



79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealahou, HI 96750

January, 2021

(808) 322-3524 www.daifukuji.org

See "archives" on our website for previous newsletters.

New Year's Day Drive-Through Blessing

Omamori & Calendar Pick Up

Pets are welcome!

Friday, January 1, 2021

10:00 a.m. - Noon



Daifukuji Soto Mission Parking Lot

Please wear a mask and stay inside your vehicle. You may bring your pets and have them included in your family's New Year's blessing which will be performed by Rev. Jiko with the assistance of Deacon Jikai.

An omamori and ofuda order form is included in this newsletter. Pre-payment would expedite pick up of items.

Complimentary calendars are for Daifukuji members. Out-of-town members, please let us know if you would like to have your 2021 calendar mailed to you.

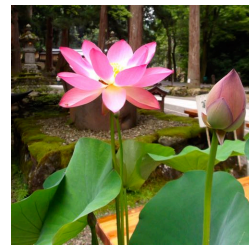
A 2021 Membership Form & Omamori Order Form are included in this issue.

We welcome new members with gratitude and aloha.

Season's Greetings from Rev. Jiko

Dear Members and Friends of Daifukuji,

Warm greetings of the season to all. I hope that you are finding creative ways to enjoy the holidays this year and are staying safe and healthy in the midst of this grave pandemic. Let us all practice patience and wise action, knowing that the time will come when we will again be able to safely gather and enjoy each other's company. Until then, may each one of us do everything possible to protect our loved ones, friends, and community, making sacrifices when necessary. May our bodhisattva vows carry us through this challenging time. For inspiration, one can turn to the lotus.



Lotus at Eiheiji Monastery in Fukui, Japan. I took this photo a number of years ago.



My sprouting lotus seeds - how exciting!

Imagine a lotus plant with its strong stem rising above the muddy waters of the pond to put forth a blossom of incredible beauty and purity. In fact, for thousands of years, the lotus has inspired spiritual seekers and has served as a symbol of enlightenment. Did you know that a lotus seed can remain viable for a very long time? One source says 300 years; another says 1,000 years! I recently purchased 5 seeds, filed them, and set them in a bowl of water. To my delight, 4 of them have germinated. I change the water daily and am fascinated by their growth.

For a long time I've been wanting to try growing lotus at Daifukuji, but have not had the time. However, not long ago, all of the necessary elements manifested naturally. I found seeds on the internet and ordered them; Elsie gave me the perfect pot; Larry hauled my old bathtub to the gardens above the columbarium, and Steve Hoshin and Clear Houn gave me a bucketful of pond mud. Never was I so happy to receive a gift of mud! One after another, the right conditions manifested.



My old bathtub and new lotus pond!

For Buddhists around the world, the lotus is a powerful source of inspiration, a reminder that we ourselves are the lotus. We make our home in the mud and muck of the world and discover, deep within ourselves, the spiritual energy to reach for the light. Our strong stem is that of our Zen training, the spine which aligns with Buddha and puts forth the bud of awakening which opens, petal by petal, revealing a blossom of exquisite beauty which is shared with all beings. As the Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh has wisely said, "No mud, no lotus." The mud is necessary for our growth and transformation, as is the water, sunlight, and entire universe supporting our lives. Buddha is our teacher, our inspiration; Dharma, the nutriments that feed our hearts and minds; Sangha, our garden of good friends.

Watching me fuss over my lotus seeds, my daughter Jikai suggested that I choose a lotus theme for 2021. Thus, the motto "Daifukuji Soto Mission — Rising Like a Lotus" on the top of page 1 of this newsletter. Dear Sangha, each one of you is a lotus, a sprouting seed, a budding Buddha. I "gassho" to you with deep respect. May we awaken together.

May you have safe and peaceful days and nights and greet 2021 with energy and optimism. May the New Year be bright with peace.

With warm aloha in gassho,

Rev. Jiko

Online Auction Report

We are pleased to announce that our recent online auction generated \$11,625.69 for Daifukuji Soto Mission's Building Maintenance Fund. This amount includes monetary donations received. Our sangha is truly thankful for everyone's tremendous support. Mahalo nui loa!

Mochi Video

Please visit Daifukuji's YouTube channel "Daifukuji Soto Zen" for Rev. Jiko's video on how to make mochi using the simple recipe which was included in last month's newsletter. The video will be available soon.



Mr. Hisashi Kimura pounding mochi at Daifukuji with Mrs. Matsuura and others looking on, and little Martin Matsuura sitting on a can. Circa 1950's

In Memoriam



To the family of the late Charles "Chuck" Koseda, who passed away on December 3 at the age of 73, we send our loving thoughts and heartfelt sympathy.

Namu Daihi Kanzeon Bosatsu



Rev. Jiko's Drive-Thru Birthday Celebration on December 23

by Amy Jikai Nakade

In last month's newsletter, I included an invitation to my mom's 60th *Kanreki* Celebration, which I am hosting on December 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. here at the temple.

