

# LAST MONTH'S EVENTS

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## WORK DAY at LahainaHongwanji



- Main accomplishments:
- Next phase of schoolyard improvements.
  - Reorganization / Cleanup of storage basement.
  - Cleanup of access areas to Social Hall.

← Hoken Hironaka helps out by scrubbing.

THANK YOU TO ALL WORKERS!

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## BODHI DAY



Emcee Sharon Nohara, Guest Speaker Stanley Okamoto, and Resident Minister Rev. Ai Hironaka

### Highlights from Stanley Okamoto:

- Discussion of the Four Noble Truths
- The equivalents of the Eightfold Path given in Hawaiian! *(The reporter could not keep pace writing it all down, but here are three examples.)*
  - Right Speech – *Olepono*
  - Right Conduct – *Lavenapono*
  - Right Thought – *Mana'opono*
- Mr. Okamoto's association with Lahaina and LahainaHongwanji goes way back ...
  - Father born in Olowalu & worked at Masuda Store on Lahainaluna Rd.
  - Memories of traveling from Wailuku to Lahaina in a Model T ... and having to hold the roof down when they passed by Ukumehame.
  - Best shave ice at Nakagawa Store in Lahaina.
  - Grandpa and Grandma worked at Olowalu Sugar Mill.
  - Practiced judo with the Tabata boys. After practice, they would go to Morikawa Restaurant for saimin.

Mahalo to Stanley Okamoto for being our guest speaker.

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## BWA MEMORIAL SERVICE

This year's memorial service was to honor the support and service of the following BWA members who passed away during the period from November 2010 through November 2011.

Satomi Seki  
ChiyokoToshikiyo  
Jean Keanini



Guest Speaker Chris Richardson, MC Carol Inaba, Rev. Hironaka

### Highlights of Chris Richardson's Message:

- "How I got into Hongwanji ... because of Mr. Isamu Honda, President of Lanai Hongwanji for 40 years."
- "I grew up Christian but always had an interest in Buddhism."
- "Somehow in the 20's my goal was to entertain this body. As you get older – maybe this entertainment thing doesn't do it for you. I started searching and images entered my mind."
- After reading a quote from Shakyamuni Buddha – about the meaning behind 'an ordinary mundane life', Chris thought, "that's me".
- At his first Hongwanji service --- "the incense, the tone of the bell, the sutra ... I got hooked and kept going back."

Thank you to Chris Richardson.

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## NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE



'Herbie' at the bell.

[New Year's Eve continued.]



Derrick rings out the *bonno*.



Violet, Karen, Fumie dish out the soba.



Young Vincent, the soba champ!

Highlights of Rev. Hironaka's message:

- Review of year 2011's big news events
- In reference to the disaster in the Tohoku region of Japan – "We cannot live long for the people who were swept away, but we can live strongly in gratitude. If we don't try to listen, then their deaths were in vain."
- "If we keep centered on ourselves, we cannot realize the value of other lives."

Namo Amida Butsu

Honpa Hongwanji 2012 Slogan:  
Path of Entrusting: Recite the Nembutsu

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Installation of 2012 Officers  
and  
General Membership Meeting

JANUARY 15, 2012

9:30 am Service  
Meeting

Refreshments, Social Hall

HOONKO SERVICE

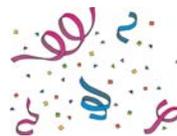
JANUARY 22, 2012

9:30 am

Guest Speaker:  
Rev. Bert Sumikawa

About Hoonko Service:

- Memorial Service for ShinranShonin, founder of JodoShinshu.
- The most important tradition in Pure Land Shin Buddhism.
- A time to express our gratitude to our founder.
- ShinranShonin lived in the Kamakura era, a time of disunity and violence in Japan. Shinran sought a way for all beings to attain perfect peace equally.



