

# **Dharma Wheel**

## 12/2019

## Lihue Hongwanji Mission, a Shin Buddhist Temple

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DECEMBER 2019

Embrace Change: Transformation (Walk in Peace)

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Calendar & Visitation Sched.	2
Shaku Kaufmann's Message	4
Message from Out- Going President Gail Shibuya	5
Honpa Headquarters update	6-7
Announcements & Information	8-12
Acknowledgments	12
Memorials	13

## Building Healthy Sanghas Message from Bishop Eric Matsumoto

As we enter the last months of the year, you might be thinking "Where did the year go?" Soon, a new year will be upon us. For the past 5 years, our theme has been



"Embrace Change," but though we will be starting a new series beginning in 2020, it does not mean that we should stop being guided by our current theme of embrace change. However, the time has come for the start of a new set of Theme and Slogans. Thus, from 2020-2024, our new theme will be "Building Healthy Sanghas" with a series of slogans for each year.

Our Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, next 5 Year Theme and Slogans are: 2020: Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity and Openness, 2021: Building Healthy Sanghas: Nurturing Empathy and Respect, 2022: Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others, 2023: Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together and 2024: Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments.

We will be focusing on the Sangha. A Sangha that is nurtured by the Buddha-Dharma. As a Sangha, the thoughts, words and actions of every individual, ministers and lay, are very important and makes a difference. In the book, "The Teaching of Buddha" by BDK, it shares about ministers that "Those who wish to teach the Buddha's teachings...must be concerned about four things: first, they must be concerned about their own behavior; second, they must be concerned about their choice of words when they approach and teach people; third, they must be concerned about their motive for teaching and what they wish to accomplish; and fourth, they must be concerned about great compassion."

For lay people, it shares "Lay followers should not only believe in the Three Treasures...by themselves, but also...help others...to awaken...an unshakable faith in the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha, so that they, too, may share in Buddha's compassion."

## **Calendar of Events**

## DECEMBER

Sun	1	9:00 am	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Fri	6	Cancelled	Please note: There will be NO Pickleball this evening.
Sun	8	9:30 am	Bodhi Day Service Sponsored by the Kauai Buddhist Council Service will be held at <b>Kapa'a Jodo Mission</b>
Mon	9	7:30 PM	Board of Directors Mtg.
Sat	14		Homebound Project
Sun	15	8:00 AM	General Clean-up Stay for lunch and General Membership Meeting
			No Service.
Thur	19	10:30 AM	No Service. LHM Preschool Christmas Program In the Social Hall ** Please call the preschool if you plan to attend.
Thur Sun	19 22	10:30 AM	LHM Preschool Christmas Program In the Social Hall ** Please call the preschool
-		10:30 AM	LHM Preschool Christmas Program In the Social Hall ** Please call the preschool if you plan to attend.

#### **JANUARY 2020**

Wed	1	10:00 AM	New Year's Day Service Installation of Officers
Sun	5	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Sun	12	8:00 AM	Family Dharma Service LHWA Installation of Officers for 2020
Tues	14	7:30 PM	Board of Directors Mtg.
Sun	19	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Sun	26	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service

## Pickleball

Every Friday Night from 6:00 pm-9:00 pm. Come join in the fun in the social hall. Just bring your running/tennis shoes.



## **Visitation Schedule**

Privacy and confidentiality rights of individuals limit the clergy from visiting persons in medical, residential and carehome 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 Shaku Kaufmann at 245-6262 or 245-4543.

September	Visitation	Schedule	
Wed	December 4	2:30 PM	Regency at Puakea, Service/Visitation
Wed	December 18	9:30 AM	Mahelona Hospital Ext. Care, Service/Visitation
Tues	Cancelled	Cancelled	Garden Isle Health Care, Service/Visitation

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

## Continued from Front Page

However, how do we share the Nembutsu Teaching?

I recall Rev. Masao Haneda having said, we are "looking at becoming another example of the workings of true compassion." Let us, the Sangha, clergy and lay, jointly together share our awareness, understanding, joy and gratitude of the Buddha-Dharma by becoming that evidence that Amida Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion is indeed true and real and working in this world.

