



# JHO

September 2021



## Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

*Building Healthy Sanghas: Nurturing Empathy and Respect*

### Virtual Dharma Family Services

**Due to the dramatic rise in COVID-19 cases in our community we will resume holding online services only.** Please join us for our virtual services and events in September. 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!

#### Grandparent's Day Service

Sunday, September 12, 2021, at 10:00 am  
Lay Speaker: Norma Matsumoto  
Former Kona Hongwanji President



#### Autumn Ohigan Service

Sunday, September 26, 2021, at 10:00 am  
Guest Speaker: Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani  
Minister of Moiliili 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 a metaphor for crossing from this shore of ignorance, anger, and greed to the other shore of nirvana and peace. Rev. Umitani will join us live on Zoom. Let's celebrate the transition from Summer to Fall by listening to the Dharma together.

#### 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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## President's Message

Wow! What a difference a month makes. Just as we began to celebrate the return of some in-person services in the temple, the recent surge in COVID cases island and statewide have almost all temples returning to online only virtual services. Kona Hongwanji will be making this same transition back to virtual services for most of our upcoming services. While certainly a disappointing development, the health & safety of our Sangha will always be the top priority of your temple leadership.

The ongoing surge in cases has also resulted in the cancelation of our Obon Open House that was scheduled for August 29, 2021. The pre-ordered chicken hekka plates prepared by our temple BWA members will still be available for pick up, but that will be the extent of the event. The taiko & bon dance demonstrations, as well as the other food and vendor activities, have been canceled for the safety of everyone.

Given the ever-changing developments that have come with the COVID-19 pandemic, I would be remiss if I did not express the appreciation of the temple leadership to our COVID Committee members who have been an essential part of the temple's ability to continue to spread the dharma through these difficult times. All the members of the committee-seen and unseen-have worked together to make it possible to conduct some of the services that we have had at the temple, as well as allow the services to be available virtually for those people who could not come to the temple in person.

In Gassho,  
Joseph Gusman  
Kyodan President

## Vaccine Hesitancy and the Parable of the Poisoned Arrow

Rev. Blayne Higa

Discerning what is wholesome and unwholesome is central to the Buddhist way of life. The Buddha taught that our spiritual path is founded upon having a wholesome view which opens up the doorway to wisdom and compassionate action. According to the Buddha, the best kind of person is one who practices for their own welfare and the welfare of others. Understanding our profound interconnectedness with others is the basis for wholesome view.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has made us realize this truth of interdependence and how our actions matter and impact the lives of others. We cannot and will not be able to control the spread of COVID unless we take the necessary steps to care for each other.

Vaccine hesitancy is a major public health concern as we strive to control the pandemic. While vaccination rates have increased in response to a recent surge in cases caused by the Delta variant, it is estimated that about 90 million Americans who are eligible for the vaccine still have not gotten it. This lingering hesitancy is negatively impacting not only individuals but our collective welfare and our ability to get a handle on the pandemic.

The COVID-19 vaccine has been proven to be safe and effective in preventing serious illness, hospitalization, and death. The Food and Drug Administration recently fully approved one of the vaccines currently in use with others soon to follow. Getting vaccinated is all about caring for self and others.

Fear of the unknown has been one of the various reasons for not getting vaccinated. In the *Parable of the Poisoned Arrow*, the Buddha skillfully offers guidance for reducing fear of the unknown and for discerning what is most important in life. According to the Buddha,

*Suppose a man were pierced by a poisoned arrow, and his relatives and friends got together to call a surgeon to have the arrow removed and the wound treated.*

*If the wounded man objects, saying, "Wait a minute. Before you pull it out, I want to know who shot this arrow. Was it a man or woman? Was it someone of noble birth or was it a peasant? What was the bow made of? Was it a big bow or a small bow that shot the arrow? Was it made of wood or bamboo? What was the bow string made of? Was it made of fiber or of gut? Was the arrow made of rattan or of reed? What feathers were used? Before you extract the arrow, I want to know all about these things." Then what will happen?*



*Before all this information can be secured, no doubt, the poison will have time to circulate through his body and the man may die. The first duty is to remove the arrow and prevent the poison from spreading. (Majjhima Nikāya)*

The Buddhist path encourages critical thinking and rigorous self-reflection. However, focusing only on intellectual curiosity detracts from resolving the most important concern of relieving our suffering. This parable reminds us to remain focused on the immediate problem of removing the poisoned arrow and treating our spiritual wound.

Similarly, with COVID-19, we need to keep focused on what is truly important—the health and welfare of our loved ones and our community. The vaccine offers hope for our collective future by addressing our most pressing concern—controlling the spread of COVID and saving lives. Let's reflect on the Buddha's profound insight into the nature of suffering and live with a sense of urgency.

