

# O-Bon Services at Jodo Mission of Hawaii

## July 11 to 13, 2025 (Hybrid—in person & virtual)

Jodo Mission will provide a Zoom link for all services, especially those who are not able to attend in-person:



Friday, July 11 @ 10:00 am	Hatsu Bon families only*
Friday, July 11 @ 6:00 pm	Regular O-Bon Service
Saturday, July 12 @ 10 am & 6pm	Regular O-Bon Service
Sunday, July 13 @ 10:00 am	Final O-Bon Service

**\*Hatsu Bon families** who cannot make the Friday 10 am service, may also attend any other service and your Hatsu Bon O-Toba will be read.

### Zoom Link for all services:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84166083058?pwd=MIB5cElsbFVocjVMcXFtZlJZQ3diQT09>

Meeting ID: 841 6608 3058

Pass Code: 271650

Masks are optional in the temple and social hall. *Thank you.*

### Visitations to O-Tobas in social hall:

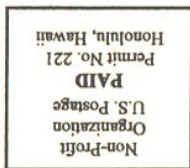
July 7 to 12 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

July 13 until end of Final O-Bon service at 10 am, then cleanup



**Private In-Person O-Toba Services**—will be held in the temple or at your O-Toba from July 7 to 11 from 10 to 12:40 pm and 3 pm to 5:40 pm. As of the printing of this newsletter, there are not too many times left so please contact Jodo Mission office as soon as you are able to schedule your private service.

[See pp 4&5 for more O-Bon info]

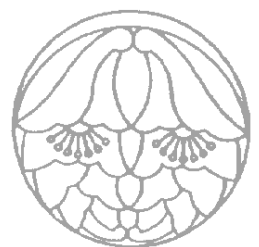


Jodo Mission of Hawaii  
1429 Makiki St.  
Honolulu HI 96814  
Address Service Requested

(#1353-0725)

# JODO MISSION OF HAWAII

## BULLETIN - JULY 2025



# Message by Bishop Kosen Ishikawa

Dear Members and Friends,

Thank you very much for your participation in the recent Pan-Pacific Festival Parade. Although the event coincided with Father's Day and our turnout was smaller than usual, we were still able to proudly carry the Hawaii Jodo Shu banner and fly colorful *koinobori* (carp streamers) among a crowd of approximately 30,000 spectators and participants. It was a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness about our temple's presence and activities within the broader community.



To everyone who joined us, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. Being a part of a parade is a rare and uplifting experience. The children especially seemed to enjoy it, so we warmly invite anyone who hasn't joined us before to consider participating next year. The date has not yet been set, but we hope to be there again with all of you.

Now, we turn our attention to the upcoming Obon season.

Obon, formally known as *Urabon-e* is one of the most beloved and widely observed traditions in Japanese Buddhism. Its origins can be traced back to a Buddhist sutra called the *Butsu-setsu Urabon-kyo* (The Ullambana Sutra), which tells the story of the disciple Maudgalyāyana (Mokuren-sonja in Japanese).

Using his spiritual powers, Maudgalyāyana searched for his deceased mother and found her suffering in the realm of hungry ghosts (*gaki-dō*), tormented by hunger and thirst. Desperate to help her, he sought guidance from the Buddha, who instructed him to make offerings to the monks at the end of their summer retreat, on the fifteenth day of the seventh month. By doing so, his mother was released from suffering and reborn in a higher realm. This act of filial piety and compassion became the foundation of the Obon tradition.

Over time, this spirit of honoring and making offerings to one's ancestors spread throughout Japan, becoming a cherished part of community and family life. During Obon, families often visit graves, set up home altars (*shoryo-dana*), and light welcoming and sending-off fires (*mukaebi* and *okuribi*). These customs reflect a deep respect and gratitude for those who came before us.

There are various theories about the meaning of "Urabon." The most widely known is that it derives from the Sanskrit word *Ullambana*, meaning "hanging upside down," symbolic of the extreme suffering Maudgalyāyana's mother endured. Another theory indicates that the term *urabon* simply means a "tray of rice offerings." Regardless of the origin, the essence of compassion by alleviating the suffering remains the same in practice.

