

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: <u>punahongwanji.org</u>

Resident Minister: Reverend Satoshi Tomioka Cell: (808) 285-0275 Email: stomioka@honpahi.org Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri– 9 AM to12PM\* \*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 Pa	ge 2	
Gomonshu New Year Message	3-4	
Bishop Message / Honpa President Message 5-6		
Ministers Message / President's Messag	ge 7-8	
Kyodan Highlights	8-9	
Membership / Ministerial Training fund	10-11	
Project Dana / BWA	12-13	
General Membership	14	

# January 2022 Hi-Lites

Stay connected with Puna Hongwanji Mission by:

## Twitter: PunaHM1

YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCtQ19ePwF\_lwT H0A\_hwkIwg

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PunaHongwanji

Instagram: www.instagram.com/punahongwanji1902/

Webpage: www.punahongwanji.org

Online donation: www.punahongwanji.org/donate/

2022 Honpa Hongwanji Theme & Slogan Building Healthy Sanghas (Connecting with Others)

## 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

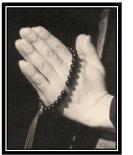
The Hi-Lites is published monthly by the Puna Hongwanji Mission. The articles and opinions expressed by the editors and individual contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of Puna Hongwanji Mission.

Email: "hilites@punahongwanji.org"

Editorial:	Sam Horiuchi
	Tammy Molina
	Warren Noguchi

- 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

None

# <u>Memorial Service (Nenki)</u>

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.** 

## January 2022

1 yr.	George Hara Stanley Yoshio Oishi	January 10, 2021 Jan 13, 2021
3 yrs.	Clesson Sako Kiyoko Imada	January 2, 2020 January 16, 2020
7 yrs.	Clifford Yamaguchi	January 23, 2016
13 yrs.	Yoshie Betty Yano Manabu Shimabuku	January 15, 2010 January 28, 2010
17 yrs.	none	
25 yrs.	none	
33 yrs.	Tsugi Matsumoto Utako Yamada Tokumaru Tanaka	January 25, 1990 January 26,1990 January 26,1990
50 yrs.	Kana Isa Otora Touge	January 10, 1973 January 26, 1973

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。

昨年も一昨年に引き続き、私たちの生活は新型コロナウィルス感染症(COVID-

19)の流行に対応したものとなりました。ここに、新型コロナウィ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上げます。また、治療・対策にあたられている医師、看護師をはじめとする医療従事者の方々、ライフラインの維持に努めておられる方々に深く敬意と感謝を表します。

この新型コロナウィルス感染症は、私たち一人一人の生活に大きな影響を与えました。それは、同時に社会の問題も浮き彫りにしています。仏教を説かれたお釈迦様は、自分自身の考えにとらわれ、 真実をみることのできない私たちの姿を指摘されています。私たちが自分の思い通りに行動したら、 社会の中に対立や分断を生むことになります。

親鸞聖人は、ご和讃に「浄土真宗に帰すれども 真実の心はありがたし 虚仮不実のわが身にて 清浄の心もさらになし」とうたわれました。阿弥陀さまのおはたらきによって知らされる私たちの本 当の姿は、縁起や無常、無我というこの世界の真実をそのままに受け入れることができずに悩み苦し む姿です。親鸞聖人は、そのような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。いまだに新型コロナウィルス感染症の収束が見通せない世界ですが、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。

現在の厳しい状況の中でさまざまな試みを重ねながら、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取り組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。

2022年1月1日

浄土真宗本願寺派

門主

大谷光淳

#### 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.

Over these past couple of years, we have had to adjust our lives in accordance with the scale of the spread of COVID-19. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to those who fell victim to the disease and express my sympathies to those who are undergoing treatment. I would also like to express my respect and sincere gratitude to the doctors, nurses, and frontline medical professionals who have been engaging in the treatment of infected people, as well as all essential workers who have made it possible for us to continue with our lives.

This infectious disease has not only greatly affected the life of each one of us, but also revealed many issues that had been contained in our society. Sakyamuni Buddha, who passed on the Dharma to us, made clear

of the fact that we cannot see the truth because we are too attached to our own thought. Therefore, it is only natural that conflicts and divisions come about in a society in which those who, like us, fundamentally self-centered beings, act in accordance based on one's own thought.

