



JHO

October 2020



Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity and Openness

Celebrating Peace Day 2020

The Hawaii Federation of Jr. YBAs initiated a resolution...and in 2007 Hawaii Act 23 declared September 21 of each year shall be known and recognized as 'Peace Day'.

In all that is going on in Hawaii and around the world today we need to all pull together now more than ever. We may be of different races, religions and even have different political values but one thing is the same we are all humans on this one planet.

We may view peace in different ways but no matter how YOU choose to see it WE hope we can ALL work towards reaching it.



On September 21st, temples, churches, schools, and community organizations from all over the world rang bells for Peace Day in a virtual celebration. Jana Masunaga and Betty Takeoka helped Rev. Blayne with ringing our bell for peace. You can see the video on demand on the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDuOZdicW9mWq-DNlf19Pyg>

Virtual Dharma Family Services

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

Sunday, October 11, 2020 at 10:00 am

Sunday, October 25, 2020 at 10:00 am, with a message by Linda Nagai

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

Kealahou, HI 96750

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 1
KEALAKEKUA, HAWAII 96750

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

President's Message

First, a big mahalo to all the sangha members who assisted with our most recent Food Distribution event on 9/5/20. Once again, our committee of volunteers came together to make this project a success. It is a wonderful experience to see everyone working together to get through this difficult time.

Just a reminder that our chili fundraiser ticket sales have started. Sangha members living in Kona should have received their tickets in the mail. Please return the money for any tickets sold, as well as any unsold tickets, as soon as possible. Do not forget, pickup will be every Friday & Saturday in October. This project is an excellent way to raise funds for temple operations while also supporting a local business.

Our next virtual family service will be our Autumn Ohigan Service on 9/27/20. If you have not participated in one of our virtual services before, this is again a great chance to get to see and talk to other sangha members that we might not otherwise get to see due to COVID-19 restrictions.

In Gassho,

Joseph Gusman
Kyodan President

A Question of Nobility: Evaluating Good Leadership Rev. Blayne Higa

Over the past several months our nation has lost two champions of justice and equality. The passing of Congressman John Lewis and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg have been occasions to reflect on the nature of leadership and what it means to serve others. Throughout their lives, these courageous individuals faced tremendous challenges, yet put aside self-interest and demonstrated by their actions a nobility of spirit that was far greater than themselves. They understood that true leadership was about service to and concern for the welfare of others.

Justice Ginsburg believed that her legacy was, "To make life a little better for people less fortunate than you, that's what I think a meaningful life is. One lives not just for oneself but for one's community." Congressman Lewis echoed similar thoughts by saying, "Freedom is not a state; it is an act. It is not some enchanted garden perched high on a distant plateau where we can finally sit down and rest. Freedom is the continuous action we all must take, and each generation must do its part to create an even more fair, more just society." They believed that one's conduct matters and it is what determines our collective future.



However, it seems like the kind of leadership that both Congressman Lewis and Justice Ginsburg demonstrated throughout their long lives is in short supply these days. We have leaders today who are self-serving and lack genuine concern for the people in their care for our collective welfare. This lack of leadership has resulted in over 200,000 deaths to COVID-19 and has inflamed racial tensions and civil unrest in our society.

Shakyamuni Buddha taught at length about the radical equality of all people and criticized the arbitrary nature of class and status. He taught that nobility was not a matter of one's birth but rather a matter of one's actions. In the *Suttanipāta* the Buddha says:

*One is not a brahmin by birth,
Nor by birth a non-brahmin.
By action one become a brahmin,
By action one become a non-brahmin.*

*One becomes a farmer by action,
By action one becomes a craftsmen.
One becomes a merchant by action,
By action one becomes a servant.*

*One becomes a thief by action,
By action one becomes a soldier.
One becomes a priest by action,
By action one becomes a king.*

The Buddha understood that true leadership is based on one's actions and conduct. A true leader avoids the unwholesome and does what is wholesome in ensuring the welfare of those within their care.

