



JIHO

December 2022



Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others

Dharma Family Services

Please join our hybrid services in December. All services will begin at 10:00 am (unless otherwise noted). A Zoom link to join the service will be emailed a few days before. Please contact the office to be included in our email list to receive weekly temple updates, zoom links, and other interesting information. Wearing of face masks and sanitizing of hands will continue to be required in temple. We look forward to seeing you in person or online!

Bodhi Day

Sunday, December 4, 2022, at 10:00 am

Guest Speaker: Chenxing Han

Buddhist author and chaplaincy trained educator



Join for this service celebrating Shakyamuni Buddha's Enlightenment. Bodhi Day is when Siddhartha Gautama attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree and became the Buddha, the Awakened One. Buddhist author and chaplaincy trained educator, Chenxing Han will join us in person.

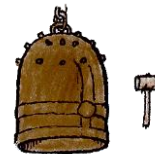
Dharma Family Service

Sunday, December 11, 2022, at 10:00 am

Dharma Family Service

Sunday, December 18, 2022, at 10:00 am

New Year's Eve Service and Bell Ringing
Saturday, December 31, 2022, at 6:00 pm



Please join us 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 year.



New Year's Day Service

Sunday, January 1, 2023, at 10:00 am

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 2023 by rededicating ourselves to hearing and sharing the Dharma together!

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

Rekindling the Light of Hope

Rev. Blayne Higa

Many spiritual traditions have holy days during winter when the world is darkest. Hanukkah, Christmas, the winter solstice all celebrates light as a symbol of hope and renewal. In Buddhism, we observe Bodhi Day which commemorates the great enlightenment of Shakyamuni Buddha on December 8. It is said after spending the long dark night under the leaves of the Bodhi Tree, Siddhartha Gautama would realize enlightenment when the morning star appeared in the eastern sky. Dispelling his spiritual darkness he would become the Buddha, the Awakened One declaring, "At this moment all beings and I awaken together."



The promise of awakening from the darkness of our greed, anger, and ignorance is the hope that the Buddha offers to us unconditionally. In Shin Buddhism, we understand this promise of spiritual transformation as the Vow of Amida Buddha embodied in the nembutsu. In the *Tannishō*, Shinran Shōnin shares "But with a foolish being full of blind passions, in this fleeting world- this burning house- all matters without exception are empty and false, totally without truth and sincerity. The nembutsu alone is true and real." Namo Amida Butsu is the fulfilled promise of Amida that lights our way in the darkness of this world of suffering- this "burning house."

In *The Fire Sermon*, Shakyamuni Buddha famously teaches how everything is "...burning with the fire of passion, the fire of hatred, the fire of delusion. I declare that it is burning with the fire of birth, decay, death, grief, lamentation, pain, sorrow, and despair." However, through the insight gained from his awakening, the Buddha offers us a way to quench these fires through the cooling light of wisdom which illuminates our spiritual darkness.

Doesn't it seem like we have been dealing with hotter fires and deeper darkness in our world? From our climate crisis to our politically polarized society to the destructive forces of hate and discrimination which threatens to consume us, we are struggling to find hope and light in the long shadow of our spiritual night.

In my rumination on the state of our world, I recently rediscovered the words of the author L.R. Knost who wrote,

Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world.

All things break. And all things can be mended.

Not with time, as they say, but with intention.

So, go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally.

The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.

Her words remind me of how the Buddha roused himself from the bliss of his awakening under the Bodhi Tree to re-enter this burning house of samsara to offer hope through the light of the Dharma. In similar fashion, I am reminded of how Amida Buddha's light of wisdom and compassion continually pierces through my darkness revealing my own inner light.

We can mend our brokenness through the practice of the Buddha-Dharma. We can heal our broken world by embodying Amida's Vow of Compassion. Each of us is the light of the living nembutsu in this darkened world carrying the "great torch" of Namo Amida Butsu in the "long night of ignorance" as Shinran teaches. So, during the dark of winter at the close of this year, let us rekindle hope by entrusting in the dynamic working of Amida's light that embraces and never abandons. 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*

2023 Calendar Order

Orders are now being taken for the 2023 Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Calendar. Please contact the Temple Office at 808-323-2993

2022 GIVE ALOHA

With your help, we raised **\$731.98** for Kona Hongwanji!
This includes a matching gift from Foodland and Western Union.
Mahalo to all Give Aloha donors for your generous support!

MINI HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, December 3, 2022
9:00am to 2:00pm
Kona Hongwanji Social Hall
Come check out the great local vendors!

2022 Sustaining Membership

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

Veterans Appreciation Service



On November 6, we honored our veterans in the West Hawaii community at our Veterans Appreciation Service sponsored by the Kona Hongwanji Cub Scout Pack 12. Our guest speaker was Colonel Mark Young.

Support Kona Hongwanji by Shopping Online


Amazon Smile is a free and easy way to support your favorite charitable organization. When you shop at <http://smile.amazon.com> Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

We hope you will consider designating Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple as your favorite organization. Please encourage your family and friends to kokua as well. We sincerely appreciate your support during these challenging times. Mahalo!

Eitaikyo Service



On November 20, Rev. David Fujimoto of Mililani Hongwanji was the guest speaker for our Eitaikyo Sangha Memorial Service. He shared a wonderful message reflecting on the importance of appreciating the good Dharma friends and teachers who have sustained the temple through the generations enabling us to encounter the Buddha's teachings.



