

Puna Hongwanji Mission



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September 2021 Hi-Lites

Stay connected with
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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

Seisho Oshiro

Memorial Service (Nenji)

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.**

September 2021

1 yr.	Fumiko Kai	September 16, 2020
	George Singles	September 23, 2020
3 yrs.	Hajime Tanaka	September 17, 2019
	Kokimi Takaki	September 28, 2019
7 yrs.	Sadako Kina	September 1, 2015
13 yrs.	Tsutomu Yamashita	September 5, 2009
17 yrs.	Glenn Yasunori Higa	September 16, 2005
25 yrs.	None	1997
33 yrs.	Motoi Shiotani	September 9, 1989
	Kanichi Nakamoto	September 12, 1989
50 yrs.	Jinki Higa	September 18, 1972





Minister's Message

I like listening to music. One of my favorite songs I've learned in America is "Make New Friends", Girl Scouts Song: "Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver, and the other is gold. A circle is round, it has no end. That's how long, I will be your friend." The song is easy to remember and has a sweet melody. However, I didn't know that there are other verses too. Here is the rest of the song.

2) A fire burns bright, it warms the heart. We've been friends, from the very start. You have one hand, I have the other. Put them together, we have each other.

3)Silver is precious, gold is too. I am precious, and so are you. You help me and I'll help you. And together we will see it through.

4) The sky is blue. The earth is green. I can help to keep it clean. Across the land, across the sea. Friends forever we will always be.

Did you know these verses? As I read the lyrics, I thought this song offers not only values of life but also a Buddhist concept too.

The 1st verse is about a friend. Buddha indicates that a true friend is those who are helpful, who are willing to share happiness as well as sufferings, who give good advice, who have a sympathetic heart, with whom a person may safely associate, who will always stick closely to the right way, who will worry secretly about one's friend's welfare, will console the friend in misfortune, who will keep their secrets. Do you have a friend like this? Or are you a friend like this? It is very difficult to find a friend like this, and, therefore, one should try very hard to be a friend like this. As the sun warms the fruitful earth, so a good friend shines in society because of one's good deeds. And we know sometimes even a BFF (Best Friend Forever) can change because of the impermanence, therefore we get to cherish and cultivate the relationship.

The second verse is about interdependence. In our life, when did we become friends? The truth can be we don't know when but when we realize, we've already been friends. And these hands can be used for bad, violent, nasty things but at the same time can be used for something nice like hugging, shaking hands, writing a thank you letter, cooking something for others. Without knowing, we've been in Amida's embrace and these hands are placed in gassho (palms together) and recite the Nembutsu in the awareness that we feel warmed in the Buddha's Great Compassion and Great Wisdom.

The third verse is about equanimity. We say and hear that all lives matter. But the truth is we make distinctions between myself & my family & my friends from others. And we tend to like those who are the same and don't like those who are different from us. Buddha's Great Compassion truly and sincerely embraces all without distinction as every single person is Buddha's indispensably important child. In Buddha's eyes of wisdom, everyone's life is shining, is cherished, and respected as they are regardless of their skin color, social status, thoughts, genders, and any kinds of differences. Only in this equanimity, we are united while respecting differences.

The last verse is about naturalness. Of course, the environment is crucially important for us. In the world of global community, we have been globally and locally affected by each other even if we may think we are not connected. Nature is as it is. Naturalness is one of the important concepts in Buddhism. It can be interpreted as thusness, suchness, as they are, let it be, and as it is. It is true and real. Naturalness is the realm of enlightenment freed from attachments, distinctive & judgmental mind, and desires like nature without artificial things. Whatever we have in our human life is subject to change and not everlasting. However, the truth is true and real

regardless of the countries and individuals. From the realm of truth, Amida Buddha has reached out to us to guide and liberate us from struggles and difficulties. Hence, sometimes Amida Buddha is called Amida Tathagata, the Amida who has come from the truth.

