

**KANEOHE HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION**

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Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji



**JUSHIN**

樹心



**DECEMBER 2022– JANUARY 2023**

A registered 501 (c) organization

Volume 12 Issue 6

**Minister's Message**

By Rev. Marcos Sawada

**The Foundation of Our Life: The Nembutsu**

Don't Worry. All Things Go to Buddha's Aspiration. The 2022, 2023 and Other New Years Too! Make the Community Happy!

Happy New Year! Thank you everyone for helping our temple in 2022. Your work and donations (Dana) made last year a good year. This temple wants to improve the activities to make it a really meaningful Happy New Year for all of us. We had the annual garage & plant sales and the Bon Dance at the Mall. Your cooperation and help were appreciated.

It has been a long time since we repeated the Happy New Year! For us, the starting point is an opportunity to reset some things that weren't well in our lives last year and to try to improve them. It means that I'm not wholly satisfied with my present way of life or my conduct, and I need to change something. But, as Buddha could say, "This is a good moment to awaken from this dream called existence!"

People, including me, associate happiness in terms of physical, mental, material and emotional advantages. If I'm young, healthy and beautiful, I feel happy based on my condition of some records in my mind. If I have money, cars, a big and good house to live in, I'm happy for those comforts. The conditions for those kinds of happiness don't have any base of sustenance. They are only sensations; they change constantly. So, when those conditions leave me, I will feel happy no more and I will try to search for something external to make me happy again. I associate my happiness with an outer condition, pretending this is my base to live in this world.

The awareness of the reality that surrounds us is to live in the actual world without a deluded Happy New Year.

When the year-end comes, we remember members and friends of this temple who have passed away or friends who have left. We have experienced many encounters and farewells. Friends and members came in and others left. Some people we didn't know personally, but we were connected with them through your roots which made them familiar.

Almost 2 years have passed since my family and I came here. We have been living together and sharing a lot of growing experiences. Feelings of uncertainty and hope have arisen like when I just came here. These feelings are what every human feels so it comforts me.

As a Buddhist minister living in Kaneohe, I feel more emotionally balanced now, but with lots of insecurities and anxieties at the same time. In the morning when I wake up and look at the Koolau mountains from the Kaneohe Higashi's parking lot, good sensation, I feel I'm here!

The memories of the past and this moment bring me a unique mixed moment that dispels any kind of beliefs for an instant moment. Suddenly, memories of my father and mother come and they take me to the nostalgic feelings of the people of this land, this gorgeous nature and my relation with everything here and now. I really cannot describe it, but it is something so deep that tells me I am part of all here. It is like my return to my origin as a human that overcomes my ego, will and wishes as an individual. For a few hours, I forget everything.

Shin Buddhism (JODO SHINSHU) says the Nembutsu is its basis, the most important thing to realize as the foundation of our lives.

What is the foundation for my life? Maybe the inquiry in my mind which is atem-

poral or the doubt asks me when my strong ego expresses something and the silent voice shouts at me asking if I'm doing the right thing!? Is that voice the voice of my foundation as human?

In this turbulent time, I need to find my foundation to stand firmly in, but what does it mean? Since we live here in this world right now, how does the past work for my base? I think it is good to recap my 2022.

For me, my foundation for this temple became clearer in some ways. In 2021 I didn't have any idea of what I needed to do in this temple. Basic questions like, why did I come to Kaneohe? What do I have to do? Why did they choose me? Actually, these kinds of inquiries come from my heart to find my foundation of life. They are basic questions that lead me to my base or origin. When I go deeper on those inquiries, they are like, who am I? Where am I going? Why am I here? Every one of those basic questions actually represents my path to reach my base as human and I realize they manifest every year.

Comparisons, stress, dissatisfaction, despair, anxieties and insecurity in everything in 2021. In 2022, it was the same and probably in 2023 and the next few years will be the same. This word "same" of course isn't the same but the feeling of comparison, stress, dissatisfaction, despair, anxieties and insecurity will never leave my mind. Where is this foundation that I try to find on my path as a Shin Buddhist follower?

