



# LAST MONTH'S EVENTS

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## Lahaina Hongwanji's 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – October 4, 2014



Finery befitting the special event.

The temple was in its glory, thanks to the leadership of Rev. Ai Hironaka in getting it ready for the big event.

Hironaka Sensei labored and enlisted assistance to get the temple looking its best – inside and out.

The commemorative service was impressive – with the altar beautifully adorned, with the aisle's purple walkway cloth, with Bishop Matsumoto and Maui's four ministers in solemn procession.



View from temple down to Nokotsudo.



An informal 'photo-shoot' taken immediately after the formal group photo, which was professionally done by Terry Shibao. *MAHALO to Terry for preserving the event with his excellent photography.*

# LAST MONTH'S EVENTS, continued

## Anniversary Luncheon at Westside Senior Center



Commemorative memorabilia on sale: tee shirts, tote bags.



Sharon Nohara (Rt.) runs through final touches for luncheon, with daughter Kristen.



Table mates reunite and "talk-story".



"Sa" puffs at candle on his specially themed shoreline fishing cake. Satoshi's son, Leslie, cuts the cake for "Sa" and friends. The cake was made by Meghan Nakamura.



A highlight of the luncheon program was the acknowledgement of Lahaina Hongwanji's Keirokai members (80+ years old). The special gift for all Keirokai : a beautiful lap blanket, in purple hues, with the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo imprinted on it. Violet Nishijima delivered the acceptance / appreciation message on behalf of the Keirokai.

A Keirokai 'spotlight' was on Mr. Satoshi Akiyama, familiarly known as "Sa". It was an early 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for "Sa", who meets that milestone in 2015. A tribute to "Sa", written by Sam Kadotani, was read by Kyodan President, 'Noosh' Nishihara.

**LAST MONTH...**  
 More of 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event



Plantation dance, "Hore Hore Bushi"



Lahaina Hongwanji Japanese Language Class sings.



Megumi-Sensei's troupe performs "Soran Bushi" ... "dokoisho, dokoisho"



Sensei's quartet - "Akogare No Hawaii Koro"



Hanashii - Kokochan & Sensei's Auntie Nobuko Zyigyo, minister from Hiroshima.



**Hear ye, hear ye !**  
 While the event was just 'fine and dandy' - it was the outcome of a lot of concerted planning and hard work. Words of appreciation, next...

## Message from Kyodan President 'Noosh' Nishihara – on the 110<sup>th</sup> LHM Anniversary

Far too often we are guilty of assuming that events at the Temple will be 'same as usual'. This was certainly not the case with the service and luncheon during our commemorative 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. Sensei staged a magnificent service led by Bishop Eric Matsumoto and assisted by all four Maui Resident Ministers. And the luncheon program was superb.

"Pomp and Circumstance" signaled the entrance of the officiants from the rear of the temple to their seats at the Najiin. The center aisle was roped off and adorned with a runner. The service was ceremonial, wonderful and eye-catching. It was certainly one that has not been seen for many years.

We are all grateful to Bishop Eric Matsumoto for his participation and poignant message. We also express gratitude to each of the Maui Hongwanji resident ministers – and especially to Reverend Hironaka, who planned and staged the wonderful service. A special thanks, too, to Hawaii Kyodan President Pieper Toyama for his engaging message.

Our Anniversary Theme was "Okagesama de". The theme was the Sangha's way of expressing deep, heartfelt gratitude to all the past members who so devotedly established and maintained the Temple during its 110-year history.

Many members were not in attendance. However, everyone played their part with words of encouragement and through monetary donations. Your help is deeply appreciated. Arigatai.

A very special thanks to the Kyodan Board of Directors who worked tirelessly in planning and staging the program. And Mahalo to: Sharon Nohara and Megumi Hironaka for their leadership as co-chairs. / to Alan Kawaguchi & Bob Kawaguchi for commercial ads for the booklet / Karina Ishida – commemorative booklet / Daryl Fujiwara – 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo / Emcees Sylvia Neizman for service; Ikaika Viela for luncheon program / Michelle Zoodsma, organist / Luncheon Program chairs – Dawn Fujiwara, Earl Zaan / Entertainment leaders: Megumi Hironaka, Earl Zaan, Aileen Cockett / Event photographer Terry Shibao