Like the first verse sings “a circle is round and it has no end”, our human beings’ struggles caused by our ignorance has no end. Therefore, Amida Buddha’s Compassion and Wisdom is also boundless and infinite. In order to save and guide this me, Amida Buddha practiced for countless years and accumulated all the highest virtues and established 48 vows. That vow is Namo Amida Butsu. When I hear and recite Namo Amida Butsu. That is a moment of reflection through Buddha’s Great Wisdom and I am enabled to see my nature of greed, anger, and ignorance. At the same time, when I hear and recite Namo Amida Butsu, I find myself in Amida’s vigorous Compassion and I feel at home and am enabled to live life not being easily driven by my attachments but by Amida Buddha’s Primal Vow. Let us be united under the Great Compassion and Great Wisdom. Namo Amida Butsu.

Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights



Synopsis of Kyodan Board of Directors’ Online Meeting held on Thursday, July 15, 2021.
Minutes were recorded by Marilyn Sato, Secretary.

Repair & Maintenance

- Improvement to the driveway by the yagura was made by a group of volunteers

Approved Activities/Announcements

- Rev. Tomioka announced the Hawaii District Ministers Association online Buddhist education seminar will be held once a month.
- Honpa Hongwanji will begin a statewide newsletter. Its first issue will be in the last quarter of 2021. Benefits of the official newsletter include reaching all members of the Hongwanji, sense of unity, and sharing of the Dharma. If you would like to name the newsletter, send your suggestion to Honpa, Rev. Tomioka, or President Furukado.
- M.C.’s are needed. If you’d like to volunteer yourself or your child, let 3rd Vice-President Warren Tanigawa know.
- Ronnie Kitayama has been asked by craft vendors if a Craft Fair will be happening at PHM. Jenn Kurohara will work with her. Possibility in November.
- Cinder Sale? Looking for someone to take the lead to do a sale before the end of the year.
- The Monkeypod tree removal was pushed back until October. The Board is concerned about the pine tree by the parsonage. We will look for a quote. Both trees are filled with bromeliads and other plants.
- Judo Club will resume practice on July 21 – family groups. State Judo Tournament was supposed to be hosted by Puna. No tournaments were held the past two years. Guessing Puna will host in 2022.
- Meals for Father’s Day was provided by Social Concerns Fund.
- Mask sewing is an on-going project. In addition to an obon towel, masks were given out at the donation tent at the drive thru obon.
- Buddhist Church of San Francisco requested “Tanko Bushi” video. A video was submitted and a compiled video will be premiered on July 25 on YouTube.

- The Farm to Car Program will continue at PHM; new group, Ho'ola Farm, was able to get interim funding so there will be no break in the program.
- Aug. 3: Mrs. Haruka Tomioka, Sensei's wife, will move to the Big Island
- Aug. 21: Rummage Sale (**canceled**)
- Aug. 27-29: Hatsubon Services; private for families
- Sept. 21: Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Peace Day event at 8:30 a.m.

In Appreciation – Thank You Very Much

- Thank you to the driveway improvement crew which included Treven Mukai, Alvin Oyadomari, Bernie Imada, Paul and Emily Sakamoto, Gary Sunada, Stan Mason, Rev. Tomioka, Mike Fukutomi, and Clifford Furukado. Earl Mukai is very happy that his “next project” has been completed. On behalf of Mukai san and the Sangha, mahalo nui loa!
- Thank you to the many hands that made our drive thru obon a success. Leading the way was the Planning Committee: Clifford Furukado, Warren Tanigawa, Rev. Tomioka, Paul Sakamoto, Jenn Kurohara, and Robin Sato. Thank you to affiliates and others who supported the event – setting up/take down of tents by Sr. YBA, cooking crew for the ono-licious spareribs and chicken hekka plates, traffic control, Taiko, BWA, Judo, etc. Thank you to all who participated.
- Thank you to our PHM Sangha. The Board approved using the Social Concerns Fund to prepare take out Mother's Day and Father's Day meals for its members. It was a way of saying we are thinking of you and hoping you are fine. Thanks to your generosity, the donations exceeded the expenses. Domo arigato gozaimasu!
- Thank you to members who continue to sew masks. COVID-19 and the Delta variant are here on the Big Island and in the state. Mask wearing is necessary. Thank you, Mrs. Nagao, for sewing 100 masks in July! Fantastic! FYI: Mrs. Nagao is in her 90's. Isn't she awesome!!!
- The tree removal company would like information about the Monkeypod tree. When was it planted? Any old photos? Any stories? Where did it come from? If you have information and/or photos, please let the temple and/or President Furukado know. Thank you.
-

