

web edition

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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: Walt Herring
Editor: Jim Dote

Temple email:
kaneohe@hhbt-hi.org

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

Message for Our New Year

Thank you very much to those of you who have supported the temple in 2015. Because of your continuous 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.

As I reflect upon last year, I remember that I have experienced many happy and joyful as well as painful and heartbreaking moments. Each moment shook my mind and heart, and in my times of sadness, my feelings were beyond expression. Meanwhile during my ordinary days, an invisible chain of sadness, fear, and hatred gradually is felt by us all when we hear the world's news. And I wonder why some things happen and what the complex world is looking for. In the midst of this, I hear a deep voice of a Shin Shu predecessor reminding me how important it is that I engage myself in the world around us.

"I must struggle more. A variety of human problems is approaching us with pressure. I cannot just escape into my faith which fills me with cheap joy and relief. Rather, it's the Jodo Shinshu that breaks through my tiny faith."

Rev. Rijin Yasuda

In the long history of human nature, there are uncountable Bodhisattvas who struggled and searched for the true meaning of peace. They never turned away from human darkness, and they saw the White Path in the middle of the rivers of fire and water.

Let us all continue to listen earnestly to the Buddhadharma in our everyday life and awaken to the deep aspiration of the Buddha(s). Namu Amida Butsu.

- Gassho, Hiroko Maeda

2016 General Meeting and Board Election

At 9:15 am, Sunday, January 23, 2016, the 2016 General Meeting of the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji was called to order by President Hiroko Maeda. A quorum of members was present and the business meeting was presided over by Chairperson Mary Matsuda.

Chair Matsuda discussed projects and accomplishments under old and new business. She thanked Gladys Sakata, Harriet Yamada and Mike Takashita for their volunteerism, as well as Rev. Maeda and the 2015 board for a truly outstanding year.

Treasurer Liane Briggs presented a summary of the Mission's finances, income and expenditures.

Chair Matsuda sought volunteers among gojikai members to serve on the 2016 board to help guide the

temple as well as to oversee the mission's fiduciary responsibilities.

There being no new volunteers, the Chair informed the general membership that the 2016 board will thus be composed of seven positions plus the resident minister as President.

Seven of the nine 2015 board members agreed to serve in 2016. They are; Liane Briggs, Walt Herring, Dennis Kajioka, Mary Matsuda, CharlAnn Nakamoto, Julian Ng and Stan Sato. The members present voted unanimously in favor of the nominees.

There being no further business, the general meeting was adjourned at 9:53 am. Regular Sunday service was held and was followed by a New Year's luncheon in the Sangha Room.

Plant Sale Coming

Got plants?
Annual Plant
Sale Saturday
April 30
9 a.m. to
1:00 p.m.



Calling all plant lovers!

Would you like to help to make Hawaii greener? Please consider re-potting your beloved plants and donating them to Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji's Annual Plant Sale.

We hold our Plant Sale in conjunction with Earth Day to remind us all about how precious the land and flora are. Mahalo for your time and passion for plants!

Get Out Your Running Shoes and Bullhorns to Support Our Fearsome? Fearless? Ekiden Runners

Okay Higashi-ans, an exciting day is coming up! Our fearless Higashi runners will be participating in the Honolulu Rainbow *Ekiden* (relay) Race!

This is our second *Ekiden* and we have two spirited teams this year running to strengthen the *Kizuna* of Higashi Hongwanji. (*Kizuna* can be translated to bonds of friendship.) The two teams will run on Sunday, March 13, from 9 am, at Kapiolani Park. Runners run the same 3-mile course then hand the sash to the next teammate.

The event is from 9 am to noon. We'll set up a base canopy for the teams and supporters. You are invited to come to cheer for our teams and join our picnic.

The *Ekiden* is not a Higashi

Hongwanji event, but it is an activity that Rev. Hiroko Maeda thought would be fun for temple members and friends. She is also using this event to publicize Shinran's 750th memorial and the Betsuin's centennial.

