# KONA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE



# E - JIHO November 2019



Theme & Slogan 2019: Embrace Change: Transformation (Walk in Peace)

#### **EITAIKYO SERVICE**

Sunday, November 3, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Rev. Shinji Kawagoe of Papaikou Hongwanji Mission
English Service only ------ No Japanese Service

#### **VETERAN'S APPRECIATION SERVICE**

Sunday, November 10, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

#### ANNUAL CLEAN-UP

Sunday, November 17, 2019 at 7:30 a.m.

#### FLOWERS FOR OUR ALTAR

We all love the Gatha "Flowers at Amida's Altar" because it reminds us of the beauty and impermanence of life which is a fundamental teaching of Buddhism. We would like to ask for your help in providing fresh flowers to adorn our altar. If you are able to help, please contact the temple office to have your name placed on a list so we can contact you from time-to-time to see if you might have flowers available. Thank you very much for your kokua and generosity!

Mahalo, Rev. Blayne

**NEED THE ASSISTANCE OF THE MINISTER, contact Rev. Blayne Higa at 323-2993 or Emergency only (808)383-9153** or Joseph Gusman at 896-4988 or 324-0708. **To schedule services or activities,** call the church office at 323-2993 Monday thru Friday – 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on weekends and holidays. If unable to contact the office clerk, leave a message on the answering machine.

E-MAIL ADDRESS: Church - konahongwanji@twc.com

#### **NOVEMBER**

2 Saturday	8:00 AM	Omigaki #1 Food Prep #2
3 Sunday	9:00 AM	Eitaikyo Service
6 Wednesday	9:30 AM	Service @ Hualalai Regency
•	11:00 AM	Service @ Life Care Center
8 Friday	8:30 AM	Senior Activity Program
9 Saturday		IKEBANA CANCELLED
•	10:00 AM	Project Dana Training Day
10 Sunday	9:00 AM	Veteran's Appreciation Service
11 Monday		NO MORNING SERVICE & WEEKLY MEDITATION
Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup> thru Nov	. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Minister's Seminar in Honolulu
16 Saturday		Annual Wall Washing
17 Sunday	7:30 AM	Annual General Clean-Up
21 Thursday	9:30 AM	Preschool Temple Visitation
24 Sunday		NO SUNDAY SERVICE
		Judo Club Fishing Tournament
28 Thursday thru 30 Saturd	ay	NO MORNING SERVICES
		<u>DECEMBER</u>
1 Sunday	9:00 AM	English Family Service
4 Wednesday	9:30 AM	Service @ Hualalai Regency
	11:00 AM	Service @ Life Care Center
6 Friday	6:00 PM	Preschool Christmas Program
8 Sunday	8:00 AM	Bodhi Day Service
12 Thursday	9:30 AM	Preschool Temple Visitation
13 Friday	8:30 AM	Senior Activity Program
15 Sunday	9:00 AM	English Family Service
22 Sunday		NO SUNDAY SERVICE
29 Sunday		NO SUNDAY SERVICE
30 Monday		Mochi Making
	12:00 PM	Mochi Pick-up
31 Tuesday	7:00 PM	New Year Eve Service

#### **DAILY MORNING SERVICE**

MONDAY THRU SATURDAY AT 8:00 AM WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30 AM except Holidays

### **WEEKLY TEMPLE MEDITATION SERVICE**

EVERY MONDAY AT 6:30 PM except Holidays

#### **CUB SCOUTS & BOY SCOUTS**

EVERY MONDAY CUB SCOUT PACK 12 MEETING AT 5:00 PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY CUB SCOUT PACK 12 MEETING AT 5:00 PM EXCEPT 1<sup>ST</sup>
WEDNESDAY

EVERY TUESDAY BOY SCOUT TROOP 59 MEETING AT 7:00 PM

#### **TAIKO PRACTICE**

EVERY TUESDAY ADULT'S TAIKO PRACTICE AT 6:00 PM EVERY THURSDAY TAIKO PRACTICE AT 5:30 PM TAIKO MEETING EVERY 2<sup>nd</sup> THURSDAY IN THE SOCIAL HALL AT 6:45 PM

#### **JUDO PRACTICE**

JUDO CLUB MEETING EVERY 1<sup>ST</sup> WEDNESDAY IN SCOUT ROOM
EVERY MONDAY AT 7:00 PM NIGHT CLASS
EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6:00 PM NOVICE; 7:00 PM NIGHT CLASS
EVERY THURSDAY AT 7:00 PM KATA CLASS
EVERY FRIDAY AT 6:30 PM ADULT ONLY

# <u>IKEBANA</u>

EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> SATURDAY AT 9:00 AM IN THE SCOUT ROOM

# MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER and DECEMBER 2019

First Year (2018)	November	7 21 24	SANAE MATSUMURA MILDRED C. INOUYE ETHEL C. AOKI
Third Year (2017)	November December	15 21 21	ASAYO SHIRAI WAYNE HIROJI NAKAYAMA MASAAKI SAKATA
Seventh Year (2013)	November	10	TANE TAKEGUCHI
Thirteenth Year (2007)	November December	28 5 5 9 20	ALAN TODOMU NAKAMURA NOBORU "KING" KITOKA MILTON M. "TOGO" MIYAZONO FREDERICK HARUO IWAMOTO WALLY K. SATO
Seventeenth Year (2003)	November December	12 17	TAKASHI HIRANO FLORA FUSAKO KANEO DONALDSON
Thirty-Third Year (1987)	November December	20 22 25 29	HISAE NISHINA KIYOSHI KAJIWARA GILBERT MASAO NAKATANI MASARU KUGA
Fiftieth Year (1970)	November December	21 18 23 28	TSUYA TSUKAMOTO YOSHI HASEGAWA KYLE KIRIHARA MATSUYO UEMOTO

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# President's Message

by Joseph Gusman

Congratulations to our own Kona Hongwanji BWA for successfully hosting the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Hawaii Island BWA Convention on 10/20/19. Great job by all with the planning & execution of this event. The day's activities even included a Buddhist Education seminar on the Sikh religion & its interpretation of Dana, or selfless giving.

Of course, our next upcoming event is our annual manju fundraiser on 10/25-27/19. Preparation for our baking will begin on Friday, October 25, 2019 with an ball rolling and pre-measuring of ingredients for Saturday's manju making. The "main event" is our Saturday manju making, and many hands will make the work lighter for all. If you are available to help with this project-even if it's for just a little while-your assistance will be deeply appreciated!

With the end of the year fast approaching (even if we don't want to be reminded of it) it's time again to get our temple and other facilities spruced up and looking good. Our annual clean up will be on November 17, 2019, and just like manju making, we are appreciative of all the help we can get. Please come & help with this important event. All abilities are welcomed, we'll find something for you to do. Come out to help the temple, but also to catch up with some of our temple members that we may not see all the time.

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# Grateful for Buddhist Whistleblowers Rev. Blayne Higa

Recently, it seems as if everyone is talking about whistleblowers. We hear it in reference to corruption at the highest levels of our government. A whistleblower is defined as someone who informs on another or makes public disclosure of corruption or wrongdoing. While whistleblowers are protected by our laws, they often face persecution for their courage.

As I reflect on our current state of affairs, I am reminded that within Buddhism, we have a proud history of whistleblowers. Can you guess who are our Buddhist whistleblowers? Well, our very first whistleblower was Shakyamuni Buddha who revealed that liberation from suffering was available to everyone. During the time of the Buddha, society was divided into a rigid caste system that determined one's potential for spiritual liberation. The caste in which you were born into



determined everything about your present life and subsequent lives in the wheel of rebirth. The impossibility of change within this system kept people oppressed socially, economically, politically, and spiritually.

However, what the Buddha realized was that despite differences in class or status, everyone equally suffered from old age, sickness, and death and he aspired to liberate all people. What he discovered was that each person has the capacity for liberation because we all have the ability to self-reflect and to observe one's own mind. Even though he was born into the noble-warrior caste, Shakyamuni Buddha firmly believed that nobility was not a matter of one's birth but rather is determined by one's actions in life. Before the Buddha, these truths of life were secrets to be kept hidden. This is why I am grateful for Shakyamuni Buddha as a whistleblower.

Another Buddhist whistleblower was Shinran Shonin, the founder of Shin Buddhism, who realized that awakening was possible for the ordinary person through the working of Amida Buddha's compassion. During Shinran's time, Buddhist liberation was only for the wealthy and the educated. Despite being born into privilege and receiving the best learning, Shinran was no closer to awakening than when he first started his spiritual journey. He was exactly like those in lower classes who had no opportunity to learn the Dharma. He felt like a complete failure and referred to himself as "Gutoku Shinran" or "Foolish Stubble-Haired Shinran." It was because of this profound self-realization that Shinran turned to the Pure Land Path and devoted his life to sharing his joy in the Nembutsu.

Shinran revealed the secret of how Amida Buddha's compassionate Vow was made for all beings equally without exception. That it is because of our foolishness that we are embraced by Amida's light of wisdom and compassion. Shinran opened up the path of liberation from suffering for all people regardless of class or ability. This is why I am grateful for Gutoku Shinran as a whistleblower.

