



1924 ~ 2019

## Our 95th Anniversary

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Walter Herring, Dennis Kajiura,  
Stanley Sato**

# Jushin 樹心

Volume 9 Issue 2

April – May 2019

## Chairperson's Message

Aloha to all our Gojikai members, friends and many supporters of Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji! Here we are in April and I am extending a belated Happy New Year to you! Many things have happened in the first few months of 2019, which has kept our board of directors “crazy busy.”

Before I proceed any further, as voted on at the annual meeting held on January 27, 2019, and the Board's first meeting in February, your new Board of Directors and officers for this year are as follows: Chairperson- Mary Matsuda; Vice Chair - Karen Hayashida; Treasurer - Julian Ng; Assistant Treasurer - CharlAnn Nakamoto, and Directors - Stan Sato, Walt Herring, and Dennis Kajiura.

I'd like to thank Walt Herring who has lead the temple for the past two years as the Chairperson of the Board. As any sailor knows, a ship cannot sail without an able captain and he has been an excellent captain! Thank you to those who remain on the board to continue the good works and for keeping the temple a welcome place for the community. Thanks also to Craig Kagawa for his service on the board this past year. Our dear Reverend Aki Nishihori resigned from Kaneohe to pursue his musical passion and to return to Japan to his family temple. We thank him profusely for the new musical services and events he brought to Kaneohe in the two years he was here. We will miss him and hope that he will visit us in the future.

Our new resident minister is the Reverend Koen Kikuchi who has been the minister at the Hawaii Betsuin for the past three years. Although he will be leaving us mid-year of 2020 when his visa will expire, I am confident that we will enjoy the renewed energy he and his family will bring to our temple. Please feel free to come to the temple any time of the week to meet and greet him. You'll love him!

Reverend Kikuchi hails from Akita and is fluent in English as he majored in English at the Kanda University of International Studies. In 2007 he ventured to the Malta Republic for a year to further his studies in the English language. In addition to being our minister at Kaneohe, he has been assigned as the “remote” head minister of the Waimea Higashi Hongwanji in Kauai, which will require him to conduct monthly services there.

We are excited to have a young, vibrant and energetic minister. He and his wife, Mai, have three children; son Ren, and two daughters Kokoro and Hana. We look forward to another exciting year at the temple and invite you and your friends and neighbors to please come to our services, activities and events.

We're never too old to learn about Life which is the core of Jodo Shinshu! Come immerse yourself in the Joy of the Nembutsu!

Gassho,

Minister's Welcoming Message

## Aloha Kaneohe Higashi Members and Friends

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and my family to you. I am Koen Kikuchi. I am glad to announce that I was appointed as the resident minister of the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji beginning in April. Since I came to Hawaii three years ago to be the minister at the Higashi Betsuin, Kaneohe members and I have worked together many times at services, temple activities, and of course, Bon Dance. Although mountains stand between Kaneohe and Honolulu, Buddhism made us actually neighbors. But, now, I am glad that I am able to join the Kaneohe 'Ohana!

My wife, Mai, and I have three young children, Ren, Kokoro, and Hana. We used to live in Chiba in Japan before we came to Hawaii, but my hometown is Akita in the north of Japan. Some of you might have an idea of Akita related with the Akita dog, which is bear-hunter dog. Akita also is famous for rice, good sake, and beautiful women.

I majored in English at university, and after that, I studied in Malta for one year to brush up on my English skills. What I learned in Malta besides English

was how delicious the Italian food was because Malta is located next to Sicily, Italy.

I love to eat, so that's why I love to cook. Also, I love to hear the voices of "oishi-i-i" from my children.

After studying at Malta, I started to study Buddhism. I went to Otani University in Kyoto, and majored in Shin Buddhism. Buddhism is not only found in the temple, but also in our daily life. But we, as human beings, have human nature, which makes us forget or cover precious things in life. So, we need words and places to make us realize the precious - that is why there are dharma (words) and a temple (places).

Although I was appointed as the resident minister of Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji, I also have a dual role of ministering at the Waimea Higashi Hongwanji in Kauai. So I visit Waimea to conduct services and help activities a few times a month. I will be away from Kaneohe some times, but my family will be still here. Please say "Hello" or "Konnichiwa" to them and get to know each other!

