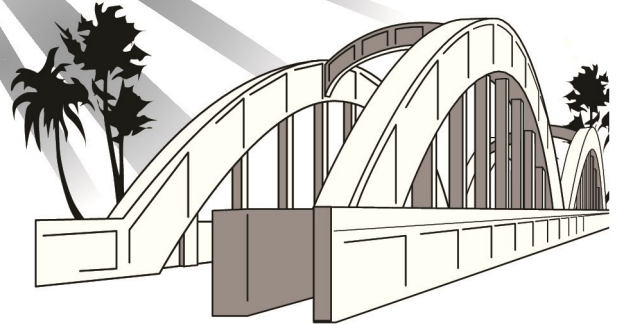
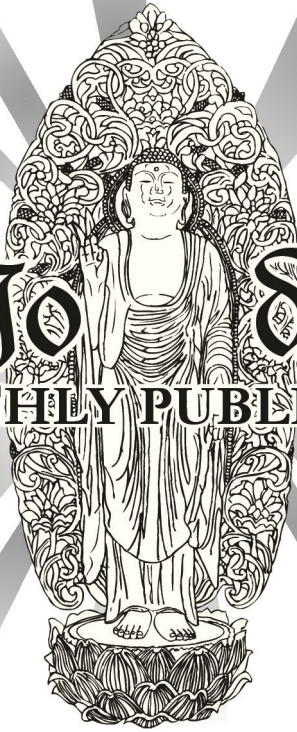


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# Haleiwa Jodo Mission

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



AUGUST 2022

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P.O. BOX 242  
HALEIWA, HAWAII 96712



# HALEIWA JODO MISSION

AUGUST, 2022



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## *O-BON SERVICE (TOBA PRAYER)*

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2022

GUEST SPEAKER: BISHOP KOSEN ISHIKAWA

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## *KOKUA DAY*

9:00 AM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2022

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### FIRST SUNDAY OF AUGUST

O-bon Service will be observed on August 7, 2022. We will welcome Bishop Kosen Ishikawa of Jodo Mission of Hawaii as a guest speaker. Lunch will be served. Those who have not ordered toba yet, please place your order as soon as possible.

### MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR MONTH OF AUGUST

23 <sup>rd</sup> YEAR	MUKAI, TOSHIKI AUG 3, 2000
27 <sup>th</sup> YEAR	KAWAMURA, HARRY AUG 18, 1996
50 <sup>th</sup> YEAR	YAMAMOTO, HARUO AUG 1, 1973

### TREASURER'S NOTE

Please bring your membership dues up to date. We are accepting dues for 2022 as well as past year(s) dues for those who haven't yet paid. Annual membership is \$50.00.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

We would like to thank the people who helped with the Obon project in 2022. Toro for the virtual toro nagashi and the yagura for the virtual Bon Dance were built on July 9. We knocked down the yagura on July 17. Rev. Ezaki will post the virtual Bon Dance and virtual Toro Nagashi on his YouTube channel as soon as the video editing is done.

### PRESENTATION OF STATE FUJINKAI SCHOLARSHIP

The presentation of the 2022 State Fujinkai Namiye Nakamura Scholarship was held on July 3 after the Family Service. Ikaika McCormick, who also received the Marian Kawamura Scholarship from Haleiwa Jodo Mission, received the scholarship. Later he also received the Aloha State Meisho YBA scholarship. Haleiwa Jodo Mission wishes Ikaika all the best in his future endeavors.



(The scholarship was presented to Ikaika by Sheri Yamauchi)

### PATIO RESERVATIONS

Rev. Ezaki will take reservations for your party to use the patio at the temple. Dues-paying members will be able to use this temple facility. Please call Rev. Ezaki at 637-4382 to make a reservation.

## SERMON AT VIDEO SUNDAY SERVICE

ON JULY 3, 2022

Rev. Koji Jeff Ezaki  
Minister of Haleiwa Jodo Mission

Today, I would like to speak on one of the important basic teachings of Shakyamuni, the Middle Way. The Middle Way is the teaching that Shakyamuni preached in the first sermon after he got enlightened. Shakyamuni described the teaching of the Middle Way using a metaphor like this so please look at the handout. It says,

*"If the lute strings are too tight, will your lute make a nice sound? If the strings are too loose, will your lute make a nice sound? .... In the same way, if you practice too intensely, it causes stress. If you practice too little, it causes indolence."*

Shakyamuni explained the Middle Way using the metaphor of strings of a musical instrument. Keeping a balance between two binary oppositions is important — practically speaking, we should maintain an equilibrium with our emotions, behavior, and other aspects of our lives in every circumstance. In order to understand why Shakyamuni spoke this teaching in his first sermon, we must know his life and how he lived up until he got enlightened.

Shakyamuni's birth name was Siddhartha Gautama and was the son of King Suddhodana. Siddhartha was supposed to succeed his father's position and become king of the Shakya Clan in the future. However, he abandoned his status and position and left the palace to seek the true teaching for mankind. I am sure many of you are familiar with this story because I have spoken about it many times in the past. It sounds like a wonderful thing that one renounced his high position and chose the thorny path to seek true happiness. But as for his father's wish, he wanted Siddhartha to stay in the palace and become the future king. Because the kingdom was under a hereditary system, should the king's child not take over the father's position, the country collapses. The king managed to keep Siddhartha to stay in the kingdom. Siddhartha spent a luxurious life. He learned martial arts as a future ruler, had feasts and entertainment nightly, and had beautiful women taking care of him. He was having a gracious life, as the king tried all he could to turn Siddhartha's attention to the life of a prince. If I were a king, I would do the same thing. However, the King's attempts were all in vain. Siddhartha decided to leave the palace and became a hermit.

