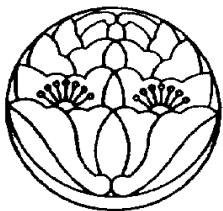


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Hakalau Jodo Mission



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



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER For Our Members, Friends, and Neighbors

As we approach the end of 2023, I've been thinking about the five purposes stated in our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws listing why the Hakalau Jodo Mission exists:

- Encourage activities intended to better the condition of mankind.
- Preserve this designated historic site and honor those who came before us.
- Promote educational and social activities for all interested persons to improve the general welfare of the community.
- Propagate the teachings of the Jōdo-shū sect of Buddhism.
- Promote happiness among the members and the community.

This newsletter provides a year-end review related to these purposes. I hope you find it interesting! Please share your recommendations in furtherance of these purposes by emailing hakalaujodomission@gmail.com or call me at (808) 286-6130.

In gassho, *Susan Forbes*

Encourage activities intended to better the condition of mankind.

CELEBRATING PEACE



Twenty one members, friends, and neighbors gathered to celebrate Peace Day on September 21st. Hakalau Jodo Mission was one of many temples, churches, schools, and community organizations throughout the State gathering in solidarity to pray and ring bells for peace.



Front row from left to right:

Susan Forbes, Shari Tresky, Susan Gillespie, Melitta Kewitz, Virginia Juettner, Hiroshi Kozohara, **Back row:** Heather Fryer, Ph.D., Norma Smith, Ilene and Jessica Battin, Joe Hampton, Elizabeth Hanson, Phil Gillespie, John Boyer, Mike Stolp, Bob Juettner, Rev. Junshin Miyazaki. Also present, but not pictured were Ken Forbes, Lembi James, Raven Hanna, and Jeremy Lutes.



Following the bell ringing, we moved to the dining room for refreshments prepared by Virginia Juettner, and Dr. Heather Fryer's presentation, "**Building World Peace, Local Style**". Dr. Fryer, a freelance historian based in Hakalau, 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."

Her presentation connected some 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.

Let us all wage peace!

To view this presentation, go to <https://www.hakalauhome.com/presentations.html>

Preserve this designated historic site and honor those who came before us.

PRESERVE THIS DESIGNATED HISTORIC SITE

Preservation is an ongoing endeavor. Over the past few months we have replaced all the broken panes in the Temple windows and installed period-appropriate doors in the Social Hall and the kitchen. We are in the midst of completing the dharma wheels and the Jōdo-shū crest to replace the disintegrating medallions on the façade of the Temple. Painting and installation of the medallions will be accomplished soon, i.e., before the end of the year.



Dharma wheels ready to paint



Period-appropriate doors

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE: THE REMAINING PROJECTS OF PHASE 3



- Replacing the worn and threadbare altar brocade and replacing the pew padding are the final projects for the Temple interior.
- Repairing the tin cladding and painting all roofs and exterior walls are the final projects for building exteriors. We are in the midst of seeking corporate and/or grant funding.

HONOR THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US

Many Buddhist services and rituals focus on remembering and honoring those who came before us. There are additional ways to honor them. Memorial plaques on our pews are one example. **Sharing the history of and acknowledging those who helped develop Hakalau is another...and that's our focus here.**

Recently, we gained access to Japanese language publications previously unavailable to us. These newspapers provide much more information about the Hakalau Jodo Mission than English language newspapers alone. We are grateful to Rev. Miyazaki for his translation services in support of honoring those who came before us. We will include translations periodically in this newsletter and on [hakalauhome.com](https://www.hakalauhome.com).

On the next page are excerpts from two issues of **Nippu Jiji** related to the Hakalau Jodo Mission Japanese Language School. **Bolded names** are individuals for whom some information is available at <https://www.hakalauhome.com/between-world-wars.html>.

Our interest in the Japanese Language School is twofold: 1) honoring the individuals involved in the school and 2) our desire to create a monument centered around the "Stairs to Nowhere" to educate residents and visitors about the role of the Japanese Language School in Hakalau's development and the people who made it happen.



"The Stairs to Nowhere" (far left) are the only remnant of the Hakalau Japanese Language School, built 1927, demolished 1984.