Karma is shaped by what we think (rationally and emotionally), verbalize and act! This is the expression of reality, what I believe and think as the reality. But for each one of us, what we think as reality diverges from others. My reality doesn't represent your individual reality. Each one of us lives in our own individual world as written in the Larger Sutra: BORN ALONE, DIE ALONE, GO ALONE AND COME ALONE. This means if we have 8 billion people on the earth, we have 8 billion different ways to feel, to see, to understand what we call LIFE, EXISTENCE AND THIS SELF.

Buddha realized that the reality based on the individual self or even the group self was lacking in the truth. What would be the truth? It is where our self cannot be the main focus. It is the ultimate reality, universal, no discrimination, and absent of "myself." This means not because I want or don't want or believe or don't believe! Only absolutely as it is! From the human perspective, there isn't a magic formula to live or a whole chaos in the world. They appear in each mind, but the reality is absent of what is my will or wish.

How do we realize this truth? We realize it when we feel our own self-extinguishing from the changes of the body. It is the age, illness and death. The truth of the body changing will extinguish the self; this is hopeless. But, as Lao Tzu quotes: "If you are depressed, you are living in the past. If you are anxious you are living in the future. If you are at peace, you are living in the present." When feeling anxious and uncertain, we ask "Why?" We don't have the answer because it is the self that wants the answer not the Dharma. It is going and coming back again to the eternal circle of life and death. This is Sam-sara or our mind in the records or expectations.

The reality is without me! No past, no future, only right now! Let's awaken from the dream called self, life, and existence! This is what Shakyamuni Buddha realized.

Because I have my ego, which wears plenty of clothes of beliefs and meritocracies, they can never liberate me from the mundane sufferings. My mind, it only is my ego. How from the perspective of ego solves the ego's problem.

**"It is the great torch in the long night of ignorance;  
Do not sorrow that your eyes of wisdom are dark.  
It is a ship on the vast ocean of birth-and-death;  
Do not grieve that your obstructions of karmic evil are heavy." Master Shinran**

**CALENDAR DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 23**

**DECEMBER 2022**  
4 (Sun) HBC Bodhi Day Service 9:30 am  
Zoom from JODO MISSION OF HAWAII  
11 (Sun) KHHM Bodhi Day Service 9 am \*YT  
18 (Sun) Short SS + General Temple  
Cleanup Day 9 a.m.  
26 (Mon) Mochi Pounding for the temple 8 am  
31 (Sat) Joya-e Year End Svc 5 pm

**JANUARY 2023**  
1 (Sun) 2023 NY SHUSHO E SVC 9 am  
8 (Sun) New Year's Family Svc. 9:00 am\*YT  
15 (Sun) SS 9 am  
22 (Sun) SS at Betsuin 10 am Rev. Kigoshi  
Guest Speaker from Japan  
25 (Wed), 26 (Thu), 27 (Fri) Ministers Seminar with Rev. Bunsho Obata 2:30 pm  
29 (Sun) SS + General Membership Meeting \*Zoom

**FEBRUARY 2023**  
5 (Sun) Sunday Service 9 a.m. \*YT  
6 (Mon) Larger Sutra Study I 10 am \*Zoom  
7 (Tue) Larger Sutra Study 6p.m.\*Zoom  
8 (Wed) OKO Tea time Shinran's Wasan 3 pm \* Zoom With Betsuin  
9 (Thu) Ministers seminar with Dr. Haneda 10

am  
12 (Sun) Sunday Service 9 a.m. \*Zoom + FB  
15 (Wed) Publication Committee Mtg 1 pm  
19 (Sun) SS 9 am  
26 (Sun) Sunday Service 9 a.m.  
\* YT live stream  
• ZOOM Live Stream Need to get Link  
• \* YT YouTube Channel live Stream at Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji YT Channel

# Every Wednesdays and Fridays  
Dharma Health Morning Service .  
\* Health Tips Exercise from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

