



“Absolutely fabulous Bon dance!”

inside your Jushin

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Thank You Message

Chairperson Walt Herring
Reverend Hiroko Maeda
Chairperson Jim Dote

Our deepest, heartfelt Arigatou to every member, ‘ohana, volunteer, cook, dancers and musicians, and generous donors for helping to make our 2016 Obon-Hatsubon and Bon Dance so successful! To our Kaneohe community and ‘ohana, we thank you for your attendance and joyous dancing! This was likely our largest gathering in our history; everyone enjoyed themselves and everything flowed so smoothly. Your expressions of appreciations are meaningful to us. Here are a few.

“Thank you so much, we really, truly enjoyed the night,” said a resident of Pohai Nani, one of seven senior residents who attended. A great grandmother from Heeia said, “before we brought our great grandchildren tonight we explained about our Buddhist culture and bon dance tradition, and they are enjoying themselves tonight.”

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“Our deepest, heartfelt Arigatou”

Obon Thank You

Continued from page 1.

“Absolutely fabulous Bon dance!” and “Awesome Bon dance!” were some of the many positive comments people had told Koolau Sukiyaki instructor, Jean Crosier, about how much they enjoyed themselves at the Kaneohe event.

This year, the Board wished to outreach more into our community before the Obon. We were fortunate that Keith Haugen gave an excellent talk to over 50 persons on our front steps, and, the Kaneohe Library held a mini-bon dance for 40 patrons in early June.

Our deepest gratitude to all! In gassho.



Part of the 60+ pounds of nutritious produce that was generously donated.



Library photo courtesy Dennis Miyamoto



Happy Kaneohe Obon dancers show their joyous spirit! Photo courtesy Jean Crosier



Keith Haugen (seated at right) talks to a third of the listeners gathered.

"...The kids were kids again, noisy and rambunctious..."

Fukushima Children Rejuvenate on Big Island

Written With Assistance from Walt Herring
and Rev. Hiroko Maeda

Eight children from Fukushima Prefecture, sponsored by the Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District, arrived on July 25 for a week-long stay on the Big Island to rejuvenate their immune systems from the effects of radiation. They returned to Fukushima on Monday, August 1.

The children were Karin Hirakuri, Shuto Ikeda, Tomoki Naito, Ami Sato, Nonoha Kaneko, Hiroaki Sakurai, Soma Suzuki, and Aika Kido. They were from the cities of Koriyama, Iwaki and Shirakawa in Fukushima Prefecture.

This was the second year that the Hawaii District was involved in this project including fund-raising at all five local temples. The planning team opened eligibility to all children in the Fukushima area this year. Families did not have to be of the Higashi faith. The team re-



viewed 42 applications from mothers. This year, the Hawaii district brought eight children and one adult chaperone. Airfare was a big expense at over \$11,000.

Fortunately, Kaneohe Board Chair Walt Herring volunteered the use of his Mountain View home for the entire stay.

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Eight Fukushima Children Rejuvenate

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For the children, who now live in the strictly-monitored Fukushima environment, it was a week filled with memories as they got accustomed again to running around “wild” in grassy fields, exploring trails, jumping freely into the ocean, digging their toes into the sandy beach, picking fruit off trees, and squishing their hands into the Big Island’s rich soil.

A phenomenal itinerary of activities was planned by the team and others from the Big Island that included sightseeing, surfing lessons, canoe paddling, a visit to the Subaru Telescope Hilo Base Facility, the Imiloa Astronomy Center, a trip to Volcanoes National Park to see the active volcano, shopping, BBQ dinner, poi making, coconut and lauhala weaving, leisure time with horses, a bon dance at Taishoji temple, mochi pounding, and Spam musubi making.

In an interview, Walt Herring said that he was “sur-

prised at how active these kids were,” being that their youthful energies and enthusiasm have been suppressed for so long due to the quake, tsunami, and radiation levels in Fukushima. “It was really great. The kids were kids again, noisy and rambunctious and very social! By the third day, everyone became great friends, including with our hosts.”

Herring reported to the Kaneohe Higashi board, “We have successfully completed the week with the Fukushima children. Every day was action-packed and we had unusually great weather.”

