

# Information on O-Toba for 2022

Dear Members and Friends of Jodo Mission:

Thank you very much for your support to Jodo Mission. We hope you are enjoying a very safe and peaceful New Year. Time passes so quickly! It is time to order your O-Toba.

What is an O-Toba? An O-Toba is a long wooden memorial tablet with the name or names of your ancestors written to honor them. An O-Toba is a spiritual monument for the deceased. To dedicate O-Toba is one of the greatest virtues for both living and the dead. It can be dedicated at any service but since O-Bon is a time when all the spirits come back to this world, O-Toba during O-Bon is most appropriate and meaningful. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 2020 and 2021 O-Bon services were held virtually and the 2021 links are still available at [jodo.us](http://jodo.us) if you wish to see them again. The virtual program was beautifully put together by Bishop Ishikawa. This year 2022, we may have to do O-Bon virtually again but as summer gets closer, we will have updated information.

**You should be receiving your 2022 O-Toba order form soon.** Please fill out the form and specify whether you request the writing in Japanese or English. If in Japanese, please provide the proper kanji as there may be many ways of writing kanji.

Because of the Temple's busy summer schedule and the continuing of the new O-Toba, **the deadline to order your O-Toba is Tuesday, March 1st.** Our O-Bon services will be held on **July 15-17** (Fri-Sun). If, for some reason, you did not receive the O-Toba form, please contact Jodo Mission office at 808-949-3995.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

In Gassho,

Jodo Mission of Hawaii

[See pg 4 for a longer definition of What is an O-Toba.]



Jodo Mission of Hawaii  
1429 Makiki St.  
Honolulu HI 96814  
Address Service Requested

(#1302-0222)

JODO MISSION OF HAWAII  
BULLETIN - FEBRUARY 2022



## MESSAGE FROM BISHOP KOSEN ISHIKAWA



We have heard	極楽は
The Pure Land	はるけきほどと
Is far, far away,	聞きしかど
Yet striving earnestly	つとめていたる
We reach our destination	所なりけり

(Kuya Shonin—空也上人)

It is said this short poem was written by Kuya Shonin (903-972) who was one of the first Japanese priests to spread Nenbutsu amongst people during the Heian Period. Kuya Shonin has been known as the founder of Odori Nenbutsu which is to recite Nenbutsu while dancing with musical rhythm but there is no proof that Kuya did Odori Nenbutsu. However, he seemed to travel many places in Japan and left many legends and folklores such as building roads, digging wells for the welfare of the people. Therefore with respect, he is called “Ichino-Hijiri (The Saint in the town)” or “Amida Hijiri (The Saint like Amida Buddha).”

According to Amida Sutra, the Pure Land exists in the far west, as many as ten trillion Buddha-lands away. From the viewpoint of common sense, it’s impossible to get to the far western Pure Land. However, Kuya Shonin wrote this short verse to tell us the ways to reach there. My first understanding of this verse is like a saying that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. By practicing diligently or constant efforts of practicing will lead us to the Pure Land. This is the understanding based on the word “Tsutome-te” as “by diligent practice” or “by “O-tsutome.” This encourages us to continue to practice hard because if we keep working for the goal, we could get closer to the goal no matter how far the goal may be.

On the other hand, I realized another understanding of the “Tsutome-te” is “to be immediately” or “to work quickly” based on another meaning of “Tsuto” as early or quickly. What an amazing poem! This poem has double meanings. Kuya Shonin meant two completely different ways to reach the Pure Land in this short poem. The first translation is according to the idea of Jiriki or self-power. With efforts and diligence, we get to the Pure Land. However, Jiriki is very difficult to continue and not good for everyone.

On the other hand, Tariki or other power is based on the original vow of Amida Buddha who wants to save us all. Therefore, as soon as we establish faith in the original vow of Amida Buddha, we can realize self-power is completely unnecessary. All we need to do is just rely upon Amida Buddha. Therefore, we don’t need to strive to get to the Pure Land. Instead, Amida Buddha will come to welcome us immediately from his Pure Land far away. This is how I made a new translation for the poem above.

[continued on page 3]

[cont'd Bishop's Message]

We have heard  
The Pure Land  
Is far, far away,  
Yet quickly (with Nenbutsu)  
We reach our destination  
  
Namu Amida Butsu



Statue of Kuya at Rokuharamitsuji Temple in Kyoto. It is said when he recited 6 syllables of Na-Mu-A-Mi-Da-Butsu 6 figures of Amida Buddha came out from his mouth.

