

## Puna Hongwanji Mission



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\*unless called away by other duties

Thurs. – day off

Kyodan Pres.: Clifford Furukado (Cell: 938-3177)

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## February 2022 Hi-Lites



Stay connected with  
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Webpage: [www.punahongwanji.org](http://www.punahongwanji.org)

Online donation:

[www.punahongwanji.org/donate/](http://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.

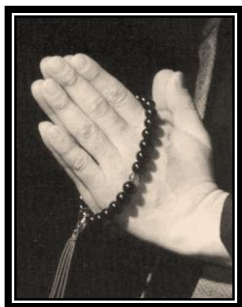
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## *With Deepest Sympathy*



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

*Gail Nishimura*

*Isami Tanioka*

*Kazuo Otomo*

## *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.**

## **February 2022**

1 yr.	Teruo Kodani Shigeko Kiyojima	February 4, 2021 February 9, 2021
3 yrs.	Naomi Sakaguchi Toshie Shimizu	February 15, 2020 February 20, 2020
7 yrs.	Karen Yoshie Kujubu	February 22, 2016
13 yrs.	Chieko Yamaguchi	February 13, 2010
17 yrs.	George Kawamoto May Tsubota	February 5, 2006 February 11, 2006
25 yrs.	Yukio Tanaka Tomiko Kiyojima Shigeru Miyata Tsuyako Shimoda Mitsuo Kihara	February 1, 1998 February 10, 1998 February 11, 1998 February 25, 1998 February 28, 1998
33 yrs.	Atsu Oshiro	February 15, 1990
50 yrs	Gozo Fujioka Rakuichi Sato	February 19, 1973 February 28, 1973





## **Minister's Message**

Jodo Shinshu Buddhism ABC 2022

A- Attitude of gratefulness for Amida Buddha

B- Blind passions are in my eyes.

C- Compassionate Wisdom open my eyes to the truth.

D- Don't change yourself, I will change myself for you! Amida's absolute acceptance.

E- Embraced by Amida Buddha whatever happens in my life.

F- Foolish? Am I? Yes, indeed, am I.

G- Gratefulness is to know what has been done for me by others.

H- Happiness is here! Don't seek without, but within.

I- Impermanence is the mother of the moment I cherish, unrepeatable moment.

J- Just as you are.

K- Know my true self not by myself but through Amida Buddha's Wisdom.

L- Listen, listen to the voice of Amida, calling out to us with compassion.

M- Mindful of wisdom that penetrates my self-centeredness.

N- Nembutsu is the compassionate calling and commanding voice from Amida Buddha.

O- Oh, boy, how many years did I listen to the teachings of Buddhism?

P- Pure Land is not static but dynamically revealing its truth to me.

Q- Questions to me. Do I practice what I learn, hear and share?

R- Rely on not this limited self but rely on the Buddha of vigorous compassion and transcending wisdom.

S- Satoshi, what are you doing as a person who have encountered the teaching of the Nembutsu?

T- Transcend love and hate-Buddha's Great Mind of equanimity.

U- Universal truth of enlightenment is Amida Buddha

V- Voiceless voice is heard, accepted, and embraced.

W- "White Ashes" is a profound letter on impermanence

X- Xerox of me? No way! I'm living my life and no one can take my place.

Y- Your voice, my voice, Buddha's voice are one. It's Amida calling me.

Z- Zillions of causes and conditions brought me to be here. Bad and good, everything is part of my life.

AA-

A-Z. There are 26 letters in the alphabet. I don't know all the English words consisting of the 26 characters. For example, I didn't know the meaning of the word, "syzygy." I read, speak, listen, and think about words on TV and social media, and in newspapers and conversations. Yet, I don't know the true meaning of words like kindness, compassion, love, or hatred, sadness, grief, suffering.

A story goes "Consider, for example, a person instructing us by pointing to the moon with his finger. The person says, 'I am pointing to the moon with my finger in order to show it to you. Why do you look at my finger and not the moon?' Similarly, words are the finger pointing to the meaning; they are not the meaning itself. Hence, do not rely upon words" (Collected Works of Shinran. P. 241).

