



Jushin 樹心

Volume 7 Issue 3 April – May 2017

Web Edition

inside your Jushin

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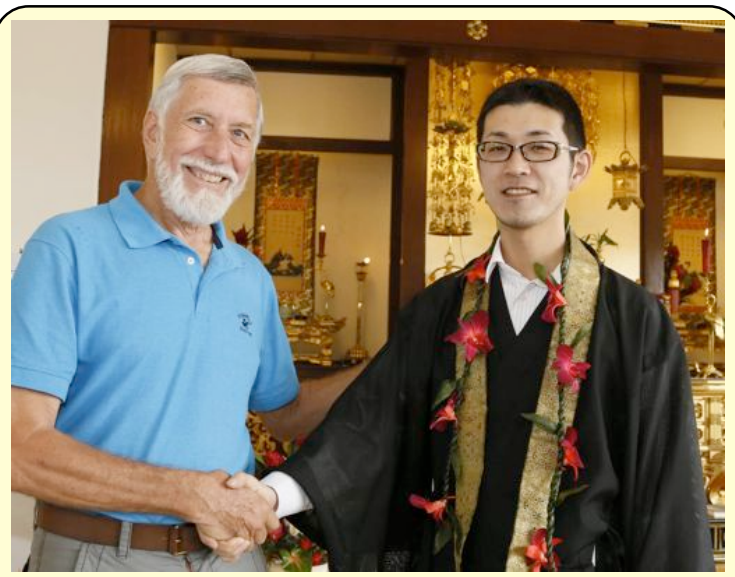


Meet Reverend Hideaki Nishihori, Kaneohe's New Resident Minister

By Jim Dote

On Friday, February 24, a small gathering of board members and friends of the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji welcomed its new Resident Minister, Reverend Hideaki Nishihori, who had just arrived at the Honolulu International Airport a few hours earlier. His arrival culminated months of coordination by many including the Hawaii District Bishop Kenjun Kawawata and Kantokubu Hidesato Kita.

Rev. Nishihori is eager, energetic and informal - with a nice bit of humor. He prefers to be called by his nickname, "Aki." A huge plus for us -- Aki Sensei was a Japanese high school teacher of the English language and had also taught in Australia! (*'K mate, bumbye he goin learn pidgin!*)



From the Chairperson's notebook

Aloha Jushin readers and temple 'ohana,
We are all ecstatic to welcome Rev. Hideaki Nishihori to Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji as our Mission's Resident Minister. Let's all get to know each other in the months ahead and share our "Kaneohe-style" aloha spirit with "Aki" Sensei. Walt

Arigato From Aki

To Kaneohe Higashi members and friends,

Thank you for the wonderful and warm welcome you have shown me since my arrival. I am humbled by your aloha and enthusiastic encouragement.

I wish to express my gratitude to Bishop Kenjun Kawawata, and Reverends Hidesato Kita and Koen Higuchi. Arigato, especially to Reverend Hiroko Maeda, who took excellent care of you and your temple. As the Buddha has said, we are all interconnected.

People tell me that this is a special temple and I agree. You have worked hard at endless tasks big and small. Recently, you have made all the altar ornaments sparkle like the Hawaiian sun through your hard omigaki work. We have many exciting things to learn ahead. Let's continue to learn the Dharma together!

The Jodo Shinshu Teaching: We Are Interconnected

By Hideaki “Aki” Nishihori



“Let’s share the dharma together.”

Above: Shoshinge Chanting Book

To Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji members, Jushin readers, Dharma Friends... Aloha!

First, let me say that I would like to serve here as long as I can. This is such a great temple and Sangha.

I would like to listen to Buddhist teachings with you. I’m not coming here to TEACH you Buddhism... but to rather SHARE Buddhism with you. Yes, I am a Buddhist minister but at the same time I am just a normal person. I am not a Saint; the person who has to listen to the Dharma first is me. I should listen to and study Buddhism as much as possible.

