



Lahaina Jodo Mission Bulletin

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

January 2024

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Members & Friends,

Despite facing great challenges, I hope you welcomed a blessed New Year embraced by Amida Buddha's unconditional love. Yes, for many of us, our lives are difficult and sometimes we may feel like giving up but let us continue to encourage each other and overcome this challenging situation of our lives.

After West Maui reopened to visitors, I have been receiving phone calls almost every day from people asking, "Are you open today?" It seems strange to me that these people don't seem to know about the Lahaina fires so I explain that our temple burned down and people are not allowed on the premises. To be honest, it sometimes irritates me to hear this question. I wonder how they don't know that the temple cannot be visited. But I also realize that so many people loved our temple and want to visit so I should also appreciate these inquiries.

Previously I had no interest in people's comments about our temple on the internet but recently when I looked at them for the first time, I see that our temple gave peace and serenity to so many people, who have been impressed by and appreciated our temple. Knowing these reviews and receiving encouraging words of support from countless people, I hear the Buddha's voice of unconditional love. We are not alone. Many have continued to extend their good will to us and how grateful I feel for this.

Rebuilding our town and temple will be a long and challenging path but let us look forward with hope for our future, receiving Amida Buddha's Great Compassion. *Namu Amida Butsu.*

With *Gasshō*,

Rev. Gensho Hara

THE 850TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF JODO SHU BY ST. HŌNEN & THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF JODO SHU IN HAWAII

This year marks a significant year for our Jodo Shu Ohana. Several observances and events will be held to commemorate the founding of Jodo Shu by Saint Hōnen and 130 years of Jodo Shu in Hawaii. Realizing that we live now embraced by Amida Buddha's Great Compassion, let us live our lives with deep gratitude calling *Namu Amida Butsu* daily.

OUR AMIDA BUDDHA STATUE

Our *Gohonzon-sama*, or main image of devotion, was saved by the Buddhist nun Thich Hue Nhu who was staying at the temple. She risked her life to run into the burning temple. Despite getting burned, the nun brought out our Amida statue to a safe place. For Thich Hue Nhu, our *Gohonzon-sama* is a living being so she could not let the Buddha die in the fire. We are deeply grateful to Thich Hue Nhu for her sacrifice and selfless deed.



Our *Gohonzon-sama* has been worshipped by our ancestors and pioneer members since 1912, when our temple was established. Our ancestors came in front of this image to pray, when they were happy or sad. This statue, which has been saved from two fires, has continued to be a symbol of unconditional love and a source of great comfort for us today.

LAHAINA SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP

In welcoming the New Year, we would like to visit our temple and hold a service in front of our Daibutsu (Great Buddha) and at our Pagoda this coming **Sunday, January 7, from 10 a.m.**

After the service, we will hold a small fellowship gathering and luncheon at the park area. Please let us know if you would like to participate as we will be ordering bentos for lunch (call 808-661-4304 or email lahainajodomission@gmail.com).

NEW YEAR'S SERVICE & CELEBRATION AT WAILUKU JODO MISSION

A New Year's service and celebration will be held on **Sunday, January 14, at 10 a.m.**, at Wailuku Jodo Mission. Please come and join us!

WORLDWIDE NENBUTSU SESSION

The 14th Worldwide Nenbutsu Recitation Session, sponsored by Nepal's Nenbutsu Sangha's Master Komyo, will be held on **Wed., January 24, 9:15 p.m.** (Hawaii time). We will join at Wailuku Jodo Mission for this session via Zoom with Worldwide Nenbutsu followers.

MOCHITSUKI JOYFULLY HELD

We were able to observe our traditional *mochitsuki* (mochi pounding) on December 23 at Wailuku Jodo Mission. *Osonae* or offertory mochi for the altar and *komochi* or small mochi to be consumed during the New Year season were made.



Mahalo nui to Ken & Clyde Tasaka, Machiko Nagao, Chloe Pouuahi, Hiroko & Ryunosuke Hattori, Elaine & Dawn Kaneshiro, Ryan Nishimura, Vashti Daise, Yuriko Egi, Brian & Maya, Yayoi, Kouichi, & Nicolai, Sujata, Oskar, and Naoko, Justin Hokamura, Kelly Cole &

family, and our special guests Rev. Kodai Haga of Paia Rinza Mission and Todd Hooser of FEMA. Special thanks to Rev. John Hara for coordinating this event.



EVE & NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICES

We are grateful that we were able to observe a New Year's Eve service in the early evening of the last day of 2023 with a traditional bell-ringing ceremony at Wailuku Jodo Mission and a New Year's service on New Year's morning at Kahului Jodo Mission. After the services, members and friends enjoyed fellowship gatherings.

JANUARY 2024 CALENDAR

- Jan. 1 New Year's Day Service, 9 a.m. @KJM
 - Jan. 7 (Sun.) Lahaina Service and Fellowship Gathering, 10 a.m.
 - Jan. 14 (Sun.) Service & Installation of Officers, 10 a.m., @WJM
 - Jan. 15 (Mon.) HCJM Ministers' Meeting (Zoom)
 - Jan. 18 (Thur.) Hongwanji Officials Omimai Visitation @WJM
 - Jan. 20 (Sat.) Houlu Lahaina Unity Gathering/ Lele Aloha
 - Jan. 21 (Sun.) St. Honen Memorial Service (*Gyoki*), 8 a.m. @KJM
 - Jan. 21 (Sun.) Opening of Ai Iwane photo exhibit At Maui Arts & Culture Center
 - Jan. 24 (Wed.) Worldwide Nenbutsu Session
 - Jan. 27 (Sat.) Japanese Cultural Society New Year's Party
 - Jan. 28 (Sun.) *Bon Uta* film screening at MACC
 - Feb. 5 Rev. Yoshimizu & group, Maui visitation
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