The Dharma is the antidote that neutralizes the poisons of greed, anger, and selfishness and helps us to discern fact from fiction, truth from lies, and what is wholesome and unwholesome in life. Let's endeavor to live the Buddha's path of awakening wholeheartedly. Namo Amida Butsu.



### **Yoga Fridays at Kona Hongwanji**

Come join us for Hatha Yoga Classes, 8:30-9:30 a.m. on Fridays. Classes are by donation to the instructor and temple, and are held in the Judo Hall. Please bring yoga mat, blanket, water, and any other props you like to use. Mask, temperature check, & social distancing required. Arrive 10 minutes early to sign in and complete a waiver. All levels welcome! Call or text questions to Liz Aschenbrenner. 808-345-1127.

### **Adopt an 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 (in various sizes) 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.

### **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](mailto:bhiga@honpahi.org) to be sent the meeting link each week.

### **2021 Chili Fundraiser**

Last year, we held a successful chili sale with Sandy's Drive-In. This creative partnership is a wonderful way to support local business and raise funds for the temple. Back by popular demand, we are currently selling 1.5 lbs. Frozen Chili Tickets for \$10.00 until Monday, September 20th. Pick up will be at Sandy's Drive-In on Fridays and Saturdays in October.

Purchase for yourself or sell them to family and friends. It makes a quick and delicious meal! Extra tickets are available at the temple office.

### **Welcome New Members!**

Mahalo to Ted Yamasaki and Brian Budds for becoming sustaining members. Welcome to our Sangha!

Please encourage family and friends to join our temple 'Ohana. New members are always welcome!

## Preschool News

For the preschoolers, the month of August was filled with learning rules and routines, social skills, getting along together, and making new friends. For the teachers, it was learning about our preschoolers through our All About Me curriculum which includes self portraits, favorite things, height and weight, and family trees.

This month kicks off our Year of Ethnic Studies which begins right here with Hawaii and the major islands. The children will learn about native wildlife, foods, sports, language and places of interest.

We continue to seek part-time and/or full-time, on-call, temporary and permanent positions for preschool director, preschool teacher, and teacher's aide. 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.

Aloha,  
Leanne



We are so fortunate to have beautiful flowers to adorn our altar! Cut flowers are used to represent the beauty and impermanence of life and serve as a reminder of the necessity of awakening to the Truth of the Buddhadharma.

### Mahalo to our Dedicated Groundskeepers!

#### STRONG is the Force. STRONG!

To the volunteers, speedy Norman Takeoka, Artistic Hiroki Ishimaru, Steady Jim Miller, Green Machine Alan Matsumoto and Da Organizer John Tsue, THANK YOU very much for keeping the shrubbery and temple grounds in tip top condition. It is truly appreciated.

If there are any members who are willing to give a little of their time, please do not hesitate! Temple accepts any and all volunteers. Call the temple office and sign up.



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

**Mahalo for your support!**

The Buddhist Temples of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i  
invite you to

## Ring Your Bell for Peace Day

Ring your bell for the International Day of Peace, from your temple, church, school, or favorite place and join with hundreds of others by Zoom around the world.

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Pre-celebration at 8:30 a.m.  
Bell ringing at 9:01 a.m.



Special Guest appearance by

### JAKE SHIMABUKURO

2021 Ambassador for Peace Day  
in Hawai'i and the World

Please register in advance:  
<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/peaceday2021>  
Rene Mansho, Peace Day Committee Chair:  
808-291-6151, [renemansho@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:renemansho@hawaii.rr.com)

We encourage young people to participate!

With gratitude to our Peace Co-Sponsors: the  
United Nations Association Chapters of Hawai'i-  
Honolulu and University of Hawai'i-Manoa,  
and to KTUH radio



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—August 2021**

### **HAKASOJI and NOKOTSUDO**

Richard Egami	Esther Gesteuyala	Irving Kabei
Emiko Kaneko	Edwin Mitsunaga	Val Ogata
Norine Parish	Jocelyn Sakata	Claudine Souza
Cindy Taketa	Mr. & Mrs. Kiyoshi Watanabe	Anonymous
	Total - \$1,110.00	

### **OBON**

Anonymous	Claudia Chang	Carol Okuna
Lisa Ciriako	Sadayuki Inouye	Emiko Kaneko
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kaneko	Mary Katayama
Sachiko Katoku	Kei Buddhist Church	Mr. & Mrs. Sadamu Koba
Kenneth Komo	Nora Koyanagi	Alan Matsumoto
Ann Matsumoto	Mr. & Mrs. Gifford Matsuoka	Chizu Nakashima
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano	Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Nishina	Helen Oishi
Fern Sapanara	Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka	James Tashima
Mr. & Mrs. Terence Terada	Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue	Lilly Ushiroda
Albert Watanabe	Linda Nagai	Sukeji Yamagata
	Total - \$975.00	

