

Puna Hongwanji Mission



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January 2024 Hi-Lites

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2024 Honpa Hongwanji Theme & Slogan
Building Healthy Sanghas
(Sharing Nembutsu Moments)

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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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.



January 2024

1 yr.	Edward Toriano	January 10, 2023
3 yrs.	Suyeko Yamasaki	January 26, 2022
7 yrs.	Seigo Shiigi	January 17, 2018
13 yrs.	Margaret Ogawa	January 21, 2012
17 yrs.	Kazuo Uchida Matsuko Miyashiro	January 4, 2008 January 10, 2008
25 yrs.	Doris Waite	January 6, 2000
33 yrs.	Tsuruyo Isono Hanako Masuda Yvonne Nagao Seichi Morita	January 4, 1992 January 14, 1992 January 22, 1992 January 22, 1992
50 yrs.	Rikizo Yano Asao Yamasaki	January 6, 1975 January 14, 1975

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

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

Ruby Matsumoto

Elaine Miyamoto

Frances Tanaka

JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 New Year's Eve Service: 9 am	1 New Year's Day Service: 9 am	2 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 - 6 pm	3 Farm to Car 9a -6p Karate 7:00 pm	4 Taiko 3 - 6 pm	5 Yoga 9 - 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4p Karate 6:00 pm	6 Judo Kagami Biraki Taiko Recital
7 Family Service 9 am Taiko 3 -6 pm	8 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm D. Rm Rental 6-8 p	9 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 - 6 pm Judo 6:30 - 8 pm	10 Farm to Car 9a -6p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	11 Taiko 3 - 6 pm Judo 6:30 - 8 pm D. Rm Rental 5-7	12 Yoga 9 - 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4p Karate 6:00 pm	13
14 Hoonko Service 9 am Taiko 3-6 pm	15 <i>M L King Day</i> Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm D. Rm Rental 6-8 p	16 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 - 6 pm Judo 6:30 - 8 pm	17 Farm to Car 9a -6p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	18 Taiko 3 - 6 pm Judo 6:30 - 8 p BOD Mtg. 7 p	19 Yoga 9 - 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4p Karate 6:00 pm	20 Sr. YBA Party @Kenichi's
21 Family Service 9 am Taiko 3 -6 pm	22 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm D. Rm Rental 6-8 p	23 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 - 6 pm Judo 6:30 - 8 pm	24 Farm to Car 9a -6p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	25 Taiko 3 - 6 pm Judo 6:30 - 8 p	26 Flower Arr. Class 8 a Yoga 9 - 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4p Karate 6:00 pm	27
28 Family Service 9 am Taiko 3 -6 pm	29 Yoga 9- 10:30 am Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm D. Rm Rental 6-8 p	30 Choir 12:30 pm Taiko 3 - 6 pm Judo 6:30 - 8 pm	31 Farm to Car 9a -6p Judo 5:30 pm Karate 7:00 pm	1 Taiko 3 - 6 pm Judo 6:30 - 8 p	2 Yoga 9 - 10:30 am Total Body Fitness 4p Karate 6:00 pm	3

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.

Over the last year, innumerable people worldwide have been affected by natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, and forest fires. I was particularly shocked by the wild fires that devastated the island of Maui in the state of Hawaii. This disaster completely destroyed the temple hall of Lahaina Hongwanji Mission and one temple member was reported to have lost his life. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to all who have perished in those calamities. I would also like to express my sympathies to those who are still coping with the dire situations. It is my sincere hope that all who have been affected will soon be able to return to a normal daily life.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022 is still continuing. Not only that, conflict between Israel and Palestine has once again flared up from October 2023, embroiling nations concerned with victimizing a large number of people many of whom are civilians. Looking at the appalling state of the world, the following words of Sakyamuni Buddha come to mind. "Everyone fears violence and is scared of death. In consideration of all life, do not kill and do not make others kill."