In the following *wasan* poem, Shinran Shonin deeply reflected on himself and described what we humans are like,

Although I take refuge in the true Pure Land way,It is hard to have a true and sincere mind.This self is false and insincere;I completely lack a pure mind. (Hymns of the Dharma-ages)

As the *wasan* shows, we are basically incapable of accepting the reality of this world, such as, dependent origination, impermanence, and no-self. And because of this we constantly suffer. Only through being aware of and appreciating Amida Buddha's compassionate and salvific working, are we enabled to accept our true self. Shinran Shonin clarified that such ignorance is the very reason why Amida Buddha's salvific working has reached every one of us. Keeping in mind that we are always embraced in Amida's compassionate Light, let us live each day to the fullest, even though we have yet to see the end of the tunnel.

I feel truly assured hearing that many of you have been making efforts to share the Jodo Shinshu teaching within the greater society through various and innovative ways despite the current situation. It is my hope that your temples will continue serving as your spiritual home, and therefore, I humbly ask for your understanding and cooperation in support of your temples. I would like to conclude my new year's greeting with my heartfelt appreciation to you all.

January 1, 2022



OHTANI KojunMonshu Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

## 2022 Bishop's New Year Message

The New Year has always been a time of hope, renewal and new beginnings. I am hopeful that the year 2022 will be brighter and happier for you and your Ohana of family and friends, and all of us! Needless to say, the Pandemic has adversely affected all of our lives in various ways including the feeling of isolation and disconnect. However, let us not despair. Please always fully understand that Amida Buddha as Namo Amida Butsu is always with us embracing us as Great Compassion. There is a Jodo Shinshu expression "Ki-Hou-Ittai no Namo Amida Butsu" or "Namo Amida Butsu of the oneness of Amida Buddha and those to be saved." For this reason, we able to be born in the Pure Land to attain Enlightenment and, even in the here and now, we are never truly all alone!

Further, there is another dynamic in which we can appreciate the truth that we are always supported by others and thus never alone. I recall the life of an Oahu Hongwanji member who was always so grateful for the food she ate every day. She couldn't help, but place her hands together in gassho/anjali to express her appreciation and gratitude to the plants and animals for their gift of life and all others who played a role in her receiving the precious gift of the meals she ate each day. She was aware of the so many other lives which surrounded and supported her. She had to try to live her life as best she could out of appreciation and gratitude.

However, on the plane of human social interaction, yes, COVID has severely impacted our ability to interact with each other even among family members and as a Sangha at temple. I know many of you miss so dearly being able to come to the temple, the physical symbolic home of Amida Buddha. As the situation with the Pandemic slowly improves, please consider gathering, once again, at your temple. We must still be cautious especially with the discovery of the Omicron Variant, but when the time is right, please join us at the temple both current members and newcomers. Let us reconnect and connect with each other! The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii including your temple needs you! Please remember, there are three treasures not only two.

As we begin a new year, this would be the opportune time for us to reconnect with family and friends. Depending on the situation with the Pandemic, it might not be physically just yet, but there are other ways to connect such as writing down (or video recording) your most precious thoughts, wishes and aspirations as in a journal or as letters as did Lady Eshinni and Lady Kakushinni, and even Shinran Shonin. What is that which is most precious to you? What are the best memories you have? Why is the Teachings of the Buddha and the temple so important to you? Would it make you happy if your family becomes part of the Hongwanji Sangha?

Let us make manifest our Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Theme & Slogan for 2022 which is "Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others." Of course, this "Connecting with Others" is not limited to our close circle of family and friends, but with others around the world too. This year's Hawaii Kyodan Calendar highlights His Eminence Kojun Ohtani's "Our Pledge" which more concretely shares why and how we may connect with others. In this New Year, let me encourage you to begin reciting Gomonshu-sama's "Our Pledge" on a daily basis.

