



A spectacular view of fireworks exploding over Kaneohe on New Year's Eve from a high vantage point. Image courtesy of and copyright Donna Okazaki. Used with permission.

Volume 8 Issue 1 **web edition**
February 2018 – March 2018

inside your Jushin

2018 Member Meeting 1
 Major Services in 2018 1
 New Year Messages 2
 Foreign Abbot Choyu Otani and
 Chief Administrator Hiroshi Tajima
 Minister's Message 3-4
 Missile Scare and Amida 5
 Open Temples in February 6
 Temple Calendar 7
 "Special Treat Page"
 for Web edition 8



Above left, Stanley Sato expertly forms a mochi cake at our mochi tsuki. Middle, CharlAnn Nakamoto and Susan Ng prepare a delicious soba soup for New Year's Eve after ringing our bell 108 times. At right, 95+ year-old Kurato Nakamoto takes a hearty swing at the bell at Joya-e as his son, Alan, watches.

Membership Meeting Held

On Sunday, January 28, the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji successfully held its 2018 General Membership Meeting with a quorum of Gojikai (due-paying members) present. Chairperson Walter Herring reported on 2017's many activities and projects planned for 2018. Rev. Hideaki Nishihori gave his Minister's Report citing his hectic first nine months as minister. Treasurer Julian Ng summarized the year's finances and the temple's finances. Notable business included the Gojikai voted for the Board's proposal to expand Directors to nine from eight. With the new position there are two board vacancies.

2018 Calendar of Major Services & Events

Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji
2018 Calendar of Major Services and Events

- January 28 (Sun) General Membership Meeting
- March 4 (Sun) Spring Ohigan and KHH Band Concert
- April 8 (Sun) Hanamatsuri Service
- May 5 (Sat) Plant and Mini-Rummage sale
- May 20 (Sun) Shinran Birthday Service
- July 7 (Sat) Hatsubon Service and Bon Dance
- August Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Music Festival
(Music Festival date to be announced)
- August 25 (Sat) District Meeting
- September 9 (Sun) Fall Ohigan Service
- October 7 (Sun) Perpetual Memorial Service
- October 28 (Sun) Ho-on-ko
- December 9 (Sun) Bodhi Day Service
- December 31 (Mon) Year End Service (Joya-e)

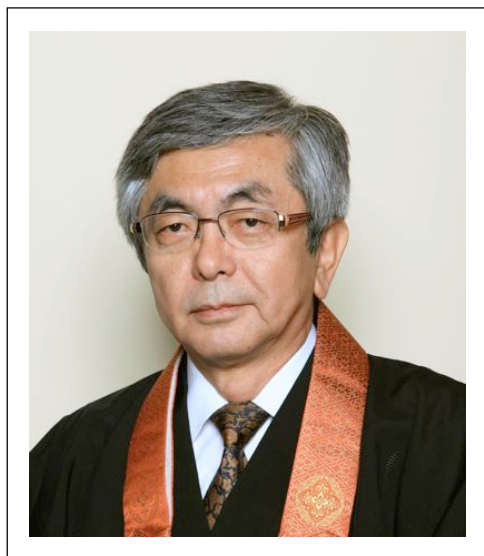
Jushin publication is published bi-monthly by the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji
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New Year Greetings

Choyu Otani
Overseas District Abbot
Shinshu Otani-ha Higashi Honganji

Best wishes for a Happy New Year to all of our fellow followers in the overseas districts. It is with great pleasure that I can share the joy of welcoming in the new year together with you.

Having completed the renovation project of the Founder's Hall and Amida Hall at our Honzan, our denomination has opened a new chapter in our history to work toward the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of Jodo Shinshu in 2023 together with our fellow followers.

Since last year, I have attended services held at all Betsuin temples in Japan. It will take four years to finish the visitation. After I was appointed as Overseas District Abbot in 2011, I visited all overseas districts and had the chance to meet many sangha members.

Through such experiences, I realized the significance of the long history of nenbutsu followers and of our denomination, the preciousness of that history, and the importance of sharing the experiences of listening to the teaching with each other. For the next few years, I look forward to sharing my understanding of the Dharma with sangha members in Japan.

