

## Puna Hongwanji Mission



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## January 2023 Hi-Lites

Stay connected with  
Puna Hongwanji Mission by:

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Webpage: [www.punahongwanji.org](http://www.punahongwanji.org)

Online donation:

[www.punahongwanji.org/donate/](http://www.punahongwanji.org/donate/)

### **2023 Honpa Hongwanji Theme & Slogan**

**Building Healthy Sanghas**

*(Sharing Joy Together)*

### **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

*Grace Arakaki*

## *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 also available.**



**\*\*Addition to December 2022\*\***  
**Mitsue Miyatake December 5, 2020**

## **January 2023**

1 yr.	Suyeko Yamasaki	January 26, 2022
3 yrs.	George Hara Stanley Oishi	January 10, 2021 January 13, 2021
7 yrs.	Mitoyo Kamimura Aiko Fukunaga Sadaichi Kakugawa	January 22, 2017 January 27, 2017 January 28, 2017
13 yrs.	None	2011
17 yrs.	Isamu Aito	January 16, 2007
25 yrs.	Tsutomu Taketa	January 14, 1999
33 yrs.	None	1991
50 yrs	Craig Hayashida	January 3, 1974

A memorial service is a time for family members and friends to gather in memory of our loved ones. It's held in gratefulness for the Compassion of Amida Buddha who is always embracing our loved ones and each of us warmly and gently.

You may schedule this memorial service on the memorial day listed above, or either before or after the day whichever is most convenient. Please contact Puna Hongwanji at (808) 966-9981 or email at mpunahongwanji@twc.com





### **Minister's Message**

How do you envision yourself in 2023? Perhaps, what we want for this new year might be peace, happiness, health, safety, harmony, understanding, respect, and so forth as we've been through tough times these past years.

According to the truth of life, things don't always go as we wish, and everything is changing depending on the causes & conditions. Struggles occur from our own denial of the truth. Truth is something that we are eager to know or we don't want to know. If a tragic event happens, what we want to know is the truth. Or if someone is trying to reveal some inconvenient truth about us, we may want to sweep it under the carpet. However, no matter how much we try to change or hide it, the truth is always

there in front of our eyes whether we like it or not.

Buddhism is the religion founded by the awakened one who understands the truth and who guides all to live with that truth. It is called the Dharma-the universal teaching which causes us to know the truth of life & ourselves and leads us to the way of enlightenment. Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Pure Land Buddhism Tradition understands this truth as Amida Buddha's Primal Vow. Amida Buddha, the Buddha of Vigorous Compassion and Transcending Wisdom, pledged to embrace all and lead us to attain enlightenment in the Pure Land, and guide us to return to the delusional human world to navigate those who left behind to the path of truth. Compassion is loving-kindness & loving-concern for me who are going through so many ups and downs. Wisdom is a lighthouse that gives me direction, warmth, and the light.

When I was young, I was a Kolohe/rascal boy. I always had a minor cut and injuries. Every time when I fell and cut my knees, I cried. Hearing my crying voice, my mother came to me and embraced me saying, "My boy. It's okay, it's okay, I'm here for you." In her embrace, I continued crying but somehow found comfort although the pain was still there. The comfort arose because I know that somebody acknowledges my pain, someone understands my situation, and someone cares about me.

Amida Buddha's Wisdom teaches me that pain is inevitable. Life naturally brings me all kinds of pains including illness, aging, death, separation from loved ones, meeting with someone we don't like, not getting what we want, and pains derived from body and mind. The more I tried to escape from this fact, the more I suffered. Only when I admit that pain is part of my life, and only when I understand the suffering arises because of my ignorance to this truth, acceptance of my pains erupts in my life.

Amida Buddha's Compassion is truly with me always, even when I try to ignore, avoid and can't accept the truth of "pain is inevitable". Buddha's compassion is described as "Your happiness is my happiness, your suffering is my suffering." There is no distinction between us but only togetherness and oneness with Amida Buddha. In that embrace, when I realize that there is someone who acknowledges my pain, who is with me, who guides my life, who understands my emotions and struggles, I find comfort. Indeed, once embraced, never forsaken by Amida Buddha.

