



JIHO

September 2023



Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together

Please join our hybrid services in September and October. 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
September 3 at 10:00am
 Sangha Speaker: Daren Katayama

Grandparent's Day Service
 September 10 at 10:00am
 Guest Speaker: Nancy Shimamoto
 Former President Moiliili Hongwanji
 Buddhist Temple

Autumn Ohigan Service
 September 17 at 10:00am
 Guest Speaker: Rev. Shindo Nishiyama
 Jikoen Hongwanji Mission

Dharma Family Service
 September 24 at 10:00am
 Sangha Speaker: Linda Nagai

Dharma Family Service
 October 1 at 10:00am

Dharma Family Service
 October 8 at 10:00am
 Sangha Speaker: Margaret Masunaga

Pet Appreciation Service
 October 15 at 10:00am
 Guest Speaker: Rev. David Nakamoto
 Retired Minister of Hawaii Kyodan

Dharma Family Service
 October 22 at 10:00am
 Sangha Speaker: Linda Nagai

*****No Service on October 29*****

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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KEALAKEKUA, HAWAII 96750

Aloha Sangha Members,

We began August with a Hiroshima Remembrance service, with our guest speaker Mr. Hosokawa telling the effects of the bombing and devastation of Hiroshima, 78 years ago. It was a very moving talk which really brought the reality of the fragility of life, then just over a week later, devastation was realized in our own State. Although this was not through the act of War, none the less many lives were lost, and for Honpa Hongwanji, Lahaina Hongwanji was lost, and many of their Sangha members lost their homes.

At our Obon service at Holualoa Hongwanji on Sunday, August 13, members from the Holualoa Community as well as Sangha members from north and south Kona who attended, took a moment to remember not only our loved ones, but also those affected by the Wildfire in Maui. Let us keep the people of Maui in our hearts and mind and reach out to support them in their relief efforts. Honpa Hongwanji has set up a "Maui Disaster Relief Fund", where you can donate to support Maui's relief efforts. Information on how to support Maui's relief efforts can be found in the Jiho and in Rev. Blayne's weekly update.

Our Cub Scouts Pack 12 did a "Kokua Maui" donation drive at KTA Keauhou on August 12 & 13 and raised over \$5,000 in cash along with some needed supplies which will be sent to the Maui Nui District, BSA Aloha Council, to aid in their Wildfire relief efforts. Thank you Pack 12 for your dedication to the welfare of our community, living up to the Scout slogan "Do a Good Turn Daily." Go Pack 12!

This month we will be hosting the Hawaii State Lay Convention on September 15 and 16 at Kona Hongwanji. This is an annual convention where Lay members gather to discuss how we can support and move our Hongwanji forward, and yes also to enjoy fellowship with Sangha members from other Temples throughout Hawaii.

I'd like to close with a quote from the Dalai Lama, "Helping others is not limited to providing food, shelter, and so forth, but includes relieving the basic causes of suffering and providing the basic causes of happiness."

In Gassho,
Linda Nagai

A Light in the Darkness **Rev. Blayne Higa**

We have watched in disbelief the devastation caused by the wildfires on Maui. Our hearts go out to the Sangha of Lahaina Hongwanji and to everyone who has been affected by this disaster. The loss of life, livelihood, and property has been immense and the journey to recovery will be long and difficult.

In *Our Pledge*, Gomonsu Kojun Ohtani encourages us as fellow Nembutsu travelers to "...share a life of joy and sorrow with others. Just like the Buddha, whose caring heart always embraces us." This is a time for us to embody Amida Buddha's compassion by caring for our Sangha and all who are in distress. This is the living Nembutsu that is grounded in our everyday lives. I encourage everyone to support relief efforts on Maui in whatever way you can.



The Buddha teaches that "On the long journey of human life, faith is the best of companions; it is the best refreshment on the journey; and it is the greatest possession." However, faith in Buddhism is not blind but rather is a profound confidence in what we have learned and experienced. Living with faith as a constant companion, we are able to appreciate all our struggles and joys equally along this remarkable journey we call life.

In our tradition, we say the Nembutsu or Name of Amida Buddha in gratitude for this profound awakening to true and real life. We come to realize that Namu Amida Butsu is not a mindless phrase but a grand affirmation of life in which we discover that each moment of our lives contains infinite significance and meaning. It is with this deep appreciation we gain new strength and courage to live each moment of our lives with awe and wonder.

