

KANEOHE HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION

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JUSHIN 樹心



FEBRUARY– MARCH 2023

A registered 501 (c) organization

Volume 13 Issue 1

Minister's Message

By Rev. Marcos Sawada

New Year Wishes: A Chance to Awaken from the Self

“Temple is a place to listen to the Buddha’s teaching. Your living is a place for listening to your own actions and reflecting on what you have listened to.” (A quotation from a temple in Japan)

Family is the first structure of a social community. *Living in a social group, as in a country, city, even in a family, each one has a role. From that we learn what I think is different from each one. Relation of role in a family brings a different concept which makes me realize that my will or wishes is only a projection of my mind wanting an external condition or situation to change for my own benefit (MYSELF).* As a human, my mind is like a mountain of desires, wishes and willing. My worldly passions are my poison and my source of realization. Humans want to be recognized by others. We think that if we are going to get more advantages and be different from others, the illusion is that we can get more power. If it does not happen, we suffer with the result.

Having experiences as an individual inside of social groups can provide us with elements to ask why I want to be better than others. Why do you or I want to excel over others? The answer is deeper, but without any solution which satisfies each of us. My experiences guide me naturally to come back to my roots as part of this Nature. It is my natural path as being an element in the infinite macrocosm. I am a holistic representation of this Nature too. The way it manifests in me is to take me back to togetherness.

We, as individuals, are living in fantasies that are focused on changing situations or expecting to jump from bad to better conditions. Health, money, social position—we try to improve them in as many ways as we can. This is what we call the SELF in SAMASARA. One’s own world that exists only in each individual mind.

Even though we aspire to have a happy new year or happy life, they are expectations moved by changing conditions and situations created in my mind for benefiting myself. The focus of my ego (desires) to be changed to the true nature of things or reality makes me stand in the reality (moment) of right now. We can live only right now, but it cannot be grabbed.

Individuals have the Ego; each one thinks exchanging one situation for another which he or she thinks is going to change for the better. From imperfection to perfection. Transformation from an illness situation to a healthy condition. Those feelings happen in our mind. They don’t have any concrete or veracity elements; only the fantasies in your mind. But what can we tell about the body. The reality of my BODY tells me straight. It overcomes my worldly desires (mind’s truth). The universal truth is birth, living (age and illness) and death, the true nature of my body, my nature of impermanence (Dharma’s truth). This universal truth overcomes the self. Your body expresses this right now. Where can we stand? On the here and now or a place without any basis (Darkness) that makes me realize everything in my mind doesn’t have any consistency (The truth of Dharma). Buddha works constantly to awaken us to this

simple true reality. But we cannot listen to it.

Self wants to change an external, outer situation expecting things to go as expected. As a result, it leads to frustration for not being able to change. This is suffering created in the mind as things don’t happen by my own desires. Nature has its own nature. That doesn’t come from my mind’s command but by the proper nature of impermanence.

New Year’s resolutions usually are based on my expectation of things going as I want them. Buddha’s wisdom works by changing those self-centered desires to universal happiness. Realizing that the events don’t go as I expect, want or desire moves me to a neutral perspective without any base that starts from myself.

Listening to the teachings is in the temple. Asking and practicing the teachings is in daily life (living). The Dharma and practicing never cease. Inquiring about it in my daily life is my path to stand here right now. For whom? For people who lived, suffered and realized the work of the true nature before us. They are in the shape of ancestors, parents, friends and even enemies. Respecting their Memorial Service dates is a temporal way of listening and asking them without any condition, but from the realization of Buddha’s Wisdom.

Why come back for Memorial Service? It is to continue your path for knowing about you. No self is the true self! The interface of the Buddha’s wisdom and your ego wishes is the NAMUAMIDABUTSU, the voice of Wisdom in the shape of our three poisons, Hatred, Greed and Ignorance, that never abandons us. NAMUAMIDABUTSU.