David Kohara and Colleen Kasamoto from the Hilo Higashi Hongwanji, Faye Shigemura, Bishop Ken Kawawata, Rev. Noriaki Fujimori, and Rev. Hiroko Maeda served on the planning team for this year’s project.

Special thanks go to Hilo Higashi Hongwanji members and friends for their heartwarming efforts and caring. “Whatever that was needed, was instantly taken care of by the Big Island Sangha,” Herring added with emphasis.



Come Play (Music)

Our Ukulele Stars class has started again, on the first and third Monday evenings of the month in the kitchen, 6-6:30 PM for beginners' class, and 6:30-7 for returning students. Singers are welcomed, too!

Foodland Begins 2016 Give Aloha Program



Give Aloha, Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts Program runs from September 1 through 30 this year. Customers at over 65 Foodland, Sack N Save and Foodland Farms stores statewide are invited to make donations during checkout to your selected participating Hawaii non-profits including the Kaneohe Higashi.

The organization code for the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji is 78808. If you make a donation at the checkout register please inform the cashier of our number code. Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will contribute to participating organizations.

Movie About Surviving Fukushima Shown

On July 12, 21 persons viewed the special screening of "Little Voices From Fukushima" documentary by Hitomi Kamanaka. Rev. Hiroko Maeda said to the audience, "Thank you so much for your participation. We live on this earth together. Thus, little by little we can help these Fukushima children even if to recover from radiation effects for a little while. The Hawaii Higashi is bringing eight Fukushima children from and appreciate your support."

Takeo Sensei to Give August 28 Service

On Sunday, August 28, former Kaneohe Higashi minister Reverend Takeo Maeda will be officiating our service while Rev. Hiroko Maeda attends the World Dobo Convention in Los Angeles, California.

Rev. Takeo Maeda, wife Erika, and their three sons, will be visiting Hawaii for a week's vacation at the perfect time so the Kaneohe temple will be able to have our regular Sunday service. It would be a great



opportunity for parishioners to welcome Rev. Takeo and Erika again, and this time meet their three young sons.

Please Help Boy Scout Troop 49 to Repaint, Repair and Beautify Temple August 27-28

On Saturday and Sunday, August 27 and 28, 2016, Boy Scout Troop 49 from Honolulu, will be doing a large-scale remedial and beautification project to benefit our temple. Although this is a Boy Scout project, temple 'ohana and Jushin readers are encouraged to lend a hand, bring a paintbrush, or shovel some Kaneohe dirt.

Over two days, members of Troop 49 will be pressure-washing, applying primer, sanding and repainting our metal gate, painting concrete walls and perimeter fence walls, removing a large, broken planter box that is dangerously ready to fall apart, and replant our temple property adjacent to the public sidewalk.

The project began when Scout Noah Tatsuyama was required by the Scouts to design and perform a community service project from scratch that would benefit a non-profit organization. He chose the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji as the recipient organization. Young Noah researched and proposed this project. He met several times with members of our Board to obtain what kinds of projects the Board needed done that required lots of volunteers. He received the board's input and approvals. Noah next had to obtain best prices for materials to be used, estimate labor hours, plan out the multi-faceted project and schedule volunteers. Lastly, he presented the project to his Scout troop for review and approval.

Noah is the son of Delbert and JoAnn Tatsuyama and the great-grandson of the late Yoshiko Okabayashi who was one of the founding members of our temple. The Tatsuyama family still lives in close proximity to the temple.

The Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji is very appreciative to Noah and Boy Scout Troop 49 for their work. It is indeed humbling to receive the unconditional kindness of Boy Scout Troop 49 to repair and beautify our 52-year-old temple. The next issue of the Jushin will have photos of this wonderful project.

Thoughts About Kikyoshiki Confirmation

Guest Column Jim Dote

(Editor's Note: This was originally an oral presentation to the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji congregation on March 27, 2016, and has been edited for print.)