I think sharing the teachings is my top priority, my work. I am not a teacher but a sharer of the

teachings. Let’s share the Dharma together. We are the same in that sense. I simply want to share what I’ve been taught and what we’ll learn together.

In order to connect with each other, sharing our experiences and views – happiness, sadness, elation or anxieties – is very important because in Shin Buddhism we are interconnected. Likewise, I feel our experiences through happy and hard times of our lives have made us who we are now. All conditions, karma, have brought us here to Kaneohe to be with each other right now.

I was born into a temple family in Kobe City, which is close to Osaka. My temple is Jodo Shinshu (Higashi). Originally it was Tendai Shu sect but

my grandfather converted it to Jodo Shinshu surely more than 80 years ago. We lived in the temple and I grew up in the temple. Our temple is a modern building; it does not resemble the form of a traditional temple. The number of our members



Above: Reverend Aki makes adjustments to the silk brocade altar skirt for Ohigan services.

is very small so my father was a school teacher (at a local school) at the same time he was a minister.

My father is our temple’s

Buddhist minister and has great knowledge. He enjoys studying languages – he speaks Japanese, English, Chinese, and is studying Korean now. He likes gardening. My father was very strict when I was a child but he is really wise. My mother is cheerful and likes to keep busy. She is doing something all the time. She likes playing tennis. I have four siblings; two elder sisters, one elder brother, and one younger sister. In Japan if you have five children in the same family, people are very surprised. My elder brother will take over the temple in the future, he is now serving as vice minister to my father.

About 22 years ago there was a big earthquake

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The Jodo Shinshu Teaching: We Are Interconnected

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(Great Hanshin Earthquake or Kobe Earthquake) and over 6,000 people died. I was 14 years old at that time. It was shocking! There were big fires across the city and the devastation was like we were hit by a bomb. Our home-temple was half destroyed by the earthquake. Fortunately, members donated to rebuild the damaged temple. The earthquake influenced me a lot as I think it is one of the reasons I became a minister.

When I was young, I was not interested in Buddhism. My parents wanted me to attend Higashi schools but I refused because I didn't want to become a Buddhist priest and was not interested in Buddhism at all.

My parents also recommended me to attend Otani University in Kyoto. Instead, I went to Aoyama Gakuin Daigaku in Tokyo. This happened to be a Christian university. However, I wasn't interested in Christianity and even today I don't know much about Christianity. I majored in education because my father told me it was the best major for me - a better choice to qualify for a teaching certifica-

tion for a secure career and future. I majored in English language education. I was not a good student as I didn't attend many classes. I didn't study English although I went to lectures.

Music has been an influence in my life. At Aoyama I just wanted to play music in Tokyo. I belonged to an orchestra club and I played the viola all the time. These were good memories for me.



Actually, I began playing the guitar at 14 when my brother taught me how to play it. I've been playing the guitar for more than 20 years and you might say it is my hobby. I come from a musical family, uncles and aunts as well. My father often listened to classical music when I was a child. My sisters played the piano, my brother who plays guitar is now a hip-hop Disc Jockey. However, I play and compose pop music.

I decided to become a J-Pop composer after my university graduation. I worked hard composing J-Pop songs while working part time at a super market as I didn't want to be employed in a company salaried job. I wrote many songs - using a computer to synthesize instruments and lay tracks into multitrack tunes then onto demo CDs and sent my compositions to many music publishing companies. One company liked my music and contracted me to write songs for specific singers.

I wrote for these singers as did other composers. Tune selections were by competition-style contests. I composed over 100 songs for these singers but not one of mine was chosen.

I lost my confidence in music. About this time I had problems with my girlfriend and also I could not sleep well. Everything in my life went bad. I lost confidence in my music ability, in music, I lost my girlfriend, I lost hope in the future, I lost my concentration, and I began to withdraw from interacting with people.

