

KONA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE



**E - JIHO
March 2020**



Theme & Slogan 2020:

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity and Openness

Eshinni-Kakushinni Day Service
Sunday, March 1, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Mrs. Lois Toyama, President
of the Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations
English Service only—Sponsored by BWA

HAIB Buddha Day Service
Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. in Social Hall
Guest Speaker: Rev. Satoshi Tomioka, Resident Minister of Puna Hongwanji
Flowers needed for Hanamido Saturday, March 7, 2020 by 5 p.m.
Leave in bucket outside of Conference Room

This event is sponsored by the Hawaii Association of International Buddhists (HAIB), whose purpose is to foster friendships and understanding among all Buddhist groups and to organize programs for the achievement of peace and harmony for all humankind.

Everyday Buddhism Seminar

"Buddhism IRL (In Real Life)"
with Rev. Alan Urasaki
Saturday, March 21, 2020
1:00pm-2:30pm

Everyone is welcome to attend this free seminar on practical everyday Buddhism. Donation appreciated.

Spring O-Higan Service
Sunday, March 22, 2020 — English Service at 9:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Rev. Alan Urasaki, Supervisory Chaplain
of the Federal Detention Center in Honolulu

"Higan" means "the other shore." It is an abbreviation for "*to higan*" meaning reaching the other shore (of Nirvana)." Conducted during the vernal and autumnal equinoxes when days and nights are of equal length. It is a service of reflection when practices should meditate on the harmony in our inner lives. During the week long events/activities, emphasis is placed on observance of the Six Paramitas (percepts) which lead to "the other shore". Paramita is the Sanskrit for "gone to other shore".

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

MARCH

1 Sunday ...	9:00 AM...	Eshinni-Kakushinni Day Service
4 Wednesday ...	9:30 AM ...	Service @ Hualalai Regency
	11:00 AM ...	Service @ Life Care Center
5 Thursday ...	thru 6 Friday	BSC Spring Seminar in Honolulu
8 Sunday ...	9:30 AM ...	HAIB Buddha Day Service
12 Thursday ...	9:30 AM ...	Preschool Temple Visitation
13 Friday ...	8:30 AM ...	Senior Activity Program
15 Sunday ...	9:00 AM ...	Dharma Family Service
21 Saturday ...	8:00 AM ...	Omigaki – 1 Food Prep – 2
	1:00 PM ...	Buddhist Education Seminar w/Rev. Alan Urasaki
22 Sunday ...	9:00 AM ...	Spring O-Higan Service
29 Sunday ...	-----	NO SUNDAY SERVICE

APRIL

1 Wednesday ...	9:30 AM ...	Service @ Hualalai Regency
	11:00 AM ...	Service @ Life Care Center
3 Friday ...	6:00 PM ...	Preschool Spring Program
5 Sunday ...	9:00 AM ...	Hanamatsuri Service
8 Wednesday ...	7:00 PM ...	Board of Director's Meeting
9 Thursday ...	9:30 AM ...	Preschool Temple Visitation
10 Friday ...	8:30 AM ...	Senior Activity Program
12 Sunday ...	9:00 AM ...	Dharma Family Service
19 Sunday ...	9:00 AM ...	Pet Appreciation & Memorial Service
26 Sunday ...	9:00 AM ...	Dharma Family Service
	-----	Judo Club Fishing Tournament

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 1ST WEDNESDAY
EVERY TUESDAY BOY SCOUT TROOP 59 MEETING AT 7:00 PM

TAIKO PRACTICE

EVERY THURSDAY TAIKO PRACTICE AT 5:30 PM
TAIKO MEETING EVERY 2ND THURSDAY IN THE SOCIAL HALL AT 6:45 PM

JUDO PRACTICE

JUDO CLUB MEETING EVERY 1ST 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

IKEBANA

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY AT 9:00 AM IN THE SCOUT ROOM



Last month, I began introducing the meaning of *Our Pledge* and covered the first two verses which articulate how we can live with aloha. The final two verses remind us how we should share aloha with others.

