



79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealahou, HI 96750

August, 2022

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

See "archives" on our website for previous newsletters.

Temple buildings, including the columbarium, will be closed for fumigation from August 22 - 25. No services or activities will be held during this period.



地藏菩薩

All are cordially invited to Daifukuji's

## Jizō Bodhisattva Service

Sunday, August 14

10:00 a.m.

### *Vegetarian Potluck Lunch*

The bodhisattva Jizō, also known as O-jizōsama in Japanese and Kṣitigarbha in Sanskrit, is enshrined in a small structure in front of the temple. Jizō is regarded as the protector of travelers, women, and children. He is the patron bodhisattva of deceased children. In his hand is the *nyoi*, the wish-fulfilling gem. His other hand demonstrates the mudra of "no fear." Our Jizō wears a red *rakusu* (a simplified monk's robe), as well as a cap and bib.

To learn more about this beloved bodhisattva, please come to this service at which our sangha will pay homage to O-jizōsama through meditation, music, and chant. A Dharma talk will be given by Reverend Jikō and a vegetarian potluck lunch will follow the service.

*On September 3, an intimate Jizo ceremony for healing will be offered via Zoom. Please see flyer on page 2 for details.*

# Jizo Ceremony for Healing Loss

*from miscarriage, abortion, stillbirth, or the death of an infant*

Saturday, September 3, 2022  
3:00 - 4:30 P.M. HST via ZOOM

In an atmosphere of confidentiality and respect, we will gather via ZOOM to share our hearts and our stories of loss, to light candles, and to invoke the healing compassion of Jizo Bodhisattva.



Ceremony to be facilitated by Rev. Jiko Nakade and Kakuju Park.  
Bring a candle, as well as a flower or leaf, to this Zoom gathering.  
This ceremony is being offered free of charge. Donations may be given to Daifukuji.

*Questions or to register, please contact:*

**Rev. Jiko Nakade**

**[rev.jiko@daifukuji.org](mailto:rev.jiko@daifukuji.org) (808) 322-3524**

**Daifukuji Soto Zen Buddhist Temple**

**[www.daifukuji.org](http://www.daifukuji.org)**

## “O-jizōsama, Please Help My Baby”

by Rev. Jikō Nakade

When I was a baby I drooled so much that my mother, tired of dealing with soggy bibs, tied one of them around the neck of the Jizō statue that sits in front of Daifukuji and prayed, “O-jizōsama, please help my baby.” Reverend Gyokuei Matsuura, the minister at the time, suggested that she do this. Thus began my relationship with O-jizōsama, the bodhisattva who protects and guides children.

In Japan, Jizō Bodhisattva is dearly loved. When I had occasion to visit Japan, I noticed Jizō statues of all sizes everywhere — along roads and rice fields, in the midst of village life, in cemeteries, and at Buddhist temples. I was surprised to see hundreds of them in a given location and learned about the *Mizuko Kuyō*, the memorial service held for “water children” (mizuko), referring to babies and fetuses whose lives came to an end as a result of having been aborted, stillborn, or miscarried. The service acknowledges the grief experienced by both parents, especially the mother.

For grief runs deep and is often concealed. After a difficult labor and delayed C-section, my mother gave birth to a stillborn ten-pound baby girl. She and my father named their baby Laurie; her small urn sits next to their urns inside Daifukuji’s columbarium. I don’t think they ever stopped grieving the loss of their first child. In her old age, my mother shared with me the story of Laurie’s stillbirth several times, each time with tears in her eyes. In those days, she was not allowed to see or hold her dead baby. When she woke up after surgery, baby Laurie was gone. My mother was left in shock.

Some religions have a patron deity or saint of children. Our Buddhist tradition has the bodhisattva Jizō, who is said to care for the spirits of babies and children whose time in this world is brief. In the *Jizō Bosatsu Gowasan*, which is sung by our Baikako choir, one finds these lines (translated into English):

*Yearning for their father, missing their mother’s love,*

*With choking voices, the children search about.*

*Jizosama draws to his side the children tender in age,*

*And wraps them in his sleeves of sheer compassion.*

I hope to revive the significance of Daifukuji’s Jizo Bodhisattva service. Up until the pandemic, a Jizō service, held in front of the Jizō statue, was held annually in conjunction with the June Kannon-ko service. Long ago it was held in the evening. I remember attending it with my parents and enjoyed seeing what must have been a hundred small candles glowing in the darkness. About twenty or so years ago, the service time was changed to a Wednesday morning to accommodate the seniors who no longer wished to drive at night. Changing it to a Sunday will give more people the opportunity to join the service.

