



Daifukuji Soto Mission

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June 2006

O-Bon Festival 2006

Saturday, June 17 6:00pm – 10:00 pm

Keahou Shopping Center

Let's dance the night away to the beat of taiko drums at this year's O-Bon Festival 2006. Sponsored by our Dharma friends of the Kona Hongwanji Mission, this festival brings the community together in a dancing circle of friendship. Featured will be the Kona Daifukuji Taiko, Kona Hongwanji Taiko, and Bon Odori Taiko groups. Admission is free.

*Let's all get ready for the Bon dance
Beginners and Friends are welcome!*

Calling All Dancers

Prior to the 2006 Bon season, Bon dance practice sessions will be held at the Kona Hongwanji Mission on June 8, 15 at 7:30 p.m. At Daifukuji Soto Mission, Bon Dance Instructor Winifred Kimura will be leading practice sessions on June 27, 29 & July 4, 6 at 7:30 p.m. All sessions will begin at 7:30 pm in the social hall. These sessions are free and open to all.

General Temple Clean Up for Obon

Saturday, July 1 8:00 am

In preparation for the Obon season, we'll be cleaning up our temple and yard. *Many helping hands are needed. We would appreciate your kokua very much.* Please bring rags, buckets, and gardening tools.

Bon Service and Bon Dance Schedule

Saturday, July 8

8:00 a.m. Yagura Set Up, Cooking, and Preparation for Bon Dance & Service
We humbly ask for your help. Onegai shimasu.

4:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner With Taishoji Dharma Friends & Hatusbon Families
Members invited.

5:30 p.m. Bon Memorial and O-toba Services
With Sermon by Rev. Shinryu Akita

7:30 p.m. Opening Prayer by Rev. Jiko, followed by Kona Daifukuji Taiko

7:45 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Bon Dance

8:00 a.m. Sunday July 9 Yagura Dismantling
For **O-TOBA and KO-TOBA** requests, please fill in the enclosed request form and return it to Daifukuji as soon as possible. The deadline for toba requests is **JUNE 23**.

At this time of Obon, Daifukuji members send loving thoughts to the families of the late Susan Miyata, Mae Clay, Harue Matsumoto, Sueann Hoffman, Gilbert Fukumitsu, Yumi Enomoto Brown, and Katherine Shimizu for whom this is their loved ones' Hatusbon or first Obon.

If you are unable to attend the Bon Memorial service and wish to have Rev. Jiko offer prayers at your home during this Obon season, please call Sensei at 322-3524 to schedule a home visit.

Bazaar Mahalo

Dear Members and Friends,
I am so glad that we have this newsletter that goes out every month. It is the vehicle with which I can communicate to all of you about the incredible and wonderful events that take place at our temple. This month we had our annual Bazaar. Of course many of you were here for days preparing for this event so you already know how incredible it is. It is nearly unbelievable the amount of hours that so many of our members spend at the temple to make sure that this event is successful. And, it was successful. It is beyond words of "thank you" to express my heart felt admiration for all that you have done this year and in all the years past. The way we all work together and the fellowship feeds our souls and it brightens the lives of those that are witness to our Sangha. I know at the end of the day and the end of the WEEK with all the work, we are all tired and wonder if we can do it again. But in a couple of days after we are rested we start to remember the good fun parts and begin planning for next year and how to make it successful again. I talked to several people from the community that look forward to and plan for our Bazaar every year. For all of our friends and the community at large that came to support us, find treasures, and be entertained we thank you so much and hope to see you next year.
Aloha,
Jan

Memorial Day Service & Baccalaureate Luncheon

Sunday, May 28, 2006 9:30 am

Congratulations to this year's graduate:
Keegan Tokumura

Kids & Teen Sangha Fun Day and Summer Schedule

There will be a Kids & Teen Sangha Family Fun Day on Sunday, June 11 at 9:30 am at Daifukuji Soto Mission. Come play games in the temple yard, art activities and pizza. After June 11, there will be no family services until August 6th. Everyone, please have a wonderful summer break. Sleep late, go camping, plant a garden, go to all the bon dances, and enjoy many relaxing moments together while the kids are on summer vacation. We'll see all of you again when family services begin on **AUGUST 6th**.

