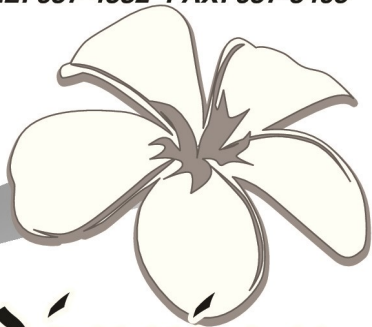
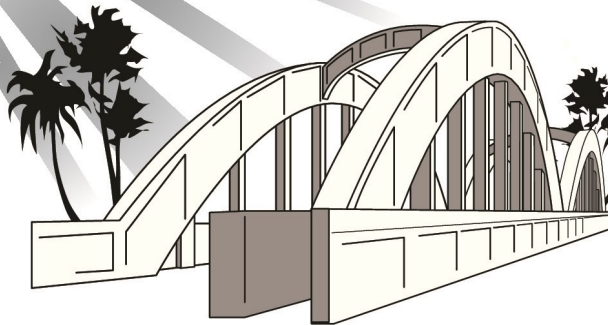
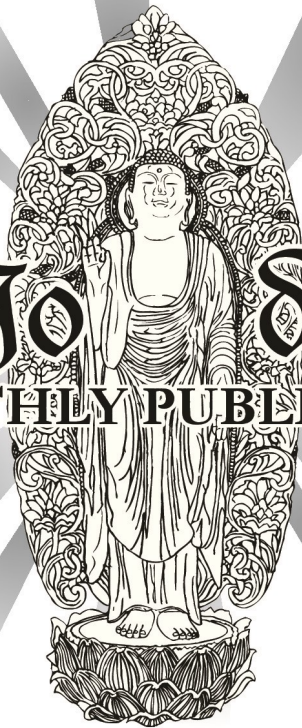


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# Haleiwa Jodo Mission

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



APRIL 2023

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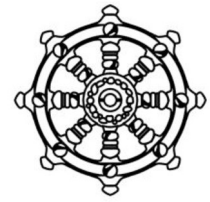
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HALEIWA JODO MISSION



# HALEIWA JODO MISSION

APRIL, 2023



## *BUDDHA DAY FAMILY SERVICE*

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023

## *ZOOM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING*

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023

## *KOKUA DAY*

9:00 AM

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2023

### YOUTH RETREAT IN HALEIWA

Haleiwa Jodo Mission Sunday School and Jodo Mission of Hawaii Sunday School gathered on March 12, 2023, to have a joint Youth Retreat at Haleiwa Jodo Mission.

After Rev. Ezaki conducted a short service, children and parents visited Malama Loko Ea Fishpond in Haleiwa for an activity. Lunch was served in the hall of Haleiwa Jodo Mission and then everybody went to eat shave ice or drink smoothies at Island X at the Old Sugar Mill in Waialua. They spent a wonderful time during spring break.

This program is supported by the Hawaii Council of Jodo Missions and Jodo-Shu Headquarters.

The following children participated in this gathering from Haleiwa Jodo Mission: Meilan Muto, Lum Muto, Will Kojima, Alyssa Kojima, Peyton Takeuchi, Miku Ezaki, and Sae Ezaki.



### DATES OF BON FESTIVALS

Haleiwa Jodo Mission	July 21 & 22, 2023
Wahiawa Hongwanji	June 23 & 23, 2023
Wahiawa Soto Mission	July 14 & 15, 2023
Haleiwa Shingon Mission	Not announced yet
Waialua Hongwanji	Not announced yet
Jodo Mission of Hawaii	August 19, 2023

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN THE KITCHEN

We would like to thank Patty Hirano, and Etsuko & Ama Morikawa for helping to prepare lunch during the Higan Family Service on March 5, 2023.