The third verse of *Our Pledge* says:

*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.

The Buddha taught us that all our problems come from our self-centeredness when we think that only oneself is important. This is the delusion of ignorance when we think that “Me” is the only thing that matters. The Dharma teaches us that “Me” should really become “We”. The idea of “Self” is important in American culture. However, focusing only on oneself leads to disharmony and suffering. We discover our true selves only when we realize the truth of interdependence.

There are many examples of self-centeredness in our society. Many of our business and political leaders perpetuate the myth of the “self-made” individual. This is the corrosive and destructive American myth which says that everything that I am is because of me alone...separate from everyone and everything. The Dharma teaches us that this is a lie. This is delusion and ignorance in its most basic form.

What is true and real is understanding that “We” are in this life together. Our founder Shinran, taught that we are *ondobo ondogyo* or “fellow travelers”. This is why in my aspiration each week I remind us of this way of viewing our lives together as one Sangha, one family.

The Dharma teaches us to broaden our perspective and to identify with and to try to understand another person’s situation. We are unable to perfectly understand another person’s perspective because we are not the same. However, we can try to empathize and think of others guided by the truth of interdependence and Buddha’s boundless compassion which has no distinction between self and others. Because we are fellow travelers, we share in the fullness of life together. Just like how the Buddha is with us throughout our lives. Namo 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. Namo Amida Butsu can help us meet life’s challenges with greater courage, comfort, and peace. Temple is a place for our whole lives. The Buddha is always with us, the Dharma is always guiding us, and the Sangha is always there to support us.

The final verse of *Our Pledge* says:

*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.

It is important for us to realize that we cannot live without the support of others and the Buddha’s limitless compassion. When things go as we wish, life is sweet, and we tend to take things for granted. When things don’t go as we plan, and life is bitter, we tend to dwell in despair. It is important to know that we are all connected and there is always somebody and something behind our accomplishments and all our life experiences. The definition of gratitude in Buddhism is to know what has been done for us. This is expressed in the Japanese phrase of *okagesamade*.

Our Shin Buddhist way of life is a life of awareness and gratitude. When we realize that we are living thanks to the support and help of others, we should try to respond to this generosity. The idea of I am what I am because of you will guide us to appreciate a life supported by others. All our actions should arise from gratitude in response to the Buddha’s benevolence.

Understanding *okagesamade* is the foundation for sharing aloha with others. Reflect on the verses of *Our Pledge* and see how they can inspire deep reflection and grateful action in response to the Buddha’s boundless compassion. This is how to truly live the teachings. 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!

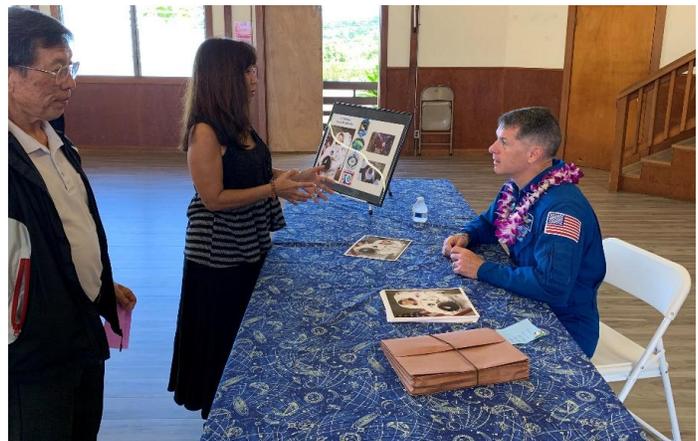
Mindfulness Monday

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!

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

Onizuka Memorial Service



BWA News



On February 2nd, the Kona BWA honored the following centenarians: Mrs. Setsuko Deguchi, Mrs. Nobue Teshima, and Mrs. Sumiko Yamamoto (Pictured). Mrs. Sally Murakami and Mrs. Mildred Kaneko (Pictured) were also honored as Keirosha. Mahalo to all the honorees for your dedication to the BWA and Kona Hongwanji!

