

LAST MONTH'S EVENTS

HANAMATSURI 2014

The annual event, sponsored by the West Maui Buddhist Council, was hosted by Lahaina Shingon Mission this year.



Attending the Hanamatsuri service and festivities were members from Lahaina Shingon, Lahaina Jodo Mission, and Lahaina Hongwanji Mission.



Ice Cream next? HOO – HAH!

Maui United BWA Facility Visitations & Spring Assembly

Lahaina BWA members traveled by MEO bus – first to Lahaina Harbor to pick up nine Lanai BWA members who had come over on the ferry. The second stop was at the Lahaina Adult Day Care Center, housed at Hale Mahaolu Eono on Kelaweia Street. It was nice to visit with familiar folks at the center; a donation was made to Maui Adult Care Center. The 3rd stop was at Maui Beach Hotel for the Spring Assembly /Luncheon. Guest speaker was Janet Honda, President of the Hawaii Federation of BWA.

ESHINNI / KAKUSHINNI DAY SERVICE



Highlights-Dharma

- Trials, tribulations of Eshinnisama
- In Echigo, Eshinni learned from the native folk. Saw that her own ignorance & ego made her suffer.
- Eshinni Kakushinni letters

Rev. Ai Hironaka & Speaker, Joan Tamori of Wailuku HM



BWA treated all to lunch at Maui Fish & Pasta. Thank you to Dawn Fujiwara & son Brandon for arrangements for the luncheon.



SHAKA back at 'ya', Aileen Cockett!



UPCOMING



**12TH ANNUAL
BWA STATE MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE**

MAY 2-3, 2014

Sheraton Kona Resort & Spa



Key Conference Features:

- REGISTRATION on Friday or Saturday.
- Friday evening at Kona Hongwanji Hall.
- 199,00 CRANES FOR PEACE
- Saturday CONFERENCE
- Saturday DINNER outdoors on lawn.

FREE CAREGIVER WORKSHOP

Sponsored by:

**Maui Adult Day Care Centers
Maui County Office on Aging**

Place: Lahaina Hongwanji Temple

Date: THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2014

Time: 9:00 – 10:00 am

Open to Public; No reservation needed

"Kidney Health & Aging"

Jessica Nakasone-Koki, Maui Co. Programs
Coordinator – National Kidney Foundation, Maui

- Kidney function
- Kidney disease – warning signs & risk
- Symptoms to watch for in elderly
- What to do next ...
- High blood pressure, Diabetes, Dialysis
- Preventive nutrition
- Nutrition for dialysis patients

UPCOMING



Maui Hongwanji Council sponsors:

FUJIMATSURI



Hosted by Lahaina Hongwanji Mission
*Attendees will come from all Maui Co.
Hongwanji temples.*

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2014

- 9:30 Service; dharma message by Rev. Ai Hironaka
- SONGFEST and QUIZ BOWL
- Lunch
- Group Activity

GOTAN-E SERVICE

(Commemoration of Shinran Shonin's birthday)



Shinran Shonin (1173-1262) by Daido Koro

Lahaina Hongwanji Mission

SUNDAY, MAY 25TH

9:30 am

GUEST SPEAKER: REV. JAN YOUTH

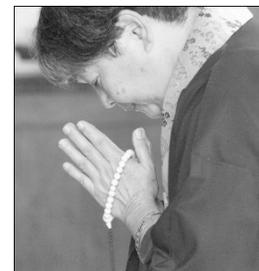


Photo from Honolulu Star Advertiser.

Siddhartha Gautama

[Excerpts from http://www.ancient.eu.com/Siddhartha_Gautama]

DEFINITION: **Siddhartha Gautama** (also known as the **Buddha** “the awakened one”) was the leader and founder of a sect of wanderer ascetics (**Sramanas**), one of many sects which existed at that time all over **India**. This sect came to be known as **Sangha**, to distinguish it from other similar communities. The teachings of Siddhartha Gautama are considered the core of **Buddhism**: After his death, the community he founded slowly evolved into a religious-like movement which was finally established as a state **religion** in India by the time of Emperor **Ashoka**, during the 3rd century BCE.

