



# JHO

September 2020



## Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

*Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity and Openness*

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### Virtual Dharma Family Services

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

### Grandparent's Day Service

Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 10:00 am

### Autumn Ohigan Service

Sunday, September 27, 2020 at 10:00 am

Guest Speaker: Rev. Tomo Hojo

Resident Minister of West Kauai Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

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 metaphor for crossing from this shore of ignorance, anger, and greed to the other shore of nirvana and peace.

### 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

### 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

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 1  
KEALAKEKUA, HAWAII 96750

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## President's Message

Temple leadership continues to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and is making appropriate adjustments to services and facilities at our temple pursuant to government & Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii guidance. As the numbers of those affected by COVID-19 seems to be on the increase, we hope that all our Sangha members are managing to stay safe and healthy. As we have said before, don't hesitate to contact the temple should you need assistance during this time.

If you have not attended one of our Virtual Dharma Family services recently, we'd invite you to try to attend the next one on 8/30/20. The service has proven to be a wonderful way to connect with our sangha members while managing to stay safe and secure in our homes. There is time both before and after the service to "talk story" and catch up with members we have not seen in a while. It has also been an opportunity to meet new people, from the mainland and even England.

While we have not been able to have the normal celebrations & traditions that surround Obon season, the temple has managed to hold Hatsubon services for all the members of the sangha that have passed away in the past year. By splitting the in-person services over 3 days & allowing additional members of the families to view the services via Zoom, we were able to honor all our recently departed members. Reverend Blayne also held our first virtual Family Obon Service on 8/16/20 which allowed members to submit the names of all family members they wanted honored at the service, regardless of when they had passed away.

We are having one more food distribution event for sangha members on 9/5/20 to assist in getting everyone through this period of the pandemic. I would like to again thank all the members of the community service planning committee for their dedication to seeing this project continue and succeed.

In Gassho,  
Joseph Gusman  
Kyodan President

## Finding Truth in a Chaotic World

Rev. Blayne Higa

Our world is in chaos and it seems we are constantly trying to find our footing on the deck of a ship sailing on stormy seas. Our lives have been upended by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as well as the political and civil unrest sweeping across our nation. These events remind us there is an imbalance in nature and within our society that is the cause of immense suffering.

In times of uncertainty, it is common for us to seek quick and easy answers to our problems and in recent years, many people including certain national leaders have turned to believing in and promoting dangerous conspiracy theories. Belief in these theories arises from a human need to feel more in control of an uncontrollable situation. What also arises is the dark side of our nature which assumes the worst as we look to find blame in others. This imbalance of perspective leads to further suffering as we find ourselves spiraling down a rabbit hole of fear, anxiety, and hatred.

However, the Buddha offers wisdom for living through such turbulent times and how to determine which path to follow and who to believe. In a story from the Kalama Sutta, Shakyamuni Buddha visits the village of the Kalama people who share with him how numerous holy men have visited their village claiming their teachings are the best and how others are false. They tell the Buddha of their confusion and ask for his help in deciding who to listen to and what they should believe. The Buddha tells the villagers that it is only natural to feel such confusion and doubt. He then offers the following advice:

*Neither believe nor reject anything simply because you have heard it. Do not believe in traditions simply because they have been handed down for generations. Do not believe what is written in religious books. Do not believe something just because it superficially seems to be true. Do not believe something for reasons of logic or philosophy. Do not believe anything merely by authority of your teachers and elders. Even if I tell you something, do not believe it! (Winston, 22-23)*

The Buddha tells them to trust their own experience and to know for themselves whether a teaching leads to harm or happiness for self and others. This simple test encourages us to thoroughly examine, experience, and



to carefully consider any teaching or advice with the compassionate heart and mind of a bodhisattva. The Buddha empowers us to tap into our intelligence and wisdom guided by the light of the Dharma. This is why Shinran Shōnin believed it was so rare to encounter a good teacher and even more difficult to discern a good teaching. He shares the following in the *Hymns of the Pure Land*:

*It is difficult to meet true teachers  
And difficult for them to instruct.  
It is difficult to hear the teaching well,  
And more difficult still to accept it. (CWS, 344)*

This is why Shinran was so grateful to receive the Nembutsu teaching from his master Hōnen Shōnin and accepted it only after he thoroughly tested its veracity within his own life. This is the deep and profound faith that arose in Shinran's life through the working of the Dharma.

We observe Ohigan during the spring and fall equinox when day and night are in perfect balance. In many ancient cultures, it is a time of celebration which reminds 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 over from this shore of ignorance, anger, and greed to the other shore of awakening. This is an occasion for us to reflect deeply on the nature of our true self, which is hidden beneath our ego-self. It is this ego-self that is seduced by the promise of simplistic answers offered by conspiracy theories that poison our hearts and minds. The Buddha’s teaching is the antidote which neutralizes ignorance and helps us to discern fact from fiction, truth from lies, and what is wholesome and unwholesome in life. This is why during Ohigan, we reflect on cultivating spiritual balance through living the Buddha’s teachings. Namo Amida Butsu.

