



79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealahou, HI 96750

July, 2020

(808) 322-3524 [www.daifukuji.org](http://www.daifukuji.org)

See “archives” on our website for previous newsletters.

## Sitting Together Again

Dear Daifukuji sangha and friends,

The temple and gift shop are still closed to visitors, but private services are being held and a few groups have returned under the new COVID-19 guidelines, which require temperature checks, the wearing of masks, hand sanitizing, and physical distancing — all of the things that we do when we’re out in public places to keep ourselves and others as safe as possible.

In fact, yesterday, the members of the Daifukuji Zazenkaï sat together for the first time in three months. With zafus (meditation cushions) and chairs spaced six feet apart throughout the Kannon Hall and library room, it was possible for everyone who came to sit together in silence with their masks on. It was truly a joy to be sitting amongst sangha friends once again. Today, our evening meditation group will be coming back.

In addition to the Zazenkaï, the groups which will soon be returning to the temple are: Kona Daifukuji Taiko (youth group), Daifukuji Yoga, Daifukuji Gay Sangha, and the Soleful Strutters Walking Moai.

I am sure that we are all aware that the COVID-19 situation is largely unpredictable and that we need to be as flexible as possible. What a good opportunity this is to practice “going with the flow!” Fortunately, our Buddhist practice helps to keep our hearts open and our minds soft and flexible.

May we always take refuge in Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha and live in compassion. Life truly is precious. Dear friends, please take care. Thank you for your kindness and for your support of Daifukuji during this challenging time.

*Namu kie butsu. Namu kie hō. Namu kie sō.*

Warm aloha, in gassho,

*Rev. Jiko Nakade*



## Toba Memorial Dedications for Obon

The Daifukuji Board has decided that only Hatsubon families will be invited to a private Bon service on June 28. We ask for everyone's understanding during these unusual circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic when the temple's seating capacity is limited due to the physical distancing requirement.

The Dharma message will be delivered by **Rev. Blayne Higa**, resident minister of Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Rev. Higa's talk be videotaped and offered through Daifukuji's YouTube channel. (See page 6 for information regarding online services.)

Here is a list of the departed for whom this is a first Obon (Hatsubon):

**Mitsue Oshima, Clark and Kazuyo Sasaki, James Okimoto, Nancy Tanaka, Masaru Deguchi, Jeanette Tinnel, Paul Teramoto, Raymond Ikeda and Ray Yamane**

The Toba Form was included in the May newsletter, which can be found in the archives section on the Daifukuji website: [www.daifukuji.org](http://www.daifukuji.org). It is past the deadline for submitting forms. Please call Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524 or send an email to [info@daifukuji.org](mailto:info@daifukuji.org) if you have questions.

## Daifukuji Bon Dance, Orchid Show, & Bazaar Cancelled

Being that our temple's #1 priority is to protect the health and safety of our sangha and community, this year's Bon dance, orchid show, and bazaar have all been cancelled.

We also regret that PROJECT DANA will not be held until further notice.

Let's all stay safer at home, live healthily, and look forward to the day when we can once again hold these kinds of events.



## The Heart of the Buddha's Teachings: A New Series of Online Dharma Classes Is Starting August 4

Tuesdays from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. (New Time)

All are invited to join the Tuesday Dharma Fellowship which now meets using **ZOOM** video conferencing. On August 4th, our group will begin a new book called *The Heart of the Buddha's Teachings: 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 will be available for purchase through Rev. Jiko at the reduced price of \$8 with checks made payable to: **Daifukuji Gift Shop**.

**To register for this new series and to order a copy of the book, please contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524, or [info@daifukuji.org](mailto:info@daifukuji.org). Donations to Daifukuji Soto Mission are appreciated.**

## Library News

*By Clear Houn Englebert*



Here are the new arrivals:

*The Platform Sutra* translated by Red Pine, who is my favorite translator—scholarly and poetic at the same time. This sutra is by Hui-neng who was the sixth Chinese Zen ancestor. It was compiled (as different from written) between 700 and 720 AD, and the reason it's called the Platform Sutra is because he stood on a raised platform to deliver his lectures.

We are fortunate to have two more books by Sylvia Boorstein who is one of the most accessible of Western teachers: *That's Funny, You Don't Look Buddhist* and *It's Easier Than You Think*.

*Diamond Sutra Explained* is by Nan Huai-Chin who is well known in Chinese-speaking countries, but this is the first of his many books that we've gotten in our library. His knowledge is obviously very extensive, yet his writing is clear enough for anyone to read.

