

Puna Hongwanji Mission



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August 2021 Hi-Lites

Stay connected with
 Puna Hongwanji Mission by:

Twitter: PunaHM1

YouTube:
www.youtube.com/channel/UctQ19ePwF_lwTH0A_hwkIwg

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/PunaHongwanji

Instagram:
www.instagram.com/punahongwanji1902/

Webpage: www.punahongwanji.org

Online donation:
www.punahongwanji.org/donate/

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

Takeo Tamashiro

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.**

August 2021

1 yr.	Lefty Kawazoe	August 31, 2020
3 yrs.	Shirley Ann Kamimura Masao Narimatsu	August 11, 2019 August 17, 2019
7 yrs.	Haruo Nakamura Wallace Hamada Yoshiaki Asato	August 7, 2015 August 29, 2015 August 31, 2015
13 yrs.	Hazel Furukado Kazuko Kobayashi	August 10, 2009 August 10, 2009
17 yrs.	Naeko Komesu	August 29, 2005
25 yrs.	Teruko Shiotani Kay Kiyoko Yamamoto Shigeru Kakugawa	August 25, 1997 August 20, 1997 August 21, 1997
33 yrs.	Katsuichi Kobayashi Lynette Tanoue	August 23, 1989 August 28, 1989
50 yrs.	None	1972





Minister's Message

Sky is the limit

Everyday morning, I go to the columbarium to open the door, sweep the floor, pick up fallen flowers, open the jalousie windows, and offer incense and chanting. And in the evening, I come back again to close the columbarium. Sometimes, I found a tiny bird inside the columbarium. I guess they come through the jalousie windows. And when I tried to let them out from the entrance door, instead of going out, they were escaping from me. So, I just left the door open so that they could find the way to get out. It worked well often. However, there were birds who didn't escape nor move even when I approached them. Birds are usually alert and sensitive to anyone or anything which is getting closer to them, so I was wondering why they don't move.

What I found was that they fainted after hitting the window which is transparent when they try to fly away. To birds' eyes, they only see the outside but never see a window. No matter how hard they try, they can't recognize the window and they must be wondering why they can't go out. I even found a dead body outside of the columbarium window. I think they flew and hit the window without knowing it.

Buddhism is the teachings of the Buddha who is awakened to the truth. And by following and practicing the teachings, Buddhism guides us to attain enlightenment. Buddhism reveals who truly I am through the eyes of Buddha, not by our own human eyes. In my eyes, I see myself handsome (of course), relatively young, minister, spouse, brother, little bit short temper, impatient, and thinking I'm doing well in my life. In Buddha's eyes, what do I look like? Buddha's eyes are wisdom which has an insight to see things as it is without mind of distinction nor judgments. I, Ka'imipono, who is reflected in Buddha's wisdom, is the person who is struggling while aspiring to be happy. I feel comfortable and happy when things go as I plan and feel upset when even a small thing doesn't go as I wish. I tend to want to blame my faults on others. I assume my marriage life will last happily forever without knowing that if I don't care well, it may not end well. I think and behave with the idea of "I'm always right and others are wrong" without realizing my perception changes depending on my convenience. In Buddha's eyes, I'm like a bird in the columbarium. I confine myself in the limited world of struggles and difficulties because of my self-centered mind and mind of ignorance. In Buddha's eyes, freedom and liberation is in front of me, but I can't reach there because of my windows of attachments.

Here, Buddhism teaches me there is a whole new world beyond my limited life. With eyes of Wisdom, Buddha is guiding me to be aware of windows which I'm creating and lead me to awaken to the larger world. The world which is free from struggles, attachments, greed, anger, tears, worries and ignorance. It is the world of enlightenment, the true and real. Buddha is calling me "Take refuge in me! Truly, in the embrace of enlightenment, sky is the limit!" Amida Buddha is the Buddha of unlimited Compassion and unlimited Wisdom in order to save and embrace this limited me. Because of Buddha's unlimitedness, Amida Buddha can guide and embrace me who is struggling in my life. And when I encounter this Amida Buddha's Boundless Compassion and Transcendent Wisdom, this limited life becomes a part of unlimited Life which opens my eyes and guides my everyday life to the fullest.

