

Jushin 樹心

Volume 7 Issue 6

December 2017 -January 2018



inside your Jushin

Chairperson's Notebook..... 1
 Restoration of Altar 2
 Make New Year Mochi 2
 Come to Year-End Service 2
 Sensei to Make Home Visits 2
 Bodhi Day Information 3
 Dharma Session Jan. 20 4
 Minister's Dharma Message
 "Friends and Humbleness" 5
 "ITADAKIMASU" 6
 Beautiful 2018 Calendars..... 7
 Temple Calendar 8



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From the Chairperson's Notebook

Aloha Jushin Readers and Temple 'Ohana,

Time moves forward, seasons change, life is dynamic. I believe this to be Buddhism in action.

As we set our sights for the Year's End and the start of a New Year, on behalf of the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Mission and Board, and, Reverend Aki Nishihori we offer our greetings and deepest wishes for peace, goodwill and harmony in the busy days ahead, and, as we greet the new year.



Chairperson Walt Herring

Perhaps because of such busy-ness, I hope we find many reasons and opportunities to place our palms together in Gassho.

I have all year and in the months ahead. Earlier this year as our guest speaker or at our Local Dharma Gathering, Reverend Koen Kikuchi spoke about the significance of Gassho, placing both hands together. Gassho has two meanings, Sensei said, respect and peace.

In looking over the many things that have happened so far this year, I am grateful that our temple continues to have your support. Our recent altar refurbishment is an example where many people had joined hands and effort in this endeavor. Respect for Buddha, for skills, selfless effort, for this small countryside temple and our congregation; the Board certainly offers its Gassho and bow in respectfulness for everyone's infinite kindnesses.

The second meaning of Gassho, is peace. The right hand represents Buddha and the left represents people. Gassho then means we hope and realize a world where Buddha and people are brought together, have a common point of interaction and relationship. When we place our hands together in Gassho, it is not to threaten, not to punch, and not to use a weapon. It is to express a selfless peace. Today's news headlines harken to a loss of Gassho.

However, let our Gassho be Buddhism in action.

Gassho,



Naijin Restored for Ho-on-ko

On October 29 at our Ho-on-ko Service our temple unveiled a sparkling, refurbished Naijin (altar) complete with bold lacquer and paint work undertaken by Japan Memorial Corporation who were instructed by specially trained craftspersons. We are appreciative and thankful for the attentive and careful work. We are also very grateful for the kindnesses and hospitality extended by the Palolo Hongwanji during the two-week refurbishment.

Art Consultant	Home Town	Specialty
Keiichi Akimichi	Hikone	Urushi Lacquer
Kohei Matsukawa	Fukui	Gold Leaf
Hiroshi Miyagawa	Hikone	Gold Leaf
Kohei Matsukawa	Chiba	Gold Leaf
Junji Kitamura	Hikone	Saishiki color art

Let's Make Some Mochi

Mark your calendar on Saturday, December 30, for fun mochi making. It starts 10am and ends about 2pm. Bring your pre-soaked sweet rice in gallon zip lock bags. (Soak 1 day ahead and change water twice.) Bring any condiment to make a yummy



filling. We use mochi making rice cookers so there'll be no sore backs or smashed fingers.



Ring-In 2018! 108 Times with Us on December 31 ~ 5 PM

Rev. Aki Nishihori will hold the traditional Year-End Service, *Joya-e*, at 5 PM on December 31, at which, we sound the temple bell 108 times. On New Year's Eve we



Temple member Susumu Okazaki joined others in ringing our bell. (File photo)

gather to express gratitude to family, friends and community members for the kindnesses received throughout the year. The 108 rings represent our discarding the 108 defilements humans possess. You are cordially invited to attend the *Joya-e* and bell ringing.

We Will Make Home Visits



To share the Dharma and reach out to temple families and friends of the temple, especially in the New Year, Rev. Aki Nishihori is available and wishes to make home visitations for services, memorials and visits. Such home visits and services are common practice for Higashi ministers in Japan. Please call 247-2661 to arrange a memorial service or a visit to discuss Jodo Shinshu topics.

Web Edition

Hawaii Buddhist Council

BODHI DAY SERVICE

(成道会 Jodo-e)

Sunday, December 3, 2017 9:30am

Soto Mission of Hawaii Phone: 537-9409

1708 Nuuanu Ave, Honolulu

Dharma Talk: "Significance of Bodhi Day"
By Bishops / Representatives of All Denominations



Public Invited, All are Welcome.



