



KANEHOE HIGASHI HONGWANJI

Jushin 樹心

Volume 7 Issue 4 June – July 2017

2017 Obon-July 1

inside your Jushin

Obon Activities 1-2
 Obon Thoughts 3
 Chairperson's Notebook 4
 Plant & Rummage Sale 4
 A Liberating Local Retreat .. 5
 Shinran's 844nd B-day 5
 Temple Calendar 6

By Jim Dote
 Bon Dance Chairperson

Aloha, Kaneohe Higashi 'ohana, Jushin readers, web readers, and wonderful friends! Our Obon, Hatsubon and Bon Dance will be Saturday, July 1, this year. Please mark your wall and pocket calendars, enter it on your cell phone, iPad or tablet. More information is on page 2.

Schedule of Events

- 1) Sunday June 18 1:30pm
 Kaneohe Public Library
 Mini bon dance. 1 Hour. Free.
- 2) Sat June 24 8:00am -
 Set up Yagura and lights.
 Help needed.
- 3) Tues June 27 6:30pm
 Temple's bon dance practice
 in courtyard.
- 4) Saturday July 1
 5:30pm Food Sales Open
 6:00pm Obon Service
 6:30pm Welcome Greetings
 6:35pm Taiko Drum Opening
 6:36pm Tanko Bushi Lesson
 and Dancing begins
 10pm Pau (noise regulations)

Cherry Blossom Court to Attend

A special honor and treat for Kaneohe! Members of the Cherry Blossom Festival Court are scheduled to appear. *Queen Heather Omori, Princess Jennifer Ezaki and Princess Kelly Ann Takiguchi* are planning to attend!! This makes our 2017 bon dance the seventh year that the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce's Cherry Blossom Festival has participated and helped us. Bring your cameras, cell phones or tablets for selfies!



Jushin publication is published bi-monthly by the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji
 45-520 Keaahala Road
 Kaneohe, HI 96744
 Tel (808) 247-2661

Resident Minister
 Rev. Hideaki Nishihori
Board of Directors
 Chairperson: Walter Herring
 Vice Chair: Craig Kagawa
 Treasurer: Julian Ng
 Assist. Treas.: CharAnn Nakamoto
 Karen Hayashida
 Dennis Kajjura
 Stanley Sato

Jushin Editor: Jim Dote

Temple email:
 kaneohe@hhbt-hi.org

Temple website:
 www.kaneohe.hhbt-hi.org

Obon Volunteers Needed

Our Obon has become a popular community event drawing 400-500 people over a five-hour span. *We need all types of volunteers including handymen, cooks, BBQ chefs, clean-up types, order-takers, and even electricians with tall ladders.* Please call or email us (see temple box below, left) and ask how you can help!

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| June 24 | 8am Set up Yagura, lighting. 10 men needed |
| June 30 | 8:30a Food preparation |
| July 1 | 6am Nishime cooking |
| | 8am Tents & tables setup 8 men needed |
| | 2pm Begin Spam musubi making |
| | 3pm Pie slicing & packing, other prep work |
| | 4pm Chicken bento packing |
| | 5pm Shift 1 Food Booth |
| | 7pm Shift 2 Food Booth |
| July 2 | 9am Put equipment away and clean up |

Bon Dance July 1!

An Excellent Music Program For Your Enjoyment

The Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji is very fortunate to have two lively musical troupes to play the night away – the **Hawaii Eisa Shinnyu Kai** and the **Iwakuni Aiko Odori Kai**. They will add their unique musicality to the new **Koolau Sakura Odori Kai** dancers.

Attention, serious bon dancers! We plan to post our dance songs that we are able to, in the order of play, on our website about June 15.

www.kaneohe.hhbt-hi.org

For those without computers or Internet, we will also have a

printed program available at our Choba booth on July 1.

Great Performers

Hawaii Eisa Shinnyu Kai is a very popular local music and dance troupe dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the Okinawan culture over the generations. It will be led by *Ms. Melissa Yamashiro* on July 1.

The **Iwakuni Aiko Odori Kai** has been a popular dance troupe specializing in minyo music from the Iwakuni prefecture. It is led by *Ms. Marion Kanemori*.

Sprited minyo (folk) dances will be led by members of the new **Koolau Sakura Odori Kai** dancers performing under the direction of *Ms. Jean Crosier*.



Last all Night?

All night dancing?

What is that?

No breaks. Nonstop.

Continuous.

It means no breaks until the end at 10 pm once dancing begins.

A Big Menu from our ‘Tiny Kitchen’

We are changing our menu slightly this year so that we can prepare more foods for the crowd. We apologize that over the past several years we have run out of hot entrees very early due to the large crowd and our tiny kitchen.

This is our most important, once-a-year, fund-raising source, for one night only. We want you to know we are breaking our backs to provide you with a yummy family meal at a reasonable price.

And yes, we go through exceptional effort to certify our kitchen by the State Department of Health.

