

# Daifukuji Soto Mission

Treasuring the Past, Embracing the Present

Looking forward to our 2014 centennial celebration!



79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealakekua, HI 96750

May, 2012

(808) 322-3524 [www.daifukuji.org](http://www.daifukuji.org)



## DAIFUKUJI BAZAAR

SUNDAY,  
**MAY 6, 2012**

**9 A.M. - 1 P.M.**

**Items for bazaar may be dropped off April 23 - May 4.**

**Set up will take place on Saturday, May 5 at 8 a.m.  
Help is needed.**

Questions? Wish to volunteer? Call bazaar co-chairs: Joyce St. Arnault (329-3833) and Ron Iwamoto (322-9147).

*This bazaar benefits our building fund. Come out and enjoy the fun and fellowship! More information on p. 9.*



## Memorial Day Service and The Blessing of Our Graduates

**Sunday, May 27**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Wesley Sugai**

Prayers for world peace and a remembrance of our fallen soldiers and victims of war, as well as the blessing of our sangha's high school graduates, will be the focus of Daifukuji's Memorial Day service and baccalaureate ceremony which will be held May 27 at 9:30 a.m. The guest speaker for this occasion will be Dr. Wesley Sugai. A luncheon to honor the graduates will follow the service. All are invited.

We congratulate the following young men and women who will be graduating in May: Danelle Awa, Ciara Cetraro, Brittany Denzer, Shanelle Fujii (Oahu), & Rachel Inouye.

If you know of any other graduate whose family belongs to our sangha, please inform Rev. Jiko as soon as possible so that an invitation can be sent.

We are proud of all of our graduates. *Omedetō gozaimasu!*

## **Fresh Produce Needed for Bazaar**



This year our bazaar produce committee will not be going to Waimea to harvest & bring back donated produce. Instead, we are asking our local farmers and home gardeners for donations of fresh fruits and vegetables. Please call Jack Tabata (322-3173) or Joyce St. Arnault (329-3833) if you would like to donate fresh produce.

## **Altar Table Restored for Centennial**

Thanks to the generosity of a temple member who wishes to remain anonymous, an altar table that was heavily damaged and hidden under a purple brocade for many years was recently restored by artist Cal Hashimoto (pictured in photo above).



This table (called a *maetsukue* in Japanese) was donated in 1952 on the occasion of Dogen Zenji's 700th-year memorial service when a group from Daifukuji, led by the sixth minister of our temple, the late Bishop Gyokuei Matsuura, made a pilgrimage to Eiheiji & Sojiji head monasteries. The names of the following donors are engraved in a panel on the back of this table: Tadashi Harai, Chomatsu & Yono Yamasaki; Fukuichi, Toyo, & Joichi Arase; Tomoharu (Guji) Yoneyama; Fuku Sugai, Tanizo & Tai Takagi; Kumahiro Tagawa; Hide Fukumitsu; Sue Ushijima; Masuye Matsuura, Haru Matsumoto, Toki Togashi, Shino Suzuki, Nobu Suzuki, and Natsuyo Umezawa. We express our gratitude to our ancestors & hope that we have somehow honored their memory by restoring this precious altar table.

## **In Memoriam**



To the family of the late Kikuno Asada, 93, who passed away on March 19, 2012, we express our deepest sympathy.

To the family of the late Dorothy Wada, 81, who passed away on March 24, 2012 in Honolulu, we send our loving thoughts.

*Namu Shakamuni Butsu*

## **Welcome, New Members**



It is with much aloha that the Daifukuji Sangha welcomes the following new members:

Lopaka Quitevis and Cecilia Woodbury  
Elvin Hakoda

The Daifukuji Fujinkai welcomes the following new member: Chris Jien McLaughlin

*Thank you for joining our sangha ohana!*

## **Alcohol-free Premises**

At its April 5th meeting, the Daifukuji Board of Directors voted on making Daifukuji Soto Mission and its premises, including the social hall, an alcohol-free zone.

## **Library News**

by Clear Englebert



The Buddhist Publication Society in Sri Lanka is extremely well respected. From it comes these two remarkable children's books: "Morals in the Life Story of the Buddha" and "Lesson Plans for Teaching Youth Morals in the Life of the Buddha" both by Margaret Buschmann. The first one is for children and the second one is for adults who are teaching children. I've never seen Buddhist Dharma presented for children in such a wonderful way.

