

## Puna Hongwanji Mission



Location: 16-492 Old Volcano Road Keaau, HI

Mailing address: P.O. Box 100

Keaau, HI 96749-0100

Tel: (808) 966-9981 Fax: (808) 966-7732

Website: [punahongwanji.org](http://punahongwanji.org)

Resident Minister: Reverend Satoshi Tomioka

Cell: (808) 285-0275

Email: [stomioka@honpahi.org](mailto:stomioka@honpahi.org)

Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri– 9am to 12pm\*

\*unless called away by other duties

Thurs. – day off

Kyodan Pres.: Jason Hashimoto (Cell: 937-5941)

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# January 2020 Hi-Lites

## *Of Special Interest This Month*

January 1 - New Year Service

January 4 - Judo Kagami Biraki

January 11 - Buddhism Seminar

January 12 – Hoonko Service

January 19 - Martin Luther King Jr.  
Gathering

January 25 - Appreciation Party



## **\*\*COMING UP IN FEBRUARY\*\***

February 15- Buddhism Seminar

February 16 - Nirvana Day Service  
Shinnen Kai/Keirokai

February 23 - Gatha Fest



## **2020 Honpa Hongwanji Theme & Slogan**

**Building Healthy Sangha**

*(Embracing Generosity and Openness)*

## **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.

**Email:** "hilites@punahongwanji.org"

**Editorial:** Sam Horiuchi  
Tammy Molina

**Production:** Lei Kakugawa  
Ann Toma  
Dora Hashimoto  
Susan Sunada  
Clifford Furukado

**Advisor:** Rev. Satoshi Tomioka

## *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

**JANUARY - 1**  
**FEBRUARY - 2**

## *Toban Refreshment Schedule for Sunday*

**JANUARY - 3**  
**FEBRUARY - 4**



## *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.



### **\*\*Addition to December 2019\*\***

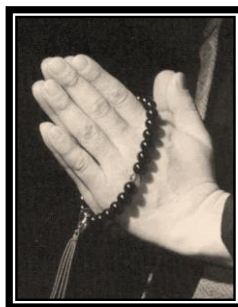
17 yrs. Miyoko Higa - December 16, 2003  
Kiyomi Wakida - December 24, 2003  
Ayame Matsumoto - December 29, 2003

## **January 2020**

1 yr. Tatsuko Hayashikawa January 21, 2019  
3 yrs. Seigo Shiigi January 17, 2018  
7 yrs. None  
13 yrs. Kazuo "Kazu" Uchida January 4, 2008  
Matsuko Miyashiro January 10, 2008  
17 yrs. Matsu Miyahira January 15, 2004  
25 yrs. None  
33 yrs. None  
50 yrs. Kame Oshiro January 14, 1971  
Yurio Kawaguchi January 25, 1971



## *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.

*Sueko Arakawa*  
*Richard Oshiro*  
*Toshio Nakamura*  
*Yutaka Shimasaki*

# January 2020

## *Puna Hongwanji Mission Calendar of Events*

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue                              | Wed  | Thu  | Fri                 | Sat                             |
|---|---|----------------------------------|--|--|---------------------|---------------------------------|
|   |   |                                  | 1<br>New Years Day<br>Service 9 AM                                       | 2<br>Meditation 6:30 AM<br>Taiko 3 PM<br>Judo 6:30 PM  | 3<br>Choir 3:30 PM  | 4                               |
| 5<br>Family Service 9 AM<br>Dharma School<br>Class                          | 6<br>Judo 5:30 PM<br>Karate 7 PM<br>Pahoa Service 7 PM            | 7<br>Taiko 3 PM<br>Judo 6:30 PM  | 8<br>Japanese Class 5 PM<br>Judo 5:30 PM<br>Karate 7 PM                  | 9<br>Meditation 6:30 AM<br>Taiko 3 PM<br>Judo 6:30 PM  | 10<br>Choir 3:30 PM | 11<br>Buddhism Seminar<br>10 AM |
| 12<br>Hoonko Service<br>9 AM<br>BWA Meeting                                 | 13<br>Naalehu Dharma<br>Class 5 PM<br>Judo 5:30 PM<br>Karate 7 PM | 14<br>Taiko 3 PM<br>Judo 6:30 PM | 15<br>Japanese Class 5 PM<br>Judo 5:30 PM<br>Karate 7 PM                 | 16<br>Meditation 6:30 AM<br>Taiko 3 PM<br>Judo 6:30 PM | 17<br>Choir 3:30 PM | 18                              |
| 19<br>Family Service 9 AM<br>Dharma School Mtg.<br>MLK Jr Gathering<br>4 PM | 20<br>Judo 5:30 PM<br>Karate 7 PM                                 | 21<br>Taiko 3 PM<br>Judo 6:30 PM | 22<br>Japanese Class 5 PM<br>Judo 5:30 PM<br>Karate 7 PM<br><b>BREAD</b> | 23<br>Meditation 6:30 AM<br>Taiko 3 PM<br>Judo 6:30 PM | 24<br>Choir 3:30 PM | 25<br>Appreciation Party        |
| 26<br>Family Service<br>9 AM  | 27<br>Judo 5:30 PM<br>Karate 7 PM                                 | 28<br>Taiko 3 PM<br>Judo 6:30 PM | 29<br>Japanese Class 5 PM<br>Judo 5:30 PM<br>Karate 7 PM                 | 30<br>Meditation 6:30 AM<br>Taiko 3 PM<br>Judo 6:30 PM | 31<br>Choir 3:30 PM |                                 |



