



# Jushin 樹心

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Web Edition



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## Joya-e

(Year-end service)

Temple member  
Gladys Sakata, along  
with others, rang the  
temple bell a total of  
108 times on  
New Year's Eve with  
the backdrop of a  
beautiful sunset.



### inside your Jushin

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## New Year's Greetings from Bishop Hiroshi Tajima, Chief Administrator

I wish to extend my warmest New Year's greetings to all of you in the overseas districts. My name is Hiroshi Tajima and I have been assigned as Chief Administrator of the Shinshu Otani-ha as of the end of last year.

Since we have finished the renovation project of the buildings at the Shinshu Honbyo by observing the Commemoration Service of the Completion of the Renovation in November last year, we must now move ahead towards the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth which will be celebrated together with the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of Jodo Shinshu in 2023.

As the new Chief Administrator, I will carry on the wish of the former Bishop Koi Sato'o, who strongly encouraged us to open up a new horizon for our entire denomination in preparation for those major events.

I realize the huge responsibility I have just assumed. I wish to ask all of you in our overseas districts for your continued support of our denomination.

On the occasion of the New Year, I asked myself, "What is the spirit of the Shinshu Otani-ha?"

My response was that it is the aspiration to create a sangha based on the teaching of the nenbutsu, just as Shinran Shonin expressed in the postscript

of the Kyogyoshinshu, "Those who are born earlier guide the succeeding generations and those who are born later learn from those who precede them."

Right at this moment, there are always intensifying conflicts in areas around the world. Those conflicts are caused by such attitudes as self-justification, and placing blame on others.

As long as our minds are bound by differences in nationality, culture, and religion, those horrible incidents will never subside. Because we live in such a world, it is even more important for us to revive the spirit of the nenbutsu sangha where anyone can live together



**Bishop Hiroshi Tajima**  
Chief Administrator,  
Shinshu Otani-ha  
(Higashi Honganji)

in mutual respect as fellow travelers beyond any boundaries.

I sincerely wish that all of us will deepen our appreciation of each other as members of the sangha walking the broad path to Buddhahood together this year. In closing, I wish to ask for your continued support and cooperation.

Thank you.

## Foreign Abbot Choyu Otani's Greetings

To all of our fellow followers in the overseas districts, I wish you a Happy New Year.

It is with great pleasure that I can share the joy of welcoming the new year together with you as a member of the sangha.

Last year, in comparison to past years, there were more opportunities to listen to the Dharma together with you in the overseas districts. There was the 12th World Dobo Gathering held in the North America District in

the summer, and the 750th Memorial for Shinran Shonin held in the Hawaii District in conjunction with the Hawaii Betsuin Centennial in the fall, in addition to the Ho-onko Services in each district.

I sincerely appreciated those precious opportunities. I especially enjoyed meeting with our fellow followers from all overseas districts at the Gathering in Los Angeles together with many participants from Japan. Those experiences have

deepened my appreciation of how inconceivable the working of the Light of Amida is in uniting us beyond the boundaries of nationality and language.

I have come to feel that it is the responsibility of us Shinshu followers living in this modern society who have fortunately encountered this rare teaching to share the joy of the encounter with people around the world.

I am convinced that only in the sharing of the teaching can we help to



**Choyu Otani**  
Overseas District Abbot,  
Shinshu Otani-ha (Higashi  
Honganji)

find rays of hope amidst the dark clouds of the world we live in.

*Continued on page 3*

## Spring Ohigan Service March 5

You and your family are cordially invited to attend Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji's Spring Ohigan, March 5 at 9 AM. Our special guest speaker is Rev. Clarence Higa who has an interesting background and message.

The Most Reverend Clarence Shinko Higa grew up near downtown Honolulu, attended McKinley High School, Leeward Community College, and the University of Hawaii. He then journeyed to Japan, lived four years as a monk at Shinnoin Temple on Koyasan, Wakayama Prefecture. He is ordained as a Shingon Buddhist Priest and upon



**Rev. Clarence Shinko Higa**

returning to Hawaii, became an associate minister at the Liliha Shingon temple, where he served for over 35 years. During much of that time, he also taught social studies, retiring recently after 30 years as an educator in the public school system. Reverend Higa is presently the resident minister of Seichiji Temple, a small chapel in upper Liliha, servicing a small community of Shingon Buddhists who have separated from the mainstream liturgy of Shingon Buddhism.

