

## inside your Jushin

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 Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji  
 45-520 Keaahala Road  
 Kaneohe, HI 96744  
 Tel (808) 247-2661

Resident Minister  
 Rev. Hiroko Maeda  
 Board Chairperson: Mary Matsuda  
 Editor: Jim Dote

Temple email:  
[kaneohe@hhbt-hi.org](mailto:kaneohe@hhbt-hi.org)

Temple website:  
[www.kaneohe.hhbt-hi.org](http://www.kaneohe.hhbt-hi.org)

## A VERY Productive, Gratifying Year

By Mary Matsuda

### MAHALO!

Again, yet another year has passed quickly and we find ourselves at the end of 2014. The Board of Directors and Rev. Hiroko Maeda are wiping their brows as they reflect on the many successful activities of the year.

Our Spring and Autumnal Ohigan services, Obon memorials and the festive Bon Dance, the annual plant sale, and the most recent 50th commemoration of the "new" building/90th anniversary of the establishment of the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji and Ho-on-ko services could not have been as successful without your hands, participation, donations, and support. *Doomo Arigato gozaimasu!*

We have moved forward on our Nokotsudo project to assure families that their loved ones will be respected and "safe" while updating the shelves and creating a more meditative room. The temple grounds have been enhanced by iconically tranquil lotus plants and we are moving to complete our relandscaping efforts of planting flowers and greens around the parking lot.

The temple has been termite tented, the Sangha room has been repainted and greatly improved, and we continue to work with our tenant for the main hall, Kama'aina Kids, to make sure that the children are safe and comfortable.

To mark such a productive year and in preparation of the coming of the new year, we will have temple cleaning Dec. 21, mochitsuki Dec. 28, and the new year's eve service Dec. 31 at which time we will all literally ring in the new year by striking the temple bell 108 times. And, don't forget, New Year's Day temple service on January 1. We look forward to seeing you!

Let us greet the new year with this deep sense of gratitude and compassion to all beings and the profound teachings of Shinran Shonin who has enabled us to realize this simple truth.

*Thank you for your continued support and let's make 2015 as great and happy as this year was. NAMU AMIDA BUTSU!*

**Chairperson's Message**  
**WHO ARE WE?**

*Ever found yourself cooing to someone you love dearly, "You bring out the best of me." What you probably felt at that time was happiness, warmth, comfort and a sense of gentle gratitude. More importantly, you felt really good about yourself had a wonderful sense of well-being.*

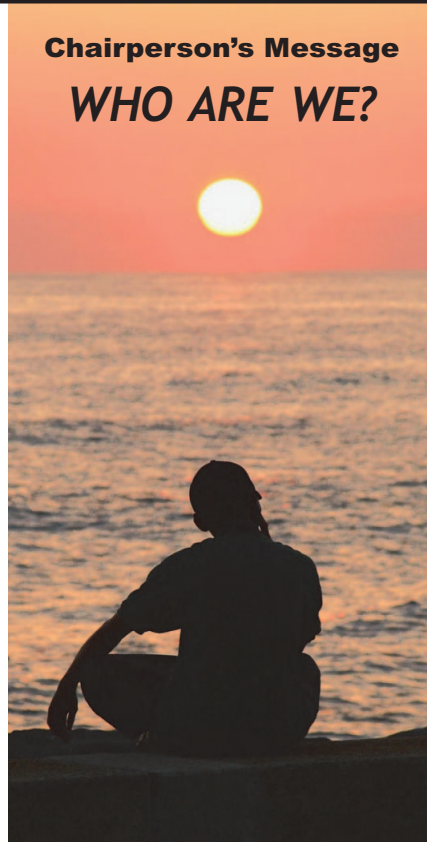
Then, are there times when you've found yourself saying to a person who is a challenge in your life, "Why do you bring out the worst in me?" What you probably felt at that time was tension, perhaps a anger, and frustration.

To boot, you probably did not feel good about yourself!

Now, of the two kinds of people in our lives, who would you prefer to be with? Hmmmm, let's see... Smiles and laughter or scowls and loud words. Sunshine and soft breezes or dark clouds and torrential rain? Loose or tight? Smooth or jagged?

