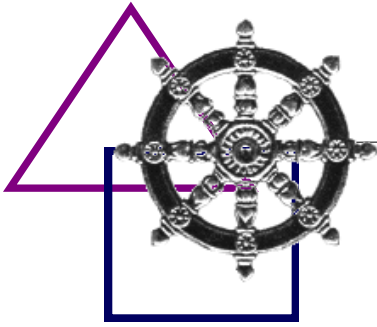




Dharma Wheel

9/2026

Lihue Hongwanji Mission, a Shin Buddhist Temple

VOLUME 80 ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER, 2026

Nurturing Nembutsu: Sharing Gratitude

Contact Information:

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Why We Celebrate Ohigan

By [Reverend Jay Shinseki](#)



The red spider lily, or higanbana ("flower of Ohigan"), is associated with Fall Ohigan because they bloom at the beginning of autumn.

For Shin Buddhists, the equinox represents a time when nature and the universe are in harmony and is the perfect time to praise the Buddha's boundless compassion

"How brazen and impudent a person I am. And, without a heart of truth or sincerity. But because the Name is transferred by Amida, its virtues pervade the ten directions." — Shinran Shonin

Once again we find ourselves in the month of September, facing the traditional Buddhist fall [Ohigan](#) observance, which we celebrate twice a year at the spring and fall equinox. Ohigan means the other shore of enlightenment or the Pure Land, which stands in opposition to this shore of samsara, or the world of delusion. Standing on that other shore is Amida Buddha, who is beckoning us to cross over.

In the Jodo Shinshu tradition, Ohigan is also called *Sanbutsu-e* (讃仏偈), a gathering to praise the Buddha, and Buddhists choose to observe the holiday at the fall and spring equinox because it is a time when nature and the universe are in harmony. The sun rises directly in the East and sets directly in the West. The length of day and night are the same, and the weather is neither too hot nor too cold. It marks a passage of seasons. In the fall, we see the trees change colors and plants and animals prepare for the winter months. Nature begins to go to sleep starting in September.

It is said that this harmonious time of year is the perfect time to contemplate the [six paramitas](#). Paramita literally means "other shore" and the six practices are the tools that one uses to reach the other shore of enlightenment. They are: *dana*, selfless sharing; *sila*, correct behavior; *ksanti*, patience; *virya*, effort; *dhyana*, meditation; and *prajna*, wisdom.

For Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, Amida Buddha has perfected these [six paramitas](#) for us, which is why we gather to praise the Buddha.

Continued on page 3

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sun	6	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Thur	10	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sat	12		Relay for Life
Sun	13	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Sun	20	9:00 AM	Autumn Ohigan Service
Mon	21	8:30 AM	Peace Day Ring Your Bell for Peace See page 9
Sun	27	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service

OCTOBER 2026

-			
Sun	4	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service Birthday & Monthly Memorial
Thur	9	7:00 PM	Board of directors Mtg. (via videoconference)
Sat	10	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Book Fair & Grandma's Treasurers, LHM Social Hall See page 10
Sun	11	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Sun	18	9:00 AM	Family Dharma Service
Sun	25	9:00 - 11:45 AM	Nembutsu Seminar Location: LHM Speaker: Rev. Blayne Nakasone-Sakata See page 13

For Members Only

Pickleball every Monday at 6:00 pm.
Wear tennis shoes and comfortable clothing.

Game Night on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of
each month. Bring your own water & snacks
if desired. (see page 6 for information)

Columbarium Hours

Our Columbarium is locked 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.

Office Hours

Rev. Yagi is the oversee minister for Kapa'a
Hongwanji in addition to being the resident
minister for LHM.

Rev. Yagi will be in Kapa'a one day per
week, on Wednesdays, and on the last
Sunday of each month. All times are
subject to change based on needs. If you
would like to talk with Rev. Yagi, please call
to make an appointment.

Mondays and Fridays are Rev. Yagi's days
off; the additional day off per Honpa
guideline changes.

Please remember to call ahead of time if
you wish to see Rev. Yagi.

(continued from Front Page)

As Shinran points out in his poem above, the name Namu Amida Butsu reaches across the shore to you and me as we reside in samsara. The Buddha's concern for us is boundless and constant, like that of a parent for a child. Indeed, we sometimes refer to the Buddha as Oyasama (親様) or "great parent." Because of his/her concern for us, she/he has completed the difficult practices of the six paramitas. Even when we resist, we are embraced by our great parent Amida Buddha.