Did I attach meaning to the words? Did I see the true facet of a person, family, friends, ministers, not just their appearance? Did I listen to the teachings itself, not a minister themselves? “Buddha,” “Dharma,” “Sangha,” “Aloha,” and “Namo Amida Butsu”- do I know the meaning, not just the words? Words are heard and exist because there is a meaning. Meaning is manifested as a word just as a finger is seen because it is illuminated by the moon. Namo Amida butsu is not just a word nor prayer, it is a compassionate calling & commanding voice from Amida Buddha: “I shall embrace you as you are and never abandon you”, “I shall liberate you from suffering and bring the utmost bliss.” Amida Buddha has been embracing and reaching out to us always. Upon the moment we realize its embrace, our hands are placed together, our heads bow, and Namo Amida Butsu comes out from our mouth as a recitation. Indeed, Amida Buddha is embracing me. How wonderful and blessing it is to have a person who thinks of you more than you do for yourself? Amida Buddha was, is, and will be always with you and me. Let us recite the Name of Amida Buddha together with humbling joy and gratefulness.

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### **Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights**



Synopsis of Kyodan Board of Directors’ Online Meeting held on Thursday, December 16, 2021. Minutes were recorded by Marilyn Sato, Secretary.

#### **Repair and Maintenance**

- Jason Hashimoto and Glenn Watarida are looking at major projects that need to be done and will report them at the General Membership Meeting.

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

- The Hawaii Kyodan reported that there will be transfer of ministers and plans to have more ministers oversee more temples in 2022. Discussion is on-going. There is a lot of discussion but action needs to be taken. What can we do about declining membership? How can we sustain ourselves? How do we welcome people back to temple?
- At State Board of Director’s Meeting, they approved a new internet site for Honpa. Juneteenth holiday was added to the calendar. Resolution to establish an online calendar for Honpa. Lower assessment for 2022. Permanent annual subsidy to maintain support of Pacific Buddhist Academy. Also approved was a new Employee Handbook, new employee assistance program, and raise for reverends. Establishment of an Annual Endowment Campaign. Hilo Hongwanji asked Honpa for a line of credit for their pre-school. They have a Capital Improvement Project and the loan, if used, will be repaid. Lots of resolutions will be forwarded to the Giseikai. One By-Law amendment is to clarify the language.
- Any Kyodan member may attend the monthly Kyodan Board of Directors’ Meeting, however, he/she may not vote and/or make motions. Non-Board persons are like observers. Monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month.
- Sr. YBA will make a donation to Leo Saito to help defray travel cost to go to Augusta, Georgia. He is the first boy from Hawaii to qualify for the annual Drive, Chip, and Putt National Finals. He is the son of members Syuck Ki and Misaki Saito of Hilo.

- What was left of the Monkeypod tree has been hauled away. There was concern about the soft ground around the tree. Suggestion was to remove the soft material and let the grass grow back rather than hauling in materials. The tree contractor is willing to remove the soft ground at no charge provided he gets to keep the top soil.
- At the drive thru Keaau Christmas Parade, Puna Taiko was voted #1 and received \$200.
- 2022 Hongwanji Calendars have arrived. Photos from Puna Hongwanji are included.
- The Social Concerns Account paid for the Thanksgiving lunch.
- Feb. 11-12, 2022: Giseikai. Delegates are Rev. Tomioka, Richard Solie, and Clifford Furukado. Observers are open to anyone at no charge – just let President Furukado know.

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

- Congratulations to Mrs. Sumie Takeguchi, centenarian in 2020. Clifford & Keri Furukado, Stella Miyashiro, and Carol Tsunezumi presented a Congratulatory Resolution to her. HIUHBWA recognized her dedication and service. Omedetou!
- President Clifford Furukado thanked the Board, affiliates, volunteers, etc. for support this past year. The Sangha should acknowledge President Furukado for going above and beyond his responsibilities as president. Did you know he's the one responsible for us getting Hot Meals? Who do you think takes the trash away? The temple always looks beautiful. Who do you think is part of the crew? He also takes time to chauffeur people. There's more. Thank you, Clifford, for all you do. We are grateful and appreciative for your unselfish acts. And he is always pleasant – always wears a smile. Domo arigato gozaimasu!