HIGASHI HONGANJI HAWAII DISTRICT 2018 DOBO RETREAT PROGRAM DISTRICT DHARMA GATHERING “LET US DISCOVER THE JOY OF LIVING”

We wish to invite you to attend the 2018 District Dharma Gathering of Higashi Honganji Hawaii District. We will invite Rev. Akinori Imai as our guest speaker. The theme of the Gathering is “Let us Discover the Joy of Living” Please send the application form below to the Hawaii District office or to the minister of your local temple.

Date:	Saturday, January 20, 2018
Time:	10:00 am — 3:00 pm
Speaker:	Rev. Akinori Imai
Location:	Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin 1685 Alaneo Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 Phone: (808) 531-1231, Fax: (808) 531-1231
Theme:	“Let us Discover the Joy of Living”
Fee:	\$10.00 (payable to Higashi Honganji Hawaii District)

Rev. Akinori Imai Biography

- 1944 Born in Tokyo, Japan.
- 1966 Graduated with BA in Buddhist Studies, Otani University, Kyoto, Japan.
- 1967 Became Berkeley Higashi Honganji resident minister.
- 1980 Graduated from California State University, Hayward, MS in Clinical Counseling.
- 1982 Founded East West Counseling Center with Rev. Dr. Ryo Imamura.
- 1983 Coordinated Jodo Sanbukyo Translation Project Higashi Honganji, Kyoto, Japan.
- 1995-2010 Was Bishop of North America and Hawaii Districts.



If you have any questions, please contact your local temple or the district office at:
Higashi Honganji Hawaii District Office
1685 Alaneo Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Phone: (808) 531-1231, Fax: (808) 531-1231, Email: admindaloha@higashihonganji.org

..... Detach Here

I would like to participate in the 2018 District Dharma Gathering.

Name

Temple

Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji

Friends and Humbleness

By Rev. Hideaki “Aki” Nishihori

Throughout our lives, we face so many challenges and hardships. I think one of our greatest hardships concerns human relationships. In our family, the workplace, school, social communities, even in temples and churches... we have trouble everywhere. And often we have quarrels and hurt each other. This is sad, because nobody wants to fight, do they?

I have had much trouble in my life. Family, school, workplace and everywhere. Looking back at those times, I often blamed others and was very self-centered. I am still selfish and have some trouble in my daily life. But at least now, I understand a little bit that I am selfish. I always say that all people are self-centered—including me. The thing is that we usually don't realize that we are self-centered. We don't know ourselves. Buddhism always reminds us, but we don't usually remember. And even though we realize our true selves for a moment, this momentary enlightenment soon vanishes. *(Message continues below.)*



Anonymous friends share moments together at an Ala Moana sunset

Recently, I had a argument with my friend. I won't tell you the details, but I felt like I didn't want to be involved anymore. She got angry with me, and I feared more emotional pain. But two days later, she sent me a message and apologized. I apologized, too. And then I realized again that I wanted to be her friend. I hope we will continue our friendship.

I recalled my nephew. He is now 20 years old and has a child. When he was about eight years old, he used to fight with another nephew, his cousin. His cousin's mother got mad at him saying, “Why do you bully my son!!” He cried and replied, “I just want to get along with him.” I never forgot his words. My nephew's interaction with his cousin was not appropriate, but I felt his true heart was to be friends with his cousin. I felt his Hongan.

You may have heard about Hongan, the innermost aspiration. Hongan is the wish of Buddha. Amida Buddha has already given us the innermost aspiration. Buddha wants us to live our lives fully. Buddha wishes that everyone in this world would live happily together as friends. So, everyone has a wish to be a friend with others, and every living thing, and without any conditions. Without exception, everyone wants to get along with everyone else. Deep in our heart, at the very bottom, we have the Buddha's wish. Though it is my interpretation and my opinion, I think that is what's called Hongan, the innermost aspiration. So, everyone has a wish to have a good relationship with others. However, we usually forget it and think of ourselves first. We have worldly desires, anger, and hatred. We need money, to work, and to take care our family.

We are just too busy.

Itadakimasu

Submitted By Mary Matsuda

One day at the dinner table, after I said, “itadakimasu”, my young son asked me what it meant. He knew it was something we said before we ate but what did it mean?

