



Daifukuji Soto Mission

P.O. Box 55 Kealahou, HI 96750
808-322-3524 www.daifukuji.org

Treasuring the Past, Embracing the Present

January 2008

New Year's Blessing Services

Monday, December 31	11:45 pm
Tuesday, January 1	10:00 am

Let's begin 2008 with prayers for peace, happiness, good health, and safety. At the midnight service you may participate in the ringing of the temple bell (joia no kane) and enjoy hot soba noodles. Tea and sweets will be served after the morning service on New Year's Day.

Hawaii Kannon omamori and ofuda will be available at both services and throughout the month of January. Omamori are Buddhist charms that invite the blessings of safety, happiness, and peace. They can be hung in one's car or boat or carried in one's bag. Lovingly made by Kay Sugai, Matsue Ikeda, & Sakae Oshima, the lauhala omamori are very special and found only at our temple. Woven from the leaves of the hala tree, they are fragrant and biodegradable. Ofuda are prayer cards that one hangs in one's house, shop, or office to invite the blessings of the buddhas and bodhisattvas. The 2008 ofuda features a line drawing of the Kannon-sama that graces our temple, along with the words "May you be safe. May you be happy. May you live in peace. Namu Kanzeon Bosatsu." A donation of \$5 per omamori and \$2 per ofuda is requested.

Abundant blessings will be bestowed upon all. May we greet the new year 2008 with clear minds and calm hearts.

Fujinkai Hatsumairi

January 6	10 a.m.
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Members of the Daifukuji Fujinkai are cordially invited to the Fujinkai's first service of the new year called the *hatsumairi*, which will be followed by a short meeting and the installation of officers.

Sushi tickets will be distributed and the annual dues of \$5 collected. Please bring some canned foods for the Hawaii Island Food Basket (food bank). You need not bring a grab bag this time.

This year's luncheon will be held at the Hong Kong Chop Suey restaurant in Captain Cook. Please call Nancy Tanaka at 322-3205 by Dec.31 to let her know if you will be able to attend the luncheon. Ladies, let's enjoy a lovely morning together.

The Fujinkai is the temple's wonderful women's group which is in its 92nd year. New members are always welcome. For information, call Joyce at 329-3833 or Yoshiko at 322-3533.

New Year's Party

Saturday, January 19 6:00 p.m.

Members and friends are invited to the temple's new year's party to be held January 19 in the social hall. Please fill out the enclosed reservation form and return it to the temple by January 6, 2008.

Hawaii Island



The next Project Dana Senior Activity Morning will be held on Wednesday, January 9 from 8:30 am until noon. For information about Project Dana, call Vivian Ontai at 322-0942 or Reiko Sekine at 334-1127.

2007 Temple Report

by Jan Bovard, Temple President

(This report was presented at the general membership meeting on December 9, 2007.)

Dear members and friends,

Thanks to your help and generous contributions, the temple fared well in 2007 and the Board worked hard to insure that temple operations ran smoothly and improvements were made where needed. These are the main things that happened:

1. A new stonewall was built at a cost of \$30,147. (We received \$11,700 in donations from our members.) Our old wall was severely damaged in the October 2006 earthquake. Colorful flowers were planted to brighten the inside border of the wall. Thank you to everyone who generously contributed to our stonewall reconstruction fund.
2. Because so many graves were damaged by the earthquake, the Board had to create guidelines for the exhumation of graves. (Please see Rev. Jiko for the guidelines.) We thank Shirlene Yoneyama and Harold Murata for a professionally-done cemetery damage report. We are requesting that damages to individual graves be repaired by the families responsible for those graves. The temple will continue to work on the overall improvement of the cemetery.
3. Two new refrigerators were purchased for the hall kitchen. The old freezer was removed, and the damaged flooring replaced.
4. Obon: Thanks to the hard work of our members, we have a new yagura along with a new skirt to go around it. This cost us \$4,700.

Four new speakers were situated inside the yagura. The temple invited Bon dance instructor Ruriko Hayashi who came from Honolulu to give us dance instruction.

5. A successful bazaar which added \$15,482 to the temple building fund was held on May 20th. The date of the 2008 bazaar will be announced soon.

6. Dr. Julia Crawford created a beautiful picture book about our temple which contains many nice photos of our members. This book is available for \$30. Please see Rev. Jiko for a copy.

7. In August a communication workshop was given by Rev. Joshin Althouse, and a tokudo ceremony held for Jill Teiho Wagner. We thank Teiho and also Ven Rabjee for their service to our Sangha and to Rev. Jiko.

8. Two of our members turned 100 years old this year. We congratulate Taketo Sasaki and Shizuko Teshima.

9. A wonderful new group has formed to honor and provide service to our kupunas. Coordinated by Vivian Ontai and Reiko Sekine, "Lei Wili O Na Kupuna" Project Dana meets once a month for fun, fellowship, & great meals. Funded by Daifukuji and donations received, this program is provided free for our senior members. \$1,000 was provided by our temple to start this program.

