



JIHO

November 2023



Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together

Please join our hybrid services in November and December. 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!

Veteran’s Appreciation Service

Sponsored by Kona Hongwanji Cub Scout Pack 12
November 5 at 10:00am

Eitaikyo (Sangha Memorial) Service

November 12 at 10:00am
Guest Speaker: Rev. Tomo Hojo
West Kauai Hongwanji Mission

Eitaikyō means the “perpetual chanting of sutras.” The word “sutra” means “thread” and it is what connects us to the Truth found in the Buddha’s teachings. Buddhism began as an oral tradition with the teachings having been passed down through memorized chanting. The act of chanting connects us to all those who have come before and to all those who will follow as we chant the very same sutras. Eitaikyō is an opportunity to reflect on the lives and the actions of those good teachers and spiritual friends who have enabled us to encounter the teachings and to make donations for the continuing cultivation of the Dharma.

**Annual Temple Cleanup
(No Service)**
November 19 from 8:00am

*****No Service on November
26*****
Happy Thanksgiving!

Dharma Family Service
December 3 at 10:00am

Bodhi Day Service
December 10 at 10:00am
Guest Speaker: Rev. Tatsuo
Muneto
Retired Hawaii Kyodan Minister

Dharma Family Service
December 17 at 10:00am

**New Year’s Eve Service and
Bell Ringing**
December 31 at 6:00pm

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 1
KEALAKEKUA, HAWAII 96750

Aloha Sangha Members,

Last month we honored our pet's past and present, at our Pet Appreciation service, with Rev. David Nakamoto as our Dharma speaker who reminded us that our pets, unlike ourselves have no ego, they give us unconditional love, comforting us when we are in need of comforting, and always welcoming us with a happy greeting.

As the holidays creep up on us, this month we will be celebrating our first holiday of the season. At Thanksgiving, we will gather with families and friends to share in a wonderful lunch or dinner with all the fixings, including pumpkin pie, my favorite part of a Thanksgiving meal. However, this year as I take that bite of the delicious turkey and a savoring bite of the scrumptious pie, I will take a moment to look at all the people that surround me, including my pet companion, Lucky. It is because of them that I am able to enjoy this day, and the interconnectedness of all that surrounds my life, which has made this day possible.

As we celebrate the holidays, let's reflect on our "Pledge" where our Gomonshu states, "Realizing that I live because of others, I will strive to live life to the fullest with an attitude of gratitude, just like the Buddha, who promises to embrace us all."

And following the theme of thanksgiving and gratitude, I hope you will join us on November 12, at Temple or on Zoom at our Eitaikyo Service. We will be honoring all Sangha members who have sustained the temple over the years and have played a major part in perpetuating the Jodo Shinshu teachings. Then on November 19, we will be having our annual temple clean-up. If you are available on that day, a few extra helping hands would make the workday go faster. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

And lastly, news I think many have been waiting to hear. After almost a four-year break, this year we will have mochi available for sale to our Sangha members, families, and friends. Mochi will be available on December 30. Details regarding the sale will be announced, as we finalize the planning.

In Gassho,
Linda Nagai

Finding Hope in Small Things

Rev. Blayne Higa

Recently there has been so much chaos in the world. From devastating natural disasters to violent conflict in Israel and Gaza, the ongoing war in Ukraine, and our everyday personal tragedies, we have sometimes struggled to discover hope in the face of all this darkness. However, by taking refuge in the Three Jewels of Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha we can find our footing on the deck of this ship sailing on stormy seas and we can discover our innate resilience for when life gets difficult.

I want to share an article I wrote for "Chasing the Light" in the September 20, 2023, edition of *MidWeek* in which I reflect on how we can find hope in times of difficulty.



*But though the light of the sun is veiled by clouds and mists,
Beneath the clouds and mists there is brightness, not dark.
-Shinran Shonin*

I am always being reminded of how life can turn on a dime. Of how the truth of impermanence manifests in big and small ways in an endless cycle of transformation and change. From moment to moment we experience both happiness and sorrow along this remarkable journey.

It is easy to appreciate change when we hit the jackpot in Vegas or when we accomplish a cherished goal. It is certainly more difficult to appreciate our challenges and the dark times of our lives. However, we often have the most to learn from these moments of difficulty.

Caring for those in spiritual distress, I have experienced how the darkness we face can often feel overwhelming and how difficult it is to see even a glimmer of light. And yet, we can discover hope when we realize that we are not alone in our struggles. Of how the embrace of family and community comforts and heals when we are hurt and lonely. That even the simple act of quietly holding someone's hand can be the light we need.

