



JIHO

March 2022



Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others

Dharma Family Services

Please join us for our hybrid services and events in March. 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. We look forward to seeing you online or in person!

Eshinni & Kakushinni Day Service

Sunday, March 6, 2022 at 10:00 am

Guest Speaker: Irene Nakamoto

Former President, Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations

Eshinni and Kakushinni were the wife and daughter of Shinran Shonin, who are remembered for their support in bringing his teachings to all. We honor their immense contributions to the development of Jodo Shinshu.

Hawaii Association of International Buddhists (HAIB) Buddha Day Celebration

Sunday, March 13, 2022, 9:30 am to 11:00 am (ZOOM ONLY)

Keynote by Mayumi Oda, renowned artist, activist, and modern Buddhist revolutionary speaking on "Dharma as a Creative Force"

Please register online at <https://forms.gle/u8ZnvmNKbcZF1p8m9>

Spring Ohigan Service

Sunday, March 27, 2022 at 10:00 am

Guest Speaker: Rev. Daido Baba

Executive Assistant, Office of the Bishop Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

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 rhythms and cycles of the earth and the entire universe. Ohigan translates as "the other shore" and is a metaphor for crossing from this shore of ignorance, anger, and greed to the other shore of nirvana and peace.

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 for your vote of confidence in electing me as your next Kyodan President. As I begin my tenure as your Kyodan President, I would like to make a promise to you that I will do my utmost to support the Kona Hongwanji Sangha, programs, and activities. However, before I begin my journey as your Kyodan President, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my predecessor, Joseph Gusman for his excellent leadership which has led us through some very trying times these past two years.

I am inspired by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii slogan *Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others*. I feel that to build a healthy sangha, we need to connect with others within our Temple and the wider community.

With COVID at our heels, it has been very difficult to connect with others, however through the workings of Amida's Wisdom and Compassion, I feel we have found ways to connect. Although we cannot meet face to face at Temple, we can meet via Zoom services, although we cannot enjoy refreshments, and talk story time with after the Sunday service, we could have refreshments at home with our loved ones and talk story with them. I believe the foundation of building a healthy sangha begins at home. Grounded in the Dharma, we care for and connect with our families, Temple Ohana, and our community continuing to build what we have created.

This leads me to the next step in building a healthy sangha. As mentioned at the General Membership Meeting and in our Jiho, our 125th Anniversary celebration is approaching. The 125th Anniversary Celebration Committee is working very hard to produce a memorable celebration.

I encourage you to join in our efforts to celebrate Kona Hongwanji's 125th birthday. Please say yes when approached to help with the celebration. As our slogan states, *Connecting with Others*, we need to be connected with each other to ensure that our 125th celebration will be memorable as we remember and honor those who have come before us 125 years ago, and whose vision it was to build a temple where everyone could gather and listen to the Buddha's teachings.

Let us build on their vision and the foundation they established to ensure that our Temple will thrive for another 125 years to give people the opportunity to listen to the teachings of the Buddha and Shinran Shonin. I look forward to working with you in the coming years.

In Gassho,

Linda Nagai
Kyodan President

Building a Healthy Sangha **Rev. Blayne Higa**

Sangha is all about people. It is an intentional community of fellow travelers guided by the Buddha's teachings. It is within Sangha where the spirit of the Buddha lives, and the Way of understanding and love that he taught is embodied. Sangha is a chosen family dedicated to learning, sharing, and living the Dharma together.

We are so fortunate to have Kona Hongwanji as our spiritual home. For 125 years, we have nurtured a Dharma-centered community that genuinely cares for each other. From our birth into this world of samsara to our ultimate birth in the Pure Land of Enlightenment, this temple is a place for our whole lives. This Sangha is a place where we can bring our whole self and experience Amida Buddha's compassionate embrace that never abandons.



Facing the challenges of the pandemic together has taught us why Sangha is one of the Three Jewels of Buddhism. We have learned what good spiritual friendship means and have re-defined how we can be Sangha together. It is this spirit of discovery, innovation, and caring that has seen us through the darkest of times. Through laughter and tears we have struggled along as imperfect companions growing from our mistakes and building upon our achievements. We are stronger and more resilient than we ever imagined. This is the power of Sangha.

I am grateful to each of you for choosing to be a part of this community. It is all because of your efforts that this temple continues to be a place where everyone can encounter the life-giving teachings of the Buddha that changes lives.

