



JHO

July 2021



Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Building Healthy Sanghas: Nurturing Empathy and Respect

Welcome Back!

In July we are excited to welcome you back as we resume in-person services. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there will be a limited number of seating available in the temple. We kindly ask that you call the temple office at 808-323-2993 to let us know if you plan to attend a service.

If you decide to attend in person the following guidelines will be observed:

- Please wear a mask or face covering at all times.
- Temperature will be taken.
- Please sanitize your hands upon entry.
- Please practice physical distancing of at least 6 Feet with people not of your household.
- Please sit only in designated pews (Members of the same household may sit together).
- There will be no congregational chanting or singing in order to prevent transmission.
- Incense offering has been modified to reduce transmission.

You may also continue to participate in our services via Zoom. 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 in person or online!



Obon Cemetery Service

Sunday, July 4, 2021 at 10:00 am

Obon Family Service

Sunday, July 18, 2021 at 10:00 am

Guest Speaker: Rev. Alan Urasaki
Chaplain, Federal Detention Center



During Obon we will take time to remember departed loved ones and celebrate our continuing relationship with them. If you would like to honor your loved one(s) at this service please submit their name(s) to the temple office by Wednesday, July 14. Please email konahongwanji@twc.com or call 808-323-2993.

Rev. Urasaki will join us in person for this special service.

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

President's Message

First, I hope all the fathers, grandfathers, fathers-to-be, and everyone who fills the role of a father had a joyous Father's Day celebration. Time spent with our families is special and to be cherished.

The good news to report is that as vaccination rates increase and community COVID case counts decrease, some of the restrictions we have been under over the past year have begun to loosen. Considering these changes, Kona Hongwanji will be gradually transitioning toward having an increased number of in-person services & activities while also maintaining the option to attend virtually for those who feel safer or find it more convenient to do so. As always, the health & safety of our Sangha members will always remain a priority for your temple leadership, but it is wonderful to be at a point where we can at least see a beginning of the journey back to more normal activities.

While the transition to more in-person activities may seem to be a change for the temple, it is in fact not the case. Given recent comments that have come to the attention of your temple leadership, I feel it is important to clarify what the availability of temple facilities has been.

In July of 2020, after careful consideration, Kona Hongwanji made the various temple facilities available for use by any or all affiliate organizations as of September 1, 2020. Subject to any restrictions imposed by government authorities, and following recommended health protocols, any of the affiliated temple groups were able to use the temple facilities as of that date. Granted, some of the affiliates chose not to avail themselves of the use of the facilities, but that would be a decision made by the individual organizations based on their own needs and willingness to work within the guidelines. There was absolutely no prohibition on the part of the temple from the use of the facilities, subject to the guidelines. I would invite anyone interested in clarification of the facility use policy, or if you would like a copy of the reopening guidelines, to contact me directly at (808) 896-4988.

As always, please contact the temple if you find yourself in need of spiritual or other assistance as we go forward.

In Gassho,
Joseph Gusman
Kyodan President

On Memory, Rituals, and the Spirit of Obon Rev. Blayne Higa

Obon season is here again and unfortunately, due to the ongoing pandemic, we will not be able to hold our Bon Dance for another year. We all look forward to this annual ritual of remembrance for its fellowship, food, and fun. By gathering and dancing together, we thin the veil of separation between us and our departed loved ones and we feel close to them. Obon is truly a festival of joyful memory in which we celebrate life and our continuing relationship with those that have come before.

Not being able to celebrate Obon in the traditional way has made us realize how important rituals are in our lives. They can offer us connection, grounding, and healing. What makes rituals so special and powerful is that they are intentional. We consciously and mindfully undertake them so we can be reminded of what is truly meaningful in our lives.

In our tradition, we believe that when someone dies, they become one with the Buddha so therefore, while their physical form may pass from this world, the true essence of our loved one continues to live on in Enlightenment, and the activity of Enlightenment is always present in our lives. Our loved ones are always with us, embracing us, through the working of Namo Amida Butsu.