I am so happy to be the minister of Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji. I would like to try my best to make this temple livelier and, in this temple's 95th year, make a strong path to the future. I would like to get to know you and hope we can see you soon at the temple services and activities. **Mahalo!**



Rev. Koen Kikuchi  
Kokoro

Ren

Mai Kikuchi  
Hana



# Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji to Celebrate Hanamatsuri on April 14

You and your family are cordially invited to attend the 2019 Hanamatsuri Service for the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji will be held on Sunday, April 14, at 9am. Any generous donations of cut flowers to decorate the Hanamido and temple will be appreciated the day before. The auspicious Hanamatsuri service will be conducted by our new resident minister, Rev. Koen Kikuchi. Please stay for light refreshments following the service!!!



## Save The Date of May 4 – It’s Our Plant and Rummage Sale

By Cheryl Tyler

Wouldn't it be so convenient to buy a special plant for Mother's Day and a unique relic (okay, we'll call it a "collectable") for yourself in one place?

Well then! Come on down to Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji for our annual Plant and Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 4. Bring your friends! All bargain hunters and plant lovers are welcome, from 9am to 1pm. (Seasoned buyers show up early and wait in line, see photo.)

Lucky for us that it's time for spring cleaning at home! Take a look around and bring us your saleable potted plants and new and used garden



File photo of 2017 plant sale

tools and household items that are in good working condition. Air plants, water plants, shoes, handbags, jewelry, kitchen ware, and aloha shirts are all welcome. Check also with your friends and relatives for items they are willing to donate.

**Plants** should be delivered to the carport on May 3 by 10am. (Please note what type of plant it is.) **Rummage items** may be dropped off at the temple on Sundays or during the week from April 20-May 3. Please call the temple in advance to drop off items. No large furniture



or heavy items accepted.

Volunteers are needed for both the plant sale and the rummage sale from 8:30am to 2pm on May 3 and May 4. Set up and pricing will be done May 3; then on Satur-

day (sale day) we'll need help with customer assistance, cashing and clean up. Please contact Rev. Koen Kikuchi or leave a message at 247-2661 if you have any questions. See you here!

## Coming into Community – What Shinran Learned from Honen

By Wendy Tachikawa

*A Joint Dharma Gathering at the Hawaii Higashi Betsuin on Saturday, March 9, 2019, featured guest speaker Rev. Patti Nakai, Resident Minister of the Buddhist Temple of Chicago. Rev. Nakai spoke on the theme, “Let Us Discover the Joy of Living: Coming into Community, and What Shinran Learned from Honen.” Here are the unjournalistic, unstudied musings of one attendee.*

Rev. Nakai began with the history of Buddhism which grew out of the life experiences of Siddhartha Gautama, a prince born to wealth, position and power. A young Siddhartha managed to escape a sheltered, claustrophobic palace life by venturing beyond its confines. Outside the palace gates he witnessed certain disturbing aspects of the real world - old age, sickness, and death - which led him to question the purpose and meaning of life.

A chance encounter with a beggar, who, curiously, in spite of his lowly status and life of destitution, radiated such joy in his countenance, profoundly affected the prince. After all, the prince’s future as heir apparent consisted mainly of retaining military might and power, going to war, killing people, and ordering people to kill other people.

Unwilling to surrender to the prospect of this bleak, oppressive, obligatory future, he began seeking refuge in the practices of fasting, yoga and meditation. Although ascetically successful, he did not find the joy of living.

Fast forward to his self-imposed sedentary regimen under the Bodhi tree.

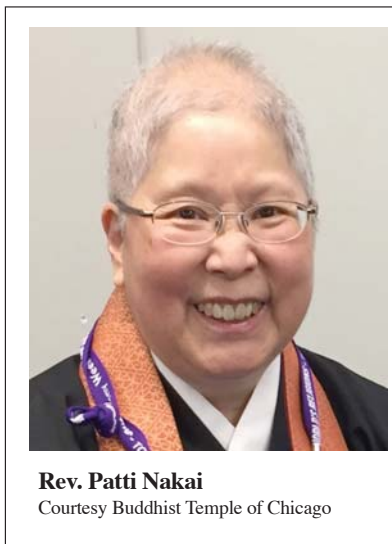
Fast forward still further to his seeing-only-darkness-within-and-concluding-that-”it’s not about me” moment, the letting-go-of-self moment.

