

## LAST MONTH'S EVENTS

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### Project Dana-sponsored HOME SAFETY/FALL PREVENTION WORKSHOP

The workshop was held on October 13<sup>th</sup> at the Kaunoa Senior Center in Paia. Mr. Mike Hirano of Oahu was the presenter; he is the Project Dana Headquarters Home Safety Specialist. The workshop's morning session consisted of Mr. Hirano's slide presentation and lecture / discussion of home safety and fall prevention do's and don't's.

After the morning session, the workshop group moved on to Kahului Hongwanji Mission – for lunch and the afternoon home safety assessment. The on-site Minister's residence, which is presently unoccupied, was used for the assessment demonstration.



On left, Joan Yokoyama, KHM On right, Mike Hirano

Thank you to: Project Dana Headquarters, Mr. Mike Hirano, Maui Project Dana, Kaunoa Senior Services, and Kahului Hongwanji. LahainaHongwanji attendees were Emiko Fujikawa and Phyllis Nakamura.

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### Sunday Service Presentation MICHAEL NISHIMOTO



Michael Nishimoto, who is a member of both Wailuku Hongwanji and LahainaHongwanji – was the guest speaker at a Sunday Service in October, at LahainaHongwanji.

Michael is one of four LahainaHongwanji members who have taken the online JodoShinshu Correspondence course. The others are: Denise Fleetham, Sylvia Neizman, and 'Noosh' Nishihara.

The guest speaker's PowerPoint presentation included the following:

- Personal account of his experience in taking the online JodoShinshu course.
- Slides and description of events and experience at a seminar for graduates of the course, held this past summer at the JodoShinshu Study Center in Berkeley, CA. Denise Fleetham also attended the seminar. ***Mahalo for sharing, Mike!***

## LAST MONTH'S EVENTS

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### Dharma School Teachers Conference Hosted on Maui at Wailuku Hongwanji



Opening Ceremony



Workshop activity

**See more information on another page in this bulletin.**

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### Lahaina Jodo Mission Celebrates 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



Highlights:  
Commemorative service with *Gagaku* music, ministers from all islands and from Japan / Maui Taiko /special luau luncheon.

Lahaina Hongwanji attendees enjoyed the event.



Earl Zaan scans the special Lahaina Jodo pictorial history board.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Maui Hongwanji Council Sponsors:  
**Nembutsu Seminar**  
NOVEMBER 2-4, 2012  
Wailuku Hongwanji Mission

Workshop Leader: **Dr. Kenji Akahoshi**

Detailed information was previously included in the October bulletin.



## Maui United Buddhist Women's Association FALL ASSEMBLY / LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2012 – 10:00 am  
Lahaina Hongwanji Temple and Social Hall

Guest Speaker: **Dr. George Tanabe**, UH Professor Emeritus  
Topic: Japanese Buddhist Temples in Hawaii  
(Dr. Tanabe's presentation, 12:30-1:30 pm, is open to the public. Presentation will be in the temple.)



## EITAIKYO SERVICE

NOVEMBER 11, 2012 – 9:30 am

Guest Speaker: **Rev. Kazunori Takahashi**, Kapaa HM

**NOVEMBER**, the month of THANKSGIVING, pinpoints the concept of GRATITUDE. The following excerpt is from an Internet website: [dharma.wisdom.org](http://dharma.wisdom.org)

### Gratitude in Daily Life

By Phillip Moffitt

Gratitude is one of the most powerful practices for living the dharma in daily life and the most easily cultivated, requiring the least sacrifice for what is gained in return. It

is particularly effective for people who have depressed or self-defeating feelings, or those who habitually notice everything that's wrong in life.

Cultivating thankfulness for being part of life blossoms into a feeling of being blessed, not in the sense of winning the lottery, but in a more refined appreciation for the interdependent nature of life. It also elicits feelings of generosity, which create further joy. Gratitude can soften a heart that has become too guarded, and it builds the capacity for forgiveness, which creates the clarity of mind that is ideal for spiritual development.

