



# DHARMA WHEEL

## NEWSLETTER OF LIHUE HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE



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### **VOL. 66 NO. 1 "PATH OF ENTRUSTING, LIVE THE TEACHINGS!" SCHEDULE OF EVENTS – January & February, 2013**

#### **JANUARY**

Tues	1	9:30 am	New Year's Day Service & Installation of 2013 Officers & Directors
Sun	6	9:00 am	Family Dharma Service & Installation of LHWA officers Monthly Memorial & Birthday Sunday
Tues	8	7:30 pm	Board of Directors Meeting
Wed	9	10:30am	Hale Kupuna Heritage Care Home Service in Omao
Sun	13	9:00 am	Family Dharma Service
Wed	16	9:30am 10:30am	Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital (KVMH) Service in Waimea Kauai Care Home Service (KCH) in Waimea
Sun	20	9:00 am	Family Dharma Service
Tues	22	10:00 am	Garden Isle @ Wilcox Memorial Hospital Service
Wed	23	9:30am	Mahelona Hospital Service in Kapa'a
<b>Sat</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4:30 pm</b>	<b>New Year's Party (please see included information on pg. 11)</b>
Sun	27	9:00 am	Hoonko Service; speaker: Rimban Jeffrey Soga, Hilo Betsuin
Tues	29	7:00 pm	Kauai Hongwanji Council Meeting, Kapa'a Hongwanji

**NOTE: Rev. Nakamura will be off-island from January 17-22.**

#### **FEBRUARY**

Sun	3	9:00 am	Family Dharma Service
Fri	8		Legislative Assembly on Oahu
Sat	9		Legislative Assembly on Oahu
Sun	10	9:00 am	Family Dharma Service

**ARTICLES FOR THE BULLETIN ARE DUE IN THE OFFICE BY THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.  
IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES VIA EMAIL TO [lhnews@yahoo.com](mailto:lhnews@yahoo.com)**

Resident Minister: Rev. Bruce Nakamura. To contact him, please call the office or parsonage. In an emergency, please call his cell phone: 634-9093.



### THE LIVING NEMBUTSU

As the year quickly draws to an end, let us reflect upon our state Honpa Hongwanji Five-Year Theme and 2012 Slogan: “Path of Entrusting: Saying the Nembutsu.” We ordinary beings cannot renounce nor denounce the life we live here and now. For such persons as ourselves, we walk a path by which we are made to entrust ourselves into an unconditional embrace of True Wisdom and Compassion by saying the Nembutsu—NamoAmidaButsu.

The Nembutsu is a Gratitude to be experienced and re-discovered in every aspect of our living. To say Namo Amida Butsu expresses the spiritual assurance and unity of our imperfect human life joined by Amida’s Wisdom and Compassion. This spiritual assurance is our return to the true source of Wisdom-Light in the Life-To-Come to liberate all beings.

For many, Namo Amida Butsu seems like a prayer, first said by the minister and then repeated by those present. Even at Sunday service or for a family memorial, the event unfolds as an obligation by the family, consisting of the minister chanting, the sermon and the reciting of the Nembutsu. However, the core of our Pure land tradition is to recite the Nembutsu as Gratitude in the true awareness (Shinjin) of been completely embraced in the Wisdom of Amida (immeasurable light-life) Buddha. The journey of life and death is a unending sojourn by which as Buddhas, we naturally gain re-entry to existence to work for the spiritual liberation of others left behind.

The Jodo Shin or Shin (Essential or True) tradition is traced back to its inspirational founder, Shinran Shonin, who lived during the Kamakura Period (1185-1332). Shinran, born in 1173 and with his father and brothers entered the monastery at Mount Hiei. Though the primary religious center of this period, Mount Hiei also served as a place of refuge for those who sought recourse from conventional life. By the age of 29 Shinran realized an uncertainty and frustration that there was not avenue of practice for him to realize enlightenment as a Tendai monk.

