



# LAST MONTH'S EVENTS

## FUJI MATSURI

The Maui Hongwanji-sponsored event was hosted by MakawaoHongwanji this year. It was well attended by members and friends of all four Maui temples. The program included: service / songfest / hanafuda / crafts / quiz bowl / volleyball / kaukau from the MHM kitchen. MAHALO to MakawaoHongwanji!



Lahaina group at Fuji Matsuri service.

Kahului Hongwanji Choir sings their two gathas.



Buddhists should not boast, but ... gassho for Lahaina winning at HANAFUDA ! QUIZ BOWL winners – Sylvia N.,'Noosh'N.,Aileen C.



Megumi-san, a powerful server!



There it is ... who's got it?

Lahaina's Volleyball team had the spirit and the moves to win the games and retain the trophy from 10 years ago. Is it time to bring volleyball back for annual games?



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# LAST MONTH'S EVENTS

## MOTHER'S DAY at Lahaina Hongwanji



4 Chefs will feed you: Earl Zaan, David Fleetham, Kent Nishijima, 'Noosh' Nishihara.

Sharon Nohara does her party décor magic with Mrs. Simpson's beautiful protea from Kula.



Mothers line up for "food, food ... glorious food."



"Paper/Rock/Scissors" game. Jan-Kem-Po winner, Emi Fujikawa.

<p>M ... million things she gave me  O ... only that she's growing old (not)  T ... tears she shed to save me  H ... her heart of purest gold  E ... eyes with lovelight shining  R ... right and right she's always be</p> <p>Put them all together to spell MOTHER,  a word that means the world to us.</p>
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### Remembering Mothers – Haiku poems from the Internet

*Sunday morning  
humming a tune  
my mother taught me*

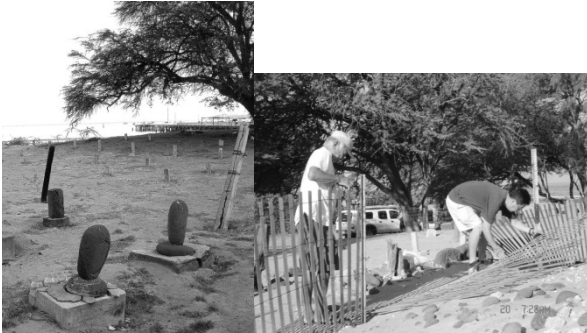
*I follow her recipe  
but something's missing ...  
mother's day*

*calling home  
the color of mother's voice  
before her words*



## More of Last Month's Events

### West Maui Buddhist Council's Annual Clean-up of Puupuha Cemetery



This year's volunteer cleanup crew included the following people: From LahainaShingon: Rev. Takayuki Meguro, Paul Anbe, Kunio Okamoto. From LahainaHongwanji: Haruo Nakagawa, Kent Nishijima, Violet Nishijima, Emiko Fujikawa, Doris Fujii, Fumie Shinyama, Carol Inaba, Phyllis Nakamura.

To give us an idea of what lies behind this tradition – here is an excerpt from an Internet “blog”. The writer describes a visit to a gravesite outside of Osaka, Japan.

*“I came here with friends during a meinichi (Death Anniversary) for the family patriarch. Following a Buddhist ceremony at the family shrine, we drove to the graveyard. .... First we removed the old offerings from the grave.... Then we washed the gravestone.... After washing off the grave we made a new offering which included flowers, incense, and shochu. Apparently my friend's father enjoyed the specific type of Japanese Shochu that we offered to him that day. ... After cleaning off the 'gravestone', my friend's mother recited a Buddhist prayer while kneeling at the grave. She recited the sutra while counting the stanzas using her Buddhist prayer beads. .... The Japanese graveyard is very different from Western style cemeteries. The first impression you get is how crowded the cemetery is. The next thing you notice is the design of the 'tombstones' which are completely different. Japanese tombstones .. usually inter an entire family not just a single individual. Another difference you may notice is that the tombstone has writing in black ink and red ink. There will be a long string of Kanji that includes the family name as well as the family patriarch's name. Around this one can see smaller names written on the gravestone. These names are the other members of the family. Black names are those names of people who are deceased and entombed at the grave site. Names in red are the names of those still living. ....During Obon festival, families will travel to their ancestor's graves to pay respects.*

