

Puna Hongwanji Mission



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*unless called away by other duties

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April 2021 Hi-Lites



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.

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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

Iseko Kawaguchi

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.**

April 2021

1 yr.	None	2020
3 yrs.	Lisa Cabudol	April 17, 2019
7 yrs.	None	2015
13 yrs.	Jack Isa	April 3, 2009
17 yrs.	Janet Tonda	April 11, 2005
25 yrs.	None	1997
33 yrs.	None	1989
50 yrs.	None	1972



Bishop's Message.



March 21, 2021

The recent killing of eight people in a series of mass shootings that took place at Asian-owned spas in Atlanta, Georgia are both shocking and horrifying. We mourn the loss of life and denounce the continued acts of violence against Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities across our country.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began a year ago, there has been an exponential rise in hate crimes directed toward Asian Americans. As with other marginalized groups, there is a long and painful history of racism, scapegoating, and exclusion of AAPI communities in the United States.

The conditions for violence have been fomented by the continued use of hateful speech directed toward Asian Americans. This kind of racist language has resulted in verbal and physical harm. We must all work together to stop these acts of violence.

The Buddha taught,

The mind is the forerunner of all actions. All deeds are led by the mind and created by the mind. If one speaks or acts with an agitated mind, suffering follows, as the wheels of a cart follow the ox pulling it. If one speaks or acts with a calm mind, happiness follows, as surely as one's shadow.

Let us take great care to use language in ways that foster compassion and love, not anger and hate.

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is a spiritual community devoted to sharing the Buddha's teachings so everyone may enjoy lives of harmony, peace, and gratitude. We decry with deep lament all acts of hatred and violence and we stand in solidarity with all who walk the path of peace and equality.

May we be guided by the light of all-inclusive wisdom and all-embracing compassion in the difficult days ahead.

Namo Amida Butsu

Eric Matsumoto, Bishop

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Minister's Message

Happy Birthday!

“The fragrant flowers bring joy ev'ry where Happy Buddha Day! On Baby Buddha's birthday let us pour sweet tea! Sakura chira chira, Sakura chira chira Hanamatsuri (Cherry Blossoms are scattering on this Day)”

Do you remember when you were born? Who was there? Were they happy? Or when you or your family members or friends have a baby, how did you feel? I don't remember how I felt when I was born on January 3rd, 1988, but what I can say is I was naked, crying, held by doctors or nurses, and I was in the embrace of my mother and father with tears of joy. I was helpless, dependent, and a recipient of countless supports and blessings from others.



Sakyamuni Buddha who is the founder of Buddhism was born on April 8 about 2,500 years ago in India as the eldest son of King *Shuddhodana*. His mother, queen *Maya* gave birth to her baby at the *Lumbini* Garden. Soon after giving birth to him, she passed away. The prince was excellent at his study and martial arts. However, as he grew up, he began to contemplate on life. Why are animals killing each other? Why are people getting old, sick and dying? And he himself too can't avoid those things. In spite of his father's concern and protection, the prince finally decided to seek a path which will give him the answer to his questions. He left the castle leaving behind his wife & child, and everything he had as the prince at the age of 29.

He did ascetic practices for 6 years, however, he couldn't find the answer. He went bathing in the river and accepted a bowl of milk from Sujata, a maiden, who lived in the neighboring village. He sat under a *pippala* tree which later called Bodhi tree and promised to never leave this place until he found the way to Enlightenment. Through the profound samadhi meditation, on December 8th, he attained enlightenment and became a Buddha at 35 years of age. Then, Buddha spent his entire life to propagate the teachings called Buddhism until he entered into perfect tranquility (*parinirvana*) under two large *sala* trees in *Kusinagara*. He was 80 years old.

Sakyamuni Buddha is a historical person like me and you. He was also going through the struggles of unavoidable human sufferings such as birth, aging, sickness, death, meeting up with someone we don't like, separation from loved ones, can't get what we want, and difficulties caused by our own body and mind. Sakyamuni Buddha found the path of Enlightenment which emancipates people from sufferings. He not only attained his enlightenment but also guided others to attain their own enlightenment. The Buddha found the cause of human suffering is desire and by removing it, we may also attain enlightenment. Buddha's teachings alleviate sufferings & struggles and bring more tranquility and awareness to our life.