*Money Sex War Karma* by David Loy has a flashy title, but is actually a very substantial book. If you start reading it, you probably won't put it down.

*American Sutra* by Duncan Ryuken Williams is an important history of the Japanese American internment which was published last year, and it places the Buddhist dimension in the foreground.

We have two colorful new children's books: *The Want Monsters And How They Stopped Ruling My World* by Chelo Manchego and *The Sweeper* by Rebecca Hazell which is about mindfulness.



Speaker Ms. Betsy Kairen Morigan  
Addressing the Graduates and Their Families



Congratulations to Our Graduates!

## Our Best Wishes to the Graduates

On the morning of June 14, the sun was shining on the glittering graduation decorations put up by Brian and Avis Yamamoto the day before. Joyce St. Arnault and Elaine Fernandez were up at the light of day and arrived very early to set up the gift table. They were followed by Stephen Tanaka, who disinfected the railings, door handles, and other high-touch areas. Around 8:30 a.m. the graduates and their families began pulling into the driveway, knowing that they would have to have their temperatures taken by Joyce and Elaine before entering the temple. All remembered to wear their face masks and to sit in their assigned pews in order to practice physical distancing.

At 9:30 a.m. the ceremony began with Deacon Amy Jikai ringing the temple bell, Master of Ceremony Bobby Command taking his place at the podium, and Avis and Brian handling the photography and live-streaming of the service via Facebook. Rev. Jiko and Deacon Jikai put on their face shields before approaching the altar platform, hoping that their new headgear would not fog up during the chanting of the sutras. Fortunately, it did not. The blessing proceeded smoothly.

The highlight of the ceremony was the message given by keynote speaker, Ms. Betsy Kairen Morigan, who had thoughtfully taken the time to call each of the graduates beforehand and included their thoughts and words in her speech. What a wonderful speech it was! You may view it on Daifukuji's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOhf8OL9DnE&t=131s>.

Betsy's inspiring talk was followed by words given by taiko sensei Akemi Iwamoto, who found it hard to hold back her tears when addressing the graduates, among them the five students who are members of Kona Daifukuji Taiko. Congratulations were given by Bobby Command, our temple president, and a quiet "banzai" led by a highly self-restrained Brian Yamamoto whose normal "BANZAI!" has the power to rock the planet. The ceremony ended with everyone humming along to the song "Hawaii Aloha." (Just so you know — singing and shouting are known to spread droplets, and are therefore not recommended.)

Dear graduates, we love and honor all of you and hope that you enjoyed your blessing service. Our sangha 'ohana will always be here for you.

(A video of the ceremony can be found on Daifukuji's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/konadaifukujitemple/videos/682034245909963/>)



## Congratulations to Kona Daifukuji Taiko Graduates

by Sensei Akemi Iwamoto, Taiko Instructor

Join me in congratulating and honoring our Kona Daifukuji Taiko Group graduating seniors:

Jordan Buskirk

Douglas Ii

Noa Roth

Riley Sato

Kai Watkins

From a very young age, our Taiko seniors dedicated countless hours of service to Kona Daifukuji Taiko and Daifukuji Soto Mission. I remember them as tiny little beings following behind me, chatting with each other, as we marched over to the next project and/or area to be cleaned at church. It has been so much fun to watch them develop into amazing leaders to those who are coming up behind them. Now, I stand back and watch as the little ones march happily behind them.

The years fly by, oh too quickly! I am forever grateful and honored to have been a part of their journey. And what an amazing journey it's been! We've celebrated the highs, supported each other through the lows and laughed our way through the ho-hum.

Jordan, Douglas, Noa, Riley and Kai - our group members and I will miss you dearly! We send you off to your next amazing adventure with love and light. Whatever you do, wherever you land, your taiko community will be cheering you on. Remember to be kind to yourself, be kind to each other, be safe and always help all those who are in need.

This is not aloha, but *a hui hou!* Be well, my luvs!

## Dharma Talks by Hawaii's Soto Zen Ministers

Dharma talks may be viewed online by going to the Facebook page **Soto Zen Buddhism in Hawaii**

<https://www.facebook.com/Soto-Zen-Buddhism-in-Hawaii-111602773848472/>. Click on “videos.”

