

79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealahou, HI 96750

September, 2020

(808) 322-3524 www.daifukuji.org

See “archives” on our website for previous newsletters.

Kona Daifukuji Taiko’s Obon Performance

Dear Daifukuji members and friends,

As the saying goes, “*When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.*” Sensei Akemi Iwamoto and the youth of Kona Daifukuji Taiko have done just that. With no Bon Dances this year due to Covid-19, our taiko group came up with a way to celebrate Obon, honor the ancestors, and recognize the high school graduates of their group. Voila! They produced their own Obon Taiko performance video, which is now available on YouTube. Please enjoy their performance and share it with family and friends. Great job, Kona Daifukuji Taiko! Here’s the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KrAvJ3iFqhA&t=4s>.



When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. Lemons are sour; this pandemic is also sour. But it need not sour our lives. Like the resourceful youth of our taiko group, we can tap into our own creativity and look for new ways to do things, new ways to be in the world. For inspiration, we only have to look back in time to see how our ancestors faced and overcame adversity. Wars, famine, disease, incarceration, the Great Depression — our ancestors faced hard times with courage and grit. When I met the taiko group at our cemetery for the filming of their video project, I told the children that they were standing among the graves of the ancestors of Daifukuji and that these were the people who faced tremendous hardship, and yet were able to create a strong community based on their values of hard work, perseverance, moral integrity, and compassion. Because of them, *okagesama de*, Daifukuji is here today and Kona Daifukuji Taiko is here today. Thus, at Obon we remember them and express our gratitude to them. The taiko students listened respectfully, then scattered throughout the cemetery to place flowers upon the graves — which you’ll be able to see in the video.

The Coronavirus crisis in Hawai’i is growing. Now, more than ever, let us be mindful, cooperative, and caring. Our Buddhist teachings show us the way. May you be safe and happy.

Warm aloha, in gassho,

Rev. Jikō

Autumn Higan Service to Be Held Online

With the number of Covid-19 cases rising in Hawai'i, Rev. Jiko has decided that it would be best to not hold any major monthly services at Daifukuji until further notice.

According to the document "Guidance for Places of Worship" provided by the Hawaii County Covid-19 Task Force, churches and temples are to livestream services and to encourage high-risk persons and members over the age of 65 to stay at home. Realizing that it is safer for our members to avoid gatherings, we will not be holding in-person monthly services until conditions are safer for all. Thus, please view the September 13th Autumn Higan and Ryosoki Service via Daifukuji's Facebook page and YouTube Channel. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/konadaifukujitemple/>, YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCni_mBKgI4u1A1k4P8mvckw.



A Message from Your Temple President

In the last decade or so I've become much more handy with cars. I've tackled such things as brake jobs, changing hoses and belts and even as things as complicated as replacing a worn out alternator. This is all because of a tool I purchased a long time ago, a tool that is probably in your house. It's called the computer, and specifically, it's a website called YouTube, which has videos pretty much of almost anything you can imagine: Growing apples in Hawaii? No problem. How to fix a leaky faucet? Easy. Preparing Lomi raw fish from opelu? Yup.

But I say *almost*, because there is nothing on YouTube — or anything else for that matter — on how the Daifukuji Soto Mission should react to the current Covid -19 crisis. I wish it were that simple, to be able to look on YouTube, or go to the library and borrow a book to gain some wisdom on how we should be operating while our leaders in health and government try to get a hold of this potentially deadly crisis.

We're all smart and mature enough to understand that the best away to avoid getting sick is to isolate yourself as much as possible and limit your time in groups. While we all miss the Sangha, we must always keep the health and safety of our membership first and foremost in our minds. Somewhere down the road, most likely in the near future, either the disease will burn itself out or we will come up with an effective vaccine. Then we'll be able to return to some semblance of how things used to be, and our sangha will reunite at so many of the wonderful activities and services at Daifukuji.

But until that happens, as Board president I take full responsibility for all policy decisions regarding limits to activities at Daifukuji, and continue to ask for you understanding and compliance as the board flies the plane while building it at the same time.

