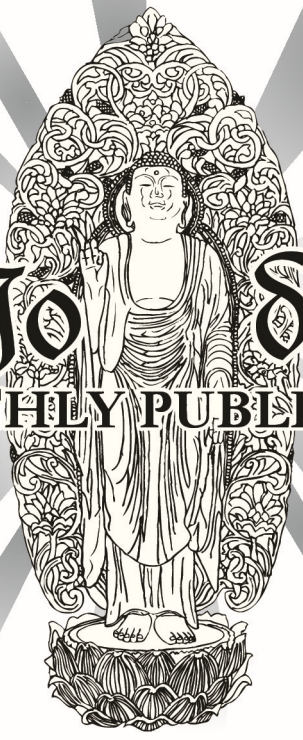
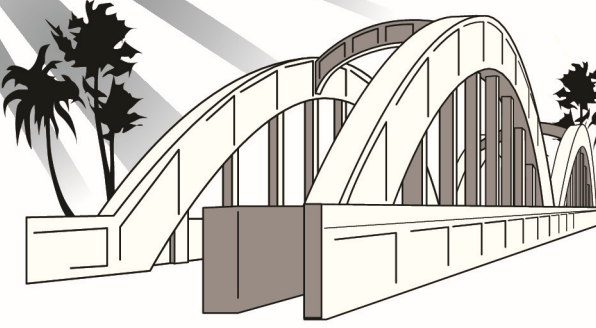


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Haleiwa Jodo Mission

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



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HALEIWA JODO MISSION

OCTOBER, 2023



FAMILY SERVICE

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023

HAWAII JODO SHU JAPAN TRIP

VISITING KYOTO, OSAKA, AND NARA

OCTOBER 5 TO 13, 2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023

KOKUA DAY

9:00 AM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023

SERMON AT THE HIGAN SERVICE

ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

Rev. Koji Jeff Ezaki

Minister of Haleiwa Jodo Mission

First, I would like to thank the people who donated supplies and materials for Maui in August. A devastating wildfire burned everything down in Lahaina. We lost our sister temple, Lahaina Jodo Mission to the fire. I heard about the tragedy the morning of August 9, when Rev. John Hara of Wailuku Jodo Mission sent an email to all the Jodo Shu reverends in Hawaii saying, "Rev. and Mrs. Gensho Hara of Lahaina Jodo Mission, who are also my parents, evacuated to a safe place. They are okay now." In the beginning, when I read that email, I did not understand what he was talking about because I was unaware of the wildfires on Maui. I then checked the website of Hawaii News Now and saw the scene of a burned field in Lahaina. I prayed and hoped for the survival of the Lahaina Jodo Mission as I was reading the article on the web. However, sadly, about an hour later, Rev. John Hara sent us an aerial photograph that was taken from an airplane, and it showed nothing but only the Great Buddha sitting on the temple grounds of Lahaina Jodo Mission.

The next day after the disaster, I learned of several groups and organizations that started to collect donated items for Maui. I had no idea what I could do for them. On August 10, two days after the fire, Linda from the North Shore News sent us a text message saying she had set up a collection drive for Maui. Immediately after, Tomomi and I cleaned the social hall and made space for supplies. Using cell phone text, Messenger, email, and LINE, I sent a message asking for goods toward Maui, to whoever I knew in my contact list, to maybe over a hundred people. Thankfully, many people responded and showed up on August 12 & 13 to drop off their donation items at the Haleiwa Jodo Mission. The collected donations were delivered first to Saint Michael School in Waialua and then shipped to Maui. In the two short days of collecting the supplies, a huge amount of donation items came in and I felt everybody's strong sympathy and aloha spirit of support to our ohana in Maui.