Gassho,  
Bishop Kosen Ishikawa

## MESSAGE FROM REV. TAKAAKI TANABE



Aloha! I'm Rev. Tanabe. I've been in Hawaii since October 22, 2021. When you come to Betsuin, I may be in office. I wish to meet you. Recently, I returned from Kauai and now I'll stay at Betsuin on Oahu until January 31 and I'll come back to Oahu in March again.

Now I'll talk about Japanese traditional arts. Above is a design. This is not many wi-fi logos together. This is "Seigaiha". Seigaiha are lucky things that mean "We wish for peace of life and it's like the calm sea spread to infinite" in Japan. It's usually found in paint and shop sign and Gagaku performance and clothes in Japan. The original was from Iraq, more detail told Sasanian Persia on 226-651 years.

By the way, Buddhism was imported from India via China over the ocean. In 753, a Chinese Priest voyaged from China to Japan. His name is **Ganjin (Jianzhen)** who introduced 'Ritsu' or "Buddhist rules" to Japan.



There were no airplanes for transportation in those days. The main means of transportation was by ship. He failed to sail twice and lost his eyesight, but he never gave up. If he had given up, would there be Buddhism in Hawaii or even in Japan.

Jodo Shu sect started 422 years after that and the beginning of Jodo Mission of Hawaii. In 1894, Jodo Buddhism came to Hawaii from Japan across the ocean.

In Gassho,  
Rev. Takaaki Tanabe

## Buddha's Memorial Day Service (Nehan-e) Sunday, February 13th at 10 a.m.

Nehan-e is the Memorial Day Service for Shakyamuni Buddha. He is the founder of Buddhism. He passed away at the age of 80 about 2500 years ago on February 15.



“Nehan” is “Nirvana” in Sanskrit. “Nirvana” means the state of things after a fire has been put out. In other words, it means that Shakyamuni Buddha put out the fire of bad things human beings have in their minds; such as, anger, confusion, sorrow and so on. Then, he completely reached Enlightenment on that day. It is said that Shakyamuni Buddha achieved Enlightenment at the age of 35 and then spent the rest of his life teaching his wisdom throughout much of northern India. After nearly 45 years of lecturing, he and a number of his loyal disciples journeyed toward the place of his birth. During this journey, Buddha experienced much pain from his illness and knew his time on earth was coming to an end but still continued to his birthplace. When his pain became unbearable and he had to stop moving, his disciples prepared a bed for him under a sala tree where he could rest. He still continued to preach his sermons and told his disciples that they must continue to practice his teachings and strive for enlightenment.

Thanks to Shakyamuni Buddha, we can live with his wonderful teachings. Shall we express our great appreciation to Shakyamuni Buddha on this Nehan Service. **The service will be held on Sunday, February 13th at 10:00 am. Service may be “hybrid virtual”.** We look forward to your attendance and look for Zoom or YouTube link. *Thank you.*

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**What is an O-Toba?** It is a long wooden memorial tablet with name(s) of the deceased or ancestors. The formal name of O-Toba is “Sotoba(卒塔婆)” in Japanese which was a transcription of a Sanskrit word “Stupa.” As is often the case with Buddhist terms in Sanskrit, Chinese/Japanese didn’t translate this word and just transcribed the sound. The word “Sotoba” became shortened as “Toba”. As you may know, “O” in Japanese means “big.” Thus O-Toba literally means “Big Toba.” There are other sizes called “Chu-Toba =medium size Toba” and “Ko-Toba=smaller size Toba.”



Originally, Stupa is a Buddhist tower or pagoda where people enshrined sacred relics of the Buddha. To dedicate Stupa has been believed to be one of the greatest virtues for both deceased and donors. There are many types of stupas such as 180 feet five-story pagoda and 1 foot tablet but generally the size of stupas got smaller and cheaper so that many people can dedicate easily. Japanese Buddhists dedicate Toba at the time of memorial services or special services. Here in Hawaii, O-Toba during O-Bon is well-known since all the spirits of the deceased returns to this world. In order to welcome them as portable monuments, we dedicate O-Toba.

