

Puna Hongwanji Mission



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

	Page
Temple Toban, Nenki	2
Minister's Message	3-4
Kyodan / Membership	4-5
BWA	6
Project Dana	7-8
Wedding / Bon Dance flashback	9
Interfaith Memorial day Observance	10
Queen Liliuokalani Gardens News	11
Backpack collection drive	12

July 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.

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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

Jane Uyeki

Makiko Ohashi

Richard Karasuda

Correction June 2022:

Joanne 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.**

July 2022

1 yr.	None	2021
3 yrs.	Albert Nishimura	July 10, 2020
7 yrs.	Yoshie Yamashita Seiso Kamimura	July 3, 2016 July 24, 2016
13 yrs.	None	2010
17 yrs.	Akeshi Hashimoto Tamae Fuse Kiyochi Kawamura	July 2, 2006 July 11, 2006 July 30, 2006
25 yrs.	Eleanor Kawamoto Roy Takeuchi Hideko Asayama	July 1, 1998 July 13, 1998 July 20, 1998
33 yrs.	Teru Yamamoto Charles Nakanishi	July 6, 1990 July 26, 1990
50 yrs	None	1973





Minister's Message

Do you have a safe in your home? It may be a dial or key style. We use a safe to keep things protected, not exposed to danger or risk. Here is the story I heard from a senior minister, and I added my taste of appreciation into it.

There is a family of parents and 3 boys. The mother was so kind that all the children loved their mother. But the father was “Taisho” or bossy, so children were afraid of him. After years of passing, they grew up and began to have their own family. Suddenly, their mother passed away. The funeral service was held, and 3 children were crying because they loved her. After her passing, children had to discuss who will take care of the father? Nobody wanted to take care of him as they really didn't

have good relationship with him. After discussion, they decided to place him in the senior housing. 3 children took their turn to visit him occasionally, however, they gradually stopped visiting him. Every time when they visit him, he behaved so harshly and gave them nasty words like “don't come to see me!”, “I don't need your help”, “mind your own business!”

A few years passed and the children got a call from the senior housing saying their father passed away. The service was held but nobody cried as they didn't have a fond memory of him. After his passing, they have to decide who will take over his assets like bank accounts, home, etc. They agreed that it should be shared equally as no one truly took care of him. However, when they went to father's home, they couldn't find anything. They had no idea where the father kept important items. When they were stuck, they got another phone call from the senior housing. A staff member said, “Please come to our place to pick up a safe which your father kept in his room.” The children were shocked to hear that. “What?! Our father kept the safe in his room so none of us can touch it?” They thought what a greedy father he is. While they were angry, they went to the place and pick up the safe. When they tried to open the safe, what a shock! they couldn't find the key to open!! Good thing is that they can call a lock & smith to open it. However, they decided to open it in front of all of us so nobody can cheat.

Finally, the day came. The children and their family members were so excited. Once the door is open, we can be rich and we can buy whatever we want, and we can visit Las Vegas! The door was open and the first item they found was a drawing of a person. The youngest son said “Oh, that is the drawing of my father I painted on Father's Day”. The second item they found was a test paper with A+ grade on it. The second son said, “This is my first and last A+ test I got.” The third item they found was a tie. The oldest son said, “This is the tie I gave to my father when I got my first paycheck.” These are the only items found in the safe. Each child is looking at the items on their hands, and they burst into tears. They didn't cry at the funeral, but now they are crying because they are touched by the father's true love for them. Then, there was another call from the senior house staff member. She said, every time she visits him, he was always taking out those items from the safe and looking at each item with a smile and with a gentle eye, saying “These are my treasure.” Then she asked him, “sir, I see you love your children. Why don't you express it?” He replied, “No...it's too late. I was not a good father and didn't do anything for them.... but I love them, and they are my everything.”

After this happening, the children never forget visiting the graveyard of their father. Now, they have two feelings. One is regret. Why didn't we see the true love behind his behavior and attitude? We only see the surface. The second is gratefulness. They now realized that there had been a love from their father always in their life, and from now on.

What do you think of this story? We may have different memories of our loved ones. And sometimes we may not fully realize the truth of them but judging things only through our experiences and filters. We can meet them again in Amida's embrace. Amida Buddha's compassion is vigorous and unconditional love which never rejects and always accepts all as they are. Amida Buddha's wisdom is transcending our distinctive and judgmental mind. With those Compassion and Wisdom, Amida Buddha is tireless urging us to take refuge in the true & real of enlightenment, Namo Amida Butsu who is dispelling the darkness our ignorance and assures our birth in the Pure Land and leading us to return to this delusional world to guide people left behind on this earth. Those people who are touched by Amida Buddha's wish and those who received the mind of entrusting were born in the Pure Land and attained enlightenment. No more suffering but only true peace and tranquility.