My heartfelt mahalo to Joey Gusman for his leadership over the past four years as temple President. He helped us successfully navigate the pandemic over these last two years and has been an excellent partner in laying the foundation for our future.

Congratulations to Linda Nagai for taking on the responsibility as President for the next two years! I look forward to working with her and the Board of Directors as we continue building on all that we have achieved over the past several years. I am excited for the challenges ahead and all that we can accomplish together as one Sangha.

I am continually humbled and inspired by our temple family. You teach me about becoming one in spirit through the living Dharma. This is truly connecting with others. Let us continue to build a healthy Sangha together. Namō 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*

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 uncertain times. Mahalo!

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.

Hawaii Federation of Jr. YBA



Our amazing Manami Alspach, President of the Hawaii Federation of Jr. Young Buddhist Associations did an outstanding presentation at the 110th Legislative Assembly held on February 11-12. She and the Jr's. shared about the good work the Jr. YBA units across the state did this past year. Congratulations Mana and Jr's! We are so proud of our young Buddhist leaders!

125th Anniversary Cookbook On Sale Now!

Call to reserve or drop by the temple to pick up copies of our cookbook with delicious recipes from sangha members. They make great gifts for any occasion!

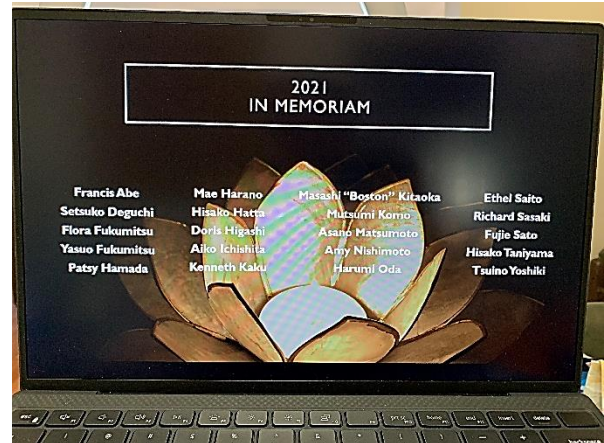
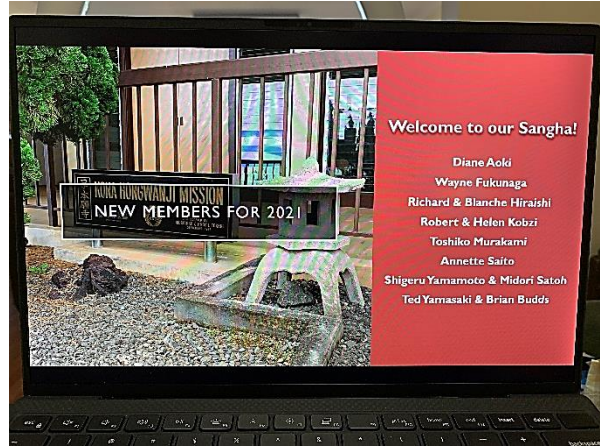


Nirvana Day Service



On February 13th we observed Nirvana Day and reflected on the life of Shakyamuni Buddha who passed into Parinirvana at the age of 80. Guest speaker was our good Dharma friend Rev. Jiko Nakade of Kona Daifukuji Soto Mission who shared a wonderful message on how the teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh inspires her own Buddhist practice and understanding of the Dharma. Namu Shakyamuni Butsu. Namu Amida Butsu.

Memorial Service & General Membership



On February 20th, we held our Annual Memorial Service and General Membership Meeting on Zoom. We remembered temple members who were born in the Pure Land last year. We also welcomed new Sangha members for 2021 and recognized our Keirokai honorees for 2022. We also elected new Officers and Directors for 2022-2024 and had a fun online Bingo game with prizes. We hope we will be able to hold an in-person event next year!

