

## Puna Hongwanji Mission



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\*unless called away by other duties

Thurs. – day off

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

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## July 2020 Hi-Lites



### **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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## *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

*None*

## *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 in-person is permitted following health guidelines.**

**\*\*\*Private online memorial service will be available.**

**\*\*\*Please contact Rev. Tomioka for more information.**

## **July 2020**

1 yr.	Kazuo Yamashita Gail Miura	July 14, 2019 July 19, 2019
3 yrs.	None	
7 yrs.	None	
13 yrs.	Shizuka Sato	July 7, 2008
17 yrs.	None	
25 yrs.	None	
33 yrs.	None	
50 yrs.	Maka Awakuni Setsuyo Oka Toku Touge Asao Nanbu	July 3, 1971 July 13, 1971 July 13, 1971 July 21, 1971



### **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  
Email: [hilites@punahongwanji.org](mailto:hilites@punahongwanji.org)

### **Minister's Message**

“FEAR”

Aloha, may this message find you well and peaceful in Amida's embrace.

Under the COVID-19, it has been a difficult time and year for us. Our life and situations drastically changed and we were forced to live in a different way. Although it seems that we began to get used to this change and we may feel relaxed as things began to resume, let us continue to be careful and mindful of the safety and healthy guidelines to protect yourselves and other people.

COVID-19 has been bringing us a fear and uncertainty to our lives. We can't see the virus by our eyes, but we know that it exists and it continues to spread and impact our lives in seen and unseen ways. We feel fear and afraid of COVID-19 because it takes people's lives and there is a possibility of catching/transmitting it. Feeling fear is natural response and there is no ideas of good or bad. However, if we are driven by fear and if it begins to control our life and actions, it causes difficulties to us and other people.

One day, when I was resting at night in the parsonage, my eyes caught something moving on the floor. That is a centipede, a big one. I jumped out from a couch and began to look for something to handle the centipede. The moment I got a broom, the centipede disappeared and I couldn't see it anywhere. I tried to find it but I was afraid to uncover things and look under the furniture as it might appear suddenly. From that moment, I felt I was trapped and the centipede seemed to watch me and try to bite me. Because of my fear, I couldn't sleep well and I had to live with fear for a week until I found a dead body of the centipede under the couch. I don't know how it dies but my fear disappeared at that moment and I felt relieved.



Why did I feel fear and what was the cause of fear? I was afraid of the centipede and it was the cause of my fear. Therefore, when it died, my fear also disappeared. If a cause of fear disappears, fear also disappears. However, actually the centipede was not the cause of my fear. It was just a condition which made fear arise in my mind. The true cause of fear was inside of my mind. I felt fear because the centipede may bite me and may hinder my daily life. My mind wanted to protect me and didn't want things change what I have in my life and in my heart. This mind is deep rooted inside of me and it is called attachment, ego, defilements or ignorance. Nature of those are: lacking of wisdom, no insight to see things as it is, mind of distinction, mind of discrimination, mind of judgement, mind of seeing things and people in a way we want, mind of wanting things go as I wish. Those are the cause of all kinds of emotions, sufferings and concerns. If a thing, situation, or a person gets along with my wish, we like it and if not, it is hard to like it. When I see a centipede, fear erupts in my mind caused by ignorance which does not want to accept the centipede and reject it to protect my life.

In our society and in the world, there are things we feel fear and afraid about. If the fundamental cause of fear is my own ignorance, if I can remove the ignorance, fear also disappears. Ignorance means absence of wisdom by which to see reality as it is. So if we can attain wisdom, ignorance also disappear and fear does so. In Shin Buddhism tradition, it is only through by the Amida Buddha's wisdom which dispels the darkness of ignorance and guide us to live a life freed from fear and sufferings. This is Amida Buddha's Vow which promised to save all from suffering and bring true peace and happiness, which is expressed as Namo Amida Butsu. Master Shinran, the founder of Shin Buddhism said,

The Tathagata (Buddha), turning with compassion toward the ocean of living beings in pain and affliction, has given unhindered and vast pure shinjin (entrusting mind) to the ocean of sentient beings. This is called the "true and real shinjin that is [Amida's] benefiting of others."

-The True Teaching, Practice and Realization.

