

79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealahou, HI 96750

May, 2020

(808) 322-3524 www.daifukuji.org

See “archives” on our website for previous newsletters.



Aloha from Reverend Jiko

Dear Daifukuji members and friends,

We have entered our second month of temple closure and life is quiet here at Daifukuji. I am holding our Sangha in my thoughts and prayers every day and hoping that each one of you is weathering this stay-at-home period without much hardship. I know that for some this period of isolation is more difficult than it is for others. If you are ever in need of a listening ear, please don't hesitate to call me at 322-3524. I am here for you.

I have asked Daifukuji Board members to help me come up with a general plan for re-opening the temple when the time is right. What will Daifukuji's “new normal” be? We'll have to wear masks, practice physical distancing, sanitize meeting areas, limit the size of groups, and, for a while, not serve refreshments. Life at the temple will be different from what it was before. We must be prepared to adapt to these changes and follow the guidelines set forth by the Board in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. As Buddhists, our deep practice is to cherish all life.

Please stay connected to Daifukuji by viewing the services which Deacon Jikai and I have been offering via Facebook, and now on the temple's new YouTube channel. (Please see page 3.) Certain temple groups, including our temple Board, have been utilizing ZOOM video conferencing to meet. The internet has proven to be very useful in times like these. We can be thankful for having such kinds of technological tools.

Thank you very much for your continued support of Daifukuji during this challenging time. Your expressions of love and concern, encouraging words, and generous donations are deeply appreciated. Jikai and I are looking forward to the day when we will be able to open the doors of the temple and welcome you back. Please take good care of yourselves and live strongly in Buddha's compassionate light.

Namu Kie Butsu. Namu Kie Hō. Namu Kie Sō. Namu Shakyamuni Butsu. Love and blessings! Aloha and ahui hou!

In Gassho,

Rev. Jikō



From Your Temple President

Aloha Sangha,

We are continuing to closely monitor the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. The health and well-being of our temple staff, students, families and community are our top priority.

At the recommendation of the Kyodan Board, it has been decided to extend closure of the Daifukuji Soto Mission facilities through the end of May. Our policy has been to follow the recommendations of our government leaders, and so we will meet once again on May 28 to adjust or extend closures. We ask for your continued patience.

It was with a heavy heart that we made a very difficult decision during the last meeting to cancel the Bon Dance this year. Obon is an extremely important part of being a Buddhist. However, the health and safety of the sangha is the most important consideration to us, and we felt that a gathering of 200 to 300 people would be irresponsible, even if restrictions are lifted.

As for other events, we will play it by ear and make decisions on a case-by-case situation, but only after we reassess the situation and government orders at the end of May. We will start to reopen the Temple by allowing gatherings of no more than 10 people. We ask that you bring masks and your own sanitizers and use them to keep everyone in your group safe. We are hopeful that we may be able to conduct a pared-down version of the Baccalaureate, which features our largest class of graduates in recent memory. Again, please be patient until the board can get more information. However, let me say at this time to our graduates, “Gambatte Kudasai!”

The temple will not accept visitors at least through May, but there will be on-line services, and a list of them is in this newsletter. Phone messages and emails are being answered. Funerals and memorial services will be handled on a case-by-case basis by our minister.

Please take all necessary precautions to protect the health and safety of your family and friends from exposure. Groups such as the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions are especially vulnerable. I’m sure you’ve all heard this before, but as a reminder:

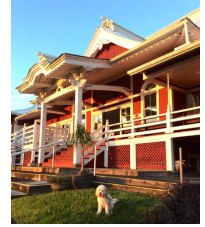
- Stay home if you do not feel well or have any symptoms and contact your physician.
- Wear facial covering when leaving the house;
- Practice social distancing and minimize physical contact;
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and warm water for 20 seconds, about the same time it takes to slowly recite the Three Jewels twice: “I take refuge in Buddha; I take refuge in Dharma; I take refuge in Sangha;
- Use hand sanitizers;
- Sneeze, cough and blow your nose into a tissue and throw it away;
- Increase cleaning frequency and target common touch points like doorknobs, handles, etc.

