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Your contributions help ensure our beautiful Temple is maintained to support its mission, and the many programs and activities that benefit both members and the community, for generations to come. On behalf of the Daifukuji Soto Mission, domo arigato gozaimasu, thank you, for your support of our Temple.

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Donor Spotlight

In Memory of Clark and Kazuyo Sasaki

(From the September 2020 Daifukuji Newsletter)

As a kid I remember the Keauhou Store on Mamalahoa Highway just north of our temple as the only place in Kona that sold bikes. It was the sixties and Walmart & Costco didn't exist. They also sold many other items that were actually important to daily life, but it was the bikes that made it a "magical" place. The original proprietors of the Keauhou Store were Yoshisuke and Kuma Sasaki. They had seven children, and Clark Sasaki was their youngest child, born in 1929. Clark was employed by the Kona Surf Hotel for many years but also helped at the Keauhou Store like all his siblings. Clark was a quiet, modest man who lived frugally and enjoyed shoreline fishing and gardening at home. Reverend Jiko recalls that he enjoyed and looked forward to attending Daifukuji's New Year's Blessing Service every year. In the mid-sixties he married Kazuyo Usui who was originally from Yokohama, Japan and they were together for over 50 years. Kazuyo was employed by the Kona

Hilton as a chef, then worked at Hilo Hatties in Kailua after she retired. Kazuyo was adventurous (she went hang-gliding once) and loved to travel. She was an active member of the Daifukuji Baikako Choir, Project Dana, the Fujinkai and loved senior activities, including line dancing and Bon dancing. Her niece Kikumi Usui told me that her Aunt Kazuyo considered Daifukuji her family. When Kazuyo first moved from Japan to Kona, she was a stranger and was obviously far away from her own family and everyone she had grown up knowing. A difficult situation for anyone but our Daifukuji Sangha became her family and a source of new friendships and activities that enriched her new life. Clark and Kazuyo both passed away in September 2019. First Kazuyo, then Clark a week later. Morris Sasaki, Clark & Kazuyo's nephew and trustee of their estate, informed us that Daifukuji had been designated as one of the beneficiaries of their trust. Morris worked diligently for months taking care of his Aunt & Uncle's estate settlement. Not a small feat considering he lives in Southern California. In August 2020, Morris completed the trust distribution into our endowment fund from Clark & Kazuyo's estate that in one extremely generous gift, increased our endowment fund by more than 50%. After a lifetime of



Clark & Kazuyo Sasaki on their wedding day.

endeavor, Clark & Kazuyo left us the single largest donation we have received to date. This gift will enable Daifukuji to continue presenting events like the New Year's Blessing that Clark so enjoyed, and the Bon Dances that Kazuyo so loved attending. We will always be grateful to Clark & Kazuyo for their kindness.



Clark & Kazuyo had no children, but through this legacy gift, future generations of Daifukuji members have become theirs. They have provided for us just as a parent provides for their child. We have just completed our Obon season but please offer a prayer of gratitude to Clark & Kazuyo. Their generosity will enable our temple to continue providing the programs, the services, and the relationships that benefit our members and our community well into the future. One of those shiny new bikes at Keauhou Store was just given to us.