### **SPECIAL DONATIONS**

Ikebana Class	Jocelyn Sakata	Lori Marcello
James Tashima	Yoga Class	

Jerry Egami, Jiho, Project Dana  
Emiko Kaneko, Jiho  
Nora Koyanagi, Father's Day Service  
Mr. & Mrs. Gifford Matsuoka  
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka, Chili  
Ted Yamasaki & Brian Budds, House Blessing

Total - \$1,388.00

### **HI KYODAN DUES**

Jerry Egami	Emiko Kaneko	Ted Yamasaki & Brian Budds
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### **CAPITAL FUND**

Jerry Egami	Emiko Kaneko
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**Acknowledgements continued:**

**SERVICES**

Miyose Family, 3<sup>rd</sup> year Memorial Service for Janet Miyose  
Allyson Brown and Family, 1<sup>st</sup> year Memorial Service for Sally Murakami  
Mr. & Mrs. Kiyoshi Watanabe, Hatsubon Service for Setsuko Deguchi  
Wendell Fujino, Funeral Service and Related Expenses for Robert Fujino  
Edna Fukumitsu, Funeral Service and Related Expenses for Yasuo Fukumitsu  
Doris Higashi, 7<sup>th</sup> year Memorial Service for Sanford Higashi  
Marcus Jurado, Wedding Ceremony  
Kenneth Komo, Funeral Service and Related Expenses for Mutsumi Komo  
Michitoshi Murakami, 1<sup>st</sup> year Memorial Service for Sally Murakami  
Jimmy Nakagawa, 1<sup>st</sup> year Memorial Service for Mary Nakagawa  
Total - \$2,800.00

**IN MEMORY OF**

Elaine Nakagawa, IMO Lillian Yamamoto, Yasuo Fukumitsu, Marilyn Sakata, and Mary Nakagawa  
Molly Takashiba, IMO Yoshitaka Takashibas Family  
Tanaka Family, IMO Yoshie Tanaka  
Janet Lindner, IMO Ronald Lindner, Kiichi Omori, and Kumiko Omori  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenji Fukumitsu, IMO Yasuo Fukumitsu  
Mr. & Mrs. Kiyoshi Watanabe, IMO Yasuo Deguchi's 13<sup>th</sup> year Memorial  
Mr. & Mrs. Kiyoshi Watanabe, IMO Mutsumi Komo and Fujie Sato  
Nancy Fujimoto, IMO Yoshinobu Fujimoto's 25<sup>th</sup> Year  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hiraishi, IMO Mary Nakagawa  
Harry, Carol and Ruth Honda, IMO Iwaki & Kitsu Honda, Harry & Tomie Honda, and Sakae Honda  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kudamatsu, IMO Sadayuki "Barney" Miyazono  
Dr. Lorraine Mito, IMO Gilbert Gisaburo Yamane, and Aiko Kusano Yamane  
Elaine Nakagawa, IMO Mary Nakagawa  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nakano, IMO Lillian Yamamoto and Mary Nakagawa  
Arlene Ogata, IMO Tsuino Yoshiki  
Mr. & Mrs. Hester Oka, IMO Sunao Kadooka  
Norine Parish, IMO Takayama and Marutani Families  
James Tashima, IMO Bernice Tashima and Ross Oue  
Karen Tashima, IMO Bernice Tashima  
Lynn Tom, IMO Sasae Murakami  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Wong, IMO Sanford Higashi  
Total - \$2,105.00

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

## MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2021

### FIRST YEAR 2020

10/8 Okino, Charles

11/12 Saito, Ukie

### THIRD YEAR (2019)

09/23 Fenske, Jane Emiko

10/23 Katoku, Naoto

11/16 Matsuoka, Fujie

### SEVENTH YEAR (2015)

09/18 Oue, Ross Akiyoshi

09/19 Nakamoto, Jean Aiko

11/06 Maeno, Yukio

11/07 Aoki, Kazue

11/16 Okabayashi, Yaeko

11/20 Aoki, Kazuyoshi

11/23 Ichishita, Gary Kazuyoshi

11/27 Cheng, Minoru Reen

### THIRTEENTH YEAR (2009)

09/16 Yanagi, Brent Akio

09/26 Nakamoto, Toshio

10/18 Kurozawa, Yukiko K.

