

# Dharma Wheel

Lihue Hongwanji Mission, a Shin Buddhist Temple

VOLUME 69 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER, 2015

Embrace Change: Awareness (Seek Opportunities)

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## 2015-2016 Social Concerns Fund Drive

By Rev. Blayne Higa

Committee on Social Concerns, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

We celebrate gratitude in the month of November. The Thanksgiving holiday and the Eitaikyo observance are reminders of the countless blessings in our lives and how we live deeply connected to the world around us. It is in this spirit of gratitude that we begin our Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive.

Through the generous contributions of Sangha members, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is able to support worthy organizations and programs with funding to continue their work in our community. Your support also allows us to provide compassionate action during times of disaster and the ability to respond to social issues affecting our community.

Because of your commitment to promoting the Buddhist values of compassion and loving-kindness, we are able to lend our support to such organizations as Project Dana, The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii, Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii, Family Promise of Hawaii and the various food banks on each island. We were also able to raise over \$38,000 to help support relief efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Nepal last April.

Because of your kokua over the years, we have also been able to help with recovery efforts after natural disasters and assist members of our Sangha affected by misfortune and other emergency situations. We have also been able to establish the Golden Chain Grant program that promotes compassionate action through community service. Your generosity directly helps those in need and promotes a more humane world.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated. **Please make all checks payable to Lihue Hongwanji Mission.** The suggested donation is the cost of just one meal per person. Any donation you are able to give will make a difference in the lives of others. Your help is needed to continue our mission of sharing the Dharma through compassionate action. Mahalo!



## Calendar of Events

### NOVEMBER

Sun	1	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial LHWA Meeting
Sun	8	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Tues	10	2:00 PM	Lonesome Grave Project, Kauai Veterans Cemetery
		7:30 PM	Board of Directors Mtg.
Sun	15	9:00 AM	Eitaikyo Service Speaker-Rev. Janet Youth
Sat	21	10:30 AM	LHM Golf Tournament, Poipu Bay Golf Course
		1:00 PM	Nembutsu Seminar, Kapaa Hongwanji Speaker-Rev. David Fujimoto

Sun 22 9:00 AM Family Dharma Service

Sun 29 9:00 AM Family Dharma Service

### DECEMBER

Sun	6	9:30 AM	Bodhi Day Service, Lihue Hongwanji Speaker-Rev. Thomas Okano
Tue	8	7:30 PM	Board of Directors Mtg.
Sun	13	8:00 AM	General Clean-Up & Membership Meeting
Sun	20	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Sun	27	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Thu	31	10:00 PM	New Year's Eve Service

## Visitation Schedule

Privacy and confidentiality rights of individuals limit the clergy from visiting persons in medical, residential and care-home facilities without the express request/consent of the family. Our minister is happy to visit members and friends, but by law, such visits require a referral from the family. Please contact Rev. Takahashi at 245-6262 or 245-4543.

November	Visitation	Schedule	
Wed	November 4	2:30 PM	Regency at Puakea, Service/Visitation
Wed	November 18	9:30 AM	Mahelona Hospital Ext. Care, Service/Visitation
Tues	November 24	10:00 AM	Wilcox Hospital / Garden Island Health Care, Service/Visitation

Members and friends are welcome to accompany the minister at service and visitation outreach. Please contact Rev. Takahashi in a timely way.

## Temple Decorations

Please deliver flower donations by **THURSDAY** evening.

2015 TEMPLE DECORATION	
November 5, 12, 19, 26	Nawiliwili, Wailua
December 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Molokoa I

All flower donations will be gratefully accepted.



**\*\* Please check the temple terrace in the back of the social hall for flowers. \*\***

## What have we already received?

In November, we will be observing the Eitaikyo service. Also, the Thanksgiving Day is now approaching. I think this season is a good time for us to think about gratitude. In your daily life, when do you have feelings of gratitude? I think different things cause us to have such feelings. For example, when somebody is kind to us, or when someone gives us a gift, we express our gratitude and say "Thank you." It is very significant to have that feeling. However, even when we don't have such incidents, there are many other things that we can appreciate.