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**Mailing Addresses—Bulk Mail** - We ask that you keep Jodo Mission of Hawaii advised of your current mailing address. This is important so we don’t send to the same address when someone passes or when you move to Japan or if you move to a different place or even to a different apartment in the same building. Recently, the postal service sent us \$64 worth of returned mail. With the pandemic, they were not able to inform Jodo Mission of returned mail. Your kokua is much appreciated.





## Hinamatsuri Dolls for Display & Blessing Service

March 3 is known as Girl's Day or "Hinamatsuri" which is a celebration for all girls. By displaying Hina dolls, we wish for girls' good health and growth. This year, Mrs. Yayoi Ishikawa will display her family's traditional Hina Dolls from Japan from February 5th to March 3rd at the Hondo. Blessing service with picture-taking for children is also available. For reservation, please contact our office at (808)949-3995.

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## Open Letter to All Honolulu Jodo Shu Fujinkai Members

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fujinkai ladies have not been able to meet regularly on the first Sunday of the month. Our last monthly meeting was on March 1, 2020. Each year in February, the Fujinkai ladies gather for a New Years party and have fun and fellowship. Unfortunately, with the pandemic, we are sorry we are UNABLE TO HAVE A NEW YEARS PARTY this year..

However, we will have a "hybrid virtual" **General Membership meeting of the Honolulu Jodo Shu Fujinkai, which is now scheduled for Sunday, February 27, at 11 a.m.** "Hybrid virtual" means, if there are those who want to attend they can attend while those who want the meeting on Zoom, they can see it on Zoom. Those who want the Zoom link, please contact the Jodo Mission office at (808) 949-3995 and request a link be sent to their email address.



If possible, we would like as many of the Fujinkai members to attend this general meeting on February 27 either via Zoom or in person. *Thank you for your support.*

## What is “Perpetual Memorial Service?” (Eitaikyo)

This record of a perpetual memorial service is called *Eitaikyo* in Japanese. When the date of death occurs for a person listed on this record, the ministers pray for that individual during the morning service. The prayers will continue each year for as long as Jodo Mission exists.

Anyone can be included in it. You may put your own name on the list, too. This also helps when it is difficult to have memorial services. We also welcome you to attend the morning service at **9:30am**. (Note time change due to Covid-19, please call temple if you plan to attend.)

### How to apply

Stop by the office, and fill out the application form. Each name costs \$200. After the application is accepted, the name will be listed on the record.

### Notice to Nokotsudo Visitors

(Sometimes referred to as the **Niche rooms**)

Many people call to see if the Nokotsudo/ Columbarium (or sometimes known as Niche rooms) are open. We have been letting people in if you come and ring the blue bell. **You must wear a mask, use the hand sanitizer going in and coming out and go home and wash your hands with soap.** No more than 4 people at a time, with social distancing.

**New Hours:** 10 am to 5 pm Mon to Sat  
12 pm to 3 pm Sunday\*  
10 am to 3 pm Holidays

### 2022 Memorial Years Observed

1 <sup>st</sup> year	2021
3 <sup>rd</sup> year	2020
7 <sup>th</sup> year	2016
13 <sup>th</sup> year	2010
17 <sup>th</sup> year	2006
23 <sup>rd</sup> year	2000
25 <sup>th</sup> year	1998
27 <sup>th</sup> year	1996
33 <sup>rd</sup> year	1990
37 <sup>th</sup> year	1986
43 <sup>rd</sup> year	1980
47 <sup>th</sup> year	1976
50 <sup>th</sup> year	1973
100 <sup>th</sup> year	1923

### Email Monthly Bulletin—Please

advise if you wish to have your monthly bulletin via email instead of U.S. mail. **Please also keep Jodo Mission advised of your current address & phone number.**

Mail forwarded adds additional costs.

