

Nurturing Nembutsu: Cultivating Awareness

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What is Ohigan?



Ohigan Service occurs both in the spring and in the fall when the daylight and nighttime are equal. In many ancient cultures, it was a time of celebration to remind us of our deep connection to the rhythms and cycles of the earth and, by extension, to the whole universe.

The following is presented with the permission of Rev. Matt Hamasaki, Buddhist Church of Sacramento:

“In March we celebrate Ohigan. We usually call this one “Spring Ohigan,” but March rarely feels like spring — at least for me! If that’s so, then why do we have Ohigan in March? That’s because it has to do with the equinox: when the day and night are both the same amount of time. This sort of equilibrium is supposed to lend itself to nice conditions that make it ideal for our practice. Of course, the weather was much more of a factor when Buddha and the monks and nuns were traveling outside and meditating in nature.

Presently, and in Jodo Shinshu, we rarely find ourselves meditating in a forest. However, Ohigan still has great significance in taking time from our daily lives and reflecting on this concept of balance. There are many facets of who we are that need balancing, and the one to pay particular attention to during Ohigan is our spiritual life.

Since we are not monks or nuns, we have not devoted the entirety of our being to a spiritual path. But this doesn’t mean that there isn’t a meaningful aspect of it that needs some space in our schedule.

With that in mind, we can ask ourselves, how are we nurturing our spiritual side? And after that, are we spending enough time and effort to do what’s necessary? These can be tricky questions and have elusive answers. To clarify them, it might be helpful to reflect on the opposite side of the coin.

Calendar of Events

MARCH 2025

Sun	2	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Sun	9	9:00 AM	Spring Ohigan Service Speaker: Rev. Yamagishi, Kamuella Hongwanji, by video
Thur	13	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sun	16	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Sun	23	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Sun	30	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service

APRIL 2024

Sun	6	9:30 AM	Buddha Day Service (Hanamatsuri) Kauai Buddhist Council island wide service to be held at Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall Speaker: Rev. Blayne Higa, Kona Hongwanji
Thur	10	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sun	13	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
		10:00 AM	LHWA Meeting, after service
Sun	20	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Sun	27	9:30 AM	Eshinni-Kakushinni Service Service to be held at West Kauai Hongwanji, Hanapepe temple Speaker: Ms. Linda Nagai, Kona Hongwanji



REQUESTS FOR HOME OR HOSPITAL VISITATION

If you would like Rev. Yagi to visit a family member or friend who is homebound or hospitalized for any length of time, please call him at 808-245-6262. He is always willing to help in any way that he can.

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 understanding.

Columbarium Hours

For the month of March

The Columbarium will be open as follows:

Sundays from 8:30 am - 10:30 am

Mondays from 9:00 am - 12 noon

Fridays from 7:00 am - 9:00 am

To make an appointment for another time, please email LHM at

lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com at least 24 hours in advance.

Thank you for your understanding.

Continued from Front Page

Perhaps you feel like you're lacking connection or having trouble finding meaning in what you're doing. Maybe you're unhappy or constantly upset. If there is a void that is eating at you and you haven't been able to pay attention to a solution, it is an opportune time to search now.

Take some time to focus on cultivating the spiritual part to bring balance to your entire life."

Ask A Question

"Everything You Ever Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask"

Email your questions to lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com.

Q: Are there any doctrinal differences between the Nishi (Honpa) Hongwanji* and Higashi Honganji* branches of Jōdo Shinshū?

A: In essence, no.

Both branches follow the same doctrinal foundation, tracing their teachings back to Shinran Shonin and the successive head priests (monshu), including Rennyo Shonin, who played a crucial role in organizing and spreading Jōdo Shinshū.

Over time, there have been attempts to distinguish one branch from the other, leading to minor variations. For example, the titles of certain chanted texts differ—Nishi Hongwanji refers to *Sanbutsuge*, while Higashi Honganji calls it *Tanbutsuge*. Despite this difference in pronunciation, the content remains unchanged.

Since the Meiji Restoration in 1868, modernization in Japan has contributed to additional subtle distinctions. Academically, Ryukoku University (affiliated with Nishi Hongwanji) and Ōtani University (associated with Higashi Honganji) have developed as separate institutions with a degree of scholarly rivalry.

In more recent decades, there have also been slight shifts in emphasis on certain aspects of the teachings, but the core doctrine remains the same.

*Nishi or Honpa is registered as "Hongwanji," and Higashi is registered as "Honganji."



Happy March, everyone!

