

Jushin 樹心

Volume 10 Issue 6 December 2020 / January 2021



Although not a Buddhist practice, the sight of twin kadomatsu decorations at front doors of many local homes is a rich tradition of 8th century Japan carried over to modern Hawaii.

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Chairperson's Message

"How precious this life!"

It has been an extraordinary year, one that has been truly unimaginable and unpredictable. If anyone were to have told you, say, 10 years ago, that in 10 years the entire world would be brought to its knees by a viral pandemic, killing hundreds of thousands of people and hospitalizing as many if not more, and that despite all global efforts there was no cure for this killer virus, would you have believed it? Or that the global economy would be thrown into such turmoil that the future of world would be unknown for an unknown amount of time, would you have believed it? Probably not, but here we are.

On another front, if someone told you when you were 10 years old, that your life was a very special and gifted life because it will be within this lifetime that you would experience Amida's infinite compassion and wisdom, would you have believed it? Probably not, but here you are. How precious this life! How grateful we are to be given such an extraordinary opportunity to hear, listen, embrace the three treasures.

It is because of Shinran Shonin's writings and interpretations of the Buddha's teachings that we are able to grasp and be embraced by the Infinite Light and Infinite Life of Amida Buddha. This is why we follow his teachings.

Namu Amida Butsu

LIVE WITH IT!

Kimo, age seven, and his brother Ikaika, age four, were constantly fighting over toys, parents' attention, friends, food, everything. One day Papa sees them going at each other again and scolds Kimo. Kimo complains that Papa is always favoring his younger brother. Out of exasperation Papa says to Kimo, "Ikaika is littler and younger than you are. You are the big brother and need to be more understanding. Just live with it!"

We've all probably heard this at one time or another in our lifetime. When it was said to us, it was probably in a similar situation as described above; one in which a repeatable action or situation seems hopelessly unsolvable by the person saying, "just live with it!" As such it comes off as a negative directive and can be hurtful.

Switch now to 2020. When the pandemic first became known to our lives in early spring, there was so little we knew of the COVID-19 virus other than it was lethal and no one knew how to treat patients who caught the virus and lost their lives to this monster virus. As time went on, the world began to hone their medical knowledge and establish protocols which protected the nurses, doctors, first-line responders and patients. We learned that this air-borne virus could be somewhat curtailed by everyone wearing masks and social distancing. The leaders of our governments, of the medical world and policy makers fervently continued to try to help us manage our risks and advise us on how to live safely until we get back to our normal lives.

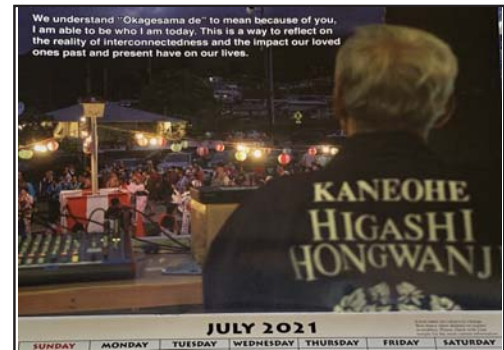
There are countless newspaper, magazine, Internet articles and TV advice on how to live and cope with this virus. The implication is that once this virus is "controlled and defeated" we will be able to go back to how things were before this 2020 nightmare.

According to the Buddha, life changes from minute to minute, second to second, instant to instant. Nothing remains the same, everything is impermanent and the world one second ago is a result of the second which has passed, the day which has passed, the lifetime which has passed. We cannot go back to a time in the past. Likewise, we cannot go back to the world as we knew it before 2020.

We've all heard the saying, "You can't unring a bell." So, we live with the consequences of the bell having been rung... we live with it, don't we? And we continue to live in the new moment. Therefore, isn't "live *WITH* it!" a positive rather than a negative shout out? Isn't it a rallying call which should be a joyous cry of acceptance and a realization that we are in the grasp of Amida's compassion and grace?

How much more peaceful and calm my life is!

Namu Amida Butsu



Since Bon Dance 2020 was canceled we are so looking forward to Bon Dance 2021! We hope you are, too! Save this date: July 3, 2021! Photo above is our 2019 dance featured in the new Higashi calendar.

Membership Meeting

The annual general membership meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24, 2021. Plans are being made to hold an in-person meeting in the temple (meeting at 9:00 am followed by Sunday service at 10:00 am) as had been done in recent years; however, in recognition that some members may be reluctant to participate in person and that current restrictions on gathering and requirements for distancing may continue, the use of Zoom or another online platform is being explored. Further information will be posted on our now-active website; those wishing to participate online (if that is implemented for the meeting) will be asked to test their connection several days prior to the meeting.

Call for Volunteers (Board of Directors)

The continued operation of the temple is dependent of the participation of volunteers. We have been fortunate in that many volunteers, even non-members, have helped in the various activities, and appreciate very much their time and effort.

For members, one area where we always need help is in the oversight of the operation of the temple, which is the kuleana of the Board of Directors. Presently comprised of seven members, the directors are elected by Gojikai members in attendance at the Annual General Membership meeting held in late-January. Our By-Laws allow up to thirty Board members and increased participation is desired and always welcomed. The Board considers many of the aspects of running a business (while a non-profit, the temple basically needs to be run as an efficient business to survive), including planning activities, property management, and the future of the temple. Board meetings typically have been held bi-monthly, but during the past year, much business has been conducted online (via email or Zoom). Please consider volunteering to be nominated to serve on the Board of Directors; if interested, please contact any of the current Board members or leave a message either on the temple phone or via email.



