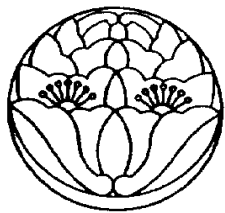


Hakalau Jodo Mission  
PO Box 296  
Hakalau, Hawaii 96710



## *Hakalau Jodo Mission*

PO Box 296, Hakalau, Hawaii 96710

Email: [hakalaujodomission@gmail.com](mailto:hakalaujodomission@gmail.com)

Website: <https://www.hakalauhome.com/hakalau-jodo-mission-today>  
and <https://www.hakalauhome.com/hakalau-jodo-mission.html>

**SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER**

**For Our Members, Friends, and Neighbors**



I'm still smiling, thinking about this year's O-bon. People of all ages and backgrounds danced with joy. All the hard work by our volunteers was greatly appreciated. We offer special thanks to the Tsukikage Odorikai and the Hilo Bon Dance Club for their artistry and their commitment to carry on O-bon traditions.

With this newsletter, in addition to O-bon photo highlights and Rev. Miyazaki's surprising sermon about his experience of O-bon, we 1) invite you to celebrate International Day of Peace with us on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2) provide information about ways to donate to aid victims of the wildfires impacting Lahaina Jodo Mission and Maui generally, and 3) share an update on recent visitors to our Mission. Of course, information on upcoming services and classes are also provided.

In gassho, *Susan Forbes*

# PLEASE JOIN US! INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE, SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>

## Ring the Bell for Peace



Banchan Bamba bell  
ringing 2022

**9:00 a.m.:** a minute of silence to honor all those who sacrificed for us to achieve peace.

**9:01 a.m.:** ringing our temple bell. At the same time, throughout the state, individuals at other temples, churches, schools, community organizations, and homes will be ringing bells.

### Prayer for Peace and Offering Incense

**9:15 a.m.:** Rev. Miyazaki will offer a prayer for peace and invite participants to offer incense.

### Building World Peace, Local Style

**9:30 a.m.:** presentation by historian Heather Fryer, Ph.D.

Heather Fryer is a freelance historian based in Hakalau, Hawaii. She began community-based historical research in Hakalau and Hilo in 2018, which culminated in the PBS documentary film *Shinmachi: Stronger Than a Tsunami* and is preparing to launch a Hakalau oral history project in early 2024. She was professor of history and director of the American Studies Program at Creighton University from 2004-2021 and executive editor of *Peace & Change: a Journal of Peace Research* from 2015-2022. One of her most popular courses at Creighton University was "Waging Peace in the 20th Century." **This talk connects some of these global historical themes to the plantation values that have sustained our local communities for generations and offers small ways to wage peace in our everyday lives on the Hamakua Coast.**



Heather Fryer, Ph.D.

Light refreshments to follow.

**Let us know if you are coming!** Email: [hakalaujodominion@gmail.com](mailto:hakalaujodominion@gmail.com) or text (808) 286-6130 with the word PEACE and include your name and the number attending.

## UPDATE FROM THE MAUI WILDFIRES

### Lahaina Jodo Mission

Only the giant Buddha remains of the Lahaina Jodo Mission following the wildfires on August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. The Lahaina Hongwanji Mission was also destroyed. Leonard Chow, President of the Hawaii Council of Jodo Missions, has sent \$500 to Rev. Gensho Hara of the Lahaina Jodo Mission and Rev. Takayuki Meguro of the Lahaina Shingon Mission to help them in the short term.

At the current time, the focus is on individual donations. As of August 31, 2023, there are three official GoFundMe Links to support Lahaina Jodo Mission\*:

- <https://www.gofundme.com/f/lahaina-jodo-mission> (Started by Sujata Hara to benefit Lahaina Jodo Mission)
- <https://www.gofundme.com/f/jodo-mission-lahaina-buddhist-temple> (Started by Mary Kozumplik to benefit Rev. Gensho Hara)
- <https://www.gofundme.com/f/maui-wildfire-relief-fund-for-sensei-lahaina-jodo> (Started by Kosen Ishikawa to benefit Rev. Gensho Hara)

\* The funds go directly to the temple's accounts from GoFundMe, and the temple is a 501c3, so donations are tax deductible.

