

Lihue Hongwanji Mission, a Shin Buddhist Temple

VOLUME 78 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2024

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments

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Merry Bodhi Day

During the season when people are saying “Merry Christmas” and “Happy Hanukkah,” wouldn’t it be nice to wish someone “Merry Bodhi Day” and have them understand what you were talking about? Let’s face it; that day will probably never come, so here is my solution.

I am on the board of directors of the humane society in Kenosha, Wisconsin where I live. A while back, as I was leaving a pre-Christmas gathering at the shelter, one of the other board members said, “Have a Merry Christmas.” She then quickly said, “I forgot, you are a Buddhist. I hope I haven’t offended you.” My reply was, “No, that’s okay. I celebrate all holidays and accept all blessings.” I then wished her a Merry Christmas.

In the Christian tradition, Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior. He was born into this world so that all could be saved from their sins. The Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah. This commemoration of the victory over oppressors in the second century B.C.E., and the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, centers on a miracle. At the rededication, the menorah was to burn for eight nights, yet there was only enough oil for one night. Miraculously, the menorah burned for eight nights. In Buddhism, Bodhi Day celebrates the awakening of the Buddha to the cause of suffering. Having left the castle behind, and after seven years of rigorous, ascetic practices, Shakyamuni meditated for seven days under a pipal tree. On the morning of the seventh day, as the sun arose, he awakened to the cause of suffering in our human existence.

Three different stories, what do they have in common? The common theme is the idea of light, both in the literal and figurative sense. The story of Christmas speaks of the Star of Bethlehem that guided the Three Wise Men to the baby Jesus. Hanukkah has the light of the menorah. Shakyamuni’s awakening



Bill Bohlman, President
Buddhist Temple of Chicago

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Calendar of Events

DECEMBER 2024

Sun	1	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Sun	8	9:30 AM	Bodhi Day Service At West Kauai Hongwanji, Hanapepe Sponsored by the Kauai Buddhist Council Guest speaker: Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani
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	8:00 PM	New Year's Eve Service

JANUARY 2025

Wed	1	10:00 AM	New Year's Day Service Installation of Board of Directors
Sun	5	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Thur	9	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sun	12	9:00 AM	Hoonko Service Memorial for Shinran Shonin Guest speaker: Rev. Eric Matsumoto
Sun	19	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Sun	26	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service

Refreshments!

Please join us on Sundays after our service for friendship, talk story and refreshments!



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.



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occurred as the sun arose; in Jodo Shinshu, Amida Buddha represents unbounded light. In the literal sense, the symbolism differs; however, in the figurative sense, the symbolism is quite similar.

The commonality is spiritual freedom. The birth of Christ begins the process through which humankind will be freed from the burden of sin. They will finally be able to emerge from the darkness of sin and experience the joy of eternal salvation. The Jews, having defeated their conquerors, revel in the joy of the freedom to practice their faith. Their temple is restored, their faith renewed. For the followers of the Buddhadharma, the cause of suffering is revealed, and a way to overcome this suffering is presented. The light of wisdom shines upon the darkness of ignorance, revealing the path by which this darkness can be overcome.

Therefore, when someone asks me if I celebrate Christmas, I say, "Yes." Actually, I am celebrating everything this holiday season represents: awakening, freedom, salvation, and joy. In this world of conflict and suffering, these are things we should all celebrate. So, if someone wishes you a Merry Christmas or a Happy Hanukkah simply reply in kind while thinking Merry Bodhi Day. Share the joy.

The Kauai Buddhist Council is an association of all Buddhist temples on Kauai. Please come to the annual Bodhi Day Service featuring guest speaker, our own Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

It will be a wonderful opportunity to meet him and hear his message.

Kauai Buddhist Council BODHI DAY SERVICE

December 8, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

West Kauai Hongwanji Mission Hanapepe Temple

Guest Speaker: Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani





“Understanding Karma Without Drama”

In this article, I want to share about karma—a word we hear often but not always in the way it’s meant. Let’s explore what karma really is and clear up some misunderstandings.