Recently, my eyes rested on a message by Gomonshu in which he said, "Shinran Shonin is the person who shows us how we can live our lives despite our egocentric tendencies. Although we might not be able to completely eradicate our blind passions, within the embracing light of Amida Buddha (underline is mine) we can live each moment of our lives with true meaning. Rather than simply live day in and day out as if we are just "going through the motions," in the teaching's illuminating light (underline is mine) we can find clarity and meaning in our lives. Not separating ourselves from society; it is important that we live within the priceless interconnections that we have with one another and support each other." Gomonshu has been emphasizing or focusing on how we live as Nembutsu Followers. Yes, I am imperfect and negative impulses and self-centered

thoughts do not disappear until birth in the Pure Land, but there is also something happening as we live our life, day to day.

I have been emphasizing that the life of a Shin Buddhist is one of responding in gratitude to the Wisdom and Compassion of Namo Amida Butsu by reciting the Nembutsu and trying to live our life guided by the Dharma as it is one of the Ten Benefits we receive in the present life. However, our responding in gratitude is also the workings of Amida Buddha. To be sure, it is I who is responding in gratitude, but further I am also being nurtured by the Light of Amida Buddha. In fact, the source of anything positive or good comes about because of Amida Buddha's Light(s) which is illuminating us. In the Larger Sutra, it says that "Sentient beings who encounter this light have the three defilements swept away, and they become soft and gentle in body and mind. They dance with joy, and the good mind arises (underline is mine) in them. When those suffering pain and travail in the three evil courses see this light, they all find respite and are freed of afflictions. After their lives have ended, they all gain emancipation." The key words here are "find respite" and "freed from the afflictions" and the Chinese character for "see" which also has the meaning of to "meet" or "encounter." We are being nurtured and encouraged by Amida Buddha's 12 Lights.

Let us, as individuals, but also, collectively, as the Hongwanji Sangha respond in gratitude! The Sangha must come to life! What is most important is reciting the Nembutsu in awareness, joy and gratitude and trying to live guided by the Dharma. In order to do this, we must know what the Dharma or Teaching is saying. Thus, I humbly ask that you together with other family members and friends come to listen to the Buddha-Dharma which can enrich all of lives. Imperfect as we may be, it is our humble, respectful, warm and harmonious relationships and interactions with people that is one of the crucial elements in the sharing of Jodo Shinshu with others.

Namo Amida Butsu/Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion Bishop Eric Matsumoto

## What is a Buddhist to do in December?

Please enjoy this repeat of an excellent message from last year. It is still relevant as we finish this year.

It is probably difficult for folks to remember in the midst of the commercial Christmas hype, the sales, and songs on the radio and the shows on TV some of which began before Thanksgiving, to remember that we Buddhists have a very important Holiday in December. **On December 8**<sup>th</sup> we **celebrate Bodhi Day,** the day on which Siddhartha Gautama awakened to Enlightenment and became the Sage of the Shakya Clan or the Shakyamuni Buddha.

After lifetimes of preparation and six years of intensive practice as a monk, he achieved his goal of Enlightenment. He was 35 years old.

Siddhartha's accomplishment was not only significant for him but it was also significant for each of us. Through his teaching activity he let us know the ways for us to lessen or even go beyond the sufferings of this world. He spent the rest of his life, 45 years, up until the moment of his death, teaching us ways in which we too can alleviate our suffering in this human existence and live joyously through his Dharma (teachings).

Yes, I said joyously!

We must remember that the Shakyamuni Buddha was not under any obligation to teach. He had reached his goal, he had the answers to his questions. He had moved beyond the world of suffering and sorrow. He now had access to the Infinite Wisdom/Compassion of Enlightenment. This being the case he could have just spent the rest of his physical existence exploring his Enlightenment, however, he also realized that there were those persons that were close to attaining Enlightenment and those who were struggling to alleviate their suffering in both the monastic and lay communities. He could not forget those of us who were still suffering and not even knowing why. The Buddha Dharma (teachings) can afford us the opportunity to understand our own natures and the nature of this life we are living. These understandings, in themselves, can be a source of great hope, joy and gratitude.

Siddhartha's Enlightenment is indeed a reason to celebrate, how you do it though, as an individual or as a family, is up to you. I hope that going to the temple will be part of that celebration.

