

# PUNA HONGWANJI MISSION



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# October 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.

## Hi-Lites Committee:

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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**Advisor:** Rev. Satoshi Tomioka

## 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

*Chieko Sato*

## Memorial Service (Nenki年忌)

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.



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. This is also a precious opportunity for family and friends to reflect upon their lives while remembering departed loved ones. You may schedule this memorial service on the memorial day listed, 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](mailto:mpunahongwanji@twc.com). Zoom online service is also available.

## October & November 2024

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1 yr.</b> Ruby Matsumoto<br>Iris Asato<br>Raymond Matsumura<br>Frances Tanaka                     | October 6, 2023<br>November 16, 2023<br>November 20, 2023<br>November 24, 2023                    |
| <b>3 yrs.</b> Takamari Fukunaga  | November 11, 2022   |
| <b>7 yrs.</b> Hanako Miyahara  | October 9, 2018   |
| <b>13 yrs.</b> Himeo Hayashida<br>Gladys Kuroda<br>Kenneth Furuta<br>Shiro Kanetani<br>Clyde Okamoto | October 5, 2012<br>October 10, 2012<br>October 21, 2012<br>November 24, 2012<br>November 27, 2012 |
| <b>17 yrs.</b> Miyuki Enos<br>Walter Arakawa   | October 19, 2008<br>November 16, 2008   |
| <b>25 yrs.</b> Morito Manmoto<br>Kiyoka Murayama<br>Kikue Oshiro<br>Masao Arakaki                    | October 9, 2000<br>October 28, 2000<br>October 30, 2000<br>November 19, 2000                      |
| <b>33 yrs.</b> None  | 1992  |
| <b>50 yrs.</b> Jue Onoue   | October 26, 1975  |

# OCTOBER 2024

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday           |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|--------------------|
|   |   | <b>1</b>   | <b>2</b>   | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>           |
|   |   | Choir 12:30 pm<br>Taiko 3 – 6 pm<br>Judo 6:30 – 8 pm<br><b>Treas. Night 7 pm</b> | Farm to Car 3-6 p<br>Judo 5:30 pm<br>Karate 7:00 pm<br><b>Sr. YBA Mtg 7 pm</b> | Taiko 3 – 6 pm<br>Judo 6:30 – 8 pm                                    | Yoga 9 – 10:30 am<br>Total Body Fitness 4 p<br>Karate 6:00 pm |                    |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>   | <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b>   | <b>11</b>   | <b>12</b>          |
| <b>Family Service 9 am</b><br>Taiko 3 -6 pm   | Yoga 9- 10:30 am<br>Judo 5:30 pm<br>Karate 7:00 pm<br>D. Rm Rental 6-8 p                        | Choir 12:30 pm<br>Taiko 3 – 6 pm<br>Judo 6:30 – 8 pm                             | Farm to Car 3-6 p<br>Judo 5:30 pm<br>Karate 7:00 pm                            | Taiko 3 – 6 pm<br>Judo 6:30 – 8 pm<br>D. Rm. Rental 5-7p              | Yoga 9 – 10:30 am<br>Total Body Fitness 4 p<br>Karate 6:00 pm |                    |
| <b>13</b>   | <b>14</b>   | <b>15</b>  | <b>16</b>  | <b>17</b>   | <b>18</b>   | <b>19</b>          |
| <b>Family Service 9 am</b><br><b>Clergy Appreciation Day</b><br>Taiko 3 -6 pm<br><b>BWA Meeting</b> | <u>Columbus Day</u><br>Yoga 9- 10:30 am<br>Judo 5:30 pm<br>Karate 7:00 pm<br>D. Rm Rental 6-8 p | Choir 12:30 pm<br>Taiko 3 – 6 pm<br>Judo 6:30 – 8 pm                             | Farm to Car 3-6 p<br>Judo 5:30 pm<br>Karate 7:00 pm                            | Taiko 3 – 6 pm<br>Judo 6:30 – 8 pm<br><b>BOD Meeting 7p</b>           | Yoga 9 – 10:30 am<br>Total Body Fitness 4 p<br>Karate 6:00 pm |                    |
| <b>20</b>   | <b>21</b>   | <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b>  | <b>24</b>   | <b>25</b>   | <b>26</b>          |
| <b>Family Service 9 am</b><br>Judo 12-2:30 pm<br>Taiko 3 -6 pm                                      | Yoga 9- 10:30 am<br>Judo 5:30 pm<br>Karate 7:00 pm<br>D Rm Rental 8a-12p<br>D Rm Rental 6-8 p   | Choir 12:30 pm<br>Taiko 3 – 6 pm<br>Judo 6:30 – 8 pm                             | Farm to Car 3-6 p<br>Judo 5:30 pm<br>Karate 7:00 pm                            | Taiko 3 – 6 pm<br>Judo 6:30 – 8 pm                                    | <b>Hall Rental</b>  | <b>Hall Rental</b> |
| <b>27</b>   | <b>28</b>   | <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b>  | <b>31</b>   |   |                    |
| <b>Family Service 9 am (Halloween)</b><br>Taiko 3 -6 pm   | Yoga 9- 10:30 am<br>Judo 5:30 pm<br>Karate 7:00 pm<br>D. Rm Rental 6-8 p                        | Choir 12:30 pm<br>Taiko 3 – 6 pm<br>Judo 6:30 – 8 pm                             | Farm to Car 3-6 p<br>Judo 5:30 pm<br>Karate 7:00 pm                            | Taiko 3 – 6 pm<br>Judo 6:30 – 8 pm<br><b>Keaau El. Trunk or Treat</b> |   |                    |



