

Daifukuji Soto Mission

Rising Like a Lotus



79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealahou, HI 96750

September, 2021

(808) 322-3524 www.daifukuji.org

See “archives” on our website for previous newsletters.

Dear Members and Friends of Daifukuji,

Recently, a sangha member remarked, “We are fortunate that our teachings help us understand the reality of impermanence because this helps us deal with this ever-changing Covid crisis. Just when we thought that the situation was getting better, it’s suddenly turned bad again. Just when we thought we could enjoy gatherings again, we are having to avoid them.”

“How true!” I thought. In last month’s newsletter, I expressed that I was looking forward to Sunday School and Y.B.A. gatherings and possibly the start of major services in the fall. Today, I sent out emails to temple members, announcing the temporary suspension of in-person temple group activities until further notice. Groups are taking a break in order to keep the members of our community safe.

For many people, these are scary and confusing times. We seem to be going backward instead of forward and may wonder when this pandemic is going to end. We need to be here for each other and support each other with great love and great compassion. We need to listen to what our planet is trying to tell us. We must pay attention. Our Soto Zen teachings and practice, which have been passed down to us through our ancestors, provide steady guidance. Please join me in studying these teachings. I am offering “An Introduction to Soto Zen Buddhism” using Zoom and invite you to join our delightful online Dharma Fellowship. (There’s information on page 4.)

Thank you very much for supporting Daifukuji throughout this difficult and uncertain time. In this rapidly changing, ephemeral world, it’s the love and support of sangha that makes all the difference. Please take care of yourself and each other. May you take refuge in Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha and find spiritual nourishment in the Three Treasures.



Our first lotus bud

With warm aloha, in gassho,

Rev. Jikō



Live-stream Autumn Higan and Soto Zen Founders Service
Sunday, September 12 at 10:00 a.m.

All are invited to view this service, which will begin at 10 a.m. HST and will be live-streamed via Daifukuji's YouTube channel. Rev. Jikō's Dharma message will be later uploaded to this channel for viewing at your convenience.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/DaifukujiSotoZenHawaii>.

Ohigan (お彼岸), a Buddhist holiday observed in Japan at the time of the spring and autumnal equinoxes, is considered the perfect time to strengthen one's practice of the Buddha's teachings of the Six Perfections of the Heart known as the Six Paramitas, which are: generosity, observation of the precepts, patience, vigor, meditation, and wisdom.

At this service, we will pay homage to Dogen Zenji, the eminent founder of our Soto Zen tradition in Japan and Keizan Zenji, the eminent propagator of the Soto Zen teachings.

Please join this live-streamed service from the safety and comfort of your home.



Daifukuji's 2021 online auction is coming up!

Items for the auction may be dropped off at Daifukuji from October 14 - October 25.

The auction will be held online from October 27 - November 2.

Our auction chair is Barb Shoshin Bosz, barbarainkona@gmail.com.

More information in next month's newsletter!

Deepest Sympathy



John Carlstrom passed away on July 25th at the age of 73. We send our loving thoughts and heartfelt sympathy to his life partner Judie Myoko Fekete and her ‘ohana.

Namu Daihi Kanzeon Bosatsu



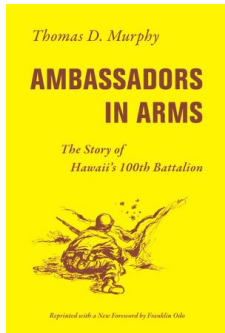
Mahalo Nui Loa

Arigato to Tyrone Ohta for making four new tables for the Daifukuji Baikako Choir.

Thank you to Pat Kadooka (designsbykadooka.com) for generously donating many beautiful koa items to our gift shop.

Gift Shop News

by Clear Houn Englebert



I raved about the University of Hawaii Press in the last newsletter, and I'd like to continue doing that this month. They have just released the newest edition of the classic book *Ambassadors in Arms: The Story of Hawaii's 100th Battalion* by Thomas Murphy. It's a \$20 paperback that the gift shop has marked down to \$15. There's a new forward in it by historian and activist Franklin Odo. This is the story of the 100th Battalion, and if you haven't read it yet, you owe it to yourself to do so. It originally came out in 1954, and Odo's forward makes it plain that the writing is still fresh.

Also, the 2022 calendars have started arriving, and we have received a remarkably large donation of carved koa items from Pat Kadooka.

The gift shop is open by appointment. To schedule an appointment, please call me (Clear Englebert) at (808) 328-0329.

Membership Dues

Mahalo to all who have sent in their 2021 Daifukuji membership dues and donations. Your support is greatly appreciated. Should you need a 2021 membership form, please contact the temple office at info@daifukuji.org, or (808) 322-3524. New members are always welcome. Information on membership may be found on our website, http://www.daifukuji.org/membership_brochure.pdf.