Both Shakyamuni Buddha and Shinran Shonin challenged the rigid social and religious systems of their times. They realized and revealed the truth of how spiritual liberation is possible for all people regardless of status and how the Dharma is equally accessible to all of us. This is why I am grateful for our Buddhist whistleblowers who had the courage to do what was right for the welfare of others. It is because of their efforts we can encounter the Dharma today and into the future. Namo Amida Butsu.

#### **Daily Morning Service**

Start your day with gratitude by chanting the *Shoshinge* together. A daily morning service is held Monday through Saturday beginning at 8:00 am and 7:30 am on Wednesdays.

Written by Shinran Shonin, the *Shoshinge (Hymn of True Entrusting)* is the most popular chant in the Hongwanji tradition because it summarizes the basic teaching of the Pure Land Way and expresses Shinran's gratitude to Amida Buddha and the Seven Masters.

Sutra chanting has a meditative quality which settles our heart and mind, helping us to hear the calling voice of the Buddha. As the Dharma is heard and received, our chanting becomes an expression of profound gratitude for the Buddha's compassion.

Join in the chanting or simply sit and listen to the beautiful words of Shinran. All are welcome!

# Mindfulness Monday

Begin the week with a moment of contemplation and self-reflection at our meditation session. Join us on Mondays from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm for quiet sitting, walking meditation, and sutra chanting. As we calm our mind and body, we can focus on the present moment and hear the calling voice of wisdom and compassion in our lives. All are welcome!

Meditation sessions will be held on November 4, 18 and 25.

# **Compassionate Care**

Providing a compassionate presence through spiritual care is a primary way of caring for Sangha. The Dharma offers guidance and support for our whole lives and especially during times of difficulty. I am here to be a companion to you on life's journey and am available for a private consultation, hospital, or home visitation. Please contact the temple office at 808-323-2993 to schedule an appointment. -Rev. Blayne





Rev. Shinkai Murakami of Wailuku Hongwanji was our guest speaker for Autumn Ohigan on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.



# A CARING PRESENCE WORKSHOP: WAYS OF CARING FOR OTHERS

# Saturday, November 9, 2019 10:00 am to noon Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

This practical and very useful session will help to bring out the "Caring Presence" in all of us as volunteers, family caregivers, neighbors, temple members, and friends. You don't want to miss this free session. All are welcome! Bring a friend or two.

To register, please contact the temple office at 323-2993 or email to <a href="mailto:konahongwanji@twc.com">konahongwanji@twc.com</a> by Friday, November 1, 2019

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### KONA HONGWANJI PRESCHOOL

Kona Hongwanji Preschool is looking for a full-time teacher and a temporary teacher's aide to begin on or after November 1, 2019. All applicants are required to complete the Hawaii Department of Human Services Early Childhood Registry with PATCH. Registry forms are available online or can be obtained through the Director's Office at the preschool. Please direct all inquiries to Leanne Abe at 323-3737 or 796-1720. email address: khp72016@outlook.com

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#### **HEADQUARTERS UPDATE**

**BISHOP'S CORNER** 

Bishop Eric Matsumoto

# A humble reflection in our 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary year in Hawaii



In the last quarter of our 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year in Hawaii, I cannot help by express my gratitude and appreciation to all our predecessors who started and supported (what would eventually become) the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii from its birth in 1889 and its growth and expansion in the ensuing years. The impact of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii especially through its temples in so many local communities across Hawaii including the contributions by its affiliated organizations like the Buddhist Women's Associations (just to name one) and Hongwanji's schools should not be underestimated. As members of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, let us be proud and also gratefully acknowledge the contributions and dedication of so many countless people, within and without of our organization, who have helped us throughout our history. Truly, we, of the present, are indebted to them and there is no way

that we can name and thank each person individually, but they should not be forgotten.

For myself, in preparation for our 130<sup>th</sup> year in Hawaii, more specifically for the Calendar Committee's creating the Hawaii Kyodan Calendar for 2019, I became more conscious and aware of the tremendous role played by, for example, Saiji Kimura, a successful businessman in Hawaii. If you read our history, you will come to know that he was a staunch dedicated lay supporter who helped Rev. Soryu Kagahi both in Hilo and Honolulu. He stands out among many of our dedicated leaders and supporters. I recently found out that there is a huge monument built in his honor at the Moiliili Community Cemetery in Honolulu. Saiji Kimura, eventually, returned to Japan (d. 1913), but he left an enduring legacy here in Hawaii which continues to make a difference even today.

