



79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealahou, HI 96750

May, 2023

(808) 322-3524 www.daifukuji.org

See "archives" on our website for previous newsletters.

Memorial Day Service & A Blessing of the Graduates Sunday, May 28, 2023 10:00 a.m. All are welcome



Prayers for world peace and a remembrance of our fallen soldiers and victims of war will be the focus of Daifukuji's Memorial Day service. Our featured speaker will be Ryan Nakade. Ryan, a trained mediator and facilitator, teaches communication and dialogue skills, with an emphasis on political depolarization and conflict prevention. At the end of the service there will be a blessing of the following high school graduates of the Class of 2023:

Natalie Ii, daughter of Julie Oshima-Ii and Michael Ii
Charlie Kuwada, son of Lisa Jacob and Tad Kuwada
Xavier Nakasone, son of Joey Marshall and Christopher Nakasone

Following the blessing, a luncheon in honor of the graduates to which all are invited will be held in the social hall. If you wish, you may bring leis and cards for the graduates — a Hawaii tradition. Let us surround them with sangha aloha.

If you know of any other graduate whose parents or grandparents belong to our sangha, please inform Rev. Jiko very soon so that an invitation may be sent. (808-322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.)

TOBA FORM ON PAGE 11. PLEASE TURN IN YOUR FORM BY JUNE 1.

A Message from Rev. Jikō

Aloha Daifukuji members and friends,

Okagesama de, Buddha Day at Daifukuji was truly a joyous occasion. I wish to express my mahalo to the Daifukuji Zazenkai for preparing an *ono-licious* vegetarian meal, to Avis and Brian for decorating the *hanamido* and coordinating the egg hunt, to the members of the Baikakai and Happy Strummers for their musical offerings, to Deacon Jikai for assisting with the service, to M.C. Sharlene, to organist Lorraine, to videographer Barb, to parking director Dan, to decorators Barb and Travis, to *choba*



Our Daifukuji Zazenkai chefs

volunteers Akemi and Ron, to Joyce for the leis and Michiko for the Buddha's food offering, and to all who donated flowers, foliage, fruits, vegetables, desserts, and monetary gifts. And, to the many sangha members and friends who joined us in celebration of the Buddha's birth, thank you very much.

The presence of eighteen children, sitting with their mommies, daddies and *tutus* during the service, then running through the rainbow bubbles hunting for colorful eggs outside in the temple garden afterward, was wonderfully heartwarming and made for one of the happiest Buddha Days ever!

Let us all gather again on May 28, this time to pray for fallen soldiers and victims of war. We will also bless those in our sangha who are graduating from high school. Blessing the graduates and sending them off into the world with sangha aloha is a special Daifukuji tradition. I hope you will join us.



In gassho,

Jikō Nakade

Sitting in Front of Kannonsama

by Eliana Jisho Sattler

Early breezes, candlelight
Kannon standing shining bright,
Holding us in her embrace.
Both my feet planted on sacred soil,
Feeling all the beings that touched this soil before.
Smiling content in such a company.





On March 26, Fujinkai members and guests attended MaryAnne Seibert's wonderful presentation on a plant-based diet lifestyle and had a chance to sample various kinds of savory vegan sausages, as well as yummy snacks and desserts. Mahalo, MaryAnne!



Rev. Jiko & MaryAnne Jiu

Daifukuji Fujinkai News

First of all, the Daifukuji Fujinkai extends a big mahalo to all who supported the group's pancake breakfast fundraiser which was held on February 18. Thanks to everyone's kōkua and generous donations, the pancake breakfast was a success; it generated \$3,379.00, which will be used for Fujinkai conferences, field trips, and educational programs.

On April 22 - 23, eleven Fujinkai members, together with Rev. Jiko and temple president Stephen Tanaka, will be attending the 56th United Hawaii Soto Shu Women's Association Conference which will be hosted by the Wahiawa Ryusenji Fujinkai on the island of Oahu.