Descending Hiei, Shinran was drawn to Honen’s Pure Land Teaching of the selected exclusive Nembutsu practice for birth in Amida’s 2 Pure land. Drawn by Honen’s spiritual inspiration,

Shinran awakened to a new spiritual world by which each and all of us are the very object of Amida’s Great Wisdom through His Selected Primal Vow. This means in the sacred story of the Bodhisattva Dharma-Treasury who fulfilled 48 unsurpassed spiritual Vows, this extraordinary bodhisattva vowed that all beings—good or evil, young or old, man or woman, gifted or dull, past, present and future, shall assuredly realize true freedom from greed, anger and ignorance. Amida selected the 18<sup>th</sup> Vow as the highest expression by which all shall realize Birth, just as we are—imperfect—by simply saying His Name as Gratitude. That is to say, even our experience of Gratitude finds its origin in the fulfillment of Amida Buddha’s universal 18<sup>th</sup> Vow of Nembutsu.

Gratitude at its source is dynamic Buddha Wisdom and Compassion—the foundation and basis upon which we imperfect beings reflect and live each day. Replete with such passions, shortcomings and grumblings, we’ve already been given the unconditional gift of True-Entrusting (Shinjin)—the Heart of Buddha-Wisdom or Namo Amida Butsu. This is the essence of our Shin Teaching, ie., Jodo Shinshu. While the unconditional Gift of all-encompassing Love and Compassion is not exclusive to Shin, other religious traditions primarily focus on the problem of good and evil to qualify the efficacy of all-encompassing Love through the mediums of mercy and forgiveness.

Shinran’s emphasis on Amida’s unconditional embrace of all beings, as they are, whether good or evil, is the hallmark of Shin’s approach. Clearly, this is a revolutionary approach clearly, redefining religion for all of us today. Whether we consider ourselves religious or not, most of us apply our behavior to some standard—a moral compass by which we exercise our system of beliefs, values and commitments.

There will be moments in our lives however, when we find ourselves ungrounded, confused and losing confidence as our belief system unravels in the face of our human predicament. What becomes to be an honest, real and all-encompassing ground upon which we can reflect and reconsider our thoughts, words and behavior?

(continued on next page)



### Message from Rev. Nakamura (con't)

Indeed is not that basis a gratitude whose origin and source is none other than a dynamic compassion that does not qualify, judge nor condemn?

To be a Nembutsu traveler does not mean we are told to believe or not believe, let alone, that we are “good” or “evil” in the sight of a “creator” or Buddha. In its broadest sense, existence and human beings are subject to countless forces within and without. These forces lend themselves to our limited consciousness and propensity for us to commit either “good” or “evil.” It is not that we are good that we do “good”. It is not that we are evil that we do “evil. However, due to the multiplicity of causes and effects, pre-conditions, conditions and consequences, we might do “good” not because we are good, as we might do “evil”, not because we are evil.

As long as we are human beings, born into the human sphere of existence, we live and function as conditional, relative beings subject to seen and unseen karmic forces. It's impossible for us to really know and actualize God, Allah, Buddha or absolute Purity. Hence to be human means to formulate some belief system and practice from which our moral compasses move and fluctuates. There remains, however, an unbridgeable gap between our perceived notions(s) of beliefs and religious practice and that of True Perfection, Godhead, Allah or the Wisdom of all Buddhas. To be fundamentally human means we are inherently imperfect, prone to self-centeredness and tend toward benefiting others to benefit ourselves. At this most basic level of humanity, we stand naked, exposed, vulnerable and contrary to the absolute nature of God, Allah and to all the Buddhas.

And yet, yet, the nature and dynamism of True Compassion is such that it inconceivably singles me and you out—directing itself to me—you as the most treasured and precious object of its unconditional care, kindness and embrace...

[CONCLUDED IN NEXT ISSUE]

### A MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING LHM PRESIDENT

Aloha kakou! Hauoli makahi hou! I extend to you my warmest wishes for a joyous and healthy new year.

I consider Lihue Hongwanji Mission as a large ohana of nearly two hundred members bonded by common interests. Ohana as you know is a Hawaiian word for family. But it has a deeper meaning. Ohana means togetherness to achieve common goals for the common good. Everyone's participation is vital as we are all partners and stakeholders in this organization. I am confident this spirit of ohana will prevail at our temple throughout the years.

As I step down as President, I would like to thank our members, our affiliate organizations, non-members, and ministers for the great support and guidance that I received throughout the years that I was President. For that I shall be eternally grateful.

I extend congratulations to Wayne Fujioka on his election as President, and look forward to his able leadership.

