

inside your Jushin

Chairperson's Message	1-2
2015 Board Officers	2
Minister's Message	4-5
Nokotsudo Update (Column)	5
Ekiden Runners	6
Garden Committee	6
Plant Sale	6
April-May Calendar	7

Announcement Kaneohe Hanamatsuri April 12

Kaneohe Higashi's Hanamatsuri Buddha Day Celebration will be Sunday, April 12 at 9 am. Please attend the service and celebration! After the service we will enjoy "Cinema@Temple," open to the public. We'll show "Happy," a 2011 movie which relates to our ways of living. Happy is a 75-minute long documentary directed, written, and co-produced by Academy Award nominated film-maker Roko Belic. It explores happiness through interviews with people from all walks of life in 14 countries.
Movie notes: Courtesy of Wikipedia



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Pureland So, What is the "win" "lose" "take" "less" "human-ness" Zero Sum World? Chairperson's Message Namu Amida Butsu

In my earlier article ("Who Are We," *Jushin*, Dec 2014-Jan 2015) I wrote that it may impossible for anyone to have a sense of "me" without another person.

Centuries ago Greek philosophers contemplated questions such as, "What is out there?" "How can we know?" "What does it mean to know?" They even delved into the question, "What is the nature of being?" What many of the great philosophers such as Socrates, Aristotle, and Plato concluded was that in order to define something, be it a thing, a concept, or a feeling, it must be compared to something other than itself.

So, what is this "something?" I indicated that "I" can only know myself by having a "you" in my life. Make sense, *right?* But alas, we have now fallen into the trap of the world of comparisons! John is smarter than I am, Heather has more than I have, Todd has a nicer car than mine, Nina has all the good luck, etc.

Why does it matter that someone has more, is better, and seems luckier than I? Could it be that we all are okay but because there is someone other than you in this world, we make judgments about yourself and others?

In the Jodo Shinshu tradition, Shinran Shonin realized that feelings of anger, greed, and ignorance will naturally surface in our everyday life as these are inescapable traits of human-ness. And these are the seeds of our suffering.

Historically, many monks sought the monastic path in which they tried to rid themselves of such human failings (suffering) and become enlightened by meditating; subjecting themselves to denial of human comfort. Because they believed that it was only through their self-effort that they could rid themselves of these weaknesses, very few would be able to reach their goals. This school of thought is called Theravada Buddhism, the smaller vehicle.

Continued on next page.

So, What is the Zero Sum World?

Continued from page 1.

Shinran Shonin, on the other hand, realized that after 20 years of such practice, he was and would never be able to rid himself of his human-ness. He realized that trusting in Amida Buddha's primal vow and calling his name, Namu Amida Butsu, one would graciously be accepted in the Pureland, DESPITE these imperfections. This is called Mahayana Buddhism in which ALL are saved and, thus, is a larger vehicle.

So what is The Zero Sum World? This is an achievable coping method in the busy world we live in. When we get into arguments with others (remember, if it weren't for "others" we wouldn't have a need to argue because we would always get our way as an isolated being) we get upset because the other party apparently has a conflicting view of an issue. We become unhappy (suffering) because we realize that our lives are not as rosy and perfect as we think it should be; both sides suffering from their human-ness.

We have come to believe that in order to reach any compromise we must make concessions and "give" in on certain points.

Likewise, the other party must "give" in on other points if there is to be any chance of compromise or resolution. In so doing, both parties are "minus" something.

If we were to adopt the concept that neither is better than the other, neither is wrong or right, neither is the winner or loser, and, accept and respect each other, it is possible that neither party would lose anything and not be on the minus side of the discussion. This is called the concept of Zero Sum.

If we were all to understand and accept our human-ness, if we were all to see others with the same acceptance and compassion, would our world be a world of less suffering? I wonder....

In Gassho.

Mary Matsuda

Pureland "take"
 "human-ness" "mine"
 "selfishness" "give"
 "minus" Namu Amida Butsu
 "win"
 "no" "lose" "selflessness"

Kaneohe Higashi's 2015 Board of Directors and Committees

Board of Directors

As announced in our previous Jushin newsletter, the Board successfully held its annual membership meeting in January, 2015, and elected nine Gojinkai members to the 2015 Board of Directors. At its February meeting, the Board selected its officers:

President: Rev. Hiroko Maeda
Chairperson: Mary Matsuda
Vice Chair: Walter Herring
Treasurer: Liane Briggs
Assistant Treasurer: Susan Ng
Secretary: Julian Ng
Directors: Tamara Iida
 Dennis Kajiura
 CharlAnn Nakamoto
 Stanley Sato

Throughout the year the temple has several educational programs and property maintenance projects which are led by committees, such as: Education Committee, Garden Committee, Budget Committee, Bon Dance Committee, and Nokotsudo Committee.