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

Thank you.

New Year Greetings

Bishop Hiroshi Tajima
Chief Administrator
Shinshu Otani-ha Higashi Honganji

I wish to extend my warmest New Year's greetings to all of you in our overseas districts.

As you know, Rev. Shin'ya Yasutomi, professor emeritus of Otani University, passed away on March 31 last year. He had been taking on a number of heavy responsibilities for our denomination such as in serving as the head of the Institute of Research on Shin Buddhist Studies. His proficiency in English made him such an important person for the religious and philosophical communities across the world.

I remember that he used to describe the modern world as "the world of intolerance." What is expressed as "intolerance" here is the problem that each of us has to face. It is our innate tendency to blindly justify ourselves and blame others. Shinran Shonin deeply lamented this reality, saying that it is the cause which creates the "Five Defilements" in this world. On many occasions, Rev. Yasutomi talked about how important it is for us to have "dialogue" with people who have different perspectives. Once again, I am reminded of the importance of achieving harmony with people worldwide beyond differences of ethnicity, nationality, and religion.

Our denomination has started to work on the new projects which are to commemorate the 850th Anniver-

Likes and Dislikes

Minister's Message

By Rev. Hideaki "Aki" Nishihori

Do you have Likes and Dislikes?

I have Likes and Dislikes.

For example, food. I basically like all kinds of food. I have recently come to think that every single dish or cuisine is supposed to be delicious as long as the dishes are exquisite, high quality, and fresh. But I still have Likes and Dislikes. I like a Vietnamese and Thai Restaurant in Kaneohe. However, although I really don't mean to offend anyone's feeling, I do not enjoy the Cantonese food around here so far. But I like the Chinese cuisine in my home town of Kobe, Japan.

For a few years, I haven't exercised much, yet I like sports. I like swimming, and I would like to take up playing tennis. But I don't like running.

I have certain preferences in women. I will let you know later if you send me a message.

Anyway, why do you think we have Likes and Dislikes?

I suppose everyone has Likes and Dislikes, right? Is there anyone who doesn't have them? We all have our preferences. I guess the environment in which we grew up is the one of the biggest factors making our preferences. For example, I love Japanese food because I was born in Japan. I am very accustomed to eating Japanese food.

I love music and I believe one of the reasons is that many of my family members can or used to play musical instruments.

I have some experience composing and playing music and I basically like all kinds of music. I understand that every kind of music in every genre has an audience in the people who like it. I like some Enka songs (traditional Japanese singing) yet I don't care for



One of Aki's favorite, Ramen Jirou



Vegetables and beef and a bottle of beer

Aki making a dish for temple potluck



Enka so much. But there are many people who like

Enka, right? I just don't know how to measure the true value of Enka. If you like Enka, you might have your favorite singers and songs. But you still have Likes and Dislikes in the Enka genre, right? I am sure there are many people who like songs which you don't like. So, in that sense, you don't have to hate something just because you don't like, or, you don't know much about. It is obvious that these songs should not be removed or rejected just because you don't like them.

Since I came to Hawaii, I'm really loving music again. I am composing music again and rewriting some of my earlier songs. You know, when I listen to my past works, I feel embarrassed by my immaturity when I earlier composed those songs. The guitar sounds and playing were too rough. Some melodies don't fit. I wrote some weird chord progressions. Too many unnecessary instruments and too much

repetition. You can't say that most of my past work was sophisticated. But I also found some

melodies and chord progressions are not so bad - I still like them. I also found out that some melodies, which I didn't like, can be transformed into nice melodies with a slight change of chords. So, I realized a melody itself isn't either good or bad. I was once surprised by hearing a song that I hadn't liked before. Its original version was sung by a female pop idol group. But it was rearranged into my favorite jazzy pop style by someone else. If you put melodies in the right places, they will be revived into their own beauty and radiance.

So, there is no "good or bad" in melodies. You can say that for everything.

