



# Lahaina Jodo Mission Bulletin

12 Ala Moana Street, Lahaina, Hawaii 96761 Phone: 808-661-4304

December 2024

## **MESSAGE FROM REV. HARA**

南無阿弥陀仏 *Namu Amida Butsu!* Time flies so quickly, and it is already December, the month of Shakyamuni Buddha's Enlightenment (Bodhi Day), Christmas, mochi pounding (*mochi tsuki*), and New Year's Eve Celebration (*Joya*). It is no wonder the Japanese call December, *shiwasu*, the month of "running teachers." In this busy season, I wish all of you a safe and happy close to 2024, embraced by the unconditional love of Amida Buddha. Hoping to see you all at our various events this month!

## **BODHI DAY SERVICE**

Sun, December 8, 8:30 AM at Kahului Jodo  
Sun, December 15, 8:30 AM at Wailuku Jodo



According to legend, Shakyamuni Buddha gained enlightenment under the bodhi tree in Bodhgaya, India at age 35. The Buddha's enlightenment (awakening, *satori*) is the source of over 2,500 years of Buddhism, the essence of his teaching of tolerance and peace. Without understanding and respecting others, peace will never be realized in our minds and in this world.

In welcoming Bodhi Day, let us appreciate the Buddha's noble teachings and live our lives harmoniously and peacefully.

## **SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP IN LAHAINA**

We will visit our temple grounds on **Sunday, December 22 at 10:00 AM** to hold prayer service for our loved ones and ancestors in front of our daibutsu, followed by fellowship lunch in the park area. We will also inspect the grounds since the completion of debris removal.

Those who wish to join, please let Rev. Hara know so we can prepare accordingly. Hope to see you all there!

## **YEAR-END MOCHI-TSUKI OBSERVANCE**

Our Lahaina ohana will join the year-end mochi pounding observance at the Wailuku Jodo Mission on **Saturday, December 28 starting at 8:00 AM.** Limited mochi will be available for sale.

If you would like to reserve or bring 5 lbs. of mochi rice to make, please register with Rev. Hara or Yayoi by December 22.

## **VOLUNTEERS FOR CLEANING URNS**

Under the guidance of UH Manoa art archivist Malia Van Heukelem and conservator Liane Naauao and with the support of National Heritage Responders Grant, we will be performing the cleaning and organizing of the urns on Saturday and Sunday, January 18-19, 2025.

We hope to be able to identify the urns, though please understand that we anticipate some of the urns may not be identifiable due to fire damage.

Please contact Yayoi at 808-276-4042 or email [yayoi.hara@gmail.com](mailto:yayoi.hara@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping with this important project.

## **AMIDA BUDDHA RESTORATION**

With a generous National Endowment for the Humanities' Chair grant, we will be restoring our Amida Buddha statue, which was saved from the temple by our Vietnamese nun friend Kim and former neighbor Ben last August. Phase I of the restoration will be conducted by Japanese Prof. Naomi Sasaoka and team from January 20 to 25.

## **HOST SITE FOR MEO GRANT**

Lahaina Jodo Mission has been approved as a host site for the Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO) national displaced workers grant to assist our community and our temple with paid positions. We now seek labor and administrative assistance positions. For more information, please contact Maya or Yayoi.

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## **STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP HELD**

A strategic planning workshop was led by Colleen Megowan-Romanowicz, professor emeritus and founder of American Modeling Teachers Assoc, with Wailuku, Kahului and Lahaina Jodo Mission members on November 10. Each group came up with a mission statement. The Lahaina Jodo Mission's is: To welcome, serve, and celebrate community through the sharing and guidance of Jodo Buddhism in Lahaina for all.

Priorities discussed were:

1. Develop business plan. Rebuild Temple, Fundraising, Capital Campaign.
2. Create place to hold services in Lahaina.
3. Provide gathering place.
4. Grow Congregation
5. Serve Community

Mahalo to all participants for their input.

## **OUR LOVE STORY By Frida and Peter Benjamin**

Peter and I got married at the courthouse in San Jose, California in 2008. Our dream was to get married by a Buddhist priest on the beach, under a beautiful sunset in Maui. I searched for a Buddhist temple in Maui and was amazed by the photos of the Buddha and the gorgeous temple in Lahaina. We called the temple and talked to Rev. Gensho Hara to see how we can schedule a wedding ceremony while we traveled to beautiful Maui. The response was out of this world. This wonderful teacher sounded most accommodating and open to celebrate our love with us. When we met his beautiful wife, Setsuko, his family, and his greatness welcomed us with open arms. We were celebrated with wonderful food, flowers, Gensho Hara's blessings and prayer by the blue ocean and a beautiful orange sky.

Dearest Rev. Gensho Hara, we will never forget yours and your family's kindness, love, beauty, generosity, and blessings that you all showered on us. We will forever cherish the experience and that moment of pure love and grace.

## **DECEMBER CALENDAR**

- Dec. 8 (Sun.) Bodhi Day Service 8:30 AM at  
Kahului Jodo Mission
- 10 (Tues.) Roselani Place Buddhist Service
- 15 (Sun.) Service 8:30 AM at Wailuku Jodo  
Mission
- 18 (Wed) Obestuji Nenbutsu 5-6 PM at  
Wailuku Jodo Mission
- 22 (Sun) Visitation Service at Lahaina Jodo  
Mission 10:00 AM
- 28 (Sat) Mochi Pounding 8:30 AM at  
Wailuku Jodo Mission
- 31 (Tues) New Year's Eve Service 5:00 PM at  
Wailuku Jodo Mission
- Jan 1 (Wed) New Year's Day Service 9:30 AM at  
Kahului Jodo Mission

## **NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION —JOYA-E SERVICE—**

As the year comes to a close, we reflect on the incredible generosity of our community. In welcoming the new year, let us gather together in front of Amida Buddha and reflect on our life's journey. Let us express our heartfelt gratitude for the countless blessings we receive daily, looking forward to a hopeful New Year embraced by the Great Compassion of Amida Buddha.

*Namu Amida Butsu.*

Service at **Wailuku Jodo Mission on  
December 31 at 5:00 PM.**

- ◆ New Year's Eve blessing rite and presentation of new omamori (Buddhist amulet for the home and car).
- ◆ Followed by traditional toshikoshi soba (buckwheat noodles). Eating soba on New Year's symbolizes long life and good fortune.

Happy New Year! Mahalo for your continued support and for being part of the Lahaina Jodo Mission 'ohana.

## **ADDRESS CHANGE**

If you have a change of address or would like to receive bulletin via email please let us know via email [lahainajodomission@gmail.com](mailto:lahainajodomission@gmail.com) or call 808-661-4304

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