## Daifukuji Soto Mission

## In the Light of the Hawai'i Kannon







79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealakekua, HI 96750

**April**, 2022

(808) 322-3524 www.daifukuji.org

See "archives" on our website for previous newsletters.

## Hanamatsuri Buddha Day Service

In person and live streamed

Sunday, April 10 at 10:00 a.m.

**Lunch & Music to Follow** 



The temple is open and our beloved Buddha Day *Hanamatsuri* service is back. We invite everyone to join this service honoring the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha 2,600 years ago. During the service, all will be given the opportunity to pour sweet tea over an image of the baby Buddha standing in a flower shrine called a *hanamido*. A Dharma message will be delivered by Rev. Jiko.

Following the service, all will be invited to the social hall to enjoy a vegetarian meal prepared by members of the Daifukuji Zazenkai meditation group. Music will be offered by Manuel and Bernice Roberto. The Gift Shop will be open.

Note: Loose and cut flowers are needed for Hanamatsuri. If you have flowers to donate, please deliver them by 9 a.m. on Friday, April 8 or call Rev. Jiko to arrange a time. Also, the Zazenkai is asking the sangha for donations of fresh fruits and vegetables. Please call or text Eliana at (808) 938-4774. The Zazenkai requests that fruits and vegetables be delivered to the temple by 10 a.m. on Friday, April 8.

# It's time to get your "oryoki" set ready!



Dear Members and Friends of Daifukuji,

One of our goals this year is to reduce using

single-use plastic utensils, paper goods, and disposable cups. The less that goes into our island's landfills, the healthier our island and its inhabitants will be. One good way to do this is for everyone to bring their own set of dishes and utensils with them when they attend an event at the temple which includes a meal. This is something that has been practiced in Zen monasteries for centuries. The practice is called *oryoki*. Oryoki means "the vessel or bowl that contains just enough." In monasteries, each practitioner supplies his or her own set of nesting bowls and utensils, all wrapped up in a piece of cloth. After the meal, the bowls are cleaned with hot water, wiped, and wrapped for the next meal. No dishes go to the kitchen, no food is wasted, and very little, if anything at all, goes into the trash or landfill.

I hope that you will have fun putting together your own *oryoki* set using items that you already have in your kitchen. Think of what you would need for a meal: a cup or mug, a plate, a bowl, utensils, a cloth napkin, and a bag or piece of wrapping cloth. It would be good to have at least one container that has a re-usable cover so that you will be able to take home your leftovers without having to ask for a piece of foil or plastic wrap.

So that you don't forget to bring your set with you, you could leave it inside your car. Please don't worry — we'll have plates and utensils on hand for those who do forget or don't know about our new eco-friendly practice. For our communities and for future generations, let's do our part to take care of our island and our planet.

With much aloha, in gassho,

Jiko 慈光

#### Zazenkai News

Members of the Daifukuji Zazenkai are invited to help with the cooking of the Buddha Day meal.

Saturday, April 9 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, April 10 8:00 a.m.

Please report to the social hall kitchen.

Questions? Please call or text Derek Kōdō Nakamura, Zazenkai president, at (808) 937-7155.

#### Gift Shop News

The Gift Shop is now open on Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon and on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., as well as at the time of major services and events.

We are seeking temple members who would like to be trained as gift shop cashiers so that we can be open more. Please consider becoming a gift shop volunteer. For training, call Clear Houn at (808) 328-0329.



## Peace Pole Celebration to be Held April 30th

10 a.m. - 12 noon

Temple Yard

All are welcome to attend Daifukuji's peace pole celebration on Saturday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to noon.

The lovely white peace pole which stands in our front garden and which is illuminated at night was donated by the Sunrise Rotary Club of Kona. It features messages of peace written in seven languages and an ornamental piece at the top carved by woodworker Tai Lake. Beneath it is a plaque, a gift from Pam and Alton Kajikawa, on which these words are engraved: *Okagesama de....in gratitude to our ancestors for lighting* 

the way. The plaque sits on a base which was made by Kindness Israel, with the advice of Mike Sasaki of Sasaki Monuments. The blue cranes which flank the pole were donated by Elaine Johnson in memory of her mother, the late Nancy Kurihara.