### HEARTFELT DONATION

\$32,000.00 was donated by the late Jennie Miyasaki. She had made a trust to donate to Haleiwa Jodo Mission and the East-West Center where she used to work. Jennie was the daughter of Dr. Seiichi Miyasaki who was a big supporter of Haleiwa Jodo Mission. Her grandfather, Kumazo Miyasaki, also supported Haleiwa Jodo Mission for many years. Thank you, Jennie.

### BUDDHA DAY SERVICE

A Buddha Day Service will be held on the first Sunday of April. Lunch will be served.

MEMORIAL SERVICES  
FOR MONTH OF APRIL

3<sup>rd</sup> YEAR OTSUKA, THOMAS  
APRIL 17, 2021  
7<sup>th</sup> YEAR MIYAKE, ELLEN  
APRIL 14, 2017  
23<sup>rd</sup> YEAR KOGA, WILFRED  
APRIL 5, 2001

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

MEMBERSHIP DUES (2023)

Grace Iwane Jess Kawachi  
Lynette Fujiyoshi Kenneth Masatsugu  
Robert McLean Luka McLean  
James McLean Darren Kojima

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Lynne Higa (In memory of Mark Higa)  
Donald Koga (In memory of Mark Higa)  
Shirley Kitamura  
(In memory of Kumazo, Yoshino, Seiichi,  
and Chiyeko Miyasaki)

BIRTHDAY DONATIONS

George Hokama

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Lynette Fujiyoshi

PET MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Kay Oshiro  
(In memory of Himechan and Aichan Oshiro)

HIGAN FAMILY SERVICE

Joan Yamamoto Jennifer Pang  
Shinae Sakai Kenneth Masatsugu  
Donald Koga Grace Iwane  
Glenn Matsumoto Nadine Matsukawa  
Sheri Yamauchi Michiko Yamauchi  
Myra Shiratori

SUNDAY SCHOOL DONATIONS

Jo Ann Matsuo Melanie Matsui  
Honolulu Jodo Mission Sunday School

HALEIWA JODO MISSION  
OBON SCHEDULE 2023

Cemetery Clean-up May 27, 2023  
Cemetery Service June 4, 2023  
General Clean-up & Toro Shelves Building July 2, 2023  
Toro Making & Yagura Set-up July 15, 2023  
Food Booth Set-up July 20, 2023  
Beach Clean-up July 23, 2023  
Yagura Take-down July 30, 2023

PATIO RENTAL REGULATION

- Rental is only for active dues members.
- Dues members should be present at the party from the beginning to the end. (exception: Unless dues member is ill)
- Plastic bags, garbage bins, and toilet paper are not provided.
- Participants have to clean up at the end by themselves.
- We forbid any loud music (live band music, DJ, and so on).

STATE YBA SCHOLARSHIP

Those who are interested in applying for the State Y.B.A. Scholarship, please ask Rev. Ezaki for the application form. The deadline will be May 31, 2023.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The annual membership dues for the Haleiwa Jodo Mission is \$50.00. The membership fee covers a wedded couple. If you have any questions about your dues, please ask Rev. Ezaki.

NORTH SHORE FOOD BANK

Donations of blankets and towels to the North Shore Food Bank will be highly appreciated. If you have those, please call Rev. Ezaki at (808)-637-4382 to make an appointment to drop off your donations.

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 name plates, 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 name plate of your pets for our Pet Memorial.

**PET MEMORIAL**

Available to Members and Non-Members



**With Love, We Remember**

## SERMON AT THE HIGAN SERVICE

Rev. Koji Jeff Ezaki

Minister of Haleiwa Jodo Mission Buddhist Temple

The reason we, Buddhists, observe service on *Higan* is because *Higan* is a day when daylight and night are equal. According to the 2023 calendar, *Higan* falls on March 20 and marks the 1<sup>st</sup> day of spring. Shakyamuni taught us we must keep away from an extreme life and live moderately. A well-balanced life is a perfect way to get enlightened. This is the reason we observe *Higan* Service. *Higan* is also the day to reflect on how important our lives are. We must show our appreciation for our lives that were given by our great ancestors. *Higan* literally means “the other shore.” The place where we are living now is “this shore.” Buddhist teachings guide you how to go to the other shore. *Higan* is a day to understand what the other shore is, how we go there, and why we have to go there.