Every one of us who has received life as a human being, no matter the reason, must be ensured equally of human rights, and no one's life should be threatened. In reality, however, conflicts and terrorist attacks have occurred everywhere in the world and for many people, their right to live and exist has been threatened. As Buddhists who aspire for peace, we must keep Sakyamuni Buddha's words seriously in our hearts and pursue our endeavor of contributing toward world peace and security.

During the last year, we observed the Joint Celebration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching at Hongwanji, Kyoto for a total of 30 days, divided into 5 sessions during the period from March 29 to May 21. On this occasion, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to those who came to Japan to attend, as well as those who supported it in various

ways. This celebratory event could be realized only because our predecessors have cherished the Jodo Shinshu teaching as their spiritual foundation for many years no matter when or where they were, and carefully transmitted it to us today.

Let us, too, continue listening to the teaching as the center of our life while cherishing each day.

January 1, 2024



OHTANI Kojun
Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

年頭の辞

新しい年のはじめにあたり、ご挨拶申し上げます。

昨年も世界各地で地震・洪水・山火事など様々な災害が起こり、多くの方が被災されました。特にハワイ・マウイ島における山火事ではラハイナ本願寺の本堂が全焼し、メンバーの方々の被害も報告されています。ここに災害によってお亡くなりになられたすべての方々に謹んで哀悼の意を表しますとともに、被災された皆さまに心よりお見舞い申し上げます。皆さまが一日も早く、日常の生活を取り戻されますことを願っております。

また、2022年2月に始まったロシア連邦によるウクライナ侵攻はいまだに続いており、2023年10月以来、イスラエルとパレスチナの武力衝突では関係国を巻き込んで、民間人を含む多くの犠牲者が出ています。私がいま思い起こすのは、「すべての者は暴力におびえ、すべての者は死をおそれる。己が身にひきくらべて、殺してはならぬ。殺さしめてはならぬ。」（『ダンマパダ』第129偈）というお釈迦様のお言葉です。

この世に生を受けた私たちは、いかなる理由があろうとも等しく人権が保障され、命が脅かされるようなことがあってはなりません。しかし、現実には世界各地で紛争やテロが勃発し、生存の権利が脅かされている人々が数多くおられます。平和主義を掲げる仏教徒である私たちは、お釈迦様のお言葉を深く心に刻み、国際社会の平和と安全に大きく貢献することが求められています。

さて、昨年は本願寺において3月29日より5月21日までの5期30日間にわたり、「親鸞聖人御

誕生850年立教開宗800年慶讃法要」をお勤めいたしました。ご参拝くださいました皆さま、お力添えを賜りました皆さまに心より感謝申し上げます。私たちが立教開宗800年の慶讃法要をお勤めできたことは、時代や場所を超えて多くの先人の方々が、浄土真宗のみ教えを生きる支えとして、今日まで大切に受け継いでこられたからに他なりません。

これからもみ教えを聞き、それを支えとして、一日一日を大切に過ごしてまいりましょう。

2024年1月1日

浄土真宗本願寺派

門主 大谷光

Bishop's Message

To welcome the New Year, I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings to you all. On behalf of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all of you for your support, dedication, and participation in our services and activities.

Since I took the Headquarters Office as the new Bishop last July, I have been able to visit some of your temples. I bow my head to the ministers, temple leaders, and temple members for their tireless effort in protecting their temples and sharing with others the joy of Namo Amida Butsu. Each temple has its challenges and opportunities. As a community of people joined together revering the teaching of Shinran Shonin, let us work toward the realization of a society in which everyone can live a life of spiritual fulfillment.

This year, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will observe the Triple Celebration at Ala Moana Hotel on September 7-8, 2024. The Triple Celebration commemorates the 850th Anniversary of the Birth of Shinran Shonin, the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teachings, and the 135th Anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. The Steering Committee is working hard towards the two-day celebration event and its related programs. I would like to invite you all to attend this auspicious anniversary.

Our Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Theme and Slogan for 2024 is **“Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments.”** What are the “Nembutsu Moments”? These are the moments when the voice of the Nembutsu, “Namo Amida Butsu,” spontaneously flows from our lips.