### Celebrating an Unconventional Obon

Due to the pandemic, we were not able to celebrate Obon in the traditional way. However, during the evening of August 23<sup>rd</sup> we held an Obon Open House where temple members were able to offer incense while enjoying our beautifully decorated altar with its glowing lanterns and flickering candles. We were able to watch short video clips of last year’s Bon Dance and listen to festive music and the rhythmic beat of taiko drums. Members were also able to take home mini-lanterns and glass paperweights along with some delicious snacks provided by our generous volunteers. Everyone enjoyed a peaceful moment while celebrating Obon safely.



### 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](mailto: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*



### Preschool News

Kona Hongwanji Preschool is still accepting students for the school year. Please encourage your family and friends to apply.

The preschool is hiring the following: Full-Time Preschool Teacher, Part-Time Teacher's Aide, Part-Time Janitor, Substitute Teacher and Teacher's Aide.

The preschool is also in need of cleaning supplies. If you happen to be at the store and are already picking up disinfecting wipes, Lysol concentrate, or Lysol spray, etc., please consider donating an extra one to the preschool. Please drop off at the temple office. Your kokua is greatly appreciated!

Contact our Preschool Director, Leanne Abe at [KHP72016@outlook.com](mailto:KHP72016@outlook.com) or 808-323-3737 for more information.

During September, make a donation to Kona Hongwanji at any Foodland or Sack N Save checkout, and Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will make a donation to our temple too!

**KONA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE**  
**OUR CODE IS: 78465**

How to Donate:

- 1) Shop at Foodland or Sack N Save!
- 2) Show your Maika'i card to the cashier at checkout.
- 3) Tell the cashier our code and the amount of your donation (up to \$249).
- 4) Review your receipt to confirm the following appears:
  - Our organization name
  - Your donation amount
  - Your Maika'i number

Thank you for your support!



## Practical Dharma

From *Lion's Roar Magazine*

<https://www.lionsroar.com/practicing-love-in-a-pandemic/>

### Practicing Love in a Pandemic

By Kimberly Brown

The novel coronavirus outbreak has left me feeling afraid and helpless. I've lost sleep, worrying and wondering about what might happen to me and my family if we contract Covid-19. If we don't, what can we do to help the situation? Volunteering to help sick people isn't possible, and donating money won't slow the spread of the virus.

In the midst of my worry, I sat down, put my hand on my heart, took a few deep breaths, and used mindfulness to calm my racing thoughts. I realized this terrible situation our world is in serves as a profound opportunity to recognize and honor our interdependence. We have a deep connection to all beings, and now is the perfect time to practice love for them.

Practicing love requires that we stop thinking only about our own wellbeing and consider how our actions impact everyone. Paradoxically, it means the most important thing we ourselves can do is to stay well. Maintaining our own good health will put less stress on the healthcare system and free up resources to help those who are sick and need care. It will also prevent the spread of the illness to those who are at higher risk to die from complications of Covid-19.

Practicing love in a pandemic means being patient with our own fears and hopes, as well as those who may seem unreasonably scared or angry. We can be mindful and careful with our words and refrain from harsh communication to create less panic and divisiveness. This will help our society come together and make this difficult time as easy as possible. We can listen to our leaders, supporting those who are competent, compassionate, and effective in safeguarding citizens from the virus and the resulting economic strain.

Everyone deserves to be healthy and free from sickness. This includes you, your family, friends, strangers, and even the people you hate. I encourage you to take a break for a few minutes each hour, and do this brief metta practice to develop your good heart and steady mind:

1. Put your hand on your heart and take a few deep breaths.
2. For a few minutes, silently repeat to yourself: May I be safe and healthy and free from fear.
3. Next, consider someone you know in the medical community — your family doctor, a friend who is an EMT, a nurse, social worker, or public health official. Offer the phrases to this person for a few minutes: May you be safe and healthy and free from fear.
4. Finally, consider all beings everywhere, and offer them the phrases: May we be safe and healthy and free from fear.

As I practice love during this pandemic, I feel less and less helplessness and more connection to myself and the world. If we all use this time to strengthen our love and good hearts, we can approach this devastating situation with skillful action and deep wisdom. Together we can create the conditions for everyone to be healthy and safe. May we respect and honor our interdependence. May it be so.

#### **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!

Here is the updated **Memorial Service List** from April to current. To arrange for a service please call the temple office.

