



## Last month's events

### LAHAINA HONGWANJI MEMBERS TOUR JAPAN



L to R: Emiko Fujikawa, Fumie Shinyama, Jane Agawa, Violet Nishijima, Dawn/Derrick Fujiwara, Earl Zaan, Rev. Tatsunori Fujii

A small group of Lahaina Hongwanji members ventured to Japan on a 9-day trip. Tour leader was John Baessler, assisted by Neal Fujiwara. The group's itinerary included: Fukuoka, Miyajima, Hiroshima, Onomichi, Kurashiki, Shin-Kobe, Kyoto and back to Fukuoka.

In Fukuoka the group met with Rev. Tatsunori Fujii, former Resident Minister for Lahaina Hongwanji.



At Honzan -  
Nishi Hongwanji,  
in Kyoto

L to R: Earl Zaan, Emiko Fujikawa, Fumie Shinyama, Kyle Agawa, Violet Nishijima, Cheryl Kohaguro, Jane Agawa, Derrick Fujiwara.

Responses to question, "What impressed you the most about visiting Honzan?": **Earl:** "Nightingale. Hearing the sound and we walked the hall, and hearing our English-speaking guide mention the word 'nightingale' – I recalled hearing about this some 30 years ago when I visited another temple in Kyoto during my first or second trip to Japan. The sound the floorboards make when you walk on it sounds like a nightingale, which is a form of alarm to alert of intruders." **Emiko:** "The guide was very good. She explained a lot of things to us." **Fumie:** "I was amazed to see so many old buildings. The Amidado (Hall of Amida Buddha) was constructed in 1760 and Goeido (Founder Hall) was completed in 1636. It was a once in a lifetime experience." **Kyle:** "I was impressed by the old buildings; they were built in the 1400s." **Violet:** "Just being there was [impressive]." Violet said that she had been to Nishi Hongwanji before but it was a complete tour of the grounds this time. **Jane:** "We saw two Noh stages that, I think, are the oldest, and one of the largest in Japan." **Dawn:** "The guide took us to the 16<sup>th</sup> century area, where buildings are 400 years old. There are small doors to access them, through manmade waterways." **Derrick:** "It was so BIG!" (Derrick's amazement still showed on his face.) **Neal:** He was impressed by "how old the buildings are. The bell is not the original one, but all of the structure around it is."

More of last month's events

**FOOD PREPARATION FOR LAHAINA-HONOLUA SENIORS CLUB BAZAAR**

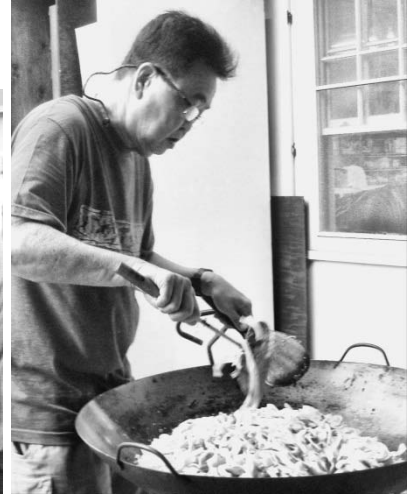
*Hand-in-hand with the greater community.*



'Rice Man' Wayne Keanini.



Cone sushi stuffers Violet, Yumiko, Doris, Jane; Alyce in background.



Chow Funner 'Herbie' Nishijima



Chow Funnners Dawn & Derrick Fujiwara



Sushi Rollers Sharon, Alice, Emiko.

**PROJECT DANA BREAD-BAKING DAY at Makawao Hongwanji**



**"ROLL, ROLL, ROLL THE DOUGH . . ."**

*(continued on next page)*

## LAST MONTH, continued

### Project Dana



Ahh...nothing like the scent of bread just out of the oven!