Buddhist Women's  
Association's  
105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
and  
Lahaina Hongwanji Mission's

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>  
Temple Service at 9:30 am  
Guest Speaker: Sherman Thompson

Celebration at 11:00 am  
Westside Senior Center  
Food / Entertainment / Prizes

*TRANSPORTATION: If you need a ride to Hongwanji and/or from Hongwanji to Westside Senior Center, please call 'Noosh' Nishihara, 870-6478 to arrange for the transportation.*



News From Related Links

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The Hongwanji International Center (Kyoto)

- 800 million yen collected in relief funds: Relief funds were distributed by the Hongwanji Disaster Relief Office to the following regions:
Phase 1: Districts of Tohoku, Tokyo, Nagano, and Kokufu
Phase 2: Prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima.
Phase 3: Districts of Tohoku, Tokyo, Nagano, and Kofuku.
Phase 4: 10 temples in the Soma sub-district who have evacuated due to nuclear radiation.
Overseas participants attend 750th Memorial at Hongwanji. On October 11th, 13 members from HonpaHongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, led by RimbanRyoso Toshima, attended the 750th Memorial. The initial group of 40 participants, originally scheduled to attend the May Memorial event, had postponed the trip --- following the March 11th tragedy in the Tohoku region. / On October 15th 14 members from Hongwanji Buddhist Mission of Australia attended the 750th Memorial. / Also in October, 22 members from Koshoji Temple in Taiwan attended the memorial.

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HonpaHongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE - December 14, 2011

- Japan Disaster Relief Fund Report: Total Donation received: \$241,410.13 Donation was made to: Honzan (\$95,070) & Japan-America Society of Hawaii (\$95,000). The remaining balance will also be donated to the organizations mentioned previously. Thank you very much for your donations.
YESS Camp 29 - "Shinshu Happens"
WHO: Those interested in JodoShinshu Buddhism, ages 8th grade to 23 years old.
WHAT: Camp for Young Buddhists interested in learning about Buddhism as well as a little about themselves.
WHERE: Camp Kokokahi, Oahu
WHEN: March 24-26, 2012
HOW: Website: www.tiny.cc/yesscamp, E-mail: youth@honpahi.org
WHY: Because it will be a fun and memorable experience.

- Living Treasures of Hawaii Recognition: The 37th Annual Living Treasures of Hawaii Recognition event will be held in conjunction with the 100th Legislative Assembly's Aloha Luncheon on FEB. 4TH, 2012. This year's honorees are: Goro Arakawa, Dr. Ben Finney, Barbara Kawakami, Gordon Mark, and Lynette Paglinawan.
HQ Bookstore Update: An original item is now being offered - a Buddhist Flag Colored Nenju- for \$10.00. The wrist nenju is made of the 5 colors of the Buddhist flag: blue, yellow, red, white and orange; the elastic string is purple. The idea of this "Buddhist Color Series" of items came from Bishop Eric Matsumoto. Sizes available are: XS (babies, toddlers, preschoolers), S (elementary, middle schoolers), M, and L. It's a good gift item for new Dharma School students, new members, family and friends. If you are interested, contact the Bookstore Clerk, Yoshiko Umitani, at (808)522-9210, or by e-mail: hqbooks@honpahi.org

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Metta

A publication of the Buddhist Study Center

A Buddhist Symposium: Wisdom & Compassion at the End of Life

How can we face the death of a loved one? How does understanding dying help those who must care for their elders, and those who lost dear ones? What are Buddhist approaches & practices to deal with these most trying times?

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 9-10, 2012
HONPA HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN

Sponsored by: Buddhist Study Center and The Hawaii Association of International Buddhists

Guest Speaker: Dr. Carl Becker Professor, Kyoto University Graduate School

Cost: \$30 Info: Buddhist Study Center (808)973-6555 / e-mail bsassist@honpahi.org

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## Message From Buddhist Women's Association President, Sharon Nohara

We, the Buddhist Women's Association, as women of the Nembutsu, express our gratitude for Amida Buddha's compassion through dedicated service and selfless giving. We follow the path laid down before us 105 years ago by our Fujinkai founding mothers. The BWA continues to demonstrate commitment and dedication to our family, temple and community through the teachings of the Nembutsu. Today the BWA organization has expanded their responsibilities to fulfill leadership roles in the Hongwanjisangha and for actively spreading the dharma. However, we also face the challenge of a dwindling membership and the changes in our role during these present times. Here at LahainaHongwanji, we are truly grateful for our core group of BWA members who provide the "backbone" of all our activities. Not only must we deal with a dwindling membership, but an aging membership. Over half of our members are *keiro* (age 80 and older) and these are the members who provide our active core group of volunteers. They are our temple cleaners, preparers of our temple refreshments, funeral assistants and servers, craft club fundraisers – as well as serving as BWA community volunteers. These women continue to exemplify the true meaning of *dana* and *hosha* in nembutsu. As we face the new 2012 year, we must all reflect on our role as members of our temple and as Shin Buddhists. To the women of our temple, I ask that you consider becoming members of the BWA. Whatever time or capacity you can volunteer is welcomed and appreciated. In order to continue the legacy of service in gratitude established by our founding mothers, we need every woman regardless of age to join us in fellowship as we "diligently strive to live the life of Nembutsu" among our BWA circle of Dharma friends.

