

Puna Hongwanji Mission



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*unless called away by other duties

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September 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.

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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

Fusae Arakawa

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.**

*****Online memorial service is also available**

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

September 2020

1 yr.	Hajime Tanaka	September 17, 2019
	Kokimi Takaki	September 28, 2019
3 yrs.	Kaydee DeRoy	September 21, 2018
	Carson Miyamoto	September 30, 2018
7 yrs.	Katsuyoshi Sakae	September 10, 2014
	Hatsuo Yamasaki	September 17, 2014
13 yrs.	Susumu Tanimoto	September 11, 2008
	Kenneth Nako	September 25, 2008
17 yrs.	Goro Kanegawa	September 9, 2004
25 yrs.	Shigeru Kai	September 8, 1996
	Oshi Kiyabu	September 21, 1996
33 yrs.	Yoshiko Morita	September 7, 1988
	Misao Ushijima	September 29, 1988
50 yrs.	None	



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

Minister's Message

Where is peace, harmony and happiness?

There are various technical words in Buddhism and some of them are in Japanese. English translation is provided but sometimes it is difficult to convey the original meaning and the depth which the words have. One of the words is

Higan and we will observe an online Higan Major service on Sunday, September 20, 9 a.m. A guest speaker will be Rev. Shinji Kawagoe, Papaikou Hongwanji Mission. In person service is not held for the safety and wellbeing of all.



Higan is an abbreviation of “To-Higan” which literally means “to reach the other shore, the Pure Land” In Buddhism, the world of suffering is referred to as “this shore” and the world of Enlightenment is called “other shore.” The term Higan comes from the Sanskrit word Paramita – “gone to other shore,” and suggests the Six Paramitas of charity (dana), morality, patience, effort, meditation, and wisdom. Various sutras teach that six paramitas or perfections of practice are the way of reaching the Pure Land of the other shore from this world of difficulty of this shore. How can we cross this shore to reach the other shore? In Shin Buddhism tradition, we are enabled to cross this shore by the Ship of Amida Buddha’s Primal Vow which promises to save all from difficulties in this world. That vow is expressed as Namo Amida Butsu, the compassionate calling voice of Amida Buddha.

Our life is full of bittersweet. We experience happy and joyful moments as well as sad and difficult moments. Buddhism identifies human attachments as a fundamental cause of difficulties with situations and people outside as a condition.

Our life does not always go as I wish and plan. However, we wish things and people to go as I plan. There is a gap between my wish and reality and that gap is a cause of bittersweet. The bigger the gap, the more difficulties. How can we reduce the gap? Can we change the reality or can we change ourselves? What Buddhism teaches us is that the reality is true and there is nothing we can do. But we can change ourselves and we can change how we see the reality. Amida Buddha's Compassion and Wisdom has been established to guide us to know how I see things & people and lead us to live a life guided by reflection, humbleness, humility, awareness, and gratefulness.

Like a Hawaiian saying, "No rain, No rainbow," without rain, we will not have a rainbow, "No me, No Amida Buddha." Without me who are going through difficulties, Amida Buddha's Vow does not exist. Amida Buddha's Compassion and Wisdom is here and now to embrace my life and guide my life.

I, human beings, want to live a happy and peaceful life without worries and concerns. But, somehow, it is not easy to live a life in that way. One day, one of the members called and asked about the availability of a niche. The member said, "you know Reverend, I want a niche for myself because I don't want to be with my mother-in-law in the same niche. We had a really difficult time." As I listened to her, I felt it must be really hard for her to live with her mother-in-law in this life which made her choose a different niche. In this life, no matter how much we try, difficulties, anger, emotions, hatred, jealousy remains until the last breath we take, or even after we die.

Therefore, here, we can find a need for the other shore of the Pure Land where all beings are living peacefully and harmoniously, freed from all attachments, transcending all love and hatred. Each being who might have a hard time on this shore can praise each other with the most beautiful appearance in the Pure Land. Like a river flows into the ocean and becomes a part of it, oceanlike Amida Buddha's Compassion and Wisdom accepts all and we will be transformed into a buddha, the

enlightened one by the virtue of Amida Buddha. The other shore, Pure Land, is not a static place where we go afterlife, but its virtue and wish is reaching out to us as the calling voice of Namo Amida Butsu. When this Name is heard by us and when we are touched by Amida Buddha's Compassion and Wisdom, that is the moment we are enabled to see my true nature of human beings and receive Namo Amida Butsu as our guidance and refuge in our life.

