

79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealahou, HI 96750

February, 2022

(808) 322-3524 www.daifukuji.org

See "archives" on our website for previous newsletters.

Temple Activities On Hold

Due to the current surge in Covid-19 cases on Hawai'i Island, all temple services and activities, with the exception of samu (cleaning and grounds maintenance), have been temporarily suspended.

For gift shop appointments, please call or text Barb at 808-986-2673.

Updates will be given in our newsletters. Should you have questions, please call the temple office at (808) 322-3524 or send an email to info@daifukuji.org. Everyone, please take care and be safe.

General Membership Meeting to be Held Via Zoom

All Daifukuji members are cordially invited to attend this annual meeting. The Zoom link will be sent to all members whose email addresses are on file.

Sunday, February 6, 2022

10:30 a.m HST

If you do not receive the link, please contact Rev. Jiko at rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.

Live-stream Nirvana Day (Nehan-e) Service



Sunday, February 6 at 9:30 a.m.

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

Please view this service from the safety of your home using the link above.

This Nirvana Ceremony commemorates the parinirvana of Shakyamuni Buddha. 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.

Rev. Jikō's Dharma message will be later uploaded to the temple's YouTube channel for viewing at your convenience.



Aloha from Rev. Jikō Nakade

Dear Members and Friends of Daifukuji,

Thanks to the help given by an enthusiastic team of sangha volunteers, our temple's drive-thru New Year's Day blessing event turned out beautifully. It was a joy to see Sangha friends, along with their fur babies, drive through to receive their blessings (photos on page 8).

Since no mochitsuki was held, Deacon Jikai and Rev. Jiko made the traditional New Year's offerings of kagami mochi.

Now, with the Omicron variant sweeping through the islands, temple groups which had just starting meeting in person, have had to put their activities on hold. As tired of Covid as we are by now, we are still being given opportunities to deepen our bodhisattva practice by exercising patience, compassion, and understanding, and letting go of plans and expectations. If anything, Covid is teaching us to live fully in the

moment and to appreciate what each moment brings — a cool breeze, a kind glance, an orchid in bloom, a cat's purr, a gentle smile, sunshine.

Dear friends, may you live in joy, safety, and loving-kindness. Please take care.

With warm aloha, in gassho,

Jiko 慈光

Dharma as a Creative Force

Buddha Day Event to Feature Mayumi Oda

On March 13 at 9:30 a.m. HST the Hawai'i Island chapter of the Hawaii Association of International Buddhists (HAIB) will be hosting its 10th Annual Buddha Day Service and invites everyone to celebrate the Buddha's birth together via Zoom. This event will include a talk on "Dharma as a Creative Force" by Kona resident Mayumi Oda.



Mayumi Oda is a Buddhist teacher, multimedia artist, and political and environmental activist and writer who lives at Ginger Hill Farm in Kealakekua on Hawai'i Island.

Registration is free. You may register at <https://forms.gle/C1N6cisM1kWM55GJ9>. Rev. Jiko invites you to become a member of HAIB. To find out more about HAIB, go to <https://www.hawaiibuddhists.org>. The Hawaii Association of International Buddhists is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year with a variety of events spanning different Buddhist traditions.

In Memoriam



Nancy Natsuko Kurihara passed away at the age of 94 on January 17 in Conroe, Texas. She was a member of the Daifukuji Fujinkai, Project Dana, and Baikako groups. To the Kurihara and Matsumoto families, we express our sincere condolences. A private service will be held.

Namu daihi Kanzeon Bosatsu.

February Programs

Due to the recent surge in Covid-19 cases on Hawai'i Island and out of concern for the safety of sangha members, no in-person group activities are being held. We ask for your patience and understanding and hope to be able to gather again in the near future.

Zazen - Zazen is currently being offered only via Zoom every Wednesday from 6:00 a.m. - 7:20 a.m. Zazen is also offered two Thursday evenings (February 10 and 24) via Zoom from 6 - 7:20 p.m. Contact Rev. Jiko at rev.jiko@daifukuji.org to receive the Zoom link for zazen sessions.

Zoom Dharma Study - "Learning and Living the Heart Sutra" (see page 4)

Sangha Sister's Women's Spirituality Circle - Via Zoom, meetings are held on the second Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Call Susie at (808) 936-5817 for information.

Bare Bones Writers Group - Via Zoom, meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. Call Kathryn at (808) 345-2976 for information.

Zoom Yoga with Ambika (January 20, 27 and February 3, 10, 17, 24)

Six Thursdays from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. HST. Welcome and Warmup from 7:45 - 8 a.m. HST. ZOOM Yoga from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. HST. Optional Chat from 9:00- 9:20 a.m. Drop in or whole series.

What's needed: Yoga mat, loose clothing, water, towel, empty stomach "Dana"=Temple Offering by mail or at: <http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html>.

