



Jushin 樹心

Editor's Note: The email and online versions of this Jushin is 11 inches square to best view the Bon Dance color photo montage on page 3. We hope you will enjoy your issue!

Aug / Sept 2014
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inside your Jushin

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Bon Dance 2014 Brought Happy New Memories to Many Families

2014 Bon Dance Committee

Thanks to all of you, Kaneohe Higashi put on a successful and memorable Obon festival for many hundreds of guests, blending our Shin Buddhism observance with old and new cultural flavors. Here are a few guest comments.

"The special bon service for departed loved ones (Hatsubon) was very heartwarming and touching..." Another said, "I found her (Rev. Hiroko Maeda) talk very enlightening... It touched me." And about the Hatsubon, "I was truly touched... it reminded me how fragile life is to each of our loved ones."

Old memories came back. Said a caregiver, "It makes me tear up a little (cry) to see her (my 80 year-old mother) so happy. As a (young) mother, she used to bring my brother and me here for bon dance... So I bring mom now." And new memories were formed, "I love this. My wife is dancing with our granddaughter. Please don't lose your Kaneohe flavor." Watching was fun, too, "I liked all the kids coming up with their reluctant mommas and papas for Tanko Bushi (live lesson taught by dancers of three troupes). That's wonderful to start them connecting with the temple that way."

To "stage" an Obon festival required a lot of hands and sweat-equity (volunteered hard work). We received so much help from many who are listed in our acknowledgments. We would like to give a special *arigatou* to the Higashi Betsuin, the Koolau Sukiyaki Uta Kai, Iwakuni Odori Aiko Kai, Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu Kai, and guest vocalist Kristine Suyama.

The Kaneohe showers early-on could not stop the Koolau Sukiyaki dancers from dancing. *No, sir!* Donning umbrellas, rain parkas, and even a large trash bag with holes cut for a head and arms, the pink Sukiyaki army brigade formed their dance circle, and coaxed others to join the bon dance.

We were overjoyed by the enthusiastic help received from the 15+ energetic volunteers from the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce (HJJCC). Dressed in bright red T-shirts, they worked from 4 to 10 pm in the food concession, and put away tables and chairs after that. The HJJCC has been helping us as a community service project.

This year we were fortunate to have the 62nd Cherry Blossom Festival Court greet guests, talk about Obon, and offer help to the elders or those needing assistance. An elderly woman walking with a cane was surprised, "I loved it when the Japanese queens (sic) rushed to greet me at the (temple) gate, helped me step over some metal... track, and walked me to a chair, ...so sweet."

Obon is an opportunity for generations to reconnect in a Buddhist setting. It's a time to remember cherished memories of loved ones, to create new memories, and to transfer memories to succeeding generations.

Perhaps, the comment below and the article on page 4 say it best of all.

"This is a really great time for my grandchildren and us. ...I tell my kids it's our grandpa and grandma's temple. I'm happy. This is a happy memory."



absentminded

Minister's Message

By Rev. Hiroko Maeda

I happened to watch an insurance company commercial on TV in which a couple was sightseeing and taking pictures of the ocean from the edge of a cliff. But the man was standing too close to the edge of the cliff and wasn't paying attention, so he fell into the ocean. The commercial's narrator said, "In paradise, bad things still happen."

At first, I laughed hard at the scene because it was so true. Then I recalled a story about a Buddhist monk that expressed a similar concept regarding life and death.

Rev. Ikkyu, a Japanese Zen monk who lived 500 years ago, was a well-known eccentric.

On the morning of a New Year's Day, as people were celebrating and greeting each other, Rev. Ikkyu went down to the bank of the Kamo River. He picked up a skull which was by the river, and put it on the top of his walking stick. He walked through the town and said, "Beware. Beware!"

People were so surprised to see Rev. Ikkyu's eccentric action that they asked him, "Rev. Ikkyu, what do you mean, 'Beware. Beware,' with the skull on your stick on this

happy day?" Rev. Ikkyu composed a haiku poem as his answer to the people's question:

"New Year's pine trees are
a milestone moving to death
happy, unhappy."

Do you understand Rev. Ikkyu's haiku? During those times, all Japanese people used to add one year to their age on New Year's Day as it was thought of as the birthday for everyone. The custom of decorating the pine trees in front of their homes every New Year also symbolized that everyone was aging, too. So, Rev. Ikkyu alerted the people and showed them the truth. "Be aware of your death. Even though you celebrate at this happy occasion, you always have a chance of dying."

In addition to Rev. Ikkyu's poem, one of Rennyō Shōnin's letters, "On White Ashes," gives us insight to truly realize the transience of our human life: "The people we leave behind and the people who go before us, are more numerous than dewdrops that rest briefly on leaves and branches.

"Hence, I may have a radiant

face in the morning, but in the evening, become no more than white ashes."

