



# Lahaina Jodo Mission Bulletin

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

November 2023

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## **MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

Dear Members and Friends,

It is so challenging to live life in this most difficult of times in the devastating aftermath of the Lahaina fires. Nearly a hundred people tragically passed and eight thousand lost their beloved homes and belongings, many of our members among them. Four of our members—Morris Kaita, Michael Misaka, Tim Nakamoto, and Edwin Sato—also lost their lives in the fire. Thinking of their agony, I shed tears. Our hearts are broken and we are deeply saddened, feeling pain in our hearts and minds. Let us offer our prayers for them to be embraced by the Great Compassion of Amida Buddha.

Let us pray for the Compassionate Light of Amida Buddha to shine upon us and give us strength and encouragement in this dark hour. We pray for our Lahaina community to continue to be strong and well. Guided by the unconditional love of Amida Buddha, let us look forward to the revival of our town, homes, and temple. *Namu Amida Butsu.*

In *Gasshō*,  
Rev. Gensho Hara

## **KAHULUI & WAILUKU SUNDAY SERVICES**

During these trying times, let us come together with our fellow Jodo Shu members at Kahului and Wailuku Jodo Missions. Sunday services in November as follows:

Nov. 5 (Sun.), 8 a.m. at Kahului Jodo Mission

Nov. 12 (Sun.), 8 a.m. at Wailuku Jodo Mission

Nov. 19 (Sun.), 8 a.m. at Kahului Jodo Mission

Our deepest Mahalo to the Kahului and Wailuku members for their support and friendship.

## **AMIDA BUDDHA IMAGES AVAILABLE**

As many have lost their household Buddhist altars (*butsudan*), Bishop Ishikawa has generously provided us with Amida Buddha statues. Please contact Rev. Hara, if you would like one.

## **THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON GATHERING**

The Lahaina Jodo Mission Ohana will host a Thanksgiving luncheon celebration on **Friday, November 24 (day after Thanksgiving) at 1:00 p.m. at Kahului Jodo Mission** for our members and our Wailuku and Kahului Jodo Mission friends for their support and friendship during this most difficult time for the Lahaina community. Let's take the time to gather and celebrate the blessings of becoming a more closely knit community to further our growing bonds between our three Jodo Mission temples.

## **WORLDWIDE NENBUTSU SESSION**

St. Hōnen stressed the need to set aside a special Nenbutsu session apart from our daily lives in which we can focus on our Nenbutsu practice. Led by Bishop Ishikawa, we will hold a one-hour Nenbutsu session on **Thursday, November 30 from 1:00 p.m.** Worldwide Nenbutsu followers will also join this special session via Zoom. Those who would like to attend can join in-person at Wailuku Jodo Mission or via Zoom (please contact Rev. Hara via email for Zoom link). Let us call out *Namu Amida Butsu* embraced with Amida Buddha's unconditional love.

## **BOARD MEETINGS**

Led by our President Ed Sera, our dedicated board members have been working countless hours and getting together weekly via Zoom for emergency board meetings to discuss important issues concerning our temple's future. Please contact us if we can assist you in any way and for relief resources.

## **CONTACT REV. HARA**

Rev. & Mrs. Hara can be reached at 808-661-4304, email [lahainajodominion@gmail.com](mailto:lahainajodominion@gmail.com); mailing address: 121 Lili Lehua Place, Wailuku, HI 96793

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## **MAUI JODO SHU OHANA SERVICE**

Members of Wailuku, Kahului, and Lahaina gathered on October 1 at Wailuku Jodo Mission to observe a memorial service for those who passed in the Lahaina wildfires. Bishop Kosen Ishikawa officiated the service and delivered a message of encouragement for the Lahaina community. After the service Randall Morikawa talked about his soup kitchen for the Kilauea Mauka community.



Photograph by Deacon McMillan

## **VIETNAMESE BUDDHIST COMMUNITY HELD PRAYER CEREMONY FOR LAHAINA**

Vietnamese Buddhist monks and nuns from across the U.S. gathered from October 20 to 22 on Maui to hold a 3-day ceremony for those who passed in the Maui wildfires. On the morning of October 20, Rev. Hara attended a memorial service for those who passed in the fire at Wahikuli beach park. Rev. & Mrs. Hara, Rev. John, and Maya also attended an impressive and heartwarming evening ceremony on October 21 at the Tu Hanh Buddhist Temple in Kahului.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our Vietnamese friends for their spiritual support and monetary contributions for our temple and community.



Photograph by Ai Iwane

## **SOTO SHU MAUI VISITATION**

Rev. Tenyu Fukagawa and his group of Soto Zen officials from Japan visited Maui on October 23 to offer prayers for the Lahaina wildfire victims. They held a memorial service and gave monetary donations to the three Lahaina Buddhist temples through the Maui Buddhist Council.

Our Mahalo goes to Soto Shu for their thoughtful support to our Lahaina Buddhist community!

## **LJM-RELATED NEWS ARTICLES**

If you have not already seen these articles, they are available online:

- “3 Devastated Lahaina Temples Rely on Faith, Hope” in *Star Advertiser*, 9/3/23
- “Did Divine Intervention Save These Lahaina Religious Sites from the Deadly Blaze?” in *Honolulu Civil Beat*, 10/7/23
- “Lahaina Survivors Feel a Deep Need for Spiritual Healing” in *Honolulu Civil Beat*, 10/16/23
- “The Way Back: This Will Be My Answer” in *Honolulu Magazine*, October issue.

## **NOVEMBER CALENDAR**

- Nov. 3 (Fri.) – Celebration of Life/Prayer offering for Clare Schoenfelder
  - Nov. 3 – Japan Hawaii Legislators Friendship Association donation presentation for Maui wildfire recovery & relief at the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center
  - Nov. 5 (Sun.) – Kahului Jodo Mission service, 8a
  - Nov. 5 – Rissho Kosei-kai Omimai visitation, 1p at Wailuku Jodo Mission
  - Nov. 6 – Maui Buddhist Council meeting, 6:30p At Wailuku Hongwanji Mission
  - Nov. 12 (Sun.) – Wailuku Jodo Mission service, 8a
  - Nov. 19 (Sun.) – Kahului Jodo Mission service, 8a
  - Nov. 20 – HCJM Ministers’ Zoom meeting
  - Nov. 24 (Fri.) – Lahaina Ohana & Friends Thanksgiving Luncheon at Kahului Jodo Mission, 1p
  - Nov. 30 (Th.) – Worldwide Nenbutsu session, 1p
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