Membership Committee News

Thank you for your dues payment. Reminders will be sent out soon. Recommended dues is \$240.00. We are already 3/4 in the fiscal year. Please take safety measures and wear your mask & refrain from large gatherings. If you are head of household and in a care home situation, your dues are exempt. And if you have a new mailing address, please let our office know.



In Gassho,

Roy Toma
Membership Chairman
808-935-7712

BWA NEWS

When Haruka's moving day was set as August 3rd, BWA Vice-President Carol Tsunezumi initiated a welcome event. She contacted the temple affiliates and invited them to participate. Colorful poster boards and marker pens were made available for the groups to use. An origami folding session was held to create crane mobiles. The Puna Taiko drummers greeted Haruka with their drum beats as she entered the parking lot. She was presented with a special homemade strawberry cake from the Sr. YBA. As Haruka walked to her new home, she read the messages on the posters, Aloha signs, and admired the hanging cranes. Upon entering the parsonage, she found beautiful fresh flowers in the living room.



Puna Taiko Drummers



Cliff presenting Haruka with Strawberry cake from Sr.YBA



Welcome Haruka



BWA



Kyodan welcoming Haruka



Puna Taiko

In Gassho,
Stella Miyashiro



PROJECT DANA

Project Dana has limited services and activities to a minimum because of the recent surge in Covid cases. Weekly bento deliveries will continue with deliverers Richard Solie, Ethel Miyashiro, Hiroshi Kozohara, Kay Aoki, Marilyn Sato, Ilene Hara, Linda Iwata, Stella Miyashiro and Eileen Usagawa. Bento recipients are reminded to leave a cooler with ice if they are not at home to receive their meal.

We are grateful to Hilo Lunch Shop, Café 100, KTA, and Miyo for making special bentos for our seniors. They take extra care to make sure the meals are healthy and easy to eat.

Coordinators will continue to acknowledge birthdays of volunteers and clients with a short visit, a birthday cupcake, a small gift, and a “Happy Birthday” song. Congratulations to July birthday volunteers, Stella Miyashiro, Warren Tanigawa, Tokimi Miyatake, and Ilene Hara.



Happy Birthday Warren



Happy Birthday Stella



Happy Birthday Tokimi



Happy Birthday Ilene

On July 18th, Warren Tanigawa, Stella Miyashiro and Eileen Usagawa visited a client, Masayo Kanetani to celebrate her 93rd birthday at her care home. A family member, her social worker, and friend were also there for the festivities. She had a “Happy Birthday” crown, a lei, food and a big smile on her face when everyone sang “Happy Birthday” to her. It was obvious that she was so happy to celebrate her birthday with family and friends.



Before this surge in new Covid cases, volunteers were making visitations to care homes and transporting clients to temple for services and activities. But visitations will probably be suspended until further notice. Some volunteers who feel comfortable transporting individuals to doctor appointments and/or shopping have continued to do so. We also have volunteers who send greetings to our clients. Volunteers, please give the coordinators your hours of dana by the end of each month.

The Big Island Project Dana coordinator Claudia Uyeda has some medical equipment that are available on a first come, first serve basis.

1. Adjustable height bath stool – 1
2. Deluxe front mount walker pouch – 1
3. Foam cushion for wheelchair (used) – 1
4. Suction cup bar – 1
5. Able tripod – 1
6. 18” grab bars – 1
7. 24” grab bars – 4
8. 30” grab bars – 2
9. 32” grab bars – 2
10. Leg extensions for wheeled walker – 1
11. Pill boxes (weekly morning and night) – 9

If you are interested in any of the equipment, please contact Stella at 959-7919 or Eileen at 959-6941.