Gojinkai members, our Sangha volunteers, friends and supporters are welcomed to join these committees. Please call our temple office at 247-2661 or email kaneohe@hhbt-hi.org to volunteer or for more information.



**2015 Bon Dance will be
 July 3, Friday!**

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
Dharma Study Center
 presents a four-part lecture series

GUEST LECTURER: DR. JAY SAKASHITA
Professor, Department of Religion, University of Hawaii

Please be sure to mark four evening dates on your calendar in April for a series of four Dharma Study Center lectures by UH Religion Professor Jay Sakashita that you definitely won't want to miss!

This lecture series (April 21, 23, 28 and 30) will delve into how Buddhism and associated traditions developed and evolved as it progressed through the various countries throughout Asia.

Dr. Sakashita has an uncanny knack for weaving interesting and amusing anecdotes into ordinarily dry subject material and has gained a reputation as one of the most popular lecturers on campus.

He also writes a guest column in the MidWeek magazine. (Information courtesy of *Wa* newsletter, Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii)

Members and friends of the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji interested in attending are asked to complete the form below. If you are also interested in a ride, please call our temple as soon as possible at 247-2661 to inquire.

Tuesday, April 21 Introduction: *Story of the Buddha*
Thursday, April 23 The Dharma Spreads: *Theravada & Mahayana Buddhism*
Tuesday, April 28 The DharmaChanges: *Chinese, Korean & Tibetan Buddhism*
Thursday, April 30 The Dharma Becomes Japanese: *Japanese Buddhism*

Time: 7:00 to 8:30pm All sessions

Place: Higashi Hongwanji Mission, 1685 Alaneo Street

Fee: \$9 per lecture

HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII - DHARMA STUDY CENTER
 1685 ALANEO STREET, HONOLULU, HI 96817

Please complete this form and bring with you on your first night attending.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

NIGHTS ATTENDING: Tues April 21 \$9 Thurs April 23 \$9 Tues April 28 \$9 Thurs April 30 \$9

Minister's Message
by Rev. Hiroko Maeda

The Fount of Life

A couple of months ago, I had an opportunity to participate in a Waihe'e Tunnel Tour that the Board of Water Supply (BWS) offers to the public as an educational tour. The tunnel is a 1,500 foot long dike tunnel that provides fresh water to Windward Oahu, including Kaneohe.

The tour was about two hours and a BWS guide explained how we receive tap water at our home. He explained that there are three reasons why we are able to have water even though we live on an island which is located in the middle of Pacific Ocean: 1) Trade winds — these bring rain clouds inland from the ocean, 2) Koolau Mountains — tall mountains that catch the rain clouds, and 3) Underground lava plateau — a layer of hardened lava that purifies rain water by filtering it

What really surprised me was the fact that rain water takes 25 years to be purified by the lava plateau's filtration and ends up at our tap. Simply, water that we drink today is the rain water that poured on the Koolau Mountain 25 years ago. Were you here in 1990? Do you remember the rains or storms that occurred back in 1990?

Then, what about water in the future? Can you image that rainfalls now will become tap water that you and your family will be drinking in 2040?

Our BWS guide further mentioned that healthy Hawaiian rain forests on our islands are also important for the continuous cycle of our water. The rain forests work like a giant sponge to allow water to drip slowly underground and into the streams. However, since foreign plants and animals have been brought here on Oahu, Hawaiian rain forests have been damaged. I learned from our guide that there are community projects that help in removing foreign plants or invasive species, and replant native ones.

When I got out of the tunnel, it started raining pretty hard. But no one in the group grumbled. I saw several waterfalls in the deep channels of the mountain range and I understood the cycle of nature. I was very glad that I had the chance to visit and learn about our life's source and know how

Continued on next page.



