



Daifukuji Soto Mission

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Treasuring the Past, Embracing the Present

April 2007



The Infant Buddha In the Hanamido

Hanamatsuri Buddha Day Service to Be Held April 8

Sunday, April 8 *9:30 a.m.*
Guest Speaker: Jill Teiho Wagner

Let us gather at the temple on April 8 to celebrate the birthday of the Buddha. Called *Hanamatsuri* or “Festival of Flowers,” this is a day for expressing our gratitude and joy over the Buddha’s birth in northern India almost 2,600 years ago.

Those who attend this service will have a chance to pour sweet, heavenly tea over a statue of the baby Buddha, housed in a gaily decorated *hanamido* or flower shrine.

The guest speaker will be Jill Teiho Wagner, who will be introducing the Rev. Konchok Rabje Rabgyal, a Tibetan monk who will be joining our Sangha and serving our temple as a volunteer throughout the year.

A spring egg hunt will be held in the temple yard following the service. **Teen Sangha members**, please meet at the temple on Saturday, April 7 at 9:00 a.m. to decorate the *hanamido* and prepare for Sunday’s egg hunt. **Children**, please bring a basket or small bucket to the service on Sunday, April 8. Thank you to Avis & Brian Yamamoto for coordinating this spring egg hunt.

The Buddha Day lunch will be prepared by the **Daifukuji Zazenkai**, under the direction of chef John Replogle. Zazenkai members, please meet in the temple kitchen at 8:30 am on April 7 & 8 am on the 8th.

The lunchtime program will include the skit “The Kind Prince” by the Daifukuji Kids Sangha and a slideshow presentation of their 2006 Japan Trip by the Daifukuji Taiko youth group.

Flowers are needed for the *hanamido* and altars. Please drop them off on April 6 or the morning of April 7. Call Rev. Jiko if you’d like to have the flowers picked up. Thank you.

Together, let us observe the birth of the Buddha, whose teachings continue to light the way for millions of Buddhists around the world today.

Building Fund Bazaar

Coming Up May 20

Daifukuji's 14th Annual Building Fund Bazaar will be held on Sunday, May 20, 2007. Please mark your calendars. This is our temple's biggest fund raising event and everyone's kokua will be needed. Some of you are already doing your spring cleaning and are wondering when you'll be able to start delivering your bazaar donations to the temple. Due to events to be held in our social hall, the earliest we can accept donated items is May 1st. Please do not drop off items prior to this date since storage would be a problem. There'll be more information about the bazaar in the May newsletter. A bazaar planning meeting will be held on April 25 at 7:30 pm. Chairpersons, please attend and have your reports ready.



Honoring Our Graduates

Baccalaureate Luncheon on May 27

Every year the Daifukuji Sangha honors high school graduates who are the children and grandchildren of our members at a Baccalaureate ceremony and luncheon. We also invite graduating seniors who are members of the Teen Sangha and youth taiko groups. If you know of such a graduating senior, please give his or her name and address to Rev. Jiko by calling 322-3524. We do not want to miss anyone.

Sangha Summer Camp

June 9 – 10, 2007

Kalopa State Recreation Area, Honokaa

Calling all Sangha campers! An overnight summer camp at the beautiful Kalopa State Recreation Area in Honokaa is being planned for the weekend of June 9-10. This will be a fun, relaxing Dharma family camp that will include a potluck dinner, Dharma activities, a nature walk, meditation, and music. Check-in will be at 2 pm on June 9th and check-out at 10 am the next day. The 4 cabins can accommodate up to 32 campers.

Please call Jiko Sensei at 322-3524 to reserve a space for you and your family. Children are welcome. There will be a \$10.00 fee per adult. \$5.00 per child. Carpooling is encouraged.

Zazen, Dharma, & Reflection:

A Morning of Zen Practice

Saturday, April 21

8:00 – 10:15 am

Rev. Jiko will be leading a morning of zen practice and all are welcome. The schedule is as follows:

8:00 - 8:30 Zazen (Sitting Meditation on floor or chair)

8:30 – 8:40 Kinhin (Walking Meditation)

8:40 – 9:15 Sitting & Listening to the Teachings

9:15-10:00 Time for Silent Reflection, Journal Writing, Copying the Sutras, or Meeting with Sensei

(Bring your own journal & writing supplies.)

10:00 a.m. Tea and Closing

Beginning meditators are welcome. Those in need of instruction are advised to arrive 15 minutes early. Others, please arrive at least 5 minutes before 8:00 am.

Call Rev. Jiko at 322-3524 for more information. Those who made their own sutra books at the workshop in January are invited to work on their books. Donations gratefully accepted.