Taiko Benefit Golf Tournament

June 24 6:30 am

Our children's taiko group is putting on a Golf Tournament on June 24th at the Kona Country Club. This is a fundraiser for a trip to Japan being planned for October 2006. We are looking for golfers, sponsors, and donated prizes. Nothing is too small! The \$100 entry fee includes 2 mulligans, green fees, cart, prizes and lunch at the Vista Restaurant after the tournament. Your support will be greatly appreciated. Call Peggy at 322-2595 at the Kona Country Club to sign up as a player, sponsor, or if you would like to donate. Arigato from the Taiko Group!

Kohala Tong Wo Society Temple Tour

Sunday, August 27 TBA

Kids Sangha and Fujinkai members and friends will be attending a special tour of the Kohala Tong Wo Society, a Taoist temple. Built in 1886, the Tong Wo Temple is the oldest Chinese type structure in the state of Hawaii. A bus will transport all attendees. Details to follow in upcoming newsletter.

Jizo Matsuri and Kannon-ko Service June 21 10 am

Please join us for a morning of meditation and prayer as we pay homage to Ojizosama and Kannon-sama, the bodhisattvas who show us the ways of stability and compassion which are much needed in the world today. We shall offer prayers to alleviate pain and suffering, and to water the seeds of healing, reconciliation, and peace. The Jizo Matsuri will take place outside in front of the Ojizosama. Jizo Kotoba will be read in memory of deceased children. Please contact Rev. Jizo for kotoba requests prior to the service.

Community Service

by Nancy Tanaka

The Daifukuji Fujinkai donated bibs to the Kona Community Hospital S.N.F. department, the OB Department and to the Life Care Center. This community service was made possible by the generous donation from Nancy Kurihara who donated all the bib material and her time. I am sure all the Fujinkai members would like to say thank you for your kokua. We all appreciate your kindness. Gassho.

UHSSWA Conference

by Hilda Sugai

Twenty-one Daifukuji Fujinkai members and ohana attended the 41st Annual UHSSWA 2006 conference held at the Aiea Taiheji Soto Mission and the Pacific Beach Hotel in Waikiki on April 22 and 23. This year's conference theme was "Living with Compassion," an appropriate theme in today's wonderful but difficult world. This conference was Rev. Shuji and Mrs. Komagata's first conference experience since taking residency at Taiheiji. They did a great job getting involved and assisting their Fujinkai ladies.

Sixteen members and guests went a day earlier and rented two vans chauffeured by Joyce St. Arnault and by Renee Kimura.

We shopped at the Ala Moana Shopping Center and treated ourselves that evening to John Hirokawa's fantastic and scary magic show called "Magic of Polynesia."

Next morning we joined the other five Daifukuji members who had just arrived from Kona and others from Hilo, Maui, Molokai and Kauai to go on buses to Taiheji. The general membership meeting was then held, followed by the special donation drive (country store) at which all units sold the specialties of their island. We all scrambled and hustled to purchase Maui onions, Molokai bread, anthuriums from Hilo, Kona coffee and mac nuts, crafts from Honolulu units, etc. This fun event was one of the highlights of the conference. All proceeds from this fundraiser are forwarded to the UHSSWA.

The Saturday banquet featured Japanese dancing, taiko playing, singing, etc. Rev. Shuji was the speaker of the evening. He talked about his childhood days in Kona and the Kona group enjoyed reminiscing along with him.

The Dharma sessions presented by Martha Samson and Mel Hayase on Sunday were very inspiring. The farewell buffet luncheon was very ono with delicious desserts to top the final gathering of the conference.

Before going to the airport for our return to Kona, the Aiea Fujinkai ladies took us on a shopping spree to Marukai. Wow, we bought all kinds of food and goodies, many of which are not available in Kona.

Next year the UHSSWA conference will be held on Molokai. Let's all go to the Friendly Isle and enjoy the camaraderie with old and new friends.