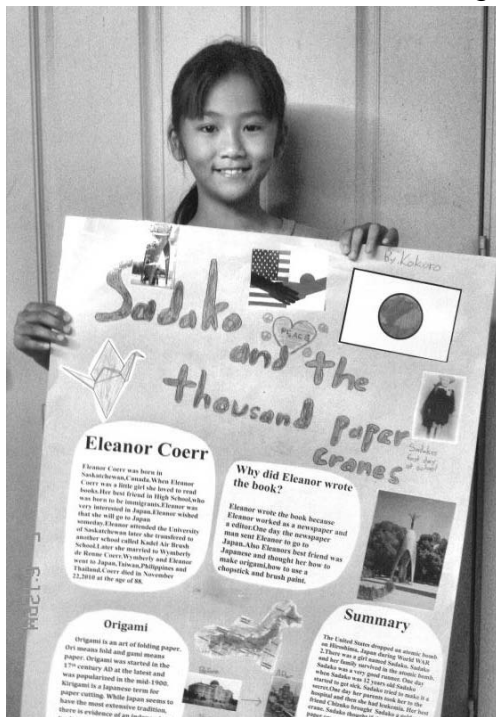


Best ending: person to person delivery – Carol Inaba to June Anbe.

This project was the “brainchild” of the Project Dana folks at Makawao Hongwanji (led by Janie Karimoto). They kindly invited participants from the other Maui Hongwanji temples. This ‘first-time’ project involved participants from Makawao HM, Wailuku HM, and Lahaina HM. The freshly-baked bread was hand-delivered (free) on the same day to each group’s list of designated recipient friends. It was definitely a “feel good” occasion. **A big MAHALO to the Makawao group for planning, provisions, set-up, lunch, and much aloha!** (Lahaina folks: Sharon Nohara, Carol Inaba, Phyllis Nakamura.)

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This also happened recently.  
**CONGRATULATIONS to**  
**KOKORO, the Hironakas’ eldest daughter.**



“Koko-chan” got an A grade on her project for her class at Kamehameha III School. She did an excellent report on “Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes”.

### GRATITUDE

November is the month for the Thanksgiving holiday. Here are some important words to remember.

*“At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.” – Albert Schweitzer*

*“He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things which he has not, but rejoices for those which he has.” – Epictetus*

*“There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.” – Albert Einstein*

*“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.” – William Arthur Ward*

*“Blessed are those that can give without remembering and receive without forgetting.” – Author Unknown*

*“None of us exist in isolation. Our lives and existence are supported by others in seen and unseen ways, be it by parents, mentors or society at large. To be aware of these connections, to feel appreciation for them, and to strive to give something back to society in a spirit of gratitude is the proper way for human beings to live.” -- Daisaku Ikeda*



Lahaina Hongwanji Mission

## FALL FEST BAZAAR

Saturday, NOVEMBER 2, 2013

8:00 – 11:30 am



Food Items, Crafts, Rummage, Plants

Pre-sale tickets are being sold for **CHOW FUN** - \$7.00 and for **BENTOS** - \$7.00 **Please pick up Pre-sale items by 10:00 am.**

**KOKUA** for pre-event prep work and for sales-management on Bazaar Day would be greatly appreciated.



Maui United **BWA**

## FALL ASSEMBLY

Makawao Hongwanji

Saturday, NOV. 9<sup>TH</sup>

8:30 am – 2:00 pm

Guest Speaker: **JOHN NAKASHIMA**

State Food Safety Consultant



## EITAIKYO SERVICE

Sunday, NOV. 10<sup>TH</sup>

9:30 am

Guest Speaker: **Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani**

## Lahaina Hongwanji Mission SLATE of NOMINEES 2014 Kyodan Board Officers

*President* ..... Richard Nishihara

*1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.* ..... Derrick Fujiwara

*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.* ..... Sharon Nohara

*Secretary* ..... Phyllis Nakamura

*Ass't Secretary* ..... Jane Agawa

*Treasurer* ..... Dawn Fujiwara

*Ass't Treasurer* ..... Shirley Tobita

*Directors* ..... Carol Inaba

Sylvia Neizman

Kent Nishijima

Ron Togashi

Earl Zaan

*Auditor* ..... Milton Nohara

*Advisors* ..... Henry Ariyoshi

Emiko Fujiwara

Neal Fujiwara

Robert Kawaguchi

Violet Nishijima

Sherman Thompson

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*Resident Minister...* Rev. Ai Hironaka

*Past President* ..... Aileen Cockett

*If any LHM member would like to submit any other nominee(s) for any of the positions, please call the office, 661-0640, and leave a message.*

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"Here are the minutes of our last meeting. Some events have been fictionalized for dramatic purposes."