## 年頭の辞

新しい年のはじめにあたり、ご挨拶申し上げます。

昨年も日本をはじめ世界各地で多くの自然災害が起きました。災害によってお亡くなりになられた方に謹んで哀悼の意を表します

とともに、被災された方に心よりお見舞い申し上げます。また、これら以外にも紛争やテロ・飢餓などによって、日々多くの方が犠牲となり、困難な生活を送っておられることも忘れてはいけません。

さて、昨年9月に、門主として初めて北米開教区を訪問させていただきましたが、これによって、カナダ・ハワイ・南米・北米の全開教区を門主としてお参りさせていただいたことになります。各開教区、また各お寺によって、その歴史や現在の状況は異なりますが、多くのお寺が日本から移住された日本人の方とその子孫によって建立され、護持されてきました。第二次世界大戦をはじめとする様々な困難な状況にあっても、み教えを依りどころとして、お寺を大切に護ってこられた先人の方々に思いを致すとき、今日の私たちにまで浄土真宗のみ教えが受け継がれてきたことの尊く、また不思議なご縁をととても有り難く思います。

一方で日本人の方が最初に海外へ移住されてから相当の年数がたち、日系人の方々の生活も大きく変化し、また、時代状況も大きく変わりました。そのような中で、親鸞聖人が説かれた浄土真宗のみ教えは、日本人や日系人だけではなく、世界中の多くの方に伝わり、各開教区においても、様々な方がお寺へ来られるようになってきました。それは、浄土真宗のみ教えが、時代や場所を越えた普遍的な教えであるからです。すなわち、様々な悩みや苦しみを抱えるすべての人々を包み込み、摂め取ってくださる阿弥陀さまのおはたらきが普遍的であるということです。

本年も自分のこととしてみ教えを聞くとともに、多くの方にみ教えが伝わるよう努めて参りましょう。

2019年1月1日

浄土真宗本願寺派

門主 大谷光淳

## New Year's Greeting

Happy New Year, everyone! At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my best regards to you all.

Last year again, following the year before, Japan, as well as many other countries in the world, was struck with multiple natural disasters. I would like to convey my deepest condolences to those who lost their lives through those disasters and express my sympathy to everyone affected. In addition, we must never forget that armed conflicts and terror attacks as well as severe starvation is making it difficult to live, and lives are being lost every day.

Last September I had an opportunity to make an official visit to the temples of the Buddhist Churches of America as Monshu for the first time. This allowed me to complete the first round of visitations to all of the overseas districts which include Canada, Hawaii, South America, and the US mainland.

Although every temple and district has its own history and background, many of the overseas Jodo Shinshu temples were established and have been cherished by the Japanese immigrants and their descendants. Reflecting on how sincerely our predecessors entrusted themselves to the Buddha Dharma and how importantly they thought of their



temples while facing many difficulties such as World War II, I cannot help but feel grateful and even awe for their tremendous efforts as well as many other wondrous circumstances that have allowed the Jodo Shinshu teaching to be handed down to us today.

However, a considerable amount of time has passed since the Japanese emigrated overseas, and the lifestyle of their descendants, as well as the world situation have changed greatly. In accordance with these changes, quite a few people who are not of ethnically Japanese origin have also come to appreciate the teaching clarified by Shinran Shonin, and attend our overseas temples.

What caused this is nothing but the universality of the Jodo Shinshu teaching that transcends time and space. In other words, Amida Buddha's compassion equally reaches and nondiscriminatively embraces everyone in the midst of all sorts of pain and agony.