The building on the left is the Hakalau Japanese Language School, built in 1927, showing the "Stairs to Nowhere" with white bannisters. The building on the right included the Temple, dormitory and language school/meeting space. The current Hakalau Jodo Mission is in about the same place as the building on the right. Photo from Light on the Ocean, published in 1934.

Nippu Jiji 10/14/1927: Hakalau Jodo Mission Japanese school dedication ceremony was held on 10/9/1927. The new building is 96 feet by 36 feet, has 4 classrooms, guest room and teachers' room. Desks and chairs came from the mainland, same quality as ones for public schools. The

Academic Affairs Committee Chairman was **Kikujiro Yokoyama**, vice-chairman was Chojiro Kotani, treasurer was Ichiro Nojima. Donations raised: \$8031, costs: \$6270

The dedication ceremony included:

Words of thanks, **Principal Itakura**

Congratulatory messages:

- Waichi Yamato, representative of students
- Masao Mihara, representative of Young Men Assn.
- Satoru Fujinaga, representative of alumni

Congratulatory speeches:

- Jiro Nakaguro, representative of parents
- **Toyaji Okaji**, representative of Academic Affairs Committee
- **John M. Ross**, Hakalau Sugar Plantation owner (interpreted by **Toraichi Morikawa**)
- Eugene Capellas, Hakalau School principal (interpreted by **Toraichi Morikawa**)
- Hiroshi Tahara, Central Education Association
- Shutetsu Uenoyama, representative of Jodo Mission ministers
- Bishop Fukuda's message read by Rev. Ninryo Nago

- Consul-General of Japan Kuwashima's message read by **Kikujiro Yokoyama** (Ross and Capellas suggested Hakalau Japanese School and Wailea Japanese School merge.)

Nippu Jiji 5/26/1931

New board members of Hakalau Jodo Mission Japanese School elected on 5/17/1931:

- Advisors: **Matsutaro Tanaka, Kenjiro (Kanejiro?) Fujinaga, Chojiro Kotani, Toyaji Kikuchi**
- Chairman: **Kikujiro Yokoyama**
- Vice Chairman: **Toyomi Okaji**
- Treasurer: Reio Yamagata
- Auditors: **Yososhichi Ito, Shuichi Yamamoto**
- Managing directors: Shinichi Saito, **Satoru Kurisu, Genjiro Shimabukuro**

Promote educational and social activities for all interested persons to improve the general welfare of the community.

The Hakalau Jodo Mission has always been the gathering place for the community to address broad issues. Periodically there are meetings of the Neighborhood Watch as well as meetings for Emergency Preparedness, the status of beach parks, and actual repairs or plans to repair bridges and roads. Less frequently, other issues emerge involving use of the facilities, an example being the Cat Spay/Neuter Clinic held in March.

COMING SOON: In early December, there will be a presentation sponsored by the Firewise® Community Program on preparing our properties for a wildfire emergency due to the islandwide drought anticipated during the winter months.

Once the date and time for this presentation are confirmed, notices will be sent out through [Hakalau Neighborhood](#) (a Facebook page), the Mission's contact list, and the "coconut wireless". In addition, the information will be available at <https://www.hakalauhome.com/upcoming-events.html>.

Please let us know if you are interested in learning more about how to protect your home in the event of a wildfire by contacting us at hakalaujodomission@gmail.com.

Propagate the teachings of the Jōdo-shū sect of Buddhism.

Through sermons, additional teaching, and Buddhist gatherings, Rev. Miyazaki shares Buddhist beliefs and history for Jōdo-shū, Pure Land Buddhism, and other Buddhist traditions. These teachings offer guidance for daily life.

SERMON FROM REVEREND JUNSHIN MIYAZAKI: HIGAN



In Japan, the three days before and after the vernal and autumnal equinoxes are called **higan**, and it is customary to visit graves. The vernal and autumnal equinoxes are national holidays. Higan was originally a Buddhist ceremony held to mourn a prince who died in 785. His name was Sawara. The prince Sawara was arrested as one of the suspects in the assassination of a nobleman, stripped of his rank, and sent into exile. Sawara fasted in protest and died ten days later. Sawara's older brother was the emperor. After the Sawara death, the emperor's son became ill, three of his side wives died, and his mother died. Floods and epidemics also occurred in many places.