Thank you for your

### REMINDERS

**Gojikai or Membership—\$60.00 per year**

Persons of the same family but living separately should have their own membership

**Niche owners** should continue their Membership or Gojikai each year **\$60.00**

AND

**Maintenance donation \$5.00 per year per niche**

### お知らせ

1年間における護持会費、又はメンバーシップは60ドルになります。同世帯の家族) 世帯が別の場合は個々にメンバーシップが必要です。

納骨堂を所有の方は別途、5ドルの年間管理費をお納めください



Bishop Kosen Ishikawa



Rev. Myoko Takano  
Resident Minister



Rev. Takaaki Kouken  
Tanabe  
Resident Minister

### Jodo Mission

### Office Hours:

[New Covid Hours]

Monday to Saturday

10am–5pm

Sunday & Holidays

10am–3pm

Phone: (808) 949-3995

Website: [www.jodo.us](http://www.jodo.us)

## Perpetual Memorial Service (Eitaikyo) For February

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1. Itaro Yanagihara<br>The Yanagihara Family<br>Kisaburo Teraoka<br>The Teraoka Family<br>The Mitani Family<br>Sumako Kishii   | The Yamamoto Family<br>Kame Uyehara<br>The Uyehara Family<br>Michie Watanabe<br>Jimmy Nestegard<br>Chiyo Tanaka<br>J Jackson Miiyagawa  | The Yamane & Harada<br>Family<br>Tsutako Yamanaka<br>The Yamanaka Family<br>Matsuyo Machida<br>Otome Takara<br>Tomiko "Ruth" Inouye<br>Cory Ikuta<br>Masae Matsumoto   | 27. Taichi Wakaki<br>The Wakaki Family<br>Keiko Hanano<br>Noboru Hirano<br>Shigeru Takara<br>Tatsuiki Hirano<br>Matsuye Hirano<br>Keiji Kokubun<br>The Aoki & Hirano Family |
| 2. Kuma Kawamura<br>The Kawamura Family<br>Robert Hiroshi Yamanaka<br>Dorothy Mieko Oshita<br>Hideo Takamatsu<br>Yasuko Tanaka<br>Sueyo Nakamura   | 11. Minekichi Taniguchi<br>The Taniguchi Family<br>Tsuneko Nago<br>The Nago & Kunimoto<br>Family<br>Rev. Shuen Inouye<br>Townsend<br>Sue Nishimoto (2)<br>Noboru Yamasaki<br>Kameyo Fujita<br>Hisae Yamato<br>Yoko Saito  | 19. Chozo Kawano<br>The Kawano Family<br>Eijiro Murakami<br>The Murakami &<br>Yamamoto Family<br>Ishi Matsuda<br>Eijiro Murakami<br>The Murakami Family<br>Tsukiko Kamimura  | 28. Fukuichi Fukuda<br>Mitsuyo Gladys Yoshiwara<br>The Goichi Kawamura<br>Family<br>Tsuru Kuniyuki  |
| 3. Rymond Hisashi Narahara<br>Ayame Kano<br>Hazel Mitsuko Imai   | 12. Sumie Kanayama<br>The Kanayama Family<br>Bishop Shinkyo Tachikawa<br>Doris Umeno Nojima<br>Yoshihiro Hata   | 20. Ryoza Hamada<br>The Hamada Family<br>Magoichi Mineishi<br>The Mineishi Family<br>Taro Takara<br>Tomoyo Takara<br>Kimie Matsuda<br>Suye Takabayashi<br>Natsuko Aoki<br>The Takara Family<br>Miyako Amano  | 29. Nobue Kochi   |
| 4. Kii Hirohama<br>The Hirohama Family<br>Kiyoe Soma<br>Robert Takashi Maehara   | 13. Torajiro Kusunoki<br>The Kusunoki Family<br>Ichiro Yasumoto<br>Fusakichi Kawanishi<br>Haruyo Tarumoto<br>Seijiro Takabayashi  | 21. Tamotsu Kuniyuki<br>Momoyo Yoshida<br>Kikue W. Awaya   |   |
| 5. Hatsu Konaka<br>The Yano, Konaka &<br>Hayashi Family<br>Gorokichi Ishida<br>The Ishida and Aimoto<br>Family<br>Misao Mitsuyasu<br>The Mitsuyasu Family<br>Masaharu Kotake<br>Tsugio Hayase<br>Shigeyo Kawano<br>Harumi Mayeda<br>Sumiko Sakaguchi | 14. Hajime Nishimoto<br>The Nishimoto Family<br>Kensuke Hironaka<br>The Hironaka & Ishimoto<br>Family<br>Sae Tachikawa<br>Hiroshi Sato<br>Raymond Shizuo Asaumi<br>Shigeyo Otani<br>Takeji Gushikuma<br>Matsu Kiyuna<br>George Satoshi Tarumoto<br>Kikuye Homareda<br>Eleanor Emiko Nishimura | 22. Yoshi Hayashi<br>The Yano, Konaka &<br>Hayashi Family<br>Kinu Nishimura (2)  |   |
| 6. Matsuemon Tanimura (2)<br>The Tanimura Family (2)<br>The Sawaichi Nakagawa<br>Family<br>Kimi Higashi<br>Misae Ichida<br>Bunji Kishii (2)<br>Umeyo Yamamoto<br>Dr. Yasuhiko Hayashi<br>Patrick Seiji Yamamoto                                      | 15. Fred Kiyoshi Tsukiyama<br>Otake Takara  | 23. Taichi Sato<br>Tsutae Tanimura   |   |
| 7. Namiye Nakamura<br>Tsugi Hifumi<br>Yoshizo Muramoto<br>Byron T. Shimotsukasa  | 16. Shigeru Asaumi<br>The Asaumi Family<br>Yukio Nakagawa<br>Motoo Muramoto   | 24. Kame Akamine<br>The Akamine Family<br>Kikuno Hisamura<br>Kamesuke Nakahama<br>Peggy Takiko Yanagihara  |   |
| 8. Toshio Higa<br>The Higa Family<br>Yukie Higashi<br>Tame Ito<br>Stella Masako Takamatsu  | 17. Masuyo Shimokawa<br>The Shimokawa Family<br>Kinzaburo Makino<br>The Makino Family<br>Kazuyo Hashimoto<br>Choshiro Ikuta<br>Tsuchiyo Fujimoto<br>Reiko Hata<br>Alfred Akira Tanaka<br>Frederick Kinzaburo<br>Makino  | 25. Sue Maeda<br>The Maeda Family<br>Shinichi Takao<br>The Takao Family<br>Takayo Matsuo<br>The Matsuo Family<br>Shigeki Umemoto<br>The Yoza Family<br>The Shimabukuro Family<br>Tamotsu Nakamura<br>Florence Kimie Karimoto<br>Les Takemi Kinoshita |   |
| 9. Haruyo Yanagihara<br>The Yanagihara Family<br>Minoru Okawa<br>The Okawa Family<br>Kishichi Yoshikawa<br>Kimie Tanaka<br>Yoshiteru Sakaguchi<br>Miyono Shimoda   | 18. Reiji Yamane  | 26. Jirosaku Otani<br>The Otani & Yanagihara<br>Family<br>Shiro Fukuda<br>Richard Kiyomi Ochiai<br>Robert Bobby Mitsuyasu<br>Stanley Ryosei Matayoshi  |   |
| 10. Satomi Yamamoto  |   |  |   |