I would like to share such a story with you. Once upon a time in Japan, there was a very unique person. His name was Yoichibe. He had a unique habit of saying "Thank you, thank you. I'm grateful (*Arigatai, arigatai*)", everyday and all day long. When he got up in the morning, he said, "I'm grateful." When he saw his wife, his mother, and his children, he said, "I'm grateful." Then, someone asked, "Why do you always say "I'm grateful" when you get up?" Yoichibe replied, "I'm grateful that I could wake up this morning and that I could see the faces of my family today. How grateful I am!"

One day, a stranger visited Yoichibe. When he arrived, Yoichibe said "Thank you, thank you, I'm grateful." At that time, his family asked, "Why did you say thank you? We don't know why he is visiting us." Yoichibe replied, "I'm also not sure why he came. But I'm glad that we have a visitor."

Occasionally, Yoichibe was even grateful for bad incidents. One rainy day, he was walking outside and unfortunately, he stumbled and fell on the wet pavement. He hurt his leg. After that, somehow he said, "Oh, I'm grateful." At that time, his friends said, "Why did you say I'm grateful? You injured your leg. It's bleeding. Are you OK?" Yoichibe said, "I'm grateful. I didn't break my leg. I'm glad that it wasn't more serious." Thus, he always found something for which to be grateful.

What do you think about this story? It is said that some people found Yoichibe somewhat strange but it is admirable that he lived his life with such gratitude.

Buddhism teaches us that it is important to be aware of what others have already given us. In the case of Yoichibe, he was delighted that he could wake up in the morning and see the faces of his family, and the people he meets. I think there are many other things we may take for granted. We can see various things with our eyes. We can hear with our ears. There is sun, water, air, all of which is essential for our lives. We tend to overlook such things. However, isn't it wonderful that we receive them? I think that as we become more aware of all that we receive, we cannot help but be grateful for everything.

Shinran Shonin said: **My eyes being hindered by blind passions, I cannot perceive the light that grasps me; Yet the great compassion, without tiring, illumines me always.**

(Hymns of the Pure Land Masters: *Collected works of Shinran*, p. 385)

We live our daily life, receiving various things. The great thing is that Amida Buddha is always working for us. Actually it is difficult for us to notice it. However, through listening to the truth, we would be aware of it. In the Shinran Shonin's passage, he talked about Amida Buddha's great compassion which is hard to notice but always working for us.

As we have different events in this season, let us think about what we have received and what others have given us. It certainly gives us a great feeling of gratitude. Namo Amida Butsu.

Before we start practicing BJ's gathas, I would like to share some of the literature from my files.

This article is from the book "Who ordered this truckload of dung?" by Ajahn Brahm, born as Peter Betts, a Buddhist monk in Australia who shares the Dharma in his own unique style. The piece I will share with you is titled the law of karma.

"Most WESTERNERS misunderstand the law of karma. They mistake it for fatalism, where one is doomed to suffer for some unknown crime in a forgotten past life. This is not quite so, as this story will show.

Two women were each baking a cake. The first woman had miserable ingredients. The old white flour had to have the green mold bits removed first. The cholesterol enriched butter was almost going rancid. She had to pick the brown lumps out of the white sugar (because someone had put in a spoon wet with coffee), and the only fruit she had were ancient raisins, as hard as depleted uranium. And her kitchen was of the style called "pre-World War" - which World War was a matter of debate.

The second woman had the very best of ingredients. The organically grown whole-wheat flour was guaranteed GMO-free. She had trans-fat-free canola-oil spread, raw sugar, and succulent fruit grown in her own garden. And her kitchen was "state-of-the-art," with every modern gadget. Which woman baked the more delicious cake?

It is often not the person with the best ingredients who bakes the better cake—there is more to baking a cake than just the ingredients. Sometimes the person with miserable ingredients puts so much effort, care, and love into their baking that their cake comes out the most delicious of all. It is what we do with the ingredients that counts.

