

Puna Hongwanji Mission



Location: 16-492 Old Volcano Road, Keaau, HI

Mailing address: P.O. Box 100

Keaau, HI 96749-0100

Tel: (808) 966-9981 Fax: (808) 966-7732

Website: punahongwanji.org

Resident Minister: Reverend Satoshi Tomioka

Cell: (808) 285-0275

Email: stomioka@honpahi.org

Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri– 9am to 12pm*

*unless called away by other duties

Thurs. – day off

Kyodan Pres.: Clifford Furukado (Cell: 938-3177)

Email: cfurukado@yahoo.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Temple Toban, Nenki	Page	1-2
Gomonshu's New Years Message		3-4
Minister's Message		5-6
President's Message		7
Kyodan Officers & Highlights		8-9
Membership / Dharma Night		10
New Ideas? / BWA		11-12

Ferbruary 2021 Hi-Lites

Happy New Year!



2021 Honpa Hongwanji Theme & Slogan

Building Healthy Sanghas

(Nurturing Empathy and Respect)

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.

Email: "hilites@punahongwanji.org"

Editorial: Sam Horiuchi
Tammy Molina

Production: Lei Kakugawa
Ann Toma
Dora Hashimoto
Susan Sunada
Clifford Furukado

Advisor: Rev. Satoshi Tomioka

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

George Hara

Mitsuo Miyatake

Anne Yanazaki

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.**

Some names we inadvertently left out of the January nenki memorial service schedule. We apologize for this error.

February 2021

1 yr.	Naomi Sakaguchi	February 15, 2020
	Toshie Shimizu	February 20, 2020
	Clesson Sako	January 2, 2020
	Kiyoko Imada	January 16, 2020
3 yrs.	Kinue Kanda	February 9, 2019
	Ronald Kawada	February 9, 2019
	Tatsuko Hayashikawa	January 21, 2019
7 yrs.	Akie Kajiyama	February 1, 2015
	Takeshi Sako	February 12, 2015
13 yrs.	Roy Hamada	February 14, 2009
	Walter Yamaguchi	February 17, 2009
17 yrs.	None	2005
25 yrs.	Russell Wakida	February 19, 1997
33 yrs.	None	1989
50 yrs.	None	1972

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM HIS EMINENCE GOMONSHU KOJUN OHTANI

New Year's Greeting



Happy New Year, everyone! At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my best regards to you all.

Throughout the last year, the world suffered from the pandemic of COVID-19, which brought tremendous hardship to many people, and we still are not able to see when normalcy would return to our world. On this occasion, I would like to offer my deepest condolences to those who fell victim to the disease and express my sympathies to those who are currently undergoing treatment.

Meanwhile in the US, the media has widely reported systematic discrimination against African-Americans, social unrest and division among the general public brought on by the presidential election. It concerns me that many people have been left isolated in the midst of hardship.

‘Dependent origination’ is a universal truth that Buddha Sakyamuni presented. This fundamental Buddhist principle expresses that every thing, matter, and phenomenon arises from various causes and conditions. None of us lives by ourselves. We are living while being interconnected and mutually supported by one another. Considering the reality of a divided society, it is important that everyone deeply reflects on the principle of Dependent Origination that represents the true state of the world.

Even though having been introduced to the truth by Buddha Sakyamuni, ordinary people like us are still not able to accept it as it is. Therefore, to guide us to cope with the suffering caused by our own ignorance, Shinran Shonin clarifies Amida Buddha’s compassion that always embraces us all. When the world is facing this unimaginable crisis, it is crucial that each of us experiences Amida Buddha’s great compassion ourselves, and live each day to the utmost, having that joy and sensation in our hearts as the basis of our life.

I have been told that in this difficult time and situation, many of your sangha have been adopting new measures for sharing the Jodo Shinshu teaching that had not been previously considered. I find such efforts truly reassuring. It is my hope that your temples will continue serving as your spiritual home, and therefore, I sincerely ask for your understanding and cooperation to allow them to be so. With my heartfelt appreciation for each one of you, I would like to conclude my new year’s greeting.