## Minister's Message

In my training to become an overseas minister (Kaikyoshi), we were cautioned to steer clear of discussing religion, politics, and sports publicly. These topics can ignite intense debates because they're closely linked to personal identity. Our instructor did note, however, that these subjects are approachable with the right audience and conditions. My studies with the instructor in the Buddha Dharma of Amida Buddha taught me that it's not the subjects themselves that cause division, but our own egos and attachments. Take baseball rivalries, for example; we may passionately debate over teams like the Dodgers or the SF Giants, mistaking our fervor for the teams as the root of the argument, when it's our own pride and attachment at play. We cling to our beliefs, wanting them to be acknowledged as correct, unwilling to release our ego and its desires. These topics simply expose our biases, attracting those who agree with us and dislike those who don't. This judgmental stance reflects my bonbu nature-imperfect and limited. In this state, lasting peace and harmony remain out of reach, existing only fleetingly or under certain conditions, often at the expense of others' sorrow while some celebrate.

This explains why Amida Buddha embraced the Pure Land, a realm where all live in harmony, free from worldly distinctions. Unlike the human realm, the Pure Land doesn't perpetuate our earthly sufferings. Individuals honor each other as Buddhas. It's challenging to praise someone we dislike in this life, and it may seem impossible even in death due to our emotions. I, too, struggle to envision praising such a person, and doubt they would praise me. In the Pure Land, we praise one another not out of personal desire but because we are transformed into Buddhas. Amida Buddha's compassionate vow aims to end our suffering after death. This vow is filled with Amida's tears for our human plight, where we cause and endure pain. Amida Buddha vows to embrace us and lead us to enlightenment, liberating us from pains. In Amida's embrace, enlightenment comes with our final breath, yet its influence echoes throughout our lives. By contemplating the Pure Land, where mutual support and praise are the norms, we're inspired to reflect on our actions. Should I argue or listen? Can I open my hands to others? These questions are simple to ask but difficult to live by, yet they define my path as a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist. I must not justify or excuse my ego and pride (I tend to do); instead, I'm called to continual self-reflection within Amida's compassionate embrace, striving to live by the Vow and Amida Buddha's guidance.

