

Dharma Wheel

7/2020

Lihue Hongwanji Mission, a Shin Buddhist Temple

VOLUME 74 ISSUE 7

JULY 2020

Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity and Openness

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A Reflection On Our Troubled Nation



For the past several days, as I confront the feelings, some of which I am feeling too, of frustration, lament, sadness, and anger being felt by many in our country over the senseless death of George Floyd and others, my heart aches for those who are directly impacted by the racist tendencies and other discriminatory behaviors which are increasingly erupting in our society. The words of the song "Live and Light the World" come mind as I reflect on these tragic events and turn to the Dharma for guidance:

We are born and given life, our own precious life,...
Yet we are like the fabled bird whose two heads do fight,
Blind to the precious life shared...

We are born and given hearts that fills with tears,...
Seeing the hurt we have caused, seeing how we've wronged. Sharing
our past, our fabled bird does sing a mournful song.
We are born and given hope of dreams shining bright,...
Fabled bird, we heard your song. Sing of hope anew!
Fly with love, now, in chase of dreams. Tomorrow's dream pursue!
Let's...live and light the world-let's all walk hand in hand!
Together...let us walk the road to peace.

We must continue to try to overcome discrimination, prejudice, ignorance, and inequality with the understanding that all human life is equally precious and should be respected.

May we be fortified with compassion, perseverance, self-reflection, and nonviolence to achieve the goals of mutual respect, peace, and harmony for all people everywhere through a transformation of our hearts and minds. Let us be guided by an All-Inclusive

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Calendar of Events

JULY 2020

Sun	5	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Wed.	8	7:00 PM	Evening Family Dharma Service and Monthly Memorial for <u>June and July</u>
Thur	9	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sun	12	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Sun	19	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service (Virtual Bon Service from Hon- pa will be shown)
Sun	26	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service

AUGUST 2020

Sun	2	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Wed	5	7:00 PM	Evening Family Dharma Service and Monthly Memorial for August
Sun	9	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Thur	13	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sun	16	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Sun	23	9:00 AM	Bon / Hatsubon Service
Sun	30	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service

Pickleball

Pickleball is back on a new night!



then!

Join us on **Monday** evenings
from 6:00-8:00pm. The fun
will take place in the social
hall. We will begin on
Monday July 6. See you

Visitation Schedule

**All visitations to care facilities
are cancelled until further notice.**

Evening Services

In July and August, there will be a
Wednesday evening
Family Dharma
Service and Monthly
Memorial Service (July
8 and August 5)
beginning at 7:00 pm.



The Wednesday evening service will
be a repeat of the previous Sunday
Service. Everyone is welcome to
attend.

Golden Chain of Love

I am a link in Amida Buddha's Golden Chain of Love that stretches around the world, I must keep my link bright and strong.

I will try to be kind and gentle to every living thing and protect all who are weaker than myself.

I will try to think pure and beautiful thoughts, to say pure and beautiful words and to do pure and beautiful deeds knowing that on what I do now depends not only my happiness or unhappiness, but also that of others.

May every link in Amida's Golden Chain of Love be bright and strong and may we all attain perfect peace."

I do not know if I have ever experienced a time when these words were more important than during recent times.

Here we are at the halfway mark of 2020 and what a year this is turning out to be! We are experiencing things on a scale never imagined before by most of us. A world-wide pandemic is in our midst and most of our world is responding to the challenge of maintaining our health and the health of others. As terrible as this pandemic is, it is still a teacher of the importance of our interconnectedness and inter-dependence mainly because everyone is involved in this pandemic whether they choose to believe it or not and clearly some do not as their actions show.

The only way we in Hawaii have gained some measure of control over COVID-19 is by the mutual cooperation of its citizens. It is our actions of staying home when requested, maintaining social distance, washing of hands and the wearing of masks that is accomplishing this control. Do not underestimate the simple things we are doing, they are still vital as this pandemic is far from over. There is a danger in getting too comfortable as we reopen our communities as if the pandemic were ending. I truly wish it was over but, **it is not over.**

As we do these things, we are not only protecting ourselves but also each other.