I told him that it literally meant, “I have received this food and am about to eat it.” Then I told him that that literal translation is merely a shortened version of the Buddhist philosophy of gratitude; that I am truly grateful for the food I am about to eat, realizing that animal and plant lives were given up just to sustain my life which is no more important or valuable than its lives. My son, laughed and said, “Boy, that sure is



a lot of stuff in those six syllables! It is almost like watching dubbed foreign films where the character says so many words and the English translates to only a couple of words or vice versa.”

I have recently embraced a deeper and truer meaning of itadakimasu after having read two books within the past year or so. The first book is entitled “Braiding Sweetgrass” by Robin Wall Kimmerer; the second being, “The Hidden Life of Trees” by Peter Wohlleben and Tim Flannery. Both these books made me aware of the preciousness of nature and its bounty, the beauty and sacrifice of that which is grown to feed us and a deep respect for those lives.

Now, in my saying “itadakimasu” I imagine the cow, pig, chicken, or fish, seeing the animal being born, as a young animal, growing

Continued on page 8

Friends and Humbleness

Continued from page 5

I think that’s why we have Nenbutsu. Even if we are busy, we can take three seconds to put our hand together and recite, “Namu Amida Butsu.”

In my interpretation, “Namu Amida Butsu” means “sorry and thank you.” It’s simple, right? “Sorry for being myself, and thank you, Amida Buddha, for giving me a life. Sorry for being rude and selfish, but thanks for giving me such a miraculous life.” That’s the Nenbutsu, I guess. Sounds humble, right? I remember Rev. Nobuo Haneda mentioned humbleness in his book. What do you think would happen if everyone in this world would have such humbleness? What if everyone realized their self-centeredness and could say sorry and thank you? The world would have peace, I think. Well, although there may be several ways to make this world peaceful, Nembutsu is the only way I can think of right now.

It is really difficult to realize our self-centeredness and become humble. We can pretend to be humble, though. In my opinion, if you intentionally try to be humble, then you will never become humble. Our

humbleness may be observed by others, but we do not recognize our own humbleness if it is true humbleness. Other people can say he or she is a humble person, but a humble person would never think of himself or herself in that way. If you think you are humble, you are not humble at all. That’s arrogance. That’s my word for me, because I often think that I am humble. Humbleness only comes through the realization that you are not humble at all. Our founder Shinran Shonin looked at his own evil nature until the end. He never thought he was humble and he seemed humble to other people. That is why Shinran Shonin attracted many people.

So, in conclusion, Buddha wishes us to live our lives happily including our sufferings with friends. Everyone wants to be a friend with everyone else, and we usually forget about this innermost aspiration. That is why we need to listen to Buddha’s teaching and recite Nenbutsu. Humbleness will come only when you really realize your self-centeredness.

“Namu-Amida-Butsu” means “sorry and thank you.” Even if you doubt these words, Amida Buddha listens to us and is glad. Gassho

'18 Hawaii Higashi Calendars Are Here

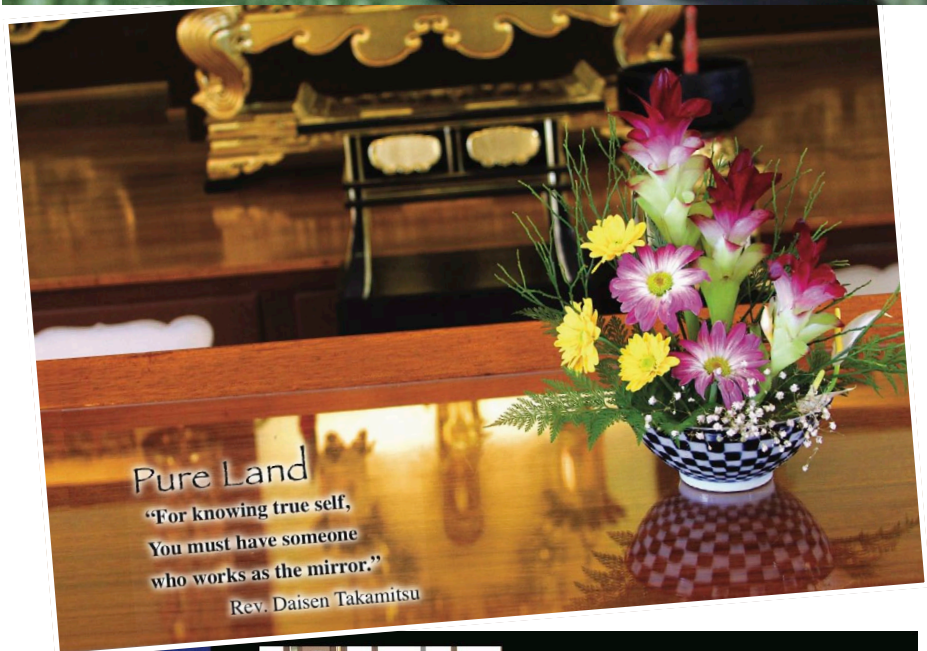
The beautiful 2018 Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District Calendar has just been released and is now available at the Kaneohe temple. The theme of the full-color calendar is *Hongan: Awakening to Your Deepest Wish*.

