



Daifukuji Soto Mission

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

Treasuring the Past, Embracing the Present

July 2007

Bon Dance & Bon Memorial Service to Be Held July 14

8:00 a.m. Yagura Set Up, Cooking, and Preparation for Bon Dance & Service. Many volunteers are needed. Onegai shimasu.

3:30 p.m. Bon Memorial & O-toba Services. Guest speaker: The Reverend Shinryu Akita, Taishoji Soto Mission

5:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner with Taishoji Dharma friends & Hatsubon families. Members invited.

7:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Bon Dance & Performance by Kona Daifukuji Taiko

Dismantling of Yagura & clean up to be done after the Bon Dance Saturday night. In case of rain, it will be done on Sunday, July 15 at 9 a.m. Volunteers needed. Please come out and help.

Correction to Toba Request Form

Please note that hatsubon o-toba may be dedicated to family members who passed away after the **2006** Bon Memorial Service in July, 2006 (not the 2005 Bon service as was incorrectly stated on the O-toba & Ko-toba request form). Please submit your form as soon as possible and no later than June 30, 2007.

**Summer Temple Clean Up Day
 Saturday, July 7 8 a.m.**

In preparation for our Obon festival, we'll be cleaning our temple, social hall, cultural hall, and yard. Many helping hands are needed. Please bring rags, buckets, and gardening tools, all labeled with your name. Refreshments will be provided.

Members & temple groups, we would appreciate your kokua very much. Onegai shimasu.

**All Invited to Bon Dance Practice Sessions
 (Scheduled Revised: Please Note Time)**

Tuesday, July 3	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Wednesday, July 4	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Thursday, July 5	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Tuesday, July 10	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Thursday, July 12	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

The bon dance practice sessions on July 3rd, 4th, and 5th will be taught by Honolulu dance instructor Ruriko Hayashi. Please note that the starting time of each session has been changed to 7:00 pm. Beginners are welcome. All sessions will be held in the temple's social hall and are free of charge. Bring a bon dance towel and fan if you have one and also bring along your friends!

Hatsubon

This Obon season we extend our loving thoughts to those members who are observing their loved ones' *hatsubon* or first Obon. We hold in our hearts the families of the late:

Mildred Hanayo Mitamura, Goro Inaba, Stanley Sadayuki Shimizu, Momoe Inouye Furuuchi, Yasuno Sugamoto, Mildred Tsutae Murata, Yoshiko Tanaka, Christine Marie Hanato, Tsutomu Yamaguchi, and Glenn Norio Kimura.

Spirit of Bon: Cultivating & Nurturing Family Togetherness

by Rev. Shugen Komagata, Ryusenji Soto Mission

For all Buddhists in Hawaii Bon is a time to cultivate and nurture the spirit of family togetherness. Bon is a time to reflect upon our journey in life and to appreciate the people who are a part of that journey. It is a time to honor and to extend our deep gratitude to departed loved ones and ancestors.

At the Bon O-Toba services it is common to see families spanning three to four generations making memorial dedications for individual departed loved ones as well as family ancestors. The offerings of prayers express their most sincere gratitude for all the many blessings they have received in their lives. "O-toba" means "large Toba" in Japanese. The word "Toba" goes back to the Indian Sanskrit word "stupa" which means "monument," "memorial shrine," or "pagoda." Originally in India, the stupa was built to enshrine the Buddha's remains. The practice of stupa building or stupa dedication changed as Buddhism moved from India to China, Korea, later to Japan, and finally to Hawaii. The stupa itself later became the symbol of Buddha-Dharma, and the site where the stupa was built often became the holy site of a temple.

The entire Bon "experience" is a beautiful tradition because it has deep meaning for both young and old. The tradition lives because children attend services, visit gravesites, participate in Bon dances together with parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and other relatives and friends. As these children grow to adulthood, they, in turn, continue this tradition which

bonds them to family members of the immediate past generation and to all ancestors in the family..

We are living in the world of impermanence; everything in this world is subject to change. Nothing remains in the same format, color, shape, texture, and size. This is true with all beings including us – young and old. When we contemplate the meaning of impermanence, we realize that we have gone through many physical changes in our lifetime. We are no longer what we used to be. This world, according to Shakamuni Buddha, is also called "the world of interdependence."

Many of us have not been raised by biological parents. Many of us have been profoundly influenced by mentors, close friends, and other relatives. So "family" is not restricted to biological ties. In a strict sense, no one in this world is independent. We are all dependent on one another – we cannot be an island to ourselves. Through sharing life with family and others, we are able to find the meaning of our existence.

