



# Jushin 樹心

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Web Edition

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**Minister's Message**  
by Rev. Hiroko Maeda

## Seeing Part of a Growing Tree

Our busiest time of the year just ended - Saturday Night Fever (oops, this year it was Friday Night Fever) that we jumped and clapped with happiness and energy. "Dancing" didn't only occur at our parking lot where our yagura was stationed. There was also great activity as many volunteers "danced" (worked!?) wholeheartedly in the kitchen, on the lanai, at the choba station, and in the background.

In addition, the event wouldn't have happened if only temple members had participated. We are very grateful that friends and community members came and supported us and the temple. I also very much appreciate our neighbors' understanding and cooperation. The sound of our music and drums must have been very loud to them since our temple is located in a residential area. Also, there were many visitors who must have parked on the side of this narrow street. I humbly bow to all the people who watched over us silently and allowed us to hold our Hatsubon Service and Bon Dance. Thank you very much! Those people made it possible for many others to have a joyful night in our Kaneohe community.

Through this year's Bon Dance preparation, there is something that made me think. When we hold any kind of religious or fundraising event, there are many tasks to do in preparation. Then, when I get busy physically and mentally preparing for a fundraising event, for example, I have no time to think of others and myself. Unconsciously, my speaking might become harsh and my actions rough. Without meaning to, I do things without consideration of others.

Plus, even though we begin organizing and preparing well in advance for our Bon Dance, unexpected things usually happen. Sometimes, we encounter "luck," but most of the time we encounter "troubles." I am sure that we all know that things don't go as smoothly as we may wish. However, when the troubles hit us during a busy time, our response sometimes brings undesirable consequences. Sadly, we cannot calmly listen to other people's voices. Each of us might end up blaming others secretly. We all worked so hard together but an uncomfortable feeling might remain after the event.

*Continued on next page.*

## Seeing Part of a Growing Tree

*Continued from previous page.*

Why did this happen? Where is the spirit of peace and harmony?

Well, maybe this following story, which is one of the Jataka tales, may illustrate to us the situation.

Once there was a king who had four sons. They were very inquisitive and they constantly asked questions of everyone. One day, they heard about a senna tree, so they went to the chief gardener and asked the gardener to show it to them.



"emerging from a stump"



"bright red blossoms"



"plentiful fruits"

The gardener complied with their request, but he said that he could only take one son at a time to the forest. First, the gardener took the eldest son and showed him the tree as the bud was just emerging from a stump. The gardener showed the second son the tree when the leaves were green. The third son saw the tree with bright red blossoms. The fourth son viewed the tree bearing plentiful fruits.

After all the sons saw the tree, one asked what sort of a tree the senna tree was. The eldest said the tree was like a burnt stump. The second argued that the tree was like a giant banyan tree. The third disagreed and said it was grotesque like a piece of meat. The fourth replied with confidence that the tree was like a beautiful acacia tree.

The four sons looked surprised at the different answers, and yet each of them stood firm on his answer. Finally, they ran to their father and asked, "What sort of a tree is the senna tree?" The king-father listened to each of the four answers carefully and then explained the error that they had made.

"I am sure that all of you saw the same senna tree. However, why didn't you all ask the gardener at the time he showed it to you what time of the year it was in the tree's growth? Each of you could have asked him how the tree would change in different seasons. You only believed what you saw and didn't realize that you were only seeing one part of the growing tree. In the same way, many times we jump to conclusions without knowing all the facts. We must know and apply all the different views before arriving at a decision."