I (Ajahn Brahm) have some friends who have had miserable ingredients to work with in this life: they were born into poverty, possibly abused as children, not clever at school, maybe disabled and unable to play sports. But the few qualities they did have they put together so well that they baked a mightily impressive cake. I admire them greatly. Do you recognize such people?

I have other friends who have had wonderful ingredients to work with in this life. Their families were wealthy and loving, they were successful in school, talented athletes, good looking, and popular, and yet they wasted their young lives with drugs or alcohol. Do you recognize such a one?

Half of karma is the ingredients we have got to work with. The other half, the most crucial part, is what we make of them in this life." —end of Ajahn's article.

And that takes me to the next point—Japanese Eyes American Heart III which are stories told by 17 Ni-sei of their own experiences of hardship, and how they have turned their lives around into productive and meaningful lives. Their names you will recognize—David Iha, Yoshiaki Fujitani, Shimeji Kanazawa, Fujio Matsuda, Rose Nakamura, Richard Kosaki and others. They were involved in the educational, governmental, political, business and social landscape and left a lasting legacy for us. And for us ordinary folk, we can "bake a better cake" also by how we live our lives - with effort, care, respect and kindness. Now, we can apply the same principle to BJ's gathas. In them we can feel the love and feelings that she put into them as she was creating them. Our job is to convey those feelings as we sing them.



**Highlights from PRESIDENT'S REPORT: 33<sup>RD</sup> WORLD JODO SHINSHU COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING**

September 24-25, 2015, Honzan, Kyoto, Japan

by Pieper Toyama, President, HHMH

Ten Year Plan—main objectives:

1. Contribute to social concerns based on Buddhist principles.
  - a. Enrich ties within the Buddhist community and strengthen connections with organizations both within and outside of the temple organization.
2. Live a life of compassion with others.
  - a. Fulfill ministerial duties as ordained ministers.
  - b. Lay members live with wisdom and compassion transmitting the Nembutsu to the next generation.
  - c. Develop welcoming temples for members and newcomers.
3. Solidify the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha foundation.
  - a. Review the role of each organization within temples.
  - b. Maintain financial stability.
  - c. Consider making facilities available to answer the needs both within and outside of the organization.

The most interesting aspect of Honzan's Ten Year Plan is that it echoes much of what Hawaii is doing. A review of Honzan's Ten Year Plan and Hawaii's initiatives clearly indicate that the issues we face here in Hawaii are shared throughout the world Jodo Shinshu community, and that whatever we learn here is important to share with the world as temples work on common problems.

**International Office**

The Ten Year Plan includes an allocation to establish an International Office outside of Japan. Overseas district Bishops and presidents discussed the possible activities such an office could undertake, and Rev. Kuwahara of BCA has been charged to draft an outline of the International Office's mission, organization and personnel, finances, and schedule of development and implementation. It was noted that the office would bring together, coordinate, and share in a much more effective manner the many activities overseas districts are already engaged in. In addition, it will be a driving force in shaping Jodo Shinshu's response to the issues facing the international community.

**Conclusion**

The one thing that became clear to me as I participated in the discussions is that the globalization of Jodo Shinshu has begun. The small steps to make Jodo Shinshu, a once Japanese-based religion, into a responsive world religion are being taken. And it appears that Hawaii is a part of that journey.

**ARRIVAL OF NEW MINISTER**

HHMH recently welcomed the new minister, Rev. Joshin Kamuro, on October 1, 2015. Rev. Joshin Kamuro is originally from Kumamoto Prefecture in Japan. Rev. Kamuro is currently having the New Minister's Orientation under the supervision of the Executive Assistant to the Bishop, and he will be assigned to Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Associate Minister as of December 16, 2015. Rev. Kamuro is married with Mrs. Minako Kamuro and they have one son, Yuma Kamuro who is 8 years old.



# Annual Cleanup Sunday

December 13 at 8:00 AM

Followed by

**General Membership Meeting at 10:30 AM**

**Election of 2016 Officers & Directors**

**LHM Social Hall**



## LHM Golf Club

Golf Tournament

Poipu Bay Golf Course

Saturday, November 21

**Come & Join the Fun**

Call Ray Morikawa at 431-4664 or 652-3185 for more information.



