

Puna Hongwanji Mission



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: punahongwanji.org

Resident Minister: Reverend Satoshi Tomioka

Cell: (808) 285-0275

Email: stomioka@honpahi.org

Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri– 9 AM to 12PM*

*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	Page	2
Minister's Message		3
Kyodan / Membership / Social Concerns		4-5
BWA		6-9
Project Dana		10-12
Sangha Activities		12

October 2022 Hi-Lites

Stay connected with
Puna Hongwanji Mission by:

Twitter: PunaHM1

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCtQ19ePwF_lwTH0A_hwkIwg

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/PunaHongwanji

Instagram:

www.instagram.com/punahongwanji1902/

Webpage: www.punahongwanji.org

Online donation:

www.punahongwanji.org/donate/

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

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.**

October 2022

1 yr.	Irene Kohara	October 19, 2021
	Marion Morimoto-Shigeta	October 29, 2021
3 yrs.	Darryn Yamamoto	October 7, 2020
7 yrs.	None	2016
13 yrs.	None	2010
17 yrs.	Masanobu Sugihara	October 7, 2006
	Isao Yamashita	October 18, 2006
	Kaoru Yamasaki	October 19, 2006
25 yrs.	Gorden Takata	October 17, 1998
	Toshi Shinju Morimoto	October 26, 1998
	Tetsuo Toma	October 31, 1998
33 yrs.	None	1990
50 yrs	Kinji Uyeda	October 17, 1973

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

Glenn Toyama





Minister's Message

When I call Amida's Name, it's Amida calling me; Buddha's voice, my voice are one. I gassho to Amida. May this message find you well and joyful in the compassionate embrace of Amida Buddha.

I remembered when I was a little boy our family went to a shopping center. As I was a rascal and kolohe boy, I tried to play around, and I hid under a display box. I was waiting for my family to notice that I was missing. Soon my mother realized my absence and began to look for me. From my hiding place, I could see her, and I was giggling. And she got more worried and began to call my name saying "Satoshi, Satoshi" as she was looking for me. In her voice, I could sense her tension and worries, but I continued playing around and giggling. Finally, after I enjoyed seeing her worried, I came out from the display box and appeared in front of my mother. As soon as she saw me, she said "Satoshi!" and hugged me saying "I'm relieved. I'm relieved." Then she said "Where were you? You made me really worried about you" with tears in her eyes. As I listened to her, I was still giggling but somehow, I felt I did something bad and at the same time, I felt happy. In her voice of calling my name "Satoshi", there was "I love you" and "I worry about you." When I was out of her sight, she worried about me because she loves me. When she saw me, she lovingly hugged me because she worried about me. As I feel her "I love you", I get to realize I am the one who makes her worry. In the same way, as I feel her "I worry about you", I get to realize I am the one whom she loves.

Like parents love and always worry about their children even after they grow up, or best friend always think about their besties no matter what, Amida Buddha always loves each of us with All-Embracing Compassion and worries about us whatever we may go through in our lives. "I love you" and "I worry about you" are two aspects of Great Compassion of Amida Buddha. Amida Buddha is the awakened one. Buddha was awakened to the truth of life and attained Great Wisdom to see everything as it is without attachments. Because of this awakening, Amida Buddha is free from worries. But we human beings go through struggles due to our unawakening. Therefore, through observing and recognizing that human beings go through difficulties and give a hard time to others, Amida Buddha established the Primal Vow to save all people. That Vow pledged to bring utmost Peace and Happiness to all and liberate people from worries and concerns. That Vow is expressed as Namo Amida Butsu. Our founder said, The word *hear* in the passage from the [Larger] Sutra means that sentient begins, having heard how the Buddha's Vow arose – its origin and fulfillment – are altogether free of doubt. This is to hear. (Collected Works of Shinran, page 112)

When we hear Buddha's "I love you" and "I worry about you" in Namo Amida Butsu, we are guided to awaken to the loving kindness from Buddha and live a life of harmony through recognizing my limitations and attachments in the awareness.

Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights



Synopsis of Kyodan Board of Directors' Online Meeting held on Thursday, August 18, 2022.
Minutes were recorded by Marilyn Sato, Secretary.

