

Bon Dance Joy



KANEOHE HIGASHI HONGWANJI

Jushin 樹心

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Web Edition

With Gratitude

inside your Jushin

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To Everybody!

On behalf of the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Board and Rev. Aki Nishihori, our deepest gratitude for your generous support, labor, sweat and love in creating a memorable service and bon dance. Mere words cannot describe our appreciation! Over 500 persons attended (not counting dancers and volunteers) and we did not run out of yummy food! The dancers were vivacious and gracious and volunteers were truly "fantabulous." Jim Dote Bon Chair

Anxiety in Our Shin Buddhist Realm

Minister's Dharma Message, Rev. Aki Nishihori

No one in this world can avoid having anxiety. We have anxiety or fear especially when something changes or happens which we cannot anticipate. So basically, we don't want any big changes in our daily lives. We normally like a stable life. Some people like changes, but usually they just tolerate small changes which they can anticipate.

I am the kind of person who doesn't like changes. How about you? I like stability. I don't want any big changes because I worry too much. My very nature contradicts that I should come to Hawaii to live. Living here is a big change for me. If you decided to work and live in a foreign country, one you have not even visited yet, you might feel some anxiety.

Looking back about a year ago, when I was informed that there was a Higashi minister's position in Hawaii, I became very excited! "Oh, I can go to Hawaii!" I needed to be very decisive when I took the minister's test for Hawaii.

After I passed the test, eventually I became nervous. Even though I had Shinshu temple training and worked in an Otani-Ha temple in Osaka, I had three months of specialized training to become a minister in a foreign country. During the training, I began to think of anxious thoughts which were not so good.

"What if my airplane crashes?"

"Are my English skills OK?"

"Can I really make myself understood in English?"

"I don't have enough experience of giving Dharma talks."

"Will it be really OK?"

"Can I really make a Dharma Talk every Sunday?"

"Will I be able to get along with the members?"

I had countless worries before coming here.

I tried to escape from these negative thoughts. I distracted myself by doing other activities, like playing the guitar and composing songs. But the harder I tried, the more I felt anxiety. Even if I played the guitar, I wasn't able to escape from worrisome ideas. Then, I realized that was the pattern throughout my life – when I felt anxiety or fear, I wanted to escape from anxiety.

I remembered what the Buddhist teaching tells us. Anxiety is a part of each of us. However, people tend to remove their anxieties from their thoughts; we want to get rid of anxiety or fear. In general, we think that it is a positive thing not to feel anxiety or fear. As I recollect my life, I tried hard to change myself to become strong. I pretended to be nice to others. I wanted people to regard me as a good and friendly person.

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New, Perfect-Sized Honzon Available

A new, compact *honzon* (Buddha display tablet) perfect for the smaller home, apartment, or condominium is now available by special order from Kyoto, Japan, Rev. Hidesato Kita announced during his recent Dharma Talk at Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji. Many “members in Japan used to have a fairly large, wooden family altar setting in each house,” he said.



It’s also true in Hawaii. Many local families try to maintain their family’s traditional *butsudan* (altar) despite the crowded living space.

The *honzon* is a tablet displaying the Buddha’s image. It measures about 8-1/4 inches tall by 4-1/2 inches wide, and 2 inches in depth with a detachable stand. It is not a “cabinet-type” furnishing like the traditional altar is.

“...It is hard to keep a traditional altar because today’s condominiums don’t have enough space. This new honzon doesn’t need much space,” he explained. The honzon can be detached from its stand and easily hung on a wall.

Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji members may contact Rev. Aki Nishihori to get more details and to order. The Hawaii Higashi District Office has a honzon to inspect.

If you are interested in buying a honzon, please write a check payable to: **Higashi Honganji USA Headquarters** in the amount of \$100 and place your order with the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji.

Learn and Discuss “Gratitude” with Guest Presenter Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi at the Betsuin’s Hoonko Gathering Sept. 9-10



The Higashi Honganji Hawaii District is inviting Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji members and ‘ohana to attend a special Hoonko Gathering 2017 focused on “Gratitude.” Guest Speaker: Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi - Minister, West Covina

Buddhist Temple, California.

The event begins on Saturday, September 9, 2017 at 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm. A light dinner will be served after the gathering.

The gathering reconvenes on Sunday with 10 am Hoonko Service. (Kaneohe will not hold Sunday service.)

Registration Fee: \$10.00 (payable to Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii). If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Nishihori.

Rev. Kita’s “Good Think” Dharma Talk

“How did you become a member of this temple?” A young Rev. Hidesato Kita began his July 9 Dharma Talk to the Kaneohe Higashi congregation by asking this question. The average age of those attending was more like 65 than 25.

“In my understanding, the *Issei* (in Hawaii) took their children and grandchildren to the temple every Sunday for services. Then the *Nisei* and *Sansei* who were raised in the temple continued to attend. Also, people were invited by spouses, friends, relatives, and ministers.