Our altar reflects this teaching of nobility through one's actions. Have you ever noticed the pair of hanging ornaments flanking the image of Amida Buddha? These ornaments are called *Sumi Yōraku* and they are derived from jewelry worn around the neck and body of nobles in ancient India. The pair of *Yōraku* which hang from the corners of the central altar represent the attainment of nobility through noble deeds.

As we consider these qualities of leadership, we must reflect on our actions and the actions of our current leaders. Both Justice Ginsburg and Congressman Lewis had humble beginnings but became true leaders through their noble actions. Can we demonstrate the same sense of nobility in our own lives and hold our leaders to the same standard? This is how we should evaluate good leadership. Namo Amida Butsu.

2021 Calendar Order

Orders are now being taken for the 2021 Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Calendar
2021 Theme and Slogan: *Building Healthy Sanghas: Nurturing Empathy and Respect*
Contact the Temple Office at 808-323-2993

Grandparent's Day Service



Claudia Chang was the Sangha speaker for our virtual Grandparent's Day Service on September 13th. She shared her thoughts on what being a grandparent means to her. It was nice to have her son Jake Chang and grandson Asher join us on Zoom as well!

Our virtual services are a wonderful way to connect while hearing the Dharma together. We hope to see you online!

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.

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



Chili Fundraiser Pick-up

Thank you for supporting Kona Hongwanji's first ever Chili Fundraiser! This exciting partnership with Sandy's Drive-In supports the temple and local business during these challenging times.

Remember to pick up your 1 1/2 lb. Frozen Chili every Friday and Saturday in October from 8:00am to 2:00pm. Mahalo!



Preschool News

Happy October! As we head into the Fall season, I hope everyone is keeping safe and healthy. Here are the latest happenings at Kona Hongwanji Preschool.

We are still accepting students, ages 2 through 6, for the current school year. Our school hours are Monday-Friday, 7:30 am-4 pm and we currently offer part-time (1-3 days) and full-time attendance. Registration Forms may be requested by contacting the preschool.

We are also hiring for the following positions: Full-Time Teacher, Part-Time Teacher's Aide, Part-Time Janitor, Substitute Teacher, and Substitute Teacher's Aide. If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining our preschool family, I would be more than happy to speak with them.

A heartfelt "Thank you!" to our temple members for their generous donations of cleaning supplies and monetary donations to purchase more supplies. Due to new DHS Guidelines regarding COVID-19 cleaning and sanitizing of our facility, we are always in need of Lysol Cleaner (concentrate), Lysol Spray, Lysol/Clorox Wipes, Isopropyl alcohol, and non-latex gloves. If you happen to be shopping and come across any of those cleaning supplies, consider donating an extra one to our preschool. Donations may be dropped off with Ramah at the temple office. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Please feel free to contact me for more information at khp72016@outlook.com or (808)323-3737.

Aloha,
Leanne Abe
Preschool Director

Shop Online to Support Kona Hongwanji

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 koku as well. We sincerely appreciate your support during these uncertain times. Mahalo!

Be Counted in the 2020 Census

Every 10 years, the federal government is legally required to count every person living in the country, regardless of citizenship status, as part of the U.S. Census. Certain populations, however, are more likely than others to be missed. Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders ([AANHPIs](#)), people with limited English proficiency, people with low incomes, and young children are some of the groups that are undercounted in the census.

When our communities are undercounted, we are given less than [our fair share of government resources](#), including those for education and healthcare. Undercounting also results in our denial of a fair voice in policy decision-making and federal funding allocated to Hawai'i. Go to <https://2020census.gov/> to be counted.

Voting Matters

2020 ELECTION DATES (From State of Hawaii Office of Elections Website)

October 5, 2020: Last day to register to vote and receive your ballot packet in the mail. If you have not registered by October 5, you must go to your local Voter Service Centers.