Then, what if melodies were humans? Melodies have their own color, clothes, language and reasons for their being. Yes, it's exactly as people. Colors of melodies could be people's nationalities or personalities. Musical arrangement is a decoration,

Continued on page 4

Likes and Dislikes

Continued from page 3

and it could be our clothes and hair style. Everyone sings in their own language, or even another that they really like such as in opera. There is no good and no bad. Sometimes people wear fashionable and expensive clothes, and sometimes not.

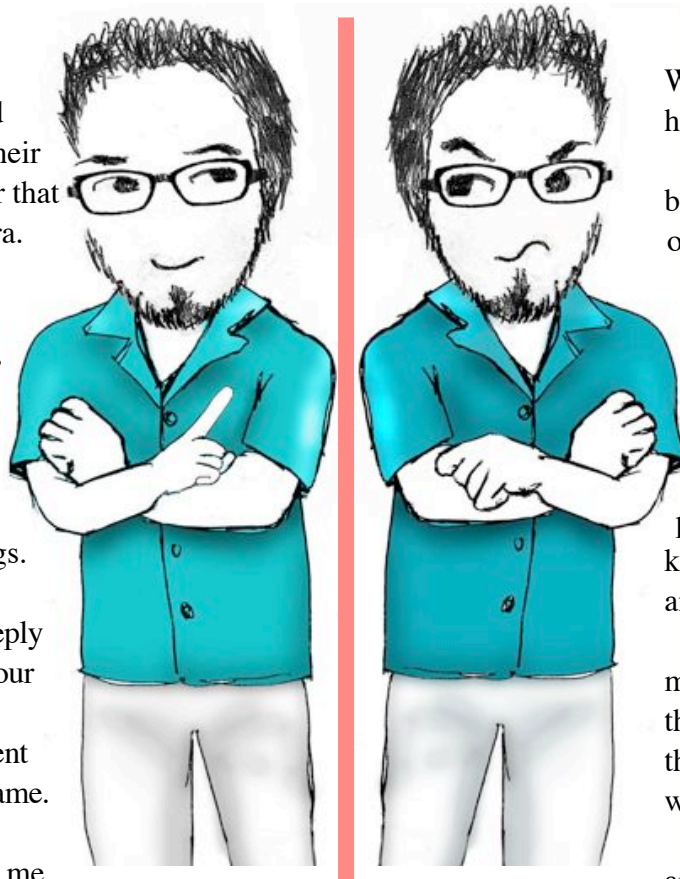
People speak differently, but we are the same. We worry about the same things and we laugh at the same things.

Recently, as my English improves, I really feel more deeply that we are the same, although our nationalities are different. Our thinking and cultures are different in many ways, but we are the same.

After Hawaii's January 13 false missile alert which made me contemplate the last day of my life, I more often think about the world situation right now.

I see people on the news who are leaders of their countries, and I think they should be very careful about their remarks on Twitter or Facebook. They seem to be bad people to me since they are causing many problems, but they may be presenting what they think is the best solution to protect their own country.

From my perspective, they seem to be bad. and sometimes I think they should be removed. But the Buddha's teaching tells me that my idea is wrong. We tend to regard, for instance, the German dictator, Adolf Hitler as one of the most evil people in the world. Of course, his actions toward the Jewish people must not be pardoned. In this sense, he should be blamed. But we should not deny his humanity or his existence. When I see



news about North Korea, I often think to myself, "I wish he didn't exist in this world!" However, I think that's not what the Buddha wishes. Adolf Hitler and the leader of North Korea also are humans, too.

And according to Tannisho, one of our sacred scriptures, we can become like them when the conditions arise.

For Kim Jong Un, he thinks actions are his righteousness, just exactly as we think of our own righteousness. Surely, his actions should be severely criticized, as they are a total threat to humanity.

Let's go back to the main point. From a Buddhist view, we are all living one life. It's called Oneness. In Shin Buddhism, we call it Amida Buddha. It is Life itself.

We are the same, one life.

You and I are the same. Kim Jong Un and I are the same. We are called human, but actually we are just life.

We have our life, which happens to have a human form.

There is neither bad nor good in being a human, which means everyone is precious and indispensable.

So, we all have our likes and dislikes, but there is no reason to hate or to reject those which are not your favorite.

