

# Dharma Wheel

11/2024

**Lihue Hongwanji Mission, a Shin Buddhist Temple**

VOLUME 78 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2024

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments

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## 2024-2025 Social Concerns Fund Drive

The month of November is a special time for reflecting on gratitude. Our Eitai-kyo observance and Thanksgiving holiday 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 positive impacts 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 an overwhelming outpouring of support, we raised almost \$1 million through our Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund and distributed over \$300,000 to support the members of Lahaina Hongwanji and the Maui community in the aftermath of the devastating wildfires of August 2023. We will continue to lend our support on their long road to recovery.

So far this year, we have continued our support for improving mental health care, building community resiliency, and humanitarian aid in Gaza as well as relief efforts in Japan in the aftermath of the Noto Peninsula Earthquake. We have made donations to organizations such as the Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii, Vibrant Hawaii, and World Central Kitchen.

It should also be noted that the Social Concerns Committee has recently made contributions to the American Red Cross and World Central Kitchen following the natural disasters of Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton for their work to help rebuild after major damage.

We continue to award Golden Chain Grants to help nurture Sangha-based compassionate action and launched the Dana Matching

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## Calendar of Events

### NOVEMBER 2024

Sun	3	9:00 AM	<b>Eitaikyo Service</b> <b>Guest Speaker:</b> Rev. Dr. Bert Sumikawa, Retired minister, HHMH (in-person dharma message)
Sun	10	8:00 AM	<b>Lonesome Grave Project at Veterans Cemetery, Hanapepe</b> Short Service to be held at the Veterans Cemetery prior to decorating the graves. See page 7. <b><u>No service at LHM</u></b>
Thur	14	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sun	17	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Sun	24	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Temple Clean-up and General Membership Meeting</b> No service this morning

### DECEMBER 2024

Sun	1	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Sun	8	9:30 AM	<b>Bodhi Day Service</b> At West Kauai Hongwanji, Hanapepe Sponsored by the Kauai Buddhist Council
Thur	12	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sun	15	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
		10:00 AM	LHWA Meeting following refreshments after service
Sun	22	9:30 AM	Family Dharma Service
Sun	29	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Tue	31	<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b>New Year's Eve Service</b>

### 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.



### NEW Columbarium Hours

Due to recent thefts in the area, we are forced to lock our precious Columbarium 24/7.

If you wish to visit the Columbarium, please call the temple, (808) 245-6262, to make arrangements with Rev. Yagi during office hours.

Thank you for your understanding.



Continued from Front Page

Grant Program to multiply the impact of charitable giving by organizations in the Hawaii Kyodan Ohana. We hope you will take advantage of these innovative programs that help to share our values in the wider community.

The fund drive will begin November 1, 2024, and run till August 31, 2025. We request that temples submit their collected donations by the end of September 2025. Envelopes have been provided to temples wishing to use them although it is not necessary to mail contributions in a Social Concerns envelope. Please make all checks payable to **Lihue Hongwanji** with the words "**Social Concerns**" on the memo line. LHM will then remit one combined check to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

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

# Music News



## CHORALFEST ANNOUNCEMENT

Once again there will be a Choral Fest on Oahu!  
Save the Date!

**What:** CHORALFEST 2025

**When:** September 20-21, 2025

**Where:** Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin

**Conductor:** Nola Nahulu

Registration information to become available at all temples after  
January 1, 2025.



### Jodo Shinshu and Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is one of those times of the year when the kitchen gets a little more chaotic; the fridge seems a bit smaller, and everyone's focus shifts to food, family, and the inevitable black Friday shopping. As the turkey roasts and pies bake, it's easy to get wrapped up in the details—Did I buy enough potatoes? Is there really such a thing as "too much" stuffing?

But if we take a step back from the turkey and mashed potatoes (and I know that's hard to do), Thanksgiving offers us a great opportunity to reflect on the deeper meaning of gratitude—not just for one day, but as an ongoing practice. In Jodo Shinshu, gratitude isn't a once-a-year occasion where we give thanks for the feast before us and then forget about it. Rather, it's a constant reminder of how we're all connected and how our lives are supported by the efforts, kindness, and compassion of countless beings—seen and unseen.

Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu, often spoke about the deep compassion of Amida Buddha, who embraces all of us without discrimination. It's a pretty comforting thought, especially when you're trying to find gratitude in the middle of a family squabble over who gets the last piece of the pie. Amida's Great Compassion, after all, doesn't just extend to the easy moments when everyone's getting along.

So, as we gather around our Thanksgiving tables, Jodo Shinshu invites us to reflect on this compassion and the interconnectedness of all life. Think about it: The food on our table results from so many causes and conditions—farmers, truck drivers, grocery store workers, the weather, the soil, the rain, and of course, the ever-patient cook in the kitchen. Everything is connected. If we really think about it, even the turkey (sorry, turkey) is part of this intricate web of life. This awareness reminds us that our lives are supported by the actions of countless others, and this knowledge fills our hearts with gratitude.

But Jodo Shinshu takes this gratitude even further. When we say "Namo Amida Butsu," we're expressing more than just appreciation for the meal or the company we share—it's an expression of our deep awareness of Amida Buddha's Great Compassion that surrounds and supports us at all times. The Nembutsu reminds us that, no matter what, the Buddha's Vow embraces us. So even when life gets a little messy—whether it's spilled cranberry sauce or the larger challenges we face—we can take comfort in knowing that we are never alone.

And here's where Thanksgiving and Jodo Shinshu really come together: It's easy to be thankful when things are going well. But the teachings of Shinran Shonin encourage us to find gratitude even in unexpected moments. After all, those little bumps—the burned turkey, overcooked vegetables, too thickened gravy—often make the best stories later. In the grand scheme of things, those "imperfections" make life so rich and meaningful. Kind of like how Amida's compassion accepts us, just as we are, with all our quirks, mistakes, and even a slightly burnt pie.

So this Thanksgiving, when you're sitting at the table surrounded by loved ones, food, and the occasional awkward silence, take a moment to reflect on the many things we often take for granted. From the meal before us to the compassion of Amida Buddha, there's so much to be thankful for. And maybe, just maybe, when the turkey's gone, and the leftovers are packed away, we can carry this feeling of gratitude with us—not just for one day, but every day.

And remember: When in doubt, always make extra stuffing. Because if Jodo Shinshu teaches us anything, it's that there's always room for more compassion...and more stuffing.

Namo Amida Butsu.



**MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP  
ASPIRATION presented at the  
125th Anniversary Celebration  
of Wailuku Hongwanji**

I humbly declare to Amida Tathagata, the master in the West who made the Vow, to Shakyamuni Buddha, the master of this world, and to all the Buddhas of the past, present, and future in the ten quarters.

Here today, with reverence, we adorn the altar and earnestly recite the sutras in observance of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wailuku Hongwanji Mission.

In carefully reflecting, the history of Wailuku Hongwanji Mission began in 1898 when Reverend Hojun Kunisaki arrived on Maui as the first Hongwanji minister officially dispatched by Honzan. Rev. Kunisaki dedicated his life to spreading the Buddha-Dharma here on the island of Maui, and his spirit was carried forward by successive ministers and lay members. Through their tireless efforts, the teachings of Amida Buddha have touched the hearts of countless individuals, guiding them through life's challenges with wisdom and compassion.

From the time the first temple building was erected at the corner of Wells and Market Streets in 1902, Wailuku Hongwanji Mission has served as a spiritual home for those who seek a place of refuge. This temple has been a beacon of light, offering a space where people from all walks of life have found solace, comfort, and inspiration in the Dharma. For 125 years, Wailuku Hongwanji has fostered a sense of belonging, nurturing deep spiritual connections and lasting friendships.