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## **Membership Committee News**

Please welcome Lloyd & Sandra Nishida of Hilo, Lisa Morimoto and children Noah & Justin of Hilo, Michael Donenfeld of Hilo, and June Kiyabu of Hilo to our Sangha.

Thank you for your support & continued dues payment. We cannot function without your continued support, physically and monetary.

Suggested dues is \$240.00. You may pay weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually.

And if you are head of household and in a care home facility, your dues are exempt.

And if you have a change of address, please notify the office.



In Gassho,

Roy Toma  
Membership Chairman  
808-935-7712



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## PROJECT DANA



Project Dana wishes to bid a fond “Aloha” to Jean Tamashiro who has moved to the mainland to be with family. Jean has provided transportation for many functions such as the Hilo Orchid Show, Hakalau Jodo Mission luncheons, Karaoke Review, etc. for many years.

Project Dana also bids “Aloha” to Kay Aoki who has also moved to the mainland to be with her daughter. Kay has delivered bentos to our clients in the Hilo area and has provided transportation to/from temple activities.

It is through their efforts that our seniors were able to participate and socialize in various activities. Thank you for your dana.

Project Dana volunteers, Ann Toma, Kiyo Sumi, and Lei Kakugawa, visited clients at Life Care Center and Hale Anuenue in January. There are strict regulations and only one client can be seen per visit. This rule makes it difficult to see all the clients in one visit.

Seven volunteers deliver weekly bentos to our homebound seniors in Pahoa, Keaau and Hilo and provide social contact with them as well. And volunteers continue to keep in touch with other Project Dana clients and temple members through correspondence and telephone calls.

Volunteers, please send in your timesheets at the end of each month.

Thank you very much for the various donations that have been given to Project Dana.

Please take care of yourself.



Happy Birthday Kay!



In gassho,  
Stella Miyashiro  
Eileen Usagawa

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## BWA NEWS

Due to the omicron surge, the BWA 2022 State Conference on Maui will be held virtually. All in-person registration and hotel deposits will be refunded.

The BWA World Convention will be held in Kiyoto in 2023. The 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching will be observed as a joint event. Attendees will be able to attend this event and the BWA Convention. At present, eight Puna members turned in their preliminary application forms. There is still time to sign up for the convention.



On Jan. 14th, Carol Tsunazumi and Stella Miyashiro visited a private care home to present a congratulatory resolution to an associate BWA member, Makiko Ohashi. The BIUHBWA recognized her for becoming a centenarian in 2021. Mrs. Ohashi was given a lei, masks sewn by BWA members, and inari sushi and mochi. While talking story, she offered kit kat snacks and ginger honey hard candies to Carol and Stella. She even held out a small scissors to cut open the candy wrapper. Before leaving, Stella led Makiko in doing simple finger exercises, which she enjoyed. It was an uplifting morning to share treats, songs, and smiles with a centenarian.

The BWA sewn bonnets were given to nurse practitioner, Michelle Soga. She will share them with her fellow workers. She was very appreciative of the kind gesture from Puna BWA.

It is time to pay the 2022 BWA dues of \$20.00. The checks can be mailed to Puna BWA, PO Box 100, Keaau, HI 96749 or put in the kitchen drop off box. Thank you.



**Shinnen Enkai Hot Meal**  
**Sunday, February 27, 2022**  
**PICK UP FROM: 11:00am to 12:00pm**

Unfortunately because we cannot have our annual Shinnen Enkai (New Year) gathering, we will be providing a take-out meal for our Sangha. We still have not decided what will be on the menu. There will also be a gathering via zoom at 12 noon. Here is the link.

Topic: Shinnen Enkai

Time: Feb 27, 2022 12:00 PM Hawaii

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89114621984?pwd=VU9iaUlwZUYxazdHZitaZTgwZHN4UT09>

Meeting ID: 891 1462 1984

Passcode: 484001

Once again, this will be funded by our social concerns funds.