**Gratitude in Good Times and Bad** So how do we practice gratitude in daily life? Notice when gratitude is present and when it's not, and what happens when fear or confusion arises. When you are contracted due to self-pity, fear, or anger, more than likely gratitude isn't present, so notice those things for which you are grateful. Respond to a difficult situation by acknowledging it as such, and then say to yourself, "Yes, this is terrible, and I am grateful for ..." An example would be, "I am angry at this moment, and I am grateful I have a mind which knows this is so and can deal with it." Focus on the wonderment of nature and the human capacity for learning and creating. It is so easy to only notice the terrible aspects of being human so that wonderment is often forgotten.

### For your reflection:

1. What are you grateful for? Make a list. Include the "basics" you would not like to live without, like a warm shower or your morning coffee.
2. Next time you are in a challenging situation, make an effort to practice gratitude.
3. Pause to appreciate that in this moment you have a sense of well-being. Notice the effect of this. Does this gratitude lead you anywhere?
4. Take a few minutes at the end of each day to mentally note the many people who have invisibly served you by providing medicine, shelter, safety, food, education, and so forth.





## News From Related Links

### WHEEL OF DHARMA

Newsletter of the Buddhist Churches of America

[Excerpt from **Co-Director's Message**, by Rev. K. Kuwahara]

"On September 15, nine people from the Buddhist Churches of America received Tokudo ordination at the Hongwanji in Kyoto. I know it was not an easy path for them to reach this accomplishment. As a minister's assistant, each of them served at their temple for years and at the same time deepened their understanding of the JodoShinshu teaching with their mentoring minister. To receive Tokudo ordination, they practiced *Shoshinge* chanting, *Gobunsho* (Rennyō Shōnin's letters), and other rituals. They also participated in three intensive Tokudo Training Programs at the JodoShinshu Center. Then, after completing those assignments, they went to the Tokudo Training Center in Kyoto to participate in the final training session. On the evening of September 15, they received Tokudo ordination from the *Gomonshu*, the 24<sup>th</sup> Abbot of the JodoShinshu tradition, in the very solemn atmosphere of the *Goeido Hall* (Shinran Shōnin's Hall)."

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### *HonpaHongwanji Mission*

Headquarters Update

#### Lay Associations Officers, Directors, Advisors

##### Year 2012-2013

President: Keith Fukuda (Oahu)

Vice Presidents: Dorene Niibu (Honolulu), George Otani (Oahu), Roy Nishida (Kauai), Chris Richardson (Maui), Gordon Heit (Big Island)

Secretary: Warren Tamamoto (Oahu)

Ass't Secretary: June Asato (Oahu)

Treasurer: Richard Tokuoka (Oahu)

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Directors, District 4-Maui:

Richard Nishihara, Chris Richardson, Janet Shimada

Advisors, District 4-Maui:

Gordon Cockett, Glenn Hamai, Stanley Okamoto

### FOODLAND GIVE ALOHA – A Success!

Donations through the Foodland Give Aloha Program will add \$2,379.31 to Hawaii Kyodan's Ministerial Training Fund. The donations of \$1,918.01 were supplemented with \$461.30 in matching contributions from Foodland and the Western Union Foundation. *"This was a good first year and we hope that as more members become aware of HonpaHongwanji's participation in this program, we can make an even greater contribution to the Ministerial Training Fund."*

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**Certificate of Appreciation** Rev. Shinkai Murakami of Wailuku Hongwanji Mission received a certificate of appreciation from the United States Japanese Society of Hawaii in recognition of his outstanding commitment to teaching and preserving the Japanese language in Hawaii for the past 25 years. Congratulations, Rev. Murakami!