What is Karma?

In Buddhism, karma simply means “action.” It’s the idea that everything we think, say, and do has consequences, shaping the future somehow. Think of it like planting seeds: our actions today grow into the fruits we’ll harvest tomorrow.

But here’s the catch—karma isn’t about instant payback or cosmic revenge. It’s not the universe waiting to zap you when you forget to return your library books. Karma is much more subtle. It’s the ongoing flow of cause and effect that we participate in every day.

Misunderstandings About Karma

“Karma is Instant Payback”: Ever hear someone say, “You’ll get your karma for cutting me off in traffic”? That’s not karma—that’s road rage! Karma is not about instant justice. If it were, some of us would need a referee following us around every day.

“Karma is Punishment”: Some think karma is only about punishment. “I got a flat tire; must be bad karma!” Actually, it’s probably just a nail in the road. Karma is neutral—it’s not a system of rewards and punishments. It’s like gravity; it doesn’t care if you trip because you’re clumsy.

“Karma Only Affects Others”: Isn’t it funny how we always think *other people* will face karma? “My neighbor’s dog keeps barking—karma will get him!” But karma works both ways. Maybe the neighbor’s dog barks because I’ve played my ukulele too loud. It’s a reminder to look at our own actions before blaming others.

Karma in Our Daily Lives

So, how does karma actually show up in our lives? Here are a few examples:

“Small Actions, Big Ripples”: Imagine you smile at someone in the grocery store. That small act can brighten their day, and they might pass that kindness on to someone else. That’s karma in action—a positive seed planted, growing beyond what we can see.

“Thoughts Count Too”: Karma isn’t just about what we do but our intentions. Holding onto resentment, even if I don’t act on it, affects my well-being. It’s like carrying a hot charcoal, thinking I’ll throw it at someone else—but I’m just burning myself.

“Unintended Consequences”: Let’s say I’m in a rush and forget to say “thank you” to someone. I didn’t mean to be rude, but my actions might leave a wrong impression. Karma reminds us to be mindful because even unintentional actions create ripples.

Karma and Amida Buddha’s Compassion

Here’s the beautiful thing: even though karma influences our lives, it doesn’t define our ultimate destiny. In Jodo Shinshu, we turn to the compassion of Amida Buddha. Amida’s vow reminds us that we are not stuck in a “earning” or “repaying” karma cycle. Instead, we are embraced just as we are—flaws, mistakes, and all. It’s like being caught in a current. We might struggle against it, but Amida’s compassion is the boat that carries us safely to shore. While we try to live with good intentions and awareness of karma, we know we don’t have to achieve perfection.

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Bringing Karma to Life

How can we bring this understanding of karma into our daily lives?

1. Be Mindful: Think about the seeds you're planting with your words and actions. Are they seeds of kindness or seeds of conflict?
2. Let Go of Blame: Instead of focusing on "who deserves what," focus on how you can create harmony at the moment.
3. Practice Gratitude: Appreciate the good in your life, knowing that it results from countless causes and conditions coming together.

Karma reminds us that our actions matter—not in a punishing way but in a creative way. Each day, we are artists, painting our lives with the colors of our choices. And when we make mistakes, Amida Buddha's compassion guides us.

So, let's live with kindness, laugh at ourselves when we misunderstand, and keep planting those seeds of joy and compassion.

Namo Amida Butsu.

