

Puna Hongwanji Mission



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*unless called away by other duties

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December 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

Fujiko Ito

Toshie Shimizu

Darryn Yamamoto

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.**

December 2020

1 yr.	Yutaka Shimasaki	December 12, 2019
3 yrs.	None	2018
7 yrs.	Mitsue Shirasaki	December 10, 2014
	Craig Yasuyoshi Tamashiro	Dec 24, 2014
13 yrs.	None	2008
17 yrs.	None	2004
25 yrs.	Miyoshi Nakamura	December 14, 1996
33 yrs.	Junpei Toma	December 12, 1988
50 yrs.	Kimi Nakamura	December 02, 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,

It is said the older, the faster the time passing by. To me, this year passed so fast and it is hard to believe yet true that we are welcoming the month of December. Usually, people welcome and observe the holiday season with a family & friends and enjoy the time together. In December, they think of things that happened past year and talk about, remember, and cherish it. However, due to COVID-19 and its impact, and moreover, due to our reactions to it, this year seems to be a different and difficult one. How was 2020 to you?



In Buddhism traditions, many temples observe a service on New Year's Eve to reflect the past year and think of our own lives through Amida Buddha's Compassion and Wisdom. At the service, attendees ring the temple bell 108 times in total. The number of 108 is delusions of human beings and by striking the bell, we symbolically ring out the delusions in order to welcome a new year with a fresh, pure mind and body. However, to Shin Buddhism tradition and Hongwanji temples, striking the bell is not meant to ring out our delusions, rather the bell is a reminder and guide to us to be aware of the delusions which is the fundamental cause of difficulties. Master Shinran, the founder of Shin Buddhism realized that the more we try to purify our mind and body, the more we see our delusions there and impossible to be free of these delusions. Instead of removing the delusions, by the virtue of Amida Buddha's Primal Vow, when a person encounters this primal vow, the person is assured to become a buddha without severing the blind passions. The sound of the temple bell may be considered Amida Buddha's calling voice which promised to save me, this Satoshi Tomioka and be the ultimate shelter in my life. Hence, through striking the temple bell and hearing the sound -

we are enabled to see how I was driven by these delusions, and aspire to live a new year guided by Amida Buddha's Compassion and Wisdom, which is Namo Amida Butsu.

Since March, we were not able to have a Sunday service in-person nor our events and gatherings as usual. Temple is the place of practice and also a place to meet, talk, gather, and live together as a nembutsu follower. For most members and friends, it must be hard not being able to get together at the temple. Therefore, with consultation with the executive board members, Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple will have a walk-in Striking the temple bell on Thursday, December 31, from 10:30 to 12 noon. When you come to the temple, you will enter the front entrance, offer incense, and ring a bell. Please remember that you will be strictly asked to follow the all safe and health guidelines all the time. We will not have a social gathering.

The new year's eve service will be shared online only, no in person service at the temple.

2020 has been a difficult year and yet teachings us the truth of life and truth of human beings. Our life is truly impermanent, interconnected, fragile & fleeting and also we learned the preciousness of caring, thinking of others, compassion, endurance, kindness, and the ultimate shelter and guidance in our life.

To me, I, as a human being and my life itself has been asked through this COVID-19: what is my life? How do I live my life?

And also I was reassured that how true Amida Buddha's Compassion and Wisdom is, and that is only an essential refuge and the ultimate shelter I can rely on in my life. As my mind and life is easily driven by my delusions, being guided by Amida Buddha I am enabled to awaken to the truth of life and rediscover the joy of life with my family and friends. Life is not difficult yet life is beautiful in the embrace of Namo Amida Butsu.

Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights

Synopsis of Kyodan Board of Directors' Online Meeting held on Thursday, October 15, 2020.
Minutes were recorded by Marilyn Sato, Secretary.

Repair and Maintenance

- Online reports are available for our photovoltaic panels. So far, looking good and working fine.
- Elevator smoke alarm was due to loose connections.

