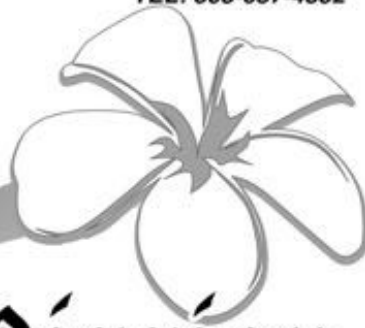
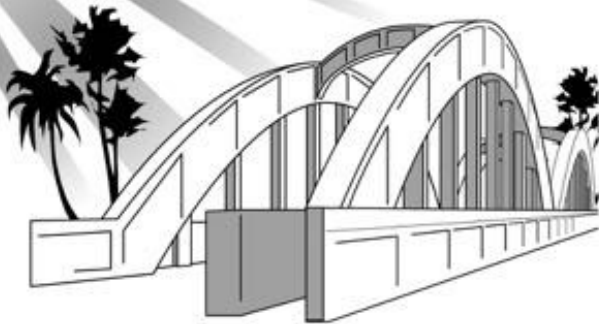


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Haleiwa Jodo Mission

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



JUNE 2024

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HALEIWA JODO MISSION



HALEIWA JODO MISSION

JUNE, 2024



WAIALUA-HALEIWA BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION CEMETERY SERVICES

8:00 AM
SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2024
START AT KEMOO CEMETERY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

10:00 AM
SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024

KOKUA DAY

9:00 AM
SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024

BON DANCE PRACTICE

7:00 PM
THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 13, 20, & 27, 2024

SERMON FOR FAMILY SERVICE

ON MAY 5, 2024

Rev. Koji Jeff Ezaki
Minister of the Haleiwa Jodo Mission

Good morning, everyone. Today is May 5, 2024, and we are observing May's Family Service. As you noticed when you arrived this morning, there are many *koinobori* or carp streamers hanging on the temple grounds. May 5 is Boy's Day in Japan to celebrate boys' well-being. There is an expression "*Koino takinobori*" in Japanese which means a carp climbs up a waterfall, just like salmon in Alaska go up the river against the current. It is said that when a carp climbs up the waterfall, it becomes a dragon. One of the Pokemon characters, Koiking, evolves into Garados. Koiking is a carp and Garados is a dragon. Even in the cartoon, it depicts the carp changing its features to the dragon. That is the reason Japanese display *koinobori* in their yards to wish for children's health and development.

Today, I am going to share with you a story about one of Shakyamuni Buddha's disciples,

Angulimala. Angulimala is a nickname that means "the collector of fingers." It may sound like a strange nickname to be given. His true name is Ahimsaka which means "No harming." The reason he was called Angulimala is he killed people and made a necklace with fingers from his victims. Originally, he was a pure person and followed Brahmanism. Brahmanism was an ancient religion in India before Buddhism. He earnestly studied Brahmanism under his Guru. However, his Guru taught him the wrong doctrine and led him in the wrong direction. His Guru told him that if he kills 1,000 people he will enter Heaven. Believing that Ahimsaka, hiding in the forest, attacked people one after the other, who strolled through the forest path. The villagers were scared of him and called him Angulimala. He attacked groups of 20 to 30 people with ease, and even those who had security guards with them. As a bandit, Angulimala roamed the forest, took the life of every person he encountered, and collected fingers to make a necklace.

One day, Shakyamuni Buddha visited a village near the forest where Angulimala was hiding. The

villagers advised him not to go through the forest because there was a violent bandit waiting for his next victim. At that time, Angulimala already had 999 fingers around his neck. The next person would be his 1,000th and final one to achieve his goal. At the same time, Angulimala's mother who was really worried about him, went looking for her son in this village. Knowing that, Shakyamuni decided to enter the forest because Angulimala's mother would likely be the next victim. Angulimala was so desperately searching for the final person to confront, he might have killed his own mother without realizing it. When Shakyamuni entered the forest, Angulimala saw the monk walking. Brandishing a sword, Angulimala ran and attacked Shakyamuni Buddha. Angulimala sprinted after the Buddha and tried to catch up to the Buddha. However, even though he was very fast and the Buddha seemed to be walking, no matter how quickly he ran, he couldn't reach Shakyamuni Buddha. I quoted the scene when Shakyamuni and Angulimala fought each other. Please look at the handout.

Finally, Angulimala shouted, "Stop! Stop moving!" Shakyamuni replied, "I have stopped. It is you who have not stopped." Angulimala didn't understand. He asked, "Why do you say that you have stopped while I have not?" The Buddha replied, "I say that I have stopped because I have given up killing all beings. I have given up ill-treating or harming all living beings. I have cultivated love and patience through meditation. But you—you have not given up killing or ill-treating others, and you have not cultivated love and patience. Therefore, you are the one who has not stopped." These words penetrated the fog of Angulimala's mind and calmed his rage. He thought, "This man is wise and brave. He must be the Awakened One. He must have come here just to help me!" Angulimala threw away his weapons and asked the Buddha to teach him meditation and wisdom. The Buddha agreed.

