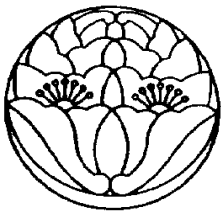


Hakalau Jodo Mission
PO Box 296
Hakalau, Hawaii 96710



Hakalau Jodo Mission

PO Box 296, Hakalau, Hawaii 96710
Email: hakalaujodomission@gmail.com
Website: hakalauhome.com/hakalau-jodo-mission-today
and <https://www.hakalauhome.com/hakalau-jodo-mission.html>



AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER

For Our Members, Friends, and Neighbors

O-bon is a time of remembrance, a time of prayers, offerings, and a time of expressing our gratitude to our loved ones, past and present. This is a time to reconnect with our loved ones and renew our commitment to live each day fully.

Please join us for O-bon on August 20th. The O-bon service will be held at 5:30 p.m., followed by the bon dance from 6:30 – 10:00 p.m.

Face masks and hand sanitizer will be readily available. We want you to stay safe!

In gassho, *Susan Forbes*

2022 SERVICES

Changes in schedule will be posted at <https://www.hakalauhome.com/upcoming-events.html>.

July	NO SERVICE	
August 20 - SAT	O-Bon Service and Bon Dance	5:30 p.m. (Service) 6:30 p.m.- 10 p.m. (Dance)
September 11 - SUN	Higan-e at Hilo Meishoin (Fall Equinox Service)	10 a.m. (Joint Service)
October 9 - SUN	Eitaikyo (Perpetual Memorial Service)	1 p.m.
November 13 - SUN	Ojuya Nembutsu Service	1 p.m.
December 11 – SUN	Bodhi Day Service	1 p.m.

NENKI MEMORIAL SERVICES OBSERVED FOR THE YEARS OF:

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

FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST	DATE OF DEATH	NENKI OBSERVANCE
Lynn Pagaragan	8/5/2006	17 th
Kana Hirakawa	8/6/1998	25 th
Shinichi Taira	8/11/2020	3 rd
Kikuyo Yoshimura	8/14/2016	7 th
Chiyoko Oshiro	8/15/1973	50 th
Kerry Browning	8/16/2021	1 st - HATSUBON
Yoshi Uratani	8/17/1990	33 rd
Mitsuo Kanna	8/20/1976	47 th

Please contact Rev. Miyazaki at 808-936-7828 for scheduling. **Namu Amida Butsu**

CLASSES, PRESENTATIONS, MEETINGS: Advance registration, please. Contact the instructors.

- **Bon Dance Practice with Sensei Jane Heit:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. **AN ADDITIONAL PRACTICE WILL BE ADDED ON AUGUST 16TH FROM 6:00-7:30 P.M. REMEMBER, OUR BON DANCE IS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 20TH!** Contact Jane Heit at bonqueen@gmail.com.
- **Karate 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, 4:00 - 4:50 p.m.; 7-12 years, 5:00 - 5:50 p.m. **Contact Patricia Taniguchi at WKA.hakalau@gmail.com.**
- **Practice Yoga with Alison Simpson:** Three times weekly including Mon 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., Thurs., 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., Fri., 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. **NOTES:** Students must be fully and currently vaccinated against Covid-19. **Contact Alison Simpson at 808-825-7856 or by email: alison@mahanahouse.com.**
- **Tai Chi with Sifu Slade Shim:** Weekly on Wednesdays, 8:30 -10:00 a.m. **Contact Slade Shim at ws808@yahoo.com.**

For more information, including schedule changes: <https://www.hakalauhome.com/upcoming-events.html>.

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

- Junshin Miyazaki, Minister: 808-936-7828 or gongqui326@hotmail.com
- Susan Forbes, President/Newsletter Editor: 808-286-6130 or sksforbes@gmail.com
- Akiko Masuda, Community Liaison: 808-963-6422 or msakiko@hawaii.rr.com

SERMON FROM REVEREND JUNSHIN MIYAZAKI



July 7 is an annual festival called **Tanabata** in Japanese. People decorate bamboo branches with colorful paper strips and write their wishes on them. The wish should be about skill or ability and not about wealth or health. Since Tanabata is not common in Hawaii, let me tell you about it.