The main body of *the Sutra on the Buddha of Immeasurable Life* explains the Forty-eight Vows of Amida Buddha, who undertook to establish a Pure Land for the enlightenment of all sentient beings. Shinran Shonin regarded that our act of saying “Namo Amida Butsu” is derived wholly from the working of Amida’s Vow. It means that the sound of “Namo Amida Butsu,” the promise Amida Buddha made to embrace and never abandon all beings, is already fulfilled and extended to all beings. It is the calling voice from the Buddha of Immeasurable Light and Life that holds the Buddha’s boundless empathy, concern, and compassion toward all beings. Such a message of universal compassion reaches into our hearts and minds, and flows from our lips spontaneously as “Namo Amida Butsu.”

What we experience in our daily lives could be the opportunities to ascertain and appreciate the truth of Boundless Wisdom and Compassion that embraces our lives. Let us experience, savor, appreciate, and share the Nembutsu moments with our families and friends in our daily lives.

May the sound of the Nembutsu flow from our lips. May the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha inspire and guide us always. Namo Amida Butsu.



Rev. Toshiyuki
Umitani
Bishop
Honpa Hongwanji
Mission of
Hawaii

President's New Year's Message for 2024 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, 2024. The year 2023 was an eventful one. Many of our Sangha were able to attend the Joint Celebration (Commemoration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching) at our Honzan in Kyoto on May 10, 2023. The Joint Celebration program was well organized and meaningful. The 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention (WBWC) followed on May 11 and 12 at the modern (although 50 years old) Kyoto International Conference Center. These two events were a highlight of the year for those who were able to attend. I will always remember the warm welcome that we received from our hosts at the Honzan and at the World Buddhist Women's Convention.

Soon after our return from Japan, we said "Mahalo and Aloha" to outgoing Bishop, Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Mrs. Tamayo Matsumoto, Chika and Caden at a luncheon in July. In August we warmly greeted incoming Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani, Mrs. Yoshiko Umitani, and daughters Naho and Riho at a luncheon.

Then, the disastrous Maui Wildfires of August 8, 2023 destroyed the historic town of Lahaina. Our Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, located near the center of the town was not spared. The temple, social hall, and minister's residence burned to the ground. Only the columbarium appears to have survived the fire. Fortunately, Rev. Ai Hironaka and family along with many other temple members evacuated in time. However, we have learned that one temple member lost his life in that fire. It appears that 2023 will be remembered as the year of the Maui Wildfires and the year that Lahaina Hongwanji was lost to the fire. This was a great loss for Lahaina town and the entire Hawaii Sangha.

However, this was not the end of the story. Community, state and federal agencies rushed into action and are still on the ground in Maui, planning for the future of Lahaina town and helping those displaced by the fire. Maui temple ministers and Sangha have warmly supported Lahaina members displaced by the fire. The Hongwanji community statewide, nationally and internationally has responded with compassionate action in the form of postcards, letters, gifts and generous monetary donations. Like the recent "disaster" that affected us, the COVID-19 pandemic, we learned that we are adaptable and we are resilient. The Lahaina community, and Lahaina Hongwanji Sangha in particular, I believe will respond with grit and determination.

Our theme and slogan for 2024 is "***Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments***". We live with joy and gratitude for Amida's universal and unconditional compassion for us. Since we are connected with and care for the people around us, we *share our Nembutsu moments*, so that others may awaken to, and appreciate the Buddha's limitless Compassion. In this way, we can each contribute to *building healthy Sanghas*.



With Gassho,
Warren
Tamamoto
President,
Honpa
Hongwanji
Mission of
Hawaii

Minister's Message

Warm wish anytime, anywhere.