January 1, 2021

OHTANI Kojun
Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

年頭の辞

新しい年のはじめにあたり、ご挨拶申し上げます。

去年は新型コロナウイルス感染症(COVID-

19) が世界的に大流行し、多くの方が犠牲となりましたが、いまだその収束が見通せません。ここに、新型コロナウイルス感染症によりお亡くなりになられた方々に謹んで哀悼の意を表しますとともに、罹患されている皆さまに心よりお見舞い申しあげます。

また、アメリカにおいては黒人差別の問題が提起され、大統領選挙も社会に混乱をまねき、社会の分断が指摘されています。このような中で、悩みや苦しみを抱えている方、孤独な状況に置かれている方も多くおられるのではないかと思います。

仏教を説かれたお釈迦様は、「物事は必ず何らかの原因があり条件があって生じ、存在している」という存在に関する普遍的な原理を「縁起」として示されました。私たちは、自分一人で生きているわけではありません。周りのすべての方々とのつながりの中、お互いに支え合って生活しています。社会の分断が生じる現状にあって、この世界のありのままの姿である「縁起」の道理を深く心に留めたいと思います。

親鸞聖人は、お釈迦様の説かれたこの世界の真理をそのままに受け入れることができずに悩み苦しむ私たちに、阿弥陀さまのおはたらきが届いていると明らかにされました。思ってもみなかった出来事に見舞われている世界ですが、阿弥陀さまのおはたらきを聞き、それを依りどころとして日々の生活を過ごしてまいりましょう。

このコロナ禍の中、今までとは違った方法で浄土真宗のみ教えを広く社会へ伝える試みもなされていると聞き、たいへん心強く思います。これからもお寺が皆さまの心の支えとなりますよう、お寺の活動にご理解とご協力を頂きますことをお願い申し上げ、年頭のご挨拶といたします。

2021 年 1 月 1 日

浄土真宗本願寺派
門主 大谷光淳

Minister's Message

Nirvana Day

Aloha,

I hope the winter weather is treating you well. I'm now writing this minister's article with thoughts on who is reading this message and where, and what kind of person you are and your life experiences & encounters you have had in your life. It is said there are human stages of life or human development and they are: Pregnancy, infancy, toddler, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, middle age, and the senior years. Which stage are you in now? And what kind memories and experiences you had in each stage and what do you think you are going to have in your next stage? I just turned 33 years (My birthday is January 3rd, 1988. Just in case you want to know) and I will fall in the category between adulthood and the middle age. Sakyamuni Buddha, the founder of Buddhism also had a life stage. Although some descriptions may sound odd and unrealistic, it is important to know the meaning and what they try to convey.



[Pregnancy]: It was a white elephant that appeared in Queen Maya's dream. She dreamed that an elephant entered into her womb through the right side of her chest. When she woke from the dream, she realized that she had been impregnated. ---Buddha's wish is for born and to be born. We have been thought of by Amida Buddha even before we were born.

[Birth]: As soon as Prince Siddhartha was born from mother's right armpit, he took 7 steps, then raised his right arm up and his left arm down and is said to have declared, "In the heavens and on earth, I am the only one to be respected as bringing a comfort to this suffering worlds."---Birth is the beginning of all kinds of suffering including aging, illness, and death. Buddhism liberates us from these sufferings by listening to the teachings.

[Abandonment of the palace]: When he was 29, one night, Siddhartha left the castle from the north to find the answer to his questions: why do we suffer?. He changed his clothes to the humble robe of an ascetic practitioner and cut his hair with his sword. ---Attachments are the fundamental cause of all sufferings & difficulties. Master Shinran Shonin realized that indeed, it is impossible to get rid of our attachments.