Shinran uses the term *Sesshu fusha* (摂取不捨) a term from the *Meditation Sutra*, or *Sutra on the Contemplation of Buddha Amitayus*, which means "to be embraced and never abandoned." It means that all will be taken and none left behind. It can also mean that anyone who resists and runs away still will be embraced.

Have you ever seen a squirming young child held by its mother? No matter how much the child arches its back, wriggles, twists, and turns, the mother securely holds the child. The child has no fear of falling because of the trust between parent and child. This is an example of the relationship between Amida Buddha and us. No matter how hard we try to escape or wriggle free, Amida holds on and embraces us with compassionate arms. Ohigan, then, is a time to praise the Buddha for the constant and deep compassion for you and me.

"The light emanating from Amida's features illuminates all the worlds in the ten quarters, takes in all beings, and never abandons them." — *Meditation Sutra*

<https://tricycle.org/article/celebrate-ohigan/>

[Reverend Jay Shinseki](#) is the resident minister of the Monterey Peninsula, Watsonville, and Salinas Buddhist Temples in California. He is a graduate of the California State University, the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, CA and the Central College of Buddhism in Kyoto, Japan, and was previously the resident minister at the Seattle Buddhist Church.

Social Concerns

This year's Social Concerns Fund Drive is ending. If you wish to make a donation to the Honpa Hongwanji Fund, in light of the recent storm damages experienced in our state by many of our Hongwanji Ohana, please do so by September 15 so the funds can be sent to Honpa. Please **make out the check to LHM** and indicate **Social Concerns in the memo line**.

Individuals may also donate directly to the Social Concerns Fund online via the Donate page on our website. Or use this shortcut link: <https://honpahi.link/scdon>



What is the Difference Between Ohagi and Botamochi?

As we enter September, we begin to think about Ohigan, the traditional Buddhist observance held around the spring and autumn equinoxes. One familiar part of the Japanese Ohigan tradition is the offering and enjoyment of a sweet rice cake called ohagi. But have you ever wondered, “What is the difference between *ohagi* and *botamochi*?” They look almost exactly alike!

The simple answer is: they are essentially the same Japanese confection, but traditionally their names are associated with different seasons. In spring, during the Spring Ohigan, it is generally called *botamochi*. In autumn, during the Autumn Ohigan, it is called *ohagi*.

The names themselves come from flowers. *Botamochi* is associated with the botan, or peony, which blooms in spring. *Ohagi* is associated with hagi, or bush clover, which blooms in autumn. The small red azuki beans in the sweet paste were also thought to resemble the flowers of hagi. Over time, regional and family traditions developed, so there are many variations in names, ingredients, shapes, and ways of preparing them.

There is another traditional distinction involving *anko*, or sweet red-bean paste. Because freshly harvested azuki beans in autumn have softer skins, *ohagi* was traditionally made with tsubuan, or chunky bean paste. By spring, the beans had been stored longer and their skins became harder, so *botamochi* was traditionally made with koshian, or smooth bean paste. Today, however, these distinctions are not strictly followed, and many people simply call both varieties *ohagi*.

But perhaps the more important question for us as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists is: Why do we offer and eat ohagi during Ohigan?

There are several traditional explanations. One is that the red color of azuki beans was believed to have the power to ward off evil. Another is that offering something special during Ohigan became a way of expressing respect and gratitude toward those who came before us. These are meaningful cultural traditions, but in Jodo Shinshu, Ohigan invites us to something deeper: to listen to the Dharma and become aware of the compassion of Amida Buddha.

The word *higan* means “the Other Shore,” symbolizing the world of awakening and wisdom. For us, however, reaching the Other Shore is not something we accomplish through our own strength or perfection. Rather, Shinran Shonin teaches us to entrust ourselves to Amida Buddha’s Primal Vow and to hear the Dharma that calls to us through Namo Amida Butsu.

This year, the Autumn Ohigan Service will be held on Sunday, September 20th. Let us pause for a moment and remember the many people, known and unknown, whose lives have made our own lives possible.

The difference between *ohagi* and *botamochi* may be only a matter of season and tradition. But both can become a reminder of something timeless: to pause, listen, remember, and receive the gift of the Dharma.

Namo Amida Butsu.



