

Puna Hongwanji Mission



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*unless called away by other duties

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October 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

*Lefty Kawazoe
Dale Nakayama
Goro Toma*

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.**

October 2020

1 yr.	Irene Oshiro	October 4, 2019
	Sumiko Miyamoto	October 21, 2019
3 yrs.	Hanako Miyahara	October 9, 2018
7 yrs.	None	2014
13 yrs.	Miyuki Enos	October 19, 2008
17 yrs.	Kikuyo Morioka	October 14, 2004
25 yrs.	Haruo Yamada	October 8, 1996
33 yrs.	Kazuo Yamaguchi	October 12, 1988
	Seichi Ohigashi	October 22, 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

Aloha Kākou.

It is with deep sadness that I inform you that we lost members and friends of Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple due to COVID-19. I would like to take this moment to extend my deepest sympathy and condolences to the family and friends who lost their loved ones. How hard and sad it is that we are not able to be there for our loved ones. Depending on the causes and conditions, I may be the one who will go through the same thing for myself and for my loved ones.



COVID-19 has changed so many things in our life and we were also given different perspectives which we may not deeply think about before. Especially, we pondered, wondered, and thought about the life of myself and that of others. As we observe the passing of people, we are worried about our family and friends. “Are they doing well?”, “I want to see them.”, “I want to hug them”, “What if they are dying and if I can’t be there?”, “If my family member catches COVID-19, what will happen to them?” These questions also give us another perspective of life. That is death.

In our human society and history, death has been one of the topics people are discussing and yet hard to grasp and understand it as our own. We’re afraid of it because we don’t know what it is and we haven’t experienced it except that of others. In Hongwanji tradition, *Shōji* is the essential word to understand our birth and death. Buddhism does not see birth and death separately but regard it as one thing like a coin. No birth, no death. No death, no birth. Oneness of *Shōji*. When we light an incense

stick and the smoke begins to arise, that also means the incense stick begins to extinguish. In a similar way, the moment of being born in this world as a baby is the beginning of our human life of impermanence. We often think that we can live for a certain age and expect we can stay with family and friends forever. However, under COVID-19, we learn that no one is guaranteed to live for a tomorrow. What we have is only here and now. Instead of seeing birth and death like a straight line which shows its beginning and ending, Buddhism sees it as a circle which embraces both of them in oneness and there is no separation nor distinction between two of them. This oneness describes a harmony, perfection, completeness, in other words, attainment of enlightenment. Enlightenment is a realm of the truth and the one who achieves this is called a Buddha.

Buddha, the awakened one, found the truth of life and death, and dwell in the realm of transcending birth and death. In Buddha's eyes of wisdom, our human life is full of sufferings and perseverance caused by human desires with people and situations as a condition. Therefore, the Buddha lives life freed from all desires & attachments understanding the truth of interdependence, impermanence and always guide all living beings to the attainment of enlightenment. The Buddha sees death is not just an end of life but that is a transition to the birth into the Pure Land of Amida Buddha. According to the tradition of Buddhism, one will continue to be born and die in the 6 realms of sufferings – hell, hungry, beasts, fighting spirits, human beings and heavenly beings depending on the merits and virtue the one has accumulated in this life.

In Pure Land Shin Buddhism tradition, hence, Amida Buddha's Primal Vow promises to save all living things from suffering and assures them to be born in the Pure Land and attain enlightenment. The moment of becoming Buddha is the moment of working for other people left behind in this world by the virtue of Amida Buddha.

For those who entrust themselves to the Primal Vow, every day and every moment is in the

embrace of Amida Buddha and live a life to the fullest guided by Amida Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion. For those who are awakened to the truth of the Vow, they are assured to become a buddha when they take a last breath. Therefore, death is not just an end of life but birth into the Pure Land. When we receive the entrusting mind, we can find a true comfort and refuge while living a life of difficulties and sufferings. This is made to be possible and fulfilled not by our effort, power nor faith, but by solely and absolutely Amida Buddha's Primal Vow.

Our Founder, Master Shinran says:

When foolish beings of delusion and defilement awaken *shinjin* (entrusting mind), they realize that birth-and-death is itself nirvana; without fail they reach the land of immeasurable light and universally guide sentient beings to enlightenment.

