



79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealahou, HI 96750

June, 2020

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

See "archives" on our website for previous newsletters.

## The Gradual Reopening of Daifukuji

Dear Daifukuji sangha and friends,

My hope is that you and your loved ones are strongly holding on together and weathering these trying times in harmony.

The Daifukuji Board, under the leadership of President Bobby Command, has been working hard to develop safety guidelines for a gradual and careful reopening of the temple and its facilities. We thank Bishop Shugen Komagata and the Hawaii Soto Mission Bishop's Office for their guidance.

It was decided at the Board's May 27th meeting that temple groups will be permitted to return when the necessary supplies are ready and with the understanding that group members follow the guidelines, which require temperature checks, the wearing of masks, physical distancing, and sanitization. Please contact your group leader for information. To schedule any kind of private service, including memorial services, please call me to discuss options for holding the service. To protect the health of sangha members & temple groups, Daifukuji will not be open to visitors until further notice.

We are trying to stock up on sanitizing wipes, spare masks, and hand sanitizer and would appreciate donations of these items should you have extras on hand.

Everyone, thank you for your patience, support, and understanding during this pandemic. Thanks to everyone's cooperation and consideration for others, our local communities and Hawai'i, in general, have done a wonderful job mitigating the spread of COVID-19. Let's continue to do our best. *Gambarimashou!*

May we take refuge in Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha each day of our lives and live in compassion. Life is precious. If anything, this pandemic has shown us how connected we all are. Dear friends, please take care. *Namu kie butsu. Namu kie hō. Namu kie sō.*

Warm aloha, in gassho,

*Rev. Jiko Nakade*

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.



## 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 group sizes need to be limited.

This service will be videotaped and offered via the internet, allowing everyone the opportunity view the service from the safety of their homes. The Dharma message will be delivered by **Rev. Blayne Higa**, resident minister of Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. (See page 9 for information regarding online services.)

This year, Rev. Jiko will be preparing an o-toba (large toba) for each of the Hatsubon deceased only. Daifukuji members and friends are invited to submit requests for ko- toba or small toba. A donation of \$5 per ko-toba is requested.

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, and Raymond Ikeda.**

The Toba Form was included in the May newsletter, which can be found in the archives on the Daifukuji website: [www.daifukuji.org](http://www.daifukuji.org). Should you wish to pick up a form at the temple or have one mailed to you, please call Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524 or send an email to [rev.jiko@daifukuji.org](mailto:rev.jiko@daifukuji.org).

**The deadline for ko-toba requests is June 12.**

## 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.



## Congratulations to the High School Graduates of Our Sangha! We are proud of all of you.



### **Douglas Li**

I am Douglas Li and after high school, I intend to attend Willamette University and study computer science and mathematics. I would like to thank Sensei Akemi and my tennis coach for teaching me taiko and tennis respectively and blessing me with many opportunities. I would also like to send my thanks to my friends and the church community for their constant support and encouragement. Thank you for helping me through the first chapters of my life.



### **Nobu Kuwada**

I graduated from WHEA and plan to continue working at Shrimp Improvement Systems and commercial fishing. I am thankful to my family and friends who have supported me along the way.



### **Noa Roth**

Hello everyone, my name is Noa Roth, a recent graduate from Kealakehe High School. I'm a Daifukuji taiko drummer, a tennis player, and an amateur barber. This Fall I am enrolling at the University of Washington, majoring in industrial design and environmental science.

First, I would like to thank our Daifukuji Sangha and the Roth Kimura Ohana for supporting taiko and providing me with opportunities for wholehearted giving and receiving - a chance to truly live the Dharma. My gratitude also extends to those who are not here today who have been instrumental to my development. I sincerely thank you all.

Next, I would like to thank all of my taiko brothers/sisters and alumni. Through my 10 years with taiko, I was blessed with having several role models to look up to. The friendships that were extended to me and the examples they set, helped me become who I am today.

Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank our taiko Sensei Akemi Iwamoto. While Sensei Akemi has given me so many opportunities through taiko, her biggest impact on me was through our taiko ohana. Since my first day of practice, Sensei Akemi has made taiko about the relationships and care we have for one another. This helped make our taiko group less of an ensemble, and more of a family. The lessons you have taught me have helped make me not just a much better taiko drummer, but a much kinder person.



### **Riley Sato**

For eight long years, I've been a part of the Kona Daifukuji Taiko group and throughout my time as a fully-fledged taiko performer, I have made wonderful memories that will last a lifetime. I cannot fully express my sincere gratitude to my parents, grandparents, friends, taiko family and Sensei Akemi, who always supported me. Their patience with me and guidance helped shape me into the person I am today. I can't imagine how my life would be without them.

Now, as a graduating senior, I need to prepare myself for the next stage of my life. I plan on attending college and majoring in biology. My career goal is to become a physician and come back to Hawai'i to help the community I grew up in. This dream of mine is no easy feat, but my taiko family taught me that all it takes is hard work, belief in myself, and the will to chase after it.

### **Kai Watkins**

I am a graduate of Konawaena High School. Taiko has been, undeniably, the most influential, important, and beneficial decision I have ever made in my life. I have learned the importance of hard work, perseverance, and a positive attitude in the pursuit of proficiency. I have gained the values of teamwork, respect, and discipline through my years at taiko. I cannot truly explain through words my appreciation and gratitude for everything I learned and experienced with the Daifukuji Taiko Group. The time I spent with the group will always stay with me and has been the greatest 5 years of my life. My thanks goes to Sensei Akemi for always being there for everyone no matter what it was. Sensei Akemi would make time in her day to pick up those who couldn't get a ride to practice and make sure they could attend. Sensei Akemi would offer her amazing guidance and support in the best possible way to everyone. Sensei Akemi has been one of the most important people in my growth as a person and will forever be in my heart as I continue on my journey. I will always cherish the memories, lessons, and values I gained and I thank everyone who ever has and continues to support Kona Daifukuji Taiko. My career goal is to someday open my own restaurant.



### **Michelle Tam**

I graduated from Kamehameha Schools Kapalama Campus with academic honors this year. I have been boarding at the school since the seventh grade. I currently plan on going to the University of Hawai'i at Manoa to double major in psychology and sociology as well as minor in the Hawaiian language. I would like to thank my parents, Mitchell and Cheryl Tam.



### **Shayla Sayphone**

My name is Shayla Sayphone. I am honored to be a graduate of Konawaena High School as a valedictorian. I plan to attend Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota this fall. My intended major is Biology and I hope to pursue a career where I can return to Kona and help the community I grew up in.

I would like to thank the Daifukuji Soto Mission sangha for acknowledging our seniors this year and supporting us! To my grandma, Hideko Kawakami, my parents Kevin & Patsy, and my brother Brandon, thank you for your continuous love, encouragement, and generosity that has helped me to become the person I am today! I am so grateful to be part of the Daifukuji sangha and to be surrounded by such warm and giving people. Thank you to everyone who have helped me along my journey and continues to support me in everything I do!



### **Jordan Buskirk**

I am currently enrolled at Hawaii Pacific University on a Dean's Academic Honors Scholarship of \$10,000 a year in their marine biology program with a minor in Japanese. This will be my undergraduate school and I will then move to Washington State University to obtain my Master's in veterinary medicine. My big hope to get from my next 8 years of school will be to become a marine mammal veterinarian with the aim of rehabilitating and releasing as many marine mammals as I can as the threat of human intervention becomes something I can no longer stand to ignore. My heart will always belong to the beautiful island of Hawai'i and I am praying I can come back to apply what I learned in school and help the marine mammals here.