“In Japan, membership (in a temple) depends on family traditions and relationships, too. In my home temple, the ministers visit the member’s home every month. Then we hold a short service. During summer and winter vacations, children and grandchildren can be there, too. In the future, they might become temple members because they were watching their parents and grandparents reciting the *Nembutsu*.”

Kita Sensei stated the generational challenges both Japan and Hawaii seemingly face, “the number of

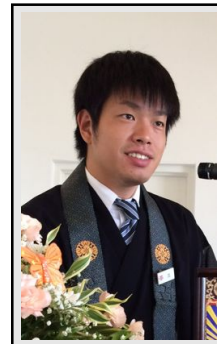
people who live with their grandparents has now decreased.” But immediately countering that he said, “I read another article... that young people who are now living in cities are returning to their family homes in the countryside because places

such as Tokyo are very stressful. I think this is the opportunity to share the Buddhist teaching with them like the older generations told it to us.”

Kita Sensei made a point applicable to us in Hawaii; adult offspring may have a need - for whatever reason - to move back to live with parents or grandparents. This opens at least a new possibility to share Buddhist beliefs across the generations.

Although he did not mention it, attending a temple’s bon dance, for instance, can be a great cross-generational activity.

So let’s all give Rev. Kita’s opening question a “good think” for the future of Buddhism and the temple.



Anxiety in Our Shin Buddhist Realm

Continued from page 2



When I look back at those days, I can see why I suffered so much. If you work so hard to change yourself, you will suffer all the more. What I have learned from Shin Buddhism is that we are already good enough just being ourselves. We don't have to change. We might be afraid of something, we might have such a fear or an anxiety, but having a fear or anxiety is not a bad thing.

Amida Buddha tells us that we don't have to change ourselves. We are good enough as we are. We don't have to be a good person. We don't have to get rid of our bad conditions. Anxiety is a part of our selves. If you try to remove it from you, you will suffer from it.

We usually think it is good

to remove bad things from our body but is it really good for us?

Sickness is part of life, thus a part of us. We cannot avoid becoming sick. Everyone gets sick and will die someday. Removing sickness or removing death is not the teaching of the Buddha. We live with suffering.

We live with sickness and death. Of course, we don't like to get sick. We don't want to die. But sickness is a part of us. Death is a part of us. The more we hate sickness and death, the more we suffer.

When we are feeling anxious, despondent, depressed, we should listen to the Dharma.

We really don't know if what we are feeling now is

good or bad. Our founder Shinran also said he didn't know what is good and what is bad. However, whatever it is that we encounter or experience, it is the truth. Amida Buddha tells us to realize this truth. This is hard for us to understand because we cannot see a thing as it is. We put values or labels on things, such as, "this is good, you are bad, I'd like to win the lottery and get rich," etc.

Buddhism tells us that is why we are ignorant and subject to be saved by Amida Buddha. If we truly know that we are helpless, then that is the liberation.

Gassho

Bon Dance "Fotobook"

Photo below at left shows Rev. Nishihori delivering his Dharma Message. Directly below, for the Hatsubon service, lighted candles memorialize persons with temple relationships who have passed in the prior 12 months. *(Continued on next page.)*





Bon "Fotobook" – Clockwise from top left: Aki Sensei affixing July 1 numbering to our street banner; Chairperson Walt Herring with Cherry Blossom Queen and Princesses; our talented chefs who prepared everything; dancers paying tribute to the yagura; three Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu lead singers "belt out" a song; and, happy Iwakuni members pose with their taiko drum.

"This is the night that we feel oneness with the past, present, and future, and we express our sincere gratitude with Gassho to all compassion and wisdom that we have been receiving."
Rev. Aki Nishihori

To share the Dharma and reach out to temple members and families, Rev. Aki Nishihori is available to make home visitations for services, memorials and visits. Please call 247-2661 to arrange a convenient time.

Temple Service & Activities Calendar

August

- 6 Sun 9:00 Sunday Service
- 9 Wed Ann Pearl Minister Care Home Visit
- 13 Sun 9:00 Sunday Service
- 15 Tue 7:00 Oko Night @ Betsuin
- 19 Hawaii District Meeting @ Betsuin
- 20 Sun 9:00 Sunday Service
- 23 Wed Ann Pearl Minister Care Home Visit
- 27 Sun 9:00 Sunday Service
- 29 Tue Hale Nani Minister Care Home Visit

September

- 3 Sun 9:00 Sunday Service
- 9 Sat 1-4:30 **District Hoonko Gathering @ Betsuin, Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi**
- 10 Sun 10am **Hoonko @ Betsuin, Rev. N. Miyoshi**
No Sunday SVC in Kaneohe
- 13 Wed Ann Pearl Minister Care Home Visit
- 17 Sun 9:00 Sunday Service Ohigan
- 19 Tue 7pm Oko Night at Kaneohe
- 20 Wed TBA Board meeting
- 24 Sun 9:00 Sunday Service
- 25 Mon Rev. Nishihori attend training (rtn. Oct.3)

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 www.kaneohe.hhbt-hi.org for current information, or telephone our temple at 247-2661. Mahalo!