I quit composing because I

needed time to rest. Even so, I knew I had to work to earn a living because I was living with my family. With the urging of my father, I decided to find work as an English language teacher. I studied very hard and took the exam to become a teacher.

In Japan, a teaching career meant a good job, prestige, and becoming a public servant. Public servants enjoyed stable, secure positions and have no fear of getting fired.

I was 26 already and I thought I was too old to join a company. In Japan, they say if you cannot get a salaried job by 25 you cannot have a good life, you may not be regarded as normal. So I chose teaching to have a stable salary and status although I didn't have much interest in educating children.

It was hard for me to study and pass the exam. But I did. I was tired and had no interest in anything. I ignored my heart, my true feeling. Fortunately, I taught in Australia at age 29 (7 years ago) for a one-year contract teaching Japanese to Australian students. It was a good opportunity to learn and use English. Today, I could teach

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Jodo Shinshu Teaching

Continued from page 3

Japanese students in the English language.

Now I look back at those times, I realize it was not Amida's deep wish. I ignored Amida's life vow, I rejected what I truly wanted: true happiness. I didn't listen to the Buddha's teaching back then, so I didn't know what to do. I didn't know what my heart wanted.

During the lows of my depression, however, I began to study and learn about Jodo Shinshu. Amida's wishes are that all living things become truly happy. Amida wishes us to seek what true life is. Instead, I sought money, a stable and prestigious career, and a secure future. What all human beings truly hope for is not money. It took me a few years to realize this.

I think Buddhism is important in this modern life. Surely, there are many people suffering today. Perhaps, lots of people today have some mental illness caused by their own conditions. You hear that in Japan, for example, people are constantly so burdened by

Moreover, I am not living by my own power. Everything around me makes me live my life. Tariki, other power, power of Amida, makes me live.



Left: Amida's presence is reflected on the kyodai (sutra stand) with Sutra chanting books. Right: Reverend Aki at work in the temple's office.

you truly wish for - your innermost aspiration, the most important thing in life. I am still looking for the answer.

For me, I like walking, it helps me to contemplate, even opens my mind to philosophical thinking and meditation. I like to walk in the natural environment. I would also like to scuba dive here to see fishes as they are naturally. One day I also wish to see Hawaii's volcano and lava flow.

As a Buddhist practitioner, a creative person, and nature lover, I now am awakened to loving life and nature, for we are not living by ourselves and because we are made to be alive. I feel that every natural thing such as trees, earth, plants, air, fish, oceans, animals, and humans are interdependent.

In a way I realize to know and love the universe is to know and love oneself. I once was depressed, then began studying Shin



Buddhism. At one point in my studies I realized that even though I was depressed, *I am living, I am made to be alive.*

I am not living by my own power. Everything around me makes me live my life. *Tariki*, other power, power of Amida, makes me live. When I was depressed, I stopped composing music. I suffered in my own condition. But recently I realized that I lost interest and confidence because I limited my own ability. Back then, as I made music, I thought composing must be done in a set way. But no! As I studied Shin Buddhism I realized I could have created my songs more naturally.

My view was once very narrow, but through Buddhism, realized I could be naturally open.

Gassho, Aki Nishihori

Meet Our New Board Member

Karen Hayashida

“Hey, these people are pretty cool!”



Left: Karen was busy polishing altar ornaments at omigaki.

1000 attendees, and the American Bar Association are notable conventions I did. It was complex work.

When my husband and I were married we moved to Kaimuki. In 1998 we

moved to Kaneohe thinking it would be temporary. In my mind, moving to Kaneohe - *the country* - would be a difficult adjustment for us. But we loved it so much we never went back to Kaimuki! Kaneohe has clean, fresh air. It is cooler than Honolulu and every morning we awake to the beautiful mountains and oceans that surround us.

When our daughter was born, I changed careers to become an administrative executive assistant to the Honolulu office of an engineering firm based in Hawaii. I served in this capacity for 14 years and then I retired.

What do you do now?