To conclude, please join me to recite Namo Amida Butsu or The Buddha's Name Which I Call (in gratitude) in



response to Namo Amida Butsu or The Buddha's Name That Calls Me (to entrust). Namo Amida Butsu. Thank you and Happy New Year from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and the Office of the Bishop.

In gassho/anjali, Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Bishop

#### President's New Year's Message Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Happy New Year! Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu! Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

I hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and in good spirits as we enter the New Year, 2022. Last year, as I wrote my message, we had reason to hope that the year 2021 would be one in which we would have control of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, millions of people in our country (and more around the world) are still unvaccinated and therefore susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection. Also, the natural world is unpredictable - with new variants of the coronavirus appearing in different areas of the world. We do not know what effect the new variants will have on the COVID-19 pandemic. The good news is that the vaccines have proven to be very effective at preventing or reducing the chance of developing severe COVID-19 disease. They are also proven to be very safe in all of the trials and young children starting at the age of 5 can now be safely vaccinated. The COVID-19 situation is much better than a year ago at this time and it is very likely that it will continue to get better.

Our theme and slogan for 2022, "**Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others**" is particularly appropriate for 2022. Buddhism teaches that everything is interconnected. No one is completely independent of other people or the environment surrounding them. We are connected with and dependent on everything around us, for example the the air that we breathe. As we carefully re-open our temples, let's all make an extra effort to connect with our Sangha, especially those we have not seen for a year or two.

The past two years have been difficult for all of our temples. At least one temple (Papaaloa Hongwanji) will close its temple doors permanently in 2022 and consolidate with Honohina Hongwanji. The COVID-19 pandemic was not the only factor in Papaaloa Hongwanji's closure, but it certainly hastened the process. Buddhism teaches us that all things are impermanent, everything changes, and that "the root of suffering is attachment". However, Shinran reminded us that we are all "bonbu" - foolish beings. We still have attachments. So it is still difficult for us to have many fond memories of a place and time in our past and not feel sadness that it will not be there the next time we visit. We can still be grateful that Papaaloa Hongwanji shared Buddhist values with the Hamakua community for over 100 years and during that time planted the seeds of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in many people, including this writer. Namo Amida Butsu.

As I reflect on our theme, "**Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others**", I start with being grateful that Amida Buddha, through his Teachings, is with me and wants me to be happy. I am grateful that I was introduced to Buddhism by the good fortune of being born to a wonderful family in a little plantation town on the Hamakua Coast of the Big Island of Hawaii. Grateful that Papaaloa Hongwanji was built by the issei and nisei in spite of severe financial hardship. Grateful that Aiea Hongwanji was there for us when Claire and I were



looking for a temple for our family. Grateful that I have made a connection with so many of you through our invovement in the Hawaii Sangha. Let's continue to nurture these connections.

With Gassho,

Warren Tamamoto MD President, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii



#### Minister's Message

#### Aloha all,

As we welcome this new year, let us rededicate ourselves to live a life of Nembutsu reflecting the last year, aspiring for the future. Life will bring us anything, at any time, and to anyone beyond our wishes and desires. Shakyamuni Buddha, the founder of Buddhism revealed that life is full of bittersweet because of the ego of human beings. The Buddha also shows us the path of liberation which dispels the darkness of human ego and brings us the utmost bliss. The path was clearly revealed to us by Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu tradition, which is the true essence of the Pure Land.

Shinran Shonin encountered the vow of Amida Buddha who aspires to save all living beings and liberate all from struggles. Amida Buddha practiced, contemplated, and accumulated all necessary virtues and merits for enlightenment of all and became the Name of Namo Amida Butsu. This Name encompasses great compassion and great wisdom. Upon hearing the Name and its origin & fulfillment, entrusting hearts occurs in our life, we will be filled with joy of liberation and assurance of birth in the Pure Land to come at the moment of death. Why did Amida Buddha make vows and become the Name of Namo Amida Butsu? It is because of me who are going through difficulties and have no ways of liberation through my self-reliance. From the beginningless beginning, I was in Amida Buddha's mind and what Amida Buddha went through was for the sake of me so that I can be spiritually fulfilled and liberated.