Instructor: Ambika "Jō-An" Rose. For inquiry about this series and future yoga classes: (808) 430-2620. Email for Registration & Zoom Link: ambikarose@hawaiiintel.net.

Learning and Living the Heart Sutra

Understanding the Hannya Shingyo

12 classes via ZOOM, Tuesdays from 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

February 22 to May 10, 2022

Instructor: Rev. Jiko Nakade

(The same series will be offered again on Saturdays from April 16 - July 2. Saturday classes will be held from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. HST)

The *Hannya Shingyo*, known as the Heart Sutra, is perhaps the most famous of all Buddhist texts. It is the most frequently chanted sutra in Soto Zen temples in Hawai'i and elsewhere. Around the world, this sutra is also chanted by other Buddhist groups. It expresses in just 262 Chinese characters the reality of *Emptiness* and the perfection of wisdom.

In this 12-week series of classes, we will delve into the Heart Sutra and unpack its profound meaning. Rev. Jiko will also introduce the practice of shakyo (sutra copying) and give instruction on the chanting of the sutra in both English and Japanese. Class participants will be given the opportunity to share their interpretation of the sutra through creative expression such as art, poetry, prose, song, and dance.

There is no class fee. Donations to Daifukuji Soto Mission are appreciated and can be made through the temple's website <http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html> or by mailing a check.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Rev. Jikō at (808) 322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org. All are welcome to join these sessions.

摩訶般若波羅蜜多心經
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Welcome, New Members

Our Sangha sends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Susan Harvey

Linda Calloway

Brenda Harai and William Chang

Cherokee Shaner

Noel Kimura

New members are always welcome. For information, go to http://www.daifukuji.org/membership_brochure.pdf or contact the temple office at info@daifukuji.org.

Daifukuji Gift Shop News

To shop at the gift shop, please call or text for an appointment: Barb Shoshin, (808) 987-2673 or email barbarainkona@gmail.com. Vaccinated persons are welcome. Masks are required.

We are seeking temple members who would like to be trained as gift shop cashiers so that we can be open more when times are safer. Our gift shop is a beautiful and serene space in which to be. Please consider becoming a gift shop volunteer. For training, call Clear Houn at (808) 328-0329.

Daifukuji Board Report

by Steve Hoshin Mann, Corresponding Secretary

The Daifukuji Board met January 4 via Zoom.

We decided that the February 6 Annual Membership Meeting will be a Zoom-only event, due to the current COVID surge. That meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. HST; Rev. Jiko will send the Zoom invitation to temple members by email. The Nehan-e service the same day will be live streamed at 9:30 a.m. HST, with no in-person attendees.

The newly constituted Maintenance Committee (Stephen Tanaka, Warren Ikeda, Tony Takai, Wayne Fukunaga, and Rev. Jiko) has completed its first annual walkthrough, and the Board has accepted its top four maintenance priorities for the year:

1. Clean roofs of buildings - under contract now
2. Fumigate buildings - soliciting bids
3. Have the ramp rebuilt - looking for a contractor; most are very busy
4. Paint the exterior of the temple and cultural hall, railings, and inside around the social hall stage

We've engaged Kona Lawn Pros to maintain the cemetery area, something they already do for the Holualoa cemetery. We've engaged Roof-Brite to wash the temple roof and gutters, and screen out the birds; that work should be done within the next few weeks.



Mahalo to Holeka, Ann, Kili, and Maka Inaba for beautifying the garden in time for the new year.

Samu Group Looking for Volunteers to Clean Restrooms

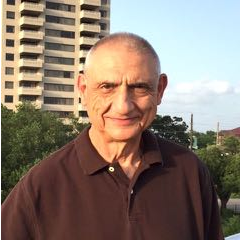
Every Friday, the temple's restrooms are cleaned by volunteers who dedicate themselves to our sangha and community. It has been this way for many years and we are grateful for their willingness to serve in this way. Mahalo to Ann Nakamoto, Sharlene Gee, and Tina Cintron who make up our current restroom-cleaning team.

We are looking for a couple more volunteers who would be willing to take a turn in the rotation and clean the restrooms approximately once a month. Cleaning may be done on a Friday morning when the "samu" group meets, or on another day of the week that's convenient for the volunteer.

To volunteer, please contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org. Thank you.



Hannah shows us the new restroom curtain sewn and donated by Pam Kajikawa. Mahalo to both Pam and Alton!



Direct Perception

by Michael Keller

I heard or read an anecdote some time ago about two Zen teachers. They were lounging about in a clearing outside their monastery, which was within a forest. After a while, one of them said, “They call those things trees.” These teachers were looking at the forest in a mode of direct perception, which is perception of anything without applying name or concept to it. One of the teachers dropped this mode for a moment and supplied the concept and name of “trees.”

