



JHO

April 2022



Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others

Dharma Family Services

Please join us for our hybrid services and events in April. All services will begin at 10:00 am (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. Wearing of face masks and sanitizing of hands will continue to be required in temple. We look forward to seeing you online or in person!



Hanamatsuri (Buddha Day) Service

Sunday, April 10, 2022 at 10:00 am

Guest Speaker: Rev. Landon Yamaoka

Assistant Minister, Palo Alto Buddhist Temple



We celebrate the birth of Siddhartha Gautama the one who would become Shakyamuni, the historical Buddha. We revere him as the great teacher who turned the wheel of Dharma for the liberation of all beings. We rejoice in being able to receive the teachings of Shakyamuni over 2,600 years after his birth. We will have the traditional pouring of sweet tea over a statue of the baby Buddha. The pouring of tea represents the gentle rain, perfumed by flower petals, that was said to have fallen in Lumbini Garden when Siddhartha was born.

Dharma Family Service

Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 10:00 am

Speaker: Rev. Blayne Higa

For Assistance

Office Clerk: Ramah DeMello (Phone: 808-323-2993 Email: konahongwanji@twc.com)

Resident Minister: Rev. Blayne Higa (Emergency only 808-383-9153)

Temple President: Linda Nagai (Emergency only 808-936-6079)

KONA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

P.O. Box 769

Kealahou, HI 96750

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

President's Message

Aloha Kona Hongwanji Sangha members,

I am so thrilled to announce that with the lessening of the restrictions by our State and County Government, and the drop of COVID numbers, we have decided to welcome our sangha members back to Temple for in person Sunday services, however we will also be continuing our Zoom connection for sangha members who wish to continue joining us from their homes and also have the ability to connect with sangha members who are not in Kona. Reverend Blayne will continue to send out the Zoom link in his weekly update.

On April 10, we will be having our Hanamatsuri service celebrating the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha. If you are able to, please join us at Temple to pour sweet tea on our Baby Buddha and in celebration of Buddha's birthday the BWA will be distributing a little bag of manju as a birthday party favor to all who come by and wish Buddha a Very Happy Birthday.

Here is an update on our 125th Anniversary celebration, you may have already received a letter outlining our goal to raise \$50,000 towards this celebration. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our members who have already pledged their support. I would like to also let everyone know that we have taken the first step in the production of this memorable celebration. The pew cushions are being produced as we speak, and the altar elements have been ordered. I feel the excitement mounting, our celebration is underway.

Humanity, nature, and all other things exist by relying on each other, and the Kona Hongwanji exists and will continue to exist through reliance and support of our members and the community. Please join me at Sunday Services whether it be online or at the Temple, as well as supporting our 125th Anniversary celebration.

In Gassho,

Linda Nagai
Kyodan President.

Finding Hope in the Buddha's Birth Rev. Blayne Higa

In the sacred story of the Buddha's birth, the baby is said to have taken seven steps and declared, "In heaven above and on earth below, I am the most honored one. I shall dispel the suffering that fills this world." As we know, this probably didn't happen, but this story is rich with symbolism and meaning. The seven steps signify that he would go beyond the six realms of suffering and take the extra step into the awakened life of a Buddha. His announcement proclaims his future attainment of Buddhahood, and it also reveals the desire of the Buddha to help all of us understand our own potential for enlightenment.

In these challenging times of conflict and war, we should reflect on this limitless life of equality and freedom that was promised by the Buddha and strive to walk the Path of peace that he shared.

In the true spirit of the bodhisattva ideal, the goal of Shin Buddhism is not simply personal liberation but a universal awakening of all beings in this world of suffering. In the *Hymns of the Pure Land*, Shinran writes:

*Those who attain the Pure Land of peace
Return to this world of five defilements,
And like Sakyamuni Buddha
Bring endless benefit to all beings.*

The life of the historical Buddha offers a model for living in this world for the sake of others. The Dharma teaches us how to live with awareness, compassion, and grace. This life of continual self-reflection is the source of awakening to the dynamic activity of Amida Buddha's wisdom and compassion which we should naturally embody and manifest in all that we do.

Yet, we know that the three poisons of greed, hatred, and ignorance continue to influence our lives causing immense suffering. The ongoing war in Ukraine is just one example of how powerfully destructive our ego can be when left unchecked. In a letter to his followers, Shinran reflects on our capacity for unwholesome actions, "Human beings are such that, maddened by the passions of greed, we desire to possess; maddened by the passions of anger, we hate that which should not be hated, seeking to go against the law of cause and effect; led astray by the passions of ignorance, we do what should not even be thought."



