

Jushin

樹心

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inside your Jushin

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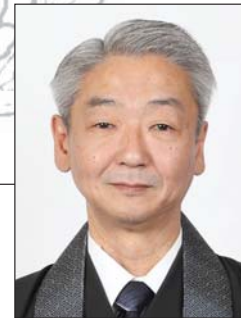
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2020 Board Members

**Douglas Crosier, Karen Hayashida,
 Walter Herring, Dennis Kajiura,
 Julian Ng, CharlAnn Nakamoto,
 Stanley Sato**

New Year's Greetings



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



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

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.

As you may know, I am to assume the position of Abbot of the Shinshu Otani-ha as of July 1 this year. In the past years since I was appointed as Overseas District Abbot, I have been given precious opportunities to meet many of you in overseas districts. From then on, while bearing those experiences firmly in mind, I will take on the new responsibility as Abbot to welcome all of you to the Shinshu Honbyo (our mother temple), the spiritual focus for us Shinshu followers. As we sit together with our hands in gassho in front of the image of Shinran Shonin, I will continue to reflect deeply on the spirit of his teaching which says "throughout the world, we are all brothers and sisters."

In April this year, the 13th World Dobo Gathering will be held at the Shinshu Honbyo. I sincerely look forward to seeing all of you again at this event to share the joy of listening to the teaching of the nenbutsu with you.

I wish to conclude my New Year's message by expressing my wish that each of us will be awakened to the calling of the Tathagata.

Thank you.

I wish to first extend my warmest New Year's greetings to all of you in our overseas districts. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation for the support and understanding you continue to give to our Sangha.

Since July last year, our denomination has been actively preparing for the 850th Celebration of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of Jodo Shinshu to be held in 2023. I have heard that the planning for many kinds of preparatory activities for the main event has begun in each district.

The purpose of holding those anniversaries is primarily to realize our debt of gratitude for our having been able to encounter the teaching. It is my heartfelt wish that this celebration will be an opportunity for us to deepen our appreciation that Shinran Shonin was born into this world and that subsequently, Jodo Shinshu, a most profound form of Mahayana Buddhism, was established.

It is no exaggeration to say that those events will play a crucial role in shaping the future of our denomination. I sincerely wish that all of us who have had the opportunity to encounter the teaching of Shinran Shonin will reconfirm our commitment as members of our denomination and take firm steps forward to deeply reflect on the main theme of this celebration, "Namu Amida Butsu—To Discover the Meaning of Being Born as Human Beings."

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

Thank you.

Minister's Dharma Message

One-Sided Thinking? Middle Path Thinking?

Photo by Clifford Fukuda

Aloha Members and Friends,

Happy New Year!

Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu!

Our previous Jushin newsletter, which covered December and January, was mailed in December, so I felt it was strange to write a new year's greeting before the end of the year. So, now, I can say with a LOUD voice, "Happy New Year!" to everybody... although it is already past February.

Why do you think we say Happy New Year or "Omedeto" at the new year? In English, we say "HAPPY New Year!" Why it is happy? Do we hope or wish for happiness in the new year? Is this the reason? I, myself, don't know the exact reason.

In our previous newsletter, I mentioned about the importance of returning to the "zero point." I think the new year's greeting is related to this idea: we clean out the dust and dirt in our homes and welcome the new year with everything clean. We are beings who prefer to stay and relax on one side, and refuse to go to - or see - the other side. Buddhism teaches us about "impermanence" and no one (including our body's cells) remain the same or even stay in the exact same place from one moment to the next. Wishing to stay the same causes us a variety of sufferings. (Don't many of us wish we could stay young forever? And, how long is forever?)



Rev. Koen Kikuchi

Shakyamuni Buddha said the middle path is the state of peace. The middle way is to accept the extremes of two-side of thinking. Thus, we should not stay in one-sided thinking. This is what I meant by writing about "zero point." We need to return to the "zero point," so that we can

refresh our "attached" mind away from one-sided thinking. How can we stay away from "attached thinking" and be able to stay in the middle? Listening to the Dharma is the way that Shin Buddhism teaches us to.

Even after we wished our families and friends Happy New Year or Omedeto, we started this January with very sad news that an Iranian general was killed, Iran revenged by launching missiles and even shot down a passenger jet filled with innocent people. Plus there were mass shootings on the US mainland. We also experienced tragedy here in Hawaii when a man killed two police officers, his landlord and himself, and seven homes were burned to the ground.

What did you feel about all this sad news? When I watched the TV news of what is happening here and around the world, I suddenly remembered these words of Shakyamuni Buddha:

Continued on page 3.

Minister's Dharma Message

One-Sided Thinking? Middle Path Thinking?

Continued from page 2.

***“All tremble at violence; all fear death.
Putting oneself in the place of another, one
should not kill nor cause another to kill.***

***All tremble at violence; life is dear to all.
Putting oneself in the place of another, one
should not kill nor cause another to kill.”***

(Dhanmapada: Verses 129 & 130)

Why do such miseries happen every time - even if we wish for a happy year? Are these “happy” and “omedeto” wishes in the new year? We hope and wish for happiness but we always have the reality of reality. Reality includes happiness and unhappiness, and more. I would like to return to the words of Shakyamuni Buddha once again:

***“Hatred is never appeased by hatred in this world.
By non-hatred alone is hatred appeased.
This is a law eternal.”***

(Dhanmapada: Verse 5)

Violence never solves any problems, rather, it causes more problems. These words of Shakyamuni actually remind me to ask myself... “Am I a strong enough person to keep following Shakyamuni Buddha's words? Am I able to always be like that?”