If they have a safe, what do you think they keep inside of it? Don't you think your loved ones have "you" in their safe because you are precious person to them. They want to make sure you are protected, you are healthy, you are tranquil, you are okay. Why they do such a thing? Because you are everything to them. Don't you think it is so wonderful thing that you have such a person who thinks of you more than you do for yourself. Before we think of them, before we remember them, before we pray for them, our loves ones are reaching out us saying "please realize the truth of impermanence, interdependence, preciousness of your life, and moreover, please encounter this Amida's Embrace which we are together embraced." They can do this not because they are our loved ones but because they are in Amida's Embrace. Through Amida Buddha's Wish, we are together. Shinran Shonin said, "Although I too am within Amida's grasp, passions obstruct my eyes and I cannot see the light; nevertheless, great compassion is untiring and illumines me always." Let us encounter our loved ones again in Amida's embrace. And let us encounter Amida Buddha's wish calling to us: "Don't worry, Be happy. Whatever happens in your life, I shall embrace you, no matter what." On this obon season, let us joyfully and gratefully recite the Name of Amida Buddha together. Namo Amida Butsu.

Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights



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

Repair and Maintenance

- The warranty for the roof has expired more than a year ago. Richard Solie will meet with a representative from Kokua Roofing to get a quote for repairs.
- All our fire extinguishers are outdated and need to be replaced. The Board approved replacing the old ones with new ones from Hilo Fire Extinguishers.
- The Board approved making ground improvements. Gravel will be purchased and spread in the front yard. This will make the area more usable.

Approved Activities/Announcements

- Rev. Tomioka will be helping Hamakua 3 Temples since the resignation of Rev. Shinji Kawagoe
- Buddhist Study Center is having a summer session satellite lecture on the Big Island. Dr. Scott Mitchell, Dean of the Institute of Buddhist Studies, will speak at Kona Hongwanji, Naalehu Hongwanji, and Puna Hongwanji (June 27).

- Rev. Tomioka said the altar ornaments are old, damaged, and faded and need to be refurbished or replaced.
- Treasurer Richard Solie said the Rummage Sale provided a huge boost for April. The sale was a huge success!
- Sunday in-person and Zoom service average attendance for the past 5 weeks is 36 in person and 11 online.
- Rev. Tomioka has Wednesday evening services available on our Puna Hongwanji Facebook and YouTube at 6:00 p.m.
- Board approved to have Hot Meals on Father's Day. Social Concerns Fund will be used.
- Delinquent membership is a problem. The issue will be discussed at the General Membership Meeting.
- Obon Co-Chairs Glenn Watarida and Donald Ikeda said the committee decided on 1 night of Obon. It will be on July 2. Service begins at 5:00 p.m. and dance from 7-10 p.m.
- Oct. 29: Hawaii Island United Hongwanji BWA (HIUHBWA) will be gathering at Puna Hongwanji. Puna and Naalehu will be hosting the membership meeting.
- A Christmas Craft Fair is being discussed. More details later.

In Appreciation – Thank You Very Much

- Thank you to all who helped and participated in Earth Day Project. Thank you especially to Paul Sakamoto and Puna Taiko for collecting and sorting the recyclables. Thank you to Toby and Jenn for taking the truckload of cardboards and 2 large garbage bags of Recycle 5 items. 12 bags of HI-5 items were also collected. R. Sato said thank you to everyone who helped to keep these items out of the landfill.
- Mahalo nui loa to Linnette Quade, her daughter, and Joe Crocker for running the very successful Rummage Sale. The sale was a one-day event but set up was about two weeks. Thank you to all who donated, came to sort, clean, and price, and those who supported the sale.
- Domo arigatou for purchasing the delicious Mother's Day Hot Meal take out. The Puna Hongwanji Scholarship Committee benefited from the sale of tickets. Thank you to the men and ladies in the kitchen.

Membership Committee News

Please welcome Ms.Naomi Hirayasu of Keaau

Thank you for your dues payment. Our fiscal year is 1/2 done and this is a reminder for those that didn't submit their dues. Remember, dues can be paid weekly, monthly, semi-annual or in full. And 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

BWA members made beautiful floral bouquets for the Puna Interfaith Memorial Day Observance. Sharman Oyadomari gave pointers on how to use foliage size, color and texture to create attractive arrangements. Dora Hashimoto gave a demonstration on how to arrange cut flowers by size and how to wind a rubber band around the stems. The members worked hard on each unique bouquet and enjoyed the fellowship.