Only when illuminated by Amida's light can our unexamined inner life be revealed and the darkness of the three poisons be neutralized. We must endeavor to listen deeply to the calling voice of wisdom and compassion returning us home to ourselves. This is the working of Namo Amida Butsu which transforms our ignorance into wisdom, our greed into generosity, and our hatred into love. We need to listen even more deeply in these dark and troubling times.

The ritual of celebrating the Buddha's birth is a reenactment of the sacred story in which we adorn the hanamido with flowers representing Lumbini Garden and the sweet tea we pour over the statue of the baby Buddha symbolizes the fragrant rain that fell from the sky at the moment of his birth. This is a time for reconnecting with the life of the Buddha and by doing so we recommit ourselves to learning and living the Dharma that he taught.

Each of us is responsible for cultivating the conditions for spiritual awakening and for living with Shinran's heartfelt wish, "May there be peace in the world and may the Buddha's teachings spread!" The Buddha's birth offers hope for our troubled world. Namo 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*

Kauai Hongwanji Council Nembutsu Seminar

Women in Buddhism - Historiographical Approach -

Tuesday, April 26, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm (HST): Zoom

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Mutsumi Wondra



Women's roles in the history of Buddhism and Jodoshinshu-Buddhism are vital. In the historiographical approach, this seminar talks about Sakyanmuni's stepmother Mahapajapati, Śrīmālādevī described in Śrīmālādevī-simhanāda-sūtra, Queen Vaidehi in the Contemplation sūtra, and in the Pure Land Buddhism. Shin Buddhism has nurtured the Shin Buddhist women such as Shinran Shonin's wife Eshinni-sama, and daughter Kakushinni-sama who established the current Hongwanji. In the modernism time, Lady Takeko Kujo, the daughter of the 21st Gomonsu Myoyo Shonin, founded the BWA-Fujinkai in Japan in 1907 and established the first women university, Kyoto Women's University. We also explore the view of women by Shinran, Kakunyo, Zonkaku, and Rennyo Shonins.

Rev. Dr. Mutsumi Wondra was born in Kyoto, Japan, and graduated from Kyoto Women's University, founded by Lady Takeko Kujo. While being an active member in California, she aspired to study Buddhism and attended Kyoto Chuo-Bukkyo Gakuin, and Institute do Buddhist Studies (M.A.), Ryukoku University (M.A.), and Ryukoku University (Ph.D.) she received Hongwanji Gakkai Hokyo. She is currently the resident minister of the Orange County Buddhist Church (OCBC) in California and the Institute of Buddhist Study instructor.

Her research and teaching interests are the history of Shin Buddhism in premodern, the history of Shin Buddhist thought in modernism in America, and Women and Shin Buddhism in America. She is a co-translator of Leaves of My Heart by Lady Takeko Kujo.

Registration Fee: Free (Registration Required)

Donations can be made to the Kauai Hongwanji Council. Please make a check payable to Kauai Hongwanji Council and send it to Lihue Hongwanji Mission 3-3556 Kuhio Highway, Lihue, HI 96766.

The maximum capacity is 100 people, first come, first served. We will email you a Zoom link three days prior to the seminar.

Click below to register!
"Registration Deadline April 19, 2022"
<https://forms.gle/7oBvsVVrazFJM5ma6>



When you complete the seminar registration, you will receive an automatic confirmation email from Google forms.

For further information, please contact:

Kapaa Hongwanji at 822-4667, West Kauai Hongwanji at 335-3195 or Lihue Hongwanji at 245-6262.

Flowers Needed for Hanamatsuri

Flowers are needed to decorate the Hanamido for our Buddha Day Service on April 10th.

Please drop off flowers on Friday, April 8 by 5:00pm. Buckets will be placed by the conference room door near the temple bell.

Thank you for your help!



Calling all 2022 Graduates!

If you have a child or grandchild that will be graduating or has graduated from high school, college, or a professional school this year, please let the temple office know by April 29th.

We would like to recognize 2022 graduates at our upcoming Baccalaureate Service scheduled for May 15th.

STRONG IS THE FORCE! STRONG!



Thank you to our faithful and loyal helpers and volunteers. On March 8, 2022, the crew had done some trimming around the temple. They are from Left to Right: John Tsue, coordinator (slave driver), Hiroki Ishimaru, Satoru Odaira, and Norman Takeoka. Not pictured but always there: Morris Nagata, Gary Kirihara, and Jim Miller.

