

Puna Hongwanji Mission



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August 2019 Hi-Lites

Of Special Interest This Month

August 24 - Pahoa Obon

August 30 - September 1

BWA World Convention



September 13 - 14 State Lay Convention

September 22 - Autumn Ohigan



2019 Honpa Hongwanji Slogan

Embrace Change: Transformation
(Walk in Peace)

Puna Hongwanji Vision Statement

Puna Hongwanji Mission will be a dynamic and unique temple for Hawaii serving the spiritual needs of the community through Jodo-Shinshu teachings.

Puna Hongwanji Mission Statement

Puna Hongwanji Mission is a community of people joined in the joy of a common faith in Amida Buddha to share the Dharma in our daily living.



The Hi-Lites Monthly Newsletter

The Hi-Lites is published monthly by the Puna Hongwanji Mission. The articles and opinions expressed by the editors and individual contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of Puna Hongwanji Mission.

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Temple Clean-up Schedule



Each section will be responsible for weekly clean-up of the temple for the entire month. Section leader will contact members on the clean-up dates and times

AUGUST - Hilo
SEPTEMBER - M/K/V

Toban Refreshment Schedule for Sunday

AUGUST - Keaau
SEPTEMBER - Pahoa



Memorial Service (Nenki)

Families, relatives, and friends of deceased members listed, please contact the temple if there are any corrections or omissions.

Researched and compiled by Reverend Satoshi Tomioka



August 2019

1 yr.	Sadao Oshiro	August 9, 2018
	Suzuko "Sue" Yamamoto	August 27, 2018
3 yrs.	Mieko Taniguchi	August 14, 2017
	Ken Kenichi Shigeoka	August 21, 2017
7 yrs.	Terumi "Teri" Nakahara	August 24, 2013
13 yrs.	Takeo Yamaguchi	August 2, 2007
	Satsuki Sato	August 8, 2007
	Masao Hayashikawa	August 11, 2007
	Shuye "Sue" Arakawa	August 21, 2007
17 yrs.	Sakae Okada	August 8, 2003
	Yoshihiko "Naka" Nakahara	August 10, 2003
	Mitsugi Kanetani	August 22, 2003
	Fumie Omori	August 30, 2003
25 yrs.	Junichi Ikeda	August 10, 1995
	Maki Uesugi	August 13, 1995
33 yrs.	Fumiyo Sonoda	August 19, 1987
50 yrs.	Tokugi Isa	August 10, 1970
	Yuki Horiuchi	August 11, 1970
	Ryusan Omori	August 28, 1970



With Deepest Sympathy



Puna Hongwanji Mission extends its sincerest sympathy and condolences to the family and relatives of the following member(s) who recently passed away.

Lisa Tsugie Cabudol
Kelvin Komeiji

August 2019

Puna Hongwanji Mission Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Taiko 3 PM Judo 6:30 PM Meditation 6:30 AM	2 Choir 3:30 PM	3
4 BWA Meeting Family Service	5 Judo 5:30 PM Karate 7 PM Pahoa Service 7 PM	6 Taiko 3 PM Judo 6:30 PM	7 Piyo Live! 4 PM Judo 5:30 PM Japanese Class 5 PM Karate 7 PM SR. YBA Meeting	8 Taiko 3 PM Judo 6:30 PM Meditation 6:30 AM	9 Choir 3:30 PM Tannisho Reading 5:30 PM	10 Buddhism Class 10 - 11:30 AM (Rev. Alan Urasaki)
11 Dharma School Meeting Family Service Guest speaker: Rev. Alan Urasaki	12 Judo 5:30 PM Karate 7 PM	13 Taiko 3 PM Judo 6:30 PM	14 Piyo Live! 4 PM Judo 5:30 PM Karate 7 PM	15 Taiko 3PM Judo 6:30 PM Meditation 6:30 AM Board of Directors Meeting 7 PM	16 Choir 3:30 PM	17 Pahala Obon
18 Family Service	19 Judo 5:30 PM Karate 7 PM	20 Taiko 3 PM Judo 6:30 PM	21 Piyo Live! 4 PM Japanese Class 5 PM Judo 5:30 PM Karate 7 PM	22 Taiko 3 PM Judo 6:30 PM Meditation 6:30 AM	23 Choir 3:30 PM	24 Pahoa Obon
25 Family Service	26 Judo 5:30 PM Karate 7 PM	27 Taiko 3 PM Judo 6:30 PM	28 Piyo Live! 4 PM Judo 5:30 PM Karate 7 PM ANPAN	29 Taiko 3 PM Judo 6:30 PM Meditation 6:30 AM	30 Choir 3:30 PM BWA World Convention	31 Naalehu Obon 6 - 10PM BWA World Convention