Continued on page 3



O-Jizōsama Altar in front of Daifukuji

What's been of interest to me is the extent to which Western Buddhists have embraced this bodhisattva. Several years ago, my family visited the Great Vow Monastery, a residential Zen community of the lineage of Taizan Maezumi Roshi, located in Clatskanie, Oregon. There, Jizō Bodhisattva is deeply loved and cherished. The monastery even has a Jizō garden and a Jizō *sesshin*. There is a reason for this.

Jan Chozen Bays Roshi, one of the guiding teachers of the monastery, is a pediatrician. She understands the role that Jizō Bodhisattva plays in alleviating the suffering of children and their parents. In fact, she has written a book titled *Jizo Bodhisattva, Guardian of Children, Women and Other Voyagers* published by Shambhala.

In September of last year, I began reading Chozen Bays Roshi's book which I had borrowed from our temple library. I knew then that I needed to designate one Sunday in August on which to pay homage to Jizō Bodhisattva. The morning after I made this decision, Tina Shore called my attention to an image which she had noticed on the sidewalk next to the Jizō shrine. We both looked at the image together and saw the same thing — a Jizō with hands in *gassho* and two children sheltered in his robes. At the bottom of the image, also sheltered in Jizō's robes, was another blue shape which looked to me like a *mizuko*, a "water baby." I wrote to Chozen Bays Roshi these words: "Last night, while reading your book, I came across the line *Be it remembered that Kshitigarbha Bodhisattva's color is a jewel blue — of the shade referred to in modern times as 'electric blue.'*" I looked up "electric blue" and found it to be the color in the image." I received a warm reply from her — she pointed out the glowing blue jewel in the bodhisattva's head.



This image appeared on the sidewalk next to O-jizōsama's house.

I am not talking about miracles. The image appeared as a result of natural causes and conditions. Rather, when we bring the bodhisattvas into our consciousness, they manifest in beautiful ways, giving us strength and hope, and the vow energy to live with courage and compassion. They help us not to turn away from suffering. They inspire us to look upon suffering beings, including ourselves, with eyes of compassion.

Jizō Bodhisattva's robes of sheer compassion are greatly needed today in a world wracked by war, violence, division, and hatred. For Jizō does more than shelter children and comfort grieving mothers and fathers. Jizō is the bodhisattva who breaks down the gates of hell to help those entrapped in extreme states of suffering caused by greed, hatred, and delusion. In this regard, Jizō is the great liberator, the archetype of spiritual optimism and supreme compassion.

With these words, I cordially invite you to come to the Jizō Bodhisattva service on Sunday, August 14. Together, let us pay homage to this noble bodhisattva.

In case you're wondering what happened to my bib, once I stopped drooling, Reverend Matsuura removed it from around O-jizōsama's neck. My mother was happy that her baby was no longer drooling all over the place. Or so I was told by my mother.

## In Memoriam



To the family of the late **Itsuo Ohta**, who passed away on June 20 at the age of 87, we send our sincere condolences.

To the family of the late **Lorin Hanato**, who passed away on June 21 at the age of 56, we send our heartfelt sympathy.

December is still several months away, but we'd like you to know that our youth taiko group has decided not to hold a *mochitsuki* (mochi-making event) this winter due to the unpredictability of the virus.



*Calling all Fujinkai members and interested persons!*

### Fujinkai General Membership Meeting

*Sunday, August 28 1:00 p.m.*

*Daifukuji Social Hall*

Daifukuji Fujinkai members and those interested in learning more about the Fujinkai are cordially invited to a general membership meeting which will be held on Sunday, August 28 at 1:00 p.m. in the social hall. Our Fujinkai has grown and this would be a good opportunity for everyone to get to know each other. For more information about the Fujinkai, go to [http://www.daifukuji.org/activities/Fujinkai\\_Brochure\\_2022.pdf](http://www.daifukuji.org/activities/Fujinkai_Brochure_2022.pdf). Registration forms are available through the temple office. Dues are \$10 annually; Fujinkai members 85 and up are exempt. Membership is open to any adult.