The purpose of the celebration is to dedicate the pole, plaque, and cranes and pray for peace in our families, in our communities, and in our world.

The celebration will include the following: a blessing by Rev. Jiko, a message of peace by Sharlene Iboshi of the Sunrise Rotary Club of Kona, a Buddhist *oli* chanted in Hawaiian by Dr. Holeka Inaba, music by the Daifukuji Happy Strummers and, hopefully, a performance by Kona Daifukuji Taiko.

Please bring family and friends. Help send peaceful vibes into our world. We will livestream this event if possible.

Help is needed with set up at 8 a.m. on April 30. If you can volunteer or have questions, please call or text Barb, our event coordinator, at (808) 987-2673.

## Origami Cranes

If you are making origami cranes for our Peace event, please deliver them to Daifukuji by **April 10.** 

Mahalo to Tyrone Ohta, Tina Cintron, Nancy Osako, Lorraine Tanimoto, Brenda Harai, Andrea & Phil Shea, Turi Lundquist, Amy Nakade, Barb Bosz, and Ayako & Yukino Sasaki for donating paper cranes.



Rotarians installed the pole on February 19. Mahalo to Nostorio and Barb Shoshin for coordinating the installation.

## **April Programs**



**Zazen** - Zazen is offered in person and via Zoom every Wednesday from 6:00 a.m. - 7:20 a.m. Practitioners are asked to arrive at 5:45 a.m. Twice a month (**April 14 & 28**), zazen will be offered via Zoom only from 6 - 7:20 p.m. Contact Rev. Jiko at rev.jiko@daifukuji.org to receive the Zoom link for zazen sessions.

**Sangha Sisters Women's Spirituality Circle -** Via Zoom, 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 -** Via Zoom, meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. Call Kathryn at (808) 345-2976 for information.

**T'ai Chi** - Tuesdays - Beginners, Wednesdays - Intermediate, Thursdays - Advanced. All classes are one hour and start at 9:00 a.m. inside the Hisashi Kimura Cultural Hall. \$5.00 per class. Call instructor Philip Kakuho Hema: (808) 345-1492.

**Soleful Strutters** - T'ai Chi warm-up and walking on temple grounds at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesdays. For information, please contact Hannah Israel at (408) 421-8845 or Reverend Jiko at (808) 322-3524.

## Yoga (At Daifukuji) Starting April 4th

Mondays from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. in the Hisashi Kimura Cultural Hall. No fee, but donations accepted. Bring a mat or towel. Call instructor Liz Aschenbrenner: (808) 345-1270 or liz217a@hotmail.com.

#### Yoga via Zoom (April 22 - May 26)

Thursdays from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. HST. Welcome and Warmup from 7:45 - 8 a.m. HST. ZOOM Yoga from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. HST. Optional Chat from 9:00- 9:20 a.m. Drop in or whole series. What's needed: Yoga mat, loose clothing, water, towel, empty stomach. "Dana"=Temple Offering by mail or at: <a href="http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html">http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html</a>. Suggested \$60-120 or whatever you care to give.

Instructor: Ambika "Jō-An" Rose. For inquiry about this series and future yoga classes: (808) 430-2620. Email for Registration & Zoom Link: <a href="mailto:ambikarose@hawaiiantel.net">ambikarose@hawaiiantel.net</a>.

## **Learning and Living the Heart Sutra**

#### Understanding the Hannya Shingyo

April 16 - July 2, 2022 (No classes on April 23 & 30)

10 classes via ZOOM, Saturdays from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Instructor: Rev. Jiko Nakade



The Hannya Shingyo, known as the Heart Sutra, is perhaps the most famous of all Buddhist texts. It is the most frequently chanted sutra in Soto Zen temples in Hawai'i and elsewhere. Around the world, this sutra is also chanted by other Buddhist groups. It expresses in just 262 Chinese characters the reality of Emptiness and the perfection of wisdom.

During this series of 10 classes, we will delve into the Heart Sutra and unpack its profound meaning. Rev. Jiko will also introduce the practice of *shakyo* (sutra copying) and give instruction on the chanting of the sutra in both English and Japanese. Class participants will be given the opportunity to share their interpretation of the sutra through creative expression such as art, poetry, prose, song, and dance.

