



Daifukuji Soto Mission

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

Treasuring the Past, Embracing the Present

December 2006

Bodhi Day Jodo-E Service

Sunday, December 3 10:00 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Rev. Earl Ikeda

All are warmly invited to our Bodhi Day service on December 3 at which we will celebrate the enlightenment of the Buddha Shakyamuni.

Rev. Earl Ikeda of the Puna Hongwanji Mission will be the guest Dharma speaker at this year's Bodhi Day service which will begin at 10 am. Rev. Ikeda was born and raised in Hilo, graduated from Hilo High school and UH Manoa, studied at Ryukoku University in Japan, and became a Buddhist minister in 2000. He presently serves the Hongwanji temples of Puna, Pahala, and Naalehu.

Please join us in welcoming Rev. Ikeda and members of the Hongwanji Sangha and plan to stay for lunch and fellowship following the service. Fujinkai members, your kokua in the kitchen at 6 am is humbly requested.



Little Buddhas D'Marco Mireles & Mako Yamamoto
of the Daifukuji Kids Sangha Practice Zazen

Year End Temple Clean Up

Saturday, December 9 8:00 a.m.

Our temple's annual year-end general clean up will be held on Saturday, December 9 and will begin with a prayer inside the temple at 8:00 am.

In order to properly welcome the new year, we will be cleaning the temple, halls, and grounds. We humbly request the kokua of our members, as well as members of the various groups that regularly use our facilities. With everyone's help, we will be able to complete our tasks in just a few hours.

Please bring rags, buckets, and garden tools, all labelled with your name.
_____ Yoroshiku
onegaishimasu.

Bodhi Spiral Walk

Saturday, December 2 7:00 p.m.

Over the years it has become a Daifukuji tradition to hold a Bodhi Spiral Walk on the eve of our Bodhi Day service. In our social hall members and friends of the Teen Sangha create a spiralled pathway out of fresh foliage and flowers. At 7 pm the doors are opened and everyone enters in silence. Each person is given an unlit candle and takes a seat outside the spiral. After Jiko Sensei's greeting, participants are given the opportunity to walk the spiral, one at a time, to its center where they light their candles and place them along the path.

(Continued on page 2))

Bodhi Spiral Walk (Continued from page 1)

The atmosphere is peaceful, quiet, & reverent. The spiral symbolizes each person's winding path through life, a path that ideally leads to enlightenment and peace. The light, once received, is not kept for oneself, but placed along the path to light the way for others. The Buddha set the example of sharing the Dharma with all and of living a life of service.

All are welcome to the Bodhi Spiral Walk. Feel free to bring your family and friends. The wearing of long dresses and skirts is discouraged since candles will be placed along the path. We invite you to experience the joy and peace of this special Bodhi festivity and to stay for hot apple cider and sweets following the walk.

Teen Sangha members and anyone who'd like to help create the Bodhi spiral, please meet at 9:00 am in the social hall on December 2.

Rohatsu Sesshin

December 1-8 6:00 – 7:15 a.m. daily

Those who practice meditation travel long distances to participate in the morning zazen that starts at 6:00 am from December 1 – 8. Called the *rohatsu sesshin*, this is a period of concentrated zazen practice in the days leading up to the Buddha's enlightenment on the 8th of December. Zazen sessions are open to all and participants are given the choice of sitting in a chair or on a cushion on the carpet. We sit silently for 25 minutes, do a 10-minute walking meditation, sit again for 25 minutes, and conclude with a 15-minute morning service in the Kannon Hall. Please call Jiko Sensei at 322-3524 for information.

Evening zazen will be held twice in December during the week of the rohatsu sesshin:

December 5 (Tuesday) 7:30 – 8:45 p.m.
December 7 (Thursday) 7:30- 8: 45 p.m.



Kannon-ko & Ofudayaki Services

Sunday, December 17 7:30 p.m.