We also have two vintage children's books: "Long Ago in India" is from the Sunday School Department of the Buddhist Churches of America in 1972.

"Bodai" by Hawaii Soto Young Buddhist Association has no date in it, so I would very much appreciate, if anyone knows roughly when this book was published, please let me or Rev. Jiko know. The book has specific Soto information in it, such as Dogen's works, Segaki, Jukai, and Kechimyaku (which is the lineage of Soto Zen from the present back to Sakyamuni). We have not had anything like this in the children's section of the library.

"I Was Once a Monkey: Stories Buddha Told" by Jeanne Lee is a very beautifully illustrated hardback containing six Jataka tales.

Another excellent hardback children's book is "Buddhism" by Philip Wilkinson. It's in the Eyewitness series from DK Publishing in England. That company is famous for making very informative books that are also quite visually appealing, and this book is no exception.

The new adult books are:

"Be Free Where You Are" is delightful small book by Thich Nhat Hanh.

"The Penguin Book of Zen Poetry" is edited and translated by Lucien Stryk and Takashi Ikemoto.

"Perfect Just as You Are" is an eight-CD boxed set by Pema Chodron.

"Saltwater Buddha: A Surfer's Quest to Find Zen of the Sea" is a young adult book by Jaimal Yogi.

"Four Talks Given on the Hsin Hsin Ming" by Genpo Merzel is a special issue of the journal Kanzeon from 1987. It contains the famous Chinese Zen poem and Merzel's extensive commentary on it.

"The Way of Tea" by Rand Castile is one of the most deluxe books in the library. It has black and white illustrations and comes in a slipcase. It's as subtly elegant as the ceremony itself.

# The Bodhgaya Experience

by Ryan Jigaku Nakade

As I walked up the stairs into a small, dark room crammed with three beds, I knew it was going to be a long, strange night. Let's see, the sheets are stained brown, there are bootprints all over the wall and ceiling, and the bathroom is down the hall behind a locked door. The whole floor looked like an old mental asylum. Dim lights, cracked windows, rusty locks binding doors shut, and an utterly grimy feeling permeated the whole hotel. My bed felt like a rock covered with a sheet; but I guess when you are in India, things could be worse.



What were we doing in such a place? We were visiting Bodhgaya, the place of the Buddha's enlightenment. Bodhgaya is the home of the Bodhi tree, the tree under which the Buddha sat for seven days straight until he attained the ultimate realization. Growing up as a Buddhist, I had known of this place since I was four years old. As a child, I had heard many stories and seen many works of art on the life of the Buddha, which have always touched me deeply. Now I found myself here, no longer in dreams or fantasies of soul-longing, but in the flesh and blood. I was ecstatic, but what I would soon experience under the tree surpassed my wildest expectations.

Because I grew up in a Buddhist temple, Buddhism has always had a special place in my heart. I resonated very much with Hinduism and the teachings of Yoga, but Buddhism is my core, my roots, what molded me into who I am now. Even just thinking about this ignites a burning feeling in my heart, with an intensity that nothing else has ever matched. Prior to landing in Bodhgaya, my group had visited many Hindu holy sites, which were all beautiful and inspiring, but I felt something was missing. We visited place after place, but I longed to connect with something deeper and more meaningful. I had hoped Bodhgaya would be such a place, and to my delight, it was. As soon as I heard the sweet sound of Chinese Buddhist music and saw droves of Buddhist monks walking down the streets, I felt the deepest fulfillment, like the feeling of coming home after a long, hard journey. It was the most wonderful feeling, but one that was short-lived, because my hotel room provided the completely opposite feeling.

While settling into my room, I noticed that the sounds of the street were blaring. So I went to the windows and closed them — only to find that doing so did absolutely nothing because there was a huge, cracked hole in the top window! Honking horns, hollering merchants, and blaring Bollywood music streamed through the broken glass right into my ears. Even my headphones hardly helped to stop the barrage of piercing sound.

