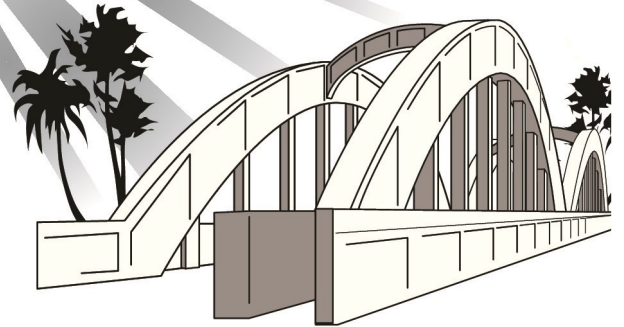
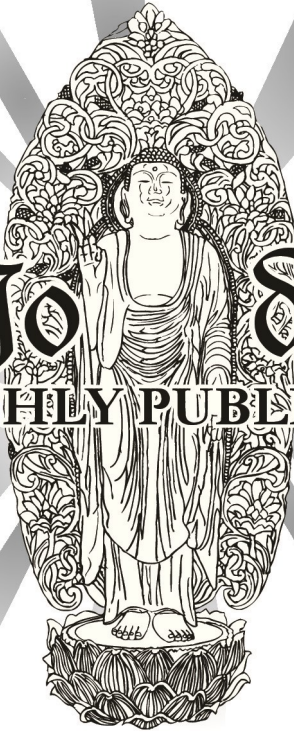


P.O. BOX242 HALEIWA, HI 96712
TEL: 637-4382 FAX: 637-3405



Haleiwa Jodo Mission

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



MAY 2023

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

P.O. BOX 242
HALEIWA, HAWAII 96712

HALEIWA JODO MISSION

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



HALEIWA JODO MISSION

MAY, 2023



FAMILY SERVICE

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2023

KOKUA DAY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

9:00 AM

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023

WAIALUA-HALEIWA BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

7:30 AM

SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2023

START AT KEMOO CEMETERY

BON DANCE PRACTICE

7:00 PM

THURSDAYS, MAY 4, 11, 18, & 25, 2023

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR MONTH OF MAY

25 th YEAR	NAKAHARA, MILDRED MAY 4, 1999
	KUWABARA, UMEYO MAY 16, 1999
27 th YEAR	SHIRATORI, TSUGIE MAY 18, 1997
47 th YEAR	NAKAHARA, TAKEO MAY 10, 1977

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

MEMBERSHIP DUES (2023)

Bertram Kawamura Shirley Kitamura
Lorelei Campbell (2022 & 2023)

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Mariann Ono, Edwin Kawamura, & Melanie Matsui
(In memory of Roy Ono, Yoshino Kawamura, Takeo
Kawamura, Yvonne Kawamura, and Ernie Tasaki)

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Laurie Mitchell

PATIO DONATIONS

Frances Hirakawa	Shantelle Kobayashi
Stanley Shimoda	

BUDDHA DAY SERVICE

Donald Koga	Dennis Nakamura
Grace Iwane	Melanie Matsui
Shinae Sakai	Sheri Yamauchi
Jennifer Pang	Joan Yamamoto
Myra Shiratori	

HIGAN SERVICE

Myra Shiratori

MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

SERMON AT THE BUDDHA DAY SERVICE

Rev. Koji Jeff Ezaki

Minister of Haleiwa Jodo Mission Buddhist Temple

We are observing Hanamatsuri or Buddha Day Service by celebrating Shakyamuni Buddha's birthday. He was born in India and founded Buddhism 2500 years ago. Sheri, Melanie, Adele, Kristelle, Jana, Kimberly, Peyton, Tomomi, Miku, and Sae decorated the shrine of the baby Buddha statue yesterday. Thank you so much. This depicts when Shakyamuni was born. It is said that sweet tea rained down when he was born in Lumbini Garden. This is the reason we celebrate by pouring sweet tea on the baby Buddha statue.