In this year, let us continue to listen to the Dharma, considering it is directed to each one of us, and keep moving forward to share it with many other people as possible.

January 1, 2020



## **“NAMO AMIDA BUTSU AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!”**



At the start of the New Year, let me begin by expressing my deepest appreciation and gratitude to the entire Sangha and Friends of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii who have supported our Organization for over 130 years in Hawaii. It is

because of Amida Buddha's Great Wisdom and Compassion, the guidance received from the Revered Masters and Teachers like Shinran Shonin who shared the Teachings and the Sangha that we have been able to come this far. Thank you to one and all!

Deeply reflecting, I have noticed that we speak a lot about the Buddha and the Dharma, but we seldom speak about the Sangha. However, the Sangha is also essential. Thus, out of this awareness, our next 5 Year Theme and Slogans will focus on the Sangha. Of course, the Sangha (which is you and I) which tries to live the Dharma as shared by the Buddha. There is no doubt that the thoughts, words and actions of every individual is very important and makes a difference.

Let us receive guidance from “The Teaching of Buddha” in which it shares about clergy that *“Those who wish to teach the Buddha's teachings acceptably must be concerned about four things: first, they must be concerned about their own behavior; second, they must be concerned about their choice of words when they approach and teach people; third, they must be concerned about their motive for teaching and the end they wish to accomplish; and fourth, they must be concerned about great compassion.”* Further it shares *“Lay followers should not only believe in the Three Treasures...by themselves, but also they should, as far as they are able, help others...to awaken in them an unshakable faith in the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha, so that they, too, may share in Buddha's compassion.”* Let us, the Sangha, clergy and lay, jointly together share our awareness, joy and gratitude for Buddha-Dharma.

In Jodo Shinshu Teachings, Shinran Shonin shared that when we (regardless of whether we are clergy or lay) realize true mind (shinjin), we unfailing gain ten benefits in the present life. I would like to mention three of the ten: the benefit having great joy in our hearts, the benefit of being aware of Amida's benevolence and of responding in gratitude to his virtue, and the benefit of constantly practicing great compassion.” In regards to “practicing great compassion,” Shinran Shonin quotes a sutra *“What is “great compassion?” Those who continue solely in the nembutsu without any interruption will thereby be born without fail in the land of happiness at the end of life. If these people encourage each other and bring others to say the Name, they are all called “people who practice great compassion.”*

Further, let us keep in mind the thoughts of our 3<sup>rd</sup> Spiritual Leader Kakunyo Shonin who said, “(Our) Prosperity is dependent on the quality and depth of the Shinjin of our Followers.” Rennyō Shonin, our 8<sup>th</sup> Spiritual Leader, further shared, “...be careful not to let the mind run its course unbridled...be sure to control it. It is wrong to allow the mind to take its course unchecked. We are enabled to control the (our) mind due to the Other-Power.” Finally, our 25<sup>th</sup> Spiritual Leader, His Eminence Gomonsu Kojun Ohtani shares “By listening to the Primal Vow and how it was established by Amida Tathagata, we are enabled to become conscious of our own ignorance and self-oriented inclinations, and through such awareness, we naturally become gentle in word and deed in our efforts of minimizing our egoistic way of thinking.” “Even though our efforts may pale in comparison to the Buddha’s Compassion, we are at least guided in the proper direction by the Buddha Dharma.”

As I have been emphasizing the life of Shin Buddhist is one of responding in gratitude to the Wisdom and Compassion of Namo Amida Butsu by reciting the Nembutsu and we try to live our life guided by the Dharma in grateful response until our life culminates (at death) with our entering the Pure Land of Perfect Peace and Happiness to attain Perfect Peace of Enlightenment. May the New Year be truly prosperous in the truest sense of the word. Happy New Year!

In Gassho/Anjali,  
Eric Matsumoto, Bishop



### President’s Message

#### **Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity and Openness**

Note: This message appears as part of the introduction to the Honpa

Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii’s 2020 calendar. When you receive your calendar, please reflect on the three suggested actions below.

Every year, over many weeks, five individuals gather to discuss, ponder, select, write,

and review. And the result of their efforts is the Hawaii Kyodan Calendar that will be distributed soon. Alan Kubota, Stephan Doi, Yumi Suzuki, Rev. Kazunori Takahashi, and Bishop Eric Matsumoto toiled mightily to bring us this calendar out of a personal commitment to inspire us. This year they committed their best efforts, using the theme **Building Healthy Sanghas** and the slogan, **Embracing Generosity and Openness**, to carefully select photographs and words that move us to action. But in works such as this, the challenge is to transform inspiring photographs and lofty words into real and everyday actions that touch others. If we fail to take on this challenge, the theme and slogan and the hard work of these five individuals easily vanish from our hearts and minds even as we turn the pages of the calendar. Then the commitment of these five good people who gave us this calendar will hold no power. Let us not allow this to happen. I suggest that we all consider the following as each month unfolds.