We apologize for not being able to invite you to our temple due to the covid-19 situation, but we are cautiously optimistic this will be over soon and that we will see your smiling faces very soon.

In gassho,

Bobby Command

How to Watch a Temple Service on the Internet



There are two ways to “attend” Daifukuji services via the internet:

1. On Facebook

(1) Google **Daifukuji Soto Zen Buddhist Temple Facebook** or use this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/konadaifukujitemple/>.

(2) Scroll down to find the desired service or click on “Videos.”

2. On Daifukuji’s YouTube Channel

(1) Google **Daifukuji Soto Zen YouTube**.

Note: All live-streamed services shown up to April 25, 2020 are viewable on Daifukuji’s Facebook page. Services videotaped after April 25 will be uploaded to the temple’s YouTube site with a link to these services given on the Facebook page. Please support our efforts by subscribing to our YouTube channel.

Online Services During the Month of May

May 9 Mother’s Day Service

Deacon Jikai will speak on “Life With Rev.Mama at Daifukuji During This COVID-19 Quarantine”

May 16 Family Sangha Service

The Buddhist concept of heaven & hell will be demonstrated by Rev. Jikō and Deacon Jikai.

May 23 Kannon Service: Living in Compassion

Prayers will be offered for all suffering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. You may give us the names of those for whom you would like to have prayers offered.

May 31 Memorial Day Service

Prayers for world peace, deceased veterans, and victims of wars. Dharma talk by Rev. Jikō.

Daifukuji Bon Dance Cancelled

We sadly announce that this summer's Bon Dance will not be held.

The Daifukuji Board's #1 priority is to protect the health and safety of our sangha and community.

Let's all look forward to dancing together next year.

Toba Memorial Dedications for Obon



The Daifukuji Board has decided that only Hatsubon families will be invited to a private Bon service on June 28, providing that the temple is able to reopen. We ask for everyone's understanding during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This service will be videotaped and offered via the internet, allowing everyone the opportunity view the service from the safety of their homes.

This year, Rev. Jiko will be preparing an o-toba (large toba) for each of the Hatsubon deceased only. **Daifukuji members and friends are invited to submit requests for ko-toba or small toba.** A donation of \$5 per ko-toba is requested.

The Toba Form is enclosed.

Here is a list of the departed for whom this is a first Obon (Hatsubon):

Mitsue Oshima, Clark and Kazuyo Sasaki, James Okimoto, Nancy Tanaka, Masaru Deguchi, Jeanette Tinnel, Paul Teramoto, and Raymond Ikeda.

Questions? Please call Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524.

Congratulations, Graduates!

Our sangha congratulates and honors the following high school graduates:

Jordan Buskirk, daughter of Trisha and Tim Buskirk (Daifukuji Taiko)

Douglas Ii, son of Julie and Michael Ii (Daifukuji Taiko)

Nobu Kuwada, son of Lisa Jacobs and Tad Kuwada

Noa Roth, son of Kari Kimura and Shaun Roth (Daifukuji Taiko)

Riley Sato, son of Corinne and Ryan Sato (Daifukuji Taiko)

Shayla Sayphone, daughter of Patsy and Kevin Sayphone

Michelle Tam, daughter of Cheryl and Mitchell Tam

Kai Watkins, son of Hiromi and James Watkins (Daifukuji Taiko)

This year's blessing will be a private ceremony to which only the graduates & their families will be invited (providing the temple will be able to reopen). **Cards for the graduates may be mailed to Daifukuji by June 12 & will be distributed by Rev. Jiko. You may mail cards to: % Daifukuji Soto Mission, 79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy, Kealahou, HI 96750.**



Paper Cranes for 2021 D.C. Pilgrimage

Do you enjoy folding paper cranes? Rev. Jiko is still accepting them. Our Hawaii Soto Zen Temples & Hawaii Soto Mission Association are supporting Tsuru for Solidarity's Washington D.C. Pilgrimage which, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has been postponed until next year. A total of 125,000 paper cranes are needed — one for each person incarcerated in a concentration camp on American soil during WWII.