On May 20 and June 17, Fujinkai members are invited to meet at 2:00 p.m. in the social hall to sew lap blankets for the residents of the Life Care Center of Kona. The project leader for this activity is Andrea Harai Shea. **Fujinkai members, please contact Andrea at tokorode@gmail.com, (916) 205-3534 to let her know on which days you plan to participate.**

The Fujinkai is accepting donations of the following items which we request be delivered to Daifukuji by May 1: 1) Flannel fabric, 2) Quilt batting — any size, scraps welcome.

Fujinkai members, if you plan on attending one or both sessions, please bring the following items, labelled with your name, if you have them:

1) Thread of different colors, including button or carpet thread, 2) Scissors, 3) Pins, 4) Ironing pads or boards, 5) Iron, 6) Sewing machine.

The Daifukuji Fujinkai is open to all adults and welcomes new members. For information, please stop by the temple to pick up a brochure and membership form, or visit https://www.daifukuji.org/activities/Fujinkai_Brochure_2022.pdf.

May Activities

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CLASS CANCELLATIONS: No shakyo on May 6; No yoga classes with Liz on May 8 and May 15; no Dharma Keiki gathering on May 7.

Dharma Keiki, May 21 - A Dharma program for preschoolers - 3rd graders that's held at 9:30 a.m. on certain Sundays. Contact Rev. Jiko for information & schedule. (808)322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org. (The May 7th gathering has been cancelled.)

Zazen and Chanting - Zazen is offered in person and via Zoom every Wednesday and Friday from 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m. Wednesday zazen is followed by 20 minutes of chanting. Practitioners are asked to arrive at 5:45 a.m. Contact Rev. Jiko at rev.jiko@daifukuji.org to receive the Zoom link for zazen sessions.

Daifukuji Gay Sangha - 1st Friday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Meditation and discussion. For information, call Clear Houn at (808) 328-0329.

Sangha Sisters Women's Spirituality Circle - Meetings are held in person and via Zoom on the second Friday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Call Susie at (808) 936-5817 for information.

T'ai Chi - All classes are one hour and held inside the Hisashi Kimura Cultural Hall. \$5.00 per class. Call instructor Philip Kakuho Hema for schedule and other information: (808) 345-1492.

Soleful Strutters - T'ai Chi warm-up & walking on temple grounds at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. For information, please contact Hannah Israel at (408) 421-8845 or Reverend Jiko at (808) 322-3524.

Samu Fridays - Volunteers are needed for temple cleaning and grounds maintenance on Friday mornings from 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Coffee hour & fellowship follows. Bring a snack to share.


Yoga — Mondays from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. in the Hisashi Kimura Cultural Hall. No fee, but donations accepted. Bring a mat or towel. Call instructor Liz Aschenbrenner: (808) 345-1270 or liz217a@hotmail.com. (No classes on May 8 and May 15)

Yoga via Zoom — Daifukuji Zoom Yoga taught by Ambika Rose will be on break from May 18 - June 29. Ambika's next series of classes will be announced in next month's newsletter.

**A Break From All the Noise:
Meditation for Teenagers
Daifukuji Soto Zen Temple**

11 a.m. to Noon

April 16, May 21, June 4, July 2, and July 16



- Learn to meditate and become friends with silence.
- Practice slowing down and relaxing into the present moment.
- Ask questions in a safe, non-judgmental group setting facilitated by Rev. Jikō Nakade.
- Dress comfortably and modestly in loose-fitting clothing.
- Avoid using strong fragrances which could affect others.
- Bring a friend. Parents are welcome. By donation.

To register or for more information, contact Rev. Jikō at
(808) 322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.
79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy in Honalo (next to Teshima's Restaurant)
www.daifukuji.org

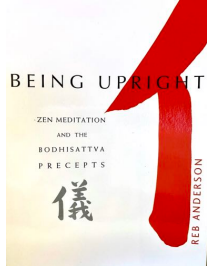
Meditation for Teenagers

Aloha Teenagers,

Feeling stressed? Need a break from rushing around from one activity to another? You can stop and breathe and enjoy being where you are, just as you are. The secret is Zen meditation, a practice which you can learn and carry with you wherever you go.