Volunteers like Gladys Sakata (left) and Susan Ng (right) mailing out the calendars, keep the temple running and alive with activities even during the pandemic.

Sangha Acknowledgments

(donations and volunteer work, September 21 through November 29)

Kyodan: Sandra Kawate, Mary Matsuda

Ohigan: Glen & Reiko Hatakeyama, Roy & Mary Matsuda, Eleanor Tokunaga

Ho-Onko: anonymous, Gordon Fujimoto, Margaret Hamachi, Karen Hayashida, Mary Kagawa, Joyce Kawakami, Sandra Kawate, Jeanne Kawawata, Roy & Mary Matsuda, Edith Miyasato, CharlAnn Nakamoto, Julian & Susan Ng, Sakiko Nishimura, Patricia Nitta, Atsuko Nonaka, Kenneth Saiki, Harold Sakaguchi, Gladys Sakata, Stanley Sato, Eleanor Tokunaga, Lynn Tsuji, Pamela Verrey, Barry & June Weled

Weekly Flowers & Arrangements: Gladys Sakata, Stanley Sato, Harriet Yamada

Jushin and Calendar Mailings: Jim Dote, Mary Matsuda, Roy Matsuda, Julian Ng, Susan Ng, Reverend Akiko Okada, Gladys Sakata, Stanley Sato

Grounds Maintenance: Walt Herring, CharlAnn Nakamoto, Julian Ng, Susan Ng, Gladys Sakata, Stanley Sato, Pamela Verrey

Minister's Apartment Maintenance: Dennis Kajiura, Stanley Sato

Altar Preparation and Hondo Setup for Ohigan and Ho Onko Services: Jim Dote, Reverend Noriaki Fujimori (guest speaker), Bishop Kenjun Kawawata, Reverend Akiko Okada, Stanley Sato, Reverend Steve Toyoshima,

Guest Ministers: Bishop Kenjun Kawawata, Reverend Akiko Okada

We gratefully acknowledge the above for their generous contributions and assistance.

If we have inadvertently missed any names, please accept our apologies and let us know so we may correct our records.

Website

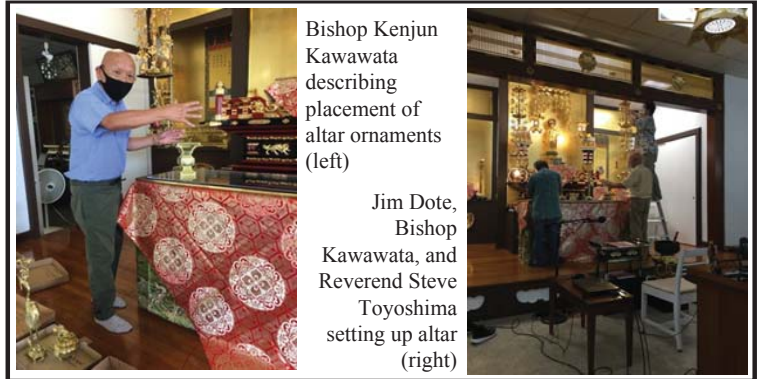
The Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District has recently contracted with Mike Takashita, a Hawaii native and a resident of Osaka, to maintain websites for all of the Hawaii temples. Mike, while visiting Hawaii, has participated in our activities and is familiar with our temple. He was able to get our website active again, and while the site is still under renovation, the homepage is being used to update the schedule of upcoming temple activities. Please visit <http://kaneohe.hhbt-hi.org>

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“ It has been an extraordinary year, one that has been truly unimaginable and unpredictable.”

Mary Matsuda



Bishop Kenjun Kawawata describing placement of altar ornaments (left)

Jim Dote, Bishop Kawawata, and Reverend Steve Toyoshima setting up altar (right)



2020 Hoonko Service (streamed on Betsuin Facebook page, with Palolo Hongwanji linked via Zoom)

2021 Temple Major Service & Activities Calendar

January	1 Shusho-e (New Year's Day service)	July	3 Hatsubon Service and Bon Dance
	3 New Year Family Service	September	12 Fall Ohigan service
	24 General Membership Meeting	October	3 Eitaikyo Perpetual Memorial service
March	7 Spring Ohigan service		17 Ho-on-ko service
April	11 Hanamatsuri	December	12 Jodo-e (Bodhi Day service)
May	16 Tanjo-e (Shinran Shonin's birthday)		26 Mochitsuki
			31 Joya-e (Year-end service)

Notes on Temple's December and January Schedule

2020 Mochitsuki Cancelled

With the Thanksgiving holiday quickly behind us, normally we would start purchasing our sweet rice & mochi making supplies. However, because this year has been far from being a “normal” year and it would be very difficult for us to comply with the 6 feet apart social distancing requirement, we regretfully have to cancel our annual mochitsuki event.

New Year's Eve Service

On **Thursday, December 31, 2020, at 5 pm, Rev. Akiko Okada of the Hawaii Betsuin will be conducting our New Year's Eve (Joya-e) service.** With the face mask & social distancing requirement in place at the temple, you are welcome to attend the last service for 2020 as we express our gratitude for all that we have received and gone through in 2020. **At Joya-e, participants will help to ring the temple bell a total of 108 times.**

New Year's Day Service

The following day, on **Friday, January 1, 2021, at 9am, Rev. Akiko Okada will be conducting our New Year's Day (Shusho-e) service.** Join us as we welcome the new year with renewed resolution and dedicate ourselves to the nembutsu.