



JIHO

June 2022



Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others

Dharma Family Services

Please join us for our hybrid services in June. All services will begin at 10:00 am. 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!

Military Remembrance Service

Sunday, June 12, 2022 at 10:00 am

Guest Speaker: The Honorable Robert Kim, Judge Third Circuit Court

Father's Day Service

Sunday, June 19, 2022 at 10:00 am

Project Dana Senior Activity Day

Join us for our monthly Project Dana Senior Activity Day every second Friday of the month from 9:00am to Noon in our Social Hall. Seniors are welcome to join us for fellowship, games, crafts, and delicious food. Contact Elaine Nakagawa at 808-987-4470 or obachan3@aol.com for more information and to sign up.

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

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

President's Message

Aloha Kona Hongwanji Sangha members,

Thank you to everyone who joined us in the Temple and on Zoom in May. May was a very busy month, beginning with Mother's Day a day to say "THANK YOU" to our mothers who give so much of themselves for the benefit of their families. Next, we had the opportunity to honor Manami Alspach, at our baccalaureate service. Mana has been attending Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple from the time she was a little babe in arms. She has been active in Dharma School, and Jr. YBA, among a few, and she is also currently the President of the State Federation of Jr. YBA. We nurture our children well in Kona don't we? Now all grown up she is off to Keio University in Japan. As Mana says, "I'll be back". Congratulations Mana and good luck in your studies in Japan, take some time for yourself and remember that Amida's Love and Compassion will always be with you, you are never alone, ahuihou. Then finally, we said aloha to May with our Gotan E-service, another birthday celebration, this time it was for founder Shinran Shonin, happy 849 years, and many more to come.

June will be quieter as we go into the summer months, unfortunately, due to the ongoing uncertainty of COVID, we are not having our Obon Festival this year. However, plans are still ongoing for our 125th-anniversary Celebration slated for October. Thank you to everyone for your continued support of this milestone of a celebration, your contributions are a sign that the Kona Hongwanji will at least be around for another 125 years. During the summer you will see the fruit of your donations, our pew cushions are on their way to Hawai'i, we have contracted a vendor to replace our carpets, and finally, our replacement ornaments for our altar have been ordered and expected arrival is later this summer.

Shinran understood that it isn't ordination that makes one a part of a Sangha, it is something achieved by all nembutsu followers. "We too share in this noble Sangha-open once and for all to everyone".

In Gassho,

Linda Nagai

Looking for Dharma and Finding Sangha

Rev. Blayne Higa

At some point in our lives, we all discover a spiritual longing that needs to be explored. We begin to ask the big questions of meaning and purpose to life. Oftentimes, these questions arise from the ordinary everyday transitions that upend our routine and challenge our assumptions. It is these moments that start us on the journey of self-discovery and spiritual awakening.

In 1997, as a young twenty-something college graduate, I had moved home to Hawaii from the mainland and was sharing a two-bedroom apartment in Honolulu with a couple of friends. We were living the plot of a 90's movie struggling to make our way in the world yet enjoying the ride. Besides applying for jobs I was overqualified for because I had a college degree and those I was unqualified for because I didn't have any work experience, I began exploring my spiritual life in earnest.

My life as a spiritual seeker began a few years earlier as a freshman in college when I was asked, "So what does it mean to be Buddhist?" Struggling to stammer out an intelligent response made me realize I was spiritually unprepared to answer that question for myself. Growing up in a predominantly Asian and Buddhist community in Hawaii, I had taken for granted my cultural and religious upbringing which was not the norm in my new home of Salem, Oregon.

While I didn't fully understand what it meant to be Buddhist, I was determined to learn so I would be better prepared to answer that question in the future. I began reading everything I could find in English and slowly began to make connections between the Buddha's Teachings and the values with which I was raised. Many of the books I found were about Shin Buddhism and I found comfort in the promise of Amida Buddha's universal embrace but yet had so many questions. How could boundless compassion exist? How could I personally experience the working of the Vow? What does it mean to be a "fellow traveler?"



However, there is a difference between knowing something with your head and knowing with your heart. Book learning is necessary but to truly understand, one has to live the Dharma. What I lacked was a community of practice, a sangha. I would have to wait several years to find such a community.

Through the working of causes and conditions, my apartment in Honolulu was just a short walk to Moiliili Hongwanji. One Sunday, I decided to attend service and was immediately greeted by Cyndi Osajima and the late Rose Nakamura. The warm and sincere welcome I received was followed by an invitation to volunteer for Project Dana. They were looking for someone to help take an elderly woman grocery shopping since she lived alone and didn't drive. As I learned more about the Project and the spirit of Dana or selfless giving, I was astounded by this example of faith in action.

This was a community of fellow travelers who struggled together and who encouraged each other to practice the Way. They were living what Shakyamuni Buddha taught about how good friendship is the entirety of the spiritual life. They were truly living the Dharma!