Here is the schedule:

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Bishop Komagata     | May 3, 2020       |
| 2. Rev. Nakade         | May 17, 2020      |
| 3. Rev. Kaniumoe       | May 31, 2020      |
| 4. Rev. Hoshino        | June 14, 2020     |
| 5. Rev. Ishii          | June 28, 2020     |
| 6. Rev. Hata           | July 12, 2020     |
| 7. Rev. Yoshida        | July 26, 2020     |
| 8. Rev. Shuji Komagata | August 9, 2020    |
| 9. Rev. Fukagawa       | August 23, 2020   |
| 10. Rev. Wright        | September 6, 2020 |



## How to Watch a Daifukuji Service on the Internet

*We invite you to view our major Buddhist services, Dharma talks, Family Sangha children's services, and Kannon services on the internet.*

There are two ways to view Daifukuji services via the internet:



### 1. On Facebook

(1) Google Daifukuji Soto Zen Buddhist Temple Facebook or use this link: <https://www.facebook.com/konadaifukujitemple/>.

(2) Click on “Videos” or scroll down to find the desired service.

### 2. On Daifukuji's YouTube Channel



(1) Google Daifukuji Soto Zen YouTube.

Note: All live-streamed services shown up to April 25, 2020 are viewable on Daifukuji's Facebook page. Services videotaped after April 25 have been uploaded to the temple's YouTube site with a link to these services given on the Facebook page. Please support our efforts by subscribing to our YouTube channel.

## A New Way to Make a Donation

In response to members' requests for being able to donate to Daifukuji Soto Mission using PayPal, the temple's website [www.daifukuji.org](http://www.daifukuji.org) now provides this option.

Simply click on the tab “Giving” on the home page. Here's the link: <http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html>. Mahalo for your support during this challenging time.

## In Memoriam

To the family of the late **Yaeko Hakoda**, who passed away on June 5, 2020 at the age of 94, we express our deep and heartfelt sympathy.



*Namu Daihi Kanzeon Bosatsu  
Homage to Kannon Bodhisattva  
of Great Compassion*

## Meeting By ZOOM

The following groups are holding virtual meetings via ZOOM.

- \* Bare Bones Writers
- \* Sangha Sisters Women's Spirituality Circle
- \* Daifukuji Dharma Fellowship

To join these groups, please find contact info at: <http://www.daifukuji.org/activities.html> or call Rev. Jiko for information (808) 322-3524.



## Mahalo Nui Loa

Thank you to the following sangha friends who have recently donated hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, and additional face masks:

Harvey, Sonya, & Dwayne Nakamura

Kay Sugai

Corinne Koseda

Smita Patel

Susie Weaver

Betsy Kairen Morrigan

Judie Myoko Fekete

Avis Taijun and Brian Taijo Yamamoto

Yukie Yamane

Andrea (Harai) Shea

Akemi Iwamoto

Esther Shigezawa

## Just Follow the Arrows

Thank you to Steve Hoshin and Clear Houn for marking the carpet and the pews with tape to allow for social distancing. This is our new normal inside the temple.



Hawaii Soto Mission Bishop's Office  
Guidelines for Reopening of Hawaii Soto Shu Temples

Approved by Bishop Shugen Komagata 5/27/2020

In an effort to mitigate the spread of infection, Daifukuji Soto Mission will:

- Ventilate the temple by opening the doors (at least 5-10 minutes at a time, every 30 to 60 minutes).
- Minimize crowding: Schedule services so that the temple is only up to 1/3 full at a time. Gradually will increase to 2/3 over time.
- Avoid close contact: No hugging or shaking hands. Instead we shall gassho and bow reverently to one another.
- Fully disinfect temple: Regularly disinfect commonly touched/shared surfaces.
- **Utilize PPE: Require anyone who enters temple buildings to wear a mask. Take the temperature of everyone upon entrance.**

We ask temple members, their families, friends, and visitors to support our efforts by:

- Following current rules on social distancing.
- Staying at home if they have a temperature or are not feeling well.
- Maintaining proper personal hygiene. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer upon entrance into the temple.

Here are a few tips from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention:

- Wash your hands often. Washing with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds is ideal.
- Hand sanitizer is an effective alternative to washing hands if hands are not visibly soiled. Gels, rubs, and hand wipes all work well, as long as they contain at least 60% alcohol. Hand wipes must be disposed of properly. Always read and follow label instructions when using hand sanitizer.
- Keep your hands away from your face and avoid touching your mouth, nose, or eyes when possible.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into your sleeve or the inside of your elbow. Do not cough or sneeze into your hands. If a tissue is used, it should be thrown out immediately.

**If you suspect that you have contracted any illness it is important that you do not visit the temple until you are no longer symptomatic.**

Thank you for your help in keeping everyone at the temple healthy.