



inside your Jushin

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December, a busy month!

Sunday 6 @ Honpa Hongwanji
 9 am Bodhi Day Service – HBC

Sunday 13 @ Kaneohe
 9 am Bodhi Day Service and Ihai
 Commemoration Service

Sunday 20
 9 am Sunday Service

Sunday 27
 10 am Short Service
 then Mochi Making

Thursday 31
 5 pm New Year Eve
 Service & ringing
 of our temple
 bell 108 times!



Susumu Okazaki



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 bi-monthly by the
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Guest Minister's Hoonko Message
Retired Bishop Hosen Fukuhara

Dear Members and Friends;

Hello, all members and friends of Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji!

I am so happy to see you all at your Hoonko service after such a long time. I still remember the late Reverend and Mrs. Matsumoto who were always working all around this temple, here and there. They were such hard workers - spiritually and physically - to build this temple.

Today we are observing our Jodo Shinshu founder's memorial service — called Hoonko service — which will be held for three days, or, one week continuously.

Our Founder, Shinran Shonin, passed away on November 28, 1262, at the age of 90 years in Kyoto, Japan. Since his passing, year after year, and generation after generation, numberless devotees of Jodo Shinshu traveled their long way to Kyoto across many provinces and visited Shinran Shonin's grave in Kyoto to express their gratitude and thankfulness to Shinran Shonin.

It must have been risky travel to go to Kyoto centuries ago. They had to walk on the unpaved paths of rice paddy fields in order to reach Kyoto. When I was young I have heard about such travel to Kyoto from my elders.

*“Although we have to depart and go far away,
 we always are able to meet each other
 on the same lotus flower.”* **Honen**

Continued on next page.

Hoonko Message

by Retired Bishop Hosen Fukuhara

Continued from previous page.

How about today in Hawaii? Isn't it very sad and deplorable that very few people gather at Hoonko Service? However, we are here today to hear about Shinran's messages.

When Shinran Shonin was young and was so happy with his great teacher, the Venerable Honen, many scholars living in the south and north of Kyoto were so irritated to see the rise of Pure Land Buddhism. Meanwhile, the Path of Sage teaching was losing ground. They attributed this to the baneful influence of Venerable Genku and wished to have him incriminated without delay. At that time, Shinran said, "I am one, neither a monk nor layman. And for my family name, I have adopted the title, 'Toku' (Bald headed man)."



Rev. Hosen Fukuhara
(file photo)

Shinran went to see Honen to say farewell just one day earlier. It must have been so sad to say farewell to his teacher. He said, "Esha jyori arito kikitsuredo. Kino kyo towa omowazarishiki." (*Modern translation: We meet only to say farewell to one another, which is expected destiny (fate). I did not think it would happen so soon even if we knew it would be our fate.*)

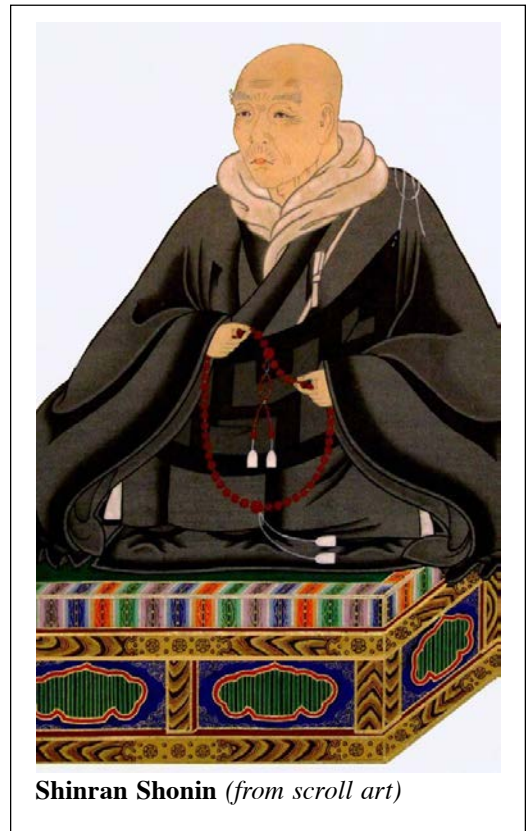
Then, Honen quickly replied to Shinran, "Although we have to depart and go far away, we always are able to meet each other on the same lotus flower."

Shinran must have cherished these words until the end of his life. The lotus flower symbolized the heart of O-Nembutsu, the name of Amida Buddha. The heart of O-Nembutsu is the essence of great salvation and emancipation of all sufferings. It is an essence of Larger Sutra, Meditation Sutra, and Amida Sutra.

