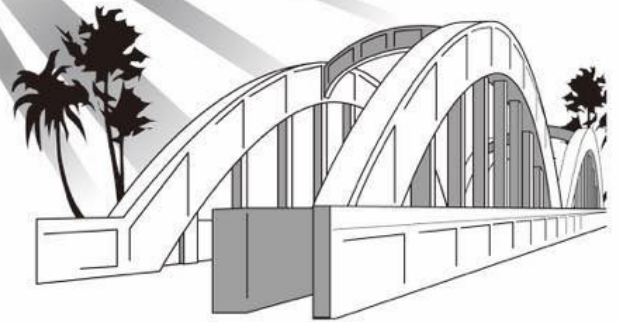
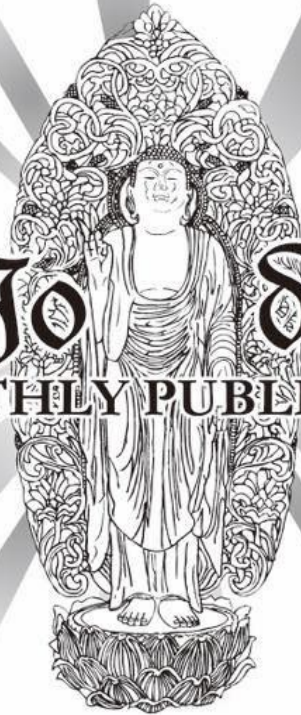


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# Haleiwa Jodo Mission

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



JANUARY 2024

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# HALEIWA JODO MISSION

JANUARY, 2024



## *NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE*

12:00 AM

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2024

## *GYOKI SERVICE*

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024

## *BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING*

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024

## *KOKUA DAY*

9:00 AM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024

### MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR 2024

Please refer to this chart for observations of memorial services for the deceased member of your family.

Memorial Service	The Year of Death
1 <sup>st</sup> Memorial Service	2023
3 <sup>rd</sup> Memorial Service	2022
7 <sup>th</sup> Memorial Service	2018
13 <sup>th</sup> Memorial Service	2012
17 <sup>th</sup> Memorial Service	2008
23 <sup>rd</sup> Memorial Service	2002
25 <sup>th</sup> Memorial Service	2000
27 <sup>th</sup> Memorial Service	1998
33 <sup>rd</sup> Memorial Service	1992
37 <sup>th</sup> Memorial Service	1988
43 <sup>rd</sup> Memorial Service	1982
47 <sup>th</sup> Memorial Service	1978
50 <sup>th</sup> Memorial Service	1975
100 <sup>th</sup> Memorial Service	1925

### MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR MONTH OF JANUARY

3<sup>rd</sup> YEAR            MIYASAKI, JENNIE  
                                     JAN. 23, 2013

13<sup>th</sup> YEAR            IWANE, ERNEST  
                                     JAN. 15, 2012

50<sup>th</sup> YEAR            YAMAMOTO, GUNICHI  
                                     JAN. 19, 1975

### KAWAMURA SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the Marian Masae Kawamura Scholarship are now available. Applications must be turned in to the Haleiwa Jodo Mission by March 9, 2024.

### 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.

## SERMON AT THE BODHI DAY SERVICE

Rev. Koji Jeff Ezaki  
Minister of Haleiwa Jodo Mission

Today is December 4, 2023, and we are gathered for the Jodo-ye Family Service. Jodo-ye is a service to celebrate Shakyamuni Buddha's enlightenment. We also call this service the Bodhi Day Service.

This is our last Family Service in 2023. How was your year in 2023? Good? Bad? For me, 2023 was a good year because Haleiwa Jodo Mission was finally able to observe an in-person Bon Dance and *Toro Nagashi* for the first time since 2019. Having had the virtual *Toro Nagashi* for three years, 2020, 2021, and 2022, it was great to have the Bon Festival in-person on the temple grounds. I am really proud of the members and friends who supported us in continuing our traditional event. Another happy moment was going to Japan two times this year, the first trip since 2019. Because of COVID, I hadn't seen my parents for four years. I was so happy to see my parents, siblings, cousins, and friends. 2023 was an awesome year for me.

As many know, there are various worldwide problems that occur and threaten our lives. One of the major incidents was the Maui wildfires. We lost our sister temple, Lahaina Jodo Mission. Not only Jodo Mission but also Lahaina Hongwanji and Lahaina Shingon Mission were also destroyed by the fire. Rev. and Mrs. Hara of Lahaina Jodo Mission are still temporarily living in their daughter's house in Wailuku. The Sensei of Hongwanji and Shingon are still living in a hotel that the government is providing. Even though four months have passed since the incident happened, our ohana on Maui is still forced to live an inconvenient life. We must continue to send out love and consideration to them to wish for their well-being. Another big issue is the Israel-Hamas War. Many people, from both countries, died in the bombings of each other. Citizens lost their houses and there is even no place to evacuate. We hope that the war will end as quickly as possible and peace will return to the world.

