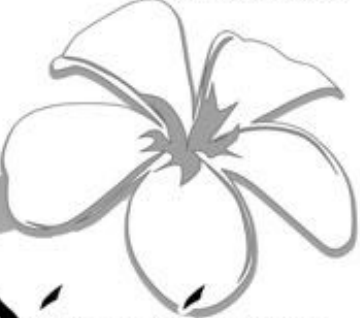
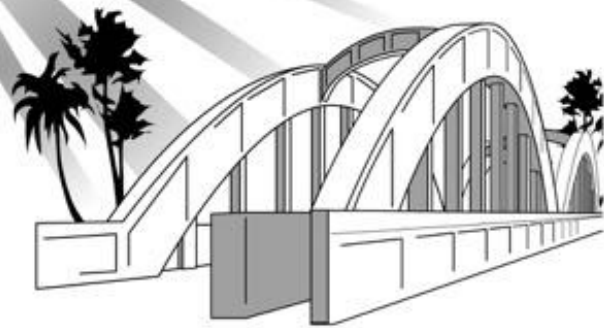


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TEL: 808-637-4382



Haleiwa Jodo Mission

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



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HALEIWA JODO MISSION

MARCH, 2025



HIGAN FAMILY SERVICE

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025

KOKUA DAY

9:00 AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025

YOUTH RETREAT

HALEIWA AND HONOLULU SUNDAY SCHOOLS
WILL HAVE A JOINT SERVICE AT HALEIWA JODO MISSION
SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025

SERMON AT THE NEHAN SERVICE

Rev. Koji Jeff Ezaki

Resident Minister of Haleiwa Jodo Mission

We are observing our Nehan Service. Nehan Service is a memorial service for Shakyamuni Buddha. The Buddha left us many teachings to guide us to happiness. Let's read the sacred passage and think of Buddha's teaching. Today's passage is:

To those who choose the path that leads to Enlightenment, there are two extremes that should be carefully avoided. First, there is the extreme of indulgence in the desires of the body. Second, there is the opposite extreme of ascetic discipline, torturing one's body and mind unreasonably. The Noble Path, that transcends these two extremes and leads to Enlightenment and wisdom and peace of mind, may be called the Middle Way. What is the Middle Way? It consists of the Eightfold Noble Path. The important thing in following the path to Enlightenment is to avoid being caught and entangled in any extreme, that is, always to follow the Middle Way.
(The Teaching of Buddha, Dharma, Chapter Two, IV-1)

We love traveling. Many people visit Japan especially now because of the low yen. My children also go every year and stay close to a month. When we travel, we plan ahead of time: destination, meals, what to buy, and so on. Planning is one of the enjoyments of traveling. No person would buy an airplane ticket without deciding his final destination. If you want to go to Las Vegas, you buy the right airline ticket and catch the right airplane. Buying a Hawaiian Airlines ticket on a Maui-bound airplane will never reach your Las Vegas destination. How about our lives? Do you plan your entire life in detail? What is your life's goal? Many people never think about the final destination of their lives. I met a financial advisor 20 years ago. I showed her my checking account, savings account, and CD's and asked for her guidance. What she said was how old do you want to be when you retire? How much money do you need after you retire? At the time, I was 35 years old, married, and didn't have any children. I had never thought of my future life. She strongly insisted that we must plan our life for the short term, middle term and long term. We must save or invest money for our own life plan. Her

guidance concluded with what is your goal? When I listened to her explanation, I thought I can apply it to Buddha's teaching.

Our goal is to obtain a state of Buddha, enlightenment. Kindness, consideration, warm welcome, honesty, and diligence are parts of enlightenment. In order to carry these good traits, we must practice Buddha's teaching every day. Reciting Namu Amida Butsu is one of the important practices for us, Jodo-Shu followers, to control our own mind. The teaching of Buddha shows us the way to reach our goal. Shakyamuni Buddha prohibited extreme life and encouraged us to live in moderation, the Middle Way. He said the extreme life destroys our lives. Two simple examples in our daily lives are our eating habits and financial decisions. Eat a well-balanced meal of proteins, carbohydrates, fat, and vitamins. That is the way of the Middle Way. If you eat a well-balanced diet with a variety of foods in moderation, you can keep your body healthy. We tend to eat to the extreme. Lots of junk foods, fatty foods, or too many sweets everyday leads to developing problems in our body. Tasty foods are often bad for our health. We are not supposed to eat a lot. We know that, but we cannot resist. What we eat builds our body. Shakyamuni teaches us that well-balanced eating habits lead us to a happy life.

The same thing can be applied to the financial decisions we make. A credit card debt is one of the major results of desire. You want this, want that, have no patience, and spend money without thinking about payments. The following month, you pay only the minimum, and bills being to snowball. My daughter said she watched a movie during her financial class at Intermediate School. The movie was frightening for her, which depicted a person's life being ruined by debt. I thought it was good for children to learn about the dangers of debt at school. The reason why many people face these kinds of problems is that, they cannot control their desires and walk the extreme way. Our desires are very strong. We are tempted by them. In order to reach our goals, we must defeat desires. For example, trying to eat well-balanced foods at every meal, are short-term investments for your body. Achieving short-term goals like this one will help you reach your goal for a healthy life. This applies to your personal investments as well. A small contribution every month or year will increase your retirement fund. A long-term goal is achieved by an accumulation of short-term goals. If you cannot achieve short-term goals, you cannot reach your long-term goal. That means, we must live our lives moderately every moment.