Project Dana thanks you for the many donations that you have sent in. We appreciate your dana. Please take care of yourselves. Wash your hands, wear masks and keep socially distant from others.



In Gassho,

Eileen Usagawa and Stella Miyashiro

BON SERVICE 2021

Name omitted in last month's Hilites.

Mr. Mitsuo Miyatake

CLASSES

Tannishō will begin September 7, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. every Tuesday via Zoom. We will review Chapter 12. Although you may have missed the other Chapters you are welcome to attend this session. Register at <https://forms.gle/tsF4PkQMGUgPguo2A>.

Hawaii District Ministers Association 2021 Buddhist Education Series. September 25, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Discussion led by Rev. Shinji Kawagoe "What is the temple's role and responsibility as part of the community?" Register at <https://forms.gle/bQToK62Pi6J2UoD78>.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 2021

On Tuesday, September 21, 2021 join the Buddhist Temples of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii for the "Ring Your Bell for Peace Day" via Zoom. Last year people from all over participated and for 5 minutes they asked everyone to unmute their devices and ring any bell you have for peace.

8:30 a.m. – Opening Ceremony

9:00 a.m. – Minute of Silence

9:01 a.m. – Bell Ringing

9:06 a.m. – Peace Messages & Jake Shimabukuro

9:30 a.m. – Closing Ceremony

You may register yourself so that you can receive the Zoom link. There will be a special guest appearance by Jake Shimabukuro. In addition, Rene Mansho is asking participants in one sentence to write and send her "WHAT PEACE MEANS TO ME". They will then share the collection of statements they received. You may email Rene at renemansho@hawaii.rr.com.

You may sign up here:

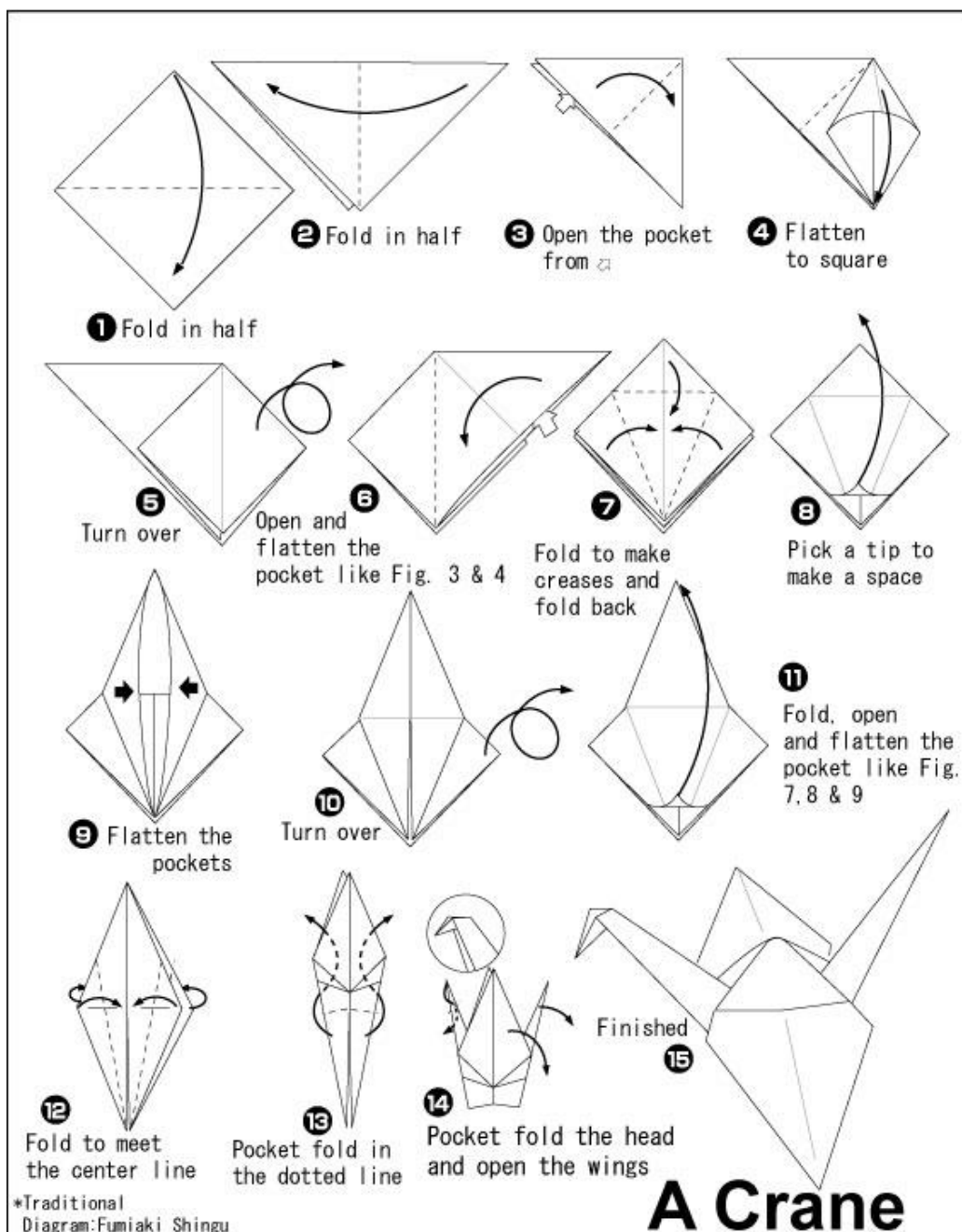
<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/peaceday2021/>