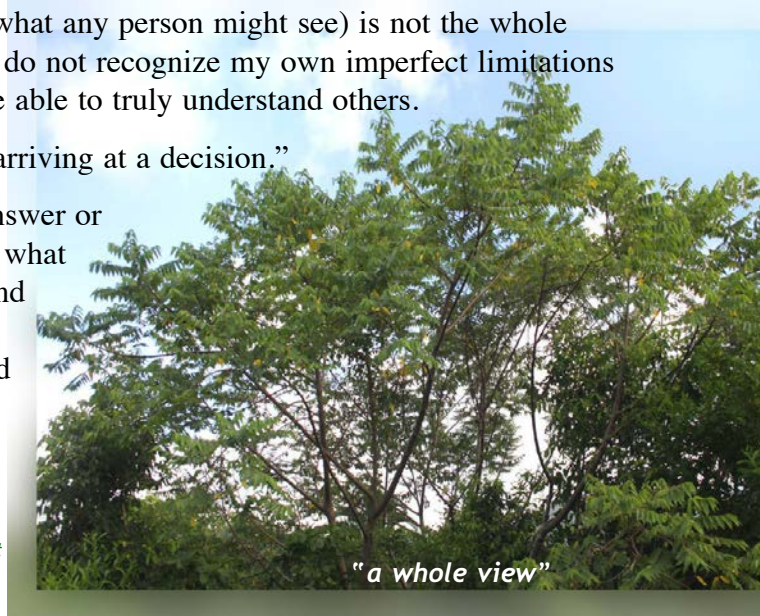
As this story indicates to us, what I see (and what any person might see) is not the whole view. My point of view is always partial and limited. If I do not recognize my own imperfect limitations and if I only cling to my own judgments, then, I won't be able to truly understand others.

"We must know and apply all the different views before arriving at a decision."

In our lives, sometimes we may not be able to find the answer or solution. I believe that is fine as long as we bear in mind what our true self is - an imperfect person who has a limited and partial view. We cannot change or control everything that happens to us, but we can always change how we respond to things, and we can always learn from them.

Gassho,  
Hiroko Maeda

*Note: Jataka tales - the earliest Buddhist literature that tells about the previous lives of Gautama Buddha. The tales use various metaphors to teach us wisdom and compassion of the Buddha.*



"a whole view"



## Timely Temple Announcements

### Change in August 2nd and 9th Sunday Services

There will be no Sunday services on August 2 and August 9 at the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji. Our temple members are planning to visit the Higashi's Betsuin and Palolo Sunday services. Please call Kaneohe Higashi and leave a message for our call-back about carpooling.

**Aug. 2 (Sun) - Betsuin (Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii) services begin at 10 am.** Our carpool will leave the Kaneohe Higashi parking lot at 9:30 am.

**Aug. 9 (Sun) Palolo Hongwanji services begin at 10 am.** Our carpool will leave Kaneohe Higashi parking at 9:15 am.

Palolo Hongwanji will host the 70th anniversary of World War II Ending Event on August 9.

The guest speaker will be Mrs. Masago Asai, a second generation Nagasaki A-bomb survivor. Her topic is "Human Inner Maturity is the Core of Global Peace." Please contact the Palolo Hongwanji at 732-1491 for more information.

### Kaneohe Higashi will Observe Autumn Ohigan on September 13

Higan, meaning the "Other Shore" (of enlightenment) is a service conducted twice annually on or about the vernal and autumnal equinoxes. At these times of the year, Shin Buddhists endeavor to strengthen their commitment to the Buddhist life. The Kaneohe Higashi will hold its Autumn Ohigan at 9AM on September 13. Hawaii Bishop Ken Kawawata will officiate and lead a lively Sangha Talk after the service.

### Cinema @ Temple on August 30

"I Am," is a documentary film written, directed, and narrated by Tom Shadyac in 2010. The movie will be shown after a special Peace Service on Sunday, August 30. Shadyac made famous comedy films such as *Ace Ventura and Liar, Liar*. However, after his bicycle accident, Shadyac started his journey to find answers to his questions; "What's wrong with the world? What can we do about it?"

Please come and enjoy the film.

### Fall Education Trip on Sunday, September 27

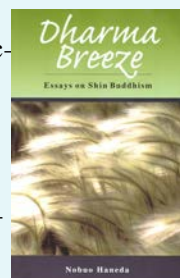
We are planning a fall education trip for September 27 instead of a regular Sunday service here at the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji.

There will be no Sunday service that day at Kaneohe. Details are not available as of this Jushin's printing date in late July. Please check the temple website or telephone the temple at 247-2661 for details.