MYTHS & LEGENDARY ACCOUNTS: The original biography of the Buddha has been merged with many legendary accounts and myths. Siddhartha’s conception and birth are associated with several miracles. The legend says, for example, that Maya did not have sexual intercourse with Suddhodana; the Buddha entered into the womb of Maya through her right side in the shape of a white elephant. The fate of the child was anticipated: A group of priests predicted that Siddhartha would become either a powerful monarch or a Buddha. Suddhodana knew this prophecy, so he did his best to prevent Siddhartha from witnessing any form of human suffering, keeping his son inside the palace all the time.

As Siddhartha was approaching his enlightenment while meditating, a devil named Mara tried to stop him, but in the end Mara was defeated. This particular moment is often represented in art: The Buddha seated in meditation, one hand on his lap, the other pendant in a gesture known as earth-witness, which represents unshakability or steadfastness when being subject to the demons’ temptations.



Early Buddhist community attempted to demonstrate that what the Buddha taught was nothing new, but rather that he rediscovered a timeless truth. Therefore, a number of claims entered the Buddhist literature to support this view, including the doctrine of the existence of past Buddhas. This allowed the Buddhists to claim an authority similar to that of some rival schools such as the Vedic and Jain traditions, both of which supported their authority by claiming to be originated a long time ago. The stories about past Buddhas follow the same general plot and structure: They all sit cross-legged in their mother’s womb; they all take seven steps to the north immediately after they are born; they all renounce the world after witnessing an old man, a sick man, a dead man, and a mendicant; they all attain nirvana seated on the grass; they never die before their teaching is complete; they all die after eating meat.

Buddhist literature also presents stories about the previous reincarnations of Siddhartha Gautama. One of the most famous accounts of this kind is a text named “Sutra of the Wise and the Foolish”, where many past lives of Siddhartha Gautama are described. A well known example is the popular story where prince Mahasattva (who is actually the Buddha during one of his previous lives) inspired by compassion, selflessness, and generosity, offers his body as food to a starving tigress to prevent the tigress from eating her new born cubs, and he dies devoured by the cat.

The Three Treasures: THE DHARMA

[Excerpt from WHEEL OF DHARMA, a Buddhist Churches of America publication]

Forgiveness and Buddhism

By Rev. William Briones, Los Angeles Honpa Hongwanji

"If one abuses you, there is a temptation to answer back, or to be revenged. One should be on guard against this natural reaction. It is like spitting against the wind, it harms no one but oneself Misfortune always dogs the steps of one who gives way to the desire for revenge."

The reading I began with is from the Dhammapada. Shakyamuni Buddha spoke of the suffering and pain caused by the desire for revenge. And while the remedy for revenge is forgiveness, the Buddha rarely spoke directly on forgiveness... unlike Christianity. Forgiveness is the touchstone of Christianity.

I believe that in Buddhism in the strictest sense, there is no need for forgiveness. Spiritual awareness, by its very nature, includes the practice of forgiveness.

In Buddhism, forgiveness is not about turning the other cheek or letting someone continue getting away with behavior that is mean or heartless. Real forgiveness is about letting go. Buddhism teaches us that by becoming aware we are able to forgive and get on with our life. This awareness allows us to let go of holding on to resentment and hurt. It is a way we can keep the energy of life from draining away from us.

How many of us have been emotionally or physically hurt, angered, or betrayed, by someone ... friend or stranger? ... Many times we refuse to let go of our anger or resentment. We alone carry the burden of our anger and resentment. By not letting go, by being attached to our anger and resentment, we have to suffer the pain over and over again every time we choose to remember and relive the experience in our minds.

Letting go is not about accepting bad behavior or making excuses for others. It means that we let go of the obsession we have with wrongs committed against us. In letting go, we neither forget nor pretend the past did not happen. We simply choose to live in the present.

Letting go is a choice that must be freely made if it is to mean anything. It is not meant to be an act of kindness to the person who is forgiven, but to the person who is doing the letting go. It's for me; it's an act of kindness to myself.