Master Shinran Shonin, the founder of Shin Buddhism Hongwanji tradition says:

Sakyamuni appeared in this world and expounded the teachings of the way to enlightenment, seeking to save the multitudes of living beings by blessing them with this benefit that is true and real.

-Kyogyoshomonrui, chapter on Teaching, CWS page 7

For Shinran Shonin, the benefit that is true and real is Namo Amida Butsu which promised to embrace all without exception nor discrimination. Amida Buddha's boundless Compassion gently and invigoratingly reaches out to all and those who are touched by its warmth, find comfort as they are. Amida Buddha's

transcendent Wisdom dispels the darkness of ignorance which human beings share and guide to live guided by the true and real admitting my way of living of self-centeredness.

Without Sakyamuni Buddha's birth, we would have not been able to listen to the teachings to awaken to the true nature of myself and to the true & real. This respect and gratefulness made ancient followers describe Sakyamuni Buddha in this way: *As soon as he was born from Queen Maya's armpit, he took seven 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 respected as I bring the true tranquility to all in this struggling life."* And a legend tells that a dragon came from heaven at the birth of the Buddha and poured scented water on the infant Buddha as a blessing. In the Lumbini garden, flowers are blooming and decorated his surroundings which is called Hanamido (Flower altar).

Sakyamuni Buddha was born to bring true tranquility to me & and you who were also born in this world. Indeed, life is hard yet life is beautiful when we are awakened to the blessings of life which is the fact and reality of having someone who thinks of you more than you do for yourself. That someone is Amida Buddha, who is wishing for you true tranquility. When we realize I have been thought of by someone-parents, spouse, siblings, child- we can't help but be grateful and have a reflection upon our life. That reflection through True & Real begins to guide us to want to be an awakened person who understands the truth of impermanence, interdependence, and the preciousness of our life. Let us joyfully celebrate Sakyamuni Buddha's Birthday. Namo Amida Butsu

President's Message

Drive-thru Hot meal on Mother's Day

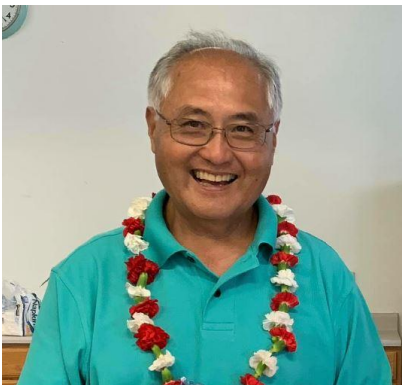
Due to your generous donations to the Social Concerns Fund Puna Hongwanji will be sponsoring a Hot meal plate on Mother's Day.

The meal will be available for pick up at the temple on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9th from 10:30 to noon. If you would like to receive a meal please email Clifford Furukado at cfurukado@yahoo.com or call (808)959-4289 and leave a message by Sunday, April 25th.

Also, looking for a few men to help prepare and distribute the meal.

KTA Save – A – Tape

Thank you everyone for your generous donations of KTA receipts. We were able to get 11 certificates from Thanksgivings and 12 certificates from Christmas. We were able to pick-up chicken, shrimp, kalua and ham. We will be using it to prepare meals for various temple functions.



In Gassho,
Clifford Furukado

Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights

Synopsis of Kyodan Board of Directors' Online Meeting held on Thursday, January 21, 2021. Minutes were recorded by Marilyn Sato, Secretary.

Repair and Maintenance

- Some team members are unable to continue to do R & M at the temple. Let Glenn Watarida know if you are able to assist with small R & M jobs.