Shinran Shonin says, --"The light of compassion illumines us from afar; those beings it reaches, it is taught, attain the joy of dharma, so take refuge in Amida, the great consolation\*." *\*great consolation: A name of Amida. All the sorrows, griefs, and evils of sentient beings are eliminated and they are comforted.--*

Like a caring and concerned hand is offered to embrace the pain and joy, Amida Buddha is always here for us saying: “Whatever happens in your life, I shall embrace you. Come to my embrace, take refuge in me, Amida!” Hearing this calling and receiving the mind of Buddha, an entrusting heart (shinjin) erupts in me, and Namo Amida Butsu comes out from my mouth, with the mind of gratefulness and humbling joy for the Amida Buddha’s benevolence.

In 2023, and every day, every moment, let us continue to listen to the Dharma. And let us find comfort in the compassionate embrace and let us take refuge in the wisdom who dispels the ignorance and guides us to be aware of the joy of Nembutsu.

Happy New Year and Hau’oli Makahiki Hou.

新年明けましておめでとうございます。今年はどのような年になるでしょうか。穏やかで心落ち着いた日々を願う一方で、実際には毎日が喜怒哀楽なのが私たちの人生のようです。仏教は、真実に目覚められた仏様のみ教えです。このみ教えによって、私たちは自分がどのようないのちを生きているかを知らされ、まことなるいのちへと育まれ導かれていきます。

親鸞聖人は、この真実とは南無阿弥陀仏の願いだと気づかれました。それは、すべての人を苦悩から救い取り、安らいだいのちである仏としてお浄土に生まれさせたい、というものです。「人生楽ありや、苦もあるさ」といいますが、苦しみの原因は外だけにあるのではなく、根本の原因は人間が持つ都合のいい心、煩悩であると仏教は説きます。この煩悩がある限り、心はコロコロと変わり、落ち着くことはありません。

私は小さいころから悪坊主で、いつも新しい傷を作っていました。転んで膝を擦りむいて泣く私に、母親はいつもぎゅっと抱きしめて、「痛かったね、大丈夫、大丈夫」と言ってくれました。母の胸の中で、痛みがそこにはありながら、どこか安心していたことを覚えています。それはきっと、私の痛みを理解して、分かってくれる人がいる、私のことを心配して思ってくれている人がいるからだっただけだと思います。

阿弥陀様の慈悲とは、私たちの苦悩をまるごと抱きとって、どんなことがあっても私を孤独にさせないあたたかい心です。阿弥陀様の智慧とは、思うようにいかない人生を自分の思うようにしようとしている私の姿を見抜き、真実へと向かわせる道しるべです。

痛みを手をやるように、喜びに響感するように、阿弥陀様は、いつも、いつでも、いつまでも私たちと共にいてくださいます。南無阿弥陀仏とは、「そのまままかせよ、必ず救うよ、親だからね」のお喚び声です。その阿弥陀様の願いが私の心に灯るとき、それが阿弥陀様に出遇えた喜びの心となり（信心）、自然と手が合わさり、南無阿弥陀仏とお念仏がこぼれ出てくださいます。新年、毎日毎日が、阿弥陀様とご一緒のいのちです。



## New Year's Greeting

Happy New Year, everyone! At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my best regards to you all.

In view of the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022, as Nembutsu followers who have deeply inscribed in our hearts and minds Shinran Shonin's message of "May there be peace in the world," we firmly stand against the military infringement of the other nation's sovereignty, and also aspire for immediate return of peace in Ukraine.

Over the last year, COVID-19 continues to be a global pandemic. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to those who fell victim to the disease and express my sympathies to those who are undergoing treatment. I would also like to express my respect and sincere gratitude to the doctors, nurses, and other frontline medical professionals who have been engaging in the treatment of infected people, as well as all essential workers who have made it possible for us to continue with our lives.