It is time to bring your old *ofuda* and *omamori* to the temple so that they can be burned during the Kannon and Ofudayaki services on December 17. *Ofuda* refers to the house blessing papers that people hang in their homes and businesses and *yaki* means "to burn." *Omamori* are the Buddhist prayer charms that are hung in vehicles to invite the blessings of safety and protection from harm. Although the blessings of the Buddha do not run out at the end of the year, many people choose to greet the new year with fresh, new *omamori* & *ofuda*, and so the old ones are respectfully burned at this service in mid-December. Altar items are always handled with respect, even when the time comes to dispose of them. The end of the year is also a good time to burn away unwholesome desires and attachments that need not be carried over into the new year.

Please join us for an evening of candlelight, chanting, and prayer on December 17 at 7:30 pm.

Mahalo Nui

Mahalo nui and arigato to Richard Iwamuro and Robert Woolsey for voluntarily straightening the headstones in our cemetery that were dislodged as a result of the earthquake. Thank you, Richard and Robert.

We are encouraging families to have the headstones of their family graves attached to their concrete bases. Rev. Jiko has the contact information for the companies that do professional grave repair and restoration.



Evelyn Tabata adds nishime to the bento box.

Coffee Festival Mahalo

A warm mahalo to all who contributed to the success of this year's Kona Coffee Cultural Festival. Thank you to the Fujinkai for their famous broke-da-mouth bento and manju, to the Happy Strummers for their sing-from-the-heart performance, and to the Kona Daifukuji Taiko group for their spirited participation in the lantern parade and grand parade. The taiko float took 1st place in the float division. Congratulations to Mike Asada and his hardworking crew of floatmakers!



Omedeto, Daifukuji Taiko!

Delivery Delays

Some members received their November newsletters in the mail 2 _ weeks after they were mailed. The postmaster has promised better delivery service in the future. Please remember that our newsletters and calendar can always be found on our website: www.daifukuji.org Click on the calendar link.

Coming Up !

Mochitsuki (Mochi Making) Thursday, Dec. 28

3:00 am Rice Cooking Begins

5:00 am Mochi Making Begins (Help Needed)

9:00 am – 3:00 pm Mochi Pick Up

Mochi making at the end of the year is a Daifukuji tradition. This event is also a fundraiser that benefits the Teen Sangha and youth taiko groups. It is everyone's wish to continue this tradition as long as possible, but over the years the number of volunteers that help with this two-day event (much preparation is done the day before), has been steadily getting smaller, so it is no longer possible to produce the same amount of mochi as in the past. A mochi order form is being sent out with this newsletter. Please turn in your order form as soon as possible since tickets will be assigned on a first-come-first-served basis. You may also purchase tickets after the Bodhi Day service on Dec.3 or from taiko members.

Volunteers, we need your help. There will be two shifts: 1) 5 am – 11 am, and 2) 11 am – 4 pm. Call Rev. Jiko at 322-3524 to sign up for a shift. Onegai shimasu.

New Year's Blessing Services

Sunday, December 31

11:45 p.m.

Monday, January 1

10:00 a.m.

Omamori & ofuda will be available at both services.

Looking Ahead...

Fujinkai Hatsumairi

Jan. 7, 2007

Daifukuji New Year's Party

Jan. 27, 2007



Bodhi Day Aloha from Rev. Jiko

Happy Bodhi Day, dear members and friends!
May you have a very happy holiday season. I warmly invite you to participate in the various services, zazen sessions, and events that go on at our temple during the month of December.

Looking at the picture above, I notice the Buddha's hair, which reminds me of this joke:
When a buddha goes to the beauty shop, what kind of hairstyle does she request? *She says, "Give me an im-permanent, please."*

In this ever-changing world, an impermanent is what we all get, whether we ask for it or not. In the sutra Shushogi it is written that *time flies faster than an arrow, and life is more transient than the dew*. When I mentioned that our mochi-making day is just around the corner, someone remarked, "but it feels as if we just made mochi the other day!" How quickly the days and months have passed!

Dear friends, let us live each day to the fullest and, like the Buddha, enjoy our "im-permanent." May you have a peaceful holiday season filled with light, laughter, and love.