*The Japanese are far more 'in tune' with their families past as well as honoring the family members who came before them. I can think of only once that I visited my family's grave*

*site in Pittsburgh. I think that because Americans are so transient in nature and set on living not only in the 'now' but so much looking ahead, that we set little time aside for reflecting on how we arrived at our present location.”*

## GOTAN E SERVICE

Commemoration of ShinranShonin's Birth



“Herbie” drapes lei around Shinran's statue. Rev. Umitani& Rev. Hironaka

Thank you to: Rev. Ai Hironaka and Guest Speaker Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani / to emcee Sharon Nohara and organist Alyce Yoshino / to all who gathered and strung lei to adorn the statue of ShinranShonin / to ‘Herbie’ Nishijima for decorating the statue / to Sharon Nohara (BWA President) and the ladies who helped prepare the food.

### Highlights of Rev. Umitani's dharma message:

- His sharing of his role as Executive Assistant to Bishop Eric Matsumoto – saying that he now sees how the “*nembutsusangha works together to move the organization forward.*”
- That the concept of ‘Gassho’ is not something we should take for granted ...
- Reference to Dr. Nobuo Haneda's comparison of **human wisdom** and **Amida's wisdom** --- that human wisdom is of a *dualistic* nature, having a positive aspect and a negative aspect. Amida's wisdom is a “*limitless wisdom ... seeking discovery and new meaning in all things in life.*”
- Sharing a personal story about his great-grandmother, who lived to the age of 101. She was very healthy but very hard-of-hearing. She would go to the obutsudan every day. However, she started to forget that she had already placed the *obuppan* (rice offering) at the altar and would go back and forth several times. When gently reminded that she had already done that task, she said, “*Oh, I forgot already, but Buddha never forgets me.*”
- Shakyamuni Buddha: “*Life is Suffering' is pessimistic only if we look at it from human wisdom. From Amida's wisdom it is not pessimistic at all. Life is suffering but it is fundamentally good.*”



MAUI BUDDHIST COUNCIL

**2012 OBON SCHEDULE**

- LahainaShingon ..... June 2 / 7:30 pm
- PuuneneNichiren ..... June 9 / 8:00 pm
  - Wailuku Jodo ..... June 15 / 8:00 pm
  - Wailuku Shingon ..... June 16 / 8:00 pm
- LahainaHongwanji ..... June 22 & 23 / 7:30 pm
- LahainaJodo ..... July 7 / 8:00 pm
- PaiaMantokuji ..... July 13 & 14 / 8:00 pm
  - Kahului Hongwanji ..... July 20 & 21 / 8:00 pm
- MakawaoHongwanji ..... July 27 & 28 / 7:30 pm
  - Kahului Jodo ..... August 4 / 8:00 pm
  - Wailuku Hongwanji ..... August 10 & 11 / 8:00 pm
- PaiaRinzai Zen ..... August 18 / 7:00 pm
- Kula Shofokuji ..... August 25 / 7:30 pm

LAHAINA HONGWANJI MISSION

**OBON 2012**



FRIDAY JUNE 22<sup>nd</sup>

- 6:30pm** – Short service for Dedication of Nokotsudo
- 7:00pm** – Ceremonial mochi tossing
- 7:30pm** – Dancing begins

SATURDAY JUNE 23<sup>rd</sup>

- 6:00pm** – Hatsubon Serv.
- 7:30pm** – Dancing begins

*CONCESSIONS to open up at about 5:30 both nites*



**PREPARATIONS FOR OBON**

Much KOKUA is needed each year in order to have a successful Obon. Please volunteer to help in any way. There is no time clock to log the hours; each person puts in what she/he can offer, and we are so grateful for the help. MAHALO !

