

## Puna Hongwanji Mission



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\*unless called away by other duties

Thurs. – day off

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# May 2020 Hi-Lites

Due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) all activities, classes, meetings and Sunday services will be cancelled until May 15, 2020 or until further notice.

### **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.

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## *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.



**\*\*\*Memorial services will be postponed until after May 15, 2020. Please contact Rev. Tomioka to set a schedule.\*\*\***

### May 2020

1 yr.	Nobuko Kadomoto	May 22, 2019
3 yrs.	None	
7 yrs.	Herbert Nakamura Edith Iwata Masami Aito	May 1, 2014 May 5, 2014 May 28, 2014
13 yrs.	Yoshimi Kobayashi Minori "Fat" Imada Sueko Nishida	May 4, 2008 May 15, 2008 May 17, 2008
17 yrs.	Shigenari Shimabukuro	May 6, 2004
25 yrs.	None	
33 yrs.	Shinako Nozawa Shokie Hirayama	May 6, 1988 May 16, 1988
50 yrs.	Hamayo Sato Hatsuno Nagasako Tokio Izuno Keiichi Ozaki Wai Shirasaki	May 2, 1971 May 11, 1971 May 20, 1971 May 23, 1971 May 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

*Masato Meguro*

## 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

Aloha kōkou,

It didn't take a long time for me to realize that how fortunate and blessed I was right after the outbreak of COVID-19. Before, I was able to do things without any regulations such as going to a theater and going out for ramen noodle but now I can't. Knowing that this is for my wellbeing & safety and for that of others, I feel it is inconvenient and hope this situation will be over soon.

My mentor told me before “we are living a life of losing” and now under the situation, this word resonates in my heart and life. Depending on causes and conditions, people and things come and leave my life. While they are in my life, it is my responsibility to take care of them and cherish them as much as I can. Due to the coronavirus, so many things what I used to have disappeared temporary or permanently and it feels like I'm losing. While things and people are falling off from my hands and life, what is left in my hands and life become clearer and begins to shine like a treasure. The treasures are my family, friends, caring heart and kindness from others, health, and gratitude for things I have taken for granted. It has been there all the time but I was not able to see it because of things I had. This situation reveals what truly is important to me.

When I take my last breath, everything will be falling off from my hands including family and friends. I will be alone. However, there is something which is with me. That is Amida Buddha's compassionate Vow. This vow promises to embrace me always, whatever I'm going though and until the moment I take my last breath, this vow assures me to become a Buddha, the awakened one in the Pure Land. And by the virtue of Amida Buddha, I will be able to continue to guide others who are left behind in this world. In Amida's embrace, I have never been alone. While I'm living a life of losing, I'm receiving the everlasting compassion in my life. Our founder, Master Shinran said,



Of those who encounter the power of the Primal Vow, not one passes by in vain; they are filled with the treasure ocean of virtues, the defiled waters of their blind passions not separated from it.

-Hymn of the Pure Land Masters #13,  
Collected Works of Shinran, Pate 364

When I encounter this vow, my life is not in vain. That Vow is Namu Amida Butsu which we listen to and we recite. Let us cherish the treasures we have and let us take refuge in the treasures in Buddhism. We go to the Buddha for guidance, we go the Dharma for guidance, we go to the Sangha for guidance.

Mahalo  
Rev. Satoshi "Ka'imipono" Tomioka



We care about you...

Once, when I attended an interfaith thanksgiving ceremony, a kumu hula shared this story. When people are concerned about their islands getting dirty, this kumu hula said "I don't care about the land, but I care about the people. If I care for the people with loving kindness, people will care for our land with loving kindness. Care for the people who care for the land." The land is of course important but if we don't care about the people who live on this island, people will continue to damage our island and environment.

This story reminds me of the fact that the temple is you. You are our treasures of the Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Our temple is not just a building. Our temple is a manifestation of our members who care, love, respect and trust each other. Therefore, we would like to care for you because you are the ones that care about our temple.

Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple will provide a hot meal twice a month in May. Please call the temple office at 966-9981 to sign up by May 5, 2020.

