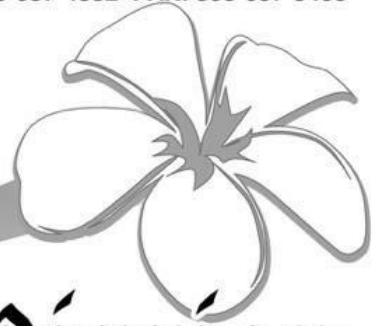
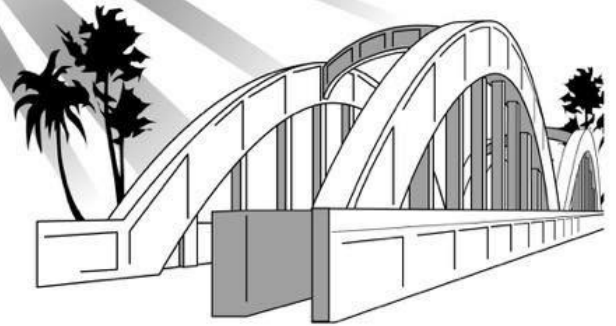
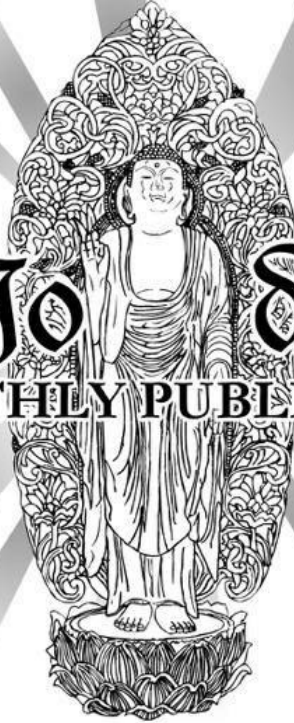


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# Haleiwa Jodo Mission

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



MARCH 2024

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HALEIWA JODO MISSION



# HALEIWA JODO MISSION

MARCH, 2024



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## *HIGAN FAMILY SERVICE*

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024

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## *ZOOM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING*

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024

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## *KOKUA DAY*

9:00 AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

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## *YOUTH RETREAT*

HALEIWA AND HONOLULU SUNDAY SCHOOLS  
WILL HAVE A JOINT SERVICE IN HONOLULU  
SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

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## *BON DANCE PRACTICE*

7:00 PM

THURSDAYS, MARCH 7, 14, 21, & 28

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### SERMON AT THE NEHAN SERVICE

Rev. Koji Jeff Ezaki

Resident Minister of Haleiwa Jodo Mission

Good morning, everyone. Time is flying by so fast. The first month of 2024 has passed and today we are in February already! It feels like just yesterday that we greeted the New Year by saying "Happy New Year," but it was a month ago. Now that we are in February, we are gathered here for the Nehan Family Service, which is the memorial service for Shakyamuni Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. Shakyamuni founded Buddhism 2,500 years ago in India. Buddhism was born in India and has spread all over the world. Buddhism arrived in Japan 1,500 years ago. The teaching was introduced to Hawaii by Japanese Buddhist ministers much later, 150 years ago. Let's study the Buddhism that Shakyamuni Buddha left us.

We humans, though not only humans but all creatures in this world, live by following the law of the universe. "The law of the universe." These are important words. Do you know what the law of the universe is? The law of the universe is what happens around us naturally, every day, usually, and reasonably. For example, the Earth orbits around the Sun. The Sun rises from the east and sets in the west. One year is 365 days, and one day is 24 hours. Flowers bloom and birds fly. Does anybody object to these facts? Does anyone hate that the sun sets in the west? I don't think anyone would complain about the law of the universe because we cannot control it. Whatever happens around us is caused by the law of the universe. We should accept the law of the universe and must not complain about it. This is the teaching of Buddha. Buddha said we cannot control the four sufferings: birth, old age, sickness, and death, because they are a part of the law of the universe. We

all become old, someday we will get sick, and eventually, we will die. We cannot escape from them. We know we should not complain about the law of the universe, but we often grumble about old age, sickness, and death even though we cannot control them. If you try to turn away from sickness, it will cause suffering. If you accept sickness itself, you will be released from suffering from old age and death as well. That's Buddha's teaching.

Everybody may know the term, "what goes around comes around." This means what you do or try will someday come back to you. Do you agree? This is also the law of the universe. This is not my own idea. For example, if you love others, you will be loved by others. If you take good care of others, you will be taken good care of by others. If you hate others, you will be hated by others. If you abuse others, you will be abused by others. The law of the universe is very simple. Then, I will ask you, which comes first, you do something or something is done to you? My question is do you love others first or are you loved by others first? The answer is you do something first. In this case, you love first, then, something, love, comes back to you later. You take good care of others, others in return will take good care of you. The law of the universe is simple and understandable. However, there are many people who do not understand this simple law. I sometimes hear someone complain and be upset saying, "He is very unkind!" or "Her attitude was so nasty." This person may not realize he is actually unkind to others. He was unkind to others, and that is why unkind happenings came back to him. If you complain, the complaint comes back to you. If you abuse others, abuse returns to you. Dissatisfaction, grumbling, and displeasure, all come back to you if you give them to others. Guaranteed! Sometimes they return to you more than you did.