In describing the importance of good spiritual friendships, Buddhist scholar Bhikkhu Bodhi shares,

Good friendship is essential not only because it benefits us in times of trouble, satisfies our social instincts, and enlarges our sphere of concern from the self to others. It is critical because good friendship plants in us the sense of discretion, the ability to distinguish between good and bad, right and wrong, and to choose the honorable over the expedient.

We often think of the Three Treasures as separate things. However, they are really one because the "Buddha is manifested in his Dharma and is realized by the Sangha." A true understanding of the Buddha's Path is only complete when there is a unity of Buddha, Dharma, AND Sangha.

Think about the good spiritual friendships you have within our temple community. How do you encounter the living Dharma in the lives of these fellow travelers? This is what makes our community so special and our friendships so meaningful. This is why Sangha is so important.

Twenty-five years later, I still don't know if I can answer the question of what it means to be Buddhist other than to say that in looking for the Dharma, I found Sangha. Maybe that's all we truly need to know. 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.

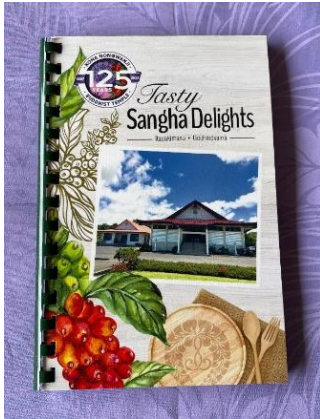
*Aloha,
Rev. Blayne*

Adopt an Obutsudan

The Obutsudan, or home altar, plays an important part in cultivating our spiritual lives as Shin Buddhists. Our caring for a home altar serves as a mirror to the self within the compassionate embrace of Amida Buddha. The temple has several gently used Obutsudan (in various sizes) and altar adornments that are available for adoption. If you would like to have an Obutsudan for your home, please contact the office or Rev. Blayne for more information.

125TH ANNIVERSARY LOGO ITEMS

If you are interested in purchasing any of these 125th anniversary logo items, please contact the office.



Cookbook: \$15

Clock: \$20

Insulated bag w/pockets: \$15



Gotan-E Service

On May 22 we celebrated the 849th birthday of Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu. Rev. Masanari Yamagishi of North Hawaii Temples (Kamuela, Kohala, Honokaa, Paaui) shared a wonderful message about the wisdom found in Shinran's life and the preciousness of the Nembutsu Teaching. We hope to see everyone in person and online at our future services!





Baccalaureate Service



On May 15 we held our 2022 Baccalaureate Service. We celebrated the achievements of **Manami Alspach** who graduated from Konawaena High School. She will be attending Keio University in Japan and plans to study Architecture. Janice Ikeda, Executive Director of Vibrant Hawaii gave an inspirational message on life lessons. Best wishes Mana! Our Kona Hongwanji Ohana is so very proud of you!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—JUNE 2022

HAKASOJI and NOKOTSUDO

Mr. & Mrs. Sadamu Koba	Edna Yamashita	Lynn Tom
Mr. & Mrs. James Mitchell	Elaine Komo	Kenneth Komo
Sueto Matsumura	Norma Matsumoto	Danny Matsuoka
Molly Takashiba	Diana Asakura	Roy Haruguchi
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Feldman	Margaret Fujikawa	Lorraine Haraguchi
Carol Ichishita	Wally Ichishita	Akinori Imai
Fujie Inouye	Melvin Kadohiro	Carol Kawachi
Lillian Koshi	Satsuko Matsuoka	Kay Matsuyama
Mildred Morimoto	Michitoshi Murakami	Charles Nakamura
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Mr. & Mrs. Glenn G. Uchimura	Stanley Sakamoto	Toshiharu Sato
Albert Shiotsuka	Katy Uemura	Doris Yamamoto
	Total - \$3,835.52	

AUTUMN/SPRING OHIGAN

Mr. & Mrs. George Shimamoto	Mr. & Mrs. Keith Hayama	Sandy Iwashita
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Carol Okuna	Doris Yamamoto	Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue
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Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina	Satoru Odaira	Helen Oishi
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka	Suga Suzuki	Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue
	Total - \$730.00	

PROJECT DANA

Edna Fukumitsu	Elaine Nakagawa	Chizu Nakashima
Mr. & Mrs. George Shimamoto	Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko	Doris Yamamoto
Ellen Nishikawa	Albert Watanabe	
	Total - \$655.00	

Acknowledgements continued:

ESHINNI DAY

Anonymous
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gusman
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko
Janet Lindner
Morris Nagata
Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka
Glenda Yamagata-Passalacqua

Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Fujikawa
Mr. & Mrs. Sadayuki Inouye
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko
Alan Matsumoto
Elaine Nakagawa
Satoru Odaira
Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue

Emiko Kaneko
Mary Katayama
Nora Koyanagi
Ann Matsumoto
Chizu Nakashima
Sue Suzuki
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue

Total - \$480.00

JHO

Mr. & Mrs. Sadamu Koba
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Norma Matsumoto
Nora Koyanagi
Edna Yamashita
Fujie Inouye
Stanley Tomono

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Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Ogata
Sueto Matsumura
Katy Uemura
Margaret Fujikawa
Satsuko Matsuoka

Elaine Komo
Kenneth Komo
Edna Fukumitsu
Doris Yamamoto
Lorraine Haraguchi
Ellen Nishikawa

Total - \$1,035.00

MOTHER'S DAY SERVICE

Anonymous
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko
Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina
Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue
Elaine Nakagawa
Suga Suzuki

Geri Ann Aoki Davidson
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Tagawa
Janet Lindner
Chizu Nakashima

Claudia Chang
Miyuki Inouye
Nora Koyanagi
Morris Nagata
Satoru Odaira

Total - \$335.00

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Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka
Glenda Yamagata-Passalacqua
Mary Katayama
Janet Lindner
Ann Matsumoto

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Ellen Nishikawa
Claudia Chang
Lisa Ciriako
Fujie Ichishita
Miyuki Inouye
Sandy Iwashita
Sachi Katoku
Janet Maeda
Satsuko Matsuoka

Acknowledgements continued:

Linda Nagai	Morris Nagata	Jimmy Nakagawa
Chizu Nakashima	Keith Nishihara	Satoru Odaira
Helen Oishi	Kenneth Sugiyama	Suga Suzuki
Molly Takashiba	Lilly Ushiroda	Doris Yamamoto
	Total - \$930.00	

HI KYODAN

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Akinori Imai	Carol Kawachi	Lillian Koshi
Satsuko Matsuoka	Ellen Nishikawa	Clayton Nishina
Ronald Shirai	Stanley Tomono	Toyoko Urada
Albert Watanabe		

CAPITAL FUND

Mr. & Mrs. Kel Kunitomo	Mr. & Mrs. Owen Nishioka	Edna Fukumitsu
Mr. & Mrs. George Shimamoto	Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko	Nancy Ann Katayama
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Ogata	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Oshiro	Nora Koyanagi
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Masae Okamoto	Stanley Sakamoto	Albert Shiotsuka
Katy Uemura	Doris Yamamoto	Edward Aoki
Carol Kawachi	Lillian Koshi	Satsuko Matsuoka
Ellen Nishikawa	Clayton Nishina	Ronald Shirai
Stanley Tomono	Albert Watanabe	

SERVICES

Mr. & Mrs. Ky Okino, Funeral Service and Related Expenses for Yasue Okino
Carol Ichishita, Kome Ichishita's 50th Memorial Service
Anna Kaku, Kenneth Kaku's 1st Year Memorial Service
Kobayashi Ohana, Funeral Service and Related Expenses for Chiyono Kobayashi
Mr. & Mrs. Daryl Kurozawa, Funeral Service and Related Expenses for George Kurozawa
Matsui, Okinaka, and Tanaka Ohana, Kikuye Okinaka's Memorial Service
Mr. & Mrs. Guy Kitaoka, Masashi "Boston" Kitaoka's Memorial Service
Tracy Kitaoka & Ohana, Masashi "Boston" Kitaoka's Memorial Service
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Taniyama, Masashi "Boston" Kitaoka's Memorial Service
Mr. & Mrs. Gail Masunaga, Wedding

Acknowledgements continued:

Vernon Nakamura, Funeral and Related Expenses for Chizuko Nakamura

Total - \$3,650.00

IN MEMORY OF

Mr. & Mrs. Kerwin Masunaga, IMO Hilary Masunaga

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Kunisaki, IMO Hilary Masunaga's 33rd Year

Pamela Kunisaki & Schane Goheen, IMO Hilary Masunaga's 33rd Year

Mr. & Mrs. Dale Kuroda, IMO Hilary Masunaga

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kuroda, IMO Hilary Masunaga

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Love, IMO Marion Yaeko Harada, Satomi Takashiba, Henry Morimoto and Mitsue Onizuka

Mr. & Mrs. Rick Marino, IMO Hilary Masunaga's 33rd Year

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Ann Taniguchi, IMO Hilary Masunaga

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Adele Kitaoka, IMO Masashi Kitaoka & Ume Kitaoka

Loretta Kitaoka, IMO Ume Kitaoka & Masahi Kitaoka

Mr. & Mrs. Daryl Kurozawa, IMO Ume Kitaoka & Masashi Kitaoka

Gail Kurozawa, IMO Boston & Ume Kitaoka

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Toyoko Urada, IMO Tomie Honda's 3rd Year & Doris Murata's 13th Year

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Iris Higashi, IMO Doris Higashi

Total – 2,140.00