Eitaikyo, or the Sangha Memorial Service (November 3), is one of the six major services dedicated to honoring our departed loved ones who have laid the foundations for us. In our tradition, we reflect on their lives to reaffirm our commitment to the teachings of Amida Buddha, which we received from our ancestors and strive to pass on to future generations and those among us. The most important aspect is recognizing the need to listen to these teachings oneself (me!) and find true solace amidst life's ups & downs. Our loved ones live on not just in memory, but as active guides, leading us to encounter Namo Amida Butsu and experience the joy of its embrace, thus living a life marked by fulfillment, humility, and reflection.

よく、安らかにお眠りください、成仏してくださいと見聞きします。心情としては理解できませんが、亡くなった方を安らかに、そして仏に成らす、ということは人間にはできないことです。私たちが既に毎日安らかで、苦悩から離れた尊い仏になっているのなら別ですが。悲しみの涙に、忘れられない怒りに、消えない後悔に、誰にも言えない辛さを抱える私を、必ず安穏なるいのちに導くと誓ってくださった阿弥陀様にしかできないことといただき、その温もりに生きるいのちがお念仏の人生です。

## Puna Hongwanji Kyodan Highlights



October, you have arrived! September was chock full of activities as well as the usual tasks which made the month whizz by! Thank you to everyone who supported our temple by shopping at Foodland and making a donation to their Give Aloha program!

The kyodan board met in September and discussed the new and old happenings about anything pertaining to our temple. We are always so grateful for our supportive members, the sangha, who give selflessly of their time and resources to help with improvements, fundraising, and supporting our Puna community. Not to mention for our “sibling” temples and their sanghas, near and far.

We will be sending a donation to Pacific Buddhist Academy’s “Lighting Our Way” fundraiser. This assures our commitment to support the school and its students.

The Triple Celebration on September 7 & 8 were attending by a nice group of our members. They all shared about their time spent together, learning new things and experiencing a once-in-a-lifetime celebration. Mahalo for representing Puna Hongwanji!

The following week, we held our first sake pairing event at the social hall, on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Clifford and the kitchen crew worked very hard to prepare the dishes used to pair with delicious sake. Mahalo also to Robin for making her onolicious “Happy Rice” nigiri! Great job done by the committee – Donald, Glenn, Stan, Clifford, Robin, and Jenn. As well as Ryan Kadota and Toby Taniguchi.

Our annual Peace Day Service was held in the social hall and it was a lot of fun! Mahalo to Reverend, Robin, and Jenn for planning and to our sangha for participating. It was not a typical Sunday service but a community event that included all of the necessary components for practicing our Jodo Shinshu teachings.

Domo arigato gozaimasu to the Columbarium Improvements committee, including Clifford, Glenn, and Alvin for addressing the overhang issue. It is now complete!

Can you believe Puna Hongwanji will be celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in just a few years? We will be working diligently to prepare for this auspicious occasion and will surely be calling upon our members and the community for help.

Please mark your calendars!

October 13: Clergy Appreciation Day

October 27: Regular service followed by Halloween

November 3: Eitaikyo Sangha Memorial Service

November 16: Winter Craft Fair



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## MEMBERSHIP

Happy Halloween!

Recommended dues are \$250.00. It can also be paid weekly, monthly, or semi-annual. If you are head of household and in a care home situation, your dues are exempt. And if you have a new mailing address, please inform our office at 808-966-9981.

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### CHAIR YOGA Coming in November

Yoga at the Hongwanji is adding a new class! Fridays at 9am, Monica will start teaching the “Seniors/Chair Yoga” class. If you’ve never tried yoga, or like many people, think “I can’t do it”...please come ...Monica’s knowledge, compassion, and joyful personality will convince you ...”Yes I Can!!”

We all have different needs and abilities in our bodies and we have two choices...we can become less mobile or we can become more mobile. The class will be taught to the needs and level of whoever comes. For members of the Hongwanji, the class is taught “by donation”.

