



Jushin 樹心

Web Issue
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ありがとう

April/May 2014
Volume 4 Issue 2

Thanking YOU

inside your Jushin

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Resident Minister Rev. Hiroko Maeda
Board Chairperson: Mary Matsuda
Editor: Jim Dote

Temple email: kaneohe@hhbt-hi.org

Temple website: www.kaneohe.hhbt-hi.org

Thanking you from the depth of our hearts is just not enough.

In Shinran's teachings we learn the precept of Dana which is unconditional giving and charity. We give to others of our time, effort, donations and compassion without expectation of acknowledgment, reward or being "paid back" with another favor. All that the temple is today has come about and is maintained by pure volunteerism. How wonderful it is to have a dedicated Sangha who give up their weekends, evenings and holidays to plan, prepare and execute our plant sales, bon dances, special services and maintenance/repair projects. How wonderful it is to have such a generous Sangha who have been contributing to the temple through gojikai (membership dues) and special donations over the years.

We are continuing to care for our temple. If you have any skills, a strong back, or better yet - a strong resolve to keep our services to the community alive - please come to the temple anytime and ask how you can help. We'd love to see you! And Arigatou!



From top to bottom: Glen Hatakeyama (visiting from SF), Jim Dote, Dennis Kajiura, clockwise Jane Sasabuchi, Wendy Tachikawa, Eleanor Tokunaga, and Gladys Sakata, and Walt Herring. Photos by Mary Matsuda

Temple's Annual Plant Sale April 19th

By Liane Briggs



Living Green is the great theme for our 2014 Annual Plant Sale. Celebrate Earth Day at the annual Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Plant

Sale, Saturday, April 19, 2014, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please come to the sale (and tell your family and friends, too) and purchase plants to beautify your home, garden and lives. Appreciate the beauty of life.

If you have plants to donate, please drop them off in the garage on Thursday and Friday, April 17 and 18. We are also putting out the call for volunteers to set up for the sale and price plants on Friday, April 18, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and to help out on sale day.

Proceeds from the sale support Capital Improvement projects at the temple.

what's coming up

May 18 - Kaneohe Local Retreat and Shinran's Birthday

May 18th will be a totally awesome, whoppa-doozy, and yummy day! You are invited to the five eventful happenings at the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji! Hint: come double hungry, bring your voice and your onenju.

- 1 **9am Sunday Service**
- 2 **Shinran Shonin's Birthday**
- 3 **Local Retreat - Rev. Makoto Honda**
- 4 **and Yummy lunch.** (You'll have to attend to find what the 5th one is)



Buddha Day Celebration Hanamatsuri

Sunday, April 6, 2014 10 am
Jodo Mission of Hawaii
1429 Makiki Street

Sponsored by
Hawaii Buddhist Council
Guest Speaker –
Dr. George Tanabe, Jr.

(Kaneohe members are encouraged to attend this Hawaii Buddhist Council event. There will be no Kaneohe temple service on April 6)

Ikimasho! Let's Visit Berkeley Higashi Honganji

By Liane Briggs

Let's Go! San Francisco, Berkeley and Las Vegas in September 2014!

Plans are underway to visit our sister temple, Berkeley Higashi Honganji, in conjunction with our 50/90 anniversary, the 50th anniversary of our temple building and the 90th anniversary of the founding of the temple.

We'll fly to San Francisco on Friday, September 19, 2014 and attend service at Berkeley Higashi Honganji on Sunday, September 21, 2014. We will then travel on to Las Vegas on Monday, September 22, 2014 and return to Honolulu on Wednesday, September 24, 2014.

Kaneohe members visited Higashi temples in Southern California in 2006: Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple (Betsuin) in Los Angeles, Newport Beach Higashi Honganji and West Covina Higashi Honganji. We found the visits to be very rewarding and fun, as we made new



Photo courtesy: Berkeley Higashi Honganji

friends and studied the Dharma together.

The Kaneohe members who went on the trip have many fond memories, and we had always hoped that we could visit Berkeley Higashi Honganji someday.

We are especially grateful to Rev. Ken Yamada and the members of Berkeley Higashi Honganji for extending the invitation to us to visit their temple home.

If you would like more information about the trip, please contact Liane Briggs via email: lianebriggs@yahoo.com.

Editor's Note: Berkeley Higashi Honganji was where the late Rev. and Mrs. Nobuo Matsumoto were stationed before assignment to Hawaii in 1949.