“Wish” is defined as “to feel or express a strong desire or hope for something that is not easily attainable.” We humans have wishes for ourselves and others, ranging from small to serious, fervent, and sometimes risky. Sometimes wishes would come true, like when you wish upon a star, but other times they don’t, and we feel sad and despair. The important thing about a wish is that it shows our heartfelt desire for ourselves or others. We have wishes for important people in our lives, including ourselves. We wish for something because we don’t have it, and having a wish indicates that we don’t possess it right now or hope it will never disappear. It’s like a person praying for a jackpot in Las Vegas or continuing to pray for one after hitting it. Each person has countless wishes, and the wish we’re having right now might change as our situation or circumstances change. Whatever the wish is, whether it’s for us or others, we expect and ask that it be granted. However, when we think about our life, is our wish always granted? Perhaps most of us will say “No,” and we might think, “Well, that’s life.”

In Jodo Shinshu Pure Land Hongwanji tradition, the understanding of wish is guided by the teaching of *Shinran Shonin*. According to “The Essentials of Jodo Shinshu – My Path,” it says ‘we shall listen to the compassionate calling of Amida Tathagata (Buddha) and recite the Nembutsu. While always reflecting on us, amidst our feelings of regret and joy, we shall live expressing our gratitude without depending on petitionary prayer and superstition’ This shows our attitude as a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist. We have a wish, but we don’t pray for it to Amida Buddha. Firstly, whatever wishes we may have, they originate from our desire which is a cause of suffering in our life. If our desire is satisfied, we feel happy, but if not, we feel uncomfortable. So, Jodo Shinshu tradition does not stand in the position of asking something for Amida Buddha as it will promote our desire which causes trouble to one and the other. However, this doesn’t mean the teaching of Jodo Shinshu denies each person’s feelings nor doesn’t care about their concerns and worries like wishing for a healthy recovery after surgery, no car accident, successful business, sports, or study. Instead of praying for it, we receive a wish that has been made for us by Amida Buddha.

Amida Buddha is the kindest and wisest awakened being in the universe. The ultimate loving-kindness of Amida Buddha is called the Great Compassion. It always embraces all and gives comfort, love, and the feeling of being cared for and thought of. In other words, in that warm embrace, we are made to realize that we are never alone. Compassion is inseparable from human beings’ tears and worries. Like no rain, no rainbow, no tears, no compassion. Amida Buddha’s loving kindness is overflowing as people, you & me, we are going through so much stress and struggles in our life. Once embraced, never forsaken. This is the Great Compassion of Amida Buddha.

The wisest aspect of Amida Buddha is called the Great Wisdom. It is the ability to see things clearly and fairly without judgments. We human beings have our own leanings and perceptions based on our preferences and conveniences. Simply put, what I like is not always what you like. We feel comfortable if situations and people are meeting our expectations and desires, and it's easy to open our arms. But if not, we exclude others through our thoughts, deeds, and words. Wisdom guides us to understand that life goes as it is, but we try to make life go as we want, which is our wish that causes trouble for us. Our birth, illness, aging, meeting with someone we don't like, separation from those we love, not getting what we want, our heart and body giving us difficulties, and our last breath we take. These are things that we want to avoid and not let happen to our family and friends, but Great Wisdom urges us to open our eyes to the truth of causes & conditions and leads us to understand that it is life.

When we are facing harsh reality, we do feel the warm presence of compassion calling to us, "Whatever happens in your life, I shall embrace you. Come to my embrace, this Amida!" This is the wish of Amida Buddha, Namu Amida Butsu. Being touched by this warmth, we are enabled to realize our limited perception of our lives and others, and it guides us to act not always according to our limitedness but by teaching. Although we are in the life of endurance, there is a warm light that guides us and gives us comfort anytime, anywhere. There were, are, and will be times when we have a wish and want to ask Amida Buddha for it. That is an opportunity to realize Amida Buddha's loving kindness understands what we are going through with the Great Wisdom that opens our eyes to the truth. When we are driven to make a wish, let us be reminded of the wish that has already been given to us with awareness that we have been in that warm embrace even if we didn't know it, and our family and friends have been there too. Indeed, we're embraced together beyond space, time and all differences. We are in the warm wish of Amida Buddha together. Let us welcome this new year with this wish. Happy New Year with Namu Amida Butsu!

