



HAMAKUA JODO MISSION OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER JULY 2022 INAUGURAL EDITION



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ALOHA

Hamakua Jodo Members & Friends!

On May 15, 2022, at the Hamakua Jodo Mission ("HJM") membership meeting, members elected to take over the production, and posting of the temple's newsletter. Members had long waited to share news about their temple, our volunteers and contributions, with community news & views.

At that same meeting, HJM members unanimously voted to establish a brand new Official Newsletter. This newsletter is your fabulous new source of information for the members, by the members, and for friends & the community.

After a decade of little community involvement, members are once again looking to embrace the Honokaa & the surrounding Hamakua communities with events, activities & upcoming fundraisers.

With this in mind, a brand new HJM newsletter committee was formed to take over the newsletter duties. The committee members consist of members Pickens Kehrer (Chairperson), Kassie Tarpley and Keith Higaki, with contributions from other members & friends.

For contributions, suggestions, comments, stories, remembrances & more, please contact us at: contact@hamakuajodominion.org
Your input can help make this newsletter a source of community pride!

The goals of the newsletter committee members is to keep all members, volunteers and friends of HJM informed of the latest news and information about our historic temple. We hope that HJM members and friends look forward to receiving more editions to this new, & improved newsletter.

Thanks for reading & Enjoy!

SAVE THE DATE: OBON CELEBRATION



We, at Hamakua Jodo Mission, have had many inquiries regarding whether or not we will be hosting our popular bon dance this year.

Good news! HJM members have **CONFIRMED** our bon dance is ON for **Saturday, August 13, 2022 at 7:00pm.**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a lot of thought, planning and factors are being considered to ensure the safety of our members and our community. Pre-packaged bentos will be provided for the dancers.

We will also be having a cemetery service on Saturday, August 13, 2022 at 5:00pm, followed with an Obon service inside the temple at 6:00pm.

A General clean-up & preparation for the Obon festivities will begin at 8:30 AM on August 6, 2022. **If** additional prep is needed we will continue the following day, at the same time. Members, friends and volunteers are welcomed to kokua!

We received a list from Rev. Wansa of the names of the departed Hatsubon members who will be recognized during the Obon service are:

Taichi Yahata	7/09/21
Tomoe Oketani	1/17/22
Masayoshi Nishimori	1/24/22
Terrence Enanoria	2/12/22
Tomiko Fujitani	5/18/22

Attached please find a newly created HJM Toba Donation Form with this newsletter.

Please use this form if you would like to have a Toba prayer conducted for a deceased loved one at the Obon service & send it to **Toba - Hamakua Jodo Mission, PO Box 7, Honokaa HI 96727**, Please return the completed form and your remittance by **August 5, 2022**.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF TOMIKO FUJITANI



In May, we were saddened to learn of the passing of Tomiko Fujitani (87), a long time, devoted member of our temple. Mrs. Fujitani served countless years as the Fujinkai President and up until recently, was our Vice President/Director.

Mrs. Fujitani was a “go-getter.” She actively participated in many Jodo Shu sponsored luncheons and conventions as a representative of HJM and was also a member of the Goeka club. She befriended and took many people under her wing over the years such as Ai Iwane (an award winning author from Japan who published a children’s book based on HJM’s Obon festivities), and some of our former ministers who served at HJM.

Mrs. Fujitani also helped to prepare and serve the refreshments for guests and members at services and events. She would help with the temple cleaning weekly until she could not continue doing so. Members could always count on seeing the freshly cut anthuriums from her garden adorning the temple.

Mrs. Fujitani decided to move to Oahu at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in her wish to be closer to her children. However, she would regularly make it a point to call to inquire how things were doing. She would always ask about her fellow members. A private funeral service was held for her on June 15, 2022 at the Jodo Mission of Hawaii (Betsuin) in Honolulu. We will truly miss her dedication but most of all, her friendship. Namu Amida Butsu.

PRESERVATION GRANT UPDATE



Many overdue maintenance projects have taken place on the property, courtesy of a \$46,000 preservation grant that was awarded by the Historic Hawaii Foundation. Former president, the late Masa Nishimori and member Sandy Takahashi applied for it back in September 2021. A portion of the grant was used for major tree trimming, and performed by Long Limbs Tree Service LLC in May 2022. This company was referred to HJM by member George Higaki.

Their crew was fast, fabulous, friendly and conscientious. They focused on trimming or cutting down trees that were hanging over our power/utility lines that posed a fire hazard, and trees that were hovering over gravestones in the cemetery. They trimmed our avocado trees and removed a few unwanted palms.

Before they began to work on the property, we asked member Irving Kawashima to perform a walkthrough and review of the work needed. Thanks to his work experience, Irving was able to make multiple recommendations that were shared with the tree trimmers, and resulted in a better job.