“Temple is a place to listen to the Buddha’s teaching. Your living is a place for listening to your own actions and reflecting on what you have listened to.”
(A quotation from a temple in Japan)

CALENDAR FEBRUARY– APRIL 2023

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.
15 (Wed) Publication Committee Mtg 1 pm
19 (Sun) SS 9 am
26 (Sun) Sunday Service 9 a.m. *YT live stream

MARCH 2023

4 (Sat) Joint Dharma Gathering Larger Sutra Rev. Dr. Haneda 10:00 am by ZOOM
5 (Sun) 9:00 am
8, 15, 22, 29 (Wed) Rev. Dr. Haneda, Larger Sutra Classes 5:30 to 7:30 pm by Zoom
12 (Sun) Spring Ohigan Service 9 am *YT
13 (Mon) Larger Sutra Study I 10 am *Zoom
14 (Tue) Larger Sutra Study 6p.m.*Zoom
15 (Wed) OKO Tea time Shinran’s Wasan 3 pm * Zoom With Betsuin

APRIL 2023

2 (Sun) 2023 HBC HANAMATSURI SVC 9:30 am will be live streamed Hybrid Service
9 (Sun) Joint HANAMATSURI with Windward Buddhist temple Svc. 10:00 am *YT Kailua
14 (Fri) to 25 (Tue) Sensei will be in Japan
16, 23 (Sun) SS 9 am
30 (Sun) Sunday Service 9 a.m. *YT

- * Zoom ZOOM Live Stream Need to get Link
- * YT YouTube Channel live Stream at Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji YT Channel

19 (Sun) Betsuin Spring Ohigan Svc 10 am
Guest Speaker Bishop Wataru Kigoshi, at Betsuin
20 (Mon) Ministers Seminar with Bishop Kigoshi 10 am
26 (Sun) Sunday Service 9 a.m. *YT

UP COMING SERVICES & EVENTS

Honzan Japan Tour: From April 18 to 25, 2023. About \$ 3000 More Inf. WEB Site

March 4 (Sat) Joint Dharma Gathering Larger Sutra Rev. Dr. Haneda 10:00 am by ZOOM

March 8, 15, 22, 29 (Wed) Rev. Dr. Haneda, Larger Sutra Classes 5:30 to 7:30 pm by Zoom

April 9 (Sun) Joint HANAMATSURI with Windward Buddhist temple Svc. 10:00 am *YT Kailua Windward Buddhist temple

GOJIKAI MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR 2023

Please send us 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! If you want to discontinue ask Rev. Marcos how to quit. Mahalo! Gassho!

JUSHIN EDITORIAL MEMBERS

Contributors: Rev. Marcos Sawada, CharlAnn Nakamoto, Jean Crosier, Stan Sato, Norma Sawada.

Assembling and Sending: Stan Sato, Dayle Chock, Norma Sawada, Rev. Marcos Sawada

EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS



TEMPLE’S MOCHI; NEW YEAR EVE (JOYA) and NEW YEAR SERVICE Dec. 26, 31, 2022 and Jan. 1, 2023



Installation of New Board directors, from the left: Bill Yamanaka; Stan Sato; Kerri Kahapea, CharlAnn Nakamoto and Mary Matsuda. General Mtg. Jan. 22, 2023



Overseas District Abbot Yul Otani
Shinshū Otani-ha (Higashi Honganji)

To our fellow seekers in the overseas districts, I send my warmest wish for a Happy New Year. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation for the support you continue to give to our propagation efforts in the districts.

Upon reflection of what is happening throughout the world, we continue to see the conflicts and confrontations such as the continuance of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Because of such tragedies, so many precious lives have been lost, and the people continue to live in the midst of fear and sorrow. It is heart-wrenching to see the suffering of the people whom we cannot help. However, we wish that peace and tranquility will be restored everywhere as soon as possible.

At our mother temple in Kyoto, the 850th Celebration of the Birth of Shinran Shōnin and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of Jōdo Shinshū will be held this Spring.

As you have heard, the theme of the gathering is “Namu Amida Butsu—To Discover the Meaning of Being Born as Human Beings.” It embodies our wish that each of us will discover the preciousness of having been born as human beings and find true joy in living through encountering the teaching of the nenbutsu and its spirit in the observance of this Celebration.

The world today is faced with unprecedented crisis and dismal moods of uncertainty. However, we are at a point where it is even more crucial for us to renew our appreciation of the preciousness of our lives and our deep interconnectedness with each other.