Hi-Lites Photo Publication **Ethics Statement**

1. While photographing subjects in public places without permission is legally acceptable, we maintain sensitivity towards “camera shy” subjects and those that request photo ID anonymity.
2. We always seek permission when photographing subjects in private places (residences, care homes, etc.).
3. We provide appropriate photo credits of public domain, online or copyright material.
4. We provide appropriate and accurate context documentation when publishing all photos.
5. We strive to be accurate and comprehensive in the representation of subjects.
6. We do not intentionally contribute to, alter, or seek to alter or influence events by staged photos.
7. We insure that edited photos maintain the integrity of the photographic images' content and context and not mislead viewers or misrepresent subjects.
8. We strive to follow normal sensibilities and the highest ethical standards in all our reporting efforts.



The articles and opinions expressed by the editors and individual contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of Puna Hongwanji Mission.

Give us your feedback and suggestions

Sam Horiuchi
Tammy Molina
Newsletter Committee
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Minister's Message



“Your suffering is my suffering. Your happiness is my happiness.” The words above attributed to the Buddha, is an expression of a central tenet of Buddhist teachings: Great Compassion. Buddha’s Great Compassion embraces all people without distinction and discrimination. It is an absolute acceptance as we are and once embraced, never forsaken. Whatever

happens in our lives, no matter how hard or severe our experiences we go through, there is a being who always stands by us, is with us, knows what we go through, guides us and just embraces us.

Our life is bittersweet. I have and am certain you, who are reading my message, have had joyful, happy, peaceful memories as well as some sad, unhappy and painful ones. As human beings we all want peaceful and happy lives. However, we somehow may receive tumultuous and devastating times too. When we are faced with these situations a question of “Why is this happening to me?” may come to our mind and we will wonder why life is so bitter and unfair to me. When life is bitter we surely are experiencing situations and emotions which are not going as we had wished. When life is happy, our life is going as we wished it would. The definition of suffering in Buddhism is “things don’t go as I wish” and the gap between my wish and a reality bring us unsatisfactory feelings. This “my wish” is a cause of suffering and it is described as “Things should go as I wish”. This wish is called attachments or deep-rooted too much humanness desires. So, if we live a life with the idea of “things should go as I wish”, naturally there will be a bitter moment because life doesn’t always go as I wish. Our Founder, Master Shinran teaches us to be aware of such a nature of human being and leads us to awaken to the truth of life revealed by Buddha’s Compassion and Wisdom. Buddha’s Wisdom sees things as it is and there is no judgement, no distinctive, no attachments. Buddha’s Compassion embrace all transcending love and hatred. With

Buddha's Compassion and Wisdom, which is mind of truth, mind of loving kindness, mind of no discrimination, mind of no dualism, mind of equanimity, reveals the truths of life-interdependence, unrepeatable precious moments, responsible for thoughts, words, actions, kindness, patience and gratitude. Buddha's Great Compassion and Great Wisdom are the realm of supreme enlightenment. Amida Buddha, who attained this supreme enlightenment manifests it as Namo Amida Butsu, the name that calls. Buddha's enlightenment is not a static but a dynamic move that continues to guide others who are unenlightened one to attain enlightened one. To me, that move is Buddha's Great Compassion which embraces me always, whatever happens. Amida Buddha's compassion extends to all beings. There is a story that goes "suppose there are parents with seven children. When there is sickness among the seven children, although the father and mother are concerned equally with all of the children, nevertheless their hearts lean wholly toward the sick child." Out of compassion, Buddha's love and kindness are extended especially to the socially, economically, physically, mentally, and spiritually weak people. Once those people are embraced by that compassion, they "are praised by the Buddha as people of vast and excellent understanding; such a person is called a pure white lotus." As a lotus blooms in the mud, people can become the most beautiful and peaceful person through their hardships.

