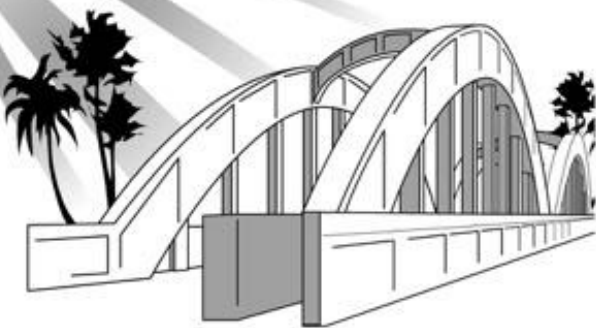


P.O. BOX242 HALEIWA, HI 96712
TEL: 808-637-4382



Haleiwa Jodo Mission

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



FEBRUARY 2025

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1
Haleiwa, Hawaii

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

HALEIWA JODO MISSION
P.O. BOX 242
HALEIWA, HAWAII 96712



HALEIWA JODO MISSION

FEBRUARY, 2025



NEHAN FAMILY SERVICE

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025

NEW YEAR'S PARTY

11:30 AM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2025

KOKUA DAY

9:00 AM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025

SERMON AT THE GYOKI SERVICE

Rev. Koji Jeff Ezaki

Minister of Haleiwa Jodo Mission

Happy 2025! I'm really happy to welcome the Year of the Snake with all of you. This is the first Sunday service in 2025 and we are observing our Gyoki Service. Gyoki Service is the memorial service for our Jodo-shu founder, St. Honen. He was born in Okayama prefecture and studied Buddhism in Kyoto. St. Honen passed away on January 25, 1212, over 800 years ago. By observing his memorial service, we also honor our deceased ancestors who gave us our lives.

January is the time to decide on what your New Year's resolution is going to be. I researched on the internet to find what are the common New Year's resolutions for everyone. These are the top five: 1. Exercise more 2. Lose weight 3. Get organized 4. Learn a new skill or hobby 5. Live life to the fullest. I am sure you may have similar New Year's resolutions. New Year's resolutions are made to break bad habits or to improve one's life. However, not many succeed. Then, why do we continue to make New Year's resolutions, and fail to keep them within the first month of the new year? Our wishes, feelings, emotions, and enthusiasms arise in our

minds but fade away quickly as time passes and are left alone. For example, people watching the movie "Rocky" (sorry the example is old) may want to become like Rocky. Rocky's music "Gonna Fly Now" resounds in their minds over and over. Some will shadowbox or may start jumping rope to maintain their health. This feeling fades quickly, maybe the next day or sooner. Even though we are inspired, moved, or touched by something or someone, these feelings become dull.

Our mind is filled with laziness. Buddhism says it is one of the delusions, and it keeps us in the darkness. Our positive emotions and motivation are conquered by laziness, that's why we cannot keep our New Year's resolutions or decisions long. Well, then, how do we defeat laziness? I would like to introduce two main points. First, the reason our motivation is defeated by laziness is we always set a high goal. We always try to set impossible goals like suddenly losing 15 pounds, becoming rich tomorrow, or improving our life right now, and then we quickly give up. Losing 15lb needs a big effort. The road ahead is difficult. But let's say, 15lb is 240oz. If we lose 240oz in 6 months, we should lose 40oz per month. If we lose 40oz a month, we should lose 1.3oz per day. Think about it, 1.3 ounces is about the size of an M&M in the palm of your hand. If you hear

that, you feel you can do it! Just avoid sweets only in the morning and you can eat whatever you want in the afternoon. Or tell yourself do not eat anything 3 hours before you sleep. Making a small commitment leads you to the goal. Success is the accumulation of small successes. Don't decide to lose 15lb in a month or a few weeks. Making a difficult New Year's resolution destroys your motivation.

The second reason why our motivation is defeated by laziness is we tend to think, "Do it tomorrow" or "Later, later." Take action right away when you make up your mind. Not later but right now! Many successful people in the business field said the reason they succeeded in their business was because they went into action immediately. The difference between a successful person and a non-successful person was whether the action was taken quickly or not. That's all there is to it, but it is very difficult. We have a lot of ideas in our minds but it is not translated into action. We tend to think, "Do it tomorrow" or "Let's do it later." Leaving the action for later is what causes our failure. Simply take action and do it now. Then, everything around you will be enhanced and your wishes will be fulfilled before you know it. Instead of saying, "I'll start walking from tomorrow," put on your sneakers and leave the house right now. This is the only way to beat laziness. Abraham Lincoln also said the same thing, "Leave nothing for tomorrow which can be done today." Everybody said the same thing over 100 years ago, because it's an eternal truth. If you feel it, do it immediately. I want you to add his saying "Leave nothing for tomorrow which can be done today" into your New Year's resolution this year. When you have an idea, try to act on it right away instead of putting it off.

So how can we easily keep achieving small goals? The key to this is making it a habit. "Make a habit." For example, do you make a big effort to brush your teeth? Do you suffer all the time to look at your cell phone? If your house has only one bathroom and 300 people stand in line to brush their teeth every morning, you may stop brushing your teeth because you will be late for your job. If you have to enter a password 30 times to unlock your cell phone screen, you'll give up looking at your phone. Brushing your teeth and checking your cell phone are so easy and habitual that no effort is required from anyone, so it is easy for us to do. If you want to start exercising, start with 15 minutes of walking. Don't think of 45 minutes or one hour of walking. If you want to learn ukulele, keep your ukulele within easy reach. Don't leave it in the ukulele case or in storage. If you do that, you will never take them out. Like today, Haleiwa Jodo Mission will observe our Sunday Service once a month on the first Sunday. There are people who always thought about going to a Sunday Service, but put it off thinking "next time, next time," and may wonder if they have no faith. In

this case, you just stop at the temple any day and any time, and say, "Hi Sensei." Your small thoughtfulness, kindness, action, and effort make your religious mind bigger. That's the power of habit. The small habits you make every moment make your entire life.