**1-3 days prior to Obon**

- Set-up of yagura, dance ring, booths
- Ring decorations and lighting
- Readying Nokotsudo for visitors, floral offerings.
- Preparation of vegetables, other ingredients

**Friday & Saturday of Obon**

- Food preparations: SUSHI, BENTO items, NISHIME, CHOW FUN, other food concessions.
- Finalizing of set-up
- Sales Crews: SUSHI, BENTO, NISHIME, CHOWFUN HOTDOG&CHILI, SHAVE ICE, WATER& SODA, CRAFTS, GAMES, SCRIPS
- Kitchen crew for feeding workers & dancers.
- CLEAN-UP CREW

High-Five ! We can do it again !



**FATHER'S DAY & General Cleanup**

SUNDAY, JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup> – 7:00am start time  
FOOD / DRINK in honor of the DADS !!

HonpaHongwanji Mission of Hawaii  
BUDDHIST STUDY CENTER  
Dharma Session on Maui

Date / Time: JUNE 23, 2012, 10 am – 2 pm  
Place: KAHULUI HONGWANJI MISSION

Guest Lecturer:  
**Reverend William Masuda**  
of Palo Alto Buddhist Church

REGISTER by JUNE 17, 2012 – Kahului HM, 871-4732  
FEE: \$10 per person, lunch included  
CHECKS payable to: Maui Hongwanji Council  
OPEN to the public.

**KAMEHAMEHA DAY PARADE**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>– 9:45am Front Street

LahainaHongwanji will have a 'float' entry this year. Volunteer help will be needed to prepare items and then decorate our float. Our first-time entry a few years ago took 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE in that category. We will decorate with ti leaves, flowers, etc. – the major part of the task to be completed on Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.



## NEWS FROM RELATED LINKS

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*Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii*  
HEADQUARTERS UPDATE – May 14, 2012  
[Excerpts]

### 2012 State Dharma School Teacher's Conference

Host: Valley Isle Dharma School Teachers' Association

Theme: "Dharma Wheel Turning . . . 1, 2, 3"

Where / When: Maui / October 13-14, 2012

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Pieper Toyama, PBA

Fee: \$125 due July 13<sup>th</sup> (packet-March 9<sup>th</sup>Honpa News-Letter)

### YBICSE (Young Buddhist International Cultural Study Exchange)

Who: Candidates from Maui are Layke Yamauchi (WHM), Trent Hori (KHM)

What: Cultural Study Exchange trip to Japan

When: July 9-19, 2012

Why: For young JodoShinshu Buddhists to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the Nembutsu teaching by visiting Honzan (mother temple), experience a home stay, travel to historical sites with fellow young Buddhists.

### Buddhist Study Center SUMMER SESSION

Who:Rev. William Masuda, Palo Alto Buddhist Temple

What: "The Inner Workings of Shin Buddhism: Savoring the Spirituality of GutokuShinran" The theme will be explored through the writings of Shinran Shonin, Rennyoshonin, the Marvelous People of the Nembutsu Faith (Myokonin, and the insights of Ito, Kozen Sensei)

When: JUNE 18-27, 2012, 6:30-9:00 pm

Where: Buddhist Study Center, 1436 University Avenue, Honolulu.

Fee: \$45 / \$25 for students (Fee due June 6<sup>th</sup>)

Contact: (808)973-6555 [bscassist@honpahi.org](mailto:bscassist@honpahi.org)

Rev. William Masuda will also lecture at a Dharma Session on Maui (sponsored by BSC). **JUNE 23, 2012 at Kahului HM – 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.** Register by June 17<sup>th</sup> by calling KHM, 871-4732. \$10 fee includes lunch. Checks payable to Maui Hongwanji Council.

### Buddhist Study Center "GATHERING 2012"

Who:World renowned Buddhist scholars – Dr. Alfred Bloom (UH Professor; author of *The Promise of Boundless Compassion* ); Rev. Koyo Kubose (Director of Bright Dawn Center of Oneness Buddhism; Dr. Kenneth Tanaka (Professor of Buddhism at Musashino University and author of *Ocean*)

What:A collaboration of BSC and the Shin Buddhist Project of Wahiawa HM. Exploration of the theme of "Realizing a Shin Buddhist Community"through a focus on the parallels of a discipline known as **Habits of Mind and Buddhism.**The guest lecturers will share their perspective of Buddhism in a panel discussion and will then interactively explore how Shin Buddhist concepts can be practically integrated into our everyday life.