1. When we turn each page to a new month, let us take the time to really look at the picture, every object, every person. Let us see the act of generosity or the act of acceptance and openness embedded in the picture. Let us see the reflected warmth and joy of the sangha in the photograph.
2. Then in the days that follow, let us use the picture of the month to inspire us to be generous and open and joyful with others. Let us transform opportunities in the fleeting moments of our lives into action. And here I think of simple actions as a hearty, “Good morning,” a smile full of warmth, and a gentle touch of reassurance.
3. And in the moments when we have transformed the lofty phrases of our theme and slogan into tiny, real and true actions, let the sound of Namo Amida Butsu flow through us.

If we take the time and commit ourselves to perform these three acts, the pages of the calendar will breathe Namo Amida Butsu into our lives. Our sanghas will grow healthy because threads of generosity and openness will begin to bind one member to another. And we will have made the

commitment of Alan Kubota, Stephan Doi, Yumi Suzuki, Rev. Kazunori Takahashi, and Bishop Eric Matsumoto real and true.

Namo Amida Butsu  
Pieper J. Toyama, President



## Minister's Message



Aloha Kākou.  
Happy New Year.  
Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!  
明けましておめでとうございます。

2019 passed and now we welcomed the year of 2020. Thank you very much for everything in the past year and let us have a wonderful and meaningful

new year guided by Buddha-the awakened one, Dharma-universal truth and Sangha-harmonious group.

As we welcome this new year, I would like to take this opportunity to share my biography.

**Name:** Satoshi “Ka‘imipono” Tomioka. My Hawaiian name was given to me by Mrs. Cecilia Lindo, who is a member of Hawaii Betsuin. Its meaning is “the seeker of the truth”

**Parents:** Mr. & Mrs. Yoshifumi and Sonoko Tomioka

**Family:** An elder brother and sister, grandmother. I am the youngest in the family

**Date of birth:** January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1988 (Did you now?)

**Home town:** Tsuwano Town, Shimane prefecture. (next to Yamaguchi and Hiroshima)

**Character:** impatient, funny, stubborn, humorous...and more.

**Favorites:** Movie: Aladdin      Color: Blue  
Actor: Robin Williams      Food: Japanese noodle (ramen)

Are there anything new to you?

The reason why I shared my biography with you is to help us revisit and rediscover what we have been listening to at Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. There are things which we think we know but actually we may miss or not realize.

**Name of School:** Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha (The True Essence of Pure Land Buddhist Teaching, a sect of Hongwanji)

**Founder:** Shinran Shōnin (Shōnin means holy person)

Date of birth: May 21, 1173      Date of death: January 16, 1263

**Head Temple:** Nishi Hongwanji (Nishi-west. Hon-Primal, gwan-Vow, ji-temple. A temple of the Primal Vow)

**Object of Reverence:** Amida Buddha (Namo Amida Butsu)

**Sutras:** The Three Pure Land Sutras

**Teaching:** Attaining the “entrusting heart”—awakening to the compassion of Amida Buddha (tathagata) through the working of the Primal Vow—we shall walk the path of life reciting Amida’s Name (Nembutsu). At the end of life, we will be born in the Pure Land and attain Buddhahood, returning at once to this delusional world to guide people to awakening.

**Way of Life:** Guided by the teaching of Master Shinran Shonin, we shall listen to the compassionate calling of Amida Tathagata and recite the Nembutsu. While always reflecting on ourselves, amidst our feelings of regret and joy, we shall live expressing our gratitude without depending on petitionary prayer and superstition.

**Purpose:** The Hongwanji school is a community of people joined together revering the teaching of Master Shinran Shonin and saying the Nembutsu-Namo Amida Butsu. By doing so, we shall work toward the realization of a society in which everyone is able to live a life of spiritual fulfillment.

Are there anything new to you? If so, let us learn and listen to the teachings of Shin Buddhism. If you know already, let us learn and listen to the teachings. In this 2020, let us truly live a life guided



by Namo Amida Butsu and live a life with awareness of our true nature of human beings and with a heart to gratitude.  
Reverend Satoshi "Ka'imipono" Tomioka.