You may find instructions and guidelines on folding and stringing paper cranes here: <https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/tsuru-resources/> Please provide your own paper. You may use any kind of paper cut into squares of any size. Recycled paper is fine.

Folding paper cranes is calming and relaxing. It's a joy to be able to create a beautiful crane out of a piece of paper.

Since the pilgrimage has been postponed until next year, there is no immediate deadline for this project. Please contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524 should you have questions.

A big mahalo to **all** who have participated in this project thus far!



Arigato to Tyrone and Lena Ohta for folding & stringing 1,109 paper cranes!

No Death, No Fear: Comforting Wisdom for Life

Dharma Study Via ZOOM on Tuesday afternoons from 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.



Dear Dharma Study Fellowship,

Since I still don't know when the temple will be able to re-open and resume regular activities, I would like to begin offering Dharma classes online via ZOOM. We will pick up where we left off in March — on chapter two of the book *No Death, No Fear: Comforting Wisdom for Life* by the Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh. **Please inform me if you are interested so that I may add you to the ZOOM meeting list and send you the link for each class.**

Here is the schedule:

Test Run & Talk Story Friday, May 15 at 10 a.m. (Kindness Isshin will help anyone who needs help with their device — computer, iPad, cell phone)

First ZOOM class: Tuesday, May 19 from 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Questions? Please contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524, info@daifukuji.org. For technical help, you may contact Kindness at (408-674-5533) or kindness.isshin@gmail.com.

Two Zen Classes Via ZOOM: May 17 & May 24



Via ZOOM online video conferencing, Clear Houn Englebert will be teaching two free classes in May: “Mindfulness” on Sunday, May 17 and “Zen Meditation” on Sunday, May 24. Each class is from 1:00 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. and preregistration is required.

Mindfulness is the simple, repetitive effort of bringing one's attention back to the task at hand throughout the day and, although it's simple to define, doing one thing at a time is difficult to practice. The class will include: suggestions for re-centering oneself, being mindful in difficult situations, and dealing with bothersome thoughts.

The meditation class will include correct posture on a cushion, bench, or chair and etiquette in a meditation hall. There will be special emphasis on what to do with your mind during meditation. The main form of meditation in Soto Zen is shikantaza---just sitting. This class will end with a meditation session, and there will be time for questions at both classes.

These practices are essential parts of Zen training and, together with keeping the Buddhist precepts, lead to the “goalless goal” of awakening.

This is a wonderful opportunity to receive clear instruction on zazen, as well as an introduction to the practice of mindfulness.

To pre-register please send an email message to Clear at clearengle@aol.com or call him at (808) 328-0329. Those who register will receive a link to reading material for the class, as well as an invitation to the online class.



A Message from Fujinkai President Joyce St. Arnault

Dear Fujinkai members and Daifukuji Sangha,

In this time of uncertainty and worry due to the Coronavirus, my Honolulu friend Carol and I would like to honor all health care workers, first responders, and essential workers and, especially, Rev. Jiko and Amy Jikai who have kept us in the present moment with kind words and beautiful services via Facebook. We would also like to share these words about friends:

1. Good friends are like stars. You don't always see them but you know they are always there.
2. People don't always need advice. Sometimes all they need is a hand to hold, a listening ear, and a heart to understand them.
3. Friends are present in our lives to hold the light for us when ours is dimmed.
4. A real friend is someone who sees the pain in your eyes while everyone else still believes the smile on your face.
5. Friends are flowers in the garden of life.
6. A best friend is someone who loves you when you forget to love yourself.
7. The only way to have a friend is to be one.

We will all be together again. Until then, take care and be safe and well.

