



In This Issue of Jushin:

- Celebrating Parenthood, p.1
- Member's Voice, p.2
- Calendar & Events, p.3
- News & Highlights, p.4
- Acknowledgements & Notices, p.5



JUSHIN Editorial Members

Contributors: CharlAnn Nakamoto, Stan Sato, Mary Matsuda, Bill Yamanaka, Kerri Kahapea, Darren Matsuda, Joyce Matsumoto, Majel Toyofuku

Assembling and Mailing: Stan Sato, Eleanor Tokunaga, Joyce Matsumoto, Bill Yamanaka, Harriet Yamada, Kerri Kahapea, Majel Toyofuku

Chairperson Message

Celebrating Parenthood

By Mary Matsuda

A belated Mothers' Day and Happy Fathers' Day to all! Whether you are a biological parent, an adoptive parent, have hanaï'd children or are in whatever filial role you have in your respective families I hope you celebrated your day happily as our "now" culture has made us believe these days dictate (I say this tongue-in-cheek as some have adopted the cynical opinion that these specially designated days are merely manufactured by our capitalistic society which find ways to get us to consume more and more). Oh, did you know that there is now a Parents' Day? It's June 23!

Mothers' day takes whole families to restaurants (yes, it is the busiest restaurant day of the entire year), and florists, sell the most roses and flowers on this day than any other day of the year. And oh yes, let's not forget the gifts! Fathers' day dinners at home warrant nothing but the best steak, seafood, poke, etc.....Supermarket bonanza!

Yes, the majority of us succumb to the commercialism and "obey" this custom in which we say this is a day on which we should pay tribute and remember how much our respective parent has affected our lives. This day is one in which we reflect on how our mother and/or our father has given us **unconditional and unlimited** love, protection and guidance and afforded us **opportunities denied them as they were** children (ie. Kodomo no Tame ni").

I'm sure we've all heard the saying, "Anyone can be a Dad but it takes a special man to be a father." Likewise, we have heard that "Anyone can be a father but it takes a special man to be a Dad". Similar as these two thoughts may seem, there are nuances which probably are more obvious to us depending on where we are in our age spectrum.

Let's discuss these two ideas informally.:

Anyone can be a Dad but it takes a special man to be a father. Stated this way, I feel that "Dad" connotes warmth, friendship, coddling, and favor. Father, on the other hand, connotes a role of higher purpose and mission in the development and influence of a child. In this view, being a father is one of the most important life responsibilities for a man. Sons and daughters will adopt his values, work ethics, view of life and mimic him as they grow. Daughters will learn what kind of man to date or marry. Sons will select their life partner based on how he treats his wife. It is this fathering which will set their moral compass and take them on Life's journey.

The question begging at this time is, "Why do we need designated days on which we have to be reminded to do what should naturally always be in our hearts?"

Parenthood begins on one day, one moment. Whether you believe that it is at the moment of conception or at the moment that the child takes his first breath, it is that moment that you become a mother, a father, a parent. It is this undeniable moment that you now take on the identity of "mother" or "father". (The social worker visits the new parents in the hospital room and asks, Name of mother? Name of Father? and you fill in the blanks). Everyday thereafter you are parenting...every single moment, every single day, actively or virtually, high touch or low touch, you are parenting. Mothers and Fathers mother and father us every day; we should remember this everyday, don't you think?

EVERYDAY IS MOTHERS'/FATHERS' DAY!

Whether we really need an annual "holiday" reminder is personal and individual. It is understandable how the sentiments can get lost in the everyday complexities of Life. However, if we think and reflect at how we are dealing with the present moment, our ongoing challenges (hard decisions which must be made today, resolution of financial, social, everyday decisions, etc) let's be mindful that all the skills and perspectives of how we move forward come from our parents' lessons in Life. Yes, the decisions you make today are based on what they taught us.

Thank you, Namu Amida Butsu.

Anyone can be a father but it takes a special man to be a Dad. Stated this way, the word, "father" takes on a more hands-off, clinical connotation as yes, anyone man can cause the birth of a child and become its father, but is his automatically a dad? No. In this case "father" is a distant, objective, cold and clinical term while "Dad" is warm and interactive, subjective relationship. Put in another context, when children marry, their spouses' parents become "mom" or "dad"-in-laws not "father" or "mother" as they were not part of the creative process of your being; rather, they are a relational parent.

Member's Voice

Hey Dad, I Want To Be A Buddhist

By Majel Toyofuku

As Fathers' Day approaches, I think of my dad who passed soon after my 10th birthday. I have fond memories of lying in the grass next to him, sitting on his knees, viewing the world as he carried me on his shoulders, conversations of what he hoped I would experience or not, such as the racial prejudice he encountered in the Southern states during his military enlistment, and laughing as we played guessing games of "Name that TV commercial" as we took turns humming the tunes for product ads including, but not limited to cigarettes, beers, and toothpaste!