Noise wasn't the only thing deranging my equilibrium— my room was swarming with mosquitos. They constantly buzzed in my ear, and bit any morsel of flesh they could land on. Big, itchy sores began to pop up all over my body, and worst of all, I didn't bring any mosquito ointments to stop the itching. So I grabbed my blanket and covered my face to stop the onslaught of bites and blood loss.

However, the hotel blankets were so filthy that I began having an allergic reaction to them! My lower lip began to swell up like a balloon, and my face began puffing up like a blowfish. On top of that, my nose began running profusely, and after fumbling around through my bag in the dark, I realized I had no tissues! So I grabbed a pair of my pants and blew my nose on them. It was disgusting, but I was getting desperate. Worst of all, I had no antihistamines to stop the allergic reactions; all I could do was watch in horror as my face continued to swell.

## **cont. The Bodhgaya Experience**

Swarms of mosquitos, boiling bites, obnoxious Indian music, dogs barking... could it get any worse? It could. My roommate filled the room with snores and sleeping farts. He was one of the loudest snorers I have ever heard. The combination of smells, noises, and itchy sensations made for a complete torture session for all of my senses; I could even taste the dust sprinkling into my mouth from the blankets. I have no idea how I survived the night; all I did was pray and focus on one breath at a time, and wait for morning to come.

*Sunrise, at last.* After a hearty breakfast and a sharing of the night's horror stories, I walked with my group along the streets of Bodhgaya to the entrance of the Bodhi shrine. It was quite a scene: the streets were lined with shops, crippled and one-armed beggars were at every corner, and Buddhist monks from every tradition strutted around in their red, brown, and orange robes. It was utter chaos, but underneath the havoc of everyday Bodhgaya life lay a calm undercurrent of peace and tranquility. Beneath the crazy traffic and honking horns, there was an underlying energy that made one feel that everything was going to be okay, no matter how difficult the outer circumstances. It was this energy that guided me through the night, and would soon guide me into bliss.

As we approached the entrance to the Bodhi shrine, the energy began to change. I could sense something magical, something benevolent within the gates, something peaceful, holy, and sacred. Sure enough, the moment we stepped through the shrine gates, the outer chaos of the streets vanished completely. I was overcome with the strongest sense of peace and joy, which lifted my whole face into an ear-to-ear smile. It was the energy of an unshakeable peace, and I knew in my heart that something very powerful happened here thousands of years ago.

After entering the shrine and bowing to the Buddha statue, I made my way over to the Bodhi tree. I couldn't believe I was actually at the place where the Buddha attained enlightenment. Tears began to stream from my eyes , but my heart was so buoyant I thought it would float away like a helium balloon. I bowed and placed my head on the tree's altar, then took a seat and crossed my legs alongside the other pilgrims and monks. I closed my eyes, and what I experienced next changed my life.



Suddenly, every problem I had ever had in my life came into my consciousness, floated into the sky, and vanished! My mind became filled with a natural lightness, which I realized was its original state when not bogged down by my egoistic worries and concerns. As I meditated, my usual anxieties would bubble up, but then get immediately neutralized and subdued by the tree's uplifting presence. Nothing could touch me, bother me, or get to me. I was illuminated, lying in Buddha's arms, infinitely protected by grace and light.

## **cont. The Bodhgaya Experience**

As I basked in the light, I realized that all of my problems I ever had were interconnected, stemming from a single, root core. I saw with my own mind's eye how all of my suffering came from one ball of egoistic attachment. Nothing existed separately from itself, everything was woven together in a tight fabric of interconnectedness. I realized the law of dependent origination for myself, which the Buddha discovered when he attained enlightenment -- at the very place where the Buddha sat in meditation 2,600 years ago. Everything was connected at the same source, and now that source was gone!



*Ah, such bliss. All there is is light.* After my meditation, I walked around the shrine gardens floating on waves of joyful tranquility. I felt so light, it was as if I were on the moon — one joyful bound would send me flying. There was nothing left in me, I felt like a completely emptied bowl filled with nothing but light. Everyone in my group was feeling it too; we all walked around in a dream-like trance of happiness and peace. Everything was cleared from my consciousness, I never felt so alive and lucid. I left Bodhgaya a transformed human being, and the bliss I encountered there stayed with me for the rest of the trip.