### Lahaina Hongwanji Mission – SLATE of NOMINEES 2015 KYODAN BOARD OFFICERS

<i>President</i> – Richard Nishihara	<i>Directors:</i> Carol Inaba
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.</i> – Derrick Fujiwara	Sylvia Neizman
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.</i> – Sharon Nohara	Kent Nishijima
<i>Secretary</i> – Phyllis Nakamura	Ron Togashi
<i>Ass't Secretary</i> – Jane Agawa	Earl Zaan
<i>Treasurer</i> – Dawn Fujiwara	<i>Advisors:</i> Henry Ariyoshi
<i>Ass't Treasurer</i> – Shirley Tobita	Emiko Fujikawa
<i>Auditor</i> – Milton Nohara	Neal Fujiwara
	Robert Kawaguchi

*Resident Minister:*  
Rev. Ai Hironaka  
*Immediate Past President:*  
Aileen Cockett

*If any LHM member would like to submit any other nominees for any of the positions – Please call the Office (661-0640); leave a message.*

### Lahaina HM – SLATE of NOMINEES 2015 BWA OFFICERS

*President* – Sharon Nohara  
*Vice Pres.* – Aileen Cockett  
*Secretary* – Phyllis Nakamura  
*Ass't Secretary* – Alice Imano  
*Treasurer* – Dawn Fujiwara  
*Ass't Treasurer* – Carol Inaba  
*Auditors:* Violet Nishijima, Emiko Fujikawa,  
Vivian Ichiki

*Advisors:* Rev. Ai & Megumi Hironaka

*If any Lahaina Hongwanji BWA member would like to nominate another candidate for any position stated above – Please call Phyllis Nakamura, 661-4032.*

**Upcoming Events**



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**Hawaii Kyodan  
125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

COMMEMORATION  
EVENT on MAUI  
**November 1, 2014**  
**9:00am – 1:00pm**  
**Kahului Hongwanji**

Special Service: **Bishop Eric Matsumoto**

Guest Speaker: **Sherman Thompson**

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Clambake Lunch - **\$25.00** per person:  
*Shrimp Scampi, crab, steak, chicken,  
baked potatoes, Caesar Salad,  
rice, garlic bread*

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Reservations / Payment Deadline: **10/24/14**  
LHM Sign-up sheets: Temple bulletin board &  
Social Hall.

Check to: Lahaina Hongwanji Mission  
Give payment to: Shirley Tobita

**ANNOUNCEMENT Re:**



1x / month practice sessions will be scheduled for: **after** a regular Sunday Service.

Regular service means ***not*** a major service and ***not*** a monthly memorial service.

Announcement will be made in advance.

**We Need Voices !**

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Lahaina Hongwanji Mission

**FALL  
BAZAAR**

**Saturday, NOVEMBER 15, 2014**  
**8:00 am – 12:00 noon**

- Bento, sushi, other food items
- Baked goods & snack items
- Crafts
- Rummage
- Plants, flowers

**PREPARATION HELP NEEDED**  
Donation of **baked goods** and **plants**  
Food Prep work Thurs. Fri. Sat.  
Set-up: Fri. Sat.  
Volunteers for Sales, 'Runners'- Sat.  
**MAHALO !**

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**EITAIKYO SERVICE**

**NOVEMBER 23, 2014 – 9:30 am**

Dharma Speaker: **Rev. Toyokazu Hagio**  
Honpa Hongwanji

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**Nembutsu Seminar**

Kahului Hongwanji Mission  
Sat. 11/29/14 – 8:30-3:00 / Sun. 11/30 – 9-11:30



**Rev. / Dr. Nobuo Haneda**  
: *"The Parable of the White Path – The Two Crises in the Path of Self-Realization"*

Registration \$20 / Sign-ups at Temple and Social Hall



## NEWS FROM RELATED LINKS

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### WHEEL OF DHARMA

*Official publication of Buddhist Churches of America.*

#### The Hongwanji Meets the BCA

“The Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha in Kyoto initiated a new program that brings staff members from the Hongwanji to the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) for a period of three months to be inspired by what they learn from the BCA temples and members. The study tour is coordinated through the Hongwanji Officed located at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, California.”

“Arriving on September 8, the Hongwanji staff joined the ministers participating in the International Ministerial Orientation Program (IMOP). They are Rev. Kenko Takamine, 29, from the Administrative Affairs Department at the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha in Kyoto, and Rev. Anan Hatanaka, 28, from the General Affairs Department at the Tsukiji Hongwanji in Tokyo.”

*[This is an excerpt, not the entire article.]*

#### What Really Matters

By Rev. Patricia Usuki, San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple  
*[excerpts]*

“We who call ourselves members of a Hongwanji sangha are so fortunate to be enabled to receive the dharma. Yet it often seems that we have things backwards, being preoccupied with the physical temple or the number of members, while paying no heed to the main objective of hearing the teachings. Every organization should ask what its primary purpose is. There isn’t much point in having a temple or activities or clubs if people do not avail themselves of the real treasure. What percentage of our temple members of any age regularly attend services, seminars, and study classes? Back in the day, before the temples were built, people gathered together in homes or halls just to hear the teaching.