I have so many people to thank for the success and accomplishments I have achieved. My parents are the first and foremost obvious blessing for they have helped me grow and move towards the person I am today. They taught me where hard work and dedication can get me and without them, I wouldn't be going where I'm going today. My friends have been nothing short of supportive with my endeavors and they've been my crutch to lean on and my shoulder to cry on as I overcame trial and tribulation throughout my life. My pets have been a big impact and influence on my love for animals as I've built the loving connections I have with them. Taiko has been the biggest influence on my life with teamwork, hard work, and a loving team I am proud to call my family. A big and special thanks to Sensei Akemi, Sensei Amy, and Reverend Jiko for always supporting me and the group in everything that we do. Our trip to Japan, the Hilo concerts, Daifukuji's 100th year anniversary performance, and the 2019 July concert have been some of the biggest projects we came across and we couldn't have done as well as we did without the never ending love and patience from our mentors. There are so many people I am so blessed to have in my life and without them, I wouldn't have made it this far. I am forever grateful for everybody who has held my hand and I will do whatever I can to repay your kindness. Mahalo and へは、またあいましょうね。

This year's Blessing of the Graduates will be a private ceremony to which only the graduates and their families have been invited. Cards for the graduates may be dropped off at Daifukuji or mailed for delivery by June 12 and will be distributed by Rev. Jiko.

You may mail cards to:

(Graduate's Name)

c/o Daifukuji Soto Mission,

79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy.

Kealakekua, HI 96750



## Please Share Your Favorite Recipes

The United Hawaii Soto-Shu Women's Association (UHSSWA) will be publishing a new cookbook in time for the holidays. Temple members are invited to submit their favorite recipes.

If you would like to contribute one or more recipes, please send them via email to Merle Uyeda at [mteiko@icloud.com](mailto:mteiko@icloud.com).

You may also mail your recipe to Daifukuji Soto Mission, P.O. Box 55, Kealakekua, HI 96750.

**We would love to receive your favorite recipes by the middle of June.**

Questions? Please call Merle, cookbook committee chair, at (808) 323-3553.

## 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 |



## Daifukuji Gift Shop News

by Clear Houn Englebert

The gift shop is temporarily closed, but in a sense it's never been closed because Rev. Jiko has continued to sell incense to people who need it. I had some work to do in the shop recently, and when I flicked the lights on, I practically gasped—it's such a beautiful space. The fact that the items are for sale is the cherry on top—just **being** in the space feels wonderful. Warren Ikeda's lighting installations make everything sparkle and the glass cases accentuate the sparkle. It's quite enchanting, and if you've missed being enchanted by it and would like to go shopping, just call Rev. Jiko—(808) 322-3524.

The gift shop didn't just look wonderful when I came in to work—it smelled wonderful. That's thanks to our having a dehumidifier in the room, and that's thanks to Coral Jinen Mack and the late Bob Shozan Bowman who donated the temple's solar panel system. The reason I came to the shop to work was also thanks to Shozan. Coral had just donated Shozan's collection of Buddhist books to the temple, and he was quite a collector of fine Buddhist books. Once the library staff is having regular meetings again, I'll report on the particular books that are being accessioned into our library. Mahalo to Coral Jinen.



### Exceptional Butsudan Offered

The gift shop has an exceptionally beautiful vintage butsudan (Buddhist home altar) for sale. It's not cheap, but our price is flexible. We can't display it yet because we don't have a table to put it on---maybe you do. We're in need of a table (of any height) that has a top surface of about 2' by 2'. If you have a table that you would like to donate to the gift shop, please call Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524 or send an email to [rev.jiko@daifukuji.org](mailto:rev.jiko@daifukuji.org).

## Meeting By ZOOM

The following groups have been holding virtual meetings via ZOOM.

- \* Bare Bones Writers
- \* Sangha Sisters Women's Spirituality Circle
- \* Daifukuji Gay Sangha
- \* 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.

## 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.*



## Library News

By Clear Houn Englebert



The neatest new arrival is *Arigato Otoosan* by Jean Misaki (Yoshida) Matsuo, because it's from right here locally—Keauhou to be specific. She's the author of *Dear Okaasan*, which is already in the library—in a section labelled “Hawaii”. Her writing comes highly praised.

