Daifukuji Soto Mission

Living and Serving With Compassion



79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealakekua, HI 96750

February, 2016

(808) 322-3524 www.daifukuji.org

(See "archives" on our website for previous newsletters.)



Nehan-e Service & Potluck Lunch Sunday, February 21 9:30 a.m.

All are invited to Daifukuji's Nehan-e Service which will be held on Sunday, February 21 at 9:30 a.m. This Nirvana Ceremony commemorates the passing of Shakyamuni Buddha. A scroll showing the reclining Buddha surrounded by people and animals in mourning is displayed inside the temple. In his last discourse, the Buddha taught that although the physical body dies, the Dharma is eternal. By living the Dharma and practicing the precepts, we can see that the Buddha is always with us. A Dharma message will be delivered by Rev. Jiko.

We invite you to join us for a morning of meditation, reflection, and fellowship.

The gift shop will be open and a potluck lunch will follow the service.

Pancake Breakfast with Plant & Baked Goods Sale



Saturday, February 27 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Our Fujinkai Women's Association is hosting a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Saturday, February 27. Tickets may be purchased in advance at \$7 apiece through Fujinkai members & the temple office. <u>Tickets will also be sold at the door</u>. Each ticket is good for one breakfast platter and coffee, tea, or juice.

A plant and baked goods sale will also be held. Come early for the best selection. Donations of potted plants and cut flowers are appreciated and may be dropped off at the temple on Friday morning, February 26.

Let's all support our Fujinkai's fundraising efforts. Proceeds are used to fund conferences, field trips, and educational activities sponsored by the Fujinkai. Questions? Call Ella at 322-8806.

In Memoriam

To the family of the late **Verna Matsumoto** who passed away on December



22, 2015 at the age of 89, we send thoughts of comfort and peace.

To the family of the late **Tristan James "T.J." Fernandez**, who passed away on January 19, 2016 at the age of 15, we send our love & sympathy.

Namu Daihi Kanzeon Bosatsu



Welcome, New Members

Our sangha extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Marilyn Utz

Ruth and Hope Kudo

Tomoko, Hina, and Hoku Nanamura

Sueno Ii

Interested in becoming a Daifukuji member? Please see Rev. Jiko or visit the temple website h t t p://www.daifukuji.org/membership_brochure.pdf for information.

This haiku came to David Henry while he was doing shakyo in the social hall during the Zen Retreat.

Tracing Kannon's face no perfection, only peace smelling Teshima's



Fujinkai News

Fujinkai members, please note that the date of the Nehan-e service indicated on the team cooking schedule is incorrect. The Nehan-e service will be held on February 21.

The 51st Annual UHSSWA Conference, which originally was to be held in Las Vegas, will now be held in Honolulu the weekend of April 16-17, 2016 at the Soto Mission of Hawaii Betsuin & the Pagoda Hotel. We hope that many Fujinkai members will be able to attend this conference, now that it will be held closer to home. District reps will be calling for a headcount. For more information, call Joyce at 329-3833 or Rev. Jiko at 322-3524.

The Fujinkai extends a big mahalo to all who supported their Mini Food Sale on December 13, 2015. Thanks to everyone's hard work and contributions, temple members and groups were able to purchase freshly made maki sushi, manju, and other goodies. Comments were received on how good everything tasted.



Library News

By Clear Houn Englebert

Design With Japanese Obi by Diane Wiltshire and Ann Wiltshire is a welcome new arrival. Its chapters highlight various nontraditional obi uses such as: Table Art, Draping Effects, Hanging Displays, Furniture Complements, and Fabric Coverings. It's a beautiful modern design book with color photos on every page. There are two new Thich Nhat Hanh books: Love Letter to the Earth and Savor (which is co-written with Lillian Cheung). Straight Road with 99 Curves: Coming of Age on the Path of Zen by Gregory Shepard is his story of practicing at the Koko An Zendo (part of Aitken Roshi's Diamond Sangha) on Oahu starting in 1971. Chan and Zen Teaching: Volume Two by Charles Luk is comprised primarily of stories of the founders of the five Chan denominations, Soto being one of them. Bon Dance in Hawaii is a wonderful children's book by Jill Haworth, published by the University of Hawaii Press.

The other new arrivals are:

Compassion: The Source of Peace by Dalai Lama

The Dude and the Zen Master by Jeff Bridges and Bernie Glassman

Straight to the Heart of Zen: Eleven Classic Koans and their Inner Meanings by Philip Kapleau

Buddha by Karen Armstrong

Contemplative Science: Where Buddhism and Neuroscience Converge by B. Alan Wallace

Dogen's Manuals of Zen Meditation by Carl Bielefeldt.

Fujinkai Hatsumairi

The women of the Daifukuji Fujinkai Women's Association gathered at the temple for their first service of the year (*Hatsumairi*) on the 3rd of January. Their New Year's greetings could be heard throughout the temple. They welcomed new member



Fujinkai Executive Board

Reiko Kodaira who was presented an ojuzu by Rev. Jiko.



