



# LAST MONTH'S EVENTS

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## NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE



'Herbie' Nishijima dishes up the soba, which traditionally represents "long life".



Kikue, granddaughter of Derrick / Dawn Fujiwara, takes her turn at ringing the temple bell.



Spencer, son of Wayne / Wendy Keanini, no longer needs a step-stool !

*An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to be sure the old year leaves.*

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## HOONKO SERVICE



Guest speaker Rev. Midori Kondo, Rev. Ai Hironaka.

### Highlights of dharma message:

- "The Shoshinge chanting today was beautiful. Many temples have cut out the long version. I am grateful that Rev. Hironaka had you chant it."
- "Shinran shared with all people. That was 755 years ago, and he is still remembered. He deeply felt that spirituality is for all people."
- "Congregations have changed. What can we do to open our doors to others?"



Hironaka Sensei with his mother, Megumi, who was visiting – from Hiroshima prefecture.



## More of LAST MONTH'S EVENTS

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### Martin Luther King Day Event

**Highlights:**

- Run: from Kepaniwai Park, Iao to County building.
- Walk: circuit of a few blocks from/to County building. Maui Hongwanji temples' members and friends participated.
- A very moving recitation of Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech.
- Entertainment and impromptu dancing.



Joyful, peaceful Lahaina Hongwanji ladies.



Buddhist group was last in parade line-up, but larger in number than last year's group.



Rev. Ai & Megumi Hironaka and children – Kokoro, Hoken, Ayumu, and Minori.



Violet Nishijima, Emiko Fujikawa, Doris Fujii.

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### INSTALLATION CEREMONY OF 2016 OFFICERS

and

### LAHAINA HONGWANJI NEW YEAR PARTY



**Kyodan officers, part 1:** Pres. Richard Nishihara, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Sharon Nohara, Sec. Phyllis Nakamura, Asst. Sec. Jane Agawa, Immediate Past Pres. Aileen Cockett, Director Carol Inaba, Asst. Treasurer Shirley Tobita



**Part 2:** Director Earl Zaan, Advisor Emiko Fujikawa, Director Sylvia Neizman, Director Kent Nishijima, Advisor Neal Fujiwara, Advisor Henry Ariyoshi, Advisor Robert Kawaguchi. Resident Minister Rev. Ai Hironaka is behind the group.

*Kyodan officers who are not in photographs:* 1<sup>st</sup> VP Derrick Fujiwara, Treasurer Dawn Fujiwara, Auditor Milton Nohara, Director Ron Togashi, Advisor Violet Nishijima.

## LAST MONTH: **INSTALLATION / PARTY**



**BWA officers:** *President Sharon Nohara, Secretary Phyllis Nakamura, Vice President Aileen Cockett, Auditor Vivian Ichiki, Auditor Emiko Fujikawa, Asst Treasurer Carol Inaba, Asst Secretary Alice Imano, Advisor Megumi Hironaka. Advisor Rev. Ai Hironaka in background.*

*BWA officers who are not in the photo: Treasurer Dawn Fujiwara, Auditor Violet Nishijima*

## **New Year Party**



**WOW!** The Social Hall tables look so festive --- thanks to Decoration Chairs Sharon Nohara, Earl Zaan, Dawn Fujiwara.



Teppan-yaki chef talks "food" with 'Noosh' Nishihara.

## **Party up !**



Party Program co-chair Dawn Fujiwara takes a rare moment of rest.



Program co-chair Earl Zaan works with deejay Toddy Lilikoi for the group karaoke segment.



One, two, three ..... SING !



Jane Agawa and Shirley Tobita sing along.



Very good "talk story" going on at the tables.

## LAST MONTH: **MORE PARTYING**

But, first, words of gratitude: The Installation Service and New Year Party are held annually. Because of this, we may think that it's an event that is easily produced. **WRONG!** A lot of planning, re-hashing, contacting, ordering, etc. etc. goes on behind the scenes. A big MAHALO goes to all who assisted with the event, those who made monetary and other donations, friends of Lahaina Hongwanji who are always ready and willing to help us at events. Special mention is imperative for the "head honchos" without whom the event's success would have been in jeopardy. These folks are: **Installation program:** Aileen Cockett and Rev. Ai Hironaka. *Thank you, also, to emcee May Fujiwara, organist Michelle Zoodsma.* **Social Hall set-up (décor, food, entertainment) & program:** Dawn Fujiwara, Earl Zaan, Sharon Nohara. *Mahalo to 'music maestro' Toddy Lilikoi, Casey Smythe of Teppanyaki2Go, and to BWA ladies for pupus and desserts. Thanks to Derrick Fujiwara, whom we know does a ton of work when others aren't there to witness it.*



It certainly looks like a great start to the New Year. Let us all move through 2016 with our hearts and minds in tune with the Three Treasures.

Namoamidabutsu.

Sensei & Hironaka troupe belt out "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" ... "a-wi-ma-wac, a-wi-ma-wac"

As Minori grabs the mike, sister Ayumu's expression says "hmpf, upstaged again".