Repair and Maintenance

- Window screens in the parsonage were replaced; more need to be changed on the 2nd floor. Some frames and screens had to be changed. Priority were the ones that were broken.
- Painting and regrouting the furo was done by Clifford Furukado
- John Davis is busy now but gravel will be ordered
- We received a sole bidder to remove flashing and copper gutter and replace them with stainless steel gutters. Board approved the columbarium repairs.
- Jason Hashimoto got quotes for painting the temple but some repairs need to be done first.

Approved Activities/Announcements

- Rev. Tomioka announced new ministerial assignments.
- He also purchased computer, laptop computer, HDMI cable, etc. for equipment upgrade. The Board previously approved the purchase and installation of equipment for the dining room and main temple.
- Buddhist Education Class will be presented in-person and on Zoom on Oct. 1 and 2 by Rev. Y. Sugahara, Oregon Buddhist Temple.
- Miles Nakatsu reported that Cub Pack 4067 has been restarted. Boy Scout Friends of Scouting popcorn fundraiser in on-going to November 23. He has been invited to come to temple to show/sell the various products. The Board moved to pay the Boy Scout charter fee for the upcoming year (2023).
- Project Dana took eight seniors to see the Orchid Show & Plant Sale. Visitations were made to Life Care Center, private care home, and to have lunch with a homebound senior. Transportation is being provided for temple services, appointments, and shopping.
- Repairs and painting of the temple and parsonage will come from the Building Maintenance Fund. Kitchen improvements will come from the Kitchen Fund and Columbarium Fund will be used for the columbarium.
- Carol Tsunozumi reported that Mrs. Mieke Nagao sewed 100 masks in August for a total of **3,000** masks.
- Fifty-four backpacks were collected and delivered to the Pahoia Police Station by Rev. Tomioka, Jenn, and Robin.
- The Board approved purchase of two Automated External Defibrillators (AED) from AED Institute of America in Honolulu. One will be placed upstairs and one downstairs. Training will be available.
- Board approved purchase of an ad for the Kona Hongwanji's 125th Anniversary booklet.
- PHM is participating in the Foodland Give Aloha Program. Program runs in September only. Make a donation to PHM and submit the receipt with your name to Treasurer Richard Solie or Assistant Treasurer Byron Toma. Foodland will match all or part of your donation.
- Sept. 25: Peace Pole dedication ceremony
- Oct. 29: Hawaii Island United Hongwanji BWA (HIUHBWA) General Membership Meeting at PHM
- Dec. 10: Keaau Christmas Parade
-

In Appreciation – Thank You Very Much

- Rev. Tomioka thanked everyone for supporting the Interfaith Communities in Action Walk to End Family Homelessness on the Big Island. PHM came in 2nd place. Also participating in the walk were Haruka Tomioka, Masako and Thom Sakata, and Carol Tsunazumi.
- Thank you to Jenn Kurohara, Robin Sato, and many of you for your donation to the Police Department Backpack Drive. Captain Scott Amaral sent a note of appreciation to Puna Hongwanji.
- Another amazing feat was done by our Super Senior Seamstress, Mrs. Mieke Nagao. She sewed another 100 masks for a total of **3,000**! Although she doesn't look it, she's in her 90's! Domo arigatou gozaimasu!
- Robin Sato said thank you to all who folded cranes from recycled paper. They will be strung together and donated to the County of Hawaii in September. Donation will be from PHM Kyodan, BWA, Sr. YBA, and Peace Committee.
- The Board gave a "shout-out" to K.T. Cannon-Eger for the work she does at Liliuokalani Garden.

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for your continued support of our Sangha.

Dues reminders will be mailed out this quarter. Reminder that dues can be paid weekly, monthly, quarterly on in full. Recommended dues are \$240.00.

If you are head of household and in a care home situation, your dues are exempt. And if you have a new mailing address, please inform our office.



In Gassho,

Roy Toma
Membership Chairman
808-935-7712

Social Concerns

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii social concerns envelopes for the 2022-2023 fund drive which will begin in November 2022. Your donation will be used to alleviate difficulties and bring comfort to members and community as a whole. Envelopes will be available at the temple.

BWA NEWS

BWA members helped to fold and string 4000+ origami cranes, which were hung to create four colorful mobiles. The crane mobiles were presented to Mayor Mitch Roth at the County Building. The mobiles will be on display at the County Building for Peace Day.