Encountering his Great Teacher, the Venerable Honen, was a very rare occurrence. It was like a miracle of how a thread might hang down from the heaven, reach the ground and thread itself through the eye of a needle! It is really a wonderfully rare thing.

We, members of Jodo Shinshu, have listened to the teaching of O-Nembutsu for many years. This is truly like a precious miracle.

Then, because Honen and Shinran were banished from Kyoto, Shinran had to go away to the northern part of Japan — where Niigata, Ibaraki prefectures are today.



Shinran Shonin (*from scroll art*)

Continued on next page.

Hoonko Message

by Ret. Bishop Hosen Fukuhara

Continued from previous page.



Rev. Hosen Fukuhara: Hoonko is perhaps the year's most important service. We gather to pay our respect to the founder of our Jodo Shinshu faith, Shinran Shonin.

“We are so fortunate to hear the teachings of the O-Nembutsu...”

It was a long time ago when I visited Niigata Prefecture along the seashore. However, I still remember the place called Kibu which means the Devils' dancing village. It was so lonesome a place, desolate. After that place, I visited Takata and other towns along Shinran's path. When Shinran visited those lonesome villages over 750 years ago, people must have been so rough and mean. They were just like a Garaku Kyokoku - nothing but fragments of ceramic tiles or something like thorns of the bougainvillea plant.

However, they listened to and accepted the teachings of O-Nembutsu from Shinran and they became like rice plants blowing in harmony with the wind.

If we have never experienced the way of O-Nembutsu, our lives may end up like stone or fragments of the ceramic tiles. However, we are so fortunate to be able to hear the teachings of O-Nembutsu.

With this kind of feeling, I would like to close my Dharma talk. I would like to thank Reverend Hiroko Maeda and Chairperson Mary Matsuda, for inviting me to your Hoonko Service.

Rev. Hosen Fukuhara, Retired Bishop, Hawaii District

Please Attend December 13 Kaneohe Higashi Bodhi Day and Ihai Commemoration Service

A combined 9 AM service on December 13, 2015 will celebrate the Observance of Bodhi Day, the day that the historical Buddha Siddhartha Gautama (Shakyamuni) experienced enlightenment and a service for families who agreed to let the temple commemorate their loved ones' ihai (memorial tablet).

There are about 50 ihai now in our Nokotsudo that will be turned over to the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji. Some ihai have been in our Nokotsudo for decades because families did not know how to properly handle these memorial tablets. Through our joint ceremony we wish to foster mutual support and positive interchange among our ihai families and temple members. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Glad you asked!

Q: Why do Buddhists hold memorial services?

A: By having a memorial service, we have an opportunity to deeply ponder our given life. Each of our lives is connected to all, including people who have predeceased before us. Participating in memorial services are a way to truly respond to the aspiration of our beloved ones. We contemplate the meaning of our lives through the service and shall realize that we cannot exist here today without past lives. It's also a great opportunity to strengthen family fellowship by reflecting on the lives of our loved ones. ❁

reflections of pure hearts

Mary Matsuda, Board Chairperson

As 2015 draws to a close we reflect back to all the good work the members and volunteers have accomplished for the temple.

We constantly mention charity, selfless giving, kindness and gratitude in our conversations and articles, as these are main tenets in Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu.

More and more studies of human behavior have been conducted and conclude that humankind is basically born good, kind and helpful as opposed to bad, mean and selfish. There are numerous books available at bookstores written by philosophers, psychologists and scientists addressing these findings. Although in previous articles written by yours truly regarding how we should strive to be non-judgmental and not label people, I find that I must acknowledge our volunteers and stellar board of directors for what they have provided to enable the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji to share our teachings and thrive.

RELIGIOUS PROGRAMS

- 12 major services (New Year, Obon, Gotanye, Hoonko, etc.)
- Weekly Sunday service
- Temple visits - Palolo Hongwanji, Hawaii Betsuin, and Kailua Hongwanji
- Members attended Buddhist-topic lectures of Rev. Marcos Sawada, Rev. Noriaki Fujimori, Alex Shanklin, Drs. Nobuo Haneda, Jay Sakashita, and

- Michihiro Ama hosted by the Higashi organizations in 2015
- Bi-weekly Buddhist text reading sessions ("The Circle," led by Rev. Maeda)
- Oko sessions, free-flowing evening discussions on Buddhism (co-hosted by Kaneohe and Betsuin 3rd Tuesday of mo.)
- Website and Facebook pages
- Jushin newsletters (print, web and email versions) - six issues

TEMPLE IMPROVEMENTS

- Completion of new Nokotsudo
- Continued improvements to our security system
- Temple grounds improvements including major parking lot repaving, sidewalk and fencing repairs
- Replacement of 50-year-old hondo, Nokotsudo and office windows
- Refurbishment of our five hand-carved Higashi Hongwanji crests
- Refurbishment of our Sangha Room