Mahalo Nui

Warm thanks to Barbara Bosz-Burczyk and two anonymous donors for offering to sponsor our temple ad in the West Hawaii Today Church Directory.

A big mahalo to Kusato Okayama for his donation of labor and supplies in installing the temple's new sound system in the social hall.

Mahalo also to Steve Mann for fixing up the men's restroom and for installing a new choba door.

Arigato to Jan Bovard for caulking & painting the temple steps and ramp & to Velvet Replogle for spraying the weeds growing in the cemetery.

Thank you to Jack Tabata for making special altar tools used in incense preparation.

Thank you to Lorraine Tanimoto for keeping the temple library in order.

To the Fujinkai ladies who set up the 33 Kannon and prepared a delicious Ohigan lunch for the Sangha, domo arigato.

To all of our dedicated and hardworking temple volunteers, thank you very much!

Photos in Color

To enjoy the photos found in this newsletter in color, please go to our temple website at www.daifukuji.org and click on the calendar-newsletter link.



A Mountain of Rocks

Stonewall Report by Jan Bovard

Dear Members and Friends,

I would like to give you a short update on our stonewall project. On Friday, March 16 the wall on the north side of our driveway was unveiled in all its beauty. The workmanship is exquisite. The south-side wall will be completed on March 23. The men working have really put their heart and expertise into this wall and it shows. The pillars on either side of the driveway will be repaired and painted white after the wall is completed. With the wall pulled back, we will be much safer now as we enter and leave the temple. I wish to extend a huge thank you to all of you who have been so generous in your donations for the wall. I hope that when you see it finished, it will warm your heart to know that you had a special part in its creation.

Mahalo and gassho,
Jan Bovard



Nearly Completed

Sangha Photo Album Ohigan & 33 Kannon Osunafumi Service



Michiko, Jean, & Joyce filled the vases with flowers.



Kay Sugai helped set up the 33 Kannon altars.



Miyeko, Jane, & Yoshiko prepared the incense holders.



The pilgrims offered coins and prayers.



With staff in hand, Chirio Miyose led the pilgrimage.



Rev. Yoshida, Rev. Jiko, & Chirio enjoyed the "ono" lunch prepared by the Daifukuji Fujinkai.

Country Store Items Needed

The 42nd UHSSWA (United Hawaii Soto Shu Women's Association) Conference is coming up April 28-29 on the friendly island of Molokai. A group of 15 Daifukuji members will be attending this conference which will be hosted by the Guzeiji Soto Mission Fujinkai.

Items for the UHSSWA Country Store Fundraiser are needed. The Fujinkai welcomes donations of fruits, mac nuts, Kona coffee, small craft items, and baked goods, which should be dropped off by April 27. Preparation and packing will take place on Friday, April 27 at 6:00 pm. Medium-size boxes are needed.

Please call Joyce at 329-3833 if you have questions regarding the Country Store or are able to donate items. The Country Store coordinator is Lorraine Tanimoto.

2008 Japan Trip

With the help of Rev. Tamiya who now resides in Niigata, Rev. Jiko has begun planning a 2008 Japan Tour which will be open to Daifukuji members and friends. This 2-week tour will depart Kona at the end of May or beginning of June, 2008. We will be visiting the Tamiya family at their temple Kogenji in Niigata city and going to unforgettable places such as Eiheiiji Monastery in Fukui, the ancient capital of Kyoto with its many lovely temples, the famous Japanese garden called Korakuen in Kanazawa, the site of the great Buddha statue in Nara, and the breathtaking seaside town of Mikimoto, famous for its pearls. Details of the tour, including cost, will be announced when available. The itinerary is subject to change. Please inform Rev. Jiko if you might be interested in joining this Sangha tour to Japan.

A tentative headcount is needed for planning purpose.

Welcome, New Members!

With great joy and appreciation, we welcome the following new members to our Sangha:

Jane Bergenn
Mayo and Randy Chinn
Connie Ermence
Verna and Wayne Fukunaga
Mary Nakagawa
Keith Tanaka and Geoffrey Gray
Pa'av Vanek
Doris and Bill Yamanoha

We also truly appreciate our continuing members and supporters.

Fujinkai Sushi Sale Mahalo

by Renee Kimura

Thank you to all who generously donated ingredients, monetary donations, and their time to support our sushi sale. Many mahalos to Brian and Avis Yamamoto who donated and printed the labels, to Jean and Myles Ikeda for the paper and printed tickets, and to Lopaka for lining the floor and helping set up the tables and chairs. A special thank you to early risers Chirio Miyose, Julio Fernandez, and Myles Ikeda who helped with the rice, and to our faithful sushi rollers Merle Uyeda and Mikie Hanato-Wells who came to help us. Thank you to Akemi Iwamoto for being our runner.