Bright green logo T-shirts for the runners will be screened and will be available for purchase by supporters. Your purchasing a T-shirt by February 6 will help defray participation for our *Ekidan* runners. Sizes: Small, Medium, Large, and X-Large (adult sizes only). There is a sample in Rev. Maeda's office.

T-shirt prices will be determined when all orders are in by February 6. Rev. Maeda is now taking pre-orders. To order yours, please



contact her at 247-2661. For information about the picnic and canopy location please also contact Rev. Maeda or our website.

Team YBA (Young Buddhist Association) Higashi Hongwanji

1. Kevin Kawawata-Betsuin
2. Takuto Nakajima-Palolo
3. Nami Yamanaka-Palolo
4. Hiroko Maeda -Kaneohe
5. Patrick Ng-Kaneohe

Team Higashi Hongwanji

1. Ivan Lui-Palolo
2. Rev. Koen Kikuchi-Betsuin
3. Margaret Hamachi-Betsuin
4. Paul Briggs-Kaneohe
5. Rev. Hidesato Kita-Kantoku-bu

November 5-6 Hawaii District to Hold 750th and 100th Anniversaries

This year, 2016, will be an auspicious year for Hawaii Higashi temples. The Hawaii District will hold the 750th memorial service for our founder, Shinran Shonin, and also celebrate the Hawaii Betsuin's Centennial Celebration on November 5-6. Please mark your calendar to attend. The theme is "Awakening to Your Deepest Wish," the theme adopted for many 2015-16 Hawaii Higashi lectures and dharma talks.

Update information!!

On Saturday evening, the celebration banquet will be held at the Ala Moana Hotel. The committee is planning to feature entertainment and have a very popular, "five dollar market." More information will be forthcoming...stay tuned!

New Speaker For February 6 Hawaii Bishop Ken Kawawata to Speak on "Awakening to Your Deepest Wish"

The Hawaii District Higashi Honwanji invites you to attend the 2016 District Dharma Gathering featuring Bishop Kenjun Kawawata.

Due to a sudden illness, noted lecturer and author Dr. Nobuo Haneda, of Berkeley, California, will not be able to travel to Hawaii for this major gathering.

The theme of the Gathering is "Awakening to Your Deepest Wish." Please contact the Higashi's Hawaii District office if you wish to attend. Lunch will be provided as part of the lecture fee.

All of Hawaii Higashi followers surely join-in to wish Dr. Haneda a speedy and full recovery especially in light of all the bad weather Northern California has experienced these past few months.

District Dharma Gathering

Date:	Saturday, Feb. 6
Time:	10 am - 4 pm
Speaker:	Bishop Kenjun Kawawata
Location:	Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin 1685 Alaneo St. Hon.
Phone:	(808) 531-1231
Fax:	(808) 531-1231
Theme:	"Awakening to Your Deepest Wish"
Fee:	\$10.00 (payable to Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District)

August 27 and 28

12th World Dobo Gathering to be an International Affair

The 12th World Dobo Gathering will be held on August 27 and 28, in Los Angeles, home to the Los Angeles Higashi Hongwanji, which is also the North America Betsuin.

Dobo Theme: Seeking Unity in the Midst of Diversity

Slogan: Learning from the Past – Living in the Present – Envisioning the Future

Participants from Japan, Brazil, Hawaii and various U.S. locations will attend, so please plan ahead to attend this important and exciting world event.

The Hawaii District has two different group travel plans available to attend the gathering. Please visit our website for reservation deadlines and choice of travel

Day 1 - August 27

8:30am	Registration
9:30am	Opening Ceremony
10:30-11:30	Presentation 1
11:30-1:30p	Lunch
1:30-2:30p	Group Discussion
3:00-3:30p	Group Disc. Report
3:30-5:00p	Lecture
5:00-5:30p	Q & A
6:00-9:00p	Welcome Dinner

Day 2 - August 28

8:30-9:30	Morning Service
9:30-10:30	Presentation 2
11:00-12:00	Lunch
12:00-3:00p	Tour to the Japanese American National Museum
3:30pm	Commemorative Photo at Los Angeles Betsuin
4:30-6pm	Shinran Shonin Memo- rial Service and Closing Ceremony at Betsuin

Journey to the Honzan

The Center of Shin Buddhism

“They were all as excited and curious as I about spending three days on the grounds of the Honzan in Kyoto...”