This festival originally came from Chinese mythology. The Milky Way is called Amanogawa or the heavenly river in Japanese. There are two bright stars on both banks of the Heavenly River. Chinese people made a story from these stars. In the heavenly world there lived a princess named Orihime or Weaving Princess. She was the daughter of the Heavenly King. She wove beautiful cloth by the banks of the heavenly river. She worked very hard so that the heavenly people could wear beautiful clothing. The Heavenly King was concerned about her because she just wove cloth every day. So he arranged for her to meet a cowherd Hiko who lived on the other side of the river. Hiko was hard-working,

honest, and handsome. They fell in love with each other and got married.

Orihime princess would no longer weave cloth so heavenly people--even the Heavenly King did not have new clothes but just patched pukas. Hiko did not take care of his cattle and farm, so the cattle became sick, and the farm became messy. The Heavenly King told them again and again to work, but they did not listen. The King finally got angry and separated them across the river and did not allow them to meet. The princess Orihime was so sad. She just cried and cried and did not weave. The King was moved by her tears. He told her that she could meet him once a year, on the 7th day of the 7th month of the year. The princess worked hard again, so did cowherd Hiko. Since then, they meet on July 7. When it rains, birds called kasasagi or magpie formed a bridge for them.

This story was formed probably about 2000 years ago. Based on this story, maids had a ceremony by threading 7 needles and offering foods in the yard. This custom was brought to the Japanese Imperial Court in the 8th Century. This custom spread among the public. Farmers prayed for adequate rain on July 7 believing that the heavenly river overflows when two stars come closer, or the couple's tears would fall on earth as rain.

Tanabata originally had nothing to do with Buddhism, but it was regarded part of O-bon festival. O-bon was from July 13 to 15 in the Chinese Calendar. In general people started preparing for Obon in the beginning of July. Tanabata or July 7 is during the busy O-bon season, and so it was mixed with O-bon. The colorful paper strips are similar to the 5 Buddha banners for O-bon service. In some places people held bamboo branches when they had bon dances because the bamboo was believed to be the place where ancestors' spirits stay.

Therefore, from a couple of hundred years ago, Japanese people wrote their wishes on paper strips, hoping to be skillful and hardworking like Orihime and Hiko and put them on a bamboo branch. In some places, people eat somen on July 7 because it looks like threads.

The Buddha said “Having a broad knowledge, skill, and a well-mastered discipline, and being well-spoken in words. This is the highest happiness.” Providing support for one's parents, and assistance to one's wife and children, and being consistent in one's work. This is the highest happiness.”

So please continue to be happy with Buddha’s teachings and repeat Namu Amida Butsu.

I look forward to seeing you at our O-bon service and Bon Dance on August 20th! Then I will tell you more about the history of O-bon.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OBON!



2019 Bon Dance Set-Up Crew

It has been 3 LONG years since our last observance of O-bon. In Hakalau, we have many new neighbors, and the Mission has new members. While Rev. Miyazaki will share interesting stories at the O-bon service on August 20th at 5:30 p.m./bon dance at 6:30 p.m., a little background is needed NOW for our newcomers.

O-bon is the traditional summer festival held between mid-July to mid-August to invite spirits of dead ancestors back home, hold a memorial service and then send the spirits back to the Pure Land. It is a time for showing our ancestors our appreciation for their contributions to our well-being.

Traditionally, lanterns are hung in front of houses to guide the ancestors' spirits, o-bon dances (bon odori) are performed, graves are visited, and food offerings are made at house altars and temples. At the Hakalau Jodo Mission, we place lanterns both in the Temple and over the grassy area where the bon dance takes place.

The customs followed vary strongly from region to region, depicting an area's history and specialization. For Japanese immigrants to Hawaii, the specialization was working on the sugar plantations...and that brings us to some key points for O-bon in Hakalau in 2022:

- Observance of O-bon and participating in the bon dance encompasses honoring those who came before us, celebrating community, experiencing the joy of the moment, and adapting to change.
- When Japanese immigrants arrived in Hawaii to work on the sugar plantations, they continued to observe and celebrate O-bon. Over time, they developed folk songs reflecting the plantation experience,



Obon at the Hakalau Jodo Mission, 2014

referred to as Hole Hole Bushi. Some of these songs will be included in our bon dance, along with more traditional and new songs.