明けましておめでとうございます。

私たちはどのような気持ちでこのお言葉を言い、聞いているでしょうか。

2019年はいろんなことがあったけれども、今、こうしてこの新しい年を家族、友達を迎えることができました。なんて喜ばしいことなのでしょう。いのちをまた一年重ねたのです。祖父の奮闘がよく言っていた言葉に、「今朝もまた 覚めて 目が見え 手が動く、ああ有難や この身 このまま」があります。この言葉から、「明けましておめでとう」に深い感謝といのちの尊さを感じます。私も、あなたも、こうして新しい年を迎えることができましたね。何と有難いことでしょうか。思い通りにならない人生。思い通りにならないことを思い通りにしようとして自分で苦しみ、人も苦しませてしまう。その私の姿を見て、救わずにはおられない、助けずにはおられない、と願い、いつも包み込んでくださるのが仏さまです。その願いを南無阿彌陀仏といえます。心配と愛の心から親が子どもによひかけるように、いつも、いつでも、いつまでも「そのまままかせよ

必ず救うよ、親だからね」の仏さまの声が聞こえています。そのお声に気が付くとき、心配させてしまうわが身を振り返りながら、仏さまのぬくもりに抱かれるよろこびをいただき、ともに南無阿彌陀仏と申させていただきますよう。

合掌 富岡 智史



## Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Minister's Report December 2019

January 3-Friday, Memorial Service @Puna, 10 a.m.

January 4-Saturday, Judo New Year's Practice Service, 8 a.m.

January 4-Saturday, Memorial Service @Hilo, 11 a.m.

January 6-Monday, Hawaii District Ministers Association mtg. 9 a.m. via skype

January 6-Monday, Memorial Service @Hilo, noon

January 6-Monday, Pahoa Monthly Service, 7 p.m.

January 8-Wednesday, Japanese Class @Puna, 5 p.m.

January 11-Saturday, Buddhism Seminar @Puna, 10-11:30 a.m., @Naalehu, (TBA) Lecturer: Rev. Ai Hironaka, Lahaina Hongwanji Mission (Maui)

January 12-Sunday, Founder's Memorial Service (Hō onko), 9 a.m. Guest Speaker: Rev. Kerry Kiyohara (Makawao Hongwanji)

January 13-Monday, Naalehu Monthly Dharma Class @5 p.m., Service @6 p.m. No service @Pahala

January 14-Tuesday, Temple Sustainability Advisory Committee (TSAC), 7 p.m.

January 15-Wednesday, Japanese Class, 5 p.m.

January 16-Thursday, Puna Board of Directors mtg. 7p.m.

January 17-18, Commissioner on Buddhist Education (CBE) mtg. @Honolulu January 19-Sunday, MLK Jr. Gathering @Puna, 4-6:30 p.m.

January 22-Wednesday, Japanese Class, 5 p.m.

January 24-25, State Monshinto membership mtg. @Honolulu January 27-Monday, Pahala Monthly Service, 3 p.m.

January 29-Wednesday, Japanese Class, 5 p.m.

January 29-Wednesday, Japanese Class, 5 p.m.

January 29-Wednesday, Japanese Class, 5 p.m.

### 1. Ministerial Assignment

Hawaii District Ministers Association (HDMA) selected new officers and advisors for 2020.

President: Rev. Shinji Kawagoe  
(Papaikou)

Vice President: Rev. Daido Baba (Hilo)

Treasurer: Rev. Satoshi Tomioka (Puna)

Secretary: Rev. Blayne Higa (Kona)



BWA: Rev. Blayne Higa  
Jr. YBA: Rev. Joshin Kamuro (Hilo)  
Dharma School: Rev. Daido Baba  
Commissioner on Buddhist Education:  
Rev. Satoshi Tomioka

I served President for past two years for the betterment of the entire Hongwanji organization and as a liaison with local temples and ministers. Thank you very much for your understanding and support while I was away from the temple to attend various functions on Oahu. I humbly ask you for your continuous support for ministers.

## **2. Hongwanji the 5-Year Theme and Slogan for 2020-2024**

5-Year Theme: Building Healthy Sangha  
2020: Building Healthy Sangha:  
Embracing Generosity and Openness  
2021: Building Healthy Sangha: Nurturing  
Empathy and Respect  
2022: Building Healthy Sangha:  
Connecting with Others  
2023: Building Healthy Sangha: Sharing  
Joy Together  
2024: Building Healthy Sangha: Sharing  
Nembutsu Moments

## **3. Temple Name Change**

Kailua Hongwanji Mission and Makawao Hongwanji Mission changed their temple names to Windward Buddhist Temple and Makawao Buddhist Temple. Their legal name is the same but to make it understandable and relatable, they decided to change. Hongwanji means a temple of the Primal Vow. When I mention our temple, I use "Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple." What is your opinion?

