

## Puna Hongwanji Mission



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\*unless called away by other duties

Thurs. – day off

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## May 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.

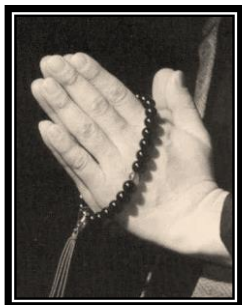
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## *With Deepest Sympathy*



Puna Hongwanji Mission extends its sincerest sympathy and condolences to the family and relatives of the following member(s) who recently passed away

*James Torígoe*

## *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.**

## **May 2021**

1 yr.	Yukiko Uchida	May 8, 2020
3 yrs.	None	2019
7 yrs.	Charles Isami Kajikawa	May 3, 2015
	Mieko Kuritani	May 5, 2015
	Marsha Akin Pacheco	May 15, 2015
	Kayoko Sakanashi	May 26, 2015
13 yrs.	Tsugie Tsutsui	May 1, 2009
17 yrs.	Kikue Makida	May 24, 2005
25 yrs.	Tetsuro Evan Sugiyama	May 1997
	Midori Furukawa	May 30, 1997
33 yrs.	Oto Higa	May 31, 1989
50 yrs.	None	1972



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## **Minister's Message**

“Can’t help falling in love with you”

My friend who is a minister was asked a question, that was: “why don't you talk about nor mention COVID-19 in your Dharma message?” He answered in this way, “what I am delivering never changes depending on the situation and happenings. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, we just come to realize what has been taught by Buddhism.”

We learned that we are connected, we are separated, we are impermanent, we are fragile, we are self-centered, we are kind, we are compassionate, we are family, we are friends, we are alone, we are supported by so many people and things, we are afraid, we are angry, we are sad, we are depressed, we are strong, we are weak, and who are we?



The death, illness, aging, separation, human desires, human kindness and all the things we heard and read about life and ourselves on the news since the COVID-19 are not new, they have been there always but simply we didn't see or we didn't recognize it fully. The COVID-19 is like a magnifier which made us see the reality as it is enlarged, or it is like a light which shines upon things in the darkroom and made us see how dusty the room is, or it is like a medical doctor who diagnoses a patient and identify symptoms, or it is like a siren of a police officer's car which made us slow down and pulled over. What this means is that the reality is there all the time but we human beings don't see it. And once reality touches our life, we can't stop but examine our own life. How is my life? How do I live my life?

Racism, hatred, discrimination, human ego, distinctive mind as well as compassion, kindness, kokua, patience, resilience, love, hope are everywhere, anytime, outside, inside, within them and within me. The reality or the truth can't be hidden no matter how much we tried. It may be harsh to see the reality of life and myself, but if it is true and real, it is life, it is you, and it is me. Then, the question is, do we want to live life with or without true and real?

Last month, I accidentally cut my finger deeply with a letter opener. I tried to take care of it with a band aid and adding pressure. However, it continued bleeding so I decided to go to urgent care. As soon as a doctor examined my finger, the doctor said we should stitch your finger. Then, he gave a shot to my finger to numb it and he touched my finger before he did a surgery to make sure I don't feel anything on my finger. Thanks to the shot and numbness, throughout the process I didn't feel any pains. I don't think I can endure the procedure of stitching without numbing my finger. Then, I think to myself that what if we can numb our feelings and emotions so that we don't have to experience sufferings and pains from our life. If I can numb my heart and mind, I don't have to feel sad about living separately from my wife. If I can numb my heart and mind, I don't have to be afraid of the COVID-19, and I don't have to worry any more about racism, hatred, discriminations, separation because I don't feel anything.

