

Lihue Hongwanji Mission, a Shin Buddhist Temple

VOLUME 77 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2023

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together

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2023-2024 Social Concerns Fund Drive



The month of November is a special time for reflecting on gratitude. Observing Eitaikyo and celebrating Thanksgiving are opportunities to appreciate the innumerable causes and conditions which sustain our lives and how we are deeply connected to the world around us. It is in this spirit of profound gratitude that we kick-off our Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive.

Your generosity enables the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii with the ability to support worthy organizations and programs making a difference in our community. Your selfless giving also enables us to provide compassionate aid during times of disaster and the ability to skillfully respond to issues affecting our local and world communities.

Through our Social Welfare Fund, we were able to immediately support relief efforts on Maui in the aftermath of devastating wildfires, giving over \$25,000 to various organizations and affected individuals. Your generous support ensures we have the ability to respond quickly when disasters strike.

We continued our advocacy for improving mental health care, addressing homelessness, and alleviating food insecurity in our community by donating to the Samaritan Counseling Center of Hawaii, Spill the Tea Café, Hope Services, and the various food banks on each island. This year, we also awarded several Golden Chain Grants to help nurture Sangha-based compassionate action.

The fund drive will begin November 1, 2023, and

(Continued on page 3)

Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	5	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
		10:00 AM	State Dharma Gathering (via videoconference)
Thur	9	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Fri	10	8:00 AM	Lonesome Grave Project Kauai Veterans Cemetery
Sun	12	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
		10:00 AM	LHWA Meeting
Sat	18	10:00 AM To 12:00N	LHWA Manju & Barazushi Pickup-OPEN TO ALL (see page 10 for more information)
Sun	19	9:00 AM	Eitaikyo Service
Thu	23		Happy Thanksgiving!
Fri	24		Hongwanji Family Day
Sun	26	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service

DECEMBER 2023

Sun	3	9:30 AM	Bodhi Day Service Island wide service to be held at LHM. Service will be followed by refreshments and talk story time. Speaker: Kahu Sherman Thomson
Sun	10	8:00 AM	General Temple Clean-up followed by lunch and General Membership Meeting (approximately 10:00 AM) (See page 8 for details)
Thur	14	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sun	17	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Sun	24	9:00 AM**	**Cancelled - Family Dharma Service
Sun	31	9:00 AM**	**Cancelled - Family Dharma Service
Sun	31	8:00 PM	New Year's Eve Service

Office Hours

Office hours for Rev. Yagi are as follows:

Monday: Day off

Tuesday - Sunday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Closed for lunch: 12 noon - 1:00 pm

If you wish to speak with Rev. Yagi, it is suggested that you call ahead for an appointment, as he may be away from the office on temple business.

The temple must be locked when Rev. Yagi is not available. Thank you for your understanding.

Columbarium Hours

The Columbarium will be open **Tuesday-Thursday** from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm and on **Friday, Saturday and Sunday** 8:00 am - 5:00 pm . Please know that the Columbarium will be locked when Rev. Yagi is not present. Please call the office to be sure the Columbarium will be open when you want to visit.

(Continued from Front Page)

run till August 31, 2024. Please make all checks payable to LIHUE HONGWANJI. Lihue Hongwanji will then remit one combined check to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Checks will be gratefully accepted through August 31, 2024.

Your support of our Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive is greatly appreciated. Mahalo!

In Gassho,

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani
Bishop

Dr. Warren Tamamoto
President

Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair
Committee on Social Concerns

MAUI WILDFIRE DISASTER RELIEF FUND

(note: this is a separate fund from the 2023-2024 Social Concerns Fund Drive)

You can donate in the following ways:

1. Online at www.hongwanjihawaii.com by clicking on the “Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief” button under the “Donate” tab.
2. Through GoFundMe at the following link: <https://gofund.me/ff77a520>
3. Check and cash donations can be sent directly to Hawaii Kyodan Headquarters. Please make check payable to HHMH and in the memo line designate “**Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief**” to ensure proper credit.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1727 Pali Highway
Honolulu, HI 96813

All donations collected will go to support Lahaina Hongwanji and relief efforts on Maui. The Office of the Bishop and Committee on Social Concerns will prioritize addressing the immediate and short-term needs of temple families displaced by the fires and supporting the greater community as it rebuilds.