The other new arrivals are:

*In the Face of Fear* edited by Barry Boyce, is subtitled *Buddhist Wisdom for Challenging Times*. It has thirty-three articles by various (top-notch) teachers. The book has six sections: Beyond Denial, Tools for a Mindful Life, Transforming Difficulty into Awakening, Facing Fear, Skillful Means, and True Happiness.

*Dharma Punx* is a memoir by Noah Levine, who's father is Stephen, the author of *A Gradual Awakening* and *Who Dies?*

*The Social Organization of Zen Practice* by David Preston is from Cambridge University Press, and the subtitle, *Constructing Transcultural Reality*, is no more illuminating than the title. It's from 1988 and we're lucky to have it.

We're also lucky to have *Soto Mission of Aiea---Taiheiji* edited by Gail Miyasaki, because it's a one-of-a-kind document that's to be treasured. It's the centennial book for Taiheiji. It's the histories of all the families in our sister temple.

## 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.



## “It Was the Best of Times; It Was the Worst of Times.”

(from Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*.)

Living in Lockdown in the Coronavirus Pandemic in Early 2020

by Betsy Kairen Morrigan

*A member of Daifukuji, Betsy has been teaching for Hawaii Community College for the last thirty years and is now teaching at the Konawaena High School Early College program.*

This pandemic that has caught the world and me in its grip is fascinating, foreboding, frightening, and feels deeply unknowable—all at once. Is it even the “middle” that we’re in now? Or could these early months of the pandemic represent just the very beginning, a dark, long tunnel in world history that will last not until the magical bullet vaccine is ready in every doctor’s office, but for decades where we are buffeted over and over not only by more “novel” ever-evolving plague-like diseases brewed in a greedy global stew, but also by increasingly polarized governments and hostile populations? Already this COVID-19 has probably destroyed forever some of our most basic social institutions—the handshake, the family dinner with grandma, the Friday afternoon shoulder-to-shoulder at the bar—while it also unleashes the factions of new true believers to go for each other’s throats.

The best of times was the early lockdown here in Hawaii for me. We were all together in it, all over the United States, or so it felt to me. It was a comforting, cozy, special, heartening feeling to think, “We’re all as one now and we’re in this together, doing the right thing to beat this disease.” The scientists prevailed and people listened respectfully to their explanations and suggestions. It was a very pleasant, quiet time, with little traffic on the streets, less worldwide consumption and pollution, cleaner skies and seas, and very little danger of my actually getting “it,” because I work from home and have little to no exposure. Like the virus itself, all this was “novel.” I talked with my grandchildren a lot on FaceTime and cleaned every cluttered corner in my house, prepared to teach a Zoom class, and sometimes hung out in my comfy jammies until long after lunch. I took long walks and swims with several ‘safe’ friends in my COVID-19 “bubble” and did some long overdue writing and reading, like *Love in the Time of Cholera*.

Soon, however, the worst of times began. The death rates soared, the virus mowed down essential workers, and penetrated deep into the heartland. Our president suggested we drink bleach for a cure, politicizing science, and supporting the protestors against the very lockdowns that were reducing the disease rates, as they swaggered into state capitols in camo, wearing no masks, displaying swastikas and big guns. At this point, the warm, cozy united America I had conjured up and felt at one with at the beginning of the lockdown faded rapidly to anger against those who are making it worse. I feel so ashamed of being an American now. I am ashamed of the armed and ugly protestors, of our bumbling leaders, and of our astronomical numbers of infection and fatalities, the highest in the world. I am ashamed of some of my educated friends withdrawing into denial and strange conspiracy theories. I suffer with the African-Americans and the Latinx population, who have been hit so hard with deaths from COVID-19, and see so clearly how much our health care and workplace support systems have failed them, and by extension, all of us.

*Continued on page 11*

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And the warm, fuzzy feeling I had at the beginning of the pandemic lockdown, when all my friends were calling and texting me, “How are you doing? How are you spending your time? Let’s exchange recs for videos, books, recipes,” has degraded into wrangling and name-calling, as a number of those same friends have turned into virulent and vocal anti-vaxers, nay-sayers, and conspiracy theorists, claiming this virus began as a bio-weapon from China or was caused by 5G rays. Now they complain about wearing masks, against all scientific evidence. I argue right back, and then beg them to take me off their lists. It tears me up how the radical right and the New Age left are smirking and shaking hands behind my back.