MESSAGE FROM BISHOP TOSHIYUKI UMITANI

Message of Sympathy and Support Following Hurricane Lala

On behalf of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, I extend my heartfelt sympathy and concern to

all those who have been affected by Hurricane Lala and the severe damage it has caused throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

Our thoughts are especially with those who have lost loved ones, those whose homes and property have been damaged, and all who have been facing disruptions to electricity, water, transportation, and other essential services. In this difficult and uncertain time, we deeply share in the concerns of our temple members and communities throughout the islands.

I also want to express my sincere gratitude and respect to the first responders, emergency personnel, utility workers, government agencies, volunteers, and many others who continue to work tirelessly to keep our communities safe and support their recovery. I am especially grateful to our ministers, temple leaders, and members who are checking on one another and extending a compassionate hand to those in need.

In times such as these, we are reminded of how deeply our lives are interconnected and sustained by countless people around us. As listeners of the Nembutsu, may we respond to the suffering before us with compassion and a spirit of mutual support, helping one another in whatever ways we can.

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters, through the Committee on Social Concerns, is continuing to assess the impact of Hurricane Lala on our temples, members, and surrounding communities. We will work together with our districts and temples to determine how we can best offer assistance and support in the days ahead.

As recovery efforts continue, may we keep all those affected in our thoughts and hearts. We sincerely hope for the safety and well-being of everyone and for the restoration of peaceful daily life as soon as possible.

Within the compassionate embrace of Amida Buddha, may we continue to walk together, supporting and caring for each other.

In Gassho,

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, Bishop
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
August 19, 2026

SOCIAL CONCERNS UPDATE

How Donations Help

Through your generosity, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is able to support worthy organizations and programs by funding their continued work in our community and providing aid during times of disaster. We continue to award Golden Chain Grants to encourage sharing the Dharma through compassionate service and the Dana Matching Grant to double the impact of charitable giving by organizations within the Hawaii Kyodan Ohana.

Hurricane Lala Resources

Our hearts go out to everyone affected by Hurricane Lala. May Amida Buddha's boundless wisdom and compassion surround and sustain us all. The recovery resources below may be helpful.

Tropical Storm Lala: District-by-District Impacts & Recovery Resources

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/blog/2026/08/17/lala-recovery-resources/>

Your support directly impacts the lives of others. Mahalo for your generosity!

In Gassho,

Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair
Committee on Social Concerns

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

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/news/newsletter/>

GAME NIGHT

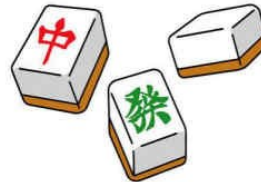
WHO: Members of Lihue Hongwanji Mission
Beginners & Seasoned Players Welcome

WHAT: Hong Kong Mahjong
& other card or board games if there is an interest

Mahjong Instructors:

Doris Owyang

Poh Yamamoto



WHEN: First & Third Thursdays each month
6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

WHERE: LHM Social Hall

MORE INFO: lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com

Temple phone: (808)245-6262

Or Lori Koga, Doris Owyang, Lynne Matsumura

Let one of us know if you plan to join in the fun and if you have a Mahjong set or portable square table that you can bring.

Bring your own drinking water & snacks
No alcoholic beverages
For fun only - No wagering/gambling

See page 7 for pictures of Mahjong

Mahjong

Come join in the fun.

Beginners always
welcome!



Call for Submissions

2027 HONGWANJI CALENDAR

Five-Year Theme (2025-2029): NURTURING NEMBUTSU

2027 Slogan: LIVING ALOHA

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH) Calendar Committee invites members, Dharma friends, and affiliates to provide photos for the 2027 Hongwanji Calendar that shows,

“NURTURING NEMBUTSU: LIVING ALOHA.”



- You may submit several photos for consideration by the Calendar Committee for the 2027 Hongwanji Calendar.
- We welcome cell phone photos. Photos need to be able to be clearly enlarged.
- Preferably, please submit pictures in landscape format (horizontal), like this flyer.
- For **EACH photo, please include a brief caption expressing the 2027 slogan** and your name and temple (or affiliation) for photo credit.
- If you have questions, please leave a message for Yumi Suzuki at HHMH Headquarters Office at (808)522-9200 or email: hqs@honpahi.org.
- Please submit photos and captions to Alan Kubota at lenscapeshawaii@gmail.com. He will respond directly to any technical questions. Thank you.