Good Morning, Maeda Sensei and everyone;

My kanwa this morning is about taking the “great leap of faith” into the Pure Land - taking the Kikyoshiki and receiving my Dharma Name, Shaku Sho-mon. Let me begin by saying this life journey is rewarding and enlightening. I wish to share mostly serious views and a few amusing ones, especially since the Kikyoshiki opportunity is coming again this November for our congregation to consider. (Please see “*About the Kikyoshiki...*” sidebar, page 6)

Those in our Sangha who hold a strong bond with the Buddha, the Dharma, and with our fellow Sangha, might consider taking their confirmation this November here in Honolulu. There is an advance reservation date of September 30 because the local request is sent to the head temple in Kyoto for review and recordation.

Taking my vow

Twelve years ago Gladys Sakata and I took our Kikyoshiki vows during Kaneohe Higashi's 80th Anniversary celebration. For me, at that time, taking the confirmation wasn't an easy decision even as a third-generation Kaneohe Higashi member, and even with then-Reverend Takeo Maeda asking me several times. I took months to think about it.

On a more humorous note, I even played hookey from Sunday services when I suspected Rev. Takeo Maeda would be talking about taking the Kikyoshiki rite. There have also been times since 2004 that I wished I could, for a moment, “temporarily leap back” into the Un-pure Land, realizing that I am bombu (foolish) and do bombu actions from time to time.

A moment ago I mentioned that I hesitated to take the Kikyoshiki vow. I'll tell you why. I'll start with what a few of my relatives said. They told me Shin Buddhism is for the dead, that it is the religion for the dying. They chided me, “Why do you want to get your Dharma name now? That's your ‘death name!’ Are you planning to die - like, soon?” OH, MY GOODNESS! Some of my relatives almost scared me to death! Calmly, Rev. Takeo explained to me that Jodo Shinshu is about reality and accepting reality — as it really is — not through deluded thinking. Another relative asked me to join his church instead because it prays for good fortune and blessings. I guessed that if I chose the Nembutsu path, I should not pray for a big, red new car or hitting Las Vegas jackpots.

In 2004, I was co-chairperson of our 80th Anniversary, a three-day event that took a year of planning. Despite my work as co-chair, I was still a little hesitant to take the Kikyoshiki “jump.”

However, I decided to take the confirmation rite when the filing deadline approached as I wanted to put my mind and spirit at peace. To explain, I realized that certain old memories may be repressed but not totally forgotten. My mother passed away suddenly when I was 13 years old and my father handled her funeral arrangements. The late Rev. Nobuo Matsumoto of the Kaneohe Higashi officiated. Three years later, my father died. Even though I was in grief I remember some relatives suddenly appeared and voiced disagreements over the Buddhist services. That became



The Higashi Kesa collar



Gladys Sakata and Jim Dote receive their Kikyoshiki confirmation in 2004. Photo by George Kodama

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Thoughts About Kikyoshiki

Continued from page 6.

a traumatic week and the 1969 memory reentered my mind in 2004. Actually, I had never forgotten it over the ensuing 35 years. So I decided to accept the confirmation rite.

The night before the Kikyoshiki ceremony, I couldn't rest and awoke well before dawn despite my handling around-the-clock details of the three-day event. Unable to rest, I went over to our family altar and meditated until the blue cast of night turned into a warm orange glow of morning. One by one birds began chirping in the dark sky until the sounds became a chorus. By the first light, it became a symphony of singing birds.

Surely, I had hundreds of things on my mind for the 80th Anniversary that day. But on this dawn I felt calm and at peace. It seemed like I was in a surreal dream.

"It is Amida's light... That is all you need to know."

Before the service at the temple, I sat with the late Rev. Matsumoto's wife, Mrs. Tomoko Matsumoto in a quiet corner and told her of my early and unusually calm awakening that morning. She said, "I know. It is Amida's Light and Namuamidabutsu. That is all you need to know."

In closing, some of you might ask, "Did receiving my Dharma name change my life since 2004?"

- Yes. The most important to me is that I am traveling the path of the Nembutsu, that I made the choice to listen to and say the Nembutsu - not merely "recite" the words from books.
- I have peace of mind as far as my "existence" is concerned.
- I have accepted the reality and preciousness of life for what it is at each moment.
- At work, bosses and coworkers said I was somehow changing. They said that I was calmer in the typical office chaos and crisis situations.
- I don't see Higashi Buddhism as the Buddhism of death. There is so much to learn about the Nembutsu in this unrepeatably and precious life.
- I continue to hear, listen, learn and appreciate the Dharma and truly enjoy each of you in our Sangha.
- And I entrust myself to the Light.