## **4. Stable Income resources to Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple**

Our temple is financially sustained by membership, fundraisings, and donations. As we are facing a financial situation and try to secure a stable finance for the future generation, we have Investment and Temple Sustainability Advisory Committee seek ways to sustain our temple financially.

Our State Hongwanji organization also knows the situation local temples and HHMH faces. They also have a plan.

### **a. Develop Alternative Revenue Sources for temples and for HHMH**

Harry Yada, Land Evaluation  
Consultant is currently working on evaluating two Hongwanji parcels of land to determine what revenue-producing activities are legal and feasible on these lands, which are the site of the Buddhist Study Center (Honolulu) and Waianae Hongwanji Temple.

### **b. Temple Planned Giving Programs**

Sometimes called gift planning, deferred giving, or legacy giving. This help donors (members/community) make plans to leave money or assets to nonprofits at a future date, usually after death.

Two temple orientations have been completed for piloting Temple Planned Giving Programs. Orientations were completed at Aiea and Jikoen Hongwanji. Puna and Wahiawa Hongwanji are scheduled to have orientations.

Thank you very much for your time, commitment, support for our temple and for the community. Our ancestors, past members and ministers established our foundation and now, it is our turn to take care and pass it onto future generations. Each member and people have a reason to come to a temple. The reasons might be: a class, event, fellowship, religious seeking, spirituality, community, worship, a family religion, for children, culture, fun, food, etc. Whatever it may be, your reason is respected and cherished.

As a religious and Buddhist Temple, our mission is to share the joy of Nembutsu-Namo Amida Butsu. It is me, you, and us who feels joy and wants to share it with others. Let us find a joy of nembutsu in our life and we dedicate and re-dedicate ourselves to support our temple in various ways.

Attached picture is a back side of decorated altar fabric which was used before, not used now. As you

can see, it was sewed and repaired so that it can be used. Each thread, I feel our past members and ministers' passion and wish for the temple and for the Buddha Dharma. How grateful we are and fortune to have those people who dedicated themselves for others and a temple. If there is only one thread, it is not enough to repair something. But if each thread is woven together, it has a power to sustain strongly and keep its value and history. I, You, and We are the thread which makes Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple be here. Like a thread woven together, let us work together as a sangha guided by All-Embracing Compassion and All-Inclusive Wisdom of Amida Buddha.

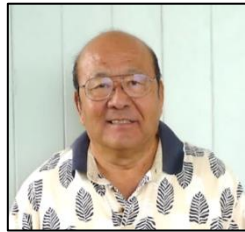


## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS**

Happy New Year! May we continue to have a busy & successful year ahead.

Thank you for replying to my reminder request. Your dues help to keep our Sangha operating. Recommended dues is \$240.00/Yr. You may pay weekly, monthly, semi-annually or full. And if you are head of household, your dues are exempt.

In Gassho,  
Roy Toma  
Membership  
Chairman  
935-7712



On Tuesday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at the invitation of Reverend Tomioka, Stella and Eileen drove Lei Kakugawa, Masako Sanehira, Kay Kawazoe, Dora Hashimoto and Iris Asato to Hilo Daijingu for the taping of Karaoke Island.

The audience was surprised to see six cameras set up to film the performances and a waiver to video them as well. The stage was beautifully done by

Norman Nakano who also did the background for many of the karaoke performances.

Each singer was evaluated by a panel of three judges who raised their fans if they enjoyed the performance and a critique was also given. Although there were only eight performances, the taping took two hours because of the preparation for each singer.

Misaki Saito was the organizer of the Karaoke Island. It is yet to be determined if the video will be broadcast on NHK or KIKU.



On Tuesday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Stella took Lei Kakugawa and Masako Sanehira to a private home visitation where three residents were presented with crocheted lap blankets. Because it was a chilly day, they quickly opened their gifts and used them to keep their legs warm. They were very appreciative of their presents and enjoyed their time together. Using ribbon from her gift, a resident played "cat in the cradle", which was a good exercise for her fingers.



Later that day, Eileen joined the group for a visitation in Paradise Park. The resident was dressed for company and ready to greet the volunteers. She was grateful to be remembered with the colorful lap blanket.



The day came to an end with a final visit to Kiyo Sumi's home where she was presented with a slice of birthday cake, some chocolate candy and a rendition of "Happy Birthday." She was touched to tears that someone other than her husband had remembered her birthday.