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Lynne Matsumura
Vice President-Administration	Carol Valentine
Vice President-Facilities	Morton Yamasaki
Vice President-Religious/Temple Activities	Gail Shibuya
Secretary	Kris Nakamura
Assistant Secretary	Diane Fukuyama
Treasurer	Caroline Ozaki
Assistant Treasurer	Avis Hirahara
Immediate Past President	Carol Valentine
One-Year Directors:	Alton Amimoto Sandie Fujimoto Colleen Nonaka
Two-Year Directors:	Wayne Fujioka Lynette Mizuo Dennis Muffly

Mahalo for serving

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP**TEMPLE PRESIDENTS RETREAT: BUILDING CONNECTIONS
AND STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP**

On November 16, 2024, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii held its first Temple Presidents Retreat at the Buddhist Study Center. Organized by Dr. Warren Tamamoto, Derrick Inouye, Nancy Shimamoto, Doris Oshiro, Prudence Kusano, and Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani, the retreat welcomed 26 temple presidents and representatives, providing them with time and opportunity, under very pleasant and peaceful surroundings, to NETWORK, INTERACT, and NURTURE ourselves and each other.

The retreat was inspired by Bishop Umitani's temple visits as a new Bishop, where he witnessed the incredible dedication temple presidents bring to their roles. In his welcome address, he expressed deep gratitude for their commitment to managing finances, maintaining temple properties, supporting ministers, nurturing their communities, and many more. He acknowledged the unique challenges each temple faces and emphasized the importance of collaboration and mutual support.

The program kicked off with a fun-filled ice-breaker facilitated by Nancy Shimamoto, fostering an atmosphere of open and engaging participation. Prudence Kusano presented each president with special leis adorned with colorful paper clips. These clips represent the different districts and headquarters, highlighting their interconnected nature. Doris Oshiro gifted each president with a cup of seeds to "Plant Your Garden of Daily Living."

Participants then broke into small groups to tackle key topics, such as attracting younger members, supporting small temples at risk of closure, encouraging member involvement, and cultivating future leaders. These groups, composed of presidents from various temple sizes and districts, shared diverse ideas and experiences, fostering a sense of camaraderie. Following the group discussions, representatives shared their insights with the larger group.

Derrick Inouye (Business Manager), David Atcheson (Communications Coordinator), and Emi Hashi (Youth Specialist) provided a brief overview of their roles and responsibilities to the presidents, emphasizing that the HQ offers essential support and resources to the temples. Additionally, Dennis Tashiro of Windward Buddhist Temple presented effective strategies that have helped strengthen his temple's activities and engagement.

As the retreat concluded, attendees left with a renewed sense of purpose and the reassurance that they are not alone in their journey. They returned to their temples with fresh ideas and the assurance that they have a network of fellow presidents and the support of Headquarters to help navigate the challenges ahead.

This inaugural retreat was a meaningful step in enhancing leadership throughout the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, fostering the ongoing vitality of our temples and communities.



Coming Up in 2025

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

Lihue Hongwanji Mission
125th anniversary celebration
November 2, 2025

Save ^{THE} Date

Mahalo



To all who came out on November 24 for *General Clean-up* and the *General Membership meeting*!

Special thanks to Morton Yamasaki for organizing the groups and to Lynette Mizuo and helpers for preparing lunches for the hard-working crew.

GREAT JOB EVERYONE!



LHWA NEWS

New Members Welcome



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



Kauai United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association

Fall Conference

The annual fall conference and general membership meeting was hosted by West Kauai Hongwanji on October 27. It began with a service and remembrance of members who passed away during the year. Rev. Barbara Brennan gave her message via Zoom. Fellowship and a delicious luncheon followed the meeting. A lei making workshop was held in preparation for the 18th World Buddhist Women's Convention. Kauai District will join Maui District to make 2000 ribbon lei for the participants.



COMING EVENTS

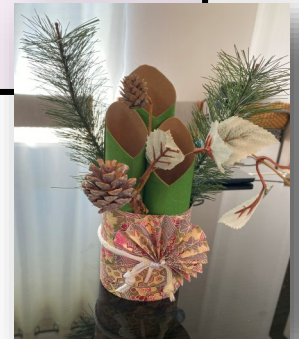


For members

Tour of Kauai High School new gym
 Luncheon at Gaylords
 Monday, December 23
 RSVP to your director

Paper Kadomatsu Project

Create paper kadomatsu to give to
 Homebound LHM members
 Saturday, December 7 9 AM
 LHM Conference Room