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### **Maui District NEMBUTSU SEMINAR**

MARCH 12-13, 2016

Sat. 12<sup>th</sup> 9:15 am – 2:45 pm

Sun. 13<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am / Lecture, Lunch / End



Lecturer:

**Rev. Shigenori Makino**

*Formerly Head Minister,  
Hawaii Betsuin*

Theme:

**“Let us solve our questions through the  
Life of the Nembutsu.”**

Fees: Sat / Sun - \$15.00 Sun. only - \$5.00  
*(includes lunch)*

*Payable to: Maui Hongwanji Council*

***Sign-ups: Temple & Social Hall bulletin  
boards.***

### **LHM Spring Higan Service**

MARCH 13, 2016 – 9:30 am

***Speaker: Rev. David Fujimoto  
(Mililani Hongwanji Mission)***



Lahaina Hongwanji  
Spring bazaar  
SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2016  
8:00 – 11:30 am

**food, crafts  
plants, rummage**

MAHALO for supporting the temple  
each year. Come on down again!

*Donations gratefully accepted:  
monetary, ingredients, plants, baked  
goods.*

*Hands-on Kokua is always needed and  
appreciated. ARIGATO.*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**MAUI FOOD BANK**  
*Helping the Hungry*

GASSHO, GASSHO for what we are so fortunate to have. Let us donate food and funds to those who are needy.

- **MONETARY:** “Your gift will help provide life-sustaining food for the hungry living in Maui County. Of every dollar the food bank receives, 95 cents will go directly toward helping those in need.”

*Make check out to Maui Food Bank. Hand check to Shirley Tobita.*

- **ALOHA BACKPACK BUDDIES:** “Did you know that 1 out of 5 kids in Maui County experience hunger? When school is in session children from low income families have access to free and reduced lunches. However, over the weekend these children are at risk of going hungry. This program supplies a backpack filled with 6 essential meals for the weekend. Please help provide hunger relief for a child in need.”



*For this specific donation, it may be best to go online to the Maui Food Bank website.*

- **FOOD ITEMS:** The following are the Top 6 Most Needed Items after financial contributions.
  - Canned meat and tuna
  - Canned fruits and vegetables
  - Canned meals and soups with protein
  - Cereal
  - Rice
  - Pasta

**DEADLINE: SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2016**



## News From Related Links

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### Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji ha Hongwanji International Center NEWS

#### Hongwanji tours offered four times daily

*“Onishi-san wo shirou”*

*(Let’s learn about Nishi Hongwanji.)*

“[Began] on April 2015, in efforts to promote Hongwanji (aka Nishi Hongwanji), daily tours are conducted four times daily by Hongwanji priests introducing Hongwanji and its background. Tours are conducted daily 9 am, 11 am, 1:45 pm and 3:00 pm with tours being approximately 30 minutes each. English tours are available periodically.”

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### Buddhist Churches of America

#### **WHEEL OF DHARMA**

[ Excerpt from: ]

#### **Listen with “Heart”**

By Rev. Kojo Kakihara, Tacoma Buddhist Temple

When I first arrived in the U.S., I did so with dreams and resolutions. I was aware that as a new minister, I had to be able to listen carefully and sincerely to what senior ministers and temple members told me. But as time passed, I sometimes found myself forgetting my original intention or beginner’s mind. Unknowingly, I found myself thinking thoughts like, “I know that because I have already heard that before,” or, “I understand what you say, but...”

I was listening, yet I was not listening in the true sense. I realized that we hear things differently depending on how we listen even if we hear the same thing again. We are able to listen sincerely if we keep the beginner’s mind and are aware that we are ignorant. However, when we become complacent, we begin to listen with the attitude of, “I know!” without realizing it. This means that we begin to listen to what others say through our “ego”

and as it suits our convenience. In other words, we hear only with our ears and not with our “heart.”

.... Dharma talks may not always be funny, or they may be about something you have heard before. But when we listen with “The Attitude of Listening to Buddha Dharma” in our minds, we are able to hear and receive the messages with a fresh heart.

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### Buddhist Churches of Canada

#### **LIVING IN GRATITUDE**

(entry on website’s menu)

[Excerpt from:]

#### **An Entrusting Heart is a Source of Our Strength**

Thoughts on the 110th Anniversary of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada

The popularity of Buddhism is growing. The Buddhist group or kyodan of Jodo Shinshu in Canada, however, is rapidly declining in the number of members across Canada. Some leaders worry about the finances of the kyodan. Some people, on the other hand, quote the following words of Master Rennyo (1415-1499):

*“The flourish of Buddhist organization is not determined by the number of followers but it is determined by the addition of even one who has acquired entrusting heart-shijin.”*

It is true to say that in a religious organization, quality is more important than quantity. But what would happen if we lost quality as well as quantity of the kyodan?