In Jodo Shu, the most important form of offering is to recite the *Nenbutsu* which is saying *Namu Amida Butsu* and to quietly place our hands together in reverence. Our ancestors dwell in the infinite compassion of Amida Buddha, and we too, are embraced in that same light.

This year, the Obon services will be held as follows:

**July 6 (Sun)** – Setup of the *O-Toba* (large memorial tablets)

**July 7–10 (Mon–Thu)** – Private family Obon services

**July 11–13 (Fri–Sun)** – General temple Obon services

The application for large *Toba* has now closed, but we are still accepting requests for *Chu-Toba* and lantern offerings. We hope many of you will be able to join us.

I first helped with the Obon service at our temple 28 years ago, in 1997. What left the strongest impression on me was the sheer number of participants. Across seven services, nearly 500 people attended each one, filling the temple beyond its seating capacity of 476. It was deeply moving to

[Bishop's message continued]

see families gather in large groups to offer incense when their loved one's name was called.

The size of the *Toba* also surprised me. While *Toba* in Japan are typically no more than 70 inches tall, our *O-Toba* were enormous by comparison as it stood 120 inches. Writing each name carefully by hand, lifting and placing each one took time and effort, but it was a profound way to honor the departed and, for me personally, a chance to learn the names and stories of our temple members.

This custom of using large *Toba* is unique to Hakuseiji Temple in Okikamuro, Yamaguchi prefecture and later Jodo Mission temples in Hawaii. It is believed to have been brought here by founding members of our temple who came from Okikamuro. Although the size of the *O-Toba* was reduced in 2018, their spiritual significance remains unchanged, and the sight of them standing in our social hall is still deeply moving. As flowers and offerings gradually accumulate at their base, it feels as though the spirits of our loved ones have quietly returned to this world.

In the midst of our busy lives, I hope you and your family will take this Obon season as an opportunity to reflect, to reconnect, and to offer gratitude for the lives that came before us.

Lastly, this year marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, and of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We have been invited by Sensei Audrey Kitagawa, Spiritual Leader of *The Light of Awareness*, to host a **Peace Gathering at Jodo Mission on Sunday, August 10 at 10:00 AM**. We are honored to welcome esteemed peace advocates **Jonathan Granoff** and **Rorry Daniels** for this special event.

In addition, our temple member and artist **Noe Tanigawa** will lead the **Renkon Project**, which will present several events in August in collaboration with Butoh Dance master Hiroko Tamano and Taiko master **Kenny Endo**, who is celebrating his 50th anniversary.

Please visit our website ([www.hawaii-jodo.net](http://www.hawaii-jodo.net)) for details, and we sincerely welcome your participation and support.

Once again, Happy safe Obon to you and your family.

Gassho,

Bishop Kosen Ishikawa

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## MESSAGE TO GRADUATES

Dear Graduates,

First of all, let me congratulate you on your graduation recently.

Your school life has been shaped by extraordinary times. The global pandemic of COVID-19 disrupted what we once took for granted—going to school, spending time with friends, and participating in events—all of which were suddenly taken away. I'm sure each of you faced many challenges and inconveniences along the way.

And yet, during these difficult times, we witnessed the strength of human resilience and adaptability. We learned to adjust to new ways of living and learning. Through creativity and effort, we not only managed to move forward, but also embraced new technologies that have made our lives even more efficient. All of you learned to use these tools with confidence and never stopped learning. That is truly something to be proud of.

In Japanese, we have an old saying: *Seikou-Udoku* — “cultivate the fields on sunny days, and read books on rainy days.” It's a way of life that harmonizes with nature. We can't control the

weather, just as we can't always control the realities of life. But what we *can* do is adjust our attitude, and live in harmony with the world around us. Sometimes, it's not about changing the situation, but about changing ourselves in order to meet it with wisdom and grace.