In Gassho,  
Ted Inouye, Outgoing President  
Lihue Hongwanji Mission

### **2013 TEMPLE DECORATION**

January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Hanamaulu I
February 7, 14, 21, 28	Nawiliwili & Wailua



## Lay Dharma Message



### Hongwanji World

By Wayne Fujioka

I'd like to share some information about the Hongwanji organization and how it reaches out to the world.

The proper name of our Shin Buddhist organization is Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, also referred to as Honpa Hongwanji or Nishi or Western Hongwanji. The headquarters of the Mother Temple or "*Honzan*" in Japanese, is located in Kyoto, Japan. The Board of Governors oversees all business operations of the Hongwanji and is responsible for finances to rituals to responding to questions concerning interpretation of Jodo Shinshu teachings. The chairman of the Board of Governors is the Governor General, who is elected by the legislative body or General Assembly, following an initial selection by the Monshu. Currently, the Governor General is Bishop Shoshin Tachibana.

The Monshu is the spiritual leader and head minister of the Hongwanji. The current and 24<sup>th</sup> Monshu is Ohtani Koshin, who was born in 1945. He is a direct blood descendant of Shinran Shonin. When this Monshu retires, he will be succeeded by his son, Ohtani Kojun, who was born in 1977. The Monshu's wife is known as Urakata or Lady Ohtani. Usually, honorifics such as "o-" or "go-" and "-sama" are attached, such as "Go-Monshu-sama" and "O-Urakata-sama".

In addition to the Headquarters buildings, the Hongwanji Complex includes the Founder's Hall and Amida Hall.

The Founder's Hall or *Goei-do* was built in 1636 and is one of the world's largest wooden structures. A wooden image of Shinran is on the main altar and is flanked by scrolls bearing the images of the successive Monshu after Shinran. The Founder's Hall is known as the "fundamental dojo or practice hall for hearing the Jodo Shinshu teaching."

The Amida Hall or *Amida-do*, located next to the Founder's Hall, is the main hall or "hondo", was built in 1760, and is dedicated to and holds the statue of Amida Buddha in the central altar.

Both buildings were rebuilt in 1895. In 2009 the 10-year renovation project of the Founder's Hall was completed. Renovation of the Amida Hall was planned to begin sometime this year. In 2006, as part of a group of invited people from Hawaii, the U.S. mainland, Canada, and South America to the first Overseas District Representatives Seminar, we were able to visit the Amida Hall which was an amazing experience especially when attending morning service inside the Hall. The Founder's Hall was being renovated at the time so we couldn't go inside the building. Our fellow LHM members, Gladys Fujiuchi and Diane Fukuyama, have also been Overseas representatives and have had the privilege of visiting Honzan and attending services in the Amida Hall.

A service is conducted every morning and can be attended by the general public. Depending on the time of year, the daily service starts at 6:00 AM or 6:30 AM. The service is conducted in two parts. First, the Three Pure Land Sutras is chanted in the Amida Hall, then participants move to the Founder's Hall where the *Shoshinge* and *Wasan* are chanted.

A short walk away is located the 4-story Hongwanji International Center, which was built in 1973. From its website, main operations include the research, translation, and publication of Buddhist texts and articles, coordination of activities involving the overseas temples; organization and administration of overseas events involving Hongwanji personnel; presentation of an annual lecture series featuring eminent scholars; training seminars for both active overseas or *kaikyoshi* ministers and Japanese ministerial aspirants; and is the point of contact for inquiries and communications between the Hongwanji headquarters and abroad. The Center also provides student housing for overseas students who are pursuing studies in Shin Buddhism and training to become ministers at temples abroad.

There are approximately 10,000 temples in Japan and almost 200 temples overseas. There are four Overseas Districts including Hawaii, the U.S. mainland, Canada, and South America.

**Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii:** According to internet source Wikipedia, the first temple in Hawaii was dedicated in 1889, and in 1897 the Hongwanji in Kyoto began sending official ministers to establish temples for Japanese immigrants in Hawaii. Interestingly, the short Wikipedia text also highlights the establishment of the Living Treasures of Hawaii program in 1976 by insurance executive Paul Yamanaka and then Bishop Yoshiaki Fujitani, which currently includes 196 Treasures and with the 5 additional who will be honored on February 9, 2013 the new total will be 201 Treasures. In 2011 HHMH had 28 ministers for 34 temples for more than 6,000 members, all led today by Bishop Eric Matsumoto. Accredited schools sponsored by the Hawaii Kyodan include the Hongwanji Mission School for pre-school through 8<sup>th</sup> grade children, and Pacific Buddhist Academy for high school students. It also sponsors the Fort Gakuen Japanese School.