If you think to yourself, at this moment, who is thinking about you or whom are you thinking about? Your heart can be full of love, caring, compassion, or worries and concerns. What do we feel when we realize there is a person who thinks of you more than you do for yourself? This person cannot stop thinking of you, can't stop loving you, can't stop worrying about you because you are the world to that person. Don't you think we would feel so joyful and grateful for that fact: I have been thought of by someone all the time. When we learn this reality, we would feel not only so happy but also have a reflection upon our life so that we don't make this person worried about me although the person will worry about you no matter what. When we see the warm smile given to us, we would feel comfort and feel at home, and at the same time, when we see the tears of worry in their eyes, we would try not to live a life selfishly.

Amida Buddha has been thinking about us even before we think of, before we worship, before we remember, before we ask, and before we know that we have been in Amida's embrace. Out of vigorous compassion and transcending wisdom, Amida Buddha has been wishing for our tranquility and compassionately calling and commanding: "come as you are, I shall embrace you as you are." Touched by this Vow, the heart of entrusting fulfilling our life, the Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu erupts from our mouth, gratefully and joyfully.

Indeed, life is difficult, and life is beautiful when we encounter the true & real dimension of Amida Buddha's embrace. Ah, you are living a beautiful life, I am living a beautiful life, together we are embraced. Let us joyfully recite the Name of Amida Buddha together. Namo Amida Butsu.

## **President's Message**

Happy New Year to you all. As we begin 2022 I would like to thank you all for the support given to me this past year and look forward to your continued support in the future. It has been a learning experience for me and I know I have a lot more to learn. We just held our first in person service on December 19<sup>th</sup> and it was so good to see people back in the temple. Although we were social distanced and our faces were covered by a mask, I could feel the joy of the people there. We were all happy to be back.

We were supposed to have our General Membership Meeting that day but we did not have enough members is attendance for Quorum. According to our By-Laws, a member and his household has a vote so if a husband and wife attend the meeting they count as one. We need a minimum of 25 members for Quorum. The meeting has been rescheduled to January 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am online and at the temple. The time has been moved up in hopes that those who attend service that day will come to the meeting. If you would like to attend via Zoom, please email the Reverend or myself. We need to approve this year's Budget so I hope that you will be able to attend. A notice is in this newsletter.

I look forward to having events at the temple once again. Our social hall has turned into a storage area since we had scheduled a Rummage Sale but couldn't have it due to the shutdown. I look forward to the lunches that we used to have after our special services but most of all, I miss just talking story and the laughter and fun that we all shared. Have a safe, healthy and Happy New Year.



In Gassho, Clifford Furukado

## Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights



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

#### **Repair and Maintenance**

- Mike Fukutomi donated and installed a water heater for the kitchen.
- He also repaired lighting in the parsonage and in the garage and donated the supplies.

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

- Halloween activities: Five \$20 gift cards were given out for the Costume Contest and three \$20 gift cards to Big Island Delights for the Vegetable & Fruit Carving Contest. Dharma School donated the Big Island Delights gift cards. Jenn Kurohara, Rev. Tomioka, and Robin Sato visited the pre-kindergarten classroom at Pahoa Elementary School.
- The Winter Craft Fair was well attended and most people followed safety rules. The first 100 people were each given a mask, thanks to the Puna Hongwanji Mask Project. There were 32 vendors and some food trucks. Over \$1,300 was donated by the vendors, food trucks, and in the calabash. Kyodan sold Spam musubi, anpan, and bento and Dharma School sold drinks.
- Following the Eitaikyo Service, the Puna Hongwanji Distinguished Sangha Service Award will be presented to Nancy Yamada, Satsuyo "Sats" Taira, Jean Tanaka, and Donald Shintaku.
- Membership Chair Roy Toma said reminder letters will be sent out to those with non-payment or partial payment.
- Masks are an on-going project. BWA President Stella Miyashiro and Mask Project Chairperson Carol Tsunezumi said masks are available to temple members. Masks were donated to care facilities, temple craft fair, included with the Thanksgiving meal, and 200 were donated to Keaau Elementary School to the students, faculty, and staff members. As long as there is a supply of materials and elastic, Mrs. Nagao is willing to keep sewing. The November mask count: 100 by Mrs. Mieko Nagao and 50 by Mrs. Lei Kakugawa.
- Project Dana volunteers are waiting for Federal guidelines to lift restrictions to care facilities. When local facilities open up, the volunteers can resume visitations.
- The Thanksgiving Meal was paid for by the Social Concerns Fund. Puna Hongwanji donated \$500 to the State Social Concerns Fund.
- Alvin Oyadomari will take over the Columbarium Improvements Committee. Meeting was held with Rev. Tomioka and President Furukado; more meetings are planned
- Congratulations to Clifford Furukado, recipient of the Longs/CVS Drugs Caregiver of the Month Award. He received a generous gift card.
- Dec. 19: General Membership Meeting on Zoom; 10:30 a.m.
- Jan. 2022: Taiko recruitment
- Feb. 11-12, 2022: Giseikai