Meditation for teens will be held on the following Sundays: May 21, June 4, July 2, and July 16. Join us for an hour of peace and quiet. Invite a friend. All teenagers are welcome. (Your parents are also welcome to tag along if you don't mind.)

This program is free. (You may make a small donation if you wish.) For more information, please call Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524, or send an email to rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.



Precepts Study with Rev. Jikō Begins in June

A 3-month series of weekly online **Zoom** classes from June - August

Two groups (please choose 1):

Group 1: Thursdays from 1:00 -2:00 p.m. Hawaii Time, starting June 1

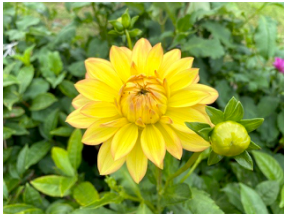
Group 2: Saturdays from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Hawaii Time, starting June 3

This is a three-month period of study and reflection on the sixteen precepts. The sharing of one's life takes place in an atmosphere that is gentle, non-judgmental, and compassionate. Those who have studied the precepts in the past are welcome to deepen their understanding by joining these sessions. These sessions are open to all who are interested in studying the precepts. Participation in the precepts ceremony, which will be offered at Daifukuji on September 16, 2023, is optional.

We will be using the book *Being Upright: Zen Meditation and the Bodhisattva Precepts* by Tenshin Zenki Reb Anderson Roshi. If purchased through the Daifukuji Gift Shop, class participants may obtain the paperback book for the discounted price of \$10. The book is also available online in hardcover, paperback and Kindle formats. Unfortunately, we are unable to handle mail orders.

Rev. Jikō offers the Dharma freely. There is no class fee. To support such programs, one may make a donation to Daifukuji Soto Mission. <https://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html>.

For more information or to register, please contact Rev. Jikō at (808) 322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.



Welcome to Our New Members

Our sangha warmly welcomes the following new members:

Glen Perez and Beth Poepoe

Catherine Ishida

The Fujinkai welcomes new member MaryAnne Jiu Seibert.

New members are always welcome. For information, see Rev. Jiko or visit our website:

http://www.daifukuji.org/membership_brochure.pdf.

Bon Dance and Bazaar



Following a three-year hiatus due to the Covid pandemic, the Daifukuji Board has decided to bring back both Daifukuji's popular Bon Dance and Bazaar this year, but please be prepared for some changes.

Bon Dance - July 8

Our temple's Bon Dance is going to be held on **Saturday, July 8**. What's new is that, for the first time, we will be having an afternoon Bon Dance from **3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** Yes, an afternoon Bon Dance! This change is being made out of the Board's concern for the safety of the public. In the past we've been able to easily hire police officers to control the highway traffic and ensure pedestrian safety at the temple's entrance, but these days, due to a shortage of special duty officers, there is no guarantee that an officer will be available. Holding the Bon Dance during daylight hours when visibility is good would be safer. Except for the time change, it will be a regular Bon Dance with dancing, taiko, and food.

Winnie Kimura's Bon Dance classes will start on June 6 and be held every Tuesday evening from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in Daifukuji's Social Hall up until the Bon Dance. There will be two Thursday sessions on June 29 and July 6. Since it's been a few years since our last Bon Dance and many say they've gotten pretty rusty, Winnie will be focusing on the easier dances and helping us learn them. These sessions are free and open to the public. All are welcome

Bazaar - October 29

Sunday, October 29 is the date of Daifukuji's bazaar which is going to be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This bazaar will be a scaled-down version of our big bazaars of the past. The idea is to save the entire lawn area for parking. Items will be accepted for one week from October 21 - October 27. Set up will take place on October 28. In addition to fundraising, the purpose of the bazaar is to promote fellowship among sangha members and temple groups. Details are forthcoming so please stay tuned. Bazaar co-chairs are Joyce St. Arnault, Betsy Morrigan, and Barb Bosz.



Hatsubon (First O-Bon)

Throughout the summer season of Obon, Buddhists remember their departed loved ones and family ancestors and offer prayers and *toba* memorial tablets in their memory. As a Sangha, we gather to offer our love and support to those who are observing their departed family member's first Obon, known as *Hatsubon*.