2015 Ho-on-ko and Hoshidan Trip
By Wendy Tachikawa

A belated thank you to the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji congregation and Hiroko Sensei for inviting me to participate in the Hoshidan Tour 2015. The idea of going on a study retreat was initially intimidating to this beginner in the study of Buddhism, but meeting all the other Hawaii people at the airport, and knowing Sensei would be our leader, put me at ease. They were all as excited and as curious as I about spending three days on the grounds of the *Honzan* in Kyoto, and about attending the *Ho-on-ko* Service.

I did my best to stay alert to try to understand the teachings of Shinran Shonin through the excellent lectures and simultaneous translations of the sermons, by the esteemed Rev. Michael Conway, our discussion leader and facilitator. I cannot say that I have understood completely, but I have been made to think about the meaning of the *nembutsu*, *Namu Amida Butsu*, usually translated as “I take refuge in the Buddha” - to take

refuge without emphasis on the self-centered, limited perspective “I” - liberation through Power Beyond Self. If I can realize that any judgment I make is based on my perspective which is limited by my environment, culture, education, the times, then I should gain a broader, less judgmental view of humanity, and an appreciation for the interdependence of all creatures. *Malama honua!* (a translation – to care for our Earth)

The realization of interdependence will lead to practicing great compassion, sorely lacking if we are to believe solely in the headlines and news articles delineating the strife, discord, alienation, disconnect at home and abroad. Looking closer to home, though, I see people practicing great compassion everyday, taking care of their elders, the young, the disenfranchised, each other, and I feel hopeful. It made tremendous sense to me, this making an effort to see other

points-of-view and not being judgmental, and, yet, I need constant reminders. My journey to be more open-minded, less judgmental continues.

Services were held in the Founder’s Hall, an immense wooden structure whose interior was almost as big as a football field, and just as cold on a late November morning.

The chanting, in Japanese, by the priests at the altar and seated amongst us, was incomprehensible to me, but moving in its urgency and conviction. I missed seeing much of the highly anticipated Bando-bushi, a dynamic style of chanting and swaying performed only at the Honzan during Shinran Shonin’s memorial service. I was seated behind some 300 kneeling persons and I could only see the tops of vigorously swaying and bobbing





About the Ho-on-ko and Hoshidan Tour

Contrary to its name, this is not a tour. The Higashi Hongwanji Honzan (main temple) in Kyoto holds week-long Ho-on-ko services each late November to commemorate the passing of Shinran Shonin. On odd-numbered years, the Hawaii District sponsors up to two adult members from each Hawaii temple to attend three days and two nights of special Shin Buddhism lectures and services at the Honzan's International Study Center and dorms. This year Hawaii joined with North America, Brazil and Japan study groups. Along with the intensive study sessions and worship services, all groups performed volunteer kitchen and temple cleaning chores. From the Kaneohe Higashi temple, Wendy Tachikawa and Jim Dote attended the enlightening and rewarding 2015 tour.

Left page: Such a beautiful morning at the Founder's Hall. Wendy Tachikawa gives a "thumbs-up" in the dining hall, and, Margaret Hamachi from the Bet-suin, Wendy, and Rev. Ken Ise listen to a study session. Above, the formal group portrait at the Founder's Hall courtesy of the Higashi Hongwanji photographer. Top right, Rev. Michael Conway leading one of his five discussions. At right is the Hawaii and North America Hoshidan "gardeners" at Shosei-en Garden. Revs. Maeda and Ise are front left and right.



priest heads. What resonates with me is the essence of the chanting - its rhythms, pitches, the unison, the seamless, my lingering curiosity on how long it took to memorize.

