

Information on O-Toba for 2024

Dear Members and Friends of Jodo Mission:

Thank you very much for your support to Jodo Mission. We hope you are enjoying a very safe and peaceful New Year. Time passes so quickly! It is time to order your O-Toba.

What is an O-Toba? An O-Toba is a long wooden memorial tablet with the name or names of your ancestors written to honor them. An O-Toba is a spiritual monument for the deceased. To dedicate an O-Toba is one of the greatest virtues for both living and the dead. It can be dedicated at any service but since O-Bon is a time when all the spirits come back to this world, an O-Toba during O-Bon is most appropriate and meaningful. During the 2023 O-Bon services in July we were able to have Hybrid O-Bon services—in person and virtual. This year 2024, we will again have Hybrid O-Bon Services and as summer gets closer, we will have updated information.



You should be receiving your 2024 O-Toba order form soon. We are still working on the 2024 forms. You will note that everything has been preprinted. Would you please look it over and confirm your address, telephone number, and deceased names on the O-toba. Any changes, would you please mark them directly on the form and return to Jodo Mission with your payment. If change is in Japanese, please provide the proper kanji as there may be many ways of writing kanji.

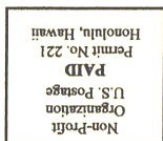


Because of the Temple's busy summer schedule, **the deadline to order your O-Toba is Friday, March 1st.** Our O-Bon services will be held on **July 19-21** (Fri-Sun).

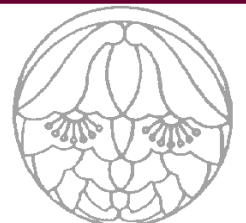
Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

In Gassho,

[See pg 4 for a longer definition of What is an O-Toba.]



Jodo Mission of Hawaii
1429 Makiki St.
Honolulu HI 96814
Address Service Requested



MESSAGE FROM BISHOP KOSEN ISHIKAWA

Dear Members and Friends,

It was truly shocking to learn about the earthquakes in the Noto Peninsula of Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, on New Year's Eve. As you know, it was New Year's Day in Japan, and we were about to welcome the new year soon in Hawaii. Amidst the happy occasion, devastating earthquakes occurred.



Some friends in both Hawaii and Japan kindly contacted me as Joetsu, my hometown was one of the "Tsunami high warning" areas. Fortunately, the tsunami didn't cause serious damage, and I found out that my parents were safe, although the temple received minor damages. I bring my condolences to all the victims of the earthquakes, and I cannot help but pray for them.

To my surprise, another tragedy had occurred on the following day. As you may know, a runaway collision occurred between a JAL and a Japan Coast Guard airplane. Though everyone on the JAL flight miraculously survived, five crew members of the Coast Guard died in the collision. They were on a relief mission to transport aid to the victims of the Noto Earthquakes. As of today, the earthquake has caused 232 deaths and 1,164 injuries. Aftershocks continued several times a day, with over 1,400 aftershocks in two weeks.

The fires in Maui last year and these earthquakes have taught us that many people could die suddenly anytime and anywhere without any forewarning. It's incredibly sad, but this is the reality we have to face. We may be quite powerless toward disasters, but we have to be strong to keep living. Natural disasters are not as rare as we tend to think; from the universe's viewpoint, they are constantly happening. If we don't encounter disasters around us, it simply means we are fortunate.

For example, consider meteorites. Meteors from outer space fall to Earth once every five minutes. Most burn before reaching the Earth, and since 70% of the Earth is ocean, they rarely hit people. This emphasizes that falling stones are natural, and the fact they don't hit people is a miracle. Similarly, lightning, storms, and earthquakes are always happening somewhere on this Earth. What a miracle that we are living! This is called "Arigato" in Japanese, and "Arigato" means more than "thank you." It's a sense of the miracle of life for which we are grateful.

Have you ever imagined how many people in Hawaii died in one year? How about births last year? According to the Hawai'i Health Data Warehouse, there were 13,307 deaths in Hawaii in 2022, whereas 15,507 babies were born. This means an average of 36 people died every day, and an average of 42 babies were born every day in Hawaii.