**Buddhist Churches of America:** The BCA was founded in 1899, is headquartered in San Francisco, and has about 60 temples led by Bishop Kozo Umezu. The Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, CA houses the Center for Buddhist Education, Institute of Buddhist Studies which is an accredited graduate institution, a bookstore, and offices of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha and Ryukoku University whose HQ and main campus, respectively, are in Kyoto. A few years ago, a group of LHM members visited the Jodo Shinshu Center.

(continued on next page)

## Lay Dharma Message (con't)



**Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada** was formerly known as the Buddhist Churches of Canada. Foundation of the first temple was in Vancouver, BC on December 12, 1905. Bishop Grant Ikuta, who in 2011 became the first Canadian-born head minister of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, leads 10 ministers, about 1,700 members and 20 temples and fellowships.

**South America Hongwanji Mission** was officially recognized by the Brazilian Government in 1955. The Betsuin, located in Sao Paulo, Brazil, oversees 17 ministers, 35 temples, and approximately 5,400 members in Brazil, Paraguay, Peru, and Argentina.

There are five Overseas Regional Districts (ORD) including Australia, Mexico, Taiwan, Nepal, and Europe.

**Australia:** Buddhist Mission of Australia officially began its operation in Sydney in January 1993.

**Mexico:** in 1993 after government recognition, the Hongwanji recognized Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Mission de Mexico, in Mexico City, as an ORD.

**Taiwan:** on February 13, 2001 it was recognized as an ORD.

**Nepal:** Kathmandu Hongwanji is recognized as an ORD.

**Europe:** Fellowships are located in Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Austria, United Kingdom, Poland, Romania, and Hungary.

We can see that although our Hongwanji headquarters is in Kyoto, Japan and we are here in Hawaii, our Honzan and International Center reach out to many parts of the world. Whether we travel to the U.S. mainland, to South America, to Europe, to Australia, and elsewhere, we can still be connected to our Jodo Shinshu Sangha.

Namo Amida Butsu. Thank you.



### New Year's Greeting Message from Monshu Ohtani

*Immeasurable Light and Life.*

January 1, 2013



Reciting the Nembutsu, we welcome the new year. I express my warmest greetings to you. Following the East Japan Great Earthquake, one year and ten months has passed. More than a hundred thousand people continue to live in evacuation center housing, unable to return to their homes. Personally, I find the events of the Seven hundred fiftieth Memorial for Shinran Shonin and East Japan Great Earthquake to be inseparable.

I am sure that each person directly affected by the natural disaster has his or her own sufferings and is being faced with various problems and tasks. It goes without saying that support and recovery efforts are important. However, with this as an opportune time, as a fellow earthly being, I would also like to reflect on the fundamental issues we all have in common. What we need to reconsider is how we have easily come to accept our common values and ways of perceiving things, regardless of whether we are conscious of it or not. For example, there is the notion that development in science technology and economic competition increases happiness. Although technological advancements and economic strength may be immediate solutions for simple issues at hand, stopping there can result in something else becoming overlooked. That is our infinite humanly cravings, our limited intelligence, and our lack of harmony with the greater nature. This is an issue that is deeply connected with Buddhism.

The beauty of Mt. Fuji and other mountains and valleys are all results of volcanic activity and earthquakes. Although nuclear energy may appear to be an efficient prescription for the immediate situation, not only does it become a problem when an accident occurs, but with our current technological skills, we are unable to safely dispose of radioactive wastes. We cannot simply pick and choose just what is convenient nor do we have the power to control nature. It is my hope that the measures we take will not simply end up as temporary solutions. But rather, they will help to make a positive change in our social values and reflect on our own standards and realize a sustainable society.



## HMMH Headquarters

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#### PACIFIC BUDDHIST ACADEMY

Dear PBA School Community,

We appreciate your patience as our Search Committee works on hiring a new Head of School. We have evaluated some excellent candidates, and in early January 2013 we will be ready to announce the selection of finalists and a schedule for their visits to campus. During these visits, which will probably take place in early to mid- January, the finalists will meet with members of the school community, including students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, trustees, and Betsuin and Kyodan leaders. The Search Committee will receive input from those who meet with the finalists. The Committee will then make a recommendation on a candidate to the Board of Trustees, and the appointment of the new Head of School will be announced soon after that. Our goal is to make the announcement by the end of January or beginning of February.