Another person who has impacted not only, we who live in Hawaii, but also people almost half way around the world, is Mary Elizabeth Mikahala Robinson Foster (1844-1930). In far off, India and Sri Lanka she is fondly remembered to this day with stone monuments praising her and even a hospital and a street named in her honor. Did you know that the lady who loved India mentioned in the song "Beautiful Kahana" is none other than Mary Foster? Some have referred to her as the second Visakha. Visakha was a wealthy lay woman who sincerely took refuge in the Three Treasures and most generously supported the Sangha during Sakyamuni Buddha's time. Back here in Hawaii, Mary Foster of Foster Botanical Garden fame ardently supported Bishop Yemyo Imamura and generously, financially and morally, contributed to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii especially to what would eventually become the 1727 Pali Highway campus. Thus, in appreciation of her support, on December 15, 2019 there will be a special service of remembrance and appreciation in her honor at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin at 10AM. The Remembrance, which is open to the Public and other temples, is being planned by Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Office of the Bishop, Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Buddhist Temple, and the recently formed Maha Bodhi Society of Hawaii.

Truly, it is because of the support of the countless members whose names we cannot all mention and those individuals whose efforts have been recorded that we owe our existence. I am sure each temple has people like Saiji Kimura and Mary Foster and so many others to whom we are indebted. Let us respond in gratitude to Amida Buddha and all those who have helped us! In the remaining months of 2019, especially with Eitaikyo upon us, let us take this time to remember everyone with our deepest gratitude and inspired by our predecessors make efforts to leave both a spiritual gift of sharing our joy and appreciation for the Nembutsu Teachings and temple with others in the form of a "Legacy Letter" and a financial legacy by creating an endowment or making a Planned Giving gift, so our temples of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii can continue to share the Dharma with others. In the words of Shinran Shonin, "I praise Amida's wisdom and virtue so that beings with mature conditions throughout the ten quarters may hear. Let those who have realized shinjin constantly respond in gratitude to the Buddha's benevolence." Thank you and Namo Amida Butsu.

#### **OUR PLEDGE**

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii announced and shared the Hawaii Version of His Eminence Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani's "Watashitachi no Chikai' or "Our Pledge."

On the first day of the Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition, he delivered a message entitled "A Way of Living as a Nembutsu Follower," expressing how we should live in the real world as one who encounters the great wisdom and compassion of Amida Tathagata. With the hope of presenting it in a more familiar and understandable way, he has summarized the essence of the message into the following four verses of "Our Pledge." Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii prepared the Hawaii Version as each overseas district is requested to translate "Our Pledge."

#### 私たちのちかい

自分の殻こ閉じこもることなく穏やかな顔と優しい言葉を大切こします

#### 微笑み語)かける仏さまのように

- 一. むさぼり、いかり、おろかさに流されず しなやかな心と振る舞いを心がけます 心安らかな仏さまのように
- 一. 自分だけを大事こすることなく人と 喜びや悲しみを分かち合います慈悲に満ちみちた仏さまのように
- 生かされていることに気づき日々に精一杯つとめます人びとの救いに尽くす仏さまのように

#### **Our Pledge**

Reaching out to others, I will share a smile and gentle words. Just like the Buddha, who always calls out with Aloha.

Breaking away from my greed, anger and ignorance, I will try to live in peace and harmony. Just like the Buddha, who shares tranquility and kindness with all.

Moving forward from self-centeredness, I will share a life of joy and sorrow with others. Just like the Buddha, whose caring heart always embraces us.

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.

#### **CONDOLENCES**

Mr. Barry K. Taniguchi, a member of Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin, passed away on September 20, 2019. He was the former President of Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin and an Advisor of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. He was known throughout the Hawaii Community as a business and community leader and chairman of the board and CEO of KTA Super Stores. He served on numerous business, community and health- and human-services boards and organizations. He was honored as a Living Treasure of Hawaii in 2015. The Hawaii Kyodan Funeral Service was held at Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin on Friday, October 18, 2019 under the officiation of Bishop Eric Matsumoto. The Ingo (Posthumous Title) of DAI-RI-IN 大小院which means "One who made manifest great benefit" in recognition of his life of nembutsu was conferred.

#### MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS

**Reverend Joshin Kamuro**, an associate minister of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, will be assigned to Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin as its Associate Minister as of November 16, 2019.

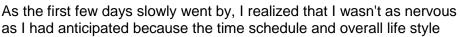
<u>Rev. Shingo Furusawa</u>, currently serving as the Headquarters as the Office of Buddhist Education Assistant half-time and the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Associate Minister half-time, will be relieved from the current duties and assigned to Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its full-time Associate Minister as of November 16, 2019.

