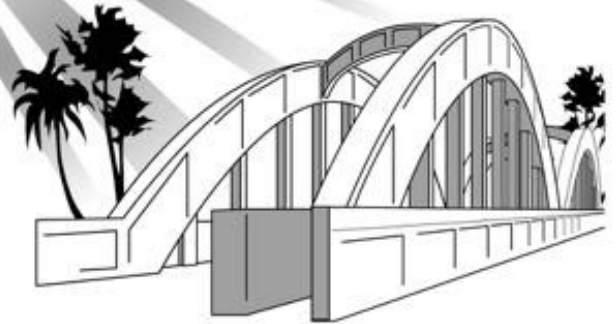


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Haleiwa Jodo Mission

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MAY 2025

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HALEIWA JODO MISSION

MAY, 2025



FAMILY SERVICE

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025

WAIALUA-HALEIWA BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

7:30 AM

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2025
START AT KEMOO CEMETERY

BON DANCE PRACTICE

7:00 PM

THURSDAYS, MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29, 2025

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR MONTH OF MAY

MEMBERSHIP DUES (2025)

Glen Kazama

SPECIAL DONATIONS FOR YOUTH RETREAT

Rev. Shoryu Fukagawa

Jodo Mission of Hawaii Sunday School

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Mildred Makino

(In memory of Chitose Furuichi)

Ono Family

(In memory of Roy Ono)

George Masatsugu

(In memory of Charles Masatsugu)

Shinae Sakai

(In memory of Roy Sakai)

Yamauchi Family

(In memory of Debra Yamauchi)

Motoko Matsuura

(In memory of Hiroshi Matsuura)

BUDDHA DAY SERVICE

Dennis Nakamura

Nadine Matsukawa

Sheri Yamauchi

Ally & Cammie

Mae Yorimoto

Shinae Sakai

Jennifer Pang

Joan Yamamoto

Keith Yamauchi

Myra Shiratori

17th YEAR

23rd YEAR

27th YEAR

33rd YEAR

NISHIMURA, ALMA

MAY 2, 2009

NAKAHARA, RICK

MAY 28, 2003

NAKAHARA, MILDRED

MAY 4, 1999

ABE, LILY

MAY 22, 1993

MIYAKE, SHUNICHI

MAY 8, 1993

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The annual membership dues for the Haleiwa Jodo Mission are \$50.00. The membership fee covers a wedded couple. If you have any questions about your dues, please ask Rev. Ezaki.

SERMON AT THE BUDDHA DAY SERVICE

Rev. Koji Jeff Ezaki

Minister of Haleiwa Jodo Mission Buddhist Temple

Happy Buddha Day!! Today, we are gathered to celebrate Shakyamuni Buddha's birthday. He was born in India 2,500 years ago. This baby Buddha shrine decorated with beautiful flowers depicts when Shakyamuni Buddha was born in Lumbini Garden. It is said that sweet rain fell that day to honor his

birth. That is why we pour sweet tea over his statue. Today, the Honolulu Buddhist Council will gather at Soto Mission Betsuin in Nuuanu to also observe the Buddha Day Service. To understand more about Shakyamuni's teaching, I would like to speak on his childhood.

When Shakyamuni Buddha was born in India 2,500 years ago, he was not called Shakyamuni Buddha. He was named Siddhartha as a child. After he got enlightened at 35 years old, he was called Shakyamuni Buddha. So, the statue in the shrine, where we poured the tea, is still Siddhartha. He was born as a prince of the Shakya clan. His father was the king of the Shakya Kingdom. Siddhartha was very intelligent and a good athlete. He was an honor student. Intelligent people have a creative mind. He was one of them. Human beings, whether it be in studies or in sports, try to reach the highest level. Along the way, when people meet obstacles or hardships, they suffer. This was especially true for Siddhartha. He lost his mother seven days after his birth. He formed an anxiety toward death. At that time in India, there were many conflicts among the kings and various clans. Wars were constantly happening. To Siddhartha, who one day had to take over his father's position and become king, this must have made him very sad and uneasy when thinking about the clan and his future. Every day Siddhartha thought of ways he could help his people live peacefully. Losing his mother at an early age was probably one of the factors that deepened Siddhartha's interest in religion.

What makes you happy? People often say, money, a gorgeous house, an expensive car, or a high social status. However, Siddhartha was different. He had a lot of money, plenty of food, the highest position, and a big palace. In spite of this, he was not happy. The more peaceful a clan becomes, the more chance of being attacked by other countries. This made him very worried and annoyed. The more he was happy, the more he worried about what he would do if he became unhappy. Someone who doesn't have much money doesn't need to worry about losing money. However, for someone that is rich, the more money he or she has, the more they are worried about losing it and becoming poor. Siddhartha pondered over many such worries. This is an anecdote about Siddhartha. He attended a harvest festival as a prince with his father. During the ceremony, one of the farmers dug the field with a hoe. At that moment, a worm came out from the dirt. A bird flew in and picked up the worm. The bird who ate the worm flew to the sky. Then, an eagle caught the bird and disappeared. By seeing the world of the strong dominating the weak, Siddhartha was shocked and thought more about life. He thought his clan might be destroyed someday when the

powerful clans invaded his country. This incident was the second factor that led him to turn to religion. The one who was most worried about Siddhartha was his father. His father tried to keep him in the palace to avoid the world of ordinary people, planned enjoyable events every day, and prepared delicious meals. The king gave Siddhartha a life of luxury to stop him from thinking about life. However, a big series of incidents happened that changed Siddhartha's life. It is called "Four Sights."