### **Field Trip to the Vanillerie on September 24**

by Lorraine Jitoku Tanimoto, Field Trip Coordinator

After a 3-year hiatus of avoiding crowds and taking precautionary measures because of the pandemic, the Fujinkai Board has decided to take members on a field trip to The Vanillerie on Saturday, September 24. The Vanillerie grows and processes vanilla, the world's second-most expensive spice. The 45-minute guided tour will be conducted in 4 shade houses where we'll see thousands of vanilla vines and flower blooms. The farm is located above the Kona International Airport. After the tour, lunches provided by the Fujinkai will be eaten using the farm's picnic tables. Further information will be given at the Fujinkai's general membership meeting on Sunday, August 28.

We would appreciate having Fujinkai volunteer drivers to chauffeur our members that day. We will meet at the temple at 9:00 a.m. Guests of Fujinkai members need to pay the \$20 tour fee and lunch fee (price not yet determined). The tour and lunch are free for Fujinkai members.

Fujinkai members, if you are interested in going on this fun, educational tour, please contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524, [rev.jiko@daifukuji.org](mailto:rev.jiko@daifukuji.org) or talk to Lorraine Tanimoto in person. District representatives will be reaching out to members. Everyone, be sure to attend the August 28th meeting. The deadline to sign up for this field trip is Saturday, September 3.



## August Programs

**Shakyo (Tracing the Sutras) & Shabutsu (tracing pictures of buddhas)** - Saturday, August 6 from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in the Social Hall. All are welcome. By donation.

**Zazen and Chanting** - Zazen is offered in person and via Zoom every Wednesday from 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m. and is followed by 20 minutes of chanting. Practitioners are asked to arrive at 5:45 a.m. Contact Rev. Jiko at [rev.jiko@daifukuji.org](mailto:rev.jiko@daifukuji.org) to receive the Zoom link for zazen sessions. No zazen on August 24.

**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 on the second Friday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Call Susie at (808) 936-5817 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. No classes the week of August 21.

**Soleful Strutters** - T'ai Chi warm-up and walking on temple grounds at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesdays. For information, please contact Hannah Israel at (408) 421-8845 or Reverend Jiko at (808) 322-3524. No meeting on August 23.

**Yoga** — 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](mailto:liz217a@hotmail.com). No yoga on August 22.

### **Yoga via Zoom** (July 14 - August 18) 6-week series

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 at Daifukuji for 10 years. For inquiry about this series and future yoga classes: (808) 430-2620. Email for Registration & Zoom Link: [ambikarose@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:ambikarose@hawaiiantel.net).



## Beginner Adult Taiko Sessions Starting



- When:** Tuesdays, September 6 – October 25, 2022 from 6:00 – 7:30pm
- Where:** Daifukuji’s Hisashi Kimura Cultural Hall
- Details:** Beginner Adult Taiko Sessions from 6:00 – 7:30pm for eight Tuesdays from September 6 – October 25, 2022. Attendance is *strongly recommended* for all classes.

Classes emphasize taiko culture, technique, attitude and fun. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and bring water to drink during breaks.

**Open House:** Interested students will have the opportunity to watch experienced players play and ask questions at this time. **Open House is scheduled for Tuesday, August 30, 2022 from 6 to 7 p.m. for pre-registration and payment.**

**Cost:** \$50 (non-refundable fee) plus supplies for the session. Limited space available. Please make checks payable to: Kona Daifukuji Zen Taiko.

**Contact:** Call or text: Lori (808) 895-8565 or James (808) 230-0427 or email Lori at [uchimuralori@gmail.com](mailto:uchimuralori@gmail.com) for more information.

