

79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealahou, HI 96750

December, 2020

(808) 322-3524 www.daifukuji.org

See "archives" on our website for previous newsletters.

New Year's Day Drive-Through Blessing *Omamori & Calendar Pick Up*

Pets welcome!

Friday, January 1, 2021

10:00 a.m. - Noon

Daifukuji Soto Mission Parking Lot



Our new omamori features the Hawaii Kannon & a branch of Kona coffee. The artwork was contributed by Daifukuji member Tina Shore Cintron.

Please wear a mask and stay inside your vehicle. You may bring your pets and have them included in your family's New Year's blessing.

An omamori and ofuda pre-order form will be included in the next newsletter.

Note: Complimentary calendars are for members of Daifukuji.



Bodhi Day (Jodo-e) Service on YouTube

On Sunday, December 13, Daifukuji's Bodhi Day Service will be available on the temple's YouTube Channel (Daifukuji Soto Zen) at any time after 5 a.m. Hawaii time.

Here is the link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCni_mBKgI4u1A1k4P8mvckw

Please pay homage to Shakyamuni Buddha by viewing the service and then join Daifukuji's General Membership Meeting at 10:00 a.m. (See page 4 for information regarding this meeting.)

Bodhi Day Aloha from Rev. Jikō



Dear Daifukuji members and friends,

I would first like to express my gratitude to all who supported Daifukuji's online auction. An especially big mahalo goes out to Barb Shoshin, who wasn't afraid to tackle something new, and to her dedicated crew of volunteers. Thank you all so very much.

Tackling something new...this Covid-19 pandemic has forced many of us to try new things, stepping outside of our comfort zones and taking us beyond our ordinary boundaries. In some ways, we've been forced to accept deep change, expand our minds, and open ourselves to new possibilities. I can see that this has been the case for me and that I have grown.

For example, in order to keep some of our temple's programs going, I've had to go online. At first it was challenging, but after a while, meeting with people via ZOOM became the new norm. I've realized that it IS possible to connect deeply with others through the computer screen. For my twice-a-week Dharma sessions, participants are "zooming in" from places outside Hawaii — places such as Arizona, Florida, Oregon, and Canada — to together study the Teachings of the Buddha. It's truly a joy!

When the New Year begins, I will add two more classes and these will be held on Saturdays. I look forward to a three-month study of the precepts. The precepts are our backbone: they keep us upright in a world that's gone "*kapakahi*" and guide us in all of our relationships — our relationships with people, animals, and the environment. Zazen and living by the precepts are Soto Zen's contribution to the world. From this base of meditation and ethical living, we step forward, doing our best to live mindfully with kindness, compassion, and consideration for others.

December 8th, the day of the Buddha's Enlightenment is approaching, as are the December holidays. Everyone, please take care. May you be safe and keep others safe. I sincerely thank you for your guidance and support throughout this challenging pandemic year. From Daifukuji, I send you big hugs and deep bows of love and gratitude.



Online Study of the Precepts (January - March, 2021)

“How can I live a life of wisdom and compassion?”

12 weekly classes via ZOOM

Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

First class: Saturday, January 9, 2021

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 will go through a process of study and reflection together with Rev. Jikō and a group of Sangha 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.

In January of 2021, Rev. Jikō will be starting a new series of precepts study sessions using ZOOM. This 3-month course is comprised of 12 weekly one-hour sessions. It is an opportunity to learn about the 16 Bodhisattva precepts, which form the moral and ethical foundation of the Soto Zen tradition.

Once it is safe to travel and gather, Bishop Shugen Komagata will be going from temple to temple to offer Soto Zen Buddhist Lay Confirmation ceremonies.

These sessions are open to all who are interested in studying the precepts and do not require participation in the precepts ceremony.

There is no class fee. If desired, one may make a donation to Daifukuji Soto Mission.

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



Ofudayaki: The Burning of Sacred Items

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, no in-person service will be held this year.

However, you may drop off your old *omamori*, *ofuda*, and burnable altar items. Please drop them off at Daifukuji prior to December 15. We will properly take care of them for you.

Questions? Please contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524, info@daifukuji.org.

In Memoriam



To the family of the late **Sachiko Harai**, who passed away on October 30, 2020 at the age of 94, we express our sincere sympathy.

To the family of the late **Yayoko Inaba**, who passed away on November 3, 2020 at the age of 97, we send our loving thoughts and condolences.

