

Puna Hongwanji Mission



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September 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.

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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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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.**

September 2022

1 yr.	Ronald Isamu Iga Mitsuo Sato	September 14, 2021 September 14, 2021
3 yrs.	Fumiko Kai George Singles	September 16, 2020 September 23, 2020
7 yrs.	Shige Namihira Dorothy Kumano Cary Tahara Judy Murayama	September 1, 2016 September 2, 2016 September 4, 2016 September 28, 2016
13 yrs.	James Toma	September 18, 2010
17 yrs.	Shizue Nako Bert Nakano	September 29, 2006 September 29, 2006
25 yrs.	Masuyo Kimoto	September 25, 1998
33 yrs.	Aiko Ogata	September 11, 1990
50 yrs	Ryoichi Nakata Okaichi Yamasaki	September 7, 1973 September 20, 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

***Roy Tanimoto
James Miura***



Minister's Message

“To one as young as you, I’m sure it seems incredible, but to Nicolas and Perenelle, it really is like going to bed after a very very long day. After all, to the well-organized mind, death is but the next great adventure” – Albus Dumbledore about Nicolas Flamel’s Death, Harry Potter Series

Everything that begins will end. The month of September begins, and it will end on September 30. lunch menu that I always order was no longer available. Satoshi Tomioka who was born on January 3rd, 1988 will welcome his end of life when the causes and conditions are ripe. The truth of impermanence is the reality of “Everything is changing”. There is no positive or negative. But it is us who put a label of “positive” or “negative” according to my conveniences. If a change is what we desired, we like it and if the change is not what we wanted, we don’t like it.

Death is one of the hardest changes that we must go through. It is said that “the only thing humans are equal in is death.” Whether you are young or old, rich or poor, healthy or sick, and regardless of your gender, sex, race, and faith, death is a part of our lives. However, it seems that it is not easy to talk about our own death and that of loved ones. Death can be considered a taboo because of its image of negativity, sadness, misfortune, and impurity. So, we may not talk about it but it surely comes in front of our eyes anytime, anywhere and to anyone. And when it happens, we are shocked and don’t know what to do as we are devastated in the difficult time.

The quote I cited in the beginning says “...to the well-organized mind, death is but the next great adventure”. This means that for those who prepared, who discussed, who understood about life and death, passing away is not something they are afraid of, but it is a part of life. Life and death are not separated things but they are one like a coin with heads and tails. If we deeply understand life, we think about death. If we think about death, it gives us a reflection upon our life.

The reason why I mention this is because I observed some difficult end of life situations that family went through. Some family members didn’t know what to do when their loved ones were diagnosed a terminal cancer. It was not easy to find and decide a suitable care plan. Other family members were divided because of different opinion on caring. Each member was trying to do their best but it didn’t go well as they lack the communication and mutual understanding. One patient had a request about his end of life. His wish was to receive a care at home so he can stay with his lovely dog. However, his family members thought it is impossible to take care of him at home, so they decided to put him in the care home where he eventually passed away. Later, family members found his diary and they saw his writings “I want to go home” in many pages, and they had a regret.

If they had a chance to get some information about the end-of-life care ahead of time, they could have discussed it with loved ones so they have a shared understanding of the plan. If the patient had a comfortable setting to share his wish with others, he could spend his time with peace of mind when he was in a difficult time. It is not easy to talk about those things and we often say and hear “make is make (when I die, I die!)” However, if we can talk about it, this “preparation” helps loved ones and family members a lot instead of going through the sad experiences stated above. Understanding death and end-of-life is enriching our quality of life. Communication with each other creating a comfortable and loving setting for all so they can cherish every second, every conversation with their loved ones without misunderstanding, regrets, and frustrations. Sharing one’s own wish is helping family members respect it and guide them to try to fulfill it instead of not knowing what to do nor arguing within family.

