



JIHO

April 2021



Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Building Healthy Sanghas: Nurturing Empathy and Respect

Virtual Dharma Family Services

Please join us for our virtual services and events in April. All online services will begin at 10:00 am on Zoom (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! Please consider making an offertory donation for our virtual services just like attending an in-person service. Mahalo!



Hanamatsuri (Buddha Day) Service

Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 10:00 am

Guest Speaker: Raymond Takiue, Jr.

President, Moiliili Hongwanji 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 2,500 years after his birth.

Zoom link will be sent a few days prior to the service.

Hanamatsuri Open House

Sunday, April 11, 2021

11:00 am to 1:00 pm

You are cordially invited to visit the temple to participate in the traditional pouring of sweet tea over the 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. Hanamatsuri (flower festival) is a memorable occasion because of the beautifully decorated flower-pavilion (hanamido) used to shelter the baby Buddha statue. All COVID-19 safety guidelines will be observed for everyone visiting.

Dharma Family Service

Sunday, April 25, 2021 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: Joseph Gusman (Emergency only 808-896-4988 or 808-324-0708)

KONA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

P.O. Box 769

Kealakekua, HI 96750

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KEALAKEKUA, HAWAII 96750

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

President's Message

Hopefully, many of you were able to participate in the first ever virtual HAIB Buddha Day Service on March 14, 2021. As the host temple, Kona Hongwanji is grateful for all the people who made the event possible. It took many hands to make the event the success that it was, both in planning and preparing for the service, as well as all the attendees who joined us via Zoom. We even owe a debt of gratitude to headquarters on Oahu for allowing us to use their Zoom account to accommodate the larger number of participants in this service. I was extremely impressed by the young adult speakers during the service who shared their thoughts on putting "Dharma in Action".

As we have now passed a year of dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on all our lives, your temple leadership will continue to monitor any new developments that may affect our temple. The health & safety of our membership is always our primary concern. It will be a while before we are back to some kind of normal, and some of our events will be delayed or remain virtual for the time being. Once it is safe to do so, we can all look forward to returning to our normal temple activities.

Again, please stay safe and look out for one another.

In Gassho,
Joseph Gusman
Kyodan President

Reflecting on Anti-Asian Hate: Going to the Dharma for Guidance Rev. Blayne Higa

The recent killing of eight people at Asian-owned spas in Atlanta, Georgia has left us shocked, horrified, and saddened by these continuing acts of hatred and violence.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began a year ago, there has been an exponential rise in hate crimes directed toward Asian Americans. The conditions for violence have been created by the continued use of hateful speech against people of Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) descent. Like other marginalized groups, there is a long and painful history of racism, scapegoating, and exclusion of AAPI communities in the United States.

The Buddha teaches "Seeing things happen according to causes and conditions is to see the truth." The use of racist language has led to these acts of senseless violence.

In the *Dhammapada*, Shakyamuni Buddha said, "All that we are is the result of what we have thought. It is founded on our thoughts. It is made up of our thoughts. If one speaks or acts with an evil thought, pain follows one, as the wheel follows the foot of the ox that draws the wagon...If one speaks or acts with a pure thought, happiness follows one, like a shadow that never leaves." Let us be mindful of using language which fosters compassion and love, rather than anger and hate.

Let us cease hatred through love as the Buddha taught. We can disagree without hate, vitriol, and violence. We must learn to live together for the sake of our collective future.

In the sutra *Sanbutsuge (Hymn in Praise of the Buddha)*, Amida Buddha as a Bodhisattva vows, "And to all beings who live in fear, I will give great peace." No one should live in fear of physical or verbal violence because of their race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, profession, or any other characteristic. There is beauty and strength in our diversity as a nation. We need to speak out against hate in all forms for our mutual welfare and benefit.

As Buddhists, we are devoted to the pursuit of harmony, peace, and gratitude and we strive to embody the Buddha's teachings in our thoughts, through our words, and by our actions. These acts of hatred must stop. What happens to one affects us all. Compassion for self and others is the difficult yet necessary work we all must engage in to heal and transform our world.



In April we celebrate the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, the one who would become Shakyamuni, the historical Buddha who we revere as the great teacher who first turned the wheel of Dharma for the liberation of all beings. In the sacred story, the baby buddha took seven steps to signify his going beyond the six realms of suffering to the realm of awakening. We should wholeheartedly rely on the life-giving and life-transforming Dharma in these challenging times.

May we be guided by the light of all-inclusive wisdom and all-embracing compassion as we journey along the difficult path of peace and justice together.