Tentative Menu

Nishime (*chicken & pork cooked together*)

Edamame Rice (*this is a vegetarian dish*)

BBQ beef on skewers - *kiawe charcoal-grilled*

Teri-chicken/rice bento

Hot dog (*kiawe charcoal-grilled*) **on bun**

Chili hot dog and rice

Spam musubi

Pie slices (*limited item*)

Hot & fresh andagi

Frozen strawberry ice-cream

Cold watermelon (*if available*)

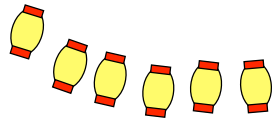
Cold water& drinks, hot coffee

Free Public PARKING

We heard your pain about the lack of parking in years past. We have arranged for free public parking beginning from 3:30 pm to 10 pm at the Benjamin Parker Elementary School's several lots along Waikalua Road. The lots are at 45-259 Waikalua Road.

Please do not park in the school's cafeteria lot on Kamehameha Highway - this lot is reserved for volunteers, musicians and dancers.

Obon Thoughts



By Reverend Aki Nishihori

Aloha,

When I heard that Bon Dance is the biggest event for Buddhists in Hawaii, I was surprised!

In Japan, Obon is actually a big event for many people and all Buddhist ministers, regardless of sects, are hectic - but maybe for different reasons than for Hawaii Buddhists. In Japan many members of temples ask their ministers to visit members' homes and chant in front of the home *butsudan* (family altars).

When I was working for a temple in Osaka, I usually visited more than 15 homes in a day during Obon season. My friend, who is a minister of Jodo shu sect, said he usually visits 50 homes a day!! So Obon is a big event for people in Japan, too.

But how about bon dance? I know that people are dancing in some areas of Japan, but I have never danced in Japan. I think bon dance is a cultural event popular by locality instead of by temple. Actually, I don't remember whether I have ever been to any bon dance festivals or not. I was born and raised in a Shinshu (Higashi) temple in Kobe, Hyogo prefecture, which is a rather big city and I don't think we have a big bon dance festival in our area. That is the reason I am not familiar with Hawaii's bon dance phenomena. However, my first bon dance in Hawaii (at Kaneohe Higashi Hong-wanji) might be enjoyable!

So, I looked up bon dance on the Internet. I felt it was strange (and humorous) that I looked up a Japanese traditional event while in a foreign country. (Please don't tell my hometown this.) According to Wikipedia, Obon is "Originally a Nenbutsu folk dance to welcome the spirits of the dead, the style of celebration varies in many aspects from region to region."

It says, "A Nenbutsu folk dance," however, this is not our Higashi denomination because we don't have the concept of "the spirits of the dead." As you may know, in our Jodo shin sect, we don't pray for our ancestors. Thinking about our ancestors is really important for us but our Shin Buddhist events are always for us, who are living now. Hatsubon service and the bon dance are opportunities to listen to the Dharma. People who passed have become a part of this immeasurable life and they want us not to live in vain.

Why don't we think about our lives together on this opportunity? If just only one of your ancestors did not exist, you would not be here. Thus, as we can see, every life is interconnected. You are invited and welcome to attend our July 1 Bon Service and Bon Dance.

Let's dance!!! Gassho, Aki Nishihori





“From the Chairperson’s Notebook”

Thoughts About Time: Obon

I was born and raised on the West Coast of the United States in a farming area that was also a college town. Buddhism there was found only in books at a library.

Yet, as I grew, somehow I began to lean towards the “Buddhist way,” if there was such a term. Years after settling here in Kaneohe, my late wife Alice and I discovered this Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji temple. In my 15+ years of attending services and volunteering here,

I feel a spiritual bond with the teachings and strong bond with our Sangha.

Quizzically – at least to me – the Dharma is so deep that each new thought I learn opens up hundreds of new thoughts yet to learn.

One such thought is about “time.” Because this is the obon season, it is fair to ask, “What is obon to me?” Ah, that is for me to answer. And I answer that each morning I awaken. What about you? Have you asked yourself, “What is obon to me?”

We may think that obon, as we observe it in Hawaii, is a bridge between today and yesterday. To me it is only a moment in our continuous journey from the past to the future. I see obon as a time for us - who are living - to gather, remembering past memories and forming new, joyous memories. Such memories can be a wonderful bridge for those who will take our place tomorrow. One day in the future, our tomorrow will be the next generation’s today. Thus, any happiness experienced at our 2017 obon will become part of their memories.

With great joy I am inviting your whole family to join us for our Obon, Hatsubon, and Bon Dance on July 1. Let’s make happy memories that reach into the future generations who will one day carry on and share obon with their next generations.

Irasshai! Walter Herring



Temple member and volunteer extraordinaire Eugene Mukai tends the ginger plants before the sale.

