



Lahaina Jodo Mission Bulletin

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August 2024

LAHAINA FIRE ONE YEAR MEMORIAL SERVICE

It has already been one year since we had experienced catastrophic fire that destroyed our beloved Lahaina town; took the lives of our friends and loved ones, our homes, our temple. We lost members Edward Sato, Michael Misaka, Tim Nakamoto and Morris Kaita.

We will have a memorial service on the one-year anniversary to pay tribute to those victims and healing for our community.

Date: August 8, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM

Place: Lahaina Jodo Mission

For questions, please call 808-661-4304.

LAHAINA COMMUNITY O-BON DANCE

County of Maui in conjunction with other community organizations are supporting the three Lahaina Buddhist Temples (Shingon, Hongwanji, and Jodo Missions) in holding a community O-Bon dance on **Saturday, August 10 at the Lahaina Cannery Mall Parking Lot from 5 PM- 9PM.**

A bus from central Maui will be available. If you would like to reserve a seat on the bus or have any questions, please call Yayoi at 808-276-4042. For more information about anniversary events, please go to kuhiniamau.org

TEMPLE UPDATES

1. We have been awarded with a NEH (National Endowment for the Humanities) grant of \$30,000 for the restoration of our wooden Amida Buddha image. Restoration work will commence upon receipt of the funds by a Japanese conservator Professor Naomi Sasaoka of Tohoku University with the guidance of Professor Tomoyuki Okochi, a Japanese art historian from Nara University who specializes in standing Amida images and Professor Tomoe Moriya, a religion

professor from Nanzan University, who specializes in Buddhism in Hawaii.

2. Ongoing project with Maui artists to create artworks using the remnants from the temple grounds.
3. The cleaning and surveying of the urns from our Pagoda, led by experts including Art Archivists Librarians from the University of Hawaii, will be conducted within the next month. An initial site visit was conducted on July 21. Hope International volunteers helped with building metal shelves and they will assist with moving the urns.
4. Finalized map for cleanup and debris removal from the temple grounds submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
5. Temple reconstruction plans: Due to the various challenges including FEMA procurement procedures, Maui County's shoreline setback, etc., we anticipate that the reconstruction of the temple will not be easy but we are working on it step by step.

O-BON SERVICE HELD

With deep reverence we observed O-Bon at our ruined temple grounds on July 6. It was a solemn and simple O-Bon but truly heartfelt. Mahalo to all those who participated and for your thoughtful contributions.



RELECTIONS BY JUDY AOTAKI

Though I have lived away from Lahaina for over 40 years and especially since my daughter Samantha was born, we have “come home” to Lahaina usually once a year for Obon.

The “tradition” of our return visits is to stop at the pagoda on the first day to say: “Hello - we’re back 😊!” and the last day to say “We’re leaving for now!”. Rev. and Mrs. Hara, always there to warmly greet us and when leaving - to wave goodbye and gassho in the driveway until we are out of sight.

Now into the 4th generation of temple membership, the Lahaina Jodo Mission continues to be a part of our lives since each of our childhoods.

I remember as a child attending Sunday school in the prior green and white trimmed wooden temple, followed by countless weekends at the grounds as everything was being constructed. Members were always moving about with tasks at hand, always in some kind of flow. That is where the term “community” came to have meaning and gave life to that word. Being part of a community and the feeling of belonging is not necessarily a “given” in life and so to have this sense is cherished.

The temple has been a place of countless memories especially for Obon. Starting from the preparation days, whether it be cleaning the pews, packaging prizes, putting candles in the lanterns, all the while waiting for someone to call out “lunchtime!”. The night of Obon is always like before opening a fishpond package- the anticipation of opening the bag to see what is there. At the opening of Obon, who will we see?! One never knows who has traveled from the outer islands, mainland or Japan – will it be family, classmates, friends or likely all of the above? With the same intention, we all meet to pay respects then to reconnect while enjoying the dancers, taiko and food. The Toro Nagashi and Obon are breathtaking and am glad to have recorded both events a month before the fires (can be viewed on upcoming lahainajodominion.org website).

I am grateful that Samantha was able to bear witness to the uniqueness of the Lahaina Jodo Mission. The craftsmanship of the temple structures, hand paintings and Buddhist adornments everywhere are irreplaceable. But where else could one see chow fun being prepared in the huge iron pan and flaming fire pit next to the beach? Mochi making with the rice in the wooden steamers over the concrete (not even sure what that is called), watching the pounding of the rice in rhythm with the wooden mallets in the usu stone? New Year’s Eve standing in line with the bell-shaped piece of paper with your number for the chance to ring the big bell? Enjoying an ocean view lunch with the Haras’ (or if it’s dinner, added bonus of the sunset) and whomever was there (has Rev. Hara ever met anyone who did not become a friend)?

We hope to “Never Forget.”

Mahalo to Judy & Samantha for their thoughtfulness and generosity. Judy has donated Lahaina Jodo Mission T-shirts and is working on the website. She is the daughter of Masao and Kimie Aotaki and sister to Elaine, their family home in Wahikuli was lost in the fire.

AUGUST CALENDAR

- Aug 2 (Fri) Visitation of Futaba Mirai Gakuen of Fukushima, Japan
- 3 (Sat) Evelyn Kishi Funeral Service (Kahului) 10 AM
- 4 (Sun) 8:30 AM Kahului Jodo Service
- 8 (Thurs) 10 AM Lahaina Fire One Year Memorial Service
- 10 (Sat) Lahaina Community Bon Dance 5 PM-8 PM at Lahaina Cannery
- 11 (Sun) 9:00 AM Wailuku Jodo Service
- 18 (Sun) 8:30 AM Kahului Jodo Service

Commemoration Ceremony

The 850th Anniversary of Founding of Jodo shu and the 130th Anniversary of Hawaii Jodo shu on Sunday, October 20, 2024 at the Honolulu Betsuin.