I could not enjoy music when I was in Japan because I was very picky. I am still picky, but now that I know each melody has its own beauty and radiance.

I recognize a huge difference in my attitude towards composing. All the music is the same. All humans are the same. They are different in many ways, but still the same.

You know, we see many terrible and sad stories almost every day. And I feel like, "Oh, why did he do that!? How crazy he is. I wish he didn't exist!" How about you?

Logically, these kind of thoughts make us suffer. Our anger and hatred cause our sufferings. Because we are living only one life, killing someone in your head means killing yourself. That is why Buddhism doesn't allow killing as you might desire. This teaching ultimately protects you. Hatred invites hatred. Hatred kills ourselves.

God would say, "Thou shalt love thine enemies."

Amida Buddha would possibly say, "It's better not to hate. But I know how you feel. Let yourself feel your hatred. It's going to be all right."

They are saying the same thing. Only our ways, or paths, to know the truth are different.

Gassho

Hawaii's January 13th Missile Scare Awakens Us to Amida

Based on Rev. Hideaki Nishihori's Greetings to the Congregation - Sunday January 14, 2018



Good Morning!

I'm happy we are still alive. Early last morning my cellphone got an alarm. It said, a missile is coming. It said, this is not a drill. And I became very frightened. In my home town, Kobe, Japan, we have lived through a destructive earthquake, tsunami and typhoons, but never a nuclear bomb warning before. Also, because no one was around our Kaneohe temple at 8 AM on Saturday morning I seemed to be truly alone and that intensified my fright.

I found myself rushing to find out if the missile threat was true or not. I searched on the Internet. I kept changing the different television news stations for any news about the alert. I think everyone felt the same way, being very frightened with only 15 minutes left to live, with no preparation at all!

How did you feel? What did you do?

Amid this frantic upheaval, one of my friends texted me and said, "it's a fake, a malfunction." At that moment I was relieved to hear his words, yet I was unsure what was the truth or reality. What if the missile was really on its way? What if the missile really hit this island? We would not be having this Sunday service today. Life as we know it, or as we knew it, would be extremely difficult.

It seems every day we take our everyday life for granted. But the truth is our everyday lives are very fragile. And fleeting. Yes! Then I thought about what Rennyō wrote in his letter, "On White Ashes," over 750 years ago.

Well, after I heard that the alert was really a mistake, I felt a rush of peaceful feelings wash over me. Having a peaceful feeling like this is not a usual feeling for most of us every day. We usually forget about this feeling, right?

But, you know, our everyday life is so precious. It's a miracle that we are alive. We often find our most precious thing in life - after we lose it.

One of my friends living here in Honolulu posted his comment about the missile scare on his Facebook page. What he posted left an imprint on me. He posted something like, "*You know what I did for 15 minutes after being notified of the missile attack? I spent 15 minutes trying to confirm it on the Internet - the same amount of time it would have taken for the missile to reach us. How delightful to know that I spent the last 15 minutes (of my life) looking at my phone rather than embracing and calling my loved ones. I've never felt smaller in my entire life.*"

I did the same thing, hurriedly searching for news on my cell phone and racing through television stations. However, in remembering the fragility of life, I managed to contact some people to say, "I love you!" Gassho.

Bishop Tajima's Message

Continued from page 2

sary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of Jodo Shinshu, both of which will be combined as one celebration to be held in 2023. In preparation for this event which will be a major focal point for our denomination's future, we have renewed our commitment to contribute to society as a Buddhist sangha and propagate the teaching for our future generations, while appreciating the importance of dialogue in building deep and lasting relationships with others.

In closing, I wish to ask for your continued support and cooperation.

Thank you.

HAWAII BUDDHIST COUNCIL

Presents

Open Night at the Temples

Stressing out with your busy schedule? Running crazy taking care of the family? Too much negative information and news everywhere? We all need some quiet time to step back and see the big picture...just some time to let your mind settle down and figure out life's puzzles. Buddhism offers to bring you peace through compassion and wisdom. Join us for **'Open Night at the Temples.'** Each week in February, the seven denominations of the Hawaii Buddhist Council will offer a 90-minute early evening open house for the community at the following temples. Just Service, lecture and Q&A, no obligation. No reservation necessary. Just stop by and discover the diversity of Buddhism so that you can discover your faith, and find that missing "something" to enjoy a more fulfilling life. Let's rest our smartphones and re-discover our community.