As you move forward, you will surely face more challenges. The higher your aspirations, the steeper the mountain may feel. But remember, you already have the strength within you—your resilience and your adaptability. Believe in yourself, and move forward with both flexibility and determination.

And please remember this: there is no such thing as failure in life. Every one of us walks a different path. There's no need to compare yourself to others or feel discouraged. Your life is your own, and no one else can live it for you. Be proud of that, and live your life with confidence.

Lastly, never forget the many people who have supported you—your parents, your family, your teachers, your friends, and your community, including members of the temple. You are standing here today because of the love and care of those around you.

And beyond that, we owe our gratitude to the countless ancestors who came before us, and to Amida Buddha, who continues to watch over and guide us. When we say *Namu Amida Butsu*, it is not just a chant—it is a deeply heartfelt expression of gratitude that words alone cannot fully capture.

As you step into the next chapter of your life, may your journey be filled with hope, growth, and endless possibility.

Once again, congratulations, and best wishes for your bright future.

Gassho,

Bishop Kosen Ishikawa

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## **More Information About O-Bon**

O-Bon is the time of the year when our ancestors' spirits return from the Pure Land and stay in this world. While here, we offer flowers, their favorite foods, fruits, candies, etc. to welcome them back for a short time. This O-Bon, Jodo Mission of Hawaii would like everyone to be safe. **Facial masks are optional in the temple and in the social hall.**

**Registration for O-Bon Service** will begin **1 hour before** 10 am & 6 pm services. Registration is by Sponsor's Name. At time of registration, your Otoba card or cards will be taken out to let the minister know you are here for that particular service. This is on a first come first serve basis. NO phone orders will be taken. Once you register, you may go either to visit your Otoba or go inside the temple and wait for the service to begin.

**O-Bon Service**—During the O-Bon Service, please be aware when you hear “now we will begin O-Toba prayers”. When your Sponsor's name is called, please bow to Amida Buddha who is in the altar and go to the rear of the temple hall and offer incense at the Segaki-dan. After offering of incense, you may go to your Otoba for a final goodbye or you may return to your seat and when all the Sponsor names have been called, you may follow the ministers as they go downstairs to the social hall and go through each row of Otobas for the final blessing for this service. The Minister may give you an opportunity to offer incense while before the Otobas.



**Offerings at your Otoba:** You will have about 4 to 5 inches in width by 12 inches in length of space to place your offerings. Photo at right shows the length from the Otoba base to the a edge of the table. Since the Otobas are indoors, we recommend that you place a tray underneath a potted plant and be mindful of your limited space.



## More Information About O-Bon

**No Potted Mums Will Be Sold:** Due to lack of manpower, Sr. YBA will not to sell potted mums.

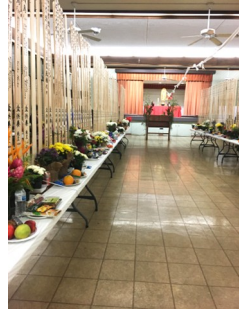
**Offering of Rice:** During O-Bon, it is customary to offer a bag of rice. However, monetary donations in lieu of rice are acceptable. "Rice" envelopes are available in the office. Thank you for your understanding and support.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

Otoba set up on **Sunday, July 6 at 9 am** and temple cleaning, Nokotsudo cleaning, polishing metal pieces, like candle holders, etc. Please come to set up the Otobas and help with polishing metal pieces in temple—good exercise!

Otoba take down or Kuzushi on **Sunday, July 13 after 10 am** service, probably around 11:45 am and 12 noon or maybe a little later if service is long.

**Help needed in social hall (July 7-13)** - to help people find their Otobas, or answer questions like where is the restroom, where are vases, where is the water, or call temple office if you have any questions or are available to help. *Thank you.*



## **Jodo Mission Bon Dance—Saturday, August 16**

Jodo Mission of Hawaii Bon Dance is scheduled for **Saturday, August 16 from 5:00 pm to 9:30 pm**. This is a one-day Bon Dance, and we would like it to be as safe and fun for everyone who attends.