The

Committee will select reputable relief agencies and organizations to support in order to ensure our donations will directly aid those impacted by this disaster.



Advice From a Honey Bee

Every Sunday, we put the sharing box in front of our Temple. People donate usable unwanted items, and whoever finds goods can take them home. "One man's trash is another man's treasure." That is a spirit of Dana and the feeling of Mottainai. And last Sunday, I found a beautiful card in our sharing box.

Reflect upon the profound teachings in the poem "Advice from a Honeybee." In the harmony of the Dharma, we find wisdom reflected even in the humblest of creatures.



Create a buzz,
Sip life's sweet moments
Mind your own beeswax
Work together
Always find your way home
Stick close to your honey
Bee yourself!

"Create a buzz" reminds us of the power of our actions to resonate and influence the world around us. Each of us possesses the ability to create positive vibrations in our lives and the lives of others. Let us engage in actions that spread warmth, kindness, and happiness, making our existence meaningful and purposeful.

"Sip life's sweet moments" encourages us to savor life's beautiful experiences. Just as a honeybee carefully collects nectar from flowers, let us savor the sweetness of life, embracing moments of joy, love, and gratitude.

"Mind your own beeswax" speaks to the importance of focusing on our own actions and responsibilities rather than becoming entangled in unnecessary concerns or distractions. By tending to our own lives with diligence and mindfulness, we contribute positively to the world.

"Work together" emphasizes the significance of collaboration and unity. In the same way, a bee colony thrives through collective effort; we can achieve greater harmony and progress when we work harmoniously with others, supporting one another's spiritual journeys.

"Always find your way home" guides us to remember our spiritual path and our ultimate goal of reaching the Pure Land. No matter the challenges or distractions we face, let us always strive to return to the teachings of the Buddha and the path of awakening.

"Stick close to your honey" underscores the value of cherishing those who support and nourish us. Our spiritual community and loved ones are like honey, providing sustenance and sweetness on our journey toward enlightenment. Let us appreciate and nurture these relationships.

"Bee yourself" encourages us to embrace our true nature and authenticity. Just as a bee naturally fulfills its role in the hive, let us cultivate a genuine and sincere spiritual practice, being true to ourselves and our deepest aspirations.

As we ponder the wisdom within these words, may we find inspiration to live a life filled with purpose, compassion, and authenticity? May we embody the spirit of the honeybee, always guided by the Dharma and the compassionate light of Amida Buddha.

Namu Amida Butsu.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Triple Celebration



The year 2023 marks the 850th anniversary of the birth of Shinran Shonin, the founder of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition, and 2024 will be the 800th anniversary of the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu teaching and the 135th anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Accordingly, in 2024, we will observe commemorative services and workshops on those auspicious occasions. We would like to encourage the Honpa Hongwanji affiliated organizations and their members to join the celebration. The Triple Celebration will start Saturday morning and finish Sunday around lunchtime.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Triple Celebration

Theme: Sharing the Joy of Nembutsu Together: Our Living Heart of Gratitude

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Rev. Takashi Miyaji

Date: September 7 & 8, 2024

Place: Ala Moana Hotel



MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP "Authentic Individuality"

Today, we witness many sad news of hate, violence, and discrimination. A human criticizes, discriminates, hates, and hurts other human beings. It is truly a tragic thing. We are all different in our appearances, socioeconomic status, race, language, lifestyle, etc. Even family members who live in the same household have different thoughts and viewpoints. But we are all unique and beautiful. We all shine beautifully.

We seem like surfers who try to ride on a massive range of waves: waves of our life's challenges. Some waves are small, and others are too large for a single person to overcome. Sometimes, we succeed in riding on the waves; sometimes, we are overwhelmed and fail to ride on it. It would be wonderful if we could work together. It would be wonderful if we could freely extend our compassionate hands to those needing help. But it seems like we are all too busy in the pursuit of our own happiness. We are all too busy catching the waves right before us. In the ocean of our lives, we often fail to understand and care for the people around us. Perhaps we are too focused on catching the waves we want and feel that the people around us should not belong in the ocean we enjoy. Driven by such narrow viewpoints, we have no moment of peace. Such viewpoints are the primal cause of hatred and discrimination.