Steve will teach Mondays and Wednesdays at 9am, and will be present to help and assist with the new Friday Seniors/Chair Yoga class. Now is always the best time to start yoga! Please come a few minutes early to your first class. See you at 9am in the main hall! (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays)

Aloha,  
Steve Salkin-Krucker

“The still waters of a lake reflect the beauty around it. When the mind is still, the beauty of the Self is seen reflected in it.” – B.K.S. Iyengar



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## **Puna Hongwanji Distinguished Sangha Service Award**

Thank you to those that submitted nominations for our Puna Hongwanji Distinguished Sangha Service Award (DSSA) for 2024. The committee met and narrowed down the selection. Congratulations to the 2024 honorees – Stella Miyashiro, Marilyn Sato, and Gary Sunada. Please come to the Eitaikyo Service on Sunday, November 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. as these three will be honored. Interviews are happening and come learn a little more about their accomplishments and what they did for our temple and community.

**What is the DSSA?** In 2017 Puna Hongwanji has established the Distinguished Sangha Service Award (DSSA) to recognize a Puna sangha member who has contributed to the betterment of the temple and the Puna Community. The purpose of the award is to 1) acknowledge the contribution of the member and appreciate them; 2) inspire other members to take action of contributions; and 3) preserving the legacy of the nominees and continuations to their family members.

### **Past recipients include:**

2017: Mr. Kazumasa Okamoto; Ms. Hatsume Tanaka; Mrs. Kiyoko Imada; and Mr. Stanley Oishi

2018: Mr. Earl Mukai; Mrs. Dora Hashimoto; Ms. Helen Yamada; and Mrs. Lei Kakugawa & the late Mr. Sadaichi Kakugawa

2019: Mrs. Masako Sanehira; Mrs. Mieko Nagao; Mrs. Yukiko Uchida; and Mr. Mitsuo Miyatake

2020: Mrs. Kiyoko Sumi; Mr. Roy Toma; and Mr. Glenn Watarida

2021: Mrs. Satsuyo Taira; Mrs. Jean Tanaka; Ms. Nancy Yamada; and Mr. Donald Shintaku

2022: Mrs. Mitsuye Toma; Mrs. Kay Kawazoe; and Mrs. Florence Nishimura

2023: Mrs. Ann Toma, Mr. Craig Shimoda, and Mrs. Carol Tsunozumi

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## PEACE DAY 2024

With so much chaos in the world peace should not just be one day, but every day. Each of us has the ability to spread peace. The news always focuses on the “bad” news, imagine if we were in a world that they only talked about “good” news how much more peaceful our world could be and the negative news would not have attention.

On Friday, September 20, 2024 there were 22 people that came to temple to participate in the Ring Your Bell for Peace Day. We took turns ringing the kansho bell. After the event a group of us went downstairs to the dining room to watch a movie of an orphaned brother and sister who fight for survival in post-World War II in Japan.

On Sunday, September 22, 2024 we gathered in the social hall. We had the Hilo High School Japan Club under the direction of Aya Shehata participate in our program. Hope you took the opportunity to read the panels that were displayed about Sadako and the Paper Cranes. The display was donated to the Hilo High School Japan Club from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. The students also helped us pass out colored paper wrist bands to those in attendance. Two students read the Sadako Sasaki story in kamishibai style. Our very own Puna Hongwanji Choir shared their beautiful voices. We also had our very own Puna Taiko who are always a crowd pleaser. Our guest speaker was Art Taniguchi who shared stories of family in Hiroshima who shared stories of the bombing. He also shared how during the war that all the bells from the temples were taken away. The temple that the Taniguchi family attended have a temple bell that was donated after the war by Koichi and Taniyo Taniguchi, KTA Super Stores founders. Charlene Iboshi and Tim Hansen presented us with a new top for our Peace Pole in front of the temple. We ended the day with two games that showed how communicating and cooperating with each other got the goal completed





## CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month is Clergy Appreciation Day. Let us show Rev. Satoshi Ka'impono Tomioka and all other ministers our appreciation for their dedication and commitment to spread the teachings to all of us. This year we celebrate 135 years of Hongwanji in Hawaii. This year we celebrate 122 years of Puna Hongwanji's existence. We are truly grateful to our ancestors and ministers before us that helped establish Puna Hongwanji.