"But Sensei, what about Christmas"? Well, as you no doubt know, Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth who was the compassionate teacher of the Christian faith. It is celebrated by Christians all over the world. Christmas is also celebrated by folks of other faiths and/or folks who are not particularly religious at all.

I think what attracts people to this holiday is the spirit of the day. It is a family type holiday. Families who follow the Christian faith, and those who do not, seem to make an effort to come together to share this time during which they can acknowledge and express their love and gratitude to the members of their families, friends, co-workers, business clients and the

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

people who serve us day in and day out.

In other words it is an opportunity to acknowledge the inter-relationships and interdependencies in which we live. Whether this is done with a gift, a card, or just a cheerful greeting, such things can make a person's day a little brighter. So you can wish your fellow Buddhists a Happy Bodhi Day, a Merry Christmas, to our Christian friends and everyone, a Happy Hanukkah to our Jewish friends and a Happy Kwanzaa to our African American friends.

Do not be afraid to share the joy of this season with others. We should not ignore or overlook such an opportunity.

As far as Jesus is concerned, one of my sensei's observations was, "There is nothing wrong with observing the birth of a great religious leader". If you wish to celebrate Christmas, do so respectfully and with aloha.

So, Happy Bodhi Day, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa to all our friends and neighbors and a very Happy New Year to us all.

Namoamidabutsu Thank you

Dear LHM Members,

Aloha! As my term comes to an end, December 31, 2019, I would like to thank all of you for your support for the past 4 years.

It was a learning experience which has humbled me. The officers and directors were very understanding when I stumbled and they were there to help pick me up. Being president wasn't just about conducting meetings once a month, but listening to problems that fellow members had and trying to help solve or find ways to solve the problem. Sometimes we were met with success and other times we did not. We had to let nature take its course.

I had great committee chair people who I relied on a whole lot. They took most of the burden off my shoulders. To these wonderful people I say thank you. Without their help I would have been lost.

To you, members of LHM, I want to say thank you very much for volunteering your time and effort whenever we needed your help during our Bon Dance Festival and also at our general cleanup day.

To the men and women of the Hosha-kai group thank you so much for coming out every Friday to keep our church and grounds looking good. The Hosha-kai is looking for more men and women – so if you can – please volunteer on Fridays at 7:00 a.m.

When the new officers for 2020 are elected, may I ask that you continue to give them your support whole –heartedly.

Have a safe and Happy Holidays.

Namo Amida Butsu Gail Shibuya, President



## ANNUAL APPRECIATION GATHERING FOR THE **RETIRED MINISTERS AND THEIR SPOUSES**

The annual appreciation gathering for the Retired Ministers and their spouses was held on November to attend... even if you're not planning to attend 6, 2019. 13 retired ministers and spouses attended this year's gathering. The Opening Service was held Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin. At the service, Bishop Eric Matsumoto and Mr. Pieper Toyama expressed their appreciation on behalf of the current active ministers and the members of HHMH.



## 2020 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The 2020 Legislative Assembly (Giseikai) will be held on February 7 & 8, 2020 at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin. The Legislative Assembly Aloha Luncheon & Living Treasures of Hawaii Recognition will be held on February 8, 2020 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort. The registration fee is \$105.00 for both delegates and observers, \$85.00 for the luncheon only and \$15.00 for the Rap Session. The Registration form and other documents that need to be submitted to HQ were already mailed to the temples and organization leaders. Please submit all the documents to HQ by the deadline described in the letter. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

## **4th ANNUAL BWA TEA**

February 6, 2020, 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm This annual BWA tea is an opportunity for BWA members from around the state to gather in an informal setting, renew old friendships, and cultivate new ones. It's held right before the Giseikai Rap Session in the Ministers' Dining Room so that BWA members attending Giseikai have a chance to mingle and chat with others from around the state. All BWA members are welcome Giseikai. There's always good food and good fun!

## **KAUAI DISTRICT 130TH COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS**

Happy 130th Birthday to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii! On Sunday, October 6, the Kauai Hongwanji Council held the 130th **Commemorative Service and a Peace Panel** Discussion, at the West Kauai Hongwanji Mission-Hanapepe Temple. Bishop Eric Matsumoto delivered the dedication and Dharma message for the service. A birthday cake and singing Happy Birthday to Honpa Hongwanji added to the joyous celebration. Everyone enjoyed the delicious lunch and birthday cake.