What about worldwide data? There were 61 million people who died in 2023, and 134 million babies were born last year. This means an average of 167,123 people die every day, and 367,123 babies are born every day in the world. Every moment is someone's birthday, and every moment is someone's memorial. There are always both happy and unhappy moments going on in this world. These miracles happen every day, at every

[Cont'd page 2 Bishop's message]

moment. Birth is a miracle, and death is also a miracle, as death can lead us to the pure land. This is why we encourage you to recite Nenbutsu all the time.

"Namu Amida Butsu" for now can benefit the future. "Namu Amida Butsu" for me can be for you. We are indeed quite powerless toward death, but we can be powerful with Nenbutsu. We can be strong with faith in Amida Buddha's original vow to save us all beyond time and place. The following is my New Year's poem based on my thoughts on the miracle.

In this vast world, rain pours and sunrays dance,
Night embraces somewhere, morning awakens elsewhere.
A soul enters life, another bids farewell.
Each day marks a birth, each day echoes a farewell.

Thus, we chant Namu Amida Butsu at this very moment,
A lifelong melody, resonating for the future.
Namu Amida Butsu, a prayer for now, a gift for later.
It benefits me, you, and anyone.

Namu Amida Butsu, a symphony of life,
A miracle word of love that transcends time and space.
Its blessings ripple for all, boundless and enduring.
Namu Amida Butsu, Namu Amida Butsu.
Arigato for now and Arigato for the future.

Gassho,

Bishop Kosen Ishikawa

Ozoni for First Family service on January 14th



Those who attended the first Family Service Sunday January 14th were treated to Ozoni prepared by the Sunday School Mothers..

Buddha's Memorial Day Service (Nehan-e) **Sunday, February 11th at 10 a.m.**

Nehan-e is the Memorial Day Service for Shakyamuni Buddha. He is the founder of Buddhism. He passed away at the age of 80 about 2500 years ago on February 15.



“Nehan” is “Nirvana” in Sanskrit. “Nirvana” means the state of things after a fire has been put out. In other words, it means that Shakyamuni Buddha put out the fire of bad things human beings have in their minds; such as, anger, confusion, sorrow and so on. Then, he completely reached Enlightenment on that day. It is said that Shakyamuni Buddha achieved Enlightenment at the age of 35 and then spent the rest of his life teaching his wisdom throughout much of northern India. After nearly 45 years of lecturing, he and a number of his loyal disciples journeyed toward the place of his birth. During this journey, Buddha experienced much pain from his illness and knew his time on earth was coming to an end but still continued to his birthplace. When his pain became unbearable and he had to stop moving, his disciples prepared a bed for him under a sala tree where he could rest. He still continued to preach his sermons and told his disciples that they must continue to practice his teachings and strive for enlightenment.

Thanks to Shakyamuni Buddha, we can live with his wonderful teachings. Shall we express our great appreciation to Shakyamuni Buddha on this Nehan Service. **The service will be held on Sunday, February 11th at 10:00 am. Service may be “hybrid virtual”.** We look forward to your attendance and look for Zoom or YouTube link. *Thank you.*

What is an O-Toba? It is a long wooden memorial tablet with name(s) of the deceased or ancestors.

The formal name of O-Toba is “Sotoba(卒塔婆)” in Japanese which was a transcription of a Sanskrit word “Stupa.” As is often the case with Buddhist terms in Sanskrit, from Chinese to Japanese didn’t translate this word and just transcribed the sound. The word “Sotoba” became shortened as “Toba”. As you may know, “O” in Japanese means “big.” Thus O-Toba literally means “Big Toba.” There are other sizes called “Chu-Toba =medium size Toba” and “Ko-Toba-smaller size Toba.”



Originally, Stupa is a Buddhist tower or pagoda where people enshrined sacred relics of the Buddha. To dedicate Stupa has been believed to be one of the greatest virtues for both deceased and donors. There are many types of stupas such as 180 feet five-story pagoda and 1 foot tablet but generally the size of stupas got smaller and cheaper so that many people can dedicate easily. Japanese Buddhists dedicate Toba at the time of memorial services or special services. Here in Hawaii, O-Toba during O-Bon is well-known since all the spirits of the deceased return to this world. In order to welcome them as portable monuments, we dedicate the O-Toba.

