

Puna Hongwanji Mission



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Temple Toban, Nenki | Page 2 |
| Minister's Message / President's Message | 3-4 |
| Kyodan / Membership / BWA | 5-6 |
| Project Dana | 7-8 |
| Pahoa School Visit / Mahalo Eric | 9-10 |
| BIBF Hanamatsuri | 11 |
| Sunday Service / Mothers day Brunch | 12 |
| Interfaith Service | 12-13 |
| Queen Liliuokalani Gardens News | 14 |
| Hanamatsuri / Sr. YBA / Haiku contest | 15-16 |

May 2022 Hi-Lites

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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.

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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

Hatsume Tanaka

Sumie Takeguchi

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.**

May 2022

| | | |
|---------|--|--|
| 1 yr. | Takeo Tamashiro | May 16, 2021 |
| 3 yrs. | Yukiko Uchida | May 8, 2020 |
| 7 yrs. | Irene Matsuura | May 21, 2016 |
| 13 yrs. | Hajime Tomibe Corah Belle Oyama Osamu Tsutsui | May 11 2010 May 14, 2010 May 22, 2010 |
| 17 yrs. | Michiko Nagashima Yaeko Nagai Hatsuyo Hirata | May 3, 2006 May 20, 2006 May 27, 2006 |
| 25 yrs. | Kama Kobashigawa | May 30, 1998 |
| 33 yrs. | Hatsue Okamoto Tatsuo Tanaka Chiyoki Tanaka Glen Takehara | May 6, 1990 May 7, 1990 May 11, 1990 May 22, 1990 |
| 50 yrs | Makoto Nanbe | May 3, 1973 |





Minister's Message

“Pearly shells from the ocean
Shining in the sun
Covering the shore
When I see them
My heart tells me that I love you
More than all the little pearly shells”

Hawaii is blessed with the beautiful ocean and beaches. People enjoy swimming, surfing, puddling, sunbathing, and feeling relaxed. The ocean is also the habitat for marine creatures and plants. And the ocean plays a necessary role in the environment and is one of the great mother natures which sustain human beings. At the same time, we know that the ocean changes its form into the tsunami tidal wave which devastates people's lives. As everything has two stories and different facets, the ocean also holds different perceptions as stated above.

Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Tradition often uses the word “ocean” in his writings. When he uses the word “ocean”, it is used to describe the aspect of Amida Buddha’s and that of human beings.

For the former case, there are phrases such as oceanlike compassion, ocean of the vow, the treasure ocean of virtues, the ocean of wisdom, ocean of great shinjin/entrusting heart, and ocean of the truth. As the ocean is so huge and embrace all kinds of lives and things in its life of water, these words describe the vastness, purity, boundlessness, non-discrimination, acceptance, and embrace of Amida Buddha. When different rivers flow into the ocean, the rivers become one in taste with it without distinction. We human beings are all different and going through so many things. However, like the ocean, Amida Buddha accepts all as they are and all of the human being’s desires and attachment will be transformed into virtue and becoming one with great compassion.

Also, with the wind and waves, the marine debris will be brought to the shore, not kept in the ocean. This indicates that the debris which are self-effort, self-reliance, self-power, self-intention, and other various practices & attempts are not needed nor used for our enlightenment. Our birth in the Pure Land and attaining enlightenment is possible only through the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha. So, we are urged to take refuge in solely Amida Buddha and guided to live in the oceanlike warm, gentle embrace.

Shinran shonin also uses the word of “Ocean” to describe the nature of human live and human beings whose desires, ego, and distinctive mind are deep like the ocean: ocean of sentient beings, ocean of blind passions, ocean of ignorance, ocean of birth-and-death, the ocean of difficult to cross. Indeed, our lives are never separated from joy, happiness, laughter as well as pains, struggles, and suffering caused by our own attachments inflamed by the daily happenings. Shinran Shonin deeply observed himself through the eyes of Amida Buddha and found himself stuck in the middle of the ocean. This was the moment, at the same time, to encounter the oceanlike warm embrace of Amida Buddha who promised to save him from suffering and bringing the utmost bliss. Shinran Shonin experienced the liberation and freedom from the suffering ocean of birth-and-death and assured to be born in the Pure Land. Instead of trying to swim and reach to the shore by his power, he let himself be in the ocean and let himself be floated in the power of the ocean. The nature and conditions of himself have not changed, but the difference is that Amida Buddha embraces him and never lets him sink into the suffering ocean again. This embrace is experienced in us as shinjin or mind of awakening which causes us to take refuge in Amida Buddha and lead us to recite the Name of Amida Buddha, Namo Amida Butsu.

