

## Puna Hongwanji Mission



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\*unless called away by other duties

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## June 2022 Hi-Lites

Stay connected with  
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Twitter: PunaHM1

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[www.youtube.com/channel/UCtQ19ePwF\\_lwTH0A\\_hwkIwg](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtQ19ePwF_lwTH0A_hwkIwg)

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[www.facebook.com/PunaHongwanji](http://www.facebook.com/PunaHongwanji)

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[www.instagram.com/punahongwanji1902/](http://www.instagram.com/punahongwanji1902/)

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.

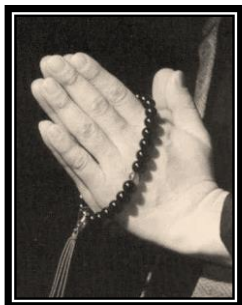
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## *With Deepest Sympathy*



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

*Yoshie Kuroda*

*Katsue Nishimura*

*Joann Arita*

## *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.**

## **June 2022**

1 yr.	None	2021
3 yrs.	Chiyoko Nariyoshi	June 27, 2020
7 yrs.	Kiyoko Miyazono	June 30, 2016
13 yrs.	Takashi Shinchii Mutsuko Kanda Asaji Miyazono	June 4, 2010 June 16, 2010 June 27, 2010
17 yrs.	Yasushi Shimazu Elaine Moriwaki Eleanor Imai	June 3, 2006 June 12, 2006 June 30, 2006
25 yrs.	Yasuo Ogata Teruko Takaba	June 1, 1998 June 9, 1998
33 yrs.	David Isa Harumi Nishikawa Sadako Isa	June 13, 1990 June 19, 1990 June 30, 1990
50 yrs	None	1973





### **Minister's Message**

“Meet our loved ones again in Amida’s embrace”

Every time Obon season comes, a story comes to my mind and reminds me of the significance and uniqueness of Obon in Jodo Shin Buddhism shared by my senior ministers.

One day, a minister was on duty at night. At midnight when a minister was asleep, the sound of an emergency cell phone rang and woke him up. That was a call from a hospital asking for a bedside service for a patient. The minister prepared for a service and left the temple for the hospital. When he arrived and on the way to the nursing station to ask for the patient’s room location, he met a mother holding a child in her arms. The child was quietly sleeping and he guessed the mother took the child out of a room for a sleep. He approached the mother and said “so pretty boy. How old?” The mother smiled and said “3 years old.” While they were talking, a nurse found the minister and thanked him for coming for a bedside service. Then, the minister asked for the location of the patient. It was not a nurse but the mother who answered, “Reverend, patient is in my arms. My child passed away.” The minister saw mother’s eyes were full of tears running down. The bedside service was respectfully conducted on that night surrounded by parents and family. Wake, funeral, first 7<sup>th</sup> day, 49<sup>th</sup> day and inurnment services were respectively officiated by that minister.

Since the parents’ shock was immense and they were going through hardships, the minister had counseling and talk story with them occasionally. Obon season has come. That family observed their First bon (Hatsu bon) service at a temple. A mother put a photo of her child on a table with a lei placed over the photo. When her turn came to offer incense, she moved forward and touched her son’s photo crying, crying and crying. Then she said “I want to be with my son. He must be sad and feel lonely. I can’t leave him alone. Since he passed away, every morning I talk to his picture, offer incense and rice. Whatever I do and wherever I am, I think of him. Why this happened to my son? I want to be with my son.” The minister listened to her and said “My words and sympathy may only touch the surface of your deep sorrow and indescribable emotions of losing your child.”

He continued, “Obon season has come. In this season, people show their appreciation and respect to those who have gone before us by visiting niches, offering flowers, cleaning graveyard. We remember and reflect with joyful gratitude on our departed loved ones and their continued guidance in our lives.” The minister paused and said “You said you want to be with your son.” Mother nodded. Minister continued “There is a place or realm called hell. In the hell, all existence are fighting each other with selfish desires and anger. Even a mother and a son are killing and fighting each other without knowing. Even in that situation, do you want to be with your son? When you die, where will you go?” This conversation with a minister became a turning point in her life. If her son was in the place called hell, and if she goes to a hell when she died, she can’t be with her son as a mother.