Giseikai 2020

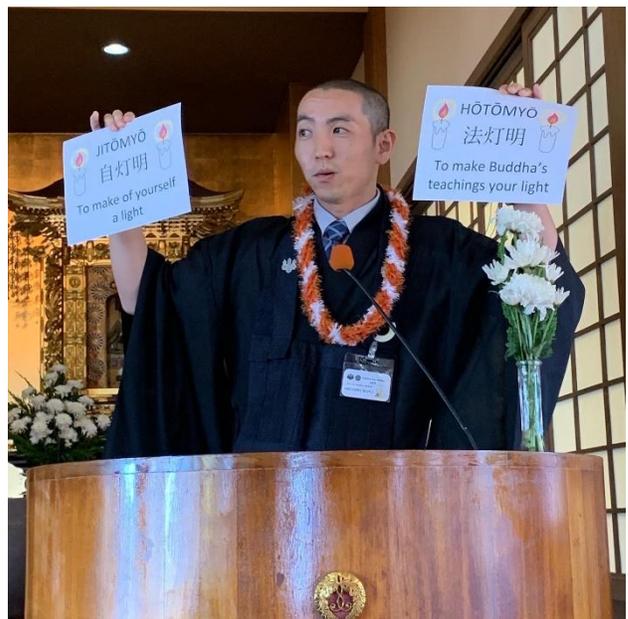


Joey Gusman, Linda Nagai, and Rev. Blayne attend the 108th Legislative Assembly of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii held at Hawaii Betsuin on February 7-8. Can you guess the familiar face in the background?



The 45th Annual Living Treasures of Hawaii banquet sponsored by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii was held on February 8th. This year's honorees were: Carolee Nishi, Dr. Larry Kimura, Sachie Saigusa, and Robert Cazimero.

Nirvana Day Service



We welcomed Rev. Shinsho Hata of Hilo Taishoji Soto Mission as our guest speaker for our Nirvana Day Service on February 9th.

2020 Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon



We recognized our Keirokai honorees for 2020: Janet Kunitake, Richard Nagata, George Shimamoto, Nobuko Shimamoto, Fred Uchima and Kenneth Uyeda. Thank you for all that you do for our Sangha!

Congratulations to our newly elected Temple Officers and Directors! Morris Nagata (Immediate Past President), Joseph Gusman (President), Linda Nagai (Vice President), Wendy Terada (Secretary), Elaine Nakagawa (Assistant Secretary), Dean Uemura (Treasurer), Steven Kaneko (Assistant Treasurer), Jim Miller (Auditor), Pauline Oshiro (Auditor), Aaron Nagata (Member Welfare Director), Betty Takeoka (Spiritual Affairs Director), Claudia Chang (Youth Programs Director), Marsha Boyle (BWA Director).



Mary Katayama was recognized for her many years of serving on our Temple Board and as Project Dana Coordinator. Project Dana Executive Director Cyndi Osajima and Big Island Coordinator Claudia Ueda also made a special presentation. Mahalo Mary for all that you do!



We enjoyed lots of ono food and fellowship during our Annual

Donations Needed for Taste of Hongwanji

Kona Hongwanji has been invited to participate in the Hawaii Betsuin Taste of Hongwanji Spring Bazaar on March 29th. We are excited to be a vendor at this very popular event in Honolulu. Rev. Blayne, some temple members, and friends will run a booth selling specialty items from Kona. We plan to sell Kukui Nut Onenju, Avocado, and Kona Coffee.

We are asking for donations of Avocado and Kona Coffee. Avocados should be solid for shipping to Honolulu. Coffee should be pre-packaged roasted ground or whole bean (up to 1 pound).

Please drop off all donations to the temple by Friday, March 20th.

You kokua is also needed with making Onenju. Announcements will be made during service.