Have you ever been to Nara, Japan? I am getting excited to go to Nara next month with the tour group of Hawaii Jodo Shu. There is a world-famous, huge, sitting Great Buddha or *Daibutsu* statue in Todaiji Temple in Nara. I'm sure people who have visited this place were in wonder at the Buddha's magnitude. The original Great

Buddha was erected in 752, commanded by Emperor Shomu. He issued a law that stated that people should become directly involved with the establishment of the Great Buddha. The Buddhist monk, St. Gyoki, was assigned as the leader for this project and solicited donations from citizens saying, "Even one blade of grass or a handful of dirt will be appreciated." It is said that 2.6 million people out of the 6 million Japanese citizens at the time contributed toward the project. Nearly half of the population was involved in building the Great Buddha. This was 1,200 years ago.

In 1180, the original Great Buddha was burned down by a riot. St. Chogen, leader of the restoration project of the Great Buddha, collected donations from people saying, "One foot of cloth, one inch of nail, one piece of wood, and half of one cent are needed. Please help to rebuild the Great Buddha." In 1567, the Great Buddha was again destroyed during a disturbance. St. Kokei, the chairperson of the Great Buddha reconstruction, solicited donations. His saying was, "Please donate even one needle and one blade of grass." The Great Buddha as we see it today was rebuilt several times, and all projects were supported by small, heartfelt donations from people. When you have a chance to visit the Great Buddha in Nara, please remember this story.

In the Buddhist sutra, there is a story named "A Poor Woman's Lamp Offering." This story talks about contributions. There was a woman named Nanda in India. She was poor and lived each day begging. One day, when Nanda saw everyone making offerings to Shakyamuni Buddha and his disciples when they visited her village, she wanted to do the same. But because she was so poor, there was nothing to offer. So, she sold her hair to make a small amount of money. Nanda took one coin and went to the oil shop to buy oil for a lamp. It was not enough to buy oil with that money. The oil shop master was so impressed by Nanda's good deeds, that he gave her double the amount of oil. She happily made a lamp and took it to the temple. She placed it among the many lamps in front of the Enlightened One and put her hands together in gassho to pray for peace and well-being for all the beings.

As the night passed, all the lamp lights had gone out, except for the one light offered by Nanda, it was brightly lit. As the day dawned, the monk realized only one lantern burning brightly. The monk did not need the lamp light in broad daylight, so he tried to turn it off. But the flame did not go out. Shakyamuni saw his disciple trying to put out the lamp and said, "You cannot extinguish that lamp. Even if you pour water from the great sea or mountain winds blow on it, it will not be quenched because that lamp is a gift given by a person who has a great heart to save all sentient beings." This sutra

explains that heartfelt contributions, however small, have strong powers to brighten and save the world.

Today, we studied that even small donations and contributions are appreciated to support the temples. Of course, rich successful businesspeople should donate as much as they can with gratitude to return to the community and society. These kinds of good deeds are also honored and very appreciated. But we, regular people, cannot do the same thing. Doing what we can do even if it is a small thing is what's important to help people who need support. I will ask for your continued support toward the Lahaina Jodo Mission as well as the Haleiwa Jodo Mission's future projects. *Tanomimasu.*

We are observing a *Higan* Family Service. *Higan* is a day when the season changes. We have two *Higans* in a year. One is in March which is called Spring *Higan* and the other is in September called Autumn *Higan*. Spring *Higan* is the official day when spring begins and Autumn *Higan* is a day when summer ends and autumn begins. Japanese Buddhist temples also observe the *Higan* Services twice a year; once in March and the other in September. The reason we, Buddhists, observe services specifically on *Higan* is that *Higan* is a day when daylight and night are equal. It is a good time to be reminded of the Middle Way which is one of Shakyamuni's teachings. Shakyamuni taught us we must keep away from the extreme life and live moderately. A well-balanced life is a perfect way to get enlightened. This is the essence of the Middle Way. By observing the services on *Higans*, we practice the Middle Way in our daily lives. Thank you for participating in the service this morning. In conclusion, let us all put our hands together in gassho and recite Amida Buddha's Sacred Name, Namu Amida Butsu, ten times.