Letting go of the anger, the hurt, the betrayal is difficult. There are times we nurse wounds that are so deep that we feel they will never heal. There are times we want to move on, but feel paralyzed, uncertain ... not wanting to get hurt again. Letting go occurs when we want to let go. This is why it takes so long.



The Three Treasures: THE SANGHA



*Do you recognize this happy couple? It is **Mr. Shigeru Honda** and his wife, **Fumie**. They are often at the Food Court at the Cannery Mall, and talking-story with them is very entertaining.*

Shigeru can talk about so many things, and Fumie adds her charming comments as well. They have been married for 66 years, and the love lights up in their eyes as if it were Day 1 of their relationship.

Talk about memories from your past. **Fumie:** "I used to work at Royal Lahaina – 20 years ! They tell me 'do this, do that...' I still want to go work; I really want to work." **Shigeru:** "I used to like school – Japanese school much better than English school. *Why?* **Shigeru:** "My parents didn't know any Japanese so I wanted to teach them. They came from Japan (Kumamoto) without being educated. **Fumie:** "He was real good in math." **Shigeru:** "I was just natural with the figures. [the teacher] used to call me to show the other kids. *Who were your teachers?* **Shigeru:** "Mrs. Matsumoto, Mrs. Willett ..."

What were your parents like? **Shigeru:** "My mother was very kind. My father was strict, but he did show his love for us. One time, my mother carried me to the doctor's office (about one-third mile) because my feet had cuts from a broken soda water bottle. I was about 11 or 12. *What was most important for them?* "I can see that education was important for them – even though we had to stop school temporarily to help support the family. *What important things did you learn from them?* **Shigeru:** "They used to tell me – whatever you do, do not lie. My father was in the Japanese army, so he was very strict. So, it carried on to me, and I also tell my kids the same thing."

How did you get connected with Lahaina Hongwanji? **Shigeru:** "My parents were strong religious people. My mother used to take me there. *Who was the first minister that you remember?* **Shigeru:** "Rev. Nishii. New Year's, he used to come to the house. We all had to sit together. We had ozone and sake." **Fumie** also nodded in agreement that her parents attended Hongwanji.

How has Hongwanji or Buddhism influenced your lives? **Shigeru:** "I remember Rev. Ama. He used to say, 'You come to church, and don't criticize other churches.' He organized the YBA. We had about ten people in it; it was good. Those days ... it was like recreation for the people." *Shigeru also recalled that at the Shingon Mission, they used to pass round "this big rope with the juzu at the end".*

How did you folks meet? **Shigeru:** "Puukolii had a young people club. We used to play tennis, badminton, dancing. That's where we met. *How many children and grandchildren do you have?* "One daughter – Lynn (*she lives with the couple*), a son, Steven, who lives in Las Vegas ... and one grandson, Dallen, who lives in Japan (about 12 years now). Dallen teaches English, in Kobe. **Fumie:** (wistfully) "He is so far away ... but he coming in June."

Getting old makes life a little more difficult for all of us. But you two seem to have a very easy, loving relationship. How does that happen? **Shigeru:** (smiling) "Actually, we always fighting. No, I always try to cheer her up, tell her to laugh more. And I always try to caution her not to eat candy, but she no listen."

Were there any rough times in your marriage or family life? How did you manage to get through those times? **Shigeru:** (looking at Fumie) "We didn't have any problems, yeah? Only minor spats. You know, I was working 7 days a week. She used to take care of the kids. So, vacation time I was so happy to spend time with her."

What is most important to you at this time in your life? **Shigeru:** "My wife and my two children and my grandson. (*Shigeru went on to say that they talk to grandson Dallen once a week "on the computer"*) "He's coming home this summer."

One could say that the dharma lesson here is MINDFULNESS, in how you live your daily life.



NEWS FROM RELATED LINKS



2015 • WORLD
BUDDHIST
WOMEN'S
CONVENTION

[From: <http://www.wbwconvention.com/>]

UPDATES

In 2015, the **World Buddhist Women's Convention** will be hosted in Canada by the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Women's Federation (JSBTCWF) in Calgary, Alberta Canada.

