#### **Daifukuji Soto Mission**

#### **Living the Four Wisdoms**



79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealakekua, HI 96750

February, 2018

(808) 322-3524 www.daifukuji.org



Nehan-e Service & Potluck Lunch Sunday, February 11 9:30 a.m.

All are invited to Daifukuji's Nehan-e Service. This Nirvana Ceremony commemorates the pari-nirvana of Shakyamuni Buddha. A scroll showing the reclining Buddha surrounded by followers and animals in mourning will be displayed inside the temple. 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. A Dharma message will be delivered by **Robert Kakuzan Kobzi**, a member of our temple.

Lunch will be a potluck affair, so please bring something to share if you can.

The gift shop will be open. Donations of canned foods for the Hawaii Food Basket are always appreciated.

### Pancake Breakfast & Baked Goods Sale

Saturday, February 17 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. \$8.00 at the door



Our Fujinkai Women's Association is hosting a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Saturday, February 17. Tickets may be purchased in advance at \$8 apiece through Fujinkai members & the temple office. Tickets will also be sold at the door. Each ticket is good for one complete breakfast platter and coffee, tea, or juice. The ever-popular miso soup is included.

A baked goods sale will also be held. Come early since the manju & other goodies sell out quickly.

Let's all support our Fujinkai's fundraising efforts. Proceeds are used to fund conferences, field trips, and educational activities sponsored by the Fujinkai.

Questions? Please call the temple office at (808) 322-3524.

#### Welcome, New Members



Our sangha extends a warm aloha to the following new members:

Eliana Sattler

Iris Osako

Richard Adoradio

Chamika and Amina Fujioka

Our Daifukuji Fujinkai Women's Association welcomes **Yoshiko Hirai** as a new member.

New members are always welcome. For information, see Rev. Jiko or visit our website:http://www.daifukuji.org/membership brochure.pdf.





#### Congratulations!

Congratulations to Daifukuji centenarian **Sakae Oshima**, who attained the auspicious age of 100 on the 5th of January. Sakae enjoys participating in temple services, Fujinkai activities, and Project Dana. We pray that Sakae will continue to enjoy vibrant health for many more years. Happy 100th birthday, Sakae-san!

#### Mahalo Nui Loa

Our sangha extends a big mahalo to **Dennis Nakano** for donating his time & materials to redo and update the large cemetery map which is hung inside the cemetery pavilion. We also thank scholar Toru Hirakawa for providing detailed corrections to the previous map.



A warm mahalo to **Pat Kadooka** of Designs by Kadooka for creating and donating a beautiful ihai made of koa in memory of Daifukuji's 7th minister, the late Reverend Hakudo Sato. This ihai has been enshrined in the temple's memorial alcove along with the memorial tablets of past temple ministers.

Thank you to all who collected and turned in KTA supermarket receipt points during the holidays. Thanks to you, we were able to receive a variety of food items, which will be used for our New Year's party and other temple functions. Arigato to Elaine, Julio, and Ann for redeeming the points and obtaining the items.

#### In Support of Mrs. Faye Komagata

Mrs. Faye Komagata, wife of Bishop Shugen Komagata and former "okusan" (minister's wife) of Daifukuji, has been courageously undergoing pancreatic cancer treatment for over a year. A Go Fund Me drive has been set up to help her with her medical expenses. Monetary gifts can be made online at <a href="https://www.gofundme.com/faye2017">https://www.gofundme.com/faye2017</a>. You may also bring a check made payable to <a href="Faye Komagata">Faye Komagata</a> to Daifukuji. We surround Mrs. Komagata with much love.



The Daifukuji Zazenkai wishes you a happy 2018! (Photo taken at Rohatsu Sesshin in December)

#### Library News

By Clear Houn Englebert

We have two new Sharon Salzberg books: *Loving Kindness* and *Love Your Enemies* (which is cowritten by Robert Thurman).

The other new arrivals are:

*Tofukuji Temple* is a 20-page color pamphlet about the exquisite head temple of Rinzai Zen in Kyoto.

The Novice by Thich Nhat Hanh is a retelling of an ancient folktale.

The Mindfulness Movie by Paul Harrison is fast-action and entertaining, but also a very rewarding documentary film on the practice and benefits of mindfulness.