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### BlayneHiga Received Tokudo in Japan

Mr. BlayneHiga, member of Moiliili Hongwanji Mission attended the 11-days Tokudo Training (October 6-16, 2012) at NishiyamaBetsuin in Kyoto, Japan. Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani also participated in the Tokudo Training as the interpreter. Tokudo is the official training administered by the Honzan to educate and prepare the candidate for ordination as a JodoShinshu Hongwanji minister. BlayneHiga successfully completed all the required training and received a Tokudo from the Gomonshu Koshin Ohtani on October 16, 2012 at the Goeido Temple, Honzan.

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Website: **Tricycle**

Your daily dharma:

#### **Don't Take It Personally**

"That which we call 'I' is just  
impermanent, ownerless karma  
rolling along. Don't take it personally."

-- Lama Surya Das --



## Report on Dharma School Teachers Conference

Valley Isle Dharma School Teachers Association (VIDSTA) hosted the Dharma School Teachers Conference on October 13 and 14 at Wailuku Hongwanji Mission. Teachers from Oahu, Kauai, Big Island, Lanai, and Maui enjoyed sharing ideas and fellowship organized in a creative and energetic manner. The theme for this year's conference was "The Turning of the Dharma Wheel . . . 1, 2, 3" emphasizing the 123 years of JodoShinshu Buddhism in Hawaii or was it for the 3 Treasures. 1, 2, 3 seems to have significance in many ways if we take the time to observe ... and that is exactly how the nembutsu appears in our daily lives if we take the time to be observant. Changing the words of familiar tunes like "Proud Mary" to the "Dharma Wheel Keep on Turnin'" was just one of the creative ideas of the conference. Teachers also had to create dharma related commercials which were a huge success as well as entertaining.

Reaching and retaining students was a big concern for many temples, and using social marketing like Face Book and Twitter may keep students interacting and engaging in temple activities – as well as learning about the teaching in a "hands on" manner without being in a classroom. The trend to use technology, texting, computers, and many other new ways of communication will lead the way to reach and retain dharma school students.

Our guest speaker was Mr. Pieper Toyama of the Pacific Buddhist Academy, and it was refreshing to hear how the school introduces Buddhism without having any formal Dharma classes. Others guests included Bishop Matsumoto, who gave the Dharma message in Sunday's service; Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki of the Buddhist Study Center; Mr. Alton Miyamoto, President of Hawaii Kyodan; and Ms. Carolyn Uchiyama, chairman of the Commission on Buddhist Education. Other invited guests were Mrs. Charles Hirata, who presented ideas on social marketing; Mrs. Kallie Keith-Agaran; Ms. Rebecca Lea; Ms. Tara Otomo; and Ms. Michelle Suyama – who all graciously consented to be panelists in an insightful discussion on "How to reach and retain young adults and newcomers" to our Buddhist sangha.

Pictures and short video clips of the conference activities are posted on our LHM face book page. It was fun to see old friends and to make new friends with common goals – all for the "sake of the children". The next conference will be hosted by Mililani HM in 2014, and it should be a good one to attend.

- Sylvia Neizman -

## Lahaina Hongwanji Mission SLATE of NOMINEES 2013 Executive Board Officers

|                                      |                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>President</i>                     | Richard Nishihara                                                                                             |
| <i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</i> | Derrick Fujiwara                                                                                              |
| <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</i> | Sharon Nohara                                                                                                 |
| <i>Secretary</i>                     | Phyllis Nakamura                                                                                              |
| <i>Assistant Secretary</i>           | Jane Agawa                                                                                                    |
| <i>Treasurer</i>                     | Dawn Fujiwara                                                                                                 |
| <i>Assistant Treasurer</i>           | Shirley Tobita                                                                                                |
| <i>Directors</i>                     | Kent Nishijima<br>Earl Zaan<br>Carol Inaba<br>Ronald Togashi                                                  |
| <i>Auditor</i>                       | Milton Nohara                                                                                                 |
| <i>Past President</i>                | Aileen Cockett                                                                                                |
| <i>Advisors</i>                      | Emiko Fujikawa<br>Neal Fujiwara<br>Robert Kawaguchi<br>Violet Nishijima<br>Henry Ariyoshi<br>Sherman Thompson |
| <i>Resident Minister</i>             | Rev. Ai Hironaka                                                                                              |

**If any member of Lahaina Hongwanji would like to submit any other nominee for any of the positions listed above, please call the office, 661-0640, and leave a message.**

## Have You Ever Wondered ?

No matter how many years we have been attending temple services, no matter how many books or articles we may have read about Shin Buddhism and/or general Buddhism – there are always questions that come to mind.