KHBT Officers and Directors 2022-2024

President: Linda Nagai
 Immediate Past President: Joseph Gusman
 Vice President: Claudia Chang
 Secretary: Helen Nagata
 Assistant Secretary: Elaine Nakagawa
 Treasurer: Dean Uemura
 Assistant Treasurer: Steven Kaneko
 Auditors: Jim Miller & Wendy Terada
 Spiritual Affairs Director: Betty Takeoka
 Youth Director: Makiko Yamaguchi
 Member Welfare Director: Morris Nagata
 Advisors: Kazumi Oshita & Kenneth Komo

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE:

Rev. Blayne Higa was awarded the Flame of Hope Award from the Interfaith Alliance Hawai'i back in December 2021. This award is presented to honor someone within the Hawaii Community who has "Shared Kindness in a Difficult Time". Rev. Blayne has definitely shown the Sanga and Community of Kona his compassion and kindness to our community. Our Big Mahalo and Congratulations to Rev. Blayne Higa!!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—MARCH 2022

HOONKO SERVICE

Anonymous	Nobuko Aoki	Sandy Iwashita
Nora Koyanagi	Janet Maeda	Alan Matsumoto
Ann Matsumoto	Satsuko Matsuoka	Elaine Nakagawa
Chizu Nakashima	Keith Nishihara	Ellen Nishikawa
Doris Yamamoto	Mr. & Mrs. Keith Hayama	Mr. & Mrs. Burt Kamigaki
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko	Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo	Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano
Mr. & Mrs. Takeo Nakasone	Mr. & Mrs. Ichiro Shikada	Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue		
	Total - \$450.00	

IN MEMORY OF

Anonymous, IMO Kamehachi Inouye's 50th year
Miyuki Inouye, IMO Kamehachi Inouye's 50th year
Elaine Komo, IMO Yoshiyuki Kaneko, Yasuo Fukumitsu, Mutsumi Komo & Flora Fukumitsu's 1st year
Nora Koyanagi, IMO Hatsue Tabata's 25th year
Audrey Mikami, IMO kamehachi Inouye's 50th year
George Nakamoto & Ohana, IMO Hatsue Tabata's 25th year
Setsue Okuda, IMO Ichi and Rikita Mori
Wilfred Tabata, IMO Hatsue Tabata's 25th year
Ted Yamasaki, IMO Iwao Yamasaki

Total - \$1,100.00

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Elaine Kawasaki	Lori Marcello	Family of Wally Ichishita
Mr. & Mrs. Kelvin Miki		
Mr. & Mrs. Neal Okada		
Mr. & Mrs. Burt Kamigaki, Jiho		
Nora Koyanagi, Bodhi Day, New Years Service		
Ellen Nishikawa, New Years Service		
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue, New Years Service		
Giselle Verbera, Wedding Ceremony		
Sandra Yoshioka, New Years Service		
Carol Zakahi, House Blessing		
	Total - \$1,117.00	

Mahalo for your generous donations!
Please let us know if there are any corrections.

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 2022

FIRST YEAR 2021

03/07 Yasuo Fukumitsu	03/08 Tsuino Yoshiki
03/14 Masashi "Boston" Kitaoka	03/29 Hisako "Sue" Taniyama
04/11 Hisako Hatta	04/13 Fujie Sato
04/14 Harumi Mildred Oda	05/10 Midori "Mae" Harano

THIRD YEAR 2020

04/27 Miles Nakahara	05/10 Takao Katoku
05/23 Robert Manabu Fujino	

SEVENTH YEAR (2016)

04/03 Dorsey T. Ito	04/10 Marion Yaeko Harada
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THIRTEENTH YEAR (2010)

03/04 Helen Hisae Ikeno	03/06 Henry Yoshito Morimoto
03/30 Doris Yasuko Murata	05/07 Satomi Takashiba
05/24 Frank T. Okamoto	

SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2006)

03/03 Wally Kusano	04/12 Masao Sunada
05/23 Gertrude Tsuruyo Hayashida	

TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR (1998)

03/01 Ronald Shunji Inouye	03/02 Mitsuko Ohta
03/05 Sueki "Toby" Matsuoka	03/18 Teru Tanaka
05/05 Sherri Lynn Teruko Ichishita	05/18 Kikue Ashihara
05/23 Tokiko Matsuda	05/30 Tone Sakamoto
05/30 Teruo Hirata	

THIRTY-THIRD YEAR (1990)

03/08 Itsuo Seto	03/14 Mitsue Onizuka
03/22 Hilary Michiko Masunaga	03/30 Ernest Shinichi Koyanaga
04/02 David Megumu Araki	04/21 Akio "Aki" Okumura
05/10 Suehiko Matsumoto	05/16 Satsuki Koyanagi

FIFTIETH YEAR (1973)

03/25 Toshie Ohayakawa	03/26 Tanizo Takagi
04/28 Ichi Isemoto	05/04 Tsune Motohiro
05/21 Gonzaburo Harano	

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