

Information on O-Toba for 2022

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 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, O-Toba during O-Bon is most appropriate and meaningful. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 2020 and 2021 O-Bon services were held virtually and the 2021 links are still available at jodo.us if you wish to see them again. The virtual program was beautifully put together by Bishop Ishikawa. This year 2022, we may have to do O-Bon virtually again but as summer gets closer, we will have updated information.

You should be receiving your 2022 O-Toba order form soon. Please fill out the form and specify whether you request the writing in Japanese or English. If in Japanese, please provide the proper kanji as there may be many ways of writing kanji.

Because of the Temple's busy summer schedule and the continuing of the new O-Toba, **the deadline to order your O-Toba is Tuesday, March 1st.** Our O-Bon services will be held on **July 15-17** (Fri-Sun). If, for some reason, you did not receive the O-Toba form, please contact Jodo Mission office at 808-949-3995.

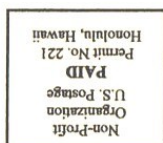
Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

In Gassho,

Jodo Mission of Hawaii



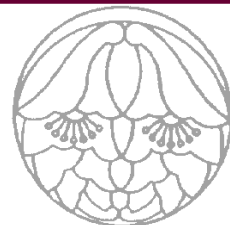
[See pg 4 for a longer definition of What is an O-Toba.]



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

JODO MISSION OF HAWAII
BULLETIN - FEBRUARY 2022

(#1302-0222)



MESSAGE FROM BISHOP KOSEN ISHIKAWA

We have heard	極楽は
The Pure Land	はるけきほどと
Is far, far away,	聞きしかど
Yet striving earnestly	つとめていたる
We reach our destination	所なりけり
(Kuya Shonin—空也上人)	



It is said this short poem was written by Kuya Shonin (903-972) who was one of the first Japanese priests to spread Nenbutsu amongst people during the Heian Period. Kuya Shonin has been known as the founder of Odori Nenbutsu which is to recite Nenbutsu while dancing with musical rhythm but there is no proof that Kuya did Odori Nenbutsu. However, he seemed to travel many places in Japan and left many legends and folklores such as building roads, digging wells for the welfare of the people. Therefore with respect, he is called “Ichino-Hijiri (The Saint in the town)” or “Amida Hijiri (The Saint like Amida Buddha).”

According to Amida Sutra, the Pure Land exists in the far west, as many as ten trillion Buddha-lands away. From the viewpoint of common sense, it’s impossible to get to the far western Pure Land. However, Kuya Shonin wrote this short verse to tell us the ways to reach there. My first understanding of this verse is like a saying that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. By practicing diligently or constant efforts of practicing will lead us to the Pure Land. This is the understanding based on the word “Tsutome-te” as “by diligent practice” or “by “O-tsutome.” This encourages us to continue to practice hard because if we keep working for the goal, we could get closer to the goal no matter how far the goal may be.

On the other hand, I realized another understanding of the “Tsutome-te” is “to be immediately” or “to work quickly” based on another meaning of “Tsuto” as early or quickly. What an amazing poem! This poem has double meanings. Kuya Shonin meant two completely different ways to reach the Pure Land in this short poem. The first translation is according to the idea of Jiriki or self-power. With efforts and diligence, we get to the Pure Land. However, Jiriki is very difficult to continue and not good for everyone.

On the other hand, Tariki or other power is based on the original vow of Amida Buddha who wants to save us all. Therefore, as soon as we establish faith in the original vow of Amida Buddha, we can realize self-power is completely unnecessary. All we need to do is just rely upon Amida Buddha. Therefore, we don’t need to strive to get to the Pure Land. Instead, Amida Buddha will come to welcome us immediately from his Pure Land far away. This is how I made a new translation for the poem above.

[continued on page 3]

[cont'd Bishop's Message]

We have heard
The Pure Land
Is far, far away,
Yet quickly (with Nenbutsu)
We reach our destination

Namu Amida Butsu



Statue of Kuya at Rokuharamitsuji Temple in Kyoto. It is said when he recited 6 syllables of Na-Mu-A-Mi-Da-Butsu 6 figures of Amida Buddha came out from his mouth.

Gassho,

Bishop Kosen Ishikawa

MESSAGE FROM REV. TAKAAKI TANABE



Aloha! I'm Rev. Tanabe. I've been in Hawaii since October 22, 2021. When you come to Betsuin, I may be in office. I wish to meet you. Recently, I returned from Kauai and now I'll stay at Betsuin on Oahu until January 31 and I'll come back to Oahu in March again.

Now I'll talk about Japanese traditional arts. Above is a design. This is not many wi-fi logos together. This is "**Seigaiha**". Seigaiha are lucky things that mean "We wish for peace of life and it's like the calm sea spread to infinite" in Japan. It's usually found in paint and shop sign and Gagaku performance and clothes in Japan. The original was from Iraq, more detail told Sasanian Persia on 226-651 years.

By the way, Buddhism was imported from India via China over the ocean. In 753, a Chinese Priest voyaged from China to Japan. His name is **Ganjin (Jianzhen)** who introduced 'Ritsu' or "Buddhist rules" to Japan.



There were no airplanes for transportation in those days. The main means of transportation was by ship. He failed to sail twice and lost his eyesight, but he never gave up. If he had given up, would there be Buddhism in Hawaii or even in Japan.

Jodo Shu sect started 422 years after that and the beginning of Jodo Mission of Hawaii. In 1894, Jodo Buddhism came to Hawaii from Japan across the ocean.

In Gassho,

Rev. Takaaki Tanabe

Buddha's Memorial Day Service (Nehan-e) **Sunday, February 13th 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 13th 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 returns to this world. In order to welcome them as portable monuments, we dedicate O-Toba.

