

79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealahou, HI 96750

July, 2022

(808) 322-3524 www.daifukuji.org

See "archives" on our website for previous newsletters.



In Honor of Our Ancestors

Cemetery Blessing and Mini Bon Dance

Saturday, July 16, 2022

- 10:00 a.m. Cemetery blessing, dedication of new pathways, recognition of volunteers, offering incense and flowers to all graves. Flowers and incense will be provided.
- 10:45 a.m. Mini Bon dance in temple yard featuring Kona Daifukuji Taiko. Join the fun!
- 11:15 a.m. Light refreshments and fellowship outside.

Come as you are or dress in Bon dance attire. Mindful masking recommended. Kupuna and those with special needs may drive up to the cemetery. All others, please park in the temple yard or columbarium parking area and walk up the hill to the cemetery. Have anthuriums to donate? Questions? Call (808) 322-3524.



Summer Greetings from Rev. Jikō

Dear Members and Friends of Daifukuji,

I have good news to share. We are having a cemetery blessing and a mini in-house Bon dance the morning of July 16. I cordially invite you to come over and see the cemetery improvements made by volunteers Dennis Nakano, Stephen Tanaka, Warren Ikeda, Noel Kimura and Ron Norvell. Please join us in offering flowers and incense to all of our Daifukuji ancestors. (Incense and flowers will be provided.) After the blessing, we'll have fun dancing a few Bon dances and watching the taiko students perform in the temple's parking lot.

There's more good news. Sangha member Tony Gyokuhō Takai has made Daifukuji history. By being the first male to join the Daifukuji Fujinkai, he has paved the way for people of all genders to join an organization which was for decades — since 1915, to be exact — exclusively for women, as denoted by the Japanese name “Fujinkai” which means “Women's Group.” Like Tony himself, the women of the Fujinkai have taken a bold step forward by opening their hearts and minds to new possibilities. I am proud of all of them for having the courage and flexibility to break through a framework which was important in the past, but has not been serving the organization well in recent times. I envision the Fujinkai flourishing in new ways. In time, it is possible the group will adopt a new name, a name which would better reflect their goals, aspirations, and makeup. For now, let us applaud this new beginning for the Daifukuji Fujinkai, a group which focuses on Buddhist and cultural education and activities, compassionate relationships, and service to temple and community. The date and time of the next Fujinkai meeting will be announced in the August newsletter. New members are welcome: http://www.daifukuji.org/activities/Fujinkai_Brochure_2022.pdf.

As you know, people in our community are still getting sick from the Corona virus. Thus, our temple board asks that we all continue to practice “mindful masking” at the temple. I have been noticing that the majority of people, adults and children alike, are wearing masks at temple services and gatherings even though mask wearing is now optional. It warms my heart seeing how much people care about each other.

In closing, I would like to cordially invite you to Daifukuji's Obon service on Sunday, June 26. We will begin this service at 10:00 a.m. Reverend Shinsho Hata and members of Taishoji Soto Mission of Hilo will be joining us. Please come out to listen to Reverend Hata's final Dharma talk at Daifukuji before he returns to Japan with his family this summer. I am truly grateful for Hata Sensei's outstanding service not only to Taishoji, but to all of our Soto Zen temples throughout the state of Hawai'i.

May you have a safe and pleasant summer.

With warm aloha in gassho,

Jiko Nakade 慈光



Shogo Saito

The Old Grave

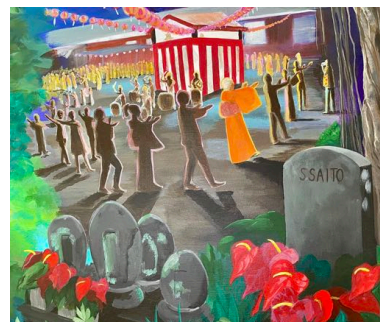
by Reverend Jikō Nakade

During this season of Obon when ancestors are remembered, I would like to share with you the story of Shogo Saito, whose grave is the oldest in Daifukuji's cemetery.