The temple, cottage and dining hall were tented for termites in early June by Bowman Termite & Pest Management LLC. This treatment could not have come at a more opportune time. Our structures have been showing evidence of live termite infestation and had been increasing over the last few months with the arrival of hot, summer weather.



The replacement of the cottage stairs are completed! Thank you to members Cary Matsumoto and Pickens Kehrer for painting. More work will be scheduled in the upcoming months, so stay tuned, and please lend a helping hand if you want to volunteer!

OTHER NOTEWORTHY HAPPENINGS

- HJM's records at the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("DCCA") were updated in May that reflect the current Board of Directors, Managing Agent and an Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation. Thank you to member Iris Nakagawa for submitting the documents for us!

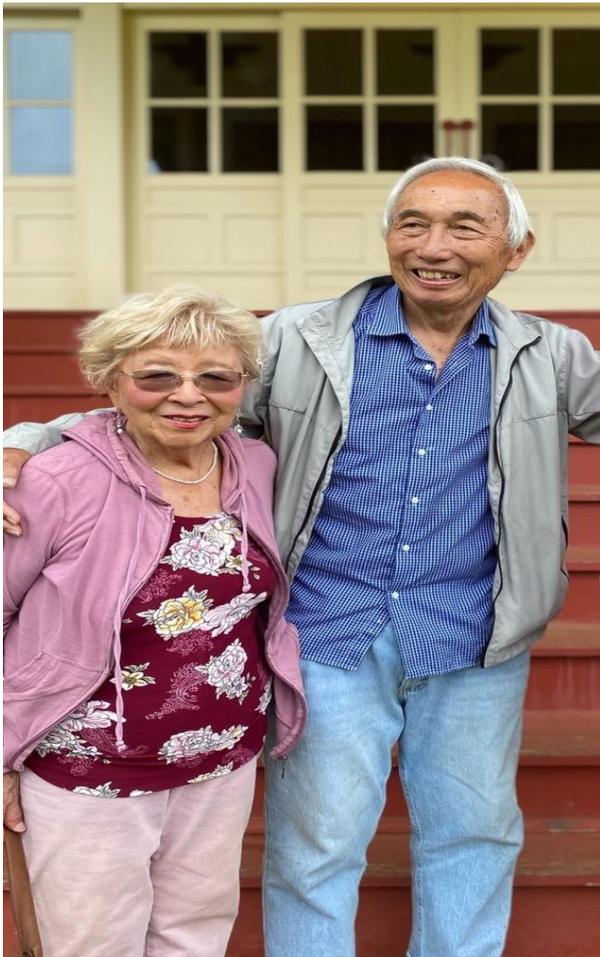
- Our bank signature card at Bank of Hawaii has been updated.
- Kamehameha Schools ("KS") have been bulldozing land surrounding HJM's boundary lines. The person performing the work said fencing will be erected soon and the cleared area will probably be leased out by KS.
- Directors & Officers Insurance for our Board of Directors has been secured through Pyramid Insurance. Members would like to take time to acknowledge, and remember Cathy Ah Choy of Pyramid Insurance's Honoka'a division (also known as R. Sakata Insurance). Ms. Ah Choy assisted with help completing the insurance application, and answered many questions. Sadly, Ms. Ah Choy passed away in late June. We remain thankful to her for the kind assistance and excellent customer service.
- For the second year in a row, members of the Honokaa Hongwanji and HJM have collaborated together to decorate the community display window at the **Honokaa Heritage Center** to celebrate Obon season. The display will be featured through the end of August, so please check it out!
- Did you know that the University of Hawaii at Manoa has a scale model of HJM on display at the East West Center? This model was made in 2005 by Paul Hirata of Architectural Scale Models, Inc., under the architectural supervision and drawings by Lorraine Minatoishi-Palumbo.



- Dr. Justin Ekuan (son of the late Rev. Kogan Ekuan), along with his lovely wife Lilly and grandson Luke, recently made a surprise visit to HJM! We were fortunate that tenant

Lani Matsumoto was home that day and had an opportunity to chat with them.

Dr. Ekuan, who resides in California, reminisced about growing up on the property and shared many wonderful memories with Lani.



reconstruct our financials, to assist us with the 501(c)3 application.

- HJM is one of many historic buildings featured in the *Honokaa Story Map Project*, a recent collaboration by the Historic Hawaii Foundation, the Historic Honokaa Town Project, along with Cultural Surveys Hawaii, Honokaa Heritage Center and the University of Hawaii at Hilo. You can view this project by visiting: www.historichawaii.org

KATSU KOBAYAKAWA GOTO (1862-1889)

Katsu Goto's gravesite at HJM is one of the most visited at our cemetery. Visitors from all over the world stop by to pay their respects to him. There is currently an ongoing effort to get Mr. Goto's story into the curriculum of Hawaii's schools. It is important that we keep Katsu Goto's legacy alive, as he played an integral role in Hawaii's history.



