



JHO

December 2021



Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Building Healthy Sanghas: Nurturing Empathy and Respect

Dharma Family Services

Please join us for our hybrid online and in person services and events in December. All services will begin at 10:00 am on Zoom (unless otherwise noted). A link to join the service will be emailed to you a few days before. Please contact the office to be included in our email list to receive weekly temple updates and information. We look forward to seeing you online or in person!

Bodhi Day

Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 10:00 am
Guest Speaker: Rev. Richard Tennes
Resident Minister, Kahului Hongwanji Mission



Please join us in person or online for this service celebrating the Buddha's Enlightenment. *Bodhi* is the Sanskrit word for enlightenment. Bodhi Day is when Siddhartha Gautama attained enlightenment and became Shakyamuni Buddha. Siddhartha was 35 when he realized Truth. As a Buddha, he shared the Dharma for 45 years until his death at age 80.



Pet Appreciation Service

Sunday, December 19, 2021 at 10:00 am
Sangha Speaker: Carol Ikeda

You are invited to this in-person service honoring the furry, feathered, or fluffy members of our families. We celebrate the companionship and unconditional love they bring into our lives. Pets are most welcome to attend with their owners. Please keep all animals on a leash or in a carrier. You may also bring a photo or memento of a deceased pet to be remembered.

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: Joseph Gusman (Emergency only 808-896-4988 or 808-324-0708)

KONA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

P.O. Box 769

Kealahou, HI 96750

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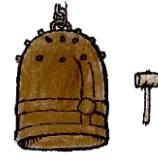
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Additional Services

New Year's Eve Bell Ringing

Friday, December 31, 2021

5:30 pm to 6:30 pm



You are cordially invited to visit the temple to offer incense and for the traditional ringing of the temple bell (Joya no Kane), a symbolic ringing away of our delusions that permeate our everyday lives. The last day of the year is an opportunity to reflect upon the past year in preparation for the coming new year.



New Year's Day Service

Saturday, January 1, 2022 at 10:00 am (Zoom Only)

The first day of the new year is a time to reflect and, with renewed dedication, to endeavor to live a life of gratitude and joy within the compassionate embrace of Amida Buddha. Let's begin 2022 by rededicating ourselves to hearing and sharing the Dharma together!

President's Message

I would like to start out by expressing my deep appreciation to the temple members who came out to help with washing the walls and cleaning the louvers at the temple on November 13, 2021. Though COVID again prevented our traditional 2-day wall washing & general cleanup project, we still had a dedicated crew of members who came out to make this project a success. Special thanks to Lynn Katayama & everyone who had a hand in preparing the food for the volunteers. No further incentive is usually needed to get people to come out to help!

As we move into December, I would like to send out my best wishes for a wonderful holiday season to everyone. While COVID will once again have its effect on our upcoming holiday events, it is my hope that the spirit of the season will shine through in everyone we meet. As we gather with family and friends in the coming weeks, may we all safely enjoy the special times and create lasting memories. Please take care of each other and be safe.

As I always do at the end of the year, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the sangha at Kona Hongwanji for all the support I have received this past year as your president. From the work of the Board of Directors, to the various committees & affiliates, to the casual conversations at the temple or in the community, it has been a pleasure and an honor to serve our sangha.

In Gassho,
Joseph Gusman
Kyodan President

A Season of Reflection

Rev. Blayne Higa

As the year quickly comes to an end and we prepare for the business of the holidays, we are reminded of how this is truly a season of reflection. This is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our lives and the gifts of the spirit we enjoy throughout the year.

On Bodhi Day we celebrate the Great Awakening of Shakyamuni Buddha and we rejoice in the promise of universal liberation through the Dharma. We are fortunate to receive this gift of the Buddha's teachings which enable us to awaken to the working of Wisdom and Compassion in our lives. When we receive the life-giving Dharma as a spiritual gift, we naturally share our appreciation and joy through our thoughts, words, and actions. We spontaneously embody the Buddha's Path which is grounded in deep self-reflection and a profound kindness towards all.



The Buddha's Enlightenment was truly a journey within himself in which he discovered the potential for awakening that everyone possesses. We are all equally able to encounter and appreciate Wisdom unfolding as Compassion continually within our lives. This is why no experience is ever wasted. There is always an opportunity for learning and growth in all that we encounter throughout our lives.

Rev. Kenryu Tsuji shares a profound understanding of how Enlightenment is truly a process of continual growth in the following passage from his book *The Heart of the Buddha Dharma*,

It is a common belief that Enlightenment occurs suddenly and that it is the single great religious experience in life, but Enlightenment is a growing experience that never stops. Each day we experience the joys and sadness of life, and with each living experience we come to a deeper understanding of the totality of life—its beauty and ugliness, success and failures, victories and defeats, birth and death. Every activity of life has absolute meaning, for every motion, however significant, is the Enlightenment experience.