Collected Works of Shinran, page 98

When I encounter this Amida Buddha's wisdom, my mind of ignorance was revealed to me and it is

transformed into wisdom by the working of Amida Buddha's Vow. That is the moment of entrusting myself to Amida Buddha and it takes care of my ignorance. Still, there are times when I feel fear and afraid, but now it is not only fear. It is the fear of shadow which is illuminated by the light of Amida Buddha's Wisdom. It is not a darkness of fear anymore. Guided by the light of wisdom, it enabled me to live a life with Amida Buddha's Compassion and Wisdom, which is Namo Amida Butsu.



## **Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights**

Synopsis of Kyodan Board of Directors' Online Meeting held on Thursday, May 21, 2020. Minutes were recorded by Marilyn Sato, Secretary.

### **Repair and Maintenance**

- Exceptions to shutting down the temple are maintenance, security, and yard maintenance.
- Safe practice will mandate having to sanitize the facility after each use. A comment was tobans clean but they do not sanitize.
- Hand sanitizer dispenser was purchased, but only one was available. Will need to purchase small bottles.

### **Approved Activities/Announcements**

- Rev. Tomioka said following Headquarter's directives, there will be no in person services, activities, and classes until further notice. Bedside, end of life related, and funeral services are permitted. The temple can be used for funeral but we need to limit the number of people in attendance. Online service is provided for memorial service. Do not hesitate to contact Rev. Tomioka.
- Income for April was reduced. President Hashimoto instructed treasurers to not pay our assessments; we need to pay our bills first and we have to watch "the pennies". As the year goes on, we need to watch our budget to keep going.
- 1<sup>st</sup> VP Clifford Furukado received email from Blood Bank that the drive in July is

canceled. He also received requests for use of our facilities. He will follow through and Rental Committee will make decision.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Robin Sato participated in a Zoom Meeting with a Berkeley temple and offered one for some members.
- Rev. Tomioka, President Hashimoto, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Clifford Furukado, and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Robin Sato have an online meeting every week.
- Large gatherings may be a problem so President Jason Hashimoto and the Board made a decision concerning Obon. President Hashimoto recommended canceling Obon. The Board supported the recommendation. Rev. Tomioka will work with the hatsubon families and provide options to them.
- Since the stay at home order is still in effect, the hot meal project will continue in June (2 times). Funding is from Social Concerns.
- BWA members and Choir members sewed masks for Vibrant Hawaii. Request now is to sew caps and bonnets.
- Dharma School will recognize 2020 graduates with leis, short video, etc.
- Choralfest has been postponed to September, 2021. The Bishop recommended all choir practices be stopped until a vaccine becomes available.
- Taiko has online practices.

#### **In Appreciation – Thank You Very Much**

- Thank you to Rev. Tomioka for posting sessions with children, Buddhism classes, weekly services, book club, etc.
- Thank you to those who continue to make donations to the temple. Even though we are closed, we still have expenses. Domo arigato to those who submitted their dues donations.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Robin Sato thanked Paul Sakamoto for putting the virtual Interfaith Memorial Day Service together. Various pastors, ministers, and guest speaker submitted videos and he put them together so seamlessly.



## **Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Ministers Report**

### **July**

- 1 Wednesday service
- 2 Puna weekly temple meeting
- 3 Book club
- 6 Hawaii District Ministers Association Meeting
- 8 Wednesday service
- 9 Puna weekly temple meeting
- 10 Book club

1. In addition to Bedside, end of life related, and funeral services, **a memorial service and other religious services** are permitted. Services will be conducted under the precautions such as less than 10 people, 6 feet distance, temperature check, etc.
2. Social issues have been bringing a conflict, concerns, and difficulties to us. Let us calmly and clearly observe the situation and respond compassionately as a Shin Buddhist. Please take your time to read Bishop Matsumoto's article about Shin Buddhism perspectives on Black Lives Matter and social issues. It is important to understand and see the current situations not only by our own way of thinking but through the teachings of Shin Buddhism. Resident minister will share articles with you.

The situation of COVID-19 has been lasting for months and it seems it will last longer. Although we have moved to another phase and business began to re-opened, let us continue to follow the health and safety guideline for the safety and well-being of ourselves and that of our loved ones. If you come to a temple, please wear a mask, keep social distance, and keep good hygiene.

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## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS**

Thank you for your dues payment.  
If you are head of household and in a care home situation, your dues are exempt. Please inform the office or myself. Please practice prevention and stay safe.

