

Puna Hongwanji Mission



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*unless called away by other duties

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August 2022 Hi-Lites

Stay connected with
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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

None

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.**

August 2022

1 yr.	Seisho Oshiro	August 8, 2021
3 yrs.	Kiyoko Sako Lefty Kawazoe	August 7, 2020 August 31, 2020
7 yrs.	Roy Shimizu	August 16, 2016
13 yrs.	None	2010
17 yrs.	Mari Mukai	August 8, 2006
25 yrs.	Wallace Okamoto Eleanor Foster Moriji Yoshizawa Kameyo Kumano	August 11, 1998 August 26, 1998 August 28, 1998 August 29, 1998
33 yrs.	Yukio Koshi Peggy Kihara	August 9, 1990 August 26, 1990
50 yrs	Kamato Shimabukuro Okaichi Yamasaki	August 4, 1973 August 20, 1973





Minister's Message

Do you have Butsudan in your house? Butsudan literally means Buddha Altar. Since my ministry began in Hawaii 10 years ago, I had a quite few of opportunities of people bring a Butsudan to a temple. They brought Butsudan to ask a temple to discard it. The reasons why they brought were: because their parents died and no body take care, they are not a Buddhist, no space in a house, and just simply don't want to keep it. Every time I heard those comments from a family, I tried to ask them to keep, but the result didn't change. I think this situation will continue and would increase more since people are away from religion nor Buddhism has meaning to people.

Former His Eminence Koshin Ohtani said in his message: "I would like Shin Buddhists to have a home altar dedicated to Amida Buddha in their residences where all the family members may worship. This may seem common sense, but I wonder if it may not be difficult for children to worship at home altars when they are in the parent's bedroom. Further, the residences of children living away from their parents should each have home altars. Without concrete form, it is difficult to transmit the nembutsu to our children and grandchildren in contemporary society. Young people in particular must, before the altar, reflect deeply on the nature of life and grasp its preciousness. Our forebears walked the path saying the nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu; let us also walk that path, saying Namo Amida Butsu."

Butsudan is a place to enshrine Amida Buddha who is full of All-Embracing Compassion and All-Inclusive Wisdom. In front of the Butsudan, we offer rice, incense, and put hands together and recite Buddha's Name, Namo Amida Butsu out of joy and respect. When I was a child and received something from someone, my parents and grandparents always told me to offer it for Buddha first. Then, take it down and open or enjoy it. It can be a gift, toys, monetary gift, school score, whatever it is, if it is given to me from another person, I always offer it to Buddha. Of course, when I received something so sweet, I offered it for Buddha for seconds and immediately took it down and opened the package. When I recall these experiences, it gave me a reflection of not taking anything for granted, feeling appreciation for a gift, what I received is not just a gift but wishes within it. When a gift is in a store, it belongs to the store. When a person buys a gift, it belongs to that person. When a person gives it to me, it belongs to me. When I offer it for Buddha, it belongs to Buddha. When I take down it and receive it, it belongs to me as a gift from a Buddha. The same things which was mine became a gift from a Buddha. Through this process, we can find a deep gratefulness for the gift and a person who gave it and we can feel all the causes and conditions which make it happen. In this way, everything we offer to a Buddha-rice, incense, flower...- becomes a gift from a Buddha.

In Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji tradition, in the morning and evening, a person pays homages to the Buddha to show their respect and gratefulness. In the morning, in front of the Buddha, we have a chanting of *Shoshinge*, and show our appreciation that today I receive a new day and new life. We begin our day with a grateful heart and the Buddha's teaching as our guidance at work, home and every moment. In the evening, we show our appreciation for that we are able to welcome end of day. We take a moment to reflect on our actions, words, and thoughts we had today. We close our day with a heart of appreciation and reflection. Namo Amida Butsu is a Name of Amida Buddha who is full of Compassion and Wisdom. Namo Amida Butsu is the compassionate Calling and Commanding voice of Amida Buddha who is calling out to us: "Come to my embrace! I shall never ever let you go alone!" Touched by All-Embracing Compassion, we will feel a joy of ultimate acceptance of being as we are and find gratefulness of a life today we are receiving. Touched by All-Inclusive Wisdom, we are guided to be mindful of our way of seeing, thoughts, words and deeds are not selfishness but caring and love. As we live a life of business, uncertainty and ongoing worries, we need a moment of reflection and mindfulness every day.

Butsudan is a special place for you and me where we can feel an ultimate acceptance and live a life of harmony and comfort. If you don't have a Butsudan, please think about to have it in your house. There are certain Hongwanji style Butsudan, Amida Buddha statue/scroll/portrait and ornaments. Please see Rev. Tomioka for further information or any question. As a conclusion, here is some etiquette of Hongwanji altar. There are things you may have been doing because your parents do, you heard, or just as a custom. Then, when you think about the reason why you are doing, and if, you can't come up with "the reason why I am doing" or "meaning" of your action, you may take a look at this etiquette and consider "the reason why I am doing."