September Programs

Due to the alarming number of active Coronavirus cases here on Hawaii Island, the following temple groups have temporarily suspended in-person meetings:

Daifukuji Baikako Choir

Yoga classes taught by Liz

Daifukuji Taiko

Daifukuji T'ai Chi

Soleful Strutters Walking Moai

Daifukuji Family Sangha Sunday Dharma School

Daifukuji Young Buddhist Association (Y.B.A.)

Daifukuji Zazenkai (Offers Zoom zazen and chanting Wednesday mornings and Thursday evenings. To receive the Zoom link and schedule, please contact rev.jiko@daifukuji.org)

Sangha Sister's Women's Spirituality Circle - 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.

Bare Bones Writers Group - Via Zoom, meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. Call Kathryn at (808) 345-2976 for information.

Zoom Yoga (September 2 - October 7)

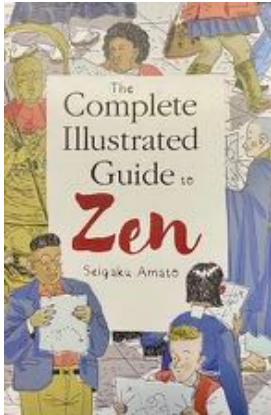
Six Thursdays from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. HST

Welcome warmup 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

For inquiry: (808) 430-2620. Email for Registration & Zoom Link: ambikarose@hawaiiantel.net.



An Introduction to Soto Zen Buddhism

A new three-month Zoom Dharma series

Instructor: Rev. Jiko Nakade

Here's a chance to learn the basics of Soto Zen Buddhism by joining the Zoom Dharma Fellowship which is open to all. Please select group 1 or group 2.

Group 1: Tuesdays from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. (Starting August 17)

Group 2: Saturdays from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. (starting August 21)

We will be using the newly published book *The Complete Illustrated Guide to Zen* by Seigaku Amato, a writer, illustrator, and Soto Zen Buddhist priest who is the assistant minister at the Long Beach Buddhist Church. The illustrations are delightful and the text is easy to understand. This book is available through the Daifukuji Gift Shop. Dharma class members may purchase a copy at the special price of \$10. (The gift shop price is \$15.) Sorry, we are unable to handle mail orders. The book may be ordered online: <https://wisdomexperience.org/product/the-complete-illustrated-guide-to-zen/>

Topics to be covered: a brief history of Buddhism, buddhas and bodhisattvas, Soto Zen practice, holidays, ceremonies, sutras, Buddhist vestments, how to set up a home altar.

This series of classes is being offered free of charge. If you would like to offer a donation, you may do so through the temple website: <http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html>.

Checks may be mailed to: Daifukuji Soto Mission, P.O. Box 55, Kealakekua, HI 96750.

A Zoom link will be sent to you each week. Learning together via Zoom is a fun way to meet new people and make new Dharma friends.

To register for the series, please contact Rev. Jiko at rev.jiko@daifukuji.org, (808) 322-3524.



Book Review: Zen Seeds

by Harold Jiho Hall

Zen Seeds by Shundo Aoyama Roshi was effectively and beautifully used by Reverend Jiko Nakade for our Dharma group at Daifukuji Soto Mission. Members of the Dharma group thought it was terrific and down to earth in the integration of Buddhist lore and values, Zen stories, and personal experiences. What we saw was a brilliant mind, thoughts from which reflected a deep humility, great insight, generosity of spirit, and faithfulness that never ceases. In the book, she offers a gift to reflect deeply but pragmatically on life's challenges for living a compassionate-wise life. **Zen Seeds** is a truly inspiring book for anyone. Having professionally reviewed many non-fiction works over the decades, this book, the review for which has been posted on Amazon, without a doubt deserves 5+ stars. (*Zen Seeds* is available in our temple's lending library and gift shop.)



Congratulations

Our warmest congratulations to Carolyn Arenas, who received the sixteen bodhisattva precepts and the Buddhist name *Myō-e* (Bright Wisdom) in a Soto Zen Lay Buddhist Confirmation ceremony on August 8.

Dear Daifukuji Sangha,

It is with a heart full of joy and gratitude that I thank you for the tender loving-kindness you all have so freely given to me!

I am moving to Seattle, Washington, to attend acupuncture school, and was blessed beyond words to be able to participate in my very own lay confirmation ceremony with Reverend Jiko and Deacon Amy. As I go forward, I will humbly strive to walk along the Bodhisattva path as a disciple of the Buddha Shakyamuni. I will hold you in my heart always, as a shining blessing of love.

*Aloha nui loa,
Myo-e Carolyn Arenas*

A Report from the Board

by Steve Hōshin Mann, Corresponding Secretary

The Daifukuji Board of Directors met via Zoom on August 5.