We are still on the shore of difficulties. But now we are on the ship of Amida Buddha who shall carry us to the other shore without fail. Everyday is a journey to the Pure Land. Because we are a crew of Amida Buddha's ship, we are receiving guidance from Buddha so that we may live a life not only as a human being, but as a person who encounters Amida Buddha's Compassion and Wisdom. Yes, life is difficult yet life with Namo Amida Butsu is a joyous, peaceful, harmonious, and happy one because we are embraced by Amida Buddha, forever, whatever happens.



Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights

Synopsis of Kyodan Board of Directors' Online Meeting held on Thursday, July 16, 2020. Minutes were recorded by Marilyn Sato, Secretary.

Repair and Maintenance

- Rev. Tomioka has been responsible for the weekly temple clean-up and flower arrangements.
- Tobans are responsible for cleaning the restrooms.

Approved Activities/Announcements

- Sunday in-person service has resumed with safety precautions: Temperature check, questionnaire, hand sanitizer, social distancing, mask, and no congregational chanting and singing except by the minister
- Due to COVID-19, adjustments were made for the first bon memorial service. Families (up to 8 people per family) of the departed

loved ones will be notified on which day and time to attend one of the seven Hatsubon Services. Sunday's service will be for members and the deceased members' names will be called by Rev. Tomioka.

- Anyone or affiliate group that wants to use the temple facility, please submit your request to Jason Hashimoto and/or Rev. Tomioka.
- The testing group has resumed testing,
- Robin attended Technology & Live Streaming webinar hosted by the Buddhist Churches of America; looking to upgrade some of our equipment
- Successful virtual bon dance was held thanks to Paul Sakamoto and Puna Taiko. Genki Ondo was choreographed by Cherish Molina and music was by Paul Sakamoto and Betty Masterson. Hawaii News Now featured our virtual bon dance and even interviewed Paul Sakamoto.
- Prior to the virtual bon dance, there was a Bon Dance Challenge where the viewer had to guess the dancer's dance without any music. Eight people had 7 out of 7 correct.
- Puna Taiko has reopened in person practice and is following safety guidelines.
- Rose Nakamura, one of original Project Dana founders, has passed away.
- Sept. 11-12: Virtual Lay Convention

In Appreciation – Thank You Very Much

- Thank you to Rev. Tomioka for assuming more responsibilities – temple clean-up, flower arrangements, etc.
- Thank you to Roy Kaneko who donated Spam musubi and Jenn Kurohara and Robin Sato who prepared snack bags for the participants of the virtual bon dance.
- Thank you to members who send in donations and membership dues to the temple.
- Thank you to Clifford and Keri Furukado and the kitchen crew for continuing to do the member support/hot meal project. Members

are appreciative for “remembering me”. Project will continue into August.

- Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple donated 860 masks. WOW! Thank you to Mrs. Nagao, Lei Kakugawa, Haruka Kuratate, Ilene Hara, Kay Aoki and chairperson Carol Tsunazumi.
- Thank you for following the COVID-19 safety guidelines. **WE ALL** need to do our part to keep our Sangha and community safe. Bishop Matsumoto said, “Please remember that we are interconnected. Let us truly be aware of our actions and mindful of our own behaviors. Please stay safe and healthy.” We are not “out of the woods” yet. Take care.



Wedding

Thank you.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the wedding ceremony which was scheduled on June 13, 2020 was cancelled.

Although the ceremony with family and guests was canceled, Haruka and I had a discussion and after consideration, we decided to get married. The wedding ceremony with Bishop Eric Matsumoto was held at Windward Buddhist Temple, Kailua on Saturday, July 18, 3 p.m. Our family in Japan was able to watch the ceremony through the internet video. It was a small wedding but a heartfelt and joyful moment to all of us.