When I moved to Kona several years ago, my dad drove over from Hilo to deliver my grandparent's Obutsudan to me. I don't know how old the altar is but I remember them always having it. What makes the altar so special is that it contains my grandparent's Ihai or wooden Memorial Tablets. My grandparents were such a big part of my life, that to be able to care for their Obutsudan is quite meaningful. Each morning, I start the day by lighting a candle, offering incense, and chanting a sutra. This daily ritual of self-reflection reminds me of how I am always connected to the working of limitless Light and Life. I am also able to greet my grandparents



each morning to thank them for their continuing influence on my life. While I live alone, I am not alone because they are always with me in the dynamic activity of Namo Amida Butsu. They have become personal Buddhas who help me feel ever connected to the rhythms and cycles of life. This ritual of starting my day with them and the Buddha has been healing especially during this time of pandemic.

What personal rituals do you have that connect you to your loved ones? I know many people Ohakamairi by cleaning and bringing flowers to family graves. Our temple columbarium and cemetery are always well kept and full of beautiful flowers. Besides flowers, people sometimes leave favorite snacks and the occasional can of beer on special occasions.

However, not all rituals are necessarily religious. Do you make your mom's favorite recipe for special family gatherings? Do you go to your grandfather's favorite fishing spot? Do you Pau Hana with family and friends like your dad used to? Or do you simply tell your departed wife good morning every day when you wake up? Think about the rituals you regularly perform that connect you to love.

These rituals of remembrance are truly about the life that we continue to share with those that have come before. They are life-giving and connect us to what is truly meaningful and real.

So while we cannot dance together again this year, we can all reflect on the ways our departed loved ones continue to enrich and influence our lives. This is the true spirit of Obon that we can experience throughout the year. Namo Amida Butsu.

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.

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*

Anpan Pickup on July 3rd

Mahalo for supporting our Anpan Fundraiser!

Remember to pick up your order on Saturday, July 3rd 9:00am to Noon at the Temple Social Hall.

Obutsudan

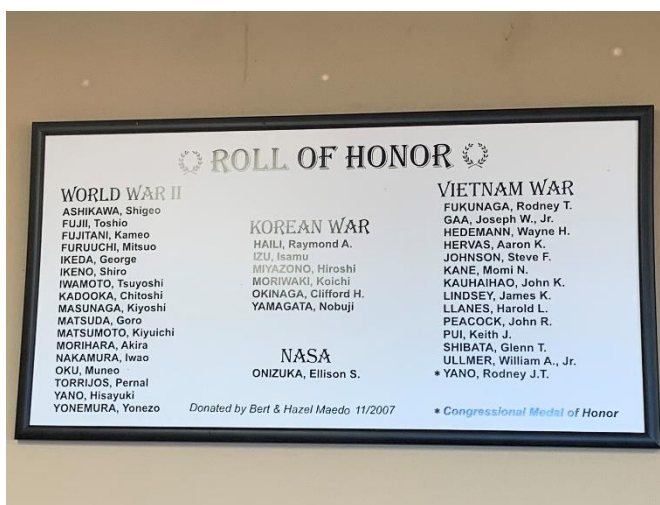
The Obutsudan, or home altar, plays an important part in cultivating our spiritual lives as Shin Buddhists. Our caring for a home altar serves as a mirror to the self within the compassionate embrace of Amida Buddha. The temple has several gently used Obutsudan and altar adornments that are available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

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!

Military Remembrance Service



On June 13th we held our Military Remembrance Service in honor of all who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Our guest speaker was Jane Clement who represented Hawaii County Mayor Mitch Roth.

Father's Day Service



Our Temple President, Joseph Gusman shared a touching message about being a "Dad" for our Father's Day Service on June 20th.

Emergency Preparedness

Hurricane season in Hawaii began on June 1st and will run till November 30th. It's important to have an emergency plan and kits ready to keep your family safe. Useful information on how to prepare for emergencies can be found on the following websites:

County of Hawaii Civil Defense

<https://www.hawaiicounty.gov/departments/civil-defense/emergency-preparedness>

Hawaii Emergency Management Agency

<http://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/>

Hawaiian Electric Emergency Preparedness Handbook

<https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/safety-and-outages/storm-center/emergency-preparedness-handbook>

Preschool News

Happy Summer! Our Summer Session has been filled with summer fun and sun safety. In June, we focused on being sun safe by staying hydrated (National Hydration Day) and keeping the eyes safe and healthy (National Sunglasses Day). We also celebrated National Doughnut Day by decorating doughnuts donated by Standard Bakery (Thank you Candace Fujino and Family).

This month we are learning about the United States (Fourth of July) and ending our year with a food-filled spirit week (National French Fry Day, National Mac and Cheese Day and National Ice Cream Day).

