



Daifukuji Soto Mission

P.O. Box 55 Kealahou, HI 96750
808-322-3524 www.daifukuji.org

Treasuring the Past, Embracing the Present

October 2007

Daruma-ki & Eitaikyo Services

Sunday, October 7

9:30 a.m.

On October 7th we will be observing Daruma-ki, a service held in remembrance of Bodhidharma, also known as Bodai Daruma Daishi or Daruma-sama. At Daifukuji one can find a wooden image of this great Zen teacher seated upon a chair in an alcove located to the right of the main altar. Bodhidharma was a 6th century monk who is said to have carried the teaching of the Buddha Shakyamuni from India to China during a long three-year journey. He is the 28th patriarch of our lineage. According to legend, he was a person of great determination who sat in meditation facing a wall for nine years at the Shorinji Temple. When one thinks of Bodhidharma, one thinks of great perseverance. He is the embodiment of zazen meditation.

An eitaikyo service to perpetually remember deceased members in prayer will also be held. Please join us for a morning of meditation, song, and prayer. The Dharma talk will be given by Reverend Jiko.

Everyone's invited to a simple lunch following the service. **Fujinkai members who are able to help in the kitchen, please call Alfreida Fujita at 329-3457(hm) or 324-0053 (wk). Flowers for the service are also appreciated. Please drop off flowers by Friday, October 5th.**

Lei Wili O Na Kupuna Senior Activity Morning to Begin October 10

8:30 a.m. – Noon

Lei Wili O Na Kupuna (The Intertwining Lei of Our Seniors), Daifukuji Soto Mission's new Project Dana program for seniors, will begin on **Wednesday, October 10th** (date has been changed) and will be held on the **2nd Wednesday** of every month thereafter from 8:30 am until noon. Activities are to include an opening prayer, gentle exercises, games such as hanafuda, mahjong, and bingo, lomi lomi massage, arts and crafts, and speakers on topics of interest to seniors. A morning snack and lunch will be provided by the temple. This program is FREE for temple members. Transportation will be provided upon request and trained volunteers will be on site to provide support and assistance.

Invitations were sent out to all members of Daifukuji age 60 and up. We apologize if we inadvertently missed anyone. If you have not received an invitation and would like to join the program, either as a participant or volunteer, please call Vivian Ontai at 322-0942, Reiko Sekine at 334-1127, or Rev. Jiko at 322-3524. All senior members of the temple are invited to join.

Blessings upon Lei Wili O Na Kupuna and upon all of our senior members and volunteers!

Hawaii Island



Daifukuji Soto Mission is the first Soto Zen temple in the state of Hawaii to join Project Dana, an ecumenical coalition of 31 churches and temples. Project Dana began in 1989 with the assistance of the National Federation of Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Inc., now called Faith in Action. It is sponsored by the Moiliili Hongwanji Mission where Kona-born Rev. Eric Horaku Matsumoto serves as resident minister.

At its August meeting, the Daifukuji Board of Directors appropriated \$1,000 to start this project at our temple. Project coordinators are Vivian Ontai and Reiko Sekine; vice-coordinators are Elaine Fernandez and Joyce St. Arnault. A team of enthusiastic members have stepped forth to serve as trained on-site volunteers who are ready to assist and serve the temple elders with patience, respect, and aloha. We are truly fortunate to have them.

Dana means “selfless giving” in Sanskrit and is the guiding principle of Project Dana. It is our hope that many of our members will choose to participate in the temple’s monthly senior activity days.

Since the temple will be providing snacks and lunches for the seniors and volunteers, donations of fruits and other kinds of nutritious food items are appreciated, as are bingo prizes and monetary contributions toward this program. If you would like to donate these kinds of items, please call Vivian Ontai at 322-0942.

We thank our members for their support of Lei Wili O Na Kupuna. May this program bring happiness and joy to our kupunas!



Fujinkai & Sunday School Fellowship Journey to Hilo

Sunday, October 21 6:45 a.m. Departure

Autumn is holo holo time for the Daifukuji Fujinkai and Kids and Teen Sangha groups. This year they will be going on a fellowship journey to the ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawaii at the UH Hilo Science and Technology Park. This bus trip will also include a bento lunch at a park and a stop at the Panaewa Zoo.