Rev. Jiko extended condolences to board member Judie Fekete on the loss of her partner John Carlstrom, and led us in the dedication of the merit of our minute of meditation to him.

We discussed strategies for the ongoing maintenance of the cemetery. The large-group efforts have gone well and the work will now be easier if we keep it up. From among those volunteers interested, we'll be organizing a rotation of small teams to do the upkeep. This work will make it easier for Dennis Nakano to do his work on the pathways later this year, and in turn the new pathways will make future maintenance easier.

We accepted a bid for the painting of the social hall. We extend our thanks to Wayne Hakoda for undertaking the repair of two of the refrigerators in the hall.

In light of the current pandemic surge, we looked at the possibility of closing down in-person events again. Some groups have already chosen to do that. For the others, we decided to allow in-person participation on the part of those who have already been vaccinated.

We decided to locate the peace pole just north of the Jizo shrine. It will have a new *giboshi* (ornamental piece) matching those on the temple railing, made for us by Tai Lake. Any dedication ceremony has been postponed.

We'll be asking a roof cleaning company to evaluate the need to wash and/or paint the temple roof.



Arigato, Yuki and Lorraine



Mahalo, Mako and Joyce

Weedy Ramblings From the Garden

Our temple gardens would definitely by now be a weed jungle were it not for the perseverance of the Fujinkai and Samu group volunteers who have been tackling the overgrowth, section by section, week after week. A big mahalo to all of you!

We are looking for a few more volunteers who would be willing to maintain these areas:

- (1) The area mauka of the columbarium where lavender and flowers are planted needs weeding.
- (2) The area beneath the lychee tree, mauka of the temple, where there's elephant grass that needs to be cut down or dug up.
- (3) An overgrown strip along the south side of the social hall that needs to be cleared.

If you have time to lend a hand for a few hours a week or every other week, please contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org. We would certainly appreciate your help.



Fencing and Rock-breaking Help for the Orchard

Before we continue the work by hand, the orchard crew would like to see if anyone with specialized tools or skills would like to help out with drilling and cementing in posts and pulling a short run of field fence

mauka the orchard. We have also begun steepening the bottom terrace to make it pig-resistant, and some of that work would be easier with a power hammer.

Contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524 or Steve Hoshin Mann at (808) 328-0329, or drop by on Friday mornings to join the orchard work. We are planning, and controlling weeds, while we work to exclude pigs; once the pigs are out, we'll repair the old terraces, and then be ready to plant.



Just One World

by Michael Keller

Recently I attended the last dharma study meeting, via Zoom, on the book *Zen Seeds*. One of the essays in the book that we read for this meeting, “Throw Everything Away,” contained a question a Zen Master posed to a student: “What does it mean to say ‘Life and death, as they are, is nirvana’?” When the student (actually the then young Shundo Aoyama, the author of *Zen Seeds*) couldn’t answer the question, the Zen Master advised her to return after thirty years of practice and then try to answer.

“Thirty years” of zazen is the conventional period in Zen to wait for enlightenment. So the Zen Master is saying, “You will know the answer to my question when you are enlightened.” Indeed the Zen Master’s question points to the core enlightened insight in Zen, that, to use Suzuki Roshi’s words, “In your big mind, everything has the same value. Everything is Buddha himself.” Or as Dogen puts it, “Hundreds of grasses and myriad forms – each appearing ‘as it is’ – are nothing but buddha’s true dharma body. . . .” Dogen also says beautifully, “The great ocean has only one taste.”

The fundamental insight that everything is Buddha comes gradually to a zazen practitioner. Maybe it takes thirty years, maybe more or less, but it eventually comes. Again to quote Suzuki Roshi, who says that becoming enlightened is like walking in a fog:

“It is not like going out in a shower in which you know when you get wet. In a fog, you do not know you are getting wet, but as you keep walking you get wet little by little. If your mind has ideas of progress, you may say, ‘Oh, this pace is terrible!’ But actually it is not. When you get wet in a fog, it is very difficult to dry yourself. So there is no need to worry about progress.”

You might say that progress is unconscious. To quote Dogen again, “When buddhas are truly buddhas they do not necessarily notice that they are buddhas.”

To return to *Zen Seeds*, in another essay, “Serving Others as a Bridge,” Shundo Aoyama says, “People who are about to cross the bridge called Buddhism know that the Other Shore is a more splendid world than this mundane, deluded world.” However, when you do get to the Other Shore, as Aoyama Roshi knows, you realize that there is no “Other Shore.” In Zen commentary, the world to be crossed over to the “Other Shore” is called “samsara,” the deluded world; it is contrasted with “nirvana,” the enlightened world. In Zen commentary, you also read that samsara and nirvana are the same things. In an enlightened mind, there are not two worlds, just one wonderful world. The third Zen patriarch, Seng T’san, says, “The Great Way is not difficult for those who have no preferences.” There is just one great and wonderful world.