**Deadline:** Tuesday, August 30th for sign ups.



## Project Dana Resumes August 10 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Daifukuji seniors, you are cordially invited to come to our monthly Project Dana senior activity program for fellowship, chair exercises, bingo, senior-related topics, and holiday celebrations. There is no fee. After more than two years, we’re happy to be starting up again under the following conditions:

1. All participants will need to show proof of full vaccination plus any number of boosters. "Full vaccination" means having received the initial 2 doses of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or 1 dose of the J & J vaccine. Please bring your vaccination card to Project Dana the first time you come back. The exception to this requirement would be that a person is unvaccinated due to medical reasons in which case a doctor’s note would be needed.
2. Temperature checks will be done.
3. Everyone will be required to wear a mask, except those who cannot wear a mask due to a medical condition.
4. Only water will be made available. No food will be served during the program. Volunteers will prepare a simple lunch for everyone to take home. (This is temporary. We’ll start serving snacks and lunch again when times are safer for our *kupuna*.)
5. Please bring bingo prizes for our popular prize table. Donations to Project Dana are appreciated.

## Zazen and the End of Suffering

By Michael Keller

Looking online, I see that there are many different explanations of what the Buddha thought ended suffering. To me there is a simple, all-embracing explanation, and that is the one that the Buddha gave in the Bahiya Sutta, which is that when the “you” is removed from consciousness, “This, just this, is the end of stress.”

I think that what the Buddha means by removing the “you” from consciousness is that the sense of “I” that we normally carry with us permanently disappears from the mind. In this way, the sutra continues, “in reference to the seen, there will be only the seen.” The sense “I am seeing” will have vanished. It is the same with “the heard,” “the sensed,” and “the cognized.” The sense that it is “I” doing these things will be absent.

Is it possible for the sense of “I” to be erased from the mind like this? It seems to me that it certainly is or the Buddha wouldn’t have recommended it. The great Hindu teacher, Nisargadatta, thinks that deleting the sense of “I” from the mind can be worked at. When he was asked, “How is the person removed,” he replied, “By determination. Understand that it must go and wish it to go – it shall go if you are earnest about it.”

The notion that removing the sense of “I” can be worked at is immensely important. Removal of “I” is the end of suffering. This is clear even with great discomfort. For example, if a person breaks his or her leg, that’s going to hurt a great deal. But the pain needn’t mean suffering. Suffering is self-referential. One must feel “I am in great pain,” “the world is treating me unjustly,” “I am in greater pain than anyone else has ever experienced,” and so on. Without the “I,” physical pain is just pain, sadness is just sadness, loneliness is just loneliness, and so on.

Any in-depth treatment of the skandhas (aggregates) in Buddhism will stress that we have no control over them and that they do not constitute who we are. (For example, see Ajahn Chah’s *Food for the Heart* or Reb Anderson’s *Being Upright*.) So the welter of thoughts, moods, likes and dislikes, physical sensations, and so on that course through our minds almost every minute of the day, they are not us. If a person clearly sees this fact, the part of him or her who sees it, it seems to me, is the “you” or “I” that the Buddha speaks of in the Bahiya Sutta. And the Buddha is saying that this “I” can be eliminated from the mind.

How is that done? According to Nisargadatta, as above, by wishing it to go. If zazen practitioners wish it to go, when they become aware of a sense of personal self within themselves, they can brush it away fairly easily. The mental action is the same as dropping thought or memory or fantasy when meditating and returning to breathing. Just brush the “I” away when you see it. Each brush is a step closer to the end of suffering.

Postscript: I am writing this postscript about a month after writing the above essay. Having experimented with the suggestion in the last paragraph to brush the “I” away, I have found that when I do that, I am firmly dropped into the spontaneous, unpredictable flow of the skandhas.

Reb Anderson, in *Warm Smiles from Cold Mountains*, describes this flow as a “fountain.” He says,

*Moment by moment, I am a fountain. I am spontaneous creativity. I am not in control of this creativity, but I am its site: pure, universally connected creativity. Each one of us is such a site. Each one of us is a fountain of the universe. Each one of us is a place where the universe is expressing itself as a living location. . . . I can see the fountain; or, not see it so much as be it (because there is no ‘person’ here looking at a fountain). Just being a fountain, there is just the life of the fountain; there is just life.*

Being the fountain is the essence of mindfulness. With no “I” intervening between the experiencing consciousness and the thoughts, feelings, sensations, and so on that flow through the mind, there is just consciousness of this flow. As Reb Anderson says, “there is just life.”





Ryan and Momo swept the porch.



Huong and Jean cleaned the windows and walls.



The Yamamoto 'Ohana cleaned the Jizo Shrine.