“Shrub-a-dub-dub. That’s what we do.” Thank you to the crew identified above!

10th Annual HAIB Buddha Day Service



On March 13th, we hosted the 10th Annual Hawaii Association of International Buddhists Buddha Day Celebration. Our keynote speaker was Mayumi Oda, renowned artist, activist, and Buddhist revolutionary who spoke on “Dharma as a Creative Force”.

Eshinni and Kakushinni Day Service



Irene Nakamoto shared a wonderful Dharma Message for our Eshinni and Kakushinni Day Service on March 6th. She shared a letter she wrote to Eshinni expressing profound appreciation for her life and understanding of the Nembutsu teaching.

2022 SPRING VIRTUAL NEMBUTSU SEMINAR
Sponsored by the Honolulu & Oahu Hongwanji Councils and the Office of Buddhist Education

Building Sangha Together: *Nurturing Dharma - Centered Communities*

Saturday April 30 | 9a - 11a (HST)

Community has always been a strength of Shin Buddhism in America. Innovative and responsive community building grounded in the Dharma has enabled temples to thrive for more than a century. However, the traditional ways of building Sangha have been less effective as we face new challenges during this time of pandemic. Rev. Blayne will explore what it means to be Sangha in today's world. How do we journey together as spiritual friends? And how can we nurture an authentic community of fellow travelers inspired by the Buddha's teachings? Participants will have an opportunity to cultivate Sangha through a facilitated group discussion.



Reverend Blayne Higa
Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

“Bring your whole self as we learn & grow in the Dharma together.”

AGENDA

- 9:00am - 9:05am: Welcome
- 9:05am - 9:45am: Guest Speaker Rev. Higa
- 9:45am - 9:55am: Q & A Session
- 9:55am - 10:00am: Break
- 10:00am - 10:30am: Breakout Group Discussion
- 10:30am - 10:55am: Breakout Group Sharing
- 10:55am - 11:00am: Closing
- Until 11:30am: Free “Talk Story” Time

REGISTRATION IS FREE | Deadline April 22, 2022

Please note that the seminar will be recorded & uploaded. If you do not wish to be shown, please keep your video off during the seminar.

Donations are welcome—
Funds will be designated for Buddhist Education.



Scan here

OR

Please visit link:
bit.ly/hhmhdonate

Please make checks payable to: Oahu Hongwanji Council.
Mail registration form & checks to: Mililani Hongwanji, Attn: Nembutsu Seminar, P.O. Box 893308, Mililani, HI 96789

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Mililani Hongwanji office (808) 625-0925.
Visit our Dharma Hub for more statewide educational offerings
<https://bschawaii.org/calendar>

Name: _____

Temple/Affiliation: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

How did you hear about this Seminar? My Temple (email / newsletter) | Temple or other Website | Social Media | _____
Circle one OR if other, pls indicate in space

Age Range: Please circle one Under 26 | 26-41 | 42-57 | 58-67 | 68-76 | 77+

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—APRIL 2022

IN MEMORY OF

Melvin Fukuda, IMO Nobuyuki Fukuda

Jayne Hirata & Ohana, IMO Seizo and Tonose Hirata

Carol, Ruth, and Harry Honda Jr., IMO Iwaki Honda's 50th Year & Tomie Honda's 3rd Year

Byron Ito, IMO Burton and Dorsey Ito

Jo Ann (Kubota) Iwane, IMO Akira Masuhara's 50th Year

Marcia (Kubota) Nelson, IMO Akira Masuhara's 50th Year

Diane (Kubota) Matthews, IMO Akira Masuhara's 50th Year

Kona Hongwanji BWA, IMO Flora Fukumitsu

Mr. & Mrs. Reginald Morimoto, IMO Setsuko Deguchi's 1st Year

Mr. & Mrs. Tami Murakami, IMO Helen Hisae Ikeno's 13th Year & Shuzo Ikeno's 25th Year

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Ogata, IMO Tsuino Yoshiki's 1st Year

Matsuko Onaka, IMO Teru Tanaka's 25th Year & Yoshie Tanaka's 3rd Year

Leatrice Saito, IMO Kunishige Omori

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Tokunaga, IMO Jack and Misae Tokunaga & Jutaro and Hina Yanaga