If you wish to donate by check, please send your check payable to **Lahaina Jodo Mission and mail to Lahaina Jodo Mission, c/o Kahului Jodo Mission, 325 Laau, Kahului, Hawaii 96732**

### Other support for Buddhist community on Maui

Please send your donation to:

Hawaii Buddhist Council

1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813

Check payable to Hawaii Buddhist Council or HBC with a memo of "Maui Disaster Relief Fund."

### The Big Picture: "This is a marathon not a sprint"

In an August 14<sup>th</sup> press release, Hawaii County Mayor Mitch Roth described recovery from the Maui wildfires as a marathon, not a sprint. He shared guidance from Maui disaster relief officials, non-profit leaders and community members, identifying **the most effective immediate contributions to Maui are through monetary donations to established community-focused organizations with a strong track record of efficiently distributing funds where they will have the greatest influence.** These include:

1. [Hawaii Community Foundation's Maui Strong Fund](#)
2. [The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement \(CNHA\) Kāko'o Maui Fund](#)
3. [Maui United Way's Maui Fire Disaster Fund](#)

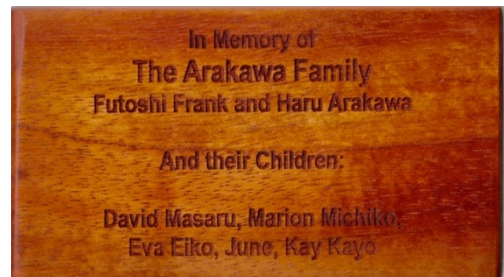
## VISITS IN AUGUST

### ARAKAWA FAMILY MEMBERS VISIT TO HONOR THEIR FAMILY



From Left to Right: Sylvia Dea, Michele Kari Yamaguma, Erin Yuriko Yamaguma, and Kevin Anthony Tan

Descendants of the Arakawa Family of Hakalau Homesteads on Chin Chuck Road visited from California to honor their Arakawa ancestors and view their memorial plaques.



**PLEASE NOTE:** There are still a few pews with space available for memorial plaques. If you are interested or wish more information, please contact Susan Forbes through the Mission's email, [hakalaujodominion@gmail.com](mailto:hakalaujodominion@gmail.com), or call Mission's landline (808) 963-6110 and leave a message, including your name and phone number.

## VISITORS FROM JAPAN

Kiyotaka Fujimoto, the mayor of Suo-Oshima Town, and his staff honored us with a visit as they were en route from Hilo to the Hamakua Jodo Mission. Mayor Fujimoto is also a Jodo-Shu Minister.

- What (or who) are the connections between Suo-Oshima and Hakalau?
- What is the connection with Hamakua Jodo Mission?

Interesting story! Many of the Japanese immigrants who came to Hakalau were from Yamaguchi Prefecture. The first Jodo Shu Temple, in fact the first “sanctioned” Buddhist Temple in Hawaii, was the Hamakua Jodo Mission, built in 1896 by Rev. Gakuo Okabe from Suo-Oshima in Yamaguchi Prefecture.



*From Left to Right: Shiiki Takumi, Chairman of the International Cultural Association; Susan Forbes; Kiyotaka Fujimoto, Mayor of Suo-Oshima Town; and Yoshihiro Suetake, International Cultural Association Secretariat.  
Photo courtesy of Rev. Junshin Miyazaki.*

In 1894 when Rev. Okabe was building support for a mission on the Hamakua Coast, he stayed in Hakalau with Kikujiro Yokoyama, Hakalau [Plantation] Store's Japanese clerk and interpreter. Mr. Yokoyama had moved to Hawaii from Yamaguchi Prefecture, along with several other members of Seirenji Temple in Suo-Oshima County, Yamaguchi-ken, where Okabe had been the resident minister.

Mr. Yokoyama lived in Hakalau “Up Camp” and helped establish the Japanese Language School in 1904 where he served as principle for 30 years. He was a founding member of the Hakalau Jodo Mission, and, in 1936, a director on the Building Committee for the current Temple, Social Hall, and Parsonage. He was known for his leadership skills and devotion to the church.