Over the years, this temple has been a

gathering place for both members and non-members to share moments of joy, laughter, solace, and comfort. It has been a sanctuary where tears of sorrow and grief have been met with the gentle embrace of Amida's compassion, and where celebrations of life's milestones have been marked with heartfelt gratitude. This sacred space has witnessed the unfolding of countless life stories, each woven into the rich tapestry of the temple's history.

Today, we express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the ministers and members who have dedicated themselves to this temple. We honor the vision and hard work of those who laid the foundation, as well as those who continue to sustain and nurture this community today. Through their efforts, the invaluable torch of the Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion has been kept alight, illuminating the path for future generations.

As we commemorate this significant milestone, let us renew our commitment to the teachings and spirit of our predecessors. We will inherit their spirit and devote ourselves to listening to the Buddha-Dharma. We will share the joy of Nembutsu and strive to realize a society where all lives are equally embraced, affirmed, and appreciated. Beyond time and space, the Light of Amida Buddha continues to shine upon us, illuminating our path even more brightly than ever.

With reverence, let us recite the Nembutsu, feeling Amida Buddha's gentle call to us, expressing our gratitude for living within the Buddha's Vow. Namo Amida Butsu.

**TRIPLE CELEBRATION**

**We are thrilled to share the excitement of the Triple Celebration held on September 7 and 8, 2024.**

We are pleased to announce two new Triple Celebration multimedia resources! One is a set of photo carousels available on the Hongwanji Hawaii website with images captured by Alan Kubota, Lenscapes Photography. Six carousels capture highlights from all parts of the big event. A shortcut link will take you there: <http://honpahi.link/3cphotos>

Another resource is a Triple Celebration playlist on the Hongwanji Hawaii YouTube channel. You'll find a 12-minute video produced by Project Local with event highlights and interview clips (not to be missed!). You can also see Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji's keynote address with slides, Yamaguchi Gagakukai's amazing performance of "Hawai'i Aloha," and the prelude by the Triple Celebration Choir. Find the playlist here: <http://honpahi.link/3cvideos>

These resources supplement the one previously shared for the Triple Celebration Online Buddhist Education Series, a separate YouTube playlist now accessible using the shortcut

<http://honpahi.link/3clectures>.

And if you'd like to check out the electronic booklet created by Jean Heselden and used by attendees at the event, see: <http://honpahi.link/3cbooklet>. In it are some archival photos that Rev. Miyaji remarked upon in his keynote address.

### **SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **PBA LIGHTING OUR WAY BANQUET**

Date: Friday, November 15, 2024

Time: Reception at 5:00 p.m. • Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Ala Moana Hotel by Mantra

To become a sponsor, purchase individual tickets, or make a donation to support the Banquet, please visit PBA's Banquet website at <https://pacificbuddhistacademy.org/giving/lighting-our-way> or contact Megan Lee at [megan.lee@pbahi.org](mailto:megan.lee@pbahi.org) for more information.

### **2025 GISEIKAI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

In preparation for the 113<sup>th</sup> HHMH Legislative Assembly, which is scheduled for February 7-8, 2025, notice #1 has been sent out from the Business Manager. Some key deadlines to remember are:

October 31, 2024: Vital Statistics

November 15, 2024: Giseikai Resolutions

December 15, 2024: Committee Reports

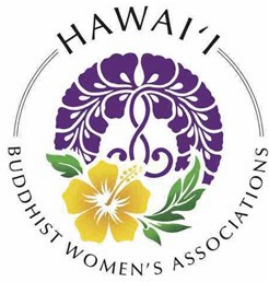
December 31, 2024: HHMH Directors Nomination, Giseikai Registration, Rap Session Sign-up

January 31, 2025: Directory Information.

Your timely submission is greatly appreciated.

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

<https://hawaiibetsuin.org/>



## LHWA NEWS

## New Members Welcome

2024

**LHWA Meetings for 2024**

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

**December 15**

**Save the Date**

18th World Buddhist Women's Convention

In Honolulu

September 11 & 12, 2027

**Lonesome Grave Project - Save The Date!**

November 10 will be another Lonesome Grave Project of the Kauai United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association. Members and friends put flowers and greenery at all of 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 and greenery are welcome. Please cut flowers and greenery to a "vase-size" to make it easier to prepare and distribute to the individual graves and the columbarium. Bring long water hoses if you have them.



