



95 1924 ~ 2019
Our 95th Anniversary

Jushin 樹心

Volume 9 Issue 6

December 2019 – January 2020

Minister's Message Nembutsu in 2020

inside your Jushin

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I would like to express big Mahalo to all of you, our Sangha, who helped and supported this temple through 2019. Without you, this temple cannot operate and cannot have weekly, monthly, and all its activities. Thank you very much.



Rev. Koen Kikuchi

May I ask, how was the year 2019 for you? Were there special or significant things that have happened? Every year, in Japan, one association announces the year in kanji, which expresses what happened in Japan during the year. We still remember that several big typhoons hit Japan and big floods have happened. But when I searched what kanji was given to 2019, I was surprised that the word was “wazawai” which means “calamity or disaster.” We all know that every year, Japan has some kind of disaster. What word will be chosen for this year 2020?

What about the U.S. and Hawaii this past year? Do you remember what happened in 2019? Shootings? TMT? Global warming?

What word would you choose for us that described 2019?

The end of the year is a very important time to remember what happened in the year. We can learn a lot from our experience. If we don't remember, perhaps, the tragedy may be repeated and that will be another learning for us. However, forgetting is an ability of human nature.

I say every year that we return to the “zero point” as we approach December 31 then greet a new year. Oosoji, or big cleaning day, is a way of reaching zero point. We clean up the dust and dirt of the last year and welcome the New Year with everything clean. Why do we need to do this? Is there any religious foundation to this thinking?

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Minister's Message

Continued from page 1.

Ah! For many maybe lazy persons, there might be no need for ooshoji. But as Shakyamuni Buddha said, the middle path is a state of peace; we shouldn't be or stay in one-sided thinking. We need to leave the one-side position and know about the other side. Oosoji is a way to realize how much I am attached to one side. How about yourself? We need to rethink about where we are - one-sided, two-sided, or centered in the middle.

One Zen teacher says, "In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities, but in the expert's mind there are few." I think this statement can mean that if we stay on our one-side, we see only one way and don't see other possibilities. If we are in the middle we can be fresh or open to many possibilities. Don't you think these words wake us up?

I guess most of you already have heard about this, but one important thing should be repeated is my motto so I would like to share with you. Dotoku was a Dharma friend of Rennyō, and he may have frequently visited Rennyō's place on the New Year's Day to greet him. What Rennyō said to him was, "How many years have you reached (in your age), Dotoku?" Rennyō asked. "I urge you to recite the Nembutsu."

They have been longtime Dharma friends and Rennyō must have known Dotoku was a Nembutsu follower. But Rennyō said to recite the Nembutsu instead of saying, "happy new year." What Rennyō wanted to share at new year's day was not to reflect what happened the past year and hope to have a HAPPY new year but rather to reconfirm about we are living this present moment here and now. That foundation is the teaching of Nembutsu. This is what Rennyō wanted to emphasize at New Year's Day and every day.

Every year, I listen to these words of Rennyō but they always sounds fresh to me. It always reminds me of the axis of my life; Nembutsu teaching is my axis of life.

What is Nembutsu teaching to you?

In Gassho, Koen Kikuchi



Board member Stan Sato (facing the camera) and Ren Kikuchi work together to clean the altar's very intricate, highly polished brass crane.

Ka-Thump!
Whump

Whump Your Mochi With Us Dec. 28

Of course, Buddhists treat everything with respect and honor... and we certainly don't "whump" our sweet rice into yummy, respectful mochi.

But from 10 AM on Saturday December 28, the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji will be making mochi together with members, 'ohana and friends. We will be using a row of back-saving, mochi making machines (no pounding or smashed fingers).

Even watching those machines twist and twirl the hot rice is a fun activity. But the real fun are the assembly lines of 'ohana working and laughing together making mochi for their own families, home altars, and the temple.

We encourage you to bring your favorite jelly, fruit or peanut butter filling for your take-home mochi.

First-timers, we have suggestions below. *Buy a 5 pound bag of Sweet Rice. Wash thoroughly. Soak in a covered bowl 24 hours, changing the water 2 times. Drain on Dec. 28, put into ziplock bag and bring to temple with any fillings.

BODHI DAY SERVICE

PRESENTED BY

HAWAII BUDDHIST COUNCIL

What is Bodhi Day?

