

LAST MONTH'S EVENTS

PACIFIC BUDDHIST ACADEMY Joint Maui Temples Service at Wailuku Hongwanji Mission

KEY POINTS OF THE EVENT:

- Attended by members of four Maui Hongwanji temples.
- Presentation by students of Pacific Buddhist Academy.
- Learning about the history and accomplishments of PBA, and the academy's hopes and plans for the near future.
- Statement of financial support needed to reach PBA's goals.
- Refreshments and activities following the service and presentation.



PBA Project: New classroom building, for enrollment expansion.



Somen nagashi challenges folks to be snappy with their chopsticks.



Did you catch any noodles, Kokochan and Hokensan?

Lahaina Hongwanji WORK PROJECT DAY

Improvement of area fronting school building:

- Leveling out some of the ground around the large Poinciana tree.
- Prep work for widening concrete walkway.
- Placement of bricks into structure around the tree.

MAHALO to all helpers: Cullen Fujiwara, Derrick Fujiwara, Megumi Hironaka, Carol Inaba, Alan Kawaguchi, Robert Kawaguchi, Phyllis Nakamura, Noosh Nishihara, Herbie Nishijima, Sharon Nohara. **THANK YOU** to Sharon Nohara for the yummy wontons and dry mein!

Easier
said
than
done ...



Toil and
trouble ...
dirt and
rubble ...
Is there an
end in
sight ?

'Talk-story'
time under
the tree, with
Uncle
Herbie.



More of last month ...

Community Outreach: Participation in LAHAINA PLANTATION DAYS 2011



A star feature of this year's event: Two locomotives originally owned by Pioneer Mill Co. and donated back to the community (Lahaina Restoration Foundation). [information excerpted from the Maui News] →

- The older engine, named 'LAHAINA' replaced ox carts for hauling cane, back in 1887,
- The second engine, 'LAUNIUPOKO', dates from 1898.
- The engines were donated by Allen and Lenabelle Davis of California. Allen Davis is an aerospace engineer who founded a company called Hydraelectrics. His hobby is engineering and railroads. The Davises wanted the engines to come home to Lahaina. MAHALO !



(Photo could have been better, but powerful backlighting from a spotlight tricked the camera. These ladies are better looking than this !)

Lahaina Hongwanji BWA members (l.tor.) Alice Imano, Shirley Tobita, Violet Nishijima, Jane Agawa, Carol Inaba have refreshing moments with Roselani ice cream --- while manning the assorted sushi booth. SLURP!

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Kahului Hongwanji Centennial
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2011**

SERVICE – 9:00 am
LUNCHEON – 11:30 am (Maui Tropical Plantation)
\$30.00

**MAUI UNITED BWA
FALL ASSEMBLY and LUNCHEON**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2011
Wailuku Hongwanji Mission
9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (?)**

Maui Hongwanji Council – Sponsored

NEMBUTSU SEMINAR

**NOVEMBER 19th & 20th, 2011
LAHAINA HONGWANJI**

Guest Speaker: REV. TETSUO UNNO
Studied at: UC Berkeley; Ryukoku University, Tokyo University, UCLA
Ministered at: BCA's Seattle & Senshin (LA) Buddhist Churches
Taught: Religious Studies at Cal State Northridge, Cal State Long Beach
Popular lecturer at American colleges and temples.

SAT. NOVEMBER 19th
10:00 am – 4:00 pm
4 lectures, lunch

SUN. NOVEMBER 20th
11:00 am – 1:30 pm
Finale, lunch

REGISTRATION: \$15 (Students, \$10)

DEADLINE: **November 9, 2011**

CONTACT:
Lahaina Hongwanji Office 661-0640
'Noosh' Nishihara 870-6478



NEWS FROM RELATED LINKS

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE – October 10, 2011

CONGRATULATIONS

- Makawao Hongwanji Mission BWA commemorates its Centennial on October 23, 2011.
- Kahului Hongwanji Mission commemorates its Centennial on November 6, 2011.