When I learned of the many ongoing news stories of the man in Waikiki who killed two police officers and his landlord, I thought that he was in a difficult psychological situation. We each don't know what we may do in such a difficult situation. We may think - with clear, middle path thinking - that we don't want to kill anybody, but, for example, we don't know what we would do if we were in a war situation - or, in a war that only existed in our minds.

“Putting oneself in the place of another,” is a very important way to think about others. This should be the same idea as the “zero point” I wrote about. We have to leave the attached one-sided thinking to think in the middle path.

What the Waikiki man did (killed three people and himself, and caused six or seven families to become homeless) is thought of by our society as “harmful.” But I also learned about myself from this incident. It made me wonder about who I am.

What is the difference between that person and myself? He did things to harm others. I haven't done those acts but I am not in his situation. I don't know what I would do if I were in his situation. What did you feel about the news? Did you learn something?

Gassho, Koen Kikuchi



Membership Meeting Jan. 26

The 2020 Annual Member Meeting of the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Mission was successfully held on Sunday, January 26, 2020, in the temple's hondo (religious hall). The meeting was called to order at 9:12am by 2019 Board Vice-Chairperson Karen Hayashida as the quorum requirement of Gojikai members in attendance was met.

Temple officials present were Reverend Koen Kikuchi and Reverend Hidesato Kita.

Vice-Chairperson Hayashida conveyed the Board's gratitude and thanked all who helped to make 2019 a very successful year. Treasurer Julian Ng discussed the 2019 budget, expenditures and projects. He also touched upon some projects for this coming year that the newly-installed Board would be discussing. Printed copies of the January 27, 2019 General Membership Meeting were distributed to Gojikai members, voted on and approved. Also distributed was the "2020 Calendar of Events," which appears below.

Seven members have indicated their willingness to serve on the 2020 Board: Douglas Crosier, Karen Hayashida, Walter Herring, Dennis Kajiura, CharlAnn Nakamoto, Julian Ng, and Stanley Sato. CharlAnn Nakamoto was out of state and will be sworn in upon return. Reverend Kikuchi presided over the swearing-in. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33am.

Reverend Kikuchi then began a regular Sunday service. At 11am, participants and guests gathered in the Sangha Room for a delicious bento lunch catered from Shirokiya. We had great entertainment from Kazuo Shirakawa's band "Over the Hilltop Serenaders," great hula renditions by Ren, Kokoro and Hana Kikuchi, Japanese enka singing by Stanley Sato, and a memory-filled slideshow of our temple's 2019 daily activities by Stanley Sato.

The Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji, 95 years young, has been humbled to have received such great support and fellowship in 2019 to make its day-to-day operations and many events so successful. Arigato gozaimashita!

Major 2020 Kaneohe Activities

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's Birth
May	17	Sun	Gotan-e Service - Shinran's Birth
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	Thu	Joya-e - Year-End service

2019 Moments to Remember



Centenarian Susumu Okazaki rings the temple bell on New Year's Eve as we soon were to enjoy soba prepared by CharlAnn Nakamoto and Rev. and Mrs. Kikuchi. Days earlier, CharlAnn Nakamoto and Mike Kauhane pour "pounded" mochi rice as Kokoro and Hana Kikuchi eagerly wait to form mochi for altars.

Memorial Services Help to Bring Families Together

Many have wondered why Jodo Shinshu Buddhists gather for family memorial services. Traditionally, memorial services are held on certain anniversary years to gather and remember loved ones who have passed, giving thanks to these loved ones for the lives they shared with us. These are also occasions to bring family and friends together again.

This year, 2020, we observe memorial services for loved ones whose passing occurred in the years shown below. Please consult with Rev. Koen Kikuchi for an appropriate time to schedule a memorial service.

YEAR	MEMORIAL SERVICE
2019	1st anniversary
2018	3rd year anniversary
2014	7th year anniversary
2008	13th year anniversary
2008	17th year anniversary
1996	25th year anniversary
1988	33rd year anniversary
1971	50th year anniversary

Source: 2020 Higashi Honganji District Calendar



“

...The importance of Buddhism is to have services for ourselves through remembering and appreciating our loved ones. Buddhism is for people living now. The key words are “now, here, and I.”

I can listen to the Buddha Dharma here and now through the loved ones. This is the main purpose of having a memorial service.”

June 9, 2019 Dharma Talk

Rev. Koen Kikuchi

Temple Service & Activities Calendar

MARCH

- 1 Sun 9 am Sunday Service**
- 4 Wed 10am Ann Pearl care facility visitation
- 8 Sun 9 am Kaneohe Higashi Spring Ohigan Service, Guest Speaker: Reverend Shigenori Makino**
- 15 Sun 9 am No Sunday Service @ Kaneohe Windward Buddhist Temple (formerly Kailua Honpa Hongwanji) Speaker: Reverend Koen Kikuchi Kaneohe Higashi 'ohana invited to attend
- 18 Wed 10am Ann Pearl care facility visitation
- 22 Sun 9 am Sunday Service Guest Minister**
- 29 Sun 9 am Sunday Service**
- 31 Wed 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.