No matter how much we prepare for end-of-life, it will never be easy to see loved ones going through difficulties. In Jodo Shinshu teaching & tradition, we understand that we can't avoid aging, illness, and death as well as separating from our loved ones. We may understand those truths in our head as information, but it is hard to accept it in our heart as a reality. Our heart will be painful and swayed by various emotions. We may be exhausted, angry, sad, frustrated, hopeless and despair. Therefore, for such as me and because of me, Amida Buddha, the Buddha Boundless Compassion and Transcending Wisdom established the vow to embrace all they are. Amida Buddha's wish is liberating all from suffering and guide them to attain enlightenment in the Pure Land at the end of death, and escorting us to return to the human world to help people left behind in many ways through the working of ultimate compassion. Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu says,

“...the moment of death is of central concern to such people, for they have not yet attained true shinjin.....the practitioner of true shinjin, however, abides in the stage of truly settled, for he or she has already been grasped, never to be abandoned. There is no need to wait in anticipation for the moment of death, no need to rely on Amida's coming. At the time shinjin becomes settled, birth too becomes settled; there is no need for the deathbed rites that prepare one for Amida's coming.” -Lamp for the Latter Ages, Collected Works of Shinran, page 523

For those who encounter Amida Buddha's wish of “I shall embrace you no matter what! Come to my embrace!!”, the mind of awakening erupts in their heart, and they will be assured to be born in the Pure Land at the end of death and attaining enlightenment. For them, death is not end but being born in the Pure Land, returning to the true home of our life with the highest virtue and merits, and meeting loved ones again with the most beautiful appearance. Amida Buddha spiritually takes care of our end-of-life and we let ourselves be in that embrace. How grateful and comfort it is to know that my life never ends in Amida's embrace!

It is never too young nor early to think about end-of-life. It is not an easy topic, but it is really important to prepare for it. Please stay tuned as I'm planning to set a workshop about end-of-life. Also, there will be a Buddhist Education class about Shinjin. Please see the flyer.

Let us listen to the wish of Amida Buddha, and the All-Embracing compassion & All-Inclusive wisdom of Amida Buddha are resonating in our lives saying “I'm here for you always, come to my embrace!”

Namo Amida Butsu

President's Message

Foodland's Give Aloha Program

This year, Puna Hongwanji is excited to participate in Give Aloha, Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts program! This program runs during the month of September and it's easy to participate! Simply make a donation to Puna Hongwanji at any Foodland or Sack N Save this month, and Foodland will match a **portion** of your gift! Membership dues are not considered a donation.

Here's how it works:

- Go to any Foodland or Sack N Save store
- Make a donation of any amount up to \$249 at checkout. The donation in the form of cash, check or credit card and must be made payable to Foodland or Sack N Save. Donations can also be added to your grocery bill.
- Give the cashier our organization code # **79088**
- Present your Maika'i card to the cashier when making your transaction.
- Review your receipt to confirm the donation amount and the name of our organization is correct. You may ask for a duplicate receipt which can be submitted to our treasurer. If you want to specify what your donation is for, please write it on your receipt. For example, if you want it to be credited as your Ohigan donation, you can write that down.

We'll receive all donations plus our matching gift in October. You can also donate 250 Maika'i points, equivalent to a \$5 donation, to help increase the matching gift for all participating organizations or purchase Give Aloha merchandise designed by Punky Aloha to help too! Mahalo for your support to help Give Aloha to Puna Hongwanji in September.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 938-3177.



In Gassho,
Clifford Furukado

Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights



Synopsis of Kyodan Board of Directors' Online Meeting held on Thursday, July 14, 2022.
Minutes were recorded by Marilyn Sato, Secretary.

Repair and Maintenance

- Broken PA system in social hall was being checked by Paul Sakamoto and Mel Yamanaka
- Broken AC in dining room is being checked
- Window screens need to be repaired in the parsonage – working with Alumside
- General Contractor Ivan Mochida found someone to do gutter repairs at the Columbarium
- More landfill may be needed for the front yard