In 1894, a young man named Shogo Saito left Iwate Prefecture, Japan on a journey to California to study photography. He then travelled to Hawai'i. It was in Honolulu in 1895 that he met Tokuzo Shibayama. The two men became fast friends and Shogo decided to accompany Tokuzo to Kona. Just a year later in 1896, Shogo died at the age of 29. He was buried in the Japanese cemetery in the town of Holualoa. Later, his remains were transferred to the Shibayama property in the town of Captain Cook in South Kona. Near the Shibayama family residence, Shogo Saito's gravestone was erected.

Tokuzo Shibayama was a Zen Buddhist from Gifu Prefecture, Japan. In 1915, when the construction of the original Daifukuji temple began, he served as head of the construction committee. He and his family eventually moved to Oahu, selling their lands in Captain Cook, except for the .18 acre parcel on which Shogo Saito's grave stood. This piece of land was given to Daifukuji Soto Mission, to ensure that Shogo Saito's remains would be safe until moved to its final resting place in the temple's cemetery which was established in 1918.

Situated in the very center of Daifukuji's cemetery, Shogo Saito's roughly cut gravestone, weathered over the course of more than a century, does not reveal the noble status which his family held in Japan. He was the son of a samurai of the Mizusawa clan. His older brother, Viscount Makoto Saito (1858-1936), was a distinguished naval officer who served one term as Japan's prime minister and played an important role in Japanese politics from December 26, 1935 until his tragic assassination in a coup known as the February 26 Incident of 1936. Prior to his assassination, Makoto Saito, along with his wife Haruko, who were Soto Zen Buddhists, commissioned a Kannon statue, carved out of wood by the famous Japanese sculptor Miki Sosaku. This splendid statue, the Hawai'i Kannon, graces our meditation hall today and has been, over the decades, a source of spiritual inspiration for many people, myself included.



Shogo Saito's grave can be seen in the 33 Kannon Triptych painted by Tina Cintron.

I have had a karmic connection to Shogo Saito which began in my childhood. In 1964, just before Rev. Gyokuei Matsuura left Daifukuji to assume a position at the Ryusenji Soto Mission in Wahiawa, Oahu, he asked my mother to take care of an old grave in the cemetery, saying that the deceased had no family in Hawai'i. Not knowing anything about Shogo Saito, my mother agreed. Thereafter, on our monthly visits to the cemetery, my mother and I would clean his grave and place offerings of flowers, fruit, and incense upon it. Not knowing his story, we simply called his grave "the old grave." We adopted this unknown person as one of our ancestors.

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Karmic connections unfold in marvelous ways. Over the years, I have had the good fortune of becoming connected with Makoto Saito's family. By chance, I also stumbled across the cause of Shogo Saito's death in the book *Kona Echo: A biography of Dr. Harvey Saburo Hayashi* written by Jiro Nakano, M.D., in which it is briefly mentioned that a Japanese photographer by the name of Shogo Saito had died of tuberculosis in South Kona. I informed the Saito family, who appreciated learning the cause of Shogo's mysterious death at the young age of 29.

Our Daifukuji cemetery is filled with many "old graves," the graves of people whose descendants no longer reside in Kona. I recently talked with an elderly man from Hilo who visits our cemetery and places his extra anthuriums on graves which have no flowers. A thoughtful gesture indeed!

Through a web of infinite connections human beings all share a common ancestry. Obon is the perfect season to reflect upon our shared humanity.

July Programs

Shakyo (Tracing the Sutras) - Saturday, July 9 from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Kannon Hall. All welcome.

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 to receive the Zoom link for zazen sessions.

Sangha Sisters Women's Spirituality Circle - In person and via Zoom, meetings are held on the second Friday of the month at 7:00 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.

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.

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.

