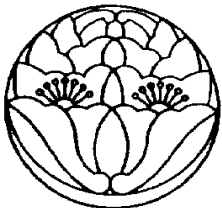


Hakalau Jodo Mission
PO Box 296
Hakalau, Hawaii 96710



Hakalau Jodo Mission

PO Box 296, Hakalau, Hawaii 96710
Email: hakalaujodomission@gmail.com
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AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER

For Our Members, Friends, and Neighbors

We are very concerned about the increasing numbers of new COVID-19 cases in Hawaii, and particularly in East Hawaii. The test positivity rate over the last two weeks on the Big Island has climbed to 7.4%, the highest test positivity rate in the State of Hawai'i. Therefore:

- The Temple will remain closed at least through the end of August. The decision to reopen the Temple will be made by the board of directors based on the level of risk.
- We have decided to cancel the August 21st **public** O-Bon Service.
- Toba donors who want a service at the Temple between August 16 and 21 may contact Rev. Miyazaki at 936-7828 to schedule.
- Classes will continue in the Social Hall with social distancing, although class rules may need to change based on CDC, State, or County guidance or rules. Changes will be posted online at <https://www.hakalauhome.com/upcoming-events.html>.

Please stay safe, get vaccinated, and continue to look out for one another. In gassho, *Jan Nakamura*

TENTATIVE JODO SHU SERVICES AT HAKALAU JODO MISSION OR HILO MEISHOIN

****SUBJECT TO CHANGE****

September 12-SUN	Joint Higan Service at Hilo Meishoin	10 a.m.
November 14-SUN	Ojuya (10-day-10-night Nembutsu service)	1 p.m.
December 12-SUN	Jodo-e (Bodhi Day Service)	1 p.m.

HATSUBON

Please contact Rev. Miyazaki at 808-936-7828 for scheduling.

Remembering	Date of Death
Shinichi Taira	8/12/20
Antoku Kobashigawa	5/3/21
Noel Machida	6/4/21

NENKI MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR AUGUST:

Please contact Rev. Miyazaki at 808-936-7828 for scheduling.

Remembering	Date of Death	Anniversary
Harry Machida	8/6/2005	17 th
Shinichi Taira	8/11/2020	1 st
Yoneko Miyashiro	8/15/1979	43 rd

OTHER CLASSES, PRESENTATIONS, MEETINGS

Several classes are held in the Social Hall each week. **Advance registration is required.** For more information:

<https://www.hakalauhome.com/upcoming-events.html>. **CLASSES INCLUDE:**

- Bon Dance Practice with Jan Heit, the Bon Dance Queen: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. **Register directly with Jane Heit: bonqueen@gmail.com**
- Practice Yoga with Alison Simpson: **Three times weekly:** Mondays and Thursdays, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. and Fridays, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. **Register directly with Alison Simpson: alison@mahanahouse.com or 808-825-7856.**
- Tai Chi classes with Sifu Slade Shim: Weekly on Wednesdays, **8:30 -10:00 a.m. (NOTE: the class has been extended from 1 to 1-1/2 hours beginning in August) Register directly with Slade Shim: wsi808@yahoo.com.**
- Karate Class for children with 4th Degree Black Belt Patricia Taniguchi: Twice Weekly for each age group on Wednesdays and Fridays. Children 4-6 years old, from, 3:50 - 4:40 p.m.; 7-12 years, 4:50 - 5:40 p.m. **Register directly with Patricia Taniguchi: WKA.hakalau@gmail.com.**

PLEASE CONTACT US WITH QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS, OR IF YOU NEED HELP!

- **hakalaujodominion@gmail.com:** This is our "all purpose" contact.
- **Junshin Miyazaki, Minister:** 936-7828 or gongqui326@hotmail.com
- **Jan Nakamura, President:** 295-7797 or ja.nakamura001@gmail.com
- **Susan Forbes, Treasurer/Newsletter Editor:** 808-286-6130 or sksforbes@gmail.com
- **Akiko Masuda, Community Liaison:** 963-6422 or msakiko@hawaii.rr.com

O-BON SEASON HAS ARRIVED!

O-bon is believed to be the season that our ancestors and beloved ones in the Buddha's land come to visit us. It is good to express our respect and gratitude to them through offering toba prayers. Toba is derived from the Indian word, *stupa*. Stupas are large structures that Indian Buddhists built in which to place and worship the Buddha's ashes.

In India, stupas were dome-shaped; however, when stupas came to China, they became pagodas. Stupa was written in Chinese 卒塔婆 (Zu ta po). It was pronounced Sotoba in Japanese and was called "toba", or "to" in short.

Stupas have been a very important object of worship especially in Mahayana Buddhism. Building a stupa has been regarded as a virtuous deed in Buddhism. Since it was difficult to build a stupa or a pagoda, Japanese people made a pagoda-shaped piece of wood on which they wrote their ancestors' or the deceased's names, then prayed for them at temples. In modern Japanese, "toba" refers to the pagoda-shaped piece of wood and "to" refers to a pagoda.