### Kaneohe Higashi's "The Circle" Buddhist Discussions

Rev. Maeda been holding one-hour English readings and discussions at 10:30 AM on the first and third Wednesdays of each month in "The Circle." These are free and open to everyone, so please attend.

"The Circle" gatherings read and discuss passages from the great collection of Shin Buddhism essays, *Dharma Breeze*, by Dr. Nobuo Haneda. We will have gatherings on August 19, September 2 and 16.



### Foodland Chain to Donate \$ to Kaneohe Higashi for Your September Purchases

We have registered our temple, the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji, to be a participant in Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts Program, called Give Aloha.

Foodland has generously donated a sizable amount to registered non-profit organizations over the past several years.

The way Give Aloha works is that when you go shopping at any Foodland, Sack N Save, and Foodland Farms, show your Ma'ikai membership card to get your discounts and then if you would like to donate to our temple, indicate how much and the cashier will add it to your bill. So, if your grocery bill is say, \$50 and you would like to donate \$100, your total checkout bill will be \$150.

At the end of the program, Foodland will calculate and donate an additional percentage, over your donated amount.

The Give Aloha program will run only through the month of September. So be attuned to Foodland cashiers asking about "Give Aloha" this September as you check out. We hope you will participate this year and Give some Aloha to the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji!

### Oops, "My Bad"

The June-July issue of the Jushin newsletter featured two beautiful photographs of children from Fukushima enjoying their visit to Kauai beaches. The excellent photographs on the front page and page 2 were taken by Rev. Takafumi Bansaka of the Higashi Hawaii District Betsuin. The Jushin editor apologizes for not crediting Rev. Bansaka as the photographer.

# “Gratitude”

by Mary Matsuda, Board Chairperson

It is with gratitude and joy that I wish to thank our readers, friends, neighbors, contributors, and many volunteers for making our 2015 Hatsubon and Bon Dance a huge success; “success” indicated by the community’s happiness and joy.

In addition to the annual observance of our deceased ancestors, Obon is especially significant for those families who experienced a more recent loss of a loved one over the past year. Reverend Hiroko Maeda officiated the Hatsubon service that was broadcast to the courtyard audience to enable the people outside the temple to be a part of this Buddhist experience.

So many families, old and new friends, and visitors, came and enjoyed the music, dancing, and delicious and nourishing foods. What a wonderful sight to see people connecting and enjoying family-oriented excitement on a hot July night!

Our Bon Dance is a one-night event, which literally takes a small army months to pull together. Working with our musical and dance troupes, determining play lists and times, washing heaps of rice, chopping, learning to grill BBQ sticks to a yummy finish, more chopping, making curry and nishime, washing sticky pots, and even running to the nearby store to buy 61 pounds of ice at 8 pm, were just a few of the millions of tasks unseen by our guests. Thank goodness for our volunteers being so willing to jump in at any time to make things happen without missing a beat.

Kudos to the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce (HJJCC), under the leadership of President Brice Ueda, without whose muscle and manpower we would not have had such success. Their red-shirted crews staffed our food booth with such efficiency that many people visited the food booth numerous times that night knowing that the line would move swiftly and efficiently. Thanks also go out to the Cherry Blossom Festival Court (CBF) who greeted and welcomed our guests to our Bon Dance. They certainly added a cultural grace to our event!! This is the sixth year that the HJJCC and the CBF have contributed their time and presence to the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji temple as a community service to the people of Kaneohe. Domo arigato!

Last, but not least, trite as it sounds, be assured that we are so grateful for all the many volunteers who planned, shopped, cooked, prepared, constructed, baked, etc. We could not have carried this event out without your commitment, devotion and love for the temple and community. Jim Dote, our head chief of bon dance, outdid himself this year having gone through many sleepless nights and angst, wondering whether all bases were covered. Yay!!! We are also very appreciative of the generous small businesses that offered services and in-kind donations. Volunteers and businesses are listed in our acknowledgments.

Please enjoy a happy and safe summer!



*P.S. Our 2016 Bon Dance will be Saturday July 2, 2016. Planning is about to begin. If you wish to help plan, or volunteer (maybe both) for the 2016 Bon please contact us. We'd love to have you join our team!!!*



# 2015 Kaneohe Higashi Bon Dance Memories



Photo Credits: Liane Briggs, Rev. Hiroko Maeda, Mike Takashita, & Jim Dote.