OCTOBER 23, 2022 OMIGAKI with Karen Higashi

**UP COMING SERVICES & EVENTS**

Honzan Japan Tour: From April 18 to 25, 2023. About \$ 3000 More Inf. WEB Site  
Buddha's Enlightenment Day Service HBC BODHI DAY SVC at Hawaii Jodo Mission DECEMBER 4, 2022 (Sun) at 9:30 am  
Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Bodhi Day SVC at the temple YT live stream  
**DECEMBER 9, 2022 (Sun) at 9 am**  
Temple cleaning up day DEC . 18, 2022 at 9:00 a.m . Helpers Welcomed  
Joya-E Year End Service DEC. 31, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.  
New Year Service SHUSHO-E JAN. 1, 2023 9:00 a.m.  
**Please feel free to join us in person!**

**GOJIKAI MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR 2023**  
**Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District 2023 Calendar**  
We ask for your contribution to our denomination Higashi Hongwanji by getting the nice 2023 District's calendar about the tradition of the Temple's Buddhist symbols. Please send us your Dana with your 2023 GOJIKAI Membership fee. You, as members, give us reason to continue this temple. Your donation is very important to keep this temple alive! Mahalo! Gassho!

**JUSHIN EDITORIAL MEMBERS**  
Contributors: Rev. Marcos Sawada, CharlAnn Nakamoto, Jean Crosier, Stan Sato, Karen Higashi, Norma Sawada.  
Assembling and Sending: Stan Sato, CharlAnn Nakamoto, Dayle Chock, Norma Sawada, Rev. Marcos Sawada



It is like how Sensei Shuichi Maida used to say: "How I can grab my right hand using my right hand." It is impossible! That means what I think is the path of my acceptance or liberation isn't in myself. We humans are not able, from our human centered perspective, to have a self-generated solution to save us!

Rev. Haya Akegarasu, one of the thinkers of modern Buddhism, used a word that represents this base as our foundation: "Darkness" or we can try to interpret from what Master Shinran Shonin wrote in one of his hymns (WASAN): **"It is the great torch in the long night of ignorance; Do not sorrow that your eyes of wisdom are dark. It is a ship on the vast ocean of birth -and-death; Do not grieve that your obstructions of karmic evil are heavy."**

That long night of ignorance means we humans actually are in the darkness, nothing is clear. Since we were born, we start the concept of self or I want this or that or it belongs to me etc. This I think isn't the same for any individual living on this planet. I want others to stay 100% with my ideas and will, but the mind, the concepts of everything and each individual has it only in his or her mind. We, as humans, exist in relationship with others. That means each relationship you make is a new yourself, but the "you" you think is you, is different from others looking at you.

Every small thing, even a grain of rice or your body, brings the ultimate reality to this moment. You can believe it or not, accept it or not that things are as they are! It is the source of wisdom working constantly to bring awareness of the reality that surrounds us without fantasies to those who live in the fantasies. The human's ideal, logic and rationality lack truth like their passions or emotions. Suffering is the way out. It gives us opportunities to meet others in the same situation. Having sadness and sharing feelings with others make us live in the same condition as humans. This is an important point as Shinran tried to convey to us: only by encountering people in the same condition and feeling can we become compassionate. In Buddhism, compassion isn't separated from wisdom; they are one thing. Writing it in Chinese character, we call Buddha's compassion JIHI (慈悲). Ji means love, affection for all sentient beings and Hi is sadness. Only when we encounter another's sorrow and sadness, we can encounter the realization. The key word is Togetherness - COMPASSION.

The awakening to the true reality working in us is the NEMBUTSU! It is the actual insight of the NEW YEAR HAPPINESS, universal happiness working with my SAMSARA, which is universal too.

NAMUAMIDABUTSU!!

### Chairperson's Message

Dear Dharma Friends,

Thank you very much for your support of the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Mission throughout this entire year.

This is the last Jushin for 2022 and it may be the last time I will be able to express my sincere "Thank You" to all of you for supporting our temple in your individual, sincere and compassionate way.