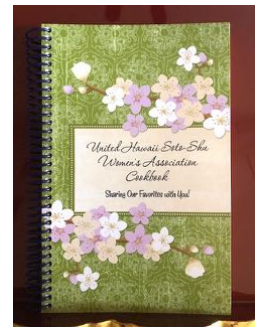
Cookbook Corrections

Thank you to all who purchased the UHSSWA's new cookbook "Sharing Our Favorites With You."

Please add the following ingredient amounts to your cookbook:

1. Miso Dressing, page 18, 1 c. sugar
2. Misoyaki Butterfish, page 76, 1 c. shoyu

Please contact the temple office if you'd like to purchase a cookbook which is available for \$12. Make checks payable to: DAIFUKUJI FUJINKAI. (808) 322-3524, info@daifukuji.org.



Online General Membership Meeting to be Held December 13

Daifukuji members, we would love to have you join us!

A general membership meeting will be held via ZOOM video conferencing on Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 10 a.m. All Daifukuji members are cordially invited to attend this virtual meeting at which the election of directors for the term 2021 - 2022 will take place. A ZOOM link will be sent to all members whose email addresses are on record at the temple. The link will be sent out on December 11, two days prior to the meeting. If possible, please help the senior members in your family, who don't have internet know-how, join this meeting.

Temple members, if you are unsure if the temple has your current or preferred email address, please contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524 or rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.

Do you need help setting up your personal device? Daifukuji member Kindness Isshin Israel is offering to assist anyone who needs help getting their cell phone, iPad, or computer connected to ZOOM. You may reach him by sending a text message to (408) 674-5533 or sending an email to KINDNESSISRAEL@gmail.com. Please contact Kindness as soon as possible since this cannot be done at the last minute. Mahalo nui loa to Kindness.



A Message from Your Temple President

by Bobby Command

(Our sangha sincerely thanks Bobby for having served as Board president for four consecutive years. Although he'll be relinquishing his role as president, Bobby will continue to serve on the Board as a director.)

As we near the end of a year that many feel does not come too soon, I would like to say that we are nevertheless blessed with such a wonderful sangha that has done its best to understand the crisis we face and cheerfully act in a way that limits the spread of Covid-19.

These troubled times, like all others, will pass, hopefully sooner than later, and the key is likely a vaccine which is showing promise. If we all do our part, just maybe we'll be back to our old selves sometime in the middle of 2021. In the meantime, we ask for your patience and would like to let you know that all of you are in our thoughts and prayers.

I would like to remind all of you as well that we will be conducting a general membership meeting on Sunday, December 13 at 10 a.m. using ZOOM. It is at this meeting that we will vote on the new slate of Daifukuji board members. It is important that we have enough members attending this Zoom meeting so we have a quorum. We will keep the business as short as possible. Details are on page 4. Please join our meeting.

2021-2022 Daifukuji Board

At the December 13th general membership meeting to be held via ZOOM, the members of Daifukuji will be given the opportunity to elect the directors to the Daifukuji Board. We are very grateful that the following temple members are willing to dedicate themselves in service to our sangha.

President — Stephen Tanaka; Vice President — Barbara Shoshin Bosz; Recording Secretary — Judie Myoko Fekete; Corresponding Secretary — Steve Hoshin Mann; Treasurer — Joyce Yuko St. Arnault; Assistant Treasurer — Michele Abe

Directors: Jan Jyonin Bovard, Bobby Command, Carlo Taizan Mireles, Tony Gyokuho Takai

New Incoming Directors: Harold Jiho Hall, Teri Jigen Hollowell, Daisuke “Kai” Ioh, Eliana Jisho Sattler



December Programs Being Offered Online Via ZOOM

Zazen - Every Wednesday morning from 6 a.m. - 7:20 a.m.; Thursday evening (**December 17**) from 6 p.m. - 7:20 p.m. Contact Rev. Jiko to receive ZOOM link, 1(808) 322-3524, info@daifukuji.org. Please go to page 7 for information on this year's Rohatsu Sesshin.

Ongoing Dharma Study: The Heart of the Buddha's Teachings

We have been meeting weekly and are halfway through the book *The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching: Transforming Suffering into Peace, Joy, and Liberation*. To join these sessions, please contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524, or info@daifukuji.org. Please let her know which session (Tuesday or Thursday) you wish to join. She will send you the ZOOM link. Books are available for purchase.

Please note that there will be no classes from December 15 - 31. Classes will resume January 5.

Donations to Daifukuji Soto Mission are appreciated and can be given through the temple's website:

<http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html> or mailed to Daifukuji Soto Mission, P.O. Box 55, Kealakekua, HI 96750.