"Embraced by the Oneness of Life" is the theme for this prestigious, international event being held on Saturday, May 30 and Sunday, May 31, 2015. It is anticipated that 2,000 women and men of all ages will be in attendance.



We are pleased to announce that Reverend Nana Yanase will join us as the Japanese keynote speaker for the 15th World Buddhist Women's Convention.

Rev. Yanase is the sixth generation resident minister of the Kyō On Ji Temple in Nara Prefecture.

Rev. Yanase debuted as a singer – songwriter in May, 2004 with her debut single *"Kaero"* (Let's Go Home). Nana's appeal is instantly recognizable with her eloquent melody and gentle, yet deeply heart rendering vocals and lyrics.

At the age of 30, Nana was diagnosed with uterine cancer. Through her life altering experience of dealing with her cancer, as well as her position of being a female minister, Nana experienced deep insight into "life and death". It was her music which became the vehicle of healing for Nana. Through it, she was able to overcome her medical conditions, and her music continues to inspire all those who have encountered it. In March of 2011 Nana was the subject of a documentary aired on Nippon Television titled, "The singing nun – from the battles of cancer came the

inspiration of life". And in September, 2012, she was again the topic of an episode of the documentary series, "Grande Jete", which focused on inspirational lives of individuals from all walks of life. It was aired on the NHK (Nippon Broadcasting Corporation).

Presently, Nana has a very full schedule with concert performances, writing of essays, as well as conducting her unique blend of presenting the Dharma through her music and talks at temples throughout Japan. She has spent time and effort in aiding with relief work for those affected by the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of 2011. Her song *"Makenai Towel"* (Towel of No Giving Up) was created as a fundraising effort for the relief efforts. In September, 2012, she was again the topic of an episode of the documentary series, "Grande Jete", which focused on inspirational lives of individuals from all walks of life. It was aired on the NHK (Nippon Broadcasting Corporation).

You can read more about Nana and listen to her music by going on her Official Website at: <http://www.yanasenana.net/>

Buddhist Churches of America Bookstore



Published by Om Kidz

The beautifully illustrated "365 Jataka Tales" impart ancient Buddhist wisdom and moral guidance in an easy and entertaining manner. These stories of the Bodhisattva, or Buddha-to-be, are tales from the previous lives of Buddha, where born as animal or human, he had to experience many a moral and ethical dilemma before attaining enlightenment. This book is the ideal gift for children, encouraging a more wholesome, positive and responsible outlook on life.

\$15.00

Dharma Message: EKIDEN by Rev. Ai Hironaka

On March 8th, I attended a Honolulu Rainbow Ekiden. Five ministers from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii were participating in the Rainbow Ekiden which was held on Saturday, March 8, 2014 to raise more visibility and awareness of Hongwanji in the community. Ekiden is a long distance relay race which is commonly seen in Japan. In the Honolulu race, each runner would run 3 to 4 miles from the Kapiolani Park up to the Diamond Head lookout point and turn back to the starting point. Rev. Kojun Hashimoto, minister of Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission, appealed to the State Ministers Association for participation and the following five ministers were selected. 1. Rev. Kazunori Takahashi (Kapaa Hongwanji) 2. Rev. Tomo Hojo (Hawaii Betsuin) 3. Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani (HQ) 4. Rev. Kojun Hashimoto (Wahiawa Hongwanji) 5. Rev. Ai Hironaka (Lahaina Hongwanji). The ministers' participation in the Ekiden race was sponsored by the State Ministers Association.

Ekiden (駅伝), a long distance relay race, was a concept born in Japan over 90 years ago as a sport to unify teams in a competitive environment. In Japan, it is most commonly seen as a college and high-school sport where many universities gather for a major race. In recent years Ekiden has gained worldwide attention. As written in Japanese, Ekiden combines the characters for "station" (駅) and "transmit" (伝).

