



# JHO

February 2021



## Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

*Building Healthy Sanghas: Nurturing Empathy and Respect*

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### Virtual Dharma Family Services

Please join us for our virtual services and events in February. All online services will begin at 10:00 am on Zoom (unless otherwise noted). A link to join the service will be emailed to you a few days before. Please contact the office to be included in our email list to receive weekly temple updates and information. We look forward to seeing you online! Please consider making an offertory donation for our virtual services just like attending an in-person service. Mahalo!

### Nirvana Day (Nehan-E) Service

Sunday, February 14, 2021 at 10:00 am

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daijaku Judith Kinst

Professor, Institute of Buddhist Studies & guiding teacher of Ocean Gate Zen Center in Capitola, CA

Shakyamuni awakened to Truth and became a Buddha at the age of 35. After sharing the Dharma for the next 45 years, he attained perfect enlightenment or *parinirvana* with his death at age eighty. Nirvana Day is one of the three observances commemorating Shakyamuni, the other two being his birthday on April 8 and his awakening on December 8.

### Annual General Membership Meeting

Sunday, February 21, 2021 at 10:00 am to 11:30 am

On Zoom videoconferencing

Please register by Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

It is essential as a non-profit organization that we hold an annual membership meeting to advise and update the membership on the status of the temple. Please join us for our very first virtual membership meeting. We will have a short service in remembrance of Sangha members who passed away last year and honor our Keirokai members who have reached the age of eighty. The business meeting will follow. Members who attend will be entered into a lucky number drawing to receive special prizes.

Please register online at <https://forms.gle/wpgx8y9vDaspnKC5A>

### For Assistance

**Office Clerk:** Ramah DeMello (Phone: 808-323-2993 Email: [konahongwanji@twc.com](mailto:konahongwanji@twc.com))

**Resident Minister:** Rev. Blayne Higa (Emergency only 808-383-9153)

**Temple President:** Joseph Gusman (Emergency only 808-896-4988 or 808-324-0708)

**KONA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE**

P.O. Box 769

Kealakekua, HI 96750

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KEALAKEKUA, HAWAII 96750

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## President's Message

As we move further into the new year, hope everyone is staying healthy & safe. As the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine increases, hopefully, the pandemic will one day be behind us. In the meantime, please continue to follow the recommendations for keeping everyone safe. We treasure each of you as members of our Kyodan.

Just a reminder to everyone to attend our annual General Membership Meeting & Keirokai on February 21, 2021. Given the current pandemic, this year's meeting will be held virtually via Zoom for the first time ever. The meeting gives you a great opportunity to update yourself on the status of Kona Hongwanji. Elsewhere in this newsletter is an online link to sign up for the meeting. Please contact the temple office if you are having difficulty with signing up. We will also be planning to have a virtual lucky number drawing for those attending. Hope to see you all there.

In Gassho,  
Joseph M. Gusman  
Kyodan President

### **Be a Lamp Unto Yourself: Finding Hope in Our Unwritten Story** Rev. Blayne Higa

On his deathbed, Shakyamuni Buddha encouraged his followers to "be a lamp unto yourself; be a refuge to yourself...Hold fast to the Truth as a lamp; hold fast to the Truth as a refuge." He understood that the true Buddha was not a human body, but rather is Enlightenment itself and that the "Wisdom of Enlightenment will exist forever in the truth of the Dharma, and in the practice of the Dharma." By his death, the Buddha reaffirmed the impermanence of human existence and the eternal nature of Enlightenment.



The Dharma is transmitted from heart to heart and from mind to mind. Each of us is responsible for embodying the teachings in our thoughts, words, and actions. We all know how our deepest held values are passed on from one generation to the next only through the intentional living out of those values. The Buddha's story did not end with his passing over 2,500 years ago but rather continues to this day. We are writing the story of the Buddha's teachings into the very fabric of our lives.