Miyo will take two holidays from making bento's, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

As a reminder, Miyo's bento's are available to homebound seniors each Wednesday. The bento's

are nutritious and cost only \$5. The money, cash only, is collected on the last Wednesday so that Eileen can pay Miyo on the first Monday of the following month.

Happy Holidays! Stay safe and be well.

In gassho,  
Eileen Usagawa and Stella Miyashiro.



### Friends of Lili'uokalani Gardens

In Lili'uokalani Gardens in January 2020, we have two big events that involve community partnerships.

1) Saturday January 11 from noon to 6 p.m. The 4th annual Banyan Drive Art Stroll takes place on the entire peninsula. Art demonstrations and exhibits, live entertainment, prize drawings, silent auction, voting for People's Choice awards, and pupu are some of the highlights.

2) Saturday January 18 8 a.m. to noon. Volunteer day will concentrate on two locations: the bamboo patch and the tea house. Please wear closed toe shoes and bring your own gloves.

### **TOBAN SCHEDULE CODES**

**GROUP 1 KEAAU**

**GROUP 2 PAHOA**

**GROUP 3 HILO**

**GROUP 4 M/V/K**



## BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Puna BWA did not hold its annual pumpkin pie fundraiser this year. Instead a limited number of pies were prepared for the Keaau police officers, Keaau firemen, the personnel at the Shipman office, and for temple's Thanksgiving luncheon. It took three working days to complete this project. The first day was spent cleaning and steaming the pumpkin. The second day was spent on rolling and forming the crusts. The pie filling was prepared on the third day and the pies were baked. Chairperson Masako Sanehira had the help of six BWA members and three friends to work on this community service project. A large supply of yarn from the BWA Rummage Sale was given to the BWA bag and blanket committee.



Rose Moke, who is Mrs. Arakawa's caregiver, volunteered to crochet lap blankets with the yarn. Her colorful lap blankets were delivered to private home residents. When visitations are made to Life Care Center, Hale Anuenue, and Okutsu Veteran's Home, the blankets will be presented to the seniors.



Stella and Rev. Tomioka makes a delivery to the Keaau police station



Stella and Rev. Tomioka makes a delivery to the Keaau fire station



Stella and Rev. Tomioka makes a delivery to the Shipman Office



Carol, Mako, and Lei



## CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAPPING



Ethel, Rev. Tomioka, Lei, and Mako.



Richard and Chung Li. Thank you Richard for organizing and taking charge of the gift wrapping project!



K.T., Ethel, Mako and Lei.

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Give us your feedback and suggestions

Sam Horiuchi  
Tammy Molina  
Newsletter Committee  
Email: [hilites@punahongwanji.org](mailto:hilites@punahongwanji.org)

## My Escapade in Japan

Warren Tanigawa

Sometime during the summer of this year, in our Japanese class, I heard that Sensei Tomioka was going to take a group of our Sanga members to Japan. I've never been to Japan or anywhere needing a passport, but the thought of visiting Sensei's hometown and his family's temple seemed very intriguing. But getting my passport was harder than getting Trump to tell the truth, as I needed to first get a birth certificate, then re-new my driver's license just to apply for one. But with lots of nervous waiting and the help of Karen, my passport finally arrived a week before the deadline, and only then was the trip a, for sure, GO!

On November 4, we met at Hilo airport, flew to Honolulu, picked up a few people and 21 of us proceeded to board HA 171 to Kansai. The flight was looong, but eventually, we got there. Then came Customs. For me, that was slightly traumatic but that to, passed. A bus ride to the New Miyako Hotel and a restless first night in Japan.

The morning greeted me with a hotel breakfast of okai, something I haven't eaten since my childhood days when my mom used to cook that anytime one of the children was feeling ill. The taste, and the memories that it brought back, warmed my insides. Then to the train station to ride the Shinkansen! Another item on my bucket list...check. After getting off, we took a bus ride to Hagi and walked the streets there. I am a samurai movie buff and went to see samurai movies with my dad at Mamo theater. Hagi reminded me of that era when the streets were narrow but weren't paved, as there were no cars, but the houses and buildings were basically the same. Walking those streets, I imagined that I was wearing a yukata and getta, had 2 swords tucked into my waistband, and, I might have even strutted a bit, like Toshiro Mifune - haha, such fun!

We arrived at Tsuwano and checked in at the Onsenjuku Wataya where I went "the full Monty" by the wearing of yukata that was provided to dinner, bocha-ing in the onsen and sleeping on the floor.