KUHBWA Fall Conference



2025-2026 KUHBWA OFFICERS

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| President | Lynette Mizuo |
| Vice President | Shirley Kakuda |
| Secretary | Carol Valentine |
| Treasurer | Lynne Matsumura |
| Auditor | Fay Tateishi |
| Past President | Lynne Matsumura |
| Advisor | Rev. Shawn Yagi |

Lonesome Grave Project - November 10 at Kauai Veterans Cemetery



Mahalo to the following people from LHM who helped: Gail Shibuya, Arlene Fujikawa, Shirley Hashimoto, Ann Ogata, Carolyn Yamasaki, Morton Yamasaki, Ann Coyle, Karen Nishimoto, LeeAnn Nishimoto-Liu, Taylor Nishimoto, Lynette Mizuo, Helen Yamaguchi, Walter Yasumoto, James Yamamoto, Jean Kurosaki, Joan Kurosaki, Alton Amimoto, Lynne Matsumura, Rev. Shawn Yagi.

Thanks for flowers and greens to Gladys Fujiuchi, Beryl Ayabe, Lorraine Shimauchi, Suzette Naito and everyone else who contributed.

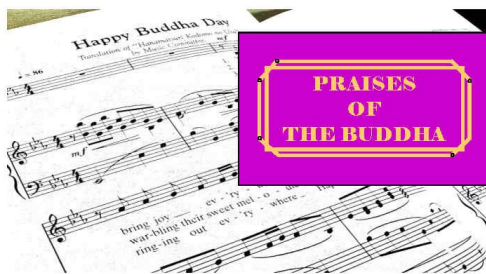


Hawaii's New Gatha Book! PRAISES OF THE BUDDHA (5th edition)

A commemorative project of Hawaii's joyful Triple Celebration, this edition offers:

- WONDERFUL ORIGINAL GATHAS BY OUR HAWAII COMPOSERS
- ENGLISH VERSIONS OF FAMILIAR JAPANESE GATHAS
- OUR FAVORITES FROM EARLIER EDITIONS

Let music from this volume enhance the joy of hearing the Teachings!



Hawaii temples have already ordered copies to replace the current edition. **Individuals are invited to submit orders for personal copies and gifts to others.** You may see a Table of Contents by contacting the HHMH Bookstore at 808-522-9202 (hqbooks@honpahi.org).

ORDER BOOKS AT THE **PRESALE PRICE OF \$15 PER HARDBACK COPY** DURING PRESALE **DECEMBER 1, 2024 UNTIL JANUARY 31, 2025.** AFTER JANUARY 31, 2025, THE **REGULAR PRICE WILL BE HIGHER.** (A shipping charge will apply.)

Order directly from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Bookstore: telephone 808-522-9202, email (hqbooks@honpahi.org).



Yikes! Time flies when you're having a great time! We know.

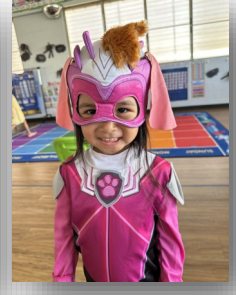
The year is almost over. Please check if you've paid your dues for 2024. If you forgot, please send it before December 31. Mahalo!



The firefighters from the Lihue Fire Station visited our school. Sparky the fire dog also came with them. There were many messages on fire safety. One of the firemen dressed up in his gear to show the children what they look like so we don't need to be afraid if we see them. The children got to shoot water from the hose... that was so much fun!



We also celebrated Halloween by dressing up and playing games.



At the end of November we invited our parents to our Thanksgiving Program. In retelling the story of the first Thanksgiving we are reminded to be thankful for our family and friends To be grateful for the things we have.

We hope all of you had a very happy Thanksgiving.



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

FUNERAL:

In memory of Cole Forsen
Mrs. Denise Forsen

MEMORIAL DONATION:

In memory of Edward Midori Watanabe (25 Yrs.)

Shirley Hashimoto
Ann Ogata
Steven & Janet Watanabe
Kay Kano

In memory of George Toyofuku (17 Yrs.)