2011-2012 SOCIAL CONCERNS FUND DRIVE

- The November events of Thanksgiving and Eitaikyo *“both remind us to be mindful of the countless blessings in our lives and how we live connected to each other and to the world around us. It is in this spirit of gratitude that we begin our Annual Social Concerns Fund Drive.”*
- Contributions from the Sangha help Honpa to support worthy organizations & programs with funding to continue their work.
- This year, due to past contributions, Honpa was able to respond quickly to send \$10,000 to Honzan in Kyoto for the earthquake / tsunami relief efforts.
- Contributions also allowed for establishment of the GOLDEN CHAIN GRANT program that promotes compassionate action through service to others in our community.
- YOUR KOKUA IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. Please make all checks payable to your temple. Your temple treasurer will then make one combined check to Honpa. The suggested donation is the cost of just one meal per person. (Mahalo from Blayne Higa, Chair of the Committee on Social Concerns)

ANNUAL STATE MINISTERS' CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINAR

Buddhist Study Center – November 10, 11, 2011

Workshop I “How to Make Dharma Messages Relevant”
Mrs. Corliss Yamaki

Workshop II “Content of Pre-marital Counseling”
Dr. Ramona Ching

Workshop III “Many Meanings of Buddhist Funerals”
Dr. George Tanabe

Workshop IV “How to Organize Dharma Class in My Temple”

PROPAGATION GRANT

(Chaired by Rev. Shinkai Murakami)

Honpa's Hawaii Propagation Program Committee announced that the following programs received the grant.

- Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin – Program: Dharma moments on the air.
- Buddhist Study Center – Program: Wisdom and Compassion at the End-of-Life – A Buddhist Symposium
- West Kauai Hongwanji Mission – Project: T-shirt with Buddhist Words
- Naalehu Hongwanji Mission – Project: The Study of Jodo Shinshu

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Rev. Bruce Nakamura

Suggestion: Always have these items in your wallet or handbag – for immediate availability in an emergency.

Photo I.D.	Medicare / Insurance card(s)
Medical Rx Drug card	Emergency contact name(s)
Doctor's Name / Phone	& phone numbers
Allergies to drugs, other	List of medications, dosages including non-prescription

Keep items TOGETHER and readily accessible.

POST-LAY CONVENTION COMMENTS FROM LAHAINA HONGWANJI'S YOUTHFUL DELEGATES

(both in their 20's)



Kristen Nohara

[It was] ...“a mixed bag experience for me. I enjoyed the workshops which I felt were eye-catching and thought provoking. The food was ono. ... I had

fun meeting new people from the other temples. But when it came to the business part of the convention, I felt it was not well-organized. For those of us who weren't familiar with Robert's Rules of Order (Parliamentary Procedure) it was [a] confusing and frustrating process. I was also disappointed to

see that many of the delegates' opinions and suggestions weren't heard, so I do hope that during the next convention the Board will take that into consideration and make the proper adjustments." *(Kristen Nohara is the daughter of Milton and Sharon Nohara. Sharon is Lahaina Hongwanji's Kyodan 2nd Vice President and BWA President.; Milton serves as auditor.)*



Tara Otomo

"Just a couple of things. Shorten the conference so that people can have the option of staying or leaving. Get business done in one day. We could have done dinner on our own on day 1 and been okav."

"Explain each step of Robert's Rules / Parliamentary Procedure as the resolutions are being discussed." *(Tara is the daughter of Layne and Barbie Otomo. Barbie is Lahaina Hongwanji BWA's Vice President.)*

MAHALO TO KRISTEN AND TARA for representing Lahaina Hongwanji as delegates at the 2011 Lay Convention.

**Lahaina Hongwanji
SLATE OF OFFICERS for
2012 KYODAN / EXECUTIVE BOARD**

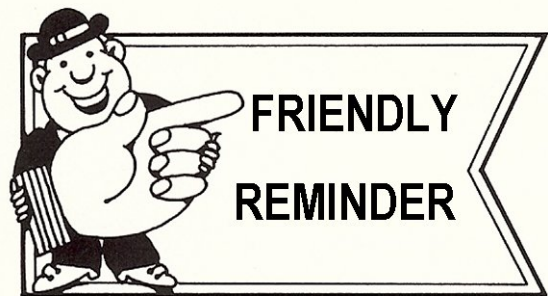
President: Noosh Nishihara
1st Vice President: Derrick Fujiwara
2nd Vice President: Sharon Nohara
Secretary: Phyllis Nakamura
Treasurer: Dawn Fujiwara
Directors: Carol Inaba, Kent Nishijima,
 Ron Togashi, Earl Zaan
Advisors: Henry Ariyoshi, Emiko Fujikawa,
 Neal Fujiwara, Robert Kawaguchi,
 Violet Nishijima, Sherman Thompson
Auditor: Milton Nohara
Assistant Secretary: Paul Laub
Assistant Treasurer: Shirley Tobita
Immediate Past Pres: Aileen Cockett

Any Lahaina Hongwanji member may nominate another candidate for any position on the board. Please call / leave message on Office phone: 661-0640. OFFICERS WILL BE INSTALLED IN JANUARY, 2012.