In Gassho,

Bobby Command



September Programs

Due to the recent rise in the number of active Covid-19 cases on Hawaii Island and the county's directive to limit both indoor and outdoor gatherings to 10 persons or less, the following temple groups are postponing their meetings until further notice:

- * **Daifukuji Zazenkai**
- * **Daifukuji Gay Sangha**
- * **Daifukuji Yoga**
- * **Daifukuji Soleful Strutters Walking Moai**
- * **Kona Daifukuji Taiko**

GROUPS MEETING ONLINE VIA ZOOM

Dharma Study Sessions - see page 5 for information.

Sangha Sister's Women's Spirituality Circle - Meetings are held on the second Friday of the month. Call Susie at 936-5817 for information.

Bare Bones Writers Group - Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month. Call Kathryn at 345-2976 for information.

Daifukuji Sangha Social - Beginning September 20, this group will meet on the third Sunday of the month from 10 - 11 a.m. (See page 5 for more information.)

Daifukuji's First Online Auction to be Held October 15 - 30

We have exciting news!

Since we can't hold our annual bazaar this year, we are going to try an online auction. We will start out small and see how it goes since this is our first time.



We are asking for donations of new and "like new" items. We want to offer the best we have in order to boost Daifukuji Soto Mission's Building Maintenance Fund.

Suggested items are Kona coffee, mac nuts, gift certificates for services such as massage, facials, manicures/pedicures, haircuts & other services. Plants & orchids are popular. Japanese items such as tea sets, sake sets, trays, dishes, kimono, obi, yukata, happi coats, and fans would be great. Buddhist items such as Buddha or Kannon statues, art, books, incense, and charms are good. Other examples are handmade items, 2021 calendars, jewelry, nonperishables, gift baskets, etc.

As is the case every year for our bazaar, we will not accept old computers, exercise equipment, or furniture — in other words, nothing too big or bulky. We will accept new tablets, iPads, or laptops.

We plan to combine items to have a minimum starting bid of \$20.00. So even if you have something under that price that you'd like to donate, we'll happily accept it. Donations with a higher value will start at a higher price.

Please arrange with Rev. Jiko for dropping items off by calling Daifukuji at (808) 322-3524. We will accept items from now until September 30, 2020, then photo shoot and upload the items to 32Auctions. Please give Rev. Jiko your name, address, and phone number when dropping off items so that I may call you in case I have questions about the item. A letter for tax purposes will be given to you at the time of drop off.

The auction will begin at 9:00 a.m. on October 15 and end for online bidding at 5:00 p.m. Hawaii Time on October 30. Here's the link which we ask you to please share with family and friends:

<https://www.32auctions.com/Temple2020>. It will go live on October 15.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at barbarainkona@gmail.com, 808-987-2673, text & phone.

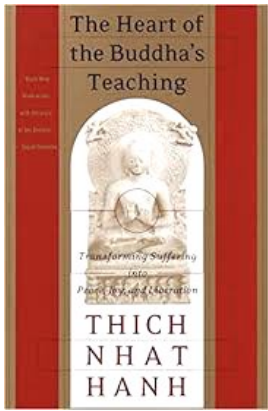
Thank you in advance for your help making this online auction a success!



My aloha,

Barb Shoshin Bosz

Online Auction Co-Chair



The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching: Online Dharma Sessions

Group 1: Tuesdays from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. (Chat room opens at 2:30 p.m.)

Group 2: Thursdays from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. (Chat room opens at 1:30 p.m.)

All are invited to join the Dharma Fellowship which now meets using ZOOM video conferencing. You may sign up for one of two groups. We have begun a new book called *The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching: Transforming Suffering into Peace, Joy, and Liberation*. Authored by the Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh, this book covers the core teachings of the Buddha in a very accessible and understandable way that's pertinent to our lives today. Books are available for purchase through Rev. Jiko at the reduced price of \$8 with checks made payable to: Daifukuji Gift Shop.

To register for this series and to purchase a copy of the book, please contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524, or info@daifukuji.org. Please let Rev. Jiko know which session (Tuesday or Thursday) you will be joining.

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.

Online "Sangha Social" Starting September 20

Every 3rd Sunday of the Month from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

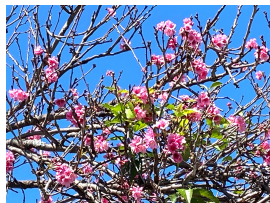
Miss your Sangha friends and want to "talk story" online? Wish to meet other members of Daifukuji?