## MAHALO

*We very much thank the following men for stripping and waxing the floor of the social hall on September 25-26. The floor looks very nice. The men did a great job!*

*Dennis Muffly, Glenn Shibuya, James Yamamoto, Kenneth Mizuo, Lance Yamada, Morton Yamasaki, Paul Yamaguchi, Ray Morikawa, Roy Tanaka and Ted Inouye*



**ANNUAL SOCIAL CONCERNS  
FUND DRIVE**

On the local level, in recent years, HHMH Social Concerns has made contributions to the Kauai Branch of the Hawaii Food Bank and the Manaolana Emergency Shelter for the homeless on Kauai.

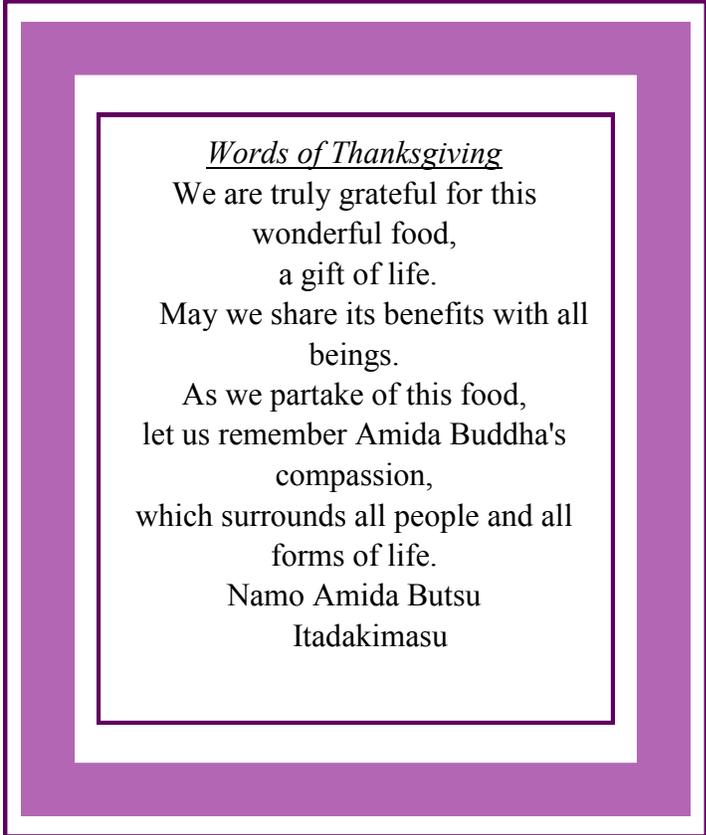
*Donation envelopes are included in this issue of the Dharma Wheel.*

*Please give generously.*

**CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE**

**PAYABLE TO:**

**LIHUE HONGWANJI MISSION**



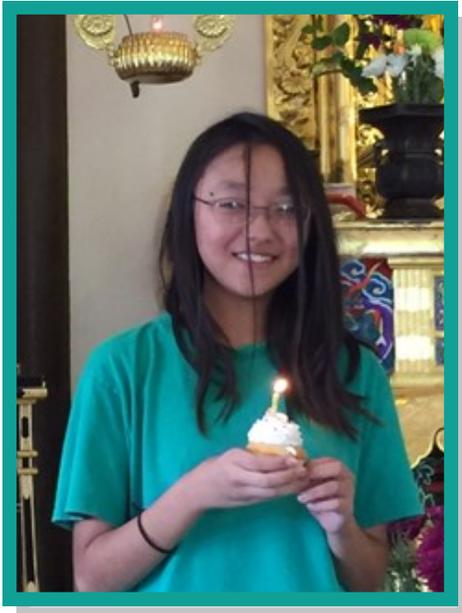
Words of Thanksgiving

We are truly grateful for this wonderful food,  
a gift of life.

May we share its benefits with all beings.

As we partake of this food, let us remember Amida Buddha's compassion, which surrounds all people and all forms of life.