Our Summer Break is from July 19-30, 2021. School will be closed. We will begin our new school year on Thursday, August 5, 2021. Enroll now for the new school year! If you have or know anyone that may be interested, please contact me at 323-3737 or email me at khp72016@outlook.com.

Aloha,
Leanne Abe, preschool director

Employment Opportunities

We continue to seek part-time and/or full-time, on-call, temporary and permanent positions for preschool director, preschool teacher, teacher's aide and after-school cleaners. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact the preschool at 323-3737 or khp72016@outlook.com. We are looking for a hard-working team player with a positive attitude and a willingness to learn. (Our priority is bringing new preschool teachers aboard).



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Hawaii District Ministers Association

2021 BUDDHIST EDUCATION SERIES

[Click to Register](#) Free & Open to the Public

Monthly Online Seminars

Saturday July 10 10-11:30 a.m.	Spiritual Foundation: Nembutsu that is true and real. Rev. Ka'imipono Tomioka Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple	
Saturday August 14 10-11:00 a.m.	Relationship between Amida Buddha and Shakyamuni Buddha Rev. Masanari Yamagishi Kamuela Hongwanji Mission	
Saturday September 25 10-11:30 a.m.	How should Buddhist temple exist as a part of community? Discussion led by Rev. Shinji Kawagoe Papaikou Hongwanji Mission	
Saturday October 9 10-11:30 a.m.	Embracing our Shadow: Shin Buddhist Wisdom for When Life Gets Difficult Rev. Blayne Higa Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple	
Saturday November 13 10-11:30 a.m.	Learning from the Shoshinge Rimban Kazunori Takahashi Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin	
NEMBUTSU SEMINAR 2021		
Saturday October 2, 10-11:30 a.m.	Shin Buddhism and Mental Health Rev. Dr. Carmella Javellana Hirano	
Saturday December 11, 10-11:30 a.m.	Ways of Living in Wisdom and Resilience-- Footsteps of Some Nembutsu Practicers on the Big Island Rev. Tatsuo Muneto, Retired Minister of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii	

Any questions? Email: hawaii.kyogakkai@gmail.com

To Register:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdEWAGGINr1CIWD3d0citkbD7FdxYZXK2JXW3jPSHRqyRL6fQ/viewform>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—June 2021

HAKASOJI and NOKOTSUDO

Bart Aoki & Martin Low
Mr. & Mrs. Wally Ichishita
Yukiko Nakayama
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Komo
Ellen Nishikawa

Setsuyo Fujino
Chizuko Nakamura
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Abe
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Matsumoto
Nancy Shibata
Total - \$840.00

Florence Idei
Jane Iha
Lloyd Fujino
Rinko Matsuoka
Janet Yanagi

SERVICES

Marsha Boyle, Funeral Service & Related Expenses for Hisako Taniyama

Patricia Murasaki, Funeral Service & Related Expenses for Harumi Oda

Carol Okuna, Gravesite Dedication & Inurnment Service for Okuna Ohana

Total - \$1,400.00

JHO

Mr. & Mrs. James Boyle
Lloyd Fujino
Ellen Nishikawa

Setsuyo Fujino
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Komo
Ernest Sasaki
Total - \$260.00

Chizuko Nakamura
Rinko Matsuoka

GOTAN-E

Sandy Iwashita
Ann Matsumoto
Chizu Nakashima
Doris Yamamoto
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko
Satsuko Matsuoka
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Komo
Elaine Nakagawa
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Hayama
Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo
Mr. & Mrs. George Nakamoto

Alan Matsumoto
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano
Dr. & Mrs. John Tsue
Doris Higashi
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Maeda
Ellen Nishikawa

Total - \$550.00

MOTHER'S DAY & CHILDRENS DAY

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko
Cheryl Marshall
Shirley Matsuoka
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Maeda
Alan Matsumoto
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue
Total - \$270.00

Mary Katayama
Ann Matsumoto
Chizu Nakashima

IN MEMORY OF

Anonymous, IMO Harumi Oda

Anonymous, IMO Hisako Hatta

Janet Sugimoto, IMO Hisako Hatta

Bart Aoki & Martin Low, IMO Kazuyoshi and Ethel Aoki

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Aoki, IMO Kazuyoshi and Ethel Aoki