The highlight of the afternoon was a Peace Panel Discussion, "Manifestation of Peace, Various Perspectives, with Rev. Mieko Majima as the moderator. The guest panelists were Bishop Eric Matsumoto, Bishop Kosen Ishikawa, Jodo Mission of Hawaii and Koloa Jodo Mission, and Kahu Sherman Thompson, Chaplain of Kamehameha School, Kapalama. They each shared their perspective of peace from their personal, religious and community aspect. We look forward to celebrating Honpa's next anniversary as we put our hands together in gassho and recite Namo Amida Butsu.



## KAUAI UNITED BWA LONESOME GRAVE PROJECT

The Kauai United Women's Association and members of the West Kauai Hongwanji, Lihue Hongwanji and Kapaa Hongwanji decorated the graves at the Veterans Cemetery in Hanapepe, Kauai on November 10, 2019. Each year the BWA organizes and encourages everyone to assist in decorating the graves for the annual Veterans Day Service which is held on November 11. With everyone's help, all the graves were beautifully decorated with flowers and greens. Shaku Arthur Kaufmann officiated the service which was held at the cemetery and gave a Dharma message in honor and remembrance of the veterans who served our country and will never be forgotten



## **BWA NEWS**

16th WBWC Panel Speaker – Carol Valentine Carol Valentine of Lihue Hongwanji was Hawaii's representative on the World Buddhist Women's Convention panel. She spoke on the theme of the Convention, "Live the Nembutsu." Carol gave practical ways that we can live the Nembutsu in our everyday lives. She quoted Dr. Mark Unno when she said, "The real teaching is the living Dharma; small gestures with sincerity, humility, and generosity."

Carol then spoke about four qualities that she considers central to Buddhist practice: Gratitude, Kindness, Compassion, and Interdependence. For each, she gave examples of ways we can manifest them in our lives. Gratitude – say "thank you" to people, even those who are doing their job. Feel grateful for: your first cup of coffee in the morning, laughter, your family, having a place to live.

Kindness – do the right thing without promise of a reward. Don't gossip. Hold a door open for the person behind you. Use kind and gentle words. Smile.

Compassion – If we can help others, then we should. Listen more than you talk. Let go of control. Make people feel comfortable if they ask for help.

Interdependence – Everything we touch was touched by many other hands before we had the chance to receive it. Silently thank the hundreds of people who make your life possible. Recycle every

chance you get; admit when you are wrong; share an umbrella with someone when it is raining. Thank you, Carol, for representing Hawaii Federation BWA in such a meaningful way.



## **SAVE THE DATE!**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade – January 20, 2020 HHMH Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations will continue their participation in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade. Let's have a strong showing this year, demonstrating our Buddhist belief in the equality of all beings. **We hand out origami cranes to those watching the parade, so if you love to fold cranes, please help us out. Give them to your temple BWA president or to Lois Toyama.** To protect the planet, please bring your own water bottle. It's lots of fun! Please join us.

To read the full edition of the Headquarters Update, including photos, please visit the website: <u>https://</u> www.lihuehongwanjimission.com/honpa-hongwanjiinformation/

HELP





⇒ Looking for Chair-person or Co-Chairs for Flying Saucer and for BBQ Meat/Chicken for Bon Dance 2020

⇒ Looking for a Kitchen Manager to manage the cooking/lunch/snacks for the workers for the 2020 Bon Dance.

If you can help, please call Tommy Oi at 647-3105.



Remember to check out our website for more information and photos! www.lihuehongwanjimission.com



# **Bodhi Day Service**

Sunday December 8 9:30 am at Kapa'a Jodo Mission

Buddha's Wisdom is broad as the ocean and His Spirit is full of great compassion. Buddha has no form but manifests himself in exquisiteness and leads us with His whole heart of Compassion.



Email address:

Do you text? \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no Cellular Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## Kauai United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association Fall Conference

The KUHBWA Fall Conference was held on Sunday October 27 at Lihue Hongwanji. Participants were fortunate to have Rev. Alan Urasaki deliver the message at the opening service as well as be the guest speaker. Since 2002, Rev. Urasaki has been a chaplain at the Federal Detention Center in Honolulu. He was the first Buddhist chaplain in the federal prison system. He presented a lively workshop on "Intergenerational Activities." Following a tasty lunch a gatha workshop was presented by Gladys Fujiuchi.