However, even if I may numb my heart and mind, the reality exists there and I'm just covering my eyes and ears. The reality which is part of my life and part of me are there. Of course we don't want to suffer. But we also know that there are things we can realize only through pains and difficulties. By separating from loved ones, we can see how precious and important they are. By the closing of the temple, we realize how it is wonderful to come to a temple. Due to all of the restrictions, we rediscovered how blessing is to shake hands and hug each other. We found those things through losing it. Best way is to learn without experiencing suffering

but we human beings often awaken to the reality after losing someone or something. Then, sufferings and pains are connections and pathways to the true and real which opens our eyes and guides us to live truly. What is our guidance? That is Namo Amida Butsu, the Buddha of Boundless Compassion and Transcendent Wisdom. Amida Buddha's innermost wish is to save and embrace every single person who is struggling in life. Through observing all kinds of sufferings and pains human beings go through, instead of being numbed to avoid being affected by it, Amida Buddha decided to love, to reach out, to guide, to be with, to stand by with me and you no matter what. Out of the Boundless Compassion, Amida Buddha can't help falling in love with you and thinking about you. Guided by the Transcendent Wisdom, Amida Buddha surely dispels the darkness of ignorance and inspires me to live not being driven by my ego but by the true and real. Amida Buddha is for me and you. Amida Buddha's Compassion and Wisdom is for me and you. Let us take refuge in Amida Buddha. Let us listen to the teachings so that we can live with invigorating compassion and inspiring wisdom. Together, we are embraced.

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## **Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights**

### **Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights**

Synopsis of Kyodan Board of Directors' Online Meeting held on Thursday, March 18, 2021. Minutes were recorded by Marilyn Sato, Secretary.

#### **Repair and Maintenance**

- Clifford Furukado repaired the leak in the upstairs women's restroom.
- On the planning pages: Deadbolt locks on the temple doors and/or replacing the doors. Gate by the back steps.
- An individual approached President Furukado about the monkeypod tree in the front yard. Although he offered to cut the tree, more information is needed.

#### **Approved Activities/Announcements**

- Rev. Tomioka thanked affiliates and members for support and financial donations to improve his online services and activities. He still needs to get more items.
- Hongwanji Headquarters and the State Social Concerns Committee would like to know if any temple members have been affected by the past heavy rains. Let Rev. Tomioka and/or President Furukado know.
- March Activity included St. Patrick's Day posting of anything green or environmentally green.
- April Activities included online Easter egg hunt, decorating an Easter egg template that has a positive word, and pouring of sweet tea for Hanamatsuri.
- Carol Tsunazumi reported Mrs. Mieko Nagao sewed 100 face masks and Mrs. Lei Kakugawa sewed 55 face masks.
- Hot Meal will be provided for Mother's Day on May 9 using the Social Concerns donations.
- The Interfaith Memorial Day Service on May 29, Saturday, will be strictly an online event. Guest speaker will be Ms. Deb Lewis.
- Welcome to our PHM Sangha: Ms. Jenn Kurohara
- Ed Hara is the new Big Island Buddhist Federation (BIBF) president.

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

- Rev. Tomioka and wife Haruka are so appreciative that her application for a permanent VISA was approved.
- Thank you to President Furukado who repaired the restroom. Thank you to President Furukado who continues to dispose of the temple trash and officiates at the monthly Board of Directors' meeting. Thank you to President Furukado who will be preparing the Hot Meal on Mother's Day. President Furukado wears several hats so please kokua. In the meantime, let him know he's appreciated.
- Mahalo to Mrs. Mieko Nagao and Mrs. Lei Kakugawa for sharing your talent and time. The request for masks is still on high demand and they continue to help fulfill the need. Awesome!
- Thank you to Boutique Coordinator Linnette Quade, daughter, and husband for work on the rummage sale. Because of safety guidelines, a limited number of people could participate but they did a fantastic job of running the fundraiser. PHM benefits! Mahalo nui loa!
- Thank you to members who already made their dues donations. Terrific!
- Leis are needed for our keiroshas and some members got together for a fun work day. Thank you very much!

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### **Membership Committee News**

Thank you for sending in your dues payment. Recommended dues is \$240/yr. And if you are head of household and in a care home situation, your dues are exempt. Please let our office or myself know. Also please notify the office or myself of any change of address.