The world of Awakening is present in each moment of our ordinary everyday lives. We are so fortunate the Buddha shared the way to keep our hearts and minds open so we can fully experience the gift of life and the wonder of living.

As I reflect on the past year, I want to thank you for being a part of our Sangha. We have experienced much and have grown together as fellow travelers. The living Dharma flows through our lives and has helped us face our many challenges. May we always find comfort, inspiration, and resilience within Amida Buddha's compassionate embrace.

The season of reflection is something we should cultivate every single day. This is the heart of the Buddha's Path. We can always take refuge in how the Buddha's Enlightenment is the ultimate promise of our own. Namu Amida Butsu.

Compassionate Care

The Dharma offers guidance and support for our whole lives, especially during times of difficulty. I am here to be a compassionate presence and companion to you on life's journey. I am available for pastoral care and counseling via phone or video conference. I am also available for bedside end-of-life services and grief care. Please contact me at 808-323-2993 or for emergencies only at 808-383-9153.

*Aloha,
Rev. Blayne*

Weekly Sangha Talk Story

Rev. Blayne hosts a weekly virtual talk story session for Sangha members to connect and to share how life is going during the pandemic. The Sangha Talk Story happens every Thursday evening at 7:00pm over Zoom. If you would like to participate, please email Rev. Blayne at bhiga@honpahi.org to be sent the meeting link each week.

2021 GIVE ALOHA

With your help, we raised **\$1,084.43** for Kona Hongwanji! This includes a matching gift from Foodland and Western Union.

Mahalo to all Give Aloha donors for your generous support!

2021 CHILI FUNDRAISER

Mahalo for supporting our recent Sandy's Drive-In Chili Fundraiser! This creative partnership supports the temple and local business during these challenging times.

We sold over **1,100** tickets and raised over **\$7,500** through sales and donations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Holiday Gift Idea

Need a creative gift for family and friends? We have handmade Kukui Nut O-Nenju for only \$20.00. The Kukui or Candlenut has been valued for its many uses since ancient times. Native Hawaiians used the oil from the Kukui to make light. The Kukui was designated as the state tree of Hawaii in 1959. The tree symbolizes enlightenment, peace, guidance, and leadership. Kukui has a spiritual meaning of light, hope, and renewal. Our handmade Kukui Nut O-Nenju is a beautiful reminder of how we are always embraced by the light of the Buddha of All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion.



Welcome New Member!

Mahalo to Toshiko Murakami for becoming a sustaining member. Welcome to our Sangha!

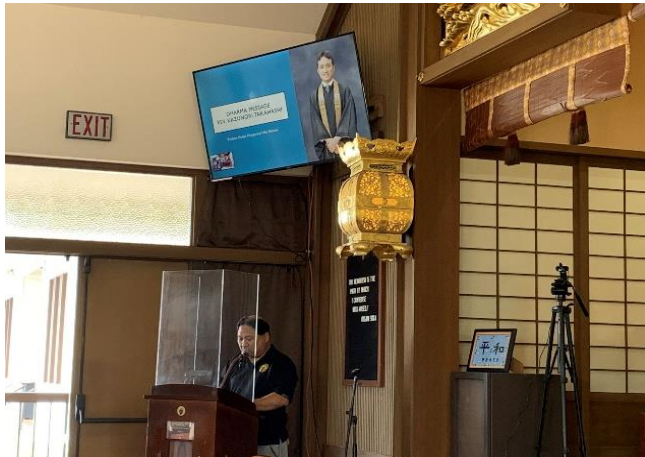
2021 Sustaining Membership

If you haven't already done so, please remember to submit your annual membership dues 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!

Mahalo to our amazing volunteers who helped to clean the temple on November 13th!



On November 21st we held a hybrid online and in-person Eitaikyo Sangha Memorial Service. Rev. Kazunori Takahashi, Rimban of Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin shared a video Dharma message. We even got to use our new TV mounted in the Hondo!



MINI HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Sunday, December 12, 2021
9:00am to 2:00pm
Kona Hongwanji Social Hall

Featuring handmade crafts and delicious treats!

Kona Hongwanji 125th Anniversary Cookbooks will also be available for pick-up.

December 2021 Preschool News

November 30th (National Day of Giving) kicked off our Second Annual Giving Tree, a two-week long canned food drive to benefit our Hawaii Island Food Basket. We are teaching and showing our children the spirit of giving and also helping those individuals and families experiencing food insecurities. If you would like to contribute to our canned food collection, you may drop off canned items from November 30th through December 14th on the weekdays during school hours (7:30am-4pm).

