



# Lahaina Jodo Mission Bulletin

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

March 2024

## **MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

Dear Lahaina Ohana and Friends,

I send you my hopes and prayers for your well being embraced by the Compassion of Amida Buddha in these challenging times for us all. As I think of the over one hundred victims of Lahaina wildfire, I find myself often with tears in my eyes. My thought and heartfelt sympathies go to them for their agony and suffering. Our fellow members, Morris Kaita (74), Tim Nakamoto, Michael Misaka (61), and Edward Sato (76), were among them. We appreciate them for their devotion to our temple in the past many years.

I also extend my heartfelt sympathies and thoughts to those who lost their beloved homes. Of course, it is not just the physical structure but the memories, objects, mementos, and the familiarity of our homes that have been lost. For those of us who were able to evacuate in time, we are blessed to have survived but the loss of our homes and the adjustments of being displaced from our routines have been difficult and we may feel lost hope for the future. Perhaps our now abnormal state of mind is ironically how we are able to live in this new situation. Our life's journey is not an easy road but let us ask for Amida Buddha's compassion and guidance and together look forward to a hopeful future.

Namu Amida Butsu  
Rev. Gensho Hara

## **SERVICE AT LAHAINA JODO MISSION**

We will visit our temple on **Sunday, March 24 at 10:00 AM** and hold a service in front of the Daibutsu and offer prayers for our departed members and beloved ones enshrined in our Pagoda.

For a ride from Wailuku, please call Rev. Hara 808-661-4304.

## **LET'S JOIN SERVICES AT KAHULUI & WAILUKU JODO MISSIONS**

Although we have lost our temple in Lahaina, our Dharma Ohana at Kahului and Wailuku Jodo Missions welcome us to join their services.

- ❖ March 3 (Sun.), 8:30 AM at Kahului
- ❖ March 10 (Sun.), 8:30 AM at Wailuku
- ❖ March 17 (Sun.), 8:30 AM at Kahului
- ❖ March 20 (Wed.), 7:00 PM
- ❖ Obetsuji Nenbutsu Session at Kahului

Please come join us and hope to see you soon!

## **NEW YEAR'S PARTIES HELD**

Wailuku and Kahului Jodo Missions held their New Year's Party on January 14 and February 18 respectively. Nobu and Masako provided music during both luncheons. It was nice to gather and see our Lahaina ohana together with our Kahului and Wailuku friends. A big mahalo to the Wailuku and Kahului members for their ono kaukau and generosity extended to us.

## **FEMA OFFICIALS INSPECT TEMPLE GROUNDS**

FEMA officials visited our Temple grounds on February 15 at 8:00 AM to inspect damage and take record details of the destroyed structures as part of FEMA's Public Assistance. President Edwin Sera, Treasurer Maya Hara, Rev. John Hara, and Rev. Gensho Hara were present.



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## **TEMPLE REBUILDING WORKSHOPS**

Although there are still many unanswered questions regarding rebuilding Lahaina, we have started the conversation about the future of our temple. On February 25, Bob & Susan Stiger the led a discussion to identify values of our temple community. Based on these values, we brainstormed ways to support the community and programs that we can implement moving forward. Participating in this workshop were Ed Sera, Vashti Daise, Machiko Nagao, Shaowei Liu, Rev. & Mrs. Hara, John, Yayoi, and Maya Hara; and via Zoom Judy Aotaki, Mike Ogata & Jennifer, and Sujata Hara.

On February 27, Alice Cheng, architect and professional project manager from California, led us in a conversation about the rebuild process with Ed Sera, Mark Roy (Munekiyō Hiraga), Kay Fukumoto, Mika Yamaguchi, Rev. Gensho Hara, Maya, Yayoi and John Hara.

Notes from both meetings will be compiled and accessible to anyone who wishes to review them. Please join us in future meetings!



## **ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW**

Micah Mizukami, Associate Director of UH Center for Oral History, interviewed and filmed Rev. Hara on Feb. 9 at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center. Our minister talked about the history of our temple and his experiences in Lahaina over the past sixty years. The interview was in conjunction with the Schafer Gallery exhibition, "Sense of Place/Place of Sense," which is on until March 16. See photos of our temple by Ai Iwane!

## **PUBLIC UPDATES FROM YAYOI**

- ❖ Debris Removal began in mid-January, 200+ properties have been cleared.
- ❖ Option to have damaged trees that are slated to be removed, slabbed or chipped and left on your property.
- ❖ Properties in Wahikuli that are on cesspool can look into having their cesspool connection verified by a licensed engineer. If your cesspool was not damaged by fire, there is the opportunity to tie back into the original cesspool and build back sooner.

For more info on debris removal and financial assistance <https://www.mauirecovers.org/>

## **JAPANESE CULTURAL SOCIETY OF MAUI YUKATA & HAPPI DONATIONS**

For Lahaina members and friends, if you need a yukata or happi coat for the upcoming Bon Dance season, please email Kay Fukumoto at [hawaiiikay@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiiikay@gmail.com) with your name and size to request a yukata or happi coat.

## **TALK AT ARCHIVIST CONFERENCE**

Maya Hara presented on our temple before and after the fire at the Association of Hawai'i Archivists' Conference, *Disaster Prevention and Recovery*, on Feb. 24 at UH Manoa. Kimberly Flook of the Lahaina Restoration Foundation was also a panelist.

## **MARCH CALENDAR**

- Mar 3 (Sun.), 8:30 a.m. Service at KJM  
10 (Sun.), 8:30 a.m. Service at WJM  
17 (Sun.), 8:30 a.m. Service at KJM  
11:00 a.m. LJM Board Meeting  
25 (Mon.), 8:30 a.m. Hawaii Jodo Shu  
Missionary Memorial Day  
Ministers' & Minister Wives Mtg  
27 (Wed.), 9 a.m. Hanamatsuri  
Proclamation Ceremony  
@Mayor's Office  
28 (Thurs.) Ministers' Seminar (Zoom)  
April 7 (Sun.) Joint Hanamatsuri Celebration  
@Wailuku Hongwanji Mission
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