**Lahaina Hongwanji
2012 SLATE OF OFFICERS for
Buddhist Women's Association**

President: Sharon Nohara
Vice President: Aileen Cockett
Secretary: Phyllis Nakamura
Assistant Secretary: Alice Imano
Treasurer: Dawn Fujiwara
Assistant Treasurer: Carol Inaba
Auditors: Shirley Tobita, Jane Agawa
Directors: Violet Nishijima, Emi Fujikawa,
 Yumiko Nishimoto, Vivian Ichiki
Advisors: Rev. Ai Hironaka,
 Mrs. Megumi Hironaka

Any Lahaina Hongwanji BWA member may nominate another candidate for any position on the BWA board. Please call Phyllis Nakamura – 661-4032. OFFICERS WILL BE INSTALLED IN JANUARY, 2012.



If you have not yet paid your GOJIKAI (membership dues) ... you still have a chance to do so before 2011 comes to an end.

You may get a sense of relief to get one more item crossed off your list.

And our diligent treasurer and assistant treasurer will also be able to cross items off their list.

GOJIKAI is due in January of each year. The recommended amount is \$130. Some members pay more, others less – depending on ability to pay. Annual dues are for the entire family of husband, wife and minor children.

Nokotsudo: Let's Eliminate the Confusion

The construction work on the Nokotsudo is now complete. A final construction inspection has also been completed. The final step in the inspection process remains with the County Planning Department for a final sign-off to obtain a certificate of occupancy.

Many of our members appear to be confused about the management of the new Nokotsudo. It is hoped that what follows will help clear up any confusion. If you still have questions, please direct those questions to Noosh. You can reach him via his cell phone at 808-870-6478 or via email at mauinoosh@yahoo.com.

One of the misunderstandings concerns fees. Many of you may have spoken to Nokotsudo Committee members who gave you the information that was available at the time. We were all concerned about how we could afford the task of maintaining the new building without a maintenance fee. After much discussion, the Committee and your Kyodan decided that a maintenance fee **should not** be required. We will continue to rely on donations to pay for the upkeep of the Obutsudan, niches and the building itself.

Another commonly misunderstood policy relates to how the niches are assigned. The Committee's focus is correctly placed on the need to assign the new niches to the families who had a niche in the old Nokotsudo. The niches in the new building are located in **two stacks**. The old niches were arranged in **four stacks**. So, we have made every attempt to assign new niches to come as close as we could to the positioning of niches in the old structure. It doesn't always work, but we're trying. If your family has a niche, you will be assigned a niche at no extra cost. However, members who wish to reserve a niche can do so by applying. There will be a **one-time fee** of \$250 for a niche that holds two urns; \$500 for a niche that holds four urns. Each applicant may select a niche after the application is approved by the Committee.

We found many urns that went unclaimed because there was no contact person. These urns will be cared for. Provision will temporarily be made by using a niche. However, if it is found that the urns are not claimed, these urns will be stored in a specially built cabinet in the Obutsudan located in the Nokotsudo. Thus, it is important that one person from each family with an assigned niche become a contact person.

The Nokotsudo Committee will make every attempt to help each family to the extent possible. However, requests to position all the related family members whose urns occupy a niche in a special section may be impossible. Please bear with us as the Committee works to complete this complex task.

Namo Amida Butsu.

Dates & Times for Families to Return Urns From Homes to Nokotsudo

Tuesdays in November, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm -- **11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/29**

Thursdays in November, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm – **11/3, 11/10, 11/17**

Please help us out by calling to give a date and time when you would like to bring your urns in. Noosh Nishihara, 870-6478 or Phyllis Nakamura, 661-4032. MAHALO.