Professor Kenneth Tanaka talked about "authentic individuality." Buddhism is the teaching to cultivate this authentic individuality. Authentic individuality means that each of us is unique, each of us can contribute to others, and each of us is precious and has dignity. "Oneness" that we talk about in Buddhism does not mean being the same.

Say you are an apple; Oneness does not mean that you and others must be pineapple. Oneness means that an apple can exist as an apple, and a pineapple can exist as a pineapple. Apple has its dignity and place, and pineapple has its dignity and place. The Buddhist teaching of oneness teaches us that we are all, no matter who we are, illuminated and embraced by the Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion just as we are. In that awareness, we become aware of our self-centeredness and limitations and, at the same time, endeavor to cultivate peace and harmony, compassion for self and others, and live with confidence, conviction, and dignity. I understand this as the meaning of "authentic individuality."

A narrow viewpoint, characterized by limited personal experiences and a strong selfish attachment to oneself, can have far-reaching consequences that lead to hatred and discrimination. Buddhism teaches us the dignity of all lives and that all lives must be affirmed, respected, and appreciated.

Namo Amida Butsu

Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani

NEW YOUTH SPECIALIST

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii welcomed Emi Hashi as the new Children and Youth Activities Specialist (Youth Specialist).



Emi was a very active participant in the HHMH programs, such as Jr. YBA (Maui & Federation President), YBICSE, BWA Exchange Student, YESS Camp counselor, and BSC Fellowship Club. She is originally from Maui and currently participates in the Aiea Hongwanji Mission's services and programs.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6 Her official starting date was

Wednesday, October 4, 2023, and her office will be at the Buddhist Study Center (BSC). She works on Mondays and Wednesdays as a part-time employee.

As the Youth Specialist, Emi will develop, organize, and direct youth and youth-related activities such as Jr. YBA, YESS Camp, BSC Fellowship Club, Dharma School, and Young Adults. She will assist the operation of the BSC and OBE in matters relating to children, college students, and young adults.

We sincerely hope that this new assignment will be beneficial for the HHMH in propagating the teaching of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, especially to the children and young adults who will bear the future of the HHMH.

MAUI WILDFIRE

The Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist Women's Federation of Japan provided financial aid to Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii to be used by Rev. Ai Hironaka to purchase the ministerial robes and supplies that were lost due to the fire. Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani, together with Dr. Warren Tamamoto (Hawaii Kyodan President), Rev. Daido Baba (Executive Assistant to the Bishop), and Mrs. Yoshiko Umitani (Hawaii Federation of BWA Honorary President), joined the Kahului Hongwanji Mission's Sunday Service



on October 1, 2023, for the official presentation of robes to Rev. Ai Hironaka.

2023 MINISTER LAY ASSISTANT RETREAT

On October 7 & 8, eleven Minister's Lay Assistants (MLA) from Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii Island gathered at Hawaii Betsuin in Honolulu to participate in various workshops to prepare for helping their ministers with temple services. The retreat offered the opportunity to review and enrich the knowledge of the participants in the rituals and traditions of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha.

This year, two tracks were offered to nurture those just starting as MLAs and also support Certified MLAs to further hone their skills and knowledge.

New instructors Reverends Hashimoto and Soga led the well-received workshops on altar setup, service order, and chanting. Reverend Kuniyuki provided insights on providing Dharma education and talks. Bishop Umitani reviewed the role of MLAs as part of the Kyodan policy on the Shin Buddhist Ministry in Hawaii. Dr. Dexter Mar discussed opportunities for MLAs beyond worship services to help share the Dharma at our temples.

The 2024 MLA Retreat will be held on October 12-13, 2024. Please mark your calendars and plan to join this group of fellow travelers in learning how to support your ministers and temples.

To read the complete newsletter, learn about workshops & seminars, and to see photos, please check on the Honpa Hongwanji website:

[Headquarters Update October 2023](#)



As we near the end of 2023, we want to remind our members to be sure they are up-to-date with their dues payments for this year. We know this has been a busy year for all of us and it may have been overlooked. Please be aware of the December 31 deadline.