Now, I will tell you something about the Jodo-ye or Bodhi Day Service. Shakyamuni Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, whose name was Siddhartha before he was enlightened, was a prince of the Shakya clan in India 2,500 years ago. He discarded his luxurious life, his position as king-to-be in the future, and his wife and child, and left his palace to seek the true teaching for mankind. He practiced asceticism for six years in the forest. Siddhartha subjected his body with cruel practices such as fasting, not sleeping for several months, walking on fire, and so on. The reason he did such strange and incomprehensible practices was because he believed our spiritual happiness and pleasure lay beyond

physical suffering. Having practiced such cruel training for six years, his body grew weaker by the day and was far from his goal. He then resolved to meditate calmly beneath the Bodhi tree until he achieved enlightenment. As a result, Siddhartha became Shakyamuni Buddha, The Enlightened One. This is a simple story about Shakyamuni's enlightenment. Because he achieved enlightenment under the Bodhi tree, we call this service Bodhi Day Service.

After Siddhartha stopped hurting his body by asceticism, he sat down beneath the Bodhi tree quietly and meditated for 49 days. During these 49 days, he fought with Mara, the ruler of desire and illusion. Mara is a Buddhist demon, sometimes called the Lord of Death. Evil Mara tried to disturb Siddhartha's meditation. In the course of his meditations, Siddhartha was tempted by the demon, Mara, persistently. Mara sent his daughters to tempt him with beautiful attraction, sent armies to be scared of him with fear, and appeared himself to disturb Siddhartha's tranquil mind. Meditation, focusing on himself inwardly, was very hard for him because all sorts of wandering thoughts seemed to be forced into his mind by his enemy. Pictures of the joys of his life as a prince, the faces of his loved parents, wife, and son, and the desire for pleasures and power came up and disappeared in his mind again and again. However, he persevered and was able to drive these temptations of Mara away. In Buddhist tradition, Mara isn't an external demon but a mirror to our internal battles. Mara is regarded as a representation of inner temptations: desire, greed, anger, hatred, discrimination, laziness, and so on --- mainly one's ego everybody has in his or her mind --- that obstructs the path to enlightenment. The way to become enlightened is to confront our own ego.

We all have Mara in our minds and fight with it every single moment. The story of Mara is not the inner battle of Siddhartha but for everyone. Recently, my 8th-grade daughter learned finance in school. She couldn't understand what debit cards and credit cards are and how different they are. She asked me, "Dad, what does credit card debt mean?" I was surprised US children learn such "stuff" in school. Then, I drew a picture and explained it. "Let's say, Daddy went to Longs and bought beer and paid by cash. That is a normal way to shop." She nodded. "But next time, Daddy forgot his cash and paid by debit card. Because Daddy has enough money in the bank account, I paid for the beer from my bank account to Longs." She understands it. Then I said, "But if I don't have cash in my pocket or money in my bank account, I can buy beer if I use a credit card." She was puzzled and asked me why. I told her, "Even though I don't have any money, the credit card company pays for the beer." She was still puzzled as to why I could buy beer without money. I showed her a bill from the credit card company and

said, "I got beer without money and the credit card company paid for it, but later they sent me a bill and said please return the money that you spent. Daddy borrowed money from the credit card company that is why I have to return the money to them." I continued to explain that many people cannot pay the full amount of the bill and pay only the minimum so the rest of the amount will be a debt. People buy, buy, and buy as if the credit card is a magic card they can buy whatever they want even if they don't have money, and do not return the amount they bought. This is how debts can snowball, and they suffer to repay money. My daughter seemed to understand some but not fully. It's okay because she will learn clearly when she has a credit card in the future.

Many people suffer from debt, so is debt Mara? Debt attacks us? I hear people who have debt say, "I could live a much easier life if I don't have debt." If you understand the moment of Jodo which is the moment when Siddartha became the Enlightened One, definitely say "No, debt is not Mara. Mara is a desire in our mind that we cannot resist buying something that we want." We want this and that and spend money even when we don't have money. Debt is a result of our desire in our mind. They did not have a credit card 2,500 years ago but they had desire even at that time. Siddartha defeated desire: I want to buy this and that, I want to eat this and that, and I want to get this position or that higher promotion. He discarded these desires and attachments in his mind and became enlightened. Credit card debt is one example in our life. The doctor said you should walk 5,000 steps a day but today it is drizzling so I don't want to go. I walked yesterday so there's no need to walk today. This person was conquered by laziness. That is Mara. Or we should not eat sweets because one has high blood sugar, but we tell ourselves, this sweet is the last one. I will stop eating it from tomorrow. Many people fight with their own minds, wicked minds, they cannot control. That is Mara. We do not fight with outside phenomena in our lives but with our own minds every single moment. That is human nature.

We fight with Mara, desire, hatred, anger, laziness, and so on, every single moment, and are always defeated by them. We are defeated by our own minds. Your mind is Mara. That is why we could not get enlightened. Siddartha showed us the way to get enlightened, the teaching of the Eight-fold Path, the Golden Chain, and more. Let us follow his teachings and make an effort to become enlightened.

