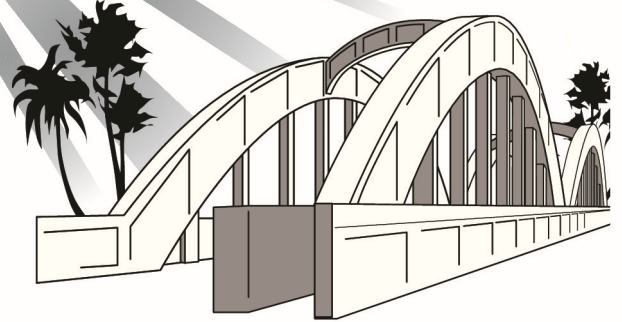
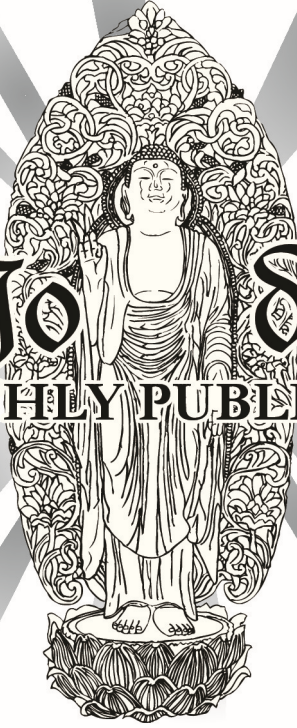


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Haleiwa Jodo Mission

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



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HALEIWA JODO MISSION

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HALEIWA JODO MISSION

SEPTEMBER, 2023



HIGAN SERVICE

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

KYOKU CONVENTION

8:00 AM TO 11:00 AM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

KOKUA DAY

9:00 AM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

3 rd YEAR	HIRAKAWA, WALTER SEP 1, 2021
7 th YEAR	MURAOKA, TOSHIKO SEP 27, 2017
13 th YEAR	NAKATA, GEORGE SEP 1, 2011
27 th YEAR	AOKI, MINORU SEP 24, 1997

PATIO DONATIONS

Frances Hirakawa	Melvin Fukuda
Gwendolynn Vierra	Leilani Fujinaga
Haleiwa Bon Dance Club	

FAMILY SERVICE (AUGUST 6)

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Douglas Kuniyuki
(In memory of Toshiaki & Masae Mukai)

Satoshi Watanuki
(In memory of Tasaburo & Suye Watanuki)

Yamauchi Family
(In memory of Noboru Yamauchi)

Lloyd Family
(In memory of Howard Miike)

SPECIAL DONATIONS & GOBUTSUZEN

Mae Yorimoto	Ivan Matsumoto
Katherinne Kawamata	The Late Jennie Miyasaki
Kuniomi Uehara	

TRAGEDY ON THE ISLAND OF MAUI

On August 9, 2023, we were heartbroken to hear about the wildfire in Lahaina that destroyed not only the beautiful historic town but also our sister temple, Lahaina Jodo Mission. Only their great Buddha statue survived, as the main temple, three-story pagoda, bell tower, and the minister's residence were burned down. Thankfully, the Rev. and Mrs. Gensho Hara managed to evacuate to a safe place.

Bishop Kosen Ishikawa will work with the members of the Hawaii Council of Jodo Missions as well as the Jodo Shu Headquarters for the Lahaina Jodo Mission to facilitate the recovery efforts from the disaster. Please consider donating to help Lahaina Jodo Mission and Rev. Gensho Hara.

SERMON AT THE FAMILY SERVICE

Rev. Koji Jeff Ezaki
Minister of Haleiwa Jodo Mission

As posted on the bulletin, I went to Japan with my daughters last week. The purpose of visiting Japan was for my daughters to participate in the 3-day kid's sleepover retreat called "Otetsugi" which means "the transmission of the teaching of Jodo-Shu" that was held in the Chionin Temple, the Jodo-shu headquarters in Kyoto. My daughters stayed at Chionin Temple with other children between the grades of 4th and 9th and participated in various activities such as learning sutra chanting, and temple cleaning, as well as playing games, and enjoying picnics in the temple. I was excited for my daughters to participate in this program when I found out Chionin Temple decide to restart this annual program since it shut down because of COVID. Also, after finding out school will be starting on August 8, I realized there were two weeks between our Obon and the first day of school. Thinking about my daughters' ages, I thought "Go now or never!" I deeply appreciate the members who took down the yagura and toro shelves in the hall while I was in Japan. I will be showing you pictures taken on the trip after the service that I hope you enjoy.