I would like to say Thank you in advance to the kitchen crew for your dedication and hard work.

If you would like to receive a meal please call Clifford at (808)959-4289 by Sunday, February 13, 2022.

In Gassho,  
Clifford Furukado



## HHMH 850<sup>th</sup> & 800<sup>th</sup> COMMEMORATION

The year 2023 will mark the 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Shinran Shonin, and the following year 2024 will be the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu teaching. Accordingly, the Hongwanji in Kyoto will observe commemorative services for those occasions. The Celebration at Honzan will take place during the months of March, April, and May in 2023.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will soon form the Commemoration Committee to spearhead the planning of the observances in Hawaii. This is still tentative, but the objective of the Commemoration Committee is threefold.

The first objective is to hold the special service or conference to celebrate the anniversaries. Nothing is set in stone, but we envision this gathering to be held sometime in 2024. This is because here in Hawaii, the year 2024 marks the 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Therefore, for us, it is not only a Joint Celebration (850<sup>th</sup>/800<sup>th</sup>) but a Triple Celebration (850<sup>th</sup>/800<sup>th</sup>/135<sup>th</sup>).

The second objective is to coordinate a special tour to Japan to attend the Joint Celebration at Honzan in the spring of 2023. Honzan is inviting as many fellow Nembutsu followers as possible from the overseas districts to this once-in-fifty-year occasion. Japan is also hosting the World Buddhist Women's Convention in May 2023. We will work with BWA and assist your participation in the Celebration at Honzan.

The third objective is to hold educational events to share Jodo Shinshu teachings with the members and the public, as well as to raise their awareness of the significance of Shinran Shonin and the Nembutsu teaching. We feel holding such educational programs is very appropriate for the celebration. Coincidentally, the themes of Hawaii Kyodan are "Sharing Joy Together" in 2023 and "Sharing Nembutsu Moments" in 2024.

The coronavirus pandemic is far from over yet. Only time will tell what the future looks like. Therefore, the Commemoration Committee will carefully take all the factors into consideration and plan the celebration in a way that we can safely and comfortably participate.

The slogan of the Joint Celebration at Honzan is 「ご縁を喜び、お念仏とともに」 "Life of Nembutsu enables us to appreciate every encounter." Indeed, the Nembutsu is the Light of Wisdom and Compassion that breaks through our blind passions of greed, anger, and ignorance. It penetrates our self-centered and judgmental minds and leads us to a deeper awareness and joy of the life that is warmly within Amida Buddha's great embrace. With a secured and settled mind, we are made aware of the preciousness of every encounter, every moment, and the lives of every one of us.

Without Shinran Shonin, we would not have been able to encounter this wonderful teaching of the Nembutsu. And, we would not have been able to meet each other as the Hongwanji Sangha. Let us take these anniversaries to express our joy and gratitude for Shinran Shonin and the devoted subsequent generations of ministers and lay members who transmitted the teaching.

Please look forward to further updates. Your active participation and cooperation are greatly appreciated. Namo Amida Butsu.

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani  
General Chair, HHMH 850<sup>th</sup> & 800<sup>th</sup> Commemoration



On New Year's Eve in the morning; it was a rainy day, but people still showed up to offer incense and ring the temple bell.

## **Sunday Zoom Service**

We have moved our Sunday Services to a Zoom format. Please join us online at 9:00 a.m. If you need the Zoom link please email [mpunahongwanji@twc.com](mailto:mpunahongwanji@twc.com).

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## **Sr YBA Meeting**

Our next Sr. YBA meeting is scheduled via Zoom on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. This is a new year so we please submit your dues. Please make checks payable to “Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA”. Dues are \$10 per person. Our group assists the temple whenever manpower is needed and we have raised funds to help support the temple equipment. If you would like to join the Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA please contact one of the officers or any member for additional information:

President: Jenn Kurohara

Vice-President: Jason Hashimoto

Treasurer: Corey Kawamoto

Secretary: Robin Sato

Immediate Past President: Sam Horiuchi