



JIHO

May 2022



Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others

Dharma Family Services

Please join us for our hybrid services in May. 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!

Mother's Day & Children's Day Service

Sunday, May 8, 2022 at 10:00 am
Guest Speaker: Tamayo Matsumoto

Baccalaureate Service

Sunday, May 15, 2022 at 10:00 am
Guest Speaker: Janice Ikeda, Executive Director of Vibrant Hawaii

Gōtan-E Service (Shinran Shōnin's Birthday)

Sunday, May 22, 2022 at 10:00 am
Guest Speaker: Rev. Masanari Yamagishi
Minister of North Hawaii Temples (Kamuēla, Paauilo, Honokaa, Kohala)

This service celebrates the birth of Shinran Shōnin (May 21, 1173-January 16, 1263) who was the founder of Shin Buddhism. His life and teachings represent one of the most significant developments in the history of Buddhism. Before then only the privileged and educated received spiritual instruction. Shinran taught that everyone was equally embraced by the Buddha's infinite light and compassion, and the truth of the Dharma and shinjin awakening are accessible to everyone without discrimination.

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 to celebrate Shakayamuni Buddha's birthday. We had about 50 Sangha members at the Temple and about 17 more joining us on Zoom. A huge thank you to everyone who shared flowers and to our Jr YBA and Sangha members who created a beautiful flower pavilion (hanamido) for our baby Buddha.

Now the icing on Buddha's birthday cake was our guest speaker and Dharma friend Rev. Landon Yamaoka joining us from San Francisco and sharing a great Dharma message. The decorations on the cake well that was thanks to the BWA for the refreshments and their traditional manju. The manju you enjoyed couldn't have been possible without the assistance from Morris Nagata and Wayne Fukunaga, our "man" power, assisting the BWA with manju making, lifting and clean up, thank you guys.

Please continue to join us for services in person or on Zoom. On May 8 for our Mother's Day and Children's Day service Tamayo Matsumoto will be our guest speaker, and Tamayo will be speaking in person at Kona Hongwanji. May 15 will be our Baccalaureate Service recognizing our students that are graduating from High School or institutions of Higher Learning, and May 22, will be Gotan E, a service celebrating Shinran Shonin's birthday. Hope to see you either on Zoom or at the Temple

Here is an update on our 125th Anniversary celebration. On May 7, we will be having a Craft Fair in our parking lot from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., just in time for your Mother's Day shopping. Besides Craft and other Vendors, we will be selling our cookbooks and clocks, please spread the word.

To our Sangha, thank you, thank you, thank you, for your support of our 125th celebration, and continued support of our Temple, with your monetary and personal contribution in the sustaining our Temple which includes our Temple sponsored programs, Pre School. facilities and grounds.

As I reflect on a quote by Thich Nhat Hanh "As members of a sangha, we can develop our individual talent and our individual potential, and at the same time contribute to and participate in the talent and happiness of the entire group. Nothing is loss; everyone wins. A sangha has the power to protect and carry us, especially in difficult times." I feel that this quote reflects the heart of our Sangha members. You are the driving force and the power for a successful 125th celebration and sustainability of Kona Hongwanji. I am humbled by your generosity and support.

In Gassho,

Linda Nagai

Becoming More Rev. Blayne Higa

Just like how a lotus flower rises from muddy water to bloom beautifully, we also have the ability to transform the suffering we experience into something more. The Buddha shared with us a path of continual becoming. Each moment of our lives is an opportunity to look deep within to better understand the working of our own heart and mind. This is the profound interior practice of mindfulness that is a life of awakening.

In Shin Buddhism, our practice is the natural and spontaneous recitation of the Nembutsu that can be practiced in every moment of our busy lives. The Name, Namo Amida Butsu is the calling voice of Amida Buddha, the cosmic sound of wisdom and compassion urging us to wake up. Our practice hall in the Pure Land Path is our ordinary daily life where we deeply listen with the ears of our heart to all that life has to teach us. Namo Amida Butsu is the song of awakening which calls us home to ourselves.

Shakyamuni Buddha taught that the root cause of human suffering is our greed, anger, and ignorance. Doesn't it seem like we have been dealing with so much anger in recent years? From our politics to the pandemic to how we deal with the everyday difficulties of life, it seems like we are always angry about something and do not know how to quench the rising flames which threaten to consume us.