Color Print: DoteGraphics, Sullivan's Eye Printing & Photography



# 2015 Kaneohe Higashi Bon Dance Memories



One chochin up, 99 more to go!  
"Da Chochin-Team," Neal Matsushima on ladder, is helped by Mike Takashita and Stan Sato



All dancers join in Shinran Odori dance tune



Hatsubon's elegant altar decor.  
Altar decorations and flower arrangements by Harriet Yamada, Gladys Sakata and Rev. Hiroko Maeda



Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu Kai musicians



OK, ready? Get it! Get it!  
Hai! Got it! Got it!

Update

## Nokotsudo News Column

Jim Dote, Nokotsudo Committee

The Nokotsudo Committee reports that its work on the Ihai (memorial tablet) had been delayed temporarily because the chairperson also chaired this year's Bon Dance and edits the Jushin. We will soon delve into the Ihai service and Nokotsudo policy. We will hold a joint service to honor all Ihai. Although we have not yet set that date, we will inform families with advance notice by mail and via your Jushin. Thank you for your patience.

## Save the Date - November 19-20, 2016

- What: Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial and Hawaii Betsuin Centennial Celebration
- When: November 19-20, 2016
- Who: All members and friends of Higashi temples in Hawaii
- Theme: "Awakening to Your Deepest Wish"  
Details to follow as they become available.

## Temple Service & Activities Calendar

### August 2015

1 Sat 8:30am Altar Flower Arranging

2 Sun No Kaneohe Service,  
9:30am Carpool to Betsuin Service

3 Mon 6-6:30p Ukulele Stars - Beginners  
6:30-7p Ukulele Stars - 2nd Year

5 Wed No "The Circle"

8 Sat 8:30am Altar Flower Arranging

9 Sun No Kaneohe service  
9:15am Carpool to Palolo Hongwanji  
Palolo Sun Service 10am  
Mrs. Masago Asai, speaker

15 Sat 8:30am Altar Flower Arranging  
10am Goenki Meeting  
Fukushima Committee Meeting ("Helping  
Fukushima Children to Recover" project)

16 Sun 9am Sunday Service

17 Mon 6-6:30p Ukulele Stars - Beginners  
6:30-7p Ukulele Stars - 2nd Year

18 Tues 7-8:30p Oko Gathering - Betsuin

19 Wed 10:30am "The Circle" (Dharma Breeze readings)  
6:30pm Board meeting

22 Sat 8:30am Altar Flower Arranging

23 Sun 9am Sunday Service Bishop Kawawata  
Sangha Talk to follow

29 Sat 8:30am Altar Flower Arranging

30 Sun 9am Peace Service, Cinema at Temple to follow

### September 2015

2 Wed 10:30am "The Circle"(Dharma Breeze readings)

5 Sat 8:30am Altar Flower Arranging

6 Sun 9am Sunday Service

7 Mon 6-6:30p Ukulele Stars - Beginners  
6:30-7p Ukulele Stars - 2nd Year8

12 Sat 8:30am Altar Flower Arranging

13 Sun 9am Autumn Ohigan Bishop Kawawata  
Sangha Talk to follow

15 Tue 7-8:30p Oko Gathering - Kaneohe

16 Wed 10:30am "The Circle" (Dharma Breeze readings)

19 Sat 8:30am Altar Flower Arranging

20 Sun 9am Sunday Service

21 Mon 6-6:30p Ukulele Stars - Beginners  
6:30-7p Ukulele Stars - 2nd Year

26 Sat 8:30am Altar Flower Arranging

27 Sun No Kaneohe Sunday Service: Fall Education Trip

For details please call temple (247-2661)  
or check our website below  
[www.kaneohe.hhbt-hi.org](http://www.kaneohe.hhbt-hi.org)

**Editor's note about our calendar:** Because the Jushin is printed every 2 months, events and dates appearing on our calendar may change or might not be ready in time for our printing deadline. Please check our website for current information, or telephone our temple at 247-2661. Mahalo