When you travel, you take different vehicles, depending on where you go. If you go to the supermarket, you drive your car. If you go to Japan,

you will take an airplane. If you want to enjoy a cruise, you will choose a ship. You select the right vehicle for your trip. Our daily life is the same. Shakyamuni Buddha showed us different practices to reach our short-term goals in the Eightfold Path. When we are almost defeated by desire and are going to the extreme way, you should remember the Eightfold Path and return to the right way. If you become stubborn, remember the Right Understanding. If you become lazy, remember the Right Behavior. If you complain, remember the Right Speech, and so on. Follow His teaching every moment to achieve your short-term goal. Receive a small amount of enlightenment each moment, and eventually, we can obtain the perfect state of enlightenment. Like, "Rome was not built in a day," our enlightenment does not appear in a day. Keep today's quotation in your mind, practice them and reach your long-term goal, the state of enlightenment.

Today, we are observing Nehan Service, which is the memorial for Shakyamuni Buddha. Let us practice the teaching of the Middle Way in our daily lives and have a happy life. February 2 is *Setsubun* in Japan in 2025. *Setsubun* is the day before the beginning of spring in the old calendar in Japan. The name literally means "seasonal division," referring to the day just before the first day of spring in the traditional calendar, known as *Setsubun*. Also in China, they observe *Shunsetsu* which is Chinese New Year. During this time, citizens in China take a vacation to travel. In Hawaii, Chinese people celebrate the Chinese New Year with fireworks in China Town. In Japan, they eat *ehomaki*, which we call maki sushi in Hawaii, to wish for their eternal happiness and joy. Today, kitchen helpers prepared food items to make hand-rolled sushi. Make your own hand-rolled sushi and enjoy our refreshments to celebrate the New Year on the old calendar.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING IN THE KITCHEN

We would like to thank the following people who prepared the refreshments for the Nehan Service on February 2, 2025: Etsuko, Ama, Lani, David, Tomomi, Miku, and Sae. Because of their effort, the participants enjoyed ehomaki (maki sushi) for lunch after the service.

THE MARIAN M. KAWAMURA SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the Marian Masae Kawamura Scholarship are now available. Those who are interested in this program, please find the application form in the January bulletin. If you need an extra application form, please contact Rev. Ezaki at (808)-637-4382. To be considered for the scholarship, applications must be delivered to the Haleiwa Jodo Mission by March 8, 2025.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR MONTH OF MARCH

MEMBERSHIP DUES (2025)

Shinae Sakai	Joan Yamamoto
Carl Sato	Earl Nakahara
Linda Seyler	David Dicion
Frances Hirakawa	Jeanette Matsuura
Robert McLean	Luka McLean
James McLean	Grace Iwane
Karen Sonstegard	Amy Iwamasa
Katherine Fujii	Thelma Tsuchida
Lynette Fujiyoshi	Jess Kawachi
Sheri Yamauchi	
Vernon Pang (new member)	

OMAMORI DONATIONS

Katherine Fujii	Jane Sakai
Amy Iwamasa	Karen Sonstegard
Grace Iwane	

BIRTHDAY DONATIONS

Jane Sakai	Thelma Tsuchida
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SPECIAL DONATIONS

Jane Sakai	Lynette Fujiyoshi
Robert McLean	Conrad Kozawa
Katherine Fujii	Mae Kishimoto
Katherine Kawamata	Amy Iwamasa

NEHAN FAMILY SERVICE

Keith Yamauchi	Grace Iwane
Joan Yamamoto	Sheri Yamauchi
Dennis Nakamura	Shinae Sakai
Jennifer Pang	Kenneth Masatsugu
David Koizumi	Nadine Matsukawa
Myra Shiratori	Cammeryn Lloyd-Venegas
Katherine Fujii	

HAWAII STATE JODO SHU

FUJINKAI SCHOLARSHIP

NAMIYE NAKAMURA SCHOLARSHIP

The Hawaii State Jodo Shu Fujinkai offers a \$1,000 Namiye Nakamura Scholarship to a Hawaii high school graduate or a member of the temple who wishes to further his/her education toward a degree or advanced degree in an accredited college, university or institution of higher learning.

If there are any questions about the scholarship or scholarship application forms, please consult Rev. Ezaki at (808)-637-4382.

HIGAN FAMILY SERVICE IN MARCH

Higan is a day when the season changes from winter to spring. It is a good time to appreciate lives that we received from our ancestors. The service starts at 10:00 am on March 2, 2025. Lunch will be served. Please join us.

1 YEAR	TAKEUCHI, EIJI MARCH 14, 2024
7 th YEAR	YAMAUCHI, DEBRA MARCH 28, 2019 SAKAI, ROY MARCH 1, 2019
17 th YEAR	NAKAMURA, HENRY MARCH 22, 2009 TSUCHIDA, MASANORI MARCH 3, 2009
23 rd YEAR	NISHKAWA, MASAKO MARCH 22, 2003
25 th YEAR	ONO, ROY MARCH 20, 2001 KUNIHISA, THOMAS MARCH 20, 2001
27 th YEAR	MIYASAKI, ROBERT MARCH 19, 1999 FURUICHI, CHITOSE MARCH 18, 1999 KIMURA, SHIGEYO MARCH 3, 1999 FUKUDA, TOKUICHI MARCH 1, 1999
43 rd YEAR	MURANAKA, CHIKAICHI MARCH 23, 1983

TREASURER'S NOTE

Please bring your membership dues up to date. The membership fee covers a wedded couple. We are accepting dues for 2025 as well as past year(s) dues for those who haven't yet paid. Annual membership is \$50.00. If you have any questions about your membership, please call Rev. Ezaki at (808)-637-4382.

NORTH SHORE FOOD BANK

Donations of blankets and towels to the North Shore Food Bank will be highly appreciated. The North Shore Food Bank wants to distribute these items to homeless people. Please call Rev. Ezaki at (808)-637-4382 to make an appointment if you will be able to drop off your donations.

PET MEMORIAL

Available to Members and Non-Members



With Love, We Remember