#### **TOKUDO ORDINATION**

Blayne Nakasone Sakata, who is attending the Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin (Central Buddhist Seminary) as a Hawaii Kyodan Scholarship Student, completed the Tokudo Session on September 6-16, 2019 at

Nishiyama Betsuin in Kyoto, Japan. At the end of the session, he attended the Tokudo Ordination Ceremony in Hongwanji in Kyoto and became a Jodo Shinshu minister. The following is his comment:

"Before going to Tokudo, I was very nervous because of all the stories I heard from other ministers commenting how strict and rigorous the training will be for the next ten days without technology. Also I couldn't get the fact that I had to shave my head and detach myself from my phone for a whole ten days. But in the beginning of the program, I was extremely nervous, there were so many things happening and we had to adjust to the strict schedule they had planned. I also couldn't believe that I was finally here thanks to the gracious support of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii. But I was the only foreigner in a pool of Japanese and no one spoke any English and I had no dictionary, I was on the deep end of the pool.





was the same as living in the dorms at my school, Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin. For the services and rituals training, I realized, as did my friends that it was things we already knew and things we have been practicing for months. My friends and I were surprised at how much free/ spare time we had where we sat around in our room practicing for the verbal tests we had but majority of it was us talking and joking around. Since we had so much time, I started to draw to pass time. When it came to the verbal tests, my heart was pounding and my hands were clamming up and you could hear the nervousness in my voice, but I knocked all the tests out within the first two days and after I could really relax. The rest of the days it was a breeze but as the ten days were coming to a slow end, it was hard to believe that all these past years was a culmination to that very movement of me, a local boy from Hawaii with all these Japanese people becoming a Jodo Shinshu minister. For that, I really have to thank my school, Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin as well as Pacific Buddhist Academy and especially to the ministers in Hawaii, the Hongwanji Kyodan, and lay members for creating multitudes of opportunities for me to learn and grow as a Buddhist in preparation for Tokudo."

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#### August 31<sup>st</sup> a first and a last...

On August 31<sup>st</sup> the Kona Hongwanji Taiko Group had the privilege of playing at Na'alehu Hongwanji's bon dance. This was their first bon dance in over 10 years. So many people pitched in to help put it together and so many people from near and far came to support it. Despite a little rain it still was a wonderful night!

But sadly all good things must come to an end. Na'alehu's bon dance was the last bon dance for our taiko group to perform at. It was a very hectic season. We played at 9 dances this season from Pa'auilo to Na'alehu. We traveled about 507.8 miles this season and played about 286 songs that's 19.07 hours of play time but we enjoyed every minute of it! From our newbies to our seasoned drummers you all pulled through!

There were so many people and organizations involved in assisting our taiko group that we need to say THANK YOU...

To all the parents, family members and friends who take the time out to bring your child to practices and

events and who help with the set up/clean up of many of our events. Also those who do many of the behind the scenes stuff like running the PA, selling items and taking care of the food/drinks to feed us.

To our groups "transportation engineers" thank you for hauling all our equipment.

To all the temples and dance leaders who invite us to come and play. We always enjoy the fellowships and hospitality!

To our very own Kona Hongwanji dance leaders, dancers, Shinwakai and Kyodan for supporting us on many occasions.

To Michael Sato and Betty Takeoka for always coming to our aide in Fukushima Ondo.

To the Zumba Crew, Momiji No Ha and Kona Daifukuji Taiko for always providing us with great entertainment!

Rev. Higa for putting up with us coming home late at night to unload andmaking big noise....sorry if we woke you up! LOL!

And lastly to ALL the drummers...great job! Thank you for being a part of this group. Without you none of this is possible. Now you can take some well deserved R&R time but when practice resumes it starts all over again. "Newbies"....this you are not anymore so no more freebies LOL!!



United of Hawaii Jr. YBA and the Kona Hongwanji Taiko Group at the Honokaa Peace Day Parade on September 21<sup>st</sup>

Once again thank you to everyone! Till next season...

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#### Sunday Sept 29, 2019 Dharma Talk - Jim Miller

When Reverend Blayne asked me if I would give a short talk, "Of course. I'd be happy to." came out of my mouth...but there was a tiny voice in the back of my mind saying, "No...no...no...remember the last time you were asked to speak? When you asked what to speak about you were told, 'Anything is OK. Whatever you want to talk about.' And, when you asked how long to speak, you were told, 'Talk as long as you want to.' And you had no idea what to talk about nor how long to talk. Remember?

This time is different because Rev. Blayne gave me a hint on what to talk about and told me to talk until I was finished or until people start falling asleep. So, if you want me to stop, close your eyes and snore...

Reverend. Blayne gave me 2 questions to address today. The 1st was, "What drew you to this Hongwanji?" There are 2 parts to my answer.

Many of you remember my Aunty Ethel. Usually when we talked, she had a bright cheerful voice and would say things like, "My friends and I went to McDonalds this morning. We stayed for 3 hours talking and drinking coffee. You come next time!" (Nope. Not gonna happen.)

