

## Puna Hongwanji Mission



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\*unless called away by other duties

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

## November 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

*Fumiko Kai*

*George Singles*

## *Memorial Service (Nenji)*

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.**

## **November 2020**

1 yr.	Norie Ogasawara	November 5, 2019
	Toshio Nakamura	November 10, 2019
	Sueko Arakawa	November 27, 2019
3 yrs.	Alexander Makana Lake Pilkinton	
		November 1, 2018
	Shoji Shiraki	November 6, 2018
7 yrs.	Kazue Makino	November 12, 2014
13 yrs.	Walter Arakawa	November 16, 2008
17 yrs.	Margaret Pendergast	November 24, 2004
	Yaeko Shimabuku	November 27, 2004
25 yrs.	None	1996
33 yrs.	None	1988
50 yrs.	Uta Yonamine	November 6, 1971
	Koichi Sugihara	November 10, 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

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## Minister's Message

Aloha Kākou,

In Buddhism tradition, one of the fundamental and essential teachings is *dukkha*. Dukkha is ancient Pali language, and its meaning is described as: Life does not always go as I wish. It also means unsatisfactory, worries, concerns, and bittersweet. Why life is bittersweet? It

is because of us who expects so many in life and wish that our life goes as I plan which never goes as I plan. Here, we can find the cause of bittersweet is our attachments which would like to see things in a way I want, or I can, and not see the world as it is. As long as we have expectations in life and desires for life which never goes as I plan, we will surely and naturally experience unsatisfactory and disappointments.

In our Jodo Shinshu tradition, therefore, we don't ask Amida Buddha to make our wish come true because it will promote our desires which is the cause of bittersweet. Instead of granting us what we wish for, what Amida Buddha gives us is eyes to see things. Buddha's Great Wisdom is insight to clearly and fairly see things and people as it is without judgement and distinctive mind. Guided by this Great Wisdom, we are enabled to see how I see things and lead us to live life with awareness of my viewing. COVID-19 proves that how our life is dukkha and how difficult it is to accept the reality as it is. For instance, my wife Haruka and myself have not been able to see each other in person for months due to COVID-19 pandemic and the safety regulations. So, what is my reaction? I may continue to lament and wish I can go to Honolulu soon, or realizing the fact and accept it and do what I can now-video calling, texting, writing a letter-. Again, the cause of bittersweet is not being able to accept the change and attachment to my own desires. Amida Buddha's Great Wisdom here helps me see what the reality is and guide me how I see this situation, and how I react.



However, even though I may understand the reality and try to accept it, it is indeed hard to do that. We got married but stays apart! Especially, I've been concerned about Haruka. When she has tears in her eyes, when she needs a hug, when she feels lonely, why I can't be there? For such as me who are going through difficulties in life, Amida Buddha's Great Compassion was established. Out of compassion, Amida Buddha made a promise to embrace all as they are without exception, no matter what. In other words, Amida Buddha promised to give joy and happiness to others and to relieve the sadness and suffering of others. It is depicted as "Your happiness is my happiness your suffering is my suffering." Hence, this promise is to suffer together when others are suffering and rejoice when others who have been relieved from suffering and have become happy.

I, without fail, feel the warmth and comfort in Amida's compassionate embrace and I am enabled to live my life not being driven my self-centeredness, fear, ignorance, desires, but guided by Amida's Wisdom. When my life is illuminated by this Amida's Compassion and Wisdom, Namo Amida Butsu comes out from my mouth as a recitation, my hands are placed together as joy fills in my heart and my life. Although I say and hear Namo Amida Butsu, that is Amida Buddha's wish for me: Come as you are, whatever happens I shall embrace you.

Our Founder, Master Shinran Shonin express his joy in this way in the Hymns of the Pure Land:

The light of compassion illumines us from afar; those beings it reaches, it is taught,  
attain the joy of dharma, so take refuge in Amida, the great consolation.

-Collected Works of Shinran, page 327

The holiday seasons are around the corner. This year we will welcome this season differently. This can be an opportunity for us to listen to Amida's Wisdom so that we can think about how I see this situation and what I can do.

Also we listen to Amida's Compassion which calls out with Aloha when we feel lonely and sad.

Amida's voice is calling "You are never ever alone, I shall embrace you as you are." In this holiday seasons, let us remember Amida Buddha's is always with us and let us extend our thoughts to those who may feel lonely. As Roy Croft reads, "...I love you not only for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you. I love you not only for what you have made of yourself, but for what you are making of me. I love you for the part of me that you bring out." We want to be loved and want to be cared. Then, if we love and care others, others feel they are loved and cared. Let us take actions so that we can support each other. We are together in Amida Buddha's Embrace, Namo Amida Butsu.



## **Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights**

Synopsis of Kyodan Board of Directors' Online Meeting held on Thursday, September 17, 2020. Minutes were recorded by Marilyn Sato, Secretary.

### **Repair and Maintenance**

- Jalousie crank replaced
- New belt was ordered for the reverend's dryer
- Toban responsibilities have been stopped – just provide flowers for major services

### **Approved Activities/Announcements**

- We had member and friends of Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple pass away due to COVID-19. Deepest condolences to the family and friends who lost their loved ones. Let us take refuge in Namo Amida Butsu, the Buddha of All-Embracing Compassion and All-Inclusive Wisdom.
- Prometric testing is continuing with safety precautions: temperature check, questionnaire, social distancing, etc.
- Welcome new member Tommy Kiyojima from Hilo,
- Thus far, nine hot meals have been prepared. It will continue into October.
- Carol Tsunezumi said as long as the Hot Meal Project continues, the Mask Project will continue. A total of 1,265 masks were donated.