-*Shoshinge*, the hymn of true entrusting in the Nembutsu, red service book page 24

Under COVID-19, no one knows what life brings to us. Therefore, let us encounter Amida Buddha's Primal Vow today and let us receive the entrusting mind today. Since we were born, we have been in charge of our own birth and death. And we learn that it is almost impossible for us to find an ultimate peace and happiness and attain enlightenment by ourselves. When we realize this reality and fact, that is the moment we can encounter Amida Buddha's Primal Vow which promises to save us and guide us to the attainment of enlightenment without fail. It is such a freed life and grateful journey to be embraced by Amida Buddha and live with Amida Buddha, laugh with Amida Buddha, cry with Amida Buddha, and die with Amida Buddha. Let us take refuge in Amida Buddha's Compassion and Wisdom which is Namo Amida Butsu. In Amida Buddha's embrace, no one lives in vain.



Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights

Synopsis of Kyodan Board of Directors' Online Meeting held on Thursday, August 20, 2020.
Minutes were recorded by Marilyn Sato, Secretary.

Repair and Maintenance

- Terminix came for spot treatment
- Toban responsibilities: Clean restrooms, bring flowers for reverend, arrange outside flowers

Approved Activities/Announcements

- Income for July was still reduced, but so were expenses.
- Online services, classes, and events have been provided on the internet. Monday – Children's Dharma Message; Tuesday – Buddhism Class and 30 mins. live session; Wednesday – Live Dharma Service; Friday – Book Club; and Sunday – Sunday Service. Search "Puna Hongwanji Facebook" or "Puna Hongwanji YouTube".
- Puna Taiko has suspended practice for two weeks and will reassess options
- Social Concerns Committee will award four families with help – they did not request help, but members lost jobs and/or business. PHM received \$1,000 from State Social Concerns Committee for Member Support Hot Meal Project.
- The Board approved to set aside monies for a bronze plaque to include fallen soldier's names from Iraq-Afghanistan Conflict.
- At the 9th mask collection, 115 were received for a total of **1,046** masks.
- Sept. 11-12: Virtual Lay Convention hosted by Honolulu District
- Sept. 19: Peace Day invent includes video, photo and poster contest
- Sept. 20: Ohigan with guest speaker Reverend Shinji Kawagoe from Papaikou Hongwanji
- Nov. 15: Distinguished Sangha Award will be announced

In Appreciation – Thank You Very Much

- Reverend Tomioka expressed appreciation to all the volunteers who helped at the first bon memorial services (Hatsubon). Thank you also to Reverend Tomioka who conducted 7 Hatsubon services in 3 days.
- President Jason Hashimoto said thank you to everyone for support of Reverend Tomioka, Hot Meals Project, members, temple, etc.
- Thank you to members who send in donations and membership dues to the temple.
- We have been going through so many things since March. We have learned that life is impermanent, everything is changing, and it is important to have guidance in our life. Let us listen to Amida Buddha's Great Compassion and Great Wisdom. Let us take refuge in Namo Amida Butsu.



Membership Committee News

Thank you for your dues payment. Reminders will be sent out soon. If you are head of household and in a care home facility, your dues are exempt. Please be safe & healthy.

Please welcome Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kiyojima of Hilo to our Sangha.



In Gassho,
Roy Toma
Membership Chairman
935-7712



PUNA HONGWANJI PEACE DAY 2020

On Saturday, September 19, 2020 we presented a Peace Day 2020 video that was shared on our Puna Hongwanji Facebook and YouTube pages. If you didn't get a chance to see the video it is still available to be viewed. The YouTube link is <https://youtu.be/cLqI-vENQYA>. Thank you to Paul Sakamoto for doing a wonderful job putting it all together.

We would like to thank the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Peace Day Committee for supporting us financially to purchase the prizes for our Photo Contest winners and our Poster Contest winners.

For the photo contest we received a total of 47 different photos which depicted a "moment of peace" to the entrants. We used our Facebook social media to help select the winning photos.

1st Place: Charles Kalani 90 likes - \$25 gift certificate from Big Island Beef Jerky and donated goody bag;
2nd Place: Roy Kaneko 58 likes - \$20 gift card from KTA Super Stores and donated hand sanitizer
3rd Place: Roy Kaneko 57 likes - \$15 gift certificate from Big Island Delights
4th Place: Roy Kaneko likes - \$10 gift certificate from Big Island Beef Jerky and donated goody bag
5th Place: Lori Nekoba 27 likes - \$10 gift card from KTA Super Stores and donated hand sanitizer

6th Place: Alison Sato 25 likes - \$10 gift card from KTA Super Stores and donated hand sanitizer
7th Place: Alison Sato 23 likes - \$10 gift certificate from Big Island Delights

For the poster contest we received a total of 7 artwork from the children. It's so great to see their creativity with the theme "Live and Light the World". We putting everyone's name and used the computer to randomly select the names to win the prizes.