(Quotation from the Vipassana Research Institution)

In this quotation, Angulimala is talking about physical motion. He was running fast toward Shakyamuni but he never caught up to Shakyamuni and shouted "Stop. Stop!" But Shakyamuni answered with his inner motion in his mind, saying, "I have stopped and you have not." This story expresses our mind. We are not a killer or a bandit but we, humans, sometimes kill animals for our benefit or to destroy nature. You came here for the service but you might have run over small insects on the road. Or, you always feel I want this, I want that, with endless desires. You might tell lies to protect yourself or be angry, complain, or speak ill of others to please your own ego. Our mind is restless, going here and there covered with delusions. Angulimala realized that his mind was conquered by the wrong doctrine. His mind was always jumping to the next thing

through delusion. Guided by Shakyamuni Buddha, Angulimala understood that meeting a true Teacher like Shakyamuni Buddha was the right path to correct himself. From that moment, Angulimala cut his hair and became Shakyamuni's disciple. But because he killed 999 people in the forest, the villagers who lost their loved ones couldn't just forgive him and do nothing. I will share another passage on the handout which describes what happened to Angulimala after that.

Angulimala, once a terrible bandit who had killed many people, was saved by the Blessed One, and he became one of His disciples. One day he went begging for food in a town and endured much hardship and suffering for his past evil deeds. The villagers fell upon him and beat him severely, but he went back to the Blessed One with his body still bleeding, falling at His feet and thanking Him for the opportunity that had come to him to suffer for his former cruel deeds. He said, "Blessed One, my name originally was 'No Harming,' but because of my ignorance, I took many precious lives, and from each I took a finger, because of that, I came to be called Angulimala, the collector of fingers! Today, Blessed One, I have suffered only what was my due, I do not wish to live, I do not wish to die. I only wait for my time to come.

(Quotation from The Teaching of Buddha)

Angulimala was attacked cruelly by the villagers who threw rocks and mud at him, and was beaten with wooden sticks and weapons. At that moment, Shakyamuni advised Angulimala to acknowledge his actions, self-reflect sincerely, and make amends to purify himself. He was calm and accepted their anger. He was a very rare case of a person who killed many people that could become a disciple of Shakyamuni Buddha. We usually feel the person who kills or harms others cannot become enlightened. Rather we wish those people would go to Hell. He did a lot of bad deeds and harmed others but after he met Shakyamuni he reflected upon what he did and accepted social sanctions from the villagers. He corrected himself. There is another quotation of Shakyamuni's words on the handout. Please look at it.

Irrigators lead the waters;
fletchers bend the arrows;
carpenters bend the wood;
the wise control themselves.

(Dhammapada 80)

This passage says that you must correct and control yourself not to be conquered by delusions. Who is the wise? That is you. Everybody has the potential to become Angulimala because we all have delusions in our minds. Without stopping, our minds are always moving and jumping around. Stop desire, stop anger, stop hatred, and blow out your delusions like Angulimala.

TANAGYO HOUSE VISITS

Rev. Ezaki will start the *tanagyo* house visits in June. He will send you a reminder showing the date and time. Please contact Rev. Ezaki at 637-4382 if you would like to newly request or reschedule the *tanagyo* house visits.

FIRST SUNDAY OF JUNE & JULY

There will not be a Service on the first Sunday in June. We will have our annual Cemetery Services at Kemoo, Puuiki, and Kawaihoa Cemeteries on the first Sunday of June and will have our General Clean-up on the first Sunday of July. Because of both events, we will not have a Family Service until August.

2024 OBON PROJECT

The Board of Haleiwa Jodo Mission Buddhist Temple has decided to have our bon services, bon dances, and toro nagashi on July 26 and 27, 2024. We need physical help, especially, setting up the food booth tents and parking lot on July 25. Without your help, we cannot achieve this project. The board heartily asks for your help to succeed. Please help us.

General clean-up and Toro shelves building	July 7 at 9:00 am
Toro Making & Yagura set-up	July 20 at 9:00 am
Tenting & preparing food	July 25 at 4:00 pm
Beach clean-up & Yagura take-down	July 28 at 6:00 am

PET MEMORIAL

Haleiwa Jodo Mission prays for your beloved pets who were one of your family members. It is common practice to have one's beloved pets cremated after they pass on. However, many pet lovers do not know how they can enshrine their pets further to give them a final resting place. Rev. Ezaki created the Pet Memorial because he saw that many families keep the urns of their pets' ashes in their homes with no place to go.

PET MEMORIAL

Available to Members and Non-Members



With Love, We Remember

KOINOBORI CELEBRATION

Haleiwa Jodo Mission displayed 120 koinobori or carp streamers on the temple grounds for Boy's Day from April 30 to May 6, 2024. This project, called "Koinobori Celebration," was proposed state-wide by Bishop Kosen Ishikawa.



MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR MONTH OF JUNE

13 th YEAR	SUNADA, STACEY JUNE 15, 2012
17 th YEAR	ONIZUKA, HERBERT JUNE 2, 2008
23 rd YEAR	SAKAI, TOSHIKO JUNE 29, 2002

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MEMBERSHIP DUES (2024)

Inez Koga	Lynette Fujiyoshi
David Chee	Annette Koga
Melvin Muraoka	
Gordon Muraoka (2025 & 2026)	

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Wayne Miyake & Family (In memory of Wayne Miyake)
Richard Takeuchi (In memory of Eiji Takeuchi)

FAMILY SERVICE

David Koizumi	Sheri Yamauchi
Jennifer Pang	Kenneth Masatsugu
Dennis Nakamura	Nadine Matsukawa
Shinae Sakai	Joan Yamamoto
Grace Iwane	Keith Yamauchi

TORO ORDER FORMS

Rev. Ezaki mailed out 900 toro and toba order forms to members and non-members this year. Please turn in your orders as soon as possible. If you make a donation to the Once-a-month Church or ofuse to Rev. Ezaki, please make them separate checks from your toro orders.