The reality is that although we would like to choose to be happy, relaxed and unstressed all the time we cannot avoid the unpleasant encounters in our lives. Yes, that supermarket clerk could've been a little nicer, my supervisor didn't have to be that critical about my report, that person had no business telling me how I should be a better sister/brother/daughter/wife, etc.

To be totally rid of unpleasant encounters and situations in our lives is not an option but a changed perspective is. If we were to look at the situations described above a



little differently they can be teaching moments and make life so much more tolerable. Say what? Do you suppose that if we see these situations OUTSIDE of ourselves, we may have a different reaction?

Suppose it were possible for you to know that each of the people who made you feel irritated, neglected, victimized were just having a bad day or going through a rough time; that they may have had an argument with their spouse/child that morning, they might have just received an unfavorable performance report, someone in the family was terminally ill, lost their job or in situations you've been in which caused you stress and inattention to others.

At the time that you were going through these rough times, would you have needed the added stress of people complaining about you or giving you disapproving looks? I think not. Wouldn't an empathetic look, an understanding smile, a

touch of the hand, the words, "I understand," have been more appreciated?

To realize that we, too, are prone to bad moods, anger, and insensitivity to others is to understand our humanness. To realize that we, too, are not beyond those exact human frailties which cause misunderstanding and misgivings is to understand the compassion of Amida.

We come back to the basic question, just who are we? PHILOSOPHICALLY, THE CONCEPT OF "SELF" EXISTS ONLY BECAUSE OF ANOTHER PERSON. Let's say that your mother gave birth to you on an isolated island and suddenly died. Without any other sentient being in your life, will you be able to establish an identity as we know it in our world? Will you know whether you are kind or greedy, smart, nice, hateful, funny, warm, angry, or for the sake of discussion, insert any descriptive adjective you can think of. Even more elementarily, will you be able to describe yourself as tall, short, thin, stout, fast, slow, good-looking, light or dark skinned, etc.

***One can only know who they are by knowing who they are not.***

Therefore, those in our lives, no matter who they are, no matter what they say or do, are giving us constant insights to our true nature and being. How grateful we are to have such wonderful teachers in every encounter we have daily.

NamuAmidaButsu

*Mary Matsuda*  
Mary Matsuda

## the bright light of the Buddha's compassion



I would like to express my appreciation to

friends and members who joined us and participated in the combined Ho-on-ko service with Kaneohe Higashi's 90th anniversary on October 26. I was very honored to be able to observe the special celebration with our Kaneohe Sangha.

Every day, I look at the beautiful Koolau Mountains and think that this same view must have been seen by the ministers and members of the temple for more than 90 years. The Koolau Mountains have been there all the time watching over the Sangha through times of joy, sorrow, hellos, and goodbyes.

Since I was assigned here as the resident minister in 2012, my days have been spent collecting and spinning precious memories of the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji. The temple members, volunteers, and many friends - and the family members that I see at memorial services - have shared their rich memories of the temple with me. The memories of the people keep the history of the temple alive. And this continuous history is the Life of the Sangha.

I am sure that the Nembutsu we call out in gratitude today is the same Nembutsu said by the people who have gone before us. Because of many Sangha members' immense efforts and support, the teaching of Namu Amida Butsu is alive in Kaneohe.

Thus, we have a wonderful temple where we can listen to the teachings and share with others.

It is my hope that we can and will continue this temple of

teachings of Buddha-Dharma for the next generations into the future.

There is a Buddhist saying, "As the light of a small candle will spread from one to another in succession, so the light of Buddha's compassion will pass on from one mind to another endlessly." The Light of the Buddha-Dharma never goes out.

Most of all, I would like to express my deep appreciation to each of you who have supported the temple. It is because of you that we were able to conduct the combined Ho-on-ko and Anniversary service successfully. Moreover, I really appreciate all the people who led and organized our meaningful service and the joyful luncheon for all.

We soon will be ending this year and welcoming the New Year. As I reflect upon this year, I have unexpectedly experienced many happy, joyful, painful, and heartbreaking events. Many people who were involved in my life, and each moment therein, helped to cultivate who I am now. I am very grateful for all the dharma teachers and friends who encourage and accompany me on my path.