The teaching of Buddha gives us an opportunity to see ourselves, inwardly, and to improve our lives. By practicing his teaching in our daily lives, we improve ourselves to get enlightened. Let's read the sacred passage and think about how we live our daily lives as humans. Today's passage is:

Hard is birth as a man.
Hard is the life of mortals.
Hard is the hearing of the Sublime Truth.
Hard is the appearance of a Buddha.
(Dhammapada 182)

I have been talking about appreciation as the main topic in my sermons the past few months. Mainly, I said to be a person who appreciates everything around you all the time. Today, I would like to add more about it. I'll share a story with you that I heard from one of the Jodo Shu reverends in Japan long ago. This sensei had a temple member who had a knee problem. She felt pain in her left knee. She asked sensei to pray for her well-being to heal her bad leg. She also was a grumbling person who always spoke bad-mouthing about everything whenever she came to the temple office. She would say to the reverend, "Sensei, my classmates are healthy. Why do I have to suffer with pain even though we are the same age? It's not fair. Don't you think so?" She also said, "Sensei, you prayed for me several times but my leg never improved. Will Buddha help me?" She was really negative. The reverend had to deal with the mean lady who had a bitter smile all the time. However, the reverend also had a positive experience dealing with the bad-mouthing person. He asked the sassy lady, "How is your right knee?" She answered, "Oh, it's okay." "How about your shoulders?" She replied, "No problem." "How about your neck? Wrists?" She snapped, "Sensei, what's wrong with you? My problem is only my left knee. Why do you ask only about my healthy parts? You should pray for Buddha to cure my left knee." Then, the reverend said, "Have you ever been thankful for your healthy parts? You are already blessed." At that moment, this lady was embarrassed. After gathering her

thoughts in the momentary silence, her eyes began tearing. She sobbed and said, "Sensei, I am wrong."

The reverend continued, "You always pay attention to negative things. You have a lot of good parts in your body. Why don't you be thankful for them? Recite Namu Amida Butsu and live with gratitude." From that day, the lady changed her attitude and showed appreciation for her healthy parts, not only her shoulders or joints but to her heart, kidneys, and liver. She began saying, "Thank you my shoulder. Thank you, my spine. Thank you, my heart. Thank you, my life. Namu Amida Butsu." Do you know what happened with this lady? Her left knee became better. Do you know why? Because her mind was filled with appreciation, she focused only on joyful things. Her positive mind defeated the negative.

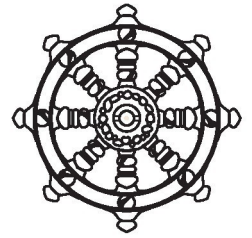
We, humans, tend to focus on negative things and nag and complain. Without thanking the many gifts from nature, we just complain about small sufferings. We must appreciate and think about the many blessings we are receiving. Continual appreciation gives us positive minds. Joys and complaints are poles apart, like positive and negative. When we think negatively, there is no positive mind. When we complain, there is no joyful mind. But if you keep a positive mind, you will be able to defeat the negative. When you are joyful, you can appreciate everything around you.

I shared a story with you about the lady who had knee pain. But anyone can act the same as this person. We often complain about what we don't have. We focus on shortages and grumble. We can spend our life being sassy and nasty with complaints, laziness, and anger, or spend our lives happily with appreciation, love, and affection. Which life do you want? Your way of life is decided by you. Today's passage says that we were born as a human among many kinds of creatures. We encountered the teaching of Buddhism among many religions. Buddha is always with us with his love and compassion. Many things happen to us. We must give thanks for everything that is happening around us at this moment. The minutes, hours, days, and years of our joyous being will accumulate like a pyramid of appreciation, culminating in a happy life. If you spend your life always nasty, stubborn, or ungrateful, it will accumulate and make for an unhappy life. Instead, if you are joyous and appreciate every single moment, you will be happy your entire life. The important thing is the accumulation of appreciation for all we receive.

Today is the celebration of Shakyamuni Buddha's birthday. He bestowed examples and passages for us. Let us appreciate our life, embrace each other, and practice Buddha's teaching.



Honor your beloved pets at the



Haleiwa Jodo Mission

PET MEMORIAL

Available to Members and Non-Members



With Love, We Remember

Options (starting from \$200, including inurnment service)

- Communal burial with name plate
- Shelf burial with name plate
- Shelf burial with picture/plaque
- Shelf burial with 3D figure/plaque

For more information:

Rev. Ezaki at **(808) 637-4382**

Email: haleiwajodominion@gmail.com

Facebook: **Haleiwa Jodo Mission – Buddhist Temple**