Join the NEW monthly Sangha Social starting Sunday, September 20. Simply let Rev. Jiko know that you are interested in participating. Each month via email, she will send you a ZOOM link which will allow you to join the session using your computer, iPad, or cell phone.

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 device connected to ZOOM. You may reach him at (408) 674-5533 or KINDNESSISRAEL@gmail.com. (Thank you, Isshin.)

Since we can't meet in person, let's see each other's faces (no masks needed!) and connect by means of our new online SANGHA SOCIAL. Please sign up by contacting Rev. Jiko at rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.

In Memoriam



To the family of the late **Tsuru Akaraki**, who passed away on July 20 at the age of 96, we express our deepest sympathy.

To the family of the late **Mary Nakagawa**, who passed away on July 28 at the age of 72, we express our sincere condolences.

To the family of the late **Larry Sasaki**, who passed way on August 7 at the age of 95, we send our loving thoughts.

Namu Daihi Kanzeon Bosatsu

Mahalo Nui Loa



Mahalo to all who took the time to fold paper cranes for Tsuru for Solidarity's Washington D.C. pilgrimage, which has been postponed due to the pandemic. A total of 2,457 cranes were recently mailed from Daifukuji to Rev. Dr. Duncan Ryuken Williams.

Thank you to Steve Hoshin Mann and Neal Sugai for donating sanitizing supplies and to Christopher McCullough for helping with Little Fire Ant treatment on temple grounds.

“Temples Get Creative To Save Obon Season In Hawaii”

Kona journalist Cameron Miculka recently wrote an article for Civil Beat titled “Temples Get Creative to Save Obon Season in Hawaii,” in which Rev. Jiko of Daifukuji and Rev. Blayne Higa of Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple are interviewed. Also quoted are Daifukuji's Bon Dance instructor Winifred Kimura, Kona Hongwanji member Betty Takeoka, and Rev. Umitani, resident minister at Moiliili Hongwanji Mission.

Here is the link to this article: <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/07/temples-get-creative-to-save-obon-season-in-hawaii/?fbclid=IwAR1b9CBsclJs7MgDbasQt4Yq8H30ufLBiJ1STwyxEvIgHOxb0U5nVBAA3U>.

To Sangha Members and Newsletter Subscribers With AOL and HOTMAIL Addresses.....

We would like to inform you that we are currently having troubling sending out email to those with aol.com and hotmail.com addresses. Messages sent to you sometimes come back to us “undelivered.”

We are working to fix this problem. In the meantime, if you have an alternate email address such as a yahoo.com or gmail.com address, please give us your alternate address by calling the temple office at (808) 322-3524 or sending an email to rev.jiko@daifukuji.org. We thank you for your help and understanding.

Daifukuji Soto Mission Legacy Endowment Fund

In Memory of Clark and Kazuyo Sasaki

Aloha Members & Friends of Daifukuji,

As a kid I remember the Keauhou Store on Mamalahoa Highway just north of our temple as the only place in Kona that sold bikes. It was the sixties and Walmart & Costco didn't exist. They also sold many other items that were actually important to daily life, but it was the bikes that made it a "magical" place for me. The original proprietors of the Keauhou Store were Yoshisuke and Kuma Sasaki. They had seven children, and Clark Sasaki was their youngest child, born in 1929. Clark was employed by the Kona Surf Hotel for many years but also helped at the Keauhou Store like all his siblings. Clark was a quiet, modest man who lived frugally and enjoyed shoreline fishing and gardening at home. Reverend Jiko recalls that he enjoyed and looked forward to attending Daifukuji's New Year's Blessing Service every year. In the mid-sixties he married Kazuyo Usui who was originally from Yokohama, Japan and they were together for over 50 years. Kazuyo was employed by the Kona Hilton as a chef, then worked at Hilo Hatties in Kailua after she retired. Kazuyo was adventurous (she went hang-gliding once) and loved to travel. She was an active member of the Daifukuji Baikako Choir, Project Dana, the Fujinkai and loved senior activities, including line dancing and Bon dancing. Her niece Kikumi Usui told me that her Aunt Kazuyo considered Daifukuji her family. When Kazuyo first moved from Japan to Kona, she was a stranger and was obviously far away from her own family and everyone she had grown up knowing. A difficult situation for anyone but our Daifukuji Sangha became her family and a source of new friendships and activities that enriched her new life.