KUHBWA	2020-2021 Officers
President	Shirley Kakuda, West Kauai
Vice President	Gloria Shimizu, Kapa'a
Secretary	Gail Shibuya, Lihue
Treasurer	Fay Tateishi, West Kauai
Auditors	Carol Saiki, West Kauai
Past President	Lynne Matsumura, Lihue
Advisor	Rev. Tomo Hojo, West Kauai



More photos are available on-line: <u>https://</u> <u>www.lihuehongwanjimission.com/</u> <u>activities-organizations/lihu-e-hongwanji</u> <u>-women-s-association/</u>

## 2019 Dues Reminder



The year 2019 is almost over. This is a reminder for those who may have forgotten your dues (pledges) for 2019. Your consideration on this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Members who have already paid your 2019 pledges, we are very grateful and thank you very much!



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

#### **FUNERAL SERVICE:**

In memory of Minoru Shimokawa Wesley & Marcia Shimokawa

#### **7 DAY SERVICE DONATION:**

In memory of Minoru Shimokawa Wesley & Marcia Shimokawa

## **MEMORIAL SERVICE DONATION:**

In memory of Miyoshi Fujimoto (1 Yr.) Family of Miyoshi Fujimoto Alice Inouye In memory of Yoshio "Oscar" Matsuyoshi (13 Yrs.) Alice Inouye In memory of Toshio Matsuyama (17 Yrs.)

Alice Inouye

In memory of Kiyoshi & Fumiko Sasaki Alex & Pauline Nakamura

In memory of Kimiko Sugibayashi Alice Inouye

#### **COLUMBARIUM DONATION:**

In memory of George & Elsie Toyofuku Guy & Lori Toyofuku Yoshie Isokane Anonymous

#### SOCIAL CONCERN DONATION:

Robert & Alma Yotsuda Tom & Eleanor Kajiwara

#### **SPECIAL DONATION:**

Roy & Carol Fujioka Richard Kuga

Thank.



## Lonesome Grave

Lonesome Grave was held this year on Sunday, November 10 at the Kaua'i Veterans Cemetery in Hanapepe. A short service was followed by decorating the graves with flowers and greenery. Thank you to all who came to help.

Please check out page 7 of this newsletter, on the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii updates page for more information regarding Lonesome Grave.





Please check out our website for additional photos of Lonesome Grave Project. https://www.lihuehongwanjimission.com/activities-organizations/lonesome-grave-project/ **MEMORIALS** 



With Deepest Sympathy

Lihue Hongwanji extends its deepest sympathy to the family and relatives of::

The late Minoru Shimokawa who passed away on October 5 at the age of 90 years.

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

## DECEMBER-JANUARY

The following is a list of members who passed away during the months of December and January. 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—2018	/ 2019
13t TEAN MEMORIAL SERVICE 2010	/ 2015

2018	December 2	Yukitoshi Inouye
2019	NONE	

# 3rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE-2017 / 2018

2017	December 5	James Kurihara
2018	January 19	Yoshiko Tamura

## 7th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE-2013 / 2014

- 2013 NONE
- 2014 NONE

## 13th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE-2007 / 2008

2007	December 29	Shizuko Yoshioka
2008	January 17	Kimie Matsuyoshi
2008	January 18	Chieko Takeuchi
2008	January 22	Legs Hideo Ibe

## 17th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE-2003 / 2004

2003	NONE	
2004	January 12	Alvin Masaru Yoshida
2004	January 19	Satoru Tada

## 25th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE-1995 / 1996

1995	December 3	Douglas Amimoto
1995	December 16	Shigeru Kono
1996	January 11	Yoshinobu Toda

## 33rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE-1987 / 1988

- 1987 NONE
- 1988 January 5 Yoshino Ota
- 1988 January 20 Kiyoichi Hirota

#### 50th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE-1970 / 1971

1970	NONE	
1971	January 27	Kimie Yoshinaka
1971	January 31	Shigemi Kashima
1971	January 31	Wanda Harumi Higuchi

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

Lihue Hongwanji Mission P O Box 1248 Lihue, Hawaii 96766-5248

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