During the months of January and February, we are asking women of LahainaHongwanji to join or renew their membership to the BWA. Please submit the completed 2012 membership form with the \$15 fee and return to the LHM temple office, or to any BWA officer. An updated LahainaHongwanji BWA Membership Directory will be compiled and distributed to all members in March.

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### LahainaHongwanji 2012 Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different from address above):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Please turn in completed form with \$15 membership fee to the LahainaHongwanji Office, or mail to LahainaHongwanji BWA, P.O. Box 458, Lahaina, HI 96761*

## Frequently Asked Questions – About the New Nokotsudo (Columbarium)

**Q: How do we get into the Nokotsudo? Do we get our own keys like before?**

**A:** Keys will be made available for purchase (about \$4.00 each). There will also be a coded lockbox that will contain a key for entry (for out-of-towners and/or folks without keys). Keys are not yet available for members because: a) The builder has to install a key system for the sliding doors at the front of the building. Presently, only the back door has a lock/key. b) For security reasons, the key cannot be **visibly** available like before. *(Although it is unlikely that anyone would break in to steal an urn, and although the monetary offerings may not amount to much, we need to protect the interior from vandalism.)*



The picture to the left shows an alphabet-combination type of lockbox for a key. There are also lockboxes with a number code system.

**Q: In the meantime, how can we visit the Nokotsudo?**

**A:** The Nokotsudo will be open at these times: 1) On Sundays when there is a service, from 9:30 – 10:30 am, or later if there is a major service. 2) On most Tuesdays, when the Craft Club meets, from 8:00 am – 12:00 noon. You can also arrange for the Nokotsudo to be opened up for you by calling Rev. Hironaka at 661-0640, and/or Phyllis Nakamura at 661-4032. Arrangements at least a day ahead would work best.

**Q: May we bring flowers? Where do we put them?**

**A:** Yes, floral offerings will be permitted. However, you will be placing the flowers at a different location – not on benches in front or close to your niche. There will eventually be two wooden cabinets that will contain several vases for your flowers. Place flowers in vases on the benches until that time.



The wooden cabinet in the photo is one of two that are located in Makawao Hongwanji's Nokotsudo. We will have two similar cabinets that will hold approximately 12-15 vases each. Hongwanji will purchase & maintain these vases. There will be a cabinet on each side of the altar.

Please do not bring potted plants for the Nokotsudo. There are not enough volunteers to tend to them on a regular basis.

**Q: When can inurnment services be scheduled for the Nokotsudo? (These would be services for placing urns of people who passed away during the period from the fall of 2010 until the present time.)**

**A:** Thankfully, that time is getting closer. However, the following must occur prior to setting dates for inurnment services: 1) The columbarium interior needs to be cleaned by construction crew and/or volunteer members. The building contractor has been waiting and waiting for Maui County to do the final inspection of the building. (UPDATE: Cleanup completed; still waiting on county inspection.) 2) The new altar is scheduled to be moved from the temple to the columbarium on December 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>. (UPDATE: The new altar has been moved into the Nokotsudo.) 3) Communication between inurnment service families and Rev. Hironaka to discuss scheduling of services.

**Q: How do we find the location of our family niche now?**

**A:** Booklets will be placed (inside) near the front entrance and the back entrance. The booklets will have the following information: Each niche that has been assigned to a family has a temporary identification tag attached to the knob. Metal nameplates will be ordered in January, 2012.

- A map / drawing that shows the arrangement of the niches in sections A, B, C, and D.
- Alphabetical listing of family last names, and the assigned niche. Example: Kitagawa . . . C14 (a made-up example – no such family niche)

**Q: How do we get water for the vases and for mopping the interior floor of the Nokotsudo?**

**A:** The logistics of getting water supply close to the Nokotsudo are yet to be 'ironed out'. The revered old stone basin had to be moved to accommodate the new building; water hook-up from its new location is likely to occur, but not immediately. In the meantime, the *Hosha* ladies who clean the temple and Nokotsudo will have to rely on other water sources: 1) Temple back porch, 2) Lawn hoses.