- Okinawan immigrants, a sizable and important group in Hakalau, brought a distinctive style of bon dance to Hawaii. We will include some of these in our bon dance as well.
- Lanterns at the Mission will guide the ancestors to the celebration. Lanterns will also be present in the neighborhood. (Of course, they will need to be taken down late in the evening, so the spirits will return to their world.)
- While many of us have been practicing our bon dances for months, **NO EXPERIENCE IS NEEDED!** You can



follow the steps of the dancers in yukatas, or just follow the person in front of you if he/she seems to know what to do.

- Good food, energetic dances and the grace of the Tsukikage Odorikai (Moonlight Dance Club) members, and dramatic taiko drumming of the Hilo Bon Club promise a good time for all.
- As part of the O-bon service, Rev. Miyazaki will offer toba prayers for ancestors and other loved ones. Please review and fill out the OBON TOBA ORDER FORM. Submit your toba request by August 13th to ensure that Rev. Miyazaki has all the information in time for Obon.

2022 HAKALAU JODO MISSION O-BON TOBA ORDER FORM

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 building a stupa or a pagoda was difficult, 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.

At the O-Bon service 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).

RETURN THE INFORMATION BELOW TO THE HAKALAU JODO MISSION

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 either with your check or email it to hakalaujodominion@gmail.com.

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: \$ _____

Mail your check to:

Hakalau Jodo Mission
P.O. Box 296
Hakalau, HI 96710

Thank you!

PRESERVING THE MISSION:

Our work in July focused on improving safety. Handrails have been installed to all staircases into the Social Hall, just in time for O-bon.

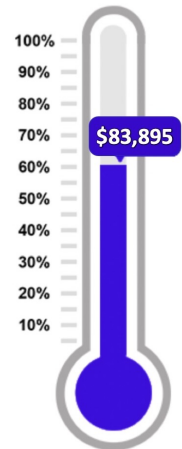


Left to right: Side entrance to Social Hall, facing Hanamalo Loop. Completed July 16, 2022/ Front entrance, Hanamalo Loop side. Completed July 23, 2022.

Community Capital Campaign Status as of JULY 29th:

GOAL: \$140,000

- 107 donations received
- Campaign contributions total \$83,895, 60% of our 4-year goal.
- We've attached 37 plaques to the pews.
- **The opportunity is still available for memorial plaques. There are both whole and half long pews and short pews available for sponsorship:**



Size and Portion of Pew Sponsored	Sponsorship Level	# of Plaques
Long Pew	\$1,000	1 to 4
One Half of a Long Pew	\$500	1 or 2
Short Pew	\$500	1 or 2
One Half of a Short Pew	\$250	1

- **TO ORDER A PLAQUE**, please indicate whether you're sponsoring a whole or half long pew or short pew and provide the wording you want on the plaque(s) along with your name, contact information, and payment to the Hakalau Jodo Mission, PO Box 296, Hakalau, Hawaii 96710.
- **The choice of wording is yours.** Once your contribution is received and the wording for each plaque confirmed, a draft will be produced and sent it to you by email or mail for your approval or revision. **A suggested format from Norma Yara, listing two generations:**

In Loving Memory of: _____

Name of CAMP or VILLAGE: _____ (EX: CHIN CHUCK CAMP)

Children: _____

(List Biological children – oldest to youngest, followed by stepchildren)

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)

- Remaining work includes:
 - Replace historic emblems on front of Temple and repair windows and screens. **IN PROCESS...**
 - Replace jalousie windows on the bridge between the parsonage and Temple with period-appropriate windows. **TO BE SCHEDULED...**
 - Improve safety by installing barrier to the "Stairs to Nowhere." **IN PROCESS...**

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

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

MILESTONES

- **2022 – NOW!**
 - Memorial plaques attached to pews
 - Handrails installed for all Social Hall stairs
 - Temple roof repaired
 - Painting bids received for exteriors
 - Tested internet connectivity in support of programs
- **2021 - Progress on Freeman Foundation Projects**
 - Pews sanded, repainted, returned to the Mission
 - Temple interior painted
 - Water/termite damage repaired
 - Social Hall and Temple screens built
 - Social Hall Windows repaired, painted, reinstalled
 - Ceiling fans with LED lighting installed in Temple
- **2020 - Waiting for release of funds**
 - Volunteer Mike Stolp installed new LED lighting in Social Hall. Thank you!
- **2019 - Volunteer effort, waiting for release of funds**
 - Volunteer Randy Simpson painted the Social Hall prior to Shinnenkai. Thank you!
- **2018 - \$50,000 Freeman Foundation Award (funds released over time)**