Thank you very much for your support of this temple sustainability project. For more information, please contact Rev. Blayne. Mahalo!

Eshinni and Kakushinni Day Service

Eshinni and Kakushinni were the wife and daughter of Shinran, who are remembered for their support in bringing his teachings to all. Shinran developed the profound insights that are the basis for Shin Buddhism, but he had not intended to start a new school of Buddhism. It is through the efforts of Eshinni and Kakushinni that Shinran's teachings are available to us today.

Our Eshinni and Kakushinni Day Service will be on March 1st at 9:00am.

Mrs. Lois Toyama, President of the Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations will be our guest speaker. Lois is a member of Jikoen Hongwanji and is married to Pieper Toyama, former President of Hawaii Kyodan. Please join us in remembering Eshinni and Kakushinni!



Spring Ohigan

Ohigan services occur twice a year around the spring and fall equinox when the daylight and nighttime are equal. In many ancient cultures, it was a time of celebration to remind us of our deep connection to the

Thus, without the dancers, their families, and friends, there would be no bon dance, and no reason for taiko drummers. They depend on our drumming, and we depend upon their participation.

“One-ness” through connection and dependency does not just apply to taiko drummers... not just to those of us here at temple today... this “one-ness” applies to everyone, to everything! Have you heard about the “six degrees of separation”? Six degrees of separation is an idea that all people are six, or fewer, social connections away from each other; that any two people on this planet can be connected within six steps. For example, that’s your (1) mother’s – (2) cousin’s – (3) neighbor’s – (4) daughter’s – (5) best friend’s – (6) grandma... yeah, that’s how we’re connected!

And “one-ness” is not just for people, last week Rev. Blayne said when we say the Three Treasures, the three are not individual and separate treasures, but rather, they are taken all together as “one”! See Rev. Blayne... I was paying attention!

Gratitude: We should try to be grateful for what we have in this moment. We often suffer when we desire something but it does not happen.

*** Sometimes we wish we could alter the past, but that is not possible; what has occurred is done. In taiko, you may miss a beat... let it go, that’s in the past and it can’t be changed! Focus too much on the past and you may screw up what you are currently playing!

*** Sometimes we wish for something to occur, but there are no guarantees of future results. We do not have full control of what will happen in the future. In taiko, if you start thinking too far into the future, such as thinking “you got this” and you are going to play “perfectly” to the end... again, you may end up losing focus and play out of rhythm.

*** So we try to focus on the here-and-now... the present. If we are grateful for what we have at this moment, then there are less things that can cause us suffering. For taiko, we try to stay in the moment; stay in rhythm on the current beat; be grateful you have this moment to play with your fellow taiko members!

One of my favorite movie lines is by Master Oogway from the movie “Kung Fu Panda” when he says, “Yesterday is history... tomorrow is a mystery... but TODAY is a GIFT. That is why it is called the ‘present!’”

Focus on the present moment... enjoy and appreciate this unrepeatable moment. This moment will soon become the past, it will be gone; and there is no guarantee of a future (e.g. “The Epistle on White Ashes” by Rennyo Shonin... “our bodies may be radiant with health in the morning, but by the evening they may be white ashes”). So just be grateful for THIS moment!

There are many more concepts in our Buddhist tradition, for example, Karma and Acceptance, just to name a couple more. And for me, these fall within “One-ness” and “Gratitude”. Karmic causes and conditions... what someone else did may impact me, and what I do may impact someone else... that’s part of being connected and dependent on each other.

Acceptance... if I am truly grateful for what I have, grateful for this moment, then, it is easier to “accept” my current condition. And if I can accept, then I should experience less suffering. Acceptance is tied to gratitude.

In conclusion, I come back full circle to Mindfulness... of being “aware”. If I am **aware of “one-ness”**, of my connections and dependencies... if I am **aware of gratitude**, of everything I should be truly grateful for, which helps lead to acceptance... then, with the awareness of “one-ness” and gratitude, I should be in a better position to view things; to view things NOT as “right or wrong”, but rather, just how things are... without judgement. And life should then be more joyful !