## News from related links

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### Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, Kyoto Hongwanji International Center

*This website shares information about the documentary film, **Streams of Light**, which explores the history of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in America.*

*[Excerpts from the SYNOPSIS]*

- 1808 – Group of young Japanese immigrants founded the religious association, “**Soko Bukkyo Seinen-kai**” (“San Francisco Buddhist Youth Association”).
- The Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha school of Buddhism began to send Japanese priests (Kaikyoshi) to the USA the next year.
- In following years, the Buddhist Mission of North America (BMNA) began to form, eventually growing to become one of the largest Buddhist organizations in the U.S. (over 60 temples nationwide).
- During WWII, Japanese immigrants and American-born children were designated as enemy aliens, and were relocated to internment camps. In 1944, the BMNA was changed to “Buddhist Churches of America” (BCA) – marking the start of a new era in the history of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in America.
- During 114 years of BCA history, 300+ Kaikyoshi priests traveled across the Pacific to share the dharma in the United States.

**Streams of Light** explores the history outlined above. The film also shows interviews with priests who are actively serving temples in the U.S.

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Buddhist Churches of America

### WHEEL of DHARMA

*[Excerpts from “Shanghai Meditation” by Rev. Dennis Fujimoto, Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple.]*

*“The debate rages on whether meditation of any sort is a proper form of practice in our Shin Buddhist sect. Traditionalists remind us that Nembutsu Only is the proper path. Others are open to try alternative means to engage people who come to our gate and ask about Buddhism. Here at Idaho-Oregon, when those new to Shin Buddhism ask about meditation, I find myself with a problem when I begin my dialogue with “no”. I’d much*

*rather widen the window of opportunity to share the Nembutsu teachings of Shinran Shonin. I’d much rather have them hear of the meaning and the value and the purpose of Namoamidabutsu than have them walk away looking for a pillow to sit on.”*

*“Through my own explorations of meditation in Shin Buddhism, I have come across a number of articles, some from our own BCA Ministers. .... Our temple has experimented with our own Meditation Marathon of 26.2 hours of walking Nembutsu recitation. Still today we continue with a weekly Mindfulness Retreat that begins with chanting and walking meditation that leads into our Dharma discussions.”*

[The article’s title, “Shanghai Meditation” relates to a meditation group affiliated with Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple.]

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Buddhist Study Center (Honolulu)

### METTA

*[Excerpts from a book review of **The Dalai Lama’s Cat**, by David Michie.]*

The author tells about a conversation that a popular self-help guru had with the Dalai Lama:

*“You should not be so harsh on yourself,” said his Holiness. “If you help people lead more positive lives that benefit others as well as themselves, this is a good thing. The danger is that self-development can lead us to more self-cherishing, self-absorption, self-infatuation. And all are not true causes of happiness but the opposite.”*

*[The guru] took a moment to process this before asking, “So, the true causes of happiness. Do we need to discover what these are for ourselves, or are there general principles? Must we turn our back on the material world?”*

*He didn’t get any further before the Dalai Lama began laughing. “Oh, no !” he said. “Becoming a monk is not a true cause of happiness either !” Then, adopting a more serious expression, he continued, “We each need to find our own personal methods of cultivating happiness, but there are general principles. Two main true cause of happiness: first, the wish to give happiness to others, which Buddhists define as love, and second, the wish to help free others from dissatisfaction or suffering. Which we define as compassion. The main shift, you see, is from placing **self** at the center of our thoughts to putting **others** there. It is – what do you say ? – a paradox that the more we can focus our thoughts on the well-being of others, the happier we become. The first one to benefit is oneself. I call this being wisely selfish.”*