一年の計は元旦にあり、といます。物事は最初が肝心であり、一年の事は年の初めである元旦に計画を立てることで、その年を有意義なものにするという意味だそうです。しかし、去年は、皆様が思ったような年になったのでしょうか？自分自身の健康、仕事、家族、人間関係、社会など我々はこうあって欲しいという願いがありますが、多くは願い通りにはいかないことが多いようです。仏教では、苦しみのことを「不如意」といい、自分の意うが如くにはいかない（不）といい、その自分の思いの通りにしようとするその心を煩惱といいます。そもそも思うようにならない人生を自分の思うようにしようとするところに悩みが生じるのですね。この都合のいい心を修行によって清らかにして、さとりを目指すのが仏教の基本的な姿勢です。しかしながら、浄土真宗を開かれた親鸞聖人は、それが大変難しいことを知りました。20年の間修行に明け暮れて分かったことは、自分の力では心を清く正しく美しくはできないという厳しい事実でした。さとりを得ることができない、つまり苦しみから解放されないということ突きつけられたのです。腹を立ててはいけない、自分勝手になってはいけない、優しくしよう、と思いながらそうできない自分がいます。まさに、「分かっちゃいるけど、やめられない」ですね。その時出遇われた願いが、南無阿弥陀仏でした。自分の力ではさとりを得られないこの私を必ず穏やかなる存在にする、と誓ってくださった仏様の願いです。分かっちゃいるけどやめられない私をそのまま包み、「大丈夫だよ、必ず救うからね」と優しく共にいてくださるのです。このぬくもりが私の心にじんわりと生まれると、自然と手が合わさり口から「南無阿弥陀仏」と申すのですね。ちょうど子供が親の名前を「お母さん、お父さん」と呼ぶのは、ずっと親から呼ばれていたからであるように、阿弥陀様の願いが届いているからこそ、仏様の名前がこぼれでてくださるのですね。

新年も、嬉しいこと辛いこと、いろんなことがあるでしょう。いつも、阿弥陀様が一緒に歩いてくださる人生が、お念仏を申す人生です。「そのまま 任せよ 必ず救うよ、親だからね」のお念仏を申させていただきましょう。

President's Message

Hope your Holiday Season is going well. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this past year and we are counting on your continued support in the coming year.

This past year, we had fundraising events like Children's Day, Cinder Sale, Obon and our recent Craft Fair. We also participated in community events like the Trunk or Treat for Halloween at Keau Elementary, the Peace Parade in Honokaa and the Keau Christmas Parade. We continue to generate income by renting our hall and dining room and most recently our gravel parking lot next to Longs. But our major source of income is the donations from you, our members. For this, we are truly grateful. The General Membership approved a modest increase in our recommended dues from \$240.00 to \$250.00 annually. With the rise in cost of operating, this was necessary to help balance the budget and I hope you understand.

Our Temple and Columbarium are in need of repairs and a new coat of paint. We initiated the process by contacting contractors and are still awaiting quotes. Hopefully, we can get started next year. We are also looking at making some improvements to the kitchen to help with the working conditions; it can get very hot at times.

2023 was also a sad year due to the tragic Maui Wildfire and the loss of Lahaina Hongwanji. Thank you for your generous donations towards the Relief and Recovery effort.

To run the events that I mentioned earlier, to maintain our temple and to keep it running smoothly, we need volunteers from our membership. From Board of Directors to the Toban groups, we are all volunteers. The Toban groups clean the Temple and the Columbarium weekly and are also responsible for the refreshments for our special services and events. We have four groups and responsibilities are rotated monthly. I would like to thank all the volunteers and affiliate groups for their commitment and dedication. The Toban groups are getting smaller so we are always looking for people to help. Please let me know if you are able to help.