The Fujinkai will pay for the bus fees, astronomy center admission fees, and bento lunches for its members. Fujinkai members can invite guests, but their admission fees will be collected. Fujinkai members, if you are interested in going and have not yet signed up, please call Joyce at 329-3833 by September 28.

Members of the Sunday family program, please call Rev. Jiko at 322-3524 if you are interested in going. The Fujinkai will be providing the bus for all of us, but we will have to ask our family program members to pay for the admission fees to the astronomy center. Admission is \$4 for children ages 5-17 and \$9 for adults 18 and above. The Sunday school will take care of the bento lunches for its members.

May this fellowship bus journey to the other side of the island be a fun and enjoyable experience for all. **The bus will leave Daifukuji at 6:45 am sharp, so please meet at the temple at 6:30 am.**

Welcome, New Members

The Daifukuji Sangha warmly welcomes the following new members:

Andrea (Harai) & Phillip Shea

Rev. Robert Joshin Althouse & June Ryushin Tanoue

Domo Arigato

Thank you very much to Nancy Kurihara for sewing two dozen pilgrim's vests for the temple's yearly 33 Kannon pilgrimage which is held in March. Over the years Nancy has sewn outfits for our Ojizosan, feeding bibs for the Fujinkai's community service projects, and beautiful potholders and hot pads for the temple kitchen. We also thank Brian Kimura and Winifred Kimura for donating the fabric for the vests.

Mahalo nui to Kusato Okayama for donating the labor to fix some electrical problems at the temple, to Steve Mann for spending many hours fixing our vacuum cleaners, toilets, windows, door handles, and much more, to Jan Bovard for continuing the work on the cemetery pavilion, and to Shirlene Yoneyama and Harold Murata for taking an inventory of the damaged graves in our cemetery.

We also thank our faithful samu team that cleans the temple every Friday. Thank you to Chirio and Bernard for vacuuming, to Thelma and Elaine for taking care of the flowers & general cleaning, to Jill Teiho and Ven. Rabjee for cleaning the altars and toilets, to Miyeko, Yoshiko, Elsie, and Evelyn for cleaning the nokotsudo and hondo, to Stanley and Jack for pressure washing the stairs and trimming the greenery, and to Judy for helping us whenever she's in town. Thank you to Christo for trimming the hedges to perfection, to Taichi for mowing the lawn and hauling away the trash, & to Velvet for weeding the flowerbeds. The cleanliness and beauty of our grounds can be attributed to the hard work of our sangha volunteers. Thank you, everyone!

Goeika Workshop To Be Held October 11

Baikako members are invited to a goeika workshop on Thursday, October 11 from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** The workshop will be conducted by the Reverend Chiyuu Fujiwara of Shoukon-an temple in Yamagata, Japan.

Baika members, please let Yoshiko Ikeda (322-3533) know by October 7th if you will or will not be able to attend this workshop. A headcount is needed.

Thank you for being a member of the Daifukuji Baikako and for singing beautiful Buddhist hymns at temple services and funerals. You are all very much appreciated.



The Daifukuji Baikako received instruction from Rev. Akita at a goeika workshop held on August 12, 2006.

The Baika Pledge

As members of the Baikako, we pledge to live with true faith.

As member of the Baikako, we pledge to live in harmony with others.

As a member of the Baikako, we pledge to create a bright world.

***Sangha Photo Album:
Ohigan & Fujinkai General Membership Meeting***



The Daifukuji Dharma Singers, led by Taura St. Marie, sing “The Paramita Song.”



Everyone sang “Happy Birthday” to Miyeko Miyose and wished her a happy 88th birthday at the potluck luncheon held after the Ohigan service on September 9, 2007.

Dana: The Practice of Giving

by Reverend Jiko Nakade

Last month at Daifukuji Soto Mission our sangha observed the autumn Higan and Founders services. At that service I talked about *Dana* (*fu-se* in Japanese), which is the practice of giving from the heart, the practice of generosity and charity, the first of the Six Paramitas or Perfections of the Heart.

To illustrate this practice, I shared a story which my cousin Patricia Mushim Ikeda-Nash who lives in Oakland, California, wrote for a Buddhist publication called **Turning Wheel**. Entitled "Letting Go, Moving On," this essay appeared in the summer 2007 issue of **Turning Wheel**.