We will celebrate Bodhi Day that is the date of the attainment of perfect awakening by Shakyamuni Buddha. In Mahayana Buddhist tradition, it is said that he attained the awakening at the age of 35 under a Bodhi tree on December 8th.

The attainment of his awakening took place about 2500 years ago, and his teachings continue to lead us to the life of true peace and happiness.

This Bodhi Day Service is sponsored by the Hawaii Buddhist Council which represents different Buddhists denominations in Hawaii, and we are very pleased to celebrate with you one of the happiest occasions for all human beings.

Date: Sunday, December 8, 2019

Time: 9:30 am

Speaker: Dr. Manulani Aluli Meyer

Title: Ho'oulu: This Time of Transformation

Place: Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Temple
(1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu HI 96813)

Free and Open to the Public

Dr. Manulani Aluli Meyer Biography.

Dr. Manu Aluli Meyer is the fifth daughter of Emma Aluli and Harry Meyer. The ohana lived beside many cousins on the shores of Mokapu and Kailua. The Aluli-Meyer family is dedicated to justice, education, health, law, transformative economics, arts education, aloha aina, food security, philosophy, and Hawaiian music. She will be speaking on the Dharma of sustainability, Hawaiian culture and the radical potential of the kapu aloha, called forth from within the aloha aina movement on Maunakea.



Music Performance at the Refreshment

Handbell: Tinker Bell

Tsugaru Shamisen: Tatsuya Oikawa, Shoju Aratani

Sponsored by Marine Village Creation Fund

Supported by Studio Bell Fantasy

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please Call
Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (808) 531-9088
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (808) 522-9200

Important Membership Meeting Jan. 26

The Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Mission will be holding its General Membership Meeting at 9AM January 26, 2020 with Sunday service at 10AM. Light refreshments will be served after the service.

Gojikai members are asked to attend, listen to, discuss and approve reports, and vote on the election of board members who will represent you and guide the temple. This meeting is required by our temple By-Laws and will be called to order at 9:00AM in the temple hondo (upstairs in the main hall).

At the meeting, temple business – as required – will be discussed. Our temple 'ohana and the public are most welcome to attend but only current Gojikai will be able to vote or take any action.

Persons wanting to vote on measures and/or be elected to the board must be a paid Gojikai member by the meeting. Membership is only \$60 a year and each member and family receives certain benefits. Our temple depends on an active Gojikai and we encourage your active paid membership.

Let's Welcome New Year's Eve and New Year Day – "Discover the Joy of Living"

Despite the busy period from late-December through early January, you are cordially invited to join in the temple's services and 'ohana gatherings on New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, and the first Sunday that will be New Year Family Service.

On New Year's Eve, Rev. Koen Kikuchi will conduct 5PM "Year-End Service" *Joya-e*, to express gratitude to friends, family and community for

the kindnesses received in 2019. We will ring the temple bell 108 times representing the 108 passions. Soba noodles will be served. 9AM on New Year Day, our *Shusho-e* service we will resolve to listen intently to the teachings throughout the year. Ozoni soup will be served, a fresh healthy start to 2020. On Sunday January 5 will be the New Year Family Service at 9AM. Ozoni will be served as well.

A Dusty Box Reveals the Scroll of a Prince

A beautifully restored scroll of Prince Shotoku, the legendary regent who reportedly introduced Buddhism to Japan was rededicated during our Eitaikyo Service on October 6.

Retired professor and Asian religion expert Dr. George Tanabe was the guest speaker who explained the significance of Prince Shotoku (February 7, 574 - April 8, 622) to Japan and Buddhism. He also said because of Prince Shotoku, successive Buddhist



Prince Shotoku (Japan's Asuka period)

visionaries, such as Rennyo Shonin and Shinran Shonin would probably not have emerged centuries later in Japan.

Rev. Kikuchi found an old box in our storeroom and was surprised that it contained the rolled scroll of the Prince. The Board had it carefully restored by Buddhist artisans in Kyoto.



Rev. Kikuchi and Pam Verrey (center) are enthralled by Dr. George Tanabe's talk.

A Powerful Hoonko Service

The Kaneohe Higashi honored our sect's founder, Shinran Shonin, during the annual Hoonko Service October 27.

At the start, Rev. Koen Kikuchi read Kaneohe's Aspiration. The minister's aspiration (invocation) is read aloud proclaiming the meaning of the service.