The Fount of Life

Continued from page 4

fortunate that we have been receiving its great blessings of nature. The tour revealed clearly that my way of living was totally unaware or “clueless” of things surrounding me right now. I was not aware of the cycle of water, the balance of our interdependence with nature, and life beyond my generation.

I have seen tall condominiums and large shopping centers under construction on Oahu. I love shopping so I would be happy when these are built. Nice restaurants? Definitely, I would go and enjoy those. An elevated rail along the Honolulu Harbor shoreline is also planned. Wow, that will be nice as I would enjoy its scenic ocean views from the rail. I can see myself supporting (using or going to) these developments.

On the one side, the constructions are sometimes suspended because Hawaiian burial grounds are found. It must be spiritually painful for Hawaiians to see their sacred places unearthed or destroyed.

*When my tears dry, she is crying
Our ground won't dry up*

*Whenever someone's wish comes true, she is crying
Everyone's wishes can't come true at once*

The above are phrases from my favorite song and I think these phrases manifest the situation that we are all involved in. If I keep on wishing and looking for my own comforts, sooner or later, I'll hear someone crying out in sadness.

As unconnected to me as it first seemed, the Waihe'e Tunnel Tour made me more aware about things that I take for granted. The cycle of nature revealed to me the continuous links of Life from the vast past to the future. In addition, to me, this awakening presented me with the opportunity to pause and think about “Awakening to Your Deepest Wish,” the theme for our Hawaii District's Shinran Shonin 750th memorial service to be held on November, 2016. What does “deepest wish” mean? What does “awakening” mean? Let us deeply think about these questions together throughout these months as we head towards November of next year.

In Gassho.

The Circle, Kaneohe Higashi's reading gathering will start having the class twice a month from April 15. (First and third Wednesdays 10:30AM) Book: “Dharma Breeze” by Dr. Nobuo Haneda

Update

Nokotsudo News Column

Jim Dote, Nokotsudo Committee

The Nokotsudo Committee members, Mary Matsuda, Rev. Hiroko Maeda and Jim Dote, report that they are still working on the Ihai (memorial tablet) owners' identification project.

We will hold a joint service to honor all Ihai sometime in 2015. We have not yet set that date and will inform families with advance notice via your Jushin and by mail.

During our temple's 90th Anniversary held in October of 2014, families visited the new Nokotsudo. We installed energy efficient lights, new ceiling tiles, and installed two working windows that will prevent soot and UV light from further damaging Ihai and urns. Volunteers will repair and repaint the walls.

We are also working to establish a new Nokotsudo policy and will inform you when information is available. Dooom arigatou gozaimasu.

Hawaii District's "Helping Fukushima Children to Recover" Project

Thank you very much for those who have contributed to support this project. Six children and one adult will visit Waimea Higashi Hongwanji from March 27th to April 3rd.

Hawaii Higashi volunteers are planning to take them to many places in Kauai and have them play hard in Hawaii's great nature! Hopefully, they can ease their tension and recover their immune systems that has been affected by the radiation. We will report on the project in the next Jushin.



Happy Buddhist Runners - From left to right: Rev. Takafumi Bansaka, Ridge Ishikawa, Kevin Kawawata, Patrick Ng, and Rev. Hiroko Maeda (kneeling) all smile after finishing their 5-person relay.

Hawaii Rainbow Ekiden

By Susan Ng

With gigantic team spirit the Hawaii Higashi Hongwanji participated in the 2015 Rainbow Ekiden on March 8, 2015. The Ekiden (relay race) was part of the Honolulu Festival which is held each year in Waikiki.

Rev. Hiroko Maeda and Patrick Ng from Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji and Rev. Takafumi Bansaka, Ridge Ishikawa and Kevin Kawawata from the Betsuin formed our five member relay team. Each member ran 3.1 miles. Out of a total of 126 teams, Higashi Hongwanji came in 55th. Congratulations team members!

It was so exciting to watch each of our team members run. As Kevin, our last runner neared the finish line, the entire team ran behind him with our Higashi Hongwanji banner.

We all felt so proud of their great achievement. We also had fun cheering the other runners in the race from our comfortable, shady spot near the finish line. It was so heart-warming to see the runners break out into big smiles as they heard our clapping and cheers. Please join us next year as a runner or a spectator!



Photo by Hiroko Maeda

“What makes our flowers grow?”