On September 11, 2022, the BWA held a bridal shower and tea party for Haruka, the Reverend's lovely new bride. The theme of the shower was the kitchen, and guests brought modest and unique kitchen items. Organizers of this well-attended event were Carol Tsuneczumi, Jenn Kurohara, Robin Sato, and Marilyn Sato. Guests looked quite elegant in their hats.



The potluck featured quite a variety of savory and sweet offerings. A favorite was the deep fried won ton wrappers filled with spam, kamaboko, and green beans. Yummy! There was also a beautiful chocolate cake, and the shower cake, a vanilla cake, was fluffy, airy, and just right.



The games were fun, well-planned, and designed to allow the guests to learn more about each other. One game asked the guests to see what they had in their purses from a list of 30-ish items. Another game asked guests to chat with other guests to seek out skills and points of commonality or special attributes, for example, a guest of the same age, of the same shoe size, one who had just returned from vacation, one who was bilingual, etc.

It was a delightful and well attended event and a good time was had by all!

Mieko Nagao and the 3,000 Masks

By Naomi Hirayasu



Mieko Nagao is 96 years old, and she is still a vibrant and accomplished seamstress who takes pleasure in serving her Puna community. When Covid hit about 2 years ago, Mieko started making face masks that were recommended to help limit the spread of Covid. To date, she has made and donated more than 3,000 face masks!

Mieko Nagao is the wife of the Reverend Norito Nagao. During World War II, Reverend Nagao served in the U.S. Army in the Pacific. And after that service, he served as a civilian contractor in Japan. Mieko was born and raised in Tokyo. She met the Reverend Nagao in Japan, where he met Meiko and her family. They married in 1950. While he was in Japan, Reverend Nagao was ordained a minister of the Honpa Hongwanji. Since he had been born and raised in Kurtistown, Hawaii was a natural choice for his first assignment.

His first assignment was the Lanai Hongwanji in 1955 where Mieko began her journey as a minister's wife. Reverend Nagao served at a small church in Lanai for five years. It was a small church, so Ms. Mieko had many duties, including taking care of the altar. She also taught at Japanese language schools.

Reverend and Mrs Nagao were the parents of five children, Andrew, Arlene, Owen, Linda, and Glenn, three of whom were born while they were on Lanai.

While in Japan, Mieko had learned to sew. She made the clothes for all of her children, and started by using the Singer machine she had brought with her from Japan. Later Reverend Nagao gifted her another Singer on Lanai, a pedal Singer converted to electric.

Mieko learned Ningyo doll making in Japan and often taught others how to make these special dolls. She still has a collection of her hand-sewn dolls.

After Lanai, Reverend Nagao and his wife were later posted to Honolulu, Wailuku, Wahiawa, and back to Honolulu. Before he retired Reverend Nagao attained the post of head of the Hawaii Honpa Hongwanji.

Reverend Nagao had been born and raised in Kurtistown, and his parents owned a house there. Reverend Nagao retired at 70 and moved back to the island of Hawaii, to his parents' home. That home had been vacant for awhile and needed numerous repairs. Reverend Nagao did them himself.

Then the Bishop in Honolulu contacted Reverend Nagao and said they needed him to help out in Papaikou where they had lost their minister who had returned to Japan. Reverend Nagao agreed to help, and served in Papaikou for one and a half years.

Reverend Nagao's parents had been farmers, and he followed in their footsteps, resurrecting the citrus trees and the garden, and repairing their house. Reverend Nagao passed away in 2003.

When the Covid emergency started, Mieko heard about the need for masks. She first started making masks using a lot of the fabric she had accumulated over the years. These fabrics included the robes that the Reverend Nagao first wore when he became a minister. Mieko cleaned and disassembled these robes and sewed them into masks and hopes that the wearers of these masks will have a special blessing! She also used fabric that grandmother Nagao had used as well. Both grandma Nagao and Mieko were self taught seamstresses. The fabrics available to her included recycled rice bags which had been repurposed into futon covers and bedsheets. They were repurposed again into masks!

At first Meiko saw many masks and tried many different designs. She found one pattern that she liked and began producing masks in earnest. The fabrics were mostly on hand, and Mieko donated huge spools of thread, elastic, and pieces for the bridge of the nose. When she started to run out of her own fabric, she was offered and started using fabrics donated by members of Puna Hongwanji.