It is the thinking mind that applies names and concepts to things so that it can reason about them, compare them, evaluate them, and so on. The thinking mind may suppose that it is dealing with things in themselves whereas it is merely touching ideas about them. For example, suppose a number of people are sitting in a circle looking at an elaborately decorative vase placed in the middle. If these people are asked what they are looking at, they will say “a vase,” as though they are all seeing the same thing. However, each person is looking at the vase from his or her own angle and is therefore seeing something different from everyone else. Each says he is looking at the same thing because he is applying the concept of “vase” to it. He is looking at a concept in his head and not at what he is actually seeing.

In *Cutting Through Spiritual Materialism*, the great Tibetan teacher, Chogyam Trungpa, says that when the world is seen through an overlay of concept, “we are no longer able to perceive things as they are.” We can learn to see things as they are through an understanding of *shunyata* or “emptiness,” Trungpa says, which is “space, the absence of all conceptualized attitudes.” He continues, “The experience of shunyata [is] seeing precisely and clearly what is.”

When seen through direct perception, the world is a new world. Trungpa says, “If we see a red flower . . . in the absence of preconceived names and forms, . . . we also see the brilliance of that flower. If the filter of confusion between us and the flower is suddenly removed, automatically the air becomes quite clear and vision is very precise and vivid.” In another collection of Trungpa’s talks I don’t remember, Trungpa speaks of “the blue of blue, the green of green,” and so on, as though in the new world you can see into the essence of color. Objects are also sharper, more defined; each flower, bush, lamp post is individual, not flattened out by concept into looking like every other bush or lamp post. If the world was drab before, it is not anymore. It is bright and dazzling, a substantial, luminous reality.

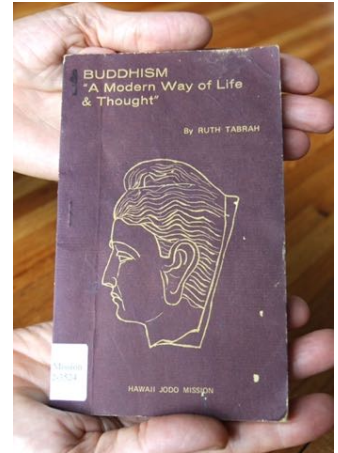
In zazen, the practitioner is used to putting the thinking, conceptualizing mind aside when it appears and returning to the focus on breathing. This means that any zazen practitioner can easily learn to enter a mode of direct perception whenever he or she likes just by dropping the conceptualizing mind. Try it when you are out for a rural walk, for example. Just switch your mind off, as you are used to doing in meditation, and note the change in what you are seeing. Direct perception is an activity well worth trying.

Library News

By Clear Houn Englebert

Here are the wonderful new arrivals:

Two Buddhas Seated Side by Side is a guide to the Lotus Sutra by Donald Lopez and Jacqueline Stone. It was published in 2019 by Princeton University Press and I believe it would hard to improve on this book in any way. I consider it the new “final word” on the Lotus Sutra. The writing has been described as “engaging” and “beautiful” which is exactly what you want in a book about one of the most important Mahayana scriptures.



The Book of Joy is by the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. These two great religious teachers discuss the nature of true joy.

Dogen and Soto Zen is edited by Steven Heine and published by Oxford University Press. It brings together some of the finest recent short writings about Dogen. Without exception the chapter titles are long and intriguing, this being a supreme example: “Are Soto Zen Precepts for Ethical Guidance or Ceremonial Transformation? Menzan’s Attempted Reforms and Contemporary Practice”. This is the first I’ve heard of any of this (except the Precepts, of course) and I’m actually quite intrigued now.

Love and Fear is by Renshin Bunce, a Soto Zen priest. She wrote this book based on her experiences working as a hospice chaplain.

Under the Bodhi Tree by Buddhadasa is an excellent Theravada book on Dependent Origination by a very highly esteemed Thai monk.

Buddhism “A Modern Way of Thought” is by Ruth Tabrah who was born in 1921 and moved to Kohala in 1956 where she became a Buddhist. (She was a friend of Rev. Jiko’s.) This small book of only 70 pages is from 1969, and I think it may be the most charming book in the whole library.

Mayumi Oda (also a friend of Rev. Jiko’s) has written an autobiography, *Sarasvati’s Gift*, which Shambhala published last year. We are fortunate to have this book in our library and I highly recommend it to everyone. (The gift shop also has copies of this book.)

Peace Pole Ceremony Postponed

The February 19th Peace Pole Dedication Ceremony, which was announced in last month’s newsletter, has been postponed until such time that it’s safe to gather. Rev. Jiko is collecting *origami* paper cranes for the occasion. If you enjoy folding cranes, please make some and deliver them to the temple.

New Year's Day Drive-Thru Blessing

Mahalo to all who helped and all who came!