I can't recognize my windows of attachment because of my ego. And I have no way to reach the world beyond the windows nor I don't know there is a larger world. Therefore, Amida Buddha made vows to embrace all as they are, wherever they are and whoever they are. Amida Buddha, the enlightened one reaches to me and grasps and assures my life so that I'm never wandered and lost again. Amida Buddha now stands with me and walks together with me saying, "Don't worry, be happy, I shall embrace you as you are. Let's start again from now with me." Now, my life is not alone. My life is with Amida Buddha. My nature of attachments never changes and it will make me and others crazy. Like a bird in the columbarium, I was the one who never knew the truth of life and myself too -

But I believed and assumed I am doing well and behaving nicely without knowing I was actually creating difficulties to myself and to others. When I found myself inside the windows, I was sad but at the same time, the pathway to be freed from the windows was shared and the whole new world was revealed to me. Such joy I'm receiving. Finally, my life has begun. How grateful I am. I am enabled to see such a nature of me and have me reflected upon what I think, what I say, and what I do guided by Buddha's vigorous compassion and genuine wisdom. *Tannisho*, A Record of Lament of Divergences says,

“Save by the inconceivable working of Amida's Vow, I shall realize birth in the Pure Land”: the moment you entrust yourself thus to the Vow, so that the mind set upon saying the nembutsu arises within you, you are immediately brought to share in the benefit of being grasped by Amida, never to be abandoned.-Collected Works of Shinran, page 661

Indeed, life is difficult because of my nature, but life is beautiful with Amida Buddha. Let us joyfully recite the Name of Amida Buddha together. Namo Amida Butsu.

Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights



Synopsis of Kyodan Board of Directors' Online Meeting held on Thursday, June 17, 2021. Minutes were recorded by Marilyn Sato, Secretary.

Repair and Maintenance

- Thank to Gary Sunada who replaced the sash cord in the social hall window. Thank you for sharing your talents and dedication!

Approved Activities/Announcements

- Resumed Sunday in-person service from beginning of June. People are welcome to the Sunday Service and must follow safety procedures. Online service is still available.
- Affiliates and anyone interested in using the temple facilities, please contact Rev. Tomioka and/or Clifford Furukado.
- Hawaii District Ministers Association will offer online Buddhist Education Seminars once per month from July to December. Classes are free and open to the public – just need to register. Rev. Tomioka will be the first minister.
- Memorial Day Interfaith Service was held online. Some compliments were received and some people were glad that we continued the observance. It was suggested that even though we may have an in-person service in 2022, we make it available online.
- Linette Quade, PHM Boutique coordinator, is asking for donations – possible sale in summer or fall.
- Sr. YBA will have meetings on the second Thursdays of the even months on Zoom.
- Carol Tsunezumi reported Clifford Furukado, Stella Miyashiro, Lei Kakugawa, Ilene Hara, and she visited Hale Anuenue and Hawaii Care Choices with 20 blankets and 150 masks.
- Project Dana volunteers are making visitations to Hale Anuenue, Life Care Center, and private care homes. The homebound seniors are being kept in contact through the mail, friendly visits, and phone calls.
- Welcome new member Eli Miura to the Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Sangha.

- The Board of Directors approved removal of the monkeypod tree in the front yard after much discussion. One of the major concerns is safety.
- The Board also approved allowing the Farm to Car Program to continue at PHM.
- Drive-thru bon dance will be on July 10 from 5-7:00 p.m. Pre-ordered Hot Meals can be picked up at that time.