Guy Toyofuku & Family
Lisa Taketa & Family
Dean Toyofuku & Family

In memory of Noriyuki Kurosaki (17 Yrs.)

Alvin, Jean & Joan Kurosaki

In memory of Elsie Toyofuku (13 Yrs.)

Guy Toyofuku & Family
Lisa Taketa & Family
Dean Toyofuku & Family

In memory of the Nogami Family

Elaine Fukushima
Harriet Junttonen

In memory of Kaoru Kurashige

Hiroko Kurashige

COLUMBARIUM DONATON:

In memory of George & Elsie Toyofuku

Guy & Lori Toyofuku

In memory of Shotaro & Tama Sasaki

Kerry & Ramona Lee

EITAI-KYO SERVICE DONATION:

Robert & Alma Yotsuda
Glenn & Gail Shibuya
Arlene Fujikawa
Hiroko Kurashige
Setsuo & Edith Ushio
Gladys Fujiuchi
Karen Nishimoto
Diane Fukuyama

SPECIAL DONATION:

Roy & Carol Fujioka (**Laptop**)
Terry Sato & Steve Sato
Don & Deanne Kobayashi

HAPPINESS DONATION:

Glenn Shibuya (**Birthday**)

SOCIAL CONCERNS:

Roy & Carol Fujioka
Robert & Alma Yotsuda
Glenn & Gail Shibuya

*Thank
You*

***Membership Renewal Forms***

will be mailed to you soon. Please be sure to return it with your first dues payment for 2025 with any updates to your contact information and even if there are no changes. You are important to Lihue Hongwanji Mission and we want to be sure that you receive all benefits of membership.

Mahalo!



MEMORIAL SERVICE (HOYO)

DECEMBER-JANUARY

The following is a list of members who passed away during the months of December and January. 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—2023/2024

2023 NONE
 2024 January 3 Frances Natsuko Fujioka

3rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2022/2023

2022 NONE
 2023 NONE

7th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2018/2019

2018 December 2 Yukitoshi Inouye
 2019 NONE

13th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2012/2013

2012 NONE
 2013 January 29 Masao Tamura

17th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2008/2009

2008 NONE
 2009 January 5 Jose Bernal
 2009 January 15 Yasu Minatoya

25th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2000/2001

2000 December 9 Shizuto Hiraoka
 2000 December 19 Harumi Kouchi
 2001 January 8 Arata Minatoya
 2001 January 17 Kazuko Omori

33rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1992/1993

1992 NONE
 1993 January 15 Hanayo Mukai

50th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1975/1976

1975 NONE
 1976 January 16 Itaru Kido

FUNERAL INFORMATION HANDBOOK

Revised November 2024



LIHUE HONGWANJI MISSION
 3-3556 Kalia Highway
 Lihue, HI 96766
 Phone (808) 245-6262
 Email: lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com

Funeral Information Handbook

The Funeral Information Handbook for LHM Members has been updated. It is a useful resource to keep on hand when the need arises. If you would like a copy in print or electronically, please call Rev. Yagi at (808)245-6262 to arrange for pick-up or email lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com.

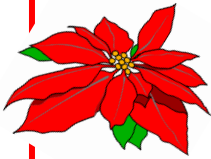


BODHI DAY SERVICE

December 8, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

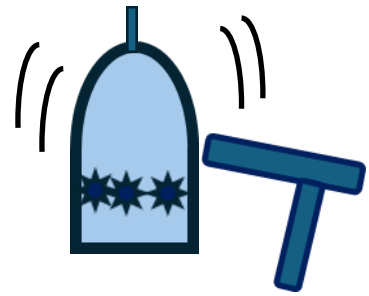
West Kauai Hongwanji Hanapepe Temple

Guest Speaker: Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani



**New Year's Eve Service
December 31, 2024 8 PM**

**New Year's Day Service
January 1, 2025 10 AM**



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

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

lihuehongwanji.org