Stephen, Amy, and Joyce



Susie and Eliana



Michele and Teri



Avis and Brian



Rev. Jiko & Deacon Jikai



Barbara



Yukino and Her Kitty



A Sweet Puppy

Mahalo to volunteers Teri, Joyce, Susie, Michele, Tony, Eliana, Stephen, Amy Jikai, and Barb. Arigato to Elaine, Joyce, and Tyrone for helping with preparations.

February 2022

| January 2022 | | | | | | | February 2022 | | | | | | | March 2022 | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

- Sangha Sisters
- Youth Taiko
- Adult Taiko
- Family Service
- Major Service
- Temple Board
- Fujinkai
- Kannon-ko Service
- Project Dana
- Zazen
- Samu
- Special Events
- Baikako Practice
- Dharma Study
- Happy Strummers
- Work
- Offsite Backup
- Bon Dance Group
- Teen Sangha
- Orchid Club
- Family Service
- Major Service
- Home and 16 more...

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|---|
| 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 6:00 AM Zoom Zazen | 3 8:00 AM Zoom Yoga with Ambika 9:00 AM Zoom Precepts Study 7:00 PM Zoom Temple Board | 4 8:00 AM Samu | 5 8:00 AM Zoom Precepts Study |
| 6 10:30 a.m. Service 9:30 a.m. Livestream Nirvana Meeting Via Zoom General Membership | 7 9:00 AM Zoom Bare Bones Writers | 8 6:00 AM Zoom Zazen | 9 6:00 AM Zoom Zazen | 10 8:00 AM Zoom Yoga with Ambika 9:00 AM Zoom Precepts Study 6:00 PM Zoom Zazen | 11 8:00 AM Samu 7:00 PM Zoom Sangha Sisters | 12 8:00 AM Zoom Precepts Study |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 6:00 AM Zoom Zazen | 17 8:00 AM Zoom Yoga with Ambika 9:00 AM Zoom Precepts Study | 18 8:00 AM Samu | 19 8:00 AM Zoom Precepts Study |
| 20 | 21 | 22 9:00 AM Zoom Heart Sutra Study | 23 6:00 AM Zoom Zazen | 24 8:00 AM Zoom Yoga with Ambika 9:00 AM Zoom Precepts Study 6:00 PM Zoom Zazen | 25 8:00 AM Samu | 26 8:00 AM Zoom Precepts Study 9:00 AM Spring Ministers Meeting |
| 27 9:00 AM HSMA Spring Meeting 4:00 PM Zoom Baika Workshop | 28 | 1 9:00 AM Zoom Heart Sutra Study | 2 6:00 AM Zoom Zazen | 3 9:00 AM Zoom Precepts Study | 4 8:00 AM Samu | 5 8:00 AM Zoom Precepts Study |

10TH ANNUAL BUDDHA DAY CELEBRATION

Hosted by the Hawaii Association of International Buddhists (HAIB)

March 13, 2022 9:30—11:00 HST

DHARMA AS A CREATIVE FORCE



Keynote speaker: **Mayumi Oda**

Buddhist teacher, multimedia artist, political and environmental activist and writer who lives at Ginger Hill Farm on the Big Island of Hawaii

This free event will be live on Zoom

Sign up at <https://forms.gle/C1N6cisM1kWm55GJ9>

For more information contact Rev. Blayne Higa at bhiga@honpahi.org or (808) 323-2993

To find out more about HAIB or to become a member, go to www.hawaiibuddhists.org

ALSO CELEBRATING HAIB'S 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

"Benzaiten with Two Dragons" courtesy of Mayumi Oda.



79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy, Kealahou, HI 96750 (808) 322-3524

🌸 2022 🌸

KONA DAIFUKUJI "ZOOM" YOGA 12.24.21

6 Thurs. 8-9 am HST Jan. 20, 27 Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24

- 7:45 – 8 am HST Welcome Warmup
- 8:00 – 9 am "ZOOM" YOGA!
- 9:00 – 9:20am Chat (optional)
- 12:45 – 1 pm EST
- 1:00 – 2 pm
- 2:00 – 2:20 pm

**Open to: Members, Kona Community and ALL
Beginners & Experienced WELCOME!**

@Drop in or Whole Series@

ENERGY is our focus, so move to your body!

Consciously Crossing over to the Inner Source of Self!

Bring: Yoga mat, loose clothing, H2O, & towel, empty stomach

"Dana" = Temple Offering by mail or at: <http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html>

Email for REGISTRATION & Link: ambikarose@hawaiiantel.net



Instructor: Ambika "Jō-An" Rose

I have taught yoga for 45 years. The "Style" is Amrit Yoga an authentic, meditative exploration of Shakti [Chi] Energy through intention, breath, alignment, extension & movement. Following postures, we pause: relax, breathe, and "let go!" We EXPLORE ENERGY! For inquiry: 808-430-2620 12.24.21