When: AUGUST 10 – 12, 2012

Where: Buddhist Study Center, 1436 University Ave.

Fee: \$100 (\$85 for early bird registration by 7/15/12)

### JODO SHINSHU CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

What: Two-year computer-based correspondence course. Students download textbook material, submit assignments, receive feedback from instructors and communicate with other participants through the web page set up on Moodle.

Registration: Deadline for a Fall 2012 enrollment is AUGUST 15, 2012. Course will start on September 1, 2012. For more information: [jsc.cbe-bca.org](http://jsc.cbe-bca.org)

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BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA

### WHEEL OF DHARMA

(Monthly Publication)

[Excerpts from "*In the Midst of Sufferings*" by Rev. Yukiko Motoyoshi, Stockton Buddhist Temple]

"... Basically there are three types of sufferings we experience in this world. They are: 1) suffering derives from unfavorable conditions; 2) suffering derives from losing favorable conditions; 3) suffering derives from experiencing impermanence.

I believe the first and second types of sufferings are experienced by any living being. However, the third suffering, I think, is unique to humans. This world is constantly changing. Yet, we cling to ever-changing conditions, persons, or things as if they are forever or unchanging. Aging, sickness, and



NEWS FROM RELATED LINKS

death are inescapable conditions of our existence. If one cannot accept this truth, sufferings are inevitable.

So, how do we turn this world of "suffering" to a world of "happiness"?

Here, I would like to share an amusing anecdote. There was a very prominent 15th century Zen Buddhist monk named Ikkyu. He was respected as being wise, and very witty. One day, he was requested to officiate at a funeral service for the father of a wealthy family in Kyoto. Before the service began, the family asked Ikkyu to chant sutras for the sake of the spirit of the person who died. In response, Ikkyu proceeded to quietly sit down next to the open casket. After some time passed he asked for a hammer. With the hammer in hand Ikkyu proceeded to tap the corpse on the forehead. You could imagine how the family and relatives reacted to seeing their loved one being hit with the hammer. To this Ikkyu explained, "I wanted to see whether he was still alive or not. But he is already gone. I cannot do anything for him now." Seeing the confused expressions on the faces of the people gathered, Ikkyu clarified, "Since your father cannot even react to physical pain, the sutras (teachings of the Buddha), how can you expect him to hear the teachings correctly. The Buddha Dharma is for those who can listen while he still can feel the pain."

Sufferings and pains are part of our daily living. Buddhism is directed to all those who are trying to come to terms with the reality of suffering in our lives. Buddhism is not the path to get rid of these sufferings per se. Buddhism is the way for us to awaken to "wisdom" so that we can clearly see 1) the world we live in, 2) the cause of sufferings, and 3) the way to eliminate the cause of sufferings. When one attains "wisdom", he realizes that "self-centeredness" is the root cause of sufferings. We not only see all things from this "self-centered" perspective, but we are conditioned to unknowingly cling to our limited views. When we are made aware of the instinctual nature of our self-centered views we experience a sense of liberation from the root cause of suffering, and we will be able to live in a world of true happiness.

Unfortunately it is extremely difficult for an ordinary person to liberate himself from the self-centered mind. JodoShinshu is directed to such ordinary persons. Amida Buddha is the Buddha of "Infinite Wisdom". Such "Wisdom" is transferred to us in the form of the Nembutsu. We simply and gratefully receive the Nembutsu. Through the wisdom of the Nembutsu we are awakened to the Four Noble Truths of sufferings, the cause of sufferings, and means to cope with sufferings. As finite limited beings we may not be able to eliminate all sufferings. However, through the Nembutsu, we can live in the midst of sufferings and pain with awareness and gratitude."