To date, the following are the names of the departed for whom this will be a first Obon:

Itsuo Ohta, Lorin Hopkins Hanato, Makoto Morihara, Nathan Sasaki, Ginger Peck, Gladys Arase, Donald Erway, and Kikuko Ushijima.

All are invited to attend Daifukuji's Obon service on Sunday, June 25 at 10:00 a.m. The Dharma message will be given by Rev. Jigaku Takenouchi of Taishoji Soto Mission. Everyone is invited to stay for the fellowship luncheon following the service. Please join us.

The Significance of the Ō-Tōba 大塔婆

At the time of O-Bon, Buddhists offer long wooden memorial tablets called ō-tōba for the benefit of the deceased. The Japanese word "tōba" comes from the Sanskrit word "stupa." In India, the relics of Shakyamuni Buddha were kept in burial mounds called stupas. Over time, the stupa developed into a variety of forms as Buddhism travelled across Asia. Among these forms was the five-storied pagoda.

The top section of the ō-tōba ("O" meaning "large") is cut into a pagoda of five levels with each level depicted by a particular shape. Starting at the bottom, there is a square representing earth, then a circle representing water, followed by a triangle representing fire, a semicircle representing wind, and a jewel of fulfillment at the top representing space. Everything in the universe, including our human bodies, are made up of these five elements, which are constantly changing.

At the O-bon service, the tōba memorial dedications are chanted by the minister and the merit dedicated to the deceased. One may dedicate ō-tōba and kō-tōba by using the tōba request form on page 11. Please contact Rev. Jiko if you have questions.



Ō-Tōba are the large wooden memorial tablets on which the names of the deceased are written.

In Remembrance: Bishop Jiho Machida

(from the Bishop's Office newsletter *Dharma Lei*, Issue no. 44)

On March 5, 2023, retired Hawaii Soto Mission Bishop Jiho Machida passed away peacefully at home in Honolulu. He was 96 years of age. He is survived by wife Violet Machida.

Jiho Machida was born on November 3, 1926, in Chichibu, Saitama Prefecture, Japan. At the young age of 26, the then Reverend Jiho Machida left Kokenji temple in Saitama and arrived in Hawaii on November 3, 1952. After serving as resident minister of (the now closed) Waiahole Tomonji Soto Mission, he transferred to the Soto Mission of Hawaii. During his time as a minister at the Soto Mission of Hawaii, Rev. Machida succeeded Mrs. You Komagata as the second principal of the Nuuanu Wakei Gakuen (Japanese Language School), served as the president of the Hawaii Kyoikukai (Japanese School Association), and for a short time served as the Soto Academy principal.

Upon the retirement of Bishop Gyokuei Matsuura on October 31, 1997, Jiho Machida was installed as the 7th bishop of the Hawaii Soto Mission. Bishop Machida was a kind and friendly person. He was also a very smart man, instrumental throughout his career in creating Japanese language textbooks used in many of the Japanese Schools that were operating throughout the state of Hawaii. He also contributed to the Hawaii Soto Mission by creating much of the English Buddhist materials we use to this day. He retired on August 31, 2008, after 56 years of dedicated service to the Hawaii Soto Mission.

Bishop Machida's funeral service will be held at the Soto Mission of Hawaii on Sunday, May 7, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., with visitation to begin at 2:00 p.m. We kindly request that you let your minister know if you plan to attend the service. Please call 808-537-9409 for more information.

Library News

by Clear Houn Englebert

We have nine new arrivals in the library. There are two new Theravada books:

Seeing the Way is an anthology of teachings by the disciples of Ajahn Chah and *The Wings of Awakening* is by a disciple of Ajahn Lee, Thanissaro Bhikkhu.

The library has several books about Obon, some are instructional and show the dance steps and other books are more for kids and tell stories or offer background. *Japanese Children's Day and the Obon Festival* by Dianne MacMillan is a new addition to the background kind of books, and it's illustrated with very lively photos.

Heart to Heart is another nicely illustrated book. It's by the Dalai Lama with paintings by Patrick McDonnell. The subtitle is *A Conversation on Love and Hope for Our Precious Planet*.