I looked forward to meals. With *dashi*, *shoyu*, *mirin*, vinegar, and sugar, culinary magic was cast upon all manner and parts of plant life: fruit, vegetable, fungus, alga, tuber-root, stem and leaf. And, who knew there was more to tofu than 'firm' and 'soft?'

We began and ended meals with short verses of thanks - a brief moment of reflection on our interdependence on people, plants, animals (we had an omelette once), and the elements - for the food before us, and that we consumed. In between *itadakimasu*, and *gochisohsama*, we got to enjoy the fellowship of people in our North and South America, and



Hawaii group, as well as people from all parts of Japan taking part in this *Ho-on-ko* study retreat and *Hoshidan*.

At the end of each day, we ladies soaked in hot water up to our chins at the communal *ofuro* bath, relaxing, talking about the day, trying not to be the first to say, (as we watched each other turn lobster-red) "It's too hot! I'm leaving." From the bath we returned to our room to lay out our *futon*s, there to pass a chilly Kyoto night burrowed under the top *futon*. Early in the morning, awakened by intercom announcements, we quickly folded our *futon*, stored them neatly in the closets, and transformed our bedrooms, once again, into our lecture room - the low tables at which we sat to take notes being pulled out of the corners of the room.

Our group obligation after the *Ho-on-ko* Service was to clean a small area of *Shosei-en* Garden through

special arrangement made by Rev. Ken Ise, *Hoshidan* assistant leader and former Kaneohe Higashi minister. Benevolently armed with Japanese rakes, brooms, and dust-pans, we walked out of the temple grounds to the detached garden several blocks away. Happy to be outside savoring Kyoto, and the crows circling raucously overhead, we were led through the narrow streets, window-shopping and people-watching as we headed to the garden. We were an energetic, cheerful bunch, raking, sweeping, picking up leaves, stopping to marvel at the occasional tree in fall colors, stepping back to gaze at the garden's pond, bridges, a teahouse and serene beauty.

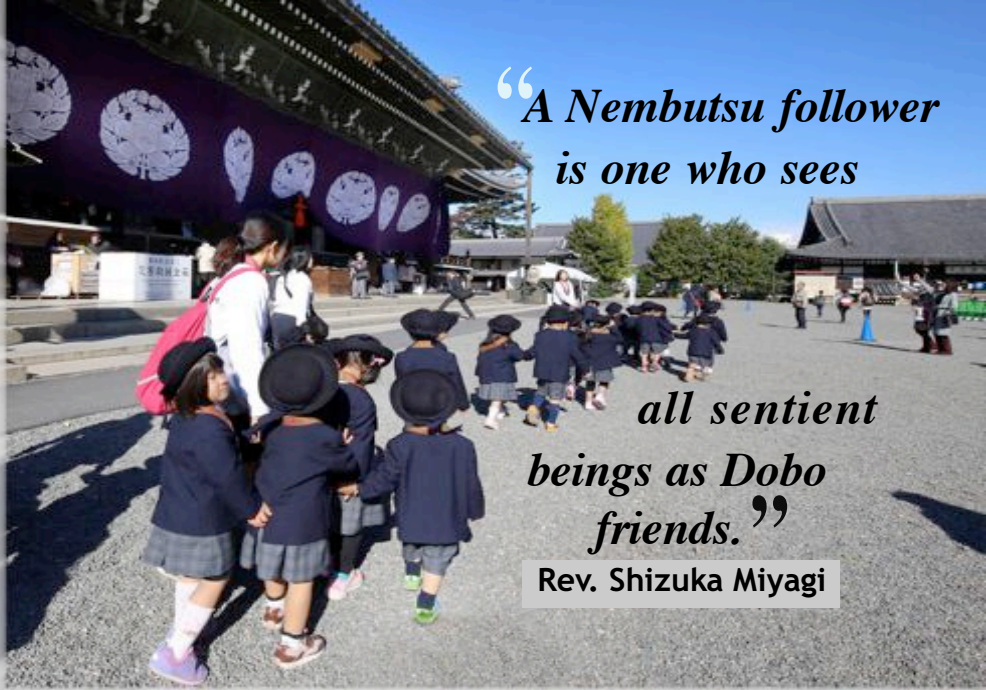
We wanted to see all and remember all, and especially on the last day of the retreat, to hold on to the feeling of camaraderie which grew out of our experiencing temple life together.