The emperor was horrified and ordered shrines to be built for the prince and temples throughout the country to hold special Buddhist services for him for seven days around the spring and autumnal equinoxes. This memorial service later became an established court event.

People like Sawara who died with a grudge were believed to become evil spirits bringing misfortune. They were greatly feared. This is not limited to the past. Such beliefs remain even in modern times. For example, there is a tomb called Masakado-zuka in the center of Tokyo's government offices and business district. Masakado is an early samurai, Taira no Masakado, who died in 940. The capital at that time was Kyoto, and the area around Tokyo was a countryside far east of the capital. Masakado's domain was in Chiba, near Narita Airport. He rebelled against the unreasonable treatment of the Imperial Court. Masakado was an excellent samurai, but he was defeated and killed by the overwhelming numbers of the Imperial Court army. His head was sent to Kyoto and displayed. His head did not rot, and at night he shouted "Where is my body? Bring it to me! Let's connect and fight again!" Someone saw it and composed

poem. Masakado's head laughed and flew. Flying eastward, his head fell off before he reached his homeland. A burial mound for his head was built there. That is Masakado-zuka.

100 years ago, in 1923, a huge earthquake hit Tokyo. After the earthquake, fires broke out, destroying Tokyo, Yokohama, and the surrounding area, killing over 100,000 people. The mound was also destroyed. When the temporary building of the Ministry of Finance was built where the mound had been after the earthquake, the people involved died one after another. The temporary government building



Masakado Taira (903?-940)

was torn down, and a requiem monument was erected.



Masakado Monument

About 20 years later, Tokyo was burnt to the ground during World War II. After the war, the U.S. military bulldozed this area. One day the bulldozer suddenly overturned, killing the driver. When Japanese people who had lived around there checked, they found the monument half buried in the ground near the bulldozer. They petitioned the U.S. military repeatedly, and the monument was saved. The mound is now a designated historic site by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

It is said that this idea of **vengeful spirits** did not appear in Japan until the beginning of full-fledged agriculture. In the days when people were hunter-gatherers, it was believed that everything had a soul and that souls were of equal value. People rarely killed each other and did not often abandon the weak. When people died, they buried them with care, and they buried the remains of animals they had eaten with the same care as people.

The situation changed drastically about 2500 years ago, when people from the continent migrated to the Japanese Islands to engage in full-fledged agriculture. They collectively cultivated land, formed a hierarchical society, fought, and killed each other for farmland. From that time on, people began to fear the vengeful spirits of their enemies whom they had killed.

In Buddhism, there is the belief that all living beings possess Buddha-nature, and the Buddha-nature is covered with desire, anger, jealousy and so forth caused by ignorance. When someone does something unreasonable that causes people to resent him or her intensely, his or her Buddha nature may unknowingly hurt and fear the vengeful spirit.

The Higan service, which began to calm the vengeful spirit of Prince Sawara, was later transformed over a long period of time into a custom of practicing Buddhist virtues and honoring ancestors.

Please continue to repeat *Namu Amida Butsu*, be thankful to Buddha, your ancestors, and the people and things around you, and **let your Buddha nature shine brightly.**

ADDITIONAL TEACHING: EITAIKYO

In Japanese Buddhism, many memorial services are held after funerals. In the past, Buddhist memorial services were held seven times every seven days after death. This custom was once practiced in certain regions of India and was based on the belief that one's deeds during life are judged in seven trials to determine what one will be reborn into next. In Hawaii, most people now only hold 49-day memorial services.

When Buddhism came to China, memorial services were held on the 100th day, 1 year anniversary, and 3rd anniversary (2 years) of the death, according to Chinese mourning customs. When Buddhism came to Japan, under the influence of the Japanese ethnic religion called Shinto, they added three more memorial services: the 7th, 13th, and 33rd anniversaries of death. In Shinto, it was believed that the soul of a newly deceased person was wild and that after 33 or 50 years of prayer, it would become calm and become a god to protect the family.