The pandemic has forced us to learn firsthand that we will continue to be confronted by unexpected situations even in modern times despite technologies both in science and medical fields being highly developed. Sakyamuni Buddha, who passed on the Dharma to us, made clear that there is no life nor entity in this world that lasts forever. This truth, the principle of impermanence, has never changed even in this time and age approximately 2500 years since his time. Another fact that does not change is our inability to accept this truth as it is, and because of this, we continue struggling.

This is the very reason why, regardless of the pandemic, we can rely on the Jodo Shinshu teaching clarified by Shinran Shonin, which guides us as a spiritual foundation that enables us to move forward even when being overwhelmed with difficulties. A gathering at the temple with Amida Buddha as its center provides a great opportunity to receive the Dharma as well as an occasion in which people can support and reassure one another as fellow practitioners who follow the same teaching.

I hope you will continue to share the teaching within the greater society through various ways and your temple will or continue to serve as a place where people can gather and find comfort in its activities. I humbly ask for your understanding and cooperation in support of your temples. I would like to conclude my new year's greeting with my heartfelt appreciation to you all.

January 1, 2023

OHTANI Kojun  
Monshu  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha



## 2023 Bishop's New Year's Message

My New Year's Resolution is...

Let me take this precious opportunity to wish you a sincere "Happy New Year!" More than any other time of the year, the start of the year is a time we are filled with hope and expectation for a brighter and better year.

While, we may have personal desires and goals for myself, let us not forget to also have more inclusive aspirations and goals which embraces all others. In the words of Mitsuo Aida, whose calligraphy piece for Gan (or Negai in vernacular Japanese) is reproduced here, he says very different from personal wishes centered only on oneself are wishes such as: may there be no wars, aspiring for peace and harmony in the world, and may our human contrivances not contribute further to the contamination of our natural environment of the land, sea, and air. When we sincerely embrace these sorts of wishes, they are referred to as "Gan" (or aspirations or vows). If held deeply in our hearts, even the tiniest aspiration will be reflected in our eyes and faces. May we embrace vows and aspirations within our means and contribute to a brighter prospect for our future.

When I look at Mitsuo Aida's calligraphy above, I am reminded of Amida Buddha's 48 Vows especially the Great Compassion of Amida Buddha which promises "If those who entrust themselves to my Vow should not be born [in my (Pure) land], I shall not become Buddha." which expresses Amida Buddha great aspiration by conditioning the Buddha's own Supreme Enlightenment with the Enlightenment of all others including you and me. Could there be a greater wish or aspiration? Please reflect on this matter.

Further, let us make manifest our Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Theme & Slogan for 2023 which is "Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together." As Shinran Shonin rejoiced in one of his poems, *The light of compassion illumines from afar; Those beings it reaches, it is taught, Attain the Joy of the Dharma, So take refuge in Amida, the great consolation.*

Do not keep that joy and happiness of the Nembutsu hidden within you. Culturally, for many of us, being reserved and somewhat stoic is a culturally emphasized trait, but when it comes to the Joy of Buddha-Dharma, "No enryo (Don't hesitate)" would be my recommendation. Let it flow from the depths of your being outward and allow it to be known to others. This is, one way, we are able to share our joy. Needless to say, this "Sharing Joy Together" is not limited to our close circle of family and friends, but it does start with them.

To conclude, once again, I hope you detached Gomonsu's "Our Pledge" from last year's Hawaii Kyodan Calendar and have it where you and others can see and recite it daily as it shares how we can live our life together. As I express my best wishes to you for a happy, joyous and meaningful New Year, please join me in awareness, joy and gratitude of Great Wisdom and Compassion which guides, nurtures, and embraces us (eventually transforms with birth in the Pure Land of Enlightenment), to recite Namo Amida Butsu or The Buddha's Name Which I Call (in gratitude) in response to Namo Amida Butsu or The Buddha's Name That Calls Me (to entrust). Namo Amida Butsu. Thank you and, once again, "Happy New Year" from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's Office of the Bishop.