In Gassho,

Roy Toma  
Membership Chairman  
808-935-7712

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### **A BIG MAHALO**

On behalf of the Kyodan, I would like to extend our **deepest** appreciation and gratitude to Linnette Sawyer, her daughter Chandra and her husband Ron for their hard work and countless hours spent sorting and setting up for the two Garage Sales that we had in December of last year and the most recent one in March. During these difficult times of the Covid 19 Pandemic, the money that was raised really helped our financial situation. These three sales combined brought in gross sales of about \$7,500.00. Thank you also to all the people who donated items and also those that provided manpower on the days of the sale.

In Gassho,  
Clifford Furukado



## Friends of Lili`uokalani Gardens

Friends of Lili`uokalani Gardens is resuming the flying of koinobori on the Waiakea Peninsula this year. The colorful windsocks will be put up on bamboo poles from Suisan to Ponds with the largest display on the bridge to Mokuola.

Bring your family and enjoy April 24 through May 5. The koinobori will be packed away for another year Thursday morning, May 6.



## PROJECT DANA

Project Dana Headquarters received a very generous donation from Kahala Nui, which is a senior residential facility on Oahu. The money was designated to help support the program during the pandemic. The Puna volunteers got \$25.00 gift cards from Don's Grill. The clients were given \$25.00 KTA gift cards. The gift cards were greatly appreciated. Project Dana will resume the bento delivery service on April 21st.

Volunteers Richard Solie and Ethel Miyashiro will deliver four bentos in Keaau. Kay Aoki, Hiroshi Kozohara, Marilyn Sato, Ilene Hara and Linda Iwata will deliver eight bentos in Hilo. The meals will be prepared by Hilo Lunch Shop(1st W), Cafe100(2nd,5thW), KTA(3rdW) and Miyo's (4thW). The cost of the bento is \$7.00.

Volunteer Carol Tsunezumi took Lei Kakugawa and Masako Sanehira to the Easter Drive Thru at temple. They enjoyed the outing and the paper flower making. The following week, Kay Aoki provided transportation for Lei and Mako, who wanted to attend the pouring of sweet tea drive thru ceremony at temple. The Hanamido was adorned with the colorful paper flowers.



Lei Kakugawa with Easter Bunny



Mako Sanehira with Easter Buny





Lei and her paper flowers she made.

A Kau senior, who recently fell, needed medical aides to help her get around. Project Dana was able to provide a walker, raised toilet seat, and several types of safety bars at no cost. Our Big Island Director, Claudia Uyeda has an inventory of aides for seniors in need of help. Visitations are still not happening yet. Each facility will have their own timetable and procedure. Until we can make friendly visits again, please take care and stay well.

In gassho,  
Eileen Usagawa and Stella Miyashiro.





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## **BWA**

The 14th Buddhist Women's Association State Membership Conference will be held on April 23-24, 2022 at the Maui Beach Hotel. Maui United BWA is hosting the convention.

The registration form and schedule for workshops and speakers will be made available via email. Members without email, please contact Stella (959-7919) if you are interested in attending. The information will be mailed to you. Let's plan on going to Maui for a long awaited getaway.

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## **WALK-IN CELEBRATION OF BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY**

Thank you to everyone that helped make beautiful paper/tissue paper flowers to be used at our Buddha's birthday celebration. The flowers were used to decorate the table with the baby Buddha. The remainder of the flowers were added as a path from the back of the temple to the altar. Rev. Tomioka's animal friends also stopped by and were socially distanced in the pews and some had flowers surrounding them.