Approved Activities/Announcements

- COVID-19 has been with us since March. Please be aware that some members may be experiencing mental health issues, depression, isolation, etc. Reach out and support each other. Please take care of each other.
- Online events include classes, services, other temples, and PHM activities.
- Welcome new member Seisho Oshiro
- Peace Day activities included poster and photo contest. For the first place photo contest entry, there were 90 people that liked the photo. We now have some new followers on Facebook.
- October events: 1) Two online events will be open to the public – fruit & vegetable carving and costume contest. 2) Halloween drive-thru for members and affiliates. Tents will be decorated and treats will be passed out. 3) Rev. Tomioka plans to visit members on Halloween week and leave a small treat.
- Thank you to Robin Sato, Jenn Kurohara, Paul Sakamoto, and Rev. Tomioka who took charge of the Halloween activities. Dharma School President Warren Tanigawa reported that his group took on a supportive role this year.
- Taiko has resumed practice – doing it outside as much as possible.



- Three members will be recognized with the Distinguished Sangha Service Award at the Eitaikyo Service. They are: Kiyo Sumi, Roy Toma, and Glenn Watarida.
- The December General Membership Meeting is in question – depends on county guidelines
- We are watching our finances to finish the year. Treasurers paid the 2nd quarter assessment to Honpa and were told to hold off payment for the rest of the year. They were informed to work on the 2021 Budget like it is a normal year.
- Paul Sakamoto will be applying for G-Suite that is available for non-profit organizations.
- Sr. YBA is working on a camera/video equipment donation to the temple to upgrade Rev. Tomioka's virtual classes, services, etc.
- Nomination Committee is Gordon Heit & Rev. Tomioka
- Nov. 21: Special Giseikai meeting. PHM representatives will be President Jason Hashimoto and 1st VP Clifford Furukado.

In Appreciation – Thank You Very Much

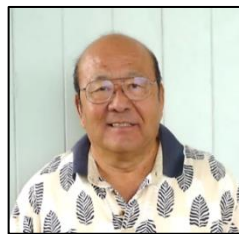
- Thank you to members for continuing to support Rev. Satoshi Tomioka, President Hashimoto, and Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Doomo Arigato Gozaimasu!
- The Hot Meal Project, led by Clifford Furukado, will end on Oct. 23. Mahalo nui loa! Thank you, thank you, thank you!
- Thank you to the mask sewers and to BWA who are sewing scrub caps for cancer patients, for use in the kitchen, etc. Gracias!
- Thank you to Sr. YBA for working on a camera/video equipment donation to the temple. You are appreciated!
- Thank you to members and friends who made dues donations and donations to the temple. Mahalo nui loa!

Membership Committee News

Please welcome Crystal & Sheena Cathcart to our Sangha from Keaau.

Thank you for your dues payment. Remember you can pay weekly, monthly, or semi-yearly too. And if you are head of household and in a care home situation, your dues are exempt. Please let the office or myself know of your situation.

Please stay healthy & be safe.



In Gassho,

Roy Toma
Membership Chairman
808-935-7712
roytoma@msn.com

Christmas 2020



Since we had a successful Halloween Drive-By event we are now in the planning stage to have a Christmas Drive-By to include decorated Christmas tents. We are planning to invite our temple affiliate groups, the other Hongwanji temples, the Puna District Churches that participate in our Annual Interfaith Memorial Day event, and the Shipman's. We would like to have a safe way for our temple members and community to enjoy the joy of Christmas even though it will be different this year due to Covid-19. While you drive through looking at the decorations come enjoy the music in the background by Hawaii's very own Mark Yamanaka. At the end of the route, if you would like to make a small donation that will be accepted and appreciated in the Kyodan tent.

The Christmas Drive-By will be on Saturday, December 19, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. There will be no parking or walking around the temple grounds. This is a drive-by event so, please help us and follow the rules we set for everyone's safety.

Puna Taiko will be pre-selling andagi tickets for pick up during the Christmas drive-by. If you are interested in getting some andagi, please contact Paul Sakamoto.

We are also planning to put up a community Christmas tree. If you would like to donate an ornament(s) that you personally make or purchase an ornament(s), please drop it off or mail it to the temple by Saturday, December 12, 2020.

For the December activities we invite all of you while at home to decorate a gingerbread house with your family. Take a picture and submit your finished product. A second participation activity we will have is the "Ugly Christmas Sweater". Take a picture of your "Ugly Christmas Sweater" and submit that to us. Deadline will be Wednesday, December 16, 2020 so that we can announce our winners by December 17, 2020. If you are a winner and plan to come to the Christmas Drive-By we can then give you your prize.

We hope to see you at the drive-by to bring some holiday cheer to you. If you put your windows down, while you are driving through the parking lot masks will be required. If you do not wear a mask your windows must be closed at all times. We need to ensure our volunteers are safe while on the temple grounds so ask for your cooperation.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact any committee member.