*The True Dharma Eye* is a collection by Dogen of 300 classic Chinese koans. It is translated by Kazuaki Tanahashi and John Daido Loori, who is also the commentator.

*Great Disciples of the Buddha* by Nyanaponika Thera and Hellmuth Hecker is big, thick, and filled with some of the most readable Dharma you'll ever encounter. It's the stories of the original Buddhist trainees and they are quite inspiring. Awesome is an overused word these days, but it truly applies to this book.

Annual of Articles 2015 by Journal of the Order of Buddhist Contemplatives is a collection of 22 of the some of the finest short Buddhist articles you'll find anywhere. The article on bowing is exceptionally good.

Dimensions of Buddhist Thought: Collected Essays by Francis Story is one of my favorite books in the entire library. The rest of the library staff agrees—it's a unique and wonderful compilation. It is volume three of Story's collected writings. He explains things that I've never seen explained elsewhere, such as a brilliant explanation of Devas.

#### February Dharma Programs



#### Dharma Study Classes - Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Temple library

We are starting a new series of classes based on the book *Mindfulness* by Domyo Sater Burk, a Soto Zen teacher at Bright Way Zen in Portland, Oregon. These weekly classes are open to all. Please order your own book. Call Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524 for further information.

Family Sangha Services: Sharing the Dharma with Children - Sundays, February 4 & 18 at 9:30 a.m. Child-friendly 45-minute services which include yoga, zazen, chanting, singing, & Dharma lessons. For children of all ages and their parents & grandparents. Note: A Family Sangha parents meeting will be held after the service on February 4.

#### Zazen (Meditation)

- \* Every Wednesday morning from 6 a.m. 7:20 a.m.
- \* Thursdays, February 8 & 22 from 6:00 p.m. 7:20 p.m.

Both morning and evening sessions include 20 minutes of chanting. Donations may be placed in the box on the incense table. All are welcome. Please arrive at least 5-10 minutes before starting time.

#### Shakyo & Shabutsu Art Meditation - Saturday, February 10 from 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Mindfully tracing the Heart Sutra & pictures of buddhas and bodhisattvas in silence unifies body, breath, and mind. All supplies provided. By donation.

Baikako Plum Blossom Choir Practice - Sunday, February 4 from 7:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

#### The Gay Sangha - Friday, February 2 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

A Buddhist group open to all, with a particular invitation to gay women and men and their families and friends. Meditation and discussion. Call (808) 328-0329 for information.

#### T'ai Chi

Every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. and Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m. in the Hisashi Kimura Cultural Hall. Call instructor Philip Kakuho Hema for information: (808) 345-1492.

#### Buddhist Movie Night Thursday, February 15 7:00 p.m. Kannon Hall

"Walk With Me: A Journey into Mindfulness Featuring Thich Nhat Hanh" 93 min. Bring a mug for tea.



#### Daifukuji Booth in Kainaliu Town

by Barbara Shoshin Bosz

Inspiration struck as I read about Kainaliu town holding a "Music, Lights & Family Stroll, Hawaiian Style" on the night of Saturday, December 16. How

about a Daifukuji gift shop booth there? I checked with Rev. Jiko and Clear who both thought it was a good idea. With just five days until the event, we started planning.

This was the first time Kainaliu town tried this and no one knew what to expect. Well, it turned out that many people, including Santa, showed up to visit the shops and booths. It was a colorful sight with the holiday lights & everyone's festive holiday attire. We saw friends, ohanas, school & community groups out together, enjoying themselves.

Light rains came and went but didn't dampen anyone's spirit. We were happy to represent Daifukuji & be a part of this fun Kainaliu town community event, where our dear Rev Jiko grew up.

#### Our Mochi Story

Being new to the temple back in 2015, my wife saw the announcement concerning the fundraising mochi sale. I did purchase mochi in the store occasionally after trying some at various potlucks around the island. I particularly liked the coconut mochi, so we thought we would purchase some from the temple to help out the Taiko group. However, we had forgotten to pick up our mochi! Reverend Jiko kindly saved our order and kept it at her house for us. She notified Helen and me that she was saving it for us. We arranged to pick it up the next day.

As we were leaving the temple with our mochi, Reverend Jiko was outside waving good-bye. She was watching us as I turned to my wife and said "Let's eat it on the way home!" We opened the box and held up the mochi. Seeing us do so, Reverend Jiko ran quietly to our car and tapped on the window.