Manpower is always a concern when we have a big event like Bon Dance. Any help you are willing to volunteer will be greatly appreciated. Please contact the temple office if you are available to help. We can always use your assistance. Thank you.

To prevent any accidents between vehicles and pedestrians, the traffic entering and exiting Jodo Mission of Hawaii property on August 16 will stop at 4:00 pm when the food booths open. This means anyone already parked by 4:00 pm will have to remain at Jodo Mission until the Bon Dance is over. We plan to have a designated handicap drop area. We did this last year, and we feel this is good for everyone.



## **Haleiwa O-Bon Service, Bon Dance and Toro Nagashi—August 2nd**

Jodo Mission of Hawaii will have a bus going to Haleiwa Jodo Mission on **Saturday, August 2nd**. Bus will leave Jodo Mission at 4:00 pm & leave Haleiwa Jodo Mission at **9:30 pm**. Anyone interested, please call Jodo Mission office (808) 949-3995. Priority will be given to dues paying members.



**Father's Day Service**—O Sunday, June 15th, we celebrated Father's Day with a guest speaker, **Rev. John Hara** of Wailuku and Kahului Jodo Missions. He started his talk by having everyone do some light exercises, which was great. He talked about growing up in a minister's family, and he talked about he and his father since it was Father's Day. **Sunday School** passed out boxes of chocolate candies to all the fathers who attended service also everyone who attended.



Father's Day program included some singing, ukulele & guitar playing with **Sensei Miyashiro, Wyatt Fujikawa, Hugh Ishikawa and Sarah Miki**. The 3 fathers also joined in singing at the end.

### What is Perpetual Memorial Service (Eitaikyo)

When the date of death of a deceased occurs, ministers do prayers on this 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\*

10 am to 3 pm Holidays

\*Sundays no one in office since we have Sunday Service

### 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!

*Thank you for your understanding.*

### Memorial Years Observed

1 <sup>st</sup> year	2024
3 <sup>rd</sup> year	2023
7 <sup>th</sup> year	2019
13 <sup>th</sup> year	2013
17 <sup>th</sup> year	2009
23 <sup>rd</sup> year	2003
25 <sup>th</sup> year	2001
27 <sup>th</sup> year	1999
33 <sup>rd</sup> year	1993
37 <sup>th</sup> year	1989
43 <sup>rd</sup> year	1983
47 <sup>th</sup> year	1979
50 <sup>th</sup> year	1976
100 <sup>th</sup> year	1926

### 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.** We may need to contact you and your phone was disconnected.

Mail forwarded because you moved also adds additional costs. Thank you for your cooperation.