2021 HAKALAU JODO MISSION O-BON TOBA ORDER FORM

Rev. Miyazaki will pray for those who are on toba. If you want to have a service individually, or if you have any questions, please contact Rev. Miyazaki at 808-936-7828 (cell phone) or gongqi326@hotmail.com (email).

Sponsor's name: _____ Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

You can include one individual or family name on one toba for \$10. If you need to include more names, write them on a separate sheet of paper and return it with this form.

Toba for:	Toba for:
Toba for:	Toba for:
Toba for:	Toba for:
Toba for:	Toba for:

My donations include: _____ Toba Ordered @ \$10 each \$ _____

O-Bon Donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please mail your check and this form to: Hakalau Jodo Mission, PO Box 296, Hakalau, HI 96710

Thank you

MINISTER'S SERMON:



Bon (1867)

outside the house to help the Hatsubon spirit easily locate the house. In the temple, Hatsubon spirits are prayed for separately.

Where the deceased come back from depends on what they believe. Jodo Shu teaching says that the deceased are in the Pure Land of Amida Buddha. Those in the Pure Land have Six Supernatural Powers. Because Pure Land residents have these supernatural powers, they can see and visit us, they know we are thinking of them, and they never get lost.

Those who do not believe that the deceased are in the Amida Buddha's Pure Land worried if the deceased would get lost and so forth. Therefore, they displayed cochin lanterns and cucumber horse and eggplant cattle etc.

For Jodo Shu followers, O-bon is a good occasion to appreciate the Buddha and the deceased and renew our faith.

I hope we will have lively O-bon festival again next year.

Please stay safe and healthy, repeat Namu Amida Butsu often until then.

O-bon is mixture of many religions and cultures. The customs, the expression of O-bon, vary by region.

Generally, the belief is that the spirits of the deceased come back from the other world to this world during O-bon. People welcome the deceased by having a minister officiate at a service at the home altar, making cucumber horses and eggplant cows to ride, making a fire and hanging lanterns outside so the deceased do not get lost, offering good foods, and dancing all night under the full moon.

The deceased who passed away after the previous O-bon come back to this world for the first time. They are called **Hatsu-bon** or the First Obon and people made much of it. The family hang a white chochin

In addition to **Hatsu-bon**, the concept of the first time or first thing is important to the Japanese.

- The first dream you dream in a year is called **Hatsu-yume** or the first dream of the year. If you have a good **Hatsu-yume**, the year would be a good year. People put an auspicious picture under their pillow to dream good **Hatsu-yume**.
- On January 2nd, people collect morning dew, make sumi ink and write something auspicious under the name of **Kakizome** or the first calligraphy of the year.
- When a baby is fed solid food for the first time, they hold a ceremony called **Okujizome**, or the first **kaukau** ceremony.
- The **aku** season starts in the early summer in Japan. The first **aku** in the fish market is called **Hatsu-gatsuo** or the first **aku**. [In 1812 in a fish market in Edo (Tokyo), there were 17 first **aku**. Six were bought by Shogun family. One was bought by a famous kabuki actor at about \$2,500... Sorry, I digressed.]

In gassho, *Rev. Junshin Miyazaki*

SHARING OUR HISTORY TO PRESERVE OUR LEGACY

August is all about Obon, so let's remember past celebrations!

Hakalau Jodo Mission Observes O-Bon With Services And Dance



Hakalau Jodo Mission observed Obon with the traditional services and dance at the church grounds on the evening of August 6.

The Obon sermon was preached by Reverend Shuzui Hino of the Hilo Meishoin Mission. The dances started at 8 p.m. under cloudy but dry skies.

★ ★ ★

Reverend Bino Mamiya, minister of the Hakalau Jodo Mission, was interviewed recently to explain the origin of "Bon" dances, for the benefit of the readers. He said,

"In India long ago, there lived a man called Mokuren, who was a disciple of Lord Buddha. Mokuren had been given the powers to see into the next world.

One day, soon after his mother had passed away, Mokuren using his unusual ability, scanned Heaven in search of his dead mother. To his amazement, he could not locate her.

He continued looking for her, each time searching at a lower level which separated Heaven and Hell. Finally on the level just before Hell he found his mother. She had been assigned to the level where selfish mortals were sent after their death. There they suffered the pangs of eternal hunger and thirst.

Seeing her son, Mokuren's mother asked him for some food and water. But each time she opened her lips to taste the food and water her son gave her, it burst into flames.

Faced with this dilemma, Mokuren asked Lord Buddha for his advice.

Each year during the monsoon season in India, it was the custom of the Buddhist priests from all the surrounding areas to gather at a big castle to study and meditate. Lord Buddha instructed Mokuren to ask these priests who had gathered to pray for the forgiveness of his mother.

