Daifukuji Soto Mission

Where Compassion Blooms







79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealakekua, HI 96750

February, 2024

(808) 322-3524 www.daifukuji.org

See "archives" on our website for previous newsletters.

Nirvana Day Service (Nehan-e) Sunday, February 11, 2024 10:00 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 his 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 Rev. Jikō.

Everyone is invited to stay for lunch which will be prepared by Lawrence Kaigaku Goff and sangha volunteers. Although paper goods will be available, we would appreciate you bringing your own plate, utensils, & mug to help Daifukuji become more eco-friendly.

The gift shop will be open.

Our Fujinkai is having a pancake breakfast fundraiser. See page 2 for details.





Join us for breakfast and fellowship!

Pancake Breakfast

A Fundraiser for the Daifukuji Fujinkai Saturday, February 17, 2024 Daifukuji Social Hall 7:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Tickets \$10

Our Daifukuji Fujinkai is hosting a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Saturday, February 17. Tickets may be purchased in advance at \$10 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. Manju will be sold in limited quantities. It's best to come early.

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 or send an email to info@daifukuji.org...



A Message from Joyce Yuko St. Arnault, Daifukuji Fujinkai President

Dear Fujinkai and sangha friends,

I wish you all a happy, healthy, prosperous, safe and peaceful Year of the Dragon. We can expect 2024 to be a year of power and creativity, bringing positive changes and opportunities.

Looking back on 2023, many Fujinkai activities were held, thanks to everyone's support, dedication, participation, generosity and hard work. I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to all.

At the Fujinkai's hatsumairi or first service of 2024, a moment of silence was held for members and friends of the Fujinkai who passed away over the course of a year. We dearly miss them and will always treasure our memories of them.

The Hatsumairi was momentous in that our Fujinkai welcomed a new advisor, Michael Nakade, who holds the position of *jizoku* (minister's spouse). We also welcomed five new members — MaryAnne Seibert, Kapi'olani Tachera, Stephen Tanaka, Bobbie Lloyd-Anderson and Dave Anderson. It is truly wonderful that membership in our Fujinkai, as well as the statewide UHSSWA, which used to be women's organizations, is now gender inclusive and open to all.

As we look forward to an exciting 2024, I would like to thank our former Fujinkai executive board members — Merle Uyeda, Jean Ikeda, Elaine Fernandez, and Lorraine Tanimoto — for their many, many years of dedicated service and leadership. You will be deeply missed at board meetings.

I would like to welcome and thank the newly installed executive board members for pledging to carry our Fujinkai forward: Susie Weaver, vice president; Linda Calloway, recording secretary; Teri Hollowell, corresponding secretary; Andrea Shea, treasurer, and Travis Marsh, assistant to historian Amy Nakade. To Rev. Jikō, I say *arigatō* for her never-ending energy, guidance, and support.

> With gratitude and in gasshō, Joyce Yukō St. Arnault

The members of the Fujinkai sincerely thank Joyce Yukō for her continued leadership as president. 🛡





Sakae Oshima and Fujiko Akamatsu have a good time together at Project Dana.

Lifelong Friends

By Rev. Jikō Nakade

Imagine having a wonderful friend for over 90 years — playing together in elementary school, growing up, getting married, raising families, working, attending temple services and events, enjoying Fujinkai activities, talking to each other frequently over the phone, retiring, and being able to participate in senior activities and even attend each other's 100th birthday celebrations.

I am talking about two members of our Daifukuji sangha, my aunt Sakae Oshima and Fujiko Akamatsu, who recently passed away — Sakae, at the age of 106, and Fujiko, at the age of 104. These two women were such good friends that it was not surprising that they left this world just one day apart. I can only put my palms together in gasshō and bow in silence to the profound wonder and mystery of life and death. I also bow to their lifelong friendship. Surely, they must have called to each other as they approached the end of their long lives, saying, "Let's go together!"

I am deeply touched by the depth and beauty of their remarkable friendship. I remember how much pain Aunty Sakae suffered when she got injured by falling off a chair. She must have been in her 90's at the time. Fujiko, with the help of her daughter Phyllis, rushed to her best friend's side and massaged my aunt, all the while chanting the Hannya Shingyo (Heart Sutra) and praying for Sakae's recovery.

Nancy Osako shared this story. Once, when she offered to drive the two ladies home after Project Dana, the temple's monthly program for seniors, they told her that they wanted to sit together in the back seat. Through the rearview mirror, Nancy saw them holding hands, enjoying their precious moments together as best friends.