Similarly, it is with intention that democracy endures and thrives. We have seen how fragile our democracy is and how important it is for each of us to do our part to maintain its integrity. In her poem "The Hill We Climb," national youth poet laureate Amanda Gorman challenges us to embody the light of our highest ideals, thereby passing it on to future generations. She says,

*When day comes we step out of the shade,  
afame and unafraid  
The new dawn blooms as we free it  
For there is always light,  
if only we're brave enough to see it  
If only we're brave enough to be it.*

Just like the final teaching of the Buddha, we are being asked to hold fast to the ideal of democracy and to make it our light. America is not any one person but all of us collectively living out her values. That it is only in the practice of democracy that it endures. Each of us is responsible for embodying these ideals through our thoughts, words, and actions.

During the long dark winter of the past few years, our values have been tested and we have realized that we are, according to Gorman, "a nation that isn't broken, but simply unfinished." We have the difficult task of mending ourselves, our communities, and our nation. This process will be uncomfortable and sometimes painful but if we work together, we can and will heal.

Our American story is not yet finished. We are writing new chapters every single day. As we move forward together with a renewed sense of hope, let us make of ourselves a light guided by the Buddha's teachings and our highest ideals as Americans. Namo Amida Butsu.

## Notice of Bylaws Amendment

The Kona Hongwanji Board of Directors has proposed an amendment to the Bylaws for discussion and approval at the General Membership Meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 21, 2021. A full version of the proposed amendment can be obtained by contacting the temple office.

The proposed changes to the Bylaws are as follows:

- Article IV. OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES, Section 4. To reposition the third sentence in front of the current second sentence so that the entire section reads as follows, "The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence or inability of the President to act. The Vice President under the direction of the President shall oversee the functions of such Councils as the President may designate. In the absence or inability of both the President and Vice President to act, or if these offices become vacant through any cause, the Board of Directors shall designate a Council Director to perform the duties of President."
- Article V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Section 1. to amend the composition of the Board of Directors from sixteen (16) to fifteen (15);
- Article V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Section 1.B to amend the number of Council Directors from four (4) to three (3);
- Article VI. COUNCILS & COMMITTEES, Section 1.A. to replace the head of the Administrative Council from the Director to the Vice-President;
- Article VI. COUNCILS & COMMITTEES, Section 2. to amend recognizing that the term of the Vice-President is defined in Article IV. OFFICERS & THEIR DUTIES with the addition highlighted as follows "With the exception of the Vice-President as specified in Article IV, Section 1, all Directors of the Councils provided under foregoing Section 1 shall be elected by the general membership for two (2) year terms or until their successors are elected. Their terms of office shall be coterminous with that of the President. Each Council Director shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors."
- Article VI. COUNCILS & COMMITTEES, Section 3 to amend an incorrect reference in regards to standing committee from Article VII to Article VI.
- Revision Dates to reflect the most recent amendment date on the first and last page to the date when approved by the general membership at the annual meeting

### Welcome New Members!

Mahalo to Annette Green and Danny Matsuoka for becoming sustaining members. Welcome to our Sangha!

Please encourage family and friends to join our temple 'Ohana. New members are always welcome!

### Weekly Sangha Talk Story

Rev. Blayne hosts a weekly virtual talk story session for Sangha members to connect and to share how life is going during the pandemic. The Sangha Talk Story happens every Thursday evening at 7:00pm on Zoom. If you would like to participate, please email Rev. Blayne at [bhiga@honpahi.org](mailto:bhiga@honpahi.org) to be sent the meeting link each week.



### Compassionate Care

The Dharma offers guidance and support for our whole lives, especially during times of difficulty. I am here to be a compassionate presence and companion to you on life's journey. I am available for pastoral care and counseling in-person, by phone, or by video conference. I am also available for bedside end-of-life services and grief care. Please contact me at 808-323-2993 or for emergencies only at 808-383-9153.