To this I would add the heroic efforts of our medical personnel, our essential activities people, the high level and quality of the communications and guidance from the CDC, our local and state politicians and our own Bishop Matsumoto and Headquarters staff.

There has been a lot of talk about the "new normal" but right now we are still in the process of dealing with this virus and the "new normal" will be developed when we have sufficient control over COVID 19.

I know it is difficult for all of us, especially the distancing but we must remember that the distancing protects one another. In reality it is a form of Aloha to each other and although we have to wear masks we can still smile with our eyes.

I urge you not to give up on what we are doing because it is living the Golden Chain of Love.

Remember the Wisdom/Compassion that embraces us cannot be obstructed by anything. Reflect on your health, now and in the past. Reflect on the good health of your family and loved ones. Remember our first responders and their families around the world who

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Wisdom and inspired by an All-Embracing Compassion to work together to become a more just and humane society for all people.

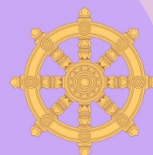
Reverend Eric Matsumoto

Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

June 1, 2020



A reflection on our troubled nation



*"MY HEART ACHES FOR THOSE WHO ARE DIRECTLY IMPACTED
BY THE RACIST TENDENCIES AND OTHER DISCRIMINATORY BEHAVIORS
INCREASINGLY ERUPTING IN OUR SOCIETY..."*

MAY WE BE FORTIFIED WITH COMPASSION,
PERSEVERANCE, SELF-REFLECTION, AND NONVIOLENCE TO ACHIEVE THE
GOALS OF MUTUAL
RESPECT, PEACE, AND HARMONY FOR ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE THROUGH A
TRANSFORMATION
OF OUR HEARTS AND MINDS. LET US BE GUIDED BY AN
ALL-INCLUSIVE WISDOM AND
INSPIRED BY AN ALL-EMBRACING COMPASSION TO WORK TOGETHER TO
BECOME A MORE JUST
AND HUMANE SOCIETY FOR ALL PEOPLE."



– Reverend Eric Matsumoto
Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

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have, in some cases, given everything in their efforts against this virus.

Smile, because you are not alone even with social distancing. We shall get through this, together. We are Hawaii strong! Mahalo nui loa.
Hang in there!

Namoamidabutsu



*Photo (repost) from Silent March around the Hawaii State Capitol Building after the June 17, 2015 Charleston, South Carolina incident. Credit: Charles St. Sure

A further reflection on our troubled nation from a Jodo Shinshu perspective

Today, further reflecting on the situation of racial discrimination and law enforcement in our nation which continue to, in some instances, involve violent acts and most tragically the continued loss of human life, may we go to the Buddha-Dharma for guidance. In Jodo Shinshu (or Shin Buddhism), the 18th Vow of Bodhisattva Dharmakara/Amida Buddha is the Primal Vow which unconditionally promises Supreme Enlightenment. But, currently, my thoughts also dwell on the significance of the 3rd Vow: “If, when I attain

Buddhahood, the humans and devas in my land should not all be the color of genuine gold, may I not attain the perfect Enlightenment.” Several of Bodhisattva Dharmakara’s 48 vows address the stark reality of samsara with suffering and inequality that is born from anger, greed and ignorance.

In Buddhism, the approach and goal is the advancement of each unenlightened being through a transformation of each person’s heart and mind culminating in the attainment of supreme enlightenment. In the case of a total and immediate transformation, the person becomes enlightened like Prince Siddhartha did to become Sakyamuni Buddha. In the case of a “spiritually foolish being” (bonbu) like myself, total positive transformation awaits at some future point. However, illuminated by Amida Buddha’s Light, there results a new awareness of oneself and the awareness of a Wisdom and Compassion which unconditionally embraces — the Buddha’s aspiration for the peace and happiness of all sentient beings.

On one hand, knowing that Amida Buddha’s Compassion reaches out to all nurtures within oneself the understanding that all life can be happy and at peace — thus, I can identify with those who are suffering/hurting as victims of ignorance facing inequality and discrimination. On the other hand, the Light of Wisdom allows me to relate even to those who are manifesting unwholesome actions by making me understand that if conditions were different, I might find myself in their shoes and unable to see life differently and how my actions were causing harm.