As you know Siddhartha is a prince of the Shakya Clan. He gave up his royal position but his father, the king, was not so happy about his son's deed. In the King's mind, for the Shakya Clan to survive, Siddhartha needed to return to the palace. Then, the king sent five servants as spies to check what

Siddhartha was doing in the forest. Soon, the five servants found Siddhartha and saw his practices. As I spoke in the past, before Shakyamuni found Buddhism, there was no Buddhism. In the beginning, Siddhartha, who later became enlightened, followed the ancient religion in India. Siddhartha wandered through the forest and met the hermits who practiced Brahmanism. Brahmanism is an ancient religion that later became Hinduism. In Brahmanism, they believed that practices of austerity were the path to getting enlightened. For example: Walking on fire, holding your breath for as long as you can under water, hanging upside down with ropes from a tree, and not eating for a long time, or fasting. When they painstakingly hurt their body, and then when they overcome these sufferings, they will reach spiritual happiness. That is the main practice at that time in India so Siddhartha did these. The five servants who were sent by the King as spies, in the beginning, pretended and acted as practitioners and did the austerities practices with Siddhartha. But gradually they also got serious and made efforts to do the austerities practices together.

Six of them, Siddhartha and the five servants, together, practiced for six years in the forest. Siddhartha and the five servants starved and treated their bodies with such cruelty that they almost died of weakness and pain. As Siddhartha was lying in a fainting condition by the side of the river, too weak to even lean over and quench his thirst, a young girl appeared and offered him a drink of milk. This gave him much energy to be able to get up and walk. Seeing that, the five servants became disappointed with Siddhartha that he received food and ate them during the fasting practice. The five servants considered Siddhartha a dropout, so they broke up. After Siddhartha became alone, he meditated under the Bodhi Tree for 49 days and got enlightened. It is said that Siddhartha realized the middle way when he took milk offered by a village girl. What he realized was that even if you follow extreme hedonism or asceticism, you have the same attachment to different ideals. When Siddhartha realized this fact, he naturally detached from the two poles and obtained wisdom. After Siddhartha got enlightened, he returned to the place where the five servants had been continuing the cruel practice. In the beginning, the five servants ignored Siddhartha saying, "A dropout came back. Don't talk to him." However, after they listened to Siddhartha's first sermon of the Middle Way, now as the Enlightened One, they became Shakyamuni's first disciples.

Following the Middle Way is a very important teaching in our lives. Extreme lives often make conflict. War is a typical case. When a state of harmony collapse between countries, war will happen. I am sure we often encounter conflicts, quarreling, or disagreements in our daily lives. When our emotions run high, problems happen. Being too sad, too lonely,



or too angry can disturb our minds. But Shakyamuni said the state of being too happy or having too much pleasure gives us trouble. Both, too much sadness and too much pleasure are the extreme opposites of our minds. Siddhartha spent a life of luxury as a prince. He ate whatever he wanted to eat. He obtained whatever he wanted to get. However, he was never satisfied with such a life. On the other hand, he hurt his body with cruel practices but did not get enlightened. Then, he finally found that a harmonious life gives us enlightenment. In order to live the Middle Way, Shakyamuni left the teaching of the Eight-Fold Path we always read. If we practice the Eight-Fold Path, we will be able to live harmoniously. I will explain the Eight-Fold Path in future services so please participate in our Sunday Services every first Sunday.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

#### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Evelyn Nishiyama

#### RESTORATION OF OLD TEMPLE

Lois Kawano

Vernon Pang

#### PET MEMORIAL

Mae Yorimoto (In memory of Harry Yorimoto)

#### OBON DONATIONS

Lester Iwamasa

Vernon Pang

Calvin Kunihsa

#### PATIO DONATIONS

Melvin Fukuda

Fay Michibata

#### OBON HOUSE VISIT

Evelyn Nishiyama

Stanley Matsumoto

Muranaka Family

Betty Hayashi

Jane Sakai

Shinae Sakai

Geri Guillemot

Joshua Choi

#### FAMILY SERVICE

Lori Campbell

Mae Yorimoto

Joan Yamamoto

Shinae Sakai

Marianne Ono

Melanie Matsui

Kenneth Masatsugu

Donald Koga

Nadine Matsukawa

David Koizumi

### PET MEMORIAL

Haleiwa Jodo Mission prays for your beloved pets who were one of your family members. You can choose a shelf-urn burial or a communal burial with different types of nameplates, depending on your donation amount. Even though you keep the ashes of your pets in your home, bury them in your family grave or niches, or scatter them in your yard, you can still order a name plate of your pets for our Pet Memorial.



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**  
 E-mail: [haleiwajodominion@gmail.com](mailto:haleiwajodominion@gmail.com)  
 Facebook: [Haleiwa Jodo Mission - Buddhist Temple](#)