*Aloha,  
Rev. Blayne*

## Nirvana Day Speaker Rev. Dr. Daijaku Judith Kinst

I am so grateful to have Rev. Dr. Daijaku Kinst as our guest speaker for our Nirvana Day Service on February 14, 2021. She was one of my academic advisors in seminary and is a wonderful Dharma teacher and mentor. She is the Program Director for Buddhist Chaplaincy and Soto Zen Buddhist Studies at the Institute of Buddhist Studies. —Rev. Blayne



### About Our Speaker:

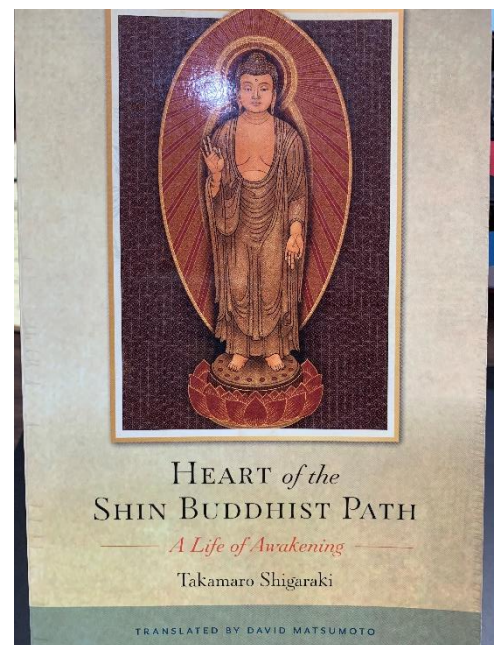
Rev. Dr. Daijaku Kinst is a Soto Zen priest and teacher, a core faculty member of the Institute of Buddhist Studies/Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, and author of *Trust Realization and the Self in Soto Zen Practice* and many other writings.

With Rev. Shinshu Roberts, she is guiding teacher of Ocean Gate Zen Center in Capitola, CA. As a Soto Zen priest and teacher, academic, scholar, and author, Daijaku has been committed to studying and supporting authentic and fruitful Buddhist practice for many years. Following her formal priest training, including years at Tassajara, she completed a masters degree in counseling. Her PhD was an in-depth study of Soto Zen teachings and how we can create environments in which ordinary complicated humans can realize them and serve the world in need. She has taught and led retreats widely, including Gampo Abbey with the Ven. Pema Chodron, and was appointed International Teacher by the Soto School in Tokyo, Japan.

### Shin Buddhism 101

Are you interested in learning about the teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and how it relates to everyday life? Are you looking for a relaxed and fun environment to read and explore the Shin Buddhist Path together and discuss what it personally means to you? If so, the Kona Hongwanji Book Club is the place for you!

Join us as we learn about the fundamentals of Shin Buddhism by exploring one of Rev. Blayne's favorite books, *Heart of the Shin Buddhist Path: A Life of Awakening* by Takamaro Shigaraki. We will meet weekly via Zoom from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm on the following Wednesdays in March (3, 10, 17, 24, 31) and April (7, 14, 21, 28). Please register with the temple office by Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> if you are interested.



### About the book:

In *Heart of the Shin Buddhist Path*, Takamaro Shigaraki examines Shin Buddhism anew—as a practical path of spiritual growth and transformation, challenging assessments of the tradition as a passive religion of “mere” faith. Shigaraki presents the core themes of the Shin path in fresh, engaging, down-to-earth language, considering every facet from both secular and religious perspectives.

Shigaraki shows us a nondual Pure Land that finds philosophical kinship with Zen—but has thus far been little discussed in the West. With its insights drawn from a life of practice, *Heart of the Shin Buddhist Path* dispels the fog of misconception that has shrouded Western appreciation of Shin traditions, revealing the limitless light and life of Amida Buddha that suffuses all.



## Preschool News

January 8, 2021 marked 100 days of preschool. It was celebrated with presentations of projects, making of crafts and of course, counting up to 100. This day also coincided with National JoyGerm Day, a day to remind us that by being positive and treating people with kindness, we can influence those around us and pass that positive attitude to others.