In Gassho,  
Roy Toma  
Membership Chairman  
935-7712



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## **BWA NEWS**

The HIUHBWA Rotation Schedule for 2021 and 2022 slate of officers has Puna and Naalehu responsible for filling these positions:

1st Vice-President -

Auditor -

Federation Director -

Scholarship Chairperson -

Puna members, please think about serving in one of these positions. As long as a member is willing to serve, she will be considered. Contact Stella Miyashiro at (808)959-7919 if interested.

A Hawaii BWA Scarf, which was designed by Barbara Fujimoto of Hilo BWA, is available for all Federation BWA members to order. The scarf is an optional accessory, not part of the official uniform. Scarf information: See photo of scarf. Size of scarf: 36" square. Material: polyester. Cost: the larger the order count, the lower the price per scarf

30 - 40 pieces: \$ 23.99

100 - 149 pieces: \$ 15.99

250 - 499 pieces: \$ 11.99

Place your order by July 10th. Call Stella at (808)959-7919.

The Puna BWA members have not been able to meet since March. Due to the lockdown, some members did not get an opportunity to pay the \$20.00



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## **Our Temple is open.**

On June 7, 2020 - The first in person temple service since March with adjustment to meet CDC guidelines. As you entered a form was filled out by each person with some questions and contact information for tracing purposes should a person attending temple get sick. Next stop was sanitizing your hands. Then sitting in a pew on the "x". If you were from the same household we placed you on the smaller pews by the window. It was a nice small manageable group.

Safety and the well-being of everyone is our number priority. So if you feel sick or do not feel comfortable coming to temple please stay home. We miss seeing your faces, but patiently wait for the day it will be safe for everyone to return with no restrictions.

For the safety of everyone coming to temple there are a few extra steps that needs to be taken before entering the temple doors. We appreciate everyone's cooperation as this allows us to continue our in-person services, which we are also recording for those at home.

The health and safety of everyone is our top priority. Before entering your temperature will be checked and then you will answer a set of questions. Then before entering you will sanitize your hand and ensure you are wearing your mask.



## **Virtual Bon Dance July 2020**

As we all know Covid-19 has really changed a lot of the ways that we used to do things. To keep things moving forward we all have to adapt and change to new ways. Since we are unable to have an in-person Bon Dance we will be premiering a virtual bon dance from the comforts of your own home on Friday, July 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, July 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The videos will be premiered on our Puna Hongwanji Facebook and YouTube page(s). On those days if you would like to watch and dance with others from your home, we are setting up a Zoom watch party. You will need to provide us your email address and dates that you would like access to Zoom. Or you may watch the video on your own. If you are interested in attending the Zoom watch party, please sign up at the following

link [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJhm-Q9tV2i78i6qAPu2TmbZhRMJqVLcWuqSP6VXpscNEFw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJhm-Q9tV2i78i6qAPu2TmbZhRMJqVLcWuqSP6VXpscNEFw/viewform?usp=sf_link). You may email [punahongwanjibondance@gmail.com](mailto:punahongwanjibondance@gmail.com) to receive the link. Once a Zoom link is provided to you please do not forward it to anyone else.

Thank you to the Puna Taiko and dancers that came out for our filming session to be included in the video. The video on the two nights will be different. Thank you to Paul Sakamoto for putting the video together and doing a lot of research for us to be able to provide the variety of music on the video. Thank you again to Paul for creating a piece "Genki Ondo" which he composed and Sharyse Molina choreographed.

In Gassho,  
Virtual Bon Dance Committee

# *Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple*

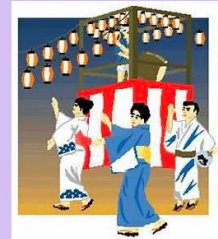
16-492 Old Volcano Road, Keaau, HI (808) 966-9981

## **Virtual Bon Dance**

**Friday, July 3, 2020**

**Saturday, July 4, 2020**

**at 7:00 p.m.**



**Premiere on our Facebook and YouTube page.**

**Register to join the Zoom watch party at**

**[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJhm-Q9tV2i78i6qAPu2TmbZhRMJqVLcWuqSP6V_XpscNEFw/viewform?usp=sf_link)**

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**[punahongwanjibondance@gmail.com](mailto:punahongwanjibondance@gmail.com) for the  
link to register.**

