

Information on O-Toba for 2023

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 an 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, an O-Toba during O-Bon is most appropriate and meaningful. During the 2022 O-Bon services in July we were able to have Hybrid O-Bon services—in person and virtual. This year 2023, we will again have Hybrid O-Bon Services and as summer gets closer, we will have updated information.

You should be receiving your 2023 O-Toba order form soon. We are still working on the 2023 forms. You will note that everything has been preprinted. Would you please look it over and confirm your address, telephone number, and deceased names on the O-toba. Any changes, would you please mark them directly on the form and return to Jodo Mission with your payment. If change is in Japanese, please provide the proper kanji as there may be many ways of writing kanji.

Because of the Temple's busy summer schedule, the deadline to order your O-Toba is Wednesday, March 1st. Our O-Bon services will be held on **July 14-16 (Fri-Sun).**

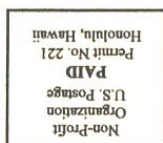
Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

In Gassho,

Jodo Mission of Hawaii



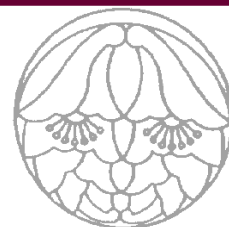
[See pg 4 for a longer definition of What is an O-Toba.]



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

JODO MISSION OF HAWAII
BULLETIN - FEBRUARY 2023

(#1315-0223)



MESSAGE FROM BISHOP KOSEN ISHIKAWA

Some time ago, an acronym “YOLO” became popular among young people as they always like using abbreviations. I think if you use Text or SNS, you must be familiar with the following abbreviations.

IDK - I don't know, IDC – I don't care, ILY– I love you, IMU – I miss you, TTYL – Talk to you later, BC – Because, BTW – By the way, JK – Just kidding, G2G – Got to go, BWL – Bursting with laughter, J4F – Just for fun, GRATZ- congratulations, BRB – Be right back, DM – Direct message...



Please do not worry even if you didn't get the meanings of these abbreviations above because these are considered to be slangs as they are used in the informal conversations.

Anyway, YOLO stands for “You only live once.” It is usually used in the context of encouraging others to do whatever they want to do without worrying about the future. At the same time, it is used when you want to be positive about your past impulsive and reckless behavior. In a sense, YOLO simply mentions that your life is yours not somebody else's.

We all know life is fragile but sometimes we forget we are not perfect beings. Sometimes we compare ourselves to others, and we fluctuate between hopes and fears. Sometimes we regret what we did in the past. Sometimes we regret what we didn't do. Then bad luck also happens from time to time. But no matter how misfortune or bad luck continues, we cannot reset nor redo our life. We need to keep going forward. Once again you only live once.

However, at least once a year, we have a chance to start a new life. That is the New Year as new year always come around once a year. Strictly speaking, no one can reset life but we can always refresh ourselves to welcome and start the new year with new resolutions. No matter how many bad years you have spent, you always have a chance to spend a wonderful new year. I think this is one of the great meanings of New Year. In fact, everything you do in the new year is called “the first time of the year.” By doing many “first time of the year”, we can build up a good year with many good feelings.

When I was on Kauai, I had a few things to do on New Year's Day as an annual New Year's Day morning routine. That was 1. To make the first Sushi of the year in early morning for our members, 2. To go to the beach to photograph the first sunrise of the year, 3. To officiate the first morning service and New Year Day blessing at the temple. Honestly speaking, it was not easy to do these things all in the morning because I needed to wake up early after staying up late with New Year's Eve service. And of course, I was so busy making Sushi, driving to the beach and preparing for the service. But by making my first day of the year very busy, I feel so blessed and grateful. The fact I can be busy is such a blessing. Thanks to my health, thanks to the temple and members, I can work hard. For me, this is the best blessing and I can start a very good year with this busy routine.

How about your New Year's Day routine or your family custom? I know some of you come to our temple for the service which is also the best thing to do. I also know many people here go to shrines to receive New Year's blessings and Omamori after midnight on the New Year's Day. Then some may drink “Sake” for good luck and eat “Osechi” or traditional Japanese New Year dishes such as Nishime, Kuromame, Kobumaki, Kazunoko and so on. Interestingly, some people don't take shower on New Year's Day in order to avoid washing away the blessings of the new year. I'm sure there are many unique customs and routines.

