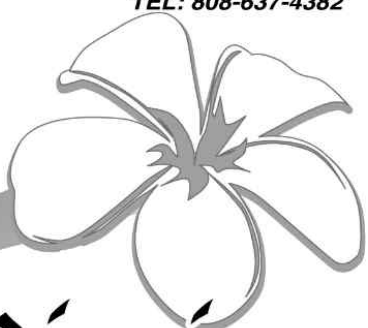
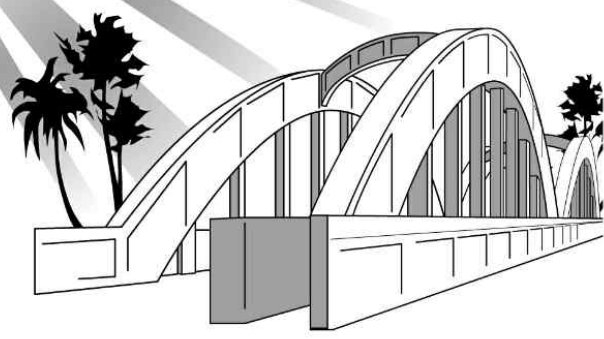
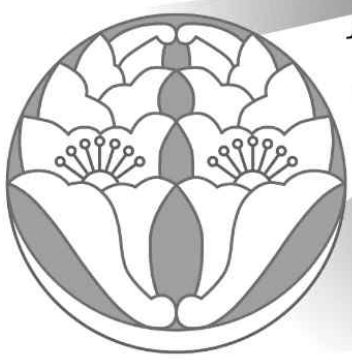
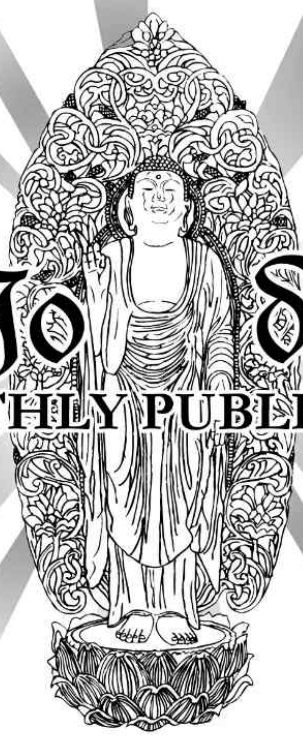


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Haleiwa Jodo Mission

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



AUGUST 2025

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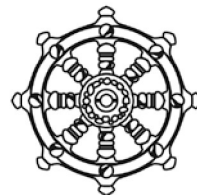
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HALEIWA JODO MISSION

AUGUST, 2025



BON SERVICES

6:00 PM

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1 & SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

BON DANCE

7:00 TO 10:00 PM

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1 & SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

TORO NAGASHI

9:00 PM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

BEACH CLEAN-UP & YAGURA TAKE-DOWN

6:00 AM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2025

KOKUA DAY

9:00 AM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2025

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR MONTH OF AUGUST

1 YEAR	YAMAMOTO, ETHEL AUG 23, 2024
3 rd YEAR	NISHIYAMA, EVELYN AUG 29, 2023
13 th YEAR	HONDA, JANIS AUG 17, 2013
27 th YEAR	UMEDA, YUKIO AUG 6, 1999
43 rd YEAR	KAMIYAMA, KEIICHI AUG 31, 1983
50 th YEAR	KUMASAKA, SEMU AUG 26, 1976

SERMON AT THE FAMILY SERVICE IN JULY

Rev. Koji Jeff Ezaki
Minister of Haleiwa Jodo Mission

Obon is just around the corner; just one month away. It is usually held in July, but this year it was moved to August due to the ocean tides. Personally, I prefer to not observe Obon in August because it is the month when our tenant, Kamehameha Schools, starts a new session during the first week of August. Unexpectedly, this year, a teachers-parents meeting will be held for the new students in the morning of our Friday Bon Dance. We also need to disassemble the yagura the day following our Bon Dance because their school starts the next day. Our Bon Dance requires our community's involvement as well as a schedule coordination with Kamehameha Schools. The board of Haleiwa Jodo Mission heartily requests help to set

up and clean up from as many people as possible, including members, friends, and neighbors.