"Let me explain how to use this" she said. "Don't eat it! This is kagami mochi. You put it on your altar at home along with a tangerine with a leaf on top. The tangerine symbolizes the continuation of the family. In addition, this mochi is plain. We fry it and put soy sauce and sugar and eat it for New Year's." We felt so silly not knowing it was not the same mochi that was like candy.

Thankfully, we did NOT eat it on the way home, but did as instructed, placing the bigger mochi on the altar with a tangerine on top. We then ate the other mochi fried and dropped it in our miso soup on New Year's Day. We left the mochi on the altar until around Valentine's Day when it was rock hard and a little moldy.

Happily, we reordered mochi this year feeling we were better prepared to follow the tradition. However, at the Bodhi Day service potluck in December, Amy explained that we were supposed to use the mochi from the altar a couple of days after, much like we used the smaller mochi in soup. We laughed again at our stupidity. Hopefully, we will get it right the next time.

With loving kindness for the New Year,

Robert Kakuzan and Helen Kobzi

Mochi being pounded the traditional way by Geoffrey, Ryan, & Akemi.

#### Mochitsuki Mahalo

Whenever mochi is made, memories are also made — good memories of rising before dawn, participating in the traditional pounding of the first batch of mochi rice, working for hours in a steamy kitchen, listening to the whirring of the mochi machines, standing for hours shaping the mochi pieces into white circles, dusting the pieces, packing them, and wrapping them. Hard work, happy hearts, a good cause.

Thanks to the dedication of mochitsuki coordinators Avis and Brian Yamamoto, the December 28th mochitsuki flowed smoothly with

the Daifukuji taiko 'ohana, temple members, and volunteers all pitching in, lending a hand where needed.

Thank you to all who helped at the event and to all who purchased the mochi in support of Kona Daifukuji Taiko and youth activities at the temple.

We still have frozen ko-mochi for sale at \$7.00 a tray. If you'd like to buy some mochi, please call the temple office (322-3524) to arrange a pick-up time. Checks should be made payable to: Daifukuji Y.B.A



Taiko students washing the mochi rice the day before the mochitsuki



Nancy, Cheryl, & Faith in the packing department



Father & daughter Paul & Asia



Taiko alumni Lyanne and Jaynell with Mike in the middle



An assembly line of mochi shapers



#### Four Vows Zen Retreat Held

The 4th annual joint Zen Retreat was held on the 6th of January. The Daifukuji Zazenkai welcomed zazenkai members from both Taishoji Soto Mission and 'Alaneo Zendo, our sister Soto Zen temples in Hilo. Thirty-two participants spent a day sitting, walking, and eating in silence. Mahalo to Rev. Hata, Deacon Juho, Rev. Jiko, and Deacon Jikai for the Dharma session on the Four Bodhisattva Vows; to members of the Shakyo group for assisting with the sutra-tracing activity; to the members of the Daifukuji Zazenkai for setting up, cleaning up, & providing the vegetarian lunch; to members of the Gift Shop for opening the shop; to Sojiji monk Rev. Toyoda for his help; to all who came and supported each other in silence. What a good Zen way to begin a new year!

#### Last Call for 2018 Precepts Classes

Receiving the precepts & one's Buddhist name and formally becoming a disciple of the Buddha is an important event in the life of a Soto Zen Buddhist. One goes through a process of study and reflection together with Rev. Jiko and a group of Dharma friends. The sharing of one's life is done in an atmosphere that is gentle, accepting, and compassionate. Many have found their lives illuminated and enriched by this inner journey.

The 2018 Lay Confirmation Ceremony will be held at Daifukuji on the 3rd of June. In preparation for this ceremony, weekly classes on the 16 Bodhisattva Precepts will be offered by Rev. Jiko from March through May. Beginning March 1, classes will be held on Thursdays from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the temple library.

If you are interested in signing up for these classes or learning more about what Lay Confirmation entails, please contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524 or email her at info@daifukuji.org. by the middle of February.



Fujinkai Executive Board



Fujinkai District Representatives

#### Fujinkai News

On the 7th of January, members of the Daifukuji Fujinkai Women's Association gathered at the temple for their first service of the year called *hatsumairi*. Following the service, Fujinkai president Joyce St. Arnault gave her New Year's greetings, thanking Fujinkai Executive Board members, district representatives and Rev. Jiko. Announcements were made regarding the Fujinkai's pancake breakfast fundraiser coming up on February 17 and the 53nd Annual UHSSWA Conference which will be hosted by Daifukuji Fujinkai the weekend of April 14 & 15.