Many of you have fond memories tied to our temple in regards to its past-- how it was erected; to be a place of dharma as it stands today, many of you are connected to our temple as a place where you've volunteered your time, energy, shared your plants, food, crafts and other donations, built wonderful friendships and reinforced traditions along the way. And many of you are also our strong financial supporters that we may not have the pleasure of seeing or hearing from on a regular basis but I know you hold the temple deep in your hearts.

With our last two big temple projects—the Mottainai sale and the Windward Mall Bon dance, we were so fortunate to continue to engage the help of new volunteers and renew relationships with previous inactive members. Regardless, each one of you is

vital to the survival of our sangha and the future of Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Mission. Thank you for all you do! Thank you for your dana!

On a sad, sad note, I'd like to pay tribute to the recent passing of our dear member, Karen Higashi. Karen served as our treasurer on our Board of Directors over the past few years, was an avid volunteer for all of our temple projects and attended service with us every Sunday. No words can express how much she will be missed. We were showered by her quiet style of showing her kindness and compassion with everyone she was around regardless if she was meeting you for the very first time. She shared her talent in weekly flower arranging and was always so generous with her time and energy especially with our Mottainai projects.

As I put my hands together in gassho...to the very end, Karen has shared with me the dharma...reminding me of how life is a fleeting moment. And for this I am forever grateful. Namuamidabutsu.

In gassho, CharlAnn Nakamoto

## EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS



### MEMBERSHIP GENERAL MEETING INVITATION

#### General Membership Meeting & New Year Luncheon

All Gokikai members are invited to attend the annual general membership meeting on **January 29** at 9:30 a.m. Temple's general report for 2022 and the recognition of members and temple's friends who volunteer to support the temple through maintenance work, flower arrangements, kitchen assistance and other temple activities will be recognized during the event and luncheon. Dear member, please if you intend to attend RSVP kindly reply by January 22 (Sun). EMAIL to [kaneohe@hhbt-hi.org](mailto:kaneohe@hhbt-hi.org), by phone call to 808 247-2661 or 808 800-7006. Mahalo! Rev. Sawada

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: As of September 04 to October 28, 2022

**Memorial Service & Inurement:** Philip M. Lurito (IMO Milicent Misao Lurito); Catherine Lloyd Maki ( IMO Helen Mieko Maki) .

**DONATION:** Michael Takashita; Robert Evans; Jean Fong, Leighton Sakamoto; Higashi Hongwanji

**Ohigan :**Reiko Hatakeyama; Sandra S. Kawate; Char-Ann Nakamoto

**Eitaiyo:** Coleen Kasamoto

**Obon :** Joseph T Kuroda; June S Takeno; Majel & Ralph Toyofuku; Joyce Gushiken; Roy & Amy Inouye; Bishop Kosen Ishikawa; Eileen Onomoto; Iwakuni Odori Aiko kai; Pacific Buddhist Academy; Anonymous

**IHA!**Catherine Maki (IMO Helen Maki)

**Hoonko:**Karen Hayashida, James K. Hirakawa, Joyce H. Kawakami; Sandra S. Kawate; Joyce K. Matsumoto ; Edith Y. Miyasato; Sakiko Nishimura; Atsuko Nonaka; Earl Y. Tsukamoto; Tokie Yoneshige

**Bon Service:** Lois E. Miyamoto; Eileen Onomoto & Family;

Miyazaki Family; Linda Honda; Kasamoto Family;

**Food Donation:** Setsu Meyer; CharAnn Nakamoto; Kerri Kahapea; Norma Sawada; Robert Evans; Lloyd Antonio Vasquez, Daring Chung;