*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." Ohigan 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.*

## In Search Of A Primal Need? Just Look To Your Temple



**Bishop Ken Kawawata**

Bishop Ken Kawawata observed Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji's 2017 General Membership Meeting held at 9AM on

January 29. Shortly afterward, he officiated the Sunday Service.

In his dharma message, the Bishop expressed the district's "deep appreciation" for the Kaneohe Higashi, its members, and 'ohana who have supported the Kaneohe temple and also the Hawaii District temples during the past year.

Likewise, our temple has benefited from Bishop Kawawata's support through the years. He has trekked over the Koolau mountains to officiate the last Sunday service of each month, shared insightful dharma messages, and facilitated

dialog sessions.

Moreover, during our temple's current transition between Rev. Hiroko Maeda's return to Kyoto and the arrival of a new minister, he has provided full support as we maintain our mission to members and the community.

Also in his dharma message the Bishop shared the concept that some people possess a primal desire to revisit the home they grew up in, and there they may recall familiar sights and scents that say, "Ahh, *this is my home!*"

He said people also need a primal "spiritual home" in order to live a fuller, more meaningful life. Such a spiritual home could be the temple, "where teaching of the dharma is practiced, where our hearts may go to (in times of strife)." The temple can also be a "physical place where we might take refuge, attain peace and harmony in our mind as we seek truth," the Bishop explained.

## Foreign Abbot Otani's Greetings

*Continued from page 2*

Shandao, one of the Seven Patriarchs, expresses in one of his works as follows: "We vow to give equally to all people around the world, This joy of encountering the teaching, Together to realize our innermost aspiration to become a buddha,

And to awaken to the spirit of the Land of Peace and Happiness created by Amida Buddha.

I conclude my message by expressing my wish that each of us will be awakened to the vow of the Tathagata.

Thank you.

SHINSHU CENTER OF AMERICA (HIGASHI HONGANJI)  
**PUBLIC LECTURE ON SHIN BUDDHISM**



# ***Liberation through Amida's Wisdom***

***Considerations of the Twelve Names in  
Praise of Immeasurable Light***

**Rev. Dr. Michael Conway**  
Lecturer, Otani University, Japan

**Saturday, March 18, 2017, 1:00 pm**

**Free and Open to the Public**

No background in Buddhism is required.  
The Lecture will be followed by a Q&A.

**Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii**

1685 Alaneo Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

**Rev. Dr. Michael Conway**

Rev. Dr. Conway was born in Chicago in 1976. He graduated from Northwestern University with a degree in History in 1997. Soon after, he started attending the Buddhist Temple of Chicago in 1998. In 2003, he entered Otani University's Graduate School in the Shin Buddhist Studies Major. There, he served as Departmental Assistant in Otani University's Department for Shin Buddhist Studies from 2009 to 2011. He completed his Ph.D. in Shin Buddhist Studies in 2011. He served as the Managing Editor of *The Eastern Buddhist* academic journal from 2011 to 2015. He has been a Full Time Lecturer at Otani University since 2015. Rev. Dr. Conway is also an ordained minister of the Shinshū Otani-ha (Higashi Honganji).

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## Chairperson's Notebook

Happy New Year and Aloha,  
Members and 'Ohana:

During 2016, my first year of being the Chairperson of our Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Mission, I have been developing an overwhelming sense of humility and gratitude for the many people in our Sangha – people who come to the temple, who rise to the aid of the temple either by volunteering to repair or improve our 53 year-old structure and grounds, who plan and implement activities, and even the many quiet ones who dutifully keep this humble place beautiful day after day.

I'll be “up-and-up” with you. Even though I have been involved with many temple events and major projects for maybe 15 years and served as the Board's Vice Chairperson for a year, I appreciated the Sangha - *as a member of the Sangha*.