In the gatha, *Shinshū Shūka*, the third verse begins with the phrase, “Just as there are no boundaries between the oceans of the world.” As stated in this gatha, I sincerely hope that the Celebration will be an opportunity for all of us to listen to the teaching of the nenbutsu that Shinran Shōnin clarified and appreciate the meaning of having been born as human beings together with our fellow seekers around the globe.

I have heard that each overseas district is planning their group tours to participate in the Celebration. Since each of you are essential in establishing and maintaining the links of the Dharma, please consider participating in the event with your family and friends. I sincerely look forward to seeing you all in person again at our mother temple in Kyoto.

For those of you who will not be able to attend the Celebration in person, the services and Dharma talks are planned to be livestreamed on the internet. Therefore, it is our sincerest hope that all of you will share this event with your family and friends at your temple or at your homes, so that everyone can be a part of this historical occasion together with us.

In closing, I ask for your continued support as we begin the New Year.

Bishop Wataru Kigoshi
Chief Administrator, Shinshū Otani-ha
(Higashi Honganji)



To everyone in our overseas districts, I wish to extend my New Year's greetings for the year of 2023. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation for the

support and understanding you continue to give to our Sangha.

As of now, the positive cases of Covid-19 have been gradually decreasing and most activities seem to be returning to the pre-pandemic level worldwide. I have also heard that our members in the overseas districts have started to gather together again at your temples for Sunday services. At the same time, though, I heard that you are continuing to take precautions against infections, such as livestreaming services for those who are vulnerable and also continuing to wear masks. I am so happy to hear the good news. Despite the trend towards normal, we need to continue to be careful because of such incidents as the sudden increase in the number of positive cases last summer in Japan. I hope that all of you overseas keep your guard up and continue to take care of your health.

Although the outlook for the future is still uncertain, we will be observing the 850th Celebration of the Birth of Shinran Shōnin and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of Jōdo Shinshū this Spring. Our hope is that this Celebration will become an important opportunity for each of us to think about what the establishment of Jōdo Shinshū means to us. It is also the opportunity to listen to the teaching of the nenbutsu even more deeply. We are encouraged to reflect upon how we are receiving the Dharma in our daily lives and renew our commitment to live our lives as nenbutsu followers.

Today's world continues to be in a state of disorder. We are faced with the unrelenting spread of Covid-19 and the conflicts among nations around the world such as the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine where so many precious lives continue to be lost.

As Abbot Otani stated in his pledge at last year's Hōonkō service, we humans who are fundamentally unenlightened find that it is impossible for us to reflect upon our true selves through our own capabilities. We can receive insight into the truth of our existence only through encountering the teaching of the nenbutsu which is embodied in “Namu Amida Butsu,” the Name of the Buddha. Because we are living in such an age of confusion, it is my deepest wish that this teaching of truth be shared with all people around the world.

The main theme for the 2023 Celebration is “Namu Amida Butsu—To Discover the Meaning of Being Born as Human Beings.” I sincerely look forward to the Celebration with a hope that it will become a precious opportunity for each of us to reflect upon how we receive the spirit of “Namu Amida Butsu” while contemplating this theme together with all of our fellow seekers from around the globe.

In conclusion, I ask for your continued support as we begin the New Year.

EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS



JOYA-E December 31, 2022

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: As of October 28 to December 2022

GOJIKAI: Lloyd & Lorene Maki; Catherine Maki; Stan Sato; Ernest Oda; Eleanor Tokunaga; Myles Miyazaki; Jean Yoshizaki; Linda Hayashida; Yoshiko Kawakami; Doug & Jean Crosier; Tokie Yoneshige; Clyde Nojima; Thomas & Evelyn Nagano; Majel Toyofuku; Gertrude Nakamura; Sandra Kawate; Joyce Matsumoto; Clifford Kanda; Mary & Roy Matsuda; Jean Kanda; Faith Kaneshiro (Kuroiwa); Lynn Tsuji; June & Barry Welled; Ethel Ikeda; Richard & Kelda Kakisako; Glen & Reiko Hatakeyama; Paul & Liane Briggs; Janet Mukai; Harry & Ann Akagi; Gary Yamamoto; Sharon Sukita; CharliAnn & Alan Nakamoto; Bill Yamanaka \$ 1970