Years ago, I was home in Hilo after the passing of my grandmother. One quiet sunny morning, I walked to the river where I had spent countless hours swimming and playing in my youth. With icy water rushing over my feet, I closed my eyes and listened to the familiar sounds of birds and water crashing on rocks and smiled. In

that moment of stillness, I knew I was not alone. I sometimes counsel those seeking care to reconnect with nature, as research suggests it can calm the mind, soothe the heart, and uplift our spirit.

When I'm feeling down, I sometimes curl up on the couch to watch *The Hobbit* movie just to hear the wizard Gandalf's words, "I have found that it is the small things...everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keeps the darkness at bay...simple acts of kindness and love." It reminds me that each of us, in our own way, can be a light for others in dark times.

In Hawaii, we experience this light of hope in the aloha spirit which gives us courage and inspires us to act compassionately when life gets difficult. This is who we are. Our world is truly made brighter by these small gestures of kindness and generosity.

Buddhism offers us a path of supreme optimism in which our challenges can become the source of profound spiritual awakening. When we place our trust in the compassionate Vow of Amida Buddha which embraces us unconditionally, our innate courage and resiliency is revealed. This is the power of Namo Amida Butsu which holds us in times of joy and sorrow as we journey through the changing ocean tides of our lives. Amida's light of wisdom and compassion is a shining beacon in the darkness guiding us home to ourselves. Within Amida's embrace, we discover we are never without hope or light because we are never alone. Amida's light is truly manifested in the small things that can transform our world. Namo Amida Butsu.

Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund

In response to the recent wildfires on Maui, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii has established the **MAUI WILDFIRE DISASTER RELIEF FUND**. You can donate in the following ways:

1. Online at www.hongwanjihawaii.com by clicking on the "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief" button under the "Donate" tab.
2. Through GoFundMe at the following link: <https://gofund.me/ff77a520>
3. Check and cash donations can be sent directly to Hawaii Kyodan Headquarters. Please make check payable to HHMH and in the memo line designate "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief" to ensure proper credit.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1727 Pali Highway
Honolulu, HI 96813

All donations collected will go to support Lahaina Hongwanji and relief efforts on Maui. The Office of the Bishop and Committee on Social Concerns will prioritize addressing the immediate and short-term needs of temple families displaced by the fires and supporting the greater community as it rebuilds. The Committee will select reputable relief agencies and organizations to support in order to ensure our donations will directly aid those impacted by this disaster. Updates will be shared on our website at www.hongwanjihawaii.com. Mahalo for your generosity and support during this time of tragedy.

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**

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.

2023-2024 Social Concerns Fund Drive

The month of November is a special time for reflecting on gratitude. Observing Eitaikyo and celebrating Thanksgiving are opportunities to appreciate the innumerable causes and conditions which sustain our lives and how we are deeply connected to the world around us. It is in this spirit of profound gratitude that we kick-off our Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive.

Your generosity enables the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii with the ability to support worthy organizations and programs making a difference in our community. Your selfless giving also enables us to provide compassionate aid during times of disaster and the ability to skillfully respond to issues affecting our local and world communities.

Through our Social Welfare Fund, we were able to immediately support relief efforts on Maui in the aftermath of devastating wildfires, giving over \$25,000 to various organizations and affected individuals. Your generous support ensures we have the ability to respond quickly when disasters strike.

We continued our advocacy for improving mental health care, addressing homelessness, and alleviating food insecurity in our community by donating to the Samaritan Counseling Center of Hawaii, Spill the Tea Café, Hope Services, and the various food banks on each island. This year, we also awarded several Golden Chain Grants to help nurture Sangha-based compassionate action.

The fund drive will begin November 1, 2023, and run till August 31, 2024. **Please make all checks payable to KONA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE using the envelope provided.** The temple will then remit one combined check to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Social Welfare Fund.

Your support of our Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive is greatly appreciated. Mahalo!

In Gassho,

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani
Bishop

Dr. Warren Tamamoto
President

Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair
Committee on Social Concerns

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ANNUAL TEMPLE CLEAN UP
Sunday, November 19
Starting at 8:00am

Calling all Sangha members and friends to help with our annual cleaning of the temple and facilities. Your kokua is greatly appreciated as we ensure our temple is a clean and beautiful spiritual home for our community.

Please let the office know you plan to help so we can ensure we have enough refreshments and lunch for everyone.

SAVE THE DATE
Mochi Sale
Saturday, December 30

Back by popular demand, we will be selling mochi for the New Year. A limited quantity of Plain and Okazari Mochi will be available for sale on a first come first served basis. There will be no pre-order this year. More details will be available in the December newsletter.

Volunteers needed to help make and sell mochi on Dec. 30th. Please contact the temple office to let us know if you can help.