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LOS ANGELES HONPA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE  
[Excerpt from 2010 Dharma Message]

Thoughts on Hatsubon, by Rev. William Briones

*Please don't cry before my grave ...  
That's not where I am.  
Nor am I sleeping for eternity  
See,  
I am already part of the breezes  
Numbering a thousand.  
I am part of the light  
That brightens this world,  
Like a diamond glittering in the snow,  
Like the sun that coaxes seeds to sprout.  
And in the fall, I become the gentle rain  
That nurtures all ...  
That causes your hair to flutter,  
And at night I am the star  
That watches over your sleep.  
So please ... don't cry before my grave.  
That's not where I am.*

"The poem ... is entitled "A Breeze From Pure Land" (The authorship is uncertain ...) .... The poem subtly expresses how our loved one's existence continues to move dynamically within our lives, like being with family and friends on special occasions, watching our children grow up, a special song, the changing of the seasons ...

Your loved one is now part of the unseen embracing Oneness (Dharma or Life or truth or Reality) that makes such events and experiences possible at all. So your loved one is not as far away as you might think. As JodoShinshu Buddhists, Hatsubon and other family memorial services are a time to reflect upon our lives and how we are continually being influenced by our loved ones."

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MAKA'ALA MYNAH spots good work !

- ▶ The lawn is looking good and ready for Obon, thanks to Gordon Cockett and Neal Fujiwara.
- ▶ In the Nokotsudo, there is a place to set down vases of flowers – thanks to the woodworking of 'Herbie' Nishijima.
- ▶ The temple and Nokotsudo and surroundings are kept clean by our Hosha groups of ladies.
- ▶ The Tuesday Craft Club members are diligently working on items to be sold at Obon and Bazaar.

MAHALO to all ! If Maka'ala Mynah missed any work that should be cited, please let him know. :)

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## Dharma Message for May, 2012 – by Resident Minister Rev. Ai Hironaka

Mother's Day, this is one of the most important days in a whole year – like your wife's birthday. If you want to spend your life peacefully, please give your warmest words of appreciation to your mother. And, as I said many times, although Mother's Day is not a wife's day it's better to give something for wife too. Just in case ...

Well, when Shinshu scholars explain the relationship between Amida Buddha and yourself, they use mother and the child for the explanation, instead of using father and the child. Why ... But, it is an easy question. Like the other night at my house, Kokoro woke up crying and she said to me that "It is itchy and beginning to hurt, I cannot sleep." I checked and saw the place she pointed to and took her to the shower room and tried the cleaner. And then I went to my computer and was checking all the news. But, the mother Megumi was different. She quickly changed her clothes and went to Long's Drugs. I was amazed. I thought this is how different the caring heart for the child is between father and mother. Even in the middle of the night, she just left for her child without any dissatisfaction or complaining. You may say that it is a very common thing for all mothers but I felt it is amazing. What I could do was open another beer ...

When I think about the relationship between myself and my mother, there were two big turning points. One was when I left my mother's home when I entered college. It was a very exciting and memorable time in my life. Especially, there was no bath towel on the table after taking bath for the first time at my apartment in Kyoto city. It was so cold and I had to take another bath again. It meant the bath towel was always put there by my mother for me.

The other moment was when I came to Hawaii. As I said many times, my first assignment was Hilo, Hawaii. My mother must have worried about me coming to Hawaii. She was not sure what a Hilo is too. But, I did not call my mother very often so she had to call me from Japan at least once a week. If my memory is correct, after one year had passed, she came to Hilo, Hawaii to check up on my living condition or watch her Kolohe son. I was not feeling very welcome about my mother coming because she definitely will fuss about my messy room, car and so forth. But, on the other hand, I wanted to take her to beautiful sites and give her a good rest.

The day came. I went to Hilo International Airport and waited for my mother's arriving. My hope was she has no trouble with the transition at Honolulu Airport to change to Hawaiian Airlines to come to Hilo. I was looking carefully at the passengers coming from the airplane at the baggage area. Soon, I found my mother easily because she was wearing a bright yellow dress. How ashamed I was. I said, "Welcome to Hilo, but how come you need to wear such yellow dress?" She responded with a smile, "Ai, how are you? If I wear this color, I thought you will be able to recognize me easily. That's why I chose this one." I said, "Ok, Ok, but don't do that anymore please." Then we walked towards the car. She even thought about me when she chose her clothing ... oh my ...