And mischievous...when I first began coming with her, she'd introduce me to her friends saying, "This is my cousin, Jim." Her friends would look at me and then at her and then back at me and back at her...while she would just sit and smile...

But, when she wanted something, she'd make her voice crack and sound like a pitiful little old lady. "Oh Jim...could you drive me to church on Sunday? I really want to go, and I don't have any way to get there. Do you think you could drive me?" Couldn't tell her no. So, I went to Catholic service on Saturdays and here on Sundays.

It continued like that for some time. Then one day after service, she disappeared for awhile. When she came back, she said, "Jim. You're a member of the church now. I signed you up." What? "I even signed your name for you." What?! "All you have to do is go pay your dues..." What?!! And so I became a member.

Now the second part of my answer: My wife's grandfather was Rev. Ryugen Matsuda. I believe he was a minister on Maui around the time of WW2. When my wife's father wanted to marry her mother, one of the stipulations was that he convert to Buddhism. From the time I met him (after he got over the fact that a white devil was going to marry one of his daughters...which took a loooooong time) we'd go fishing or for a drive and talk and he'd ask all kinds of questions like:

What do you think happens after you die?

What makes you unhappy? Why?

Why did you drink the last beer? I wanted it.

The grandmother from the beginning would give me things to read. Simple things at first and deeper, more complicated things as time went on. When my family would visit, she would take my children into her room after breakfast to chant sutras and have snack. And, she explained things like the 4 noble truths, the 8 fold path to them and me. Things that you all grew up with and knew from childhood, but for me...a whole new way of looking at things.

It took me a long time to realize that they were setting me up... But, all of this information stayed in my mind stewing away until Ethel signed me up. More importantly, they resonated with something deep inside me.

So, here I am and Aunty Ethel is not...which leads right into Rev Blayne's 2nd question: What keeps you coming back? This, too, has two parts to the answer.

You know how the 3 poisons Greed Anger and Stupidity keep getting mentioned over and again? Either directly or indirectly? In fact, Reverend Blayne mentioned them earlier this morning. Well, I think I have a pretty good handle on the Greed...not much I desperately want. The second one, anger, I think it's pretty much under control, too...until I deal with the donkeys at Uchida farm. They're almost as stubborn as I am. But, I realize that thinking that way: that I've got it under control shows how ignorant I am. But, if I keep listening to the messages that Rev Blayne and others share, there may be hope for me yet.

The other thing that keeps me coming back are the 3 treasures: the Buddha, the dharma and especially the sangha.

The 3rd treasure, the sangha, that's you. You're the treasure...the community.

The community that teaches me, "You should be grateful each day and monku iwanaide."

The community who corrects and advises me when I make mistakes.

The community that teaches by example and not merely by empty words.

The community that welcomed and accepted me and welcomes and accepts others.

The community that embodies the message of the dharma.

The community that keeps me coming back.

For all that, I thank all y'all

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# HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

1727 PALI HIGHWAY / HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 / PH: 522-9200 / FAX: 522-9209

October 1, 2019

To:

Temple Presidents Resident Ministers

Subject: 2019-2020 Social Concerns Fund Drive

We celebrate gratitude in the month of November. The Thanksgiving holiday and the Eitaikyo observance are reminders of the countless blessings in our lives and how we live deeply connected to the world around us. It is in this spirit of gratitude that we begin our Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive. The fund drive will be from November, 2019 through August, 2020 and we request temples to submit their collected donations in September 2020.

Through the generous contributions of Sangha members, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is able to support worthy organizations and programs with funding to continue their work in our community. Your support also allows us to provide compassionate action during times of disaster and the ability to respond to social issues affecting our community.

Because of your commitment to promoting the Buddhist values of compassion and loving kindness, we are able to lend our support to such organizations as the Hawaii Community Foundation, Project Dana, Mana Olana Shelter, Family Promise Hawaii, Hawaii People's Fund, A Cup of Cold Water, Hawaii, and various food banks on each island.

The Golden Chain Grant program was established to promote compassionate action through innovative community service projects. Your generosity directly helps those in need and promotes a more humane world.

Envelopes have been provided to temples wishing to use them. If your temple did not request envelopes but would like to use them, please feel free to ask as there are extra envelopes available in limited supply. Please make all checks payable to YOUR TEMPLE. Your temple treasurer will then make one combined check to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. The suggested donation is the cost of just one meal per person.

Your kokua is greatly appreciated. Please encourage your members to continue supporting the Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive. Mahalo!