In Appreciation – Thank You Very Much

- Thank you to the Memorial Day Interfaith Service Committee: Paul Sakamoto, Jenn Kurohara, Rev. Tomioka, Robin Sato, Clifford Furukado, and Warren Tanigawa. A lot of behind the scenes work and coordination had to be done and you did it beautifully. You are appreciated for continuing the tradition of honoring the fallen heroes.
- Mahalo to Nader Shehata who worked on improving our equipment for the temple. He was shocked at the laptop being used and donated a computer desktop. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!
- Thank you to all for help with Hawaii Care Choices' Andagi Sale.
- Thank you to BWA and the mask sewers for including a mask with each Hot Meal on Father's Day. Thank you also for sewing blankets and masks which were donated to seniors in care facilities. You are to be congratulated and recognized for your dedication and Dana. Domo arigato gozaimasu!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As my first year as President passes the halfway point, I look back and see that even through the Covid 19 pandemic, Puna Hongwanji was still able to successfully put on activities and events both virtually and in person with restrictions. Thank you to the hardworking group made up of Robin Sato, Jen Kurohara, Paul Sakamoto, Warren Tanigawa and Reverend Tomioka for planning and also thank you to the volunteers without whom things would not have been possible. We were able to have a virtual Interfaith Memorial Service, a walk-in Celebration of Buddah's Birthday, a Drive by Easter event and a Drive by Remembrance of Martin Luther King and Food Drive. Most recently, we held our drive through Obon celebration which turned out well and they are in the planning stages of a Christmas Craft Fair sometime in November. Thank you to Linnette Quade who is planning another Rummage Sale on August 21st. I am also hoping to have a cinder sale in the next few months if we can find someone to chair the project. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer. Thank you to Reverend Tomioka for working hard to continue to perform the much needed services for our members and also for cleaning the Columbarium and taking care of the flowers in the temple during the shutdown. From July, the toban has resumed their normal clean-up schedule. Thank you to all the volunteers for their time and dedication. Thank you also to the members of the Board of Directors for your commitment and willingness to serve Puna Hongwanji.

Throughout the pandemic, we have been able to stay connected with our members and friends via Social Media largely due to Robin Sato who spearheads this effort. Thank you Robin for you time and dedication. Speaking of staying connected, the Honpa Hongwanji Missions of Hawaii, of which we are all members, is planning to send out a quarterly newsletter. This was announced by Bishop Matsumoto and Hawaii Kyodan president Warren Tamamoto. Look for the first issue in the fall.

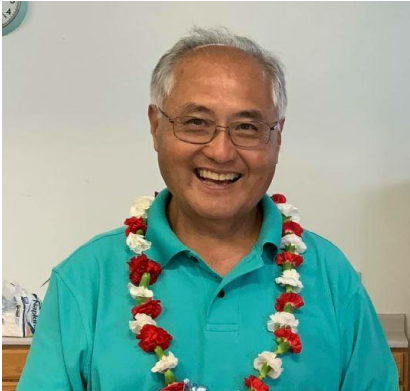
I would like to thank the Ladies who sewed and continue to sew countless masks and blankets. Thank you also to the people who helped with the hot meals on Mother's and Father's day and also with the fundraising Obon drive-thru meals. Thank you to the Yard Maintenance crew for keeping our grounds looking great.

Thank you to all of you for continuing to donate to the temple. Donations are very important to the everyday operations of the temple. There are six major services during the year and in the newsletter prior to these services, an envelope is enclosed. The money donated goes directly into our operating budget. We were not able to have our normal Obon celebration which is one our major fundraising events. However, due to these donations, we are able to survive.

Currently we are slowly returning to normal. In person Sunday Services have resumed as well as Project Dana Meal deliveries and visitations. Taiko, Judo and the Karate group have resumed practicing so things are looking up.

One last thing, we are planning to remove the Monkey Pod tree which is in front of the temple. Although it is been there for a long time, recently it has become a safety hazard. There are bromeliads covering the branches of the tree and there have been incidences when branches die and fall. Because of the liability, the Yard Maintenance Committee recommended and the Board of Directors approved the removal of the tree. The usable wood from the tree will be sold to help cover the cost of the removal and we will have something built for the temple so that the tree can live on at Puna Hongwanji. If anyone has information about the history of the tree, please let me know.