As many of you know, Hawaii Jodo-Shu will have a Japan trip in October which I will also be attending. This Japan trip will be a group tour, participating in the 850th Anniversary Founding of Jodo-Shu by St. Honen. St. Honen founded Jodo-Shu in 1175. Jodo-Shu welcomes 850 years in 2024. Services will be starting this year and continue over the next year accepting participants. Because Jodo-Shu has a huge denomination, with about 7,000 Jodo-Shu temples all over Japan as well as Hawaii, North America, Brazil, France, and Australia, group tours must secure appointments and dates to visit during this special anniversary. The headquarters have scheduled services for the next year and are expected to welcome millions of visitors and participants from all over the world. I am happy to go to Japan with our temple members, not only from Oahu but from neighbor islands as well. Some know I was born and raised in Osaka and spent four years in Kyoto during my college years. We had a ZOOM meeting with the group participants, and some are expecting that I will be a tour guide during this trip. Definitely, I would like to take and show them the good places in Osaka, Kyoto, and Nara, places very familiar to me just like my backyard.

Now, let's study about the life of St. Honen, founder of Jodo Shu. St. Honen was born in 1133, 890 years ago, and was a son of a samurai warrior. He started studying Buddhism when he was 9 years old. At the age of 15, he entered college

at Mt. Hiei where he further studied Buddhism. During those times, it was expected for children to take over their father's occupation. A warrior's son became a warrior, a son of a farmer became a farmer, a merchant son became a merchant, and so on. St. Honen was supposed to become a warrior. He, however, walked a different path. The reason he became a Buddhist priest was because of his father's death. His father was assassinated by his enemy in a surprise attack during the night. In ancient times in Japan, if a samurai was killed by the enemy, the son would take revenge. Although they had a police system even 800 years ago, they were controlled by under-the-table money. If a rich person bribed the police, homicide and robbery cases would be dismissed. This was the case for St. Honen. There was no way, other than revenge itself, to avenge his father's death. You may have watched this kind of story in a samurai movie. Young St. Honen, the son of a warrior, was sworn to revenge, but his father forbade it. His father, in critical condition in bed before his death, told the young Honen not to seek revenge because if he killed the enemy, the enemy's son would then kill Honen, and this cycle of revenge would just continue into future generations. Hatred never creates anything but destruction. St. Honen's father left his last will and died: Discard the feelings of revenge and seek the way to happiness by studying Buddhism.

Revenge is an illegal action in this present age. Should a member of your family be killed, you cannot kill the killer. Definitely, revenge is against humanism. However, all of us have a sense of revenge, more or less. If you have been treated unfairly or discriminated by someone, you may think, "I'll get back at you!" We like to teach somebody a lesson. Filled with resentment, you speak ill of that person to many people behind their backs or even harass the person directly. Using words and attitudes, your response back is with anger. Why do we, humans, tend to seek revenge, big or small, toward people who mistreat us? Because you feel refreshed when you pay tit for tat. However, a desire for revenge is a trap to fall into bad karma. You may feel good when you seek revenge but you will have to pay for it eventually.

I always say, what you did will return to you. Revenge is not a beneficial action. It will just ruin your life. St. Honen became a Buddhist monk and left a warrior's life. He must have been in sorrow after his father's death and suffered from mental agony. Every day he must have thought of seeking revenge because of his warrior's blood. However, instead of revenge with violence, he devoted himself to studying Buddhism. Desperately, restraining his anxieties and resentments, he read sutras to find a way to achieve happiness. Where he ultimately found it was in the recitation of Amida Buddha's name. St. Honen strongly emphasized

that we must realize we are imperfect creatures. Hatred, anger, and resentment are a part of our minds. The desire for revenge never disappears from our minds. We cannot get enlightenment through our own power. That is why by reciting his name, we should throw ourselves into Buddha's arms, and ask him to lead us to the state of enlightenment. This is the main teaching of Jodo Shu which St. Honen preached.