Our cultural studies had us in Greece during the month of November, with some of the highlights being olive and olive oil tasting and a mini-olympics day of biking, running and sack races. We are currently studying the Philippines and having the children experience the gift of sharing.

Our Preschool Winter Break is from December 20th to December 31st. We will be closed during this period. We will re-open on Monday January 3, 2022.

It has been a year of continued changes and adaptation on all kinds of levels. Like many places, we too are experiencing staffing issues. If you know of anyone who is interested in working here at the preschool, please have them call (808)323-3737 or email khp72016@outlook.com. Director, teacher and teacher aide applicants are required to complete Form 1 of Hawaii Early Childhood Registry. The link is: <https://www.patchhawaii.org/programs/dhs-hawaii-early-childhood-registry/>. We are looking for positive individuals who love and care about children, are team players, and are willing to work.



Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple 125th Anniversary Cookbook

Thank you for your interest in purchasing our 125th Anniversary Cookbook. Your purchase will help with the expenses of our 125th Anniversary celebration in 2022.

Our cookbook features favorite recipes from temple members and will make a great gift for birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, showers, Christmas, Mother’s Day, and other special occasions.

Cookbooks will be available for pick up on December 12, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the temple. You can also do some Christmas Shopping at our Mini Christmas Craft Fair.

If you are unable to attend the Craft Fair but would like to reserve your copy, please detach and mail the order form with a check or money order. Please include the shipping charges if you want the cookbook mailed to you. You may also reserve your copy and pick up the cookbook at the temple.

**Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
P. O. Box 769
Kealahou, Hawai`i 96750**

-----clip and return the bottom portion-----

I would like to order _____ copies of the Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple 125th Anniversary Cookbook at \$15.00 each.

I would like to have the cookbooks mailed to me:

No.	Amount	Shipping and Handling (S/H)	Total
1	\$15.00	\$8.70	\$23.70
2	\$30.00	\$8.70	\$38.70
3	\$45.00	\$8.70	\$53.70
4	\$60.00	\$16.25	\$76.25
5	\$75.00	\$16.25	\$91.25

I would like to also donate \$ _____ to the 125th Anniversary Celebration

Summary:	_____ cookbooks X \$15.00	\$ _____
	_____ cookbooks, including S/H	\$ _____
	Donation	\$ _____

Enclosed is my check **TOTAL \$ _____**
(payable to Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple)

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR MAILING ADDRESS IF YOU PAID S/H

Address: _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—December 2021

HAKASOJI and NOKOTSUDO

Toshiko Murakami

Jimmy Nakagawa

Danny Nozaki

Total - \$145.00

HI KYODAN DUES

Mr. & Mrs. Shizuya Sakata

Mark Thrift

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Yamauchi

CAPITAL FUND

Toshiko Murakami

Mark Thrift

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Yamauchi

SUNDAY SERVICES

Mr. & Mrs. James Boyle

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko

Chizu Nakashima

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue

Total - \$220.00

VETERANS DAY SERVICE

Cheryl Marshall

Alan Matsumoto

Ann Matsumoto

Shirley Matsuoka

Chizu Nakashima

Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue

Total - \$185.00

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Chenxing Han

Miyuki Inouye

Milton Fukumitsu

Lori Marcello

Mr. & Mrs. Terence Terada

Yoga Class

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano

Lorraine Haraguchi, Jiho

Lilly Ushiroda, Jiho

Yooko Moriguchi, Obon, Ohigan

Satoru Odaira, Ohigan

Helen Oishi, Ohigan

Katy Uemura, Eitaikyo

Harano Family, Funeral & Related Expenses for Mae Harano

Bryan Matsumoto, 49th Day Service for Asano Matsumoto

Total - \$1,525.00

Acknowledgements continued:

IN MEMORY OF

Mr. & Mrs. James Boyle, IMO Asano Matsumoto

Claudia Chang, IMO Kozue Aoki's 7th Year & Dale Aoki's 3rd Year

Sylvia Hayase, IMO Naoto Katoku

Alan Katoku & Family, IMO Naoto Katoku

Francis Katoku, IMO Naoto Katoku

Gary Katoku, IMO Naoto Katoku

Sachiko Katoku, IMO Tsurue Eto's 50th Year

Kenneth Komo, IMO Mutsumi Komo & Kathleen Komo

Waiaha Kumiai, IMO Asano Matsumoto

Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Kunitake, IMO Yasunori Deguchi, Sally Murakami, Mutsumi Komo, and Stanley Zakahi