If we continue to see ourselves only in the polarity of exclusive opposites, we will remain divided and it will be difficult to come to resolution. There is a saying, that the wise seek neither victory nor defeat. This is an opportunity for both personal and societal transformation through critical self-reflection and compassionate action. Buddhist teachings have always addressed suffering and inequality, from the rejection

Continued from page 5

of the caste system in India, to occupational discrimination in Japan, to support of LGBTQ rights in the United States, etc.

Today, we, the people, including the Buddhist Sangha in communities across our nation and the world, are particularly addressing the suffering of Black people. Black Lives Matter! As we bring about changes to the external conditions of our society with new laws, policies, procedures and reform, it is essential that we also address the deep causes of suffering which arise from ignorance and its manifestations, including arrogance, pride, self-centeredness and fear. Let me emphasize that it is the inner transformation of each of us that will result in true harmony and the lasting positive change that we seek. Each of us must change for a true transformation of our society, nation and world. We need a transformative revolution of our hearts and minds. This is how we will dismantle systemic racism and uplift those who have been left at the margins of our society for too long. As a Buddhist saying reminds us, “Human beings tend to move in the direction of their thoughts.”

However, it is indeed challenging to bring about the kind of awareness and change that we are speaking about on our own especially in this Last Dharma Age. Hence, the Pure Land Tradition speaks of Amida Buddha’s Light of Wisdom and Compassion which illuminates, nurtures and embraces. For a “spiritually foolish being” like myself, my ultimate transformation takes place at the end of my finite life with birth in the Pure Land of Enlightenment made possible by the Buddha’s Compassionate 18th Vow. Guidance and insight can be derived, however, on how I should try to live each day even in my unenlightened state of being by the Pure Land of Amida Buddha. Let me state clearly the intent is not to create the Pure Land on Earth, but we can gain a vision of what we should aspire to now and forever. The 3rd Vow addresses our tendency to discriminate based on skin color — racism — thus vows that all in the Pure Land will be of the same precious golden color. The color gold is not to be taken literally and is not implying that other colors are of lesser importance. Instead, the significance of gold is that almost universally it is appreciated and valued throughout the world as being very precious. I fully realize that this “spiritually foolish being,” Eric, is unable to live perfectly, but the Vows provide me with guidance on how I should try to live, that is, without discriminating, and in ways that help secure respect and equality for all. The Buddha-Dharma provides guidance, insight and encouragement.

As Shinran Shonin said in one of his letters, “One must seek to cast off the evil of this world and to cease doing wretched deeds; *this* is what it means to reject the world and to live the nembutsu.” Let us deeply self-reflect and, while lamenting our imperfections and deeply appreciating Great Compassion which unconditionally embraces, gratefully respond by trying to live in a way that one and all —

Continued on page 7

but especially the disadvantaged and those who have been denied fair access to happiness without fear, equal benefits and opportunities, and freedom — can live fulfilled lives.

In recognizing that “Black Lives Matter,” may we address the real enemies of anger, greed and ignorance (the root causes of suffering and inequality) and peacefully and thoughtfully transform the conditions which perpetuate suffering, inequality and the use of excessive force against the marginalized and minorities. Again, in grateful response to All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion, let us find ways we can contribute to be(com)ing a more peaceful, equitable, and harmonious world. Let us each ask ourselves “What can I do?”

As a closing reflection, please join me for “Our Pledge” by Gomonsu Kojun Ohtani.

Reaching out to others,
 I will share a smile and gentle words.
 Just like the Buddha, who always calls out with Aloha.
 Breaking away from my greed, anger and ignorance,
 I will try to live in peace and harmony.
 Just like the Buddha, who shares tranquility and kindness with all.
 Moving forward from self-centeredness,
 I will share a life of joy and sorrow with others.
 Just like the Buddha, whose caring heart always embraces us.
 Realizing that I live because of others,
 I will strive to live life to the fullest with an attitude of gratitude.
 Just like the Buddha, who promises to embrace us all.