There is no class fee. Donations to Daifukuji Soto Mission are appreciated and can be made through the temple's website <a href="http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html">http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html</a> or by check.

For more information or to sign up for either series, please contact Rev. Jikō at (808) 322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org. All are welcome to join these sessions.



#### Welcome

Our Sangha extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Ray Wofford

Jodi Farias

New members are always welcome. For information, go to <a href="http://www.daifukuji.org/membership\_brochure.pdf">http://www.daifukuji.org/membership\_brochure.pdf</a> or contact the temple office at info@daifukuji.org.

#### In Memoriam

To the family of the late Roy Torioka, 56, who passed away on February 24, 2022, we express our sincere condolences. *Namu Kanzeon Bosatsu* 

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Ezra Witsman and Eric Perry who were wed beneath the cherry blossoms on February 22, 2022.

## 55th UHSSWA Conference Coming Up

Saturday, April 23 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



The first-ever virtual United Hawaii Soto Shu Women's

Association conference, hosted by the Maui Mantokuji Soto Mission of Paia Fujinkai, is going to be held on April 23. There are thirty-nine registered participants from Daifukuji who will be attending the conference via Zoom. Participants are asked to arrive at Daifukuji by 8:30 a.m. The wearing of masks is optional.

This half-day conference will include a service, brief meeting, Dharma talk, and fun activity. Following the conference, lunch will be provided by the Daifukuji Fujinkai for those who meet at the temple.

The Daifukuji Fujinkai welcomes new members. Annual dues are \$10. Members age 85 and above are exempt from submitting annual dues. For information on joining the Fujinkai, please call Joyce St. Arnault at (808) 329-3833 or Merle Uyeda at (808) 323-3553. Dues may be given to Fujinkai treasurer Elaine Fernandez at the time of the conference.

## Kannon-ko Services to Resume April 20

Every third Wednesday of the month 10:00 a.m.

At this monthly service we invoke the bodhisattva Kannon. We express gratitude for Kannon-sama's compassion and chant the sutras for those suffering from illness, sorrow and hardship. All are welcome. Tea to follow the service.



We are collecting small bowls and plates to use as holders for tea light candles. The small *shoyu* plate/bowl used for sashimi is perfect. If you have any that you don't need, please bring them to the temple.

## Bishop to Officiate Lay Buddhist Confirmation Ceremony at Daifukuji

Sunday, May 22

10:00 a.m.

On Sunday, May 22, 2022 at 10:00 a.m., Bishop Shugen Komagata will be officiating a Soto Zen Lay Buddhist Confirmation Ceremony at Daifukuji. Those interested in participating in the ceremony are asked to contact Rev. Jiko by April 15.

The ceremony entails receiving the 16 bodhisattva precepts which form the moral foundation of Soto Zen Buddhism. During the ceremony, one formally becomes a disciple of the Buddha and receives a Buddhist name, as well as a "wagesa" bearing the Soto Zen crests which can be worn to services.

For more information, please contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524, <u>rev.jiko@daifukuji.org</u> as soon as possible and no later than the 15th of April.

## Zazen and Enlightenment

by Michael Keller

Zazen is extraordinary in working almost entirely by itself. No agency is required of the practitioner other than shifting from distracting thought back onto breathing.

I remember years ago when I was listening to a talk by Reb Anderson, the head dharma teacher of the San Francisco Zen Center. After speaking of the Buddhist idea that the world was proceeding toward enlightenment, he was asked whether there was indeed a teleology in the universe that would eventually wake everyone up. Reb, of course, said "Yes."

If this awakening direction is part of the universe, it is too vast a process to require anyone's intervention. It seems to me that the same is true of zazen. The changes it is causing in a practitioner, and the rate of them, are not affected by any intention to shape them on the practitioner's part. Zazen is a process that needs to be let alone. The practitioner just needs to accept wherever it is going.

So is one going in the right direction? To think "yes" requires trust in the basic goodness of oneself. A particular book of Chogyam Trungpa's talks is helpful and inspiring concerning this issue of basic goodness. In *Shambhala: The Sacred Path of the Warrior*, Trungpa says, "Basic goodness is what we have, what we are provided with. It is the natural situation that we have inherited from birth onwards."