I will always remember Bodhgaya, and how much it transformed my life. From meditating under the Bodhi tree, I gained the greatest insight into my pain and suffering, and the road out of it was illuminated to me. I will look back and laugh at how I survived a torturous night, only to find my greatest freedom and joy the next day.

I will always remember the Buddha's place of enlightenment as clearly as yesterday, with its brilliant blue sky and ancient Indian sun. I will remember the majestic shrine that towers above the gardens, and the many monks and pilgrims who sought refuge in the Dharma, seeking the peace of Lord Buddha's presence alongside me. But most importantly, I will remember this as the place where I found my truest freedom, which filled my being with light and love, and now guides me onwards like an ethereal spirit, remaining with me, forever.



### **Buddha Day Mahalo**

Mahalo nui and domo arigato to Avis & Brian Yamamoto & Amy Jikai Nakade for decorating the hanamido with flowers donated by Nancy Tanaka & Chester Mitamura & for putting on an egg hunt for the children. Thank you also to Yaeko Hakoda & Richard Iwamuro for bringing anthuriums for the altars. And a big mahalo to the Daifukuji Zazenkai for a scrumptious Hanamatsuri meal. Thank you to all, including our guest speaker Lynne Mui Farr, for a sparkling Buddha Day.



## Congratulations from Rev. Jiko



*I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the following temple members who formally became disciples of the Buddha & received their Buddhist names at a Soto Zen Buddhist Lay Confirmation Ceremony which was officiated by Bishop Shugen Komagata on March 24, 2012:*



*Barbara Bosz -- Shōshin (Heart of Illumination)*

*Angy Chesler -- Anren (Serene Lotus)*

*Judie Fekete -- Myōkō (Wondrous Light)*

*Elaine Fernandez -- Keikō (Light of Blessings)*

*Yvonne Mikie Hanato-Wells -- Keion (Respect & Gratitude)*

*Philip Hema -- Kakuhō (Summit of Awakening)*

*Renee Kimura -- Seishin (Clear, Bright Heart)*

*Coral Mack -- Jinen (Compassionate & Mindful)*

*Chris McLaughlin -- Jien (Garden of Compassion)*

*Masanobu Oga -- Kenshin (Humble Heart)*

*Nancy Osako -- Seidō (Path of Serenity)*

*Joyce St. Arnault -- Yūkō (Gentle, Caring Light)*

*Brett Stone -- Jian (Compassionate & Peaceful)*

*Lorraine Tanimoto -- Jitoku (Compassionate & Virtuous)*

*Merle Uyeda -- Hōren (Dharma Lotus)*



## Reflections on the Confirmation Ceremony



*"Enlightening" and "tranquility" are a few of the words expressing my feelings during the confirmation ceremony. As I received my Dharma name and listened to Bishop Komagata read the 16 precepts, I felt an awareness of the meaning of Buddhism. It was truly a memorable experience.*

Lorraine Jitoku

*Before the church (Daifukuji) was built, my grandparents would have services at their home and people would come. Grandma was a strong Buddhist. I've never met my grandparents, but now more than ever, I feel a stronger connection to my ancestors, parents, siblings, grandparents, etc. and a greater understanding, a thirst for more knowledge, a sense of well being and strength.*

Mikie Kei-on



*For me, with the confirmation ceremony on March 24 came a sweet dissolve of the sense of separation. I felt, albeit temporarily (yes, All Is Impermanent), a pervasive kinship with not only the fourteen other ceremony participants but also with friends and family attending the service and with those officiating. Although my own personal family members, my daughters, my sister and brother, my grandson, were where they live on the mainland, last Sunday at Daifukuji I felt I was with my family. A sense of shared joy brought smiles to our faces and peace to our hearts.*

Coral Jinen

*The classes held prior to our confirmation ceremony allowed me to see the many different aspects of each precept and understand each one more deeply. Having practiced the Eight-fold Path for about two decades, I know it works. I know that generosity, seva, dana brings me happiness. My not listening deeply brings me suffering when I see the hurt in the eyes of loved ones. Years ago having once experienced feelings of oneness, feeling separation dissolve and drop away, I wanted to repeat that sensation, that merging with the everything. Spiritual readings suggest my chances should improve by having an intention and make a personal commitment to a solid practice. My vow to the 16 precepts was the perfect aspiration to make this practice a priority in my daily life. I went into this not for the name or ceremony but for dharma, yet the beautiful ceremony touched me deeply. There will always be a special place in my heart for that handful of people who put so much loving thought and energy into ensuring it would be a memorable experience. Boy, howdy, it was!*

