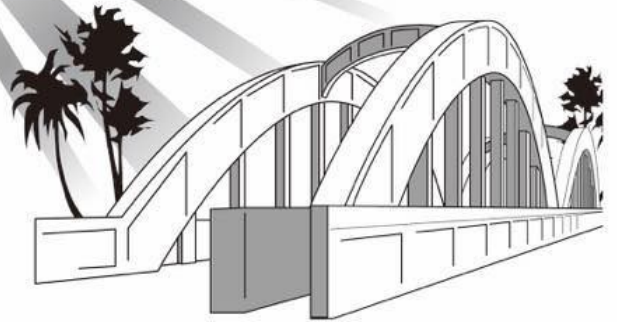
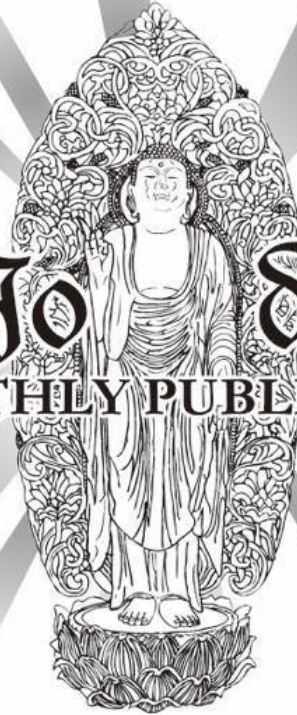


P.O. BOX242 HALEIWA, HI 96712  
TEL: 637-4382 FAX: 637-3405



# Haleiwa Jodo Mission

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



DECEMBER 2023

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No.1  
Haleiwa, Hawaii

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

HALEIWA JODO MISSION  
P.O. BOX 242  
HALEIWA, HAWAII 96712



# HALEIWA JODO MISSION



DECEMBER, 2023

---

## *BODHI DAY SERVICE*

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023

---

## *BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING*

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

---

## *GENERAL CLEAN-UP*

9:00 AM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

---

## *NEW YEAR'S EVE & NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICES*

11:45 PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

---

### YEAR-END GENERAL CLEANUP

We need your help! The Board of the Haleiwa Jodo Mission is scheduled to hold the year-end general cleanup on December 17, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

To keep the temple functioning as it should, your support is greatly needed. Those who used the temple facility for your service, party, and/or gathering this year, please consider volunteering in the future. Lunch will be served after the project for all volunteers.

### NEW YEAR'S EVE & NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICES

The New Year's Eve & New Year's Day Services will be held on December 31, 2023 at 11:45 pm. Please bring your old omamori to burn. We will strike the gong 108 times to discard our desires and renew our vows to Amida Buddha. Those who have old omamori, please bring them to the temple before or to the service. New Year's food will be served after the service. Let us welcome the bright new year at Haleiwa Jodo Mission!!!!

### IN SYMPATHY

We would like to express our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of the late Duane Tamura, who passed away on October 21, 2023. The funeral service was held at the Haleiwa Jodo Mission on November 18, officiated by Rev. Ezaki.

### PATIO RESERVATIONS

The Haleiwa Jodo Mission's patio is the perfect place to have a large party, but if you would like to use the patio in 2024 for a graduation or birthday party, etc., please plan it well in advance and make a reservation early. The period from May to August is an especially popular season for parties. Because Haleiwa Jodo Mission will observe the Obon Festival in July, you will have limited time to use the patio. Only active dues-paying members (have paid dues for at least the last three years and participate in the services or activities) can use the patio. Please call Rev. Ezaki to make a reservation.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR  
MONTH OF DECEMBER

7 <sup>th</sup> YEAR	SODETANI, MILDRED DEC. 27, 2017
13 <sup>th</sup> YEAR	MASATSUGU, JAMES DEC. 3, 2011
17 <sup>th</sup> YEAR	TANAKA, BETTY DEC. 18, 2007 FURUICHI, PETER DEC. 15, 2007
50 <sup>th</sup> YEAR	SAKAI, KIMIKO DEC. 23, 1974