Namo Amida Butsu  
Itadakimasu



October Birthday

Rena Takabayashi

**KAUAI UNITED HONGWANJI  
BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
LONESOME GRAVE PROJECT**



Kauai Veterans Cemetery

Tuesday, November 10

Beginning at 2:00 PM

Everyone's help is needed. Please come and join us if you can.

Donations of flowers and greenery will be greatly appreciated. Please bring them to the temple by 12 Noon if you are unable to come to the cemetery.



We apologize for the absence of acknowledgments this month. Acknowledgments for October will be included in the December Dharma Wheel. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

**Kauai Hongwanji Council Nembutsu Seminar 2015 (Seminar on Buddhism)**

***Dendo: The Application and Transmission of  
Jōdo Shinshū in Daily Life***

Date & Time: **Saturday, November 21, 2015 at 1:30pm**  
 Location: **Kapaa Hongwanji Mission**  
 Registration Fee: **\$10.00**  
 Guest Speaker: **Rev. David Fujimoto (Mililani Hongwanji Mission)**



Rev. David Fujimoto was born and raised in Honolulu and is a graduate of Farrington High School. He holds a B.A. degree in psychology from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa; M.A. in Buddhist Studies from Institute Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, CA. His master thesis subject was "A Consideration of Religious Conversation: In Shinran's Thought and from a Modern Perspective."

He served the Buddhist Study Center as assistant to the director, Pacific Buddhist Academy as assistant chaplain, Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin as associate minister, and Puna Hongwanji Mission as resident minister overseeing Pahala Hongwanji and Na'ālehu Hongwanji. He is currently serving Mililani Hongwanji Mission as resident minister.

**SCHEDULE**

1:00pm	Registration at Kapaa Hongwanji
1:30pm	Opening Service
2:00pm	Session #1
2:45pm	Break
3:00pm	Session #2
3:30pm	Question & Answer
4:00pm	Close

You can register the seminar in the following ways.

- 1. Turn in your registration form to your temple.**  
or
- 2. Register by internet.** <http://goo.gl/forms/WI4ERTt6IH>  
or
- 3. Call your Hongwanji temple.**  
 Kapaa: (808) 822-4667  
 Lihue: (808) 245-6262  
 West Kauai: (808) 335-3195



----- Cut along the dotted line -----

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Temple: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please fill in this form and turn in to your temple by November 15. (Check payable to: Kauai Hongwanji Council)  
 You can also register by internet or phone. Registrations will be accepted at the door, but your timely submission is greatly appreciated.



*With Deepest Sympathy*

Lihue Hongwanji extends its deepest sympathy to the family and relatives of:  
The late Mamoru Yamada who died on Oct. 14, 2015 at the age of 94.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE (NENKI HOYO)**

**NOVEMBER-DECEMBER**

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

Lihue Hongwanji Mission recommends that the families and relatives of the deceased members listed below contact the temple office at 245-6262 for an appointment.

**1st Year Memorial Service—2014**

2014 November 13 Tokiko Tada

**3rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2013**

2013 November 27 Fumiko Shigeta

2013 December 31 Kimiyo Fujimoto

**7th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2009**

2009 November 30 Paul Miyamoto

2009 December 02 Gary Iida

2009 December 29 Suzuko Koga

**13 YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2003**

2003 November 5 Kiyoku Tachikawa

**17th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1999**

1999 November 7 Matsue Kondo

1999 December 25 Roy Oshima

1999 December 27 Sadao Tanabe

**25th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1991**

None

**33rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1983**

1983 November 12 Masayo Takiguchi

1983 November 24 Shigeru Naito

1983 December 23 Masaru Kono

1983 December 25 Masuo Hashimoto

**50th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1966**

none



**Lihue Hongwanji Mission, a Shin Buddhist Temple**

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 Lihue, Hawaii 96766-5248  
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**Embrace Change:  
 Awareness**  
 (Seek Opportunities)



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Address Label

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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

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Eitaikyo Service  
 November 15, 2015  
 Speaker - Rev. Jan Youth




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Nembutsu Seminar at Kapaa Hongwanji Mission  
 November 21, 2015  
 Speaker - Rev. David Fujimoto