2023 Peace Day Bell Ringing



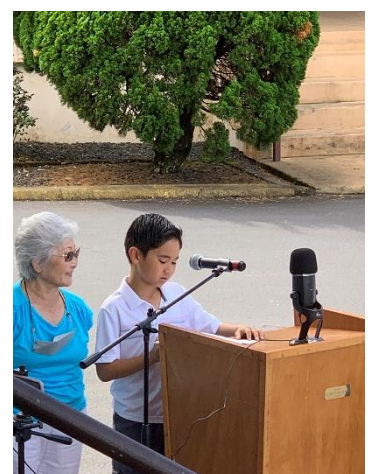
On September 21, our preschool students and temple members rang bells for Peace Day! We look forward to joining with so many around the world in celebrating the International Day of Peace each year. May we strive to cultivate a more peaceful and harmonious world for everyone!

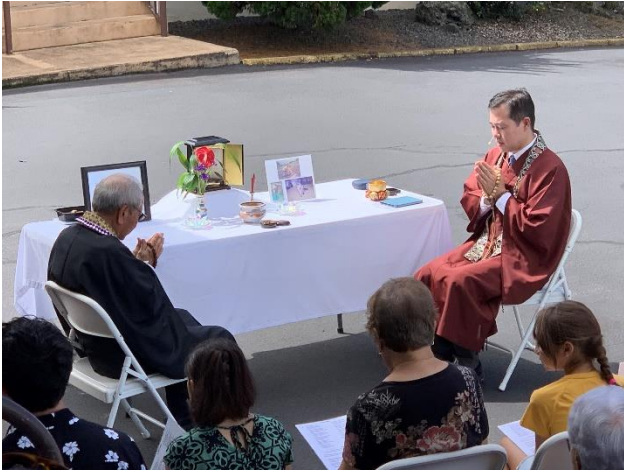
Autumn Ohigan Service



On September 17, Rev. Shindo Nishiyama of Jikoen Hongwanji was our guest speaker for our Autumn Ohigan (Equinox) Service. He shared a wonderful message on the principle of "On" which is a deep and profound appreciation for what we have received from others. A few of our temple members played the Ukulele to accompany the singing of the gatha "Living Gratefully" It was a wonderful service celebrating the turning of the seasons. Namo Amida Butsu!

Pet Appreciation Service





On October 15, we held our annual Pet Appreciation Service. Rev. David Nakamoto shared a wonderful Dharma message on how our animal companions teach us about the power of unconditional love and the truth of interdependence. Sangha members were accompanied by their four-legged family members who enjoyed our outdoor service and all the extra attention. Namo Amida Butsu!

2023 Sustaining Membership

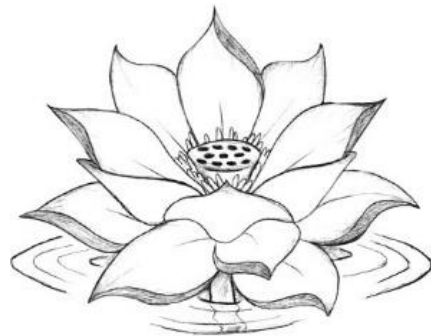
If you haven't already done so, please remember to submit your annual membership pledge before the end of the year. This is also a great opportunity to update your current contact information with us!

We rely on your support to help ensure our temple is a spiritual home where we can create Sangha together through sharing the Dharma. Mahalo!

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. Namo Amida Butsu

- Alice Kawamoto (January 5, 2023)
- Lionel Tatsutani (January 19, 2023)
- Toshiharu Sato (January 20, 2023)
- Norman Sakata (February 14, 2023)
- Akemi Matsumoto (February 21, 2023)
- Jay Moriguchi (March 23, 2023)
- Toyoko Urada (June 20, 2023)
- Annette Green (July 2, 2023)
- Caron Ikeda (July 15, 2023)
- Kevin Deguchi (July 24, 2023)
- Fumie Yoshida (August 9, 2023)
- Vincent "Vinny" Chang (August 15, 2023)
- Keith Hayama (September 20, 2023)
- Hatsuyo Takashiba (September 21, 2023)
- Nancy Shibata (September 29, 2023)
- Miyuki Inouye (October 4, 2023)
- Mary Iwanaga (October 10, 2023)



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—NOVEMBER 2023

SERVICES

Claudia Chang, Funeral & Related Expenses for Vincent “Vinny” Chang

Bryan Matsumoto, Asano Matsumoto’s 3rd Year

Michitoshi Murakami, Mishiwo Murakami’s 33rd Year

Estate of Thomas T. Setoda, Memorial Service for Thomas Setoda

Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Ikeda, Funeral & Related Expenses for Caron Ikeda