So in zazen, and in the inner life that stems from it, it is best not to try to push or pull for any particular outcome, but just to trust in oneself and to trust that, of itself, the process is going in the right direction. In any event, this is the advice that I give myself.

The Hawaii Association of International Buddhists presents

a free Earth Day event via Zoom.

Natural Wisdom: Meditations on Buddhist Ecology and Environmentalism

April 16, 2022 1:00 p.m. HST

Speaker: Dr. Leslie Sponsel, humanistic scientist, Professor Emeritus, UH Manoa.

Registration will be available through the HAIB website <a href="https://www.hawaiibuddhists.org/posts">https://www.hawaiibuddhists.org/posts</a>. HAIB's annual general membership meeting will follow the event. New members are welcome.

#### Mahalo Nui...

to all who helped with the 33 Kannon Pilgrimage event, to Wayne Fukunaga for replacing the damaged ceiling panels and cleaning the light covers in our Cultural Hall; to Larry Yoshiyama for installing our new hall kitchen water heater and fixing various plumbing problems; to Warren Ikeda for help with our temple's electrical needs; to Tyrone Ohta for sharing his handyman skills; to Dennis Nakano and crew for working on our cemetery pathways, and to all of the dedicated members of our Samu group who volunteer their time weekly. How grateful we are for all that you all do! Thank you so much.

## Wishing our Keirosha a Happy 88th Birthday

Usually, we honor our *keirosha* (honored and respected temple elders turning 88 within the year) at our New Year's party. Since no party was held due to Covid, we'd like to send warm birthday wishes to Patsy Matsumoto, Thelma Matsumoto, Tatsumi Sato, Jack Tabata, and Ella Yasuda. In Japanese culture, one's 88th birthday is a truly auspicious event.

## Library News

By Clear Houn Englebert

These are the new arrivals:



*Lumbini* by Basanta Bidari is from Kathmandu and it looks to be the definitive book on the subject. There are lots of photos and drawings. Look for it in the India section of the library.

*In Remembrance of Our Beloved Brother Kaoru Imai* (a pictorial) by Aki Imai is a wonderful collection of vintage photographs from this island and Japan. It's a short, poignant book because Kaoru, who was born in 1927, passed away at age 17.

The following books are from the BDK Tripitaka series. They are extremely high quality books, in their content, design, production, as well as construction. These books were built to last. They are a welcome addition to the library.

*The Lotus Sutra* is translated by Tsugunari Kubo and Akira Yuyama. This sutra is where the Kannon Scripture that Soto Zen uses comes from.

The Biographical Scripture of King Asoka is translated by Li Rongxi. In addition to King Asoka (who lived in the third century BC), this books devotes half its space to the six ancestors who immediately followed the Buddha in transmitting the Dharma, beginning with Mahakasyapa and Ananda.

A Biography of the Tripitaka Master of the Great Ci'en Monastery of the Great Tang Dynasty is translated by Li Rongxi and was written around 650 AD. It's a very early biography of the amazing pilgrim and translator Xuanzang.

The Storehouse of Sundry Valuables, translated by Charles Willeman, is a book that was originally compiled in China in 472 AD. It is a collection of stories from India about the Buddha.

The Essentials of the Eight Traditions is by Gyonen and The Candle of the Latter Dharma is by Saicho; being two different different books by two different authors, bound together in one volume. The first is from 1268 AD, and the latter from the 1800s. Although they are important books, they are a bit obscure from a Zen point of view.

The Summary of the Great Vehicle by Bodhisattva Asanga was written in the mid 300s, and is from the Yogacara school.

#### Daifukuji Board Report

by Steve Höshin Mann, Corresponding Secretary

The Daifukuji Board met March 3 via Zoom.

We heard that Kiyoshi from the extension service found no fire ants on the property except along the north boundary; Eliana Jisho and the volunteers' control efforts are working.

In response to changing guidance from county and state authorities we've dropped most of our COVID restrictions.