After a two year break due to the pandemic, an in person meeting was held. The main business was to organize and plan for an upcoming event. The HIUHBWA General Membership Meeting will be hosted by Puna and Naalehu on October 29, 2022. Committee chairperson positions were filled by members who volunteered. The day's schedule starts with a service, followed by the membership meeting, and lunch. After lunch, Hilo BWA will host the BWA Educational Seminar in the social hall. The public is invited to attend this session. A calabash will be placed at the entrance for donations.

PROJECT DANA



Puna Project Dana would like to recognize the many volunteers who provide services to its clients. One of the services is the delivery of bentos to our home bound seniors every week. Claire Arakawa, Richard Solie, Ethel Miyashiro, Warren Tanigawa, Hiroshi Kozohara, Marilyn Sato, Ilene Hara, Linda Iwata, Stella Miyashiro, and Eileen Usagawa deliver lunches to clients in Pahoa, Keaau, and Hilo.

Ann Toma took Lei Kakugawa and Florence Nishimura to Life Care Center for visitation in the month of May. Unfortunately, Covid precautions make it possible to visit only those who can sit in the open lanai area.

Stella made two visitations to a private home in Hilo and the other in Keaau. One client has transitioned out since the visit. Please inform the coordinators when or where the client has moved. Then Project Dana can continue to be in touch with the client.

Puna Project Dana volunteers, Ann and Stella, provide transportation to weekly temple services and activities while Clifford and Kerrie Furukado provide transportation for medical appointments and shopping.

Marilyn, Ilene, and Ethel continue to write notes to temple members to keep them connected with Puna Hongwanji Mission and its members. Recipients of the notes have expressed their appreciation of these letters.

Coordinators Stella and Eileen delivered 12 lap blankets to Hawaii Care Choices. These lap blankets were made by a former client's caregiver. The blankets were received with much appreciation by the administrators of Hawaii Care Choices.

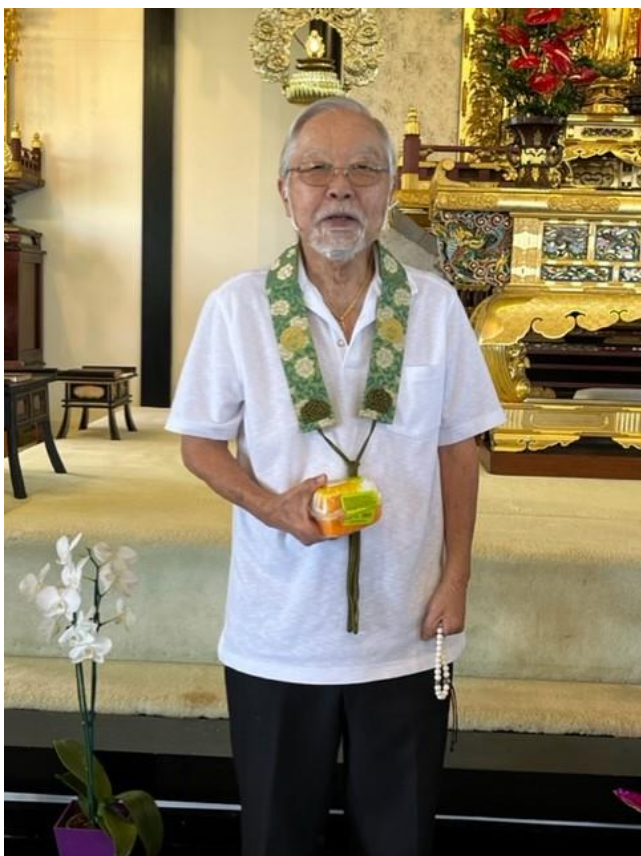
If you or someone you know would like transportation to temple services or medical appointments, or would like a visitation, please contact Stella at 808-959-7919 or Eileen at 808-959-6941.

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.



Pua of Hawaii Care Choices receiving lap blankets from Eileen and Stella.



Happy Birthday Warren!



Happy Birthday Clifford!



Happy Birthday Dora!