I decided to host this drive-thru *Kanreki* celebration because I value its significance in Japanese culture. Traditionally, families gather to bless the birthday celebrant with good wishes. In our case, our sangha is our family. So, I decided to invite everyone, even though I knew that Mom would be embarrassed by this birthday celebration and by people knowing how old she really is.

So, if you're free that morning, please swing by. No gifts are necessary. My family is blessed with a wonderful Sangha 'Ohana and truly appreciate all that you do for us and for Daifukuji. Arigato gozaimasu. Thank you all so much!

General Membership Meeting to be Held via ZOOM

Sunday, December 13

10:00 a.m.

Daifukuji members, you are cordially invited to a brief annual general membership meeting which will be held virtually on December 13 at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Jiko will be emailing the ZOOM link to those members whose email addresses are on file at the temple.

We ask for your participation in electing the directors to the 2021-2022 Daifukuji Board.



January Programs Being Offered Online Via ZOOM

Zazen - Every Wednesday morning from 6 a.m. - 7:20 a.m.; Thursday evenings (January 7 & January 21) from 6 p.m. - 7:20 p.m. Contact Rev. Jiko to receive ZOOM link, (808) 322-3524, info@daifukuji.org.

Ongoing Dharma Study: The Heart of the Buddha's Teachings

We meet weekly and are more than halfway through the book *The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching: Transforming Suffering into Peace, Joy, and Liberation*. To join these sessions, please contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524, or info@daifukuji.org. Please let her know which session (Tuesday or Thursday afternoon) you wish to join. She will send you the ZOOM link. Books are available for purchase.

Please note that there will be no classes in December. **Classes will resume January 5.**

Online Study of the Precepts (Please see page 5.)

Sangha Sister's Women's Spirituality Circle - 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 - Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. Call Kathryn at (808) 345-2976 for information.

Daifukuji Sangha Social - This group meets on the third Sunday of the month from 10 - 11 a.m. The next meeting will be held on **January 17**. This is an opportunity to "talk story" with old friends and make new Sangha friends. 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 cell phone, iPad, or computer connected to ZOOM. You may reach him at (408) 674-5533 or KINDNESSISRAEL@gmail.com. You may join the Sangha Social by contacting Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524 or info@daifukuji.org.

Donations to Daifukuji Soto Mission are appreciated and may be given through the temple's website:

<http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html>

or mailed to Daifukuji Soto Mission, P.O. Box 55, Kealahou, HI 96750.

Online Study of the Precepts (January - March, 2021)

“How can I live a life of wisdom and compassion?”

12 weekly classes via ZOOM

Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

First class: Saturday, January 9, 2021



Receiving the precepts & one's Buddhist name and formally becoming a disciple of the Buddha is an important event in the life of a Soto Zen Buddhist. One will go through a process of study and reflection together with Rev. Jikō and a group of Sangha friends. The sharing of one's life is done in an atmosphere that is gentle, accepting, and compassionate. Many have found their lives illuminated and enriched by this inner journey.

In January of 2021, Rev. Jikō will be starting a new series of precepts study sessions using ZOOM. This 3-month course is comprised of 12 weekly one-hour sessions. It is an opportunity to learn about the 16 Bodhisattva precepts, which form the moral and ethical foundation of the Soto Zen tradition.

Once it is safe to travel and gather, Bishop Shugen Komagata will be going from temple to temple to offer Soto Zen Buddhist Lay Confirmation ceremonies.

These sessions are open to all who are interested in studying the precepts and do not require participation in the precepts ceremony.

There is no class fee. If desired, one may make a donation to Daifukuji Soto Mission.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Rev. Jikō at (808) 322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.

Online Precepts Sessions for Fujinkai Women's Association Members

12 weekly classes via ZOOM

Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

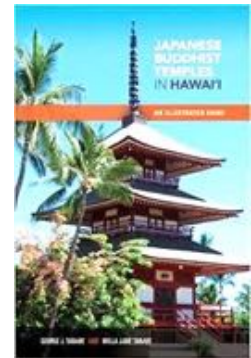
First class: Saturday, January 9, 2021

Fujinkai members who wish to study the precepts, including those who have already received Buddhist names, and join in the fellowship of Fujinkai members from around our state are invited to register for these afternoon sessions. The UHSSWA Executive Board, along with its Board of Advisors is currently working on setting up a special Lay Buddhist Confirmation Ceremony to be held upon completion of the 12 classes. Given the ongoing restrictions and uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this Lay Confirmation Ceremony will be held virtually on Zoom. The UHSSWA will subsidize a portion of the ceremony fee for Fujinkai members. This ceremony will be officiated by Bishop Shugen Komagata. To sign up or receive more information, please contact Rev. Jiko at 322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.

Hawaii Soto Mission Virtual Tour and Discussion

Aloha!

On behalf of the Hawaii Soto Mission Bishop's Office, I would like to invite you to the Hawaii Soto Mission Virtual Tour and Discussion on Saturday, January 30, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. This is a free "virtual" tour that will be held on Zoom and is open to everyone. We are honored to have Professor George Tanabe and Professor Willa Tanabe, authors of the book, *Japanese Buddhist Temples in Hawai'i*, serve as our tour guides. They will provide you with an in-depth look at the Soto temples in Hawaii, with pictures and discussions on the many similarities and differences between our temples and the rest of the Buddhist community.