Approved Activities/Announcements

- Rev. Tomioka announced that Hawaii District Ministers Association will continue covering for the Hamakua Temples until the assignment of a new minister is determined.
- We were reminded that each social issue (gun violence, Russia-Ukraine Conflict, reproductive freedom, etc.) is delicate and charged with many viewpoints. Let us continue to observe things carefully, mindfully, and compassionately with Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. “We are all in this together, but we all go through the same thing differently.”
- Eight BWA members registered to attend the World Convention in Japan next May.
- Miles Nakatsu reported that Cub Pack 4067 has been restarted. Meetings are held at PHM.
- Project Dana invites temple members to consider being a volunteer. Contact Eileen or Stella for volunteer application form and/or questions.
- This has not been a good year for our investment portfolio. We were reminded that this is a long term investment and not get too excited about the short term activity.
- Carol Tsunozumi reported that Mrs. Mieko Nagao sewed 100 masks in June for a total of 2,800 masks. Masks were passed out at obon.
- Obon Co-Chairs Glenn Watarida and Donald Ikeda thanked committee chairs and everyone for a successful night. President Furukado said we did good for one night of obon. Parents and children were happy at the game booth organized by Haruka Tomioka. All committee chairs are requested to submit evaluation reports to Glenn and Donald.
- The Board moved to support the Interfaith Communities in Action by being one of the sponsors. The walk is to end family homelessness on the Big Island. It will be held on Aug. 6 at the Afook Chinen Civic Auditorium.
- In memory of Sadako Sasaki, an eternal flame project is moving forward. The goal is to raise \$20,000 by July 15 but Art Taniguchi said donations can be made after that date. The Board moved to make a donation to the Paper Crane Foundation for the Eternal Flame Project.
- The Rental Committee will look at revising the rental contract and new rates. Rental will be available starting September 1.
- Board approved purchase and installation of equipment for the dining room and main temple.
- Sept. 16-17: Lay Convention via Zoom. Oahu District is host.
- Sept. 17: Liliuokalani's Birthday Celebration at Liliuokalani Garden
- Sept. 24: Tomioka's wedding & reception
- Oct. 29: Hawaii Island United Hongwanji BWA (HIUHBWA) General Membership Meeting at PHM

In Appreciation – Thank You Very Much

- Everyone is so grateful and thankful for the Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple members, family, affiliates, and friends who supported the Obon. Work started days before Saturday and people showed up to help in whatever way was needed. Mahalo nui loa for your time and help. Thank you also for the generous donations to the bon concession and for obon. We truly have an amazing and supportive Sangha! Thank you to Glenn and Donald for co-chairing the event.
 - 1st Vice-President Warren Tanigawa gave a special shout out to Puna Taiko for their performance at obon. They continued their performance in the pouring rain. You can view their effort online. It shows their determination and spirit.
 - A thank you letter was received to thank PHM for our participation in support of the World Central Kitchen and the visit to Pahoa Elementary School. How wonderful that our community participation and involvement is recognized!
 - Thank you to Jenn Kurohara, Robin Sato, and many of you for your donation to the Police Department Backpack Drive.
 - Another amazing feat was done by our Super Senior Seamstress, Mrs. Mieko Nagao. She sewed another 100 masks for a total of **2,800!**
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BWA NEWS

A BWA unit meeting was held on Aug. 7th in the conference room. Puna BWA is responsible for the Hawaii Island United Hongwanji Buddhist Women Association general meeting which will be held in October at Puna Hongwanji. Puna BWA is asking our Kyodan members for assistance in preparing for this meeting. The Senior YBA has offered to set up and break down in the Social Hall.

It is Puna BWA's turn to fill the president, secretary and auditor positions for the 2023-24 HIUHBWA term. In addition, Puna BWA itself needs to fill its own slate of officers. There will be a meeting on Aug. 28th to fill the HIUHBWA and Puna BWA vacancies.

Under new business, a Bridal Shower for Haruka was proposed. BWA will host a shower after the service on Sept. 11, 2022. Women temple members are invited to attend. A signup sheet will be placed at the front of the temple to get a head count. Please join us in this celebration.

PROJECT DANA



Project Dana News. Site coordinator Stella Miyashiro organized an outing to the Orchid Show and Plant Sale at the Edith Kanakaole Multi-Purpose Stadium. Volunteer Claire Arakawa took Sayoko Higa, Iris Asato and Tokimi Miyatake. Sharman Oyadomari took her mother, Kay Kuwahara and sister, Marsha Puyear, who was visiting from the mainland. The ladies were in awe of the displays of spectacular orchids that were in all colors, shapes and sizes. Sayoko

bought a plant, which will bring her joy when it blooms colorful yellow, orange orchids. A leisurely lunch was enjoyed at Don's Grill, where the ladies talked stories.



On August 3rd, Ann Toma, Lei Kakugawa, Dora Hashimoto, and Adela Hara made three visitations. First, they went to Life Care Center and a private care home. Their last visit was to have lunch with Kay Kawazoe, who is a homebound senior. The bento lunch and good company brightened Kay's day.