Namo Amida Butsu/Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion
 Thank you. In gassho/anjali,
 Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Bishop

The following messages are also available on the HHMH Website:

A Reflection on Our Troubled Nation (June 1, 2020)

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/message/a-reflection-on-our-troubled-nation-bishop-matsumoto-060120/>

2020 Memorial Day Message from Bishop Eric Matsumoto (May 25, 2020)

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/message/2020-memorial-day-message-bishop-matsumoto/>

Bishop Matsumoto's Video Messages

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5p2UQ0W-gN4Up41QotZr6OsqcetoYVyE>

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



LHWA NEWS

New Members Welcome

Theme for 2020
Expand the Sangha

LHWA Meetings

All meetings will begin after service

Sept. 6

November 29

Photos & information are available for LHWA on our website at: <https://www.lihuehongwanjimission.com/organizations-activities/lihu-e-hongwanji-women-s-association/>
Check it out!



Mask Making Project

LHWA has undertaken a wonderful project to make 400 masks for Wilcox Elementary School, for use by Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students. Lynette Mizuo, as the President of LHWA, is spearheading this project with many volunteers involved in the measuring, cutting and sewing of the masks. It is a wonderful example of many helpers focused on one project to help our local students. The masks will be presented to Wilcox School in July before the beginning of the next school year.



Country Store

Please note that since there will be no Bon Dance at LHM this summer, there will be **NO DONATIONS** accepted for the Country Store this year. Please **do not** drop off donations at the temple this year. We will be available to accept donations next year as we near the Bon Dance season.



Thank you again for your understanding.



Sharing What We Have

Because there is not sufficient storage space at the church for the multitude of “left-over” clothing and other goods from previous Country Store sales, many of us have been concerned with helping to reduce the amount of goods without being wasteful. When the Salvation Army of Kauai advertised a drive for donations in June, a group of volunteers went through the collection of Country Store “left-overs” to see what could be donated to Salvation Army to help others, especially in the present time of COVID-19 and significant loss of jobs and wages.

There were 3 pickup truck-loads taken to Salvation Army for their use and distribution. As we know, we are all in this together and this was a wonderful example of interdependence and helping the community of Kauai.



Shaku Kaufmann continues to chant Shinran Shonin's Shoshinge each morning in the temple. If anyone would like him to dedicate the chanting in memory of a deceased loved one, please let him know by calling the temple at 245-6262. Please leave a message if there is no answer. Remember to mention not only your loved one(s) name(s) but also your name. He can also be reached by email at hawaiisensei@yahoo.com. Please include the same information in your email. Please stay healthy and let us all do our part to help prevent the spread of this virus.

Preschool Renovation

Continuing work on the LHM preschool. Thank you to the many people who are helping the preschool move into their renovated facilities and making everything look so wonderful.

Mahalo!



Darryl Matsumura (far left) and his crew from Universal Delivery Service taking care of moving items from the social hall to the preschool.



Kyle Matsumura painting the easels for the LHM Preschool.



Please help us welcome our new members:

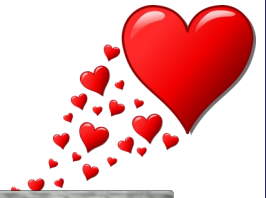
Shawn Shimabukuro

Leroy W. Taguma

When you see them, welcome them to LHM.

Friends At A Distance

Recently, two of our members were able to enjoy a show of motorcycles and classic cars at Regency, from a safe distance. What fun! It is so nice to see their smiles again.



Save the Date

2020 State Lay Association Conference

September 11-12, 2020

This year the Annual State Lay Association Conference will not be held in person, due to the concerns about COVID-19, travel and social gatherings.

The good news is that the 2020 State Lay Association will still be held on a virtual basis. So many changes in the new normal.

Stay tuned for more information as it is received.

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.