EVENT: Hawaii Soto Mission Virtual Tour and Discussion

DATE: Saturday, January 30, 2021

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: This is a "virtual" tour, held online using Zoom

HOST: Hawaii Soto Mission Bishop's Office

PRESENTERS: Professor George Tanabe and Professor Willa Tanabe

All the temples are painted with their unique colors of history, but the future remains a blank canvas. Dwindling memberships, maintenance and operation costs, the changing community around the temple, the connection to the youth, and more—these are challenges so many of our faith-based institutions are facing today. Join us on this Hawaii Soto Mission Virtual Tour and Discussion to learn how many of the Hawaii Soto temples are taking on these issues. Our presenters will not only discuss how temples must adapt, transform, and change to meet the needs of the people of Hawaii, but also how the temples are embracing change to ensure a brighter future.

Participants on this Hawaii Soto Mission Virtual Tour will also be given the opportunity to ask Professors George and Willa Tanabe questions. Your presence and participation will bring depth to interactions and enrich the virtual tour for others as well.

Please click below to register and confirm your attendance

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZwocumppzMiH9znNcabNTHmUcKQLGognU5F>

Please share this invitation with your family, friends, and colleagues, and encourage them to register for this free event. After registering, you will be sent a link to the event. If you have any questions, please contact me at 808-224-2584 or 7676shuji@gmail.com

In Gassho,

Rev. Shuji Komagata

Executive Secretary to the Bishop

Omamori & Ofuda Order Form

Pick up is on January 1, 2021 at New Year's Day Drive-Through Blessing

Daifukuji Soto Mission Parking Lot 10 a.m. - Noon



Hawaii Kannon
Ofuda: a blessing to hang above or beside the doorways in your house or workplace.

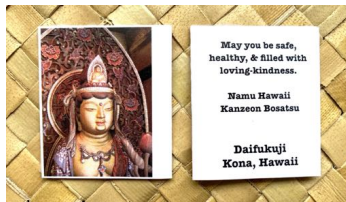
\$5.00 each

PRE-PAYMENT EXPEDITES YOUR OMAMORI PICK UP. THANK YOU.



Our new Custom Omamori with Hawaii Kannon on front & coffee branch & temple's name on back.

\$6.00 each



Wallet Omamori with Hawaii Kannon on front and loving-kindness blessing on back.

\$1 each



Regular Omamori (with attached Kannon picture)
\$5.00 each

We have limited quantities of each color. You may send us your preferred colors, but we cannot guarantee their availability and will select the colors that are available.

Pet Omamori
Attaches to a dog or cat's collar
(photo not available)

\$7.00 each

Name _____

Phone number _____

Email _____

Ofuda # _____ X \$5.00 = _____

Regular Omamori # _____ X \$5.00 = _____

Custom Omamori # _____ X \$6.00 = _____

Wallet Omamori # _____ X \$1.00 = _____

Pet Omamori # _____ X \$7.00 = _____

New Year's Blessing Donation to Daifukuji (optional) \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

To help us plan this drive-thru blessing, please circle your approximate arrival time at Daifukuji on January 1.

10 a.m. 11:00

10:15 11:15

10:30 11:30

10:45 11:45

Make checks payable to Daifukuji Soto Mission and mail to P.O. Box 55, Kealakekua, HI 96750 by December 18. Thank you.

Questions? Please call (808) 322-3524 or send an email to info@daifukuji.org.

Daifukuji Soto Mission
2021 Annual Membership Form



Please check one of the following:

Membership renewal

New member

(Non-members only) Wish to be a supporter of the temple. Enclosed is my donation.

Please remove me from your mailing list. Name _____

Please list the members of your household who are considered members of Daifukuji Soto Mission:

1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Last Name	First Name	Year of Birth	Occupation
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Last Name	First Name	Year of Birth	Occupation
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Last Name	First Name	Year of Birth	Occupation
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Last Name	First Name	Year of Birth	Occupation
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Last Name	First Name	Year of Birth	Occupation

(Please add names on a separate sheet if necessary.)

Mailing Address _____
Street Address (if different from mailing address) _____

Phone Number _____ Cell Number _____

E-mail Address _____ Check if you would like to receive your newsletter by email. _____

***2021 Annual Membership Dues**

\$60.00 per household \$ _____

*** Temple Operation**

Fund Donation (ijihi) \$ _____

To help with cemetery and columbarium maintenance, utilities, insurance, minister's salary, office equipment & supplies, basic maintenance, altar & kitchen supplies, newsletter, etc.

***Annual Sunday Services Donation** \$ _____
(Gobutsuzen)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Daifukuji Soto Mission . Kindly remit by June 1, 2021.

Membership forms and donations may be dropped off at the temple office or mailed to:
Daifukuji Soto Mission, P.O. Box 55, Kealakekua, HI 96750.

Your donations sustain our temple. Whatever amount you can donate beyond the membership dues is greatly appreciated. Thank you very much for your generosity & support. In Gassho