Total - \$1,550.00

IN MEMORY OF

Richard Komo, IMO Sataro and Iyo Komo

Joyce Nishita, IMO Yoshio Fujikawa’s 50th Year

Hatsuyo Takashiba, IMO Yoshio Fujikawa’s 50th Year

Nora Takashiba, IMO Yoshio Fujikawa’s 50th Year

Aileen Tilton, IMO Yoshio Fujikawa’s 50th Year

Faye Takashiba, IMO Yoshio Fujikawa’s 50th Year

Bob Nishita, IMO Yoshio Fujikawa’s 50th Year

Doris Oshiro, IMO Norman Sakata

Nobuko Aoki, IMO Yachiyo Kukita

Joann Morimoto, IMO Yachiyo Kukita’s 17th Year

Kay Matsuyama, IMO Hiroshi Matsuyama

Sandy Iwashita, IMO Caron Ikeda

Michitoshi Murakami, IMO Tsuzuko and Mishiwo Murakami

Mr. & Mrs. Sadamu Koba, IMO Caron Ikeda

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue, IMO Fumie Yoshida

Ally Brown & Ohana, IMO Mishiwo Murakami’s 33rd Year

Mr. & Mrs. Owen Nishioka, IMO Diane Shirota’s 33rd Year

Mr. & Mrs. Reed Ichishita, IMO James Kukita’s 13th Year, Ichihi Kukita, Sanford Kukita, Yachiyo Kukita’s 17th Year

Total - \$6,905.00

HI KYODAN/CAPITAL FUND

Kathleen Abe

Edwin Ueda

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Love

Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Ikeda

GRANDPARENTS DAY

Diana Asakura

Lisa Ciriako

Emiko Kaneko

Mary Katayama

Myrna Kunihiro

Janet Lindner

Janet Maeda

Alan Matsumoto

Ann Matsumoto

Linda Nagai

Morris Nagata

Elaine Nakagawa

Acknowledgements continued:

Chizu Nakashima

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue

Mr. & Mrs. David Miyashita

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Oshiro

Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue

Sue Suzuki

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Gerri Ann Aoki-Davidson

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina

Mr. & Mrs. Terence Terada

Total - \$480.00

AUTUMN OHIGAN

Diana Asakura

Mary Katayama

Myrna Kunihiro

Ann Matsumoto

Morris Nagata

Chizu Nakashima

Ellen Nishikawa

Darcie Asakura & Brennen Gallardo

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue

Lisa Ciriako

George Klumb

Janet Lindner

Satsuko Matsuoka

Elaine Nakagawa

Takeo Nakasone

Nancy Shimamoto

Mr. & Mrs. Reed Ichishita

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Tagawa

Mr. & Mrs. Terence Terada

Sandy Iwashita

Kenneth Komo

Alan Matsumoto

Susan Morishige

Norma Nakamoto

Keith Nishihara

Carol Okuna

Mr. & Mrs. Burt Kamigaki

Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue

Total - \$660.00

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Anonymous

Carol Honda

Lori Marcello

Nancy Shimamoto

Boys & Girls Club

Yooko Moriguchi

Danny Nozaki

Mr. & Mrs. Earl Ogata

Yoga Class

Kathleen Abe

George Sugi

Mr. & Mrs. James Toma

Edwin Ueda, Jiho & Hakasoji/Nokotsudo

Mr. & Mrs. Owen Nishioka, Hakasoji/Nokotsudo

Jeanne Hartney, Obon

Wendy Nickl, Obon

Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue, Peace Day

Total - \$3,491.00



MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 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)

11/08 Dennis Motoyama

THIRD YEAR (2021)

11/02 Flora Fukumitsu

12/04 Aiko Ichishita

12/10 Frances Abe

12/16 Doris Higashi

SEVENTH YEAR (2017)

11/15 Asayo Shirai

11/21 Wayne Hiroji Nakayama

12/21 Masaaki Sakata

THIRTEENTH YEAR (2011)

11/15 Muneo Inouye

11/20 Bessie Matsuyama

11/23 Alan J. Pratt

12/27 Teruo Ezuka

SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2007)

11/28 Alan Todomu Nakamura

12/05 Noboru "King" Kitaoka

12/05 Milton Mitsuo Miyazono

12/09 Fredrick Haruo Iwamoto

12/20 Wally K. Sato

12/29 Gerald "Jacko" Hisashi Uemoto

12/31 Jack Taichi Masuhara

TWENTY FIFTH YEAR (1999)

11/12 Yoshio "Calvin" Hayama

12/08 Yasuko Mana

12/28 Kikue Fukumitsu

THIRTY THIRD YEAR (1991)

11/05 Jane A. Yoshimura

11/11 Jack I. Tokunaga

11/27 Yasu Aoki

12/19 Miko Honda

12/28 Eizo Moriguchi

FIFTIETH YEAR (1974)

11/06 Haru Matsuda

11/08 Miyono Ota

12/22 Shizue Araki Sugimoto

12/24 Seizo Tokumura

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