Mailing Addresses—Bulk Mail - We ask that you keep Jodo Mission of Hawaii advised of your current mailing address. This is important so we don't send to the same address when someone passes or when you move to Japan or if you move to a different place or even to a different apartment in the same building. Recently, the postal service sent us \$64 worth of returned mail. With the pandemic, they were not able to inform Jodo Mission of returned mail. Your kokua is much appreciated.





Hinamatsuri Dolls for 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. This year, **Mrs. Yayoi Ishikawa** will display her family's traditional Hina Dolls from Japan from **February 5th to March 3rd at the Hondo**. Blessing service with picture-taking for children is also available. For reservation, please contact our office at (808)949-3995.

Open Letter to All Honolulu Jodo Shu Fujinkai Members

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fujinkai ladies have not been able to meet regularly on the first Sunday of the month. Our last monthly meeting was on March 1, 2020. Each year in February, the Fujinkai ladies gather for a New Years party and have fun and fellowship. Unfortunately, with the pandemic, we are sorry we are **UNABLE TO HAVE A NEW YEARS PARTY** this year..

However, we will have a "hybrid virtual" **General Membership meeting of the Honolulu Jodo Shu Fujinkai, which is now scheduled for Sunday, February 27, at 11 a.m.** "Hybrid virtual" means, if there are those who want to attend they can attend while those who want the meeting on Zoom, they can see it on Zoom. Those who want the Zoom link, please contact the Jodo Mission office at (808) 949-3995 and request a link be sent to their email address.



If possible, we would like as many of the Fujinkai members to attend this general meeting on February 27 either via Zoom or in person. *Thank you for your support.*

What is “Perpetual Memorial Service?” (Eitaikyo)

This record of a perpetual memorial service is called *Eitaikyo* in Japanese. When the date of death occurs for a person listed on this record, the ministers pray for that individual during the morning service. The prayers will continue each year for as long as Jodo Mission exists.

Anyone can be included in it. You may put your own name on the list, too. This also helps when it is difficult to have memorial services. We also welcome you to attend the morning service at **9:30am**. (Note time change due to Covid-19, please call temple if you plan to attend.)

How to apply

Stop by the office, and fill out the application form. Each name costs \$200. After the application is accepted, the name will be listed on the record.

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 have been letting people in if you come and ring the blue bell. **You must 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*
10 am to 3 pm Holidays

2022 Memorial Years Observed

1 st year	2021
3 rd year	2020
7 th year	2016
13 th year	2010
17 th year	2006
23 rd year	2000
25 th year	1998
27 th year	1996
33 rd year	1990
37 th year	1986
43 rd year	1980
47 th year	1976
50 th year	1973
100 th year	1923

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.

Thank you for your

REMINDERS

Gojikai or Membership—\$60.00 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 **\$60.00**

AND

Maintenance donation \$5.00 per year per niche

お知らせ

1年間における護持会費、又はメンバーシップは60ドルになります。同世帯の家族) 世帯が別の場合は個々にメンバーシップが必要です。

納骨堂を所有の方は別途、5ドルの年間管理費をお納めください



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 | The Yamamoto Family
Kame Uyehara
The Uyehara Family
Michie Watanabe
Jimmy Nestegard
Chiyo Tanaka
J Jackson Miiyagawa | 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 |
| 2 Kuma Kawamura
The Kawamura Family
Robert Hiroshi Yamanaka
Dorothy Mieko Oshita
Hideo Takamatsu
Yasuko Tanaka
Sueyo Nakamura | 11 Minekichi Taniguchi
The Taniguchi Family
Tsuneko Nago
The Nago & Kunitomo
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 |
| 3 Rymond Hisashi Narahara
Ayame Kano
Hazel Mitsuko Imai | | | 29 Nobue Kochi |
| 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 | |
| 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 | 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 | 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
Kikuye Homareda
Eleanor Emiko Nishimura | 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
Miyono Shimoda | 17 Masuyo Shimokawa
The Shimokawa Family
Kinzaburo Makino
The Makino Family
Kazuyo Hashimoto
Choshiro Ikuta
Tsuchiyo Fujimoto
Reiko Hata
Alfred Akira Tanaka
Frederick Kinzaburo
Makino | 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 | |
| 10 Satomi Yamamoto | 18 Reiji Yamane | 26 Jirosaku Otani
The Otani & Yanagihara
Family
Shiro Fukuda
Richard Kiyomi Ochiai
Robert Bobby Mitsuyasu
Stanley Ryosei Matayoshi | |

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.

Yachiyo Ogino	94
Michiko Kotake	101

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

February 2022

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:00am Sunday Service	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 10:00am Nehane Family Service 11:00 am Board Meeting	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 10:00am Sunday Service	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 10:00 am Sunday Service 11:00am Fujinkai General Membership Mtg	28	Jodo Shu Calendar for February 2022: Accept advice given you now and pass it on to the next generation				

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- COMING EVENTS:**
- Deadline for O-Toba Orders: March 1
 - Spring Higan Service: March 20 @ 10 am
 - Youth Retreat: To be Announced
-

Fujinkai: Feb 27 at 11:00 am I
 Hybrid Virtual
 General Membership Meeting
 after Sunday Service

Sunday School
 No Sunday School

Sewing Circle: No Class
 in February;

Bazaar Donations are not being accepted temporarily. Thank you for your patience.

Senior YBA: No meeting

Membership Dues (Gojikai) REMINDER: Please pay your membership dues (\$60) for this year and if you did not pay for 2021, 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.