As we welcome the changing seasons, I am grateful for our Sangha's dedication and warmth throughout the colder months. Even as we have faced rain and chilly days, we have come together, sharing in the embrace of Amida Buddha's boundless wisdom and compassion. Whether through chanting, listening to the Dharma, or simply gathering in fellowship, we continue to walk the path of Shin Buddhism, finding meaning and connection in our practice.

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii has chosen "Nurturing Nembutsu: Cultivating Awareness" as the theme and slogan for 2025. This encourages us to reflect on why we return to the temple again and again, year after year. It is not just habit or duty that brings us back, but rather the profound assurance that Amida Buddha accepts us just as we are. Amida's compassion is all-encompassing, embracing everyone without discrimination despite our flaws, shortcomings, or past mistakes.

In our daily lives, we are often taught that we must earn our worth—that we need to work hard, prove ourselves, and meet expectations to be accepted. However, the teachings of Shinran Shonin remind us that Amida's compassion is not something we must earn. It is already given to us freely and unconditionally. There are no qualifications to receive Amida's embrace—no tests to pass or conditions to meet. This realization is both humbling and liberating. It allows us to live with a deep sense of gratitude, knowing that we are never alone on this journey.

The story of Bodhisattva Dharmakara is a powerful example of selfless compassion. Before becoming Amida Buddha, he was a bodhisattva—a being who seeks enlightenment not only for himself but for the benefit of all. Dharmakara made 48 great vows, dedicating himself to creating a Pure Land where all beings could find peace and liberation. Through countless efforts and deep sincerity, he fulfilled these vows and became Amida Buddha, whose light of wisdom and compassion shines upon us all. His story reminds us that the path to awakening is not about personal achievement but about embracing all beings with kindness and understanding.

Humans naturally struggle with self-interest and are often influenced by greed, anger, and ignorance. Yet, precisely because of our human condition, Amida's Vow exists. The Buddha's work is constant, guiding us toward awakening, even when we may not recognize it ourselves.

Through all of life's joys and sorrows, moments of clarity and hardship, Amida's light is always present, illuminating our path. As we realize this truth, our hearts naturally turn toward gratitude. In that moment, with hands together, we say, "Namo Amida Butsu." This is not just a phrase we say out of habit but a sincere expression of thankfulness born from the realization of Amida's never-failing compassion.

As we continue forward on this journey together, let us take comfort in the boundless embrace of Amida Buddha. May we deepen our appreciation for the Shin Buddhist path and live each day with gratitude in our hearts.

In gassho,

Lihue Hongwanji Mission

125th anniversary celebration

November 2, 2025



Do You Remember?

Do you have a story from “small kid time” about your experiences with Dharma School or the temple? If you do, please contact LHM through our official church account: lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com and share your stories with us. We would like to share the memories.

Our Past Ministers. We have had many caring and thoughtful ministers in the history of Lihue Hongwanji. We are fortunate to have had a minister in residence to provide for spiritual guidance since December 1900. That is an amazing history. Take the opportunity the next time you are in the Social Hall to view all of the ministers' photos.

- ⇒ Rev. Kenryu Arai, December 1900 - March 1903.
- ⇒ Rev. Hiseki Miyasaki, December 1903 - March 1948 (interned 1942-1945) (Rev. Miyasaki's portrait is hanging in the Conference Room)
- ⇒ Rev. Shodo Umehara, July 1948 - August 1959
- ⇒ Rev. Bunyu Terayama, August 1959 - August 1965 (retired and moved to Japan)
- ⇒ Rev. Ryosho Kondo, August 1965 - July 1975
- ⇒ Rev. Thomas Okano, August 1975 - July 1983 (the first “local born” minister; has his handprint in the concrete at LHM; went on to become HHMH Bishop in 2007; now retired and living on Oahu)
- ⇒ Rev. Tsuumei Murakami, August 1983 - July 1986 (retired and moved to Japan)
- ⇒ Rev. Tatsuo Muneto, September 1986 - August 1990 (became Director of the Buddhist Study Center; now retired and living on Oahu)
- ⇒ Rev. Yukiko Motoyoshi, August 1990 - November 2004
- ⇒ Rev. Midori Kondo (widow of Rev. Ryosho Kondo), December 2004 - October 2009
- ⇒ Rev. Itaru Nozaki, December 2009 - February 2012 (now working for Honzan in Kyoto)
- ⇒ Rev. Bruce Nakamura, May 2012 - September 2014 (now retired and living on the Big Island)
- ⇒ Rev. Kazunori Takahashi, September 2014 - July 2018 (now Rimban at Hilo Betsuin)
- ⇒ Rev. Arthur Kaufmann, July 2018 - February 2022 (now retired and living in Colorado)
- ⇒ Rev. Shawn Yagi, October 2022 - present