10. The access to the nokotsudo (columbarium) has been improved at a cost of \$1,700. The ground has been leveled and a new surface put down. A new handrail and an additional step were added for safety.

11. There are 15 different groups that regularly meet and practice at our temple. The aikido, yoga, Baikako, Sangha Sisters, and adult taiko groups are accepting new members. The Kids & Teen sanghas also accept new families throughout the year.

12. The new year's party committee is working hard to plan a wonderful party for our members and friends. The Board has decided that the party be an alcohol-free event due to liability concerns. In this day and age, organizations such as ours have to be very careful. We ask for everyone's understanding.

13. 30 new members (17 new families) joined our Daifukuji sangha in 2007. We welcome these members warmly & thank them for joining.

14. In 2008 we will be expanding our meditation and dharma study program. Please read details in this newsletter.

15. In January, along with the membership forms for 2008, Rev. Jiko will be sending out a brochure describing the Soto Zen Buddhist Lay Confirmation Ceremony which will give our members a chance to receive the precepts, as well as a Buddhist name.

I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Daifukuji Board of Directors for the time, energy, and guidance they've provided, and to all of our members and supporters who make our temple the beautiful place that it is today.

Gassho,
Jan

Zen Taiko Group Invites New Members

The Daifukuji Zen Taiko adult taiko group is now welcoming new members to their group which practices on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 pm in the Hisashi Kimura Cultural Hall. For information, call instructor Kris Yamauchi at 326-1351 or 854-1625.

In Memoriam

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of the late George Miyuki Harada who passed away at age 83 on November 12, 2007 .

Our loving thoughts go out to the family of the late Dale Sachiko (Deguchi) Gomes who passed away at the age of 45 on November 16, 2007.

We express our heartfelt condolences to the family of the late Nancy Tsukiko Watanabe who passed away at age 63 on November 23, 2007.

Namu Kie Butsu. Namu Kie Ho. Namu Kie So.

Mochitsuki (Mochi Making & Sale) Friday, December 28

3:00 am Rice Cooking Begins
5:00 am Mochi Making Begins
9:00 am – 3:00 pm **Mochi Pick Up**

Mochi making at the end of the year is a Japanese tradition. It is also a Daifukuji tradition, one which involves a lot of hard work, but also brings joy and good fortune to the Sangha and larger community. The annual mochitsuki is also a fundraiser that benefits both the Daifukuji Teen Sangha and the Daifukuji Youth Taiko group.

A MOCHI ORDER FORM has been mailed to you. If you have not received one & would like to place an order for mochi, please call Rev. Jiko at 322-3524 or Avis Yamamoto at 322-3167 immediately.

This mochi sale is only possible with the help of many volunteers. Please come out and help if you are able. There will be two shifts on Friday, Dec. 28: 1) 5 am – 11 am, and 2) 11 am – pau (including clean up). Please call Rev. Jiko at 322-3524 to sign up for a shift. Onegai shimasu.

Taiko students and Teen Sangha members, please gather at the temple kitchen at 8 am on Thur. December 27 to wash the mochi rice and equipment and to prepare for the mochitsuki.

A warm mahalo to Avis and Brian Yamamoto for coordinating this annual event!



Brian Yamamoto & Mike Asada pound in good fortune!

Wishing You a Happy New Year!

Dear Members and Friends,

I wish all of you a very happy 2008! For the world in which we live, may there be peace, peace, and only peace. May all beings learn to live in peace and harmony.

The peace and joy of the entire world depends upon the peace and joy of each of its inhabitants. Similarly, the peace and joy of our Sangha community depends upon the peace and joy of each of our members, and the peace and joy of a family depends upon the peace and joy of its members. And where does the peace and joy of each of us begin? For some, it begins with daily meditation & chanting in front of a home altar. For others, it begins on a small meditation cushion called a zafu. For others still, it might begin with a walk outside in the fresh air and sunshine among the blessings of nature. We each need to discover our own sources of peace and joy.

The Buddhist sources of peace and joy are the Three Treasures - the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. Looking at the Buddha, one feels pure serenity and overflowing compassion. Studying the Dharma, one finds teachings of supreme wisdom that show one how to live wisely and calmly amidst the sufferings and sorrows of the world. Practicing with a Sangha, one discovers excellent friends. It is written in the "Shushogi" that "Quickly taking refuge in the three treasures of buddha, dharma, and sangha will not only bring release from suffering, it will lead to the realization of enlightenment." Therefore, let us, all together, take refuge in the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha and be excellent friends throughout this new year.