In closing, I would just like to wish you all well. Take care and stay safe.



In Gassho,
Clifford Furukado

Membership Committee News

Please submit your dues as we are halfway through the year. Thank you to those that have submitted their payments. If you are head of household and in a care home situation, your dues are exempt. And if you have a change of address, please notify our office too.



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

A friendly reminder...
Our mailing address is:
P.O. Box 100
Keaau, HI 96749

There were mails which addressed to
16-492 Old Volcano Road.
This mail will not be delivered to the temple.
Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

BWA NEWS

BWA members participated in the drive-thru bon dance activities. A few members helped with the food preparation for the plate lunches. Several members danced in a tent, which was shared with Taishoji dancers. The face masks sewn by BWA ladies were given out at the last tent, where donations were being accepted.



BWA members and friends after dancing at Puna's Obon.

Please mail in the hotel registration form if planning to attend the April 2022 BWA Convention on Maui. The hotel is not accepting telephone reservations.

Puna BWA warmly welcomes Haruka Tomioka to our temple and our Sangha.

In Gassho,
Stella Miyashiro



PROJECT DANA

Last month, Makiko Ohashi was recognized as a centenarian but her picture was not submitted. So her photos are in this issue with a few personal notes. At 100 years old she can read without glasses. Makiko watches her favorite soap opera, General Hospital. She is a picky eater, who prefers soupy dishes like chicken long rice and her favorite is bitter melon. Makiko remembered where Clifford lived and who his neighbors were in Mt.

View. The visitation turned out to be a pleasant reunion for Clifford.



On July 2nd, Stella Miyashiro and Kiyo Sumi visited a private care home for the first time since the pandemic to see Hatsuko Yamashita. The visitation included the other resident, who spoke Japanese. The caregiver was happy that Mrs. Sumi could converse with her. Masks and snacks were given to the residents. A visitation to Life Care Center was made by Eileen Usagawa and Stella Miyashiro on July 13th. Due to the guidelines, only two visitors are allowed for a half hour stay. Bernice Tanioka was waiting in the lanai, reading a book. Eileen and Stella had a pleasant visit with Bernice. She appreciated the two novels and snacks that the volunteers gave her. When Eileen and Stella went to Bill Eger's room, they found him sleeping soundly. Instead of disturbing his nap, a note was left with the treats from Project Dana.



The bento delivery count has gone up to thirteen. The nine volunteers are scheduled to pick up the bentos at their assigned places. For example, Hiroshi Kozohara and Richard Solie pick up bentos from Hilo Lunch Shop on the first Wednesday.

Volunteers are asked to turn in their service timesheets like before the pandemic. Headquarters are asking the site coordinators to update the monthly reports. Please email or call or mail in whatever services that was provided by you. Mahalo!



In Gassho,

Eileen Usagawa and Stella Miyashiro

Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA / Zoom Meeting

Next Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA Zoom meeting will be held on Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom link will be emailed out. Anyone is welcome to be a part of the Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA and the membership dues are \$10 a year per person.

Drive Thru Bon Dance – Saturday, July 10, 2021

Thank you to everyone that helped prepare and everyone that showed up for our 2021 Drive Thru Bon Dance. The event could not have been successful if we didn't have the cooperation of everyone involved. Thank you to Cliff and the kitchen crew, Puna Taiko, Puna Hongwanji Judo, the dancers, the donation tent workers, all of you that showed up, and the planning committee (Rev. Tomioka, Cliff Furukado, Warren Tanigawa, Paul Sakamoto, Jenn Kurohara, and Robin Sato). Seeing the happy faces and the positive comments made the event even more successful. The dancers were happy that they had a venue to dance and look forward to a regular Bon Dance in 2022.

We shared the drive thru bon dance on our Puna Hongwanji Facebook page for the first half-hour. If you didn't get a chance to see it you can click on the link below and it will take you to the video. You do not have to have a Facebook account to view this video.

https://www.facebook.com/PunaHongwanji/videos/989339751921066/?so=channel_tab&rv=latest_videos_card

Please stay tuned as we start planning for future events.