The attendees to this UHSSWA conference:

Rev. Jiko Nakade, Mike Nakade, Delegate, Jean Ikeda, Delegate, Joyce St. Arnault, UHSSWA Recording Secretary, Beverly Arai, Jan Bovard, Myles Ikeda, Yoshiko Ikeda, Renee Kimura, Nancy Kurihara, Aileen Matsumoto, Miyeko Miyose, Chirio Miyose, Elsie and Bernard Mochizuki, Mary Nakagawa, Asako Nakamoto, Gale Nakamoto, Mary Park, Hild & Fusao Sugai, Lorraine Tanimoto, and Ella Yasuda.

Daifukuji Sangha in Action



Joyce & Nancy present Fujinkai gifts to Kona Community Hospital Extended Care Unit



Gifts to Life Care Center of Kona



Gail, Asako & Rev. Jiko at UHSSWA Conference April 22



The Andl Family at Family Service on Mother's Day May 14



Family Service at Unshinji Zendo in Kaloko April 30

Daifukuji Bazaar 2006



Myles, Richard, Bruce & Clyde dig holes for banner poles



The Manju Makers



The Household Goods Committee



The Snack Shop Gang



Colbert & Chirio Help Raise the Tents



Entertainment by Kona Daifukuji Taiko

Significance of the Toba

The word *toba* comes from the Japanese word *sotoba*, which came from *stupa*, a word which the people of India used to refer to the first Buddhist monuments or pagodas that housed the Buddha's relics. IF you look closely at a wooden toba, you would notice that the top part of the stick is carved out into five different shapes. These five shapes symbolize the five great elements: earth, water, wind, fire, and air, which correspond to different parts of the human body. In Buddhism, it is thought that not only is a person's body restored to these five elements after death, but that our very bodies are made up of these elements, which we can feel coursing through us, connecting us to the natural world around us at all times. We are, in other words, deeply connected to nature.

In Japanese, *O* means *big*, while *ko* means *small*. Therefore, *o-toba* means big toba, and *ko-toba* means small toba. The toba are prayer offerings made to family ancestors and deceased friends. At Daifukuji, *o-toba* are generally offered to both the husband's family ancestors and wife's family ancestors (*Senzo Dai Dai*) and to family members who passed away after last year's Obon and for whom this is the first Obon (*hatsubon*). *Ko-toba*, which are written on heavy white paper, are generally offered to other family ancestors and individuals whom one wishes to remember in prayer. Regardless of size, toba offerings are made in grateful remembrance of those who have passed away and are ways in which we express our love, respect, and gratitude to the departed at the time of Obon. When we remember to say thank you to our departed loved ones, we are also, in essence, saying thank you for the precious lives we are living today. To live humbly and gratefully is to live the Buddhist way. And so, toba offerings, which connect us to our ancestors, also serve to bring us gratefully back to the present moment.

What the Buddha Taught

Although my mother is no longer in this world, she has left me with gifts that continue to feed my spirit. Recently I picked up a book that I had not read in a long time and found on the inside cover, these words written in a familiar handwriting: To Mary Beth, From Mom With Gassho Nov. 17, 1981. On her trip to India in 1981, Mom purchased the book What the Buddha Taught by Walpola Sri Rahula and gave it to me as omiyage, a gift.

Reading it again today, I am moved by the beauty, practicality, and compassion of the Buddha's teachings. I wish to share with you a paragraph from this luminous work:

"Buddhism aims at creating a society where the ruinous struggle for power is renounced; where calm and peace prevail away from conquest and defeat; where the persecution of the innocent is vehemently denounced; where one who conquers oneself is more respected than those who conquer millions by military and economic warfare; where hatred is conquered by kindness, and evil by goodness; where enmity, jealousy, ill-will and greed do not infect men's minds; where compassion is the driving force of action; where all, including the least of living things, are treated with fairness, consideration, and love; where life in peace and harmony, in a world of material contentment, is directed towards the highest and noblest aim, the realization of the Ultimate Truth, Nirvana." (pp.88-89)

*I am truly grateful to my mother for having given me the most precious gift of Dharma.
From Jiko Sensei With Gassho*

Fujinkai Omamori Project

June 12 6:00 pm Social Hall

The Fujinkai will be making omamori out of lauhala and members are invited to a lauhala weaving workshop which will be taught by Renee Kimura and the lauhala weavers of Daifukuji. Omamori are Buddhist charms that are blessed with the energy of loving-kindness and wisdom at the New Year's blessing service and hung in vehicles or carried in one's purse to invite safety, peace, happiness, and wellness. Lauhala omamori are not only beautiful and fragrant, but also biodegradable and earth friendly. Please join us for an evening of lauhala weaving. Beginners are welcome.