I would like to Thank Reverend Tomioka and the Video Crew who continue to provide the online services. Even though, services are in person, there are some who cannot attend and this is a valuable means of staying connected. Thank you to Sam and the Hi-lites crew for our monthly newsletter and to Robin Sato for always being on top on things with the email updates which keep us informed. So again, Thank you for your support and Have a Safe, Healthy and Happy New Year!



In Gassho,
Clifford Furukado

Puna Hongwanji
Distinguished Sangha Service Award
By Warren Tanigawa

In 2017 we started the Puna Hongwanji Distinguished Sangha Service Award (DSSA). This was all thanks to Past President Jason Hashimoto and Rev. Satoshi Ka'imipono Tomioka's brainstorm. During the Giseikai meetings, there is a portion of the meeting where temples submit resolutions in condolence and appreciation for their members that have contributed to the temple and the Hongwanji as a whole. They felt how sad we share our appreciation when the person has passed on. Thus the Puna Hongwanji DSSA was created to share our appreciation to our members while they are able to receive this recognition. We appreciate every member, but there are some members that go above and beyond to qualify them to be nominated for this award.

In early August, a committee met to prepare for our Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Distinguished Sangha Service Award (DSSA) for 2023. This award is to recognize our Puna Hongwanji members who have contributed to the betterment of the temple and the Puna community. We asked our members to submit nominations for this prestigious award.

On Sunday, October 22, 2023 at our temple, we held our Eitaikyo Sangha Memorial Service. Eitaikyo is a time to remember our past members who made contributions to our Puna Hongwanji. Puna Hongwanji is a gift from our ancestors who found refuge, hope, and spiritual guidance since 1902. During this service we also recognized our Puna Hongwanji Distinguished Sangha Service Award (DSSA) recipients. The recipients of the 2023 DSSA include:

- **Mrs. Ann Toma**
- **Mr. Craig Shimoda**
- **Mrs. Carol Tsunozumi**

The recipients are being recognized for their consistent willingness to help our temple be welcoming and be able to spread the right Dharma. We are proud and appreciative of their dedicated service to our temple. Thank you.



(Left to Right) Clifford Furukado, Carol Tsunezumi, Ann Toma, Craig Shimoda, Reverend Satoshi Tomioka.

MEMBERSHIP

The Puna Hongwanji Mission members have approved the recommended dues to \$250.00 effective January 2024. We have not had an increase in over 10 years. Your dues alone does not pay for all the expenses to maintain our Sangha. We appreciate your continued generous donations and support for special services & fundraising.

Dues can be paid weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and full. If you are head of household and in a care home situation, your dues are exempt.

And if you have a new address, please inform the office.



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

BWA



Before the pandemic, a schedule of responsibilities for the New Year's Party was used to fairly distribute the work among the temple affiliates. According to the schedule, the BWA will be chairing this event. The date is set for March 24, 2024, which will be our Spring Ohigan Service. At this time the Keiroshas, who are members reaching the age of 80 years old, will be recognized.

Each affiliate group will be assigned a responsibility that is on the schedule. Examples are food, program, games and prizes, set up and clean up, etc. When your group is notified, please graciously accept the task.

BWA ended the year with a successful pumpkin pie fundraiser. The pies were so delicious that some customers already put in their order for next year. Here are photos of the pie making process.

Our next BWA meeting is on January 7, 2024.





PROJECT DANA



Stella, Eileen, Lei and Florence bearing gifts.



Lei and Florence paying Mako a visit.



Happy Birthday Kiyo!



SANGHA NEWS

We want to wish all of you a Happy New Year! Hau‘oli Makahiki Hou! あけましておめでとうございます! Rev. Satoshi Ka'imipono Tomioka with the two groups that help deliver the Sunday Services. We have the Minister's Lay Assistants and the Sunday behind the scenes audio crew. If you are unable to make the weekly service in person, we do have it available online via Zoom as well. If you are not getting a weekly email notification of the upcoming service topic and other events, please email us at mpunahongwanji@twc.com to be added to the email list.



