



Lahaina Jodo Mission Bulletin

September 2023

MESSAGE FROM REV. GENSHO HARA

Dear Members and Friends,

My sincerest apologies for the greatly delayed bulletin. Words cannot express the tremendous loss due to the devastating fires that have destroyed our beloved Lahaina. First, let us extend our prayers for all those who lost their lives in the fire and to the family members mourning for them. There are also many still considered “missing.”

We pray for all the families, including many of our temple members and friends, who have lost their homes and all their belongings. In Buddhism, we say that all existing things change, though never could I have imagined this truth in such a painful and devastating way.

This summer we had celebrated our first O-Bon festival since 2020, it was such a joyful and memorable occasion, a stark contrast to now. However, I hold onto that joy because I feel hope in the generosity and support from so many of you, our Maui community and our friends from around the world. Your kind words of gratitude for our temple and support to rebuild have been heartwarming and have provided great comfort during this time. Mahalo nui loa! I also find hope, strength, and inspiration from the survival of our Great Buddha, temple bell, and *gohonzon-sama* (our Amida Buddha statue from our temple altar). Also, although we have not yet had a chance to identify each urn in the pagoda (as the names have burned off), Yayoi and Rev. John Hara were able to go to the site and find that several are still intact. We will remove and secure the urns when possible, for now, the entrance of the pagoda has been boarded up to make sure the urns rest securely in there.

The road ahead will be a long and difficult one and we anticipate many struggles along the way. We will rebuild Lahaina Jodo Mission and our town again. Please hold close the memories you have of visiting the temple and the serenity and

peace it has brought to you, your family, and so many over the years. In moments that feel exceptionally hard, let us put our hands together in *gassho* and say, *Namu Amida Butsu* and take comfort in the Great Compassion and Wisdom of Amida Buddha. I send all of you my prayers.

BOARD MEETING

Due to the several emergency decisions having to be made, we are holding weekly board meetings as necessary. There are several challenging decisions that have to be made. If you are interested to serve on the board at this time, please contact one of our board members or Rev. Hara.

IN GRATITUDE

We are truly grateful to the many people who have extended their kindness and generosity to us during this unprecedented time. Thank you those who have made donations to our temple to support our membership, Lahaina community, and the rebuilding of our temple. Mahalo to our Jodo Shu ohana from the neighboring islands, who have collected donations on behalf of Lahaina Jodo Mission. Also to the many ministers and temples from Japan who have sent words of condolence and monetary support.

Thank you to the members of Wailuku and Kahului Jodo Missions for welcoming us to their services with open arms and for their assistance with immediate needs for our displaced temple members. We are truly grateful and touched by your heartfelt concerns, words of encouragement, and generous support. *Namu Amida Butsu*.

CONTACT UPDATE FOR BULLETIN

Please update your mailing address or email to continue to receive our temple bulletin. Send email request to Rev. Hara at 808-661-4304 lahainajodomission@gmail.com

JODO MISSION SERVICES

For those who can make it, we have been joining services at Wailuku and Kahului Jodo Missions. The monthly service schedule is as follows:

Kahului Jodo Mission: 1st & 3rd Sundays, 8 a.m.

Wailuku Jodo Mission: 2nd Sunday, 8 a.m.

Let us join our Maui Jodo Shu members in reciting Namu Amida Butsu and in fellowship.

MAUI JODO SHU JOINT SERVICE

Date: Sunday, October 1, 2023

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Wailuku Jodo Mission

For those who are able to join, let us join Wailuku and Kahului members and call Amida Buddha's name together and enjoy fellowship with our Maui Jodo shu Ohana.

AMIDA BUDDHA IMAGES AVAILABLE

Bishop Ishikawa has generously provided Amida Buddha statues for those who would like one. If wish to have one, please contact Rev. Hara.

SUPPORT MOVING FORWARD

For those that are displaced and need assistance, know that you are not alone, please feel free to contact Yayoi Hara at 808-276-4042 to assist with directing you to services.

Kahului Jodo Mission is collecting paper products, household goods, water, etc. If you are in need of items please contact Jocelyn Tengan 808-281-9155 (text message is best, please identify yourself in message.)

Our temple board has been holding weekly meetings and working hard to help our members, who have lost their homes in the fire and for rebuilding efforts. We are discussing various short- and long-term plans such as building temporary tiny homes on the temple property to help house our members and tenants, etc. If you are interested please contact Yayoi.

RANDALL MORIKAWA RELIEF KITCHEN

Randall has been serving the community in the Lahaina Kilauea Mauka neighborhood. He has

created a make-shift kitchen in the neighborhood and is serving approximately 100 home cooked meals to the residents in this neighborhood daily.

Although the homes in this neighborhood were not destroyed by the fire, the community here has been under served. Through a generous gift of approx. US\$65,000.00 to help those in immediate need from *Hitosashi no kai*, a Japanese Jodo Shu nonprofit to support unserved communities, the temple shared \$3000.00 of this gift to Randall to support his efforts. Mahalo also goes to Triple F and Sheldene Hozaki for donation of food containers and utensils.

CONTACT REV. HARA

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

DONATIONS

Although we do not know when we will be able to begin rebuilding, we are committed to doing so. If you would like to donate and/or share information on donating to our temple. Donations can be made by check and mailed to 121 Lili Lehua Place, Wailuku, HI 96793, via Paypal (@LahainaJodoMission) or <https://gofund.me/4ed1e96a>.

Mahalo nui loa during these challenging times!