Thank you,
Jenn Kurohara, Paul Sakamoto, Rev. Satoshi Tomioka, and Robin Sato
Christmas Event Committee



KTA SAVE A TAPE

Should you have any KTA save a tape receipts that you do not plan to use for yourself, we would greatly appreciate if you could save the Thanksgiving and Christmas tapes and drop them off at the temple and putting them into the slot in the kitchen door. We have until December 10th to turn in the Thanksgiving tapes and sometime in early January for the Christmas ones. We plan to stock our freezer with food items that we can use in the future. Every little bit helps.

Should you have any questions please call me at (808)938-3177 (C) or (808)959-4289(H).

In Gassho,
Clifford Furukado



Puna Hongwanji General Membership Meeting

December 20, 2020
10:30 am

It will be an online Zoom meeting and in person for those who want to attend at the Temple Social Hall.

If you want to join in on Zoom you need to let Jason Hashimoto or Rev. Tomioka know. We will need your email address.

You can email us at :

jasonhashi@gmail.com

stomioka@honpahi.org

If you plan to attend at the temple you need to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Items on agenda :

1. Year End Reports
2. Approval of 2021 Budget
3. Election of 2021 - 2022 Officers & Directors.

Thanks,
Jason

Halloween Visitation



On Thursday, October 29 and Friday, October 30 we TRIED our very best to visit our members living on Hawaii Island. We stopped by to bring a little treat and to say Trick or Treat. It was also a good time to check up on our members and ensure everyone was doing okay. It was a very unexpected visit and good time for Rev. Tomioka to meet with our members. When Rev. Tomioka walked up to homes or businesses dressed in his Christmas jacket, Christmas pants, a cowboy hat plus having his face mask on you saw the expression of many “who is this crazy guy coming to my house?” After Rev. Tomioka explained he was the minister of Puna Hongwanji and who he was you saw the relief of the members. We hope the visit brought you happiness. If you were not home or did not hear Rev. Tomioka call you as you were busy watching your tv show’s please look either on the front or back steps if you didn’t find your treat yet.

Thank you to Jenn Kurohara for preparing, packaging, and labeling 200 party mix to distribute to our members. Thank you also to those that chauffeured Rev. Tomioka for the visits. Robin Sato chauffeured Rev. Tomioka on Thursday and Friday morning then by Clifford and Keri Furukado on Friday afternoon.

Thank you to those all involved in making this a successfully house visit.

Halloween Activities

When you think about it this year everything has been for the first time. If you participated in our events you were the first to participate in our online fruit/vegetable carving contest and our online Halloween costume contest. We had a total of 17 creative fruit/vegetable entries and a total of 18 Halloween costume entries. Thank you to the Puna Hongwanji Dharma School for supporting the event and providing the winners with gift certificates from Big Island Delights and Sweet Cane Café.

FRUIT/VEGETABLE CARVING WINNERS:



Beautiful/Cute Category:

1st Place: Apple Swan – Cullen Kurohara; 2nd Place: A Buddha-ful Pumpkin – Julie Bridle; 3rd Place: Baby Daikon – Stella Miyashiro.

HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST WINNERS:



Most Creative Category:

1st Place: Miss Naalehu Onion – Masako Sakata;
2nd Place: Daikon Devil – Stella Miyashiro; 3rd
Place: My Pumpkin – Stephen Stance Cathcart



Beautiful/Cute Category:

1st Place: Super Cute Girl – Alison Sato; 2nd Place:
Rocket Ship – Stephen Stance Cathcart; 3rd Place:
Astronaut – Can'te Harrison.



Spookiest Category:

1st Place: Togan Oni (Winter Melon Ogre) – Stella
Miyashiro; 2nd Place: The Original Jack-o-Lantern
– Chaske Harrison; 3rd Place (tied): Itsy Bitsy
Spider – Jada Cathcart; 3rd Place (tied): The
Scariest Year Yet! – Crystal Maya Cathcart.



Most Creative Category:

1st Place: I am applause. A standing ovation – Julie
Bridle; 2nd Place: Favorite fall dessert 'S'mores –
Aileen Brennan Ohana; 3rd Place: King of Persia –
David Kealoha.



Spookiest Category:

1st Place: Mad Scientist – Chaske Harrison; 2nd Place: Mad Scientist – Kalei Harrison; 3rd Place: Coronavirus – Jada Cathcart.