Lahaina Jodo Mission—Jodo Mission of Hawaii is still accepting checks made to Lahaina Jodo Mission. If you wish to contribute to Lahaina Jodo Mission’s task of rebuilding the temple, pagoda for housing the Columbarium or Nokotsudo, rebuilding the minister’s residence, please send your checks payable to Lahaina Jodo Mission and mail it to Jodo Mission of Hawaii (1429 Makiki Street, Honolulu, HI 96814), and we will forward it to Lahaina Jodo Mission. Thank you.

Hinamatsuri Dolls on Display & Blessing Service

March 3 is known as Girl's Day or "Hinamatsuri" which is a celebration for all girls. By displaying Hina dolls, we wish girls good health and growth. Mrs. Yayoi Ishikawa will display and share her family's traditional Hina Dolls from Japan from February 20th to March 4th in the Hon-do. These dolls are very delicate and fragile, and we ask that you please do not touch or lift any dolls. We



appreciate Mrs. Ishikawa sharing these beautiful dolls for everyone to enjoy so please come and see them. **Blessing service with picture-taking for children is also available.** For reservation, please contact temple office at (808) 949-3995.

Open Letter to All Honolulu Jodo Shu Fujinkai Members

This is our Fujinkai ladies. They are the hardworking ladies who come to meetings each month. We are saddened we lost Mrs. Karimoto this year (she is in the middle on front row). She was 100 yrs old.

Calling all other ladies of the Honolulu Jodo Shu Fujinkai please come and join us. We are having our General Membership meeting on **Sunday, February 25th at 10:45 am and at 11:30 am**, we will have our first New Year's Party in three years. We would love to see everyone. If you have not joined yet, please come All we ask is that you RSVP by calling temple office (808) 949-3995 for headcount. The New Year's Party will be fun with games and prizes. Thank you.



2023 General Membership Meeting (missing is Christine Inouye)

Hawaii Jodo Shu Rengo Fujinkai Scholarship -Namiye Nakamura Scholarship

The Hawaii Jodo Shu Rengo Fujinkai offers a **\$1,000 Namiye Nakamura Scholarship** to a Hawaii high school graduate or a member of the temple who wishes to further his/her education toward a degree or advanced degree in an accredited college, university or institution of higher learning.

Deadline to submit applications must be postmarked by **June 15, 2024 and sent to the State Fujinkai President on Maui.** The family or legal guardian of the applicant must be a member of his/her respective Jodo Mission.

For more information, please call temple office at (808) 949-3995 for application, criteria for scholarship, etc.



What is Perpetual Memorial Service (Eitaikyo)

When the date of death of a deceased occurs, ministers do prayers on this anniversary date each year. Prayer services are held each day at 9:30 am (times may change due to scheduling). This perpetual memorial service is called *Eitaikyo* in Japanese.

Please contact temple office if you are interested..

Notice to Nokotsudo Visitors

(Sometimes referred to as the Niche rooms)

Many people call to see if the Nokotsudo/Columbarium (or sometimes known as Niche rooms) are open. We let people in if you come and ring the blue bell. **We recommend you wear a mask, use the hand sanitizer going in and coming out and go home and wash your hands with soap.** No more than 4 people at a time, with social distancing.

New Hours: 10 am to 5 pm Mon to Sat
12 pm to 3 pm Sunday*

REMINDERS

Gojikai or Membership—\$80.00 per year

Persons of the same family but living separately should have their own membership

Niche owners should continue their Membership or Gojikai each year (Gojikai is paid only once each year).

AND

Maintenance donation \$5.00 per year per niche

Become a Jodo Mission Member!

If you're coming to services, volunteers at events, and/or donates to the temple, please become a Jodo Mission member for \$80 a year!

Memorial Years Observed

1 st year	2023
3 rd year	2022
7 th year	2018
13 th year	2012
17 th year	2008
23 rd year	2002
25 th year	2000
27 th year	1998
33 rd year	1992
37 th year	1988
43 rd year	1982
47 th year	1978
50 th year	1975
100 th year	1925

Email Monthly Bulletin—Please

advise if you wish to have your monthly bulletin via email instead of U.S. mail.

Please also keep Jodo Mission advised of your current address & phone number.