That's a good sign – a mind that thinks and wonders, and yearns to find explanations.

A new section that will appear in the bulletin is "**Have You Ever Wondered?**" So, if you seek to know more, please contact Phyllis Nakamura, 661-4032. Sources for responses may be: Rev. Hironaka, graduates of the online Jodo Shinshu correspondence course, books, and Internet websites. A suggestion box will be placed inside the temple – for those who may wish to remain anonymous.



# Have You Ever Wondered?



## Why do we chant sutras? [ Outlined information below is excerpted from our Jodo Shinshu Service book. ]

- “Sutra” means “thread”. The tradition of chanting sutras dates to the earliest times in India. And so, sutras link us with the beginnings of Buddhism.
- The term sutra came to refer specifically to the words of Shakyamuni Buddha, who “attained the highest enlightenment and taught us the Dharma, the truth by which all beings might attain liberation.”
- In Jodo Shinshu, the sutras we chant are taken from the Pure Land Sutras – from the writings of other great masters of the Pure Land tradition, and from the writings of the founder, Shinran Shonin. The words of these sutras “lead us to awaken to the virtue of Amida Buddha”.

## What is the significance of Shoshin Nembutsu Ge ? [ Information from our Jodo Shinshu Service book. ]

- It is a poem or hymn that presents “an outline of the progress of the teaching of Amida Buddha’s Great Aspiration (Primal Vow) through history ...”
- This sutra “expresses Shinran’s gratitude to the Buddha and to the Seven Masters who represent successive stages in the progression of the Pure Land teaching from India to Japan:
  1. Nagarjuna (India)
  2. Vasubandhu (India)
  3. T’an-luan (China)
  4. Tao-ch’o (China)
  5. Shan-tao (China)
  6. Genshin (Japan)
  7. Genku, or Honen (Japan)
- “Devoted followers recite or chant it daily and it is also used for formal services and funerals.”

## In the Shoshin Ge, who are some of the beings named, and what do some of the words mean?

- **Tathagata** – Sanskrit word meaning “one who found the truth”
- **Bodhisattva Dharmakara** – known in Japanese as Hozo Bosatsu; he is said, by legend, to have made the forty-eight vows.
- **Lokeshvararaja Buddha** – the 53<sup>rd</sup> Buddha to appear in this world. He was the teacher of Bodhisattva Dharmakara.
- **deva** - a lesser deity
- **kalpa** – a relatively long period of time
- **Nirvana** – most schools of Buddhism explain Nirvana as a state of bliss or peace, and this state may be experienced in life, or it may be entered into at death.
- **sentient being** – a being that possesses a mind
- **the Great Sage** – Amida Buddha
- **bodhisattva** – anyone who directs their attention, their life, to practicing the way of life of a Buddha
- **Tripitaka** – Sanskrit for “three baskets” – the earliest collections of Buddhist scripture. There are several versions, the oldest and most complete of which is the Pali Canon. “It is believed that the many texts within the Tripitaka are the words of the historical Buddha as memorized and chanted by monks. It was not written down until about the 1<sup>st</sup> Century BCE.
- **Path of Sages** – two definitions from Shinran: 1) Teachings / practices that are unsuited to the last Dharma Age [mappo]. 2) Teachings / practice that are based upon self-power (jiriki).
- **Mahasattva** - a great being; a great bodhisattva practicing Buddhism for a long time and reaching a very high level on the path to awakening.