During their lifetimes, both women received the bodhisattva precepts, enjoyed attending temple services, and chanted the Hannya Shingyo daily at their home altars, expressing gratitude to the Buddha and ancestors and praying for the well being of their families. Faithful disciples of the Buddha, they were both upright, kind, and gracious, living in joy and touching the lives of those around them. To Sakae-san and Fujiko-san, I say in gasshō, "Thank you so much for everything that you did for our sangha." Namu kie butsu. Namu kie hō. Namu kie sō.



In Memoriam

Joyce "Joy" Hirano December 18, 2023 Age 70

Sakae Oshima January 7, 2024 Age 106

Stanley Harai January 7, 2024 Age 88

Fujiko Akamatsu January 8, 2024 Age 104

Namu Kanzeon Bosatsu. We express our sincere condolences to the families and surround them with our love.

Welcome, New Members

Our sangha extends a warm welcome to Joe Sira and Yukie Hagiwara.

Congratulations

Congratulations and best wishes to sangha member Will Masao Nakamoto. Happy 100th birthday, Will!

Mahalo to Our Dedicated Volunteers

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members of our temple's Samu group who help with temple cleaning and grounds maintenance every Friday morning throughout the year: Elaine and Julio Fernandez, Wayne Fukunaga, Sharlene Gee, Dan Gordon, Teri Hollowell, Warren Ikeda, Steve Mann, Chester Mitamura, Michael Nakade, Ann Nakamoto, John Ogg, Tyrone Ohta, Jayne Omori, Stanley Oshima, Andrea and Phil Shea, Becky Safarik, Maria Smith, Stephen Tanaka, and Merle Uyeda.

Mahalo to Larry Yoshiyama for his plumbing services, and to Larry Yoshiyama, Baron Sasaki, Tyrone Ohta, and Henrietta Chee for their donations of lovely flowers for our altars.

For our dedicated gift shop staff — Clear Englebert, Barb Bosz, and Hannah Israel — we are very grateful. The same holds true for our library staff — Clear Englebert, Hannah Israel, Lisa Jacob, and Katherine Florer.

Arigato to our "choba" volunteers who take turns sitting at the reception desk at our monthly services: Ron and Akemi Iwamoto, Sharlene and Rune Gee, Ann Nakamoto, Kellie Sugai-Dahl, Michael Abe, Kindness Israel, Renee Kimura, and Kay Tokumura.

We cannot forget the members of our temple board who meet monthly to ensure that temple operations run smoothly: Stephen Tanaka, Barbara Bosz, Betsy Morrigan, Teri Hollowell, Joyce St. Arnault, Steve Mann, Bobby Command, Kai Ioh, Carlo Mireles, Travis Marsh, and Eliana Sattler.

There are other volunteers who need to be acknowledged, but we've run out of space and will have to continue our acknowledgements in a future newsletter. Dear volunteers, please know that you are all very much appreciated. Thank you to all who make Daifukuji the clean, safe, and beautiful temple that it is. Deep bows in gasshō to all!



2024 Hawaii Soto-Shu Calendars Are Here

The 2024 Soto-Shu calendars are here and ready for pick up. This year's calendar features pictures of the eminent Zen teacher Keizan Jokin Zenji, whose statue is found in every Soto Zen temple and whose 700th memorial year is being observed this year.

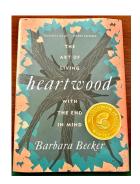
Daifukuji has ordered 175 calendars, which are being offered without charge on a first-come-first-serve basis. Please drop by. You'll find the calendars on the library table inside the temple.

"Living with the End in Mind"

Weekly Zoom Dharma Study with Rev. Jikō Nakade Starting February, 2024 Space available in Saturday morning classes

"When we live each day with the end in mind, looking into the face of impermanence, something extraordinary happens."





The Thursday classes are filled, but Reverend Jikō is still accepting sign ups on a first-come-first-served basis for the Saturday classes. From February 3 to May 11, this group will meet on 11 Saturday mornings via Zoom from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Hawaii time. (Certain Saturdays will be skipped.)

For this series, Reverend Jikō has selected the book *Heartwood: The Art of Living with the End in Mind* by author Barbara Becker, an interfaith minister, mother, writer, and hospice volunteer who has received mentoring from respected Soto Zen teachers Koshin Paley Ellison and Chodo Campbell of the New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care.

Each class is an hour long, and a commitment to being non-judgmental and to holding others' personal stories confidential is required.