MEMORIAL DONATION:

In memory of Haruno Sanoo
Diane Fukuyama
In memory of Mitsuko Higuchi
Warren & Colleen Nonaka
In memory of Julia Kunikiyo
Sam & Elsie Takata
In memory of Hideko Kurosaki
Ruth Ohama
In memory of Janet Fujii
Natsuko Daida
Arlene Fujikawa
In memory of Agnes Miyamoto
Janet Niitani
In memory of Sadamu Saiki
Ed & Leesha Kawamura
In memory of Yoshie Isokane
Jeffrey Isokane

COLUMBARIUM DONATION:

In memory of Harutoshi Hironaka (25 Yrs.)
Michie Hironaka
In memory of Ten Kuraoka (50 Yrs.)
Frances Fujioka
Gladys Takenaka
Joan Contival
In memory of Minoru, Chieko & Owen Takeuchi
& Shirley Nakatsukasa
Walter Nakatsukasa
In memory of Edward & Yaeko Fujimoto
Anne Uyehara & Carol Fujimoto
In memory of George & Elsie Toyofuku
Guy & Lori Toyofuku (2)
In memory of Mitsuko & Akiko Higuchi
Amy Yamada
In memory of Taichi Kurashige
Hiroko Kurashige
In memory of Mitsuko Higuchi
Amy Yamada
In memory of Mamoru Yamada (**Birthday**)
Amy Yamada
Anonymous (2)
Gladys Fujiuchi

SPECIAL DONATION:

Dennis & Sandra Fujimoto
Roy & Carol Fujioka (3)
Elsie Takata (**Birthday**)

SPRING HIGAN DONATION:

Sam Takata
Michiko Yamamoto
Gladys Fujiuchi
Setsuo Ushio
Amy Yamada
Rowena Yamada

GOTAN-E DONATION:

Gladys Fujiuchi
Sam Takata
Janet Niitani
Helen Tomita
Robert Yotsuda
Amy Yamada
Rowena Yamada
Tom Kajiwara
Setsuo Ushio
Michiko Yamamoto
Kenneth Mizuo

**MAJOR PROJECT DONATION:**

Robert & Alma Yotsuda
Lynne Matsumura

BON SERVICE DONATION:

Gladys Fujiuchi

SOCIAL CONCERNS DONATION:

Alice Inouye

MOTHER'S DAY DONATION:

In memory of Takino Yamada
Amy Yamada

REOPENING SERVICE DONATION:

Alice Inouye
Karen Nishimoto

MORNING CHANTING DEDICATIONS

Chieko Shimokawa Oda.

With Deepest Sympathy

Because of the Stay-at-Home and Safer-at-Home orders from the state of Hawaii,
no funerals were held in the past month.

Please keep all medical professionals, health care providers, police, firefighters, EMT's and essential workers in your thoughts for those who have lost their lives as they worked and for those who continue to work at this difficult time.

MEMORIAL SERVICE (NENKI HOYO)

JULY-AUGUST

The following is a list of members who passed away during the months of July and August. 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—2019

2019 August 2 Scot Tsuchiyama

17th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2004

2004 July 11 Tsutomu "Tom" Tateishi

3rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2018

2018 August 5 Erin Tokunaga

25th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1996

1996 July 6 Momoyo Kuboyama

1996 July 20 Howard Isami Tsuchiyama

7th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2014

2014 July 1 Masaharu Arita

2014 July 11 Chieko Oda

2014 August 12 Percival Dee Bailey

33rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1988

1988 NONE

13th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2008

2008 July 7 Betty Fusae Masuda

2008 August 12 Shizue Kurasaki

50th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1971

1971 August 18 Seiichi Matsushima

Lihue Hongwanji Mission, a Shin Buddhist Temple

Lihue Hongwanji Mission
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Lihue, Hawaii 96766-5248
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Building Healthy Sanghas

(Embracing Generosity and Openness)



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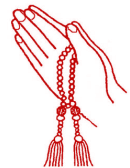
Email: lihuehong@hawaiiintel.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

lihuehongwanjimission.com

Evening Services

In July and August there will be a Wednesday evening Family Dharma Service and Monthly Memorial Service beginning at 7:00 pm. Please see the calendar for more information. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Bon / Hatsubon Service

Sunday August 23

9:00 AM