I took her bag from her shoulder, and then I was so surprised that it was so heavy. The Samsonite luggage was also very very heavy, much heavier than the luggage that I brought when I came to Hawaii from Japan. I thought ... how can she bring such heavy bags all the way from Hiroshima - with her skinny body. It began from her home to my house in Hilo ... oh, no good ... After we got to my residence, she opened her travel luggage and showed me all the things she brought. No wonder it is heavy ... Organic things, vitamin tablets, some kind of extract of mushroom or watermelon, natural dashi for Japanese soup, handkerchief, tablecloth, and so forth. Tabaco and Japanese sake was not in there. There was a similarity in all her things from Japan – it was for my health and my appearance or neatness in public.

I sometimes recall this memory whenever I see my wife Megumi when she wakes up middle of the night for the baby Minori or any other business for our children. Although she does not understand English, she goes to the school for any kind of meeting. That's all for the children. Father sometimes looks like lazy, actually not because we all look at things by the big picture – but all the wives do not understand. Oh boy ...

When I think about my mother's first visit to Hawaii, my biggest and strongest memory is the heavy luggage she carried from Japan. The heavy luggage is only for me – to bring all the way from Hiroshima Japan – not for my sister

or brother but for me. After she opened it, she immediately went to Rimban's residence and greeted my boss and some members out there. When she greeted people she said only one thing, that "Musukogaitsumoosewaninatteorimasu. Korekaramodouzoyoroshikuonegaishimasu." "Thank you for taking care of my son. Please continue your generous support and help to my son." – with very deep bow.

When Megumi's mother comes to visit Hawaii too, she brings so many boxes as much as possible. She goes wherever Megumi stayed. She does the same thing as my mother to everybody. She even said to me, "Thank you for taking care of my daughter Megumi. Please continue your support. Although she is selfish, please take care of her." All the mothers could understand the feeling of our mothers' story.

With our mothers' loving and kind caring hearts, we are all grown up. Not only mentally or psychologically, but also physically we grow up being carried on her leg. Whether they are skinny or not, whether we are chubby or not, all the mothers carry and have a kiss for each of us.

When I think about this, I recall the sentence of the Larger Sutra.  
It says,

**Without being asked to do so, he becomes a good friend to each of the multitude of beings and carries their heavy karmic burden on his back.**

The heavy burdens refer to myself. It means Amida Buddha carries all of us on his back and will never throw us away or give up. I saw some pictures from Issei time showing a lady carrying baby on her back and working at the cane field. Before we realize it, we are carried on his back. Just like the baby does not recognize that "I am on my mom's back."

In the Teachings of Buddha, it says,

***The spirit of Buddha is that of great loving kindness and compassion. The great loving kindness is the spirit to save all people by any and all means. The great compassion is the spirit that prompts it to be ill with the illness of people, to suffer with their suffering.***

***"Your suffering is my suffering and your happiness is my happiness," said Buddha, and, just as a mother always loves her child, he does not forget that spirit even for a single moment, for it is the nature of Buddhahood to be compassionate.***

***The Buddha's spirit of compassion is stimulated according to the needs of men; man's faith is the reaction to this spirit, and it leads him to Enlightenment, just as a mother realizes her motherhood by loving her child; then the child, reacting to that love, feels safe and at ease.***

***Yet people do not understand this spirit of Buddha and go on suffering from the illusions and desires that arise from their ignorance; they suffer from their own deeds accumulated through worldly passions, and wander about among the mountains of delusion with the heavy burden of their evil deeds.***

On Mother's Day, let us show our sincere respecting mind for all the mothers who help us to grow up physically and successfully. And, call the holy Amida Buddha's name which is always calling to each of us "your suffering is my suffering, your happiness is my happiness" just as a mother always loves her child.

NamoAmidaButsu