The Search Committee understands the importance of selecting the right person to be the next Head of School. Thank you for trusting us with this great responsibility.

Aloha,

Joel Determan, Chairman, Board of Trustees

Leigh-Ann Miyasato, Chair, Head of School Search Committee

#### RETIRED MINISTERS APPRECIATION SERVICE

The Retired Ministers and their spouses gathered at Hawaii Betsuin Hondo on November 17, 2012 for this annual appreciation gathering hosted by Hawaii Kyodan with the help of Mrs. Tamayo Matsumoto and HQ staff. Bishop Eric Matsumoto and Blayne Higa (VP, Hawaii Kyodan) expressed their appreciation to the group on behalf of the entire membership of HMMH.



#### RED CROSS HURRICANE SANDY DONATION

On December 4, 2012, Bishop Eric Matsumoto, Blayne Higa (Chair of Social Concern Committee), and Arthur Nakagawa (Business Manager of HMMH) presented a \$10,000 donation to Coralie Chun Matayoshi, CEO of the American Red Cross, Hawaii State Chapter to support relief efforts on the East Coast as a result of Hurricane Sandy.

Your generous contributions to the annual social concerns fund drive gives Hawaii Kyodan the ability to lend financial support in times of disaster and to other worthy organizations that work to improve the quality of life in our local communities.

#### APPROACHING THE SACRED: JAPANESE BUDDHIST TEMPLES IN HAWAII EXHIBITION

Location: Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i

Date: From December 1, 2012 to February 22, 2013

(Open Monday-Saturday; 10:00 am – 4:00 pm)

“Upon entering a Japanese Buddhist temple in Hawai'i, most people—whether they are first-time visitors or life-long members—can easily feel overwhelmed by the elaborate and complex display of golden ornaments, intricately carved altars, images of venerable masters, serene buddhas, angry deities, and mythic animals. These objects, as well as the architectural elements of the temple itself, have meanings that are often hidden in ancient symbols.

In order to help people decipher the meanings embedded in temples, George and Willa Tanabe have written Japanese Buddhist Temples in Hawai'i: An Illustrated Guide, published by the University of Hawai'i Press (October 2012). The book covers all of the remaining Japanese Buddhist temples in the state, 90 sites in all, and describes each temple in detail with an eye for special, made-in-Hawai'i features.

With the support of a generous grant from The Hiroaki, Elaine & Lawrence Kono Foundation, and with the cooperation of the Hawai'i Buddhist Council, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i is sponsoring an exhibition of temple furnishings at the JCCH gallery.

#### REMARKS BY BISHOP MATSUMOTO AT OPENING CEREMONY OF “APPROACHING THE SACRED: JAPANESE BUDDHIST TEMPLES IN HAWAII”, DECEMBER 1, 2012

Today, on behalf of the Hawaii Buddhist Council as its President, I would like to express our deepest appreciation and also our heartfelt congratulations to both Dr. George and Dr. Willa Tanabe on the publication of their book “Japanese Buddhist Temples in Hawaii” and this Exhibition “Approaching the Sacred: Japanese Buddhist Temples in Hawaii.”

Perhaps compared to other States, Hawaii is small in size, but the fact that we are Islands adds to the fact that the Tanabe's endeavor to visit, gather all the information and take all the pictures as they did is certainly by anyone's standard, no small accomplishment. It certainly surprised me to find out that even only among the Japanese Buddhist Temples there are 90 or so extant temples in our beautiful Hawaii Nei.



## HHMH Headquarters (con't)

The Tanabe's accomplishments have recorded for posterity an invaluable record of the existing Buddhist temples and their contents. But just as precious is, as the Tanabe's themselves mention in their book is the "hope... that this book will make the long-time temple members notice what they have never before noticed and be inspired" and "for first-time visitors to respond to what they see with appreciation and understanding."

A wonderful example, which the Tanabe's often mention, would be the Two-headed Bird. It shares the Teaching of Interdependence that all existence is interrelated and interconnected and thus encourages us to act/live in a way that is beneficial for all involved. Without the "understanding", the symbolism in the temples may be misunderstood and seen as strange, but nothing is farther from the truth, for all that is expressed has a message for the viewer with the intent of guiding the viewer to Great Wisdom and Compassion.