Fujinkai District Representatives

Fujinkai president Joyce St. Arnault gave her New Year's greetings and announcements, after which activities were held in the social hall. Temple member, author, and Feng Shui expert Clear Houn Englebert gave a wonderful presentation based on his latest book *Feng Shui For Love and Money*. The ladies enjoyed a delicious lunch & a dress-up game using recycled materials.





February Dharma Programs

Dharma Study Classes - Tuesdays, February 2, 9, 16, & 23 at 4:00 p.m.

A series of classes on Buddhism based on the book *Buddha* by Karen Armstrong is being held on Tuesday afternoons from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the

temple library. All are welcome. For information, please contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524.

Buddhist Movie Night — Thursday, February 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Bones of the Buddha, a 1-hour film about an archaeological find in India, a jar which could possibly contain the remains of the Buddha himself, will be shown in the Kannon Hall. Tea and snacks provided. Please bring your own mug. Join us for a relaxing movie night at the temple.

Family Sangha Services: Sharing the Dharma with Our Keiki - Sundays, **February 7 & 28** at 9:30 a.m. Singing, meditation, yoga, chanting, & stories. Child-friendly 45-minute services. New families are always welcome.

Zazen (Meditation)

- * Every Wednesday morning from 6 a.m. 7:20 a.m.
- * Thursdays, February 11 & 25 from 7 p.m. 8:30 p.m.

Both morning and evening sessions include 20 minutes of chanting. Donations may be placed in the box on the incense table.

Shakyo & Shabutsu Art Meditation - Saturday, February 20 from 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Mindfully tracing the Heart Sutra & pictures of buddhas and bodhisattvas in silence unifies body, breath, and mind and can bring one into a state of harmony with the universe. All supplies provided. By donation.

Baikako Plum Blossom Choir Practice - Sunday, February 7 & 28 from 7:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

T'ai Chi

Every Tuesday & Thursday from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. in the Hisashi Kimura Cultural Hall. Tuesday classes are for beginners; Thursday classes are for intermediate/advanced students. \$5 drop in or \$20/month. Call instructor Philip Kakuho Hema for information: (808) 345-1492.

Yoga, Music, & Meditation

Led by Ananda Yoga instructor Ryan Jigaku Nakade, these gentle yoga sessions followed by group singing and a brief meditation are held every Friday afternoon from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. in the Kannon Hall. Bring a yoga mat or towel. Classes by donation. Call Ryan Jigaku for information: 895-0784.

2016 Soto Zen Buddhist Lay Confirmation

Receiving the precepts and one's Buddhist name is an important event in the life of a Soto Zen Buddhist. Every year Rev. Jiko offers a series of study classes on the precepts which culminate in a Lay Confirmation Ceremony which is open to temple members.



This year's ceremony will be held on **June 5**. Weekly classes will be held from March through May. Rev. Jiko will try to find a day of the week and time that works for those wishing to study the precepts, so please let her know as soon as possible if you are interested. It is okay to attend the sessions to gain an understanding of the precepts and not participate in the ceremony.

Please contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524 or email her at info@daifukuji.org.



Joint Zen Retreat Held

The Daifukuji Zazenkai was joined by the 'Alaneo Zendo Zazenkai and Taishoji Soto Mission Zazenkai for a one-day Zen Retreat on January 9th. A total of twenty-two participants spent a day together in silence, a day which included seated meditation, walking meditation, T'ai Chi, shakyo, yoga, a Dharma session, and a vegetarian lunch. A video on Eiheiji Monastery was shown, followed by Rev. Myoshin Lang and Rev. Shinsho Hata's talks on their monastic training in Japan. The Daifukuji Zazenkai extends a warm mahalo to their Taishoji and 'Alaneo Zendo friends for their participation in this joint Zen Retreat and hopes to offer an autumn retreat which will be open to the public.







Buddha Day Celebration To Be Held at Kona Hongwanji

Sunday, March 20 at 9:30 a.m.



Gavin Harrison

All are cordially invited to the 4th Annual Hawaii Association of International Buddhists (HAIB) Buddha Day Celebration which is going to be held at the Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple on March 20th at 9:30 a.m. Featured will be meditation teacher, author, and poet Gavin Harrison who will be speaking on the topic "Turning Towards Freedom and Love." Gavin is a recipient of the "Unsung Heroes of Compassion Award," presented to him by His Holiness the Dalai Lama for "kindness and quiet dedication to others."

Buddhist groups from around the island have been invited to take part in this celebration of the Buddha's birth. The Daifukuji Baikako Choir and Family Sangha will be singing on stage during the service. Admission is free and all are

welcome to attend. Donations are welcome.

