



Photo by Mike Takashita

Let's transmit the teachings and discover the true aspiration within us in 2015.

New Year Greetings

Thank you very much for those of you who have supported the temple in 2014. Because of your continuous generous support in past years, we are welcoming a new year again. I hope that this year will be a peaceful and meaningful year for all of us.

In October of last year, we celebrated our temple's 90th anniversary, and I was honored to be able to witness the significant service with temple's members and volunteers. It's been a long time since our predecessors started gathering to listen to the Buddha-dharma and finally in 1964 after WWII, the current temple was built by their hands in Kaneohe. As I imagine their hard work and what they have accomplished, it reminds me about Shinran Shonin's word, Jushin, "Planting our minds in the Buddha-ground of Universal Vow, let us assimilate our thoughts into the inconceivable Dharma-Ocean."



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It must have been their devout wishes that encouraged establishing a special place of listening to Buddha-dharma in their lifetime, and they could live through their severe farming lives. Needless to say, their devout wishes are surely here with us and keep inspiring us in our everyday life.

I hope that each of us earnestly live our lives reflected by the teachings of Namu Amida Butsu through 2015 and discover the true aspiration within us.

In Gassho
 Hiroko Maeda

inside your Jushin

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**Bishop Koi Sato'o
Chief Administrator,
Shinshu Otani-ha
Higashi Honganji,
Kyoto, Japan**

I wish all of you in the South America, Hawaii, and North America overseas districts a happy new year. I also wish to express my deepest appreciation for the wholehearted support you continue to give to our Sangha.

In many parts of today's world, there seems to be no end to horrible tragedies, such as the chaotic situation in the Middle East and the outbreaks of conflicts in many other regions. It may not be an overstatement to say that the history of human beings is none other than the history of conflict.

In the face of such challenging situations, each of us, as followers of the Buddha's teaching, as one who lives according to the teachings of Jodo Shinshu, now have to reevaluate how we have lived, and must take on the responsibility to engage in our organization's mission by transmitting the teaching effectively and expressing it by our actions.

It is for that reason that I proposed the theme of "transmitting," which means to carry on the tradition and to hand over the teaching, as the focus of our administrative



duties in the message I gave at the beginning of last year.

Looking back on the last year's activities, I realize how difficult it is to "transmit" those teachings in today's world. However, I have become all the more motivated to take on the task of "transmitting."



In order to realize the idea of "transmitting," in keeping with the realities of society today, I will promote ties and exchanges among people based on the teaching of Shinshu and the spirit of fellow followers this year.

Last April, the Rev. Choyu Otani, a *Kagiyaku* (a family member of the Abbot entrusted with the key to the image of Shinran's image) and Overseas District Abbot, was formally nominated to become the successor to the Abbot.

This is an excellent opportunity for us to reconfirm the fundamental principle of the Shinshu Otani-ha Constitution which designates the *Shinshu Honbyo* (*Honzan* - the spiritual focus of our denomination) as the center of our entire organization. At the same time, I sincerely hope that the appointment of Rev. Otani, who has been listening to the teaching together with members of the overseas Sanghas, will develop a deeper relationship among members in overseas districts and those in Japan. It is our administration's hope that all of us this year will find ourselves illuminated by the teaching and deepen our relationship as "Dobo," fellow followers, not restricted at all by national, linguistic, nor cultural boundaries that might otherwise divide us.

In closing, I wish to ask for your support and cooperation in this endeavor

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

With appreciation for this opportunity, I extend my New Year Greetings with all of our Dharma friends who reside in our three overseas districts. I am so happy to be able to welcome in the New Year together with all of you who continue on an everyday basis to listen to the Buddhadharma.

In April of last year, it was formally announced that I have been selected to be the successor to the position of Abbot of our denomination.

I humbly accepted the appointment from the Honzan. I am, however, aware of the weight of that responsibility.

Up until this point in my life, I was raised in Brazil, a country where customs and culture are so different from Japan. To be honest, therefore, I face some anxiety as to whether I will be able to take on such an important role.

However, it is precisely because of that fact that I wish to spend this year to verify with my entire being the truth that the Shinshu teaching is truly a great and universal path that can bring serve to bring true meaning to the lives of all people regardless of differences in ethnicity and lifestyles.