Rev. Kikuchi was powerfully supported in special Shoshinge chanting by Higashi ministers Noriaki Fujimori (Palolo Hongwanji), and Steve Toyoshima and Hidesato Kita (Betsuin). Their voluminous chanting filled the temple with a cadence that was inspiring.

Rev. Steve Toyoshima was the guest speaker and spoke about Buddhism in our

daily lives. About 35 persons attended and enjoyed each other's fellowship at the luncheon following the service.



At our Hoonko service Rev. Kikuchi recites the temple's aspiration before Amida.

Jushin 樹心

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“...Today many people lose interest in religions because they seem “unscientific” and “irrational.” Now could be the right time for them to discover Buddhism, especially Shin Buddhism, because it doesn’t try to promote “unscientific” and “irrational” ideas.”

Nov. 3, 2019 Dharma Talk **Rev. Koen Kikuchi**

OH MY! Ooshoji, Omimaki

Temple member Karen Higashi, right, takes a long moment to beam at the mirror-like reflection seen from the altar’s light stand.

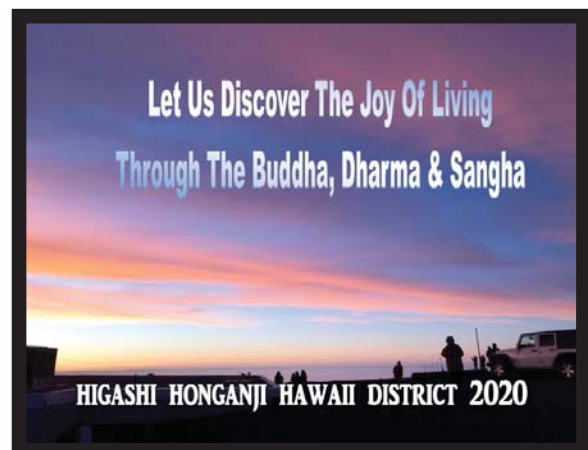


Major Activities for 2020

- Jan 1 Wed New Year’s Day Service
- 5 Sun New Year’s Family Service
- 26 Sun General Memberships Meeting
- Mar 8 Sun Spring Ohigan Service
- Apr 11 Sat Plant Sale & Rummage Sale
- 12 Sun Hanamatsuri Service/Buddha Day Service
- May 17 Sun Gotan-e Service/Shinran’s Birthday
- July 3 Fri Hatsubon Service and Bon Dance
- Sept 13 Sun Autumn Ohigan Service
- Oct 4 Sun Perpetual Memorial Service
- 25 Sun Hoonko Service/Shinran’s Memorial
- Dec 13 Sun Jodo-e Service/Bodhi Day Service
- 31 Sun Joya-e/Year-End service

Colorful, New 2020 Hawaii Calendars Available

The new 2020 Higashi Hongwanji calendars have just arrived and are available at the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji. It covers all major services for the Higashi temples in the Hawaii District. Hawaii is special because it is one of the few groups of temples to design and publish its own district-wide calendar. The 2020 theme is “Let Us Discover the Joy of Living Through the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha.”



1919 Temple Service & Activities Calendar 2020



DECEMBER

- 1 Sun 9am Sunday Service
Guest Minister Rev. Hidesato Kita
- 4 Wed 10 am Ann Pearl care facility visitation
- 8 Sun 9:30 **HBC Jodo-e Bodhi Day Service
at Honpa Hongwanji Betsuin.**
Special Speaker is Dr. Manulani
Aluli Meyer. ***No Kaneohe Service***
- 15 Sun 9 am Bodhi Day Service
- 22 Sun 9am Sunday Service
- 24 Tue 10am Hale Nani care facility visitation
- 28 Sat 10am Mochi Tsuki at temple
- 29 Sun 9am Sunday Service
- 31 Tue 5pm Year-End Service – ***Joya-e,***
and tolling of temple bell 108 times



JANUARY

- 1 Wed 9am New Year's Day Service – ***Shusho-e***
Ozoni soup shared with members
- 5 Sun 9am New Year Family Service –
Ozoni soup shared with members
- 12 Sun 9am Sunday Service
- 15 Wed 10am Ann Pearl care facility visitation
- 19 Sun 9am Sunday Service
- 26 Sun 9am General Membership Meeting
10am Sunday Service
Lunch refreshments to follow
- 28 Tue 10am Hale Nani care facility visitation

Editor's note 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 telephone our temple at 247-2661 for current information. Mahalo.