Mr. & Mrs. John Bason, IMO Kazuyoshi and Ethel Aoki

Milton Fukumitsu, IMO Mary Nakagawa, Yasuo Fukumitsu, Lillian Nakagawa, Michie Fukumitsu, and Marilyn Sakata

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kudamatsu, IMO Takao Katoku

Mr. & Mrs. David Miyashita, IMO Kazuyoshi and Ethel Aoki

Leatrice Saito, IMO Takeo Yamasaki

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka, IMO Kazuyoshi Aoki's 7th year and Ethel Aoki's 3rd year

Acknowledgements continued:

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hiraishi, IMO Mary Nakagawa
Robert Ikeno, IMO Shiro Ikeno
Sachiko Katoku, IMO Takao Katoku
Ken Love, IMO Asako Pratt and Sally Murakami
Masae Okamoto, IMO Frank & Wayne Okamoto
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Onaka, IMO Shizue Onaka
Laraine Oura, IMO Sadako "Janet" Oura
Mr. & Mrs. George Shimamoto, IMO Cornell Shimamoto's 33rd year and Sadako "Sadie" Kato's 25th year
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue, IMO Yasuo Fukumitsu and Lillian Yamamoto
Total - \$1,900.00

HI KYODAN DUES

Bart Aoki & Martin Low	Mr. & Mrs. James Boyle	Chizuko Nakamura
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Komo	Rinko Matsuoka	Ellen Nishikawa
Nancy Shibata	Janet Yanagi	

CAPITAL FUND

Anonymous	Mr. & Mrs. James Boyle	Jane Iha
Chizuko Nakamura	Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Okahara	Mr. & Mrs. Francis Abe
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Komo	Mr. & Mrs. Ken Love	Rinko Matsuoka
Ellen Nishikawa	Nancy Shibata	

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Bart Aoki & Martin Low	Mr. & Mrs. Scot Oshiro	Patrick Komo
Rinko Matsuoka	Mr. & Mrs. Wally Ichishita	Linda Nakagawa
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Abe		

Anonymous, Sunday Services
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka, Baccalaureate
Mr. & Mrs. Terence Terada, Baccalaureate
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue, Baccalaureate
Mr. & Mrs. James Boyle, Project Dana
Chizuko Nakamura, Project Dana
Hisako Taniyama, Project Dana
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Komo, Project Dana, Social Concerns
Janice Onaka, In Honor of Veteran Roy H. Onaka
Dr. & Mrs. John Tsue, Sunday Services
Janet Yanagi, Chili, Dharma School, Jr. YBA
Alan Matsumoto, Chili
Yukiko Nakayama, Chili
Ellen Nishikawa, Jr. YBA, Taiko, Sunday Services
Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina, Sunday Services
Mr. & Mrs. George Shimamoto, Chili

Total - \$1,528.00

Mahalo for your generous donations!

Please let us know if there are any corrections.

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2021

FIRST YEAR 2020

7/28 Nakagawa, Mary

8/24 Tashima, Bernice

8/25 Murakami, Sally

THIRD YEAR (2019)

07/17 Miyose, Janet Mieko

07/17 Harano, Makoto

07/18 Pratt, Asako

08/16 Sakamoto, George T.

09/23 Fenske, Jane Emiko

SEVENTH YEAR (2015)

07/18 Oue, Tatsumi

08/17 Matsumoto, Thomas Shinichi

09/18 Oue, Ross Akiyoshi

09/19 Nakamoto, Jean Aiko

THIRTEENTH YEAR (2009)

07/27 Kawahara, Kathryn Kinoe

09/16 Yanagi, Brent Akio

09/26 Nakamoto, Toshio

SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2005)

07/14 Koike, George

08/09 Wakata, Leighton Hisao

08/20 Oga, Masao

08/22 Koshi, Tomeko

08/31 Murasaki, Takeo

09/14 Sato, Torami "Amy"

TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR (1997)

07/05 Ota, Matsue

07/26 Fujimoto, Yoshinobu

07/29 Miyazono, Sadayuki "Barney"

08/09 Teshima, Torao

09/01 Nozaki, Clarence Yoshito

THIRTY-THIRD YEAR (1989)

08/22 Nakatani, Arthur Masao

08/26 Fujikawa, Cary Shizuo

09/27 Sonoda, Jane Tomiko

09/28 Kaku, Yumiko

FIFTIETH YEAR (1972)

08/04 Shikada, Sueo

09/12 Eto, Tsurue

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