*Thank you to everyone for your patience with the whole Nokotsudo project. It is, indeed, a major undertaking – one that requires adjustment to and acceptance of changes. While we experience this, we can only marvel at all of the planning and work that went into the original Nokotsudo building – a labor of love from Lahaina Hongwanji members 'way back when'. OKAGESAMADE.*

Namo Amida Butsu

## JodoShinshuHongwanji-ha

Kyoto, Japan



### New Year's Greeting

"Immeasurable Light and Life."

At the beginning of the new year, I would like to send you my greetings from Hongwanji in Kyoto.

Last year was truly a difficult year. At first I had hoped that from April, we could conduct an exciting and lively memorial for ShinranShonin, one which is observed only once every fifty years. However, the March disaster changed everything. Although I believe that the agony of the disaster-affected people goes beyond anything we can imagine, this catastrophe has brought me to ponder everyday about what we should do, what we can do, and what the future holds. The nuclear power plant accident, in particular, has caused tremendous difficulties for not only the victims in that area, but has also hindered the enthusiasm of people engaged in relief and restoration activities, as well as plunging the future of not only Japan, but also the entire planet into uncertainty and apprehension.

At the same time, we are truly grateful for the monetary and material contributions for our relief efforts and condolences that the people throughout the world have been sending to Japan.

It is easy to grasp the meaning of the sentence "Everything is impermanent," but extremely difficult to accept the truth which it expresses. Being aware of the working of AmidaTathagata's wisdom and compassion could enable you to take a step forward in accepting and realizing this stark truth.

Massive earthquakes and unsettling weather patterns that caused great famine had also taken place during ShinranShonin's time. It is certain that the teaching clarified by ShinranShonin, including *shinjin*, the heart entrusting to Other Power and our expression of gratitude as the Nembutsu, corresponds the experiences that he actually went through. In saying NamoAmidaButsu and following the path to the Pure Land where we can attain Buddhahood, we are able to find possibility of solving the issues lying deep in our minds, which cannot be resolved merely by our own attempts and efforts.

We saw a variety of aspects in the tsunami disaster, namely, some past experiences that were well-employed, while others were totally forgotten or ignored, and we were also faced with our excessive trust in scientific technology. How we should control our endless desire that we can never rid ourselves of as long as we are foolish beings and how we can make use of our limited wisdom and capability are issues that I have accepted as our assignment for the new year. Keeping in mind that all life is embraced in the Light of AmidaTathagata, together, let us walk forward.

January 1, 2012

OHTANI Koshin  
Monshu  
JodoShinshuHongwanji-ha

## Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii



### A New Year's Greeting and Aspiration!

I extend my most sincere best wishes to you for the New Year! In the New Year, please know that truly we are never alone for Amida Buddha as the Name, NamoAmidaButsu, is always with us. The GomonsuKoshinOhtani in his book *"The Buddha's Wish for the World"* shares to people who say *"I am not able to say the Nembutsu naturally and spontaneously. What can I do about it?"* *"I first suggest ... to say the Nembutsu casually, as if they were simply saying, "Hello," to Amida Buddha."* *"... think that the heart of Amida Buddha is the heart to save all without exception. This heart of Amida Buddha already exists in the depths of our own hearts."* *"Then learn about Buddhism gradually ..."* *"Somewhere along the way, you will discover the Nembutsu is more than just a word of greeting."* *"When you become a person who is able to say the Nembutsu that means you are a person who can sense the presence of Amida Buddha."* *"When you become a person who senses the presence of Amida Buddha in your life, you will say the Nembutsu naturally and spontaneously."* *"... Amida Buddha has been calling out to us from long before. We are always Amida Buddha's deepest concern. When we realize that, we say, "Thank you," with a heart full of gratitude. That is Nembutsu."*

Our theme and slogan for 2012 is "Path of Entrusting: Recite the Nembutsu." For me, the Nembutsu is the Nembutsu of Awareness in which one is aware of the immense Compassion that is Amida Buddha equally surrounding all existence. It is the Nembutsu of Joy in realizing that I too am unconditionally embraced by the Buddha's Great Compassion. And it is the Nembutsu of Gratitude in which reciting "NamoAmidaButsu / I entrust myself to the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light" is a spontaneous expression of my gratitude for being promised Buddhahood / Enlightenment by the Most-Compassionate Amida Buddha.