My father strongly believed in the free exercise of religion and as a young child told me that he would not allow my taking the vows of baptism or Buddhist rites until I had explored different religions. So as a young child he encouraged me to attend not only the Buddhist temple where my parents were members, but attend the services at the local Methodist, Southern Baptist, Latter Day Saints and Roman Catholic Churches. I was encouraged to invite the youthful Mormon missionaries, Jehovah witnesses, and the Catholic sisters into our home. My parents were at work and during summer vacations I was home alone. I invited these religious persons and offered them icy cold glasses of "Exchange" brand orange juice. Thus began the exploration into religion. I listened to each group and tried my best to read their handouts and ask questions. At home, my parents bought us the Bible and other Christian books sold by the door to door salesmen. My mother said she wanted her children to know about Christianity when they attended public school so history lessons that made mention of biblical events made sense to us. As I looked at the illustrations and struggled through the text, I soon had questions and lots of confusion— crucifixions, crowns of thorns, parting seas, persecutions, inquisitions tumbling walls of Jericho, battle scenes, hell and brimstone, severed heads and limbs, and lightning and dark clouds surrounding Moses and the Ten Commandments. I asked my questions to my visitors as well as my parents. I do not recall much of their answers. Mostly, I recall my mother encouraging me read more and go to the library.

As a child, I usually attended Sunday services at the local Hongwanji church by myself with visits to other churches that my friends attended. For three years I participated in the "Tuesday early dismissal" from elementary school so children could attend religious education classes taught at their churches. I loved my teacher, Mrs. Omori, who told me about the royal Indian prince who went out into the world and saw so much suffering that he renounced his comfortable life to seek answers. I loved reciting Buddha's Golden Chain of Love and singing the gathas and the Vandana Ti Sarana. This pattern of attending Sunday service and religion education classes continued until fourth grade when I met Gwen. We soon discovered that if our parents did not sign the permission cards to attend religious education, we could instead walk to Gwen's house and do whatever we liked as her parents weren't home. And so the exit began. Gwen, Michael, her younger brother, classmate Eric, who was Catholic, and I had weekly afternoons of playing around as we pleased — no more religion school! What freedom we enjoyed!

I did not return to contemplating ethical, moral, and religious beliefs until I started teaching in Alaska. Whenever I would return to Kaneohe to visit my mom, I would attend temple services and activities with her. I borrowed some literature I found in the Kaneohe Higashi Temple. I read books by the Dalai Lama, Jack Kornfield, and Thich Nhat Hahn. If my father was alive, I would say, "Hey, Dad, I want to be a Buddhist." And he would know that I am Buddhist by choice. I was born into a family of Shin Buddhists but it is now my decision to follow the teachings of Buddha to help me live an ethical and moral life that gives me inner peace and contentment. It is having compassion and empathy for others, expressing gratitude and being mindful that my actions affect not only myself but others. It is the Eightfold Path that guides me as I stumble and get back up in this wonderful journey called life.

In gassho, Namu Amida Butsu

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

Donations:

Pauline & Paul Murakami, Mike Takashita, Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Miyamoto, Reiko & Glen Hatakeyama, June Takeno (In Memory of Tokie Yoneshige), Harriet Yamada (In Memory of Shigeki Fukuda), Kaneohe Community Club, Castle High School Class of 1974

Special Project Donations:

Reiko & Glen Hatakeyama (Nokotsudo), Reiko & Glen Hatakeyama (Centennial)

Flowers:

Stanley Sato, Harriet Yamada

Refreshments:

Lloyd Antonio Vasquez, Majel Toyofuku, Joyce Matsumoto, Kerri Kahapea, Mary Matsuda, Bill Yamanaka, Stanley Sato, CharlAnn Nakamoto

Temple & Grounds Maintenance

Liane Briggs, Stanley Sato, Bill Yamanaka, Harriet Yamada, Majel Toyofuku, CharlAnn Nakamoto, Mary Matsuda, Joyce Matsumoto, Dennis Kajiura

Jushin

Mary Matsuda, Majel Toyofuku, Bill Yamanaka, Darren Matsuda, Joyce Matsumoto, Stanley Sato, Kerri Kahapea, CharlAnn Nakamoto

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

Rental home available

The temple's rental home behind Kama'aina Kids' school is available for rent. We are giving our members, family members and friends of the temple first opportunity if interested. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 bath, new interior and kitchen. Asking \$2,500/month. Call temple for more information.



Hatsubon Services

Tokie Yoneshige (Shaku Ni Tokue), 91
12/30/23

Susumu Okazaki, 104
9/22/23

Yasumasa Kuroda, 92
8/23/23

Eric Tokuo Okazaki (Shaku Tokuhō), 68

Please join us on July 28, 10:00am, at Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji Temple for the Hatsubon Service conducted by Rev. Steve Toyoshima

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!