The Tanabe's book "Japanese Buddhist Temples in Hawaii" and this Exhibition opens a door by which we can get a glimpse of the World of Enlightenment in form and color. The text especially is a beautiful melding of Willa and George Tanabe's skills, talents and expertise.

Once again, today, I want to express the Hawaii Buddhist Council's deepest appreciation to the Tanabe's and also to the many involved like the Kono Foundation, the Hawaii Tourism Authority and Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii and other gracious donors who donated so generously to assist the Tanabe's in what has culminated in today. So many causes and conditions, both seen and unseen, large and small, human and non-human, from near and afar that have come together in just the right way to become today. Hontoo ni arigatai, literally "difficult to have", arigatai. Thank you very much. I go to the Three Treasures of Buddha, Dharma and Sangha for guidance.

### **New Year's Message from Bishop Eric Matsumoto**

With the Nembutsu upon my lips, a Happy New Year to All! As we begin a new year, I extend my most sincere best wishes to you. As we start the year, let us take a moment to ponder our 2013 Slogan and Theme which reads "Path of Entrusting: Living the Teachings." Rennyō Shōnin shared "Ever in sight of Amida Buddha's Teachings, let us always humbly reflect." When I think about it, much of Buddhist Teachings is not really so extraordinary, although there are exceptions. In a way, it can be said that the extraordinary part of Buddhist Teachings is how ordinary it is and yet as I reflect "How difficult it is to live this Teaching." As an example, interdependence, we have heard this word over and over and yet how hard it is to truly, one hundred percent, live interdependency. Gomonshu says *"Among the basic tenets of Buddhism is the teaching of pratitya-samutpada: all things are interdependent, interconnected, and intricately joined together. While this is true of human life, it is also true of life outside the human sphere, as well as things outside of life itself, with nature as a whole being connected in this way-this is the truth of pratitya-samutpada."* *"Pratitya-samutpada, thus, offers a valuable way of looking at things when we seek to address today's problems of environmental destruction, armed military conflict, and other events where countless lives are lost; not merely human lives alone."* If we are truly guided by this Teaching of Interdependency, we should feel a connection with all existence and happenings around us. We should not think "That has nothing to do with me" or "That's not my problem." Of course, practically and realistically, we cannot be fully involved in everything, but the Dharma does promote within us this feeling of being connected with all others and thus makes a big difference in how we perceive what is happening in life and the world. The perspective is "We are in this together. How can I make a difference?" Whether it is a problem and/or solution, we see our relationship with it. We are not totally disconnected with anything or anyone. Everything and everyone exists in an intricate web of existence each affecting and being affected by the other. It is this feeling of oneness and togetherness that the Buddha-Dharma fosters within us.

A perfect example of this oneness is Amida Buddha. Amida Buddha does not distance itself from the bonbu/ foolish being and instead totally embraces the foolish being who entrusts. As Gomonshu says *"To save all, is the reason for Amida Buddha's existence. This is how Shinran Shōnin thinks and feels."*

(message concluded on the next page)



### **New Year's Message from Bishop Eric Matsumoto (con't)**

Well, this may be the extraordinary part of Shin Buddhist Teachings in which the foolish being "as-we-are" is promised enlightenment with birth in the Pure Land as Rennyo Shonin shared. What greater expression of Compassion is there than being accepted "as-we-are", imperfection and all and thus the reason why we respond in gratitude by trying to be better persons by living with the Dharma as our guide.

To conclude, our trying to live the Dharma is also a means by which others can come to know and appreciate the Buddhist Teachings. Let us provide the opportunity for others to encounter the Buddha and share the Dharma with others. I believe, whether we are Buddhist or not, we can all avail ourselves to Wisdom and Compassion and be guided and inspired by it. It is my hope that 2013 will be a year in which we, who do call ourselves Buddhists, will truly see the significance of "Living the Teachings." Let us reflect "Am I saying the Nembutsu? Am I praising the virtues of the Buddha?" Like Shinran Shonin and many before us may we continue to recite the Nembutsu of Gratitude for Amida Buddha's Unconditional Compassion and praise Amida Buddha's Virtue so all may hear about Great Compassion. A very Happy New Year to all and I encourage you, your family and friends to listen to the Dharma and may we be active in our community so all lives may be enriched by Wisdom and Compassion. Namo Amida Butsu and Happy New Year!