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## DRIVE-BY EASTER 2021

Thank you to everyone that helped to prepare and participated in our 2021 Easter Drive-By. Thank you to the Dharma School Board for coming out to help us pack 300 goodie bags to hand out. Unfortunately, it was a rainy day. Although there was rain we did have people stop by to get their goodie bags. There were some bags that contained the “golden egg” with an extra special surprise. Thank you to the Puna Taiko for entertaining the people as they drove by. The Easter Bunny was hard at work trying to attract people to stop by. The Easter Bunny got a few “honks” from cars passing by. During the event we were also collecting decorated paper eggs to fill our Easter basket that was created and designed by Eric Bihag. He took a box and turned it into a weaved Easter basket. Thank you to the adults and children that submitted decorated eggs. We did a virtual Easter egg hunt by using Misaki’s camera that can take a photo in 360 mode. We have heard positive comments from those that participated that it was so fun and cool. If you didn’t get a chance to see the virtual Easter egg hunt check out our Puna Hongwanji Facebook page. We gave out some prizes to the winners of the virtual egg hunt.








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## PUNA DISTRICT INTERFAITH MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE



In 2021 we will once again hold a virtual Puna District Interfaith Memorial Day Observance that will be available on our Facebook and YouTube pages. The video will premiere on Saturday, May 29, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Our guest speaker will be Deb Lewis, Colonel, USA Ret. She is a retired Army Colonel. She survived the attack on the Pentagon on 9/11, while serving on the Joint Staff antiterrorism team.

If you are able to drop off some greenery and flowers to make a few bouquets it would be greatly appreciated. You may drop off the greenery and flowers on Friday, May 29, 2021 from 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

## **DRIVE-BY BON DANCE**

We are currently in the planning stages to hold a drive-by style bon dance. If we get approval from Civil Defense, we will be looking for dancers. We envision having a maximum of four dance tents along the drive and under each tent we will limit the dancers to five per group. To give people a chance to dance we will have ½ hour sign up slots. Puna Hongwanji members will be given first priority. We will then open up the slots to the odori groups and other temples. If we don't fill all those slots then we will go to the general public. We are looking to host this drive-by on Saturday, July 10, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Since we are still awaiting approval, we are not sending out the sign-up form yet. If you are interested in receiving the link to sign-up please contact Robin Sato at 936-7179 or email [rob.f.sato@gmail.com](mailto:rob.f.sato@gmail.com). Once we get the okay the link will be sent to email address that Robin has for our members. Start thinking of who the five people will be in your tent. It can be 1 member and 4 family or friends. We are looking to do a pre-sale of a bento that you can pick up at the drive-by bon dance also. Along the drive we will have four dance tents, a bento pick-up tent, and the last tent will be the donation tent. Please stay tuned to the June hi-lites for additional information. We will require everyone to maintain social distance and to wear masks at all times while on the temple grounds. We ask that no one park or get out of their cars so that we have control of the number of people on the temple grounds. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

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## **SR. YBA NEWS**

The Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA got off to a late start in electing their officers for the 2021-2022 year. Congratulations to Jenn Kurohara and thank you for agreeing to lead the group. President: Jennifer Kurohara; VP: Jason Hashimoto; Secretary: Robin Sato; Treasurer: Corey Kawamoto; Immediate Past President: Sam Horiuchi; Advisors: Sam Horiuchi and Cary Tanoue; and Auditors: Jason Hashimoto and Keri Furukado.

Anyone can join the Sr. YBA. The dues are \$10 per person. When ever the temple asks for assistance the Sr. YBA is always there to help out. We have in the past held fundraisers so that we could help pay for the cost of items for the temple. In the social hall if you look up there are mounted speakers which was donated by the Sr. YBA. In the temple, the two tv monitors that were utilized for Sunday service were also a donation from the Sr. YBA. Recently, we also contributed to the equipment upgrade solicitation. When we could gather, we would have a Home and Home with the Hilo Meishoin Sr. YBA and the Hilo Hongwanji Sr. YBA. During the Bon Dance the Sr. YBA would host the hospitality room. If you are interested in becoming a member submit your \$10 per person membership due. If you are writing a check, please make it payable to Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA and in the memo section indicate "dues". If you are dropping off cash at the temple, please be sure to attention the envelope to Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA. Please be sure to list who you are paying dues for. If you are a new member, please include your email address so that you can get email notices.