Now, please look at the handout and let us now read the sacred passage together. Today’s passage is:

Bhikkhu, bail out the water from this boat.

Emptied, it will move quickly for you.

Cutting out lust and hatred,  
to Nirvana you will thereby go.

(Dhammapada 369)

The word “Bhikkhu” means “Buddhist follower” in Sanskrit. This passage was delivered by Buddha to his followers. If I simply say this passage I would say it like this. “My followers, there’s water in your boat, bail it out, then the boat will move faster.” This makes sense. If water comes into the boat, it will not move. If you ignore the water, more will come into the boat, what will happen? Yes, it may sink. I think people who have experienced kayaking understand what this passage is saying. Now, please look at the third line. The third sentence is a metaphor. You should understand it by comparing it with the first sentence. The first and second sentences talked about the boat and water. Next, the boat is you. The water is desire, anger and hatred. The destination of the boat is Nirvana. In this case, Nirvana would be happiness, peace, or calm. You live your daily lives toward happiness. Of course, everybody wants to become or continue being happy. Buddha said in this passage that if you want to become happy, you should discard desire, anger and hatred from your mind; otherwise, you will drown in the sea of suffering. We know the boat will sink if it’s full of water, however, we never relate this phrase to ourselves. If our mind is full of desire, we will never reach happiness.

I will explain about human nature or character by referring to the story of Cinderella. It’s very familiar to us. After Cinderella’s father remarried,

her new step-mother and two step-sisters were really, really mean to her. They abused her, commanded her to cook for them, clean the house and pushed all the housework on her. When we read until this part of the story, everybody pities or feels *kawaiso* for Cinderella. We sympathize with her struggles in her life. On the other hand, what do you think about the mean step-mother or step-sisters? You absolutely hate them. You may think, “How mean they are. I don’t like them.” Everybody is for Cinderella.

In this story everybody may hate the mean mother and sisters: abusing and picking on her. We are pleased that Cinderella became happy. We read that story cheering for Cinderella. However, our human character is like her mean mother or sisters, don’t you think so? We humans think that I am right or only my life is precious. We all have a strong self. Is there anyone who has never gotten mad, never became lazy or never bullied or was mean to others? If not, we are not Cinderella, but rather the mean mother and sisters. We may complain if our desire is not fulfilled. We may defeat others to be satisfied. We may always be mean to others to be dominant. Our human nature is similar to her mother or sisters, far from Cinderella.

Why are our minds filled with delusions? Because we are living on this shore. Happiness, calmness, and tranquility exist on the other shore. We, Jodo Shu, call the other shore the “Pure Land.” Whenever we read the story of Cinderella, we imagine ourselves as Cinderella, and we would like to be the heroine. However, when we think about it, we are all rather mean families. We are not always aware of it. We may behave wrongly and arouse displeasure without realizing it. We know that if our mind is full of delusions, we cannot achieve happiness, like the boat full of water sinking. The sacred passages truly explain it with simple words. We really reflect upon our life reading it.

*Higan* gives us awareness. We must appreciate our lives everyday and every single moment. We humans easily forget what is important. That is why we observe *Higan* Service: to appreciate our life that was given by our great ancestors. Now you understand what the other shore is. It is the Pure Land. Why do we have to go to the other shore. Because there are no delusions. How do we go to the other shore? We must practice the Buddha’s teachings such as the Eight-Fold Path, Golden Chain, and so on in our daily lives. Keep the Buddha’s teaching in your mind all the time, polish your wisdom and live your daily life with gratitude. That is the day of *Higan*.

(Please type “17 Things to Do in Osaka for First Time Travelers” on YouTube and watch the video clip we watched after the sermon. Please enjoy Osaka which is my hometown.)