Approved Activities/Announcements

- Rev. Tomioka thanked everyone for their support, cooperation, help, understanding, etc. He came to PHM four years ago in 2017. We have seen a lot of changes but he is looking toward the future.
- Hongwanji calendars are available in the kitchen. Contact Rev. Tomioka for the special gift.
- Per Headquarters, no in person Sunday Services due to Covid-19. Bishop Matsumoto says we now have an online sangha – our online services are viewed by members, non-members, people outside of the Big Island, etc. Please share the online events with family and friends.
- December Activities included Christmas Drive Thru and entertainment by Mark Yamanaka.
- January Activities included New Year's Eve Temple Bell Ringing, Martin Luther King 3rd Annual Remembrance, food drive for the Food Basket, and Zoom Wednesday Dharma Night. To join the Zoom meeting, send an email to mpunahongwanji@twc.com
- The Puna Hongwanji BWA folded cranes and strung them together to place leis on the statue of Shinran Shonin for the Martin Luther King Remembrance. They also delivered lap blankets and masks to Hawaii Care Choices.
- Carol Tsunezumi reported Hawaii Care Choices requested face masks and lap blankets. Drop off your donations at the temple.
- The Investment Committee reports our portfolio (30% in medium risk and 70% in higher risk) showed a gain for the 4th quarter of 2020.
- Hilo Medical Center is offering vaccines to 75+ seniors. Please help them register, offer transportation, etc.
- Welcome to our PHM Sangha: Mr. Hiroshi Kozohara
- Virtual Giseikai Meeting will be attended by Rev. Tomioka, Clifford Furukado, Robin Sato, Richard Solie, Mike Fukutomi, and Warren Tanigawa. It will be on Feb. 12-13.
- The Board Meeting was preceded by the Installation of Officers and Board of Directors for 2021-2022. Officiating the ceremony was Rev. Satoshi Tomioka. Newly elected President Clifford Furukado said Puna Hongwanji is a special place with special people. Let us continue to support each other and communicate then challenges can be overcome. Puna Hongwanji is Ohana.

In Appreciation – Thank You Very Much

- Thank you, Jason Hashimoto, outgoing Kyodan President.
- Thank you and welcome new and returning Kyodan leaders. Your commitment and acceptance for the responsibilities at Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple is greatly appreciated.
- Four years ago we welcomed Rev. Satoshi Tomioka to PHM. The Sangha would like to say doomo arigato gozai masu for all that you do to make Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple ALIVE and WELCOMING and INCLUSIVE. With your leadership, we are known in the community in a positive way.

- Thank you to temple members who volunteered and continue to volunteer when R & M is needed. Your talent/expertise/hobby is appreciated and saves the temple money.
- Mahalo to Mrs. Mieko Nagao for sharing her talent and time. The request for masks is still on high demand and she continues to help fulfill the need.
- Thank you to members who already made their dues donations. Awesome! On the ball!

Membership Committee News

Please welcome Ms. Jennifer Kurohara & Cullan of Hilo to our Sangha.

Thank you for your dues payment. Recommended dues is \$240/yr. You can pay weekly, monthly, semi-annual or in full. Fiscal year is January to December. And if you are head of household and in a care home situation, your dues are exempt. Also please let the office know when there is an address change.



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

A thank you to all the wonderful and hard working people who cooked all those delicious and nutritious hot food. We looked forward to it each Tuesday. But to be expected with the leadership of Clifford and Keri. I know I speak for all the people who benefited from the hot meals.

Thank you, keep safe, and waiting for the day we can all meet each other again.

In Gashho,
Mitsuo and Tokimi Miyatake.
(November 3, 2020)

BIBF Hanamatsuri Zoom Service

The Big Island Buddhist Federation will be holding a Hanamatsuri Zoom Service in celebration of the birth of the Historical Buddha on April 4, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.



The featured speaker will be Dr. Manulani Aluli Meyer. The topic will be “Awakening Intelligence in These Times”.

Manulani Aluli Meyer is the fifth daughter of Emma Aluli and Harry Meyer who grew up on the sands of Mokapu and Kailua beach on the island of O’ahu, and along the rainy shoreline of Hilo Palikū. She works in the field of indigenous philosophy and its role in world-wide awakening. Professor Aluli Meyer obtained her doctorate in Philosophy of Education from Harvard (Ed.D.1998) and has taught at UH Hilo, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, and UH West Oahu. She has been nourished by the Dharma for 40+ years. Ulu a’e ke welina a ke aloha. *Loving is the practice of an awake mind.*

A limited number of people without Zoom access will be allowed to view the service in the YBA Hall at the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin located at 398 Kilauea Avenue. Anyone interested in this option should call the Hilo Betsuin Office at 961-6677 to reserve a seat by April 1, 2021.