RESOURCE TO OR IN SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY

- Participation in HMSA's Blue Zones Koolaupoko Project (spirituality and belonging)
- Successful annual plant sale held close to Arbor Day
- Participation in Foodland's Give Aloha donation program
- Monthly ministerial visits to Ann Pearl Rehabilitation and Healthcare and Hale Nani Rehabilitation & Nursing Center



- Fun-filled bon dance lesson for our Kamaaina Kids and parents
- Annual Bon Dance for the entire community drawing about 450 people
- Participation in the Fukushima Kids Project on Kauai

All the above - and more - was done under the leadership of the kind and pure hearts of the board members; Liane Briggs, Walt Herring, Tami Iida, Dennis Kajiura, Rev. Hiroko Maeda, CharlAnn Nakamoto, Julian Ng, Susan Ng, and Stan Sato. Special thanks to dozens of volunteers throughout the year including Paul Briggs, Jim Dote, Sandra Kawate, Gladys Sakata, Jane Sasabuchi, Mike Takashita, Eleanor Tokunaga, and Harriet Yamada.

Namu Amida Butsu

Mary Matsuda



2016 shinnen akemashite, omedeto gozaimasu!

**Members,
friends, and
volunteers of
Kaneohe
Higashi
Hongwanji**

Sunday December 27

**10 am Short Service
then Mochi Making!**

NOTE for Mochi Making:
*Please check our website on
Dec. 15 for important details
on ingredients. Join us to
make unflavored mochi for
your Butsudan and flavored
for your family.*

Temple email:
kaneohe@hhbt-hi.org
Temple website:
www.kaneohe.hhbt-hi.org



Jane Sasabuchi: Fun in making mochi (yummy, too!)

Thursday Dec. 31 5 pm Joya-E (Year-End Service)
followed by Tolling of Temple Bell 108 times!

**Friday January 1 Shusho-E (New Year's Service) and
Sunday January 3 New Year's Family Service - 9 am**
Service followed by simple temple-made ozoni for us
to welcome in the New Year with good health!

Please consult temple's website for updated info!



irasshai!

“ Though I cannot see the light that enfolds me, my eyes being blinded by self-centered desires, the heart of true compassion constantly, endlessly, illuminates and nurtures my body and mind. ”

Shinran Shonin

web edition Temple Service & Activities Calendar web edition

December 2015

5	Sat	8:30am	Altar Flower Arranging
		8:30am	(@Betsuin) Banquet Planning Meeting
		10am	(@Betsuin) Goenki Meeting
		1pm	(@Betsuin) Fukushima Project Meeting
6	Sun	9am	Bodhi Day Service @Honpa Hongwanji (Hawaii Buddhist Council) No Service at Kaneohe Higashi
7	Mon	6pm	Ukulele Stars
11	Fri	6:30pm	Education Committee Mtg
12	Sat	8:30am	Altar Flower Arranging
13	Sun	9am	Bodhi Day and Special Ihai Commemoration Service
15	Tue	7-8:30	Oko Night (@Betsuin)
16	Wed	10:30	“The Circle” (Dharma Breeze readings)
		6:30pm	Board Meeting
19	Sat	8:30am	Altar Flower Arranging
20	Sun	9am	Sunday Service and Bishop Ken Kawawata Sangha Talk
26	Sat	8:30am	Altar Flower Arranging
27	Sun	10am	Short Service, Mochi Making
31	Thur	5pm	Joya-E (Year-End Service) followed by Tolling of Temple Bell 108 Times

January 2016

1	Fri	9am	Shusho-E (New Year’s Day Service)
2	Sat	8:30am	Altar Flower Arranging
3	Sun	9am	New Year Family Service
6	Wed	10:30am	“The Circle” (Dharma Breeze readings)
9	Sat	8:30am	Altar Flower Arranging
10	Sun	9am	Sunday Service
16	Sat	8:30am	Altar Flower Arranging
17	Sun	9am	Sunday Service
18	Mon	6am	Ukulele Class
19	Tue	7-8:30	Oko Night @ Kaneohe
20	Wed	10:30am	“The Circle” (Dharma Breeze readings)
23	Sat	8:30am	Altar Flower Arranging
		10-12	Da Plant Hui Meeting
24	Sun	9am	General Membership Meeting, Election
		10am	Sunday Service
		11am	New Year’s Party
30	Sat	8:30am	Altar Flower Arranging
31	Sun	9am	Sunday Service, Sangha Talk

Editor’s note about our calendar: Because the Jushin is printed every 2 months, events and dates appearing on our calendar might not be ready in time for our printing deadline or may change. Please check our website for current information, or telephone our temple at 247-2661. Mahalo