As a home project fold a crane and instead of making it a one headed crane make it into a two headed crane. We have heard the story shared by Rev. Tomioka of the "Two Headed Bird" or "Gumyocho". The Gumyocho symbolizes interdependency and the importance of living harmoniously. Currently, we are all sharing this world, but many are divided and we are fighting each other thinking "I'm right and you are wrong". Without knowing we are actually hurting ourselves by being so divided. Let the Gumyocho remind us that we need each other and we should strive to live in harmony.

On our social media we will have a Peace Day photo contest with the theme "Live and Light the World". Please check our Puna Hongwanji webpage and Facebook/Instagram accounts for detailed information, prizes, and deadlines.



After folding a crane, bend a tail to make it into another head.



The Two-headed bird
(Gumyocho in Jpn. Gu-
share, Myo-life, Cho-bird)

This bird has two heads and share one body. We human beings are likened to the two-headed bird, the gumyocho, of the well-known Buddhist fable found in Amida Sutra. This bird sings so beautifully and share and praise the Dharma through the singing. One day, "The two heads of the fabled bird fight and finally, in a fit of great anger, one head attacks the other and kills it, unaware that they both share the same body. Too late, it realizes that in killing his "enemy", it has also caused his own death."

It continues "We humans also fight and hurt each other, blind to the precious life shared, so wanting 'Mida's Light.

From the Pure Land, the

fabled bird sadly observes that our human actions mirror his own", "Seeing the hurt we have caused, seeing how we've wronged, sharing our past, our fabled bird does sing a mournful song." Thus, in the rousing chorus, we resolve to "live and light the world, see that hatred's overcome...live and light the world -- as one we must become!" We must learn the lessons of past suffering which show "through the years flow sorrow's tears." The ending of this piece is very hopeful as we assert, "Fabled bird, we heard your song. Sing of hope anew! Fly with love, now, in chase of dreams! Tomorrow's dreams, pursue!" With this hope for tomorrow, we will "all walk hand in hand" so that Amida's light, which shines through us, can illuminate the world. We will go forward affirming our conviction -- "Together in friendship now, let us walk the road to peace".