Remembrance of Martin Luther King, Jr.

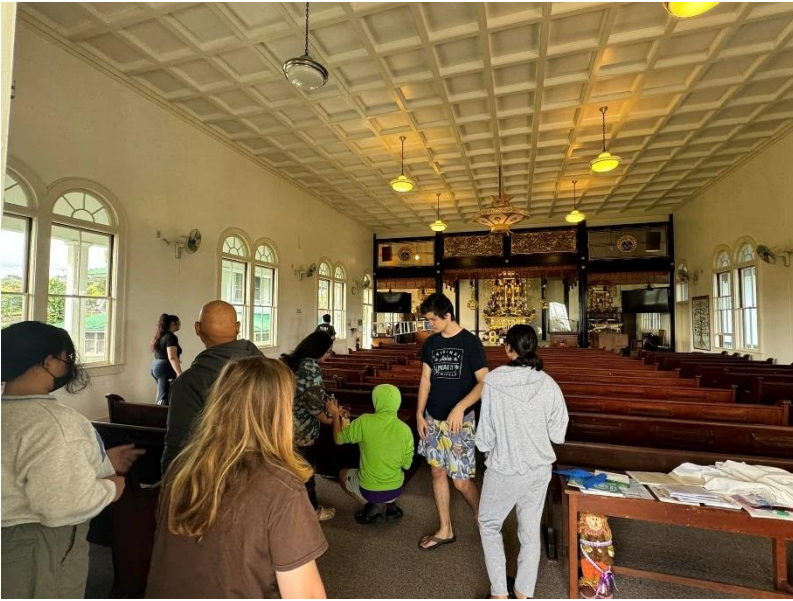
At Puna Hongwanji we will be sponsoring and accepting monetary donations and non-perishable donations on Sunday, January 14, 2024. Donations will be to support the Food Basket of Hawaii Island. Donations will be collected after Hoonko Service from 10:30 am - 12:00 noon.

When you go marketing, please consider adding something extra to your cart. Please be mindful and do not donate items that are expired. We do appreciate any donations you can bring. You may also make a monetary donation by making a check payable to "**The Food Basket, Inc.**" In the memo section notate "Puna Hongwanji Food Drive"

Sr. YBA Dinner

The Puna Hongwanji Sr. YBA will be having their yearly dinner on Saturday, January 20, 2024 from 5 pm - 9 pm. RSVP is due to Robin Sato at robsato@yahoo.com or call/text 808-936-7179 by Sunday, January 7, 2024. Please contact Robin for more detail on member and non-member pricing for the dinner.

TEMPLE CLEAN UP



On behalf of Puna Hongwanji we would like to send a heartfelt thank you, mahalo, どうもありがとう to everyone that came out to help with temple clean up! We understand that there were those that came days earlier to start cleaning as they could not be at temple clean up. We appreciate ALL of you for showing up and helping. We are truly grateful for all the affiliates groups that came out to help too. With everyone working together we were able to finish the cleaning before our general membership meeting.

Thank you very much! Mahalo nui loa! どうもありがとうございます!



HONOLULU MARATHON



We are very proud of Rev. Satoshi Ka'imipono Tomioka and Haruka Tomioka for finishing the 2023 Honolulu Marathon 🏃🏃. They completed their goal and did the full 26.2 miles. Amazing job. Congratulations! 🎉🎊

Rev. Tomioka 🏃 finished in 7:23:22 and had a pace of 10:31 min/km. 🏆

Haruka 🏃 finished in 9:21:12 and had a pace of 13:18 min/km. 🏆

We will look forward to hearing from Rev. Tomioka and Haruka about their experience!

We would also like to congratulate Rev. Jeffrey Soga 🏃 for finishing the race in 6:28:38 and had a pace of 9:13 min/km

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

On Saturday March 9th, 2024. We will be having our Spring Rummage sale at PHM from 8am - 12pm. Will accept donations starting after January 15. More info coming in February Hilites.