October 20, 2020: Voter Service Centers are open through Election Day. Services include same day registration and in-person voting.

Map of Voter Service Centers & Places of Deposits:

<https://histategis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=40a88743b85b4fbfb8cf6128bacfedcf>

Ballots Received By: October 16, 2020

Contact your [County Elections Division](#) if you have not received your ballot by this date.

County of Hawaii: (808) 961-8277

County of Maui: (808) 270-7749

County of Kauai: (808) 241-4800

City and County of Honolulu: (808) 768-3800

Ballots Returned: October 27, 2020

Last day to return your voted ballot by mail. After this date, voters must return their ballot to a place of deposit (ballot drop box).

General Election: November 3, 2020

All voted ballots must be received by your Clerk's Office no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election day.

■ ELECTION RESOURCES

Hawai'i Voter Registration - Register to vote or update your voter registration

<https://olvr.hawaii.gov/>

State of Hawai'i Office of Elections - Info on voting and elections in Hawai'i

<https://elections.hawaii.gov/>

Elections by Mail - State of Hawaii, Office of Elections (YouTube Video)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azYEEybXTUY&feature=emb_title

Virtual Nembutsu Seminar with BCA Bishop Marvin Harada

The Buddha's teaching is expressed at a deep and profound level of truth upon which Shinran Shonin and all of the Buddhist masters speak and write. However, the average person is looking for more of a practical approach to Buddhism. Will Buddhism help me to live a happier life?...ease my stress and fears? ...live a more meaningful life? We all start from that level, and with those questions. How can we go from the practical level to the truth level of the teachings? In this seminar, we explore those two levels of the teachings and how we can move from the practical level to the truth level. For more information and to register go to https://hongwanjihawaii.com/blog/event/nembutsu-seminar-bishop-harada-101720/?fbclid=IwAR0aKu_QIT-x8y-E2YFRvwUCaVYuO-5fMWkEtxbZ36tl_NcPdATKVTQ_kWE

Virtual Nembutsu Seminar
Sponsored by the Honolulu & Oahu Hongwanji Councils and the Office of Buddhist Education

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
9:00 to 11:30 am

GUEST SPEAKER:
Bishop Marvin Harada
Buddhist Churches of America

Going from **Practical Buddhism to Truth Level Buddhism**

Annual Manju Fundraiser Cancelled

Due to the ongoing pandemic we will not be able to hold our annual Manju Fundraiser this year. We hope to be able to make delicious Manju next year!

Everyday Dharma

From Lion's Roar Magazine:

Why does Buddhism talk about suffering so much?

BY LION'S ROAR STAFF | DECEMBER 12, 2018

The Buddha's first noble truth says that life is suffering. What's this obsession with suffering? If I don't feel like I'm suffering am I still a Buddhist?

The usual translation you mention—"Life is suffering"—does a disservice to the subtlety of the first noble truth. A fairer translation is "Life is marked by suffering," which means that suffering isn't all we experience but it's always present. Yes, we have happiness and joy, but we never escape the suffering of not getting what we want, the suffering of losing it when we do get it, and the underlying anxiety of not having a solid self. The word usually translated as suffering, *dukkha*, actually means a wheel that is not round and gives a bumpy ride. The point is that life doesn't work very well. As the late Thinley Norbu Rinpoche once said, "Samsara? That's nothing but an endless series of mistakes." The reason people get discouraged by Buddhism's emphasis on suffering is that they think they're stuck with it. But the first noble truth points to the next three truths, which tell us that life will work much better if we let go of the suffering caused by maintaining the fiction of a solid self. The truth of suffering is not a life sentence but the first step on the path to enlightenment. It is a cause of hope, not of despair.

https://www.lionsroar.com/why-does-buddhism-talk-about-suffering-so-much/?utm_content=bufferbaf25&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com/lionsroarbuddhism&utm_campaign=buffer&fbclid=IwAR3Patul0Rin1yDp5k_vsAGtkmOFNuW3qHxAhcQr8LN63MmIFA6Oz6k32O8