The Buddha's Teaching helps us to understand and to manage life with greater kindness, compassion, and equanimity. Namu Amida Butsu, is a promise from Amida Buddha to embrace and never to abandon. Namu Amida Butsu holds us in both our joys and our sorrows and transforms our ignorance into wisdom, our greed into generosity, and our anger into love. The Nembutsu can help us meet life's challenges with greater confidence and peace of mind.

Namu Amida Butsu is boundless love and compassion which is ever-present in our lives. We are always embraced and sustained by its light. The Nembutsu is our comfort when we are sad and is our strength when we need courage, it is truly the foundation of our lives.

One of my favorite stories about the power of Nembutsu comes from Bishop Marvin Harada's book *Discovering Buddhism in Everyday Life*. In it he shares a lesson from his teacher, Rev. Ashikaga who in turn, learned it from his teacher Yasuda Sensei who once said, "Many people think that the Nembutsu, Namuamidabutsu, means something like this---that you take a big load off of your shoulders, like a big backpack, and you sit down and you let out a big sigh of

relief. That's what people think Namuamidabutsu means, that you relax and feel relieved, with a burden lifted from your shoulders. But I don't think that is what Namuamidabutsu means. I think Namuamidabutsu means the opposite--that instead, you put a big load on your shoulders, a big responsibility or task, and now you have the power to stand up on your own two feet and move forward in life. That to me is what Namuamidabutsu means."

Rev. Harada goes on to say, "If we find the teachings of Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu to be of value to us in our lives, if we find that the Nembutsu has illuminated our hearts and minds, then we must do what we can to allow it to be shared and carried on by others. That is the power to stand up and to move forward. It is a power that comes from beyond our own ego self. It is a power that makes the load on our shoulders lighter than what it really is. It is a power that not only allows us to stand up on our own two feet, but somehow it feels as if it is pushing us up from behind." I reflect on this story often and it helps me to face the challenges of life with greater acceptance and perseverance.

The spiritual path of Nembutsu goes beyond hope and fear. It is a journey of stepping into the unknown, continually moving forward with clear-eyed optimism. It is a path where no experience is ever wasted because life is the ultimate teacher which opens our heart to the complex truth of the human experience and the reality of the Buddha's compassionate embrace.

My seminary instructor, Rev. Dr. Seigen Yamaoka once said, "To come out of darkness we must open our eyes to the light." In times of tragedy when there are no words, there is still the Nembutsu. Namo Amida Butsu is truly a light for us in dark places when all other lights go out. This is Amida's embrace which comforts and heals.

I return often to these simple yet profound words and how they are powerful reminders for how we are capable of cultivating hope in times of difficulty and how we are able to meet our challenges with determination and grace.

This is the inconceivable working of Amida Buddha's Vow manifesting in our lives. In the *Shōshinge (Hymn of True Entrusting)* Shinran Shōnin says, "But though the light of the sun is veiled by clouds and mists, beneath the clouds and mists there is brightness, not dark." Here, Shinran is reminding us that there is light even in our darkest moments and that we have the ability to persevere because we are embraced and sustained by Amida's compassion.

This radical shift in perspective is the promise of the Dharma as it offers us hope for transformation and change. When we open our heart to Amida's work, we can be led out of darkness and into light. As we have seen in the aftermath of the wildfires, the outpouring of aloha for the people of Maui and the simple acts of human kindness reminds us there is light in the darkness of tragedy.

May we always take comfort in Amida's compassionate embrace and be guided by the Dharma in difficult times. Namo Amida Butsu.

Flower Toban Help

Looking for one or two volunteers to help the Flower Toban group every Wednesday from 8:00am to do the following:

- Change flowers in columbarium and temple
- Clean columbarium

Please contact the temple office at 808-323-2993 if you are interested. Mahalo

Bishop Umitani's Welcome Luncheon



On August 5, Rev. Blayne and temple president Linda Nagai attended the Investiture Ceremony and Welcome Luncheon for Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani as the 17th Bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Congratulations and welcome to our new Bishop! We look forward to working with him as we chart a course for the future of Shin Buddhism in Hawaii!



Statement regarding the Disaster on Maui

I would like to express my deepest condolences to those who lost their lives as a result of the disaster in Maui, and my heartfelt sympathy to those who have lost their homes and are living as evacuees.

The fire that broke out on August 8, 2023, devastated the city of Lahaina. As of today, 93 people are confirmed to have died, and more than 2,000 buildings have been damaged or destroyed. The historic town of Lahaina, which was once the capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom and a beautiful tourist destination visited by many people, was burnt to the ground.

Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, located in the center of the city, was not spared the destruction by the fire. The Resident Minister, Reverend Ai Hironaka, his family, and many of the temple members have safely evacuated and are currently living a life of inconvenience. As for the damage to the temple, it is expected to take some time to confirm its state, partly because the town is under lockdown.

The history of the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission began in 1904. Since then, the light of the Nembutsu Dharma has been successfully passed down through the dedication and contribution of the Resident Ministers, their families, temple members, and many people in the community. Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, along with other churches and temples, was the place of refuge for the people living in the area. I remember the sound of the Nembutsu reverberating in the Hondo on Sundays. It is truly sad for all of us that such a practice hall of the Nembutsu was destroyed by the disaster.

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii established the Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund. Since then, we have received much support not only from within the State of Hawaii but also from all over the world, including the mainland United States, Canada, and Japan. On behalf of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii ministers and members, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to those who extended compassionate words and actions for those on Maui. I would like to humbly ask for your continued support.

Recovery on Maui could take years. Many people are living in anxiety about their uncertain future. As fellow travelers of the Nembutsu, let us stand in solidarity with those who are experiencing suffering and sorrow brought about by this unprecedented encounter.

Even though the temple buildings have been damaged, our sincere aspiration of listening to and sharing the Nembutsu teaching never disappears. This is not the end of 119 years of the history of Lahaina Hongwanji. We are all the more determined to dedicate ourselves to establishing a society where the sound of the Nembutsu prevails.

May the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha embrace us all. May the sound of the Nembutsu brings us peace and comfort, and gives us the courage to move forward. Namo Amida Butsu.

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani
Bishop
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

August 13, 2023

Hiroshima Remembrance Service



On August 6, we observed the 78th Anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at our Hiroshima Remembrance Service. Mr. Tadashi Hosokawa, Chairman of the Board of Delica Wing Co., Ltd. & Honorary Chairman, Hatsukaichi Chamber of Commerce and Industry shared a moving reflection on peace. Let's all strive to build a more peaceful world.

Holualoa Temple Obon Service



On August 13, we celebrated Obon at Holualoa Hongwanji. It was a special time for the community to remember our loved ones who have been born in the Pure Land in this beautiful temple filled with so many wonderful memories.

Obon Family Service



On July 30, we held our Obon Family Service with Rev. Kerry Kiyohara of Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. He shared a wonderful message about the meaning of Obon and the significance of ritual in our lives. We also welcomed his wife Mimy and granddaughter Melody to Kona Hongwanji! During the service, we remembered loved ones who have been born in the Pure Land and their continuing influence in our lives. What a truly beautiful festival of joyful memory! Namo Amida Butsu!

2023 Bon Dance & Craft Fair



On July 22, we held our first regular Bon Dance since 2019. Mahalo to everyone who helped and came out to enjoy this festival of joyful memory. We are so grateful to be able to share this special event with our community! 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 HMMH 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.

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.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—SEPTEMBER 2023

HAKASOJI & NOKOTSUDO

Myrna Kunihiro

Kimi Takamoto

Carol Zakahi

Ray Oyama

Mr. & Mrs. Kaoru Uyeda

Mr. & Mrs. Sukeji Yamagata

Total - \$185.00

Total - \$905.00

SUNDAY SERVICES

Anonymous

Janet Lindner

Morris Nagata

Mary Katayama

Myrna Kunihiro

Elaine Nakagawa

Suga Suzuki

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano

Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue

Total - \$410.00

SERVICES

Sato Family, Toshiharu Sato's 1st Obon

Peggy Ciriako, Burial Service for Paul Yamamoto, Sumiko & Francis Yamamoto

Peggy Ciriako, Sumiko Yamamoto's 1st Year

Rinko Matsuoka, Fumikichi Matsuoka's 7th Year

Mr. & Mrs. Kenkichi Matsuoka, Fumikichi Matsuoka's 7th Year

Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Matsuoka Sr., Fumikichi Matsuoka's 7th Year