In gassho,
Stella Miyashiro
Eileen Usagawa

You are cordially invited to the wedding of

Ms. Haruka Kuratate and Rev. Satoshi Ka'imipono Tomioka

Saturday, September 24th, 2022 at 10:00am

Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Reception to follow. We will provide one drink per adult. You are welcomed to bring your own alcoholic beverages. Water, juice, soda, coffee & tea will be provided.



Aloha attire.

After having to cancel our wedding in 2020 due to COVID-19 we are finally able to welcome this special day with you!

Our wedding day is a special day that we wish we could spend with you all, but unfortunately due to the limited amount of seating we can only accommodate a limited number of guests. Therefore, our wedding invite is extended to Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple members only. Thank you for your understanding. Please RSVP by July 15, 2022 so that we may reserve a seat for you. On our wedding day, please check-in with the reception table for your seat assignment.

Please note that the wedding and reception are subject to change depending on the COVID-19 situation.

Contact: Phone: 8089669981

Email: 2020june13@gmail.com

Mail: P.O. Box 100, Keaau, HI 96749 Attn: Wedding



Flashback: Bon dance in 1952

ANNUAL PUNA DISTRICT INTERFAITH MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE MARKS THE 75TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONUMENT

On Saturday, May 28, 2022, after two years of virtual remembrance we were able to meet live and in-person. The attendance was less than pre-covid, but the feeling from those in attendance was great. We took precautions and although it was outdoors asked people to please wear a mask. We also spread the chairs a little wider apart. It was a beautiful day and right before the program was going to start a few small drops of rain fell and then disappeared for the rest of the program.

There are many people that we must thank for making this event successful. It's everyone working as a team that made this another successful event. First of all we should give thanks and be grateful to Rev. Jukaku Shirasu who formed the Olaa YBA council. As their first project erected the silver gray memorial monument in the garden fronting the temple to honor the members of the military from the Puna District who lost their lives in World War II. It is now our duty to ensure that we never forget these brave Puna District residents that lost their lives in WWII, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam Conflict, and the Iraq-Afghanistan Conflict.

Thank you to our guest speaker Deb Lewis, Colonel, USA Ret, for your wonderful message and paying tribute to Lance Corporal Hayward Kimo Hamili Peleiholani of Kalapana, whose name is on our monument. It was nice that his family attended the observance as well. We had the beautiful sounds of the Hawaii County Band under the leadership of Paul Arceo and the program ended with Claton Mine playing Taps. This year we had the Hilo High School JROTC to raise the flag and to accept the bouquets/flowers. The JROTC is led by Major Jeffery Nason. The Cadets in attendance were Cadet Command Sergeant Major Nikolas Galdones (Team Lead); Cadet Major Garnet Galdones; Cadet Captain Kai Gatting; and Cadet Captain RayAnna Ham. The yard maintenance team did a wonderful job at cleaning up the grounds and even cutting a space in the mondo grass so that we did not have to worry about anyone tripping or falling, what a great idea! As usually the Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA showed up and put up and took down the tents and chairs. The sound system was handled by Paul Sakamoto. This year we did not serve a meal in the social hall and instead made take out snacks for those in attendance to take home, great job kitchen crew. Our MC for the day was Marilyn Sato and as usual did a great job, she even got high praise from County Council Sue Lee Loy. At the last minute we ended up having only 3 people to do the prayers, but they chipped in and filled in the void – Rev. Satoshi Ka'imipono Tomioka; Pastor Alan Tamashiro (Puna Baptist Church); and Pastor Robert Frick (Puna Covenant Church). As usual the flowers and greenery were turned into beautiful floral bouquets by Shar Oyadomari and her helpers. Those who attended in-person and those that attended in spirit thank you. If we have missed anyone, sorry in advance.

Queen Liliuokalani Gardens News

A landscape team from Japan completed a five-day project in Lili`uokalani Gardens to rehabilitate the smooth stone beach that was there in the 1930s. Funded in part by the Ministry of Land, Transport, and Infrastructure as well as by Historic Hawai`i Foundation, the project involved Hawai`i Island landscapers, stone setters, and heavy equipment operators as well as volunteers in the joint Hawai`i/Japan effort.



Yasumasa Imada was one of four professional landscapers, under the direction of master Hiromu Terashita, who participated in the rehabilitation of a suhama (smooth stone beach) in Lili`uokalani Gardens.

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



Backpack Collection Drive for Our Island Keiki in Need



At the temple we will be collecting new and unused backpacks until Sunday, July 24, 2022. On behalf of Puna Hongwanji we will drop off the backpacks collected to the Hawaii Island police station



***Help us
support our
keiki in the
community***