[Offering from a maiden]: He received a bowl of milk porridge from Sujata. He sat down on the roots of the Bodhi tree and entered into deep meditation, having firmly determined not to stand up again until he attained enlightenment. ---Amida Buddha made 48 vows to save every single person without discrimination and 18th vow is the most essential which is the Primal Vow.

[Enlightenment]: As soon he entered into meditation, demons took notice and tried to prevent him from his Enlightenment. The demons were afraid that a human could overcome the fear of death. However, he finally reached Enlightenment, bodhi. He was 35.---Master Shinran Shonin revealed that we will be able to attain enlightenment without severing blind attachments when the one thought-moment of entrusting mind arises in a person.

[Turning the wheel of Dharma]: Five ascetics were the first disciples of the Buddha and he shared the Buddha's teaching with people for 45 years until he died at the age of 80.-Buddha's teachings are not for everyone but for

me. We are enabled to see our true nature as human beings and find the ultimate shelter we can rely on in our life.

[Nirvana]: While being looked after by his disciples and all kinds of animals, Buddha passed away and entered *parinirvana* (Complete enlightenment) under two *sala* trees while facing west with his head toward the north and his right hand supporting his head. ---For those who encounter Amida Buddha's Primal Vow which promises to save us from suffering, we will be assured to be born into the Pure Land and become a buddha. Death is not the end.

Shakyamuni Buddha was a historical human being like you and me who had all kinds of worries, concerns, anxieties, and suffering in human relationship, physically, mentally, financially. And he is the one who found the cause of suffering and not only freed from it but began to devote himself to share the teachings so that others may also attain enlightenment. Master Shinran Shonin said: "Shakyamuni Tathagata appeared in this world to solely to teach the oceanlike Primal Vow of Amida; we an ocean of beings in an evil age of five defilements, should entrust ourselves to the Tathagata's words of truth."-Shoshinge

Master Shinran Shonin realized that although there are tremendous sutras and teachings by Shakyamuni Buddha, the most essential teaching is Amida Buddha's Primal Vow of Namo Amida Butsu. As we go through each stage of human life and observe that of others, we experience joy, happiness and laughter as well as tears and worries. Amida Buddha's Great Compassion exists to share the joy and sorrows of us, embrace us, accept us, and stand by with us no matter what. Once embraced, never forsaken. Amida Buddha's Great Wisdom teaches us our true nature of human beings that we tend to think of ourselves first than others and this ego causes troubles to ourselves and others when things don't go as we wish. And this Great Wisdom dispels the darkness of ignorance and guides us to live not being driven by our humanness attachments but by the truth of Wisdom. Namo Amida Butsu is Amida Buddha's calling voice, "take refuge in me as your ultimate guidance" and when we hear it and receive it into our life, we respond with Namo Amida Butsu.

Nirvana day is the day when Shakyamuni Buddha passed away and entered the perfect enlightenment (*parinirvana*). This day teaches us to listen and awaken to the Amida Buddha' Primal Vow which promised our birth in the Pure Land when we take our last breath. Let us listen and encounter the Primal Vow today, here and now.

Namo Amida Butsu

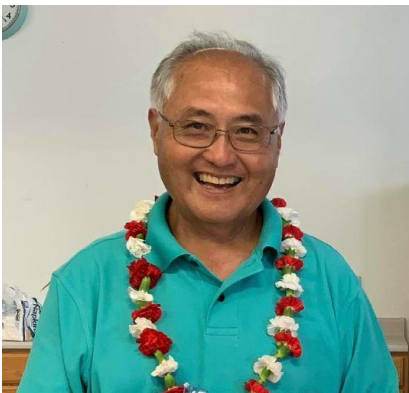
Kyodan President's message

A belated Happy New Year to you all. I would like to thank Jason Hashimoto for serving as President the past four years. I'm sure everyone joins me in saying Job Well Done. Thank you, Jason. I would also like to thank the previous board members and committee chairs, the majority of whom have agreed to continue to lead the temple. I would also like to welcome the new Board members.