Doomo aritagou gozaimashita!

Bodhi Day. Ihai Commemoration. Mochi-Tsuki. Jova-e. New Year Day Service. General Meeting and New Year Party

Busy December & January in Pics
For our little temple, December and January were indeed hectic and memorable months. Our combined Bodhi Day and Ihai Commemoration Service was most touching for families and temple members. Rev. Maeda also gave families a tour of our new Nokotsudo. Soon, we were preparing for the New Year with mochi-tsuki ala four machines and a happy, laughing army of mochi lovers. Our mochi soon transformed into none other than a yummy ozoni with loads of healthy goodies and an early morning toast of sake to begin the new year right! And two days later, we again listened deeply to Rev. Maeda's Dharma Message, enjoyed everyone's company, and shared freshly-prepared ozoni at our New Year's Family Service. On January 24 we held our 2016 General Membership meeting, elected our 2016 Board, and held a happy New Year's gathering complete with fun karaoke and newly-discovered divas. For such a small temple we know how to have fun as we work hard! Join us in 2016!





“A Nembutsu follower
is one who sees

*all sentient
beings as Dobo
friends.”*

Rev. Shizuka Miyagi

“Looking closer to home, though, I see people practicing
great compassion everyday, taking care of their
elders, the young, the disenfranchised, each other,
and I feel hopeful.

Wendy Tachikawa
2015 Higashi Hoshidan Participant

Temple Service & Activities Calendar

February 2016

1	Mon	6pm	Ukulele Stars
3	Wed	10:30am	“The Circle” (Dharma Breeze readings 1 hr.)
6	Sat	8:30am	Altar Flower Arranging
		10a – 4p	District Dharma Gathering @ Betsuin
7	Sun	9am	Sunday Service
13	Sat	8:30am	Altar Flower Arranging
14	Sun	9am	Sunday Service
		11am	Palolo’s New Year Party
15	Mon	10a-12p	da Plant Hui
		6pm	Ukulele Stars
16	Tue	7-8:30p	Oko Night (@ Betsuin)
17	Wed	10:30am	“The Circle” (Dharma Breeze readings 1 hr.)
20	Sat	8:30am	Altar Flower Arranging
21	Sun	9am	Sunday Service and Bishop Ken Kawawata Sangha Talk
27	Sat	8:30am	Altar Flower Arranging
28	Sun	9am	Sunday Service
		11am	Betsuin’s New Year’s Party
		1-3pm	da Plant Hui

March 2016

5	Sat	8:30am	Altar Flower Arranging
6	Sun	9am	Spring Ohigan Service
7	Mon	6pm	Ukulele Stars
12	Sat	8:30am	Altar Flower Arranging
13	Sun	9am	No Sunday Service - Rainbow Ekiden Relay Meet @ our Higashi Kapiolani Park canopy to cheer our 2 relay teams, and enjoy a picnic!
15	Tue	7-8:30p	Oko Night (@ Kaneohe)
16	Wed	10:30am	“The Circle” (1hr Dharma Breeze readings)
		6:30pm	Board Meeting
19	Sat	8:30am	Altar Flower Arranging
20	Sun	9am	Omigaki Cleaning
21	Mon	6pm	Ukulele Stars
26	Sat	8:30am	Altar Flower Arranging
27	Sun	9am	Sunday Service and Sangha Talk
		1-3pm	da Plant Hui

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 phone our temple at 247-2661.