In the hymns of the Dharma-Ages, it states:

It is a great torch in the long night of ignorance; do not sorrow that your eyes of wisdom are dark. It is a ship on the vast ocean of birth-and-death; do not grieve that your obstructions of karmic evil are heavy.-#36

We are all going through so many things in our lives & ups and downs. Buddhism teaches me that “Hey, Satoshi. Life goes as it is. But you are the one who creates the struggles and pains because of your ego, attachment and mind of I MY ME MINE” At the same time, Amida Buddha calls out to me saying “Satoshi, Don’t worry. Whatever happens in your life, I shall embrace you. Come as you are. I shall never ever let you go alone. Take refuge in me, this Amida!” Touched by the vigorous compassion, it awakens me that I was born alone but now I’m not alone. Amida Buddha is with me. Urged by the transcending wisdom, I am enabled to admit my ego, attachment and delusions and lead me to live a life of profound reflection through the eyes of Amida Buddha.

Like the sweet melody of “Pearly Shells”, Amida Buddha warmly embraces us and accepts us no matter what. Let us continue to listen to the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha who is urging us to give up relying on my limited self and take refuge in the vast enlightenment of Amida Buddha. Gotane, is one of the six major services to observe the birthday of Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Pure Land tradition. Let us commemorate this day and let us be exposed to the joy of Nembutsu, the ultimate embrace.

Namo Amida Butsu.

President’s Message

On Sunday April 3rd, Puna Hongwanji sponsored the Big Island Buddhist Federation Hanamatsuri or Buddha Day Service. This year, we had an online pre-recorded service which was followed by a short service at Liliuokalani Gardens. Thank you to Reverend Tomioka for doing such a great job in organizing the services. I would like to thank the members who donated flowers and foliage to decorate the Hanamido and the pavilion which was transformed into our version of Lumbini Garden. We were also fortunate to receive donations from Elton Mau, Newman’s Nursery, Green Point Nursery and Pacific Floral Exchange. We also had an artistic rendering of a lotus blossom for a photo op made by Eric Bihag. Thank you Eric. Thank you to all the members who came out to help with the decorations and also the Sr. YBA for their assistance during the event. I would also like to thank K. T. Cannon-Eger of the Friends of Lili’uokalani Gardens for her help. Puna Hongwanji really came through with flying colors.

As we slowly begin to open up, we have several events coming up. We will be having a Rummage Sale on May 7th from 8 to noon. Thank you to Linnette Quade and her daughter Chandra for chairing this project. On May 8th we will have a takeout Mother’s Day Brunch instead of at the temple as previously planned. We also are scheduled to have our Keirokai in conjunction with our Gotan-E service on May 22nd. The Puna District Interfaith Memorial Day Service will be held on May 28th. Thank you to Glenn Watarida, Robin Sato and Jan Nakamura for organizing this service. We will be having Obon this year thanks to Glenn Watarida and Donald Ikeda who stepped up to chair this big event.



We are getting back to normal but we still need to be vigilant to make sure that we get out of this pandemic for good. Take care and stay safe.

In Gassho,
Clifford Furukado

Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights



Synopsis of Kyodan Board of Directors' Online Meeting held on Thursday, March 17, 2022.
Minutes were recorded by Marilyn Sato, Secretary.