### *Obituaries*

The Jodo Mission of Hawaii extends its sincere condolences to the family members and loved ones of the following members who have recently left this world for the Pure Land.

Yachiyo Ogino	94
Michiko Kotake	101

9:30am Morning Service Everyday  
Note: Time may change due to  
 Covid-19 Schedule

# February 2022

*Jodo Mission of Hawaii*  
 Phone: 949-3995  
 Website: www.jodo.us

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:00am Sunday Service	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 10:00am Nehane Family Service 11:00 am Board Meeting	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 10:00am Sunday Service	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 10:00 am Sunday Service 11:00am Fujinkai General Membership Mtg	28	<b>Jodo Shu Calendar for February 2022: Accept advice            given you now and pass it on to the next generation</b>				

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**COMING EVENTS:**  
 Deadline for O-Toba Orders: March 1  
 Spring Higan Service: March 20 @ 10 am  
 Youth Retreat: To be Announced  
 .....

*Fujinkai:* Feb 27 at 11:00 am I  
 Hybrid Virtual  
 General Membership Meeting  
 after Sunday Service

Sunday School  
 No Sunday School  
Sewing Circle: No Class  
 in February;

**Bazaar Donations** are not being accepted temporarily. Thank you for your patience.

**Senior YBA:** No meeting

**Membership Dues (Gojikai) REMINDER:** Please pay your membership dues (\$60) for this year and if you did not pay for 2021, we would appreciate you doing so by making your check payable to **Jodo Mission of Hawaii** (mail to 1429 Makiki Street, Honolulu, HI 96814). Thank you.