Please join us if you are able on November 10 at 8:00 am at Kauai Veterans Cemetery. Because November 10 falls on a Sunday this year, there will be a short service at 8:00 am followed by decorating the graves. Help us make sure there will be no lonesome graves on Veterans Day.





The children have been learning how the Police and Firefighters keep us safe. We practiced "crawl under the smoke" and "stop, drop, and roll ." We learned that 911 is the number to call in an emergency. We learned about traffic safety as well as Stranger Danger.

We learned about sun and water safety. We also learned about how to be safe when we go trick or treating.

We have been busy learning many things as well as having fun playing with our friends.

We had a very successful fundraiser. We would like to thank those of you that purchased tickets from us.

Thank you to the following people for their donations: Rev. Yagi, Lynne Matsumura, Carol Valentine, Carol Ozaki, and Suzette Naito.

Thank you for your generosity.

Please see page 11 for an additional Preschool announcement.



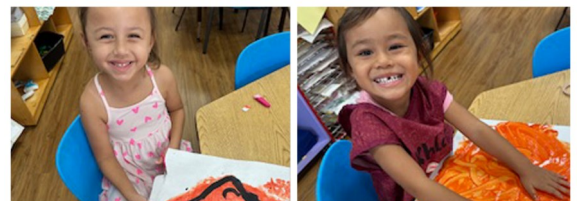
Ready to be Fire Chief and Police Chief



Bringing flowers to school



Practicing fire safety



Pumpkin pictures





## General Cleanup and Annual Membership Meeting

**November 24, 2024 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!

**NOTE:** The cleanup and general membership meeting will be in November this year.  
Please Join us for cleanup and a short but important meeting.



## Bon Dance 2025, Save the Date

The Kauai Buddhist Council has finalized their Bon Dance plans for 2025 and LHM will be holding our Bon Dance Festival on **June 20-21, 2025**. Save the date! We can always use volunteers to help make it successful.

The complete schedule will be:

June 13-14: Waimea Shingon Mission

**June 20-21: Lihue Hongwanji Mission**

June 27-28: Kauai Soto Zenshuji

July 4-5: No Bon Dance

July 11-12: West Kauai Hongwanji Mission, Hanapepe Temple

July 18-19: Kapa'a Hongwanji Mission

July 25-26: Waimea Higashi Hongwanji Mission



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Aki Matsuyama on her 100th Birthday! Rev. Yagi and several BWA women visited with her at Regency to celebrate this special birthday with a plant and singing "Happy Birthday."



# Ask Rev. Shawn

## “Everything You Ever Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask”

Email your questions to [lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com](mailto:lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com).

Q. Sensei, what is the Hondo? When I read the September newsletter, there was an unfamiliar word. Please explain.

A. In Jodo Shinshu, Hondo refers to the main hall of a Buddhist temple. It is the most important and sacred space within the temple complex, where services, rituals, and ceremonies are held. The word "Hondo" literally means "Main Hall" (本堂) in Japanese.

In the Hondo, you will typically find the central focus of worship: an image or statue of Amida Buddha, the Buddha of Immeasurable Life, and Inconceivable Light. There is often an altar with offerings, incense, candles, and flowers, symbolizing respect and reverence for the Buddha's teachings.

For Jodo Shinshu followers, the Hondo is a place for reflection, chanting, and listening to the Dharma (the teachings of the Buddha), where the community gathers for religious practice.

### Mahalo!

Thank you to Roy and Carol Fujioka for donating the cost of a new laptop computer for LHM. This is to replace the one that was stolen in a recent break-in.



We are most appreciative of their generosity!

