



JUSHIN

樹心



Volume 14 Issue 2

APRIL – MAY 2024

A registered 501 (c) organization

Meetings and Goodbyes (Encontros e Despedidas)

Give me news of the world of there. Say who stays. Give me a hug, come to hold me tight. I'm coming. I like to be able to go away. Without plans. It's even better be able to come back. When I want.

Everyday it's a come and go. The life repeats in the station. There are people who come to stay. There are people who go to never more. There's people who come and want to go back. There are people who go and want to stay. There are people who are just looking. There are people smiling and crying. And like this, come and go.

There are just two sides of the same travel. The train that comes is the same train of the departure. The hour of the meeting, is one of the goodbyes as well. The platform of that station is the life of my place. It is the life.

~ Milton Nascimento & Fernando Brant

Minister's Message

By Rev. Marcos Sawada

Meetings and Goodbyes (Encontros e Despedidas)

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Milton Nascimento & Fernando Brant (Brazilian singer and singer/writer)

Thank you, everyone for helping our temple. My family and I were here for the last three years. We had plenty of struggles and joyful moments. We had many encounters and farewells. Friends and members came in; others left. Some people we didn't know personally were connected to us through your roots which made us familiar with them. Impermanence hit whether we accept it or not. Now it is time for departure. Your work and donations (Dana) made us reach 2024 and the 100th Anniversary.

In Brazil, famous singer and composer Milton Nascimento wrote a song "Encontros e Despedidas (Meetings and Goodbyes-Farewell)". When you come here, there are a lot of uncertain paths. Soon you become part of life here. Then, it's time to go, leaving a lot of feelings and memories in your heart. Sadness makes me connect with them to give me hope to continue living.

This "come and go" is impermanence. We would like friends, people and things to be as we wish, but it isn't possible. Impermanence, our attachment for things to satisfy our wish, doesn't happen most of the time. Rev. Gan Ei Ohgi wrote, "The Nembutsu path is the light which shows us the truth of our untrue lives," and it constantly teaches me in overcoming my previous judgment.

Life is made by encounters or farewells. Each episode in our life is unique. It is the first time, but it is the last time too. As Reverend Gyomay Kubose wrote, "Every time is the last time. We meet only once in a lifetime. I meet you today, but who knows if we are able to meet the next day. Every day is the last day!" Also, in the Sutra, there is the word "ICHI GO ICHIE 一期一会" that means one encounter once in a whole life. It can be translated as "treasure every encounter for it will never come about again." This is impermanence and dependent origination. It means for some people, it is the start; for others, it is the end in the same station called life as humans overcoming the sense of like or dislike. It is the song of Milton Nascimento.

We as humans look at it as the reality. But with our limited vision

mixed with strong emotions and personal values, they can be called the power of our ego working as if they were real. The reality from the Buddha's view is the Truth, as it is, non-judgment, Selfless and Dependent co-arising, where everything can exist and not with each relation; everything has no substance.

As described above, happiness for most people is included in SUK-KHA. In Buddhism, that means you have good or pleasant sensations including physical, spiritual, emotional and material. But Buddha said to us, "Life is suffering!" And all kinds of pain, discomfort, and emotional pain are DUKKHA. These two concepts usually work in our life creating conditional judgment of what happiness is. Having those conditions or not, they cannot determine your actual happiness. The Buddhist way of understanding happiness is transcendental and overcomes those conditional Sukkha--it is universal, non-discriminatory!

However, when I don't accept impermanence in my mind, I created "Dukkha," the suffering for my attachment for things. But in the same way, trying to reject this truth makes me understand that all are transitory. I collide with my limitedness that allows me, momentarily, to become a humble person. Humbleness or humility makes me aware of my limitations, and I put myself in a passive posture of being able to listen. Listening connects me with others in "Oneness" or on becoming one.

Becoming Oneness is the way we can respect each other and naturally bow our head. Staying humble and from our heart, we might say warmly, "Sorry... Thanks... I agree with you... I understand!" All these words come to us and I start to feel all things in my life are gifts that are received from a Power beyond the Self that we can describe as Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion. The representatives of it are our loved ones and others whose suffered and lived experiences before us. It makes me see they are here, supporting me, helping me, whether I am conscious or not about it. I'm living this life without awareness, without perception of all things coming and keeping my life as an ordinary ignorant sentient being. But without a mentor or teacher (Bodhisattvas), those awarenesses do not come to me. Listening to the words from them takes me to my place as a human not different from others.