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## *Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii*

*HEADQUARTERS UPDATE-[excerpts from bulletin]*

### **In gratitude for your support of Peace Day & the Sadako Paper Crane Exhibit**

*[excerpt from Bishop Eric Matsumoto's message]*

"On behalf of Pieper Toyama (Peace Day Committee Chair), Alton Miyamoto and myself, I would like to express our most sincere gratitude to the Members and Supporters of The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii for your support of Peace Day in Hawaii and those who supported the fundraising drive to secure funds for the Sadako Paper Crane Exhibit at Valor in the Pacific National Monument at Pearl Harbor."

"From 4 new 'nests' of peace in Austria, New York, Hawaii and most recently Iran, Sadako's cranes are sharing the message of peace with more people in the world than ever. Thank you for helping to make it happen." ..... "The Exhibit Opening Ceremony was conducted with the entire Sasaki Family, Mr. Masahiro & Mrs. Yaeko Sasaki, Mr. Yuji & Mrs. Megumi Sasaki, present. Also participating was 92-year-old Mr. Lauren Bruner, a USS Arizona survivor of the 1941 attack. One could feel hearts being healed."

"A gift of a framed 1,000 folded gold paper cranes designed into the Chinese characters for Heiwa or "Peace" was presented to the Sadako Legacy from Hawaii Kyodan."

#### **125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

- Chairpersons: Alton Miyamoto / Bishop Eric Matsumoto
- Correspondence/Communication: Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani
- Services Consultant: Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani
- Finance: Arthur Nakagawa
- District Co-Chairs (Kanjō Ministers & Lay members)
  - Honolulu: Rev. David Nakamoto / Pieper Toyama
  - Oahu: Rev. Mary David / Carolyn Uchiyama
  - Maui: Rev. Ai Hironaka / Janet Shimada
  - Kauai: Rev. Kazunori Takahashi / Carol Valentine
  - Hawaii: Rev. Kosho Yagi / Morris Nagata

#### **2013-2014 SOCIAL CONCERNS FUND DRIVE**

"Because of your commitment to promoting the Buddhist values of compassion and loving-kindness we were able to continue lending our support to such organizations as Project Dana, The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii, and the various food banks across the state. Your generosity allowed the Hawaii Kyodan to lead the fundraising effort to build the Sadako Sasaki Peace Crane exhibit at Pearl Harbor and to help bring the Sasaki family to Hawaii for the recent dedication ceremony and numerous Peace Day events."

"Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Please make all checks payable to your temple. The suggested donation is the cost of just one meal per person. Any donation

you are able to give will make a difference in the lives of others. Your help is needed to continue our mission of sharing the Dharma through compassionate action. Mahalo!"

#### **HAWAII FEDERATION OF BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSO'S**

2014-2015 Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Federation BWA Officers installed 10/5/13

- *President:* Janet H. Honda
- *Honorary Federation BWA President:* Tamayo Matsumoto
- *Immediate Past President:* Donna Higashi
- *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:* Irene Nakamoto
- *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:* Lois Toyama
- *Secretary:* Susan Takiue
- *Asst. Secretary:* Sharon Nohara
- *Treasurer:* Jessica Nohara
- *Asst. Treasurer:* Twila Castelluci
- *Auditor:* Lillie Tsuchiya
- *Federation BWA Minister Advisor:* Rev. Shindo Nishiyama
- *Honorary Federation BWA Advisor:* Bishop Eric Matsumoto

Two upcoming major events in the next two years:

1. 12th BWA State Membership Conference, **May 3-4, 2014** – Kona, HI.
2. 15<sup>th</sup> World Buddhist Women's Convention, **May 30-31, 2015** – Calgary, Alberta, CANADA. *Theme:* "Embraced by the Oneness of Life"

#### **BUDDHIST CHURCHES of CANADA**

##### **Welcome!**

On behalf of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Women's Federation (JSBTCWF) and the 2015 organizing committee, I would like to express how honored we are to be hosting the **15<sup>th</sup> World Buddhist Women's Convention (WBWC)** in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. We are looking forward to welcoming the 2,000 delegates on Saturday, May 30 and Sunday, May 31, 2015.