In friendship and love,

Joyce

Daifukuji Fujinkai's Gift to Hospice of Kona

The Daifukuji Fujinkai Women's Association Board has decided to give a donation of \$1,000 to Hospice of Kona's Nakamaru Hale in Holualoa. Nakamaru Hale provides compassionate respite, transitional, and longer-term care in a homelike setting. Because of the COVID-19 crisis, Hospice of Kona's Memory Lane Thrift Store, the proceeds of which provide funding for Nakamaru Hale, has been closed and the organization is in need of donations. As a side note, Fujinkai Board members Joyce St. Arnault, Elaine Fernandez, and Merle Uyeda have been regular volunteers at Memory Lane.

For those who would like to support Nakamaru Hale, or Hospice of Kona in general, monetary donations can be made online at www.hospiceofkona.org or by calling 324-7700.

Daifukuji Soto Mission Legacy Endowment Fund



Aloha Members & Friends of Daifukuji,

Hopefully this finds everyone safe and healthy and following all the social distancing and hygiene guidelines that we have all committed to memory by now. Given our difficult & uncertain times, we have an unusual request to make this month. The Endowment Trustees request that you please suspend any donations to the Endowment Fund just for a few months until we are allowed to be back at the Temple on a regular basis. If you do make a donation, please be aware that we may not be able to process your donation & send you an acknowledgment letter for several months.

Our Endowment Fund has weathered this “storm” very well and, in fact, is still on track to fund its first maintenance project this year. Reverend Jiko and the Daifukuji Board have identified a cemetery project that fits perfectly with the Endowments’ mission. You will be hearing more about this and another milestone development in the near future. The Endowment does not have any operating costs or expenses. Our Sangha and our Community need you more right now so if you still feel like giving, look to them for alternatives. Our services have been suspended, so donations to the Temple’s general operating fund (Daifukuji Soto Mission) would be helpful. Help the elderly members of our Sangha that may not be able to go out and shop for groceries, donate to the Food Basket, use Instacart for grocery delivery and tip the delivery person big because as I’ve found out, a lot of them are restaurant workers who have been recently laid off. I’m sure everyone is already doing much to help our community get through this. Our Endowment is, and will be, fine.

Recent Donors:

Sid Nakamoto in Memory of Asako Nakamoto, Kay Tokumura in Memory of Asako Nakamoto, Ray & Litheia Nakamoto, Ann Nakamoto in Memory of Asako Nakamoto. Lorraine Tanimoto in Memory of Jeanette Tinnel, Masaru Deguchi, Jimmy Okimoto, Nancy Tanaka & Mitsue Oshima. Verna & Wayne Fukunaga in Memory of Yoshiko Shishido Kurosu, Shirlene Yoneyama in Memory of Yoshiko Shishido Kurosu, Stanley Kimura, The Amazon Smile Foundation.

If you have not done so already, I encourage you to read (or re-read) last month’s newsletter. Bobby Command’s President’s message, Reverend Jiko’s message, and Dr. Harold Jiho Hall’s article all contain comforting guidance. Here is the last sentence from Dr. Hall’s “Strategy #10” that resonates well: *“There is an infinity of ways to serve others.”*

Thank you for your continued support of Daifukuji and your Legacy Endowment Fund.

In Gassho,

Wade Yasuda, Chairman

Daifukuji Soto Mission Legacy Endowment Fund Board of Trustees

Avis Yamamoto, Brian Yamamoto, Keith Olson, Wade Yasuda



Welcome to Our Sangha!

We extend a warm welcome to **David and Loretta French** and thank them for becoming new members of Daifukuji Soto Mission.

New members are always welcome. Membership information is available on our website: <http://www.daifukuji.org> or through the temple office (808) 322-3524.

Virus Time
I call it
precious time.

— Clear Houn Englebert —



A Call for Recipes

The United Hawaii Soto-Shu Women's Association (UHSSWA) will be publishing a new cookbook in time for the holidays. Temple members are invited to submit their favorite recipes with the deadline being the end of May. Along with each recipe, you may include a memo. For example, "My mother prepares this dish every year on my birthday" or "My uncle always serves this dish at family gatherings."