Our family had a wood burning furo when we lived in Volcano, and soaking in the onsen, I thought of the times I had to burn the firewood to heat the furo water and later, I would soak and relax, and dream.

I also enjoyed feeding the koi that were in the pond in front of the hotel.

With much anticipation, Wednesday came, and the visiting of Sensei's family temple. For those who are yet to visit it, I will refrain from describing it in detail. However, I will say that the temple is perfect in every way. Have you ever gone to a place for the first time and think, "Hey, I've been here before?" That was my thought when I first saw the temple. We were greeted with much aloha, many gifts and a special service that all in the family participated. Later, we were treated to lunch by Sensei's father at a nearby restaurant. There may have been drinks also but that "business" was conducted in another room.

All too soon, it was time to leave Tsuwano. In saying our good-byes to the Tomiokas, I thought I heard "see you next year in June" and it made me smile and it eased my feeling of melancholy to leave Sensei's hometown and family. I loved the countryside of Shimane.

Another bus and ride on the Shinkansen to Hiroshima. At the Peace Memorial, we hung our string of paper cranes and I was feeling the magnitude and significance of this place as the words to "***Live and Light the World***", kept running through my head;

"Seeing the hurt we've caused, seeing how we've wronged,

So live, live and light the world, see that hatred's overcome,

So live, live and light the world, as one we must become, for the river reflects our past, through the years flow sorrow's tears."

Walking through the museum and looking at the photos of the destruction and the suffering that was caused by the bomb, brought on waves of emotion. I was embarrassed and ashamed that I belonged to this "people" who did this unconscionable act towards another human race. Visiting the Hiroshima Shrine was a painful lesson in humility.

It was a somber and gloomy bus ride to our next stop for lunch. I hoped that the food would wash the bitterness from my mouth and the queasiness in my stomach. Surprisingly, the food there was oishii.

And, it was at a gift shop that Mariko saw Momiji manju that I needed to buy for my neighbor's mom. Thank you Mariko, and thank you Sophie for coming with me to find it and help me buy it. Because of that, I made the bus wait for me, but

there was Sensei making sure I was not left behind. Thank you Sensei for not losing anybody. The next 2 days were spent sightseeing in Kyoto. We were joined by Blayne Nakasone at one of our first temple stop. It was so nice to see him as he looks so comfortable and happy to be in Kyoto. I know he will one day become an exceptional Sensei.

A somewhat embarrassing situation happened during one of our stops at a street market place. A bunch of us needed a “toidei” break, which was in an alleyway off to the side. Those who were there and waiting say that there is a urinal if that was my business. So I go into this hallway and there is a urinal. I’m getting ready to do my thing and I see a lady coming out from the end of this hall from the toilet. Whoa! Okay, no biggie. But then, I notice that the door into this hallway is still open and I can hear everybody talking and laughing about 6’ behind of me! My “performance” took longer than it should have because of all the “entertainment” provided...lol

Monday morning, wakeup call at 4:30. A short taxi ride to our mother temple, Nishi Hongwanji, arriving at 5:30. It was Earl’s kind of weather – COLD! It got colder inside the temple as I sat at the rear wall but there was a sliding panel that could not be closed and the cold wind was making my right side feel frozen. The temple is massive and although I appreciated that there was a small number of us, I would have liked to see and hear the sounds of it full of people.

We had a free last full day in Kyoto. Carol treated me to a private tour of north Kyoto, where we visited this temple on the top of a mountain. I counted over 1,200+ stair steps that I had to climb and go down, and this is not counting the level steps. We also went to this old temple in Nakayama which was situated on the slope of this cedar tree covered mountain slope which was so scenic and peaceful. Both were amazing.

Then it was our last day. There were a few who did last minute shopping, Kay went to see many people at a bamboo forest, and the rest of us just waited for the bus to the airport.

As we were loading the bus with our luggage, we had to carry some on the bus as the storage compartment was full. I heard that the driver was complaining that with only 21 passengers, there should be more than enough room for all our

luggage. HAH! He must not have known of Hawaii peeps and “omiyage”... he does now. At the airport, we saw Tsukasa Kaneko who came to show his aloha to us. How nice of him to do that, ya? And then, it was time to board our flight for home. Goodbye Japan! Osewani narimashita! Mata, ne?



## SR. YBA NEWS

Sam Horiuchi

We ended the year with our Sr YBA Christmas Party at Poly Feng Yuen. Everyone had fun with good food, games and prizes.





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**Some photos from our Puna Winter Festival.**



Entertainment by Halau O Mailelalani, featuring our very own Puna Hongwanji member Claire Arakawa.