Mail forwarded adds additional costs. Thank you

お知らせ

2023年より年間護持会費、又はメンバーシップ費が一世帯につき1年間で80ドルへと変更になります。(お住まいの家族世帯が別の場合は個々にメンバーシップが必要となります。)

また、納骨堂(ニッチ)内に納骨棚を所有の方は、護寺会費とは別途、5ドルの年間管理費をお納めください。

皆様にはご負担をおかけしますが、ご理解ご協力のほどよろしくお願い致します。 合掌



Bishop Kosen Ishikawa



Rev. Myoko Takano
Resident Minister



Rev. Takaaki Kouken
Tanabe
Resident Minister

Jodo Mission Office Hours:

[New Covid Hours]

Monday to Saturday
10am—5pm
Sunday & Holidays
10am—3pm

Phone: (808) 949-3995

Website: www.jodo.us

Perpetual Memorial Service (Eitaikyo) For February

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>1. Itaro Yanagihara
The Yanagihara Family
Kisaburo Teraoka
The Teraoka Family
The Mitani Family
Sumako Kishii (2)
Chikara Kaya</p> | <p>Yoshiteru Sakaguchi
Miyono Shimoda
Kimio Itagaki</p> | <p>Reiko Hata
Alfred Akira Tanaka
Frederick Kinzaburo
Makino</p> | <p>26 Jirosaku Otani
The Otani & Yanagihara
Family
Shiro Fukuda
Richard Kiyomi Ochiai
Robert Bobby Mitsuyasu
Stanley Ryosei Matayoshi</p> |
| <p>2 Kuma Kawamura
The Kawamura Family
Robert Hiroshi Yamanaka
Dorothy Mieko Oshita
Hideo Takamatsu
Yasuko Tanaka
Sueyo Nakamura</p> | <p>10 Satomi Yamamoto
The Yamamoto Family
Kame Uyehara
The Uyehara Family
Michie Watanabe
Jimmy Nestegard
Chiyo Tanaka
J Jackson Miiyagawa</p> | <p>18 Reiji Yamane
The Yamane & Harada
Family
Tsutako Yamanaka
The Yamanaka Family
Matsuyo Machida
Otome Takara
Tomiko "Ruth" Inouye
Cory Ikuta
Masae Matsumoto</p> | <p>27 Taichi Wakaki
The Wakaki Family
Keiko Hanano
Noboru Hirano
Shigeru Takara
Tatsuiki Hirano
Matsuye Hirano
Keiji Kokubun
The Aoki & Hirano Family</p> |
| <p>3 Rymond Hisashi Narahara
Ayame Kano
Hazel Mitsuko Imai</p> | <p>11 Minekichi Taniguchi
The Taniguchi Family
Tsuneko Nago
The Nago & Kunimoto
Family
Rev. Shuen Inouye
Townsend
Sue Nishimoto (2)
Noboru Yamasaki
Kameyo Fujita
Hisae Yamato
Yoko Saito</p> | <p>19 Chozo Kawano
The Kawano Family
Eijiro Murakami
The Murakami &
Yamamoto Family
Ishi Matsuda
Eijiro Murakami
The Murakami Family
Tsukiko Kamimura</p> | <p>28 Fukuichi Fukuda
Mitsuyo Gladys Yoshiwara
The Goichi Kawamura
Family
Tsuru Kuniyuki</p> |
| <p>4 Kii Hirohama
The Hirohama Family
Kiyoe Soma
Robert Takashi Maehara</p> | <p>12 Sumie Kanayama
The Kanayama Family
Bishop Shinkyo Tachikawa
Doris Umeno Nojima
Yoshihiro Hata</p> | <p>20 Ryoza Hamada
The Hamada Family
Magoichi Mineishi
The Mineishi Family
Taro Takara
Tomoyo Takara
Kimie Matsuda
Suye Takabayashi
Natsuko Aoki
The Takara Family
Miyako Amano</p> | <p>29 Nobue Kochi</p> |
| <p>5 Hatsu Konaka
The Yano, Konaka &
Hayashi Family
Gorokichi Ishida
The Ishida and Aimoto
Family
Misao Mitsuyasu
The Mitsuyasu Family
Masaharu Kotake
Tsugio Hayase
Shigeyo Kawano
Harumi Mayeda
Sumiko Sakaguchi
George Kenso Hamasaki
Kameko Umemoto</p> | <p>13 Torajiro Kusunoki
The Kusunoki Family
Ichiro Yasumoto
Fusakichi Kawanishi
Haruyo Tarumoto
Seijiro Takabayashi</p> | <p>21 Tamotsu Kuniyuki
Momoyo Yoshida
Kikue W. Awaya</p> | |
| <p>6 Matsuemon Tanimura (2)
The Tanimura Family (2)
The Sawaichi Nakagawa
Family
Kimi Higashi
Misae Ichida
Bunji Kishii (2)
Umeyo Yamamoto
Dr. Yasuhiko Hayashi
Patrick Seiji Yamamoto
Richard Jentoku Takara</p> | <p>14 Hajime Nishimoto
The Nishimoto Family
Kensuke Hironaka
The Hironaka & Ishimoto
Family
Sae Tachikawa
Hiroshi Sato
Raymond Shizuo Asaumi
Shigeyo Otani
Takeji Gushikuma
Matsu Kiyuna
George Satoshi
Tarumoto (2)
Kikuye Homareda
Eleanor Emiko Nishimura</p> | <p>22 Yoshi Hayashi
The Yano, Konaka &
Hayashi Family
Kinu Nishimura (2)</p> | |
| <p>7 Namiye Nakamura
Tsugi Hifumi
Yoshizo Muramoto
Byron T. Shimotsukasa</p> | <p>15 Fred Kiyoshi Tsukiyama
Otake Takara</p> | <p>23 Taichi Sato
Tsutae Tanimura</p> | |
| <p>8 Toshio Higa
The Higa Family
Yukie Higashi
Tame Ito
Stella Masako Takamatsu</p> | <p>16 Shigeru Asaumi
The Asaumi Family
Yukio Nakagawa
Motoo Muramoto</p> | <p>24 Kame Akamine
The Akamine Family
Kikuno Hisamura
Kamesuke Nakahama
Peggy Takiko Yanagihara</p> | |
| <p>9 Haruyo Yanagihara
The Yanagihara Family
Minoru Okawa
The Okawa Family
Kishichi Yoshikawa
Kimie Tanaka</p> | <p>17 Masuyo Shimokawa
The Shimokawa Family
Kinzaburo Makino
The Makino Family
Kazuyo Hashimoto
Choshiro Ikuta
Tsuchiyo Fujimoto</p> | <p>25 Sue Maeda
The Maeda Family
Shinichi Takao
The Takao Family
Takayo Matsuo
The Matsuo Family
Shigeki Umemoto
The Yoza Family
The Shimabukuro Family
Tamotsu Nakamura
Florence Kimie Karimoto
Les Takemi Kinoshita
Hisaji Hadano</p> | |