Clark and Kazuyo Sasaki on their wedding day.

Clark and Kazuyo passed away in September last year. First Kazuyo, then Clark a week later. Earlier this year, I was contacted by Morris Sasaki, Clark & Kazuyo's nephew and trustee of their estate, and he informed me that Daifukuji had been designated as one of the beneficiaries of their trust. Morris worked diligently for months taking care of his Aunt & Uncle's estate settlement. Not a small feat considering he lives in Southern California. Just last month, Morris completed the trust distribution into our endowment fund from Clark & Kazuyo's estate that in one extremely generous gift, increased our endowment fund by more than 50%. After a lifetime of endeavor, Clark & Kazuyo left us the single largest donation we have received to date. This gift will enable Daifukuji to continue presenting events like the New Year's Blessing that Clark so enjoyed, and the Bon Dances that Kazuyo so loved attending. We will always be grateful to Clark & Kazuyo for their kindness.

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To Clark and Kazuyo, we gassho in deep gratitude.

Clark & Kazuyo had no children, but through this legacy gift, future generations of Daifukuji members have become theirs. They have provided for us just as a parent provides for their child. We have just completed our Obon season but please offer a prayer of gratitude to Clark & Kazuyo. Their generosity will enable our temple to continue providing the programs, the services, and the relationships that benefit our members and our community well into the future. One of those shiny new bikes at Keauhou Store was just given to us. *Honto ni arigato gozaimashita*, Clark & Kazuyo.

Everyone, thank you for your continued support of Daifukuji and your Legacy Endowment Fund. *Okagesama de*, Daifukuji is here today.

In Gassho,

Wade Yasuda, Chairman

Daifukuji Soto Mission Legacy Endowment Fund Board of Trustees

Avis Yamamoto | Brian Yamamoto | Keith Olson | Wade Yasuda

Ways to Support Our Temple

There are many ways of offering support and we as a sangha are grateful for every gift received. You can support Daifukuji through temple membership — there's information on our website http://www.daifukuji.org/membership_brochure.pdf. New members are always welcome.

Monetary gifts may be mailed to Daifukuji or donated via PayPal <http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html>. Information about our Legacy Endowment Fund can also be found on our website: <http://www.daifukuji.org/endowment/index.html>. And if you shop online at amazon.com, Daifukuji Soto Mission is registered under the Amazon Smile program. Mahalo nui loa!

Library News

By Clear Houn Englebert



Here are the new arrivals:

"The Blue Zones" by Dan Buettner is the original Blue Zones book. The one that got the movement (that Daifukuji is a part of) started.

"Bhutan: Taking the Middle Path to Happiness" is a documentary DVD directed by Thomas Vendetti.

"Beside Still Waters" edited by Harold Kasimow, and others is subtitled *"Jews, Christians, and the Way of the Buddha"*.

"Forest Recollections: Wandering Monks in Twentieth-Century Thailand" by Kamala Tiyanich is an excellent telling of how the tradition of wandering forest monks got revived in Thailand by Phra Man (sometimes spelled Mun). Then politics entered the picture and that's a sure way to lose real religion, and finally China came along and bought all the trees and denuded the mountains. No forests, no forest monks—sigh.

Our great benefactor, Spring Liao, has donated four very interesting pamphlets by The Venerable Chan Master Hsing Yun. (Chan is the Chinese word for Zen.) The most intriguing one is *"The Buddhist Perspective on the Supernatural"*. The others are *"Cause and Condition"*, *"The Diamond Sutra and the Study of Wisdom and Emptiness"*, and *"The Buddhist Perspective on Time and Space"*.



Holiday Gifts

In time for the holidays, we will be receiving our order of the United Hawaii Soto Shu Women's Associations's brand new cookbook *Sharing Our Favorites With You*. We will also be receiving our order of cotton canvas tote bags bearing the Hawaii Kannon logo. Please stay tuned for more information. The holidays will soon be upon us.

Announcement

A general membership meeting will be held via ZOOM video conferencing on Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 10 a.m.