In gassho/anjali, Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Bishop  
January 1, 2023





## President's New Year's Message for 2023 Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Happy New Year! Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu! Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

I hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and in good spirits as we enter the New Year, 2023. The COVID-19 situation in the USA has improved over the past year with the development of effective and safe vaccines and antiviral treatments. However, over 1 million Americans (and much more worldwide) have died since the pandemic started in 2020. The COVID-19 virus still results in serious illness and death for susceptible people. Therefore, we must continue to be cautious and respectful of others. Simple guidelines that we can follow include vaccination, staying home when sick, handwashing and wearing masks when close to others. Please try to be safe as we re-open our temples.

As we move into the new year, we will reflect often on our theme and slogan for 2023, “***Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together***”. As we reflect, let us remember the concept of **ondobo-ondogyo** as a guide to our thoughts and action. Shinran used this phrase to explain that we are all fellow travelers, or companions on the Nembutsu path. Shinran saw himself as an ordinary person, a *bombu* (foolish person) walking the Nembutsu path along with his Dharma friends. In Shinran's view, we are all equal. As fellow travelers, we share each other's joys and sorrows, each other's burdens and celebrations. In **ondobo-ondogyo**, there is a profound sense that we are equal and interdependent. Also, with the spirit of **ondobo-ondogyo** there is a natural experience of gratitude as we give support, and we are in turn supported by the presence of our fellow travelers.

As we look back on our journey for the past few years, let us express our appreciation to our ministers and temple leaders for their dedication, resilience and creativity in sharing the Nembutsu teachings with our community under difficult circumstances. And, let us continue on our journey in joy and gratitude for Amida's universal and unconditional compassion for all.

With Gassho,

Warren Tamamoto

President, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights



Synopsis of Kyodan Board of Directors' meeting held on Thursday, November 17, 2022.  
Minutes were recorded by Marilyn Sato, Secretary.

### **Repair and Maintenance**

- Thank you to Gary Sunada for repairing the sash cord for the social hall windows.
- Thank you to Clifford Furukado for repairing the toilet in the women's restroom.
- Termite tenting company asked PHM to reschedule work. Week of Dec. 5 was chosen.
- Some of altar decorations need immediate repair.

### **Approved Activities/Announcements**

- Rev. Tomioka announced that the Big Island ministers will continue to offer help to the 3 Temples.
- Shout out to Robin Sato and Jenn Kurohara for the Halloween costume contest (19 entries) and fruit & vegetable carving contest (9 entries). The two of them and Rev. Tomioka visited Pahoa Elem. School. The students were happy and greeted Pikachu with loud cheers.
- Giseikai will be attended by Rev. Tomioka and two delegates. Dec. 31, 2022 is deadline to submit names.
- PHM is toban for BIBF and attended the Veteran's Day Service. Taishoji will be next toban.
- BWA reported a successful HIUHBWA General Membership Meeting held at PHM. 2023-2024 officers were elected and installed. New members were recognized and centenarians were honored. Calabash donations benefitted the Dana Fund and Scholarship Fund.
- The Scouts hosted a Cuboree which was well received by interested parents, grandparents, and students.
- Project Dana reported Akiko Matsuda is starting the Hakalau Senior Luncheon Program. Puna seniors will be invited to participate again.
- At the meeting, it was reported that 57 groups are participating in the Craft Fair and people are still asking to participate. Besides entertainment, gift wrapping, raffle (vendors are donating prizes), and silent auction will be available. The crafters are having a Christmas ornament contest. Ronnie Kitayama is the person in charge.
- The Board approved providing PHM's Tax ID number to Cub Pack 67 so they can open an account at FHB. President Clifford Furukado and Treasurer Richard Solie will be listed as signors on that account.
- Nov. 20: Eitaikyo, 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and Distinguished Sangha Service Award (DSSA). DSSA honorees are Mitsuye Toma, Kay Kawazoe, and Florence Nishimura.
- Dec. 4: BIBF Bodhi Day Service at PHM
- Dec. 10: Rev. Tatsuo Muneto is the guest lecturer for the Hawaii District Ministers Association (HDMA) Buddhist Education Class, "Never Alone: Shin Buddhism and End-of-Life Care". Register online.
- Dec. 10: Keaau Christmas Parade at 6:00 p.m. Shuttle service for marchers will be available from 4:30 at PHM.
- Dec. 17: Hybrid gathering for Sr. YBA
- Dec. 18: **General Membership Meeting** after temple service
- Feb. 10-11, 2023: Giseikai – may be in-person, hybrid or virtual