“We have to ask ourselves some hard questions. Do we find the teachings so powerful and essential

to our lives that we would give it the priority and support it deserves? If not, why not? Do our ministers have the depth, understanding and ability to connect meaningfully? Are our activities relevant and reflective of the teaching?”

“... regardless of what we do or how we see it, Buddhism will follow a course of ebb and flow as it has throughout its 2,500 year history, and just as has happened countless times in the past, temples and organization will rise and fall. Ultimately, it is beyond our limited vision and self-serving calculation. Only the Nembutsu, like the dharma, is true and reliable.”

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### *Honpa Hongwanji Mission*

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

#### 32<sup>nd</sup> World Jodo Shinshu Coordinating Council Meeting / 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial European Shin Buddhist Conference

*Outlined Highlights of the Article*

- **Bishop Eric Matsumoto**, State President **Pieper Toyama**, and Executive Assistant to the Bishop **Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani** attended the World Jodo Shinshu event, held on August 31, 2014 in Southampton, England.
- Japan Report emphasized “Building Opportunities for Children and Youth” (Kids’ Sangha campaign expansion).
- New Business items included: Aging population of temple members; declining membership / Middle & long-term visions for International Propagation / World BWA Convention Calgary 2015 /

#### Dharma Educator’s Conference

- Ala Moana Hotel Oct. 11-12, 2014. Attended by **Aileen Cockett** and **Sylvia Neizman**.
- Theme: “Engage ! The Dharma” Speaker: **James Koshiba**, writer, consultant, organizer, co-founder of Kanu Hawaii (sustainable communities).
- Work: ideas to assist own temple in overcoming challenges such as membership, use of social media, youth involvement.

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## **DHARMA MESSAGE – by Rev. Ai Hironaka**

Welcome to our Sunday Service which is Shotsuki Service for this month. Using this opportunity, through your departed loved ones, let us embody the working of Amida Buddha's wisdom and compassion.

Thank you very much for your help and support for our 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service and Luncheon. I think it was really successful and enjoyable day. The music and voice of Japanese children still in my mind and also the Soran Bushi.

Mr. Robert Kawaguchi arranged the pictures of Lahaina Hongwanji in the room. I hope everybody enjoyed the pictures. Many people told me that "Oh, this is my uncle!" "Oh this is Ama Sensei!" "This is my grandma!" My number one picture was the girl, Mrs. Vivian Ichiki's picture taken at Chigo Parade.

Pictures... In the past, many people in Japan believed that your spirit would be drawn from your body when your picture was taken. Therefore, many people refused to have their pictures taken. The superstition was common throughout Japan. The story changed and if three people take picture center one will die first. So, picture studio had some dolls that they carry when they take a picture, so that center one will be the doll.

Pictures have a certain feeling that videos do not have. In a picture's scene, the instant that a picture is taken, you are able to capture the image of the strain, or the happiness of that moment. So when you go back to look at the pictures, you're able to see many emotions that are captured, they are most enjoyable to see. Also, there are photos that you want to share with others as well as photos that you do not want others to see. When I was young, I liked to see my parents' pictures when they were young and before they get married. I guess that is one of the few ways to get an idea of who they were, and make my identity. Especially pictures taken when I was a baby, I do not remember them. Wondering, who took this picture, how come they are not kind like that time.

Looking at them now is very enjoyable. Pictures take me back to the time when they were taken and it makes me feel happy. But also sometimes, picture gives me moment of lament also. I wish I could behave and act another way; I should talk to my grandpa or grandma a lot when they are still living. I should have studied more that time. If they are still alive, what they would say to me, what kind advice would they give me, I now need help and guidance from them really... Feeling lonesome is one of the hardest matters as human beings.

On the occasion of the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service, I had a guest from Japan, my auntie, who is mothers sister. Since I came to Hawaii back in year 2002, I lost my grandma, grandpa and my uncle. Both grandparents were very close to me so it was hard to accept. My uncle who I respect as human being and Jodo Shinshu Monk, I still often think about him especially when I have question in my ministry. For my auntie, they were her father, mother and husband. I am sure that these past ten years were very hard for her and now she has taken over the temple from her husband.

We were able to talk about our family a lot, I think since I came to Hawaii. And I was able to listen to many of her happy stories and other sad stories too.