Buddhism teaches us to be grateful for what we have. In fact, we are taught that we should be unconditionally grateful for everything around us. However, in everyday life, it is normal to say "thank you" when someone gives us something. In this way, we tend to wait for something special or unusual to happen. We hope that today will be better than yesterday and tomorrow will be better than today. When it comes to our current lives, we crave more money and a richer life. We always wish for something more, and when our wishes come true, we feel that we are living a life full of gratitude. When they do not come true, we feel that our life is inferior. Can we really call it gratitude when we get what we want and desire? When we feel special gratitude, we express it with words of gratitude such as "Buddha has blessed me" or "God is always with me." In Buddhism, there is a different way of thinking. The things that always happen today as if they were a given, such as getting up in the morning, eating every day, and urinating properly... are nothing special. However, when the same things that happen every day as if they were a given shouldn't this be what we are most grateful for? We are always waiting for something special to happen, but in fact, it is the everyday life that happens every day, as usual, as if it were a given, and that is the miracle. There is no guarantee that you will wake up tomorrow morning, or that you will have a meal tomorrow. It is the fact that we can take for granted every moment of every day that we should be grateful for. We do not realize that it is the times when nothing "special" happens that are miracles.

So, if the everyday is a miracle and the extraordinary is not, how can we find happiness? There is a story about a man who went on a journey in search of happiness. Once upon a time, a man was not satisfied with his everyday life, so he sold his huge land and left his home. He didn't like his job, his friends, his neighbors, everything. So he left everything and went on a journey to find happiness. He strongly believed that happiness was something you had to look for and find. He went to a new church, but he didn't make any friends. He went to a bar, but didn't make any friends. He had a girlfriend, but it didn't last long. He went to the next church, the next bar, met the next girlfriend, and did this again and again as he continued his journey. He was exhausted by everything, but he wanted to keep traveling until he found his dream place. No matter how far he walked, crossed rivers, or crossed over mountains, he couldn't find the happiness he was seeking. On the other hand, the man who bought his land dug it and found a vein of gold. The traveler finally realized

that happiness was not a place far away, but inside of him. Happiness is not something to look for, it is something to feel, it is something you already have because happiness is already within you. He felt happy, but he didn't realize it. He accepted everything that was happening around him. And he found happiness in that moment. Since then, he was able to feel happiness wherever he was. In other words, you cannot be happy by denying the current situation. We can't laugh at this man, because we are doing the same thing as this person who is searching for happiness. Happiness is already given to us, but we just don't realize it.

You may have had the experience of being sick and not being able to eat anything for a few days, then recovering and eating something that tasted really good. In other words, when we are in a situation where we cannot live our daily lives, we realize how grateful we are for our normal lives. Another example is if you broke your wrist and couldn't write for a few months, and after you recovered, how wonderful you would feel when are able to use your hand again. I am sure everybody agrees with me. During these regular situations, that is when you are healthy, when nothing is wrong with your body, these are the true thankful events happening in our daily lives. This is my experience more than 35 years ago when I participated in a Buddhist minister's training at our headquarters, Chion-in Temple, in Kyoto. The food served during the training was called *shojin ryori*, and consisted of only vegetables and no animal meat. That is a traditional Buddhist monk's food. During the three weeks of training, I ate dishes without chicken, beef, or pork. No pizza, no hamburger, and no hot dogs, but only nishime, gomae, tofu, miso soup, takuan, tsukemono, etc. Of course, there was no dessert on the table! What I was grateful for was that I could have as many refills of rice as I wanted. I was a young 20-year old, was always hungry, and wanted to eat meat or fish, fatty or junk food, even during my training. After the training was done, my brother came to pick me up and gave me a ham and egg sandwich in the car. I was so happy to be able to eat ham! Ham is not a special food for us, right? We can eat it any time, but since I hadn't eaten any meat for three weeks, it was very delicious, and it felt special.