Our loving Daifukuji Sangha ohana is a source of peace and joy for me every day. My door is always open and I am always here to support you on the Path. May the Buddha's wisdom light guide you each day of the new year! Namu kie butsu. Namu kie ho. Namu kie so.

***With much gratitude and aloha, in gassho,
Rev. Jiko***

2008 Daifukuji Soto Mission Japan Tour

May 28 – June 9, 2008

It is still possible for you to join our 2008 Daifukuji Soto Mission Japan Tour. We have 18 confirmed passengers and can accommodate up to 32. The cost of this tour is dependent upon the number of people going. (It will be somewhere between \$3,282 - \$3,700 per person. This includes air and ground transportation, admission to the various sites, some meals, the services of an English-speaking guide escort, portage, a group photo, and hotel accommodations based on 2 persons to a hotel room.) Rev. Jiko is collecting a deposit of \$100 per person made payable to [Kobayashi Travel](#).

The itinerary looks fantastic – a well-balanced combination of visits to famous temples, scenic spots, cultural events, and unique shopping opportunities. We will be going to Eihei-ji Monastery which was founded by Dogen Zenji and Sojiji Soin Temple which was founded by Keizan Zenji and seeing Rev. Tamiya and his family and temple in Niigata City. We'll even have a chance to have dinner on Sado Island with a group of Taishoji Soto Mission members who will also be touring Japan! Taiko lovers will enjoy a performance by Gojinjyo Daiko in Wajima and visiting Asano Taiko where taiko drums are made. Shoppers will enjoy the incredible variety of shops that we'll be stopping at along the way. Please see Rev. Jiko for an itinerary or call her at 322-3524 if you are interested in going. Rev. Jiko does not know when she'll be able to offer such a Japan tour again, so please don't pass by this great opportunity.

2008 Dharma Study Sessions

by Clear Englebert

There will be two five-week series of Dharma Study sessions at Daifukuji in 2008. The first series will be February 21 through March 27, excepting March 6. The second series will be August 14 through September 11. The sessions are all on Thursdays from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Each session begins with twenty minutes of seated meditation. There is a \$25 suggested donation per series (\$5 per class), but donations are not required. All ages are welcome, and pre-registration is encouraged.

The focus of the first series will be the Buddhist precepts. These succinct sentences were passed down through Dogen Zenji and Keizan Zenji to guide us from the behavior which creates more suffering for ourselves and others. The precepts begin with taking refuge in the Three Treasures – Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. Following that are the Three Pure Precepts – Cease from evil, Do only good, Do good for others. Then there are the Ten Great Precepts: Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not covet, Do not say that which is untrue, Do not sell the wine of delusion, Do not speak against others, Do not be proud of yourself and devalue others, Do not be mean in giving either Dharma or wealth, Do not be angry, Do not debase the Three Treasures. This version of the precepts is from Dogen Zenji's Shushogi chapter of the *Shobogenzo*, translated by Roshi Jiyu Kennett in *Zen is Eternal Life*. There are many translations of these Dharma jewels – shedding light on their various facets.

A personal note:

I was ordained as a Soto Lay person in 1976 at Shasta Abbey in northern California. At one time I was a lay minister, and at one time I was a monk. I have never been a Buddhist teacher, and am not qualified to be, but I can do the two things that Rev. Jiko has asked of me: help with the selection of scriptures to study, and facilitate the Dharma Study sessions. I've been a professional bookseller and librarian for most of my life, and this has made me aware of the vast number of the Buddhist scriptures and their various translations.

Buddhist scriptures have been written through thousands of years in various circumstances. Some of the writings from India were originally oral and are repetitive and rich in imagery. Our modern ears are not used to this type of writing and they can be difficult. Other writings can have their meanings

hidden behind code words. This happened a lot in China, where there were at least three bloody repressions of Buddhism, when it was seen as a foreign influence. To decode these poems and scriptures properly takes a translator who has had the same enlightenment experience as the scripture writer. Then there are some scriptures which were written simply and manage to reach our hearts even in a clumsy translation. *The Dhammapada* is an example of a stunningly clear scripture. To read it is to love and cherish it. My favorite translation is by P. Lal:

*There is only one eternal law:
Hate never destroys hate; only love does.*

*Some never see the point of disciplining themselves.
Others do; they are the wise ones; they do not argue.*

You may now register for the first session (Feb.21-March 27) by calling Rev. Jiko at 322-3524.

Sojiji Soin Restoration Fund Drive

In March, 2007 a major earthquake hit Wajima, Japan and destroyed much of the Sojiji Soin Temple, which has great historical, cultural, and religious value for Soto Zen Buddhists since this was where the spread of Soto teachings began. (The Daifukuji group will visit this temple on their Japan tour.)