I'm living this ordinary life touched by all of these wonderful gifts or Power beyond the self that supports everything unconditionally with no claim or demand in the shape of air, water, sun, soil, words, people, knowledge, animals, and plants. Then, I start to pay respect for it and feeling of gratitude for showing me as a real, selfish, ignorant and limited person. When this moment comes, I reconnect with my real self. I don't need to pretend anything. I can live in a genuine way because I am as I am. I cannot be another one.

For Buddha, every day, every moment is new!

Let me say one final important thing. This will be your treasure to take anywhere, anytime. **Help others without condition! Help others to be happy! Then you will encounter the real meaning of your life here.** Great Compassion is working!

Mahalo, in gassho, NAMUAMIDABUTSU

April - May 2024 Calendar

April

- 3 (Wed) Rev. Dr. Haneda Larger Sutra last lecture at 5:30 pm *Zoom
- 7 (Sun) Hawaii Buddhist Council Hanamatsuri Joint Service, 9:30 am at Soto Mission Shoboji 1708 Nuuanu Ave.
- 14 (Sun) Open Forum discussion, 9 am at Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji: "What is the difference between Shakyamuni Buddha, the Enlightened Buddha and Amida Buddha?"
- 21 (Sun) Discussion on contemporary issues with Palolo Hongwanji led by Rev Noriaki Fujimori, 10 am *Zoom or in person at our temple
- 23 (Tue) Dinner & Movie Night at Betsuin, 5:30 pm "They Say Nothing Stays the Same"
- 28 (Sun) Sunday Service, 9 am, at Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji, Speaker: Rev Akiko Okada

May

- 5 (Sun) Local Dharma Gathering, Larger Sutra Class with Rev Steve Toyoshima 10 am
- 12(Sun) Book Club discussion: "River of Fire, River of Water," An Introduction to the Pure Land Tradition of Shin Buddhism, written by Taitetsu Unno 9 am *YT
- 19 (Sun) Discussion on contemporary issues with Palolo Hongwanji led by Rev Noriaki Fujimori, 10 am *Zoom
- 26 (Sun) May Shotsuki Service, 9 am, Speaker: Rev Akiko Okada

JUSHIN Editorial Members

Contributors: Rev. Marcos Sawada, CharAnn Nakamoto, Stan Sato, Mary Matsuda, Bill Yamanaka, Norma Sawada, Coleen Kasamoto

Assembling and Mailing: Stan Sato, Norma Sawada, Eleanor Tokunaga, Joyce Matsumoto, Bill Yamanaka, Rev. Marcos Sawada, Harriet Yamada, Kerri Kahapea, Majel Toyofuku



Temple Message

Sawada Family Farewell

By Mary Matsuda, Board Chair

With heavy hearts we say a fond Aloha to our minister, Reverend Marcos Sawada and his family, who will be returning to the Hilo Higashi Hongwanji temple from where he came prior to the Kaneohe assignment three years ago. Hilo has been without a minister for about the last year.

Sawada sensei brought to Kaneohe his spirituality which is beyond compare. At every service, he stood with his hands in gassho and taught us Rennyō Shonin's valuable lesson, "Listen as if this message is the first time you hear it, listen as though this message is for you alone, and listen as though it is the last time you will hear it." Thank you Sensei, for reminding us of the power of the Dharma.

Along with his hints and tips on how to stay fit (he has a degree in physical education), his absolutely delightful wife, Norma, has been tirelessly cooking, cleaning, videoing, helping with administrative duties, etc.. We will miss her beautiful voice as she chanted the sutra and occasionally sang Karaoke.

Recently, the Department of Education implemented a new objective to provide free preschool education to all children. This has impacted preschool providers throughout the islands. More and more preschools are merging or closing. Kama'aina Kids, on our temple grounds, unfortunately, was identified as having to close. They have been our long-term tenant for nearly 20 years, but had to give notice they needed to terminate their lease early.

Our temple and Kama'aina Kids have enjoyed a beautiful partnership all these years which has kept our property vibrant and energetic. We wish them continued success as they sail into unknown waters with the DOE's changes.

This loss in revenue from the Kama'aina Kids operation has negatively affected the temple's ability to support a full-time minister. In the absence of a full-time minister, we will continue to have Sunday Dharma gatherings. We are planning to revamp our monthly format and encourage more interpersonal exchanges, Question & Answer sessions, discussions on Buddhist concepts, guest speakers and book club discussions.