Obituaries

The Jodo Mission of Hawaii extends its sincere condolences to the family members and loved ones of the following members who have recently left this world for the Pure Land.

Genmo Hara 91

9:30am Morning Service Everyday

Note: Time may change due to
Schedule

February 2024

Jodo Mission of Hawaii
Phone: 949-3995
Website: www.jodo.us

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Jodo Shu Calendar for February 2024: Thinking of those who have passed and putting your hands together each day can bring you peace of mind.</p>						
4 8:30 am Fujinkai Mtg 10:00am Sunday Service	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 8:30 am Board Mtg 10:00am Nehan-e Family Service	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 10:00 am Sunday Service	19 6:00 pm HBC Meeting @ Soto Mission	20	21	22	23	24
25 10:00 Sunday Service 10:45am Fujinkai General Membership Mtg & New Year's Party	26	27	28	29		

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COMING EVENTS:

- Deadline for O-Toba Orders: March 1
- Spring Higan Service: March 17 @ 10 am
- Free showing of "Carving the Devine" - March 9 @ 1-3 pm
- Youth Retreat: To be Announced

Fujinkai: 2/4 @ 8:30 am Mtg
 2/25a @ 10:45 General Membership Meeting & New Year's Party

Sunday School: Will join family service on **February 11 @ 10 am**

Sewing Circle: 8:00–11:30 am
 Saturday: 2/3 & 2/17

Bazaar Donations will be accepted. Kindly call temple office at (808) 949-3995, if you have donations. *Thank you*

Senior YBA: No meeting

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Membership Dues (Gojikai) REMINDER: Please pay your membership dues (\$80), If you did not pay for 2023, and would like to pay for 2023 and 2024, please do so by making your check payable to **Jodo Mission of Hawaii** (mail to 1429 Makiki Street, Honolulu, HI 96814). You may also include your niche maintenance donation. *Thank you.*