National Hugging Day on January 21st was a day of finding alternative ways to spread peace and love around the world during this COVID pandemic. Sending a care package (we gave candy hugs to children and their families), making a positive gesture, sign language, and arts and crafts were some of the ways in which we sent hugs to others.

The month ended with the Great Kindness Challenge; a week-long program dedicated to creating a culture of kindness and compassion in communities worldwide. Our daily themes were: kindness begins with me/self-care, Photo Booth-taking pictures of the children and sending it to their parents for them to pass on to families and friends, spreading kindness in the community through sign waving along the highway fronting our temple, showing appreciation to businesses in the community by making and delivering floral arrangements, and helping to spread kindness worldwide by participating in "Kindness Unites Paper chain"; joining other schools worldwide in creating Love Links for the world's largest recycled paper chain made with messages of love and hope. Our school has signed up to make 1/4 of a mile long paper chain which will be combined with others to set a new Guinness World Record of 110 miles. The links will eventually be distributed to hospitals, senior centers, schools, etc. as a beautiful reminder that love and kindness connect us all.

Wishing everyone joy, peace, hope, goodwill, and harmony in 2021. Take care and be safe.



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### Golden Chain of Love

*I am a link in Amida Buddha's Golden Chain of Love that stretches around the world. I must keep my link bright and strong.*

*I will try to be kind and gentle to every living thing and protect all who are weaker than myself.*

*I will try to think pure and beautiful thoughts, to say pure and beautiful words, and to do pure and beautiful deeds, knowing that on what I do now depends not only my happiness or unhappiness, but also that of others.*

*May every link in Amida's Golden Chain of Love be bright and strong, and may we all attain perfect peace.*

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## New Year's Eve Bell Ringing



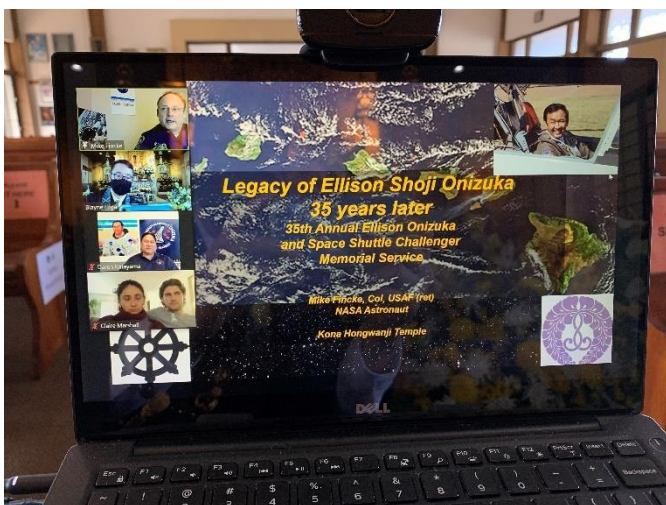
We rang out the old year with a COVID-safe drop-in bell ringing. Mahalo to everyone who came by to celebrate the transition from one year to the next.

## Hoonko Candlelight Service



On January 16<sup>th</sup> Rev. Candice Shibata of the Buddhist Church of Stockton was our guest speaker for our virtual Hoonko Candlelight Service. She shared a wonderful reflection on how Shinran's life and teaching offers comfort and hope.

## 35th Annual Ellison Onizuka and Space Shuttle Challenger Memorial Service



On January 24<sup>th</sup> our special guest was NASA Astronaut E. Michael "Mike" Fincke who shared about his appreciation for Ellison Onizuka's legacy and his own experiences as an astronaut. We were so grateful to Col. Fincke for being so generous with his time and for the many members of the Onizuka family for joining us at this annual remembrance service.