I began attending Puna Hongwanji as a child. My parents were members as my grandparents were before them. I remember that we used to travel from Mt. View on the Nagata bus once a month. At that time, Reverend Hoashi was the Resident Minister. On the other Sunday's we would gather at the Mt. View Gym to attend Sunday School, led by Marilyn (Kawaguchi) Uehara. As I grew older, I rarely came to Temple. It was only about eleven years ago that I finally joined Puna Hongwanji. In the beginning, I thought I would just join, pay my dues, donate money and come to help once in a while. But the more I came, the more I realized that this is a very special place with very special people. You get the feeling that Puna Hongwanji is one big family. I remember Reverend Earl Ikeda often times would say that Puna Hongwanji is Ohana. It is my hope that we maintain that feeling and extend that to others.

Last year was a difficult year due to the Covid Pandemic. We could not do a lot of things that we enjoyed doing. We were not able to come to temple, not able to socialize and not able to put on our large events like Obon and other fundraisers. But we made it through and there were some good things that came about. We are now able to do things that can reach more people. Thanks to Reverend Tomioka, Robin Sato, Paul Sakamoto and Jenn Kurohara, we can watch the service and hear the message online and even can hold events virtually like Obon and Memorial Day. We also found out that we could hold a drive through Halloween, Christmas and even have a fundraiser.

This year, there is hope and we can see the light at the end of the tunnel with the coming of the Covid vaccine. We will start slowing but I feel eventually things will start getting back to normal. No doubt that as we go forward, we will hit bumps in the road or even greater obstacles but as long as we support each other, communicate and always do so by putting yourself in the other person's shoes, these challenges can be overcome.



I know I have a lot to learn and I would greatly appreciate any advice you can share. There is a lot of experience on the Board and in the Sangha so please feel free to contact me and share your knowledge and concerns. Always remember that Puna Hongwanji is OHANA.

In Gassho,
Clifford Furukado

Kyodan Officers & Directors

At the December 20, 2020 Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple General Membership Meeting, the following were elected to office. It is a two-year term beginning January, 2021 and ending in 2022.

President	Clifford Furukado
1 st Vice-President	Warren Tanigawa
2 nd Vice-President	Robin Sato
Secretary	Marilyn Sato
Treasurer	Richard Solie
Assistant Treasurer	Byron Toma

Directors

K.T. Cannon-Eger	Clifford Furukado	Jason Hashimoto
Sam Horiuchi	Richard Solie	Claire Arakawa
Kazu Okamoto	Earl Mukai	Donald Ikeda
Janet Nakamura	Alvin Oyadomari	Byron Toma
Glenn Watarida	Robin Sato	Darren Yoshimoto
Marilyn Sato	Kay Aoki	Mike Fukutomi
Craig Shimoda	Roy Toma	Carol Tsunazumi
Warren Tanigawa	Wendell Toma	Jeff Nishimura
Paul Sakamoto	Rev. Satoshi Tomioka	

The Board of Directors thanked Jason Hashimoto for his four years at the helm. Please support the new Officers and Board of Directors.

Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights

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

Repair and Maintenance

- The cracked cement between the social hall door and the kitchen door was repaired

Approved Activities/Announcements

- COVID-19 is still with us. Please stay safe and happy. Thank you for your support and please support each other. Afterall, we are all connected and dependent on each other.
- Rev. Tomioka will continue to provide online services and is thinking of new possibilities for 2021.
- PHM applied for two grants. One was approved (CARES Act) and the other one requested more information but we could not get the completed application back before the due date.
- November Activities included sending out hand written letters/cards. 225 letters/cards were sent out to happy and appreciative people. Rev. Tomioka and Robin Sato visited members of Naalehu Hongwanji. Members were happy that Rev. Tomioka will remain with us. They said his visit made Thanksgiving special.