Chenxing Han

Writing Refuge
Listening Refuge
Being Refuge

A lecture and book signing open to the public at Daifukuji Buddhist temple Saturday, December 10 2:00-3:30pm HST

Chenxing will sign her book ***Be The Refuge: Raising the Voices of Asian American Buddhists.***

A writer and chaplaincy-trained educator who speaks at Buddhist communities around the nation, she is passionate about supporting young Asian American Buddhists in their creative and spiritual explorations. Learn more about her work at www.chenxinghan.com.

To attend via Zoom, email info@daifukuji.org

Event Sponsored by Daifukuji Soto Mission and Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
Daifukuji is in Kona at 79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy 808-322-3524
Photo by Sarah Deragon

Annual Temple Clean-up



Big mahalo to all the temple members and friends who came out to help at our annual clean-up on November 19. It truly takes many hands to make light work. We are grateful for everyone's support to ensure our temple is a clean and beautiful spiritual home for the community. In Gassho.



2022 Zoom Online Buddhist Seminar Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Hawaii District Ministers Association

Never Alone: Shin Buddhism and End-of-Life Care
Saturday, December 10, 2022
10:00 - 11:30 a.m. [Click to register](#)

Are you or someone you know a caregiver to someone facing the end-of-life? Or, have you begun thinking about the spiritual care you would like to receive when the time comes? If your answer is "yes," this seminar is for you.

Join us for an Online Buddhist Seminar and discussion on "End-of-Life Care."



Rev. Tatsuo Muneto
Retired Minister of Honpa
Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

[Click for bio & outline](#)



Scan to register

Time Line:

- 1) Keynote Speaker: Rev. Muneto (30 min.)
- 2) HDMA Ministers' presentations through the "Faith" *Shinko* booklets published by some ministers of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii from 1957 to 1959.
Rev. Yamagishi & Rev. Takahashi (15 min.)
Rev. Kamuro & Rev. Tomioka (15 min.)
- 3) Q & A Facilitator: Rev. Higa (30 min.)



Email: hawaii.kyogakkai@gmail.com or call at (808) 961-6677

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—December 2022

HAKASOJI and NOKOTSUDO

Nancy Fujimoto

Linda Iwasaki

Glenn Matsumoto

Gloria Ichishita

Total - \$190.00

HI KYODAN

Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Kunitake

Howard Yamasaki

CAPITAL FUND

Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Kunitake

Howard Yamasaki

SERVICES

Melvin Harano, Yoshio Harano's 17th Year Memorial and Mae Harano's Inurnment

Mr. & Mrs. Gail Masunaga, Michiko Masunaga's 33rd Year

Mr. & Mrs. Reginald Morimoto, Funeral & Related Expenses for Mildred Morimoto

Kimi Takamoto, Tokio Takamoto's 13th Year

Total - \$1,100.00

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Anonymous

Raynette Hamoto

Lee Hamoto

Patrick Komo

Ken Love

Cynthia Nakamoto

Kimi Takamoto

Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue

Yoga Class

Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Kunitake, Project Dana

Doris Masutomi, Social Concerns

Lilly Ushiroda, Project Dana, Jiho

Total - \$838.00

IN MEMORY OF

Edward Aoki, IMO Masanori Aoki

Valerie Char, IMO Ukie Saito

Milton Fukumitsu, IMO Flora Fukumitsu's 1st Year

Lloyd & Lisa Harano, IMO Yoshio Harano's 17th Year & Mae Harano

Nelson Harano, IMO Midori Harano & Yoshio Harano

Steven Harano, IMO Yoshio Harano's 17th Year & Mae Harano

Brian Kosch & Audrey Tatsuno, IMO Toshio & Asayo Shirai

Ken Love, IMO Toshie Shirota

Mr. & Mrs. Gail Masunaga & Ohana, IMO Michiko Masunaga

Mr. & Mrs. Kerwin Masunaga, IMO Michiko Masunaga

Acknowledgements continued:

Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Nagata & Ohana, IMO Stanley Nagata

Gay Lynne Rivera & Ohana, IMO Stanley Nagata

Palani Kurashige & Ohana, IMO Stanley Nagata

Scott Kurashige & Ohana, IMO Stanley Nagata

Guy Nagata & Ohana, IMO Stanley Nagata

Lynn Nakamura, IMO Yoshio Harano & Mae Harano

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue, IMO Mitsue Akazawa, Kenneth Kaku, Richard Sasaki and Janet Sunada

Mr. & Mrs. James Tashima, IMO Sadaharu Tashima's 33rd Year

Doris Yamamoto, IMO Ukie Saito

Total - 1,480.00

PET APPRECIATION

Anonymous

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko

Mary Katayama

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue

Janet Lindner

Linda Nagai

Total – 285.00



MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR December 2022

FIRST YEAR (2021)

THIRD YEAR (2020)

12/17 Yoshiyuki Kaneko

12/24 Carl Taniyama

12/30 Yoshie Tanaka

SEVENTH YEAR (2016)

12/03 Elaine Sumie Piltz

12/11 Toshie Izuno

12/29 Toshie Shirota

THIRTEENTH YEAR (2010)

SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2006)

12/12 Richard Hideo Sakamoto

12/26 Toshiko Nakamura

TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR (1998)

THIRTY-THIRD YEAR (1990)

12/08 James Tsugio Kondo

FIFTIETH YEAR (1973)

12/22 Gunichi Ohta

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR January 2023

FIRST YEAR (2022)

01/08 Warren Kitaoka

01/12 James Sato

01/12 Yasue Okino

01/17 Richard Maeda

01/25 George Kurozawa

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