Judie Myōkō



*I've a number of photos and sounds in my mind of the ceremony. The temple bell ringing at the start, the Bishop dipping a beautiful Bodhi leaf into water and sprinkling it, to cleanse the temple and us. Sitting for a little while calmed my excitement and settled me. Putting to flame my paper of repentance, seeing the smoke rise as everyone dropped theirs into the urn. Stepping up to the altar, bowing before the Bishop and Sensei, hearing my Buddhist name and its meaning, feeling so light, happy and grateful after that. Hearing all the other names was so heart filling! Then, receiving the wagesa, watching the bishop pass them through incense and putting it on. Seeing from the altar, all the friends and families who were there to support us, share their love and embrace us after. It was all so moving, loving, respectful, reverent, and sincere. It was a milestone in my life. I felt full of love, supported on my path, and united with those who have traveled before me. I am so thankful to the Bishop, Rev. Jiko, Jill Teiho, Amy Jikai, and my first sensei, Rev. Ryuji Tamiya, for living the example of what it means to be a Buddhist. To the sangha and friends of Daifukuji, my deep gratitude for your loving kindness.*

Barbara Shōshin

Daifukuji Soto Mission  
2012 Bazaar Donation Guidelines

1. Donations may be dropped off at the Daifukuji Hall from **April 23rd to May 4, 2012**. Please remember to include the Donor's name and address.
  - a. Place items inside the hall.
  - b. If the hall doors are closed, please leave the items near the door, and we will place the items in the hall for you.
2. Please have all rummage items cleaned. Clothing should be washed.
3. Donation of vegetables, fruits and other perishables may be dropped off Saturday May 5th by 4:00 p.m.
4. Donation of live plants may be dropped off on Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup> or by 7:00 a.m. Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup>.
5. Donation of baked goods and food items may be dropped off Sunday, May 6th by 7:00 a.m.
6. Sorry, but we **CANNOT** accept any old computers, heavy equipment, large appliances or items that do not work.

Thank you for your donation.  
Please join us for our Bazaar on  
Sunday, May 6, 2012  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

# May 2012

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

April 2012							May 2012							June 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
							6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
							15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
							22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10:00 AM Family sangha field trip	30 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	1 Accepting bazaar items	2 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:00 PM Fujinkai Board	3 9:00 AM Tai Chi Practice 5:00 PM Zen Taiko 7:00 PM Evening Zazen	4 8:00 AM Samu	5 8:00 AM Bazaar Set Up 10:00 AM Beginners youth taiko
6 Snack shop opens 8am BAZAAR 9 AM-1 PM	7 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:30 PM Happy Strummers	8 Project Dana 8:30 am	9 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:00 PM Orchid Club	10 9:00 AM Tai Chi Practice 5:00 PM Zen Taiko 7:00 PM Movie: Tibetan Book of the Dead	11 8:00 AM Samu 7:00 PM Sangha Sisters	12 9:30 AM Sutra Tracing 10:00 AM Beginners youth taiko
13 HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! 9:30 AM Family Service	14 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	15 7:00 PM Beg. Baika Practice	16 Kannon-ko 10 AM 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	17 9:00 AM Tai Chi Practice 5:00 PM Zen Taiko 7:00 PM Evening Zazen	18 8:00 AM Samu	19 10:00 AM Beginners youth taiko
20 8:00 AM Baikako Practice 9:30 AM Family Service	21 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	22 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	23 9:00 AM Tai Chi Practice 5:00 PM Zen Taiko	24 8:00 AM Samu	25 10:00 AM Beginners youth taiko	26
27 Memorial Day Service 9:30 am Baccalaureate	28 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	29 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	30 9:00 AM Tai Chi Practice 5:00 PM Zen Taiko	31 8:00 AM Samu	1 10:00 AM Beginners youth taiko	2