- December Activities included Ugly Sweater Contest & Gingerbread House Contest. The computer selected the winners and prizes were given out. There will be a Drive Thru on Dec. 19 from 5-8:00 p.m. and Puna Taiko will be selling andagi.
- Carol Tsunezumi reported masks and scrub caps are being sewed by volunteers. Mrs. Mieko Nagao continues to be the top sewer for masks.
- Prometrics will continue to use our facilities in 2021, They requested 16 dates.
- Taste of Puna Hongwanji Drive Thru was a financial success.
- Giseikai will probably be held on Zoom next year.
- Linette Quade and her volunteers have worked throughout the year to let people know about the Boutique. Some items are sold on Craigslist.
- Nominations Committee submitted the list of Board of Directors nominees and Officer nominees for 2021-2022. The election will be held at the General Membership Meeting on Dec. 20/

In Appreciation – Thank You Very Much

- Jason Hashimoto, out going Kyodan President, is much appreciated for taking on the challenge of presidency four years ago and for his leadership abilities. He has demonstrated that working together, we can get things done. Thank you, Jason!
- Thank you, Earl Mukai, for repairing the cracked cement. It was a safety issue. You took care of the hazard and we are very appreciative.
- Thank you to temple members for participating in the November letter/card challenge. The goal was exceeded and there were many positive comments and smiles.
- Thank you to Jenn Kurohara and friends for the generous donation of prizes for the December contests.
- Thank you to volunteers who continue to sew masks and scrub caps. Mrs. Mieko Nagao has a wonderful “can do” attitude. She has sewn the most masks since PHM got involved in providing masks for Vibrant Hawaii. You are AWESOME and a TERRIFIC ROLE MODEL!
- Chair Clifford Furukado and President Hashimoto expressed appreciation to all who came, helped with the food preparation, purchased products, and donated to the Taste of Puna Drive Thru. Thank you to members who generously donated to the project. Donations exceeded the sales. Because of your generosity, we made it through the year without a crisis or need to borrow money from other accounts. Good job, everyone!
- Mahalo to Linette Quade and the Boutique volunteers. They opened the Boutique, using the social hall, in December and had a very successful two weeks of sales. They raised almost \$4,000. All income is donated to the Kyodan. If you are cleaning out your closets, cabinets, etc. donated items can be dropped off in the garage. If you have large items and/or lots of items, call the temple. Thank you, Boutique Crew!

Temple Clean up Schedule



Each section will be responsible for weekly clean-up of the temple for the entire month. Section leader will contact members on the clean-up dates and times. Warren Tanigawa is the coordinator for assignment of duties for Tobans.

FEBRUARY – Group 3 HILO

MARCH – Group 4 M/V/K

Membership Committee News

Please welcome Hiroshi Kozohara of Hilo to our Sangha

Thank you for your dues payment. Recommended dues is \$240/yr. Dues helps finance our daily operations & expenses. Weekly, monthly, semi-yearly & yearly dues payment are accepted. And if you are in a care home situation, please let the office or myself know of your situation. Also please notify us of any change of address.



In Gassho,
Roy Toma
Membership Chairman
808-935-7712

Wednesday Dharma Night

Join us on Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. Zoom allows those in attendance to interact with each other vs. watching it via Facebook or YouTube. If you would like to join us on Zoom please send an email to mpunahongwanji@twc.com. Rev. Tomioka does his talk in English during the first half and then about 7:45 p.m. he does it in Japanese. You are invited to attend one or both sessions. 英語法話のすぐあとに、日本語法話もあります。You can keep your camera on or off, you are in control so you do what makes you feel comfortable.

If you do not have a computer you are still able to join the Zoom Dharma Night, but won't be able to see what is on the screen. You will only be able to listen and talk on the phone via your house phone or cellphone. Long distance rates may apply if you don't have a long distance call plan. If you are interested please contact the temple at 966-9981 or Robin Sato so that we can provide you the phone number to call in.