Repair and Maintenance

- Gary Sunada replaced two sash cords
- The squeaky door in the parsonage was taken care of

Approved Activities/Announcements

- Rev. Tomioka reminded the Board that most Covid restrictions have been lifted, however, we still need to take necessary precautions. We have been closed for almost two years and were told what we cannot do. Let's think about what can we offer to attract members and community back to temple.
- Russia and Ukraine: Violence is not Buddhist way. Everything has two sides (like our hands, paper, etc.) so let us have discussions. What is action we can take with Wisdom and Compassion?
- Mike Sasaki and workers cleaned the monument plaques and painted the wording so it is easier to read. They also cleaned and added gold flakes to the one by the columbarium.
- The order for additional names for the Veteran Memorial was not received by the company last year. Mike Sasaki said he will not charge additional for the rush order.
- The Rotary Club is working to have a Peace Pole throughout the island; Charlene Iboshi is contact person.
- Puna Hongwanji is the Big Island Buddhist Federation (BIBF) toban. Hanamatsuri will be a hybrid program – Apr. 3: pre-recorded service on YouTube and in-person service at Liliuokalani Garden at the sumo pavilion to offer incense and pour sweet tea on baby Buddha.
- Rene Mansho is asking each island council to submit two names for the next bishop. The Lay Association will submit two names to the Bishop Selection Committee.
- HIUHBWA has two \$1,000 scholarships. Contact Stella Miyashiro, Scholarship Chairman.
- The Statewide Music Committee met and a 2023 Choral fest is planned. Rev. Umetani is thinking of the possibility of a new gatha book – what do we keep, what do we discard?
- Taiko has seven new youth drummers. Judo resumed class for family groups. Karate is adding a Saturday class.
- Project Dana volunteers continue to provide the following services: delivery of bentos on Wednesdays, visitations to care facilities, transportation to temple service, keeping in touch through phone calls, cards, friendly visits, and birthday celebrations.
- The Board moved to make a donation to the World Central Kitchen (WCK); monies will be for the refugees, not for weapons. WCK came to Pahoia during the Puna eruption. One cook is in Ukraine and one is in Poland. WCK is everywhere.
- A committee will be formed for Planned Giving. Interested in being on the committee? See President Clifford Furukado and/or Treasurer Richard Solie.
- After much discussion, the Board gave a unanimous consent to have obon this year. One will be planned and changes can be made later. Committee will decide on one or two nights.
- Mother's Day Brunch, a fundraiser for the PHM Scholarship, is on. Tickets are \$10 each. If the safety regulations change, take out meals will be provided.

In Appreciation – Thank You Very Much

- Thank you to all who made dues donation. Domo arigato gozaimasu! Membership Chair Roy Toma has been encouraging members to pay their dues on a financial schedule that fits you. Discussion is on-going about delinquent members.
- Mahalo to Gary Sunada for doing repairs. You are appreciated!
- Domo arigato Rev. Tomioka for working hard during the pandemic to keep members connected. We appreciate your efforts to spread the Dharma even when the temple doors were closed. Mahalo nui loa!

Membership Committee News

Thank you for your dues payments.

Recommended dues is \$240.00/Yr. It can be paid weekly, monthly & semi-annual also.

Remember to visit the rummage sale on May 7 and purchase the Mother's Day Brunch ticket for May 8. Monies for the brunch are used for the Scholarship Fund.

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

BWA NEWS

The Virtual 14th BWA State Membership Conference was held on Maui from April 23-24, 2022. KT Cannon-Eger, Carol Tsunezumi, and Stella Miyashiro registered to attend the first virtual conference. Several practice sessions were held to review the proper procedures for zoom meetings.

BWA members helped prepare the orchids for the hanamido at the temple. The ladies enjoyed the fellowship while working together. The beautiful floral hanamido was used for the BIBF Hanamatsuri Service at the Liliuokalani Park. The following week, members created a floral garden for the sweet tea pouring display at the Puna Hongwanji Hanamatsuri Service.

There are twelve people registered for the 2023 BWA World Convention in Japan. Anyone who is interested in this trip can still sign up. Contact Stella Miyashiro at (808)959-7919.

PROJECT DANA



The Covid epidemic resulted in many of the Project Dana activities to be shut down. Now that restrictions have been lifted, activities have been resumed. As a precaution, volunteers must be vaccinated and clients should be vaccinated as well.