Next, I would like to refer to the concept of what goes around comes around to appreciation and thankfulness. As I said, according to the law of the universe, if you thank others, you will be thanked by others. Which is the first? Do you thank others first or will you be thanked by others first? Yes, you thank first, definitely! We, however, always say "thank you" when we receive something from someone. When you are taken good care of by others you say, "I appreciate it." Referring to the law of the universe, it is the opposite. You should say "Thank you" first. But someone might say, "Why do I have to say thank you even though I never received anything?!" Is this the right idea from the law of the universe? Because you thank everything around you first, unconditionally, more examples of thankfulness happen around you. That's why a positive person becomes more happy, and a negative person becomes more unhappy. Act positively and receive positive results. Act negatively and receive negative results. The most important thing is to "appreciate

first." Then, what should we do to receive good results in our daily lives? That is, right after you wake up you must appreciate that you welcomed the day. You must show gratitude for your life when you first get up from your bed. The moment you wake up, expressing gratitude will result in good things happening to you in your day. If you say thank you right after you wake up, you may expect and wonder what kind of good luck will fall on you and you will be able to spend your day with excitement. Say thank you anyway before you receive good luck. That is a positive way of life.

When I worked at a company in Japan, I heard such a story. A small company suffered because they had lost their president. The wife who lost her husband had to take over the company, but she didn't know about the business. Her husband did everything when he was living. She was in trouble. She had several employees and had to keep the business running otherwise they would lose their jobs. What she did was visit all the clients, customers, connections, and just said thank you. She just showed appreciation as she visited everyone. That was the only thing she could do. Then, do you know what happened? All the clients, customers, and business connections started to support her, and the company came out of the crisis. At the same time, seeing the president's humble attitude and always being thankful to others, the employees worked hard together and overcame the hardship. People want to associate with a thankful person. In order to be a person who is thanked by others, one should thank others first, unconditionally. Buddha said association with fools is painful and happy is association with the wise. Who is the wise? Yes, the person who knows the law of the universe. The person who thanks everything around him. We feel comfortable when we stay with a wise person. People gather around the wise. That is also the law of the universe. To be a thankful person, you should continue saying "thank you" anytime and anywhere. Let us appreciate our life, embrace each other, and practice Buddha's teaching.

Today, we are gathered for the Nehan Family Service which is the memorial service for Shakyamuni Buddha. He left with us the teaching of The Eight-Fold Path that we read today. Shakyamuni said we must practice these teachings because these teachings are the law of the universe. If you practice the law of the universe, yes, we surely learn what goes around comes around. To live a happy life, we must thank everything first, from you! If you realize this, you will understand the teachings and be one step closer to enlightenment.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### MEMBERSHIP DUES (2024)

Glenn Matsumoto	Kenneth Masatsugu
Diane Koga	Joshua Choi
Etsuko Morikawa	Annette Koga
Linda Seyler	Katherine Fujii
David Dicion (new member)	
Jane Sakai (2022, 2003, & 2024)	

### MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Grace Iwane  
(In memory of Ernest Iwane)  
Conrad Kozawa  
(In memory of Itaka Kozawa)

### OMAMORI DONATIONS

Katherine Fujii

### OTHER DONATIONS

Jeannette Nakata

### GYOKI FAMILY SERVICE

Myra Shiratori

### NEHAN FAMILY SERVICE

Keith Yamauchi	Grace Iwane
Mae Yorimoto	Sheri Yamauchi
Dennis Nakamura	Shinae Sakai
Jennifer Pang	Kenneth Masatsugu
David Koizumi	Nadine Matsukawa
David Dicion	Myra Siratori

### MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MONTH OF MARCH

7 <sup>th</sup> YEAR	SUGINO, YUKIKO MARCH 24, 2018
	KOGA, AKIO MARCH 30, 2018
23 <sup>rd</sup> YEAR	EBISUI, REYNOLD MARCH 16, 2002
27 <sup>th</sup> YEAR	SAKAI, ASAKO MARCH 8, 1998

### HAWAII STATE JODO SHU FUJINKAI SCHOLARSHIP NAMIYE NAKAMURA SCHOLARSHIP

The Hawaii State Jodo Shu 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.

If there are any questions about the scholarship or scholarship application forms, please consult Rev. Ezaki at (808)-637-4382.

## TREASURER'S NOTE

Please bring your membership dues up to date. The membership fee covers a wedded couple. We are accepting dues for 2024 as well as past year(s) dues for those who haven't yet paid. Annual membership is \$50.00. If you have any questions about your membership, please call Rev. Ezaki at 808-637-4382.

### PATIO RESERVATIONS

If you want to use the patio for your party in 2024, please make your plans quickly and make a reservation as early as possible. The season from May to August is especially popular for parties. Because Haleiwa Jodo Mission will observe the Obon Festival in July this year, there will be limited time to use the patio this summer.

Only members who are currently active (participate in the Sunday Services, Kokua Day, Toro Making, Bon Festival, and so on) or have paid dues for at least the last three years can reserve the patio. The board does not allow people to become members for the sole purpose of reserving the patio.

### HIGAN FAMILY SERVICE IN MARCH

Higan is a day when the season changes from winter to spring. It is a good time to appreciate lives that we received from our ancestors. The service starts at 10:00 am on March 3, 2024. Lunch will be served. Please join us.

### PET MEMORIAL

Haleiwa Jodo Mission prays for your beloved pets who were one of your family members. You can choose a shelf-urn burial or a communal burial with different types of nameplates, depending on your donation amount. Even if you keep the ashes of your pets in your home, bury them in your family grave or niches, or scatter them in your yard, you can still memorialize your pets by ordering a name plate to be placed on our Pet Memorial.

### NORTH SHORE FOOD BANK

Donations of blankets and towels to the North Shore Food Bank will be highly appreciated. The North Shore Food Bank wants to distribute these items to homeless people. Please call Rev. Ezaki at (808)-637-4382 to make an appointment if you will be able to drop off your donations.