## O-BON SERMON FROM REVEREND JUNSHIN MIYAZAKI:



I was assigned to Hawi Jodo Mission at the end of June 2002. When I went to Obon at Kohala Hongwanji, I was shocked by Hawaii's Bon dance. Not only was I surprised to see Japanese and non-Japanese mixing and mingling to dance to Japanese folk songs, but I was also surprised to see that the day of the Bon Odori differs from temple to temple.

In my hometown, there were very few Bon dances. I remember seeing a Bon dance once when I was a child, in the parking lot of a nearby electrical equipment company. There were not many people dancing. I lived in Kyoto after graduating from high school, but I never saw a Bon dance, and it was not a topic of conversation among my friends. I think this is not unusual for Japanese people.

Bon Dance originally had nothing to do with Buddhist temples. Bon dances were the festivals of each community, and their styles vary. In general, bon dance was a crazy dance festival held on a full moon night in midsummer. I cannot speak here, in front of the Buddha about the aspect of bon dance in the past, but you can imagine what it must have been like from the fact that bon dance was banned in many places after Japan promoted modernization around the end of the 19th century.

Beginning in 1885, under an agreement between the Hawaiian Kingdom and Japan, many laborers were dispatched. Some 220,000 Japanese then came to Hawaii until 1924, when Japanese immigration to the United States was banned. Roughly half remained in Hawaii, and many of you here are their descendants.

The other day I was looking at an old Japanese newspaper published in Hawaii and came across an article mentioning perhaps the first Bon Odori in Hawaii. It was an interview with a woman named Riyo Aoki that appeared in the *Nippu Jiji* newspaper in January 1935.

The article says, Riyo Aoki was born in Suo-Oshima, Yamaguchi. She married into a wealthy family and lived happily with her husband. When she was 22 years old, her aunt forced her to divorce him. It was so heartbreaking that she wanted to leave her hometown, so she applied for a job as a migrant worker in Hawaii in 1885. Her uncle, who had been missing for many years, also happened to be on the same ship. It was the very first immigrant ship sponsored by the Japan government. When she arrived in Honolulu after a 14-day boat trip, her hair was a mess. She combed it, but she just couldn't untangle it, so her uncle cut off her hair with scissors, leaving her with a half-shaved head. She was supposed to get a job at the Honolulu Consulate but was turned down because she looked creepy. She was assigned to work on a plantation in Wainaku. At that time, Hilo had only a few stores around the Wainaku River and no roads. Hawaiians caught fish and sold them at the market, but they were all dried up.

In July 1886, when the third ship arrived, it brought a large amount of mochi rice, mistaking it for regular rice. Japanese workers in Papaikou made mochi, hung lanterns between houses, and began a Bon dance. Those from Iwakuni danced the Iwakuni Ondo, and those from Oshima did the Oshima Bon dance. This was probably the first Bon dance in Hawaii. According to this article, Bon Odori was being performed in Hawaii in 1886.

Later, around 1900, Bon dances began to be held in many places in Hawaii. By that time, about 30,000 Japanese were in Hawaii. Same as in Japan, Bon Odori was operated by local communities, not by temples. And it seems that they called ministers to perform the Bon service at the site of the Bon dance. For example, a Japanese-language newspaper published in Hilo in 1909 states that Japanese horse-drawn cart vendors in Mooheau Park organized a bon dance and invited Rev. Shimizu from the Wainaku Jodo Mission and Rev. Uenoyama from the Olaa Jodo Mission to perform the Bon service. The Bon Dance was a great success, and the young people of Wainaku danced the Iwakuni Odori well. (Rev. Shimizu opened Hilo Meishoin in 1911.) About a week later, a bon dance association published a financial report in the same newspaper. Income was \$115.40, and the largest expense was alcohol at \$31.

Later, as Buddhist temples were built throughout Hawaii and began to play a central role in local communities by providing Japanese language education, Bon dances were also held at temples. However, Bon dances were not held during World War II. After the war, Bon dances were held for the fallen Japanese American soldiers. In Hilo, a Bon dance was held for the tsunami victims.

The Japanese believed that the spirits of their ancestors would return to this world in the summer. I think it is wonderful that this unique custom of welcoming and enjoying them by dancing has continued in Hawaii for nearly 140 years. Please continue to be thankful and enjoy Bon Dance.

