



Daifukuji Soto Mission

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Treasuring the Past, Embracing the Present

December 2007

Bodhi Day Jodo-E Service & General Membership Meeting (2008 Japan Trip Information Session)

Sunday, December 9 9:30 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Clear Englebert

All are warmly invited to our Bodhi Day service on December 9 at which we will celebrate the enlightenment of the Buddha Shakyamuni.

The guest Dharma speaker will be Sangha member Clear Englebert. Clear was at one time a Soto Zen lay minister and at one time a monk at Shasta Abbey in northern California. Today he is well known in our community as a feng shui consultant and author of several books on feng shui. He is a member of the Daifukuji Sangha and zazenkai and has been assisting Jiko Sensei in preparing a Buddhist education program at Daifukuji which will be offered next year. (See more on this subject on page 6.)

The annual general membership meeting will be held in the social hall following lunch. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting. Information on the 2008 Japan trip will be presented by Rev. Jiko after the general meeting.

Fujinkai members, your kokua in the kitchen at 7 a.m. is humbly requested. Flowers for the altars are always appreciated. Please drop off flowers before or on the morning of Friday, December 7.

May everyone have a very happy Bodhi Day!

Year End Temple Clean Up Sunday, November 25 8:00 am

***Members, Friends, and Temple Groups:
We humbly request your help in cleaning up
our temple, social and cultural halls,
nokotsudo, yard, and cemetery. Onegai
shimasu.***

Rohatsu Sesshin

December 1-8 6:00 – 7:15 a.m. daily

Those who practice meditation travel long distances to participate in the morning zazen that starts at 6:00 am every morning from Dec. 1-8. Called the *rohatsu sesshin*, this is a period of concentrated zazen practice in the days leading up to the Buddha's enlightenment on the 8th of December. Zazen sessions are open to all and participants are given the choice of sitting on a chair or on a cushion (zafu). We sit silently for 25 minutes, do a 10-minute walking meditation, sit again for 25 minutes, and conclude with a 15-minute morning service in the Kannon Hall. Please call Jiko Sensei at 322-3524 for information.

***Zazenkai members, you are cordially invited to
the annual Zazenkai breakfast at Teshima's on
December 8, the last day of the Rohatsu Sesshin.
Please call Yoshiko Ikeda at 322-3533 by
December 1st to put in your reservation. This
breakfast is free for zazenkai members.***

Hawaii Island



The next Project Dana Senior Activity Morning will be held on Wednesday, December 12 from 8:30 am until noon. For information about Project Dana, call Vivian Ontai at 322-0942 or Reiko Sekine at 334-1127.



Exercise is fun with Mayo Chinn leading the group.



Mah jong keeps the mind strong as these ladies know.



Playing hanafuda is fun and requires concentration.

Kannon-ko & Ofudayaki Services

Sunday, December 16

7:30 p.m.

It is time to bring your old *ofuda* and *omamori* to the temple so that they can be burned during the Kannon and Ofudayaki services on December 16. *Ofuda* refers to the house blessing papers that are hung in homes and businesses and *yaki* means “to burn.” *Omamori* are the Buddhist prayer charms that are hung in vehicles to invite the blessings of safety and protection from harm. Although the blessings of the Buddha do not run out at the end of the year, it is proper to greet the new year with fresh, new *omamori* and *ofuda*, so the old ones are respectfully burned at this service in mid-December. Altar items are always handled with respect, even when the time comes to dispose of them.

The end of the year is also a good time to burn away unwholesome desires and attachments that no longer contribute to your well being. One need not carry them into the new year.

Please join us for an evening of candlelight, chanting, music, and prayer.

Please bring your old *ofuda* and *omamori* to the temple before or on December 16. New *ofuda* and *omamori* will be available at the New Year’s Blessing services. A warm mahalo to the Fujinkai members who are weaving our special Hawaii Kannon *omamori*.