Rev. Ai Hironaka's Dharma Message: **PEACE**

We had Peace Day movie night on this past Wednesday [Sept. 21st]. I watched *The Grave of the Fireflies* so many times. But, each time I have a different impression. It was my first time to watch the movie in English. I only felt uncomfortable when Setsuko, the little sister, called older brother Seita by first name only. In Japanese, she called "Oniichan" or "Big brother". It is only a small thing, but it is very important. But, there is no such word in English so cannot help.

I would like to share another story which I experienced when I was a Ryukoku student. I was drinking with my friends at an izakaya restaurant. *The Grave of the Fireflies* was on TV a couple of days before. So, we were talking story about the movie. Most of us shared how we got sad and cried at the movie. Then a girl raised her hand and said, "I really disagree with what you guys are talking about. I actually don't like the little girl Setsuko." We said, "What? Why?" She said, "I have an older brother. If I am Setsuko, I would not say such selfish things or I would not act like her. So, poor thing Seita, or older brother." We said, "But, for that young aged girl – to say selfish thing, or to cry is natural. That's what children that age do. What's wrong with you?" She said, "That's okay, never mind. That's what I felt. I hate Setsuko." I had nothing to say. I just thought to myself, everyone has a different perspective, it is a free thought – but I better not get married with this girl.

So, through this occasion of Peace Day, we should review what peace is. Each of you has your own understanding of "peace". At least, a peaceful world should not have war. I was researching about 'going to war' on the internet. There are about 25 wars ongoing. Can you believe that? It was much more than I expected. I thought, I should pay more attention to the world wide news, especially about war. We tend to watch war news that is closest to us or that can affect us. But, through research about how many wars are ongoing, I felt more concerned about what is going on in this world.

We all know that peace is very important for all of us. Even if we could make a world which does not have any war, if we are not mentally happy, it is not going to be a peaceful world.

In the teachings of Buddha,

To be sure, when viewed from one angle, the world with all its greed and injustice and bloodshed appears as a devil's world; but as people come to believe in Buddha's enlightenment, blood will be turned into milk, greed will be turned into compassion and then, the devil's land becomes a Buddha Land of Purity.

It seems an impossible task to empty an ocean with a small ladle, but the determination to do it, even if it takes many, many lives, is the mind with which one should receive Buddha's enlightenment.

It is not easy to describe what peace is. But, I believe that there is a peace in action, as we seek the true peaceful world while we live our lives as *Bonbu* or foolish beings.

I know that it is going to be difficult, but we should try over and over with firm determination, to make world peace. It is not for the past, it is not for the future, it is for now.

The way we truly need to live is in the here and now. If we neglect this moment and neglect this place, we are neglecting our "life" itself.

There are some people, however, who, as they grow older, remember the glory days of their past and spend empty days longing after those glories. Or there are those who spend empty days just regretting errors or mistakes they made in the past.

Sakyamuni Buddha said,

If those who have done bad deeds in the past later compensate for this with good deeds, even they can be a light in this world – just like the moon coming out from behind the clouds.

On the other hand, young people tend to waste their time dreaming of their bright and rosy future and forget the reality of the present. I am talking to myself too ... when I go walking with my dog, I often think that if I have 5 million dollars, what shall I do ... how much is enough money for my retirement ... I wish I were a part of Bill Gates' family....

In this present moment, we must take a look at the past and start over again for peace. In this present moment, we must make the future a splendid thing. Living fully in this present moment, that is how a wonderful life blossoms.

As we face Amida Buddha, we are all equal and same. There is no discrimination – young or old, man or woman, soldier or civilian. We are all equally embraced by the wisdom and compassion. Shinran Shonin said, *"May peace and tranquility prevail throughout the world and spread the dharma."* Spreading the dharma is one way to make world peace. Let us enjoy the peaceful Nembutsu life as Bonbu here and now for peace.

Namo Amida Butsu

Addendum to Upcoming Events Section

EITAIKYO SERVICE - Sunday, November 27, 2011 at 9:30 am

Guest Speaker: Rev. Nobuharu Kato

The Eitaikyo Service is a memorial service "for people who have handed down the teaching of the Nembutsu to us." It is defined as a "perpetual memorial service a general memorial service for all departed members of the temple." The word Eitaikyo means "perpetual sutra" – "eitai" meaning "perpetual" and "kyo" meaning "sutra", or "teaching of the Buddha".