- Object of Reverence: Amida Buddha
- Offering a fresh flower. As a flower is a symbol of life, compassion, and unrepeatable moment, no poisonous, no thorn, no strong smell, no artificial.
- Offering rice. A gesture of appreciation for life and beauty of sharing. You may offer bread or another you partake as a main if you don't eat rice.
- Offering incense. Showing reverence to a Buddha and a symbol of purification of body and mind before paying homage to Buddha.
- Offering candle light: A symbol of Great Wisdom which dispels the darkness ignorance and shines upon our lives and lead our way. For safety, battery candle light is also option.
- As water in greenery in a vase is a symbol of pure and virtuous water in the Pure Land, no need to offer water.
- A purple memorial record or a wooden tablet is a record. Our loved ones are with unlimited compassionate Buddha and freely guide each of us to a life of harmony and peace. So their lives are not limited in that record or a wooden tablet. So, that record or a tablet should be placed outside of the altar or in a drawer.
- Butsudan is not for the deceased, but the center of the family's daily life.
- We show our gratefulness to Amida Buddha who embraces our loved ones and us who might cry for sadness, miss loved ones and think of them. Our loved ones and we are always embraced by the same Compassion of Buddha. Pictures, memorial items may be placed not center but side or outside of the altar as memories and a reminder of unrepeatable moment we are living.

Before we pray for our loved ones, before we think of them, before we cry for them, before we smile for them, our loved ones are thinking of us always guided by Amida Buddha. They are now caring and guiding each of us who are worrying, suffering, concerning in our lives. Therefore, our loved are not just deceased, but those who are in Amida's embrace, they are teaching us a truth of life. Because those who attained the entrusting heart will be born in the Pure Land, and they are free from an idea of human body, they don't need to drink. Because they are a part of dynamic Buddha's Compassionate working, they are not limited in record book or a tablet. Because they are guiding each of us to a life with Amida Buddha, we face to not picture of deceased, but we face to Buddha with and through our loved ones. With and through our loved ones, we show our gratefulness and reverence to Amida Buddha. In many ways, our loved ones are delivering wish from Buddha so that we can awaken to that wish which embraces our loved one and us gently and warmly. The wish is Namo Amida Butsu, the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha. When we think of our loved ones, it is a precious gift of meeting with our loved ones and feels oneness with them in the embrace of Namo Amida Butsu.

President's Message

President's Message

After two long years, we were finally able to celebrate Obon. Thank you to Glenn Watarida and Donald Ikeda for chairing the project. I would also like to thank everyone who came out to help in the preparation prior to and during the event. It was a lot of work but many hands made the task a whole lot easier. Thank you also for your generous donations. This year, we made improvements to the lawn area in front of the temple so that cars could be parked. Thank you to those that helped with the work and to Sanford's Service Center for the generous donation of gravel for the project.

Thank you to Robin Sato and Jenn Kurohara for spear heading the backpack drive and thank you to those who made donations.

Back on May28th, Puna Hongwanji, as the BIBF toban temple, sold andagi and baked goods at the Hawaii Care Choices Celebration of Life. We were able to raise over \$1300.00 for this worthy cause. Thank you to Roy and Ann Toma, Roy and April Yoshimoto, Raymond Zukeran, Lorraine Tomita, Elaine Yoshizumi and Jason Hashimoto for your help with this event. Thank you those who purchased baked goods at temple service the next day.

Thank you all for your continued support of Puna Hongwanji.



In Gassho,
Clifford Furukado

Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights



Synopsis of Kyodan Board of Directors' Online Meeting held on Thursday, June 16, 2022.
Minutes were recorded by Marilyn Sato, Secretary.

Repair and Maintenance

- Gary Sunada, Mike Fukutomi, and Clifford Furukado made improvements to the temple. R&M included replacing door lock, electrical work, and plumbing repairs.
- Termite treatment will be done in October.
- Additional termite damage was found in the Columbarium.
- Sanford's business in Pahoeha hauled the gravel for the front yard; John Davis leveled the ground.

Approved Activities/Announcements

- Rev. Tomioka announced the wedding of himself and Haruka on Saturday, September 24, 2022. Information will be in the Hi-Lites.
- Puna Hongwanji has termite warranty – paid yearly. We also have fire ant policy – paid quarterly.
- BWA members made floral bouquets for the Puna District Interfaith Memorial Day Observance.
- Sr. YBA announced that they will host a golf fundraiser in October.

- Dharma School was responsible for the Baccalaureate Service to honor five seniors; guest speaker was Officer Terrance Scanlan.
- Welcome new member Naomi Hirayasu.
- Project Dana provided safety bars at the request of the homebound senior. Lap blankets, crocheted by a caregiver, were donated to Hawaii Care Choices. Volunteers continue to provide transportation, deliver bentos, and make visitations.
- Social Concerns Fund paid for the Mother's Day expenses. Ticket sales went to the Scholarship Fund.
- Obon Co-Chairs Glenn Watarida and Donald Ikeda and the committee chairs will meet again to finalize plans for the July 2 obon.
- Police Dept. Backpack Drive: PHM is participating in the drive to collect new or unused backpacks. Backpacks are the most requested item after food. Collection will be any Sunday in July.
- Food for Keiki: This is a six-week program to distribute 250 meals on Fridays.
- July 10: Active Shooter Awareness Meeting at Puna Hongwanji
- Sept. 24: Tomioka's wedding & reception
- Oct. 29: Hawaii Island United Hongwanji BWA (HIUHBWA) will gather at Puna Hongwanji. Puna and Naalehu will be hosting the membership meeting.