I was the one who was ignorant and never thought of others, didn't realize how much my parents cared of me and I was the one who suffered from a life. I lost hope, I lost love, I had nothing but despair, untrust, disbelief, hatred, anger, depression, disappointment and darkness. Although I had my family and friends who were worried about me and be with me, my icy heart and ignorance didn't allow me to listen and open my heart. Under these situations, I attempted suicide. At that moment, the moment of death, through the moment of remembering my mother's smile, in the moment of darkness, I encountered the light of Buddha's Compassion and Wisdom. The light is embracing me and I heard the calling, "don't worry, be happy, I shall embrace you", "I shall never let you go alone." Like my mother's smile and love for me, Amida Buddha's Great Compassion always embraces me. Rather, through my mother's smile

and love, she taught us that there is Great Compassion which embraces me and my mother beyond our limitations of human being. "Your happiness is my happiness, your suffering is my suffering." Buddha's Great Compassion has been embracing me even though I could not realize it. I was not alone. I was not in the darkness. I was embraced by Buddha. When I awakened to Buddha's Wish, I put my hands together and said Namo Amida Butsu.

Life is bitter, yet life is also sweet when we are awakened to the joy of being embraced by Buddha's Compassion and Wisdom. With and through our loved ones, let us listen to the teachings of Namo Amida Butsu and live a life to the fullest guided by All-Embracing Compassion and All-Inclusive Wisdom.

Reverend Satoshi "Ka'imipono" Tomioka.



Puna Hongwanji Mission Minister's Report August 2019

August 2-Friday, Interfaith meeting @Hilo, 9 a.m.

August 3-Saturday, Statewide Committee meetings, @HNL

August 5-Monday, Paho Monthly Service, 7 p.m.

August 7-Wednesday, Japanese Class @Puna, 5 p.m.

August 10-Saturday, Memorial Service @Naalehu, 10 a.m.

August 10-Saturday, Buddhism Class @Puna, 10-11:30 a.m. -Rev. Alan Urasaki

August 11-Sunday, Guest Speaker: Rev. Alan Urasaki

August 12-Monday, Memorial Service @Hilo, 9 a.m.

August 12-Monday, Pahala & Naalehu Monthly service

August 13-Tuesday, Temple Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting, 7 p.m.

August 14-Wednesday, Japanese class

@Puna, 5 p.m.

August 15-Thursday, Puna Board of Directors meeting, 7 p.m.

August 17-Friday, Pahala Bon Dance

August 21-Wednesday, Japanese Class @Puna, 5 p.m.

August 24-Saturday, Pahoa Bon Service & Dance

August 25-Alae Cemetery memorial service, 2 p.m

August 28-Wednesday, Japanese Class @Puna, 5 p.m.

August 30-Friday, Naalehu Bon set up

August 31-Saturday, Naalehu bon 6-10 p.m.

1. Buddhism Classes

Buddhism Book Club: "Tannisho Reading" Friday, August 9, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Open to public. No Registration needed. Donation appreciated.

Tannisho is one of the most influential books about Shin Buddhism. A material will be provided.

Instructor: Rev. Satoshi Tomioka

Buddhism Class: "Buddhism in Daily life"

Saturday, August 10, 10-11:30 a.m. Open to public. No registration required. Donation appreciated.

Instructor: Rev. Alan Urasaki.

Rev. Tomioka will continue to have a Buddhist class to attract new people from a larger community and also to provide a learning opportunity for members.

2. Buddhism Education Fund

Rev. Tomioka created a Buddhism Education fund under Minister's Discretionary fund. Rev.

Tomioka will take care of this fund and it will be used to support for Buddhism education.

Buddhism education is a integral component of a temple and one of the key venues to bring new people from a larger community. Your contribution to this fund will be greatly appreciated.

3. Dharma Centered Temple

Bishop Eric Matsumoto has been encouraging ministers, temples, members to be a Dharma Centered temple. We all have our own preference,

way of thinking, experiences and comfort zone. We often tend to live and behave in a way we want. However, due to this our too humanness ego, we often experience a conflict or a disharmony between us. At that time, let us go to the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha for guidance. "What would Buddha do"? Let us live a life not being driven by our attachments and ego but by Buddha-Dharma.



BISHOP'S CORNER

Bishop Eric Matsumoto

A Whole New World Opens Up Before Your Eyes

What is the Obon Season? The 5 R's might help us to understand. Obon is a time of reverence, remembrance, reflection, realization and responding in gratitude. At Hongwanji, we gather to humbly pay reverence to All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion known as Amida Buddha or Namo Amida Butsu, The-Buddha's-Name- That-Calls-Us (to entrust), as we remember and honor those who came before us especially our departed loved ones of family and friends.

As we gather in remembrance, it is a time to reflect and come to some realizations which can change our life. One of the great messages of Obon is interdependence. Hatsuzo Ohsuga wrote, "For man to live is not simply a matter of having blood ties with our parents and siblings, we are also linked to the rest of the world. All living things born into this world, not just people, but animals and plants, coexist as part of a greater life that they share."