Following the meeting, activities were held in the social hall. Lunch was catered from the Choice Mart deli. Everyone sang "Happy Birthday" in celebration of Sakae Oshima's 100th birthday. Fujinkai historian Amy Nakade shared a slideshow of 2017 activities. Playing bingo provided a fitting climax to a memorable day. Mahalo to all for participating in this year's Fujinkai Hatsumairi.



### Project Dana Program for Temple Seniors

Kupuna and volunteers, be sure to wear your Valentine colors to our next gathering on February 14.

Members of the Bare Bones Writers group will be assisting the seniors in writing down their stories.



#### HAIB Buddha Day Service Sunday, March 11 9:30 a.m.

Kona Hongwanji Social Hall, Kealakekua Featuring guest speaker Dr. Jay Sakashita, Ph.D.

The Hawaii Association of International Buddhists (HAIB) cordially invites all Buddhists on Hawaii Island to this gathering of joy in observance of Shakyamuni Buddha's birth. For more information, call Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524 or Rev. Bruce at (808) 323-2993.



## The Morning of the Missile Alert by Rev. Jikō Nakade

On January 13th, the members of the Daifukuji Shakyo group and I had just finished our morning service of chanting the Heart Sutra (Hannya Shingyo) and the Four Vows, and had started our monthly *shakyo* and *shabutsu* art meditation practice when Amy Jikai quietly stepped into the room and beckoned to me. I walked over to her, wondering what she needed to tell me. She looked worried. "Patsy just called," she said. "She's worried about her mother who's here. There's a ballistic missile heading for Hawaii and all are advised to stay indoors."

A ballistic missile? It took a few seconds for me to grasp Amy's words. Could it be true? In a slightly quivering voice, I broke the peaceful silence of the Kannon Hall and conveyed the news to the group. For a couple of seconds, no one spoke. Then one person said, "What kind of missile?" We looked at each other in disbelief. Calmly, a few people took out their cell phones to verify the news. No one panicked, at least not outwardly.

In the next few seconds, a number of thoughts ran through my mind. After the initial "Oh no!" came the realization that there was absolutely nothing I could do to stop the missile and that in 10 - 15 minutes, all of us could be dead, vanished in a flash. The Heart Sutra, which I had been writing in *kanji* characters every month at shakyo practice, suddenly came to life. Form itself is emptiness, emptiness itself form...With nothing to attain, a bodhisattva relies on prajna paramita, and thus the mind is without hindrance. Without hindrance, there is no fear... Gyate Gyate haragyate haraso gyate boji sowaka hannya shingyo.

Embraced by the Buddhas and bodhisattvas' wisdom and compassion, I felt enfolded in a cloak of peace. *Form itself is emptiness, emptiness itself form.* A wave of gratitude washed over me. I felt the power of the Dharma, the truth of boundlessness, the eternal in the present moment.

"It was a false alert, an error." I don't remember who said this. Quietly, people picked up their brushes and pens and continued their practice of writing the Heart Sutra and tracing pictures of buddhas and bodhisattvas. After the shakyo session, Isshin came up to me and said, "Had the missile struck, I couldn't have been in a better place." Like Isshin, I was filled with gratitude. I felt grateful to have a Buddhist practice, a place of refuge, and a loving sangha in the midst of the uncertainties of life.

My heart goes out to all who are suffering from emotional trauma. May those who are suffering from fear and anxiety be able to return to a peaceful state of mind. May our country be at peace.

Namu kie butsu. Namu kie hō. Namu kie sō.

Coming up in March...

HAIB Buddha Day......March 11 Spring Higan & 33 Kannon Service...March 18

Project Dana..... March 14

### February 2018



January 2018

SMTWTFS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 February 2018

SMTWTFS

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

March 2018

SMTWTFS

4 5 6 7 8 9 10



#### Soto Zen Buddhism Hawaii Office

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First Quarter, 2018

Issue No. 23

### Bishop's Message: Bishop Shugen Komagata

Happy New Year from the Bishop's Office! I hope 2017 was a year filled with good health, happiness, and prosperity for everyone. It seems like in the blink of an eye, the year flew right by. I pray that 2018 will be a good year for everyone.