Lives Lived, Lives Imagined edited by Linda Covill & Sarah Shaw is subtitled *Biography in the Buddhist Traditions*. Most of the biographies discussed are of Theravadan or Tibetan teachers.

Our Religion and Tradition is by Bishop Jiho Machida of Honolulu and *In Memoriam Rev. Master Jiyu-Kennett 1924-1996* is about my own teacher.





The Big Leap

By Michael Keller

Six years ago I moved from Houston, where I had lived for 16 years, to a small town on the Big Island of Hawaii called Kailua-Kona. This was a momentous move for me at the time. I had visited Kailua-Kona a few months before the move and knew it to be an appealing town. Nevertheless, the move was a leap into a virtual unknown. My wife-to-be made the same leap to come to Kailua-Kona shortly afterwards.

Now I am about to make another leap. My wife and I need larger living quarters than we have now. Since the cost of homes is so high in Hawaii, to find larger quarters we need to move back to Houston, where property values are quite reasonable.

I have a good deal of apprehension and sadness at the prospect of leaving Kailua-Kona. I have good friends associated with the local Zen Center, I have appreciated being able to publish some of my essays in the Center's newsletter, and there are clubs in town where my wife and I have frequently enjoyed dancing. I have an emotional attachment to Kailua-Kona that makes leaving difficult.

Nisargadatta, the renowned teacher from the Hindu tradition, says that we do not live our lives, but that they are lived for us. He says that the truth of our lives is "that whatever one is doing, one is not doing, but one is made to do.[1]

I have indeed felt that way about my life for many years, that I am not the mover of it, but the moved. I suspect that all long-term zazen practitioners come to this sense of things as well. I have made many major relocations in my life, Chicago to small-town Indiana, Indiana to California, California to Texas, Texas to Hawaii. With each relocation, I have felt that I was a propelled figure.

Although there has always been a sense of loss in connection with the locations I have left, the new locations have always brought gains. If propelled from one place to another, that has always been, following Nisargadatta, in line with the truth of life, and the moves have always been fortunate. I trust that the coming big leap will be fortunate as well.

Footnotes

1. Sri Nisargadatta Maharaj, *The Ultimate Medicine*, Berkeley, 1994, p. 97.

We will certainly miss Mike and hope that he will continue to share his Zen essays with our readers. Mahalo nui loa, Mike. All our best wishes to you and Sandra.

To read more essays by Michael Keller, visit his website <https://www.zazenessays.com/>.

Coming up in June....

Precepts Study Begins.....June 1 (Thursday group), June 3 (Saturday group)

Temple & Grounds Clean Up.....June 1 at 8:00 a.m.

Obon Service joined by Hatsubon families and Taishoji Soto Mission guests.....June 25 at 10:00 a.m.

Daifukuji Soto Mission O-Toba and Ko-Toba Request Form

Please turn in by June 1, 2023

At Obon, Buddhists express their gratitude to their ancestors by making memorial dedications in the form of TOBA. The names of the deceased will be read by the minister during the Obon Service to which you are invited on **June 25, 2023**. Please send or bring your request form to Daifukuji no later than **June 1** and make checks payable to **Daifukuji Soto Mission**. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.

YOUR NAME _____
PHONE NUMBER _____ **E-MAIL ADDRESS** _____

O-TOBA (written on wooden boards)..... Donation \$10.00 per request

O-TOBA are offered in remembrance of:

1. Family ancestors as a group (Example: The Nakade Family Ancestors)
2. A deceased individual for whom this is a first Obon (hatsubon) (Example: The late _____)

PLEASE PRINT NAMES CLEARLY.

I dedicate the merit of these prayers to.....

1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
-

KO-TOBA (written on paper)..... Donation \$5.00 per request

KO-TOBA are similar to O-toba, but are written on paper instead of wood and are a second option. Please print names clearly. *I dedicate the merit of these prayers to.....*

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

Mail to: Daifukuji Soto Mission
P.O. Box 55
Kealakekua, HI 96750

Your Name	_____
Donation for Toba	\$ _____
O-bon service donation (optional)	\$ _____
Total Enclosed	\$ _____