Rev. Jiko, who is one of the co-chairs of the event, thanks Rev. Bruce Nakamura & the Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple for graciously hosting the Buddha Day Celebration each year.



Behind the Scenes at Daifukuji

Behind the scenes at Daifukuji, there are many good folks who are constantly volunteering. Just to name a few, there's Lorraine Jitoku Tanimoto who plays the organ not only at major services, but also for funerals; Steve Hoshin Mann, who's been our volunteer handyman for a

number of years and has fixed just about everything under the sun; Joyce Yuko St. Arnault, who, as temple treasurer, patiently counts and records the donations, down to the penny; Elaine and George Harai who take care of the temple's Costco shopping. Then there's our amazing samu group (they call themselves the "samu gang") who's at the temple every Friday morning — dusting, sweeping, mopping, changing the flowers, washing vases, vacuuming, mowing the lawn, leaf blowing, tree pruning, cleaning the toilets, folding newsletters and more, their sweet reward being a delicious brunch prepared by the ladies who cook after they clean. Then there are the members of the Baikako Choir who serve with prayerful and reverent hearts, and the library and gift shop staff who are simply tremendous. There are MANY more faithful volunteers — in fact, too many to name. So, to ALL of our wonderful volunteers, thank you, thank you, thank you! Daifukuji Soto Mission functions as smoothly as it does, thanks to you. Please know that you are appreciated in every way.



Serving With Compassion

By Rev. Jiko Nakade

Our Daifukuji sangha was given the opportunity to serve with compassion at the Nourish the Children holiday dinner event held at the temple on the 22nd of December. I wish to thank

everyone who gave of their time, energy, and financial resources to make Daifukuji's hosting of this event possible. The outpouring of volunteer help was tremendous. Even after all of the volunteer slots were filled, offers to help continued to come in from temple members, as well as the general public. I was very touched by everyone's willingness and eagerness to serve.

I consider myself fortunate to have such a compassionate sangha. When called upon, many rose to the occasion, including our Kona Daifukuji Taiko youth group, board members, Fujinkai members, and the children and grandchildren of members. While it is true that the homeless and families in need did not come to receive their free meals in the numbers we had expected, much good was done in terms of community building and strengthening. The plant-based dinner, prepared by Chef Stephen Rouelle of the Under the Bodhi Tree restaurant, his brother, and other hardworking volunteers, was delicious, nutritious, and enjoyed by many people. The entertainment was also wonderful and Santa brought a smile to many faces that evening.

To the Nourish the Children event coordinators Marya Mann, Randyl Ruper, Chef Stephen, and others, thank you for giving our Daifukuji sangha the opportunity to share our facilities and serve our community, an opportunity which re-awakened within us the heart of the bodhisattva, the tender and loving heart that longs to alleviate suffering and to bring joy and happiness to others. To our Daifukuji Board, thank you for supporting such community events with open hearts and minds.

May the beautiful energy generated by many caring hearts continue to flow outward from our humble temple in Honalo, bringing peace, comfort, and joy to all beings. May we continue to practice the Buddhist path of generosity, kindness, and compassion.

Namu kie butsu. Namu kie ho. Namu kie so.

We take refuge in the Buddha. We take refuge in the Dharma. We take refuge in the Sangha.







Mahalo from Kona Daifukuji Taiko

By Amy Jikai Nakade

Mahalo nui loa to all for contributing to the success of both our mochitsuki fundraiser on December 27th and our Down Home Concert on January 2nd. The members of Kona Daifukuji Taiko truly appreciate your love and support.



Mochitsuki 2015 went smoothly from beginning to end, thanks to the many volunteers who came from near and far, including our awesome taiko alumni who return year after year and bring their spouses with them! We were truly fortunate to have them back home. Furthermore, mochitsuki would not have been possible without Avis and Brian Yamamoto, who coordinate the entire event, and our loyal customers who buy lots and lots of mochi. Thank you very much!

We also wish to thank all who attended the Down Home Concert fundraiser event. The entire hall was packed! It was an incredible honor for our group to perform with Kristy Oshiro Sensei and Senpai Dawn Nakamura, who inspired us with their infectious enthusiasm and vitality, and to have been able to share our love of taiko. Most of all, thank you to Akemi Sensei for instructing our group, week after week, with great patience, humor, and love.

The words "okagesama de" capture the gratitude we feel for our parents, teachers, senpai, friends, and community who stand behind us in all that we do. We are blessed to have such great support. *Domo arigato gozaimasu* for all that you do for us!







Coming Up in March...

March 9......Project Dana

March 16.....Kannon-ko Service

March 13.....33 Kannon/Spring Higan Service

March 20......HAIB Buddha Day Celebration

Mahalo Nui

Thank you to Pat Kadooka for donating a new Koa panel to replace the vandalized top section of the Koa offertory box inside the columbarium, and to Steve Hoshin who will do the work of installing it.

Oh, what joy to be part of the Sangha!

