“Enthusiasm” and “Entrusting heart” naturally strengthen our kyodan no matter what kind of hardships we face.

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## February Dharma Message from Rev. Ai Hironaka

Winter break is over, and it does already start the new year 2016. How was your year-end season? After Shogatsu new year days, I would feel emptiness since I was small child. Because it was always lots of fun. Good special TV shows, exciting sports games, we don't have to go to bed at regular bed time, and we can eat bountiful meal. From now, we need to count days until next year end season.

When my oldest daughter went to Japan, the three other children's average age became younger, so I felt like a younger parent. One day, my wife said to our children "Today, you can buy your favorite ice cream at Food Land!!" Children were so excited, because whenever we buy ice cream, children take turns to choose what they like to buy. So, always only one can be happy and other ones have to be patient until next time. "Heii, last time was Minori!! Minori again today?" said Ayumu. "No no, next time would be your turn" we responded. "I like to have Chocolate ones!!" Hoken said. "No, think about small one's wish too" we answered. "OK, I want this!!" Minori decided. "Oh, it is not on sale, this is over 9 dollars! how about this one! It looks tasty though!! Oh, it is only 3 inside, let's get another one!!" parents guide her to cheaper ones place. It is hard to manage sometimes. We have to make sure to say that next time would be your turn then most of time the argument may be over.

At this time, Ayumu got her favorite ice cream called "Melona" which has 8 pieces. She shared with others and everyone was happy. But it took only a couple of days to eat whole Melona. When she ate last piece, she took long time and ate importantly. After eating, she said "Please buy that for me again!!"

During meal time, our children become little different how they eat. Ayumu, she likes to talk so she ends up always last. Kokoro, she is older and becoming better but her left hand always on her legs. Hoken, I look at his plate and ask "Oh, you don't like that?" He answers "Oh, this is my favorite so I want to eat it later." So Hoken's style is eat what he likes later. It is same like me. Minori, she desperately bites what she likes to eat first. Then when she is full with her favorite foods, "Papa,, I am full, my stomach so sore, can I say Gochiso-sama and finish my dinner?" She eats her favorite first.

So, in our daily life, similar things occur, but basically there are things that you like and things you don't like. Things that you like, you feel it's fast to disappear. Things you don't like remain there long time. Things you like, we count till it's over or disappears. After favorite things are gone, we feel empty and vain. To me, I count the days until I go to Japan and actually this is happy time and hard to fall asleep. When I reach Japan, it is happiest time. Beginning of the trip is OK I feel I have 10 days more to stay Japan. But around three days before I leave, I begin to feel, I only have two more nights, it's so sad. I calculate how many days are left, count to unhappy date. It is naturally comes up in my mind.

Our life is also somehow counting or calculating all the time. Because human life is limited. Count own life, count your beloved one's life. It brings moment of emptiness. Thinking about things like that brings moments of lament and sorrow.

Here is Shinran Shonin's teachings at very beginning of his Kyogyoshinsho at The True Teaching of the Pure Land Way,

***Reverently contemplating the true essence of the Pure Land way, I see that Amida's directing of virtue to sentient beings has two aspects: the aspect for our going forth to the Pure Land and the aspect for our return to this world. (CWS. P)***

This is essence of our Jodo-Shinshu Teachings. Up until now, we think the framework of understanding of human existence was "beginning from birth and ending at death." However, Amida Buddha's directing of Virtue, Amida's primal vow power breaks our view of life and death, our outlook of life, and gives us brand new meaning and direction of our life. This is the working of directing of Virtue from Amida Buddha. When we entrust, devote ourselves to the dynamic working of going forth and returning to this world, we become the ones who are walking the path to birth in the Pure Land. We transcend the world of death and die in life of Nembutsu. Moreover, the fact of the Death would be acceptable as cause of sacred Enlightenment in the Amida's Pure Land. This means we are saved in Jodo Shinshu. The life of decreasing brings us into the life of increasing, Amida Buddha's working gives us unlimited, infinite perspective for us to embody our own lives.

How about me, to be honest, I don't want to die yet. If I have to die this year, I will die with the mind of "I don't want to die yet, I want to live more." But, please do not feel poor thing. Of course we don't want to die. We are going to die reluctantly. However, we can say we are going to be there -- the true and real place, the world of Nirvana, perfect land of peace.

We saw many sad moments of death of our beloved ones. If possible, we don't want to see any death. Because we still need the beloved ones, we don't want to be apart from the beloved ones, and we are forced naturally to face our own death. The dead body becomes mirror of one's own life.

We human beings, we are in the world that is broken into parts. It is hard to understand accurately the reality of our life. Circumstance of rejoicing in my life and despair for ones death will never go away unless we become enlightened ones. However, those who humbly entrust the working of Amida Buddha, humbly just following the Amida's calling voice, although they may be sad and lament about death, they will never fear ones death. Therefore, Shinshu Followers are able to accept the death as sacred, exalted, precious matter in sadness and lament.

Namo Amida Butsu.