On March 25, volunteers Claire Arakawa, Warren Tanigawa, Stella Miyashiro and Eileen Usagawa took Sayoko Higa, Dora Hashimoto, Florence Nishimura, Lei Kakugawa, Kazumasa Okamoto, Lei Kakugawa, Mieko Nagao and daughter Arlene Valleau, Iris Asato, and Kiyo Sumi to the Hawaii Japanese Center. The Japan Foundation's Traveling Exhibition Program sent "The Dolls of Japan" to the Hawaii Japanese Center. There were 70 dolls ranging from Hina ningyo, Gogatsu ningyo to arts with noh, kabuki, etc. Hilo Hawaii Japanese Center was honored to be picked as the only location in the state of Hawaii to display the dolls.

A permanent display of issei, nisei, sansei and yonsei artifacts has been developed by the Hawaii Japanese Center. Many of our clients marveled at the kerosene stove, safe, charcoal iron, toys, etc. that they remembered from their youth.

Although "The Dolls of Japan" is no longer at the Hawaii Japanese Center, the display of the Hawaii immigrants from Japan and their descendants can still be viewed at the Center.



After a trip down memory lane, the volunteers and clients went to Kuhio Grille for lunch and socialization. When lunch ended, three attendees, Mieko Nagao, Kazumasa Okamoto, and Sayoko Higa were presented with a birthday cake and best wishes.

Project dana volunteers continue to deliver bentos weekly to its clients.

Now that Puna Hongwanji Mission has in-person services on Sunday, volunteers are providing transportation to and from the temple. If you know of someone who would like transportation to the temple, please contact Stella or Eileen.

Project Dana is grateful for the continued financial support from temple members and friends.

Please take care of yourself.



In gassho,
Stella Miyashiro
Eileen Usagawa



VISIT TO PAHOA ELEMETARY SCHOOL WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

The Pre-K students of Pahoa Elementary School were so excited and happy to see the Easter Bunny and to receive a basket with goodies from the Easter Bunny. Each student introduced themselves and each asked the Easter Bunny for a hug. Most of them went for a second round of hugs. The Easter Bunny then passed out an Easter Bunny to each student. The students could ask the Easter Bunny anything. One little girl asked the Easter Bunny if he could come to her house as she had some Easter baskets. Others said they wanted to “Mahalo the Easter Bunny” and other told the Easter Bunny “I love you Easter Bunny”. Mahalo to Kumu Kali and Kumu Haili for welcoming us into your classroom. Also thank you to principal Michelle Payne-Arakaki for supporting this effort. We last visited the class for Halloween.





MAHALO ERIC BIHAG

If you came to Liliuokalani Gardens or came to temple for Hanamatsuri you would have had the opportunity to stand on the lotus. As you stand on the lotus the image should be like you are floating in the lotus flower. Rev. Tomioka worked with Eric on creating this. Mahalo!



BIBF Hanamatsuri at Liliuokalani Gardens.



WEEKLY SUNDAY SERVICE

We continue to have weekly Sunday services. You may choose to join us in-person (with a mask) or you may join us online via Zoom. If you want to be added to our weekly list to receive the Zoom link, please email mpunahongwanji@twc.com and we will add you to our list.



MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH – SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2022

Tickets are on sale for \$10. Children 7 and under are free. Proceeds from the ticket sales will be utilized for our Puna Hongwanji Scholarship fund.

After careful consideration we have decided to err on the side of caution and will make our Mother's Day Brunch a takeout event. Meals will be available after service at around 10 am. Thank you for your understanding.

ANNUAL PUNA DISTRICT INTERFAITH MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE MARKS THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONUMENT – SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2022 AT 10:00 A.M.

Join us on Saturday, May 28, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. on the front lawn of the Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. After two years of holding a virtual Memorial Day observance, we will have an in-person observance in 2022. It is fitting as this year marks the 75th anniversary of when the monument was erected in front of the temple. Rev. Jukaku Shirasu formed the Olaa YBA council. As its first project, a silver gray granite memorial monument was erected in the garden fronting the temple to honor the members of the military from the Puna District who lost their lives in WWII. On Memorial Day 1947, a dedication ceremony was held. The military government officials, ministers and religious leaders of various denominations participated in the ceremony which was attended by church members and the community.

This year the MC will be Debra Lewis. She will be sharing some information on Hayward Peleiholani who lost his life and has his name on our monument.