These are my reasons. Your reasons will be uniquely yours.

As I mentioned at the beginning of my kanwa, you will have an opportunity this October to consider participating in the Kikyoshiki ceremony and receiving your Dharma name. I hesitated for a long while until I sorted out the causes and conditions of my family, childhood and adult experiences, and who I am. And then, I was ready to entrust myself to the Buddha's Light.

About the Kikyoshiki Confirmation Ceremony

By Rev. Hiroko Maeda

The Kikyoshiki Confirmation Ceremony will be conducted at Higashi Hongwanji Betsuin following Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial and Hawaii Betsuin Centennial Service on Sunday, November 6.

The Kikyoshiki is a significant ceremony for Jodo Shinshu followers to make a vow in which to live as a true follower of the Buddha. At the ceremony, a participant will receive his or her Homyo, or Dharma name.

People in general still have thoughts that a Dharma name is given only to the deceased at funerals, but basically the name is for us at the present time.

Kikyoshiki is to affirm ourselves as spiritual seekers of the Path and take refuge in the Buddhist's fundamental guidance, or the Three Treasures—the Buddha (the teacher), the Dharma (the teaching), and the Sangha (the community). I assume that most of us don't remember the experience of being born at our own births. We only hear afterward how we were born and how everyone, especially our parents, gratefully rejoiced at our births. Indeed, this special occasion of Kikyoshiki will be a milestone for a participant or even a new spiritual experience and have the first cry as a Buddha's student.

For more information, please contact the temple. The Kaneohe Higashi office has the application, and the deadline for the application is Friday, September 30, 2016.

Jushin 樹心

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Kaneohe Higashi's Special Services for Remainder of 2016

The following is a list of Kaneohe Higashi's special or major services for the remainder of 2016. Please note, this list does not include regular Sunday services.

- Sept. 11 Autumn Ohigan Service
- Oct. 2 Perpetual Memorial Service
- Oct. 30 Ho-on-ko Service
- Dec. 11 Bodhi Day Service
- Dec. 31 Year-End Service

Temple Service & Activities Calendar

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| 10 | Wed | 6:30pm | Board Meeting (To be rescheduled) |
| 13 | Sat | 8:30am | Flower Arrangement |
| | | 10-noon | Goenki Banquet Committee Mtg - Betsuin |
| 14 | Sun | 9am | Sunday Service |
| 15 | Mon | 6-7pm | Ukulele Stars |
| 16 | Tue | 7-8:30p | Oko Night: Discussion Group @ Betsuin |
| 17 | Wed | 10:30a | "The Reading Circle" – (1 hour) |
| 20 | Sat | 8:30am | Flower Arrangement |
| | | 2:30pm | Kaneohe Higashi Booth - Byodo-In Bon Fest. |
| 21 | Sun | 9am | Sunday Service Speaker Bishop Kawawata – Sangha Talk |
| 27 | Sat | 8am | Boy Scouts Project - all day |
| | | 8:30am | Flower Arrangement |
| 28 | Sun | 8am | Boy Scouts Project - all day |
| | | 9am | Sunday Service – Rev. Takeo Maeda |

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| 3 | Sat | 8:30am | Flower Arrangement |
| 4 | Sun | 9am | Sunday Service |
| 7 | Wed | 10:30a | "The Reading Circle" – (1 hour) |
| 10 | Sat | 8:30am | Flower Arrangement |
| 11 | Sun | 9am | Autumn Ohigan Service |
| 18 | Sun | 9am | Sunday Service |
| 19 | Mon | 6-7pm | Ukulele Stars |
| 20 | Tue | 7-8:30p | Oko Night: Discussion Group @ Kaneohe |
| 21 | Wed | 10:30a | "The Reading Circle" – (1 hour) |
| 24 | Sat | 8:30am | Flower Arrangement |
| | | | Da Plant Hui |
| 25 | Sun | 9am | Sunday Service Speaker Bishop Kawawata – Sangha Talk |

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