Minister's Message

By Rev. Hiroko Maeda

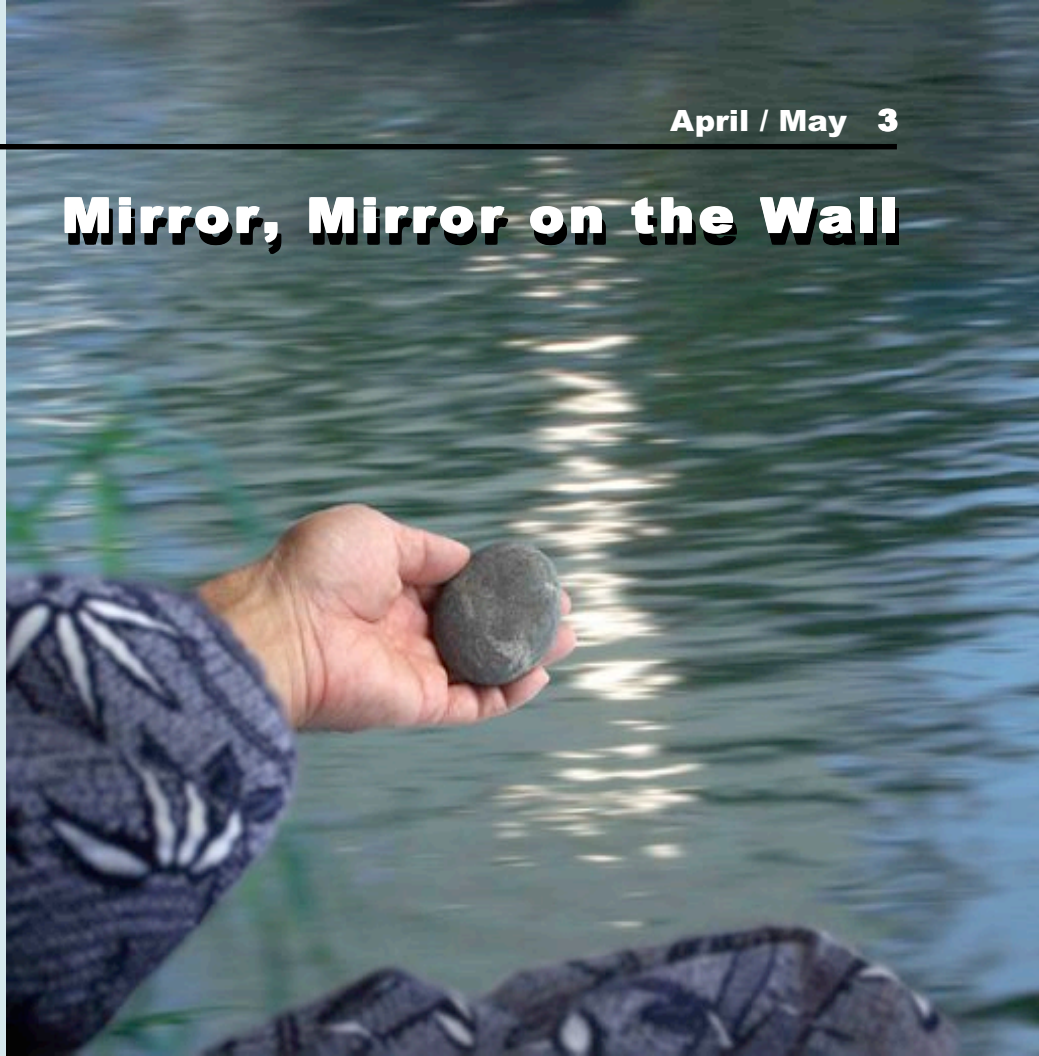
What does it mean for us to listen to the Buddha-Dharma teachings?

At this time, I would like to introduce one of Sakyamuni Buddha's parables to get an answer to this question. The parable goes like this:

In ancient India, there was a traveler who went to many places to listen to teachings. Whenever he heard of a famous teacher, he went to see that teacher right away. However, even though he went to see many different teachers and listened to their teachings, he still wasn't satisfied. He was not the person that he wanted to become.

One day, the traveler thought about and doubted what he had been doing. He asked, "Well, it is very strange. Even though I have listened to many teachings, I cannot become a fine person or be enlightened. How can I become a wise person?" Then he heard that Sakyamuni Buddha was visiting his village, so he went to ask the Buddha.

After listening to the traveler's story, the Buddha told him to get a pebble from the bottom of the Ganges River. The traveler brought back a



pebble covered with peat moss. Then, the Buddha told him to wash the stone in his hand with some water. The traveler followed what the Buddha said and the dirty stone became a very fine stone.

The traveler proudly showed the fine stone to the Buddha. Then the Buddha asked the traveler, "Which is more, the water of the Ganges River or water in your hand?"

The Buddha's question surprised the traveler, to which the traveler answered, "Of course, the water of the Ganges River is billions of times greater than the water in my hand."

Then the Buddha replied, "You

are correct. There is a great amount of water flowing in the Ganges River. However, no matter how much water flows in the Ganges River, the stone's peat moss was not washed away by the water. You know, there was a very little amount of water in your hand. But as long as you used your hand to wash it gently, the stone became beautiful.