Namu Kie Butsu.
Namu Kie Ho.
Namu Kie So.

In gassho,
Jiko Sensei

Sangha Notes

We are looking for a volunteer handyman or handywoman to do small repair jobs at the temple. Please see Rev.Jiko if you can help.

The 2007 Memorial Services Chart will be sent out with the next newsletter in a few weeks. Rev. Jiko is already accepting appointments for 2007 memorial services.

Board of Directors 2007 & 2008

At the general membership meeting on November 19, 2006, the following officers and directors were approved by the members:

Officers

President.....Jan Bovard
Vice President.....Myles Ikeda
Treasurer.....Joyce St. Arnault
Assistant Treasurer....Elaine Fernandez
Recording Secretary...Jill Wagner
Corresponding Secretary....Vivian Ontai

Directors

Alfreida Fujita
Renee Kimura
Masa Oga
Stanley Oshima
Velvet Replogle
Julia Crawford
George Harai
Yoshiyuki Christo Izumi
Clyde Ikeda

Mahalo nui and gokurosama deshita to Walter Kimura, Bernard Mochizuki, Nancy Tanaka, and Michele Abe for having served on our temple board and for their many contributions to our Sangha!

December 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Rohatsu Sesshin Begins Zazen 6 am	2 Zazen 6 am Spiral Set Up 9 am BODHI SPIRAL WALK 7 PM
3 Zazen 6 am Lunch Prep 6 am BODHI DAY SERVICE 10 AM	4 Zazen 6 am Happy Strummers 7:30 pm	5 Zazen 6 am Evening Zazen 7:30 pm	6 Zazen 6 am Fujinkai Board Meeting 7 pm	7 Zazen 6 am Evening Zazen 7:30 pm	8 Zazen 6 am Zazenkai Breakfast Happy Bodhi Day!	9 YEAR END TEMPLE CLEAN UP 8 am
10 Family Service 9:30 am	11	12	13 Zazen 6 am Youth Taiko Board Meeting 7 pm	14 Daifukuji Board Meeting 7 pm	15 Sangha Sisters Circle 7 pm	16
17 No Family Service Kannonko & Ofudayaki Services 7:30 pm	18 Happy Strummers 7:30 pm	19	20 Zazen 6 am	21	22	23
24 No Family Service Until January 14	25	26	27 Zazen 6 am Mochitsuki Prep	28 MOCHITSUKI 3 am Rice Cooking 5 am Mochi Making 9 am- 3 pm Pick Up	29	30 31(Sunday) Blessing Service 11:45 pm

Regular Activities:

* Youth Taiko- Mon 3:45 p.m. & Wed. 5p.m.
*** Yoga –Sun. 4 p.m.

** Adult Taiko-Tues. 6:00 p.m.

****Aikido Fri. 4:00 p.m. Sat. 9:00 a.m.

2006 Daifukuji Mochi Order Form

Mochi Tsuki is scheduled for **Thursday, December 28, 2006**
pick up from 9:00am – 3:00pm.

A fundraiser for the Daifukuji Soto Mission's Teen Sangha & Taiko Group

Note: This year, Mochi production will be drastically reduced due to circumstances beyond our control. While every effort will be made to accommodate our members and long-time customers, we will have to assign tickets on a first come first served basis. Once tickets are sold out, names will be added to a Wait List. When we determine that we have extra mochi, we will call individuals from this list. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause and humbly ask for your understanding. We enjoy being a part of your New Year tradition and truly appreciate your support!

If you are not able to purchase tickets from Taiko members or at the Jodo-E service, please complete the information below and return promptly.

Do not enclose payment; we will accept payment on pick up day, December 28, 2006. Please call the temple, 322-3524, with any questions.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Quantity Ordered	Item	Price
	 Kagami Mochi	\$4.00 per set
	Ko Mochi	\$5.00 per tray of 10* <small>(*Note: 10 mochi per tray)</small>

Return form to: Daifukuji Soto Mission
P. O. Box 55
Kealakekua, HI 96750
ATTN: Mochi Order