The glossy calendar (which, also was imaged on partially recycled paper fibers) features photos from various local Higashi events and quotes submitted by members from our Hawaii District Higashi temple members.

The calendar highlights dharma concepts, all important temple services for 2018, a list of local temple services, and an important list of anniversary memorial service years for loved ones.

The entire project was done by a committee of volunteers from all Higashi temples in the state. To the right are 2018 excerpts of the front cover (Hongan), September (Pure Land) and November (Honor and Service).

Our Kaneohe temple requests a limited number each year; if you wish to pick up a copy, please call our temple at 247-2661, leave a phone message with your name, phone number and amount desired. A donation for each calendar will be appreciated to defray the cost of printing. Cost of first-class mailing to US cities might be around \$4 each due its size and 24-page weight of paper stock.



Temple Service & Activities Calendar

December

2	Sat	8:30am	Flower Arrangement
3	Sun	9:30am	Bodhi Day Service - Hawaii Buddhist Council at Soto Mission of Hawaii. No Sunday Service at Kaneohe.
9	Sat	8:30am	Flower Arrangement
10	Sun		No Sunday Service at Kaneohe, Bodhi Day at Betsuin
16	Sat	8:30am	Flower Arrangement
17	Sun	9:00am	Sunday Service (Lay Speaker; Paul Briggs)
19	Tue	7:00pm	Oko Night @ Betsuin
23	Sat	8:30am	Flower Arrangement
24	Sun	9:00am	Sunday Service
26	Tue		Hale Nani Care Home Visit
27	Wed		Ann Pearl Care Home Visit
30	Sat	8:30am	Flower Arrangement
		10am-2pm	Mochi Tsuki! (Mochi machines) Bring soaked mochi (sweet) rice & fillings or fruit to your liking.
31	Sun	5:00pm	Joya-e Service (Year-End Service) and ringing of temple bell 108 times.

January

1	Mon	9am	New Year Service
6	Sat	8:30am	Flower Arrangement
7	Sun	9am	New Year Family Service
10	Wed		Ann Pearl Care Home Visit
13	Sat	8:30am	Flower Arrangement
14	Sun	9am	Sunday Service
16	Tue	7pm	Oko Night at Kaneohe
20	Sat	8:30am	Flower Arrangement
		10am	Joint Dharma Retreat at Betsuin with Rev. Imai (Please see page 4)
21	Sun	9am	Sunday Service
24	Wed		Ann Pearl Care Home Visit
27	Sat	8:30am	Flower Arrangement
28	Sun	9:00am	General Membership Meeting and Election, followed by Sunday Service and Band Performance Day, Light Refreshment to follow
30	Tue		Hale Nani care home visit

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

Itadakimasu

Continued from page 6

into the age at which they are ready for the slaughter house, the many hands which raise the animal, process the meat and finally, getting it to my table. I imagine the vegetables being planted, growing in the soil, the bacteria and fungi in the soil which are beneficial and necessary for the plants to flourish, the sun and rain which are components in photosynthesis, and the many hands which tend to their health so that we may have tasty and healthy food.

Most importantly, I realize that a



very important component in being grateful for my food is the gift of time. These plants and animals grow and flourish and after months for plants and years for animals, after which they surrender their lives so that we could greedily consume it in a matter of minutes. How shameful is it that we do not acknowledge these lives more gratefully?

Think about this; these animals and plants live day to day, eating,

hydrating, growing only to provide me (and us) sustenance so that our lives can be healthy and thrive. But, again, our lives are no more valuable than the animals' or plants' life, which are surrendered for us! Such immense realization and gratitude should be expressed with sincerity every time we take a bite of food.

As I do the imagery in my mind's eye and silently contemplate my gratitude - often the Nembutsu, Namu Amida Butsu, rolls off my tongue.

Ah yes, after all, Namu Amida Butsu and Itadakimasu are synonymous aren't they?!

Gassho