Our Jodo Shu founder, St. Honen, said that recitation of Amida Buddha's name is the easiest Buddhist practice. If you try to do Zen Meditation, you need a quiet dark room, comfortable clothes, a zabuton, and 20-30 minutes of uninterrupted free time. But recitation, reciting "Namu Amida Butsu," does not need these things. You can recite anytime, anywhere, and with anybody. When you drive, just mumble "Namu Amida Butsu." When you add hot water into a cup of saimin, you can recite "Namu Amida Butsu" while waiting for three minutes. When you do walking exercise for 15 minutes, see how many times you can recite "Namu Amida Butsu." If you make recitation of Buddha's Name a habit, you can achieve a small goal. By achieving a small goal, you are getting closer to enlightenment a step at a time. Right after you listen to the reverend's sermon, your mind is very fresh so your enthusiasm is very strong. However, this enthusiasm may also fade in a few days. That's why we must recite "Namu Amida Butsu" as much as we can, anytime and anyplace to connect with Him. If you come to church more or recite Buddha's name often, you can keep the higher faith for a long time. Keep recitation in your daily life and attend religious activities throughout the year.

Today, we observed our Gyoki Family Service which is our Jodo Shu founder, St. Honen's memorial service. St. Honen founded Jodo Shu 800 years ago. 800 Years have passed, but we still receive the teachings to recite "Namu Amida Butsu" and practice to attain enlightenment. This is the first Sunday Service of 2025. When deciding on your New Year's resolution, set on achieving small goals, doing things right away, reciting "Namu Amida Butsu" as much as you can, and spending a very happy 2025 together.

PATIO RESERVATIONS

If you want to use the patio for your party in 2025, please make your plans quickly and make a reservation as early as possible. The season from May to August is especially popular for parties. Because Haleiwa Jodo Mission will observe the Obon Festival on August 1 and 2 this year, the preparation starts in July.

Only members who are currently active (participate in the Sunday Services, Kokua Day, Toro Making, Bon Festival, and so on) or have paid dues for at least the last three years can reserve the patio.

GYOKI-YE SERVICE

We would like to thank the following members for preparing refreshments at the Gyoki-ye service on January 5, 2025: Etsuko Morikawa, Patty Hirano, David Dicion, and Tomomi, Miku, & Sae Ezaki.

NEHAN FAMILY SERVICE IN FEBRUARY

Nehan is a memorial service for Shakyamuni Buddha who founded Buddhism 2,500 years ago. The service starts at 10:00 am on February 2, 2025. Lunch will be served. Please join us.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

MEMBERSHIP DUES (2025)

Shirley Kitamura	Edwin Nakahara
Betty Hayashi	Ted Mukai
Randy Matsui	Marianne Ono
Carrie Aoki	Lester Iwamasa
Barbara Koga	Dennis Nakamura
Keith Yamauchi	Nadine Matsukawa
Jon Shigemura	Bertram Kawamura
Helen Ohta	Naomi Masuda
Cammeryn Lloyd-Venegas (new member)	

BIRTHDAY DONATIONS

Barbara Koga	Donald Koga
--------------	-------------

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Mariane Sugimura
(In memory of Takaichi & Masayo Miyata)

Naomi Masuda
(In memory of Isamu & Kazue Masuda)

Terry Lopez
(In memory of Chieko Takahashi)

Carrie Aoki
(In memory of Minoru & Sumie Aoki)

Lillian Miyasaki
(In memory of Neal Miyasaki, Jennie Miyasaki, George Kitamura, & Masako Nakagawa)

GOBUTSUZEN & SPECIAL DONATIONS

Anne Torige	Barbara Koga
Lester Iwamasa	Melanie Matsui
Akiko Nishiyama	Michie Takemoto
Ted Mukai	Cynthia Murakami
Darcy Takushi	Glenn Takahashi
Candice Kubo	Helen Ohta

M Matsumoto Store Inc
Mrs. Sarra Hawaii Association

NEW YEAR'S EVE & NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICES

Donald Koga	Calvin Kuniyama
Joan Yamamoto	Myra Shiratori
Sheri Yamauchi	Earl Higa

GYOKI SERVICE

Mae Yorimoto	Grace Iwane
Keith Yamauchi	Cammeryn Lloyd-Venegas
Jennifer Pang	Joan Yamamoto
Shinae Sakai	Kenneth Masatsugu
Nadine Matsukawa	Sheri Yamauchi
David Koizumi	Myra Shiratori

OMAMORI DONATIONS

Bertram Kawamura	Jon Shigemura
Nadine Matsukawa	Keith Yamauchi
Joshua Choi	Lester Iwamasa
Myra Shiratori	David Koizumi
George Hokama	Betty Hayashi
Telma Tsuchida	Edwin Nakahara
Helen Ohta	Inez Koga

PATIO DONATIONS

Calvin Takata	Derek Kajiwarra
---------------	-----------------

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR MONTH OF FEBRUARY

13th YEAR SAJI, DORIS
FEB. 12, 2013

BON DANCE SCHEDULE FOR HALEIWA-WAHIAWA

Below is the Bon dance schedule of the temples of Halewa-Waialua Buddhist Association for 2025. Please mark your calendars.

Haleiwa Shingon Mission	July 11 & 12, 2025
Wahiawa Soto Mission	July 18 & 9, 2025
Haleiwa Jodo Mission	August 2 & 3, 2025
Wahiawa Hongwanji	The date has not yet been decided

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.

PET MEMORIAL Available to Members and Non-Members



With Love, We Remember