**NAMU AMIDA BUTSU**



# BON DANCE 2023



*Photo courtesy of Barb Alford*

The weather was perfect for this year's Bon Dance...cool trade winds and no rain. Family, friends, and visitors gathered early and stayed late, enjoying comradery, great food, dancing, and tradition.



*From Left to Right: Lifelong friends Robert Yara, Shin Matayoshi, and Bobby Arakaki share stories with their friend Brad Kurokawa.*



**Joy, grace, and community...the gifts of bon dance**



A gallery of 2023 O-Bon photos is available at  
<https://www.hakalauhome.com/obon-festival.html>  
Most photos provided by "RT", Ricky-Thomas Serikawa

## WE ARE GRATEFUL...

- For our parents and ancestors
- For the Tsukikage Odorikai (Moonlight Dance Club) and the Hilo Bon Club for nurturing O-bon traditions!



- For all those who helped prepare for and clean up after our O-bon observance and maintain a watchful eye during the Bon Dance: Barbara Alford, John Boyer and Mike Stolp, Ken and Susan Forbes, Heather Fryer, Joe Hampton, Bob and Virginia Juettner, Hiroshi Kozohara, Debbie Kuntz, Cici Martingnetti, Akiko Masuda, Rev. Junshin Miyazaki, Hahn Nguyen, Michi Ochi and her Ohana, Cyr Pakele, Jay Pennington, Danny Rodrigues, Matt Shall, and Robert Yara



- For our members and our community
- For all those who participated in the Hakalau Jodo Mission's O-bon Service and Bon Dance

Arigato gozaimasu!

## UPCOMING SERVICES

Sunday, September 10 <sup>th</sup> 10 a.m.	<b>Joint Higan at Meishoin:</b> This is the autumn equinox service.
Sunday, October 8 <sup>th</sup> 1 p.m.	<b>Eitaikyo:</b> The Minister performs this service alone, with no one present. The Eitaikyo can be seen as the temple's promise to propagate in perpetuity. However, the temple is also a place that helps us to understand that what makes it possible and meaningful for the temple to propagate all the people of the temple's past and their concern for the future that helped to make the present and the future possible.

## NENKI MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

NENKI SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER		
Kazunori Saruwatari	9/11/1991	33 <sup>rd</sup>
Kama Chinen	9/15/1991	33 <sup>rd</sup>
Kunikazu Machida	9/17/2011	13 <sup>th</sup>
Kana Ishikawa	9/25/1987	37 <sup>th</sup>

**THERE ARE NO NENKI SERVICES IN OCTOBER.**  
For scheduling, please contact Rev. Miyazaki  
at 808-936-7828

**NAMU AMIDA BUTSU**

## CLASSES: Advance registration, please. Contact instructors directly.

- **Tai Chi with Sifu Slade Shim:** Wednesdays, 8:30 -10:00 a.m. **Contact Slade Shim at wsi808@yahoo.com.**
- **Karate for Children with 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt Patricia Taniguchi:** Twice Weekly for each age group on Wednesdays and Fridays. Children 4-6 years old, 4:00 - 4:50 p.m.; 7-12 years, 5:00 - 5:50 p.m. **Contact Patricia Taniguchi at WKA.hakalau@gmail.com.**
- **Art Classes open to all age groups-- "My Art, My Journey", an art class with Ilze Sims in the Dining Room. Tuesdays, 3-4:30 p.m.** This is a class for anyone who would like to start their art journey and for those with some experience who would like to find new inspiration to express themselves through their art. Ilze's method balances inspiration and play – crucial elements in expressing ourselves, along with principles of good design and color harmony. The first few classes will **address finding inspiration, creating a good design, and harmonizing color.** Call or text Ilze 808-557-2797 or send an email: ilze@HawaiiArtStudio.com to sign up for classes.

### Temporary Pause on the Following Classes:

- **Practice Yoga with Alison Simpson:** There will be no classes from September 2<sup>nd</sup> through October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Classes resume October 24<sup>th</sup>. **Contact Alison Simpson at 808-825-7856 or alison@mahanahouse.com.**
- **Bon Dance Practice with Sensei Jane Heit:** There will be no bon dance classes in Hakalau until the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in January.

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

- Junshin Miyazaki, Minister: 808-936-7828 or gongqi326@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