What is important is that each and every one of us, regardless of whether we are inside or outside of Japan, continue our efforts to listen to the Buddhadharma and awaken to the depth of our lives. With wishes that we go forward on the path to confirm the deep ties that we have to all of life, I offer my best wishes for a wonderful year.

As we welcome in the year 2015, I ask for your continued support and guidance.

Gassho, Choyu Otani
Overseas District Abbot



SAVE THE DATE - NOVEMBER 19-20, 2016

What: Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial and Hawaii Betsuin Centennial Celebration
When: November 19-20, 2016
Who: All members and friends of Higashi temples in Hawaii
Theme: "Awakening to Your Deepest Wish"
Details to follow as they become available.

Express Your Deepest Wish in the '16 Calendar

Work is starting on the 2016 Higashi Hongwanji District Calendar. The theme is "Awakening to Your Deepest Wish." Rev. Marcos Sawada is seeking personal quotes and matching photos for the 2016 District calendar. Please email your quote (include name and temple affiliation) and photo to Hilo Higashi Hongwanji: goenki2016@gmail.com. Deadline for submission is June 30, 2015. Questions? Contact Rev. Marcos Sawada @ 935-8968.

the other shore
**Spring Ohigan
Service
March 1**



*You are invited to attend the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji's
Spring Ohigan Services March 1, 2015 - 9 am
Special Guest Speaker - Reverend and Dr. Bert Sumikawa*

What is Ohigan?

Higan-e Services are observed twice a year during the spring and autumn equinoxes. "Higan" literally means "the other shore," the world of Enlightenment, namely the Pure Land, while our daily world is called "this shore." Higan is the abbreviation of "to-higan" which means "reaching the other shore." This period gives us a good opportunity to reflect on the Dharma, which can lead us from "this shore" of our world to "the other shore" of Buddha's Enlightenment. (Courtesy Higashi Honganji, Kyoto)

**Biographical Sketch of Ohigan Guest Speaker
Reverend and Dr. Bert Sumikawa**

Moilili Hongwanji Reverend Bert Sumikawa was born in Pearl City and raised in Kailua from the 5th grade. He was graduated from Iolani School and attended Marquette University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology with a minor in Philosophy and Theology. Sumikawa was graduated with a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree from Marquette University. As a practicing pediatric dentist with offices in Honolulu and Kauai, Dr. Sumikawa became interested in Buddhism and began



Photo courtesy of the Pediatric Dental Group

to study in earnest and received his Tokudo and Kyoshi certification. Dr. Sumikawa is the minister at Moilili Hongwanji while serving as overseeing minister of the Kapolei Buddhist Sangha. He works with his two sons all of whom are also pediatric dentists.

HAPPY 102ND BIRTHDAY HARRY SAKAGUCHI-SAN!



Best Wishes for a Happy Birthday go to former temple member, hard-working volunteer, skilled finish carpenter, and yagura daiku-san for decades, Harry Sakaguchi! Harry hand-built our temple's beautiful two podiums and two offertory carts with osenko tables, among other items.

Happy Birthday Harry-San!

(Harry is with Mary Matsuda in the photo above)



Inset: Harry is shown repairing our old pew in the center photo (2004). The photo at right shows the offertory cart and osenko table built in 1964, still looking new!



Patrick's photo by Hiroko Maeda

The temple recently welcomed the construction and installation of our new bulletin board built by Patrick Ng, a college student in carpentry. Our old board was eaten by termites and weathered by 50 years of sun. Patrick recycled parts from Harry's 1964 bulletin board, blending our past and present for the future!

what's coming up

The Circle

Wednesdays - Feb 4, Mar 4

Please join our reading circle, called, The Circle. We meet every first Wednesday morning at 10:30. We are reading from the book of essays, "Dharma Breeze," authored by Dr. Nobuo Haneda. (Maida Center of Buddhism)

Omigaki

Sunday, March 22, 9-noon

Omigaki literally means, "to polish." At Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji, we do much more: we care for the temple, we greet new and old friends, and we build deeper relationships. Please join us Sunday, March 22, 2015 for omigaki. The temple will provide lunch.

Annual Plant Sale

Sat., April 25, 9a.m. to 1p.m.

Calling all plant lovers! Would you like to help to make Hawai'i greener? Please consider re-potting your plants and donating them to our Annual Plant Sale. We have many free plastic and cement pots for your plant keiki. Please call the temple office at 247-2661 for info.