### Mahalo!

Thank you to Gladys Fujiuchi for her generous donation to fund the cost of updating the sound system in the Hondo, the Social Hall and the sound system for Bon Dance. We are updating the entire system to make it more user-friendly and modern.



Thank you Gladys! We appreciate your generosity!

If there are errors please email us at: [lihuehongwanjmission@gmail.com](mailto:lihuehongwanjmission@gmail.com) or call the office at 808-245-6262.

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS:**

In memory of Minoru Shimokawa  
Wesley & Marcia Shimokawa  
In memory of Kiyoshi & Fumiko Sasaki  
Alex & Pauline Nakamura  
In memory of Mamoru Yamada  
Blaine Sasaki  
Warren & Colleen Nonaka  
In memory of Mitsuko Hamakami  
Karen Nishimoto  
In memory of Bessie Sasaki  
Warren & Colleen Nonaka  
In memory of Annabelle Wertz  
Wayne Fujioka & Carol Valentine

**COLUMBARIUM DONATION:**

In memory of George & Elsie Toyofuku  
Guy & Lori Toyofuku

**GOTAN-E DONATION:**

Michiko Yamamoto

**AUTUMN HIGAN DONATION:**

Gladys Fujiuchi  
Karen Nishimoto  
Natsuko Daida  
Setsuo & Edith Ushio  
Glenn & Gail Shibuya  
Wayne Fujioka & Carol Valentine  
Hiroko Kurashige  
Arlene Fujikawa  
Michiko Yamamoto

**SPECIAL DONATION:**

Gladys Fujiuchi (A/V Sound System)

**SOCIAL CONCERNS DONATION:**

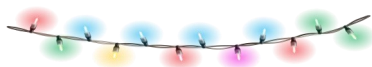
Setsuo & Edith Ushio  
Michiko Yamamoto

*Thank  
You*

**Lights on Rice, 2024**

The LHM Preschool is planning on taking part in the annual Lights on Rice parade on Friday December 6. They invite any LHM members and friends to join them in walking or riding in the parade. If you want to join, please call the preschool at 808-245-7857.

The preschool is looking to borrow Christmas decoration, such as Christmas lights, inflatables or lighted yard decorations. If you can help please call the Preschool at 808-245-7857.

**Bodhi Day Service**

This year's Bodhi Day Service will be held on Sunday December 8 at **9:30 AM**. It will be held at **West Kauai Hongwanji, Hanapepe**.

Bodhi Day is sponsored by the Kauai Buddhist Council.





*With Deepest Sympathy*

Lihue Hongwanji extends its deepest sympathy to the family of::

The late Cole Akio Forsen who passed away on July 30, 2024 at the age of 42 years.

**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—2023**

2023 NONE

**3rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2022**

2022 NONE

**7th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2018**

2018 December 2 Yukitoshi Inouye

**13th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2012**

2012 NONE

**17th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2008**

2008 November 11 Gary Nakagawa

2008 November 26 Noriyuki Kurosaki

**25th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2000**

2000 November 6 Edward Watanabe

2000 December 9 Shizuto Hiraoka

2000 December 19 Harumi Kouchi

**33rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1992**

1992 NONE

**50th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1975**

1975 November 11 Shinayo Kanja

1975 November 27 Sode Omori

**Eitaikyo Service**  
**Perpetual Memorial Service**  
Sunday November 3, 9:00 AM at LHM  
**Guest Speaker:** Rev. Dr. Bert Sumikawa,  
Retired minister, HHMH  
(in-person dharma message)



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**Lonesome Grave Project**  
Sunday November 10 beginning with a short service  
at 8:00 am followed by decorating the graves  
**No service at LHM on this day.**

**Lihue Hongwanji Mission, a Shin Buddhist Temple**

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

Return Service Requested

**Building Healthy Sanghas**

(Sharing Nembutsu Moments)



Address Label

Email: [lihuehongwanjission@gmail.com](mailto:lihuehongwanjission@gmail.com)

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[lihuehongwanji.org](http://lihuehongwanji.org)

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