Schedule

2/01 (Thu) 6:00 pm	Nichiren Mission of Hawaii	33 Pulelehua Way, Honolulu, HI 96817	Ph: 595-3517
2/06 (Tue) 6:00 pm	Jodo Mission of Hawaii	1429 Makiki St., Honolulu, HI 96814	Ph: 949-3995
2/08 (Thu) 6:00 pm	Soto Mission of Hawaii	1708 Nuuanu Ave., Honolulu, HI 96817	Ph: 537-9409
2/13 (Tue) 6:00 pm	Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii	1685 Alaneo St., Honolulu, HI 96817	Ph: 531-9088
2/15 (Thu) 6:00 pm	Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin	1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI 96813	Ph: 536-7044
2/20 (Tue) 6:00 pm	Liliha Shingonji Mission	1710 Liliha St., Honolulu, HI 96817	Ph: 533-3929
2/22 (Thu) 6:00 pm	Tendai Mission of Hawaii	23 Jack Ln., Honolulu, HI 96817	Ph: 595-2556

For more information, please call the temple directly or the HBC President's Office at 595-3517 or nichiren@hawaiiantel.net

Jushin 樹心

Volume 8 Issue 1 February – March 2018

Upcoming Kaneohe Events

February **Sunday Service every Sunday!**

February **Runners wanted for fun Honolulu Rainbow Ekiden!** To sign-up please contact Kita Sensei 531-9088

February **“Open Night”** at our Betsuin 6pm

March 4 **Spring Ohigan Service & Concert**
 March 11 **No Service.** Meet @ Honolulu Rainbow Ekiden – Kapiolani Park



Enjoy our Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji band concerts with Jodo Shinshu-inspired, contemporary music. There will be two performances in March. See *March for play dates*. Band musicians, from left to right: Aki Nishihori (vocal, guitar, keyboard), Pam Verry (violin/fiddle, sanshin, vocal), Amy Yamashiro (vocal, percussion) and Dominic Carlos (vocal, guitar).

Temple Service & Activities Calendar

February

1	Thurs	3pm	Study Class -Reading Tannisho
4	Sun	9am	Sunday Service
11	Sun	9am	Sunday Service
13	Tues	6pm	Open Night at Betsuin
14	Wed		Ann Pearl Care Home Visit
18	Sun	9am	Sunday Service
22	Thurs		Hale Nani Care Home Visit
25	Sun	9am	Sunday Service
28	Wed		Ann Pearl Care Home Visit

March

4	Sun	9am	Spring Equinox Ohigan Service with Band Performance
11	Sun	8am	No Sunday Service Honolulu Ekiden Running starts 8am at Kapiolani Park
14	Wed		Ann Pearl Care Home Visit
18	Sun	9am	Sunday Service
20	Tues	7pm	Okon Night at Kaneohe
23	Fri		Public Lecture at Betsuin - Micheal Conway, Ph.D., Otani University, Kyoto
25	Sun	9am	Sunday Service with Band Performance
27	Tues		Hale Nani Care Home Visit
28	Wed		Ann Pearl Care Home Visit

About our calendar: Because the Jushin is printed every 2 months, events and dates appearing on our 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. Mahalo



1

Our temple is not just a place for dharma talk – it is a living place for the sangha to gather, listen, yak, laugh, eat and contemplate. Maybe we’ll add a special page to your electronic version showing additional “behind the scenes” photos. Please provide feedback to Sensei Aki. 1) A quiet time for Amida greeting the morning sun, 7:54 AM on New Year morning. 2) Stan Sato rings the bell at Joya-e. 3) Susumu Okazaki “cranking out” mochi. 4) Susan Ng and Gladys Sakata serving ozoni on New Year morning. 5) Jean Crosier helping to clean the kitchen before the new year. 6) Amida’s sangha at work (also talking and laughing) labeling Jushin newsletters.



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6