Heartwood is available at the reduced price of \$13 for Dharma class members through the Daifukuji Gift Shop. Please contact Rev. Jiko if you would like to have a copy reserved for you. Unfortunately, the gift shop does not provide the service of mailing out books. This book is available for online purchase in hardcover, Kindle, and Audiobook formats.

Rev. Jikō offers the Dharma freely. There is no class fee. Donations may be offered to Daifukuji Soto Mission. https://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html

February Activities

Zazen (Meditation) - Zazen is offered in person and via Zoom every Wednesday and Friday from 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m. Wednesday zazen is followed by 20 minutes of chanting. Sunset meditation is held on Monday evenings from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Practitioners are asked to arrive 10-15 prior to the starting time. Contact Rev. Jiko at rev.jiko@daifukuji.org to receive the Zoom link for zazen sessions.

Dharma Keiki - Two Sundays, February 4 and February 18 from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. A Dharma program for children of preschool age to grade 3. By donation. Contact Rev. Jiko at rev.jiko@daifukuji.org for information.

Shakyo (Tracing the Sutras) & Shabutsu (tracing pictures of buddhas) Art Meditation - Saturday, February 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. All are welcome. By donation.

Daifukuji Gay Sangha - 1st Friday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Meditation and discussion. For information, call Clear Houn at (808) 328-0329.

Sangha Sisters Women's Spirituality Circle - Meetings are held in person and via Zoom on the second Friday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Call Susie at (808) 936-5817 for information.

T'ai Chi - All classes are one hour and held inside the Hisashi Kimura Cultural Hall. \$5.00 per class. Call instructor Philip Kakuho Hema for schedule and other information: (808) 345-1492.

Soleful Strutters - T'ai Chi warm-up & walking on temple grounds at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. For information, please contact Hannah Israel at (408) 421-8845 or Reverend Jiko at (808) 322-3524.

Samu Fridays - Volunteers are needed for temple cleaning and grounds maintenance on Friday mornings from 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Coffee hour & fellowship follows. Bring a snack to share.

Yoga via Zoom — (New six-week series! Feb. 15 - March 21) Thursdays from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. HST. Welcome and Warm-up 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: http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html. Instructor: Ambika "Jō-An" Rose, who has been teaching yoga for 46 years. For inquiry about this series and future yoga classes: (808) 430-2620. Email for Registration & Zoom Link: ambikarose@hawaiiantel.net.

Library News

by Clear Hōun Englebert

There are five new arrivals:

Zen Poems edited by Peter Harris is a very cute small hardback.

This Monk Wears Heels by Kodo Nishimura is also a well-designed small hardback.

Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple by Kona Hongwanji is local and it's a pictorial history of that temple in Kealakekua. The previous temple building looked like the Hongwanji's in Hilo and Puna with twin towers flanking the entrance. The old photos are priceless and the one of a Sunday School Picnic at Honaunau Beach in 1946 is terrific.

The next two books are for kids:

Cool Melons Turn to Frogs is the life & works of the poet Issa with colorful illustrations by Kazuko Stone.

The Tsunami Quilt is a very touching story by Anthony Fredericks concerning the 1946 tsunami at Laupahoehoe Point and is beautifully illustrated by Tammy Yee.

Photo Gallery: Kona Daifukuji Taiko's Mini Concert











Three-Sangha Zen Retreat Held

It has become a tradition of the Daifukuji Zazenkai meditation group to invite teachers and members of our sister Soto Zen temples in Hilo to a joint Zen retreat to start off a new year together. On January 7th, ministers and friends from Taishoji Soto Mission and 'Alaneo Zendo drove over the mountain to participate in a day of silence at Daifukuji.

The day began with zazen and a morning service, followed by shakyō and a vegetarian lunch prepared by the Daifukuji Zazenkai. Lunch was followed by a t'ai chi session led by Philip Kakuhō Hema, then a Dharma session on "Keizan Zenji's Legacy." Presentations on Keizan Zenji's life and teachings were made by Eliana Jishō, Sharlene Hōju, Teri Jigen, and Rev. Jikō after which the group gathered for more sessions of zazen and kinhin. A closing circle was held, gifts presented, mahalos expressed, and hugs shared. Thank you to the gift shop staff for having the gift shop open.

A warm mahalo to Rev. Myōshin Kaniumoe, Rev. Daitsū Wright, Rev. Jigaku and Mr. Brent Takenouchi and members of Taishoji Zazenkai and 'Alaneo Zendo Zazenkai for their participation in this year's Zen retreat. Thank you to Yukiko Tomidokoro and Reiko Sekine for helping with the shakyō session and to Daifukuji Zazenkai members for their planning, cooking, and energy.