Before listening to this minister’s words, she read many books about Buddhism and attended many seminars. Learning that virtue of merits is needed to send a deceased to a better place after life, she prayed a lot and had rituals, services, and offered incense wishing her son doesn’t go to hell. Everything she did was for her son. However, the question “where will you go when you die” hit the nail on the head and led her to ask herself, “where will *I* go when I die?” This was the first time for her to regard rituals and service of Buddhism not for the deceased but for her own self. Then, she had to think about the way of going to a better place, not a hell and how she can go to the same place in the afterlife with her son. At this point, the minister’s words she had heard before came to her mind. “All living things in this life and world cannot avoid the end of life. Therefore, Amida Buddha made vows to save all sentient beings who live in this world with unconditional love. This vow pledges to take us to the Pure Land and to transform us to an enlightened one, a Buddha through the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha. Your child was also embraced by Amida Buddha’s Vow and now guiding and teaching you the

truth of life. Since your child and our loved ones are in Amida's embrace, rituals and offerings are not meant to accumulate virtues to send deceased to a better place, but as an expression of our gratitude and remembrance, and moreover and essentially, to show our deep appreciation, praise and respect to Amida Buddha who have saved our beloved ones and embraces each of us in this life. With and through our loved ones and memories of them, we listen to the teachings of Buddha. Before we think of them, before we pray for them, before we offer, before we worry about them, from our loved ones who is in Amida's embrace, they think of us and guide us so that we can live a life full of true peace and true happiness in the midst of worries and sufferings. Our human life has a limitation and is finite, but in embrace of Amida Buddha whose life is infinite, our loved ones live in that Vow and are always with us. And we shall meet again in the Pure Land with the most beautiful appearance. That vow is Namo Amida Butsu. When we are awakened to the Vow that embraces our loved ones and each of us gently and warmly, we recite Namo Amida Butsu."

After hearing the minister, the mother put her hands together and recited Namo Amida Butsu with tears, but not only sadness but also with joy of being embraced by the same Amida Buddha's Compassion and Wisdom. For the mother, she never forgets her son and will miss him forever. However, now she realized her son is in Amida's embrace and teaches the truth of life and embraces her through memories, words, smile, warmth guided by Amida Buddha.

"Even after years there are still times when tears come to your eyes. But in the embrace of Amida Buddha, also a smile and assurance. How grateful for Great Compassion!" In this obon season, let us reflect with joyful gratitude on our departed loved ones and their continued guidance in our lives. Amida Buddha's Great Compassion never abandons us and never forsakes us whatever happens in our lives. Don't worry, be happy, I shall embrace no matter what. This is the calling from Amida Buddha.

When you go to a bon dance and service, please make sure to visit an altar at their temple and show your respect and recite Namo Amida Butsu. With gratitude, hands together in reverence. Mahalo. Namo Amida Butsu

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## **Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights**



Synopsis of Kyodan Board of Directors' Online Meeting held on Thursday, April 21, 2022.  
Minutes were recorded by Marilyn Sato, Secretary.

### **Repair and Maintenance**

- Gary Sunada worked on the lock of the supply room.
- Two representatives from Japan were here to evaluate the columbarium.
- Tobans will be reminded to be conservative with supplies.

### **Approved Activities/Announcements**

- Rev. Tomioka thanked everyone for support, time, and commitment. Everyone is appreciated.
- Rev. Shinji Kawagoe is leaving after April to return to Japan. Reverends Tomioka and Kawagoe came to Hawaii together in 2013. Rev. Tomioka may be asked to assist the Hamakua 3 Temples.
- Rev. Tomioka said there are tears on both sides of the Russia/Ukraine Conflict. No violence is the basis of Buddhism. This is a time to consider about one's life. Do I have peace and harmony? Are my words and actions kind?

- Puna Hongwanji is the Big Island Buddhist Federation (BIBF) toban. Hanamatsuri was supported by the various temple groups and affiliates both at temple and at Liliuokalani Garden.
- Rev. Tomioka, Jenn Kurohara, and Robin Sato visited Pahoia Elem. School to deliver Easter baskets. The children were excited, loved the Easter Bunny, and were very happy. Good event.
- Robin Sato is working with the Rotary Club re: Peace Day cranes made from recycled paper. We will donate some and keep some for Obon.
- Scouts are starting a Cub Scout Pack; Boy Scouts to follow
- Project Dana volunteers took people on a field trip to the Hawaii Japanese Center to see the visiting doll exhibit from Japan. Volunteers are providing transportation to the in-person temple service. If any senior needs transportation to temple, let Stella Miyashiro know.
- Mrs. Nagao continues to sew masks which are given to medical facilities. Let Carol Tsunazumi know if you need them.
- Obon Co-Chairs Glenn Watarida and Donald Ikeda will form a committee to decide on 1 or 2 nights of Obon and other details.
- The Board approved purchase of a sanitizing system (HIRO Kit Shot Pro + solution).
- The Board had a lengthy discussion of the issue of delinquent dues. Reminder letters were sent out but most are ignored. Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple relies on dues donation to sustain itself. Please contact Membership Chair Roy Toma and/or President Clifford Furukado to discuss your personal situation so something can be worked out. Also, contact them if you have a solution to the problem.
- May 28: Interfaith Memorial Day Service at 10:00 a.m. It will be the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the monument. Guest speaker will be Debra Lewis and the Hawaii County Band will participate.