Yet well I know and feel the divide between my own soft situation and that of the parents who are dying from work as bus drivers or nurses, leaving children behind, and the meat packers forced to butcher pigs in conditions that were terrible before and that are killing them now, while I smugly advocate “meatless Mondays.” I worry about whether my grandchildren will be able to return to school safely in the fall, and when/if I will hug them again.

I feel my upper-middle class privilege daily, living comfortably as I do on mostly passive income, on this sweet, slow, island of Hawaii isolated in the far reaches of the Pacific Ocean, with its lack of infection and its generally kind and gentle attitudes. I do feel guilt for the many who are suffering, yet also I admit that while sending donations to nonprofits to help in the trenches, I am also thinking, “No-one can get me here. I am doing fine! I can hole up for another year or more and ride out this thing alive!”

No, I am not doing fine. I don’t want to hole up for another year or two. I am lonely and bored and sick of it after these few months. Days have gone by when my only human interaction was digital. My son who owns a business in Miami would like me to do a grandmother camp for the two kids this summer, and I would love that, but what about exposure to me? I have friends and family in Washington state and Miami who want me to visit with them, kayak with them, contra dance with them this summer or so they hope. By mid-summer 2020 will we have anything more to celebrate about in Seattle, Washington or Miami, Florida?

And yet my anger and anxiety serve little purpose unless I transform it into something meaningful. I will not let the uncertainty this pandemic is causing destroy me and my country. Our lives and times are changing. I intend to understand and face these changes and to help myself and those who are suffering. As the Buddhist philosopher Thich Nhat Hanh says, *“To think in terms of either pessimism or optimism oversimplifies the truth. The problem is to see reality as it is.”*

That may mean dying in the midst of this new reality, but for now, I will find a new and better way, a way of awareness, acceptance, resilience, and outreach.

## Free Online Buddhist Study Class Launches June 22-26, 2020

The Buddhist Study Center will offer **“Interlinked: Understanding the Origins and Evolution of American Buddhism,”** a free online Buddhist study class series on June 22-26, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (HST) featuring the noted scholar, Rev. Dr. Duncan Ryuken Williams, author of *American Sutra*, a ground-breaking book published in 2019.



The study class series will cover the Foundations of American Buddhism, Buddhism in Hawaii during World War II, Religious Freedom and Buddhism during World War II, American Buddhism and Ecology, and Buddhist Social Engagement in a series of five two-hour lecture over five nights.

The study class series will be available online through a link available at the Buddhist Study Center website, <http://bschawaii.org>. Pre-registration is not required and the lectures are free and open to the public. Donations to the Buddhist Study Center are gratefully accepted in the spirit in which they are given.

Detailed information and the full syllabus are available at <http://bschawaii.org>.

For more information, please call the Buddhist Study Center at (808) 973-6555.



Professor Duncan Ryuken Williams

Dr. Williams is an Associate Professor of Religion at the University of Southern California and the Director of the USC Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University and previously held the Shinjo Ito Distinguished Chair of Japanese Buddhism at University of California at Berkeley. He is the author of many publications including: *The Other Side of Zen: A Social History of Sôtô Zen Buddhism in Tokugawa Japan* (Princeton, 2005). In 2019, he published *American Sutra*, a groundbreaking history tells the little-known story of how, in one of our country's darkest hours, Japanese Americans fought to defend their faith and preserve religious freedom.

The Buddhist Study Center (BSC) was established in 1972 as a part of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH). HHMH is a statewide organization affiliated with the worldwide Jodo Shinshu (True Pure Land Buddhism) Hongwanji-ha. Located next to the University of Hawaii at Manoa campus, the BSC has a close working relationship with UH faculty in the Department of Religion.