Namu Kanzeon Bosatsu!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Renkio Hanato-Wells and Mia Tokumura upon the birth of their daughter Mela Aimi Napualani Tokumura-Hanato-Wells.

Congratulations to Keith Hanato and Sheena Respicio upon the birth of their son Hayden Ayana Minoru Hanato-Respicio.

Teen Sangha Maui Trip

by Katherine Medler

(Katherine is a member of the Daifukuji Teen Sangha and a senior at Konawaena High School.)

It's difficult to find a group of teenagers awake at 5:00 in the morning, but on October 2, 2007, seven of us gathered at the airport for our trip to Maui. We were tired, but definitely looking forward to a full day of new experiences. After a smooth airplane ride, accompanied by a minor redistribution of seats, we were met in Maui by Rev. Kenji of Mantokuji Soto Mission in Pa'ia. A surprisingly young minister, the reverend was our leader as we toured three distinct Buddhist temples.

Our first stop was a Rinzai Zen temple, a beautiful, simple building located right on the beach. The group met with the minister there and learned about the differences between Rinzai Zen and Soto Zen Buddhism. After a short lecture, we set off for the Maui Dharma Center, a Tibetan temple. The reverend of the Rinzai temple later joined us for lunch at Mantokuji.

At the Maui Dharma Center, we met the Lama, a soft-spoken man with so much to offer. The temple was decorated in characteristic Tibetan style: brightly colored prayer flags, and ornate sculptures in honor of various bodhisattvas and buddhas. It was a small area, but incredibly intimate and powerful. There, Rabjee Sensei was able to take a break from his English lessons and spoke to the Lama in Tibetan. Although we had no idea what they were saying, we all agreed it was a beautiful language and a pleasure to see both men so animated

Next, we visited Mantokuji Soto Mission, one of Daifukuji's sister Soto Zen temples. The three temples were very near to each other, in the small town of Pa'ia, a quaint community of small shops and quiet streets. We meditated at Mantokuji with the sound of the waves in the background, an incredibly peaceful experience. The Fujinkai ladies prepared a wonderful lunch for us and we were able to meet some of their members.

After visiting the different temples and experiencing the unique aspects of Buddhism, we drove to I'ao Valley. The infamous site of Kamehameha's great battle for control of the island was lush and incredibly well-preserved. Our afternoon nature trip was followed by a few hours at the mall, which was a quick walk from our hotel.

The next morning, we visited the town of Lahaina, known for its importance to the missionaries of the 1800s and as a port. The town was crowded with tourists, filled with art galleries and ABC stores, similar to Kona's Ali'i Drive. However, the quick drive to the airport showed a much different side of Maui. The coastal highway meandered along the beautiful cliffs and beaches of Maui Island.

But no matter how much we enjoyed the trip, we were all glad to be home, in Kona.



Buddhas & Bodhisattvas at the Maui Dharma Center

Zen Taiko Group Invites New Members

The Daifukuji Zen Taiko **adult** taiko group is now welcoming new members to their group which practices on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 pm in the Hisashi Kimura Cultural Hall. For information, call instructor Kris Yamauchi at 326-1351 or 854-1625.

2008 Daifukuji Soto Mission Japan Tour

May 28 – June 9, 2008

Information Session by Rev. Jiko Following General Membership Meeting on Dec. 9

At last I have the itineraries for our 2008 Daifukuji Soto Mission Japan Tour! To all of you who have been waiting, thank you for your patience. Please make every effort to come to the Jodo-E Bodhi Day service on December 9 and to attend the Japan Tour information session that I will be holding immediately after our short general membership meeting at lunchtime. I will have an itinerary to give to you and will explain how the cost of this tour depends upon the number of people going. (It will be somewhere between \$3,282 - \$3,700 per person. This includes air and ground transportation, admission to the various sites, some meals, the services of an English-speaking guide escort, portorage, and a group photo and is based on 2 persons to a hotel room.) I will be collecting a deposit of \$100 per person made payable to Kobayashi Travel.