2018 is the Year of the Dog (戌年). In Japanese, the kanji character for dog (inu) is 犬. The year of the dog, although read as "inudoshi," or "inunotoshi," uses a different kanji character 戌 for dog in the Japanese Zodiac. The dog is the eleventh symbol in the Japanese Zodiac. Much in the way we regard dogs to be "man's best friend," the dog in the Japanese Zodiac is considered to be the best companion, most loyal, and friendliest. Thus, those born in the year of the dog are believed to be the easiest to get along with, and make great lifelong partners. On the other hand, they are also said to be needy, stubborn, and do not like to admit their own faults. Dogs are most compatible with tigers, horses, and other dogs. They may have difficulties dealing with the dragon.



On November 18, 2017, Paia Mantokuji bid farewell to its resident minister, Rev. Koshin Cherin. Although her stay on Maui was short, I would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication to the temple and its members. Mahalo!

In March 2018, a group of women from various Soto-Shu Fujinkai in Japan, will travel to Hawaii. Members of the United Hawaii Soto-Shu Women's Association and the Jizoku (minister's spouses) who serve as advisors to the Fujinkai, will join the guests from Japan for activities and a fellowship dinner. I hope that this event will foster further interaction in the future!

On March 31, Rev. Ryosho Kokuzo will be retiring from his post of 18 years at Waipahu Taiyoji. I wish him continued good health and happy retirement! The Bishop's Office is currently working on assigning Rev. Ryokei Ishii of the Soto Mission of Hawaii to replace Rev. Kokuzo as resident minister at Taiyoji.

In November 2018, the Soto Mission of Aiea will celebrate its 100th Anniversary Celebration. Although it is the smallest of the Oahu temples, the hard work and dedication of its members and minister have positively impacted the Aiea and surrounding communities. Please join them in their celebration later this year.

In closing, I would like to thank all members, their families, and supporters of the Hawaii Soto Mission. I look forward to an exciting and memorable 2018 with all of you!

### VISITING MINISTER FROM JAPAN

On October 27, 2017, Rev. Taizen Toyoda, minister from Sojiji, one of the two headquarter temples in Japan, embarked on a three month study abroad tour. His first one and a half months were spent on the mainland, with stops in Los Angeles, Sonoma County, and Oregon. In mid December, Rev. Toyoda traveled to Hawaii, and has been working at Betsuin as well as with the ministers and members of the other Oahu temples.

Rev. Toyoda is 29 years old, and is originally from Yamagata Prefecture in Japan. He had been training and working at Sojiji for the last five years before getting this opportunity to travel to the United States in Sojiji's "Kensanso" Program.

Rev. Taizen Toyoda visiting Punchbowl Cemetery

Rev. Toyoda has a very special connection to Hawaii. His great-granduncle, Rev. Hojun Toyota (Toyoda), was the fifth resident minister at Kauai Soto Zen Temple Zenshuji. The elder Toyota served the temple from April 1926 to July 1936, when Zenshuji was located in the Wahiawa Sugar Plantation Camp outside of Hanapepe. The younger Rev. Toyoda is looking forward to the opportunity to visit Kauai on January 21, when he accompanies Rev. Shuji Komagata to assist in Zenshuji's New Year's Blessing Service.

Rev. Toyoda is also spending four days at Hilo Taishoji and another four days at Kona Daifukuji. He will return to Japan on January 22, bringing his three month travels to an end. A special mahalo goes out to Rev. Toyoda, for his hard work and eagerness to learn about the unique Soto-Shu practices in Hawaii. Also, thank you to all the ministers and members for making his stay in Hawaii special.



# HAWAII SOTO MISSION ASSOCIATION SPRING CONFERENCE

The Hawaii Soto Mission Association (HSMA) Spring Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 25, 2018, and is hosted by the Soto Mission of Hawaii Betsuin. The HSMA meets twice a year to discuss current events, projects, and issues pertaining to our Hawaii Soto Zen temples. It is made up by the HSMA executive board and delegates selected from each Hawaii Soto Zen temple. Over forty delegates, officers, ministers, and observers will meet at the Pagoda Hotel for the HSMA Spring Meeting. Please contact your minister if you are interested in attending this event as a delegate or even as an observer!