For human beings whatever the sorrow, there is nothing sadder than separating from a loved one. Especially there is nothing more unbearably painful as separation by death from a loved one, by which we can never see each other in this world again.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Monshu of our Hongwanji, Kakunyo-shonin, wrote in his exegesis, Kuden-sho: it says,

Among the eight sufferings of humans, birth, old age, sickness, death, suffering of separating from loved ones, suffering of meeting those one hates, suffering of not getting what one seeks, and suffering accompanying the growth of one's mind and body, the most acute is the suffering of separating from loved ones.

My auntie kept saying "I am fine, I am OK. I am surrounded by many people who support me, so I am very grateful and happy." But, she said "Only one time, I cried." I asked when? She said "As you know I went to Kyoshi training program for becoming resident head minister at my temple. It was not easy for me to get through all programs as I am not young. I studied all basic teachings, chanting sutra in difficult melody, memorized all Saho or detail of movements and propriety of service. But I did it!! Chanting was most hardest exam for me. But I passed, I did it. I was happy. However, when I went back to my temple from Kyoto, there were no family members to welcome me. It was so quiet. And, there was not even one person to say to me 'Congratulations!! You did it!! yoku ganbatta ne!!' I am very proud of you!! That moment made me sad and lament. I went to temple and reported what happened at Kyoto to Amida Buddha but I couldn't stop my tears flowing from my eyes and I cried a lot. No one praised me so it was hard. But, it was only one time, so don't worry."

The story she shared with me was so heavy and filled with reality of life. I cannot fully understand or sympathize how sorrowful it was for her that time. But it was more than enough story to imagine how hard it was, how hard human life can be.

Shinran Shonin said in his Koso Wasan,

But the attachments of affection were extremely hard to sever,  
And birth-and-death was extremely difficult to exhaust.  
Only by practicing the Nembutsu-samadhi  
Could we eliminate the obstructions of karmic evil and gain liberation.

This Wasan or hymns are really kind of down to earth I think. Because he uses the word of "Affection." Affection is feeling, emotion, sentiment for one's family and beloved ones. Because he had his wife and children, he was able to understand fully what "affection" is and put it in his teachings. Also counts as one of the symbols of Bonno attachment. And only by Other Power, Nembutsu by working of Amida Buddha's Primal Vow Powers can our liberation be made.

In the Amida Sutra, it says Shojyo-Zennin Kue-Issho, Sho means various, jyo means above, zennin means good person. Ku means together with, E means to meet, Issho means one place. If I read this sentence, "a meeting with those various people to meet all together in one place Amida's Pure Land" or "they will be able to meet together with such sages of supreme virtue there."

I think you may hear a lot about the Wasan and story of Kue-Issho. But just like Kakunyo-shonin said we understand impermanence of this world, but it is very hard to accept the death of

our departed ones. It is naturally sorrowful thing as human, even we know we will meet again in the pure land. It of course brings grief and mourning, lament and crying. Even we get old when we lose our beloved one and we will continue to live with this feeling. But Amida Buddha grieves with us, mourns with us, laments with us, suffers pain with us, cries with us and nestles us with his great wisdom heart. Then, Amida Buddha established his Pure Land for such as us, and Shinran Shonin left us the word in his letter CWS P. 39

It is certain that I will go to birth in the Pure Land before you, so without fail I will await you there.

If we fully think in this way, it may relieve our pain, “those who left us before, they went to Pure Land, and Buddha of Enlightenment.” But, they are not awaiting us at Pure Land. Teacher Rev. Shokai Yoshiyama said, “Birth in Pure Land and dying is just like wave at Beach. Yosete wa Kaeru name, Restless waves at beach, going there and coming back, going there coming back, will never end its work. That is the working of Nembutsu, working of Amida’s power. Those who went to Pure Land are just like wave going out to shore. They immediately become part of the work of calling voice of Amida ‘I save you, just entrust me’, and coming back to this world, just like wave coming to us.”

I like to go to Beach in night time, because I feel the sound of beach is much bigger than day time. “zaa,, zaa,,” wave and sands make very beautiful sounds. I may say the Wave is working of Amida Buddha’s Primal Power, and Sands is human beings. When the Amida is over us, then sounds of waves, just like Nembutsu comes up from our mouth. It only appears in this world from our Human Lips when Amida Buddha’s virtue is fully in human body. It means, I am not alone, I thought I was alone, but when I recite a Nembutsu, I will feel the working of Amida Buddha, and also the departed ones, those who became a part of the Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu.

On this day, let us feel the working of Amida Buddas Great Wisdom Mind, Nembutsu which in not out side of my Body, but which is inside of our body, fully within our whole body.

Namo Amida Butsu.

