

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 522-9200 Fax: (808) 522-9209

Web: www.hongwanjihawaii.com Email: hqs@honpahi.org

JANUARY 2014

NEW YEAR'S GREETING FROM GOMONSHU KOSHIN OHTANI

Immeasurable Light and Life.

At the beginning of the year, I would like to send you my greetings from Hongwanji in Kyoto.

Upon succeeding the position as Monshu, thirty-six years and nine months have passed. I have come to empathize with Chinese master, Shan-tao, as he writes in *Hymns of Birth in the Pure Land*, "Caught up in everyday life, the days and nights go left unnoticed, unable to become emancipated and escape the sea of suffering." I shall vow to work diligently until my term comes to an end this June.

For many of us, although the passing of time seems to speed up with age, in recent years, changes within society have sped up, making things all the more unsettling. Because these rapid transitions are largely the result of developments in scientific technology and economic growth, they sometimes produce discrepancies in individual lifestyles and societal framework. The gap among socio-economic concerns including business corporations and people's lifestyles are widening that both domestic and international efforts have not been successful in dealing with such issues. As a result, there is a sense that neither reflecting on the past nor thinking ahead into the future matters, so long as we are content with the present. However, this mentality will result in repeating past mistakes or passing burdens on to future generations.

Is it not that the role of Buddhism is to provide us who live in this constantly changing world, with an unflinching spiritual foundation to live the life which we have received to the fullest? In Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, that foundation is the Primal Vow of Amida Tathagata, namely *Namo Amida Butsu*. Being unconditionally embraced by Amida Tathagata, we are enabled to accept our own inconvenient past and at this very moment, be joyous of this life we have received.

May we all continue to live every day of this year in appreciation of the Nembutsu.

January 1, 2014

OHTANI Koshin
Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

年頭の辞

光寿無量

新しい年の初めにあたり、京都の本願寺よりご挨拶申し上げます。

門主を継職してから三十六年と九ヶ月過ぎました。中国の善導大師のお言葉に「人間惣々（あわただしい）として衆務（日常のつとめ）を営み、年命の日夜に去ることを覚えず（中略）いまだ解



脱して苦海を出づることを得ず」（『往生礼讃』とあるのが、身にしみて感じられます。今年六月の退任まで、心して、勤めたいと思います。

年齢と共に、時の経つのが速くなるように感じられることは、多くの方に共通しているようですが、近年は世の中の変化そのものが速くなっており、一層、慌ただしく感じられます。この変化は主として、科学技術の発達と経済活動の進展によるものですから、人間一人ひとりの生活や社会の仕組みがうまく対応できるとは限りません。企業の盛衰や人々の生活格差は激しくなっています。それに対処できる国内の仕組みや国際的な協調が追いつきません。そのためか、過去を問わず、未来を考えず、今さえよければ良いという風潮が感じられます。それでは、過去の過ちを繰り返したり、子孫の世代に負の遺産を残すことになります。

佛教の役割は、移り変わる世の中を生きる人間に、変わることのない依り処を与え、恵まれたいのちを精一杯生きるよう導くことではないでしょうか。浄土真宗では、阿弥陀如来の本願すなわち南無阿弥陀仏が依り処です。阿弥陀如来に無条件に受け容れられることによって、私は不都合な過去も受け容れるようになり、今、生かされていることを喜ぶことができます。

今年も、お念仏申して、一日いちにちを大切に過ごさせていただきませう。

2014年1月1日

浄土真宗本願寺派

門主 大谷光真

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM BISHOP ERIC MATSUMOTO

Namo Amida Butsu and Happy New Year!

As we begin the New Year, let me express my most sincere gratitude to all Ministers and their Families, Members and Supporters of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii for your commitment and effort in the past year. Without your dedication and willingness, Hawaii Kyodan would not have been able to accomplish all that it did in 2013. Now, as a New Year begins, please accept my best wishes and hope that the New Year will be most meaningful and especially peaceful for you. Needless to say as the Jodo Shin Buddhist Sangha, we entrust in Amida Buddha and go to the Dharma/Teachings for guidance. The Great Aspiration of the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light/Amida Buddha is the peace and happiness of all existence. If a person experiences this Great Wisdom and Unconditional Compassion of Amida Buddha that person also embraces the Buddha's Aspiration. Hence, Shinran Shonin was able to say, "Those who feel that their own birth (in the Pure Land of Enlightenment) is completely settled should, mindful of the Buddha's benevolence, hold the nembutsu in their hearts and say it to respond in gratitude to that benevolence, with the wish, "May there be peace in the world, and may the Buddha's Teaching spread!"