I love to do things and keep busy. I recently joined the Kaneohe Senior Center taking ukulele, hula, and taichi classes during the week. I also look forward to luncheons with friends and going to movies on Tuesdays!

When my father began to need watching over, my siblings and I took over his care and dad would stay with my husband and I in Kaneohe every other weekend. Because dad is a strong Higashi follower, I thought it would be good for him to attend Sunday temple

services at the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji. It was about a year ago, we just sort of showed up. And you all greeted us with open arms and so much aloha.

We immediately felt welcomed and part of the congregation. I thought, “Hey, these people are pretty cool.” Being able to listen to and discuss Buddhism was very important. My father enjoyed listening to the dharma given by Hiroko Sensei and having refreshments with the sangha afterwards.



You volunteered cooking for our bon dance. How was that experience?

Oh, I didn't mind helping since I had the free time and it was fun. It was lots of fun working in the kitchen and meeting so many great people. I really enjoyed it and I'm looking forward to helping in this year's bon dance, too!

Do you think religion has a place in today's society?

My perspective comes from the fact that I was brought up in a strong (Jodo) Buddhist family. My mother's family was from the Nishi sect and my father's family from the Higashi sect. So Buddhism has pretty much been my religion from my birth.

I believe that in the world today there is growing anger or divisiveness. I think this feeling, you know, is scary. I do think religion has a place in our society today. It can bring meaning and compassion to our lives, and guide us in our relationships with ourselves, families, and society. It has a lot to offer us.

Karen, what were your reasons you joined our Board this January?

First of all, I like this temple, your sangha, and I believe in the dharma. This is a small temple but has a meaningful presence in Kaneohe. I was asked to join the Board. However, being a new member I had second thoughts about joining the Board.

But then again, I thought that if I have some type of experience or skill to add or help, and the time available, I would. I also thought that this would be a great learning experience for me.

Please tell us a little about yourself.

I was born and raised in the Puunui area of Liliha and attended Maemae Elementary and Kawanakoa Middle schools. I graduated from McKinley High School. I worked for many years as a convention and incentives coordinator for Hawaii and mainland companies where I coordinated large groups for international and national corporations when they chose Hawaii as a destination. I handled the airlines, hotel, meals, and meeting logistics. An international restaurant chain, the American Medical Association with

Zero Sum World

Revisited by Mary Matsuda

Nearly two years ago, I wrote my Chairperson's Message entitled, "Zero Sum World."

In it I mentioned that I heard someone explain the theory of "zero sum negotiation" as one in which neither side of an argument gives up anything so both are not "in the negative" with respect to their personal ego and collateral; also known as a win-win compromise solution.

OOPS! How WRONG I was as I have been reeducated and discovered that zero-sum negotiation is one in which there is clearly a winner and a loser! Yikes! Totally opposite of what I wrote!

Today, in our politically troubled world driven by irrationalism, greed, anger and self-service on every level of our lives, it is so important that we embrace compassionate dispute resolution techniques and learn to live with each other harmoniously. Zero Sum negotiation OUGHT NOT be an acceptable technique we should embrace.

Although this article is not intended to be a political criticism, because the current President of the United States appears to think that zero-sum negotiations are the way to fulfill his ambitions for America, I feel that I must correct my previous article that appeared in *Jushin's* Volume 5, Issue 3, April-May 2015. I have seen and

one side gets ALL



is this any way to live our lives?

truly believe that zero-sum negotiations only lead to polarization and unfriendly relations at home and abroad.

So, one day late last year I was talking to friend and misused the term, "zero-sum" negotiation. He looked quizzically at me and corrected me. Zero-sum is not a win-win situation; rather it is one in which one side gets whatever

Shinran teaches us that we are delusional beings.

they can, squeezing every last drop of blood from the stone for their sole benefit! Never mind "give and take," just go for the jugular!