Eric T. Matsumoto

Bishop

Dean Sakamoto, Co-Chair Committee on Social Concerns

De a Ochanh

Rev. Blayne Higa, Co-Chair Committee on Social Concerns

cc: President Pieper Toyama

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#### **BWA News**

On October 5, 2019, the Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations elected officers for 2020-2021. Kona BWA President Linda Nagai was selected as Federation 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.

The newly elected officers are Honorary President – Tamayo Matsumoto, Immediate Past President – Irene Nakamoto, President – Lois Toyama, 1st VP – Linda Nagai, 2nd VP – Sharon Nohara, Secretary – Carole Tsutsumi, Asst. Secretary – Susan Morishige, Treasurer – Donna Higashi, Asst. Treasurer – Fay Tateishi, Auditor – June Asato, Auditor – Minako Kamuro.

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, the Kona Hongwanji BWA hosted the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Hawaii Island United Buddhist Women's Association Convention. The theme was "Embrace Change: Transformation (Walk in Peace)". Over 80 delegates from various Hawaii Island temples were in attendance. BWA delegates joined our regular Dharma Family Service and participated in an educational seminar on the "Sikh Concept of Dana" presented by Ravi Inder Singh and Annie Kroeger. The delegates also honored our dedicated Ministers by presenting them with a Resolution of Appreciation and a beautifully decorated and delicious cake, everyone enjoyed a fellowship lunch and concluded the day with a general membership meeting.





# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

#### SPECIAL DONATIONS

Wayne Nishida, Youth Activities Ellen Nishikawa, Gotan-E Service Ray Oyama, In Memory of Tamotsu Oyama Setsuyo Fujino and Aaron & Dara Uemura, In Memory of George Fujino's 7<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary

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#### **Acknowledgments continued:**

Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Ikeda

Sonia Kim-Swindells, Temple Visitation

Ken Love, In Memory of Toshio Yoshizaki and Asako Pratt

Janet Maeda, Saga Goryu Ikebana Class

Mr. & Mrs. David Miyashita, Jr. YBA and Dharma School

Mr. & Mrs. Earl Ogata, In Memory of Mom's Birthday

Masao Tamekuni & Family, Temple Visitation

Satsuye Tanaka, In Memory of Fuji Matsumoto

Toyoko Urada, Hatsubon In Memory of Gihachi Urada, Maki Urada, Ernest Urada, Sahei Matsumoto and Fuji Matsumoto

Nobuko Aoki & Family, In Memory of Yachiyo Kukita's 13th Year Anniversary

Naalehu Hongwanji Mission, Assistance with Bon Dance

Suga Suzuki, In Memory of the Late Saeko Sato

Mr. & Mrs. James Tashima, In Memory of Hisaae Inouye and Shizue Noguchi

Carol Tokunaga, In Memory of Misae Tokunaga

Fay Wong

Brian & Gina Yasuda, In Memory of George Fujino's 7<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary

Carol Ikeda, Monday Meditation Service

Robert Kobzi, Monday Meditation Service

Sally Murakami, Project Dana and Social Concerns

Saxon Nagata, Use of Facilities

Ray Oyama, In Memory of Uncle, Minoru Kawakami

Mr. & Mrs. Shizuya Sakata, Grandparent's Day, Peace Day and Autumn O-Higan Services

Gail & Lane Shibata, In Memory of Tsuyoki Nakashima

Doris Sugihara, In Memory of Tsuyoki Nakashima

Total - \$2,120.00

## **MEMORIAL SERVICES**

Shirley Sato, Funeral Service & Related Expenses for Saeko Sato Evelyn Miyose, Funeral Service & Realated Expenses for Janey Miyose Guy Nagata, In Memory of Brother Duane

Total - \$860.00

#### **HAKASOJI and NOKOTSUDO**

Mr. & Mrs. Claude Onizuka Kurashige 2013 Lynn Nakamura Bart Aoki & Martin Low Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Fujino Mark Thrift Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Ikeda Mr. & Mrs. David Miyashita Takao Katoku Grace Rivera Claudia Sato Alice Kawamoto Mr. & Mrs. Goichi Toyooka Ellen Tanioka Edna Yamashita Jenny Uemura-Sano Kay Horibata Ray Kawahara Sharon Langsi Gayle Nishikawa Helen Oue Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka Toyoko Urada Doris Yoshitake Fav Wong Sally Deguchi Hiroshi Fuiino Linda Iwasaki Jenny Nakashima Loretta Kitaoka

Mr. & Mrs. Claude Onizuka

Richard & Marilyn Hirata, In Memory of Yonezo & Sadae Oshima Family Hanako Sheldon, In Memory of Robert Sheldon's 28<sup>th</sup> Memorial Anniversary