## Rev. Ai Hironaka's Dharma Message: "Urusai Sound"

About two years have gone by since I arrived in Lahaina. Sometimes people kindly ask me, "Sensei, do you get used to being in Lahaina? Isn't it too hot?" Then I respond, "Yes, it is HOT. But, we are enjoying being here at Lahaina. We love this community."

Last month, my family and I went to attend Aiea Hongwanji Mission's 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary service and party, to which we were invited. I went to the back of the temple and residence. Of course the freeway was still there. It was noisy and dusty. Then I recalled the memory of beginning of my ministry in Aiea Hongwanji.

I always got asked this by everyone – "Sensei, the sound from the highway is noisy, are you able to sleep well?" To be truthful, when I first went to Aiea, it was so noisy I had a hard time going to sleep. Especially when it rained at night. The sound of cars traveling over the wet road amplifies the noise! In Hilo, there wasn't much traffic noise but when it rains... It's almost as if someone is dumping buckets of water on my roof... So, now I got used to the sound of Lahaina. Not too quiet, not too noisy, it is just about right. Thank you for your concerns.

Before I moved to Hawaii I lived in Kyoto. Behind the apartment that I lived in, there was a highway and it was noisy. But in Japan they have to build a noise barrier when they build any kind of highway. So the noise is not as bad as Aiea. From there I moved to Hilo where it was quiet and I could not sleep well.

If it's too quiet, I complain of it being too quiet, if it's too noisy, I complain of it being too noisy. I am embarrassed to say that I think of this every day. However, for those of you who are married, the husbands, don't you think that sometimes your wife nags too much? Always complaining, always making Monku to you. Urusai, urusai... My wife is always unhappy with me. For the wives, I think you may also think that your husbands are urusai too. Always drinking, always making a mess, complaining and making monku to you. Urusai, urusai... My husband is always unhappy with me. However, if you should lose your spouse, and there is no one around to make those complaints and monku to you, think of how quiet it would be. I visited Lanai Hongwanji yesterday, one of the ladies came to pick me up the harbor. She said, "I lost my husband several years ago and I live by myself. You can see how quiet Lanai is. I sometimes miss the quarrels with my husband." How lonely it would be not to hear the sound of your loved one in the next room... making monku about something.

When I think about it, sound is a very interesting thing. To hear beautiful music and the sounds of birds twittering is always wonderful, no matter how much you listen to it. The sounds of the blackboard being scratched with fingernails or the sounds from the highway are better off not heard.

Everyone likes to hear praises of himself or herself. As a wife, a husband or as a friend, no one likes to hear complaints. A while ago, when I was watching TV, I saw a program that presented

music to growing grapes in Japan; this was to ensure delicious grapes, they especially let them listen to Mozart. I laughed at the TV. How silly! How can music make grapes taste better. But scientists found that it is true. Funny thing. Maybe if I listen to Mozart, I can become a sweeter person too...

A while ago in Japan, there was a case of a neighbor complaining about piano music filtering through, which became a cause for murder. So scary. My mother always played the piano. I thought there may be someone who may not like my mother's playing. I was very concerned for her. Sound is a very precious sense for human beings.

Shinran Shoni has said in the Jyodo Wasan,

The delicate, wondrous sounds of jewel-trees in the jewel-forests  
Are a naturally pure and harmonious music,  
Unexcelled in subtlety and elegance,  
So take refuge in Amida the music of purity.

Shinran Shonin compares the Amida Buddha with elegant music. Amida's Wisdom and Compassion as beautiful music is overflowing and surrounds all in the Pure Land. Jewel-trees in the jeweled-forest... I want to be able to hear this wonderful sound. We, who live in a defiled world are unable to hear this beautiful music. But by reciting Namo Amida Butsu and hearing the Nembutsu, Amida allows us to hear it. Namo Amida Butsu flows from the Pure Land's jewel trees in harmonious music.

Let us conclude the recitation of Namo Amida Butsu and have the image of the Pure Land's music.