"Namu Amida Butsu" means "I take refuge in Amida Buddha" so we must ask for his guidance. No matter how much we practice good deeds in our daily lives, a wicked mind may come to our mind at the next moment. That's why we must call Buddha's name devotedly many times, anytime and anywhere, to try to connect our minds to the Buddha. We, humans, think that I am in the right, defeat others, correct others, and teach others a lesson. On the other hand, if you realize that you are an imperfect person, filled with many delusions, you will never show a negative attitude toward others. If your mind is filled with Buddha's name, there is no room for bad thoughts.

We follow the same teaching as when St. Honen founded Jodo Shu 850 years ago. We recite the same words "Namu Amida Butsu" from 850 years ago. Almost 900 years have passed since the death of our founder, St. Honen, but we still follow St. Honen's same ritual in the same way he did at that time. My daughters participated in the "Otetsugi" or "the transmission of the teaching of Jodo-Shu" in Chionin Temple last week. This retreat is indeed to help pass down the teachings to the next generation. Let us keep and pass down our faith and teaching of Jodo Shu to future generations by reciting Amida Buddha's Sacred Name. If there are people who did not sign up by the deadline of the tour but might go to Japan in October, you still have a chance to join our group. You can purchase a plane ticket by yourself and meet us on October 9 at the Chionin Temple. In this case, although you will not be able to join our entire group tour, you can participate in the service at Chionin Temple with us. If you are planning an individual trip to Japan at another time, please visit Chionin Temple. They will welcome you all the time throughout the year.

FIRST SUNDAY OF SEPTEMBER

The first Sunday of September will be a Higan Service starting at 10:00 am. Lunch will be served. Please join us.

THANK YOU FOR OSETTAI

We would like to thank the following members for preparing refreshments for the Family Service on August 6, 2023: Patty Hirano, Etsuko Morikawa, and Ama Morikawa-Arnold.

GREAT THANKS TO WAIALUA HIGH & INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ROBOTICS

Haleiwa Jodo Mission deeply appreciates the Waiialua High and Intermediate School Robotics team for helping at our Obon Festival. They helped us not only at the food booths but also as parking attendants in coordinating a smooth and orderly parking experience for our guests. The Robotics program also donated our newly made bon dance signs we posted along the street. Haleiwa Jodo Mission is looking forward to another year of success in robotics and in the community.

BIG MAHALO FROM EZAKI FAMILY

Arigatogozaimasu for your warm consideration toward Tomomi Ezaki while Rev. Ezaki and his daughters were in Japan. This was the first time Tomomi stayed in the residence apart from her family. Thankfully, people stopped at the temple and brought bento and homemade okazu for her. She also received a freshly caught fish filet. Tomomi spent time cleaning the temple and volunteering at the Food Bank.

Miku and Sae Ezaki both enjoyed the *Otetsugi* 3-day kid's sleepover retreat at the Chionin Temple in Kyoto. Haleiwa Jodo Mission is truly supported by its members, friends, and neighbors.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS TO MAUI

Haleiwa Jodo Mission would like to thank everyone who brought material donations for supporting the people affected by the Maui wildfire. Even with only two days on August 12 & 13, a huge amount of donations came into the Haleiwa Jodo Mission. Sheri Yamauchi, Jess Kawachi, Janine Bregulla, Tomomi Ezaki, and Rev. Ezaki delivered these donations to Saint Michael School in Waiialua. The collected items were sent by boat to Kahului Seaport. Thank you to the following people who donated: Glen Matsumoto, Brian Kawano, Clifford Kawano, Belita Ames, Debbie Aldrich, Elaine Tamaye, Toyomura Family, Shinae Sakai & Family, Gordon & Adrian Muraoka, Dennis & Helen Nakamura, Yoshi Umeda, Lloyd Family, Williams & Stone, Tomoko & Glenn Matsumoto, Pearl & Joshua Choi, Monica Domingo, Wendi Woodstrup, Mitsuko Sasaki, Kawachi & Muto Family, Erika & Taku Horie, Vernon & Jeniffer Pang, Cynthia & Myles Murakami, Joanne & Brad Yamauchi, Susan & Brad Sekigawa, David Sugino, Calvin Kunihisa, Steven Kunihisa, Clyde & Sarah Miyataki, Brian Miyataki, Jasmin Arellano, Geri Uyesugi, Carol Tao, Karen Tanaka, Megan Nakamoto, Patty Hirano, Usen Gusman, Nancy Kunishima, Masumi Furusho, and Alissa Baligad.