This year, my wife and I went to the Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center to get their famous “Fukubukuro” around 5:45 am as we were able to get a bag in 2022. After that we went to see the first sunrise at the Diamond Head Beach park. To my surprise, at the shopping mall, there were already a long lines and many people couldn't get a pre-numbered ticket to buy the bag later. As you know, Fukubukuro is another Japanese New Year custom and it is called “Happy Grab bag” or “Lucky bag.” Because you don't know the contents of bag, it is sometimes translated as a mystery bag.

[Cont'd page 2 Bishop's message]

I always think this is such a brilliant idea for the merchants to sell leftover items all at once. Leftover are usually disliked by customers but putting them together in a grab bag and call it "Happy Grab Bag", they can sell the leftover items easily. Since contents of the bag are more expensive than purchase price, customers can be happy, too. One of the most expensive Fukubukuro was the 5.5 million yen (about \$50,000) bag sold in 2017 by Tobu Department Store in commemoration of their 55th anniversary. It contained a figurine, a ring and a pendant made from Tosa coral. If you google "Fukubukuro" or "Happy grab bag," you can watch very interesting bags via YouTube.

I'm seriously thinking it may be fun to do Jodo Shu's own "Fukubukuro" next year as we have leftover T-shirts and some other Buddhist items. Of course, I have to be very careful about contents as our members might dislike our temple instantly if we put unwanted items too much. But I think this kind of idea is necessary and wanted in order to keep our temple active and attractive. I believe I am a kind of man of ideas but I'd very much appreciate your help. Please give us your ideas or suggestions. Our temple staffs and I will do our best to provide better services.

Last, but not least, we pray for your good health and happy new year throughout the year.

Gassho,

Bishop Kosen Ishikawa

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.

The applicant for the scholarship must meet the following criteria:

1. Priority is given to an applicant who participates regularly in his/her Jodo Mission temple activities.
2. Be an active member of his/her respective temple.
3. Possess good moral character and leadership potential.
4. Be accepted at an accredited university or institution of higher learning.
5. The applicant should be a student graduating from a high school in Hawaii. If there are no graduating students applying, any applicant continuing his/her education may receive the scholarship.
6. Applications submitted must be postmarked by **June 15, 2023** and mailed to

Iris Nitta, State Fujinkai President
2260 Vineyard St., Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

The family or legal guardian of the applicant must currently be a member of his/her respective Jodo Mission. Financial need will be considered. Determination of the scholarship recipient will be made by a Scholarship Committee.

If there are any questions about the scholarship or scholarship application forms, please consult Temple ministers: Bishop Kosen Ishikawa or Rev. Takaaki Tanabe or Honolulu Jodo Shu Fujinkai President Sally Hayashi at (808) 949-3995.



December 30, 2022—Anyone who came to the temple on December 30, 2022 and made payment in cash, please call the temple. Thank you for your cooperation.

Buddha's Memorial Day Service (Nehan-e) **Sunday, February 12th 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 12th at 10:00 am. Service may be “hybrid virtual”.** We look forward to your attendance and look for Zoom or YouTube link. *Thank you.*

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 return to this world. In order to welcome them as portable monuments, we dedicate O-Toba.

Ozoni for First Family Service on January 8:



Hinamatsuri Dolls on 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. Mrs. Yayoi Ishikawa will display and share her family's traditional Hina Dolls from Japan from February 20th to March 5th in the Hon-do. These dolls are very delicate and fragile, and we ask



that you please do not touch or lift any dolls. We appreciate Mrs. Ishikawa displaying these dolls so please come and see them. Blessing service with picture-taking for children is also available. For reservation, please contact temple office at (808) 949-3995.

Open Letter to All Honolulu Jodo Shu Fujinkai Members

Since COVID-19 pandemic, the Fujinkai ladies have not met regularly on the first Sunday of each month. We will continue our monthly meetings on the first Sunday at 8:30 am (March 5 is our plan but please call the temple office if you plan to attend).