Mahalo Rev. Tomioka for sharing Buddhism with all of us. A minister's work is not just on Sunday, but behind the scenes there are many other things that Rev. Tomioka is taking care of. Thank you, Rev. Tomioka! You are appreciated!

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### TOBAN SCHEDULE 2024

|           | <b>Clean Up</b> | <b>Refreshments</b> |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|
| January   | 1               | 3                   |
| February  | 2               | 4                   |
| March     | 3               | 1                   |
| April     | 4               | 2                   |
| May       | 1               | 3                   |
| June      | 2               | 4                   |
| July      | 3               | 1                   |
| August    | 4               | 2                   |
| September | 1               | 3                   |
| October   | 2               | 4                   |
| November  | 3               | 1                   |
| December  | 4               | 2                   |

#### Toban Group Contact Person

Group 1: Karen Mason (408)206-9281 & Jing Fukutomi (805)217-7943

Group 2: Janet Watarida (808)936-1170

Group 3: Ann Toma (808)935-7712

Group 4: Keri Furukado (808)987-1215

#### Obon Refreshment Schedule:

Friday, Set Up, Group 3

Saturday, Group 4

Sunday, Clean up, Group 1

For December Clean up is Group 3 and Refreshments is Group 1.



### **Puna Hongwanji Winter Craft Fair**

Veronica “Ronnie” Kitayama has been working tirelessly on the upcoming Winter Craft Fair scheduled for November 16, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on the Puna Hongwanji Temple grounds. Ronnie has asked for some volunteers to help on the day of the Winter Craft Fair.

She will need volunteers in the following areas:

1. Silent auction table
2. Vendor Christmas stocking decorating contest tent (the vendors will submit their entries and you will need to encourage people to vote on the different categories)
3. 3-5 people to work shifts at the Teapresso booth. Teapresso is very generous as they donate a portion of the sales and tips to the organization. You will take the orders and distribute the drinks to the people.

If you are able to help, please contact Robin Sato at [robsato@yahoo.com](mailto:robsato@yahoo.com) or call/text 808-936-7179 so that I can pass along the information to Ronnie.

Ronnie has a waitlist of vendors who would still like to participate at the event. The last count was that there will be 80 craft vendors & small business; Puna Hongwanji Boutique; 9 food trucks/food vendors; 6 drinks/snacks/ice cake vendors; Puna Hongwanji Concession; and Puna Taiko (andagi). There will be two visiting vendors 1) a new clothing brand from Las Vegas; and 2) fishing lure vendor from Maui.

There will also be entertainment at the event in case you need a break from shopping. They include: Keonepoko Elementary Chorus; Na Po’e Wahine O Ke Akua (Daughters of God); Lila Parong & Lynn Yokoyama Cabatbat; Halau Na Pua ‘O Uluhaimalama; Daryl Castillo; and Puna Taiko.

There will also be raffles, silent auction and a vendors Christmas stocking decorating contest. Entry is free. Be sure to support local businesses. Lots of food, fun, and shopping. Make your Christmas list and be sure to buy something for yourself too.

## **Sake Tasting & Pairing Event Recap** – September 14, 2024

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, over 50 guests joined us at the social hall for a delightful evening of sake tasting, food pairing, and great company in memory of Earl Mukai and Roy Toma - two pillars of our sangha who loved fellowship, Puna Hongwanji, and good sake. The event was a wonderful blend of flavors and fun, offering attendees a chance to explore a variety of premium sake from Japan alongside a delicious spread of local and international dishes.