The convention is an opportunity for Jodo Shinshu followers of all ages to gather together on an international scale; meet new people, learn together, share experiences and spread the circle of Dharma today and for generations to come. Originally, the convention was aimed at the women only based on their efforts to support the temples however, this has changed over the years and the convention now includes both men and women joined together in the Jodo Shinshu Sangha or spiritual community.



Susan Huntley  
Chairperson, 2015 WBWC



## Dis & Dat



### Mahalo Mynah Speaks

- Thank you to **Sylvia Neizman** for the great pictures taken at Camp Olowalu, for the VIDSTA Dharma School camping event.
- Mahalo to **Robert Kawaguchi** for all of his "labor of love" in getting artifacts, photos and other memorabilia together -- for the display at this year's Plantation Days. He and a core group of Lahaina Restoration members worked hard and long to present a wonderful exhibit.
- Arigato to the planners, 'movers and shakers' for the Fall Fest Bazaar. It truly "takes a village" to

### Japanese Language Class at Lahaina Hongwanji



Nihongo Sensei, Megumi Hironaka, starts a lesson with the first student to arrive.



***Have you ever wondered about the origin of onenju?*** [This online information is from Vista Buddhist Temple in Southern California.]

"O" honorific "NENJU" thought beads ... also called OJUZU or bead counter. In Jodo Shin we use the beads to direct out thoughts on the Buddha rather [than] as an aid in meditation. The Nenju is a string of beads used in rituals and in other Buddhist meditations. The Catholic rosary and the Muslim "worry beads" are thought to have been derived from this string of beads from Buddhist India. Through the centuries, the symbolism of the Nenju has evolved to a degree of considerable complexity. There are as many meanings of the size, number, shape and material of the beads as there are Buddhist sects. In general, the use of the Nenju is limited to the Mahayana schools of Buddhism and is most highly developed in the esoteric schools. Jodo Shin has not developed a separate symbolism of their own.

Jodo Shin priests carry a Nenju of 108 beads. This number does not count the 4 small Shitenno (four heavenly Kings said to dwell on the four sides of Mt. Sumeru, the

### **Religious Use of Incense** [Wikipedia] **Buddhism, Taoism, and Shinto in Asia**

"The first recorded use of incense was by the Egyptians during the Fifty Dynasty, 2345-2494 BC. Incense use in religious ritual was either further or simultaneously developed in China, and eventually transmitted to Korea, Japan, Viet Nam and the Philippines. Incense holds an invaluable role in East Asian Buddhist ceremonies and rites as well as in those of Chinese Taoist and Japanese Shinto shrines. It is reputed to be a method of purifying the surroundings, bringing forth an assembly of buddhas, bodhisattvas, gods, demons, and the like.

In Chinese Taoist and Buddhist temples, the inner spaces are scented with thick coiled incense, which are either hung from the ceiling or on special stands. Worshipers at the temples light and burn sticks of incense in small and large bundles, which they wave or raise above the head while bowing to the statues or plaques of a deity or an ancestor. Individual sticks ... are then vertically placed into ... censers located in front of the statues or plaques....

In Japanese Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples, the sticks of incense are placed horizontally into censers on top of the ash since the sticks used normally lack a supporting core that does not burn.

hungry now!!” The mother responded, “Yokattane--!! You were so lucky!! You did not hit anybody and didn’t get hurt at all!!” The son said, “Hey, stop saying that!! The mechanic was so late to get to my place. I waited there over 2 hours!!” The mother responded “Yokatta ne!! You were so lucky. If the mechanic did not work for you, you are still there. How lucky you are!!” The son said, “Stop it!! I was so hungry and I missed watching my favorite TV Drama, I am so upset now!! ” The mother responded, “Yokattane--!! How lucky you are, you now fully understand how important it is to maintain the car all the time. You will never be in the same situation in the future. How lucky you are today!!” The son could not reply anymore. Somehow, the mind of madness disappeared by the mother’s very positive comments. Her positive comments and thinking were able to heal the son’s mind and herself.