**APRIL 2020**

FIRST YEAR (2020)	09 18	STANLEY MITSUO KUNITOMO DESIREE JADE SHIRAKI
SEVENTH YEAR (2014)	15	SAKAE NISHIMOTO
THIRTEENTH YEAR (2008)	14	SUSUMU MIZOSHIRI
SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2004)	20 15 29	THELMA SACHIKO KIRIHARA RUTH MICHIKO NISHIHARA KIYOKO MARUTANI
THIRTY-THIRD YEAR (1988)	19	SHIGEO KUNITAKE
FIFTIETH-YEAR (1971)	08 11	CHESTER KAZUSO YAMAMOTO TOJIU NISHINA

**MAY 2020**

FIRST YEAR 2019	07	TOKIYO TANAKA
THIRD YEAR (2018)	03 29 31	HENRI-ANN K. NAGATA YUKITO TAKAMOTO FUKUE "BETTY" SHIRAKI
SEVENTH YEAR (2014)	03	FRANCES FUMIKO UCHIMA
THIRTEENTH YEAR (2008)	10 28	HELEN FUMIKO AOKI THEODORE TOSHIHARU FUJII
SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2004)	03 05	KIMIE FUKUSHIMA SHIZUE SAKANASHI
TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR (1996)	04 25	TOSHIKO YANAGI TERUO KAMIGAKI
THIRTY-THIRD YEAR (1988)	07 26	ZENJI EGE CLYDE TOSHIO INOUYE
FIFTIETH-YEAR (1971)	01 13 22	AKINO KAWAGUCHI TAKEO YAMASAKI TOKIO IZUNO

**JUNE 2020**

<u>FIRST YEAR (2019)</u>	07 16	TOKIYO TANAKA SAEKO SATO
<u>THIRD YEAR (2018)</u>	26	HATSUKO SHIRAISHI
<u>SEVENTH YEAR (2014)</u>	07 11 21	CLARENCE TOSHIO OUE PATRICK SHUNJI MASUTOMI MITSUGI KOMO
THIRTEENTH YEAR (2008)	09 23	KIMIKO OMOTO TOSHIKO UENO
SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2004)	09	DONNA KEIKO ASBACH
TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR (1996)	18 20	HARRY ISAMI TANAKA HANA MASUHARA
FIFTIETH YEAR (1971)	28	HARUO OKA SHIZUE ONAKA

**JULY 2020**

FIRST YEAR (2019)	17 18	JANET MIEKO MIYOSE ASAKO PRATT
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THIRD YEAR (2018)	08	KOSHI TOMONO
	09	WAYNE M. KIMOTO
SEVENTH YEAR (2014)	15	CHIYOKO MIZOSHIRI
	18	TADASHI KAKU
TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR (1996)	02	MITSUO KIRA
	10	YOSHINO MASUTOMI
	23	YOSOTO EGAMI
	24	NORMAN TAKESHI KAKU
THIRTY-THIRD YEAR (1988)	14	KENSO OHTA
	30	RIKIO MORIMOTO

**AUGUST 2020**

SEVENTH YEAR (2014)	01	TOSHIO NAGAI
	25	NOZOMU UEMURA
SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2004)	13	TERUMASA IGETA
TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR (1996)	06	AYAKO MORINOUE
	14	ELICIA KIMIKO TANIGUCHI
	22	GEORGE KIMIO SHIMIZU
	23	MITSUE UEDA
THIRTY-THIRD YEAR (1988)	04	SHUNICHI EGE
	14	TSUKUMO SONODA

**SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2020**

FIRST YEAR (2019)	September	23	JANE EMIKO FENSKE
SEVENTH YEAR (2014)	September	16	DARREN MICHIO HIRATA
		22	WILMER HIROMU KOSHI
	October	12	HERBERT KENSO OUE
THIRTEENTH YEAR (2008)	October	18	ALBERT SHIGEYUKI TAKAYAMA
		23	TSUGIO SAKATA
SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2004)	September	14	TSUYOKI NAKASHIMA
		15	TAKEYO "DOROTHY" YAMAMOTO
		30	TSUYOKO IWANE
	October	02	HATSUKO KAKU
		15	ALICE RUTH AOKI
		18	MASAO "MASA" NISHIKAWA
TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR (1996)	September	12	CHESTER TAKASHI YAMASAWA
		26	ARNOLD TATSUO AMANO
	October	05	JEAN TAMIKO KATOKU
THIRTY-THIRD YEAR (1988)	September	01	SHIMO YOSHIMATSU
		06	SHIGEJI YAMAGATA
		15	KUNIO KOBAYAKAWA
		21	SHOICHI IZU
		22	JAMES SHIGEJI MORIMOTO
		22	MITSUKO YAMADA
		24	ITO OKA
		27	YUKIE FUJII
	October	12	AKINORI SATO
		29	MAJOR MASAKAZU MANAGO
FIFTIETH YEAR (1971)	September	12	TSURUE ETO
	October	10	TSUYE OBATA
			IWAKI HONDA