Mieko brought her masks to the Puna Hongwanji where she asked that they be donated to those who needed them. Mieko is grateful for their help and support, because the church has long been and still is a large part of her life, for support and the relationships with the members.

She used her machine so much making masks that the machine needed repairs!

Mieko enjoys making the masks, it gives her a purpose in life and a project that gives her pleasure by helping out those in need. And it keeps her busy.

In April 2020, Charlene Iboshi reached out to our temple to see if we could help Vibrant Hawaii supply mask for health care organizations, including nursing homes, and service organizations, who are serving the homeless, and other vulnerable populations. Carol Tsunazumi of the Kyodan and the BWA (President Stella Miyashiro) at Puna Hongwanji organizes and arranges for their distribution. Mieko's donated masks have gone to, inter alia, Hawaii Care Choices, a hospice, Hale Anuenue Restorative Center, and the Life Care Center. President Clifford Furukado has also included the masks with his hot lunches for seniors. At numerous functions, the masks are given to those without masks who are in need of them.

Mieko has sewed over 3,000 masks and counting, a super feat for an energetic 96 year old. We wouldn't be surprised if she donates another 3,000 masks in the next two years!

PROJECT DANA



Puna Project Dana is grateful to have four restaurants, Affordable Catering, Cafe 100, KTA Deli, and Five Spices, prepare fourteen bentos for our seniors. An example of one of these lunches was a meal of a scoop of rice, cole slaw, meat loaf and a bowl of curry stew. Our seniors look forward to the Wednesday deliveries of their delicious meals. In fact, one senior has a standing order of two bentos so that he can enjoy his bentos for two days.



Coordinators Eileen Usagawa and Stella Miyashiro got a request for a walker from a temple member. Clifford Furukado picked up a walker from the temple and took it to the coordinators who delivered it to the temple member who was in the hospital. The much appreciated walker was returned to the temple a week later.

Project Dana volunteers continue to deliver bentos, provide transportation to doctor appointments and temple services and activities, and social outings.

If you or someone you know, can benefit from these services, please contact Eileen Usagawa @808-959-6941 or Stella Miyashiro @808-959-7919.

More importantly, if you are not in need of services, consider becoming a volunteer. You will make a difference in a senior's life.

And a special mahalo to those of you who have made donations to Project Dana.



Happy Birthday Ethel!



Happy Birthday Hiroshi!



Happy Birthday Marilyn!



Happy Birthday Eileen!

In Gassho,
Stella Miyashiro
Eileen Usagawa



CRANES DELIEVERED TO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

Thank you to each and everyone of you that participated in folding cranes out of recycled paper. On Sunday, August 21, 2022 a group gathered and sewed the cranes on fishing lines and we added it to a circular hanging ring. We completed 3 rings from the Kyodan, BWA, and Peace Committee. Another set of cranes were folded and strung by Jenn Kurohara for the Sr. YBA. Thank you Jenn and Aiko Sato who folded over 1,000 on their own. On Monday, September 12, 2022 a group of us went to the Mayor's Office to drop off the finished product. We donated the 4 sets of 1,000 cranes each. They have the cranes hung in the atrium at the Hawaii County Building so if you would like to see them stop by. On September 18, 2022 the Mayor did a kick off to peace week for Hawaii Island. The event was held at the Mo'oheau Band Stand, Peace Walk with the Mayor. The weather was nice and as soon as the walk started it started to rain. Puna Taiko drummed along the one mile path to keep everyone motivated and walking.

SAVE A DATE - WINTER CRAFT FAIR

We are very fortunate to have Veronica (Ronnie) Kitayama take charge of organizing our Winter Craft Fair on Saturday, November 19, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. She has secured 40 vendors and 5 food trucks along with Puna Hongwani and Puna Taiko (selling undagi). We will provide more details in an email and/or November hilight.

SUNDAY SERVICE AND OTHER NOTIFICATIONS

We continue to have Sunday Service in-person (with a mask) and online via Zoom. If you would like to receive the Zoom link, please email mpunahongwanji@twc.com or contact Robin Sato to add you to the email listing to receive the Zoom link weekly. There are times that we plan an event, but we miss the hi-lites deadline. If you are interested in being added to the listing to get the additional news, please email mpunahongwanji@twc.com or rob.f.sato@gmail.com to add your email to our list. If you are already receiving the notices and don't want to receive them, please let us know to delete your email.