The itinerary looks fantastic – a well-balanced combination of visits to famous temples, scenic spots, cultural events, and lots of unique shopping opportunities. I'm already excited about going to Eiheiji Monastery which was founded by Dogen Zenji and Sojiji Soin Temple which was founded by Keizan Zenji and seeing Rev. Tamiya and his family and temple in Niigata City. Taiko lovers will enjoy a performance by Gojinjyo Daiko in Wajima and Asano Taiko where taiko drums are made. Shoppers will enjoy the incredible variety of shops that we'll be stopping at along the way. I'm told that it takes up to 3 months to get a passport these days, so please work on getting your passport if you're planning to go on this tour in May.

If you've signed up for the tour or are interested in learning more about it, please come to the information session on December 9th. If for some reason you can't make it, please see me for an itinerary.

Mochitsuki (Mochi Making & Sale) Coming Up Friday, December 28

3:00 am	Rice Cooking Begins	Kagami Mochi \$4.00 per set (2 pcs)
5:00 am	Mochi Making Begins	Ko-mochi \$5.00 per tray (10 pcs)
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Mochi Pick Up	

Mochi making at the end of the year is a Japanese tradition. It is also a Daifukuji tradition, one which involves a lot of hard work, but also brings joy and good fortune to the Sangha and larger community. The annual mochitsuki is also a fundraiser that benefits both the Daifukuji Teen Sangha and the Daifukuji Youth Taiko group.

A MOCHI ORDER FORM will be mailed to you shortly. Once you receive it, please turn in your order form as soon as possible since tickets will be assigned on a first-come-first-served basis. You may also purchase tickets after the Bodhi Day service on December 9 or from taiko members.

This mochi sale is only possible with the help of many volunteers. Please come out and help if you are able. There will be two shifts on Friday, Dec. 28: 1) 5 am – 11 am, and 2) 11 am – pau (including clean up). Please call Rev. Jiko at 322-3524 to sign up for a shift. Onegai shimasu.

Taiko students and Teen Sangha members, please gather at the temple kitchen at 8 am on Thur., December 27 to wash the mochi rice and equipment and to prepare for the mochitsuki. Thank you.

Ode to Happy Tears

By Amy Jikai Nakade

(Amy Jikai, a student at UH Hilo, met the Daifukuji group at the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i and enjoyed being with her Sangha ohana for a few happy hours.)

1

One sunny Sunday in mid-October,
'Twas the best day for a temple field trip;
From Kona to Hilo, they drove over

I trudged up the hill, watching the cruise ship
Walking to the 'Imiloa Center
Oh, but these bugs! I prayed I wouldn't flip...

Waiting for Family and Friends to enter,
Shivering and shaking down to my bones
'Whilst I thought of vacations in winter

I then looked up to remove my headphones;
The spirits in me leaped and danced with joy
Everyone greeted me in such sweet tones.

Just when I thought the tears of joy would flow
We all walked in the "dome" to watch the show!

2

Next, we were led on a guided tour,
Admiring each and every display;
With "Family" there – it was never a bore.

Everything seemed to be going okay,
For all that was there, it was too much fun
It had truly been a glorious day!

Hard to believe my fun was almost done,
I wandered around the little gift shop,
Treasuring the time spent with everyone.

Suddenly all the joy came to a stop,
It came to the time for them to move on,
Seemed like a dream; the tears began to drop.

Shedding these tears which I tried hard to fight,
Waving good-bye – these Happy tears felt right.



Our Daifukuji group gathered around this mosaic to listen to staff member Bill Yamanoha.



Dharma friends Nancy, Reiko, Jan, Faye, Sumiko, and Kazumi sit together at the Queen Lilioukalani Gardens in Hilo.