BON SERVICE 2021

For the first bon memorial service (Hatsu Bon), it will be primarily held for family of the departed loved ones and the family will receive an invitation.

First Bon Memorial Service (Hatsu Bon) 2021

Friday, August 27, 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 28, 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m.

Sunday, August 29, 1 p.m.

Puna Hongwanji Bon Service 2021

It is our custom and tradition that members and friends of the departed loved ones attend the first bon memorial service (Hatsu Bon) in memory of the deceased. However, due to COVID-19 and the safety guidelines, we will not be able to do in that way this year. We will have a bon Service on Sunday, August 29 at 9 a.m. During the service, deceased members' names will be called by a minister. Also, if you have a friend or somebody who passed away within one year and want the name to be called, please submit the name to Rev. Tomioka at mpunahongwanji@twc.com or call at 966-9981 by August 15.

In memory of departed loved ones:

Lefty Kawazoe

Fumiko Kai

George Singles

Darryn Yamamoto

Fujiko Ito

Rosie Tatsuta

Anne Yanazaki

George Hara

Stanley Oishi

Teruo Kodani

Shigeiko Kiyojima

Earl Mukai

Iseko Kawaguchi

Elaine Sako

Takeo Tamashiro

Marcia Lapham

Hawaii Care Choices Fundraiser



Thank you to all the hardworking people who graciously volunteered to help with the andagi fundraiser for Hawaii Care Choices, formerly known as Hospice of Hilo.

In Gassho
Clifford Furukado

Origin of Bon Bon-gathering of Joy.

Part of the inspiration for bon comes from the Ghost Festival of Chinese folk religion, as re-envisioned in a Buddhist context. The word bon is the shortened form of *urabon-e* which means to suffer as if being hung upside down, and comes from of the *Ullambana Sutra*. The Sutra tells the story of *Mogallana*, one of Sakyamuni Buddha's ten great disciples, had the extraordinary sense perceptions-seeing after life. He saw his mother was in the world of hungry ghosts and how he suffered over the death of his mother and a fact of being in the hungry ghosts, feeling a deep sense of regret and sorrow. He believed that her devotion to him had been a barrier to her understanding the Dharma. To love, take care and protect her own son, she might have not paid attention to other children and people. Although Mogallana tried to save her from suffering in the hungry ghosts, he couldn't make it. The Buddha told him to make offerings to Sangha of disciples. And Buddha also told him to reflect upon mother's situation, and Mogallana, known for his deep insight, came to realize that his mother's devotion to him was based on an unselfish love. With virtuous merit and three treasure-Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha, his mother was saved from the hungry ghosts. With this deep insight into his mother's life, he danced with joy as his regret and sorrow were transformed into appreciation and gratitude. It is said this is the origin of bon dancing.

For Hongwanji Shin Buddhist Tradition, outdoor folk dancing (*Bon Dance*) is done in memory of the deceased and not to welcome back the spirits of deceased or to generate merit for them. In the embrace Amida Buddha's Wish which promised to save all from suffering, and guided by Amida Buddha's Compassion and Wisdom, our loved ones are always with us and lead us to a life of gratitude and harmony. Thus, the bon is also called Gathering of Joy (*Kangi-e*) in grateful remembrance of all those who have influenced our lives. We remember and honor those who have gone before us and celebrate our family ties with and through our loved ones.

A saying goes, "Even though we lose our loved ones, we still hear their words in our hearts. Even though we lose our loved ones, their warmth still glows in our hearts. Even though we lose our loved ones, we share the joy of being embraced by the same Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha."

Although we have been going through difficulties, please remember that you are never alone in Amida Buddha's Great Compassion and Wisdom, which is Namo Amida Butsu.

Once Embraced, Never Forsaken.
-Master *Shinran*, the founder of Shin Buddhism-