Restoration efforts have begun in Japan and are expected to take ten years to complete at an estimated cost of about \$10,000,000. The Hawaii Soto Mission Association has already contributed \$5,000 to the Restoration Fund. Soto Mission of Hawaii has donated \$10,000.

The Hawaii Soto Mission Association at its 2007 Fall Meeting decided to begin a Restoration Fund Drive to further help the cause. Each Soto family is asked to contribute to this fund in the spirit of *dana* or whole-hearted giving. The amount of the donation is not as important as the spirit with which the donation is made. Even a donation of \$5 sends the message of aloha from Soto members in Hawaii to Soto Dharma friends in Japan. To participate in this fund drive, please send a check made payable to Daifukuji Soto Mission, with a note on the check that specifies "Restoration Fund Drive." Your name will be included on the donor list that will be sent to Sojiji Soin.

January 2008									
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
	31 (Dec.) New Year's Blessing Service 11:45 pm	1 New Year's Blessing Service 10 am	2 Zazen 6 am Fujinkai Board Meeting 7 pm	3	4 Samu 8 am	5			
6 No Family Service Fujinkai Hatsumairi 10 am	7 Happy Strummers 7:30 pm	8	9 Zazen 6 am Project Dana Senior Morning 8:30 am	10 Evening Zazen 7 pm	11 Samu 8 a.m. Sangha Sisters 7 pm	12			
13 Goeika 8 am Family Service 9:30 am	14	15	16 Zazen 6 am Kannon-ko Service 10 am	17	18 Samu 8 am	19 Daifukuji New Year's Party 8 am Set up, cooking 6 pm Party begins			
20 No Family Service	21 Happy Strummers 7:30 pm	22	23 Zazen 6 am	24 Evening Zazen 7 pm	25 Samu 8am	26			
27 Goeika 8 am Family Service 9:30 am	28	29	30 Zazen 6 am	31	COMING UP IN FEB. Feb. 10 Nehan-e Service Feb. 13 Project Dana Feb. 16 Fujinkai Sushi Sale	Feb. 20 Kannon-ko Feb. 21 Dharma Study Session Begins			
<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Regular Activities:</td> <td style="width: 35%;">* Youth Taiko- Mon & Wed. 5p.m. *** Yoga –Sun. 4 p.m.</td> <td style="width: 50%;">** Adult Taiko-Tues. 6 pm (Kris Sensei 854-1625, 326-1351) ****Aikido - Tues. 5 pm, Thur. 6 pm (Mothes Sensei 324-1214)</td> </tr> </table>							Regular Activities:	* Youth Taiko- Mon & Wed. 5p.m. *** Yoga –Sun. 4 p.m.	** Adult Taiko-Tues. 6 pm (Kris Sensei 854-1625, 326-1351) ****Aikido - Tues. 5 pm, Thur. 6 pm (Mothes Sensei 324-1214)
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Daifukuji Soto Mission 79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy, Kealahou, HI 96750 808-322-3524

Happy New Year!
Please join our temple's New Year's party.
Saturday, January 19, 2008
(This will be an alcohol-free event.)

Time: 6:00 pm Dinner & Program
Place: Daifukuji Soto Mission Social Hall

Cost: \$5.00 per person for Daifukuji members
\$10.00 per person for non-member guests
Free for children ages 5 and under

DOOR PRIZES will be given in a *NEW* way this year. We will have a number of door prizes ready. You can choose the prize you hope to win by placing your name in the basket in front of it. You need not bring prize items to the party.

We hope you'll join us in celebrating the Year of the Rat. There will be great food, entertainment, and prizes. Cooking and set up for the party will begin at 8:00 am on January 19. Many helping hands are needed. If you would like to donate pupus, non-alcoholic beverages, desserts, or menu ingredients, please call Alfreida Fujita in the evening at 329-3457 by January 12. If you have any questions, please call Joyce St. Arnault at 329-3833 or Rev. Jiko at 322-3524.

Kindly RSVP by January 6, 2008 by filling out the enclosed form . Please include payment and mail to:

Daifukuji Soto Mission, 79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy, Kealahou, HI 96750.

Daifukuji Soto Mission New Year's Party
Reservation Form
Return to Temple by January 6, 2008

NAME: _____ Phone no. _____
E-mail Address _____

Daifukuji Members.....No. _____ X \$5.00 = _____

Non-member guests.....No. _____ X \$10.00 = _____

(Names of guests: _____
_____)

Children under 5 (Free) No. _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please fill out and enclose payment. Make check payable to Daifukuji Soto Mission. Please give to Rev. Jiko or mail to:

Daifukuji Soto Mission
Attn: New Year's Party
79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy
Kealekekua, HI 96750

Kindly RSVP by January 6, 2008.

No tickets will be sent to you.

Your name and record of payment will be available at the door.

Our hope is that this prepayment system will simplify your entrance to the party.