Fortunately, Reverend Sawada's reassignment will still allow us to listen and see him at joint services and gatherings at the Betsuin. As we all know, "Aloha" has many meanings; Hello, Goodbye, but more appropriately for Kaneohe, "Until we meet again". In gassho, NAMUAMIDABUTSU!

Member's Voice

Change and the Rainbow of Emotions

By Kerri Kahapea

Sometimes change happens and you are left feeling unsure of the future. How confusing to have all these feelings and thoughts. The rainbow of emotions takes you for a ride. It's not the pot of gold or the magical ride written about on the Lucky Charms cereal box. It feels like you're blind and in a storm. There are no answers, no direction, no light, and no path to follow. Sensei during his dharma talks would say that a drop of water will go to the ocean. It would seem that our life is governed by a natural movement. Like there is a natural energy that moves in and around us. The Shoshinge states "just as all the waters flow into the ocean and gain one salty taste" How does this happen? How does a drop of water take its course and join with the water to meet the sea? Somehow this message felt comforting. A natural process, a journey. I also like the passage "Behind the clouds, the brightness reigns and there is no darkness." Services with Sensei Sawada have been about comfort. Comfort in the Treasures.

While that salty ocean seems far and the pot of gold feels unattainable, The Three Treasures are here. The Sangha, the Dharma, the Buddha. They are heard, felt, and seen. The Treasures are the light. It is where we are standing in this moment. A beacon which shines the light we need to find our way to the ocean.

At the end of March, we say a fond goodbye to our resident minister Rev. Sawada and his lovely wife Norma along with their son, Nathan. They came to our temple during a time of uncertainty; the pandemic. Sawada Sensei taught me many things. The one I will remember the most is how to listen. It's funny how fate has had it was his final Dharma talk after 3 years at Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji. His message in listening and in the Treasures will keep me asking Who am I? And where are you standing now in this moment? These questions will keep me moving and searching and following the light.

Aloha to you and your family and Thank you for being part of my Treasure and the Treasure of Kaneohe and Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Mission. And, Aloha to Kaneohe Higashi Mission for being an ever-present presence in Kaneohe. The mission was founded on the importance of these Treasures 100 years ago. We must all be the light, carry the torch, and keep the candle burning bright at Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Mission. In gassho, NAMUAMIDABUTSU!

Acknowledgements: (As of January 18 to March 17, 2024)

Annual Membership Dues (Gojikai):

Darin Chung, Richard & Kelda Kakisako, Leighton Sakamoto, Darren Matsuda, Doug & Jean Crosier, June & Barry Weled, Liane & Paul Briggs, Delbert Tanaka, Donna Okazaki, Lois Miyamoto, Gary Yamamoto
Total = \$825.00

Calendar:

Richard & Kelda Kakisako, Leighton Sakamoto, June & Barry Weled, Liane & Paul Briggs
Total = \$95.00

Donations:

Joann McCabe, Doug Crosier, Liane & Paul Briggs, Delbert Tanaka, Donna Okazaki, Gary Yamamoto, Mike Takashita, Ryan Miyamoto

WAJAM Softball League c/o Jeff Akamine (parking lot use)
Castle High School, Class of 1974 (parking lot use)

Lois Miyamoto – In memory of Junichi Miyamoto
Naomi Sumida – In memory of Tokie Yoneshige
Eleanor Tokunaga – In memory of Tokie Yoneshige
Denise & Jeffrey Akamine – In memory of Tokie Yoneshige
Maria McGarry – In memory of Margaret (Torigoe) Goodheart

Cash donations from osaisen box

Total = \$2,269.75

Ohigan:

Doug & Jean Crosier, Leighton Sakamoto, Reiko & Glen Hatakeyama, Alan & CharlAnn Nakamoto

Total = \$115.00

Grand Total = \$3,304.75

Thank You!

We appreciate your generous donations. Please contact Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji for inadvertent omission of donors or if you want to remain anonymous, please inform us in your mail.

Volunteers needed

To support temple daily life: cleaning up the hondo, restrooms, yard, and kitchen; polishing ornaments; arranging flowers; newsletter mailing and temple events.