Talk about being woken! Being in the moment, super-alert, mindful, and, realizing the interconnectedness of all living things, the prince

goes out into the community, teaching and learning, connecting with people. In these interactions were the seeds of the joy of living.

Rev. Nakai continued in very enlightening, historical depth on the life and teachings of Honen and his influence on Shinran. Honen himself was influenced by the teachings of Shan Tao who espoused a Buddhism that came out of a more egalitarian China.

It was Honen who asked Shinran why he was seeking, through his ascetic practices and academic studies, to be more than human instead of accepting his foibles. He brought Shinran into the commoner’s com-



munity, exhorting him to acquire wisdom from common folk by identifying with them. From this interaction, Shinran would learn that the joy of living could spring forth.

As if in embodiment of the words, “I take refuge in the Sangha,” and actually living “the joy of living,” Rev. Nakai, with accompaniment from the Betsuin’s ukulele group, Dharma Hawaiians, led this study Sangha in her rousing rendition of verses 28 and 29 of the Shoshinge sung to the 1968 hit tune of “Hey Jude.” Even the 20th Century wordsmiths Beatles knew well that shutting oneself off from the world, playing it cool, makes one’s world a little colder. Who amongst us at Nakai’s lecture could escape the earworm of the “nah-nah-nah nah-nah-nah-nah namu-Amida-bu” refrain? This singalong was, indeed, a ringing endorsement to take refuge in the Sangha, engage in communal activities, acquire wisdom by interacting with each other, and to discover joy by sharing the joy of living.

*“...Honen... brought Shinran into the commoner’s community...”*

Rev. Patti Nakai

**“Nah-nah-nah-nah, nah-nah-nah, Na Mu-A-Mi-Da-Bu”**

# Volunteerism and Community

Commentary By Mary Matsuda

*Reverend Patti Nakai of the Chicago Buddhist Church presented a*

*seminar a few weeks ago in which she spoke about the importance of community. She stated that she believed most of us in attendance were seekers and we obviously belonged to Sangha (universal brotherhood).*



Top photo: In the 1960s Mrs. Tomoko Matsumoto teaches her Japanese Language School class. Top right: Artwork by Hana Kikuchi. Bottom: The hands of love and hope passing through many generations.

As such, she stated that she would concentrate a portion of her lecture the HOW we must live with a stronger sense of community.

Now as I review my notes of her lectures, I cannot help but feel saddened by the realization that our society is fraying and unraveling at an alarming rate. Gone is the sense of community and Dana (unconditional giving). Rapidly diminishing is the concept of “US” which is being powerfully substituted with “ME, ME, ME!”

How did this happen? I remember growing up in Kaneohe, in a less complicated time. Through service groups such as 4-H, Imua Knights of Castle High School, Junior Young Buddhist Association (YBA), Rainbow YBA, and, service clubs and organizations at the University of Hawaii, we were constantly doing service projects. We gathered flowers, sewed lei for Memorial Day, went to the graves of soldiers, sang and danced at senior citizen homes, cleaned schools, etc. I’m sure you remember growing up with similar lessons in volunteerism.

We learned charity and the spirit of giving of ourselves to others and to the community. We learned that our value to others could be more than material contributions but rather, giving of our spirit, time and compassion. We did these deeds without expectations of receiving anything in return. Yet, at the end of each project we were rewarded by the feeling of happiness knowing that we made others smile, feel joy or be comforted by knowing they were not forgotten and still mattered.

# Volunteerism and Community

*Continued from page 4*

Sadly, many children, young adults, and members of the “now” generations don’t seem to have the same sense of giving spirit. Absent in their lives is also a sense of belonging. Yes, computerization and telecommunications have played major parts in our ironically disconnected new world, a world that has promoted individualism and introversion. But it’s not too late to share the important lessons we learned growing up in simpler times.

So what can we do? Here’s an opportunity. Encourage them to help us at the temple with no religious commitment necessary. In doing so by participating and sharing, each may take ownership of their volunteerism and perhaps develop leadership skills.