SERMON AT THE JUYA SERVICE

Rev. Koji Jeff Ezaki

Resident Minister of Haleiwa Jodo Mission

We are observing our Juya Family Service. Juya Service is a special occasion service only in Jodo Shu. We did strike the mokugyo, a Buddhist wooden instrument, and recited Amida Buddha's Sacred name, "Namu Amida Butsu," repeated aloud together. At Juya Services, we recite "Namu Amida Butsu" for a longer time compared to a regular service. Today, we recited "Namu Amida Butsu" for about 10 minutes. Did you feel it was longer, shorter, or boring from the 10 minutes of striking and reciting? Juya literally means "ten nights" and this Juya service started 500 years ago, commanded by the emperor during the *Muromachi* Period. Originally, the services were held for ten straight nights. According to the sutra of the Infinite Life, it says, "If good is practiced in the secular world for ten days and nights, it is superior to the practice of good in the Buddha's land for one thousand years." This is the reason we observe Juya Service. As mentioned earlier, they recited for ten days in ancient times. Nowadays, we observe this service for only one day. Please remember this service has been continuing for over 500 years, reciting Buddha's Name and striking the mokugyo the same way as they did 500 years ago. Uttering "Namu Amida Butsu" is the most important practice in Jodo Shu.

The last few months during our Family Services, I showed short movies from YouTube on Chionin Temple, Osaka, Kyoto, and Nara to develop your curiosity about Japan. These are the places we visited during the recent trip. The main purpose of our trip was to participate in the 850<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service of the Founding of Jodo Shu in Chionin Temple. We went sightseeing to various locations, not only Chionin Temple, but Byodoin Temple in Uji, the Japanese sake Museum and Fushimi Inari Shrine in Fushimi, Nanzenji Temple of Zen Buddhism, and many other places in Kyoto. Also, the tour group visited Nara to see the Daibutsu or Great Buddha in Todaiji Temple, and the oldest temple in Japan, Yakushiji Temple. As requested by the tour people, I

took a group to my birth temple, Daiunji Temple, to meet my brother, mother, and other relatives. It was a fun and memorable trip with the Jodo Shu Members. What was especially amazing to me was the service of the 850<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of Jodo Shu at Chionin Temple. I estimate there were over 500 ministers and general participants in the main temple for the service. The service lasted for two hours. It was quite long and sometimes felt sleepy, but the energy from the ministers' chanting, gagaku court music performance, and Buddhist traditional dancing touched the hearts of all the participants. Because we came from Hawaii, Chionin Temple allowed us to enter special places that are normally not open to the public. Also, the Headquarters of Jodo Shu held a welcome gathering in the social hall and had a donation presentation ceremony to Lahaina Jodo Mission after the service. The following day, the Headquarters of Jodo Shu held a conference titled "Honen World Meeting 850" in the meeting room of Chionin Temple. The Jodo Shu members and ministers of Hawaii, North America, Brazil, Australia, and France gathered together for this event. It has been over 30 years since I was ordained as a Jodo Shu minister, but this was the first experience, participating in such a big ceremony, in my life.

For one day, during the Japan trip, I slipped out from the tour group and visited my brother's temple alone. This is the temple where I was born and raised. I am going to show you some pictures of Daiunji Temple after my sermon. The reason I visited there was to participate in my auntie's third memorial service. My aunty, my father's sister, passed away two years ago. I was not able to attend her funeral and 1-year memorial service. Because her memorial month was in October and I was scheduled to be in Japan in October, my cousin decided to observe his mother's 3<sup>rd</sup> memorial service while I was in Japan. Many of my cousins that I had not seen for many years, gathered for the memorial service. I met them for the first time in, I guess, over 30 years. Furthermore, my other cousins who live in San Paulo in Brazil, also came to the memorial service after hearing that I was coming from Hawaii. My uncle, my father's youngest brother, immigrated to Brazil 60 years ago and set up a business there. I was so happy to meet my cousins from Brazil. Only one cousin who lives in Mexico couldn't participate in the service. From all over the world my family (including my brother, sister, and cousins in Japan, other cousins from Brazil, and myself from Hawaii), gathered and observed our auntie's memorial service. It was also a good chance to hold a family reunion. After the service, we went to a Chinese restaurant and ate, drank, and talked about our childhood and had a memorable time.