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

- Thank you to all who helped and participated in the BIBF Hanamatsuri event. There were many hands that helped, many who donated greenery and flowers, and many who poured sweet tea over Baby Buddha. It was a wonderful and successful Hanamatsuri day.
- Mahalo to Gary Sunada for doing repairs at the temple. You are appreciated!
- Domo arigato Mrs. Nagao for continuing to sew masks. In February her total was 2,500 masks. Now 96 years young, she has made a total of **2,700** masks!!! If can, can. What an incredible attitude! What an amazing and remarkable woman! Mahalo nui loa!

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### **Membership Committee News**

Please welcome Mr. Daichi Marquis of Keaau and M/M Melvin & Della Mae Yamanaka of Hilo to our Sangha.

Our O-Bon is Saturday, July 2 and need your manpower help. Set-up is Friday, July 1 @ 2PM.

Thank you for sending in your dues. Dues can be paid weekly, monthly, semi-annually and in full.

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



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## **BWA NEWS**

The Virtual 14th BWA State Membership Conference was held on March 23,24 on Maui. 108 participants were able to attend the following sessions via zoom.

Workshop 1 - Hawaiian Women's Fashions

Agnes Terao-Guiala

Workshop 2 - Women's Role in Buddhism

Rev. Yuika Hasebe

Workshop 3 - Let's Play Social Media

Rev. Kerry Kiyohara

Workshop 4 - Enhanced Fitness

Marie White

Workshop 5 - 17th World Convention 2023 in Kiyoto

Francis Arakaki/Kintetsu International

Linda Nagai

The keynote speaker on Saturday was Deidre Teagarden, who is the Executive Director of the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center on Maui. On Sunday, the keynote address was given by Janet Umezu, a minister's wife, who is a 4th generation Japanese-American. She grew up in a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist family in Central California. Her topic was Diversity and Acceptance, What Does It Mean? With LGBTQ children, she faced challenges and questioned whether her children would be accepted within the Sangha. She shared her personal story, which was powerful and moving.



Stella and Ilene sort and display the dolls and stuffed animals.

BWA members supported the recent Garage Sale by providing manpower. For two weeks, they helped by sorting, cleaning, packing, and pricing the donated items. Their hard work was well rewarded with delicious, nutritious lunches prepared by Keri and Clifford.



**TAKE OUT HOT MEAL  
SUNDAY, June 19, 2022  
Pick up will be from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**We will be providing a take-out plate lunch for our members on Father's Day. On the menu will be hamburger steak with rice and macaroni salad.**

**This hot meal project will be sponsored by our Social Concerns funds.**

**If you would like to receive a plate lunch please call Clifford at (808)959-4289 by SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2022.**

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### **SR. YBA**

Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA meeting is June 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. If you would like to become a member, the membership dues is \$10/person per year. If you have not submitted your dues or wondering if you paid your contact us and we will let you know. You may contact Jenn Kurohara, Corey Kawamoto, or Robin Sato.

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## PROJECT DANA



Puna Project Dana volunteers continue to provide transportation to temple services, medical appointments and shopping, deliver weekly bentos and make visitations to care facilities.

If you or someone you know, needs transportation to temple or medical appointments, a weekly delivery of bento, or would appreciate a visitation from its volunteers, please contact Stella at 808-959-7919 or Eileen at 808-959-6941.

Project Dana is appreciative of the dana from its volunteers and is grateful for the continued financial support from temple members and friends. Please take care of yourself.



Happy Birthday Mitsuye Toma!



Happy Birthday Florence Nishimura!

Project Dana is appreciative of the dana from its volunteers and is grateful for the continued financial support from temple members and friends. Please take care of yourself.



In gassho,  
Stella Miyashiro  
Eileen Usagawa



# *mahalo*



Chandra & Linnette

On behalf of the Puna Hongwanji Kyodan, we would like to extend a special Mahalo to Linnette and her daughter Chandra for their leadership for our recent rummage sale held on May 7, 2022. We would like to also send a big shout out to the members, friends and family who came out every day for two weeks prior to unpack, sort, set up and price and also thank you to everyone who came out on the day of the event to help. We also want to thank everyone for their generous donations of items for without your generosity will would not have been able to have this rummage sale.