FIRST SUNDAY OF OCTOBER

The first Sunday of October will be a Family Service starting at 10:00 am at the Haleiwa Jodo Mission Buddhist Temple. Lunch will be served. Please join the service.

THANK YOU, SKYDIVE HAWAII

We would like to thank Skydive Hawaii in Mokuleia for making monetary donations to the Lahaina Jodo Mission. They donated many coins they collected in front of the Buddha statue that was placed on their property. The guests who visited Skydive Hawaii left the coins for several years and the owner decided to donate them to the Lahaina Jodo Mission Relief Fund when they learned of the tragedy of the Lahaina Jodo Mission. Arigatogozaimasu!

SERMONS IN THE BULLETINS

Rev. Ezaki is very happy to receive appreciation, *Gobutsuzen* and *Ofuse*, from people who enjoy his sermons and the articles in the bulletins. The main teaching of Buddhism is how we control our own minds and obtain calmness in our daily lives, not change others. Rev. Ezaki tries to apply Buddha's teaching to see ourselves inwardly and to improve our entire lives from the viewpoint of Buddhists. Mahalo.

KYOKU MEETING

Bishop Kosen Ishikawa, the Bishop of the Hawaii Council of Jodo Missions, will continue his position from 2025 to 2026. Congratulations, Bishop Ishikawa!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Shirley Kitamura

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Nadine Matsukawa (In memory of Fusae Sunada)
Bryan Kawano (In memory of Lois Kawano)
Karen Sonstegard (In memory of Gilbert Ebisui)
Shirley Kitamura (In memory of George Kitamura)
Frances Hirakawa (In memory of Walter Hirakawa)

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Robert McLean David Sugino
Paul Murakami Matsumoto Shave Ice

PATIO DONATIONS

Alissa Baligad Lloyd Family
Frances Hirakawa Kuulei Barit
Zipporah Fore/Shirley Mori

HIGAN DONATIONS

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

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER

7th YEAR SODETANI, GEORGE
OCT 8, 2017
13th YEAR ONIZUKA, HELEN
OCT 26, 2011
33rd YEAR TAKAHASHI, YOSHIZU
OCT 22, 1991
43rd YEAR HATAOKA, TOMIYO
OCT 13, 1981

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS TO LAHAINA JODO MISSION AND REV. HARA

Rev. Koji Ezaki and Bishop Kosen Ishikawa visited Maui on September 14, 2023, and brought some monetary donations for the Lahaina Jodo Mission and Rev. Gensho Hara.

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. Hara. Another way is to type "gofundme Lahaina Jodo Mission" on Google to find out the donation site made by Bishop Kosen Ishikawa and Miss Sujata Hara. You can donate online.



Rev. Ezaki presented monetary donations from the members of the Haleiwa Jodo Mission to Rev. Gensho Hara on September 14, 2023

BON FESTIVAL FOR 2024

The Board of Directors of Haleiwa Jodo Mission has decided the dates of our 2024 O-bon Services will be July 26 & 27, 2024. As usual, a Bon Dance will be held on both nights and Toro Nagashi will be held on July 27 at 9:00 pm. We really need your help to succeed in our big event. Please mark these dates in your calendar and help us make it a successful Bon Festival 2024.

REV. EZAKI GOING TO JAPAN

Rev. Ezaki will visit Japan from October 5 to 13, 2023 with members of the Hawaii Jodo Shu Pilgrimage Tour. About 25 group members will visit Chionin Temple, the headquarters of the Jodo Shu, on October 9 to participate in the Commemorative Service of the 850th Year Anniversary of Jodo Shu.

Your phone call to the temple will be transferred to Rev. Ezaki's cell phone during this period. He will be able to answer your phone in Japan. If you want to talk to Tomomi, please call 808-282-0361.

Those who are planning to go to Kyoto on October 9, find us on the grounds of the Chionin Temple and please join us for the service. I am sure it will be a good memory for you.