#### In Appreciation – Thank You Very Much

- Mahalo to Mr. Mike Fukutomi for your donation of a heater, materials, your time and expertise. Domo arigato gozaimasu!
- Rev. Tomioka expressed his appreciation to the Board, chairpersons, and members for support, commitment, and dedication to Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple during the pandemic. We are all affected and must continue to take precautions and support one another.
- Thank you to Rev. Tomioka for the labels and words of wisdom on the mask package.
- Thank you to the Winter Craft Fair Committee: Jenn Kurohara, Robin Sato, Rev. Tomioka, Clifford Furukado, Warren Tanigawa, Ronnie Kitayama, and Paul Sakamoto. With so much unknown and obstacles to maneuver, you did a fantastic job! The committee members also thanked everyone for help and support of a successful craft fair.

## **Membership Committee News**

Please welcome Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Nishida of Hilo

Happy New Year!

Dues reminders have been sent out. Please send in your tax deductible dues & donations. Dues are \$240.00/Yr. If you are head of household and in a care home situation, your dues are exempt. And if you have a new address, please let our office know.



In Gassho,

Roy Toma Membership Chairman 808-935-7712

## **Report from the Ministerial Training Education Fund**

This fund is for members who are interested in Shin Buddhism studies and to provide them with reasonable financial aid, training, and guidance so that they may become ordained ministers. Also, this fund is to provide opportunities for members to deepen their understandings of Shin Buddhism through programs such as Minister's lay assistant retreat, educational seminar, tokudo ordination, kyoshi certified program, and others so that they shall demonstrate an example as a Shin Buddhist.

This year, Blayne Nakasone is a recipient of the Ministerial Training Education Fund Scholarship. He applied for his Kyoshi, certified Minister program. Upon completion of the program, he submitted a report.

Your donations are greatly appreciated. If you wish to make a donation, please make a check payable to "Puna Hongwanji Mission" and "Ministerial Training Education Fund" in the memo line. And mail to P.O. Box 100, Keaau, HI 96749

Thank you!

#### To Puna Hongwanji Mission,

I would like to personally thank Reverend Tomioka, the Board Committee, and all the temple members for your generous monetary support. With this scholarship fund, I put it towards my education at Ryukoku University as well as my Kyoshi ordination. As of late July, I would like to report that in addition to finishing my first semester in Ryukoku University's School of Literature Masters Program, I have also completed the second half of my Kyoshi ordination.

In March of 2021, I graduated from Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin from their Kenkyu Program. As my time in Japan came closer to an end, I felt the need to continue my studies further while still in Japan which led me to the decision to continue my studies at Ryukoku University. Going into University, I decided to enter the School of Literature with the hopes of looking further into the works of Shinran Shonin. With the two years back at university, I hope to study and learn the teachings of Shin Buddhism even further than I have thus far to be able to confidently share the teachings with people once I return to Hawaii.