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

- Thank you to Gary Sunada, Clifford Furukado, and others who continue to make improvements to the temple. You are appreciated!
- Mahalo, mahalo, mahalo to all who made donations for the State Social Concerns Fund.
- Thank you to Ronnie Kitayama for organizing the Craft Fair. At an earlier meeting it was reported we had 40 interested vendors. The interest keeps growing. She must be doing something special! Thank you very much!
- Thank you to all who participated in Foodland Give Aloha Program. We will be receiving over \$2,700.

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### **PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Happy New Year everyone! This past year was a year of transition. We slowly began getting back to normal. Our Sunday services were in person as well as online. We were socially distancing in the beginning but now we are only requesting that masks be worn at services. Activities like the Taiko, Judo, Karate, Yoga and fitness classes have resumed and we started renting our facilities again. We celebrated Obon for the first time in two years thanks to co-chairs Glenn Watarida and Donald Ikeda and we were able to have a Rummage Sale and a couple of Boutique sales thanks to Linnette Quade. Thank you to Veronica Kitayama for coordinating the winter Craft Fair and thanks to Byron Toma we participated in the Keaau Christmas parade. Thank you to all the members and friends who came out to help with these events. We wouldn't have been able to put on these events without your help. I'm looking forward to next year when we can maybe have a cinder sale and may be make some Lau Lau.

Puna Hongwanji was the temple in charge of the BIBF activities this past year. Thank you for those who helped with Hanamatsuri at Liliuokalani Gardens and the Bodhi Day Service held at the temple. We have one more duty and that will be the Installation of Officers and Annual Dinner.

This was supposed to be the end of my two year term but I have decided to serve for two more years. There are some things that I feel need to be accomplished. We need to repair and paint the temple and the Columbarium. We did replace the gutters on the Columbarium but there is much more to do. We also should research ways to create a steady income stream that can sustain our temple into the future.

I would like to thank the outgoing Board of Directors for their hard work and dedication and welcome the new board members and officers. I would especially like to thank Marilyn Sato who has been our Secretary for over 20 years. She will be stepping down as Secretary but will remain on as Corresponding Secretary. Thank you Marilyn.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Reverend Tomioka who continues to do such a fine job as Resident Minister. You are the one who keeps us on track and you are the backbone of Puna Hongwanji.

I am looking forward to 2023 and would like to wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year.



In Gassho,  
Clifford Furukado

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

As we welcome 2023, the Sunday behind the scenes group would like to wish all of you a happy, healthy, and safe new year. We thank you for joining us in-person or online during the Sunday Services. If you are not on our weekly email listing and would like to be added, please email [mpunahongwanji@twc.com](mailto:mpunahongwanji@twc.com) or contact Robin Sato.

Mahalo – Rev. Tomioka, Haruka Tomioka, Jenn Kurohara, Robin Sato, and Warren Tanigawa



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## **FOOD DRIVE DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2023**

With the cost of living and daily expenses going up, if you are able to participate, in January 2023 we will have a food drive for The Food Basket Hawai'i Island's Food Bank. You can drop off non-perishable items or make a monetary donation for the whole month of January. **We will have a drop off date after temple service on Sunday, January 22, 2023 from 10:30 a.m. – 12 noon.**

If you are interested in making a monetary donation, checks can be made payable to *The Food Basket, Inc.* In the memo section notate Puna Hongwanji food drive.