Library News

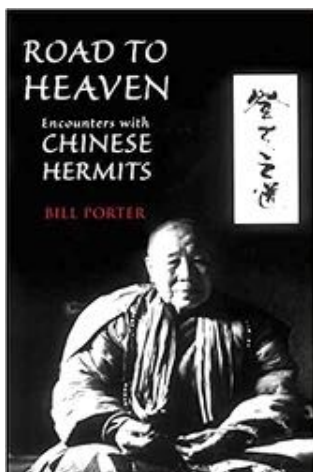
by Clear Houn Englebert

Here are the new arrivals:

The Complete Illustrated Guide to Zen by Seigaku Amato is a wonderful book and I highly recommend it to everyone. The author is a Soto priest and both his drawings and writing are very clear. It covers everything a person would want to know about Soto, and it's thoroughly enjoyable.

Buddhism in the West is a compilation of interviews that were aired on New Dimensions radio program. Of special interest are the interviews with Robert Aitken and Jack Kornfield.

Advice for Future Corpses by Sara Tisdale is subtitled *A Practical Perspective on Death and Dying*. I like that it's practical



Road to Heaven: Encounters with Chinese Hermits by Bill Porter is one of the best books I've ever read, and I can't resist quoting from it. A very advanced nun, Yuan-chao (with her ojuzu), is on the front cover of the book and she summed up her advice on practice with these words "goodwill, compassion, joy, detachment".

This is what the nun Pao-sheng says, "Some monks chant sutras, some meditate. But you don't have to sit to meditate. When my master got too old and couldn't sit up anymore, he meditated lying down. But just because someone looks like they're meditating doesn't mean they're practicing. You can tell someone who practices. Everything they do and say is to the point. They don't engage in idle talk or idle activities. This isn't just my opinion. This is what Zen masters teach in the meditation hall. I can tell you honestly that those who truly practice are few."

Yen-ch'eng, the abbot of another remote temple discusses chanting and meditating. "We first chant the name of the Buddha to settle the mind. Only when the mind is settled can it become quiet. We quiet the mind by asking who's chanting the name of the Buddha. Only when the mind is quiet can it become still. Then I explained how we still the mind by putting aside the name of the Buddha. Only when the mind is still can it see. And only when the mind can see can it reach the mystery of mysteries. This is a process that anyone who practices has to go through. How long it takes is up to the individual."

Ways to Practice Giving

One way to help the temple is to contribute to Daifukuji's Legacy Endowment Fund. For information, please go to <http://www.daifukuji.org/endowment/index.html>. A virtual donor wall has been added: http://www.daifukuji.org/endowment/VDW_20210322.pdf. One may also make contributions through our website: <http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html>. Mahalo nui loa.

September 2021

August 2021							September 2021							October 2021							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4							1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
29	30	31	26	27	28	29	30	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							
																				31	

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31 3:00 PM Zoom Dharma Study	1 6:00 AM Zoom Zazen 9:00 AM Library Staff Meeting	2 8:00 AM Zoom Yoga with Ambika 7:00 PM Temple Board	3 8:00 AM Samu	4 8:00 AM Zoom Dharma Study
5	6	7 3:00 PM Zoom Dharma Study	8 6:00 AM Zoom Zazen	9 8:00 AM Zoom Yoga with Ambika 6:00 PM Zoom Zazen	10 8:00 AM Samu 7:00 PM Zoom Sangha Sisters	11 8:00 AM Zoom Dharma Study
12 10:00 AM Live-stream Autumn Higan and Ryosoki Service	13	14 9:00 AM Zoom Bare Bones Writers 3:00 PM Zoom Dharma Study	15 6:00 AM Zoom Zazen	16 8:00 AM Zoom Yoga with Ambika	17 8:00 AM Samu	18 8:00 AM Zoom Dharma Study
19	20	21 3:00 PM Zoom Dharma Study	22 6:00 AM Zoom Zazen	23 8:00 AM Zoom Yoga with Ambika 6:00 PM Zoom Zazen	24 8:00 AM Samu	25 8:00 AM Zoom Dharma Study
26	27	28 3:00 PM Zoom Dharma Study	29 6:00 AM Zoom Zazen	30 8:00 AM Zoom Yoga with Ambika	1 8:00 AM Samu	2 8:00 AM Zoom Dharma Study



79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy, Kealahou, HI 96750 (808) 322-3524

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KONA DAIFUKUJI "ZOOM" YOGA 8.06.21

6 Thurs. 8-9 am HST Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Oct. 7

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

Consciously Crossing over to the Inner Source of Self!

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 44 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 8.06.21