Dogen Zenji, the founder of Soto-Shu in Japan, teaches us in his writing of *Zuimonki* that we must not only find the meaning of life but also appreciate it. He reminds us that "impermanence is swift; everything is truly uncertain and unpredictable. Reflect on this reality again and again in your heart without forgetting it, and without wasting a moment." It is not tomorrow (which may never come) that we should appreciate our life, but it is today (which will not come again) that we should value and appreciate.

Let us, with sincerity and devotion, cultivate and nurture the spirit of family togetherness this coming summer. One unique but traditional way to offer our gratitude to our immediate departed loved ones and ancestors is by participating at Bon dances where dancers enjoy a spiritual reunion with the departed through movement and rhythm to music and song.

During the Bon season, let us meditate upon the value of our life and family – and all living beings—and try to discard all negative feelings about or against others. Let us extend the warm and positive energy of love and compassion to others. This is essential to honoring "life" while offering respect and appreciation to departed loved ones in the family.

Obon Home Visitations

If you are unable to attend the Bon Memorial service and wish to have Rev. Jiko pray in front of your home altar (butsudan) for the continual happiness of your departed love ones, please call her at 322-3524 to schedule an appointment



Sushi making began at 3 a.m. on the day of our bazaar.
Ladies, gokurosama deshita!

Bazaar Report

Thank you, everyone, for a successful bazaar!
The figures reported below are the total sales minus expenses:

Auction	\$735.00
Children's Activities	\$65.75
Clothing & Rummage	\$1485.70
Crafts/White Elephant	\$1049.11
Books & Toys	\$505.65
Baked Goods/Food	\$5140.16
Garden Shop	\$1493.00
Household & Misc	\$1280.43
Massage	\$460.00
Produce	\$1683.32
Snack Shop	<u>\$371.48</u>
Subtotal	\$14,269.60

Other Expenses

Advertisements-West HI Today	\$301.08
CAL-KONA Diesel charges	\$260.42
G.E. Taxes	<u>\$570.78</u>
Subtotal	\$1,132.28



Beautiful kimonos and this obi were some of the items auctioned off at the bazaar. Thanks to Walter, Jan, and Judy, and Barbara, the auction was a success.

Grand Total	\$13,137.32
Bazaar Cash Donations	<u>\$2,345.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$15,482.32

Thanks to your hard work and generous support, our 2007 Building Fund Bazaar was a huge success & we now have the funds to maintain our beautiful temple buildings. However, this bazaar was not just about raising funds. It was also about our devotion & commitment to the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. Mahalo and arigato!



Kona Daifukuji Taiko captured the bazaar crowd.

Sangha Photo Album

Memorial Day Service & Blessing of the Graduates



Congratulations to Kaitlin Kimura, Terra Weigelt, Britney Manago, Chauntelle Guy, and LeAnna Dahl!



The Graduates and Their Families



Here they are with smiles and leis. Mahalo to Avis & Brian Yamamoto for their help with the program & decorations.



Teen Sangha member Ryan Nakade was the emcee for the Memorial Day service on May 27, 2007.



Teiho & Ven. Rabje learn how to shave the O-toba tablets



Taichi, Take, & Stanley lend a hand in Obon preparation.

In Memoriam

To the family of the late Glenn Norio Kimura who passed away on May 17, 2007 at the age of 57, we extend our sympathy and love. *Namu Kie Butsu. Namu Kie Ho. Namu Kie So.*

Fujinkai Game Day & Potluck Sunday, July 29 9am – 1 pm Social Hall

Nancy Tanaka is planning a day of fun for Fujinkai members and friends. If you enjoy games and like to have fun, come to the Fujinkai Game Day & potluck lunch on July 29!

Mainland-Hawaii Soto Conference To be Held Oct. 20-21 in Las Vegas

“Soto-Shu – Today and Tomorrow” is the theme of the Mainland-Hawaii Soto Conference which will be held Oct. 20-21, 2007 at the Plaza Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. Hosted by Sokoji Soto Mission of San Francisco, this conference will begin with a welcome banquet at the Plaza Hotel on Oct. 20 and lead into a full day of activities on Oct. 21. The keynote speaker will be the Dr. Rev. Duncan Ryuken Williams, associate professor of Japanese Buddhism at the University of California at Berkeley.

The Daifukuji Fujinkai has looked into the possibility of offering our members a group tour package for this conference, but will not be able to offer a group tour this time. However, members are encouraged to attend this conference on their own. If you would like to register for this conference, please contact Jiko Sensei at 322-3524 by **August 1, 2007**. The conference fee of \$100 per person includes the registration fee, welcome banquet, Sunday luncheon & refreshments, and all taxes & tips.

Writes Bishop Machida in his letter of invitation to all members and friends, “This will be a unique opportunity for all of us to join and experience the Conference, and to renew old friendships and to build camaraderie with mainland Soto Buddhists.”



Mahalo to Jack & Evelyn Tabata & Taichi Harada for pruning the temple's big lychee tree that stands next to the columbarium.