I hope everyone will have a quiet opportunity to thoughtfully reflect upon this year and prepare to eagerly welcome the New Year. Together let us continue to call out the Nembutsu as one Kaneohe Sangha - the past, present and future Sangha - to keep the bright light of the Buddha's compassion passing from one to another, endlessly.

In gassho, Hiroko Maeda



Portrait by Mike Takashita

## Combined 90th Anniversary and Ho-on-ko Service a “Lifetime” Event

This year, 2014, the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji observes its 90th Anniversary, another landmark, through the help and support of many generations from Kaneohe, Hawaii, and Japan. On October 26th, Reverend Hiroko Maeda presided over this momentous occasion by combining the 2014 Ho-on-ko Service. We are

deeply appreciative that all ministers of the Higashi Hawaii District and Bishop Ken Kawawata participated. Special guest speaker was Reverend Shigenori Makino from the Honpa Hongwanji. Kaneohe member Tokie Yoneshige said, “I reflected on our temple’s 90 years. Oh, life is very different now - but the Buddhism

message is still the same, maybe more important today.” Member Roy Kodani said, “...I felt a sense of *Okagesama de*. The spiritual foundation of the Kaneohe Higashi remains solid and unshakable...”

About 70 persons attended the service and many stayed for a luncheon and music program.

### what's coming up

#### Dec. 28 Mochi Making!



Please join us to make your own New Year's mochi on Sunday December 28, after our 9 am temple service!!!

We will be using mochi machines so it's critical to follow these steps:

- \* Rinse & soak mochi rice from Friday night.
- \* Bring your own potato starch, pans, trays, wax paper, koshian, (other fillings like jams) ziplock bags, trays to hold mochi.
- \* Bring your own sack lunch for that afternoon.

#### NEW - January 7 Join “the Circle”

Please join Rev. Hiroko Maeda at the temple every first Wednesday at 10:30 am for a new reading group.

We will read a modern Buddhist book together and share the Buddhist seeker's insights applied to on our own lives. Each person takes a turn to read a paragraph or passage. If people wish to share their thoughts after reading, we will encourage open discussion, too.

## Memorial Dates for Loved Ones

We are asked often by family members about when to hold memorial services for loved ones. For 2015, we observe memorial services for loved ones who passed away in the years shown below. Please call Rev. Hiroko Maeda for more information and to schedule a memorial service at the temple, or, if more convenient for you, in your home. Let us gather all family members and friends together to listen to the Dharma.

### Anniversary Memorial Services For 2015

Year .....	When Passed Away
1st Year Mem. Svc. ....	Person passed away in 2014
3rd Year Mem. Svc. ....	Person passed away in 2013
7th Year Mem. Svc. ....	Person passed away in 2009
13th Year Mem. Svc. ....	Person passed away in 2003
17th Year Mem. Svc. ....	Person passed away in 1999
25th Year Mem. Svc. ....	Person passed away in 1991
33rd Year Mem. Svc. ....	Person passed away in 1983
50th Year Mem. Svc. ....	Person passed away in 1966

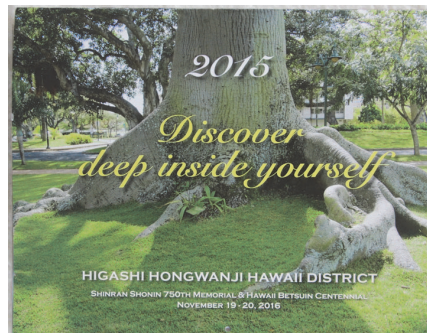
## Great 2015 Hawaii Higashi Calendars Here!

We are pleased to announce that the 2015 Hawaii District Higashi Hongwanji calendars are now available at the Kaneohe Higashi temple. We recently mailed out 200 calendars to previous calendar purchasers and we have a few calendars (with mailing envelopes) if you wish to pick one up for yourself, relatives or friends. Please phone us at 247-2661 for information.

The full-color calendar features an innovative and traditional format. “How innovative?” you ask.

You’ll notice that each month we pose questions that will help you look deeper within yourself. It is hoped your answers will be shared with family, friends, and others to give all of us a better understanding of ourselves, as well as each other.

Another innovation is to share your thoughts or answers with our wider Buddhist community. Please feel free to post your answers and comments on a special web page at the Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District’s brand new website, at



[www.hhbt-hi.org](http://www.hhbt-hi.org) starting January 1, 2015. While posts may be monitored for content, we hope you will feel inspired to join in the conversation and share your thoughts, as the use of your name will be entirely optional.