Our temple, like many rural temples, has a small membership and we struggle trying to keep our doors open for the community through meaningful activities, events and availability to as many people as we can reach. In order to stay viable we constantly need help maintaining our yard, cleaning the temple, flower arranging, administrative tasks (newsletter photography and writing, folding and mailing), and small building maintenance projects. We always need help for our annual bon dance, plant sale, rummage sale, and other special temple activities.

*(Editor’s note – There are several pleas within this newsletter.)*

Those who volunteer will have the opportunity to learn what it takes to keep an organization and a facility running and successful, learn new skills, make new friends, and most of all, experience a new level of appreciation, happiness and personal gratification.

Worth a try? What do you think?

Please come and let’s have fun doing good works! Mahalo!



As its service to the community, the energetic and giving volunteers of the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce, above, have generously staffed our Bon Dance food concession for 10 years. Despite the fast work pace and typical bustle of a Bon Dance, many HJCC young leaders return year after year to volunteer for our Bon Dance, saying, “It was so much fun!”



*“...I cannot help but feel saddened by the realization that our society is fraying and unraveling at an alarming rate. Gone is the sense of community and Dana (unconditional giving).”*

Mary Matsuda

# 95 and Looking Forward to 100

This year quietly marks our temple’s 95th anniversary and we’re looking to prepare for our Centennial, 100th Anniversary in 2024. For our 100th, perhaps we should publicly showcase our temple’s legacy as well as the legacies of the many who have supported this tiny temple in Kaneohe.

As the volunteer editor of our Jushin newsletter since around 2010, I see the urgent need for assistance in preserving and cataloging old documents and photographs relating to the temple. Many photographs are stuck in 1960s plastic “Magnetic Pages” or are sticking together.

We are looking for someone with interest and/or expertise in these areas to volunteer and assist us over the coming months and years. A team approach would be great. We have basic digital technologies but lack expertise and time. Please contact Jim Dote at the temple email on page 1.

## Higashi Ekideners Run F-a-s-t

By “Sports Writer” Cheryl Tyler



Runners and friends all show up at the finish line! Left to right: Mary Matsuda, Terry Tyler, Rev. Kikuchi, Kokoro, Mai Kikuchi, Hana and Ren, Jeanne Kawawata, Margaret Hamachi, Kevin Kawawata, Rev. Kita, and Cheryl Tyler.

Hurrah! The Higashi Hongwanji Runners made a great showing at the Ekiden 2019 5K relay competition at Kapiolani Park on Sunday, March 10. The Higashi temples were represented by two teams including Rev. Hidesato Kita, Rev. Koen Kikuchi, Mai Kikuchi, Margaret Hamachi, Terry Tyler, and Kevin Kawawata. Family and friends who turned out to support our heroic runners enjoyed their time together chatting and munching on ono homemade goodies and refreshments.

## ?? Old Photos ?? Old Stories ??

Do you have any old photographs of our Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji, its Bon Dance, any of the many seminars, the former Kaneohe Japanese Language School, the sewing school, or our former “Social Hall” building? Did any of your relatives help construct the temple in 1963-64, or the quonset hall around 1949-1950? And do you have any relatives who were members of, or helped volunteer, at our temple whom we can interview for publication? Please contact Jim Dote at the temple email on page 1.

## Temple Service & Activities Calendar

### April

3	Wed	Ann Pearl Care Facility Visitation
7	Sun 9am	HBC Buddha Day at Honpa Hongwanji <i>No service @ Kaneohe</i>
14	Sun 9am	Hanamatsuri Service at Kaneohe
16	Tues 3pm	Oko at Betsuin
17	Wed	Ann Pearl Care Facility Visitation
21	Sun 9am	Sunday Service & Board Meeting
28	Sun 9am	Sunday Service, followed by <i>Yard clean-up (please wear “grungies” and bring work gloves)</i>

### May

1	Wed	Hale Nani Care Facility Visitation
4	Sat 9am	Plant & Rummage Sale
5	Sun 9am	<i>No Sunday Service @ Kaneohe</i>
12	Sun 9am	Sunday Service
15	Wed	Hale Nani Care Facility Visitation
19	Sun 9am	Shinran Shonin Birthday Service
21	Tues 3pm	Oko at Kaneohe
26	Sun 9am	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 for current information, or telephone our temple at 247-2661. Mahalo