Edna Fukumitsu, IMO Yasuo Fukumitsu

Pauline Imamura, IMO Nobuyuki Fukuda

Melvin Fukuda, IMO Nobuyuki Fukuda

Kenneth Komo, IMO Sally Deguchi

Kusano Ohana, IMO Wally A. Kusano's 17th Year

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano, IMO Burton and Dorsey Ito

Hanna Shirai, IMO Toshio Shirai

Total - \$3,100.00

JIHO

Carol Iwashita

Ray Kawahara

June Gokan

Roy Hayama

Ernest Sasaki

Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo

Mr. & Mrs. Ichiro Shikada

Total - \$235.00

HI KYODAN DUES

Carol Ichishita

Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo

Mr. & Mrs. Ichiro Shikada

Mr. & Mrs. Shizuya Sakata

CAPITAL FUND

Carol Ichishita

Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo

ELLISON ONIZUKA MEMORIAL

Nora Koyanagi

Chizu Nakashima

Janet Maeda

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue

Total - \$155.00

HAKASOJI/NOKOTSUDO

Nobuko Aoki

Sharon Hynynen

Sandy Iwashita

Carol Kawachi

Ray Kawahara

Fay Nakamoto

Iris Watanabe

Roy Hayama

Patrick Imai

Dayle Sato

Mr. & Mrs. Shizuya Sakata

Mr. & Mrs. Ichiro Shikada

Total - \$700.00

Acknowledgements continued:

NIRVANA DAY

Anonymous

Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo

Chizu Nakashima

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko

Total - \$155.00

SERVICES

Kathleen Abe, Funeral & Related Expenses for Francis Abe

Lisa Kitaoka, Funeral & Related Expenses for Warren Kitaoka

Janet Maeda, Funeral & Related Expenses for Richard Maeda

Iris Watanabe, 1st Year Memorial Service for Setsuko Deguchi

Mr. & Mrs. Gail Masunaga, Memorial Service for Hilary Masunaga

Darlene Saito-Cho, Memorial Service for Ethel Saito

Shirai Ohana, 7th Year Memorial Service for Toshio Shirai

Total - \$3,150.00

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Sharon Hynynen

Lori Marcello

Ellen Nishikawa

Yoga Class

Anonymous, Onenju

Susan Miyashita, Chili

Morris Nagata, Chili

Carol Ichishita, Hoonko

Carol Iwashita, Preschool

Dante Hirata-Epstein, Book

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gusman, Shikisho

Mr. & Mrs. James Tashima, Chili

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka, Annual Kyodan Meeting

Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue, Sunday Service

Mr. & Mrs. Dean Uemura, Annual Kyodan Meeting

Total - \$989.00

Mahalo for your generous donations!

Please let us know if there are any corrections.

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR APRIL, MAY AND JUNE 2022

FIRST YEAR 2021

04/11 Hisako Hatta
04/14 Harumi Mildred Oda

04/13 Fujie Sato
05/10 Midori "Mae" Harano

THIRD YEAR 2020

04/27 Miles Nakahara
05/23 Robert Manabu Fujino
06/19 Nobuyuki Fukuda

05/10 Takao Katoku
06/10 Yaeko Yoshioka

SEVENTH YEAR (2016)

04/03 Dorsey T. Ito
06/08 Yaeko Shiotsuka

04/10 Marion Yaeko Harada
06/18 Sadame Venegas

THIRTEENTH YEAR (2010)

05/07 Satomi Takashiba
06/12 Anthony Takeshi Miyose

05/24 Frank T. Okamoto

SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2006)

04/12 Masao Sunada
06/13 Walter Takeshi Nishina

05/23 Gertrude Tsuruyo Hayashida

TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR (1998)

05/05 Sherri Lynn Teruko Ichishita
05/23 Tokiko Matsuda
05/30 Teruo Hirata
06/11 Tamotsu Fujikawa
06/16 Larry Shinzo Matsumoto
06/26 Chiaki Kato

05/18 Kikue Ashihara
05/30 Tone Sakamoto
06/09 Mise Nishikawa
06/12 Seichi Nishina
06/19 Hanako "Helen" Uemoto

THIRTY-THIRD YEAR (1990)

04/21 Akio "Aki" Okumura
05/16 Satsuki Koyanagi
06/11 Kiyoshi Akahoshi

05/10 Suehiko Matsumoto
06/08 Niwa Matsuda

FIFTIETH YEAR (1973)

04/28 Ichi Isemoto
05/21 Gonzaburo Harano
06/15 Chiju Sakamoto

05/04 Tsune Motohiro
06/02 Naoyuki Yamagata
06/26 Tetsuyo Nozaki

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