Coming Up in March

Impermanence and Permanence

by Michael Keller

For a while I lived in a small incorporated community in Texas called Nassau Bay. It was near the Houston Space Center; astronauts used to live there and maybe still do. There was a lovely, rather large, artificial lake at the center of the community.

One day I was sitting on a bench next to the lake, enjoying the peace there, and suddenly I became aware of movement around me. There was constant movement that I could see in the grass around me, in leaves on the trees encircling the lake, in the light wind, in nutria (web-footed rodents) in the lake, and so on.

I had begun to study Buddhism in depth shortly before this, and eventually I realized that what I was observing in all the movement was what Buddhists called "impermanence." It is a principle in Buddhism that movement and change, or impermanence, is a constant aspect of life.

I am a member of a Dharma study group that is reading a book called *The Hidden Lamp*. There is a koan in this book called "Miaoxin's Banner." Miaoxin is a wise nun who directs a guesthouse at her temple. There happen to be several monks staying at the guesthouse who are traveling to seek enlightenment. Miaoxin overhears them discussing the koan, attributed to the Sixth Patriarch, "What moves is not the wind nor the banner, but your mind." She remarks to her attendants that in studying this koan, the monks are not "even getting close to the Dharma." Later Miaoxin has occasion to speak to the monks, and she advises them, "What moves is not the wind, nor the banner, nor your mind." Hearing this, the monks awakened.

There are, naturally, various opinions about what the koan the monks were studying means. The advice that Miaoxin counters with, however, distinctly brings to my mind the idea of permanence. If movement, as in the monks' koan, implies impermanence, then no movement, as in Mazoxin's advice, implies permanence. It is by a glimpse into permanence that the monks wake up.

In spite of the Buddhist view of impermanence as inherent in life, is there in Buddhism also a belief in something permanent, stable, without change? Such a view can be found in Keizan's *Transmission of Light*. Keizan is called the "Great Patricarch" of Soto Zen. He was born 15 years after Dogen passed (1253), who is the "Highest Patriarch" of Soto Zen.

Keizan says that there is a power existing outside time. It is "not in the realm of becoming and decay." He says that this power is "single spiritual light that is eternal and stable." He refers to it as "a self which never changes through all time." According to Keizan, this self is in everyone, and he advises seekers to "maintain your true self." The discovery and maintenance of one's eternal true self is accomplished through zazen. In any event, I assume zazen is what Keizan is referring to when he says that to reach the true self,

". . .For the time being close your eyes – when the breath ends and the body ends and there is no house to protect you, all function is unnecessary, and you are like the blue sky with no clouds, the ocean without waves – then you'll be somewhat in accord with it."

The aim of Zen might be said to be the discovery and nurturing of a stable and unchanging power in oneself, buoyant and supportive. This is what the monks woke up to, and so, through zazen, can we.

To read more essays by Michael Keller, visit his website https://www.zazenessays.com/.



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(808) 322-3524

KONA DAIFUKUJI "ZOOM" YOGA 1.15.24

6 Thurs. 8 – 9 am HST Feb.15, 22, 29 Mar.7, 14, 21

- 7:45 8 am HST Welcome Warm-up
- 8:00 9 am "ZC
- "ZOOM" YOGA!
- 9:00 9:20am Chat (optional)
- 12:45 1 pm EST
- 1:00 2 pm
- 2:00 2:20 pm

Open to: Members, Kona Community and ALL Beginners & Experienced WELCOME!

@Drop in or Whole Series@

ENERGY is our focus, so move to <u>your</u> body!

Pt 4: Meditation in Motion: "Being PRESENT by being in our body!"

Bring: Yoga mat, loose clothing, H2O, & towel, empty stomach "Dana"=Temple Offering by mail or at: http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html

Email for REGISTRATION & Link: ambikarose@hawaiiantel.net



Instructor: Ambika "Jō-An" Rose

I have taught yoga for 47 years. The "Style" is **Amrit Yoga** an authentic, meditative exploration of **Shakti [Chi] EnErGy** through intention, breath, alignment, extension & movement. Following postures, we pause: relax, breathe, and "let go!" We **EXPLORE ENERGY! For inquiry: 808-430-2620** 1.15.24

February 2024

Happy Strummers

Orchid Club

Home

Zazen



Youth Taiko

January 2024

SMTWTFS

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 February 2024

SMTWTFS

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15 16 17

March 2024

SMTWTFS

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