Sangha Sister's Women's Spirituality Circle - Meetings are held on the second Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Call Susie at (808) 936-5817 for information.

Bare Bones Writers Group - Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. Call Kathryn at (808) 345-2976 for information.

Daifukuji Sangha Social - This group meets on the third Sunday of the month from 10 - 11 a.m. The next meeting will be held on **December 20**. This is an opportunity to "talk story" with old friends and make new Sangha friends. Not sure how this works or how to set up your personal device? No worries! Daifukuji member Kindness Isshin Israel has offered to assist anyone who needs help getting their cell phone, iPad, or computer connected to ZOOM. You may reach him at (408) 674-5533 or KINDNESSISRAEL@gmail.com. You may join the Sangha Social by contacting Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524 or info@daifukuji.org.

Wish to make a donation to Daifukuji? You may do so through our website <http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html> or mail a check to Daifukuji Soto Mission, P.O. Box 55, Kealakekua, HI 96750.



Rohatsu Sesshin to be Held Online (December 1 - 8)

Rev. Jiko is planning to hold this December's Rohatsu Session via ZOOM and hopes that you will consider joining her and Deacon Jikai for 8 mornings and 7 evenings of zazen.

Every morning from December 1 - 8, there will be zazen from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m., followed by a brief morning service. Every evening from December 1 - 7, there will be zazen from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The Rohatsu Sesshin is a period of meditation that honors the Buddha Shakyamuni's enlightenment, which in Japanese Buddhism, is observed on the 8th of December as Bodhi Day. Rohatsu means "the 8th day of the 12th month. A sesshin is a period of intensive meditation.

If you are interested in participating and wish to receive the ZOOM link, please contact the temple office. (808) 322-3524, info@daifukuji.org. You may make a donation to the Zazenkai through our website: <http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html>.



The Effect of Zazen

by Michael Keller

Regarding the joyful man in the photo, who is Hotei, information printed on the base of his statue says that "In China, Hotei is the god of good fortune and the guardian of children." He is exploding in joy. What is he so joyful about?

To find out, we need to look at a well-known Buddhist document called the Bahiya Sutta. Bahiya was a revered teacher himself, who humbly came to the Buddha to ask, "Teach me the Dhamma." The Buddha responded in words known by many who follow Zen, but the sutra is short so I'll quote it all here:

Then, Bahiya, you should train yourself thus: In reference to the seen, there will be only the seen. In reference to the heard, only the heard. In reference to the sensed, only the sensed. In reference to the cognized, only the cognized. That is how you should train yourself. When for you there will be only the seen in reference to the seen, only the heard in reference to the heard, only the sensed in reference to the sensed, only the cognized in reference to the cognized, then, Bahiya, there is no you in connection with that. When there is no you in connection with that, there is no you there. When there is no you there, you are neither here nor yonder nor between the two. This, just this, is the end of stress.

The Buddha refers to a condition of "no you" as being the end of the stress of life. To express the condition in other ways, it can be said to be the absence of self-consciousness, I-consciousness, or ego. Whatever it's called, the condition is not abstruse; we encounter it every day. If you are planting something in your garden, and concentrating only on that, the "you" disappears. If you are engrossed in reading, the "you" disappears. There are moments when we all experience this disappearance.

To work directly on expunging ego is like asking a thief to catch a thief. Fortunately we have zazen to do this work. In zazen, whenever the complete focus is on breathing, the "you" disappears. Repeated experience of this eventually releases the meditator from the stress of life, as the Buddha says, the stress of being imprisoned in ego or personal self, the seat of greed, hatred, and delusion.

As for Hotei's great joy, let's imagine that it springs from being released from imprisonment in the ego. He's freed, liberated. He is such a grand image of that freedom.

United Hawaii Soto-Shu Women's Association News

from Mrs. Jaymie Komagata, Jizokukai President



Each April, the UHSSWA gathers for its annual statewide conference. Sadly, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 and 2021 conferences have been canceled.

In April 2021, the UHSSWA, in partnership with the Hawaii Soto Mission Association and the Hawaii Soto Mission Bishop's Office, will sponsor a Lay Confirmation Ceremony for Fujinkai members from our Hawaii temples who are interested in being officially indoctrinated into the Soto Zen Buddhist tradition. The confirmation ceremony is preceded by a series of workshops on the 16 Buddhist Precepts, part of the core teachings of Buddhism.

The UHSSWA Board and its Board of Advisors strongly feel that this is an excellent opportunity for the UHSSWA to bond in fellowship even during these difficult times.