Yoga via Zoom (July 14 - August 18) New 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.



The Great Heart Sutra Reveal

by Kakuju Park

*I stand with a box
drawn around me
With passing years
thick, iron clad, unwieldy
A self-imposed prison
Stuck in my own vise grip view
my precious perspective
my obstinate opinions
placing what other people think
high above my own true knowing*

*I know
It's past time
to poke my head out of the tunnel
And breathe in the expansive sky
But how?
No limits?
No boundary of self and others?
No fear in mind?
Is it possible?
Is it too late?*

*Breathe in
Breathe out
Learn the form*

Practice the form

Let go of the form

Let go of thought

Let go of ego

Practice ambiguity comfort

Transform Yes, But into Both, And

Freedom from all sides

Dance in the space

of possibilities

There is only

The dance

of Boundlessness

Dissipating

Delusions

Comparisons

Distractions

Differences

Breathe in

Breathe out

There is no key

The door was always open

You can do it

First step, then next

I've been waiting for you

Right outside your door

Take my hand

Let's dance

Our Warmest Congratulations



Our very best wishes to high school graduates Kawena Villasenor Yamane, Asia Macatiag, and Koutaro Yamamoto, whose received the blessings of the Three Treasures on May 29. Mahalo nui loa to our guest speaker MaryAnne Jiu Seibert for her thoughtful and inspiring message.



Congratulations to those who received the bodhisattva precepts and their Buddhist names in a Soto Zen Buddhist Confirmation Ceremony on May 22: (from left to right) 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, Mark Kōshin Holst, and David Zengaku Fiedler (pictured below). Our sincere appreciation to Bishop Shugen Komagata for serving as officiant, to Rev. Shuji Komagata for serving as the M.C., and to Brian Yamamoto for serving as photographer.





In Memoriam

Our deepest sympathy
to the family of the late
Alice Ohta.

*Namu Kanzeon
Bosatsu*

Welcome, New Members

Our Sangha sends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Aaron Wolfe

John Hamm & MaryAnne Seibert

Markus Fahrenberger

The Daifukuji Fujinkai welcomes the following new members: Hannah Israel, Kathleen Puou, and Tony Takai.

For information on temple membership go to http://www.daifukuji.org/membership_brochure.pdf. To learn about Fujinkai membership, visit http://www.daifukuji.org/activities/Fujinkai_Brochure_2022.pdf.

Gift Shop News

by Clear Houn Englebert

Book Sale

The books in the gift shop are now on sale at 25% off the price that we have marked. That does mean that on some books (including those from Penguin Random House and the University of Hawaii Press) the shop is making only a few pennies, if that much. But we are accomplishing our greater mission of making the Buddhist Dharma more accessible. There is an exception to the sale—those books that are from Daifukuji or its groups (such as the Fujinkai cookbooks) are not included in the sale—they remain at their regular price. The sale will continue indefinitely and will end when the sale signs come down.

Free Items

Not everything in the gift shop is for sale—a few things are actually free. We received a donation of beautiful Japanese calendars that are a few years old and would like to pass them along to whoever can use them for wall decoration or craft projects. These are large-format, full-color calendars that are rolled up like scrolls. The artwork is by Japanese artists as well as scenic photos of Japan. We are also giving away beautiful old pottery shards that have been found on the Daifukuji property. These are sweet mementos of times past and are also appropriate for craft projects.

Gift Shop Hours for July

Saturdays 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

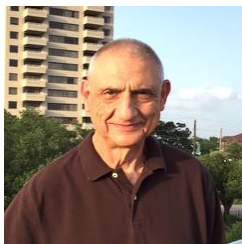
Masks, properly worn, are required inside the shop.