- Honpa Peace Day Committee sent \$200 for Puna Hongwanji's Peace Day Activities. The money was used for the poster and photo contests. The committee received 7 posters from children ages 6-11 and 47 photos from 18 people (8 members). Paul Sakamoto put together a video which included the posters, photos, footage from 2019 Peace Day Activity, and messages from Rev. Tomioka and Rene Mansho.
- Sept. 11-12: Virtual Lay Convention was attended by President Jason Hashimoto, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Clifford Furukado, and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Robin Sato. 2021 Lay Convention will be hosted by Maui.
- President Hashimoto appointed a Nomination Committee chairperson. He said, "Please say yes when approached."
- Nov. 21: Special Legislative Assembly virtual meeting will be held to vote to amend the voting procedures and to amend the budget

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

- Thank you to Paul Sakamoto for the Genki Ondo Bon Dance wrap up and for your expertise in producing the Peace Day video. Domo Arigato Gozaimasu!
- The Hot Meal Project, lead by Clifford Furukado, continues to please, satisfy, and surprise. The Meals are gratefully appreciated by Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple members. We are so thankful to Clifford and his committee. What was to be a two month project is continuing because of the efforts of his team. Mahalo nui loa! Thank you, thank you, thank you!
- Thank you to the mask sewers and people who donated fabric for the sewers. They are a small but mighty group! More than 1,200 masks were donated. Carol Tsunazumi and her sewers represent Puna Hongwanji. By their efforts, we are seen as an active temple and a caring and compassionate member of the community. Gracias! Salamat!



### **Membership Committee News**

Please welcome Mr. Seisho Oshiro to our Sangha.

Thank you for your dues payment & donation. Dues reminder have been sent. If you are head of household and in a care home situation, your dues are exempt. Please notify me or the office of your situation.



In Gassho,

Roy Toma  
Membership Chairman  
808-935-7712  
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### **Hot Meal Project**

Back in May, Puna Hongwanji started the Hot Meal Project by providing two meals on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month for our member. Our last meals will on October 27<sup>th</sup>. I would like to take this opportunity to say "THANK YOU" to our Hot Meal Heroes (see photo's). Meals take two days to prepare so we usually start on Monday. The size of the crew was limited due to the Covid 19 guidelines. These volunteers stepped up and volunteered without being asked.

Funds from Puna Hongwanji's Social Concerns Fund was used to finance this project. Thank you to the State Honpa Hongwanji Social Concerns Committee for their donation of \$1000.00 which helped to fund the Project.

Thank you also to all the members who made monetary donations to the fund and for those of you that donated rice and other items that were used for the meals.

It is our hope that you all enjoyed the meals.

Please take care and stay safe and healthy.

In Gassho,  
Clifford Furukado



**Keri, Susan, Lorraine, Kay, Lei,  
Elaine, Barbara & Ann (L-R)**



**Other Volunteers: Jasmine, Jason,  
Jennifer, Mike, Ozek, & Paul**



**Chester, Warren, Clifford, Roy, &  
Reverend Tomioka (L-R)**





## BWA NEWS

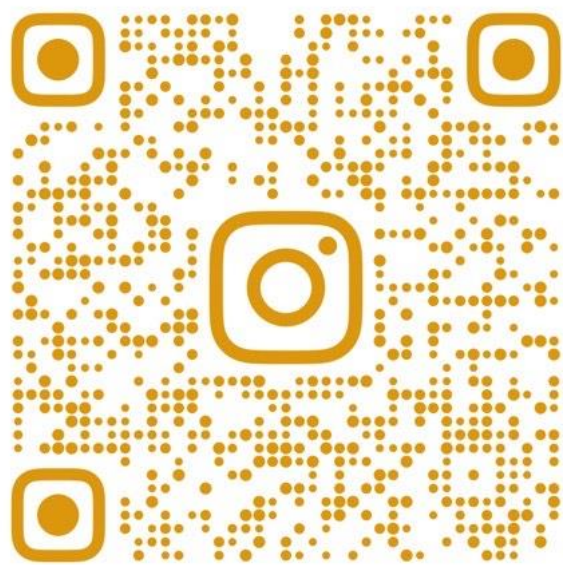
Did you know that this year, Puna Hongwanji Mission has a centenarian? On September 20, 1920, this member was born in the Hamakua District. She married Takashi Takeguchi and together, Sumie and Takashi raised three sons and a daughter. She was employed by Farmer's Exchange on Kinoole Street. Sumie is an Associate BWA member and a Project Dana client. She participated in Project Dana and BWA activities before she transitioned into Hale Anuenue Restorative Center. When Dana volunteers make visitations, Sumie always greets them with a friendly smile. **HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY, SUMIE!**

## Yard Maintenance Help Wanted

People often comment that the grounds surrounding Puna Hongwanji are very beautiful and well kept. Currently, there are a handful of people that are responsible for the maintenance, but we could use a few more. If you would like to lend a hand to keep our temple grounds looking the way it does, please contact Bernie Imada at (408) 390-2578.

In Gassho,

The yard maintenance gan



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