Workshop on the 16 Precepts

From January to March 2021, Rev. Jiko Nakade of the Daifukuji Soto Mission will lead workshops on the 16 Precepts. During each workshop, participants will go through a process of study and reflection with Rev. Jiko and with fellow Fujinkai member participants. These one-hour long sessions will span a period of 12 weeks and will be held using Zoom. Receiving the precepts and one's Buddhist name to formally becoming a disciple of the Buddha is an important rite of passage in the life of a Soto Zen Buddhist.

Fujinkai members who have already participated in the Lay Confirmation Ceremony may also attend these online classes. In fact, we encourage those who have already gone through the ceremony to participate in the classes not only as a refresher course, but also as an opportunity to share their experiences with others and to join in the fellowship of other Fujinkai members.

The first class is scheduled to be held on Saturday, January 9, 2021. Classes will be held every Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. for 12 weeks.

Special Lay Buddhist Confirmation Ceremony for Fujinkai members

The UHSSWA Executive Board, along with its Board of Advisors is currently working on setting up a special Lay Buddhist Confirmation Ceremony to be held upon completion of the 12 classes. Given the ongoing restrictions and uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this Lay Confirmation Ceremony will be held virtually on Zoom.

The UHSSWA will subsidize a portion of the ceremony fee for Fujinkai members. This ceremony will be officiated by Bishop Shugen Komagata. Details are still being planned, and more information will be shared with your temple later.

FUJINKAI MEMBERS, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE ONLINE CLASSES, PLEASE INFORM REV. JIKO OR JOYCE ST. ARNAULT BY DECEMBER 8.

NOTE: The Saturday afternoon precepts classes are specifically for Fujinkai members statewide. Other interested persons are encouraged to attend the Saturday morning precept classes.

Online Auction Mahalo

Dear Sangha & friends,

Yahoo! Our first-time online auction was a huge success. Plus, there was plenty of fun & excitement along the way.

Over \$10,000 was generated for our Building Maintenance Fund. We put up over 180 items, including the new cookbooks & Daifukuji tote bags. Some items were bought — boom! — within the first 15 minutes of the auction, and others were down to the wire with last minute bids. There were 121 people who registered to bid, 475 bids placed, and 19,051 page views. The final financial report is being worked on.

Again, we wish to say a big MAHALO to all who donated, bid, looked, supported, bought, shared the site, helped and wished us well. Thanks to your support, a substantial amount was collected for the temple's Building Maintenance Fund.

Our aloha,

Barb Shoshin, Joyce Yuko & the Online Auction Crew



An enthusiastic auction crew greeted and thanked those who picked up their items on Halloween.



A Taiko Halloween

It was a happy Halloween for the youngsters of Kona Daifukuji Taiko. For a few hours on October 31, our temple grounds took on a festive atmosphere when our youth taiko group held its drive-through trick-or-treat event for the taiko families. Mahalo to sensei Akemi and crew!

Make Your Own Mochi for New Year's Day

People are already saying “No mochitsuki this year? Oh no! Where will I get my fresh mochi to eat on New Year's Day?” Here's a recipe which Rev. Jiko has tried with success. Unlike other microwave mochi recipes, this one does not use sugar. This recipe makes about 8 small mochi.



1 1/2 cups *mochi gome* (mochi rice)

1 cup water

1/4 cup *katakuriko* (potato starch)

Wash mochi rice. Add water and soak for at least 4 hours (or overnight). Pour rice and water into a high-powered blender. Blend on high speed for 3 minutes or until mixture is smooth and liquefied.

Pour into an 8" X 8" microwaveable dish sprayed with cooking spray to prevent sticking. Cover with plastic wrap and microwave for about 4 minutes on HIGH. Let mochi sit inside oven for 3 more minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle lightly with water.

On a cutting board covered with plastic wrap or a plastic Tupperware sheet, spread a layer of *katakuriko* (potato starch) to prevent sticking. Transfer mochi to board. Dust your hands with potato starch and shape the mochi into 6 - 8 round pieces. Now you have fresh mochi for your New Year's Day *ozoni* soup, or to fry and eat rolled in a mixture of *kinako* (roasted soybean flour) and sugar, or a mixture of shoyu and sugar. Fried mochi is also good topped with grated daikon, bonito fish flakes (*katsuobushi*), and shoyu. You may also fill or top your freshly-made mochi with *an* (azuki bean paste).

Mahalo Nui Loa

Thank you very much to Larry Yoshiyama and Warren Ikeda for donating their labor to replace the floor tiles and bathtub unit in the minister's residence.