Library News

by Clear Houn Englebert

There's only one new arrival this time, and it's about Keizan. There are precious few books about Keizan and this one is a real eye-opener. It is *Visions of Power: Imagining Medieval Japanese Buddhism* by Bernard Faure (in French) and translated into English by Phyllis Brooks. Keizan lived from 1268 to 1325 and is regarded as the intuitive "mother" of Soto Zen (Dogen being the stern "father".) This book delves into the source of Keizan's intuition—his powerful visions. It's from Princeton University Press.

Keizan is most famous for his work the *Denkoroku* as well as his very accessible writings on zazen, but what a lot of people don't know is that he is responsible for the "majority if not the entirety of the ceremonies at present used in Soto Zen." (Quote from Jiyu Kennett's *Zen is Eternal Life*.)



The Difficulty of Zazen

by Michael Keller

Zazen is a difficult practice. For a beginner, it is frustrating to be frequently distracted by thinking. If the beginner has a teacher, the teacher will tell him or her that this distraction is normal and not to criticize himself because it is occurring. Even a long-term zazen practitioner is frequently taken off his focus on breathing by fantasizing, planning, reminiscing, and so on.

Why does this distraction occur? A possible answer is that zazen is like presiding at your own funeral. To drop the thought process and return to breathing is to experience a little death as the self fades away. Although I can't find the reference, I believe it was Chogyam Trungpa who said that the reason thinking keeps returning during meditation is to convince the meditator of his own existence. There is possibly a slight fear of obliteration that gradually emerges during an extended focus on breathing. Thinking comes in to say, "Don't worry, you are still here!"

Paradoxically, we fear the very point of zazen, which is to drop the self or ego. This fear is illusory. There is a Zen story about a zazen practitioner who happened to fall off a cliff. As he started to fall, he grabbed on to a root extending from the wall of the cliff. He held on desperately to the root until his strength gave out, his hand loosened, and he fell three inches to the ground.

The fear of self-obliteration is a psychic myth. The reality is expressed in the Bahiya Sutta, where the Buddha says that when the "you" disappears from consciousness, "This, just this, is the end of stress." Daily life is expansive and free without self-consciousness.

So yes, zazen is difficult, but the rewards of persisting in it are immeasurable.

Daifukuji Board Report

by Eliana Jisho Sattler, substituting for Steve Hoshin Mann



The Daifukuji Board of Directors met on Thursday, June 2nd on Zoom. Rev. Jiko acknowledged members who received the Precepts on May 22nd Bishop Komagata, who officiated the ceremony, was impressed by the care and improvements of the temple grounds. Rev Jiko thanked the sangha for this.

Stephen Tanaka reported that the cement pouring in the cemetery pathways is complete.

Kai Ioh reported that Summit Painting, Inc. will paint the roofs in September after repairs are completed.

Bobby Command shared that Deep Steam Carpet and Upholstery Cleaners will clean the carpets of the temple, library and Kannon Hall for a contract price of \$700. The company will also take care of moving the furniture.

It was announced that there will be two cleanup days: one on 6/12, and the other on 11/27 starting at 8 a.m. on both days.



Gay Sangha Resumes Meditation

The Gay Sangha is resuming in-person meditation on the first Fridays of every month, and the meditation time is changing from 6:00 pm to 5:30 pm. Enough popular demand has occurred. The group is open to all, with a particular invitation to gay women and men and their families and friends. You do not have to be gay to attend, as long as you consider yourself a friend of gay people, you are very welcome. The Gay Sangha also functions as a service group, doing weeding, etc around the temple.

Our next meeting is on July 1. We start with seated meditation, followed by walking meditation, and then seated meditation again. Then we have discussion, which is wide-ranging. If you are coming for the first time, please arrive 20 minutes early to receive some instructions about temple etiquette. For more information call Clear Houn at (808) 328-0329.

Mahalo Nui Loa

The broken refrigerator in our social hall has been replaced, thanks to the generosity of Wayne and Darlene Hakoda and family of Hakoda's Builders Appliance. We sincerely thank them for donating a refrigerator in memory of the late Gilbert and Yaeko Hakoda.