If you have flowers to share with us for Memorial Day, please drop them off at the temple on Friday, May 27, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA will be in-charge of set-up, but if you are able to come help please come. The set-up will be at 7:00 a.m. We will need to set up tents for the Hawaii County Band and guest. We will also set up chai

Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Annual Puna District Interfaith Memorial Day Observance



***This year marks the
75th Anniversary of the
memorial monument***

*In-person observance will
held on the lawn of Puna
Hongwanji on Saturday,
May 28, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.*

**Guest speaker: Debra Lewis,
Colonel, USA Ret.**

**Hear the sounds of the
Hawaii County Band**

Observance to honor and remember Puna residents killed in action.

World War II (1941-1945): Stanley Cabral; Yuzo Hayashida; John Hernandez; Seiji Higa; Isamu Kanetani; Yutaka Kawamoto; Morio Mizumoto; Frank Mugihira; Shoichi Nakahara; Tadao Nakamura; Mitsuru Ochiai; Eishin Oshiro; Seikichi Oshiro; Kazumi Tsutsui; and Alfred Veriato

Korean Conflict (1950-1954): David Aspik; Julio Figueroa; Yoshimi Fukumoto; Isaac K. Hale; Koichi Moriaki; Wilson Park; and Paul K. Ura

Vietnam Conflict (1965-1973): Moses I. Kuahiwinui Jr.; George G. Luis; Gilbert Olivar; Hayward K. Peleiholani; and George S. Salema

Iraq-Afghanistan Conflict: Ray M. Furhmann II and Kirk Takeshi Fuchigami Jr.



Friends of Lili`uokalani Gardens



(Photo by Jay Takaaze)

Koinobori will fly in Hilo once again as Friends of Lili`uokalani Gardens install the annual display on Mokuola bridge and along Lihiwai Street April 28 through May 7.

Bring your family to take pictures on your own schedule.

If you have old koinobori in storage and wish to donate them to this display, please contact K.T. Cannon-Eger at ktcannoneger@gmail.com or phone (808)895-8130.



On Saturday, April 9, 2022 a group gathered together to decorate a simple hanamido (flower altar) for our Hanamatsuri (Buddha Day). We were able to save some flowers from our hanamido at Liliuokalani Gardens to reuse.

Thank you to everyone that came out to help. In this group photo we had help from those 7 years old - 91 years old.



We shared previously that the Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA supported Leo Saito and his family as he qualified for the Drive, Chip and Putt National Finals. Leo made all of us proud. He did a wonderful job. Leo placed 3rd in his age group of boys 10-11. Leo put Hilo, Hawaii on the map! The scores were so close, but no matter what you are a winner in our eyes! Congrats Leo!

OPEN CALL FOR HAIKU SUBMISSIONS

Haiku MAY be accompanied by DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY or PHOTOS OF ORIGINAL DRAWINGS/ART

Sponsored by: Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin

Who can participate: All Sangha members, Families and Friends

What is it: A compilation book/pamphlet consisting of ****Haiku** (3 lines – 5, 7, 5 syllables each line respectively) which can be accompanied by an *original photograph or a photo of an *original painting or drawing

Collection Period: March 1 through August 31, 2022

Theme: "BUILDING HEALTHY SANGHAS - CONNECTING WITH OTHERS"

Sub Theme: "What would Shinran Do or Say?" (Can be used an opening first line of your haiku, 5 syllables)

"Building Healthy Sanghas – Connecting with Others" is the HHMH 2022 Theme, and we want to focus our haiku, photographs or drawings around this theme. The Sub Theme "**What would Shinran Say/Do?**" is a suggestion to get your creative juices flowing. You do not need to include the sub theme in your haiku.

Number of Submissions Allowed: No limit, start immediately!

Submit to: BJ Soriano to bj@bjsoriano.com

*Original means that haiku, photographs, photos of drawings or paintings must be your own original and not copied/downloaded without permission from the writer/artist. For example, someone in your family could do a drawing and you could write the haiku; **that is acceptable**. SUBMIT both names in your submission. We encourage collaboration.

**A haiku is a 3-line poem consisting of 5 syllables on the first line, 7 syllables on the second line and 5 syllables on the third line.

For example:

Example 1:

What would Shinran say?

"Moving the Dharma Forward"

A wonderful theme

Example 2:

An act of kindness

To a neighbor or a friend

Helps spread the dharma