This popular recipe book printed in 2003 was the 1st edition, published jointly by the Hawaii Soto Mission Association and the UHSSWA.

If you would like to contribute one or more recipes, please send them via email to Merle Uyeda at mteiko@icloud.com. You may also mail your recipe to Daifukuji Soto Mission, P.O. Box 55, Kealakekua, HI 96750.

We would love to receive your favorite recipes by the end of May.

Questions? Please call Merle, cookbook committee chair, at (808) 323-3553.

Bare Bones Group's First Session Via ZOOM

When the Bare Bones group met in the Temple Library in March, we agreed to find a virtual solution to be able to continue our meetings. Online research and personal recommendations led us to the user friendly platform Zoom, since it can be used on all platforms and devices, including calls via phone. Because we meet for two hours, I opted for Zoom Pro on my device, to eliminate the 40 minute meeting limitation. I am in no way a "computer tech" and I was able to easily set up a meeting, forward a meeting invite and host our April meeting.

We always start with a 10 minute meditation. I must admit that we all found it somewhat difficult to connect with the group energy until Kathryn reminded us to see ourselves together in the Temple Library. Brilliant! We were able to select writing topics, write and then read our writing to the group easily. It was delightful to be joined by two long-standing members of the group currently residing in Kansas and Washington. ~ Joy Utz ~

What became really clear is that the level of connection and personal sharing of writing and reflection in the group was perhaps even more profound than in person. A true testament that physical distancing does not need to impede meaningful social interaction! The rich impact of each person's sharing of their unique response to the topics brought me completely back "home" (to Daifukuji) beyond my expectations and hopes. The priceless surprise and discovery I experienced as each person read their writing made the challenge of shifting to technology, in order to meet, very worthwhile and almost forgettable! ~ Kathy Heller ~

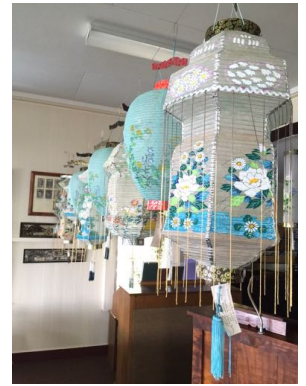
Face Masks Available

Cloth face masks for adults and children are available at no charge while supplies last. If interested, please call Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524 or send an email to rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.

To Our Sangha Kupuna

Several Daifukuji members have volunteered to assist temple elders with errands and grocery shopping. Kupuna, if you are in need of assistance, please don't hesitate to call Reverend Jiko at 322-3524.

Daifukuji Soto Mission Ko-Toba Request Form



At Obon, Buddhists express their gratitude to their ancestors by making memorial prayer offerings in the form of TOBA. The names of the deceased are recited by the minister during the Obon Service. Due to COVID19-related concerns, the service on June 28, 2020 will be open only to Hatsubon families. We apologize for being unable to invite everyone and ask for your understanding. Please view the service via Facebook and YouTube.

Due to the circumstances, Rev. Jiko will be preparing an O-toba for each of the Hatsubon deceased. All are invited to submit requests for ko-toba (small toba) memorial dedications only.

Please make checks payable to **Daifukuji Soto Mission** and mail this form to:

DAIFUKUJI SOTO MISSION

P.O. BOX 55

KEALAKEKUA, HI 96750

If you have any questions, please call Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524 or send an email to rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.

Please submit this form by June 12, 2020.

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

KO-TOBA Memorial Requests..... Suggested donation \$5.00 per request

Please PRINT the names of the deceased individuals or group of family ancestors to whom you would like the merit of the Obon prayers dedicated.

Example:

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

	Total amount for Ko-toba	\$ _____
(Optional)	Bon Service donation	\$ _____
	Total amount enclosed	\$ _____