It is a Buddhist practice to hold a memorial service for loved ones every set number of years after

their death such as a one-year memorial, 3<sup>rd</sup>-year memorial, 7<sup>th</sup>-year memorial, and so on. Members of the Haleiwa Jodo Mission also observe memorial services for their deceased loved ones here or at home. Following the service, the family often goes out to have lunch or dinner at a restaurant or prepares bentos or catered dishes on the patio or in the social hall. Some gather at their home to have a potluck. This gathering renews and strengthens family ties. The memorial service reinforces family ties with family members beyond one's immediate family and forms a sense of continuity from generation to generation. In Hawaii, we have many family parties year around, such as on New Year's Day, Mother's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and so on. But a gathering for a memorial service is different. Family members gather primarily for the deceased loved ones. Although memorial services are held in memory of a loved one who has passed away, they also serve a purpose for us, the living, the ones who remain behind. The memorial service is an opportunity to express appreciation and gratitude for the many benefits we have received from the deceased oto-san, oka-san, oji-chan, oba-chan, aunts, uncles, and many others. When we observe memorial services and transfer our merits to the deceased, part of the merits will be transferred to us spontaneously and we will receive the strength to lead a life of happiness and hope from Amida Buddha. We sometimes forget our sense of appreciation and gratitude in our hectic lives. That is why, every certain year when the memorial year and month comes, our deceased loved one gives us the chance to grow a sense of appreciation, strengthen our family ties, and develop our faith.

Today, we observed Juya Service striking the mokugyo and reciting "Namu Amida Butsu" many times. Uttering Amida Buddha's Name develops our faith in Amida. Observing the memorial services for the deceased loved ones is also very important. Definitely, your deceased loved ones who are in Amida Buddha's Compassionate Land, called Pure Land, listened to your recitation during the service. Listening to your recitation, your deceased loved ones send you love, mercy, and wisdom. Please continue to come to attend the temple services, help with activities and events, and receive Amida's Love and Compassion. After my sermon, I will show you some pictures I took during our Japan trip. Please enjoy them.

#### DONATION TO LAHAINA JODO MISSION

If you want to donate to Lahaina Jodo Mission, please make a check payable to Lahaina Jodo Mission or Rev. Gensho Hara and send it to Haleiwa Jodo Mission. Rev. Ezaki will send your donations to Rev. Gensho Hara.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### MEMBERSHIP DUES (2024)

Eugene Cambonga Stanley Matsumoto  
Mayumi Spengel (new member)

### MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Chieko Sasaki  
(In memory of Yoshiyuki Sasaki)  
George Masatsugu  
(In memory of Shizue Masatsugu)  
Melvin Tsuruda  
(In memory of Shizuko Tsuruda)  
Pearl Choi  
(In memory of Kiyono Kamiyama)

### PET MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Mae Yorimoto  
(In memory of Harry Yorimoto)

### PATIO DONATIONS

Carol Ishimoto

### GOBUTSUZEN FOR NOVEMBER JUYA SERVICE

Nadine Matsukawa	Mae Yorimoto
David Dicio	Kenneth Masatsugu
Dennis Nakamura	Donald Koga
Melanie Matsui	Keith Yamauchi
Glenn Matsumoto	Shinae Sakai
Jennifer Pang	Joan Yamamoto
Sheri Yamauchi	Grace Iwane

### BIRTHDAY DONATIONS

Pearl Choi  
(In memory of Kiyono Kamiyama)

### 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.

### FIRST SUNDAY OF DECEMBER

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

## **PET MEMORIAL**

Available to Members and Non-Members



**With Love, We Remember**