**Altar's flower donation:** Stan Sato; Harriet Yamada; Karen Higashi; Dayle Chock; Setsu Meyer; .Catherine Maki

**Bon Dance Preparation Donation:** Coleen Kasamoto; Claudia Uyeda; Bertha Nagata; Peggy Sakoda; Akiko & Henry Segawa

**Items Food Donation & Helpers:** Lloyd Antonio Vasquez; Vivian Takagaki; Joyce Masaki, Debra Saiki; Robert Jr. Evans; Harry & Ann Akagi; Gay Takahashi; Joy Sakamoto; Setsu Meyer; Jeanne & Kevin Kawawata; Majel Toyofuku; Bill Yamanaka; Charlene Watanabe; Eleanor Tokunaga; Leighton Sakamoto; Harriet Yamada; Jeannie Higa; Vivian; Charlene Watanabe; Jeanne & Kevin Kawawata; Atsuko Nonaka; Mary Matsuda; Norma Sawada; Taylor Darling; Pam Kino; Jean Fong; Susan & Julian Ng; Denis Kajjura; Stan Sato; Dayle Chock

**Total: \$ 1,795 Gokikai dues & Donations**

### Thank You!

We appreciate your generous donations. Please contact Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji for inadvertent omission of donors or if you want to remain as anonymous, please inform us in your mail.

### Helpers Volunteers needed

#### Year end temple's cleanup

Sunday on December 18, 2022, we are needing volunteers for Year end temple's cleanup. If you are able to make it we really appreciate. Starts at 9 a.m.

Lunch will be served!

Please call Rev. Sawada 808 247-2661 or 808 800-7006

### MEMORIAL SERVICES

**1 Y** (Passed on 2021, 2022) Mr. Michael Tadashi Onomoto 10/30/21; Junichi Miyamoto 01/25/22;(2023) Mrs. Milicent Misao Lurito 08/03/22; Mrs. Helen Mieko Maki 09/24/22;

**3Y** (2020-2021) Mr. Ayano Miyazaki 08/19; Mr. Mitsuji Higashi 10/26; Mr. Jon Sakae Horikawa 12/10; 2022: Mr. Michael Tadashi Onomoto 10/30;

**7 Y** (2018) Mr. Isamu Furuya 01/16; Mr Ben Fujikazu Takahara 03/12; Mr Toshiaki Sakata 08/30; Mr. Elaine Wilson 08/30; Mr Robert Wilson 09/18;

**13 Y** (2011) Ms. Miyuki Yasuda 11/22; (2011) Mrs Helen M Fujii 02/17; Mr Ryan Masanori Suenaga 04/24; Mrs. Chiyoko Onishi 05/23; Mrs Ruth Midori Nojima 07/23; Mr. Larry Isao Hayashida 08/23;

**17Y** (2007) Ms. Kimie Ozeki Kasadate 12/26; (2007) Mr. Roy A. Sakata 02/17; Mrs. Hatsue Tanaka Urata 03/08; Mrs Midori Tsuyama 03/06; Florence Fusako Miyamoto 04/04; Mrs. Sumiyo Morioka 07/10; Mr. Hiroshi Yuhara 07/10; Mr. John M Yokote 07/28; Mr. Ralph Noboru Fujimoto 11/19; Mr. Edward Masuo Miyashiro 12/23/2007.

**25 Y** (1999) Mrs. Tazu Oda 12/15/98; Mr. Wallace Takayuki Hayami 02/06;

**33 Y** (1991) Mr. Masayuki Michibata 05/18; Mr. Harry T Watanabe 07/28;

**50 Y** (1974) Mr. Sotaro Arano 07/07; Mr. Fred Sakamoto 10/20; Mrs. Keiko Okabayashi 12/28/1974.

# The above dates reflect the memorial services for the entire year 2023. This year, we are keeping for the whole year because the pandemic's situation wasn't resolved. We are having in person's service at the temple, at home

or by Zoom by requesting. Please call Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji (808 247-2661) for your service appointment, even if the date has passed. You can consult the resident minister for any information you need. Also please feel free to come and join our **Sunday Services**, starting from 09:00 am. For further information call Rev. Sawada at 808 247-2661.

# First proceed (when a loved one almost going to pass or just passed away), for Bedside service: call immediately to Rev. Sawada at 808 247-2661 or 808 800-7006.

### In Memoriam:

Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the late:

**Mrs. Karen Higashi**  
Nov 18, 2022



### Thanks, visitors & helpers!!