Sunday March 8 -

Run for All, Kizuna of Higashi! The Honolulu Rainbow Ekiden (relay race) will be at Kapiolani Park on March 8. Teams, including the

Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii Team, will compete in a relay race (ekiden) where each team member completes the same course (about 3.1 miles) then hands over a sash to

the next member. It starts at 9 am and the festival is an all-day affair. Please come and cheer for the Higashi team!! Our energetic runners are Rev. Bansaka Takafumi, Kevin Kawawata, and Ridge Ishikawa from the Betsuin, who will be joined by Patrick Ng and Rev. Hiroko Maeda from the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji. Gambare!

New Year's 'Ohana Album



TOP left to right: Temple members dined on yummy ozoni soup after our January 1 and January 4 New Year Family Service. Rev. Maeda began the January 4 Family Service by ringing our temple bell. CENTER left to right: Mary Matsuda perfecting her round mochi. Paul Briggs and chef CharlAnn Nakamoto adding peanut butter for their mochi filling. Please join us this December for mochi-tsuki. And for New Year Services.

Jushin 樹心

Volume 5 Issue 2

“ ...each of us, as followers of the Buddha’s teaching, as one who lives according to the teachings of Jodo Shinshu, now have to reevaluate how we have lived, and must take on the responsibility to engage in our organization’s mission by transmitting the teaching effectively and expressing it by our actions. ”

Bishop Koi Sato’o,
Chief Administrator, Shinshu Otani-ha

2015 Annual Meeting Results

The Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji held its General Membership Meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2015, as prescribed by its current Bylaws and required by law. Quorum was present and business was conducted. The finances and key projects were discussed. Much progress was noted due to the spirited cadre of volunteers who planned and completed many projects. Bishop Ken Kawawata observed the annual meeting.

2015 Elected Board of Directors

The general membership elected the following to the 2015 Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Board of Directors: Liane Briggs, Walter Herring, Tamara Iida, Mary Matsuda, CharlAnn Nakamoto, Julian Ng, Susan Ng and Stanley Sato. A familiar volunteer at the temple, Dennis Kajiura, volunteered to be on the Board in 2015. The quorum approved the directors. The Board will select officers at the February 11th board meeting.

Temple Service & Activities Calendar

February 2015

2/1 Sun 9am Sunday Service
 2/2 Mon 6-6:30p Ukulele Stars - Beginners
 6:30-7p Ukulele Stars - 2nd Year
 2/4 Wed 10:30am The Circle
 2/7 Sat 8:30am Flower Arranging
 2/8 Sun 9am Sunday Service
 2/11 Wed 6:30pm KHH Board Meeting
 2/14 Sat 8:30am Flower Arranging
 2/15 Sun 9am Sunday Service, Sangha Talk
 followed by discussion group
 2/16 Mon 6-6:30p Ukulele Stars - Beginners
 6:30-7p Ukulele Stars - 2nd Year
 2/17 Tues 7-8:30p Oko Night, at Betsuin
 2/21 Sat 8:30am Flower Arranging
 2/22 Sun 9am Sunday Service
 10:30am Holoholo Sunday



March 2015

2/28 Sat 8:30am Flower Arranging
 3/1 Sun 9am Ohigan Service
 3/2 Mon 6-6:30p Ukulele Stars - Beginners
 6:30-7p Ukulele Stars - 2nd Year
 3/4 Wed 10:30am The Circle
 3/7 Sat 8:30am Flower Arranging
 3/8 Sun 9am No Sunday Service
Rainbow Ekiden Higashi Team
 3/14 Sat 8:30am Flower Arranging
 3/15 Sun 9am Sunday Service
 3/16 Mon 6-6:30p Ukulele Stars - Beginners
 6:30-7p Ukulele Stars - 2nd Year
 3/17 Tue 7-8:30p Oko Night Kaneohe
 3/21 Sat 8:30am Flower Arranging
 3/22 Sun 9am-1pm Short Service then Omigaki
 3/28 Sat 8:30am Flower Arranging
 3/29 Sun 9am Sunday Service, followed by
 Bishop's Sangha Talk

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. Please check our website for current information, email us, or telephone our temple at 247-2661.

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