Please be mindful and do not donate items that are or will expire soon. During this time if you have any HI-5 items, you can drop them off during the food drive drop off date on January 22, 2023.

Any questions, please contact Jenn Kurohara or Robin Sato.



## HOLIDAY PHOTO CONTEST 2022



Thank you to everyone that have participated in the many activities we have hosted during 2022. Our last event of the year was the holiday photo contest. We had 2 age categories – ages 0-18 years old and 19+ years old.

Congratulations to the following entries. All prizes were gift certificates from the Most Irresistible Shop in Hilo.

Ages 0 – 18 years old

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$20 Kanoë Arai – four photos with Karter and inflatables, biggest Christmas tree ever, loves inflatables and Santa came to town.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$15 Leo & Lenny Saito – the Twelve Days of Christmas – “Numbah one day of Christmas, my tutu gave to me one mynah bird in one papaya tree.”

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$10 Kian Ikeda – Happy Holidays

Ages 19+ years old

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$20 Adela Hara – Mrs. Claus sharing a double shaka and hohoho to all

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$15 Melissa Chong-Grogu goes to Keaukaha Preschool – everybody loves “Baby Yoda”

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Mimy and Rev. Kerry – Everybody needs a Christmas sweater “just as it is” – there is no “ugly”. (They Indicated IF they win to pass the prize Along to another person – Namo Amida Butsu.. So 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$10 Roy Kaneko – wreath and table top decorations made by Roy

For the People’s Choice award the top person in each age category had 23 likes and hearts. Congratulations to Justin Matsumoto (Elfied and friends) and Roy Kaneko (wreath decoration).





## SR. YBA

Happy New Year! Hau‘oli Makahiki Hou! 明けましておめでとう！ from Sr. YBA

As we enter 2023 with open hearts, we reflect on and are grateful for having been able to enjoy in-person events in 2022! Thank you to the valuable members for enthusiastically supporting our temple’s contribution to positive and meaningful experiences in our community!

In January, thanks to a bento fundraiser and additional generosity of members, we were able to present a \$500 check to temple member Leo Saito to help with his travel cost to Augusta, Georgia. Leo represented exceptionally well with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at the Drive, Chip, and Putt National Championship.



Throughout 2022 we provided set-up and clean-up manpower for temple events as well as parking attendance and other various duties. Significant events included BIBF Hanamatsuri at Liliuokalani Park, the first in-person Memorial Day Service since 2019, the return of bon dance, BWA conference for the Big Island, a winter craft fair, and temple parking attendance during the Kea‘au Lighted Christmas Parade. Thank you to temple committees for entrusting Sr. YBA with such important tasks!

We have been meeting virtually since 2020 but in December we finally got together in-person for our End-of-the-Year party! It was a blast starting out with a Christmas ice breaker that, despite most of us knowing each other for years, learned a little bit more. We then enjoyed potluck reminiscent of meetings past, indulging on delicious food prepared or provided by members in attendance. The highlight of the evening was karaoke!

Looking ahead to 2023 we will continue to plan for an annual golf tournament fundraiser and consider ordering new Sr. YBA t-shirts. As well as continuing to support temple events throughout the year.

As my two-year term has come to an end, it’s time to hand over the reigns to the next person. Whoever that may be! It has been an incredibly rewarding experience that, as a fairly new temple member, has made it possible to get to know all of you better. To make new and lasting friendships. To be better familiar with temple activities and idiosyncrasies. I am especially grateful for the following Directors who have been an integral part of this association and without whom I would not be able to function as a proper leader:

Vice President, Jason Hashimoto for your wisdom and guidance.

Immediate Past President, Sam Horiuchi for always being there when I have operational questions and thoughts.

Advisors: Sam Horiuchi and Cary Tanoue for continued support.

Secretary: Robin Sato for keeping me on task and for being the information hub of this association.

Treasurer: Corey Kawamoto for your thorough bookkeeping and being readily available for providing accurate information.