Informative features added this year are short descriptions of temple services and a list of Jodo Shinshu Buddhist terms written in plain English.

We hope you will use the beautiful 2015 calendar to keep aware of key events at the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji and all the Higashi temples in Hawaii.

## Please Become A Member or Please Renew

The Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji is inviting you to join our Gojikai as a 2015 member by signing up now. Membership is open and dues paid will be effective for the calendar year beginning January 1 through December 31, 2015.

The annual dues of \$60 per year help offset religious programs, the printing/mailing of this Jushin newsletter, and temple operations. Being a member also enables you to run for a Board of Directors position, and vote in the 2015 Board of Directors election at the annual meeting on January 25, 2015.

If you are already a member, you may renew now by mailing your annual Gojikai Membership Dues for 2015 (\$60.00 for the 2015 year). Please write your check to Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji and be sure to jot down “2015 Gojikai” on the memo/note blank line, bottom left corner on your check. We will mail a receipt to you.

## Holo-Holo Sunday was a “Good Fun Day” for Sangha

### -- Be Sure to Join the Next One

The Sunday was beautiful and perfect for our first Holo Holo Sunday outing. But, where to explore?

Ahoy, mateys! The aimless Kaneohe pirates assembled under Admiral Liane and quickly decided to sail afloat, a fleet of two cars, to a faraway shore – Betsuin’s Bazaar Sale – then drop anchor for a leisurely grub lunch at the new uncharted Liliha Bakery (Nimitz Hwy.) after they filled their bounties with Betsuin gold and treasures.

Shiver their timbers, the six brave pirates, Admiral Liane Briggs with

first-mates Paul Briggs and Rev. Hiroko Maeda steering, gunners Eleanor Tokunaga, and Gladys Sakata, with Mike Takashita as canonier.

Yo, the Kaneohe pirates had a great adventure digging for treasures. Awash with delicious grub and grog, our happy pirates finally cast afloat for homeport.



*Disclaimer: Our temple always advocates safe and responsible driving and never allows pirates, stick figures or real people to poke their heads or hands out of a moving vehicle. We do not “pack” the car and we don’t do “wheelies.” This is an illustration only – of the fun you can have when you join the next Holo Holo event in February – not of actual driving conditions.”*

*Photos by Mike Takashita, art by Jim Dote*

From  
Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji  
Kaneohe, Hawaii

to: Berkeley Higashi Honganji

ありがとう



Berkeley Higashi welcomed Hawaii! BHH Rev. Ken Yamada, at right.

“Hawaiians,” joined by San Franciscans, visited the peaceful Berkeley Higashi Honwanji (BHH) on September 21 during its Ohigan. But Rev. Ken Yamada’s Berkeley Higashi ninjas were ready and showed them an “awesome” time!

The inter-temple visit to Berkeley Higashi enabled seven members from Kaneohe Higashi, one from the Hawaii Betsuin, and three living in San Francisco to learn about the BHH religious programs, adult and youth programs, and its history.

Rev. Hiroko Maeda, Paul and Liane Briggs, Roy and Mary Matsuda, Gladys Sakata, and Eleanor Tokunaga from Kaneohe Higashi, was joined by Joyce Masaki from the Hawaii Betsuin.

The group landed in San Francisco and were met by area residents Glen and Reiko Hatakeyama, and

Donna Okazaki.

When asked about their impressions of their visit to Berkeley Higashi Honganji after they returned, the travelers said, “Three of the Dharma school students were sitting in seiza and chanting the Tanbutsu-ge with Rev. Ken! The chanting with children was my great impression of the temple :)”

Said another, “The best descriptive word I can use of my impression of the day at BHH is ‘awesome!’ As a person interested in gardens and as a volunteer gardener at Betsuin, the first sight of the temple with its landscape in the front was awesome. Then, meeting the members was awesome as I learned many (travel) some distance to be with the Sangha. It was awesome to see the members of all ages and to know how vibrant BHH is.”