#### GYOKI SERVICE

Gyoki Family Service will be held on the first Sunday of January. Lunch will be served. Please come and join us on January 7, 2023, at 10:00 am.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### MEMBERSHIP DUES (2024)

Dennis Nakamura	Shinae Sakai
Joan Yamamoto	Naomi Masuda
David Koizumi	George Hokama
Anne Torige (new member)	

### MEMORIAL DONATIONS

George Hokama (In memory of Stanley Suda)  
Lore Cambell (In memory of Ebisui ke senzo dai dai)  
Jennie Tamura (In memory of Duane Tamura)  
Naomi Masuda  
(In memory of Isamu & Kazue Masuda)  
Karen Inouye (In memory of Evelyn Nishiyama)

### SPECIAL DONATIONS

Mike McLean	Ivan Matsumoto
Glenn Matsumoto	

### BODHI DAY SERVICE

Dennis Nakamura	Keith Yamauchi
Jennnifer Pang	Melanie Matsui
Shinae Sakai	Sheri Yamauchi
Joan Yamamoto	Nadine Matsukawa
Kenneth Masatsugu	Grace Iwane
Donald Koga	Myra Shiratori

### JUYA SERVICE

Myra Shiratori

## NEW YEAR'S PARTY

We will have a New Year's Party for the first time since 2019!! Please join us for the annual Haleiwa Jodo Mission New Year Party on Saturday, February 17, 2024. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Admission is free for the annual dues-paying members and invited guests of the Haleiwa Jodo Mission. Non-members will be charged \$15 per person. Those who wish to attend, please call Rev. Ezaki @ 637-4382 by January 6.

## IN SYMPATHY

We would like to express our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of the late Mrs. Evelyn Nishiyama, who passed away on August 29, 2023. The funeral service was held at the Mililani Mortuary on December 6, officiated by Rev. Ezaki.

We also would like to express our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of the late Ms. Lorraine Muranaka, who passed away on October 30, 2023. The funeral service was held at the Diamond Head Memorial Park on December 14, officiated by Rev. Ezaki.

# THE MARIAN MASAE KAWAMURA SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION (2024)

Sponsored by: Haleiwa Jodo Mission

Scholarship Amount: \$1,000.00

## History:

Harry Kawamura – a lifelong resident of the Haleiwa/Waiialua community – generously provided funding for and established **The Marian Masae Kawamura Scholarship**, in memory of his beloved wife. Mr. Kawamura has since passed, but the scholarship has continued because of his generosity to the Haleiwa Jodo Mission.

The scholarship was initially offered only to the children of members of the Haleiwa Jodo Mission. It has since been expanded to include members' grandchildren and graduating students of Waiialua High School.

## Eligibility:

Applications for The Marian Masae Scholarship will be accepted from graduating high school students who:

1. Is a member or child or grandchild of a member of the Haleiwa Jodo Mission; or
2. Is an active Haleiwa Jodo Mission volunteer or a child or grandchild of an active Haleiwa Jodo Mission volunteer; or
3. Attends Waiialua High School

## How to Apply:

Obtain an application form from Waiialua High School or Haleiwa Jodo Mission (email: [haleiewajodomissionyba@gmail.com](mailto:haleiewajodomissionyba@gmail.com)).

Review and complete application form and provide the additional information specified on the application.

Submit the completed application and additional information to Haleiwa Jodo Mission by the applicable deadline.

## Review:

After the deadline, all applications will be reviewed and the scholarship recipient will be notified and invited to meet the Board Members of the Haleiwa Jodo Mission to formally receive the scholarship award.

All information, including academic history, financial need, community service, and leadership achievements will be considered.

APPLICATION FORM (2024)  
**THE MARIAN MASAE KAWAMURA SCHOLARSHIP**

Sponsored by Haleiwa Jodo Mission  
\$1,000.00

**APPLICANT'S INFORMATION**

Application Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of accredited college or higher education institution (including trade school) at which applicant will enroll:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated enrollment date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENTS' / GUARDIANS' INFORMATION**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Financial Status (please check one):  Under \$20K  \$20K-\$30K  \$30K-\$40K  \$40K-\$50K  Over \$50K

**QUALIFICATION STATUS:**

- Member or child or grandchild of a member of the Haleiwa Jodo Mission
- Active volunteer of Haleiwa Jodo Mission or child or grandchild of an active volunteer of Haleiwa Jodo Mission
- Waialua High School student

**THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION:**

- High school transcript(s) including seventh semester grades.
- Letter of recommendation from an academic advisor, academic counselor, or recent instructor.
- A short statement of your (1) extra-curricular activities during high school, including sports, volunteering, and church/temple activities and (2) future school and career plans.

**NOTE:** Upon receipt of the scholarship, the scholarship recipient will be invited to participate (as available) in general clean up and monthly kokua days, o-bon, craft fair, and other activities of **Haleiwa Jodo Mission**.

I certify that the information provided in this application is true and correct and acknowledge that I will receive invitations to activities:

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian (if applicant is under 18 years old): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 9, 2024 (Delivered)**  
Mail to: Haleiwa Jodo Mission; PO Box 242; Haleiwa, HI 96712