The priests, after hearing Mokuren's story, prayed for many days. Finally on the last day of the monsoon season, which was July 15, as Mokuren watched, he saw his mother slowly ascending towards Heaven.

Mokuren, seeing his mother saved, was overcome with joy. As she neared Heaven, he began to sing and dance. The priests, observing Mokuren's happiness, also began to sing and dance.

And that was the first "Bon" dance."



On the Yagura



'Bon' dancers



Sholei Nagashi

Source: Voice of Hakalau, August 1960, from the Waichi Ouye Collection, courtesy of his family.

Emi Uemura, a former member, Hakalau Up Camp neighbor in the 1940s and 50s, and steadfast friend of the Hakalau Jodo Mission to this day remembers:

At this time of year, the Buddhists celebrate O-Bon. As I can remember we too had floating lanterns at Kolekole Park. Grandpa Ito made the boat about 3 feet long and 18 inches wide, I think. It was filled with fruits and vegetables. We took the Samura bus and rode to Kolekole. At the park we put on a lighted lantern and sailed it at the mouth of the river. After we return to the church and dance till mid-night. They had shave ice, hot dog and other food that we could purchase. The dancers were treated to rice, pickled relish and nishime (I think). This was the best part. As for the dance, we dressed in kimono in those days. Mrs. Nakano, all dress us and made the sash very tight, we could hardly breathe.

Recent memories

Preparing for the Bon Dance:

First, we practice for months under the guidance of Sensei Jane Heit and her assistants of Tsukikage Bon Odorikai (Moonlight Dance Club).

Picture from 2018 provided by Michelle Gamble.



We spend the day before the Bon Dance setting everything up. Everybody has a good time. Rev. Miyazaki, Clyde Chinen, and Robert Yara keep us organized. Newcomers learn what to do.

Picture from 2019 provided by Susan Forbes.



When there's no pandemic, the Bon Dance goes on, in good weather and bad.



Left: Bon Dance in 2014; Right: 2018

PRESERVING THE MISSION:

The first 162 PHASE 2 Capital Campaign appeals were mailed out on July 27th. In the coming weeks, additional appeals will be mailed to a broadening audience.

Meanwhile, progress continues with our PHASE 1 projects funded primarily by the Freeman Foundation. All walls and ceilings in the main Temple and all the storage areas have been painted.



Painters are in the final stage of painting the the Temple interior—the floor. This will be finished by August 2nd.

We have encountered some surprises along the way, one of which was the previous color of the floor. We are repainting the floor in a red very similar to the existing color.



Most recent red floor color and previous floor color

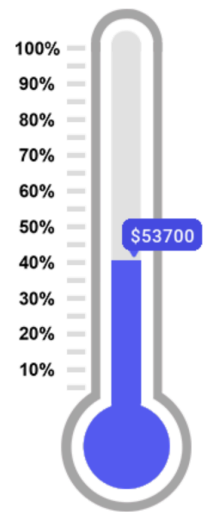
The pews are painted a color similar to the previous floor color. All the colors are coordinated with the altar.



...It all works out.

We'll share more of our surprise findings in future newsletters.

Goal: \$140000



Funds raised for Phase 1 and Phase 2 as of 7/29/21

HAKALAU JODO MISSION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

OUR VISION: *To preserve and maintain the Historic Hakalau Jodo Mission to serve current and future spiritual and community needs*

FOUR-YEAR GOAL: \$140,000



PHASE 1: 2020-2021 Projects (\$65,000)

- Replace historic emblems on front of Temple and repair windows and screens.
- Repair water damage and repaint interiors of Temple and Social Hall.
- Improve accessibility & safety with handrails for Social Hall stairs and barrier to the "Stairs to Nowhere".

PHASE 2: 2022 Projects (\$52,000)

- Paint all roofs.
- Paint building exteriors.
- Replace deteriorating altar brocade and replace pew padding.
- Install security cameras and monitoring system.
- Enable internet connectivity to support services and programs.
- Upgrade to LED lighting throughout, with 1936 period-appropriate style.

PHASE 3: 2023-2024 Projects (\$23,000)

- Tent for termites and repair termite damage.
- Upgrades and repairs for the Parsonage.



SOURCES OF FUNDING

- Public, Private, Foundation Grants
- Government Grants
- Individual Giving

MILESTONES

- 2018 – \$50,000 Freeman Foundation Award
- 2019—Volunteer Randy Simpson painted the Social Hall prior to Shinnenkai. Thank you!
- 2019—Phase 1 approvals by State Historic Preservation Division, County Planning Dept.
- 2020—Volunteer Mike Stolp installed new lighting installed in Social Hall. Thank you!
- 2021—Significant progress through July:
 - Pews sanded and repainted.
 - Temple interior painted
 - Water/termite damage repaired.
 - Social Hall and Temple screens built.
 - Social Hall and Temple Windows repaired.