His Eminence Gomonsu Emeritus Koshin Ohtani of Nishi Hongwanji encourages "Think more expansively of your connectedness to life." "All things on earth, all things in the Universe, are in the fold of a great life-

force linking us all together. In this world, there is no life that was ever lived in vain. There is no life that is meaningless. All life is linked together. All

of us share in the light that Amida Buddha shines upon us-this is what Buddhism teaches.”

All life, all existence, regardless of whether they lived in the past, are living in the present or will be born in the future are illuminated and nurtured by the Buddha’s Light of Wisdom and Compassion. Just as when the light is turned on in a darkened room and we are able to see, likewise, with the Buddha’s Light shining upon us we begin to see and understand ourselves and the world in a different light. It is through this understanding that our life changes. This is what happened to Mogallana and his Mother. They found themselves living in a new awareness that life and living is made possible by innumerable others not limited to our fellow human beings. May we, too, come to realize the equality and preciousness of all life including plant and animal life, actually all existence and move away from self-centeredness and selfishness to a world filled with respect and appreciation for and of one another.

Further, at Obon time, we express our joy as we come to realize that Amida Buddha embraces us just as we are, including our deceased loved ones, promising us the great Enlightenment equal to the Buddha’s own Enlightenment. Thus, we refer to Obon as “A Gathering of Joy” at Hongwanji as we rejoice in the fact that we are all (living and deceased) embraced by Great Compassion. The life of a Shin Buddhist is one of “Responding in Gratitude” in which I gratefully recite The-Buddha’s-Name-That-I-Call (in gratitude), Namo Amida Butsu and try to live a life in accord with the Buddha’s Teachings which aspires for more peace, harmony, and happiness in the world.

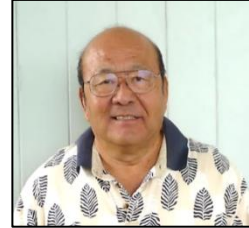
I end by expressing my ardent wish and hope that you will attend Sunday services to learn and experience more fully the Great Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha. Namo Amida Butsu.



Membership Committee News

Thank you for your dues donation. Reminders will be sent soon. Thank you for your hard work to make the Obon a success. If you are head of household and in a care home situation, your dues are exempt. Please notify the office or myself on you status.

In Gassho,
Roy Toma
Membership
Chairman
808-9357712



Friends of Lili`uokalani Gardens events and partnerships:

August: tentative bamboo thinning event

Saturday, August 10: AARP Paletas in the Park social and stroll, 10 a.m. to noon

Monday, September 2: in 1838, Queen Lili`uokalani was born.

Saturday, September 7: the 20th annual He Hali`a Aloha No Lili`uokalani – A Cherished Memory of the Queen will be held in the gardens 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

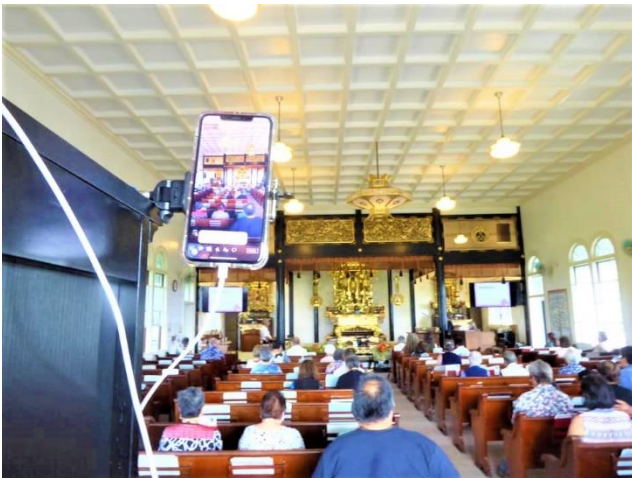
Sunday, September 8: floral design installation 8 a.m. to noon Wedding vow renewal event noon to 4 p.m.

Saturday, September 21: Walk to End Alzheimer's, registration 7 a.m., Walk 8 a.m. two miles around Lili`uokalani Gardens.



facebook.

On Sunday, June 30, 2019 We did our first “LIVESTREAM” Feed on facebook. We broadcast the entire Family service live for anyone who follows our Puna Hongwanji Homepage on Facebook to see. We had responses as far away as Iowa and Canada. We have been broadcasting every Family Sunday service since then. So if members are unable to attend service for that day, they can watch it live from home. And it’s available for everyone on Facebook to see.