おかげさまで

As a reminder, membership dues are \$10 per person. Temple membership is not required. Meetings are held every first Wednesday of even numbered months, with the first meeting of 2023 on February 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm. It will be virtual but we can decide as a group if we want to switch back to in-person for the rest of the year.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy 2023! - jk

## BWA NEWS

Mrs. Tomiye Kukino was recognized with a resolution honoring her as a centenarian. Ilene Hara and Marilyn Sato arranged to visit with her.



Marilyn Sato and Ilene Hara visit with Mrs Kukino and present her with her certificate.



Bernice with her gift and her cuddly friend

BWA sewn lap blankets and walker bags were delivered to residents at Life Care Center. Lei Kakugawa, Eileen Usagawa, and Stella Miyashiro made the visitation. Private care homes and home bound seniors will also receive lap blankets and walker bags.

The BWA will have their traditional luncheon in the new year. Adela Hara was appointed to chair a committee to determine a date, time, and location for the luncheon.



The Senior YBA helped set up and breakdown at the general membership meeting. \$100 will be given to the Senior YBA in appreciation for their help. A \$200 orei will be given to Rev. Tomioka for all his help throughout the year.

The next BWA meeting will be on January 8, 2023.

Members, please remember to pay your 2023 BWA membership dues. You can use the kitchen drop off box or mail it to Puna BWA, P.O. Box 100, Keaau, Hi 96749.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ilene Hara and Naomi Hirayasu

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## MEMBERSHIP

Happy Holidays! Thank you for your dues payment. Recommended dues is \$240.00. Payment can also be made weekly, monthly, quarterly, & semi-annual. If you are head of household and in a care home situation, your dues is exempt. Also if you have a new address, please inform our office.



In Gassho,  
Roy Toma  
Membership Chairman  
808-935-7712



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## PUNA TAIKO

Puna Taiko participated in the Keaau Christmas Light Parade.

## PROJECT DANA



On Dec. 2, 2022, the Project Dana Volunteers Appreciation Luncheon was held at Countryside

Cafe. Volunteers attending were Clifford and Keri Furukado, Hiroshi Kozohara, Craig Shimoda, Richard Solie, Lei Kakugawa, Dora Hashimoto, Adela Hara, Marilyn Sato, Kiyo Sumi, Florence Nishimura, Ethel Miyashiro, Claire Arakawa, Eileen Usagawa and Stella Miyashiro. Claudia Uyeda, the Big Island Coordinator, was a guest. The volunteer drivers received a Hele gas card from Dana Headquarters. All the attendees got a Local Kine Grinds towel from Puna Project Dana and a sweet treat from Claudia. Covid Test Kits were sent from Headquarters for distribution to members. The luncheon was a pleasant way to bring the year to a close.



The volunteers worked hard to provide services to the homebound. With the Hakalau Senior Lunch Program being started again, the elders will have an outing to look forward to. Puna is invited to Hakalau on January 19, 2023. Contact Stella (808-959-7919) if you want to go to Hakalau. A headcount is needed for the food preparation and transportation.



December birthday wishes go out to Janie Karimoto and Ann Toma



Lei Kakugawa, Florence Nishimura, and Masako Sanehira dropped in to sing Happy Birthday to Kiyo Sumi.



Due to health reasons, Eileen Usagawa is resigning from her position as Puna site coordinator. She will still provide services to the seniors as a volunteer. Thank you Eileen, for being the tech person, who got the monthly data to Headquarters. She is the math whiz, who balanced the Dana bank accounts and turned in the year end financial report to the Kyodan treasurer. Eileen kept the bento delivery schedule updated whenever changes occurred. The seniors were ensured to get their bentos with an accurate schedule and money collection system.

Next year will truly be a challenge but this may be an opportunity for someone to step into the site coordinator's position. Let's work together and maintain the services that are provided for the seniors. Please keep safe and take care of each other. Have a very Happy New Year!



In gassho,  
Stella Miyashiro  
Eileen Usagawa

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## SANGHA ACTIVIES

After temple service, incense making session.