A third visitor commented, “I was impressed (by) the membership (on) the West Coast... The mainland membership tells us that many issei and sansei are reconnecting with their past, their parents’ beliefs and heritage, finding comfort in the teachings, and its relativity in their current modern lives.”

A Kaneohe member said that music from Broadway musicals, and Tony Bennett, Mr. San Francisco, “kept ringing in my head. ‘Grant Avenue’ from Flower Drum Song, and ...South Pacific’s ‘Happy Talk,’ with the Berkeley folks. It’s difficult to isolate my favorite moments. We were treated royally and fed well...

“We had a tour of San Francisco led by Glen Hatakeyama, Mary’s brother-in-law, and by our own Paul Briggs. Transportation by BART to the Berkeley temple was a new experience. Jane Yamamoto drove Joyce and I to the Berkeley Gardens, on scenic routes, and to the dinner site. Berkeley Higashi Honganji members really put out for us. So nice to meet (longtime) friends like Bishop Akinori Imai, Eiko Iwata, and people who came to our (2010) Dobo, and new friends.”

A fifth traveler said, “Our friends at Berkeley Higashi Honganji were truly amazing! From the months of planning through the day of our visit, the Berkeley members were gracious and wonderful hosts. They saw to every detail of our visit. Rev. Ken Yamada and the members told us about the history of the temple and their many activities, but the experience was more memorable because we were present with them and chanting together.

Mahalo nui loa!”

By all measures, the visitation planned by Liane Briggs and BHH’s Tom Morioka was truly an awesome learning and sharing success!



Photo by Mike Takashita

**Singing Hawai'i Aloha at the conclusion of the 90th Anniversary - Ho-on-ko Luncheon**

**Thoughts of Our 90th Anniversary –** *As for the 90th Anniversary, I felt a sense of Okagesama de. Because of the sacrifices and dedication of the temple founders, we have progressed to where we are today. The spiritual foundation of the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji remains solid and unshakable because of the continued outstanding leadership of all the ministers and the support of its members. I am optimistic for the future of the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji as the teachings of the abbots and elders, past and present, guide us in our current chaotic world.* **Kyodan Member Roy Kodani**

**Temple Service & Activities Calendar**

**December 2014**

12/1	Mon.	6-7pm	Ukulele Stars
12/6	Sat	8:30am	Flower Arranging
		1pm	Goenki Kick Off, Betsuin
12/7	Sun	9am	No service Kaneohe Bodhi Day, Hawaii Buddhist Council, Nichiren Temple
12/10	Wed	6:30pm	KHH Board Meeting
12/13	Sat	8:30am	Flower Arranging
12/14	Sun	9am	Kaneohe Bodhi Day Service, Rev. Frank Childs, followed by discussion group
12/15	Mon	6-7pm	Ukulele Stars
12/20	Sat	8:30am	Flower Arranging
12/21	Sun	9am	Annual Temple Cleaning Up (help needed, physical labor, this is not omigaki)
12/27	Sat	8:30am	Flower Arranging
		noon	Ehime Maru Cleaning with Betsuin, at Kakaako Park
12/28	Sun	9am	Sunday Service
	Sun	10am	Mochi Making – Kaneohe Higashi
12/31	Wed	5pm	Year-End Service, Bell Ringing

**January 2015**

1/1	Thur	9am	New Year Service
1/3	Sat	8:30am	Flower Arranging
1/4	Sun	9am	New Year Family Day Service
1/5	Mon	6-7pm	Ukulele Stars
1/7	Wed	10:30am	Readers Circle (New, see article)
1/10	Sat	8:30am	Flower Arranging
1/11	Sun	9am	Sunday Service
1/17	Sat	8:30am	Flower Arranging
1/18	Sun	9am	Sunday Service
1/19	Mon	6-7pm	Ukulele Stars
1/20	Tue	7-8:30p	Okon Night Kaneohe
1/24	Sat	8:30am	Flower Arranging
1/25	Sun	10am	Sunday Service
1/25	Sun	11am	Annual Membership Meeting, and Board Election
1/31	Sat	8:30am	Flower Arranging

**Editor's note about our calendar:** Because the Jushin is published every other month, events and dates appearing on our 2-month calendar may change or might not be ready in time for our printing deadline. We have a good website and you should check there for current information or you may telephone our temple at 247-2661. Or email/check our web below.

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