Also due to the current situation of the world combating COVID-19, there have been many challenges and changes with the situation changing day to day. In one instance, COVID-19 was on a rise when I was in the process of receiving my Kyoshi ordination that there was a decision to cut the ten days in half. I was five days away from finally reaching my goal and one of the main purposes for the reason I came to Japan, but with the program cut in half, it meant I had to go back to the temple one last time for the last five days. With the whole system being thrown off due to COVID-19, nearly a year later, this past July I was able to finish those last five days safe and sound. I hope to receive my certificate of completion in the coming weeks to come. But while in my Kyoshi ordination, the theme that was heavily discussed was "the way of life for Nenbutsu followers." And we had to think about, the issues temples and ministers face and more importantly, what we will do with the title of Kyoshi. To answer this question, There is a story of a tea cup, and the teacher asks the student to pour some tea into the cup. Being filled to the top the teacher asked the student if it is filled? And the the student of course said yes. The teacher said then to pour more tea, the student replied that it will overflow but the teacher said to pour. In doing so, just as the student said, it overflowed. The teacher then said, this is like the nenbutsu teaching, the feeling of joy and gratitude of having received the Nenbutsu teaching overflows in our hearts that comes out as saying, Namo Amida Butsu. This is the same feeling I have felt that lead me to choosing this path of ministry and is the same feeling that I hope to lead others towards through my ministry. This is all possible



due to the support of people just like the members at Puna Hongwanji Mission. Your support not only monetary but also spiritually continues to push me to walk this path on ministry and while I enjoy living in Japan, my calling to share the Nenbutsu teaching is in Hawaii.

Thank you for all your support on my endeavors and I have put your monetary aid towards my Kyoshi Ordination. I hope to soon meet Rev. Tomioka and the members of Puna Hongwanji to show how your support has changed my life and the future of the Hongwanji in Hawaii.

In Gassho,

Blayne Nakasone Sakat

#### **PROJECT DANA**



As the pandemic continues to change our lives, personal contact has become very limited as we practice social distancing. When the pandemic kept everyone at home, Puna Hongwanji Mission and Project Dana initiated writing projects to keep members connected. It has been two years since the program started and one special Dana Volunteer is still writing notes and sending birthday cards to stay in touch. Marilyn Sato has reached out not only to the homebound but to friends and former temple members, who have moved away.

A recipient of a birthday card was so happy that his birthday was remembered that he kept talking about his birthday card to his friend. Family members of homebound elders and former temple members who have moved away thanked Marilyn for her kindness. Thank you, Marilyn, for showing that even a small gesture can be so meaningful to another person.

Our volunteers continue to deliver weekly bentos to our homebound seniors and provide some social contact with them. If you or someone you know in Pahoa, Keaau or Hilo areas would benefit from these weekly meals, please contact Stella Miyashiro or Eileen Usagawa.



Roxanne Uchima from Affordable Catering and bentos.



Happy Birthday Claire

In Gassho, Stella Miyashiro Eileen Usagawa

## **BWA NEWS**

At the last HIUHBWA zoom meeting in October, six resolutions were passed to congratulate the BWA centenarians for 2021.



Happy 100th Birthday! Sumie Takeguchi

Sumie Takeguchi, a resident of Hale Anuenue, was one of the Puna recipients. Stella Miyashiro and Carol Tsunezumi represented Puna BWA and awarded the resolution. Clifford and Keri Furukado represented the Puna Kyodan and honored her with a plaque, a lei, an orchid basket, and a gift.

BWA members continue to sew masks and lap blankets. The masks were distributed at the craft fair, the Thanksgiving Day Hot Meal pick up and the Wednesday bento delivery.

Next year on April 23-24, the BWA Federation is holding its State BWA Convention at Wailuku Hongwanji on Maui. Please consider attending the convention virtually if you have not signed up to attend in person. Contact Stella if you would like to register for the convention in zoom.

## General Membership Meeting Rescheduled January 9, 2022 10:00 am

The General Membership Meeting originally scheduled on December 19<sup>th</sup> could not be held since we did not have enough people for quorum. The meeting has been rescheduled to January 9<sup>th</sup> at 10 am right after the Sunday Service at the temple or online via Zoom. If you wish to attend via Zoom, please email either the Reverend or myself at:

stomioka@honpahi.org cfurukado@yahoo.com

Thank you, Clifford Furukado