The Fujinkai ladies were enthusiastic as usual and worked as a team. Thank you, ladies! With all of the many helping hands and the support of the sushi lovers in our community, this sushi sale was a great success. Mahalo nui loa.



The Story of the Buddha's Birth

2,600 years ago in a small kingdom in northern India, Queen Maya had a wondrous dream in which a brilliant white light shone down upon her from the heavens. In this light there appeared a magnificent white elephant with six large tusks which drew closer and closer to her until it entered her body. The queen awoke, feeling happy and peaceful.

Told of this dream, the wise men said it was an excellent sign that an exceptional child would be born to the king and queen. The royal couple was delighted.

When the time of birth approached, the queen departed for the home of her parents, as was the custom in those days. The queen and her attendants stopped to rest in the beautiful garden of Lumbini, where the queen, feeling the pangs of childbirth, took hold of a branch of a flowering Asoka tree which showered its blossoms upon the gentle queen who gave birth to a son. Legend says that the baby prince took seven steps and, pointing one hand to heaven and the other to earth, a posture depicted in the image of the infant Buddha, which is placed inside the *hanamido* (flower shrine) on Buddha Day.

Waves of peace and happiness spread throughout the land and magnificent rainbows appeared in the sky. Sweet rain fell from the heavens and everywhere people and animals rejoiced.

Hanamatsuri, the festival of flowers, was first observed in Japan in the 14th year of the reign of Empress Suiko 1,300 years ago and to this day is observed on the 8th of April.

Dear members and friends, Buddha Day is one of the holiest days of the year for Buddhists. It is a day of great joy and celebration. Please take time out of your busy schedules to come to the temple on Sunday, April 8. Join us in honoring the birth of our great teacher, Shakyamuni Buddha, whose wise teachings lead us from the realms of selfishness, anger, fear, and greed to the peaceful realms of lovingkindness, compassion, understanding, and truth.

**Not to commit any harm,
To do good,
To purify one's mind –
This is the teaching of the Buddha.**

**Namu Kie Butsu. We take refuge in the
Buddha Namu Kie Ho. We take refuge in the
Dharma Namu Kie So. We take refuge in the
Sangha.**

In loving gassho,
Rev. Jiko Nakade

Sangha Movie Night "Japanland"

Saturday, April 21, 2007

7:00 p.m.

"Japanland" is a captivating film about an adventurous American woman named Karin Muller who travels throughout Japan, experiencing the heart of Japanese life, art, religion, and culture. You will surely enjoy this movie & will want to read Ms. Muller's book. Invite your friends. There's no charge.



In Memoriam

To the family of the late Tsutomu Yamaguchi, who passed away on March 10 at the age of 83, we extend our deepest sympathy. Tsutomu-san, who helped our temple in many ways over the years, will be greatly missed. His funeral service is scheduled for April 14 at 11 am, with visitation at 10 a.m. *Namu Kie Butsu, Namu Kie Ho, Namu Kie So.*



The fragrance of Fujiko Akamatsu's orchids fills our temple.

Flowers Needed for Altars

Each week cut flowers are needed for the temple altars. In order to avoid having to purchase them, we are asking you to please share the lovely flowers that grow in your home gardens. Anthuriums, protea, mums, and orchids are especially good. We avoid using flowers that have thorns or sticky sap. Please gently remove ants and other little creatures from the flowers. Your offerings of flowers to the Buddha will bring joy to many. Mahalo to Nancy Tanaka, Janet Kawamoto, Kimie Masuda, Yaeko Hakoda, Yoshiko Ikeda, & Fujiko Akamatsu for the pretty flowers which they've recently brought to the temple.

Looking Ahead: **A Workshop on Communication**

A workshop on "Inner disarmament: the Art of Pro-active Integral Communication" taught by Rev. Robert Joshin Althouse of the Zen Community of Oak Park will take place at Daifukuji from Aug. 24 to 26. Learn the power of empathic listening and communication skills that improve & enhance relationships. There'll be more information in upcoming newsletters.

Mark Your Calendars...

- April 8 Hanamatsuri Buddha Day Service
- May 20 Annual Building Fund Bazaar
- May 27 Memorial Day Service & Baccalaureate Luncheon
- June 9 Sangha Summer Camp
- June 16 4th Annual Obon Festival at Keauhou Shopping Center
- July 14 Daifukuji Bon Service & Bon Dance
- July 22 Kona Daifukuji Orchid Club's Annual Orchid Show