Renee, Rayne, Raymond, Lutz, Erica, Analyn, & Sarah happily wait for their bentos at lunchtime in the park.

2008 Dharma Study Sessions

by Clear Englebert

There will be two five-week series of Dharma Study sessions at Daifukuji in 2008. The first series will be February 21 through March 27, excepting March 6. The second series will be August 14 through September 11. The sessions are all on Thursdays from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Each session begins with twenty minutes of seated meditation. There is a \$25 suggested donation per series (\$5 per class), but donations are not required. All ages are welcome, and pre-registration is encouraged.

The focus of the first series will be the Buddhist precepts. These succinct sentences were passed down through Dogen Zenji and Keizan Zenji to guide us from the behavior which creates more suffering for ourselves and others. The precepts begin with taking refuge in the Three Treasures – Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. Following that are the Three Pure Precepts – Cease from evil, Do only good, Do good for others. Then there are the Ten Great Precepts: Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not covet, Do not say that which is untrue, Do not sell the wine of delusion, Do not speak against others, Do not be proud of yourself and devalue others, Do not be mean in giving either Dharma or wealth, Do not be angry, Do not debase the Three Treasures. This version of the precepts is from Dogen Zenji's Shushogi chapter of the *Shobogenzo*, translated by Roshi Jiyu Kenneth in *Zen is Eternal Life*. There are many translations of these Dharma jewels – shedding light on their various facets.

A personal note:

I was ordained as a Soto Lay person in 1976 at Shasta Abbey in northern California. At one time I was a lay minister, and at one time I was a monk. I have never been a Buddhist teacher, and am not qualified to be, but I can do the two things that Rev. Jiko has asked of me: help with the selection of scriptures to study, and facilitate the Dharma Study sessions. I've been a professional bookseller and librarian for most of my life, and this has made me aware of the vast number of the

Buddhist scriptures and their various translations.

Buddhist scriptures have been written through thousands of years in various circumstances. Some of the writings from India were originally oral and are repetitive and rich in imagery. Our modern ears are not used to this type of writing and they can be difficult. Other writings can have their meanings hidden behind code words. This happened a lot in China, where there were at least three bloody repressions of Buddhism, when it was seen as a foreign influence. To decode these poems and scriptures properly takes a translator who has had the same enlightenment experience as the scripture writer. Then there are some scriptures which were written simply and manage to reach our hearts even in a clumsy translation. *The Dhammapada* is an example of a stunningly clear scripture. To read it is to love and cherish it. My favorite translation is by P. Lal:

*There is only one eternal law:
Hate never destroys hate; only love does.*

*Some never see the point of disciplining
themselves.
Others do; they are the wise ones; they do not
argue.*

Coffee Festival Mahalo

“Okaasan’s Oishii Obento” booth was a hit at the Kona Coffee Cultural Festival. *Domo arigato* to the many Fujinkai members and supporters who made this year’s bento and manju sale a huge success.



In Memoriam

To the family of the late Dr. Tadao Miyamoto who passed away on October 1, 2007 at the age of 89, we express our love and sympathy.

To the family of the late Leatrice Sakae Miyasato who passed away on October 26, 2007 at the age of 76, we extend our heartfelt condolences.

Namu Kie Butsu. Namu Kie Ho. Namu Kie So.



Hawaii Soto Shu ministers surrounding Bishop Jiho Machida and visiting teacher Abbot Wendy Egyoku Nakao at the Soto Mission of Hawaii in Honolulu

Bodhi Day Aloha from Jiko Sensei

Dear Members and Dharma Friends,

How quickly another year is coming to an end! It's been a challenging year for me in many ways, but each challenge has been yet another opportunity for growth and training. It's all *shugyo*, all training and, hopefully, greater opening of my heart and mind. In a hundred ways I am grateful to be stretched.