From the Dhammapada...
(The Sayings of the Buddha)

Whoever offends an innocent person,
pure and guiltless,
his evil comes back on that fool himself
like fine dust thrown against the wind.

Everyone, thank you very much for making our 2006 bazaar a success! I am truly grateful for all that you contribute to Daifukuji Soto Mission.

In Gassho, Jiko Sensei

(The bazaar financial report will appear in next month's newsletter.)

Daifukuji Soto Mission is looking for a slogan
that best captures the essence of the temple and Sangha.

Vote for your favorite slogan and return to Rev. Jiko by **June 12, 2006:**
(You may send this in with your toba request form)

- € Daifukuji Soto Mission
 Treasuring the past, embracing the present

- € Daifukuji Soto Mission
 Living gratefully in this present moment

- € Daifukuji Soto Mission
 Serenity in a sea of change

- € Daifukuji Soto Mission
 Your refuge in a sea of change

Daifukuji Soto Mission
O-Toba and Ko-Toba Request Form
Please submit by June 23, 2006

YOUR NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

At the time of Obon, it is proper to express one's gratitude to one's ancestors by making prayer offerings in the form of TOBA. The names will be read by the minister during the Bon Memorial Service on July 8, 2006.

Please send or bring your request form to Daifukuji as soon as possible but no later than **June 23** and make checks payable to **Daifukuji Soto Mission**. If you have any questions, please call Rev. Jiko at 322-3524.

O-TOBA Requests: O-toba Donation \$5.00 per request

Generally, O-TOBA (wooden toba) are offered in remembrance of (1) family members who passed away since the 2005 Bon service and for whom this is a *hatsubon* or first Obon, and (2) family ancestors (Senzo Dai Dai) on both the husband and wife's sides of the family. For example: The Tanaka Family Ancestors.
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

KO-TOBA Requests: Ko-toba Donation \$2.00 per request

The KO-TOBA, written on special paper, may be offered to individuals (friends and family members) and Family Ancestors whom you wish to remember. Example: In Memory of the Ancestors of _____ Family.
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Your Name _____

Daifukuji Soto Mission

June 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Youth Taiko: Monday & Wednesday Afternoons	Adult Taiko: Tuesday Evenings			1 Evening Zazen & Dharma Study 7:30 pm	2 Weekly Samu (Temple Cleaning) 8:00 am	3
4 Goeika Practice 8:00 am Family Service 9:30 am	5 Happy Strummers 7:30 pm	6	7 Morning Zazen 6:00-7:15 am Fujinkai Board Meeting 7:00 pm	8	9 Weekly Samu 8:00 am Sangha Sisters 7:00 pm	10f
11 Kids Sangha Family Fun Day 9:30 am	12 Fujinkai Lauhala Omamori Workshop 6:00 pm	13	14 Morning Zazen 6:00-7:15 am	15 Evening Zazen & Dharma Study 7:30 pm	16 Weekly Samu (Temple Cleaning) 8:00 am	17 2006 Obon Festival Keauhou Shopping Center 6:00-10:00 pm
18 Goeika Practice 8:00 am No Family Service	19 Happy Strummers 7:30 pm	20	21 Morning Zazen 6:00-7:15 am Kannon-ko Service/ Jizo Matsuri 10:00 am	22 Evening Zazen & Dharma Study 7:30 pm	23 Weekly Samu 8:00 am TOBA Request Deadline	24 Taiko Benefit Golf Tournament 6:30 am
25 No Family Service	26	27 Bon Dance Practice 7:30-9:00 pm	28 Morning Zazen 6:00-7:15 am	29 Bon Dance Practice 7:30-9:00 pm	30 Weekly Samu (Temple Cleaning) 8:00 am	July 1 Temple & Grounds Clean-up 8:00 am