Some of you are probably thinking what is all this online technology and it's too overwhelming. It's scary at the beginning, but do not let that stop you from joining us and connecting with the other members. Ask your family or friends to help you set-up on a computer, laptop, iPad, cellphone to join the events. If you don't have a computer it may be a good investment to get a simple one so that you can be online with other Sangha members and friends. Don't think you can't do it, believe that you can and you will achieve the goal. Don't say you are too old to learn new things as you can do it. If you need step-by-step directions we provide it to you. We all would rather be physically at the temple, but for now that is not a possibility so we have to meet online. Both Rev. Tomioka and Robin can help get you connected if you need assistance so please ask. If you don't ask we don't know how we can help you. As an added bonus, during our Wednesday evening sessions we get to see Haruka in Honolulu and Rev. Tomioka's mother and sister from Japan. With technology we are able to be close together online yet far apart physically. Hope to see you on Zoom with us.

SOLICITATION FOR IDEAS

As we know gathering at the temple will not happen anytime soon. Therefore, we are soliciting ideas from you on activities you would like us to consider. We can't be together physically, but can think of other creative ways to continue to keep our membership active and cohesive. In 2020, we did a lot of first time events online. We did the Puna District Interfaith Memorial Day Observance, two nights of online Bon Dance, premiered "Genki Ondo", Peace Day video, Halloween drive-by, Christmas drive-by, and Taste of Puna Hongwanji drive-by fundraiser. Share your ideas so that we can find other activities we can take into consideration. If you have an idea, please send them to Robin Sato at robsato@yahoo.com and I will share your ideas with the committee. We may not be able to do all activities, but we will at least have activities to fall back on for the future.

BWA

The Puna BWA participated in the Christmas Drive Thru on December 19, 2020. A "White Christmas" tent was decorated by Kay Aoki, Marilyn Sato, Mariko Ogawara, Carol Tsunezumi, and Stella Miyashiro. Origami cranes and snowflakes were passed out by Kay, Marilyn, and Carol during the drive thru.



On Dec. 30th, Carol and Stella visited Hawaii Care Choices on Waianuenue Avenue. They delivered sixteen lap blankets and thirty six masks, which were sewn by Mieko Nagao. The donated items were greatly appreciated. Masks and blankets are still needed by Hawaii Care Choices. On Jan. 21st., Carol and Stella dropped off twenty two colorful crocheted lap blankets, which were made by Mrs. Arakawa's caregiver, Rose.

On Jan. 11th, Clifford Furukado met with Kiyo Sumi, Carol Tsunezumi, Kay Aoki, and Stella Miyashiro to work on fresh pumpkins donated by Carol. The prep work involved washing, cutting, steaming, peeling, mashing, measuring, packaging, and freezing the pumpkin. The pumpkin will be used for a future fundraiser. Colorful origami cranes were folded and sewed into strands, which were draped on St. Shinran's statue for the Martin Luther King Jr.'s Day Service. Members who participated in this activity were Karen Mason, Marilyn Sato, Kay Aoki, Robin Sato, Carol Tsunezumi, Eileen Usagawa, and Stella.

The 2021 and 2022 Puna BWA Officers were installed by Rev. Tomioka on Jan. 21st through Zoom. The officers are: President - Stella Miyashiro, Vice President - Carol Tsunezumi. Secretary - Kay Aoki, Treasurer - Mariko Ogawara, and Auditors- Nancy Yamada and Brenda Isa.

3RD ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING JR REMEMBRANCE

Our temple participated in activities suggested by the Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Association in remembrance of Martin Luther King Jr. The BWA ladies folded and sewed paper cranes which we hung on the Shinran Shonin Statue. We held an online Zoom gathering. We also held a drive-by food drive to support the Hawaii Food Basket.



Robin, Marilyn, Carol, Karen and Kay.