One day, Siddhartha, with his servant, left the palace from the East Gate on a horse. He met an old man who was skinny, weak, had wrinkles on his body, and walked with a cane. Siddhartha never met weak, old people in the palace, so he became very sad thinking that he, too, would someday be like the old man. Lost in thought, he returned to the palace. The next day, Siddhartha left from the West Gate of the palace. This time, unfortunately, he met a helpless sick man. This man was so poor that he couldn't even buy any medicine. The prince gave some money for medicine to the people caring for him, and again, started to ponder over what he had just seen. No matter how healthy we are, when illness strikes, we become helpless. The prince once again returned to the palace with a heavy heart. A few days later, after much thinking, the prince left from the South Gate. He felt good to be out after being confined in the palace for a while. But sadly, he was faced with death, what he feared most, when he saw the funeral of a deceased man. After pondering over many of the sad events he had seen, he left the North Gate with his servant a few days later. There, he met a monk who seemed to renounce worldly desires. The monk looked very peaceful and calm. At that moment, Siddhartha decided to become a monk and seek ways to remove the suffering of others. Later, when Siddhartha became Shakyamuni Buddha, he left the teaching of the Four Sufferings: old-age, sickness, death, and he added birth because birth is the beginning of sufferings.

As I have just mentioned, there are three points that led Siddhartha to abandon his princely throne and take up the path of religion. First, losing his mother seven days after he was born, second, realizing that this is a world where the strong swallow up the weak, and third, experiencing the "Four Sights." Whenever he confronted life's questions, he began to think and struggle with what kind of life he should lead from now on. However, this is not only for Siddhartha but for everyone. When do you think deeply about your life? I'm sure it is when you've lost a loved one, when you've lost your job or social position, when you got sick, when you had an accident, when you could not fulfill your dream, and so on. Yes, whenever you face

difficulties, you stop, pause, and rethink your life. Many people start going to church at times like these. Siddhartha was not a special person. He was just an ordinary human being, not much different from us. He experienced the same suffering, sadness, pain, and anxieties in life that we feel, and wondered how to get rid of these feelings. To seek ways to remove these four kinds of suffering, Siddhartha left his family and country. After six years of training, at the age of 35, he became enlightened. From that time on, he was called Shakyamuni Buddha. Buddhism teaches us how to live as human beings. Buddhist teaching is the result of what Shakyamuni Buddha, as Siddhartha, the ordinary person, saw and felt as we experience. Compassion toward others and peace for all are the purposes of His teaching which still exists today after 2500 years.

Today, we poured sweet tea onto Siddhartha, a Baby Buddha statue, to celebrate his birthday. Let us celebrate the birth of Siddhartha in honor of him, who wished for the happiness of mankind and left us teachings that will lead us to the path of happiness. At the end of the service, we will watch a short movie about the "Four Sights" to deepen our knowledge about Siddhartha's experiences.

2025 YOUTH RETREAT

Youth members of the Haleiwa Jodo Mission and Jodo Mission of Hawaii got together to have an annual Youth Retreat on March 31, 2025.

After Rev. Ezaki officiated the Sunday School Service at Haleiwa Jodo Mission, 28 participants visited Waimea Valley for their holoholo excursion. They enjoyed lunch and swam in the waterfall. They also stopped at the Waialua old sugar mill to have smoothies and shave ice. Everyone spent a happy and enjoyable day together.

This project is supported by the Hawaii Council of Jodo Missions and Jodo Shu headquarters.



The groups visited Waimea Waterfalls

OLD TEMPLE RESTORATION PROJECT

In 2019, the original temple of the Haleiwa Jodo Mission (HJM) was officially recognized as a historic site by the State of Hawaii. This important designation made it possible to begin efforts to restore the temple to its original condition.

To support the restoration, HJM launched the OTERA (Old Temple Essential Restoration Assistance) Fund in 2021, aimed at collecting donations for the project. While progress has been challenging and slower than hoped, HJM wants to reassure its members and the community that proactive steps have been taken—and continue to be taken—to protect the old temple from further deterioration in the interim.

We are committed to ensuring the restoration is carried out in the best possible way. HJM deeply appreciates the generosity of those who have already contributed and kindly asks for continued support as we move forward with this meaningful project.

MARIAN MASAE SCHOLARSHIP



Waialua High School 2025 graduate Ethan Pascual (pictured here with Sheri Yamauchi) received the 2025 Marian Masae Scholarship. Good luck on your future endeavors, Ethan!

BUDDHA DAY SERVICE



From left: Ama Arnold, David Dicion, Miku Ezaki, Lani Arnold, and Sae Ezaki with the baby Buddha shrine for the Buddha Day Service