Oh my! I had misheard and misunderstood the concept so totally! And to boot, I even shared this "wisdom" with others! My mindset, at the time I heard this concept from a Buddhist thinker, was that of peace, harmony, and compassion. So, I just assumed that he was talking of winning ways for Buddhists in today's world.

Now, there are many ways I could treat this embarrassing situation. One way is to just ignore the error, and hope that people would forget whom the fool was that gave them this erroneous definition. A sec-

the ethics of winning is to win – what else!

ond way is to own up to the error, correct it for those who embraced this false "truth," and apologize profusely. A third way is to learn from this experience.

I choose to go with alternatives two and three. My sincere apologies to the readers! And yes, this experience has taught me a very important Buddhist lesson.

Shinran Shonin teaches us that we, as human beings, are delusional beings. What we see, what we hear, what we think are colored by our own experiences, biases and mindset. Although I cannot tell you for sure that I misheard the person who gave me the original definition of the terminology or whether I misunderstood it totally, I will never know. What I do know is that because my mind was so certain that I was receiving a message of love and compassion, I heard what I wanted to hear, even though it was a completely opposite message.

So, I throw out this caveat to everyone when we hear the words of the Buddha and Shinran. Since we hear only what applies to our lives, supports our emotions, and validates our principles we have at the time we hear the teachings, is that truly what is being said? How carefully and constantly we must listen to the teachings as its relevance to our lives become more and more apparent. The eventual truth of entrusting Amida's Vow will inevitably prevail.

Again, please accept my sincere and humble apologies for my ignorance!

May 6 Plant Sale & Mini-Rummage Sale Details

PLANT & MINI-RUMMAGE SALE --- 9:00am to 1:00pm

Our ever-popular Plant Sale will again be held in our back carport area. Our Mini-Rummage Sale will be in the Sangha Room under the main temple. Rummage and Plant Sales will have separate cashiers. (Please, no credit cards.)

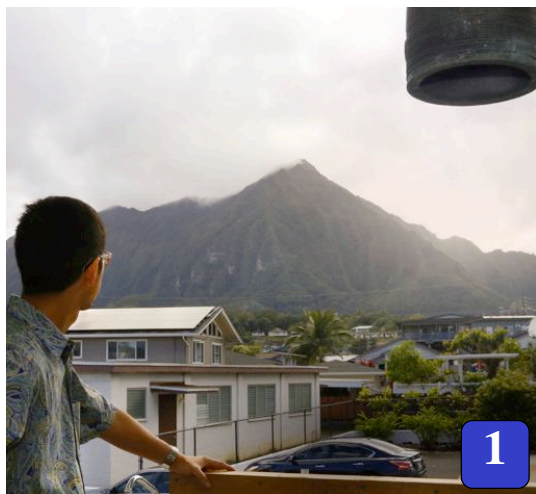
Friday, May 5, 8:30-4:00 p.m., drop off, pricing, and physical set up

Please call the temple office if you would like to make arrangements to drop off plants or rummage earlier in the week. (Please do not drop off without asking the temple first.)