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 wherever you are on life's journey. I am available for pastoral care and counseling in-person, by phone, or by 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*

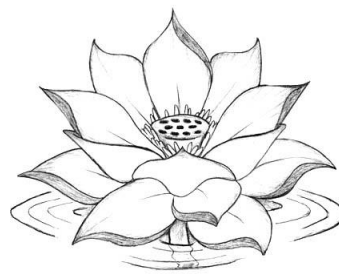
Weekly Sangha Talk Story

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 on Zoom. If you would like to participate, please email Rev. Blayne at bhiga@honpahi.org to be sent the meeting link each week.

2021 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 30th.

We would like to recognize 2021 graduates at our upcoming Baccalaureate Service scheduled for May 16th.



Flowers Needed for Hanamatsuri

Flowers are needed to decorate the Hanamido for our Buddha Day Service and Hanamatsuri Open House on April 11th.

Please drop off flowers on Friday, April 9 by 6:00pm. Buckets will be placed by the conference room door near the temple bell.

Thank you for your help!

Preschool News

- KHBT Preschool is accepting students and is looking to hire a teacher. Please contact Leanne Abe for more information. Email at KHP72016@outlook.com or call 808-323-3737.



Aging in Place on Hawai'i Island

“Lucky we live Hawai'i,” takes on a double meaning when you live on Hawai'i Island



It's a great place to live, work and play. But, is it a great place to grow older? What will it take to “age in place,” on the island? Join us for a free 3-part webinar series to help you think about the plan for the future.



Join us online, Saturdays at 10 AM:

April 17th - Legal Issues & Financial Issues

April 24th - Housing Options for Older Adults on Hawai'i Island

May 1st - Eldercare Resources



Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Register at https://aarp.cvent.com/HI_AIP

These FREE events are open to the public.



Eshinni and Kakushinni Day Service



Rev. Yuika Hasebe shared a wonderful Dharma Message for our Eshinni and Kakushinni Day Service on March 7th. She reflected on their immense contributions in sharing Shinran's teachings and how she has found new appreciation for the Dharma during the pandemic.

HAIB Buddha Day Service



On March 14, we hosted the 9th Annual Hawaii Association of International Buddhists Buddha Day Celebration. This first ever virtual service had over 90 participants from all over the country. We were so fortunate to have wonderful speakers discussing the relevant and important theme of “Dharma in Action.” Their talks were meaningful and inspiring for living in these challenging times.

Bishop Eric Matsumoto’s Statement Against Anti-Asian Violence

The recent killing of eight people in a series of mass shootings that took place at Asian-owned spas in Atlanta, Georgia are both shocking and horrifying. We mourn the loss of life and denounce the continued acts of violence against Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities across our country.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began a year ago, there has been an exponential rise in hate crimes directed toward Asian Americans. As with other marginalized groups, there is a long and painful history of racism, scapegoating, and exclusion of AAPI communities in the United States.

The conditions for violence have been fomented by the continued use of hateful speech directed toward Asian Americans. This kind of racist language has resulted in verbal and physical harm. We must all work together to stop these acts of violence.

The Buddha taught, “The mind is the forerunner of all actions. All deeds are led by the mind and created by the mind. If one speaks or acts with an agitated mind, suffering follows, as the wheels of a cart follow the ox pulling it. If one speaks or acts with a calm mind, happiness follows, as surely as one’s shadow.” Let us take great care to use language in ways that foster compassion and love, not anger and hate.

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is a spiritual community devoted to sharing the Buddha’s teachings so everyone may enjoy lives of harmony, peace, and gratitude. We decry with deep lament all acts of hatred and violence and we stand in solidarity with all who walk the path of peace and equality.

May we be guided by the light of all-inclusive wisdom and all-embracing compassion in the difficult days ahead.

Namo Amida Butsu

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—March 2021

HAKASOJI and NOKOTSUDO

Anonymous	Sharon Hynynen	Elaine Komo
	Total - \$190.00	

SERVICES

Yoshiko Kadooka, 7th year memorial for Sunao Kadooka
Beverly Kanda, Funeral Service for Walter Kanda
Karl Tanaka, 49th day Service and Inurnment for Yoshie Tanaka

Total - \$800.00

NIRVANA DAY

Anonymous	Emiko Kaneko	Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko
Nora Koyanagi	Chizu Nakashima	Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue		
	Total - \$155.00	

ESHINNI DAY

Anonymous	Mary Katayama	Nora Koyanagi
Alan Matsumoto	Ann Matsumoto	Chizu Nakashima
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka	Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue	
	Total - \$185.00	