Memorial Service : Catherine, Lloyd Lorene Maki, Myles Hirahara, Lisa Allen Smith, Gayle Hirahara, Laurie hirahara, Lynn Dwane Leong, Sue Ronald Kunihiro, Shirley Clark, Melvin Sharon Kunihiro, Raymond Elaine Hirakami, Michael Hirakami, Tad Nakayama Family, Mineko Koyama (IMO Helen Mieko Maki) ; Myles Miyazaki (IMO Ayano Miyazaki); Stephanie Pauling (IMO Onishi Family); Anonymous (IMO Tazu Oda and Edna Fukuda); Paul Liana Briggs (IMO Karen Higashi); Glen Reiko Hatakeyama (IMO Shinyu Tomoko Matsumoto); \$ 2835

DONATION: Michael Takashita; Higashi Hongwanji; Cheryl Tyler; June & Barry Welled; Mary Kagawa; Mary & Roy Matsuda; Aiko Iris Sato; Gertrude Nakamura; Liane & Paul Briggs; Rhoda Kawamata; Jean Yoshizaki ; Rev. Takekoshi's Family; Ann Meador \$ 2615

Obon & Joya E: Glen & Reiko Hatakeyama ; Myles Miyazaki. \$ 235

Hoonko: Atsuko Nonaka; Debra & Dennis Saiki; Yoshiko Kawakami & Susan Taramoto; Bill Yamanaka; Stan Sato; Sandra Kawate; Mary Matsuda; Ken Saiki; Janet Waki; Jeanne & Bishop Kawawata; CharliAnn Nakamoto; Iris Anisue; Thelma Sakamoto; \$ 635

Calendar: Clifford Kanda; Roy & Mary Matsuda; Linda Honda; Jean Kanda; Faith Kaneshiro; June Welled; Ethel Ikeda; Richard

Kakisako; Liane Briggs; Janet Mukai; Neal Matsushima; Joyce Kawakami; Joanne Ide; Harry & Ann Akagi; Florence Kunimura; Sakiko Nishimura; Joyce Otsubo; Betty Nishikawa; Sharon Sukita; Jeanette Kan; David Suehiro; Linda Morita; Edith Miyasato; June Takeno; Eric Okazaki; CharliAnn Nakamoto; Ernest Oda; Eleanor Tokunaga; Myles Miyazaki; Yoshiko Hamaguchi; Gary & Linda Shinsato; Alma Kidoguchi; Rodha Kawamata; Linda Hayashida; Julian Ng; Elaine Hirayasu; Tokie Yoneshige; Clyde Nojima; Thomas Nagano; Majel Toyofuku; Catherine Maki; Karen Hayashida; Gertrude Nakamura; Sandra Kawate; Joyce Matsumoto; Eric Kiyotoki \$ 1440

NOKOTSUDO: Joyce Otsubo; Ernest Oda; Joyce Matsumoto; Glen & Reiko Hatakeyama \$ 345

Items Food Donation & Helpers: Lloyd Antonio Vasquez; Setsu Meyer; CharliAnn Nakamoto; Kerri Kahapea; Norma Sawada; Robert Evans; Darin Chung; Lois Miyamoto; Doug Crosier; Mary Matsuda; Debra Saiki; Jeanne & Kevin Kawawata; Joyce Masaki; Leighton Sakamoto; Dennis Kaijura; Joyce Matsumoto; Bertha Nagata; Coleen Kasamoto; Cláudia Uyeda; Brent Miyamoto ; Rev. Takekoshi & Wife

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

Total: \$ 10, 075 Gojikai 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

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



Cleanup Day, Dec. 18, 2022: Liane Briggs, Antonio Vasquez and Norma Sawada

MEMORIAL SERVICES

1 Y (Passed on 2021, 2022) Mr. Michael Tadashi Onomoto 10/30/21; (2023) Mrs. Milicent Misao Lurito 08/03/22; Mrs. Helen Mieko Maki 09/24/22; Karen S. Higashi 11/18/22; Kenneth T. Oka 11/27/22; Harumi Furuya 12/24/22;

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:

Mr. Kenneth T. Oka Nov. 27, 2022
 Mrs. Harumi Furuya Dec. 24, 2022

Thanks, visitors & helpers!!



Cheryl Tyler, Paul Briggs, Jeanne Higa, Gladys Sakata, Rev. Kenjo Takekoshi and wife. Thanks!!!