125TH Anniversary Projects

To celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Lihue Hongwanji, the following projects are being completed:

- ◇ Audio/Visual upgrade in the temple & social hall (already fully funded)
- ◇ Replacement of altar Tocho and scrolls of Shinran Shonin and Renyo Shonin
- ◇ Celebration on November 2 – service and luncheon
- ◇ Kitchen Renovation – replacement of cabinets and flooring

If you would like to make a special donation of any amount, contributions to these anniversary projects are appreciated.

Do you love andagi? Everyone does!

That is why we are looking for a chairperson for the Andagi booth for the LHM bon dance that will be held on June 20 & 21. Instructions and assistance will be provided. Please let us know that you would help with Andagi by emailing us at lihuehongwanjission@gmail.com. Thanks for helping!



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

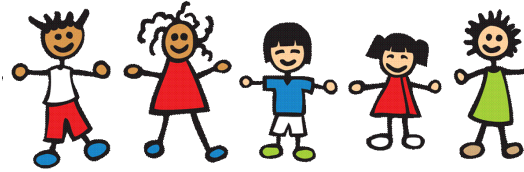
July 11-12: West Kauai Hongwanji Mission, Hanapepe Temple

July 18-19: Kapa'a Hongwanji Mission

July 25-26: Waimea Higashi Hongwanji Mission

LHM Bon Dance practice will run from March through May on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 7:00 - 8:00 pm in the social hall beginning on March 6. Everyone is invited.





We have been having a lot of fun at school . . . playing with friends reading, drawing, singing, dancing, laughing, building playing with playdough, doing artwork, running, jumping, climbing, playing basketball, riding bikes, using our imagination, solving problems, doing puzzles, writing our names, eating, sleeping and relaxing.

This month we have been learning about our Five Senses, The Alphabet and How We Communicate.

On our recent visit to the temple, Rev. Shawn showed us a video on kindness which we enjoyed. Rev. Otani and friends from the Higashi Honganji visited us and we had a very nice visit with them.

On Valentine's Day we had students from the Okinawa Christian Junior College spend the day with us. We learned about the Okinawa culture and language.

If anyone would like to come and visit us, we would love to have you. We also love having stories read to us. If you would like to visit, please call the preschool at (808) 245-7857 to pre-arrange a time.

We appreciate the help and guidance the Lihue Hongwanji members give us.



New friends from Okinawa



L-R in the last row: Rev. Shawn, Rev. Yuuichi Okumura, Shinmon Yu Otani and Mrs. Otani



Our 5 Senses!



Valentine's Day



LHWA NEWS

New Members Welcome



LHWA Meetings for 2025

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

April 13 (note a date change)

September 28

November 16

Save the Date

18th World Buddhist Women's Convention

In Honolulu

September 11 & 12, 2027



Kauai Museum

LHWA members had a guided tour of Kauai Museum on Thursday February 13, 2025 followed by lunch at Kiibo Restaurant.

The tour was informative as there were new exhibits to enjoy. Lunch was delicious and the company was splendid. Thank you to Lynette for organizing the tour and the lunch.

Lei Making Workshop

LHWA members, West Kauai BWA members and friends gathered at LHM on Thursday February 20 to learn to make lei for the World Convention in 2027. It was a wonderful time to share with others. Thank you to Lynne & Lynette for all of the organization!



Ronald K. Hanaoka Memorial Scholarship

LHM member Ronald Hanaoka, deceased, left \$50,000 to LHM to be used for scholarships of \$1000 per year for LHM members pursuing a post-secondary education. The general criteria for awarding the scholarship are:



- ⇒ The applicant must be a member of Lihue Hongwanji Mission for at least 2 years.
 - ⇒ The applicant must be or plan to be enrolled in any accredited college, university, community college or vocational school in the United States.
 - ⇒ The applicant must be a senior in high school, or already enrolled in a qualified school.
 - ⇒ One scholarship will be awarded each year. If there is no qualified applicant in a year, an additional scholarship may be awarded in succeeding years.
 - ⇒ A student may be awarded the scholarship multiple times if there is no other qualified applicant.
 - ⇒ Application forms and complete requirements will be available from the resident minister or temple president beginning on February 1, and will be due by April 15 each year.
 - ⇒ A committee of three LHM members and the resident minister will serve as the judging committee.
- The first scholarship was awarded in 2024.