However, when I accepted the responsibility as Chairperson - suddenly I began a deepening appreciation day-by-day for our Sangha who come here *to listen to the Dharma*. I also began feeling the depth of the Jodo Shinshu Higashi sect, the richness of our temple's 90 year history, the Buddhist teachings in our present-day deliberations and activities, and our work to



**Walt Herring**

Attending the 2013 Hoshidan at  
Shinshu Otani-ha (Higashi Hongwanji)  
in Kyoto, Japan (file photo)

shape a lasting legacy for seekers of Buddhism in our community. I realized myself as a bombu (one literal translation: foolish) seeker of the Dharma and the truth.

I have served on several nonprofit boards and I think ours is effective and dedicated. Serving on our Board, I can say that we have an efficient, hands-on Board that truly cares about the temple's long-range.

Also pertaining to board items, I am happy to announce that the Board recommended, and members approved at our January 29th membership meeting, to increase our Board of Directors from seven to eight

voting board members. At this moment we have two vacancies to fill and we will have another vacancy in May. I am inviting and encouraging anyone interested in working together with us as a board member to apply. It's an excellent way to foster, enhance and perpetuate our Jodo Shinshu Dharma.

Let me also say with admiration that our Sangha has been carrying on religious services since mid-December, and, as needed, receives the gracious help of our Hawaii District ministers. Thank you everyone!

This strong need of our Sangha to gather to hear the Dharma traces its roots to the founding of our original temple in the 1920s when Kaneohe Fukyujo - the precursor to the establishment of our temple - did not have a resident minister and the Higashi Betsuin would send a minister over for our service.

How enlightening and rewarding it is for me today to experience our Sangha carrying on. I myself officiated a Sunday Service (my first!) on January 15 as a lay member. I can attest that our Sangha 'Ohana keeps our temple going.

In greeting 2017, let's continue to join together as a Sangha to seek the Dharma.

Gassho,

*Walter J. Herring*

## 2017 Membership Meeting Held

The General Membership Meeting of the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Mission was called to order on Sunday, January 29, 2017. A quorum was present and the meeting was held in the temple's hondo. It was observed by Bishop Kenjun Kawawata of the Hawaii District.

The treasurer's report was read and old and new business items were covered. Walter Herring, 2016 Chairperson, thanked the Board for their service. He also asked the membership to approve the 2016 Board's recommendation to add one seat on the Board making it eight voting seats. This was passed by the membership. Six members of the 2016 Board indicated a willingness to continue serving and were approved by the membership. The 2017 Board



**2017 Voting Board Members Installed** — From left to right: Julian Ng, Liane Briggs, Bishop Kenjun Kawawata (not on the board), Dennis Kajiura, Walter Herring, and Stanley Sato. Not pictured is CharlAnn Nakamoto who was on a business trip.

includes: Liane Briggs, Walter Herring, Dennis Kajiura, CharlAnn Nakamoto, Julian Ng, and Stanley Sato. Bishop Kawawata performed the swearing-in ceremony. However, CharlAnn Nakamoto was not present (returning from a business trip) and will be sworn-in at a later date.

Walt Herring discussed the

temple's 2017 schedule of major activities that appears in this Jushin issue. In reporting to the general membership some of 2016's many activities, he took the opportunity to thank some of the many volunteers. Boy Scout Troop 49, which did a significant beautification and clean-up project, received recognition. Harriet Yamada and Gladys Sakata were thanked for their talents in creating ikebana arrangements weekly for the past 52 weeks. Gladys Sakata was also thanked for temple cleaning and gardening six days weekly. James Dote was recognized for editing the temple newsletter, organizing the bon dance and working on the Nokotsudo project, Susan Ng was lauded for her help in various projects throughout the year, and, Stanley Sato with his kata students were recognized for their help in greatly improving our facilities. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM.

A membership luncheon was held in the Sangha Room for about 40 guests. Entertainment was provided by duo Domenic Carlos (guitar) and Amy Yamashiro (vocals and ukulele) who performed folk and modern Japanese tunes, and, by Pam Verrey (fiddle) with Walt Herring (drum) who played Scottish jigs and a waltz.

## what's coming up



### MARCH 12 Cheer Our Ekiden Teams!!!

Hey, Higashi people! Let's cheer for our two 2017 Honolulu Rainbow Ekiden teams on March 12th. The 5K route starts and ends at Kapiolani Park. Our Higashi Teams: Rev. Hidesato Kita, Rev. Koen and Mrs. Mai Kikuchi, Kevin Kawawata, Ivan Lui, Margaret Hamachi, Patrick Ng, and Paul Briggs. Please call the Betsuin at 531-9088 for more details.