Drawing winner 1: Kian Ikeda Age 6 - \$25 gift card Pizza Hut

Drawing winner 2: Leo Saito Age 9 - \$20 gift card Jamba Juice

Drawing winner 3: Angelyn Carvalho Age 11 - \$15 gift card Jamba Juice

Drawing winner 4: Lenny Saito Age 8 - \$10 gift card Jamba Juice

Drawing winner 5: Chaske Harrison Age 11 - \$10 gift card Sweet Cane Cafe

Drawing winner 6: Sydney Cathcart Age 10 - \$10 gift card Sweet Cane Cafe

Drawing winner 7: Kalei Harrison Age 9 - \$10 gift card Sweet Cane Cafe

Happy Peace Day and we hope that in 2021 more can participate in our activities.



Photo contest 1st Place: Charles Kalani



Photo contest 2nd Place: Roy Kaneko

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PEACE DAY 2020

POSTER ENTRY

“Live and Light the World”

1st Drawing Selection: Kian Ikeda—Age 6
\$25 Gift Certificate

2nd Drawing Selection: Leo Saito—Age 9
\$20 Gift Certificate

3rd Drawing Selection: Angelyn Carvalho
Age 11—\$15 Gift Certificate

4th Drawing Selection: Lenny Saito—Age 8
\$10 Gift Certificate

Poster contest Drawing winner 1: Kian Ikeda

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PEACE DAY 2020

“Live and Light the World”

5th Drawing Selection: Chaske Harrison—Age 11
\$10 Gift Certificate

6th Drawing Selection: Sydney Cathcart—Age 10
\$10 Gift Certificate

7th Drawing Selection: Kalei Harrison—Age 9
\$10 Gift Certificate

Thank you for your participation. Live and light the world for peace.

Poster contest Drawing winner 2: Leo Saito

Please wear your mask
and keep social distance!

**...knowing that on what I do now
depends not only my happiness or
unhappiness, but also that of
others...**

Mahalo

Friends of Lili`uokalani Gardens

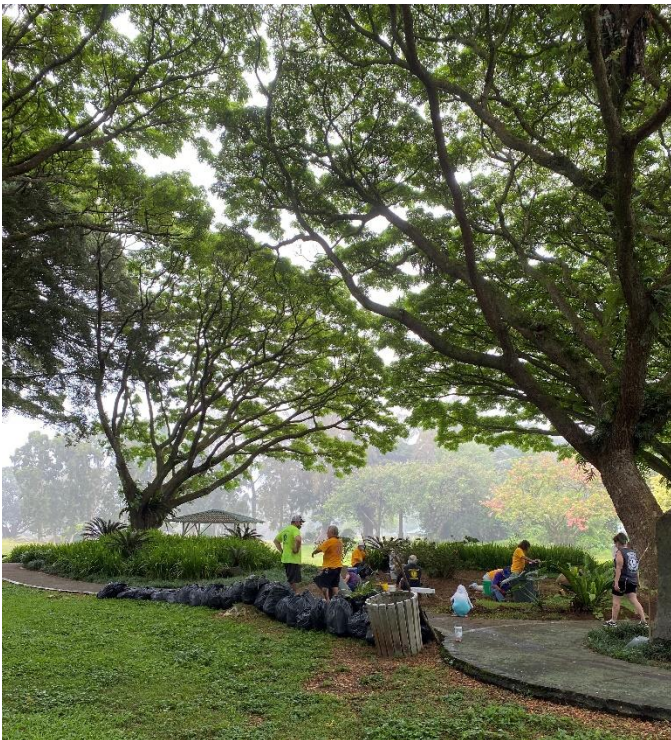
Volunteer partnerships with Lili`uokalani Gardens

East Hawaii Lions will hold a volunteer cleanup day at the Lions Legacy Project in Lili`uokalani Gardens Saturday, October 10, from 8 a.m. to noon.

Friends of Lili`uokalani Gardens and Lions will observe public health protocols required by the Parks Department: wear masks, use hand sanitizer, observe physical distance, no group larger than 10 people. Please bring your own garden tools, gloves, and water bottle.

To assist, please contact Lion Sean at

hilocrescentcitylions@gmail.com



BWA News

The cost of the BWA scarf is \$ 12.00, which includes shipping. Members, who placed an order, can write checks out to Puna Hongwanji BWA. The checks can be mailed to Puna BWA, P.O. Box 100, Keaau, HI 96749 or put in the drop off box at the temple's kitchen door. October 16, 2020 is the deadline for payment. The treasurer will then pay for the order with one check. The scarves will be delivered to the temple. Members can look forward to wearing their scarves at the next BWA State Convention on Maui.