The sake lineup for the evening featured a diverse selection, each with its own unique flavor profile. Guests sampled:

Mu

Kirin Koshihikari

Wakatake Onikoroshi

Dewazakura Dewasansan

Koshi no Kanchubai

Nanbu Bijin Tokubetsu

Kirin Koshi No Takumi Tokubetsu

Hakutake Yuzumon

Each sake was carefully paired with complementary dishes to enhance the tasting experience. The flavorful combinations included fried chicken, tempura, Robin's Happy Rice, tofu, yakisoba, assorted cheeses, pepperoni pizza, and a refreshing yuzu sorbet to finish off the tasting portion. Donald and Glenn's Famous Miso Soup ended the evening with an extra special touch.

Adding to the ambiance of the evening was live ukulele music performed by Ryan Coad, former member of Puna Taiko, whose melodies set a joyful and relaxing tone throughout the night.

The sake tasting and food pairing event brought together community members in celebration of flavors, culture, and camaraderie. Judging by the laughter, smiles, and lively conversations, it was clear that everyone had a fantastic time!

Raising over \$6000 for our building fund was more than we expected so a very warm and gigantic MAHALO to all who attended, helped organize, and contributed to making this event a success. This was a learning experience for us, but we look forward to more community gatherings like this one in the future!

With Gratitude,  
The Sake Pairing Committee

### Supporting loved ones during difficult times: AFTER passing (3)

If your loved one or someone you know has passed away, please call Puna Hongwanji at 808-966-9981 to arrange a bedside service. Further details can be found in the August issue article. If a bedside service was conducted prior to the passing, another bed side service is not required upon death. However, feel free to contact Rev. Tomioka if you see the need. Depending on the location of passing, authorities, including the police if at a residence, will take care of our loved ones. Please see page 2 of the Puna Hongwanji Funeral Information for the process.

Having a dependable person to handle matters with after a loss can provide immense comfort, as emotions can be intense and overwhelming. **BEFORE** setting the date and time with a mortuary, it's important to consult with Rev. Tomioka to accommodate his schedule. The minister will contact the family to discuss the funeral and associated services, ensuring there is a mutual understanding regarding the order of service, MC, reception desk, public or private service, flowers, refreshments, and so forth. It's beneficial to have someone to inquire about procedures, and you may also assist others in preparation. While supporting the family is valued and appreciated, please confirm any decisions with the minister **BEFOREHAND**. If uncertain, it's advisable to seek guidance from the minister rather than make assumptions.

A common question is whether the 7th, and 49th-day memorials can be combined with a funeral. It is generally recommended to observe each service separately, and consulting with a minister is advisable. In Japan, the wake, funeral, and cremation are usually held within a few days of death, with the 7th-day memorial observed accordingly. However, in Hawaii, scheduling all these events in such a manner is impractical due to the need for various coordination. This leads to the question at hand.

My perspective is twofold: firstly, there is no bachi/bad luck/misfortune associated with not observing these services. Secondly, these services are for the living as well as the deceased, as they teach us about life and death. It's understandable that factors such as travel to Hawaii from other places need to be considered. Ultimately, maintaining a respectful attitude towards these services is crucial. It also supports the grieving process of family and friends, helping them to understand and cope with the loss.

Detailed information can be found in the Funeral Information provided by Puna Hongwanji. Should you require one, please feel free to contact us at 8089669981 or [mpunahongwanji@twc.com](mailto:mpunahongwanji@twc.com), or visit our website: [Puna Hongwanji Mission | A Pure Land Shin Buddhist temple on Hawaii Island](#)



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## PROJECT DANA



On a bright and sunny Thursday morning of September 19, eighteen seniors headed to Hakalau Jodo Mission at the invitation of Akiko Masuda. Drivers Claire Arakawa, Adela Hara, Stella Miyashiro, Richard Solie and Eileen Usagawa drove Ilene Hara, Dora Hashimoto, Sayoko Higa, Lei Kakugawa, Chung Li Ramsdell, Florence Nishimura, Mieko Nagao and daughter Arlene, Marilyn Sato, Craig Shimoda, Kiyoko Sumi, Warren Tanigawa, and Carol Tsunazumi to Hakalau.