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2020

THIRD YEAR (2018)	November	07	SANAE MATSUMURA
		21	MILDRED M. INOUE
		24	ETHEL C. AOKI
SEVENTH YEAR (2014)	October	12	HERBERT KENSO OUE
	November	04	ELLEN TAMAKI HARANO
		09	DORIS K. ARAKI
		26	FUSAE KITAOKA
SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2004)	October	02	HATSUKO KAKU
		15	ALICE RUTH AOKI
		18	MASAO "MASA" NISHIKAWA
	November	09	MIKE MITSUAKI MATSUDA
		29	PAUL KUNIYOSHI MOTOMURA
TWENTY- FIFTH YEAR (1996)	October	05	JEAN TAMIKO KATOKU
THIRTY- THIRD YEAR 1988)	October	12	AKINORI SATO
		29	MAJOR MASAKAZU MANAGO
	November	13	RICHARD TAKETOSHI SATO
FIFTIETH YEAR (1971)	October	10	TSUYE OBATA IWAKI HONDA

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—SEPTEMBER 2020

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Mr. & Mrs. Wally Ichishita, Mothers/Fathers Day

Mr. & Mrs. Shizuya Sakata

Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Taniyama

Anonymous, service for George Sakamoto

Leatrice Saito

Patrick Komo

Nora Koyanagi

Lori Marcello

Total - \$970.00

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue

Mr. & Mrs. Reed Ichishita

Doris Yamamoto

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. James Tashima

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Sako

Total - \$570.00

JIHO

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Sako

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Taniyama

Janice Onaka

Total - \$80.00

HAKASOJI and NOKOTSUDO

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Sako

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Sasaki

Leatrice Saito

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Taniyama

Hanako Sheldon

Total - \$225.00

CAPITAL FUND

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Taniyama

Kathleen Mishina

Leatrice Saito

HAWAII KYODAN DUES

Mr. & Mrs. Shizuya Sakata

Leatrice Saito

Acknowledgements Continued

OBON

Anonymous	Shizue Hirano	Sandy Iwashita
Mary Katayama	Nancy Katayama	Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue
Sueto Matsumura	Betty Matsuo	Satsuko Matsuoka
Mr. & Mrs. Michitoshi Murakami	Morris Nagata	Elaine Nakagawa
Keith Nishihara	Ellen Nishikawa	Clayton Nishina
Satoru Odaira	Carol Okuna	Matsuko Onaka
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Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo	Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Yano	Doris Yamamoto
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Chong	Mr. & Mrs. Sadayuki Inouye	Norma Matsumoto
Mr. & Mrs. Takeo Nakasone	Chizu Nakashima	Ukie Saito
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka	Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue	Albert Watanabe
Mr. & Mrs. James Tashima	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Komo	Lynn Doyle
Elsie Higa	Amy Okuno	
	Total - \$1,770.00	

IN MEMORY OF

Hiroki Ishimaru, IMO Tomiko Ishimaru, Narumi Ishimaru, Morio Kawase

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Mae Harano, IMO Makoto Harano

Acknowledgements Continued

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Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Morimoto, IMO Dale Aoki, Pauline Aoki-Yano

Yasuo Nakamoto, IMO Harold Haruto Manago, Nancy Fumiko Manago

Fujie Sato, IMO Masao Obata – 3 yrs.

Fujie Sato, IMO Mieko Sato – 1st yr.

Satsuye Tanaka, IMO Sahei and Fujie Matsumoto, Harry and Tomie Honda, Kiyoshi and Yasuko Murata

Edwin Ueda, IMO Mitsue Ueda – 25 yrs.

***Mahalo for your generous
donations!***

***Please let us know if there are
any corrections.***

PEACE DAY 2020