For those who would like to participate in the ritual of pouring sweet tea over baby Buddha (representing the sweet rain that fell when the Buddha was born), a drive through option will be available at the Sangha Hall from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The Zoom Meeting link is:

<https://zoom.us/j/93470607158?pwd=NTdqRDBaUmhSQ2VXZHM5ZzdGOEZGUT09>

Meeting ID: 934 7060 7158

Passcode: HHHB

Hanamatsuri Paper Flowers

We would like your help by helping us make paper flowers to use for our Hanamatsuri (Buddha Day). We are looking for any paper flower you can make except please stay away from roses as they have thorns. Please drop off your paper flowers by Sunday, April 4, 2021 between 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Here is a sample of one flower you could make. <https://youtu.be/jiS80NiPh84>.

Upcoming Events

Easter Sunday Drive-By – April 4, 2021 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

On Sunday, April 4, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. we will have an Easter Drive-By. Please bring your children/grandchildren to pick up a bag filled with Easter goodies.

Prior to Sunday on our Puna Hongwanji Facebook site we will be providing a virtual Easter egg hunt. We will be hiding eggs in the lawn of the temple and virtually people will need to find the eggs we hide. Guess can be dropped off during the Easter Drive-By. We will be providing additional rules so stayed tuned to our social media pages. If there is a tie we will be randomly draw for the winner. The winner will be winning an Easter Basket filled with goodies. We will also be having an Easter paper egg coloring. We will provide template of the egg. We ask that you put down one word to describe your wish or one positive word for the community you live in. Color or decorate your egg. Finished eggs will be put into our Puna Hongwanji basket that we hang up for everyone to see as they drive-by. The Easter egg paper decoration is open to the young and the young at hearts. During the event the Puna Taiko will also be performing for those driving-by.

Hanamatsuri (Buddha Day) – April 11, 2021 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

On Sunday, April 11, 2021 from 10:30 a.m. -12:00 noon you are invited to come to temple to offer incense and pour sweet tea over the baby Buddha in honor of Hanamatsuri (Buddha Day). Please remember to wear your mask, sanitize, and keep your social distance.

Donation online

Times are changing and many people are no longer using checks. If you are one of them and wonder how you can make a donation to Puna Hongwanji take out your cellphone and scan the QR code. This link will take you to PayPal. If you don't have a PayPal account you will be able to donate via your debit or credit card. You can submit your annual dues via this method. PayPal does charge a processing fee of 2.9% of the transaction amount plus \$0.30 per transaction. As an example, if you pay \$240 for your annual dues the temple will receive \$232.74 after the fees are deducted.



Wednesday Evening Zoom Dharma Gathering

At 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday Evenings we have a Zoom Dharma Gathering. If you need the link please email mpunahongwanji@twc.com and we will email the link so that you can join us. We have also had two members join us via their cellphone and landline. If you do not have access to the computer and would like to listen to the message via your cellphone or landline, please contact Rev. Tomioka or Robin Sato (936-7179) and we will provide you written instructions on how to join. At about 7:45 p.m. Rev. Tomioka does the session in Japanese.

Puna District Interfaith Memorial Day Observance

On Saturday, May 29, 2021 we will be having our Annual Puna District Interfaith Memorial Day Observance at 10:00 a.m. virtually. Our guest speaker will be Colonel Debra Lewis, USA Retired. We will be collecting flowers to offer to the memorial on Friday, May 28, 2021. Please stay tuned for more detailed information in the May 2021 hi-lites.

Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
16-492 Old Volcano Road, Keaau (808) 966-9981

Virtual Easter Egg Hunt

Stay tuned to our Puna Hongwanji social media as we post the virtual egg hunt

How many eggs can you find?

Stay tuned for entry rules

**Drop off your guess on Sunday, April 4, 2021
between 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. during our
Easter Drive-By**

Closest number without going over. If there is a tie we will randomly select your name. Winner will win an Easter Basket filled with goodies



**** Free Event ** No Admission ** Open to Public ****