### 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 Hours]

**Monday to Saturday**

10am—5pm

**Sunday & Holidays**

10am—3pm

**Phone: (808) 949-3995**

**Website: [www.jodo.us](http://www.jodo.us)**

**Parking: NO PARKING in  
Reserved stalls. Thank you**

## EITAIKYO (Perpetual Memorial Service) for July

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p>1 Kichi Yanagisawa<br/>The Yanagisawa Family<br/>Yone Ishida<br/>Yoshikazu Kakimoto</p>  | <p>Shina Kaya<br/>The Kaya &amp; Shimazaki Family<br/>Keizo Nagata<br/>The Nagata Family<br/>Yojiro Yamashina<br/>Ukichi Nakano<br/>Fuji Kitagawa<br/>Reginald Takahiro Tengan<br/>Yukiko Shimotsukasa<br/>Jensen Toshio Morimoto<br/>Rev. Kanjun Nakano</p> | <p>17 Ito Tanimura<br/>The Tanimura Family<br/>Kome Nishiguchi<br/>The Nishiguchi Family<br/>Takiko Amakawa<br/>Yumei Uyehara<br/>Tomoe Yoshioka<br/>Edwin Juichi Yagi<br/>Donald M. Fujimoto</p>                         |
| <p>2 Toyo Tojo<br/>The Tojo Family<br/>Tsune Uchiumi<br/>Tomas Minoru Shigeta<br/>Kikuyo Gonhata<br/>Ellen Kimiko Hedani<br/>Yuhei Kunimura</p>                                     | <p>11 Toyo Nanbu<br/>The Nanbu Family<br/>Fusa Murakami (2)<br/>The Murakami Family (2)<br/>The Yamamoto Family<br/>Shigeyo Ipponsugi<br/>Iwao Asaumi<br/>Nancy Yoshiko Ohara</p>  | <p>27 Sakutarō Koyama<br/>The Koyama Family<br/>Sayoko Takaoka<br/>Hatsu Maruichi<br/>Yoichiro Watanabe<br/>Yone Tarumoto</p>   |
| <p>3 Tamayo Yanagihara<br/>Robert K. Yoshimura<br/>Akiko Tamaki<br/>Richard Takaichi Iwai<br/>Leslie Satoji Tarumoto</p>  | <p>12 Hideo Higashi<br/>Kamesaburo Gushiken<br/>Akiyo Yano<br/>Morio Yanagihara<br/>Toshiji Oka<br/>Wayne Shinichi Umemoto<br/>Kim L. Yoshida</p>  | <p>28 Koichi Ogi<br/>Wallace Sadamu Iwamoto<br/>Alice Miyoko Ohara<br/>Darin Sueo Furutani<br/>Fumiko Iwamoto</p>   |
| <p>4 Setsuyo Sugihara (2)<br/>The Sugihara Family<br/>Sumiyo Yamanaka<br/>The Yamanaka Family<br/>Kajo Teruya (3)<br/>Isami Yoshikawa<br/>The Yoshikawa Family<br/>Masaru Taira</p> | <p>13 Kazuichi Akimoto<br/>Bunji Aoki<br/>The Aoki Family<br/>Toki Yamamoto<br/>The Yamamoto Family<br/>Setsuyo Nitta<br/>Yai Ouchi Watanabe<br/>Sadako Asaumi</p>   | <p>29 Kansuke Yano<br/>The Yano, Konaka &amp; Hayashi Family<br/>Mitsuo Sakakibara<br/>Chiya Wada<br/>Koto Kunimura</p>   |
| <p>5 Asao Takara<br/>Shige Ikeda<br/>Fred Yutaka Sakuda<br/>Haruko Donna Furutani<br/>Hawayo Yamamoto</p>   | <p>14 Takao Amano<br/>Kanichi Morita (2)<br/>Fukutaro Nagata<br/>Haya Kamimura<br/>Kazuo Kamimura<br/>Kazue Ohara</p>  | <p>30 Noriaki Masuda (2)<br/>The Masuda &amp; Asamura Family<br/>Kinosuke Kitamura<br/>The Kitamura Family<br/>Toshisuke Iwamoto<br/>Matsuo Charlie Hirayasu<br/>Shutetsu Miyamoto<br/>Shizue Ogomori<br/>Yetsuo Higa</p> |
| <p>6 Takaichi Hamada<br/>The Hamada Family<br/>Miki Ajimura<br/>The Ajimura Family<br/>Takezo Ishida<br/>Yosuke Mitsutani</p>   | <p>15 The Nakagawa Family<br/>The Koike Family<br/>The Fujisue Family<br/>Doris Chiyoko Hayashi<br/>Florence Satoko Lau</p>  | <p>31 Haruo Nakano<br/>Kameyo Hayashi<br/>Usano Yamane<br/>Evelyn Chieko Fujita<br/>Katsumi Yano<br/>Nobu Namba<br/>Sachiko Taketa<br/>Michiyo Itagaki</p>  |
| <p>7 Hisa Akimoto<br/>Taki Ishimoto<br/>Seiji Ogawa<br/>Kenneth Tsugio Ito<br/>Richard Shunichi Yoshida</p>   | <p>16 The Juichi Yamada Family<br/>The Fujii Family<br/>The Shikata Family<br/>The Nishii Family<br/>The Okazaki Family<br/>Haruo Okahara<br/>The Okahara Family<br/>Roland Toyoji Tominaga<br/>Tetsuichi Umemoto<br/>Geraldine Ayame Ohara</p>              | <p>22 Keisuke Kimura<br/>The Kimura Family<br/>Takeo Matsunaga<br/>Motohiro Tanimura<br/>Matsuyo Miyagi<br/>Loretta Kazuko Koizumi</p>  |
| <p>8 Yoshio Furumoto<br/>Kamado Takara<br/>Hiroshi Arakawa<br/>Sueko Kiyama<br/>Shigeko Shimamoto<br/>Fusayo Saiki<br/>Carol Chie Yanagihara</p>                                    | <p>23 June Junko Yamashita<br/>Keizo Oda<br/>Sadako Kishimoto</p>  |   |
| <p>9 Kameichi Okamura<br/>Matsuyo Kamioka<br/>Kumataro Gonhata<br/>Masashi Kimura<br/>Elsie Teruno Murao<br/>Loretta Masue Matayoshi</p>  | <p>24 Masako Narahara<br/>Sato Saito<br/>Akira Otani</p>   |   |
| <p>10 Tatsu Yanagihara<br/>The Yanagihara Family</p>  | <p>25 Matsuno Mishina<br/>The Mishina Family<br/>The Weiss Family (Stillborn)<br/>Masuo Yanagihara<br/>The Yanagihara Family<br/>The Kimura Family</p>   |   |
|   | <p>26 Naosuke Nakamoto</p>   |   |