In this way, the life of a Shin Buddhist is one of responding in gratitude to Amida Buddha's Compassion by reciting the Nembutsu in awareness, joy and gratitude and incorporating into one's life the wish that the Teaching spreads far and wide and the aspiration for world peace. The reality of interdependence affirms that what we each do (or do not do) will make a difference. However, limited and imperfect my responding efforts are it is important that we try to be that difference. According to the Dharma, a further emphasis would be the importance of how we strive towards our goal. It is clear that the Buddhist emphasis would be on collaboration, without force or violence and without fear. This is the Wisdom of the Buddhas.

Truly, let us take to heart our 2014 Theme and Slogan, "Path of Entrusting: Share Peace." As the Compassion of Amida Buddha shows peace must be for all people, all life, all existence. I call out to our members and supporters to please help us, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, keep alive the aspiration

for world peace by continuing to speak of it and also be engaged in local and world events which nurture peace in individuals and society. In our 125th Anniversary year in Hawaii, may we encourage each other to listen, to study and learn, and experience Amida Buddha and the Dharma so we can be guided and inspired by it. I humbly ask for your support of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and its Mission Statement "To share the living Teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism so that all beings may enjoy lives of harmony, peace and gratitude. I can say with certainty that, in our own way, are making a difference and today more than ever, as we network with other organizations in the community it does make a big difference. Please let us come together and let us work together! Let us entrust and share peace.

Once again, a Happy New Year and Namu Amida Butsu/Entrusting in the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light.

In gassho,
Eric Matsumoto, Bishop

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM KYODAN PRESIDENT ALTON MIYAMOTO

Aloha and best wishes for a happy and peaceful New Year! 2013 was a year where we made great progress in reaching out into the community through programs and addressing community issues. Two significant examples are the Sadako Sasaki crane exhibit at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Museum and marriage equality law.

The Japanese Cultural Center, the Hiroshima Sister City Committee, and HHMH partnered with the National Parks Service and Pacific Historic Parks in raising over \$70,000 for the construction of the display. The Sasaki family joined us in dedicating the exhibit on Peace Day, Sept. 21, 2013. A significant portion of the contributions were made by HHMH and its affiliates, such as individual temples, BWA, Dharma Schools, and individual members. Thank you very much for your support for this project. We plan to continue our leadership role in peace education.



2013 was a year of divisive issues for our communities. Neighbor islands were polarized with the issue of GMOs (genetically modified organisms) and pesticides while our entire state struggled with the issue of marriage equality. We understand and respect that some may have different perspectives, however, our support of the issue is based on our Buddhist values. As we get involved with the community and social issues, there will be other instances where our individual preferences may differ from that of the Honpa Hongwanji. In order to appropriately navigate through those issues, it is critical for us to have strong leaders at all levels of our organization.

I'm hearing more instances where temples, especially smaller ones, are unable to find willing and able members to step up to the plate to hold leadership roles. Several years ago, we believed the problem of getting the younger members to hold leadership positions was that the seniors were unwilling to let go. Today, after years of dedicated service and sacrifice, many have step aside, only to find out that the younger members are unwilling to step up to the plate.

We all understand that our organization cannot function without volunteers. We should also understand that an organization of volunteers without dedicated leaders are not sustainable. You have all heard of the story "Whose Job Is It?". It is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. I am asking all individuals, boomer age and younger, to take a more active role in your temple leadership. Do not depend on the same people all the time. Everybody can reasonable claim "I am too busy". So in the end, Nobody will do what Anybody could have done. What do you think will happen to your temple?

In the past I have said that sometimes, in order for an organization to grow, it must first contract. The symptoms we are experiencing, decreasing membership, financial difficulties, shortage of ministers and shortage of lay leaders should make us consider the possibilities of contracting (consolidating temples) now, until we achieve a stable and sustainable state.

Each temple has a choice. Find dedicated and effective leaders or consider consolidation. Either way, we need everyone's support. Without your help, we will be unable to grow for our future generations

We are truly grateful for the many hands that help us at all levels of our organization. Let us show our gratitude and lessen their burden by offering our help. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your patience, understanding, cooperation and support. Your participation is crucial in our leadership role for the international propagation of Jodo Shinshu.

In Gassho,
Alton H Miyamoto, President
Hawaii Kyodan

HHMH 125th INAUGURAL SERVICE

2014 is the year of 125th Anniversary for Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Several events and projects are currently being planned in both State and District level to celebrate this milestone. Hawaii Kyodan will be observing the 125th Celebration Inaugural Service on Friday, February 7, 2014 at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin in conjunction with the Giseikai (Legislative Assembly) Opening Service. The service will start at 8:30 am and the members and friends of Honpa Hongwanji are all welcomed to join in this observance.

MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS (JINJI)

- **Rev. Toyokazu Hagio**, a minister who is on leave of absence, will be assigned to Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Assistant Chief Minister (Fukurimban) as of February 1, 2014.
- **Rev. Earl Ikeda**, Resident Minister of Moiliili Hongwanji Mission, will retire from active ministry with Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as of February 28, 2014.
- **Rev. Bert Sumikawa**, Associate Minister of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, will be assigned to Moiliili Hongwanji Mission as its Associate Minister from February 16, 2014 to February 28, 2014 and as its Resident Minister as of March 1, 2014. Rev. Sumikawa will be relieved from the position of Chaplain at the Pacific Buddhist Academy as of February 15, 2014. Rev. Sumikawa will continue providing ministerial services to Kapolei Buddhist Sangha.
- **Rev. Blayne Higa** will be relieved from his position of Assistant Chaplain at the Pacific Buddhist Academy as of January 10, 2014.

LIVING TREASURES OF HAWAII RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will honor the following individuals as the 2014 Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ in recognition of their personal and professional achievements and their contributions to the community. We welcome you to celebrate this honor with them.

Reverend Ida Chun

Dr. Samuel Gon III

Robert Hamada

Arthur & Rene Kimura

Reverend Chikai Yosemori

Date: Saturday, February 8, 2014 (11:00 AM Registration, 12:00 PM Lunch and Program)

Place: Sheraton Waikiki Hotel

Cost: Early registration - \$70.00 for payments received by January 24, 2014

Late registration - \$85.00 for payments between January 25 - February 3, 2014

Sponsor Tables are available: Gold - \$5,000; Silver - \$3,000; Bronze - \$1,500

*Registration Form can be downloaded from <http://www.hongwanjihawaii.com/>

THANK YOU LETTER FROM MR. MASAHIRO SASAKI

Dear Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii,

A Happy New Year. I can never forget the support you have given to us for the success of Sadako Legacy's project in Hawaii in September last year. Each of your faces are still fresh in my mind. I understand that it is through the working of Amida Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion that we could receive a debt of gratitude from each of you. I forever express my sincere appreciation to you, people who wear the robe of the Tathagata, for your dedication and service. I can remember many wonderful memories we have shared in Hawaii by looking at the Kyodan Calendar you sent me. I cherish the calendar in that each time I flip through it I feel gratitude. I, together with Sadako at Pearl Harbor, would like to wish your happiness from the bottom of our hearts.

NPO SADAKO LEGACY
Masahiro Sasaki

REPORT ON MAUI FUND-RAISER FOR TYPHOON HAIYAN SURVIVORS

On December 20, the Maui Ministers sponsored a fund-raising interfaith service to aid the Typhoon Haiyan survivors. The service was held at Kahului Hongwanji. We had Buddhist chanting followed by prayers and aspirations by other ministers in the community, including a Catholic Priest, an Episcopal Priest, a Hawaiian Kahu, and the Jodo Shu Bishop, Rev. Hara. Rev. Sol Kalu, with his family background in the affected area of the Philippines, gave the keynote address. The service, though held right before the Christmas holiday, had a very good attendance, and we raised \$2,889.00 for the Filipino Community Center/Consuelo Foundation (Aloha for Philippines).

Rev. Richard Tennes, Kahului

CHORALFEST 2014

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's **Choralfest 2014** will be held at the **Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, 1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii** on **September 27 and 28, 2014**. This is an opportunity for singers to rehearse Buddhist choral pieces at a workshop on Saturday and to perform them as a massed choir at a special music service on Sunday. The purpose is for participants to express their joy and gratitude of the Buddha-Dharma through joint musical voices. This fifth choralfest in a decade is open to all singers from temples in Hawaii. Choralfest will again be led by Nola Nahulu, director of the Hawaii Opera Chorus and a Living Treasure of Hawaii. Attached with this newsletter are a flyer, schedule, and registration form. Upon close of registration, program booklets and practice CDs will be sent to participating temples for required learning by each singer.

YESS CAMP 2014

The Young Enthusiastic Seeker's Camp
February 15-17, 2014
At Camp Timberline on Oahu

Contact Jacob Chang by e-mail at
youth@honpahi.org or phone at 937-6555.

Application form can be found at
www.tinyurl.com/yesscampxxxiform

PACIFIC BUDDHIST ACADEMY 8th ANNUAL TAIKO FESTIVAL

Secrets of the Golden Dragon

Saturday, March 8, 2014 at 4:00pm
Leeward Community College Theatre

Tickets on sale Monday, February 3rd
Call Office at 532-2649

Cost \$25.00 (General)
 \$20.00 (Child 12 and under / Senior 65+)
 \$35.00 (At the Door)