On Halloween afternoon we had a Halloween Drive-By at the temple. We had a total of 10 tents that decorated and handed out treats to the cars that drove by. We invited our temple members and affiliate groups, we are sorry we missed the hi-lite deadline. We also extended the invitation to Hilo Hongwanji's Dharma and Jr. YBA members. For the 1 ½ hours that we were open we had a total of about 50 cars that came by. It was great to hear the many people who were grateful to have this event and were all appreciative. The 10 tents consisted of 2 from Judo; 4 from Taiko, 1 from BWA, 1 from Dharma School, 1 from Sr. YBA, and 1 from the Kyodan. Thank you to all the participants that helped man the booths and thank you to all those that were able to drive-by. Also thank you to those that gave us a donation for the drive-by.

1st



Best Use of Recycled Materials Category:

1st Place: Engineer of an old-time Hawaii sugar cane plantation locomotive. All aboard! - Wade Mueller.

Thank you to the planning committee members for planning and helping to make our Halloween event a success. Thank you to Paul Sakamoto, Jenn Kurohara, Warren Tanigawa, Rev. Satoshi Tomioka, and Robin Sato.



JUDO CLUB



PUNA HONGWANJI KYODAN



PUNA TAIKO



DHARMA SCHOOL



SR. YBA



BWA

MASKS AND SCRUB CAPS



(BWA President Stella models a scrub cap)

Our Puna Hongwanji members have been continuing to sew mask 🧐 and has added scrub caps.



(Dora and Gail model the scrub caps)

Thank you to our Puna Hongwanji donors with mask drop off #14 you have sewn 1,669 masks thus far. A total of 23 scrub caps were sewn. 🧐 Thank you Carol Tsunezumi for taking the lead. 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 110 masks made by: Mieko Nagao and Ilene Hara. Carol Tsunezumi and Gail Tsuha-Maesato concentrated on making the scrub caps. 👍.



(Lorraine collects the 100 masks from Mrs. Nagao)

We appreciate all our sewers, but Mrs. Nagao is amazing! 🧐. At this drop off she donated another 100 mask. Mrs. Nagao is 90+ and is continuing to do her part to keep our community healthy. ありがとうございます Mrs. Nagao we are truly grateful and appreciate that you continue to sew the masks and donate it so that others will be protected. 🧐 During our Halloween drive-by the BWA gave out masks and treats to the participants.

Everyone please continue to do your part to help stop the spread of the virus. It is a difficult time for many as this virus has affected people we personally know in our own community. No one



can fix what has happened, as that's the past, but we can all learn to be more proactive and aware from here forward. It's our responsibility.

(Ilene sharing more mask)

DID YOU KNOW THAT ABOUT PUNA HONGWANJI?

Since many of the knowledge of our temples is with our elderly, when they share an interesting thing about Puna Hongwanji decided we should document and share with you.



Many of you may have seen this sculpture on our columbarium. This sculpture was created by Mr. Tatsuji Nagao, who was a welder. This sculpture mimics the windows on the temple by the altar. This symbolizes a lotus blossom. Another interesting fact is do you notice only one window is not shaded? They say that is so that if you needed to get the ministers attention you can go to that window. As you will notice when the ministers sit they don't face the congregation or the Buddha, but faced towards the windows.



2020 Big Island Buddhist Federation Virtual Bodhi Service Information



BIBF VIRTUAL BODHI DAY SERVICE

Date : 2020, December 6 (Sunday). Live stream starts at 8:50 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Service time : 9:00 am (About 1h duration)

Access Link to live stream: Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuSV5Ggai9in71gkC0HKgJg>

We ask you, please share this information with your congregation and friends. If you need more information call to Reverend Marcos Sawada at 808 935- 8968 Hilo Higashi Hongwanji.

PUNA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE ONLINE BUDDHISM EDUCATION SERIES

Saturday, December 12, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.,

*"It's ok to not be ok:
Shin Buddhist Wisdom for Living"*

GUEST LECTURER:

REV. BLAYNE HIGA

Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple



-Exploring how Shin Buddhist spirituality can offer ways of understanding our imperfect lives. How can we cultivate greater compassion and resilience in times of difficulty?-

Registration:

<https://forms.gle/QktaamEbXd8jqvVN9>

Open to public / Free

We will gratefully accept donations.

Any questions?
call at 8089669981



Donation QR Code