Patricia Mushim's essay began with these words:
My mother and father gave their fourth and last baby to my mother's older sister and her husband, who had no children. Mary was raised as a beloved only child, as my cousin, in Hawaii, far from my family in Ohio. It was a totally open adoption, probably somewhat unusual for its time (the early sixties), and I've always treasured my relationship with my sister-cousin and marveled that my mom and dad were able to give so selflessly. Due to complications, Mary was born prematurely and was placed in an incubator for the first part of her life, and my dad used to go and visit her in the hospital. He said in the latter part of his life that although he'd visit the baby, amazed at how tiny she was, he never touched her, because "If I did, I would have wanted to keep her." My parents knew how to love and let go, and they passed that lesson on to me.

This lesson on **dana**, the practice of loving, blessing, and letting go, was also passed on to me. Had it not been for my Aunt Alice's and Uncle Bob's great generosity of heart, I would not have come to Kona as a gift to my parents, Mildred and Noboru Oshima. My heart is filled with tremendous gratitude for both my birth parents and for my parents who adopted me and raised me with love and kindness. It is they who taught me to take refuge in the Three Treasures.

For as long as I can remember, I've known that I was adopted. This was a fact and never a secret in my family, and I grew up thinking nothing of it. Now that I myself am a parent, I can truly appreciate the immensity of my aunt and uncle's gift to my mom and dad. My parents' first baby was stillborn and their grief unbearable. They had no hope of having a second child until they were offered the gift of a baby from my mother's younger sister and brother-in-law living in Ohio.

When we give a gift, large or small, we cannot always see the results of our giving. Yet, we give anyway with the intention of making the receiver happy. We simply love and let go, practicing generosity and non-attachment.

In order for **dana** to be practiced, there has to be both a giver and a receiver. The giver experiences the joy of giving and the receiver experiences the joy of receiving and the feelings of gratitude that arise. Both parties benefit; both receive the blessings. Neither party is higher or more worthy than the other. Giver and receiver become ONE in the great circle of **dana**.

My parents have passed away, and so have my birth parents. My mother had a wonderful, trusting relationship with her sister, and loved and supported my aunt until she died of cancer at the age of 65. Today, with our parents gone, my cousin-sister Pat Mushim and I are very close even though there is an ocean between us. As mothers, we've shared with each other the joys and challenges of raising our children and letting them go. As women, we've encouraged each other every step of the way. Today, I am a Buddhist minister and Pat Mushim is a Buddhist writer, editor, activist, and retreat leader. Our lives are intertwined like the strands of a lei and we are continuing the practice of **dana** that was first shown to us by our parents. My prayer is that this practice of **dana** will continue to grow in ever-widening circles within our Sangha and extend outward into our community & world. *Namu Kie Butsu. Namu Kie Ho. Namu Kie So.*

October 2007						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Happy Stummers 7:30 pm	2 Teen Sangha Maui Trip	3 NO ZAZEN Teen Sangha Trip Fujinkai Board 7 pm	4 DAIFUKUJI BOARD MEETING 7 pm (No evening zazen)	5 Samu 8 am	6
7 DARUMA-KI & EITAIKYO SERVICES 9:30 am Lunch to follow.	8	9	10 Zazen 6 am Leiwili O Na Kupuna SENIOR ACTIVITY DAY 8:30 - noon	11 GOEIKA WORKSHOP 10 AM – 2 PM (No evening zazen)	12 Samu 8 am Sangha Sisters 7 pm	13
14 Family Service 9:30	15 Happy Strummers 7:30 pm	16	17 Zazen 6 am KANNON-KO 10 am Youth Taiko Board Meeting 7 pm	18 Evening Zazen 7 pm	19 Samu 8 am	20
21 NO FAMILY SERVICE Fujinkai & Sunday School Fellowship Journey to Hilo	22	23	24 Zazen 6 am	25 Evening Zazen 7 pm	26 Samu 8 am	27
28 Goeika Practice 8 am Family Service 9:30	29	30	31 Zazen 6 am		Coming Up in Nov.: Nov. 10 Fujinkai Bento Sale at Coffee Festival Nov. 18 Thanksgiving Service 9:30 am Nov. 25 Year-end Temple Clean Up	

Regular Activities: * Youth Taiko- Mon & Wed. 5p.m. *** Yoga –Sun. 4 p.m.	** Adult Taiko-Tues. 6 pm ****Aikido - Tues. 5 pm, Thur. 6 pm (Mothes Sensei 324-1214)
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------