Total - \$2,530.46

# **Acknowledgments continued:**

### <u>JIHO</u>

Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Ikeda Jenny Uemura-Sano Lilly Ushiroda Mr. & Mrs. David Miyashita Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka Jenny Nakashima Total – 340.00 Takao Katoku Ray Kawahara Elaine Rabacal

### **SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER SUNDAY SERVICES**

Total - \$678.00

#### **AUTUMN O-HIGAN SERVICE**

Mr. & Mrs. Colin Byars Geri Ann Davidson Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gusman Mr. & Mrs. Hiroki Ishimaru Mr. & Mrs. Yoshiyuki Kaneko Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Kunitake Mr. & Mrs. Gail Masunaga Jim Miller Mitsuo & Irie Nagai Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina Mr. & Mrs. Michael Oshiro Raymond & Susan Takiue John & Shelly Tsue Mr. & Mrs. Michitoshi Murakami Ellen Nishikawa

Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Chong Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Fujikawa Mr. & Mrs. Sadayuki Inouye Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko Mr. & Mrs. Daren Katayama Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo Satsuko Matsuoka Kimie Mizoshiri Linda Nagai Mr. & Mrs. Takeo Nakasone Helen Oishi Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeok Mark & Medkes Thrift Mr. & Mrs. Chad Yamamoto Mr. & Mrs. George Nakamoto Mr. & Mrs. Ichiro Shikada Mr. & Mrs. Wavne Yamauchi Total - \$902.00 Lisa Ciriako Fujie Ichishita Mary Katayama Lillian Koshi Nora Koyanagi Janet Lindner Alan Matsumoto Yooko Moriguchi Morris Nagata Chizu Nakashima Carol Okuna Suga Suzuki Elaine Chapman Sandy Iwashita Keith Nishihara James Sato Doris Yamamoto

#### **CAPITAL FUNDS**

Howard Yamasaki Mr. & Mrs. David Miyashita

Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Matsumoto

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Kunitake Takao Katoku Mark Thrift

#### **HAWAII KYODAN DUES**

Howard Yamasaki Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Ikeda Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka Mark Thrift Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Kunitake Hiroshi Fujino Hisako Hatta Takao Katoku ^^^^^^

# **CONDOLENCES**

Mrs. Janet Mieko Miyose of Kailua-Kona passed away on July 17, 2019 at her family residence in Kailua-Kona at the age of 93.

Mrs. Jane Emiko Fenske of Kailua-Kona passed away on September 23, 2019 at Life Care Center of Kona at the age of 87.

Kona Hongwanji extends our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family and relatives of those members who recently passed away. May the wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha surround you and your family with loving memories of your loved one in the years to come.

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# \* \* \* MOCHI SALE by KONA HONGWANJI JR YBA \* \* \*

# Pick-up on MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2019 Time: NOON - 4:00 PM

This will be the 36th year the Jr YBA is sponsoring the Mochi Sale. This is a great service project for our Jr YBA members to give back to the temple members and families. The funds raised will help pay for Jr YBA members to attend YESS Camp (Young Enthusiastic Shinshu Seekers) and the annual Jr YBA State Convention.

	ORDER FORM (Ke	ep for	your reco	ord)			
		-	PRICE	_	QUANTITY		TOTAL
1 pound (approx 10 pieces)	MOCHI - PLAIN	\$	5.00	Х		\$	
1 pound (approx 10 pieces)	MOCHI - WITH ANKO	\$	7.00	Х		\$	
1 set (2 layers, 4" diameter)	OKAZARI MOCHI	\$	6.00	Х	=	\$	
		Don	ation to K	ona F	ongwanji Jr YBA	\$	
Thank you very much for supporting Kona Hongwanji Jr YBA!							
	ORDER DEADLINE: FRID	AY, D	ECEMBE	R 13,	2019		
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	ORDER FORM (Please re	turn w	ith your p	payme	nt)		
AME:				PH	ONE #: HOME		
					CELL:		
		_	PRICE		QUANTITY		TOTAL
1 pound (approx 10 pieces)	MOCHI - PLAIN	\$	5.00	Χ	=	\$	
1 pound (approx 10 pieces)	MOCHI - WITH ANKO	\$	7.00	Χ	=	\$	
1 set (2 layers, 4" diameter)	OKAZARI MOCHI	\$	6.00	X	=	\$	
		Dona	ition to K	ona H	ongwanji Jr YBA	\$	
					TOTAL	\$	
lease mail or drop off your order & payment to:			Kona Hongwanji Jr YBA PO Box 769 Kealakekua HI 96750				
lease make your check payak	ole to: KONA HON	IGWA	NJI JR YB	BA			
	very much for suppo				wanii I- VD A	,	