IN MEMORY OF

June Nakata, IMO Tatsuyo Nakagawa
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Martines, IMO Tom Taniyama's 7th year
Danny Matsuoka, IMO Fujie Matsuoka's 3rd year
Elaine Nakagawa, IMO Tatsuyo Nakagawa
Jimmy Nakagawa, IMO Tatsuyo Nakagawa
Val Ogata, IMO Florence Ogata
Molly Takashiba, IMO Chiyoko Takashiba's 33rd year
Alberta Takashiba & Ohana, IMO Chiyoko Takashiba's 33rd year
Karen Shimabukuro & Ohana, IMO Chiyoko Takashiba's 33rd year
Laura Ikehara & Ohana, IMO Chiyoko Takashiba's 33rd year
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Taniyama & Ohana, IMO Tomokichi Taniyama's 7th year
Nora Koyanagi, IMO Sally Murakami, Pauline Yano, Mary Nakagawa, Yoshiyuki Kaneko, Yoshie Tanaka, and Stanley Zakahi

Total - \$1,205.00

Acknowledgements continued:

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Claude Onizuka	Jeanne Deaver	Sharon Hynynen
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ikeno	Chiyono Kobayashi	KH Dharma School
Lori Marcello	Elaine Nakagawa	Albert Watanabe
Mr. & Mrs. Atsushi Matsumoto		
Nora Koyanagi, NY Service, Hoonko, Onizuka Memorial		
Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue, February Sunday Services		
Ellen Nishikawa, Hoonko, Eitaikyo, Obon, Gotan-E, Spring/Autumn Ohigan		
Helen Oishi, Hoonko, Annual Meeting		
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue, Onizuka Memorial, Spring Ohigan		
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Kunitake, Annual Meeting		
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka, Annual Meeting		
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Uemura, Annual Meeting		
Mr. & Mrs. George Nakamoto, Spring Ohigan		
Mr. & Mrs. Ichiro Shikada, Spring Ohigan		
Doris Yamamoto, Spring Ohigan		

Mahalo for your generous donations!

Please let us know if there are any corrections.

Total – 2,533.00

CAPITAL FUND & HAWAII KYODAN DUES

Anonymous

Akino Sonoda

Everyday Dharma

The Gatha “Namo Amida Butsu” by Ernest Hunt (Third Verse by Nancy Hashimoto) from Seattle Buddhist Church Gatha Book.

*When life is fair and sunlight gilds the day
When fortune smiles, and flowers adorn our way
Oft let us pause with grateful hearts to say
Namo Amida Butsu*

*Even though our way leads 'neath a darkened sky
And to our loved ones pain and death draw nigh
Our tears may flow, yet trustingly we cry
Namo Amida Butsu*

*When our life leads us to the other shore
And Buddha's light we'll see forever more
In Nembutsu our grateful hearts shall soar
Namo Amida Butsu*

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE 2021

FIRST YEAR 2020

4/27	Nakahara, Miles	5/10	Katoku, Takao
5/23	Fujino, Robert	6/10	Yoshioka, Yaeko

THIRD YEAR (2019)

04/09	Kunitomo, Stanley Mitsuo	04/18	Shiraki, Desiree Jade
05/07	Tanaka, Takiyo	06/16	Sato, Saeko

SEVENTH YEAR (2015)

06/14	Kunitomo, Gladys Hideko	06/28	Higashi, Sanford Tatsuya
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THIRTEENTH YEAR (2009)

04/14	Kanai, Minnie Mitsue	04/19	Nakamura, Katsue
05/04	Kaneo, Motoji	05/14	Iseri, Misako "Mitzi"
06/05	Oura, Sadako "Janet"		

SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2005)

05/17	Yamato, Kikue	05/23	Harano, Daniel Manabu
06/29	Nakashima, Jace Masao		

TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR (1997)

04/28	Ito, Yasue	05/10	Kato, "Sadie" Sadako
05/11	Sakamoto, Tomio	05/18	Fukunaga, Aiko
05/27	Kadohiro, Yasuo		

THIRTY-THIRD YEAR (1989)

05/07	Saito, Konoe	06/05	Fujimoto, Chiyono
06/01	Kitaoka, Takeshi	06/07	Shimamoto Jr., Cornell

FIFTIETH YEAR (1972)

04/11	Nishina, Tojiu	05/13	Yamasaki, Takeo
05/22	Izuno, Tokio	06/28	Onaka, Shizue

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