As I mentioned earlier, we feel unhappy as soon as we lose something from our normal daily life. However, we do not feel grateful for our normal daily life. We always think about winning a million dollars in the lottery or something special that will happen to us, and we only feel happy when something unexpected happens. We believe it is a miracle and lament that something is missing in the current situation where nothing is happening. However, if

we realize that we have already been given so much, we should be able to feel happy at any time. The fact that we can eat hamburgers and pizza on a daily basis is a miracle in itself. There is no need for a journey to find happiness. The place where we are now and the existence we have now are already happy. If you feel dissatisfied or unhappy with the current situation, it is because your mindset is wrong. When we lose our normal daily lives, we feel unhappy. In other words, we must be grateful for the current situation where nothing happens. We always emphasize that something is missing and complain. However, if we realize that we have already been given so much, we will always feel happy. To do this, we must be unconditionally grateful for everything that happens around us. When you wake up every morning, say, "Thank you for another day." Waking up in the morning is itself a feeling of gratitude. When you eat, say "Thank you for this food" and "*Itadakimasu*." Because eating regularly is itself a thankful event for us. Say "Thank you" not only when you receive something, but always. If you are thankful for everything you see, hear, and eat, you will be able to live a wonderful life. We must be thankful for everything.

There is only one month left until Obon. It is very thankful that Haleiwa Jodo Mission has been able to continue the Toro Nagashi for over 70 years because of all of you. Our predecessors brought Buddhism to Hawaii and have been steadily carrying out missionary work to spread the teachings since 150 years ago. We have received the benefits and teachings from them, and Buddhist society has taken root in Hawaii. That is how Hawaiian Buddhism has survived. This means that the future of Haleiwa Jodo Mission's activities will be determined by the decisions, efforts, cooperation, and enthusiasm of all of you here now. Even if you go on a journey in search of happiness, you won't find it anywhere because happiness is here. Here means that happiness is already present in the hearts of you who gather at Haleiwa Jodo Mission. Happiness spreads from you. All you have to do is share the happiness that you already have within you to others. Then, Haleiwa Jodo Mission must become the center of happiness. Only members, friends, and supporters of Haleiwa Jodo Mission can do that. Let's be grateful for what we already have now, use the place we are in as a source of gratitude, practice the teachings of Buddhism, and live a life that feels happy.

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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

MEMBERSHIP DUES (2025)

Carrie Aoki	Tammi Keao
Janine Bregulla	Edwin Kawamura
Valerie Ito	Mae Kim
Stanley Matsumoto (2025 & 2026)	
Clifford Muraoka (2024 & 2025)	
Russell Lloyd (new member)	
Sandra Moneymaker (new member)	
Kyle Muranaka (new member)	
Chase Yasunaga (new member)	

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Allison Lloyd	(In memory of Howard Miike)
Carl Sato	(In memory of Yukuyo Tanaka)

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Amy Iwamasa	Nathan Iwamasa
Cynthia Murakami	Joanne Yamauchi
Maxine Ishiyama	

O-BON HOUSE VISIT

Donald Koga	Keao/Otsuka Family
Joshua Choi	Brian Kawano
Karen Sonstegard	Nadine Matsukawa
Karen Inouye	Keith Yamamoto

PATIO DONATIONS

Daryl Kajiwarra	Tammie Keao
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FAMILY SERVICE

Kenneth Masatsugu	Sheri Yamauchi
Dennis Nakamura	Shinae Sakai
Joan Yamamoto	Grace Iwane
Nadine Matsukawa	David Koizumi

HELP NEEDED FOR OBON FESTIVAL

Rev. Ezaki would like to sincerely ask for your help during the Obon festival. As he mentioned in the last bulletin and his sermons, Haleiwa Jodo Mission needs your physical help to make the project a success. We are thankful that many people come to participate in the Bon Dance and the Toro Nagashi. However, there is not enough kokua to prepare and clean up.

On Thursday, July 31 at 4:00 pm, the volunteers will build several tents on the temple grounds. We will also prepare the parking area in Alii Beach Park, pounding rebars into the ground, etc. At the same time, other helpers will prepare the BBQ meat. Right after the Bon Dance on Saturday night, the clean-up usually continues until 2:00 am. About four hours later at 6:00 am on Sunday morning, we start to clean the beach and park and take down the yagura. Rev. Ezaki would be grateful if you could help him whenever you have time.