We can say the same thing about listening to the teachings. Even though a person listens to and studies many teachings, listening or studying won't make any changes in the person's life unless one truly reflects upon

Continued on next page

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall

Continued from previous page

and applies the teachings to one's own life."

The end of the story was that the traveler became one of Sakyamuni Buddha's disciples.

Did you arrive at a similar answer from this parable?

Reverend Manshi Kiyozawa, who was a teacher of Shin Buddhism in the modern era, said in his commentary, "Buddha Dharma is nothing but a teaching of self-examination."

Every Sunday people come to our temple to listen to the Buddha-Dharma. In our daily lives we experience problems and conflicts which give us hard times, heartbreak and pain. In



my case, I sometimes try to ignore a situation that gives me a hard time. I would say, "Please leave me alone. I will think about it later." But my "think about it later" usually never happens. Uneasy feelings and worries start slowly but surely to emerge from inside of me.

When I listen to the Buddha Dharma, it reveals that I cling to my own "thinking" or "values" in my daily lifestyle. Listening to the Buddha Dharma is like a

pure mirror showing us our true selves.

At our Sunday services, we chant Shoshin-ge and listen to a Dharma talk. We

also discuss it together. The temple provides a quiet place and time for reflection in my mindlessly busy week — holding and washing the pebble in *my own* hand through the teachings of Buddha-Dharma.

"Therefore, let us immediately take to heart the true nature of this world, and from here after, live a life of deep reflection guided by the words *Namu Amida Butsu.*" - On White Ashes, Rennyō Shōnin
Namu Amida Butsu

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Dharma Study Center Lecture Series "Did Sakyamuni Teach Japanese Buddhism?"

Lecturer: Dr. George Tanabe, Jr.
(Professor Emeritus, Department of Religion, University of Hawaii)

This is the Spring Lecture Series hosted by the Hawaii Dharma Study Center located at the Betsuin. It should prove to be a lively and enlightening series of four lectures.

Most religions have just one book that contains their holy scriptures, but Buddhist scriptures fill more than a hundred volumes. There are so many different variations of what Sakyamuni taught, and they all appear as written texts nearly 500 years after

the historical Buddha lived. Could this one man have taught all of the teachings found in the many schools of Buddhism? This series will examine the relationship between Sakyamuni's teaching and some of the founders of the denominations of Buddhism in Japan.



Dr. George Tanabe, Jr.

Lecture 1: What the Buddha (Sakyamuni) Taught
Lecture 2: Sakyamuni and Nichiren
Lecture 3: Sakyamuni and Honen
Lecture 4: Sakyamuni and Shinran

Date: Tuesday & Thursday, April 8, 10, 15 & 17, 2014

Time: 7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

Place: Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii 1685 Alaneo Street Honolulu, HI 96817

Fee: \$9.00 per lecture

Please Contact the Betsuin by phone: (808) 531-9088



Temple's Annual Plant Sale April 19th

2012 File photo

Temple Service & Activities Calendar

April

4/6	Sun	10am	HBC Buddha Day at Jodo Mission (no Kaneohe service)
4/7	Mon	6-7pm	Ukulele Stars
4/9	Wed	10am	Visit Ann Pearl Care Facility
4/13	Sun	9am	Kaneohe- Hanamatsuri Service
4/17-18	Th-Fri		Drop off Plants (in Garage)
4/18	Fri	9am-4pm	Help Pricing and Set Up
4/19	Sat	9am-1pm	Plant Sale
4/20	Sun	9am	Sunday Service
4/21	Mon	6-7pm	Ukulele Stars
4/23	Wed	10am	Visit Ann Pearl Care Facility
4/27	Sun	9am	Sunday Service and Discussion Group to follow
4/29	Tue	10am	Visit Hale Nani Care Facility

May

5/4	Sun	10am	Palolo Retreat (no Kaneohe service)
5/5	Mon	6-7pm	Ukulele Stars
5/11	Sun	9am	Sunday Service
5/14	Wed	10am	Visit Ann Pearl Care Facility
5/18	Sun	9am	Shinran Shonin's Birthday Sunday Service, Local Retreat Rev. Makoto Honda, "What is Your American Dream?" Followed by lunch, end 1:30pm
5/19	Mon	6-7pm	Ukulele Stars
*5/20	Tue	7-8:30pm	Okō at Betsuin (see below) Kaneohe members invited
5/25	Sun	9am	Sunday Service, Discussion Bishop Kawawata
5/27	Tue	10am	Visit Hale Nani Care Facility
5/28	Wed	10am	Visit Ann Pearl Care Facility

NEW INFORMATION ABOUT OKO GATHERINGS: *Kaneohe and Betsuin will take turns to host the monthly Oko gathering from May. Dates may be subject to change.

Kaneohe: June 17, Aug 19, Oct 21, and Dec 16 Betsuin: May 17, July 15, Sept 16, and Nov 18