On Aug. 11th, Selena Brachmiller and Stella visited a private care home, where Satsuyo Taira is a resident. Sel and Sats had fun remembering the old Pahoa days and the families with many children. A fellow resident, who lived in Kapoho, joined in the conversation too. The threesome spent the afternoon reminiscing their Pahoa experiences with fondness and laughter. Before leaving, Sel gave Sats a beanie and shawl that she crocheted. Stella shared a floral bouquet, which was made with blooms from her garden.

Recently, a temple member donated a case of Ensure and several packages of adult diapers. These items were delivered to a Hilo private care home. The caregiver was very appreciative of the donations, which his residents will use.

Project Dana is grateful for the donations from temple members and friends. With your support, the volunteers will continue to provide services to our seniors.



Happy Birthday Keri!



Happy Birthday Ilene!



Happy Birthday Kay!



In Gassho,
Stella Miyashiro
Eileen Usagawa

BON DANCE 2022

After two years of no live in-person Bon Dance we had a very successful event. This event was successful because of everyone working together as a **ONE** team. An extra special thank you goes out to Glenn Watarida and Donald Ikeda, who both volunteered to co-chair the Bon Dance committee. They gathered their Bon Dance committee and each person was given a task. All the pieces were together the event which was displayed by the many happy faces. Although there was some rain that did not dampen the moment and everyone enjoyed the evening.

We would like to thank all our volunteers that came out for the preparation for the Bon Dance and cleaning up after the Bon Dance. We appreciate each and every one of you for coming out to assist. These events would not be possible without your assistance, so we are truly grateful to all of you. If you were unable to attend, but sent a family member we appreciate that as well.

RECYCLED PAPER CRANES

Thank you to everyone that contributed to folding cranes with recycled paper. We far exceeded our goal. Thank you to everyone that came to help string all the cranes. We will be donating four mobiles with 1,000 cranes each from the Puna Hongwanji Kyodan, Puna Hongwanji Peace Committee, Puna Hongwanji BWA, and Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA. We will donate the cranes to the East Hawaii Rotary Club's Peace Committee to promote peace through an Origami Peace Crane (Tsuru) Project. Peace Day is on September 21 and the East Hawaii Rotary Club will be hanging recycled cranes at the Hawaii County Building.

PEACE DAY EVENTS

Peace Day photo contest and children's drawing contest online via Facebook. We will once again open this up to anyone that wants to participate. Share a photo that depicts peace to you. Have your child share a drawing of peace. Stay tuned to Facebook for more information.

On Wednesday, September 21, 2022 it will be the 3rd Virtual Ring Your Bell for Peace Day Program. People around the world will ring bells simultaneously. Please register by September 12, 2022 at <http://bit.ly/PeaceDay2022>. A short program will begin at 8:30 a.m. (HST). At 9:00 a.m., there will be a moment of silence and following that will be the bell ringing.

At Puna Hongwanji on Sunday, September 25, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. will be our Peace Day Service. Our guest speaker will be Charlene Iboshi who is part of the East Hawaii Rotary Clubs' Peace Committee. After the service you are invited to join us on the front lawn as we dedicate our peace pole that will be erected on our temple grounds.

SUNDAY SERVICE AND 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.

FOLDING CRANES

A group gathered after temple service on Sunday to string the recycle paper cranes that were folded. With everyone working together we had over 4,000 cranes so will have four sets of 1,000 to donate from Puna Hongwanji on behalf of the different organizations.



Thank you to everyone that helped us fold cranes and thank you everyone that came out to string the cranes. Working together we far exceeded our request for cranes. We will keep the extra cranes for future activities. We are truly grateful to everyone. In September we will donate the cranes to the Mayor's Office and they will display it at the Hawaii County Building for Peace Day.



Queen Liliuokalani Gardens News



He Hali`a Aloha No Lili`uokalani, the 23rd annual celebration of the Queen's birthday, will take place in Lili`uokalani Gardens Saturday, September 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Events and activities include mass hula, children's games, flower drop, demonstrations, Hawaiian games, food trucks, entertainment.

This is a free, family, fun oriented annual celebration.



On Saturday, August 6, 2022 Puna Taiko was part of the entertainment for the Interfaith Communities in Action (ICIA) walk to end family homelessness.



Back: Rev Satoshi and Haruka Tomioka
Front: Carol, Masako, and son Thom.