In gassho, Eric Matsumoto

### **NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM HAWAII KYODAN PRESIDENT**

Aloha and best wishes for a happy and peaceful New Year! 2012 was special in that it was the kick-off for our strategic planning committees. While it has taken us two years to organize and get enough volunteers for this important effort, it will take a lot more work to develop and implement plans to meet our strategic goals. We experienced more shortage of ministers and the closing of Kahuku Hongwanji. While these incidents can be viewed in a negative way, they can result into positive actions. The shortage of ministers has increased the interest of the lay members to participate in programs to assist the ministers. The closing of a temple is similar to a company downsizing to stabilize itself before expanding once more.

As we downsize we must also have a plan to invest and expand in the future. Our strategic planning committees are working on that plan. There are also positive indications that things are turning around. PBA is close to meeting its initial capital campaign goal and start construction of a new building. While it has taken longer than desired to raise the funds because of the economic times, the interest and support of PBA's program has steadily increased. It has truly been a team effort of the PBA staff and Board of Trustees; however, it wouldn't have been possible without the leadership and creativity of our Head of School Pieper Toyama, who will be retiring at the end of this school year. We are truly grateful for his vision and leadership and hope he will continue to be active in other roles/positions.

We all understand that our organization cannot function without volunteers. Temples are finding it difficult in finding members willing to be on the board of directors and/or officers. It is difficult to get people into leadership positions at the temple level and even more so at a statewide level. The length of time it took to get volunteers for our strategic planning committees indicates that our members are busy and the temple/organization is not a priority in their lives as it was with the Issei and Nissei.

It is a Catch 22 situation. The long range goal of the strategic plan is to make the temple/organization a priority in our members' lives. But not enough members are willing to take leadership roles because the temple/organization is not a priority in their lives. Therefore all we can do is to ask you to believe in our strategic plan and get involved in all levels of the organization, especially in leadership roles. Without your help, we will be unable to grow for our future generations

We are truly grateful for the many hands that help us at all levels of our organization. Let us show our gratitude and lessen their burden by offering our help. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your patience, understanding, cooperation and support. Your participation is crucial in our leadership role for the international propagation of Jodo Shinshu.

In Gassho,

Alton H Miyamoto, President, Hawaii Kyodan



## GENERAL INFORMATION



### **2013 LHM Officers & Directors**

The following people were elected to be Officers & Directors at the General Membership meeting held on December 9.

Please give them your support.

President	Wayne Fujioka
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Morton Yamasaki
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Gail Shibuya
Secretary	Carol Valentine
Asst. Secretary	Lynne Matsumura
Treasurer	Carol Ozaki
Asst. Treasurer	Glenn Shibuya
Auditor	Roy Tanaka
Auditor	Dean Toyofuku
Immediate Past President	Ted Inouye

#### **2-Yr Directors (8)**

Lillian Amimoto  
Lynette Mizuo  
Colleen Nonaka  
Marian Ogata  
Thomas Oi  
Spencer Tada  
Edith Ushio  
Walter Yasumoto

#### **1-Yr Directors (10)**

Arlene Fujikawa  
Gladys Fujiuchi  
Shirley Hashimoto  
Glenn Hayashi  
Avis Hirahara  
Sumako Ichimasa  
Raymond Morikawa  
Janet Niitani  
Amy Yamada  
Daniel Yotsuda

Installation of the Officers and Directors will be held on January 1, 2013.

### **Lihue Hongwanji Women's Association**

At the General Membership meeting held on November 18, the following were elected to serve as officers for 2013.

President:	Gail Shibuya
1st Vice President:	Carol Valentine
2nd Vice President:	Marian Ogata
Recording Secretary:	Gladys Fujiuchi
Corresponding Secretaries:	Janet Niitani Charlotte Yasumoto
Treasurer:	Lillian Amimoto
Assist. Treasurer:	Yoko Takabayashi
Auditors:	Mona Lee Joanne Naganuma

Installation of officers will be held on Sunday January 6, 2013 with luncheon to follow at Regency at Puakea

### **Dharma Wheel**

Congratulations to Spencer Tada for suggesting the new name for our newsletter: "Dharma Wheel." Take a look on page 1 of this newsletter to see the new name. Stay tuned for more changes coming to the newsletter in future issues.