10/22 Okumura, Mitsuru "Irene"

11/17 Wagle, Satsue

### SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2005)

09/14 Sato, Torami "Amy"

10/13 Murata, Clarence Kiyoshi

10/30 Tanaka, Hiroshi

11/03 Ide, Kiyoshi

11/08 Kazama, Toshinori

11/10 Tashima, Takie

11/30 Kirihara, George Yukio

### TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR (1997)

09/01 Nozaki, Clarence Yoshito

11/07 Komo, Clarence Satoru

11/09 Hirata, Harold Hiromi

11/23 Nakamura, Harold Yoshiyuki

### THIRTY-THIRD YEAR (1989)

09/27 Sonoda, Jane Tomiko

09/28 Kaku, Yumiko

10/14 Fujii, Masao

### FIFTIETH YEAR (1972)

09/12 Eto, Tsurue

10/08 Obata, Tsuya

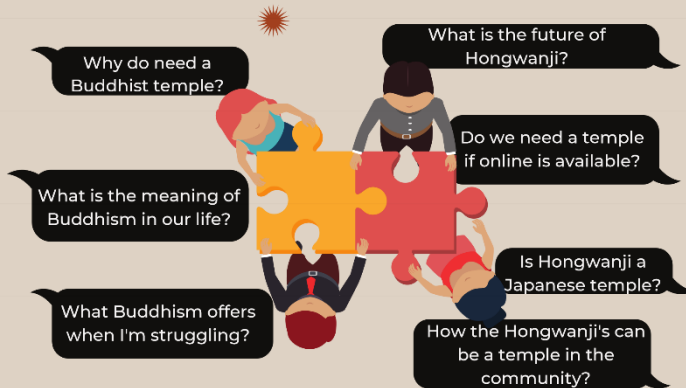
10/10 Honda, Iwaki

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



**Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii**  
Hawaii District Ministers Association  
2021 BUDDHIST EDUCATION SERIES

## "What is the temple's role and responsibility as part of the community?"



[Click for bio](#)

**Saturday, September 25**

**10-11:00 a.m.**

[Click to Register](#)

Discussion led by Rev. Shinji Kawagoe  
Papaikou Hongwanji Mission



Any questions? Email: [hawaii.kyogakkai@gmail.com](mailto:hawaii.kyogakkai@gmail.com)

[Scan to Register](#)

Open Invitation to All...

2<sup>nd</sup> Dharma School Gathering



## "Building Healthy Sanghas"

Sunday, October 17, 2021



### PROGRAM

- 9:30 am: Service: Dharma Message by Rev. Satoshi Tomioka of Puna HM
- 10:00 am: DS Breakout Rm. Sessions; Adult Breakout Rm. Session: Speaker - Rev. Kerry Kiyohara of Makawao HM
- 10:50 am: DS Families/Adult Sessions End
- 11:00 am: DS Teachers/Educators Gathering: Guest Speaker - Mr. Pieper Toyama
- 12:00 pm: End

Any questions? Contact: Debbie Kubota at [dekub88@gmail.com](mailto:dekub88@gmail.com)



RSVP Deadline is October 2.  
Click on the following link to register:  
<https://forms.gle/Koy9KtWq868UzblLo7>

Gathering Zoom Link will be emailed to participants by October 15.

A Commission on Buddhist Education (CBE) Project of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii



## Nembutsu Seminar 2021

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii  
Hawaii District Ministers Association

## "Path of Resilience, Path of Nembutsu"

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2**  
**10 A.M. - 11:30 AM (HST)**

[Click to Register](#)

"In times of chaos, resilience is perhaps the one thing we can aspire for, if not faith/trust, so we can get through these enormous difficulties. We human beings as helpless and ignorant as we are, need to be able to turn to something greater than ourselves that provides refuge, safety, and unconditional kindness: Amida Buddha. Being firmly grounded in Namo Amida Butsu can settle our agitated minds, heal our broken hearts, and unequivocally carry us through countless traumatic events."



[Click for bio](#)

**-Rev. Carmela Javellana-Hirano**



[Scan to Register](#)

Any questions? Email: [hawaii.kyogakkai@gmail.com](mailto:hawaii.kyogakkai@gmail.com)

### About Nenju

The *nenju* is the string of beads used in Buddhist rituals and meditation. It is also called a *juzu*, or "bead-counter." Because Jodo Shinshu does not use it as an aid in meditation, it is more properly called a *nenju*—a string of beads to make us mindful of the Buddha. The single strand of beads is an abbreviation of the 108-bead *nenju* used by monks and priests. Lay members generally carry a single strand *nenju*. For such a strand, the number of beads is insignificant, and so a sufficient number are used to create a *nenju* of a suitable length and size. One variation is the wrist *nenju*, worn on the left wrist.

The *nenju* is held in the left hand since the left hand represents the world of samsara—the world we live in, the world of suffering. The right hand represents the world of awakening, the world of nirvana. It is through the use of the *nenju* that the two utterly different worlds of samsara and nirvana are seen in their essential Oneness—that is to say, the bringing together of the left hand of samsara and the right of nirvana into the Oneness of the gassho. (From *Jodo Shinshu A Guide*)

### Did You Know?

We have beautiful handmade Kukui Nut O-Nenju available at the temple for only \$20.00. Kukui has a spiritual meaning of light, hope, and renewal and is a reminder of Amida Buddha's infinite Light and Life.

