



Lahaina Jodo Mission Bulletin

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

October 2023

MESSAGE FROM REV. HARA

I continue to pray for those affected by the wildfires. No one could have imagined the devastation and the loss of the lives, our beloved homes, belongings, and livelihood. Overnight our beloved Lahaina town was destroyed. As we witnessed the inferno engulfing our homes, I recalled the eternal truth of the Buddha's teaching, all things are impermanent. Since the fires, we have received many kind words and encouragement from all over the world. Through these heartfelt messages of love and aloha, I can hear the voice of the Buddha. Reading of the joy and aloha people have for our temple, I can feel the strong commitment of Lahaina residents to restore our town and protect our local community. I am filled with hope for the future of Lahaina and our temple. *Namu Amida Butsu.*

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES

We are devastated and saddened by the news that our dear members Morris Kaita, Tim Nakamoto, and Edward Sato passed in the Lahaina fire. We can only pray for Amida Buddha's Great compassion to embrace their spirits. Also, still missing is Michael Misaka of Kuhua Camp. We pray for his safety and will be offering our prayers to all the victims of the Lahaina wildfires at our upcoming Maui Jodo Shu Joint Service this Sunday, October 1.

LAHAINA FIRE VICTIMS

For those members and friends, who have lost their homes, are displaced, or need assistance, please contact Rev. Hara, Maya, or Yayoi.

The Maui county website mauirecovers.org is a good resource and has a map of the zones and announcements about zone access.

Also, we are emailing as many of you as we can due to changes of address but if you would like to receive hardcopy of the monthly bulletin, please inform us of your mailing address.

AMIDA BUDDHA IMAGE

Amida Buddha is a source of unconditional love and embraces all sentient beings. We are embraced by Amida's Great Compassion every day. Bishop Ishikawa has sent us Amida statuettes for those who wish to have one, please let us know. The images are available to our members.

MAUI JODOSHU JOINT SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP GATHERING

The Annual Maui Jodo Shu Joint Service and fellowship gathering will be held as follows:

Date: **Sunday, October 1, 2023**

Time: **10:00 a.m.**

Place: **Wailuku Jodo Mission**

At this service we will offer prayers for all the victims of Lahaina wild fire. Bishop Kosen Ishikawa will join us at this service and give the dharma talk.

We hope that you can join this service and fellowship luncheon to see our fellow Jodo Shu members and reunite with our Lahaina members and friends. Nobu & Masako and Yuko will play music for us. We hope this gathering brings us strength, hope, comfort, and inner peace. *Namu Amida Butsu.*

EMERGENCY BOARD MEETINGS

Our hardworking board led by President Edwin Sera has been meeting weekly to discuss important matters regarding relief and recovery as well as the future of our temple. We will be updating you as our plans and visions become clearer through these discussions. For members, who are interested in participating in a meeting, please email lahainajodominion@gmail.com or mhara@lahainajodominion.org to receive notices of the board meetings and zoom link.

WORLDWIDE 24-HOUR NENBUTSU SESSION

Worldwide 24-hour Nenbutsu session led by Shojokein Jodo Shu Head Temple in Kyoto will be held on **Friday, September 29 at 6:00 PM.**

We will join this session via zoom from Wailuku Jodo Mission between 6:00–7:00 PM. Let us call out Namu Amida Butsu embraced with Amida Buddha's unconditional love.

LJM FARMERS MARKET

We have reached out to several of our Farmers Market vendors and they have expressed interest in continuing the market. We have been invited to hold the market at REC (Regenerative Education Center) in Olowalu. We will start by having a market on **Thursday, October 12 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

The purpose of the market will not only be to continue encouraging food security and diversifying the economy but also as a gathering place for our displaced Lahaina families. We hope this can be something to look forward to and see familiar faces. Come enjoy live music, fresh, local produce and prepared food products. Please contact us ljmfarmersmarket@gmail.com or call Yayoi Hara (808-276-4042) for more info.

DONATIONS

We have been receiving overwhelming support from around the world. Thank you to all those who have donated towards our wildfire emergency and/or rebuilding funds. We will send out a thank you letter with tax-deductible receipt by the year end at the latest. We will also be continuing to fundraise for our members, friends, and temple. If you would like to donate and/or share information on donating to Lahaina Jodo Mission – we are a 501(c)(3). Donations can be made by check, via Paypal or Venmo (both @LahainaJodoMission) or <https://gofund.me/4ed1e96a>.

Mahalo nui loa during these challenging times!

OCTOBER CALENDAR

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| Oct | 1 | Maui Jodo Shu Joint Service, 10a (Wailuku Jodo Mission) |
| | 5–13 | Hawaii Jodo Shu Pilgrimage Tour to Japan (Rev. John Hara will join) |
| | 16 | HCJM Ministers' Meeting |
| | 17 | Rev. Hara will attend the new Rinzai Zen Mission's Minister welcome reception |
| | 18 | Obetsuji Nenbutsu (5-6 PM, Wailuku Jodo Mission) |
| | 23 | Soto Zen Shu head officials Maui Visitation, special meeting at Wailuku Hongwanji Mission |
| | 28 | Pumpkin Carving Demonstration (8:30-10:30 AM, Wailuku Jodo Mission), RSVP with Rev. Gensho Hara or Rev. John Hara |

MESSAGE OF ALOHA FROM PENNY MUEH (Daughter of Our Beloved Neighbors Herb & Marian Mueh)

When I arrived in Hawaii, at age 23, the people of Lahaina welcomed me with open arms. The sharing of their land, their culture and the spirit of Aloha became a part of me. I was forever changed. I have to keep reminding myself that, even though the places of that time have been erased, the memories are still as strong as ever. My heart is heavy with the loss, but I cannot even imagine what it has to be like for you.

One of the first things I thought of was when the old building burned down and Mrs. Hara ran into the building to save the Buddha on the altar. I am so happy to hear that it was once again saved from the flames. That and the big Buddha remind us that after a previous devastating fire, the Lahaina Jodo Mission was rebuilt, bigger and better than before - it can do it again.

CONTACT REV. HARA

Rev. & Mrs. Hara can be reached at 808-661-4304, email lahainajodomission@gmail.com; mailing address: 121 Lili Lehua Place, Wailuku, HI 96793 Please let us know of any address change.