July 2022

June 2022							July 2022							August 2022											
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					
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26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31								
							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
- Family Service
- Major Service
- Home and 16 more...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Lunch to follow Obon Service 10 am	27 8:30 AM Yoga with Liz 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	28 8:30 AM Soleful Strutters Moai 9:00 AM Tai Chi	29 6:00 AM In-person & Zoom Zazen 9:00 AM Tai Chi 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	30 8:00 AM Zoom Yoga with Ambika 9:00 AM Tai Chi	1 8:00 AM Samu 5:30 PM Gay Sangha	2 Gift Shop 11am-3pm 8:00 AM Heart Sutra Zoom Class 9:00 AM Youth Taiko
3 7:45 AM Baikako Practice 2:00 PM Happy Strummers	4 8:30 AM Yoga with Liz 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	5 8:30 AM Soleful Strutters Moai 9:00 AM Tai Chi	6 6:00 AM In-person & Zoom Zazen 8:30 AM Library Staff 9:00 AM Tai Chi 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	7 8:00 AM Zoom Yoga with Ambika 9:00 AM Tai Chi 7:00 PM Temple Board	8 8:00 AM Samu 7:00 PM Sangha Sisters	9 Gift Shop 11am-3pm 8:00 AM Shakyo 9:00 AM Youth Taiko
10	11 8:30 AM Yoga with Liz 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	12 8:30 AM Soleful Strutters Moai 9:00 AM Tai Chi	13 6:00 AM In-person & Zoom Zazen 9:00 AM Tai Chi 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 6:30 PM Orchid Club	14 8:00 AM Zoom Yoga with Ambika 9:00 AM Tai Chi	15 8:00 AM Samu	16 MiniBonDance 10:45am Gift Shop 11am-3pm Cemetery Blessing 10am 9:00 AM Youth Taiko
17	18 8:30 AM Yoga with Liz 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	19 8:30 AM Soleful Strutters Moai 9:00 AM Tai Chi	20 Kannon-ko 10 am 6:00 AM In-person & Zoom Zazen 9:00 AM Tai Chi 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	21 8:00 AM Zoom Yoga with Ambika 9:00 AM Tai Chi	22 8:00 AM Samu	23 Gift Shop 11am-3pm 9:00 AM Youth Taiko
24	25 8:30 AM Yoga with Liz 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	26 8:30 AM Soleful Strutters Moai 9:00 AM Tai Chi	27 6:00 AM In-person Zazen Only 9:00 AM Tai Chi 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	28 8:00 AM Zoom Yoga with Ambika 9:00 AM Tai Chi	29 8:00 AM Samu	30 Gift Shop 11am-3pm 9:00 AM Youth Taiko
31	1 8:30 AM Yoga with Liz 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 5:30 PM Gay Sangha 7:00 PM Daifukuji	2 8:30 AM Soleful Strutters Moai 9:00 AM Tai Chi	3 6:00 AM In-person & Zoom Zazen 9:00 AM Tai Chi 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	4 8:00 AM Zoom Yoga with Ambika 9:00 AM Tai Chi	5 8:00 AM Samu	6 Gift Shop 11am-3pm 9:00 AM Youth Taiko



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KONA DAIFUKUJI "ZOOM" YOGA 6.9.22

6 Thursdays 8-9 am HST July 14,21,28 Aug. 4,11,18

- 7:45 – 8 am HST Welcome Warm-up
- 8:00 – 9 am "ZOOM" YOGA!
- 9:00 – 9:20am Chat (optional)
- 1:45 – 2 pm EST, DLS
- 2:00 – 3 pm
- 3:00 – 3:20 pm

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

@Drop in or Whole Series@

ENERGY is our focus, so move to your body!

"Back-to-Basic-Asanas" integrated in Patanjali Yoga Sutras, 8 Limbs

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 45 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** 13.1.6.9.22