### **HOT MEAL PROJECT – WE CARE ABOUT YOU -**

Date: Tuesday, May 12 and 26, 2020

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Parking lot

**How to sign up:** Please call the temple office at 966-9981.

**Drive through Pick Up:** You can get your hot meal without getting out from your car. When you come, please wear your mask.

**Delivery:** If you wish to receive it, but have no transportation; please let us know when you call the temple. We will have a volunteer member deliver it to you. Or you may ask another member to pick it up for you. In that case, please indicate the name of the person that will be picking it up.

**Deadline:** May 5, 2020.

**Safety:** The cooking crew and drive through volunteers will be taking precautions for your safety. Your help is also asked to keep this project safe.

This is funded by temple social concerns fund.

### **FOOD BASKET**

Food Basket will be able to provide some package for our members. First 24 people who sign that are **NOT** currently receiving some type of assistance like monthly Wednesday seniors care program.

If you wish to receive this assistance and for more information, please contact Mr. Clifford Furukado at 938-3177.

Please call temple office at 966-9981 if you have any questions or concerns.

Mahalo



### **Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Ministers Report April 16, 2020**

1. Please take good care of yourself and stay safe, stay healthy. Your well-being is important to take care of your loved ones and person you cherish.
2. Resident minister has been trying to keep the temple facilities clean and neat. As all temple classes, events, and activities are cancelled until after May 15, 2020 the minister can manage to maintain the temple facilities as much as he can.

3. Resident minister has been calling to members and friends of Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. I heard members also call each other to check on and please continue to support each other. Also, please try to call a member even if you don't know the member well. One simple call may become an action of caring. If you need, I can share a phone call script.
4. Members and people may go through mental, psychological, spiritual, financial, and social difficulties. Please try to care of them but also if you feel it is beyond your ability/capacity and if the person needs a professional service from counselor or doctor, please have the person contact the professional services.
5. It is said people will feel three things under these circumstances – loneliness, helplessness, and boredom. There are some activities which can help these conditions like calling each other, simple exercise and also folding paper crane and sewing masks. Requested by Charlene Iboshi, Hongwanji temples teamed up to sew masks for Okutsu and health organization. If you can sew a mask, please help us.
6. If you need any assistance, please contact Rev. Tomioka.



We are proud to announce that Kupuna Care is now available at Puna Hongwanji. Should you need any assistance or face mask, please let us know. Please do not hesitate to call.

All activities at Puna Hongwanji have been cancelled until May 15. Please watch our Facebook, Instagram, or website for further news. Or call our temple to see if this has been extended.



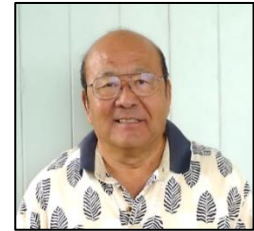
## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Thank you for your prompt payment of dues. Dues play an important part of our daily expenses as well as other donations to keep our Sangha operating.

Please welcome Ms. Iris Matsumoto of Honolulu and M/M Calvin & Lynn Koshiyama of Anchorage, AK. to our Sangha.

Please stay well.

In Gassho,  
Roy Toma  
Membership Chairman  
935-7712



## **WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT**

After cautious and deep consideration and because of the uncertainty of what the situation of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) will be in June, it is with deep sadness that my fiancée Haruka and I would like to inform you that we decided to cancel our wedding ceremony. Our priority is for the safety and wellbeing for our families from Japan, members and guest. We will definitely keep you informed and will be sending invitations again.

Haruka and I are okay and actually see this situation as an occasion when we can build our trust and love and support each other.

Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to welcome the day in the future with you. Please stay safe and take comfort in Amida's embrace.

Haruka and Satoshi

## **Puna District Interfaith Memorial Day Service**

Due to the on-going Covid-19 pandemic the Memorial Day Committee decided that we will not hold an in person Memorial Day Service to remember those killed in action from the Puna District. Everyones safety and health is more important to us. Instead we are currently working to put together a video which we will share online via Facebook and YouTube.

We are planning to have a drive-by flower drop off from 9am to 10am on May 21 and May 22. Rev. Tomioka will then gather all the flowers received and place it in front of the monument.

Our plan is to have the video available for viewing on Saturday, May 23, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. on our Facebook and YouTube.