All Daifukuji members will be invited to attend this virtual meeting at which the election of directors for the term 2021 - 2022 will take place.

Any temple member* may nominate a temple member* to serve as a director on the Daifukuji Board. The deadline for nominations is November 29, 2020. Nominations may be submitted to Bobby Command (808) 895-2416, rhcommand@gmail.com or Tony Takai (319)759-1996, tonytakai@gmail.com. Questions may be directed to either Bobby or Tony.

*Members need to hold current membership status.

Pray for the Flowers and They Bloom

from the book *Kappa No Hitorigoto* by Roshi Daito Noda

Translated by Michael Nakade & Edited by Leslie Ozawa



“Pray for the flowers, and they bloom.” This phrase belongs to the Buddhist poet Shinmin Sakamura living in Ehime Prefecture.

“Pray for the flowers, and they bloom.” What a sweet and powerful resonance this saying generates! This saying tells us about the spirit of never stopping to pray for good things, no matter where we are.

This, however, should not be confused with prayer as a means to make flowers bloom. “It means simply that flowers bloom naturally when we pray for them.” This is the spirit of “praying for flowers.” Results are not what’s expected at all when praying for flowers. This thinking is fundamentally different from our self-centered wishes for getting what we want.

Unless we are careful, we can easily keep wanting things. For example, we want cars and clothes. Furthermore, this “wanting more” never ends. Even though we work long and hard to buy a new car, we find ourselves wanting to buy an even newer car, because we get bored after driving it for six months. Our self-centered desires never let us say, “I’ve had enough.” Human desires make us live in a world of constant hunger and craving.

None of our desires exist apart from our individual self. The world of “praying deeply,” on the other hand, transcends the sense of self and exists outside the realm of “what’s in it for me?” When flowers bloom, this natural phenomenon doesn’t result in one person’s enjoyment or joy. This event is what brings joy to the many who view their beauty. This is what enjoyment is.

The kanji, “nen” (念) – thinking deeply or praying sincerely -- is formed with two kanji: ‘now’ (今) and ‘heart’ (心). Now, with sincere hearts, we should pray continuously for the joy of others.

Pray for the flowers, and they bloom. I wonder what you will pray for?

Cloth Face Masks Available

It seems like we’ll have to wear face masks for some time to come. Fortunately, Andrea (Harai) Shea and Esther Shigezawa have made and donated more adult-size masks to our Daifukuji sangha. We also have masks for little children which were donated by the thoughtful women who work at the Visitors Information Program at the Ellison Onizuka Kona International Airport.

To obtain a mask for yourself and/or your family, please contact the temple office at (808) 322-3524. There is no charge.



Custom Masks Made by MaryAnne

Would you like a custom mask made to order in a new comfortable design with no ear loops? We'll be needing masks for quite awhile, so why not have some that go with your outfits?

Needed: the measurement (in inches) across your face from ear to ear, at least one quarter yard of woven cotton fabric, or a favorite old garment that you'd like to repurpose. (At any fabric store you can ask to see the "fat quarters" and you'll see an array of choices already cut, or buy it off the bolt, usually a half yard minimum.) Or specify your color preferences, solids, wild or sedate prints, themes, etc. and be surprised.

Contact MaryAnne Seibert at mash555@comcast.net or (206) 819- 4683.

MaryAnne is generously donating her time and sewing skills and is requesting that donations for the custom masks be given to Daifukuji Soto Mission. She is a sangha member who belongs to the Daifukuji Dharma Fellowship, T'ai Chi group, and Soleful Strutters Walking Moai and who teaches yoga to the children of the Daifukuji Family Sangha. Mahalo, MaryAnne!



Namu Kanzeon Bosatsu

Rev. Jikō and Deacon Jikai continue to hold the monthly Kannon-ko services without the sangha present. The merit is dedicated to those who are ill and suffering from hardship. Prayers are also offered for the safety and well-being of all Daifukuji members. You may give your prayer requests to Rev. Jikō by calling (808) 322-3524 or sending an email to rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.

Congratulations

Congratulations to newlyweds Kellie Abe and Kolin Wong, who were married by Rev. Jikō on the 19th of July. We wish Kellie and Kolin every happiness

