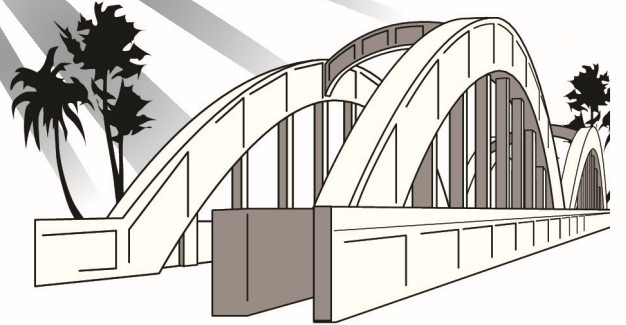
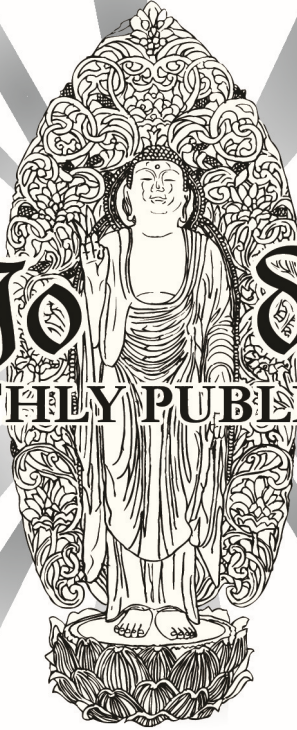


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Haleiwa Jodo Mission

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



NOVEMBER 2023

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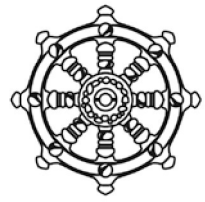
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HALEIWA JODO MISSION

NOVEMBER, 2023



JUYA SERVICE

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023

KOKUA DAY

9:00 AM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Melvin Fukuda (2024 & 2025)

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Nakata & Koga Family
(In memory of George Nakata)

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Calvin Kuniyama Ned Murata

HIGAN DONATIONS

Myra Shiratori

FAMILY SERVICE DONATIONS

Nadine Matsukawa Dennis Nakamura
Kenneth Masatsugu Melanie Matsui
David Koizumi Grace Iwane
Mae Yorimoto Donald Koga

BIRTHDAY DONATIONS

Rev. Kazuhide Takakura

PATIO DONATIONS

Shane Fujinaga

THANK YOU FROM EZAKI FAMILY

Thank you to the people who supported Tomomi while Rev. Ezaki was in Japan. Deep mahalo from the Ezaki Family.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER

7th YEAR

EBISUI, MASUMI
NOV. 11, 2017

TAMURA, TAKEKO
NOV. 30, 2017

13th YEAR

NAKAMURA, SETSUKO
NOV. 22, 2011

25th YEAR

TSUCHIDA, TOSHIYUKI
NOV. 8, 1999

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 though 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 order a nameplate of your pets for our Pet Memorial.

PET MEMORIAL

Available to Members and Non-Members



With Love, We Remember

SERMON AT THE FAMILY SERVICE

Rev. Koji Jeff Ezaki
Minister of Haleiwa Jodo Mission

As written in the past bulletin, I will be going to Japan with the Hawaii Jodo Mission tour groups this coming Thursday for eight days. We will be visiting Chionin Temple, the Jodo Shu Headquarters, in Kyoto to participate in the 850th Commemoration Service of the foundation of Jodo Shu. During the Japan trip, I will be taking the tour group to Osaka, my hometown, as a guide. As requested by the group members, we will stop by my brother's temple where I was born and raised. Unfortunately, my 90-year-old father is in a nursing home, but my mother, brother, and his wife are expected to be there to welcome the tour group when we visit. I am hoping to take many pictures and show them to you after I come back.

St. Honen, the Jodo Shu founder, established Jodo Shu in 1175. He was a great monk and had a lot of disciples. Many people came to his temple every day to listen to his guidance. The ruler in Japan at that time highly recognized St. Honen's many achievements and supported him. However, St. Honen always said that he was a *gudon*, meaning he was stupid or an idiot. He thought of himself as a stupid person, not a great teacher as everybody praised. St. Honen's view of himself was unusual because normally we don't despise or think low of ourselves. On the other hand, we, Americans, are taught to have high self-esteem or self-respect. In many situations, we must show our pride and arrogance or we will lose everything. Well, then why did St. Honen call himself *gudon* or stupid? I will now share stories with you about the idea of *gudon*.

Long ago, there lived an old couple in a small village. It was a very cold winter day. While the couple were seated in their room, they talked about the house next door. A similar-aged couple lived next door. The old man told his wife while looking at the neighbor's house, "See, sweetheart, that neighbor's house...the window is cracked, and the cold air is going inside the room. They must be cold. I wonder why they don't fix it. I know they have enough money. How stingy they are." His wife replied, "That's right, honey. We don't want to become misers like them." They both agreed, nodding their heads, as they watched their neighbor's house, through their own broken window.

This is actually a story told jokingly, but this implies that we can understand others' faults and weak points but don't understand ourselves at all. Strictly speaking, it's not that we don't see ourselves, but rather, we don't want to see ourselves. We try to avoid it because the person who knows your bad character best is yourself. Don't you think so? You know about yourself, that's why you avoid seeing your faults and try to hide them. We always criticize or

complain about others, blind to our own shortcomings by acting as if we are never wrong. What we really have to do, as Buddhists, is see ourselves inwardly, not point to other's faults or correct others. Accept yourself and face your negative mind. That is the true way to become happy.

Next, I will introduce another story. This is an essay written by a Japanese elementary school girl. The title is "Sorry, It's My Fault or *Gomennasai*."