Right after the ceremony I got to fly back to Big Island. We returned our rental car and waited for a shuttle bus which is supposed to take us to the terminal. However, the bus didn't come. I guess shuttle bus service is minimized due to COVID-19. So, we had to walk to the terminal with lots of luggage. The departure time of my flight to Hilo was getting closer, it was so hot, and I began to feel concerned and irritated. In my mind, I was thinking that at the wedding ceremony, I promised “will love

Haruka forever and be kind always...”, but now I am not! That was the moment of reflection and re-realized how true and grateful for Amida Buddha’s Vow. We had a wedding vow not in front of people, but in the presence of Amida Buddha who promised to guide us and embrace us forever whatever happens. Unfortunately, my vow was immediately disappeared at that moment, but guided by Amida Buddha’s Vow, I was enabled to see my nature and guided me. And Haruka, she noticed my emotion and she gently and kindly encouraged me and told me it's gonna be okay, with a smile.

There will be ups and downs awaiting us and we will walk together, stand together and live together guided by Amida Buddha’s All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion of Namo Amida Butsu.

We look forward to scheduling a new date and have a wedding ceremony with you at Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple when all social and travel restrictions have been lifted.

Thank you very much for your best wishes, kindness, and being a part of our lives.

Please stay safe and healthy.

Mahalo

Haruka & Satoshi



Genki Ondo Video Project

This year we could not gather for the Bon Dance season and everything was done virtually. This year with the collaboration of Puna Taiko's Paul Sakamoto on drum and Betty Masterson on flute they created a song entitled Genki Ondo. Sharye Molina choreographed the dance as a remind for us to stay safe and healthy as we deal with the coronavirus.

We decided we should end the Bon Dance season with the closeout of Genki Ondo. Thank you to everyone that participated in this project and submitted a video of you dancing to Genki Ondo. Thank you to Paul Sakamoto for piecing the video together. We will be premiering the video on Saturday, September 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. on our Puna Hongwanji Facebook and YouTube pages.

Peace Day

Usually in September, we are planning for Peace Day. This year Peace Day will be on Saturday, September 19, 2020. We will have another premiere video on our Puna Hongwanji Facebook and YouTube pages.

In the meantime, we will be having a photo contest. Please submit a photo that you personally took that depicts a "moment of peace". The photos must be submitted by Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. (HST). The photos can be submitted to punahongwanjipeaceday@gmail.com or sent via messenger. Any photos received after the deadline will not be eligible. All entries should not display the name of commercial products, companies, or organizations. The photos becomes a donation to the Peace Committee and can be utilized by Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple for future events. On Saturday, September 5, 2020 Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple will create an album on Facebook. Contest voting will run until Friday, September 12, 2020. Winners will be announced on Saturday, September 19, 2020.

Calling out all children we will once again have a poster contest for those zero to 18. The theme of our poster contest is "Live and Light the World". All entries must be original artwork created by the child. One entry per child. Computer or photo generated art and/or printing is not acceptable.

Entries should not display the name of commercial products, companies, or organizations. Entries must not be smaller than 8 ½" x 11" and not larger than 11" x 17". The poster must be related to the contest theme in some way. The theme is "Live and Light the World" and this theme must be on the poster. Please take a picture of your child's drawing and submit the photo via the Puna Hongwanji Facebook messenger or submit the photo to the email punahongwanjipeaceday@gmail.com. Winner will be announced on Saturday, September 19, 2020 on our premiere Peace Day video.

Genki Ondo committee practicing.





2020 In memory of departed loved ones:

Roy Kazuo Yamashita
 Yukiko Uchida
 Gail Leiko Miura
 Shirley Ann Shizue Kamimura
 Charles Torigoe
 Hajime Tanaka
 Sumiko Miyamoto
 Irene Kikue Oshiro
 Richard Oshiro
 Norie Ogasawara
 Toshio Nakamura
 Sueko Arakawa
 Yutaka Shimasaki
 Tsuneyoshi Matsumoto
 Clesson Sako
 Kiyoko Imada
 Naomi Sakaguchi
 Toshie Shimizu
 Yasue Sako
 Charles Tamashiro
 Masato Meguro
 Chiyoko Nariyoshi
 Albert Nishimura
 Fusae Arakawa



FREE FOOD BOX

The Office of the Bishop received this information about The Hawaii Public Housing Authority receiving millions of federal funds from FEMA to provide food to eligible individuals. Not sure, if the food box contents will always be the same, but it mentions eligible individuals would receive:

Food Box

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Milk (fat free/Low fat)	1 quart
OrangeJuice	1quart
Apples (Fresh fruits)	3 ea.
Oranges (Fresh fruits)	3 ea.
Bananas (Fresh fruits)	6 ea.
Carrots (Fresh vegetable)	1 lb. bag
Tomato (Fresh vegetable)	2 ea.
Lettuce (Fresh vegetable)	1 head
Broccoli (Fresh vegetable) or asparagus	2 lbs
Ground Beef (Raw) or Pork	2 lbs
Chicken (Raw)	3 lbs
Sliced ham or turkey (prepackaged)	16 oz.
Bread (white or wheat)	1 loaf
Tuna (canned) or Spam	2 cans
Soup (canned)	3 cans
Rice	5-10 lbs

According to the information, anyone who meets ONE of the following categories are eligible to receive food:

1. 65 years or older;
2. Disabled individuals; **or**
3. Individuals who are COVID 19 positive or have been exposed to COVID-19

A person needs to ONLY meet ONE of the above requirements. To apply, please contact Reverend Tomioka at the temple for a form to fill out. The funds were received by The Hawaii Public Housing Authority, but is not limited to public housing residents and open to all residents of the State of Hawaii. Please share this with your temple members and affiliated individuals who might benefit from this program. Thank you very much. In gassho, Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Bishop

Puna Hongwanji Masks

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR MASK MAKERS YOU SEWED OVER 1,000 MASK!!!

Our Puna Hongwanji members are continuing to sew mask 🧵 that are dropped off at the Hawaii County Office of Aging to be shared with Vibrant Hawaii Island. Vibrant Hawaii Island then donates the mask to places in need of masks.

Thank you to our Puna Hongwanji donors with mask drop off #9 we have donated 1,046 masks thus far. Thank you Carol Tsunezumi for taking the lead and dropping off the donations. Also thank you Rev. Satoshi “Ka‘imipono” Tomioka for the support and helping collect the mask. From Puna Hongwanji thank you 🙏 for sharing your talents and your mask donation totaling 115 masks made by: Carol Tsunezumi, Mieko Nagao, Ilene Hara, and Janet Watarida. We also got donation of mask and material by Gail Tsuha-Maesato of Honohina Hongwanji.

Our mask makers are willing to continue to sew masks, but running low on supplies. They have been buying fabric and elastic to sew the mask. If you have preferably 100% cotton or cotton blend material you have and not using, your contribution would be appreciated. If you have material and/or elastic please drop it off at the temple in a package “for mask makers”. Also leave your name so we can thank you.



Ilene and Addi



Carol, Mrs. Nagao and Claire

Message of Peace

I hope this finds you safe and well. If this Covid-19 situation did not happen, I was supposed to be a speaker last month at the temple, but sometimes life will throw you a curveball and you will need to be flexible and handle it. So, this is my attempt to fulfill my obligation.

When I asked Sensei for some guidance on a topic, he suggested that I write about peace and harmony because of our approaching Ohigan. Then he mentioned that I could tell about how Buddhism has helped me during this crisis.

I start this message by writing about the opposite of peace, which is war. War has been glamourized by many but I have never even been remotely interested in it after gradeschool when we played “war” with toy guns, then water balloons, then bean bags and then rocks! Ouch!

When I hear “to the victor goes the spoils”, I think yes, but at what cost? Lives, money, feelings and friendships and time, all casualties of war.

So how does a WAR start? Like GAS, WAR is made up of someone Wanting and Arrogant and Resenting. I think that Wanting is like Greed, as one wants what the others have, wealth, health, power and even love. Arrogant is to think that a person is perfect in every way and feels that he is so owed what he has and can get more by any means possible.

. An arrogant person feels privileged and looks down on those who are less than he. And in Resenting, he could never care for or be the least bit kind to others.

So, WAR is just an extension of GAS. I hope that we can make an effort to identify these traits in ourselves and steer them towards the small “i”

How has Buddhism helped me during this pandemic? I am more aware that the small “i” dominates our daily lives. Although I stay at home more, I am not alone. On-line services and virtual sessions have brought the Dharma back into my life. The interaction with temple members shows that the interdependence provides a sense of belonging for me. We are in this together and together we will survive this. Reach out to others to see if they are in need of any service you can provide and, be kind and considerate to all. Show your gratitude to those that provide essential duties to make life easier for us.

Follow health directives to keep others safe no matter what you think because you are not a doctor...unless you are, then you should know better.

Warren Tanigawa