### *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.

Doris Yukie Shigeta	92
Katie Sau Ping Tamashiro	81
Joy Kazue Hayamoto	60

9:30am Morning Service Everyday

Note: Please contact temple office if you are attending.

# July 2025

*Jodo Mission of Hawaii*  
Phone: (808) 949-3995  
Website: [www.jodo.us](http://www.jodo.us)  
[www.hawaii.jodo.net](http://www.hawaii.jodo.net)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:00 O-Toba Set up & Temple Cleaning NO Sunday Service	7	8	9	10	11 10:00 Hatsu Bon Service 6:00 O-Bon Service	12 10:00 O-Bon Service 6:00 O-Bon Service
13 10:00am Final O-Bon Service / Then O-Toba Kuzushi & Clean Up	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 8:30 Board Meeting 10:00 Sunday Service	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 8:30 Fujinkai Mtg 10:00 Sunday Service	28	29	30	31	Aug 1st	Aug 2nd Haleiwa O-Bon, Bon Dance, Toro Nagashi

## EVENTS:

Aug 3 @ 8:00am Yagura Set Up

Aug 10 @ 10 am—Light of Awareness Speakers

Aug 12 @ 6:30-8:30 pm Bon Dance Practice (Aug 13?)

Aug 16 5 pm Bon Dance

Aug 17 Yagura Take Down - Help Needed

Sept 14: Autumn O-Higan Service

Oct 19 Jodo Mission Bazaar 8:00am—1:00 pm

Dec 21 Mochitsuki or Mochi Making Day

**Jodo Shu Calendar for July 2025:** As we practice Nenbutsu, we are protected, guided, and saved by Amida Buddha

Fujinkai Mtg  
7/27 @ 8:30 am  
Ikoi Hall

**NO MEETINGS OR CLASSES in July**  
**YBA, Sewing Circle and Sunday School.**

**Bazaar Donations - Please kindly call temple office (808) 949-3995, if you have Bazaar donations. Please no donations for Bazaar during O-Bon week 7/6 to 7/13. Thank you.**

**Membership Dues (Gojikai) REMINDER:** If you have not paid your membership dues (\$80) this year, please be sure to do so by making your check payable to **Jodo Mission of Hawaii** (mail to 1429 Makiki Street, Honolulu, HI 96814). Also please include any maintenance fee or fees. *Thank you.*