Plant & Rummage Sale Successful

Our temple’s combined May 6 plant and rummage sale was a great success. Plant lovers from many Oahu locales found their way to hundreds of our plants grown by members and friends with lots of green thumbs. One couple who came from the Pearl City area actually discovered the ease of traversing the H-3 freeway to Ka-

neoe, “now we know so easy and fast. See you next year!” As for rummage bargain shoppers, it was a delight as well. Young families to serious collectors enjoyed the “sport.” A grandmother found a lovely dress ensemble, complete with accessories, to wear for a grandchild’s wedding! Goes to show, you just never know what you’ll find!

A “Liberated” Gathering



“Suffering or Liberation” – was the subtheme for our gathering on May 28th. Rev. Koen Kikuchi appeared to be happily liberated in leading our dharma group.

Rev. Koen Kikuchi, minister from the Hawaii Betsuin, conducted our Local Dharma Gathering on May 28. A group of up to 18 attendees participated in the half-day lecture and discussion that followed after a nutritious lunch.

The theme was the familiar “Awakening to Your Deepest Wish.” Jodo Buddhist sects, he

“I learned from Kikuchi Sensei’s exercise (writing my sufferings and liberations) that we had to go through self-examination. This is Buddhism.”

Eleanor Tokunaga

said, view that “everything is suffering even happiness and unhappiness. As we seek happiness we do so to avoid unhappiness, and that action is a form of suffering.” Kikuchi said we may awaken ourselves to our deepest wish by listening to Buddha’s Dharma. In an exercise, he asked participants to list their sufferings and liberations. Kikuchi discussed the suffering conditions of Shakyamuni Buddha and Shinran Honen as well as Dharma truths.



Shinran Shonin’s Special 844th Birthday

In commemorating our founder Shinran Shonin’s May 21st birth in the year 1173, the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji held a *Tanjo-e*, birth gathering on Sunday, May 21. Rev. Aki Nishihori held a traditional Sunday service and highlighted the service with a three-song concert.

Rev. Nishihori spoke about the *gatha* (song) *Shoshinge* that Shinran wrote. He explained that the title, *Shoshinge*, can be translated as “the *gatha* for correctly believing in the *Nenbutsu* teaching.”

Nishihori continued, “Shinran tells us that we can live with our sufferings.” Sufferings can include anger, hatred, frustration, envy, jealousy and discrimination. “However, I mention that removing sufferings (from our lives) causes us more sufferings.” He said that Amida Buddha accepts every thought and feeling we have – we are acceptable as we are.

With his Dharma Talk concluded, Rev. Nishihori introduced the three musicians who were to perform with him three original compositions.

They were vocalist and drummer

vocals.

Rev. Nishihori wrote the music for the three songs while Dominic Carlos wrote the lyrics to “A New Day,” and Rev. Aki’s friends, Lori



A beautiful new day for our temple, a foursome of great musicians playing contemporary fusion-blend of folk, light rock, and ballad - with a Japanese twist on Shinran’s birthday!

Amy Yamashiro from Kaneohe, vocalist Dominic Carlos from Kailua, violinist Pamela Verrey from Kaimuki, and himself on guitar and



Rev. Nishihori



Amy Yamashiro



Dominic Carlos



Pam Verrey

Matsumoto and Yukihiro Shoda, wrote the lyrics to “In Front of My Eyes,” and “Yuragi” (Fluctuation).

Temple Service & Activities Calendar

June				July			
11	Sun	9:00am	Sunday Service	1	Sat	8:00am	Set up tents and tables.
16	Fri	8:30am	Flower Arrangement			5:30pm	Food booth opens
18	Sun	9:00am	Sunday Service			6:00pm	Bon & Hatsubon Service
20	Tue	7:00pm	Oko night @ Betsuin			6:30pm	Bon Dance
23	Fri	8:30am	Flower Arrangement	2	Sun	9:00am	Clean up. No Sunday Service
24	Sat	8:00am	Yagura set up	7	Fri	8:30am	Flower Arrangement
25	Sun	9:00am	Sunday Service	9	Sun	9:00am	Sunday Service
27	Tue	6:30pm	Bon Dance Practice (2 hours)	14	Fri	8:30am	Flower Arrangement
28	Wed	TBA	Prepping for Bon Dance	16	Sun	9:00am	Sunday Service
29	Thu	TBA	Cooking for Bon Dance	18	Tue	7:00pm	Oko Night @ Kaneohe
30	Fri	8:00am	Cooking for Bon Dance	21	Fri	8:30am	Flower Arrangement
		8:30am	Flower Arrangement	23	Sun	9:00am	Sunday Service
				28	Fri	8:30am	Flower Arrangement
				30	Sun	9:00am	Sunday Service

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!

Behind-the-Scenes of Our 2016 Bon



“OK, musubi-makers, keep grilling, cooking rice, and wrapping them Spam musubi. People outside are asking for more!”

A great time for families - young, old and in between - to enjoy a summer’s night of bon dancing! This year, it will be non-stop until 10pm.

Eleanor Tokunaga (left) and Karen Hayashida helped to prepare the nishime for our 2016 bon dance.