Thank you!

IMPORTANT

General Cleanup and Annual Membership Meeting

December 10, beginning at 8:00 am

Please come help with temple cleanup at 8:00 am

and stay for a provided lunch.

After lunch, please stay for the Annual Membership Meeting

and have a voice in the future of your temple!

President's Corner

Aloha from Carol Valentine

News about the happenings at LHM and information from the Board of Directors.

- ⇒ The repaving of Laukini Rd. will begin on Monday October 30 and is anticipated to take only 3 days to complete, so it should be finished by the time this newsletter is received.
- ⇒ Please support the LHWA Manju and Barazushi Fundraiser on November 18. See page 10 for information and order deadline.
- ⇒ General Cleanup and Annual Membership Meeting will be on December 10. See above for specifics. Please join us!



FREE LED Lightbulbs Program from KIUC

(continuing program)

Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) has an energy efficiency program where they are able to provide 9W A19 LED bulbs at no cost (a 9W LED is the equivalent of approximately a 60 watt incandescent bulb). Currently, we have LED lightbulbs available, free of charge, for our members and affiliates.

If you are interested, please call the church (808-245-6262) to arrange a time with Rev. Yagi for you to pick up your lightbulbs.



This information was sent to our temple by Scott Sato, Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative | Energy Services



LHWA NEWS

New Members Welcome



LHWA Meetings for 2023

Note that all meetings will begin at 10:00 am following Sunday service.

November 12

(election of officers for 2024)

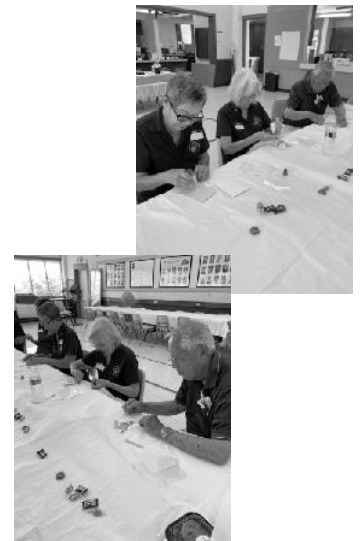
Donation

The Hawaii state Federation of BWA has donated \$10,000 to the Maui Wildfire Relief Fund to help with ongoing recovery of Lahaina Hongwanji and the communities of Lahaina and Kula.

United BWA Fall Conference

October 22, 2023

The 2023 KUHBWA Conference theme was “Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together”. Members from all three Kauai Island BWA gathered for a day of fun and fellowship as everyone enjoyed the Keynote Speaker, Rev. Tomo Hojo’s and the BWA World Conference participants’ presentation, learned how to make furoshiki bags , made unique cards, and socialized. Thank you LHWA members for successfully hosting the long-awaited, in-person, KUHBWA Fall Conference.



LHWA Manju and Barazushi Fundraiser

Saturday November 18

OPEN TO EVERYONE

By pre-order only. Order by November 12

Pickup will be from 10 am to 12 noon at the LHM social hall



Manju (5 per order) \$7.00

Barazushi \$5.00 per container

To pre-order, please call Diane Fukuyama at (808) 246-0835 or Lynette Mizuo at (808) 822-3974 and leave a message or email Lynette at lymizuo@gmail.com. Please state your name and phone number along with your order. **The deadline for orders is November 12, 2023, but order early as quantities are limited.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

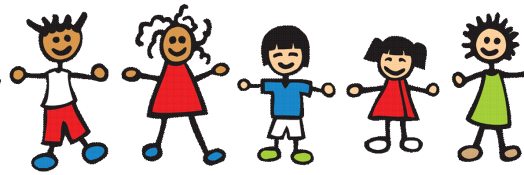
New Year's Eve Service

Join us for **New Year's Eve Service** on ***Sunday December 31 at 8:00 pm***. The service is short. At the conclusion of the New Year's Eve service attendees will file out of the temple hall, each taking a turn to strike the temple bell (kansho) with a wooden mallet for a total of 108 times.