### **Relay for Life 2013**

The Lihue Hongwanji Mission's Relay for Life team is gearing up to start its campaign for the American Cancer Society's fundraiser for its battle against cancer. We invite anyone to join us by becoming a team member or a supporter through your donations. Relay for Life is an overnight event to celebrate survivorship and to raise money for research and programs of your American Cancer Society. The event will take place in Hanapepe on April 27, 2013.



## **MEMORIAL SERVICE (NENKI HOYO)**

### **JANUARY—FEBRUARY 2013**



The following is a list of members who passed away during the months of January and February. In Jodo Shin Buddhism, memorial services are observed to remind the family members of the compassion of Amida Buddha in memory of the deceased.

#### **1st YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE - 2012**

None

#### **3rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE - 2011**

2011 Jan. 10 Masao Nishioka  
2011 Jan 13 Betty Fusako Uchiyama

#### **7th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE - 2007**

2007 Jan. 8 Kei "Keiko" Kumakura  
2007 Feb 23 Beverly Namiko Harris

#### **13th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE - 2001**

2001 Jan. 8 Arata Minatoya  
2001 Jan. 17 Kazuko Omori

#### **17th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE - 1997**

1997 Feb. 1 Masao Fujioka

#### **25th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE - 1989**

1989 Jan. 1 Ume Nishimoto  
1990 Feb. 13 Misae Sato

#### **33rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE - 1981**

1981 Jan. 3 Shie Inouye  
1981 Jan. 6 Masao Uyematsu  
1981 Jan. 10 Rev. Shodo Umehara  
1981 Jan. 11 Wilfred Nobuo Shimizu  
1981 Jan. 16 Chiyoko Ohama  
1981 Feb. 20 Doris Tsuneyo Hiramoto

#### **50th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE - 1964**

1964 Jan. 9 Shunichi Yamada  
1964 Jan. 30 Chuhachi Shimizu  
1964 Feb. 22 Asajiro Abe

## **Acknowledgements as of December 14, 2012**

#### **MEMORIAL SERVICE:**

In Memory of Yoshito Fujiwara (17 Yrs.)  
Emery Kondo

In Memory of Teiji Shibuya (25 Yrs.)  
Glenn & Gail Shibuya

In Memory of Sadako Inouye  
Ted & Alice Inouye

In Memory of Elsie Toyofuku  
Mino & Florence Shimokawa  
Mamo & Amy Yamada  
Paul & Helen Yamaguchi

In Memory of Mine Tamura  
Isao & Hazel Sugibayashi

In Memory of Kiyoshi & Fumiko Sasaki  
Kathleen Sasaki

#### **COLUMBARIUM DONATION:**

In Memory of Yoshito Fujiwara (17 Yrs.)  
Emery Kondo

In Memory of Nobuo, Matsue & Ronald Kondo  
Emery Kondo

In Memory of George & Elsie Toyofuku  
Guy & Lori Toyofuku

Julia Kunikiyo  
Anonymous  
Henry & Grace Ishida

#### **SPECIAL DONATION:**

Arnold Fujii  
Isao & Hazel Sugibayashi (Birthday)

#### **EITAIKYO SERVICE DONATION:**

Isao Sugibayashi  
Helen Tomita

#### **MAJOR PROJECTS DONATION:**

Henry & Grace Ishida  
Hideko Uemura  
James & Karen Yamamoto

#### **SOCIAL CONCERN DONATION:**

Hideko Uemura  
Robert & Arlene Fujikawa  
Violet Tsuchiyama

#### **BULLETIN DONATION:**

Howard Shinseki



*If there are any errors or if your name is not listed, please call Amy Yamada at 245-6262 between the hours of 9:00 AM and 12:00*

# New Year's Party ~ 2013



**Saturday, January 26, 2013  
4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Meet Rev. Bruce Nakamura**

## **Cost:**

Adults (members) - \$15  
Adults (non-members) - \$20  
Members 70+ - Free  
Children (ages 6-17) - \$10  
Children 5 & under – Free

**Good Food!**

**Games!**

**Need Transportation?  
Call 245-6262**

**Bring your  
friends for  
the fun and  
the food!**



Donations for door prizes greatly appreciated.  
For cash donations, make checks payable to "LHM".

Lihue Hongwanji Mission  
P.O. Box 1248  
Lihue, HI 96766-5248

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[www.lihuehongwanjimission.com](http://www.lihuehongwanjimission.com).

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