## Clean Up Day Mahalo

Mahalo to everyone who helped with temple cleanup. On June 12 we had the first full cleanup day in two years. Plenty of volunteers were there from many of the various temple groups. We got the temple ready for Obon.

Of special note, the storage area under the residence is looking better than it has in years — thank you, Jason and Lance. And the old press board and metal folding tables are finally gone! The metal was separated for recycling and everything was hauled away. Big thank you to the Tossman 'ohana for all the extra effort.

Aloha,  
Shaun Roth, Cleanup Chair



Lorraine, Reiko, Michiko, and Stephen, put in a lot of elbow grease polishing the brassware. So did Warren and Renee (not pictured).

## Zazenkai Meeting and Vegetarian Potluck Breakfast

*Wednesday, August 3*

*7:00 a.m. after zazen*

Zazenkai members are invited. Topics of discussion include the planning of Zen retreats, possibly helping the temple with recycling, & this year's Rohatsu Sesshin. Paper goods will be available, but bring your *oryoki* if possible.



Rev. Shinsho Hata and family, together with Deacon Jigaku and members of Taishoji Soto Mission, added their warm presence to Daifukuji's Obon service.

# August 2022

July 2022							August 2022							September 2022							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
					1	2	7	8	9	10	11	12	13						1	2	3
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	28	29	30	31				18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30								25	26	27	28	29	30		
31																					

- Sangha Sisters
- Youth Taiko
- Adult Taiko
- Family Service
- Major Service
- Temple Board
- Fujinkai
- Kannon-ko Service
- Project Dana
- Zazen
- Samu
- Special Events
- Baikako Practice
- Dharma Study
- Happy Strummers
- Work
- Offsite Backup
- Bon Dance Group
- Teen Sangha
- Orchid Club
- Adult Taiko
- Family Service
- Major Service
- Home and 16 more...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Yoga with Liz</li> <li>5:00 PM Youth Taiko</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Soleful Strutters Moai</li> <li>9:00 AM Tai Chi</li> <li>6:00 PM Zen Taiko</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:00 AM In-person &amp; Zoom Zazen</li> <li>7:00 AM Zazenkai Breakfast Meeting</li> <li>9:00 AM Tai Chi</li> <li>5:00 PM Youth Taiko</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 AM Zoom Yoga with Ambika</li> <li>9:00 AM Tai Chi</li> <li>6:00 PM Zen Taiko Meeting</li> <li>7:00 PM Daifukuji</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gift shop 10am - 1 pm</li> <li>8:00 AM Samu</li> <li>5:30 PM Gay Sangha</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gift Shop 11am-3pm</li> <li>8:00 AM Shakyo</li> <li>9:00 AM Youth Taiko</li> </ul>
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:45 AM Baikako Practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Yoga with Liz</li> <li>5:00 PM Youth Taiko</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Soleful Strutters Moai</li> <li>9:00 AM Tai Chi</li> <li>6:00 PM Zen Taiko</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Dana 9:30 AM</li> <li>6:00 AM In-person &amp; Zoom Zazen</li> <li>9:00 AM Tai Chi</li> <li>5:00 PM Youth Taiko</li> <li>6:30 PM Orchid Club</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 AM Zoom Yoga with Ambika</li> <li>9:00 AM Tai Chi</li> <li>6:00 PM Zen Taiko</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gift shop 10am - 1 pm</li> <li>8:00 AM Samu</li> <li>6:00 PM Sangha Sisters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gift Shop 11am-3pm</li> <li>9:00 AM Youth Taiko</li> </ul>
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jizo Bodhisattva Service 10 a.m.</li> <li>Potluck Lunch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Yoga with Liz</li> <li>5:00 PM Youth Taiko</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Soleful Strutters Moai</li> <li>9:00 AM Tai Chi</li> <li>6:00 PM Zen Taiko</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kannon-ko 10 am</li> <li>6:00 AM In-person &amp; Zoom Zazen</li> <li>9:00 AM Tai Chi</li> <li>5:00 PM Youth Taiko</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 AM Zoom Yoga with Ambika</li> <li>9:00 AM Tai Chi</li> <li>6:00 PM Zen Taiko</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gift shop 10am - 1 pm</li> <li>8:00 AM Samu</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gift Shop 11am-3pm</li> <li>9:00 AM Youth Taiko</li> </ul>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Closed for Fumigation				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gift shop 10am - 1 pm</li> <li>8:00 AM Samu</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gift Shop 11am-3pm</li> <li>9:00 AM Youth Taiko</li> </ul>
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fujinkai Meeting 1 p.m.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Yoga with Liz</li> <li>5:00 PM Youth Taiko</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Soleful Strutters Moai</li> <li>9:00 AM Tai Chi</li> <li>6:00 PM Zen Taiko Open House</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:00 AM In-person &amp; Zoom Zazen</li> <li>9:00 AM Tai Chi</li> <li>5:00 PM Youth Taiko</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 AM Zoom Yoga with Ambika</li> <li>9:00 AM Tai Chi</li> <li>6:00 PM Zen Taiko</li> <li>7:00 PM Daifukuji Board Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gift shop 10am - 1 pm</li> <li>8:00 AM Samu</li> <li>5:30 PM Gay Sangha</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gift Shop 11am-3pm</li> <li>9:00 AM Youth Taiko</li> </ul>