Pieper Toyama State Hongwanji President and former head of Pacific Buddhist Academy (PBA) was our guest speaker on that day.

Puna Hongwanji Obon (Gathering of Joy)

Something new at this year’s obon: Lantern parade. Families observing a memorial and others joined in as Rev. Satoshi “Ka’imipono” Tomioka and President Jason Hashimoto lead the group around the yagura (tower) and under the Bodhi tree. Bodhi means "enlightenment" and as your loved ones attained the highest enlightenment, we wish to share the light of enlightenment through the lantern parade with joyful gratitude





Lanterns placed under the Bodhi tree after the parade.



A great turnout for both nights!



The always busy concession stand.

Obon Food

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to all of you who were able to help with the concession and baked goods during our Obon. Also thank you for the generous monetary donations, ingredients, and drinks. It took a lot of time and effort to make this event the success that it was. It started with baked goods a couple of weeks before then the smoked meat and energy bars and there was something to be done every day during the week of Obon. Then during the event we needed people cooking the food, frying the andagi, making spam musubi 's, bento's, and cutting fruits, washings dishes and let me tell you there was a lot of washing going on. We also needed cashiers, counter help, servers for the food and drinks and making the shaved ice and much more. As you can see, it is a lot of hard work and it has to be a team effort to pull it off. We did it! Thank you to all of you.

With much Appreciation and Gratitude,

In Gassho,
Clifford Furukado





Front Entrance



Have you noticed something new when turning into our temple parking lot? There are two new pillars with lanterns on them.



Thank you Earl Mukai for doing a wonderful job with the pillars.

If you think it looks great, you should see them at night when they are turned on emitting a purple luminescent glow.

*****UPDATE*****

Unfortunately, on Sunday, July 21, 2019 both lights were removed from the pillars. One light has been returned to the temple. We hope that the persons that vandalized our property realize that this light signifies the entrance to the temple as a welcoming place to all. We don't have paid staff that maintain our temple, but everyone is a volunteer.

If we could all practice the "Golden Chain of Love" we would have a better world to live in. "...to do pure and beautiful deeds, knowing on what I do now depends on my happiness or unhappiness, but also that of others...."

Namo Amida Butsu!





Reverend Tomioka at the Tanabata Festival at Imiloa Astronomy Center. July 7, 2019



May 30, 1952. Memorial day service at Olaa Hongwanji. Guest speaker Mitsugi Nakamoto.

If anyone has any old photos of our temple or Japanese school. Can you please email it to hilites@punahongwanji.org. Or drop it off with Reverend Tomioka. We'd like to share any photos you have of past. Thank you.

Pahoa Cemetery Service for Obon (Gathering of Joy).



Since the road to the Kapoho graves are inaccessible due to the lava, services at the Pahoa Cemetery remembered those at the Kapoho Cemetery too. Ministers were: Rev. Satoshi "Ka'imipono" Tomioka (Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple); Rev. Marcos Sawada (Hilo Higashi Hongwanji); and Rev. Junshin Miyazaki (Hilo Meishoin).





This tree was planted in December for our Gannenmono celebration. We are using the Miyazono children as our markers to see how much the tree grows



As you get older you begin to understand more and more that life is not about what you look like or what you own, it's about the person you've become.

Buddhism Class ~ Buddhism in Contemporary & Oldies Music



June 29, 2019 Rev. Satoshi "Ka'imipono" Tomioka discussed how Buddhist values are found in different lyrics of the songs and then we listened and/sang along as the song was played. Some songs had very deep meanings to some people.



There are many different classes presently being held each month at the temple, please keep an eye out for flyers at our temple, on our website or Facebook calendars. As well as our Hilites Calendar.

OBON (Gathering of Joy) Community booth

At our Obon (Gathering of Joy) we had a community booth for people to stop by and write a message/draw a picture in memory of loved ones on a Bodhi leaf and place it on our empty tree branches. Like our real Bodhi tree the branches were bare, but by the end of the event we had a tree filled with Bodhi leaves. Thank you to everyone who stopped by to write a message. Thank you to Rev. Tomioka and Eric Bihag for collaborating and coming up with this idea. Thank you Eric for always willing to draw and paint things for our events.



Eric and Rev. Tomioka brainstormed together and created this Bodhi tree.



Our Bodhi tree filled with leaves. For now the tree is in the breezeway at the temple if you would like to see it in person.

Columbarium Service

July 14, 2019 after temple service we had a short columbarium service to pay respect to those who have passed before us.