By the Garden Committee

Gladys Sakata, Susan Ng and Rev. Hiroko Maeda are members of our Temple’s Garden Committee. Our purpose is to upkeep and beautify the Temple grounds. Last year, under Rev. Maeda’s leadership, beautiful, ceramic pots of water lilies and lotus were placed on the Temple steps, adding a warm touch as people enter the Hondo. Also, a rock garden, potted plants, and a vessel containing water lilies were added in the planter by the Sangha Room entry. Please stop by to see these new additions because something is always in bloom.

Our just-completed project replaced the groundcover next to the parking lot with torch ginger and bird of paradise plants. The flowers from these plants will be used in floral arrangements that Gladys Sakata and Harriet Yamada create every Saturday for the Temple altars. In addition, we received many beautiful lava rocks – a donation from our friend’s garden – to make our parking lot area nicer.

Our garden committee needs your help. Please tell us your ideas for improving the Temple grounds. We appreciate your wisdom and kokua. You will discover that gardening at the Temple is meditative and very relaxing.

Kaneohe’s Plant Sale Coming Up

Saturday, April 25 will be Kaneohe Higashi’s Plant Sale.

It will be from 9 am to 1 pm. Please mark your wall calendars, tablet and cell phone calendars. We hope to feature a variety of

plants for the home, garden and office. One of our green-thumbed members has potted many of his sought-after colorful anthurium plants for the sale. He sounded tickled to have his anthurium plants find caring owners.



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Volume 5 Issue 3



Next Year, Let's Grow Our Buddhist Run-Team - The Honolulu Rainbow Ekiden is an important part of an all-day fun event of the Honolulu Festival. The Ekiden is a team relay (3 to 5 in a team) who complete a set course handing over a sash lei to the next team mate until the team completes the 5 km course. It's a beautiful relay starting from Kapiolani Park up alongside Diamond Head base overlooking beautiful Pacific Ocean and return to the finishing line at Kapiolani Park. This was the Hawaii Higashi Hongwanji's first Ekiden, and it was a lot of fun. The Team even designed their special run-shirt! From left to right: Rev. Takafumi Bansaka, Ridge Ishikawa, Rev. Hiroko Maeda, Patrick Ng, and Kevin Kawawata. Looking ahead to '16!

*From April 15,
Kaneohe Higashi's
Buddhist reading
group, "The Circle,"
will gather at 10:30AM
on the first and third
Wednesdays monthly.
Please feel welcome to
join us!!!*

Temple Service & Activities Calendar

April 2015		
5	Sun	No Kaneohe Sunday Service 9am Hanamatsuri @ Soto Mission
6	Mon	6-6:30p Ukulele Stars - Beginners 6:30-7p Ukulele Stars - 2nd Year
11	Sat	8:30am Flower Arranging
12	Sun	9am Kaneohe Higashi Hanamatsuri Cinema @ Temple to follow
15	Wed	10:30am The Circle 6:30pm Board of Directors Meeting
18	Sat	8:30am Flower Arranging
19	Sun	9am Sunday Service
20	Mon	6-6:30p Ukulele Stars - Beginners 6:30-7p Ukulele Stars - 2nd Year
21	Tues	7pm Betsuin Lecture Series
23	Thur	7pm Betsuin Lecture Series
25	Sat	9am Plant Sale to 1pm
26	Sun	9am Sunday Service with Bishop Kawawata, Sangha Talk
28	Tues	7pm Betsuin Lecture Series
30	Thur	7pm Betsuin Lecture Series

May 2015		
2	Sat	8:30am Flower Arranging
3	Sun	9am Sunday Service
4	Mon	6-6:30p Ukulele Stars - Beginners 6:30-7p Ukulele Stars - 2nd Year
6	Wed	10:30am The Circle
9	Sat	8:30am Flower Arranging
10	Sun	9am Sunday Service
16	Sat	8:30am Flower Arranging
17	Sun	9am Gotan-e Sunday Service
18	Mon	6-6:30p Ukulele Stars - Beginners 6:30-7p Ukulele Stars - 2nd Year
19	Tues	7-8:30p Oko @ Kaneohe
20	Wed	10:30am The Circle
23	Sat	8:30am Flower Arranging
24	Sun	9am Sunday Service, Sangha Talk
30	Sat	9a-2p Kaneohe Local Gathering
31	Sun	No Kaneohe Sunday Service

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