Choralfest is Back!

The Honpa Hongwanji Choralfest is back after a multi-year hiatus. Mark your calendars and make arrangements!



What: Choral Fest 2025

When: September 20-21, 2025

Where: Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin

Cost: Registration fee is \$35 per person with registration due by April 30, 2025

Honpa Hongwanji has made arrangements with the Pagoda Hotel for a block of rooms with special rates under the group name "HHMH-Choralfest".

Singers will receive music booklets and access to practice MP3 (or CD) recordings for required learning.

More information? Email LHM at lihuehongwanjission@gmail.com for additional information and a flyer.



Looking for a few energetic people

We are looking for people to assist in the upkeep of the Church grounds. Some of the men doing this work are in their 80's. Can you help by taking care of one of the areas? It would really help keep the church looking neat and trim.

The other areas you see that are trimmed are being cared for already.

Please call the office at (808)245-6262 or email lihuehongwanjmission@gmail.com to volunteer or for more information.



The areas where we still need help are:

- Weed whacking and weed management around the stone monument at the entrance to the church parking lot
- Weed whacking in the front of the church and trimming shrubbery
- Weed whacking along the sides of the church
- Weed whacking around the rubbish bin
- Weed whacking the small grassy area outside the kitchen
- Take care of the backyard of the parsonage
- Take care of the area in back of the church below the Aikido Hall (two areas)
- Take care of the area in back of the church below the outside kitchen and the parsonage



Two people needed

to help with light cleaning of the temple.

The "Hoshakai" group meets on Friday mornings at 7:00 AM. Most of these hard-working people are in their 80's. Mahalo for their dedication!

If you can join the group or help out on your own schedule, please call the temple at (808) 245-6262 or email lihuehongwanjmission@gmail.com.

There is no Headquarters Update in this month's newsletter. To read the complete newsletter when it is published online, please check on the Honpa Hongwanji website.

<https://hawaiibetsuin.org/>



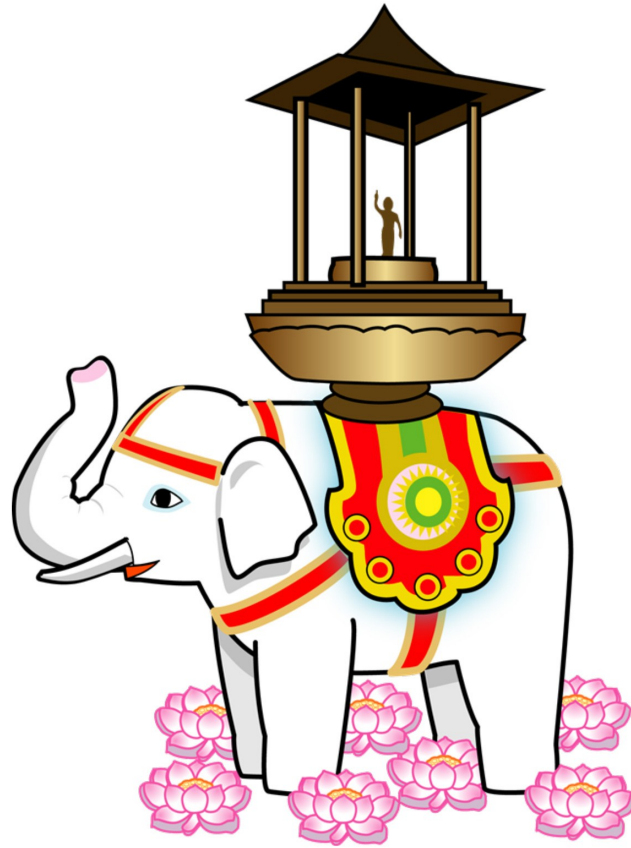
Took a wrong step

But I realized

This too was on the path of Buddha.

Kunio Kameoka

Kauai Buddhist Council
Buddha Day Service



April 6, 2025, 9:30 a. m.
Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall
Guest Speaker: Rev. Blayne Higa



Buddha Day

Hanamatsuri, or Flower Festival is held to commemorate the birth of Siddhartha Gautama in Lumbini Garden. During the service, a flower shrine known as hanamido, is set up front of the main altar as a symbol of Lumbini Garden. In this shrine is placed a statuette of the infant Buddha, pointing his right hand toward the heavens and his left hand towards the earth. The Sangha offers flowers and pours sweet tea over the image. Kambutsu is the rite of 'bathing the body of the Buddha.' This simplified reenactment of the Buddha's birth signifies glory and joy that filled the world at this event.