It is natural to get angry but what is harmful is when we cannot let go of our anger. In the *Samyutta Nikaya*, the Buddha offers the following teaching on anger,



*Having slain anger, one sleeps soundly;
having slain anger, one does not sorrow.
The killing of anger, O Sakka,
with its poisoned root and honeyed tip:
this is the killing the noble ones praise,
for having slain that, one does not sorrow.*

The Buddha's path is not about escaping from the ocean of suffering but is about diving into and immersing ourselves in it, in order to be transformed. Just like how the lotus flower cannot grow in clear water, we cannot grow without the "mud" of our lives. Our challenges, our obstacles, and our hurts are the nutrients that allow us to grow and thrive. The Buddha's teachings enable us to take it all in and transform the muck into a beautiful life of awakening.

However, it is so easy for us to be consumed by our anger when we encounter difficulties in life. Our unresolved anger and resentment lead to more suffering. The Buddha teaches how "Blood stains can not be removed by more blood; resentment can not be removed by more resentment; resentment can be removed only by forgetting it."

I recently watched the new Batman movie, and we know how this superhero is an instrument of vengeance who brings wrongdoers to justice. This movie explores how Batman's singular mission of vengeance is transformed through his experiences. Towards the end of the film, he reflects on the evolution of his anger. He says,

Vengeance won't change the past, mine, or anyone else's. I have to become more. People need hope to know someone is out there for them. The City's angry, scarred like me. Our scars can destroy us. Even after the physical wounds have healed. But if we survive them, they can transform us. They can give us the power to endure and strength to fight.

Isn't this an example of a lotus blooming in mud? Of how through deep self-reflection, we can transform our greed, anger, and ignorance, into the reason for our awakening? This is the everyday wisdom that the Buddha teaches that pushes us to become more. More than our greed, more than our anger, more than our ignorance. We become more of our foolish selves within the embrace of dynamic wisdom and compassion. We become truly human. 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.

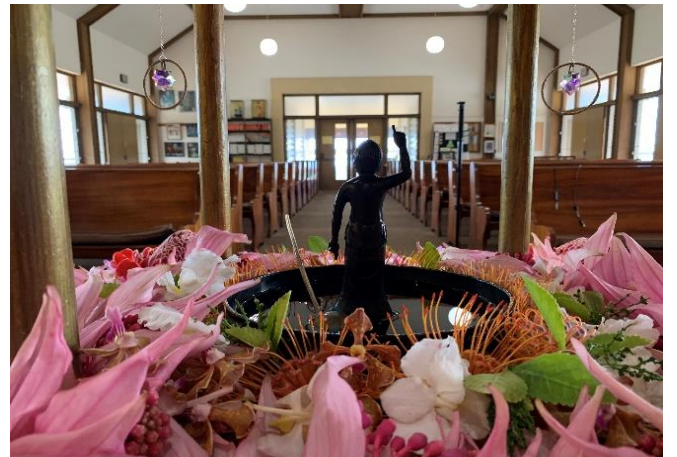
*Aloha,
Rev. Blayne*



125TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT FAIR
SATURDAY - MAY 7, 2022
9:00 AM-2:00 PM
KONA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
SOCIAL HALL
ANNIVERSARY LOGO ITEMS
AND MANY OTHER GIFTS
JUST FOR MOM



Hanamatsuri (Buddha Day) Service



On April 10th, we held a wonderful Hanamatsuri Service celebrating the Birth of Shakyamuni Buddha. Rev. Landon Yamaoka, Assistant Minister of Palo Alto Buddhist Temple shared a meaningful message on how the Buddha's teachings transformed his life. Mahalo to everyone who donated flowers and who helped to decorate the Hanamido. We also had a special treat of freshly baked manju made by the Buddhist Women's Association and friends. It was truly a special time with so many Dharma friends joining us in person and online!

Project Dana Senior Activity Day

We are excited to be restarting our monthly Project Dana Senior Activity Day every second Friday of the month. We will begin on Friday, May 13 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.



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 as soon as possible.

We would like to recognize 2022 graduates at our upcoming Baccalaureate Service on May 15th at 10:00am. Our guest speaker will be Janice Ikeda, Executive Director of Vibrant Hawaii. Please join us!

In Memoriam

The Kona Hongwanji Sangha extends its deepest sympathy to the families and friends of the following members who realized birth in the Pure Land. May you find comfort and peace in the Nembutsu. Namo Amida Butsu

Warren Kitaoka (January 8, 2022)
Yasue Okino (January 12, 2022)
Richard Maeda (January 17, 2022)
George Kurozawa (January 25, 2022)
Chiyono Kobayashi (February 8, 2022)
Chizuko Nakamura (February 20, 2022)
Matsuko Matsuda (March 7, 2022)



Welcome New Member!

Mahalo to Mr. & Mrs. Daryl Kurozawa for becoming a sustaining member. Welcome to our Sangha!

Preschool News

Employment opportunities are still available. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact the preschool at 808-323-3737 or email at khp72016@outlook.com.

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

南无阿彌陀佛
世光寺

