsuyo Uemura

07/08 Shigeto Matsuda

07/18 Kamalei Kunitomo

07/27 Neil Y. Okumura

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

05/04 Sono Nakayama

05/10 William N. Kinoshita

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.