'One day when I returned from school, my mother said to my brother, "I cracked your fishbowl that your goldfish was in. When I wiped your desk, my hand hit it and it dropped from your desk. I'm so sorry. It's my fault. *Gomennasai*." Then, my brother replied, "No, Mom. I put it on the edge of the desk after I fed the fish last night. Don't say sorry to me. It's my fault. *Gomennasai*." But, I remembered when my brother had put it on the edge of his desk last night, I thought it might fall. So I said to them, "I should have said something yesterday but I didn't. Sorry, it's my fault. *Gomennasai*." That night, my father came home from work and listened to all that had happened, and said, "*Gomennasai*. Sorry, it's my fault because I should have bought a square fishbowl, not a round one." That is my family. We always insist, "*Gomennasai*. That's my fault" to each other so there is no quarreling in my family.'

What do you think of this pure-hearted story? It's a beautiful and heart-warming story, isn't it? This story really talks about *gudon*. Each person accepts their own negative deeds and feelings and shows compassion to others. St. Honen said he was *gudon* or stupid. He knew that once he accepted that he had a negative mind, he would no longer be frightened by them. No need to pretend to be a perfect person. No need to judge or press others with a forced opinion. How about our lives? We show our rights, pride, and arrogance, and try to knock down others. There is a lot of fighting and wars in the world. If you point to other's faults, conflicts will happen, but if you accept your own faults, your imperfections, you can build a good relationship with others. By knowing yourself, and the kind of person you are, you will obtain calmness in your daily life. I said, *gudon* means stupid but it also means I'm sassy, I'm haughty, I'm lazy, I'm short-tempered, I'm careless, I'm ignorant, or I'm ungrateful. Accept them as they are. Be aware of them as part of you. For St. Honen, saying "I'm *gudon*" was a magic word to communicate with himself.

We are like the couple in the story of the broken window. We criticize others without seeing ourselves. That is the typical way of humans. We have learned a lot from the essay written by the Japanese child. Why do we not accept our own faults to make peace in our society? Accepting ourselves as *gudon* or imperfect persons is not a

FUN JAPAN TRIP

negative activity but is a good practice to control our own minds. When you acknowledge the less-than-perfect parts of yourself, something magical begins to happen. Along with the negative, you'll also begin to notice the positive, the wonderful aspects of yourself. We, humans, are the only animals that can reflect upon ourselves. Then, how should we reflect on ourselves? We must recite Amida Buddha's Sacred Name, "Namu Amida Butsu" as many times as we can. Recitation, especially uttering out, reminds us to see ourselves inwardly. I encourage you to accept yourself as *gudon*, see yourselves inwardly, and live peacefully throughout your life.

As mentioned in our October bulletin, Bishop Ishikawa and I visited Maui on September 14. I brought the donation envelopes received from our temple members and gave them to Rev. Hara directly. We also met Rev. Hironaka of Lahaina Hongwanji and Rev. Meguro of Lahaina Shingon Mission. Rev. Hironaka and Rev. Meguro are still staying at a hotel that the government provided. They said they are receiving every meal served by volunteers. Two months have passed since the devastating fire on Maui. Many people are still staying in temporary shelters and receiving each meal from volunteers to survive. We, Haleiwa Jodo Mission, always accept monetary donations for Lahaina. Please continue to support the rebuilding of Lahaina Jodo Mission.

After my sermon, I will show a short video clip of Osaka Castle on YouTube. The reason for showing this clip is because my birth temple is in Osaka and is related to Osaka Castle's 500 years history. As you know more of Japan's rich history, the more interested you will be in Japan.

FIRST SUNDAY OF NOVEMBER

The first Sunday of November will be a Juya Service starting at 10:00 am at Haleiwa Jodo Mission Buddhist Temple. Lunch will be served. Please join us.

TREASURER'S NOTE

Please bring your membership dues up to date. 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.

O-BON SERVICE FOR 2024

The Board of Directors of Haleiwa Jodo Mission has decided that our O-bon service for 2024 will be held on July 26 & 27. Please mark your calendars.

The 2023 Hawaii Jodo Shu Pilgrimage Tour visited Japan from October 5 to 13, 2023. On behalf of Haleiwa Jodo Mission, Rev. Ezaki and Lorelie Campbell joined the tour group to visit Chionin Temple. Below are the places we visited during the Japan tour.

- (Day 1) Arrived in Kyoto in the late afternoon.
- (Day 2) Visited Byodoin Temple in Uji and Gekkeikan Sake Museum in Fushimi.
- (Day 3) Hozugawa River Boat Ride in Kameoka.
- (Day 4) Participated in the 850th Anniversary of the Founding of Jodo Shu Service at Chionin Temple, Jodo Shu Headquarters. Visited Murian Japanese Garden and Nanzenji Temple in the Higashiyama area.
- (Day 5) Participated in Hinen World Meeting 850 in Chionin Temple. Visited Konkai Komyoji Temple in Okazaki.
- (Day 6) Visited Todaiji Temple and Horyuji Temple in Nara. Stopped at the Fushimi Inari Shrine in Fushimi area in Kyoto.
- (Day 7) Visited Kaiyukan Aquarium, Daiunji Temple (Rev. Ezaki's birth temple), and the Dotonbori/Namba area in Osaka.
- (Day 8) Free time in the morning. Returned to Hawaii.

Because Rev. Ezaki was born and raised in Osaka and studied in Kyoto during college time, the tour group transferred to the next destinations smoothly without losing their way. We, the Ministers Association, might plan another Japan trip if many people want to go to Japan with them.



(Honen World Meeting 2023 with Hawaii, North America, Brazil, France, and Australia Jodo Missions at Chionin Temple)