All living things – from small insects to giant redwood trees – will die someday. Because we were born, we shall die. The truth of life and death are like two sides of the same coin. Moreover, the conditions of death or the chances of dying, are immeasurable in our daily lives.

The reverse is also true. Living consists of innumerable relationships and support. Each of us lives at this moment as an absolute irreplaceable being. We live a limited and precious life. So, being mindful of death, we can live at this very moment deeply and fully without spending our time in vain.

Like many people living in today's complex world I tend to be absentminded. But through listening to Amida's calling, I am called back to the present moment to focus on my path of life and death.

The teachings of Namu Amida Butsu always illuminate my way of living, and encourage me to seek the true path of life and death.

Namu Amida Butsu

Obon

Memories



Photographers: Rev. Takafumi Bansaka, Rev. Hiroko Maeda, Jim Dote color sponsor: jimdotegraphics

Decades Later, Teens Discover Their Great-Grandmother's Love of Kaneohe Bon Dance

On July 5, Reece Bastardo (13) and visiting cousin from New York, Sage Hardy (12), eagerly volunteered for about seven hours at the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Bon Dance. Their help was more than welcome!

Reece and Sage first helped set up the sound system for the emcee and the performers untangling 200 feet of speaker and microphone cables. They also learned how to use “duck tape” to affix anything together. Next, they wiped dry the 150 outdoor seats repeatedly due to the afternoon rains.

When the food concession opened for sales, the two got a taste of working in a fast-food restaurant by tasking between filling orders, replenishing spam musubi, desserts, hot dogs, and other foods in the food tent. It was fast-paced, with multiple food orders being called out at the same time. No problem for the two.

A point of panic occurred when Reece saw that the supply of spam musubi was running out fast while lots of people were still ordering. Before you knew it, Sage joined the kitchen crew with gloves and perfected his spam musubi-making skills learning from no less than three cooks.

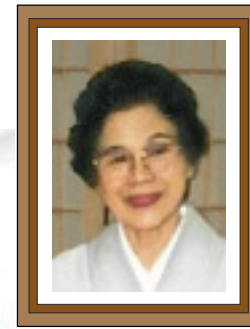
Sage explained the food booth mayhem with a youthful coolness, “I



Reece Bastardo (left) and cousin Sage Hardy (right), end up serving temple food in the concession just like their great-grandmother decades earlier.

took the food orders from the cashiers and filled the orders to hand out to the customers. Even though my age is young, the adults entrusted us with the responsibility, which made me feel helpful.”

CharlAnn Nakamoto, bon dance food co-chair, was heartened by their enthusiasm and attentive work. “Reece and Sage were really great working in our largest food station - the busiest hub of activity. They worked hard under pressure, were enthusiastic and



Nobuko Nakamoto

displayed their ‘can do, whatever you ask us’ attitude throughout the evening,” she said.

That day was also important for another reason. It was the sixth memorial anniversary (seventh in Japanese culture) of

the passing of their great-grandmother, Mrs. Nobuko Nakamoto, the wife of long-time temple member Mr. Roy Yoshiaki Nakamoto. It was coincidental but appropriate that they were working to the melody of the late Mrs. Nakamoto’s favorite song, Tanko Bushi, “...tsu-ki-ga de-ta de-ta...” The two great-grandsons unknowingly found themselves doing what their late great-grandmother had enjoyed doing decades earlier in the very same spot.

Reece enthusiastically said, “It was a real eye opener for me! I always thought volunteering was just a type of work with no enjoyment. This experience made me feel excited to return next year to help.”

We definitely hope to welcome back Reece and Sage as “seasoned” volunteers at our Obon festivities next year on July 3!

Photo credits: Reece and Sage - Michelle Bastardo; Mrs. Nobuko Nakamoto - the Nakamoto family; Nostalgic dancers - KHH file



A-bombs Exhibit for Peace: Face the Past to Heal the Present”

Aloha Jushin Reader,

My name is Masago Asai. I am a member of Palolo Hongwanji and a volunteer member of the Hawai'i Conference of Religions for Peace (HCRP).

I'd like to invite you to attend an upcoming event, "A-bombs Exhibit for Peace: Face the Past to Heal the Present" to be held in October at Palolo Hongwanji. The organizer is the HCRP, a Honolulu-based, nonprofit, interfaith dialogue I have belonged to for the past nine years as a volunteer. HCRP's commitment to peace includes holding annual "Peace Prayer" gatherings to which we invite representatives from many different faith traditions. The focus is to join together and offer prayers for peace. We have been holding Peace Prayers for the past 21 years.

This year, the Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is among 33 cosponsors. Also, the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji board has kindly expressed its support of this conference to promote peace.

I was born in Nagasaki and am a second generation A-bomb survivor. Through my quest for peace, I initiated this project under the HCRP. This project is different from other exhibits of this kind. We focus on education, especially for the younger generations, not only by presenting war-related information but also by introducing practical approaches to create inner peace and daily maintenance.