By striking the kansho, we symbolically "ring out" our passions and delusions and aspire to become free of them in the New Year. But why 108? $6 \times 3 \times 2 \times 3$ is a math equation that can help to explain.

The "6" represents our six senses of sight, touch, sound, taste, smell, and consciousness. The "3" indicates the different ways those sensations are experienced: good, bad, or neutral. The "2" is for the dimension of attachment to pleasure: attached or unattached. The final "3" represents past, present, and future. Multiply the numbers together and you get 108.



Our theme for October was Safety . . . and Happy Halloween.

We learned about fire safety. Firefighters from the Lihue Fire Station paid us a visit in their firetruck and brought Sparky with them.

For Halloween we played Halloween games and dressed up in our costumes.

We had special visitors that came to read to the preschool students. Councilmen Ross Kagawa and Mel Rapozo joined us and read to us.

Our Penny Drive fundraiser was a success. We raised \$505.18 for Lahaina Hongwanji Mission and \$500 for the Maui Humane Society. Thank you to everyone who helped us with donations! Thank you to Rev. Yagi for the special treats he shared with us!



Storybook readers Ross Kagawa and Mel Rapozo.



Learning about Fire Safety



The firefighters brought their firetruck when they came to visit!

If there are errors please email us at: lihuehongwanjission@gmail.com or call the office at 808-245-6262.

MEMORIAL DONATION:

In memory of Glenn Hadama (13 Yrs.)
Lauretta & Dennis Hadama
In memory of Earl Miyao
Winston & Marian Ogata
In memory of Annabelle Wertz
Carol Valentine & Wayne Fujioka
In memory of Mamoru Yamada
Warren & Colleen Nonaka

HAPPINESS DONATION:

Gladys Fujiuchi

SPECIAL DONATION:

Alice Inouye (Offertory)

COLUMBARIUM DONATION:

In memory of George & Elsie Toyofuku
Guy & Lori Toyofuku

AUTUMN HIGAN DONATION:

Alice Inouye
Morton & Carolyn Yamasaki
Setsuo & Edith Ushio
Arlene Fujikawa
Glenn & Gail Shibuya
Hiroko Kurashige
Gladys Fujiuchi
Natsuko Daida
Diane Fukuyama
Winston & Marian Ogata

*Thank
You*

LONESOME GRAVE PROJECT



Year

This November 10 marks the 25th anniversary of the Lonesome Grave Project of the Kauai United Hongwanji Buddhist Women’s Association. Members and friends put flowers and greenery at the graves at the Kauai Veterans Cemetery, particularly those who have been there for many years and may not have anyone who visits. Your help and/or donation of flowers are welcome.



Please join us if you are able on November 10 at 8:00 am at Kauai Veterans Cemetery.



When the dharma speaks to us through the sounds of the world,
forcefully and eloquently and beautifully
It speaks of the unending change around us
the immutable truth of interdependence
and the peace in nature.
Do we have the ears to listen...?

Late Rev. Tsuji

MEMORIAL SERVICE (HOYO)

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

The following is a list of members who passed away during the months of November and December. 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—2022

2022 NONE

3rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2021

2021 NONE

7th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2017

2017 NONE

13th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2011

2011 October 14 Donald Murakoshi
2011 October 16 Glenn Hadama
2011 November 27 Mabel Murakoshi

17th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2007

2007 November 2 Yoshio "Oscar" Matsuyoshi
2007 November 4 Ronald "Ron" Hashimoto

25th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1999

1999 October 6 Edith Hamamoto
1999 November 7 Matsue Kondo

33rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1991

1991 NONE

50th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1974

1974 NONE

LHWA Manju and Barazushi Fundraiser

Saturday November 18

EVERYONE WELCOME

See page 10



25th
year

LONESOME GRAVE PROJECT

November 10, 8:00 am

@ Kauai Veterans Cemetery

(See page 12)

Lihue Hongwanji Mission, a Shin Buddhist Temple

Lihue Hongwanji Mission
3-3556 Kuhio Highway
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

Return Service Requested

Building Healthy Sanghas

(Sharing Joy Together)



Address Label

Email: lihuehongwanjission@gmail.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

lihuehongwanji.org