Please call the temple 808 247-2661

Donations

Food Items: Lloyd Antonio Vasquez, Darin Chung, Kerri Kahapea, CharlAnn Nakamoto, Mary Matsuda, Joyce Matsumoto, Norma Sawada; Majel Toyofuku; Ann & Harry Akagi, Jean Yoshizaki, Leighton Sakamoto, Dennis Kajiura, Susan Ng, Doug & Jean Crosier, Eleanor Tokunaga, Wesley Hao, Cheryl Tyler, Bill Yamanaka

Helpers: Jean & Shareen Yoshizaki, CharlAnn Nakamoto; Majel Toyofuku; Dennis Kajiura; Leighton Sakamoto; Julian & Susan Ng; Stan Sato, Jeannie Higa, Alan Nakamoto, Bill Yamanaka;

Flowers: Setsu Meyer, Stan Sato, Jean Yoshizaki, Wesley Hau, Norma Sawada, Harriet Yamada; Naomi Sumida

Memorial Services

1 Y (Passed on 2023) Theodore T. Yoshizaki 03/08; Ali'ikoa Estepa-Chang 03/27; Janet A. Waki 04/11; Eric Tokuo Okazaki 07/18; Yasumasa Kuroda 08/23; Susumu Okazaki 09/22; Tokie Yoneshige 12/30/23.

3 Y (2022) Milicent Misao Lurito 08/03; Helen Mieko Maki 09/24; Ford Takao Matsunaga 11/16; Karen S. Higashi 11/18; Kenneth T. Oka 11/27; Harumi Furuya 12/24; Walter Tawewaki Hirao 12/24/22

7 Y (2018) Mr. Isamu Furuya 01/16; Mr. Ben Fujikazu Takahara 03/12; Patsy Hideko Matsunaga 07/25/2018.

13 Y (2012) Mrs. Rose Shigemi Yoshizaki 03/10; Mr. Francis Harada 05/30; Mr. Blame T. Arisue 06/26.

17 Y (2008) Mrs. Kay Tokie Hayashida

03/20; Mrs. Rita Kiyomi Wannomae 03/25; Mrs. Machie Manzoku 03/29.

25 Y (2000) Mrs. Soyone Fukumoto 04/08; Mrs. Kiyono Hironaka 05/20; Mrs. Sachie Murakami 10/3

33 Y (1992) Mrs. Stanley Masatoki Honda 03/09, Mrs. Nobuko Tanaka 10/06

50 Y (1975) Mr. Shigeyoshi Chinen 03/13; Mr. Harumitsu Kinoshita 09/07; Mrs. Keiko Okabayashi 12/20/1975.

The above dates reflect the memorial services for the year of 2024. We are having in person services at the temple, at home or by Zoom. Please call Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji (808 247

*-2661) for your service appointment, even if the date has passed. You can consult the Betsuin minister for any information you need. Also please feel free to come and join our **Sunday Services**, starting from 9 am. For further information call 808 247-2661 # For Bedside Service when a loved one is near passing (or just passed away), please immediately call Rev. Steve Toyoshima or Bishop Kawawata at **808 531-9088**.*

In Memoriam:

Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the late:
Mrs. Tokie Yasuda Yoneshige

Thank you for scheduling memorial services! Connecting with our ancestors brings us feelings of being participative humans in the process of one's own nature. Action, word and thought represent you in this dimension. Gassho!

Our New Schedule!

April

- 3 (Wed) 5:30pm, Larger Sutra Part IV, last lecture, Speaker: Rev Haneda, call temple for Zoom info/link
- 7 (Sun) 9:30am, Hawaii Buddhist Council Hanamatsuri Joint Service, at Soto Mission Shoboji, 1708 Nuuanu Ave., Speaker: Rev Jiko Nakade of Kona Daifukujji
- 14 (Sun) 9:00am, Open Forum discussion, at Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji: "What is the difference between Shakyamuni Buddha, the Enlightened Buddha and Amida Buddha?"
- 21 (Sun) 10:00am, Discussion on contemporary issues with Palolo Hongwanji led by Rev Noriaki Fujimori, Come to our temple at 9:45am
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May

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- 26 (Sun) 9:00am, May Shotsuki Service, Speaker: Akiko Okada

Event Highlights (Continued)



Rev Bert Sumikawa, guest speaker in March



Temple friend, Antonio, bidding Sensei and Norma a fond farewell



Food preparation always a favorite activity at Kaneohe

Event Highlights



Elsie Hataye with Rev Sawada during a home visit in February



The Board of Directors for 2024



After-service refreshments and fellowship (March)



Gathering for the annual membership service and luncheon in January



Rev Marcos and Norma Sawada with their farewell cake. Beautiful cake for beautiful people



Service attendees prior to the March farewell BBQ