- We have a new person that is handling the feral pig trapping at HJM. His name is Keenan Alfonso who lives near the temple and is a relative of our former trapper and friend, Kevin Ferreira.
- HJM established a Bylaws Committee consisting of nine members (Kay Higashi Hunt, Keith Higaki, Lani Matsumoto, Kassie Tarpley, Nicolette Takashige, Jan Kamiya, Dr. Crystal Moon, Iris Nakagawa & Katie Robayo) to assist in updating our current Constitution and Bylaws. It has not been updated since it was adopted in 1978. Dr. Crystal Moon is chairing this committee.
- We are awaiting to receive duplicate copies of our banking records from First Hawaiian Bank before we can submit the last five years worth of records to a CPA to

Katsu Goto immigrated to the Big Island of Hawaii in 1885. He was part of the first ship of out twenty six shiploads of Japanese contract immigrants that arrived in Hawaii.

Mr. Goto had a three year contract to work at the Ookala Sugar Plantation for a meager \$9 per month. After his three year contract ended, Mr. Goto opened a general store in Honokaa town and became very successful. The success of his business brought jealousy and hostile feelings towards him from competitor, Joseph Mills. The Japanese immigrant laborers would patronize Mr. Goto's store and Mr. Mills was very dismayed

about it.

Unlike many Japanese immigrant laborers, Mr. Goto was proficient in the English language and became a liaison between the laborers and the plantation's management acting as a mediator and translator. He was also an activist who fought for better working conditions and their rights.

As Mr. Goto continued to champion the rights of the Japanese immigrant laborers, he was viewed as a person causing unrest among the laborers and a trouble maker by plantation owner Robert Overend. Mr. Goto was subsequently banned from the plantation grounds and threatened with his life if he disobeyed.

On October 19, 1889, a fire broke out on Mr. Overend's cane fields and he blamed several laborers along with Mr. Goto who he felt was the mastermind behind it. After an investigation, the suspected Japanese laborers were convicted of breach of contract and were fined. These laborers called upon Mr. Goto for help to resolve this matter.

Mr. Goto, on horseback, went to the plantation camp at night to meet these laborers. He told them that he would contact an immigration inspector in the morning for assistance. Upon leaving the camp, Mr. Goto was ambushed and pulled from his horse, breaking his neck.

Still alive, Mr. Mills along with William Watson, Thomas Steele and William Blabon, later known as the "Honokaa Four", lynched Mr. Goto and hung him on a telephone pole in Honokaa town. His body remained hung on the telephone pole for the community to see and to send a stern message to the immigrant laborers: Do not defy us "or else."

The men who murdered Mr. Goto were convicted of this crime after a lengthy investigation and trial. Sadly, prison records show that William Blabon and Thomas Steele escaped soon after. Joseph R. Mills was later granted a full pardon over the objections of Attorney General William O. Smith and President Sanford B. Dole. William Watson was the only one to serve his full sentence, which was four years.

Mr. Goto's body is buried at HJM's cemetery. Commemorative services remembering the

anniversary of his death have been held at the temple. On December 10, 1994, a permanent memorial in honor of Mr. Goto was erected in Honokaa Town near the public library, across the Hilo side of Honoka'a High School. It is at the site where the lynching occurred.



A long awaited documentary movie has been in the works by the Katsu Goto Memorial Committee. It will include interviews by many of our kupuna in our community, scholars, Mr. Goto's descendants and more.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION



In April, we were fortunate to have Dr. Patsy Iwasaki's University of Hawaii at Hilo's class stop by for a history lesson and tour of HJM. At the end of their visit, Dr. Iwasaki's students performed community service work on our grounds. To read more about it, please visit the Historic Hawaii Foundation's website where a newsletter article titled "Bridging Youth Education and Volunteerism at Hamakua Jodo Mission: www.historichawaii.org

We would also like to acknowledge member Pickens Kehrer who has been poisoning when weather permits. Feel free to join in this ongoing task! Also, mahalo to the following members and volunteers who remembered that termite tenting was to start on June 6, 2022. Keith Higaki, Eric Page, George Higaki, Cary Matsumoto, Pickens Kehrer, Jason Higaki, Sandy Takahashi and David Higaki came by the day before to help prepare the temple for tenting. They removed fecal matter left by wild pigs, bagged and cleared out some of the clutter in the choba room, the kitchen, temple hallways and back room.