Saturday, May 6

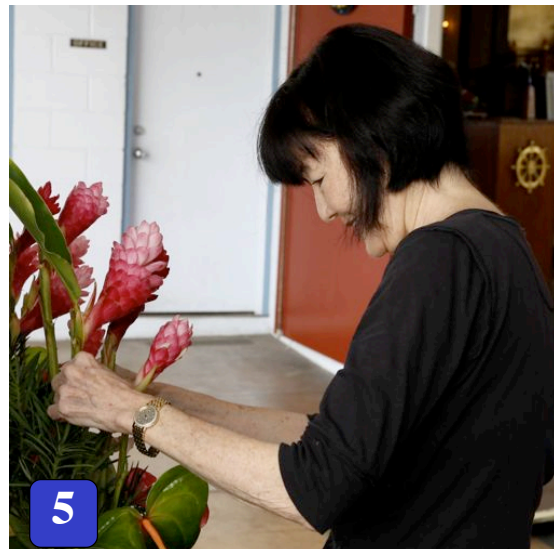
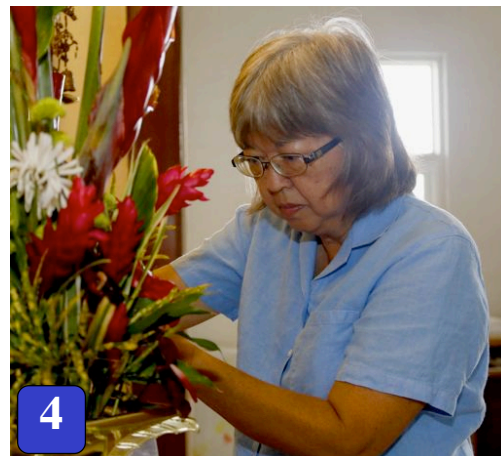
Volunteers needed 8 a.m. for last minute set up and through 2pm clean-up! Mahalo!

**We need a home!!
Come to our plant sale
and get free (used) pots.**



Days in the Life of Our Temple

- 1) Aki Sensei catches a quiet moment after a busy day to observe the sun about to set over the Koolau mountain range.
- 2) Volunteer Lynn Tsuji and 3) member Gladys Sakata are busy at Omigaki polishing ornaments and the altar lacquerware.
- 4) Susan Ng arranges the red ginger flowers donated by Stan Sato on the altar and 5) Jean Crosier creates a ginger arrangement.
- 6) Yum! Pam Verry describes local delicacies to Rev. Aki at his welcome reception.
- 7) Aki Sensei polishes the altar's crane during our Omigaki.





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Upcoming Kaneohe Higashi Events

- Kaneohe Higashi Hanamatsuri 9am April 9
- Plant Sale & Mini-Rummage Sale 9am..... May 6
- Oko Night @ Kaneohe 7pm May 16
- Commemorative Shinran's Birthday Svc. 9am May 21
- Mini-Bon Dance Lesson @ Kaneohe Library* June 18
- * time announced next Jushin. Free, open to public!
- Kaneohe Bon Dance Practice 6pm..... June 27
- Kaneohe Bon Dance 5:30–10pm..... July 1

April 2017

- 1 Sat 8:30am Flower Arrangement
- 2 Sun 9:30am HBC Hanamatsuri Service at
Jodo Mission of Hawaii
No Sunday Service at Kaneohe
- 8 Sat 8:30am Flower Arrangement
- 8 Sat Time TBA Da Plant Hui (prepare for
plant sale)
- 9 Sun 9am Kaneohe Higashi Hanamatsuri
Buddha Day Service
- 15 Sat 8:30am Flower Arrangement
- 16 Sun 9am Sunday Service
- 18 Tues 7-8:30pm Oko Night @ Betstuin
- 19 Wed 6:30pm Board Meeting
- 22 Sat 8:30am Flower Arrangement
- 22 Sat Time TBA Da Plant Hui (prepare for
plant sale)
- 23 Sun 9am Sunday Service
- 29 Sat 8:30am Flower Arrangement
- 30 Sun 9am Sunday Service

May 2017

- 5 Fri 8:30am-4pm Plant Sale set up
- 6 Sat 8:30am Flower Arrangement
- 6 Sat 9am-1pm Plant Sale and
Mini Rummage Sale (New!)
- 7 Sun 9am Sunday Service
- 13 Sat 8:30am Flower Arrangement
- 14 Sun 9am Sunday Service
- 16 Tue 7-8:30pm Oko Night at Kaneohe
- 20 Sat 8:30am Flower Arrangement
- 21 Sun 9am Commemorative Shinran's
Birthday Service
- 27 Sat 8:30am Flower Arrangement
- 28 Sun 9am Sunday Service



Plant Sale and Mini-Rummage Sale May 6

*Please see
bottom of page 7 for
important details about the
mini-rummage sale
& plant sale*

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