In Appreciation – Thank You Very Much

- Mahalo nui loa to Sanford Iwata for donating the gravel for the front yard. I do not know how many loads were delivered but we are so very thankful for his generosity. He just charged us a hauling fee. If you have not seen the front yard, come by and see how great it looks and now how much more useful the place has become. Thank you again.
- President Furukado said thank you to chairpersons Robin Sato and Glenn Watarida and to all who helped and participated in the Memorial Day Observance at Puna Hongwanji. He also acknowledged Rev. Tomioka for organizing the BIBF Memorial Day Service at Veteran's Cemetery.
- Kudos also go out to the andagi crew and bakers for help with the BIBF Celebration of Life activity.
- President also thanked Warren Tanigawa, Dharma School, and Rev. Tomioka for organizing the Baccalaureate Service.
- Thank you to Gary Sunada, Mike Fukutomi, and Clifford Furukado for seeing areas needing attention and doing something about it. Domo arigatou gozaimasu!

Membership Committee News

Thank you for a successful O-Bon.

Recommended dues is \$240.00. It can be paid weekly, monthly, & semi-annual also. If you head of household and in a care home situation, your dues are exempt. And if you have a new address, please inform the office so we can update your file.



In Gassho,

Roy Toma
Membership Chairman
808-935-7712

BWA NEWS

July 6, 2022 was the registration deadline for the BWA World Convention in Japan. Eight temple members have registered to attend the convention in May 2023. Kintetsu is Hawaii's designated Travel Agency for the air travel, hotel and four tours.

The delegates can select one of the following options:

1. Okinawa - Kyushu
2. Chugoku
3. Chubu
4. Hokkaido

BWA members supported the PHM Bon Dance with the food preparation. They made baked goods for the concession booth, prepared meals on workdays, and made bentos for the dancers.

The next BWA meeting will be on Aug. 7, 2022 after Sunday service in the conference room.

PROJECT DANA



Puna Project Dana invites temple members to consider becoming a volunteer. Being able to provide a service to a homebound senior can be very rewarding. Please contact Eileen (808-959-6941) or Stella (808-859-7919) to request a volunteer application form. Mahalo



Happy Birthday Tokimi



Happy Birthday Stella.

Obon Concession Donations, Other than Cash

Roy And Ann Toma
Wendell Toma
Richard Sato
Roy and Lorraine Tomita
Nancy Yamada
Craig Shimoda
Dora Hashimoto
Glenn And Janet Watarida
Kyle Wada

Gary and Susan Sunada
Roy and April Yoshimoto
Warran Tanigawa
Roy Sakaguchi
Clarence Go
Richard Sakanishi
Karen Kanetani
Eli Miura

Thank you all for your generosity. Thank you to the anonymous donors and those that we may have missed.

Puna Hongwanji Scholarship



Paul Sakamoto(accepting for daughter Emily), Daichi Marquis

Congratulations to this year's recipients of the Puna Hongwanji Scholarship, Daichi Marquis and Emily Sakamoto. Daichi Margquis is a graduate of Pahoa High School and served as a student representative on the School Community Council and was the president of the National Honor Society. Outside of school, he spent countless hours as a volunteer at the Pahoa Sacred Hearts Church's Food Pantry helping with food distribution and here at Puna Hongwanji, he is a Ministers' Lay Assistant, Jr. YBA President and Dharma School Coordinator.

Daichi will be attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Religion. After graduating, he plans to enroll at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkley, Ca to obtain a Master's Degree in Divinity. He plans to one day serve as a minister of the Honpa Hongwanji Missions of Hawaii.

Emily Sakamoto graduated from Waiakea High School and was a member of the National Honor Society. Emily was also a member of the Key Club throughout her high school years, serving as Treasurer, Webmaster, Bulletin Editor and Single Service Project Chairperson. She also was the Homecoming Decorations Committee Chairperson for her class. Outside of school, she volunteered for Big Brother's, Big Sister's Hawaii and was a mentor or Big Sister for an elementary school student. Here at Puna Hongwanji she is a member and instructor of Puna Taiko. She has regularly volunteered for temple activities like general clean up's, Obon, cinder and rummage sales, recycle drives and many other activities. Emily also works at Hilo Rice Noodle and Network 2000.

Emily will be attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and will be majoring in Business, more specifically Hospitality Management.



Guest speaker Deb Lewis. Family of the late Lance Corporal Hayward Kimo Hamili Peleiholani. Hilo High School JROTC with Deb Lewis and County Council Sue Lee Loy





Interested in Cub Scouting?



JOIN TODAY

Looking for something in the Puna area for your child? The Cub Scout Pack 4067 is being restarted. The meetings are held at Puna Hongwanji. For more information, please contact Miles Nakatsu at ululanix@hawaiiantel.net or call 808-896-5276.