Sueto Matsumura, IMO Sanae Matsumura's 3rd Year

Leatrice Saito, IMO Ukie Saito

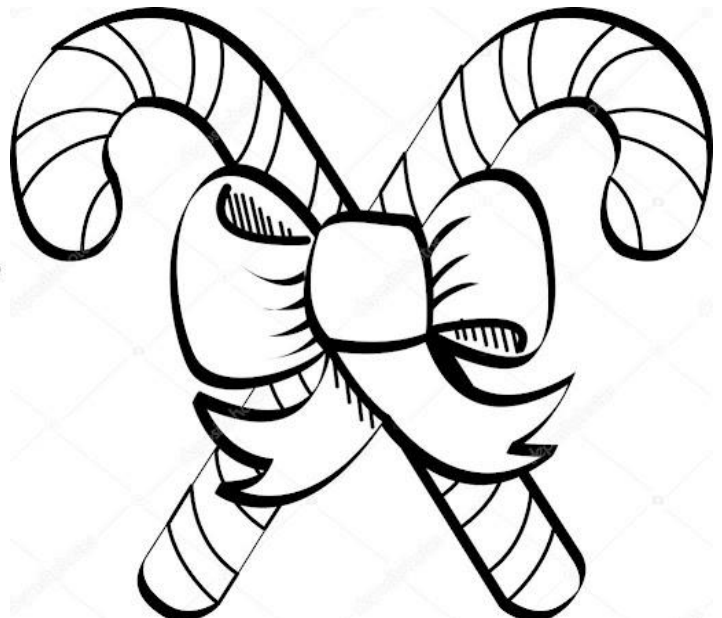
Harold Tasaka & Family, IMO Naoto Katoku

Hanae Yamashita, IMO Asano Matsumoto

Total - \$1,016.00

Mahalo for your generous donations!

Please let us know if there are any corrections.



MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2022

FIRST YEAR (2021)

01/10 Nishimoto, Amy	02/05 Kaku, Kenneth
02/09 Deguchi, Setsuko "Sally"	03/07 Fukumitsu, Yasuo
03/08 Yoshiki, Tsuino	03/14 Kitaoka, Masashi "Boston"
03/29 Taniyama, Hisako "Sue"	

THIRD YEAR (2020)

02/25 Watanabe, Elsie	02/29 Honda, Tomie
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SEVENTH YEAR (2016)

01/11 Ohata, Yaeko	02/18 Ito, Burton
02/21 Clark, Gladys Asako	02/24 Shirai, Toshio

THIRTEENTH YEAR (2010)

01/20 Manago, Fumiko	02/10 Nozaki, Sadame
02/19 Takamoto, Natsuko	02/20 Matsuoka, Hatsuko
03/04 Ikeno, Helen Hisae	03/06 Morimoto, Henry Yoshito
03/30 Murata, Doris Yasuko	

SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2005)

01/06 Matsuyama, Hiroshi	03/03 Kusano, Wally
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TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR (1998)

01/14 Perlmutter, Mark	01/16 Tabata, Hatsue
01/20 Kukita, Gladys Fumiko	01/22 Matsuo, Hatsuko
02/09 Oshita, Kinuyo	02/14 Ikeno, Shuzo
02/28 Yoshida, Tadashi	03/01 Inouye, Ronald Shunji
03/02 Ohta, Mitsuko	03/05 Matsuoka, Sueki "Toby"
03/18 Tanaka, Teru	

THIRTY-THIRD YEAR (1990)

02/26 Kitaoka, Ume	03/08 Seta, Itsuo
03/14 Onizuka, Mitsue	03/22 Masunaga, Hilary Michiko
03/30 Koyanagi, Ernest Shinichi	

FIFTIETH YEAR (1973)

01/04 Omori, Kunishige	01/18 Ikeda, Nase
02/14 Nakagawa, Barbara	03/25 Ohayakawa, Toshie
03/26 Takagi, Tanizo	

NOTE: If you have any questions or corrections regarding the information listed above, please call the office at (808) 323-2993. Thank you!

Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching

Namo Amida Butsu.

“Entrust yourself to me. I will liberate you just as you are.”

This is the calling voice of Amida.

My blind passions are embraced in the Buddha’s awakening,
So the Buddha calls to me “I will liberate you just as you are.”

Gratefully responding to the Buddha’s call,
I find that I am already on the path that leads to the Pure Land.
And the Nembutsu flows freely from my thankful heart.

Living with the Dharma as my guide

Softens my rigid heart and mind.

Gratitude for the gift of life I have received

Frees me from becoming lost in greed and anger,
And allows me to share a warm smile and speak gentle words.

Sharing in the joy and sadness of others,

I shall strive to live each day to its fullest.

-Kojun Ohtani

Gomonshu (Head Priest)
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