Last week at King Kamehameha School, there was a day called Crazy Hair Day. This day is lots of fun to see other students too. For this day, Megumi went to Longs Drugs and bought strong hair spray and coloring stuff. She chose red this time. Megumi was also excited to make unique and nice hair which would make our children happy and she tried to make them number one in their class room. When we were riding car to shopping, I asked Megumi “How was it? Did you make nice hair for them?” Then Megumi said, “Oh, I hope so...” I said “What do you mean you hope so?” Megumi said, “I think Kokoro was good... but Hoken, it became little different hair style than I imagined ... Coloring,,, I made a big mistake. I sprayed red color on his face!! So poor thing. I was shocked too.” I said, “Oh... is that right? Cannot help, sometimes it happens.” Megumi said, “But, Hoken said that is OK, That is fine for me. He went to look at his face in the mirror.” Then Hoken said, “Iine kore. It is not too bad! It looks like Blood. I like bloody face. It looks like Zombie. Thank you Mom.” Megumi said, “I thought he is going to be mad at me. But, what Hoken said to me was so helpful and saved me. His positive comment made me feel much better.” I said “That is good story. How was Ayumu’s hair ?” Megumi covered her face with her hands and said “Ayu-chan, I made mistake too... Again, I could not make her hair the way I imagined. I thought I made a big mistake again. I thought she will be sad, she is going to be laughed at in her classroom. I tried to make her like cool rockabilly girl. I tried to make like Ducks ass style. rter than I expected... So, I had to tie her hair on top, then I tied her hair on the side, I sprayed red color... I had nothing to say anymore. Then I said “go lc the mirror.” Ayumu ran to mirror and looked at her hair. Megumi said, “I was so worried about ner comment. I was so sorry for her... but she said..” “Wow.. It looks like Alien!!! I like it!! Thank you Mom!!” “She looked happy and went to her class room.... But, I was still wondering.. I hope Hoken and Ayumu are OK at their classroom...” Megumi was crying, laughing I don’t know how to express it but I am sure that she was saved by the positive comments from them. If they grumbled and left even one negative comment for Megumi, I don’t think she could reflect on this morning story as funny and interesting story. Their positive comments made themselves happy, so they spread the happiness around them, and made peace for that day.

Today, we are also having a Shotsuki Memorial Service for those who passed away in this month of November.



In the past as well as now, long life is at the top of the wish list for most people. One day, I asked a congregation at a particular gathering place, “If Buddha were to tell you that he would grant you one wish, what would you ask for?”

After long silence an old man sitting in the front row spoke up and said, “if you ask for only one wish, it would probably be for a long life.”

Thereupon, when I asked “Ojiisan, why do you want to live a long time?” the old man answered, “it’s not that I want to do anything in particular, but I just don’t want to die too soon.”

I understand what he said but, I felt that having no desire to do anything, a life in which one merely wishes to live a long time, seems to be rather empty existence. If we change the way of thinking about our own life, it is going to be changed forever.

Shinran Shonin teaches us in his Kyogyoshinsho,

“Great Shinjin is the superlative means for attaining longevity and deathlessness.”

Rather than wishing for longevity, would it not be preferable to wish for deathless life?

If I am walking this path towards death and dying, I don’t want to walk. But, according to Shinran Shonin, we are walking on this path to longevity and deathlessness by the power of Amida’s original vow.

If we were to ask what is most sad for humans, it is separation from those we love. If it is only temporary, we know we will be able to meet again. Even if we cannot meet, as long as the other person is alive, we can expect to meet again someday.

Let us try to see this world as it is, by using Amida’s wisdom and compassion, then another positive world will arrive in front of you. Which is full of gratitude and appreciation, very positive world of peace.

Namo Amida Butsu.