Donation Campaign for Ishikawa Prefecture

Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District is asking for donations for the earthquake victims in Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan. Your help will go to the temples and people who lost their homes due to the earthquake that hit Ishikawa Prefecture, Noto and surrounding areas. Checks can be made payable to Hilo Higashi Hongwanji. Memo: For Ishikawa Noto Area earthquake. Mail to: Hilo Higashi Hongwanji, 216 Mohouli St., Hilo, HI 96720

Calendar

JUNE

- 9 (Sun) 10a** Dharma gathering at Betsuin
(Rev Marcos Sawada)
- 16 (Sun) 9a** Sunday service, Father's Day
Dharma talk (Mary Matsuda)
- 23 (Sun) 9a** Sunday service
(Rev Akiko Okada)
- 30 (Sun) 10a** Ehime Maru Memorial; service and
clean up with Betsuin at Kaka'ako

JULY

- 7 (Sun) 9a** Dharma group discussion
- 14 (Sun) 9a** Sunday service
Dharma talk (CharlAnn Nakamoto)
- 21 (Sun) 9a** Members open forum
- 28 (Sun) 10a** Hatsubon service
(Rev Steve Toyoshima)

Event

Annual Plant and Rummage Sale

We are looking forward to our Annual Plant and Rummage Sale on Saturday, August 10th from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. to be held on our temple grounds. Rummage sale donations are being accepted now until August 4 Sunday. Acceptable rummage donations include: gently used or new clothing, shoes, handbags, jewelry, toys, crafts, kitchen household wares, kitchen appliances, and collectibles. Sorry we will not be accepting any bulky furniture or heavy items.

Plant sale donations will be accepted starting from August 2 Friday. Acceptable donations include: herbs, garden starters, edibles, tropical plants, orchids flowering plants, water garden plants, succulents, fresh cut flowers, pots, and vases. For more information or to volunteer for our sale; please call CharlAnn at temple office (808) 247-2661.

Thank you very much for your kind donations and your continued support!

Event

Betsuin Bon Dance Activities (at main temple, 1685 Alaneo St.)

- Dance Practice** Mon 6/10 at 7p and 6/17 at 6p
- Bon Service** Fri 7/12 at 6:30p and Sat 7/13 at 6:30p
- Festival** 7/12 at 7p and 7/13 at 7p

Volunteers needed to help with Bon festivities

- Food prep on 7/11 and 7/12
- Post event clean up on 7/14 at 10a
- Call (808) 531-9088 for more information

Obon and Family Values

By Rev Dr Alfred Bloom

The Obon festival is among the world's most colorful religious and cultural observances. It was instituted as a special celebration in Japan by Prince Shotoku to behold in the Lunar 7th month, 15th day (now our July 15) in commemoration of the ancestors.

The concentric circles of gaily dressed dancers, young and old, rotating around the yagura to the rhythmic beat of the taiko drum and the melody of the ondo music, depicts harmony in the family and community. Everyone moving their arms in graceful gestures, waving their fans in symbolic action, and stepping sinuously one after the other suggest the dynamic teaching of the Flower Garland Sutra (Hua-yen-sutra) that One is All and All is One.

While the Buddhist principle of Universal Harmony seems unrealistic in our fragmented and divided society and world, it is an ideal which challenges us and beckons us in our daily life, and especially so at Obon time. The Mogallana story, which forms the basis of Obon observance, dramatizes for us our indebtedness and obligations to our forebearers through spiritual reflection. Mogallana, an ancient Buddhist monk, as a result of his meditations and spiritual insight, received a vision of his mother suffering in the hell of hungry spirits. Moved by his mother's suffering, he consulted with the Buddha and sought a way to release her.

Modern people cannot easily appreciate this ancient story which highlights the mother's selfishness and the violent form of punishment which she was condemned to endure for centuries. Nevertheless, the underlying theme is the son's devotion, concern and compassion for his mother. Consequently, the story reinforces contemporary interest in family values, not simply as political or social reaction to the corruption of society, but as the positive principle that promotes a healthy society and community.

Shin Buddhism, while maintaining family values, also goes beyond the boundaries of the biological family. Shinran said that he never said Nembutsu (the recitation of the name of Amida Buddha) once out of filial piety. He went on to say that in the flow of endless time, we have all been mother, father, brother and sister to each other. He transcended the traditional Confucian biological emphasis on family to the family of humanity common to East-Asian cultures. Those who are closest to us may have a claim on our sentiments and duty. However, according to Shinran, we must never forget our relationship to the whole world of interdependent beings, nor that family values represent a spiritual relationship which promotes not only the harmony of our natural family, but also our community and the world.

As we reflect on the deeper meaning of the Obon festival, let us renew our dedication to the inclusive and universal values of Buddhism which makes the world and all beings our spiritual family.

Temple Photos



Fellowshipping and refreshments with Rev. Akiko Okada



With Rev. Steve Toyoshima



Guest speaker,
Bishop Kenjun Kawawata