So, although I was terribly sick for two weeks before the race, I had to think about training for the Rainbow Ekiden. I tried to run several times every week. The Ekiden course is Kapiolani Park to right above the Diamond Head Beach Park, so it is hard uphill and downhill. So, I decided to run on Lahainaluna Road which is very common road for all of us. I use the road at least once a week to deliver Kokoro to practice Hula at Hale Mahaolu. After Kokoro starts to attend intermediate school, I am sure that I will use the road quite often.

Since I began jogging for this Ekiden, I have been enjoying seeing our town directly but not from inside a car and cool air. I can find many other small details of this town. Good thing is Lahaina Town does not have much garbage or rubbish on a road. I thought that if I run and walk I will find many small things on a road but actually I don't see much these things. I think this is very positive part of Lahaina. What I see very often is many small stones of asphalt.

The one thing big impact on me was most of the car drivers are not careful about right side when they make right turn at any intersection. Because they mostly pay attention left side for coming car, as soon as they feel safe enough to make right turn, they just step on the accelerator. So, it was not only one time I almost got hit by car which was trying to make right turn. This is not only tourist but also local driver too. I think this etiquette needs to be considered among all people in this community.

So, for proper preparation to run for Rainbow Ekiden, I quit drinking Beer. I thought I need to lose my weight. So, again, I quit smoking,, I don't know how many times I try to quit and then start to smoke again, but I quit Tabaco and beer. I mean, I drink only half of beer. If I want some more, I drink whisky now. At last Board of Directors Meeting on December at Hawaii Betsuin, we went to run at course Kapiolani to Diamond Head. It was so hard, hard and hard. So I was thinking I have to practice uphill and downhill, it means I have to run at Lahainaluna Road!! But, that is not easy uphill... But I know there will be beautiful ocean view, why don't I just try.

Time went by so fast. Since I was thinking of “why don’t I just try to run hill of Lahainaluna Road”, two months passed already. I made a lot of excuses such as still have time, such as I catch a cold, I am busy today. So, finally I run up Lahainaluna Road until pass the bridge of the new bypass. It was much harder than I expected. I had to walk from around Hale Mahaolu. But, it was lots of fun to see members faces at the road. When drivers who going uphill see their friends walking up hill, they stop and pick them up. The scene was touching to my heart.

Anyway, I tried my best to prepare for the Ekiden Race. Megumi bought for me new running shoes and running shorts Adidas at new outlet mall Lahaina. My family went to Oahu and stayed at Rev. Hashimoto’s residence.

The day had come. I began to feel nervous. Since I retired from playing American Football 13 years ago, I did not have that kind of excitement and nervousness as team playing. Of course when I hit golf ball, especially putting for eagle try, I get nervous but it is not same kind of nervousness. So it was really something that hit on my mind. It was not only me who felt like that, but also other participants too. Especially, first runner, Rev. Takahashi looked very nervous and motivated a lot. When Rev. Takahashi was high school student, he was track field runner and Ekiden runner too. So, we asked him to run as a first runner. We knew that he was nervous by expression on his face, so it infected all of us. We were all nervous. Because, this Ekiden race is not only for my business. If I have to retire from race, it means we all retired.

That made us more responsible mind and more nervous. Rev. Hashimoto and Rev. Umitani have family, so all them had supported them in their practice. Somehow all the runners were Japanese Ministers. I felt that each of us had own deep thought for this race. In my family case, they know that I used to play football but they never saw that video because I didn’t bring these video to Hawaii, so they don’t believe it and finally they said to me “Daddy, can you run?” When I run at Lahainaluna Hill, I always tell myself “Hei, your wife and kids going to cheer for you, you have to show cool daddy, not miserable daddy ok.” To see the Rev. Takahashi’s face while we were waiting to start the race with other runners was enough to touch our heart. Megumi was actually already crying.