**The Hill We Climb**  
**By Amanda Gorman**  
**National Youth Poet Laureate**

When day comes we ask ourselves,  
where can we find light in this never-ending shade?  
The loss we carry,  
a sea we must wade.  
We've braved the belly of the beast,  
We've learned that quiet isn't always peace,  
and the norms and notions  
of what just is  
isn't always just-ice.  
And yet the dawn is ours  
before we knew it.  
Somehow we do it.  
Somehow we've weathered and witnessed  
a nation that isn't broken,  
but simply unfinished.  
We the successors of a country and a time  
where a skinny Black girl  
descended from slaves and raised by a single mother  
can dream of becoming president  
only to find herself reciting for one.  
And yes we are far from polished.  
Far from pristine.  
But that doesn't mean we are  
striving to form a union that is perfect.  
We are striving to forge a union with purpose,  
to compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and  
conditions of man.  
And so we lift our gazes not to what stands between us,  
but what stands before us.  
We close the divide because we know, to put our future first,  
we must first put our differences aside.  
We lay down our arms  
so we can reach out our arms  
to one another.  
We seek harm to none and harmony for all.  
Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true,  
that even as we grieved, we grew,  
that even as we hurt, we hoped,  
that even as we tired, we tried,  
that we'll forever be tied together, victorious.  
Not because we will never again know defeat,  
but because we will never again sow division.  
Scripture tells us to envision  
that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree  
and no one shall make them afraid.  
If we're to live up to our own time,  
then victory won't lie in the blade.  
But in all the bridges we've made,  
that is the promise to glade,  
the hill we climb.  
If only we dare.  
It's because being American is more than a pride we inherit,  
it's the past we step into  
and how we repair it.  
We've seen a force that would shatter our nation  
rather than share it.  
Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy.  
And this effort very nearly succeeded.

But while democracy can be periodically delayed,  
it can never be permanently defeated.  
In this truth,  
in this faith we trust.  
For while we have our eyes on the future,  
history has its eyes on us.  
This is the era of just redemption  
we feared at its inception.  
We did not feel prepared to be the heirs  
of such a terrifying hour  
but within it we found the power  
to author a new chapter.  
To offer hope and laughter to ourselves.  
So while once we asked,  
how could we possibly prevail over catastrophe?  
Now we assert,  
How could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?  
We will not march back to what was,  
but move to what shall be.  
A country that is bruised but whole,  
benevolent but bold,  
fierce and free.  
We will not be turned around  
or interrupted by intimidation,  
because we know our inaction and inertia  
will be the inheritance of the next generation.  
Our blunders become their burdens.  
But one thing is certain,  
If we merge mercy with might,  
and might with right,  
then love becomes our legacy,  
and change our children's birthright.  
So let us leave behind a country  
better than the one we were left with.  
Every breath from my bronze-pounded chest,  
we will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one.  
We will rise from the gold-limbed hills of the west.  
We will rise from the windswept northeast,  
where our forefathers first realized revolution.  
We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the midwestern states.  
We will rise from the sunbaked south.  
We will rebuild, reconcile and recover.  
And every known nook of our nation and  
every corner called our country,  
our people diverse and beautiful will emerge,  
battered and beautiful.  
When day comes we step out of the shade,  
aflame and unafraid,  
the new dawn blooms as we free it.  
For there is always light,  
if only we're brave enough to see it.  
If only we're brave enough to be it.

Amanda Gorman is the National Youth Poet Laureate and the youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history. Watch her recite her poem at the Presidential Inauguration on January 20, 2021. <https://youtu.be/LZ055illiN4>



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—January 2021

### HAKASOJI and NOKOTSUDO

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Sasaki	Bessie Kakizoe	Anonymous
Mr. & Mrs. Pedro Poentis		
Total - \$175.46		

### CAPITAL FUND & HAWAII KYODAN DUES

Mr. & Mrs. Russell Everett	Annette Green
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### BODHI DAY