Deadline: Monday, September 14, 2026

2027 HHMH Theme/Slogan POSTER CONTEST

NURTURING NEMBUTSU: LIVING ALOHA

The winning entry will be featured on a statewide poster!

ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED BETWEEN
AUGUST 1 - OCTOBER 31, 2026

POSTER GUIDELINES - [LINK](#) to detailed guidelines

- Visually express the theme/slogan "Nurturing Nembutsu: Living Aloha."
- How do we live with aloha in our daily lives?
- Through your art, reflect on what it means to live with aloha each and every day.
- Poster can be created using any medium (e.g., painting, drawing, digital art, photography) but must be submitted as a high-resolution digital file (JPEG, PNG, or PDF).
- Dimensions: Standard poster size (24" x 36" or equivalent in digital format).
- Be original and do not include any copyrighted images or text.

Click on this [LINK](#)
to enter or use
this QR Code

NOTE – need to login
with a Google Account



Prizes will be
awarded to the
TOP 5 POSTERS

QUESTIONS?

Debbie Kubota | dekub88@gmail.com

• SPONSORED BY THE COMMISSION OF BUDDHIST EDUCATION •



The program includes a minute of silence, bell ringing, peace messages, special performances and a Special Guest appearance by Jake Shimabukuro, Hawaii's Ambassador for Peace.

Date: Monday, September 21, 2026

Time: 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM (sign-in time 8:15 AM)

Contact: Rene Mansho, (808) 291-6151

Registration: Visit the online form at <https://bit.ly/PeaceDay2026> or request a form from Rene Mansho, (808) 291-6151 or Rmansho100@gmail.com.

Want to watch on Facebook Live? We do intend to go live [on our Facebook page](#) at the appointed time!

LIHUE HONGWANJI PRESCHOOL

Children's Book Fair

*Brand new books and puzzles
Get your holiday shopping done early!
Proceeds will help enlarge the
Preschool Library*

Cash – Venmo – Credit Card + 3% fee



LIHUE HONGWANJI MISSION

Grandma's Treasures Sale

*Gently used Japanese and other wares
- dishes, decorations, kimono, etc.*

Cash – Checks Only



**All Happening on:
Sat. October 10, 2026
10 AM to 2 PM**

Lihue Hongwanji Mission Social Hall
3-3556 Kuhio Hwy.
Lihue, Kauai, HI 96766
lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com



Our new school year has begun and we are excited for what the future holds.
Please join us for our book fair on October 10, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.





New Members Welcome

2026

LHWA Meetings for 2026

All of the LHWA meetings will take place after refreshments. Dates are subject to change. Please check here & page 2 for updates.

Wear your purple shirt if you have one.

November 15

KUHBWA

Fall Conference

Sunday November 8,
2026

9:30 am at West Kauai,
Hanapepe

Save the Dates!



18th WORLD BUDDHIST WOMEN'S CONVENTION

September 11-12, 2027
Hilton Hawaiian Village

The World BWA Convention is held every four years, rotating among the world districts. Hawaii has the privilege of hosting the convention in 2027. We last traveled to Kyoto, Japan in 2023 and combined it with the Joint Celebration of the 850th birthday of Shinran Shonin and the 800th anniversary of the establishment of the Hongwanji at Honzan.

Join the LHWA for the opportunity to attend the World Convention, meet fellow Buddhist followers from Japan, Canada, the US mainland and Brazil, participate in educational workshops, and enjoy the fun and excitement of the event.

Go to <https://hawaiibwa.org/world-convention-2027/registration/> for information.

Live Peace, Live Aloha, Live as One in the Nembutsu

Kauai District Nembutsu Seminar "Finding Meaning in Doubt"

Date: Sunday, October 25, 2026, 9:00 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.

Location: Lihue Hongwanji

Guest Speaker: Rev. Blayne Nakasone-Sakata

Registration Fee: Free (Donations are welcome)



<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfzw9u0OVwNh9wMfeI4luwxYJRu8chi7GRhS2DB6p1-4wFtkQ/viewform?usp=header>

BSC SUMMER SESSION VIDEOS

Mahalo nui loa to Rev. Dr. Aaron Proffitt for his tour of the islands sharing the dharma and his perspectives on "Rethinking Buddhist Education"! The three evening sessions held at the Buddhist Study Center are available on video on the BSC Hawaii YouTube channel.