Acknowledgements Continued:

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Judy Amano & Family, In Memory of Katsumi & Yukito Takamoto
Janet Fujikawa & Family, 3rd Year Memorial Service for Yukito Takamoto and 1st Year
Memorial Service for Katsumi Takamoto
Sharon Hynynen, 1st Year Service for Katsumi Takamoto and 3rd Year Service for Yukito
Takamoto
Alan Matsumoto, Funeral Service & Related Expenses for Glenn Tatsuki Matsumoto
Rose Onaka, 7th Year Service for Lyndon Onaka
Kathy Takamoto & Family, 1st Year Service for Katsumi Takamot & 3rd Year Service for
Yukito Takamoto
Boyce Aoki & Family, 49th Day Service In Memory of Dale Aoki
Brice Aoki, 49th Day Service In Memory of Dale Aoki
Dale Aoki Family, 49th Day Service fo Dale Aoki
Leon Aoki & Family, 49th Day Service In Memory of Dale Aoki
Sidney Aoki & Family, 49th Day Service in Memory of Dale Aoki
Claudia Chang, In Memory of Dale Aoki
Shirley Matsuoka, Funeral Service & Related Expenses for George Matsuoka
Arnold & Lynn Tokuyama & Family, 49th Day Service In Memory of Dale Aoki
Glenn & Pauline Yano, 49th Day Service for Dale K. Aoki
Total - \$1,975.00

JANUARY and FEBRUARY SUNDAY SERVICES

Total - \$846.00

GOSHOKI HOONKO SERVICES

Geri Ann Aoki-Davidson	Mr. & Mrs. Colin Byars	Marsha Boyle
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Chon	Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Fujikawa	Lisa Ciriako
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gusman	Blanche Hiraishi	Hisako Hirai
Mr. & Mrs. Sadayuki Inouye	Nelson Harano	Fujie Ichishita
Mr. & Mrs. Hiroki Ishimaru	Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko	Mary Katayama
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko	Mr. & Mrs. Yoshiyuki Kaneko	Nancy Katayama
Mr. & Mrs. Daren Katayama	Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Kunitake	Sachi Katoku
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kunitomo	Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo	Nora Koyanagi
Janet Lindner	Lori Marcello	Cheryl Marshall
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka	Ann Matsumoto	Norma Matsumoto
Deron Matsuoka	Shirley Matsuoka	Satsuko Matsuoka
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano	Morris Nagata	Linda Nagai
Chizu Nakashima	Shigeko Nakasone	Helen Oishi
Carol Okuna	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Oshiro	Kazumi Oshita
Suga Suzuki	Eugene & Richelle Tagawa	Alan Matsumoto
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue	John & Shelley Tsue	Makiko Yamaguchi
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Hayama	Mr. & Mrs. Michitoshi Murakami	Sandy Iwashita
Mr. & Mrs. George Nakamoto	Mr. & Mrs. Ichiro Shikada	Keith Nishihara
Ellen Nishikawa	Suga Suzuki	Doris Yamamoto

Total - \$1, 160.00

Acknowledgements Continued:

NIRVANA DAY SERVICE

Mr. & Mrs. Colin Byars
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Chong
Mr. & Mrs. Sadayuki Inouye
Mr. & Mrs. Gail Masunaga
Ann Matsumoto
Yooko Moriguchi
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue

Claudia Chang
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gusman
Mr. & Mrs. Hiroki Ishimaru
Sachi Katoku
Satsuko Matsuoka
Morris Nagata
Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina
Helen Oishi
John & Susan (Sasaki) Uliveto
Total - \$349.00

Elaine Chapman
Lisa Ciriako
Mary Katayama
Alan Matsumoto
Kimie Mizoshiri
Elaine Nakagawa
Chizu Nakashima
Suga Suzuki
Lilly Ushiroda