The race started. Rev. Takahashi ran very fast. We expected about 30 minutes to come back to the place they exchange sash to next runner but he was about 8 minutes faster than we expected. Next runner was Rev. Tomo Hojo followed by Rev. Umitani. Umitani sensei’s family was there cheering their father and us. Rev. Umitani handed the sash to Rev. Hashimoto. It was long to wait. Rev. Hashimoto came back with his best record here and handed me the sash. When I received sash, it was my most memorable time of this event I think. I strongly felt that the sash was so heavy and responsible thing for me. Material of sash is very light but I thought it is very heavy. Of course we all sweat so it was heavier than dry sash. I didn’t know what made me feel the weight of the light sash. But, as soon as I received the sash from Rev. Hashimoto, I was thinking “even if I fall down and cannot continue running, I have to bring this sash back here. If I run just for myself, I can rest, walk or stop running anytime without asking anyone, just like when I practice at Lahainaluna Road. But, it is different today.” In my life I run a lot, but as far as I remember it, this Ekiden Run was most concentrated running, and taking care not to fall down and twist, and try running as fast as possible for long distance for not for my credit. Because I knew that everyone prepared well, because every runner got best record themselves, because everyone had their own special emotional thought for this race, the sash became very heavy and special. The feeling of heaviness is made by runners mind and thoughts, such as “I did my best!! Next your

turn!! Ganbare!! Go for it!!” “Thank you for bringing it here!! I will take it now. Don’t worry!!” “I am sorry I was that fast!! Sorry!!” “I hope with this program and event, Name of the Hongwanji will be more visible for this community!!” “Even if it is small action, and some say it is not propagation, I hope this action will hook some new people’s attention those who never familiar with Hongwanji especially young people. In this way, it became indescribably very heavy and meaning full sash for us by the time.

Rev. Umitani put short article in our H.Q. update as follow, “In this Ekiden, which is a long distance relay race, each minister run 5km (about 3.1 miles) to their fullest to pass on the sash (baton) to the next runner by gratefully acknowledging receiving the many treasured traditions brought by immigrants to Hawaii and realizing the importance of passing on these traditions to future generations for a better Hawaii.”

Each one of you may have own treasured tradition from your Issei immigrants in your heart. Today, on this occasion of Shotsuki Service in memory of those who passed away on this month of April, it is good opportunity to remember the importance of passing on to future generations. I believe that there are many material belongings. When I visited one of the members house, I saw the sickle that must have been used at sugar cane field. It looked old, there are no such place to use it now days, and youngsters do not know how to use it. But that is not meaningless material, and there must be so many stories in this sugar cane sickle. Somehow it reminded me of my grandpa’s sickle which he always used for cutting firewood for our Furo or bath. Whether rain or not, whether heavy snowing or not, he always went outside for making hot water for all other families. So, I feel we should keep hold of our grandpa’s sickle. It is now teaching directly deep inside my heart something very important we should not forget. For other people, it is only old sickle but it is very treasurable thing for me. It is not comparable to money. What kind of things can you imagine? At this time, I also need to be careful not to choose for my own convenient and suitable mind but also need to choose things that can make me reflect on my negative side too.

When Sakyamuni started sharing Dharma to others, people around him just listened and remembered what he said. And they shared the teaching to others by speech. This is called Kuden or oral instruction. Those who enjoy and are happy with Sakyamuni Buddha’s teaching, they share the teaching to others in oral communication with joy. Then spread through out to China to Japan generation to generation. People who want to study something, just read text book. But, my sensei said Buddhism is not like any other kind of subject, Sutra is not Text Book, Buddhism should be spread out through the sharing of Dharma. Shinran Shonin Teachings were spread by people’s sharing of teaching with joy from mouth to mouth, and gratitude generation to generation. That is why Hongwanji is existing here in Maui Lahaina Community.

Shinran Shonin said,

I have collected true words to aid others in their practice for attaining birth, in order that the process be made continuous, without end and without interruption, by which those who have been born first guide those who come later, and those who are born later join those who were born before. this is so that the boundless ocean of birth and death shall not be exhausted.

Let us use this opportunity to appreciate all the people who shared Nembutsu Teachings with joy of Shinjin, and be grateful who we are now as we are here and now.

Namo Amida Butsu