<https://honpahi.link/bscss26>



Youth & Young Adult Retreat "Connection in a Disconnected World"

Date: Saturday, October 24, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Location: Kapaa Hongwanji Mission

Registration Fee: Free

Guest Speaker: Rev. Blayne Nakasone-Sakata



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeBHwRDymAZgTsKh78gsYeHlssNYDMDwmnq2_neLho9jpiY8Q/viewform?usp=dialog

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

MEMORIAL DONATION:

In memory of Shizuko Shiramizu (7 Yrs.)
 Roger & Cheryl Lohman
 In memory of Shigemichi Kashima, Hazel Kashima
 & Gordon Kashima
 Gilbert Miyasato
 In memory of Sueo & Katsuko Matsuyama
 Kenneth & Debra Okuno
 In memory of Harry & Mitzi Nogami
 Elaine Fukushima & Harriet Junttonen
 In memory of Yotaru & Shizuko Arita
 Elaine Fukushima & Harriet Junttonen
 In memory of Kenneth Higuchi
 Warren & Colleen Nonaka
 Blaine Sasaki
 In memory of Leslie Miller
 Blaine Sasaki
 In memory of Sakae Shimokawa "Baba"
 James Yamamoto
 Suzette Naito
 In memory of Matsumi Hamada &
 Konishi-Mayemura
 Nancy Abreu

COLUMBARIUM DONATION:

In memory of George & Elsie Toyofuku
 Guy & Lori Toyofuku

BON DANCE DONATION:

Helen Yamaguchi

APPRECIATION PARTY DONATION:

Gladys Fujiuchi
 Shirley Hashimoto

SPECIAL DONATION:

In memory of Rev. Hiseki Miyasaki
 Thomas & Grace McCabe & Family
 Taiko Kauai Soto Zen Temple

SOCIAL CONCERNS:

Wayne Fujioka & Carol Valentine

*Thank
You*

Appreciation Party

A big MAHALO to Gail Shibuya and Doris Owyang for co-chairing and organizing our successful Appreciation Party on Sunday August 23. It entailed some maneuvering around Tropical Storm Lala but it was a huge hit! **Many thanks** go to Doris Owyang, Gail Shibuya, Morton Yamasaki, Wayne Fujioka, Carolyn Yamasaki, Jimmy Yamamoto, Alton Amimoto, Kyle Matsumura, and Lynne Matsumura for taking care of the set-up of the social hall for the party.

Thank you to Taylor Nishimoto, Blaine Sasaki, Carol Valentine, Lynette Mizuo, Alton Amimoto, Lauren Lee, and Renyn Lee for helping make the programming run smoothly.

Thank you to the following people for their donations: Carol Valentine and Wayne Fujioka, Carol Ozaki, Karen Nishimoto, Lauretta Hadama, Sandie Fujimoto, Shirley Hashimoto, Gladys Fujiuchi, Rev. Shawn Yagi, Doris Owyang, Gail Shibuya, and Lynne Matsumura.

It takes a village to thank a village.



MEMORIAL SERVICE (HOYO)**SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER**

The following is a list of members who passed away during the months of September and October. 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—2025

2025 October 9 Elaine Kondo

2025 October 10 Roy Fujioka

17th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2010

2010 September 13 Harry Higashi

2010 September 18 Mineo Tanigawa

2010 October 18 Arlene Fujii

3rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2024

2024 October 24 Gene Oshiro

25th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2002

2002 September 22 Bessie Sasaki

2002 October 3 Geraldine Fujiwara

7th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2020

2020 September 21 Nobuhiro Matsuyoshi

2020 September 25 Shizuko Shiramizu

33rd YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1994

1994 September 9 Clifford Ichimasa, Sr.

1994 October 22 Tama Sasaki

13th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—2014

2014 September 15 Kiyoshi Nakae

2014 September 20 Yoshiko Kono

50th YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE—1977

1977 September 1 Hide Oda



Autumn Ohigan Service

Sunday September 20

9:00 at LHM



Peace Day

September 21, 2026

“Ring Your Bell for Peace”

See page 9 for information

Lihue Hongwanji Mission, a Shin Buddhist Temple

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

Return Service Requested

Nurturing Nembutsu

(Sharing Gratitude)



Address Label

Email: lihuehongwanjimission@gmail.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

lihuehongwanji.org