Mahalo to the Samu volunteers for maintaining the grounds & helping Rev. Jiko with various tasks: Elaine and Julio Fernandez, Ann Nakamoto, Merle Uyeda, Sharen Bangay, Stephen Tanaka, Larry Yoshiyama, Warren Ikeda, Tyrone Ohta, Chester Mitamura, Stanley Oshima, Judie Fekete, Shinkaku Marquis, John and Kristy Ogg, Amy Nakade.



\$12



\$17 & \$20

(with and without pockets)

Cookbooks and Tote Bags

We are still selling UHSSWA cookbooks and Daifukuji tote bags. Should you wish to purchase them, please contact the temple office at (808) 322-3524, info@daifukuji.org.

They make great holiday gifts!

Happy 60th Birthday, Rev. Jiko!



**Please join us for a drive-through birthday celebration.
(Please wear your mask and stay inside your car.)**

Daifukuji Soto Mission Parking Lot

Wednesday, December 23

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Your presence and birthday wishes would make the best gifts. No other gift is needed.

According to Japanese tradition, one's 60th birthday is called "Kanreki 還暦." It is a special celebration. Kanreki literally means "return and "calendar". The 60th year of a person marks the beginning of a new season in life. Traditionally, the celebrant wears red and symbolically becomes an "aka-chan" or "baby" again.

Questions? Please call/text Amy at (808) 345-2269.

2021 Memorial Services Chart (as of 11/15/20)

To arrange a memorial service & discuss your options for holding it, please call Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524. See box below.

One Year Memorial Service (2020)

Paul Teramoto	Feb. 7
Raymond Ikeda	March 18
Yaeko Hakoda	June 5
Tsuru Arakaki	July 20
Larry Sasaki	Aug. 7
Sachiko Harai	Oct. 30
Yayoko Inaba	Nov. 3

3rd Year Memorial Service (2019)

Yoshiko Ikeda	Jan. 29
Takeshi Kudo	April 6
Mitsue Oshima	May 9
Kazuyo Sasaki	Sept. 7
Clark Sasaki	Sept. 15
Satsuko Tanaka	Nov. 4
James Okimoto	Oct. 26
Ray Yamane	Dec. 5
Masaru Deguchi	Dec. 13
Jeanette Tinnel	Dec. 25

7th Year Memorial Service (2015)

Richard Ushijima	Jan. 13
Emily Kudo	Feb. 26
Taichi Harada	March 1
Hideo Maruyama	March 21
Asayo Nakano	May 26
Sanji Matsumoto	July 4
Takashi Kudo	Aug. 3
Helen Sasaki	Aug. 21
James Napua Wells	Nov. 30
Verna Matsumoto	Dec. 22

13th Year Memorial Service (2009)

Charles Sasaki	Jan. 15
Kiyoshi Deguchi	Feb. 4
Yoshie Kawasaki	April 21
Sally Deguchi	May 21
Kazuko Sato	June 19

Cont. 13th Year Memorial Service (2009)

Kay-Ann Asada	Oct. 2
Tomomi Matsumoto	Oct. 4
Tomoko Ioh	Oct. 18
Sadaki Kusunoki	Dec. 19

17th Year Memorial Service (2005)

Harold Fujita	Feb. 8
Tsuruyo Kimura	April 20
Susan Miyata	July 8
Harue Matsumoto	July 9
Mae Clay	July 13
Yumi Enomoto Brown	Oct. 27
Gilbert Fukumitsu	Oct. 28

23rd Year Memorial Service (1999)

Tsuichi Masuda	Jan. 24
Kimie Ota	March 1
Hisa Matsuo	April 9
George Sasaki	June 14
Kazuo Seo	June 15

27th Year Memorial Service (1995)

Roy Minoru Nakamoto	Sept. 14
Hisaharu Ikeda	Sept. 23
Toshiko Seo	Oct. 12
Bessie Kanehiro	Oct. 31
Judith Nakamura	Nov. 2

33rd Year Memorial Service (1989)

Thelma Victor	Jan. 3
Charles Yamaguchi	Jan. 18
Sute Akazawa	Feb. 12
Tadashi Oka	March 31
Kazuma Asada	April 19
Isao Kurozawa	June 1
Kenichi Sumida	June 6
Dorothie McMurphey	June 24

Options for holding a service during Covid times:

1. In-person (with restrictions on # of persons attending & following current guidelines).
2. Service held both in-person and via ZOOM.
3. ZOOM only with no one coming to the temple.
4. Service by minister with no one in attendance.

Please call Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524 to discuss your preferences.