



Lahaina Jodo Mission Bulletin

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February 2025

Dear Lahaina Jodo shu Ohana,

I pray this message finds you well. Life's journey is often challenging, and the path before us is not always easy. Many of you have endured unimaginable loss—your cherished family members, beloved family homes, and treasured belongings. We have also lost our temple and historical Lahaina town. The weight of this sadness is deep.

Yet, in this moment, let us pause and reflect, despite our losses, we are here, living now, embraced by the boundless compassion and love of Amida Buddha. In calling his name—Namu Amida Butsu, let us find strength, comfort and resolve to cherish each day as we continue this precious life journey.

*Arigato, I am grateful to be born,
Arigato, I am grateful to be living now,
Aritato, I am grateful to receiving the teachings!
Namu Amida Bu, Namu Amida Bu*

*Embraced by the Great Compassion of the
Buddha, In times of joy, in times of sorrow,
In times of suffering, in times of hardship,
Let's walk forward hand-in-hand
Along this journey of life*

*Wishing happiness for our loved ones,
Wishing happiness for all people*

*Let's pass on the resonance of life,
Let's echo the resonance of our prayers,
Namu Amida Butsu, Namu Amida Butsu*

With deepest gratitude,
Gensho Hara

AMIDA BUDDHA RESTORATION

Thanks to a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, we have begun the restoration of our Amida Buddha from our main temple altar.

Phase I was performed by Naomi Sasaoka of Tohoku University of Art and Design, Institute of Conservation of Cultural property and Makoto Monden. Professor Tomoe Moriya of Nanzan

Institute for Religion and Culture, and Kazuko Hioki of UH Manoa Library Preservation Dept. also came and assisted with research and documentation.

Phase II is scheduled for completion in May. Our sincere mahalo to the conservators, Maya Hara for securing and managing the grant, Wailuku Jodo Mission for graciously housing our Buddha and use of social hall for the conservation work, and Machiko Nagao and Yayoi Hara for assisting with meals.



PAGODA URNS CLEANED & CATALOGED

On January 18 & 19, 2025, with the support of many dedicated individuals and the generous support of the National Heritage Responders grant we successfully cleaned and cataloged the urns from the Pagoda.

Although, the urns sustained fire damage, making some engravings difficult to read, we are grateful to report that 85% of the urns were identified and cataloged. The urns are now securely stored in the blue container on the temple property.

We extend our heartfelt mahalo to the many individuals who assisted in this important effort:

- Malia Van Heukelem & Liane Naauao (UH Manoa, National Heritage Responders)
- Pepper Youngs (National Heritage Responders, California)
- Lianne Uesato (Shangri La Museum)
- Kayla Annen, PingFang Wang & Jacob Sheerer (Bishop Museum)
- Ellen-Rae Cachola (UHM Law Library)
- Eric Chang (Hawai'i Museums Association)
- Member families & volunteers:

- Edwin Sera, Alan Watanabe, Machiko Nagao, Ken & Yumi Aotaki, Les & Lori Akiyama, Dean, Nancy, Carly & Lisa Fushikoshi, Roy & Betty Katsuda, Rev. Gensho Hara, Rev. Maya Shinri Hara, Rev. John Hara, and Yayoi

- Norman & James Tanaka, Lanny Daise, and volunteers from Samaritan's Purse and Hope

Worldwide (during previous phases of urn recovery)
Also, mahalo to Coy Owens (neighbor) who helped set-up and opened his home for volunteers to use the toilet.

If you are searching for information about your family urn, please contact Rev. Hara or Yayoi.

We deeply appreciate all those who contributed to this meaningful task. Mahalo nui loa!



TEMPLE BELL DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

Our temple bell—*Imin hyakunen no kane* (Centennial Commemoration Bell), was dedicated in 1968 to honor the 100th anniversary of the first Japanese immigrants' arrival in Hawaii.

The bell was rung daily at 8 PM to pay tribute to our predecessor and offer prayers for world peace. We also celebrated New Year's by ringing the temple bell 108 times in our traditional *Joya no Kane* (New Year's Bell Ringing Ceremony).

On December 19, 2024 we were able to inspect and test the sound of the bell. While the surface of the bell sustained significant damage, we are grateful to report that its sound remains intact—a testament to its enduring spirit and resilience.

Mahalo to Ed Sera, Lanny Daise, Yayoi Hara, Maya Hara and Rev. Sen Haga of the Paia Rinzai Zen Mission for their time and efforts in this assessment.

ABBOT NANREI YOKOTA OF ENGAKUJI TEMPLE LAHAINA VISITATION

Distinguished Zen Master, Abbot Nanrei Yokota of Engakuji Temple, Kamakura, Japan will visit Lahaina Jodo Mission for prayer on Sunday, February 23. He will have a zen session and dharma talk at Paia Rinzai Temple in the morning and visit Lahaina in the afternoon. He will be escorted to Lahaina by Rev. Kodai "Sen" Haga.

HUI MO'OLELO LAHAINA FILM FESTIVAL FEATURES INTERVIEW WITH REV. HARA

The Maui Public Art Corps will be hosting a film festival showcasing the work of the Hui Mo'olelo Lahaina cohort, a project dedicated to sharing stories that celebrate the vibrant and rich community of Lahaina.

We are honored to share that Yayoi Hara was selected as a participant in the Lahaina cohort and chose to interview Rev. Hara. Their conversation was chosen by three animation teams, who have transformed selected portions of the interview into animated films.

The Hui Mo'olelo Lahaina Film Festival will take place on February 22-23 (Saturday & Sunday) at 3:00 PM at the Pro Arts Playhouse (1280 South Kihei Road). Admission is free, but space is limited. If you would like to attend, please contact Yayoi yayoi.hara@gmail.com

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- Feb 2 (Sun) Kahului Jodo Service 8:30 AM
 - 5 (Wed) Wailuku Hale Makua Buddhist Service, 10 AM
 - 7 (Fri) Lahaina Restoration Chinese New Year Calligraphy workshop at Cannery Mall 2-7 PM
 - 7 (Fri) Worldwide Nenbutsu Session 8:30 PM (zoom)
 - 9 (Sun) Wailuku Jodo NY Party, 10 AM
 - 10 (Mon) Wedding Anniversary Celebration-Randall & Maureen Purvis
 - 16 (Sun) Kahului Jodo Service 8:30 AM
 - 19 (Wed) Obetsuji Nenbutsu at Wailuku 5-6 PM
 - 23 (Sun) Visitation of Abbot Nanrei Yokota of Engakuji Temple, Kamakura
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