In East Asia, 12 years forms one cycle. Therefore, Japanese Buddhists began to hold memorial services in the 12th year after death, in the 6th year which is halfway through the 12th year, and in the 33rd year after becoming a god. (They counted years as the first year is when the person dies, the 7th anniversary is the 6th year, the 13th anniversary is the 12th year, and the 33rd anniversary is the 32nd year.)

This custom of holding 13 memorial services after funeral was established about 800 years ago. Some believed that it would take 50 years to become a god, and in some areas, the 17th, 23rd, 25th, etc. were added.

The idea that people would be cursed if they did not perform the Buddhist memorial service remained strong. The Eitaikyo service was invented for those who, due to lack of children or other reasons, are unable to perform the memorial service until the end of their lives. Eitaikyo is a memorial service that, with a certain donation, is performed in accordance with local custom.

NAMU AMIDA BUTSU

UPCOMING SERVICES (Note: Full 2024 Schedule will be in the January-February Newsletter)

Sunday, November 12 th 1 p.m.	Ojuya: This is a Jōdo-shū tradition of followers gathering to chant the nembutsu through the nights of ten days. It is considered a time of Special Nembutsu (<i>betsuji-nembutsu</i>) in homage of Amida Buddha. It is usually practiced among the congregation on only one night at the Hakalau Jodo Mission, although the Minister may practice chanting for ten nights.
Sunday, December 10 th 1 p.m.	Bodhi Day: Shakyamuni Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, experienced spiritual awakening at the foot of the bodhi tree in Buddhagaya, India on December 8th at 35 years of age. Bodhi day is a celebration of the Buddha's enlightenment.
Monday, January 1 st 1 p.m.	New Year's Day Service: This is a common ceremony held in Japanese Buddhism to commemorate the New Year. In Jōdo-shū, we gather to recite the Nembutsu. While we will be holding the service on New Year's afternoon, the traditional practice is to gather just before midnight on New Year's Eve and ring the temple bell 108 times, symbolizing the washing away of the 108 human defilements and the beginning of a purified new year.
Sunday, January 14 th 1 p.m.	Gyoki-e: The memorial service for the Founder of Jōdo-shū, Honen Shonin. Honen Shonin died on January 25, 1212 and Gyoki-e recalls his virtue.
Monday, February 11 th 1 p.m.	Nehan-e: followed by the New Year's Party, Shinnenkai. Nehan-e commemorates Shakyamuni Buddha who initiated the teachings of Buddhism. Nehan means liberation from all desires and freedom from all suffering.

NENKI MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

2023 NENKI MEMORIAL SERVICES ARE OBSERVED FOR THE YEARS OF:

2022 1st	2021 3rd	2017 7th	2011 13th	2007 17th	2001 23rd	1999 25th	1997 27th	1991 33rd	1987 37th	1981 43rd	1977 47th	1974 50th
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NOVEMBER	DATE OF DEATH	NENKI
Gene Noji	11/4/1997	27 th
Tsuyako Fujimori	11/13/1974	50 th
Agnes Sunabe	11/19/2017	7 th
Yoneko Kanna	11/20/2011	13 th
Minoru Nakagawa	11/30/1974	50 th

DECEMBER	DATE OF DEATH	NENKI
Yoshino Mishima	12/3/1974	50 th
Myrtle Kanna	12/7/1991	33 rd
George Oshiro	12/12/2007	17 th
Shizuko Uehara	12/28/1974	50 th

For scheduling, please contact Rev. Miyazaki at 808-936-7828

NAMU AMIDA BUTSU

Promote happiness among the members and the community.

Happiness abounds at the Hakalau Jodo Mission: Senior Lunches, O-Bon, Classes...and more!



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 4th 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.**
- **Practice Yoga with Alison Simpson:** Three times weekly including Tues. 9:00-10:30 a.m., Thurs., 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., Fri., 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. **Contact Alison Simpson at 808-825-7856 or alison@mahanahouse.com.**
- **Bon Dance Practice with Sensei Jane Heit:** Bon dance classes in Hakalau will resume the 2nd Tuesday in January and continue on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

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

Let your Buddha nature shine brightly.

--Rev. Miyazaki