Mr. & Mrs Keith Hayama	Mr. & Mrs. Sadayuki Inouye	Anonymous
Mr. & Mrs. Burt Kamigaki	Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko	Hisako Hirai
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Maeda	Mr. & Mrs. Bert Maedo	Alan Matsumoto
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Oshiro	Mr. & Mrs. George Shimamoto	Ann Matsumoto
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Takeoka	Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue	Sandy Iwashita
Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue	Mr. & Mrs. George Nakamoto	Lisa Fry
Satsuko Matsuoka	Michitoshi Murakami	Chizu Nakashima
Ellen Nishikawa	Doris Yamamoto	
Total - \$760.00		

### SPECIAL DONATIONS

Claudia Chang, In memory of Dale Aoki

Joyce Kudamatsu, In memory of Milton "Togo" Miyazono

Masae Okamoto, In memory of Frank & Wayne Okamoto's birthdays

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Tokunaga, In memory of Jack & Misae Tokunaga

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Tokunaga, In memory of Jutaro & Hina Yanaga

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Kaku, In memory of Tadashi & Yumiko Kaku

Cheryl Marshall, In memory of George Matsuoka's 1 year memorial

Mr. & Mrs. Deron Matsuoka, In memory of George Matsuoka's 1 year memorial

Mr. & Mrs. Claude Onizuka, In memory of George Matsuoka's 1 year memorial

Mr. & Mrs. Earl Ogata, In memory of Kaoru & Hisako Ogata

Shigeko Yonemori, In memory of Nisuke Kawasaki & family, Kimiko Yonemori

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko, Sunday Service

Suisan Company, LTD, Company Blessing

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko, Sunday Service

Suisan Company, LTD, Company Blessing

Anonymous, Bell Ringing

Mr. & Mrs. Kaoru Uyeda, Jiho

Elaine Kawasaki, Jiho

William Kawasaki, Jiho

***Mahalo for your generous donations!***  
***Please let us know if there are any corrections.***

**Acknowledgements continued:**

Alan Matsumoto & Family, Glenn Matsumoto's 1 year Memorial Service

Shirley Matsuoka & Family, George Matsuoka's 1 year Memorial Service

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Fujino	Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Kaneko	Annette Green
Mr. & Mrs. Daren Katayama	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Maeda	Joyce Kudamatsu
Mernal Miyasato-Crawford	Juergen Naggert & Family	Lori Marcello
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Takiue	Mr. & Mrs. John Tsue	Ruby Vaughn
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Yamauchi	Annette Saito & Family	Joycelyn Binney
Paauilo Hongwanji Mission	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gusman	Esther Jenkins
Anonymous	Satoru Odaira	Ray Takeguchi
Ellen Nishikawa		

Total - \$8,040.00

**MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY MARCH AND APRIL 2021**

**FIRST YEAR 2020**

4/27 Nakahara, Miles

**THIRD YEAR (2019)**

03/02	Sakamoto, Tsuneo "Charles"	04/09	Kunitomo, Stanley Mitsuo
04/18	Shiraki, Desiree Jade		

**SEVENTH YEAR (2015)**

02/16	Imai, Herbert Masao	02/23	Taniyama, Tomokichi
03/06	Kadooka, Sunao	03/18	Nakagawa, Tatsuyo
03/31	Ozaki, Florence Masako		

**THIRTEENTH YEAR (2009)**

02/08	Hayama, Ritsue	02/15	Sakamoto, Susumu
02/28	Tobara, Janet Noriko	03/15	Shiotsuka, Shinich
04/14	Kanai, Minnie Mitsue	04/19	Nakamura, Katsue

**SEVENTEENTH YEAR (2005)**

02/07	Tanaka, Gilbert Masanori	02/15	Nakamaru, Kaname
02/18	Hayashi, Tomio	02/28	Kuroyama, Kimie

**TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR (1997)**

02/02	Murata, Karen Kazuko	04/28	Ito, Yasue
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**THIRTY-THIRD YEAR (1989)**

03/03 Takashiba, Chiyoko

**FIFTIETH YEAR (1972)**

03/11	Ueda, Katsue	03/29	Fujino, Ine
04/11	Nishina, Tojiu		