# Dharma Lei



## Bishop's Office Newsletter

Soto Zen Buddhism Hawaii Office

c/o Soto Mission of Hawaii 1708 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu HI 96817 U.S.A.

Tel & Fax: 808-538-6429

E-Mail: [info@sotozenhi.org](mailto:info@sotozenhi.org)

WEB: <http://global.sotozen-net.or.jp/eng/>

Third Quarter, 2022

Issue No. 41

### Bishop's Message:

Aloha from the Bishop's Office,

Can you believe we've already arrived at the halfway point of 2022? I hope that you and your family have been healthy, happy, and enjoying the year so far! While the weather in Hawaii has been utterly beautiful recently, the COVID-19 pandemic rolls on, gas prices are through the roof, and the Russia and Ukraine War sadly sees no end in sight. Let's send our prayers to all those may be suffering both near and far from us.

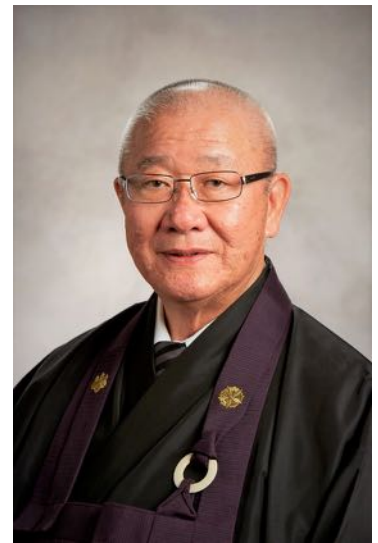
The familiar season of Bon is upon us now. Bon is a time to offer our prayers to our departed loved ones and friends. Bon is also a time for us to offer our deep gratitude to our ancestors who passed on well before our time here. When the pandemic forced us to rewrite the way we interact with others, the use of online virtual services certainly helped to enable people to continue to offer Bon prayers from the safety of their homes.

I am happy that in 2022, several of our Soto Mission temples have been able to return to in-person Bon Services. The ability to see one another, interact with one another, and offer prayers together in-person at the Bon Service are invaluable. I pray that by next year all the Soto Mission temples in Hawaii will be able to safely gather for in-person Bon Services.

In many ways, we can look at our lives presently in the middle of 2022 and assess that although we have made great strides battling the COVID-19 pandemic, we are still trying to figure out what the new normal in life will be for the future. There is still a lot of uncertainty ahead, it can be a bit unsettling. However, there are a lot of good 'certainties' already in our lives. For me personally, I constantly remind myself of the small blessings in my life: speaking to my sisters in Hawaii, California, and Japan on the phone, having a Father's Day video chat on Facetime with my son in New Mexico, having weekly dinners with my other son and his family, and being able to continue my work each day as the head minister of Bet-suin and the bishop of the Hawaii Soto Mission. "A happy life is often taken for granted," I tell myself.

So please recount your blessing in your life. They may be small things, but they are blessings, nonetheless. And as Buddhists, let us never lose our original determination—that is to help others around us. Whether it is lending a hand, offering a prayer, or even giving a smile, it is the small things in life that can have a positive impact on others.

In Gassho.