I am also deeply and truly grateful for all of you, the members and supporters of Daifukuji who together are creating a temple community that is compassionate, tolerant, and nurturing. Ours is a Sangha of hardworking and faithful folks whose motto is kindness. While it is true that in times of stress we sometimes temporarily lose our cool and

get into each other's hair, we are a group that always returns to the practice of kindness. We know how to apologize for our mistakes, take responsibility, let go of our anger, and move forward without holding a grudge. The light of the Buddha's wisdom illuminates our hearts and minds; the compassionate, loving gaze of the Hawaii Kannon-sama reminds us that kindness and mercy can put out the smoldering fires of bitterness and hatred.

Buddha Nature. We see, respect, and honor each other's Buddha Nature.

Buddha Nature. All beings are fundamentally buddhas --- you and I, the children, the elders, our neighbors, the dogs and cats and chickens, the flowers, even the grumpy ones.

Dogen Zenji took "All beings have buddha nature" and carried this realization to the higher plane of "All beings are buddha nature."

We are fortunate to have the practice called *zazen*, that which Dogen Zenji called "the dharma gate of joyful ease, the practice-realization of totally culminated enlightenment."

Zazen. Shikantaza. Just sitting. So no mama. You can try it if you wish. The Rohatsu sesshin is a good time for just sitting in the midst of holiday madness.

The holy day (holi-day) of the Buddha's great enlightenment is approaching. The 8th of December is a significant day for Buddhists. It is a day for quiet celebration, a day for reflection, a day for serenely sitting, a day for enjoying the wise company of the Sangha. Please join our Sangha in observing Bodhi Day on the 9th of December. May this Day of Enlightenment bring you peace, joy, and awakening. All of you are in my heart.

Namu Kie Butsu. Namu Kie Ho. Namu Kie So.

December 2007						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
COMING UP IN JAN. Jan. 1 New Year's Blessing Service 10 am Jan. 6 Fujinkai Hatsumairi 10 am	Jan. 9 Project Dana Jan. 16 Kannon-ko Jan. 19 Daifukuji New Year's Party					1 Rohatsu Sesshin Begins 6 a.m. Fujinkai Bento Making for Pulama la Kona
2 Zazen 6 am Goeika practice 8 am Family Service 9:30 am	3 Zazen 6 a.m. Happy Strummers 7:30 pm	4 Zazen 6 a.m.	5 Zazen 6 am Fujinkai Board Meeting 7:00 pm	6 Zazen 6 a.m. Daifukuji Board Meeting 7 pm No Evening Zazen	7 Zazen 6 a.m. Samu 8 a.m.	8 Last Day of Rohatsu Sesshin Zazen 6 am Zazenkaï Breakfast 7:30 am
9 JODO-E BODHI DAY SERVICE AND GEN. MEMBERSHIP MEET. 9:30 a.m.	10	11	12 Zazen 6 am Project Dana Kupuna Morning 8:30 am - noon	13 Evening Zazen 7 pm	14 Samu 8 am Sangha Sisters 7 pm	15
16 Family Service 9:30 am KANNON-KO AND OFUDAYAKI 7:30 PM	17 Happy Strummers 7:30 pm	18	19 Zazen 6 am	20 No Evening Zazen	21 Samu 8am	22
23 No Family Service 30 No Family Service Until January 13	24 31 New Year's Blessing Service 11:45 pm	25	26 Zazen 6 am	27 Mochitsuki Prep Day (Taiko & Teen Sangha Groups) No Evening Zazen	28 (Samu tomorrow) MOCHITSUKI Please koku! 3 am Rice Cooking 5 am Mochi Making 9 AM-3 PM Mochi Pick Up	29 Samu 8 am
Regular Activities:						
* Youth Taiko- Mon & Wed. 5p.m. *** Yoga –Sun. 4 p.m.		** Adult Taiko-Tues. 6 pm (Kris Sensei 854-1625, 326-1351) **** Aikido - Tues. 5 pm, Thur. 6 pm (Mothes Sensei 324-1214)				