## Plant Sale Changed to May 6

Got Plants?

Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 6, 2017, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Calling all plant lovers! Would you like to share the love? Please consider re-potting your beloved plants and donating them to Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji's Annual Plant Sale. Stay tuned to read the next issue of Jushin for more information about the Plant Sale schedule.

If you follow the Hawaii District calendar, please note that the date of the Plant Sale has been changed to May 6, 2017, just in time for Mother's Day.

## Flowers and Foilage Needed

We would appreciate donations of homegrown flowers and foilage to keep our temple arrangements fresh for services, memorials, Hondo and Nokotsudo altars, and family visits. This being a bad winter season with cold weather and heavy winds any flowers and foilage from your yard or garden – even a small amount – would be appreciated. At the present time we are arranging flowers early Friday mornings. Donations may be dropped off in the empty buckets (above the temple steps) by Thursday afternoon. A donation receipt form is also available in a container on the countertop.



### Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Mission 2017 Calendar of Special Events

Month	Day	Special Event
January	1	New Year's Day Service ( <i>Shusho-e</i> )
	8	New Year's Family Service
	29	Annual General Membership Meeting & New Year's Party
February	4	Joint Dharma Gathering @ Betsuin
March	5	Spring Ohigan Service
April	9	Hanamatsuri Service
May	6	Annual Plant Sale
June	27	Bon Dance Practice
July	1	Hatsubon Service and Bon Dance
August		No Special Event in August
September	17	Fall Ohigan Service
October	1	Perpetual Memorial Service ( <i>Eitaikyo</i> )
	29	Ho-on-ko
November		No Special Event in November
December	10	Bodhi Day Service
	31	Year-end Service ( <i>Joya-e</i> )
<b>January 2018</b>		
	1	New Year's Day Service ( <i>Shusho-e</i> )
	7	New Year's Family Service
	28	Annual General Membership Meeting & New Year's Party

## Temple Service & Activities Calendar

Please be aware that with the assignment of a new resident minister, the calendar for March as shown below may be revised. Thank you for your understanding.

### February 2017

- 3 Fri 8:30am ..... Flower Arrangement
- 4 Sat 10a-4p ..... District Dharma Gathering–Betsuin Guest Speaker Dr. Haneda
- 5 Sun 9:00am ..... Sunday Service
- 10 Fri 8:30am ..... Flower Arrangement
- 12 Sun 9:00 am ..... Sunday Service
- 17 Fri 8:30 am ..... Flower Arrangement
- 19 Sun 9:00 am ..... Sunday Service – Bishop Kawawata Sangha Talk
- 21 Tue 7-8:30p ..... Oko Night @ Betsuin
- 24 Fri 8:30 am ..... Flower Arrangement
- 26 Sun 9:00 am ..... Sunday Service

### March 2017

- 3 Fri 8:30 am ..... Flower Arrangement
- 5 Sun 9:00 am ..... Spring Ohigan Service Guest Speaker Rev. Clarence Higa**
- 10 Fri 8:30 am ..... Flower Arrangement
- 12 Sun 9:00 am ..... Sunday Service
- 17 Fri 8:30 am ..... Flower Arrangement
- 18 Sat 1:00pm ..... Public Lecture on Shin Buddhism – Rev. Dr. Michael Conway  
“Liberation through Amida’s Wisdom” @ Hawaii Betsuin  
Please see page 4 for more information. (Free, open to public)**
- 19 Sun 9:00 am ..... Sunday Service
- 21 Tue 7-8:30p ..... Oko Night @ Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji
- 24 Fri 8:30 am ..... Flower Arrangement
- 26 Sun 9:00 am ..... Omigaki General Cleaning (no Sunday Service)
- 31 Fri 8:30 am ..... Flower Arrangement

**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 or telephone our temple at 247-2661. **Temple email:** [kaneohe@hhbt-hi.org](mailto:kaneohe@hhbt-hi.org) **Temple website:** [www.kaneohe.hhbt-hi.org](http://www.kaneohe.hhbt-hi.org)