With all of your effort, commitment, dedication and donations this has been our most successful rummage sale that we've had thus far. The monies raised will greatly help with our operating expenses.

With much appreciation and gratitude,  
Clifford Furukado

## **BON DANCE IS BACK IN 2022.....SATURDAY, JULY 2, 2022**

The news that everyone has been wondering about, “Will we have bon dance this year?” Well get your kimono, yukata, hapi coats out as at Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple we will be bringing back our Bon Dance on Saturday, July 2, 2022. We are easing our way back in so will have our Bon Dance for **one night only**. The Hatsubon Service will be at 5:00 p.m. Hatsubon families will be notified by Rev. Tomioka. Puna Taiko will play a few numbers from about 6:30 p.m. and the long awaited Bon Dance will begin at 7:00 p.m. and end at 10:00 p.m.

If you would like to help with kitchen work, please check with Clifford Furukado for the schedule.

Set-up will be on Friday, July 1, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. Need to set-up things like the yagura, tents, tables, chairs, string the lights and hang the chochins.

If you need a refresher on the dance moves there will be a practice on;

- Sunday, June 26, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. (after temple service)

Clean-up will be on Sunday, July 3, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Although masks are not required we recommend that you wear your mask. We will not be able to socially distance everyone so to protect yourself, please consider wearing your mask in the large crowds. If you are feeling sick or awaiting test results, we kindly ask that you avoid attending the Bon Dance.

For our concession we are looking for the following donation items:

- Bottled water
  - Canned soda and juice
  - Rice
  - Spam
  - Sugar
  - Flour
  - Butter
  - Monetary donations would be greatly appreciated. Notate donation is for “Obon Food”
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## 2022 Hatsubon first Bon Memorial Service

This year's Hatsubon (first bon) memorial service to be held at Puna Hongwanji on Saturday, July 2, at 5 p.m. Through the Hatsubon Service, family members and friends who lost their loved one will have a time to remember their departed loved one. We reflect with joyful gratitude on our departed loved ones and their continued guidance in our lives in the compassionate embrace of Amida Buddha.

Although the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, we still would like to take necessary precautions for everyone's continued safety. Seats are limited and the family members will be given the first opportunity to attend the service in the temple. Seats are also available in the social hall downstairs too, and you are invited to simultaneously watch the service with the opportunity of offering of incense. Thank you for your understanding. Even if no longer required, use of face covering is recommended indoors.

The service will be livestreamed via zoom. Please let us know if you would like to watch the service. We will send a link.

### 2022 Hatsubon Service List;

In memory of...

Seisho Oshiro

Ronald Iga

Mitsuo Sato

Marion Morimoto-Shigeta

Kazuo Otomo

Isami Tanioka

Mitsue Iwashita

Asako Miyamoto

Misako Yamamoto

Suyeko Yamasaki

Yoshie Kuroda

Hatsume Tanaka

Sumie Takeguchi

Joann Arita

Katsue Nishimura

Kuniko Takeuchi.

Please contact the temple if there are any corrections or omissions.

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### 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, peace, reflection, 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, let us remember that we are never alone in Amida Buddha’s Great Compassion and Wisdom, which is Namo Amida Butsu.

*Meet our loved ones again in Amida’s Embrace*

(References- “Jodo Shinshu a guide” Hongwanji, “Shin Buddhist Service Book” Buddhist Education Center)



**Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple**  
16-492 Old Volcano Road, Kaaau (808) 966-9981

**TWO-DAYS OF BON DANCE PRACTICE  
IN JUNE AT PUNA HONGWANJI**

Bring your tenugui (towel)  
and uchiwa (fan)

~~Canceled due to conflicting schedule~~  
~~Sunday, June 12, 2022~~  
~~1:00 p.m.~~

**PRACTICE SCHEDULE:**  
**Sunday, June 26, 2022 10:30**  
**a.m (after temple service)**





**Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple**  
**16-492 Old Volcano Road, Keau (808) 966-9981**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**PUNA HONGWANJI**  
**BON DANCE**  
**RETURNS IN 2022**

**ONE NIGHT ONLY**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 2, 2022**

**Hatsubon Service at 5:00 p.m.**

**Dance to follow until 10:00 p.m.**

We recommend that you consider wearing a mask for your own safety. If sick or waiting for test results we ask that you please stay home.