# New Resident Minister of Maui

Aloha,

Nice to meet you. My name is Tomoki Hirasawa, new resident minister of Mantokuji from Japan. I left Japan on April 13th. After a 5-day orientation on Oahu, I arrived at Mantokuji on April 18th.

I was born and raised in Kanagawa Prefecture. Kanagawa is famous for the port city of Yokohama and The Great Buddha of Kamakura. Some of you might have been there on a trip. After graduation from the university, I lived at Sojiji Temple, one of the head temples of Soto Mission, to devote myself to Buddhist training for a year with Rev. Hoshino and Rev. Hata. They are my friends with whom I have shared many experiences.

During our training, we woke up early in the morning, cleaned up every nook of the temple, had a few rice and vegetables meals, and did Zazen everyday. Those days were very hard but also fulfilling.

After my training, I worked at a city government office in my hometown for 10 years. I worked in the tax department and community center. At the same time, I helped my father, who is a resident minister of his temple.

I got married in 2018. Hawaii was the place of our honeymoon trip. We loved Hawaii because of its warm, mild, comfortable climate, beautiful nature, and the kindness of its people. Now we are back in Hawaii. This is an incredible experience for us and we are grateful for this opportunity.

I last came to Maui 3 years ago in 2019. Since then, it has been a very long time with two painful years due to COVID-19. Many people have supported us to come here. I would like to thank all the people in the Sangha who have been waiting for us.

When I entered the Hondo of Mantokuji, I am reminded of my hometown and feel at ease. I am sure that this is the same feeling that you, your parents, and all ancestors felt. This is the meaning of the temple's existence and the reason why I should be here. I would like to show my respect to all the ancestors who rest here, and to all those who have saved this temple until now. I am now very happy to be here.

I will study English hard and hope to be able to communicate with all of you soon. Please feel free to talk to us when you come to Mantokuji.

In gassho,

Tomoki Hirasawa

The 9th resident minister of Mantokuji



# Lay Confirmation Ceremony

## At Daifukuji Soto Mission

Fifteen sangha members received the bodhi-sattva precepts and their Buddhist names in a Soto Zen Buddhist Lay Confirmation Ceremony held on May 22, 2022 at Daifukuji Soto Mission. This ceremony was officiated by Bishop Shugen Komagata with the assistance of Reverend Shuji Komagata from the Soto Zen Buddhism Hawaii Office, and Reverend Jiko Nakade and Deacon Jikai Nakade of Daifukuji.

A warm congratulations to the following recipients: Stephen Shōdō Tanaka, MaryAnne Jiu Seibert, Kym Jōshin Peck, Frank Kai-on Galman, Richard Jigan Morley, Travis Hosshin Marsh, Huong Seishin Lam, Linda Jōkō Calloway, Aimee Myōshō Disharoon, Markus Myō-on Fahrenberger, Dan Taihei Gordon, Jonika Jōren Grossi, John Jiun Hamm, Gerald Jōgan Hirata, and Mark Kōshin Holst. All of the recipients completed a three-month online study of the 16 precepts under the guidance of Rev. Nakade.

The Daifukuji sangha sends an ocean of gratitude to Bishop Komagata for serving as preceptor and to Rev. Shuji for serving as the service M.C.

The ceremony was followed by a potluck lunch and fellowship in the Daifukuji social hall. It was truly a joyful day!





# **Kona Daifukuji Zen Taiko for adults Beginner's Session**

Daifukuji Soto Mission  
Cultural Hall  
79-7241 Mamalahoa Highway

**September 6 – October 25, 2022**  
**Open House for registration: Tuesday**  
**August 30, 2022 from 6-7pm**

Classes will be on Tuesdays  
from 6:00 – 7:30 pm beginning  
Tuesday, September 6 – October 25, 2022  
8 class session for \$50 (no refund)  
No experience necessary!

If you are interested, please contact any of these Board  
members by email:

**Lori:** [uchimuralori@gmail.com](mailto:uchimuralori@gmail.com)/

**Amy:** [jikaiseiko@gmail.com](mailto:jikaiseiko@gmail.com) / or

**James:** [jamesnhvictor@gmail.com](mailto:jamesnhvictor@gmail.com)

**Mark:** [muramoto005@gmail.com](mailto:muramoto005@gmail.com)

