



# Lahaina Jodo Mission Bulletin

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

February 2024

## **MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

### **Innocent Baby Buddha appears in Temple ruins**

Dear Members and Friends,

I pray that you are all well and in good health. It has already been 6 months since the fire, our temple structures—temple gate, bell tower, pagoda, temple, minister's residence, hall & pavilion, and rental cottages were all destroyed. Strangely almost nothing is left, not even enough ash to amount for the contents that were there. I was saddened and surprised that not even the bronze baby buddha statue, gongs, *kansho* (bell), incense burner remained.

Last month, when I visited our temple grounds, however, a ceramic Baby Buddha appeared in the ashes. The face of the Buddha statuette is so innocent, I am amazed this Baby Buddha survived such a severe fire. I brought the statuette back and have it enshrined in my room. It encourages me and gives me peace of mind, hope, and courage. I am truly grateful that this Baby Buddha survived the fire.



During this difficult time, please always remember to reach out to me, my family, our members, and friends. Put your hands together and call Amida Buddha's sacred name, *Namu Amida Butsu*, daily to bring calm energy and peace. I pray for your good health and peace of mind embraced by the Great Compassion of Amida Buddha.

*Namu Amida Butsu.*  
Rev. Gensho Hara

## **NIRVANA DAY SERVICE**

Shakyamuni Buddha entered Nirvana under the sala trees in Kushinagara in India on February 15. To honor the historic Buddha, we will join at **Wailuku Jodo Mission on Sunday, February 11 at 8:00 AM.** Our minister will deliver the message. Hope to see you all at the service.

## **SERVICE AT OUR TEMPLE**

After five months since the fire, we were able to visit our temple as a group and hold a service in front of our Daibutsu and Pagoda. Deep mahalo to all who participated that day, it is always so nice to see friendly faces.



## **KAHULUI JODO MISSION'S SERVICE & NEW YEAR'S PARTY**

Kahului Jodo Mission will hold their service and New Year's Party on **Sunday, February 18, from 10:00 AM.** Lahaina members are invited to join this celebration. Please RSVP with Rev. Hara (email: [lahainajodominion@gmail.com](mailto:lahainajodominion@gmail.com) or tel. 808-661-4304) by Feb. 11.

Also, Kahului Jodo Mission is supporting Maui Food Bank's effort by collecting canned goods at this event. If you are able to bring canned goods, please kokua.

---

## **MRS. TOKUKURA'S WELCOME GATHERING**

Former Kahului Jodo Mission's minister's wife, Mrs. Kaeko Tokukura and their children will visit Maui. Kahului Jodo Mission will host potluck welcome dinner on **February 19 at 6:00 PM.** Those who wish to join in this welcome potluck, please contact let Rev. Hara.

## **SENSE OF PLACE/PLACE OF SENSE EXHIBIT AT MACC**

Maui Arts and Culture Center Schafer Gallery's current exhibition, *Sense of Place/Place of Sense* features photographer Ai Iwane's photo of our temple amongst other interesting works by local artist, school children and more. The exhibit runs till March 16th.

As part of the opening of the exhibition, MACC hosted two screenings of Ai Iwane's documentary *Bon Uta-A Song from Home* on January 28. The story begins in Fukushima after the triple disaster in 2011 and follows the locals from Futaba through a journey that brings them to Maui to entrust Maui Taiko to continue the tradition of their bon song to one day return the song to Futaba when they are able to rebuild.

## **GEORGE KAYA PASSED AWAY**

It is with deep condolence that we report the loss of Mr. George Kaya, member of Kahului Jodo Mission. Mr. Kaya passed away on January 17, 2024 at the age of 85. He was known as a faithful public servant.

The service will be held at Nakamura Mortuary on February 14 at 10:00 AM. Our deepest sympathy to his wife Pearl and the entire Kaya family.

## **FUTURE VISIONS MEETING**

We are truly grateful for the guidance and friendship of Bob and Susan Stigler who visited our temple many years ago. They have worked with groups in Japan and the US after disasters. In 2019, while on a visit to Maui, they helped to facilitate a future committee meeting at our temple.

On January 21, 2024, they along with Zanette Johnson, a colleague from their New Stories Organization, led us in a future visions meeting to help us identify and record the various ways that how the temple is connected to the community and vice versa. It was a healing and insightful conversation.

We will be having a follow-up meeting on **Sunday, February 25 at 10 AM,** please join if you are able, friends and community members are also welcome to participate.

## **COUNTY MEMORIAL SERVICE**

On February 8, the County of Maui will hold an interfaith service marking 6 months since the fire. Ministers from all Lahaina temples and churches have been invited to participate. The service is open to the public, it will be held at **5:30 PM on February 8 at the Lahaina Civic Center.** Our minister along with Hongwanji and Shingon Mission ministers from Lahaina will also participate.

## **FEBRUARY CALENDAR**

- Feb 4 (Sun.) Service @ Kahului Jodo Mission, 8a
  - 8 (Thurs.) Lah. Fire Memorial Service, 5:30p  
@Lahaina Civic Center Amphitheatre
  - 8 (Thurs.) Worldwide Nembutsu Session, 10p  
via Zoom from Bodh Gaya
  - 11 (Sun.) Nirvana Day Service @ Wailuku  
Jodo Mission, 8a
  - 14 (Wed.) Funeral Service, George Kaya,  
10a @ Nakamura Mortuary
  - 18 (Sun.) Service and New Year's Party at  
Kahului Jodo Mission, 10a
  - 19 (Mon.) Tokukura Family welcome dinner  
Pot Luck, 6p @Kahului Jodo Mission
  - 19 (Mon.) Ministers' Meeting, 8:30a
  - 25 (Sun.) Future Visions Meeting 10a  
@Wailuku Jodo Mission
  - 25 (Sun.) Jodo Shu Institute symposium,  
6p (zoom)
-