HJM has been blessed with donations from our members, friends and visitors. We'd like to extend our thanks to:

Charlotte Kakita, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Higashi, Katie Kosora, Robert Takamine, Mr. & Mrs. Sheldon Takajo, Keith Higaki & Eric Page, Eugene Okamoto, Sr., Shizuho Ota, Mr. & Mrs. George Higaki, Mr. & Mrs. Warren Miyasaki, Evangeline Kato-Barney, Mr. & Mrs. James Yuki, Craig Hirayama, Ron Takata, Terence Kato, Duane Nishimori, Tsuyako Fujitani, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Saito, Randall Matsuda, Mr. & Mrs. Culbert Salera, Lani Matsumoto, Mr. & Mrs. Rainer Brendel, and the University of Hawaii.

A special mahalo goes out to Keith Higaki and Eric Page for gifting us with a like new 40" Samsung TV to use as monitor for our security camera system and at Zoom meetings. Mr. & Mrs. Warren Miyasaki also generously donated gardening tools and bug poison.

Membership dues were received from the following members:

Lani Matsumoto, Sadako Kato, Shari Capilla, Robert Takamine, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Higashi, Irving Kawashima, Keith Higaki, Eric Page,

Eugene Okamoto, Sr., Eugene Okamoto, Jr., Crystal Moon, Randall Matsuda, Maren Lambeth, Mr. & Mrs. George Higaki, Sandy Takahashi, Pickens Kehrer, Craig Hirayama, Sueichi Kawashima, Kay Higashi Hunt, Nicole Garcia, Sandra Kimura, and Kathryn Robayo.

KUROMATSU PINE TREE MEMORIAL



The next time you visit the cemetery, be sure to look out for the memorial plaque dedicated to Masa & Michiko Nishimori. On June 17, 2021, Masa and HJM friend Ron Takata planted a kuromatsu pine tree seedling on the edge of the cemetery, near the tangerine tree on the Hilo side.

In 2020 Mr. Takata both made, and graciously donated two dozen kadomatsus for HJM to use in a fundraiser. Mr. Takata harvested bamboo from HJM to make them. Masa, Mr. Takata, and several members wanted to do another kadomatsu fundraiser in the future.

The planting of the tree was so it could produce the special pine leaves that are used to make kadomatsus. It's a keiki now, but for years to come will be a source of revenue for HJM.

After Masa passed away, Mr. Takata wanted to do something to honor Masa. He wanted to have a plaque or sign made, and have it installed near the pine tree. In shopping for a plaque, Mr. Takata approached Mike Sasaki of Sasaki Monuments to commission him to do the work.

While talking to each other, it was discovered that Mr. Sasaki's wife knew Masa's daughter -

they worked together for many years. Mr. Sasaki insisted on making a plaque at no charge because "Masa was a good man." Indeed he was!

CHAIN GATE REMINDER



As a reminder, if you are unlocking the lock on the chain gate using the combination code, please scramble the numbers after opening it.

There was a recent incident where someone with the code visited the temple during the second day of the termite tenting process, when the temple was closed to the public.

This individual unlocked the gate, did not scramble the numbers on the lock upon opening it, nor put the chain gate back up when leaving. All the doors and windows to all structures on the property were unsecured and propped open during this time, so we were fortunate there wasn't a break in.

When we tried to review our security camera DVR footage to identify who this person was, we discovered that the Night Owl system's hard drive failed and stopped recording. After troubleshooting for a few days with their tech support staff, we were told that our only option was to purchase a new security camera system since the old one was out of warranty and parts were no longer made for that model. HJM purchased a new wireless Blink security camera system and it was installed.

JULY & AUGUST NENKI SERVICES

Nenki is the anniversary of the death of a person. A memorial service is traditionally held for the 1st, 3rd, 7th, 13th, 17th, 23rd, 25th, 27th, 33rd, 37th, 43rd,

47th and 50th year anniversaries for the deceased.

DATE	NAME	YEAR
7/04	Yukiko Nakagawa	33 rd
7/09	Taichi Yahata	1 st
7/15	Yasumi Fujii	17 th
8/17	Kyoko Fujitani	23 rd

Please contact Rev. Wansa at (808) 987-8495 if you want to schedule a Nenki memorial service.



GOEKA OF HJM

The Goeka club consisted of women who sang at every service, using their beautiful voices and bells, but did you know that HJM's Goeka that they sang was composed in 1972 by Archbishop Shinko Kishi, the head priest of the Chion-in temple in Kyoto, in commemoration of the 800 year celebration of the Jodo Sect.

Nikkei no hito ooku nemuru haka
Hooboku no
Taiju shigereri

The canopy of royal Poinciana casts its shadow over the many headstones where our forebears slumber.

**Photos of HJM and Katsu Goto's gravesite courtesy of Sarah Anderson Photography*

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Hamakua Jodo Mission

*The First Sanctioned Buddhist Temple Built
in Hawaii*

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