Members of our LFA team with Kiyoshi Adachi from Kona Ant Lab

We will continue to ask masks to be worn indoors (except while seated and eating) as long as the Governor asks this of businesses. We will offer hand sanitizer at the door. A maximum of 80 unmasked diners is permitted in the social hall. The various temple groups may continue with stricter policies if they wish, but note that the temple as a whole has only these remaining rules. It no longer requires visitor sign-in, proof or attestation of vaccination, or socially distant seating arrangements. There are no COVID-related capacity limits for the temple spaces, except when dining in the social hall. Buffet-style food service is permitted.

Stephen Tanaka is still trying to find a contractor to do the ramp repair. Until then, we feel the ramp is unsafe, and since we're not legally required to have it, we will be closing it off. Hale Pono has completed a roof inspection and says it's not in bad shape, although it should have some spot treatments. Kai Ioh is soliciting bids for the work, and Teri Jigen is working on a grant application for the Historic Hawaii Foundation, since the work will help preserve our historic structure. Teri continues to coordinate the professional maintenance of the cemetery. Judie Myoko will set a date with Pacific Termite and Pest Control for tenting the temple. The front steps have been soft-washed.

# Can you refer us to a painting contractor?

Our temple roof needs painting. If you know a painting contractor, we would very much appreciate receiving this person's contact information as soon as possible.

Please contact Stephen Tanaka at (808) 938-4617 or Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.

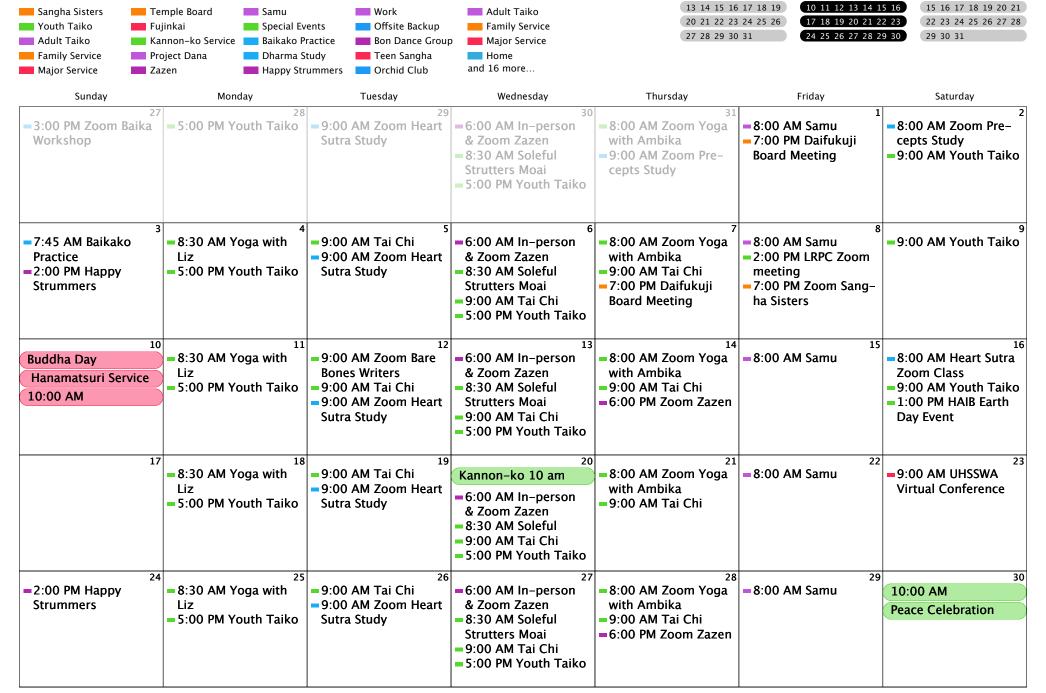
Do you have a high school graduate in your family?



A blessing of the graduates of the Class of 2022 will be held on Sunday, May 29 following the 10 a.m. Memorial Day Service. A luncheon in their honor will be held after the ceremony.

Daifukuji members, if you have a child or grandchild who's graduating from high school this year, please inform Rev. Jiko or Deacon Amy as soon as possible so that an invitation may be sent.

## April 2022



March 2022

SMTWTFS

6 7 8 9 10 11 12

1 2 3 4 5

April 2022

SMTWTFS

3 4 5 6 7 8 9

May 2022

S M T W T F S

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

1 2 3 4 5