It is with great anticipation that I greet the New Year in that we will be embarking on the implementation of HonpaHongwanji Mission of Hawaii's Strategic Plan which addresses many of the challenges and issues we face like providing more support to temples and organizations, PR and Marketing, additional financial resources, ministerial training and including how can we more effectively, clearly and meaningful(ly) share and express the Nembutsu Dharma. I ask that you encourage family and invite friends to our temples to listen to the Dharma and may we be active in our community so all lives may be enriched by Wisdom and Compassion.

Finally, together with expressing my appreciation to both ministers and lay, I ask, evermore, for your support, cooperation, participation and commitment as we continue to perpetuate the Buddhist Teachings and move towards becoming an even more open and harmonious Sangha that continues to make a difference in our local and world community. Thank you, Happy New Year and NamoAmida Butsu!

In gassho, Eric Matsumoto, Bishop

## President's New Year Message

Aloha and best wishes for a happy and peaceful New Year! 2011 was a challenging year of Hawaii Kyodan. While transitioning between our spiritual leaders, we participated in ShinranShonin's 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service in Kyoto amidst the devastating earthquake and subsequent nuclear disaster. These incidents demonstrated how interdependent we are even as far away as Japan. It also made us realize how fortunate we are, even in this tough economic times. Let us be grateful for all that our ancestors did for us and rededicate ourselves to continue their legacy.

The Bishop's and my visitation of the districts got off to a slow start as did the search for volunteers to serve on the various committees to develop action items for the implementation of the strategic plan. Like a big ship, an organization with deep rooted traditions takes awhile to change directions. But the ship is turning! Over fifty volunteers offered to work on the strategic planning committees. About half of them are individuals who have not been actively involved at a state level. These committees will help us prioritize the challenges we face in the areas of a) ministry, b) communications, c) organizational structure, d) leadership, e) rituals & practices and f) finances.

This is the start of a long process to attain our vision of our members regaining their pride in being a Buddhist and being dedicated and loyal to our temple and organization as did our ancestors generations ago. Central to this process is the need to train our ministers and lay members to take a more active role and share their personal talents with our organization. Don't wait to be asked to help. Stand up and offer your expertise to your temple and Hawaii Kyodan.

Let us be grateful for the teachings of ShinranShonin which binds the Sangha together and at the same time recognize that we must meet the needs of our changing society. 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 JodoShinshu.

In Gassho,

Alton H. Miyamoto, President  
Hawaii Kyodan

**Path of Entrusting: Recite the Nembutsu**

*Namu-amida-butsu receives  
A person just as is.  
When the nembutsu receives a person,  
No matter who or what,  
The person is transformed into the nembutsu.  
Celebrating and blessing life.*

*The Nembutsu takes me as I am.  
Imperfect and incomplete,  
With worries and problems,  
And transforms everything  
Into the contents of highest virtue.*

Rev. Chiso Yanagida (from Aiko Journal, 1978)

Rev. Yanagida in his poem, describes reciting the Nembutsu as the Path of Entrusting – our calendar slogan for 2012, with the saying that Namu-Amida-Butsu receives a person just as is or just as I am. Though imperfect and incomplete, with worries and problems, transforms everything into the contents of highest virtue. (Amida's great compassion)

What seems to be so special about the Nembutsu path is that it takes you, just as you are and makes no demands upon you to become wiser, better, or more perfect. It does, however, ask us to become authentically real as human beings by awakening to Amida's compassion that sustains us. Here we recognize our limitations and imperfections as karmic beings that are ultimately transformed into the contents of highest virtue.

Reciting the Nembutsu literally means, "I take refuge in Amida Buddha, the Buddha of Infinite Life and Light." Reciting NamuAmidaButsu testifies as an awakening to our humanity and leads us to the full realization of the ultimate power of Wisdom and Compassion, which we Buddhist call Buddhahood.

Reciting the Nembutsu is a total acceptance of Amida's Wisdom and Compassion at work and becomes an act of expressing gratitude, naturally arising from an awakening to the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha. A man or woman who lives in the supreme knowledge and profound conviction that he is now encompassed in "Amida's eternal light which never casts one away" is known as a person who lives the life of Nembutsu.

The Nembutsu therefore, can be seen as the center of our being, the spiritual home where we find the spiritual power that impacts our moral, social, and religious lives. It verbalizes our inner awakening to the reality of life and is the sound of the infinite touching in the finite. How grateful we are ... how grateful we are.