

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



It appears that some of the content of our January newsletter caused a kerfuffle that resulted in misinformation being circulated via email.

As stated in our inaugural edition in July 2022, the purpose of this newsletter is to report what is happening at HJM - *whether it is good or bad*. Everything is based on factual information and research.

We believe that our members and supporters are entitled to know what is transpiring and be aware of how they can be of help. For many years, members were not informed of important issues that affected the temple, which led many to gain an idyllic notion that HJM was without its challenges.

It is unfortunate that reporting newsworthy items and factual information ruffled some feathers in the process. The following below is being reported in an effort to set the record straight on who does what at HJM:

Yard maintenance: Yard maintenance is performed by Cary Matsumoto. He took over this task in the summer of 2020 when Masa Nishimori was still alive. No one else has been doing this except Cary.

Driveway chain gate & lock: When the driveway chain gate was erected on 7/07/2020, a letter was sent out to all members in addition to friends of HJM, volunteers and vendors who

visit on a regular basis. This letter contained the combination to the lock.

On 9/28/2022, the original lock was replaced with an identical one due to its failure. The replacement lock was programmed with the **same** code that has been used since 7/07/2020.

Masa Nishimori volunteered to open the chain gate every morning since he went to the temple on a daily basis. When he passed away, no one was asked or designated to open the gate on a daily basis, nor was it discussed at any membership meetings.

The gate is open in the afternoons when our tenant leaves the premises to go to work. This should not pose an issue since everyone who has any “business” being up at HJM during the day (i.e. not trespassers) should already have the combination for access.

It’s been over 2.5 years since the gate was installed and over a year that there has been no designated person to open the gate.

Visitors: The question of how there can be visitors if the gate is “always” up was raised. Many of our guests make appointments to visit HJM via our website email address or by leaving a voicemail message when calling our temple’s phone number.

There are also some “adventurous” visitors who park on the grassy area at the bottom of the driveway and walk up. And of course, the gate is down most afternoons.

Bookkeeping: We have been without a treasurer since 2020. Sandy Takahashi has been volunteering her time with the bookkeeping until a permanent treasurer is found.

Sandy also prints up thank you letters to donors and mails them out with their receipts.

Poisoning: I began helping Masa Nishimori with the poisoning in 2019. Upon Masa’s passing, I have been trying to keep up with the poisoning by myself when time permits, which

is when I am not working at my day job. The cemetery and perimeter of the property is several acres, and volunteers are sorely needed.

Kona Low Storm Aftermath: Sandy Takahashi, Cary Matsumoto and I assessed the damages the very next morning after the Kona Low storm hit. January's newsletter stated that Director Lani Matsumoto, who was out of town, immediately notified Kyodan President Mark Nakashima about the damage.

Our tenants did what they could possibly do after the storm hit and followed proper protocol. It was not their fault that they weren't able to make the storm divert elsewhere. They aren't responsible nor expected to fix what was damaged, which needs to be done by a professional.

Tenants: Lani and Cary Matsumoto have been an asset to HJM since they moved into the cottage. Their house in Honokaa burned down in the summer of 2020 and the house was a total loss.

The Board of Directors at that time offered to let them move into the cottage during their time of need. They do not live there free of charge as some have mistakenly assumed.

Cary also takes care of mowing the yard using his own riding mower, and he and his sister provide much needed security among other things. They are always giving a helping hand when we need assistance whether it is at a clean up date or doing things on their own.

Having people living on the property has made a difference. Crime and loitering has gone down significantly. Sure there are still trespassers, but it is nothing compared to what was happening before they moved in where there was vandalism, multiple break ins, homeless individuals and theft.

Their family, the Higaki's and Matsumoto's, have a long history with HJM. We could not have better tenants - members of our temple who are older, responsible and truly care what happens to HJM.

To have someone tell our Kyodan President to have them vacate after reading our January newsletter without knowing factual information is beyond comprehension. *Auwe!*

Pig trapping: Kalopa neighbor Keenan Alfonso maintains a pig trap near the mango tree. He does not get paid for his services.



Hopefully this information will dispel assumptions and misinformation so we can work together in making HJM a shining beacon in the community and beyond. *Onward!*

On a positive note, we are happy to report that we have been receiving feedback from many readers. They have expressed their appreciation and enthusiasm since the HJM Newsletter Committee took over publishing our monthly newsletter in July 2022. Here are some quotes we'd like to share with you:

"I am so amazed that this gets put out every month with so much interesting information."
- M.Y.

"The newsletter is so well done and I really enjoyed the stories that were included." - J.W.

"I enjoy reading HJM newsletters and you are doing great!" - E.H.

"A friend forwarded your amazing newsletter which we enjoyed reading." - E.S.

"Enjoyed reading HJM newsletter and already looking forward to your next issue!" - J.A.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Pickens Kehrer
HJM Newsletter Editor