FOR MORE
 INFORMATION,
 CONTACT:
 KAPAA
 HONGWANJI
 MISSION
 @ 822-4667

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

FUNERAL SERVICE:

In memory of Misao Sasaki

Alan & Dale Masumura

7th & 49th DAY SERVICE DONATION

In memory of Misao Sasaki

Alan & Dale Masumura

INURNMENT SERVICE DONATION:

In memory of Misao Sasaki

Alan & Dale Masumura

MEMORIAL SERVICE DONATION:c

In memory of Itaru Kido (50 Yrs.)

Suzette Naito

In memory of Kiyoshi Inouye

Diane Fukuyama

In memory of Betty Tanabe

Morton & Carolyn Yamasaki

In memory of Jack T. Harada

Morton & Carolyn Yamasaki

In memory of Ralph Duncan

Wayne Fujioka & Carol Valentine

In memory of James Miyamoto

Janet Niitani & Family

In memory of Mitsuru Sasaki

Blaine Sasaki

COLUMBARIUM DONATION:

In memory of George & Elsie Toyofuku

Guy & Lori Toyofuku

In memory of James Miyamoto

Janet Niitani & Family

In memory of Bessie Sasaki

Amy Yamada

In memory of Kenneth Higuchi

Amy Yamada

In memory of Seichi, Mitsuko &
Akiko Higuchi

Amy Yamada

In memory of Mamoru Yamada

Amy Yamada

Gladys Fujiuchi

HOONKO SERVICE DONATION:

Gladys Fujiuchi

Roy & Carol Fujioka

GOTAN-E SERVICE DONATION:

Gladys Fujiuchi

SPRING HIGAN SERVICE DONATION:

Gladys Fujiuchi

OBON DONATION:

Gladys Fujiuchi

AUTUMN HIGAN SERVICE DONATION:

Gladys Fujiuchi

ETAI-KYO SERVICE DONATION:

Gladys Fujiuchi

SPECIAL DONATION:

In memory of Misao Sasaki

Alan & Dale Masumura

Lynette Mizuo

Gary's Service, Inc.

ALTAR FLOWERS DONATION:

In memory of Misao Sasaki

Gail Shibuya

SOCIAL CONCERNS:

Gladys Fujiuchi

*Thank
You*



With Deepest Sympathy

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

The late Mrs. Misao Sasaki who passed away on December 21, 2024 at the age of 104 years.

The late Mr. Gilbert Fujimoto who passed away on February 1, 2025 at the age of 93 years.

MEMORIAL SERVICE (HOYO)

MARCH - APRIL

The following is a list of members who passed away during the months of March and April. 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 (808) 245-6262 for an appointment.

1st YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2024

2024 NONE

3rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2023

2023 April 4 Carolyn Dobashi

7th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2019

2019 March 13 Mildred Yamauchi

2019 April 16 Janet Fujii

2019 April 21 Lillian Miyake

13th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2013

2013 March 16 Satoyo "Betty" Kurihara

2013 April 9 Fumiko "Florence" Kato

2013 April 14 Yoichi Arita

17th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2009

2009 March 3 Noboru "Wilber" Shimizu

2009 April 9 Edith Ibe

25th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2001

2001 March 19 Shiro Nakamura

2001 March 27 Ruth Lauterwald

2001 March 30 Walter Ishii

2001 April 11 "Spike" Isamu Kanja

2001 April 20 Kathryn Tokita

33rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1993

1993 March 2 Teruto Fujikawa

1993 March 31 Sonoye Miyake

1993 April 21 Kenneth Nishioka

50th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1976

1976 April 24 George Shinno



Spring Ohigan Service
Sunday March 9, 2025, 9:00 am
Lihue Hongwanji
Speaker: Rev. Yamagishi, Kamuela
(by video)

Buddha Day (Hanamatsuri)

Sunday April 6, 2025 at 9:30 am
Island wide service to be held at the Kauai War
Memorial Convention Hall in Lihue
Speaker: Rev. Blayne Higa, Kona Hongwanji



Lihue Hongwanji Mission, a Shin Buddhist Temple

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

Return Service Requested

Nurturing Nembutsu
(Cultivating Awareness)



Address Label

Email: lihuehongwanjission@gmail.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

lihuehongwanji.org