We plan to have a "hybrid" **100th General Membership meeting of the Honolulu Jodo Shu Fujinkai, which is scheduled for Sunday, March 5, at 10:45 a.m.** The ceremonial portion of the Fujinkai meeting will be held in the temple and if necessary, the meeting portion will continue in Iko Hall. "Hybrid" means those who want to attend in person can attend while those who want the meeting on Zoom can see it also. Those who want the Zoom link, should contact the Jodo Mission office at (808) 949-3995 and request a link be sent to your email address.



If possible, we would like as many of the Fujinkai members to attend this 100th general membership meeting on March 5th. We are also electing our officers. The slate of officers are: President: Sally Hayashi; Vice President: Gail Okamura; Secretary: Christine Inouye; Assistant Secretary: Marie Otani; Treasurer: Yukari Narashiba; Assistant Treasurer: Gail Masaki; Auditor: Ann Jinbo, *Thank you for your support.*

Thank you for Helping on Mochi Making on Dec. 18, 2022



Thank you everyone for helping on mochi making day on December 18. Everyone worked hard and also had fun on mochi making day. This was the first time in over two years that we were able to have mochi making day.

Mochi Sale: if anyone wishes to have more mochi, we have some available. Please call the temple (808) 949-3995 if you are interested.

Komochi \$5.50 per 1 pound bag

What is Perpetual Memorial Service (Eitaikyo)

When the date of death of a deceased occurs, ministers do prayers on the anniversary date each year. Prayer services are held each day at 9:30 am (times may change due to scheduling). This perpetual memorial service is called *Eitaikyo* in Japanese.

Please contact temple office if you are interested..

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 let people in if you come and ring the blue bell. **We recommend you 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*

REMINDERS

Gojikai or Membership—\$80.00 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 (Gojikai is paid only once each year).

AND

Maintenance donation \$5.00 per year per niche

Become a Jodo Mission Member!

If you're coming to services, volunteers at events, and/or donates to the temple, please become a Jodo Mission member for \$80 a year!

2023 Memorial Years Observed

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| 1 st year | 2022 |
| 3 rd year | 2021 |
| 7 th year | 2017 |
| 13 th year | 2011 |
| 17 th year | 2007 |
| 23 rd year | 2001 |
| 25 th year | 1999 |
| 27 th year | 1997 |
| 33 rd year | 1991 |
| 37 th year | 1987 |
| 43 rd year | 1981 |
| 47 th year | 1977 |
| 50 th year | 1974 |
| 100 th year | 1924 |

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.

お知らせ

2023年より年間護持会費、又はメンバーシップ費が一世帯につき1年間で80ドルへと変更になります。(お住まいの家族世帯が別の場合は個々にメンバーシップが必要となります。)

また、納骨堂(ニッチ)内に納骨棚を所有の方は、護寺会費とは別途、5ドルの年間管理費をお納めください。

皆様にはご負担をおかけしますが、ご理解ご協力のほどよろしくお願い致します。 合掌



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

Perpetual Memorial Service (Eitaikyo) For February

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

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.

Charles Tsutomu Tatsuta 94
Charles Matsuji
Murakami 94

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

February 2023

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

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|--------------------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 10:00am Sunday Service | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 10:00am Nehan-e Family Service | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 8:30 Sewing Circle |
| 19 10:00am Sunday Service | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 10:00 am Sunday Service 11:00 Board Meeting | 27 | 28 | <div> <div></div> <div> Jodo Shu Calendar for February 2023: Advance little by little, starting with things you can do now. </div> </div> | | | |

COMING EVENTS:

- March 1: Deadline for O-Toba Orders:
- March 5 @ 10:45 Fujinkai General Membership Mtg
- March 19 @ 10 am Spring Higan Service
- To be Announced: Youth Retreat:

Fujinkai: Mar 5 @ 8:30 am

March 5 @10:45 am I
 General Membership Meeting

Sunday School: Will join

family service on
February 12 @ 10 am

Sewing Circle: will meet on the 3rd Saturday each month? 2/18/23 at 8:30 am

Senior YBA: No meeting

Bazaar Donations will be accepted. Kindly call temple office at (808) 949-3995, if you have donations. *Thank you*

Membership Dues (Gojikai) REMINDER: Please pay your membership dues (\$80) for this year and if you did not pay for 2022, 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.*