Mr. & Mrs. Cedric Matsuoka, Fumikichi Matsuoka's 7th Year

Mr. & Mrs. John Edwards, Fumikichi Matsuoka's 7th Year

Tyrus Takimoto & Sons, Hatsumi Takimoto's 7th Year

Grace Sasaki & Ohana, Richard Isao Sasaki's 3rd Year

Total - \$1,400.00

HI KYODAN/CAPITAL FUND

Kimi Takamoto

Carol Zakahi

Mr. & Mrs. Sukeji Yamagata

IN MEMORY OF

Anonymous, IMO Suyeko Nishina

Anonymous, IMO Yoshino Matsuyama

Anonymous, IMO Hiroshi Matsuyama

Peggy Ciriako, IMO Sumiko Yamamoto

Pauline & Lara-Lynn Goodwin, IMO Suyeko Nishina

Satsuko Matsuoka & Ohana, IMO Fumikichi Matsuoka

Jimmy Nakagawa, IMO Bruce Stevens

Kazumi Oshita, IMO Harumi Amano, Gunichi Oshita & Ohana, Richard Sato & Ohana

Wesley Deguchi, IMO Mutsumi Komo

Ken Love, IMO Yoshitaka Takashiba, Minoru Inouye

Acknowledgements continued:

Hatsuyo Haimoto, IMO Kiyoshi Haimoto, Chayson Matsuoka
Paula Kawamoto, IMO Alice Kawamoto
Norma Nakamoto, IMO George Nakamoto
Elaine Tatsutani, IMO Lionel Tatsutani
Karen Wong, IMO Sanford & Doris Higashi
Ray Oyama, IMO Tamotsu Oyama's 17th Year, Minoru Kawakami's 17th Year, Harue Kawakami's 20th Year
Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina, IMO Suyeko Nishina
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Nishina, IMO Suyeko Nishina
Mr. & Mrs. Wilfred Nishina, IMO Suyeko Nishina
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Ogata, IMO Richard Sasaki's 3rd Year
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue, IMO Norman Sakata
Total - \$1,477.00

OBON

Anonymous	Ken Love	Satsuko Matsuoka
Fusaye Murayama	Keith Nishihara	Carol Okuna
Lisa Fry	Wayne Fukunaga	Hatsuyo Haimoto
Paula Kawamoto	Kenneth Komo	Norma Nakamoto
Ellen Nishikawa	Elaine Tatsutani	Karen Wong
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Hayama	Mr. & Mrs. Burke Matsuyama	Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Nakamura
Mr. & Mrs. Ichiro Shikada	Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue	
	Total - \$1,930.00	

OBON CEMETERY SERVICE

Anonymous	Jeffrey Fuke	Sandy Iwashita
Mary Katayama	George Klumb	Myrna Kunihiro
Janet Lindner	Linda Nagai	Mr. & Mrs. Hiroki Ishimaru
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko	Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano	Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka	Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue	
	Total - \$355.00	
	Total - \$691.00	

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Anonymous	Norma Matsumoto	Lori Marcello
Boys & Girls Club	Kei Buddhist Church & Cemetery	
Jimmy Nakagawa, Jiho		
Mr. & Mrs. Kaoru Uyeda, Jiho		
Mr. & Mrs. Sukeji Yamagata, Jiho		
	Total - \$1,475.00	

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 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)

09/03 Mildred Morimoto
10/09 Edna Kitagawachi

10/09 Frances Oue
11/08 Dennis Motoyama

THIRD YEAR (2021)

09/20 Asano Matsumoto

11/02 Flora Fukumitsu

SEVENTH YEAR (2017)

10/17 Mitsuo Hasegawa
11/21 Wayne Hiroji Nakayama

11/15 Asayo Shirai

THIRTEENTH YEAR (2011)

09/07 Ernest K. Urada
10/27 James I. Kukita
11/20 Bessie Matsuyama

10/08 Harold "T-Bone" Kaku
11/15 Muneo Inouye
11/23 Alan J. Pratt

SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2007)

09/18 Hidetoshi Taniguchi
10/07 Hideo Sakata
11/28 Alan Todomu Nakamura

10/04 Yachiyo Kukita
10/22 Minoru Kawakami

TWENTY FIFTH YEAR (1999)

10/09 Ruby Shimeko Murasaki

11/12 Yoshio "Calvin" Hayama

THIRTY THIRD YEAR (1991)

09/11 Mishiwo Murakami
10/01 Diane Y. Shirota
11/05 Jane A. Yoshimura
11/27 Yasu Aoki

09/13 Misao Iwamoto
10/14 Pearl M. Nagata
11/11 Jack I. Tokunaga

FIFTIETH YEAR (1974)

10/01 Kinju Iwane
10/19 Yoshii Kikuji
11/06 Haru Matsuda

10/17 Glenn Koji Sasaki
10/27 Otozo Hirata
11/08 Miyono Ota

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