NOTE: If there is any questions or corrections regarding the information listed above, please call the temple office at 322-2993. Thank you.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS JUNE—AUGUST 2020

### MEMORIAL SERVICES

Doris Masutomi, 7<sup>th</sup> Year Service for Patrick Masutomi

Yoshioka Family, Bedside Service for Yaeko Yoshioka

Yoshioka Family, Funeral Service for Yaeko Yoshioka

Total - \$900.00

### HAKASOJI and NOKOTSUDO

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gusman

Linda Iwasaki

Winifred Kimura

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Nagata

Yooko Moriguchi

Ukie Saito

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Taguma

Katy Uemura

Richard Egami

Mr. & Mrs. Sukeji Yamagata

Nancy Katayama

Alice Kawamoto

Mr. & Mrs. Shizuya Sakata

Hideyaki Nagai

Chizuko Nakamura

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Gayle Nishikawa

Fay Wong

Mr. & Mrs. Kaoru Uyeda

Hal Kamigaki

Nobuko Aoki

Mr. & Mrs. Masakatsu Tsukahara

Total - \$825.46

### JHO

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Nagata

Katy Uemura

Richard Egami

Mr. & Mrs. Sukeji Yamagata

Chizuko Nakamura

George Sugi

Mr. & Mrs. Keith Hayama

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko

Mr. & Mrs. Gifford Matsuoka

Mr. & Mrs. Shizuya Sakata

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka

Mr. & Mrs. Masakatsu Tsukahara

Total - \$495.00

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Anonymous

Robert Ban

Mr. & Mrs. James Boyle

Cheryl Camacho

Esther Jenkins

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gusman

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Higashi

Carol Kawachi

Alice Kawamoto

Mr. & Mrs. Guy Kitaoka

Caroline Kunitake

Margaret Masunaga

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano

Doris Masutomi

Satoru Odaira

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Sugiyama

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Toshiharu Sato

Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Uchimura

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Mr. & Mrs. Shizuya Sakata

Fred Uchima

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue

Kona Jr. YBA

Mr. & Mrs. Masakatsu Tsukahara

Kona Hongwanji Shinwakai

Total - \$5,725.00



**Acknowledgements continued:**

**OBON**

Mr. & Mrs. Keith Hayama	Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo	Ukie Saito
Mr. & Mrs. George Shimamoto	Mr. & Mrs. Masamori Takaki	Shigeko Yonemori
Total - \$250.00		

**SPECIAL DONATIONS**

Masae Okamoto, In Memory of Frank & Wayne Okamoto  
Susan Decorte, for Alice Yamamoto  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Love, In Memory of Henri Ann Nagata, Betty Shiraki, Patrick Masutomi and Asako Pratt  
Pauline Imamura, In Memory of Nobuyuki Fukuda  
Fusaye Murayama, In Memory of Fred Motomura and Genzo Fujii families  
Linda Nakagawa, In Memory of Richard Nakagawa and Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko, Kona Jr. YBA, Taiko, Dharma School, Project Dana  
Keei Buddhist Church and Cemetary  
Yooko Moriguchi, Ohigan, Hanamatsuri  
Ukie Saito, Ohigan, Hanamatsuri  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Nagata, Eitaikyo  
Richard Egami, Project Dana  
Chizuko Nakamura, Project Dana  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Everett, Social Concerns

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka	Chelsey Ikeda	Mr. & Mrs. Ed Kihara
Yooko Moriguchi	Satoru Odaira	Mr. & Mrs. Yoshiyuki Kaneko
Patrick Komo	Fay Wong	Yoga Class
Anonymous	Melvin Fukuda	Lori Marcello
Ethel Saito	Ray Takeguchi	Claudia Uyeda
Total - \$2,343.00		

**CAPITAL FUND**

Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Chong	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gusman	Katy Uemura
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Nagata	Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Taguma	Richard Egami
Mr. & Mrs. Sukeji Yamagata	Mr. & Mrs. Keith Hayama	Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko
Mr. & Mrs. Chizuko Nakamura	Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka	Nancy Katayama
Janet Lindner	George Sugi	

**HAWAII KYODAN DUES**

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gusman	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Nagata	Yooko Moriguchi
Ukie Saito	Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Taguma	Richard Egami
Mr. & Mrs. Sukeji Yamagata	Mr. & Mrs. Keith Hayama	Janet Lindner
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko	Mr. & Mrs. Chizuko Nakamura	Akino Sonoda
George Sugi	Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka	

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