After my own long search for the true meaning of peace, I've realized that if we do not have peace within ourselves, we will continue to make and use powerfully destructive weapons. Humankind's inner maturity, therefore, is a must for global peace, I believe.

I invite you to please attend this free educational event with your family and friends. Help spread the word among your associates. It is open to the public, totally educational, and nonpolitical.

Thank you very much for your support for peace.

Warmest Aloha in gassho,
Masago Asai
Secretary & Coordinator
"A-bombs Exhibit for Peace," HCRP



Masago Asai

Simple Nokotsudo Cabinets Installed

With reverence to the over 300 interred ihai (family memorial tablets) and urns, a new wall-to-wall cabinet was installed in early June. It was designed by a member of the Kaneohe Higashi and custom built by a Kaneohe cabinet maker. Rev. Hiroko Maeda and Gladys Sakata carefully dusted each urn and ihai as best as possible and placed them into the beautiful, new cabinets.

The cabinets feature doors with clear plexiglas panels, pullout trays, and a set of closed cabinets beneath.

Coming improvements to the 50 year-old room will include flooring, lighting, windows, and guest seating. Volunteers will paint the walls.

You are invited to visit the Nokotsudo during the temple's open hours even if you don't have a loved one under our care. Your visit can turn into an excellent learning experience about our Shin Buddhist customs from Rev. Hiroko Maeda.

Berkeley Higashi Awaiting Kaneohe's Visit

"Thank you for flying Amida Air. This is the final boarding call for Kaneohe Higashi to San Francisco now boarding..."

It might not be too late to join a group of individual Kaneohe Higashi travelers flying to San Francisco on September 19, then visiting Rev. Ken Yamada and the membership of the Berkeley Higashi Hongwanji for their Ohigan observance on September 21. Some of our members are continuing to Las Vegas for a few days. If you wish to join, please contact Liane Briggs immediately by email: lianebriggs@yahoo.com.

Oh, and one more thing: there is no such airline as Amida Air.

Place: Palolo Hongwanji - Inner Temple
1641 Palolo Avenue, Honolulu Telephone: 732-1491
Date: Saturday, October 18 to Sunday, October 26 (9 Days)
Time: Mon. - Sat. (10 am to 4 pm); Sunday (11 am to 4 pm)
Opening Ceremony: Oct. 18 (Sat.) at 10 am in lower Social Hall
Keynote Speech by Hiroshima A-bomb Survivor
Closing "Peace Prayer" Ceremony: Oct. 26 (Sun.) from 4 to 6 pm



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*"Do not forget that you only have today to live.
Otherwise, your desires will increase
more and more."* Kakunryo's poem

Temple Service & Activities Calendar

August

8/2	Sat	8:30am	Flower arrangement
8/3	Sun	9am	Sunday Service
8/4	Mon	6-7pm	Ukulele Stars
8/5	Tue	10:30am	Nokotsudo Committee Mtg. (open)
8/9	Sat	8:30am	Flower arrangement
8/10	Sun	9am	Sunday Service
8/14	Thu	7-8:30pm	Basic Buddhism (Betsuin)
8/16	Sat	8:30am	Flower arrangement
8/17	Sun	9am	Peace Service Masago Asai, guest speaker
8/18	Mon	6-7pm	Ukulele Stars
8/19	Tue	7-8:30pm	Oko Night @ Kaneohe
8/23	Sat	8:30am	Flower arrangement
8/24	Sun	9am	Sunday Service
		10:30am	Education Committee Mtg. (open)
8/30	Sat	8:30am	Flower arrangement
8/31	Sun	9am	Sunday Service Bishop Kawawata, Dharma Talk 11:30am We'll join Betsuin for Ehime Maru Memorial clean-up & potluck picnic - Kaka'ako Waterfront Park

September

9/6	Sat	8:30am	Flower arrangement
9/7	Sun	9am	Sunday Service
9/11	Thu	7-8:30pm	Basic Buddhism @ Betsuin
9/13	Sat	8:30am	Flower arrangement
		10am-3pm	Hawaii Dist. Mtg. @ Betsuin
9/14	Sun	9am	Ohigan Service @ Kaneohe Rev. Marcos Sawada Guest Spkr.
9/15	Mon	6-7pm	Ukulele Stars
9/16	Tues	7-8:30pm	Oko Night @ Betsuin
9/21	Sun	9am	Sunday Service Rev. Frank Childs
9/27	Sat	8:30am	Flower arrangement
9/28	Sun	9am	Short Sunday Service and Omigaki (Temple Cleaning)

Please note the addition of Kaneohe Higashi's Education Committee and Nokotsudo Committee meetings, are open to interested persons. Interested in enhancing new ways to reach out via new technologies, new ideas through our education committee? Individuals interested in helping families and individuals with loved ones who have long passed may do so through our Nokotsudo Committee.

Please check our new website for interesting Kaneohe Higashi news and photos, and other temples' schedules, too!