There was some concern because one of the drivers did not arrive at 10:30. With no cell phone service in Hakalau, there was no way to call them or vice versa. However, an hour later much to everyone's relief, they arrived safely.

Akiko taught us that there's no shame in asking for help when you need it. Asking for help is more critical as we get older and cannot do things that we were able to do before. After her talk, she led everyone in breathing exercises. Her friend Sandy Claveria also spoke about her struggles growing up and how she succeeded despite these hurdles.

Chef Clifford and sous chef Keri Furukado served a pork soup as the first course. The main course was shoyu pork accompanied by a cauliflower salad, tossed salad, a noodle dish and rice. Plates were loaded and everyone enjoyed the delicious food.

After singing "Happy Birthday" to September celebrants, everyone indulged in a wide assortment of desserts. It was a nice ending to a great luncheon.

Thank you Akiko, Clifford, Keri, and helpers for a wonderful luncheon.



Happy Birthday to Nancy.



The September birthday honorees are Ethel, Eileen, and Marilyn.

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### BWA NEWS

Puna BWA members Ilene Hara, Karen Mason, Stella Miyashiro, Marilyn Sato, Carol Tsunezumi, and Eileen Usagawa returned from the Triple Celebration with a bagful of souvenirs, omiyage, and countless experiences to share. This article is a collection of their personal thoughts and memories.

I thoroughly enjoyed attending the Triple Celebration at the Ala Moana Hotel. As a choir member, it was awesome singing in the State Choir of 66 singers. I also found Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji to be a dynamic speaker, who taught me about Nembutsu moments. And the panel discussion panelist were humorous as well as informative as they shared experiences and their experiences with the Nembutsu and Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

Stella and I were roommates for the weekend. I was able to meet her son, sister and niece, who live on Oahu for the first time at Ala Moana Shopping Center. Now when she talks about her family, I can put a face to the name.

It was also enjoyable eating great food and being with our fellow Puna Hongwanji Members. by Eileen Usagawa

I enjoyed meeting “new and old” friends and ministers from the State of Hawaii. It was a happy celebration seeing our ministers working together, enjoying the Yamaguchi Gagakukai performance and being a part of the Triple C Choir. by Carol Tsunezumi

The Triple Celebration was an awesome and well organized event. It was a huge opportunity for me to do some shopping and eat at amazing restaurants. I recommend a Japanese restaurant at Kam Shopping Center, a pizza place at Kahala Mall and dinner atop Ala Moana Hotel. The view was breathtaking and magnificent. The buffet meals at the Triple Celebration were excellent. It was my birthday and it became an unforgettable and wonderful weekend.

by Marilyn Sato.

I met my classmate, whom I had not seen in years. I was happy to see him and was able to give him information about a mini reunion in December. He was happy and wanted more details. I referred him to the person in charge. I hope he follows through and we'll get to meet again. by Ilene Hara

It always makes me nervous to sign for a performance. I was a little more nervous as I didn't know the choir and there were a lot of people in the audience. It was a bit more scary because I was on the stage by myself. by Karen Mason

Eileen, Carol, and I checked in at the hotel on Friday morning. Eileen's son and his wife took us to Marukai and Lin's to shop for omiyage. We had lunch at a Japanese restaurant, where a mini size bento was too much to eat. I brought my leftovers back to the hotel. In the afternoon, I briefly met with my older sister, my nephew, and his wife and their daughter at the shopping center. That night, I had dinner with my grandson and his dad at Liliha Bakery. Seeing Wyatt in person beats FaceTime.

On Saturday, Eileen joined me for dinner with my son, my younger sister, and my niece. Being able to see my family members really was the highlight for me. Each encounter is treasured by me as a Nembutsu moment. By Stella Miyashiro

Carol, Eileen, Ilene, Karen, Marilyn and Stella would like to thank the PHM Kyodan for the \$50.00 registration subsidy. Your generous financial support was greatly appreciated.

In gassho,  
Stella Miyashiro



BWA members enjoyed the fellowship at the Triple Celebration.