Communication Workshop to be Held August 24 – 26

“Inner Disarmament: the Art of Pro-active Integral Communication” taught by Rev. Robert Joshin Althouse will take place at Daifukuji Soto Mission from August 24 – 26. Learn the power of empathic listening and communication skills that improve & enhance relationships. Not only will you nurture more productive and intimate relationships using these skills, but you will also gain more confidence in working with conflicts & difficult people. People find this workshop surprisingly transforming. Rev. Althouse has been teaching and developing this training since 9/11 and has offered this to people all over America. Rev. Althouse brings a fresh approach to teaching mindfulness and language skills with wisdom, insight, humor, and joy.

The workshop begins Friday Aug. 24 at 7 pm. Friday night is also a public talk that is open to everyone. A donation of \$10 is suggested for the Friday night talk, from those not signed up for the full workshop which runs from 9 am- 5 pm on Aug. 25 and from 9 am – 2 pm on the 26th. The workshop cost is \$175. (\$100 for members of the Daifukuji Soto Mission)

Pre-register by calling Jill Teiho Wagner at 325-2377.



Teiho took us on a nature walk around the camp.

Kalopa Summer Camp Held

Twenty-two members of the Daifukuji Kids and Teen Sangha families enjoyed a start-of-the-summer camp at the beautiful Kalopa State Park in Honokaa on the weekend of June 9 & 10.

The campers learned about Hawaii's trees and flowers from camp coordinator Teiho Wagner and did leaf rubbings during art time. After a hearty potluck dinner, Auntie Taura led the group in singing camp songs, while Michael Nakade got everyone to mingle through the playing of group games. The evening came to a close with Shigeru Yamamoto's stargazing tour of the night sky.

The early birds got up for 6 am zazen & walking meditation led by Jiko Sensei, followed by morning stretching exercises on the lawn led by Midori Satoh and Mako. After a wonderful breakfast of rice, scrambled eggs, vegetarian sausages, fruit, and leftovers prepared by Teiho, Ven. Rabje, and others, the group gathered for a Sunday morning service, the conclusion to a short, but sweet overnight Sangha camp. Thank you to all participants.



Here we are around our little altar.

Mahalo from Our Temple President

Dear Members and Friends,

The months go whizzing by and we barely finish with one event before we are getting ready for the next. Our latest event, the bazaar, was once again a great success. It was an enormous undertaking and at the same time an opportunity for all of us to work together and catch up on what's new with friends we do not see every day. Our bazaar chair Alfreida Fujita and her assistants Bernard Mochizuki and Avis Yamamoto did a great job of coordinating the event. Not only our members, but members from the community came out to help. The kitchen crew, as usual, was more than incredible –working for weeks, days, and hours right up to the opening bell. THANK YOU seems somehow inadequate in expressing my feelings of gratitude, but I say it with all my heart. Thank you. I also wish to thank the young men (Masa and Jon Matsumoto, Dwayne Nakamura & his friend, Nick Tanaka, Jason Esaki, and others) without whose kokua with the heavy work of carrying tables & benches, the set up and clean up would have been very difficult. They made it all happen.

I also want to thank everyone that brought so many good things for the bazaar sale. Of course without all of the new and hardly used items that come in, there could not be a bazaar. It is very heartwarming to see that there are many people members and non-members alike, who bring in nice things for our bazaar. (Donors, please use the attached bazaar thank you letter for your tax purposes.)

The money derived from the bazaars all go to building maintenance. As you may know Daifukuji is on the National Registry of Historic Places. Our temple is a treasure and we are constantly working to preserve it for future generations who will come to learn and practice the Buddha's teachings.

Next is the Obon season & preparations are underway. We have a new yagura, designed by Myles Ikeda, with a bright new yagura skirt sewn by Myles, Jean, Joyce, Vivian, and myself.

Thank you again and I hope to see you at the Bon Dance practices, service, and Bon Dance.

With Gassho, Jan Bovard

Obon Message from Jiko Sensei

Dear Members and Dharma Friends,

Summer greetings to all of you! I send you warm aloha at this time of Obon when we Buddhists honor the spirits of our ancestors, pray for the release of those who are suffering, and experience the joy of dancing together to celebrate the blessings of life and community.

As a beginning student of hula, I am humbly learning from Kumu Keala Ching that an understanding of ancestral knowledge can be gained by honoring and recognizing the deep connection that we as people have to our centers, our *piko*. Sacred ceremonies, he says, returns us to our pathways of responsibility. When our spines are straight and strong like the maile, when we understand and honor the sacred blood that connects us to our ancestors, our path becomes clear. Our *kuleana* becomes clear. We become grounded to our foundation and can live wisely in this world.

One of our Daifukuji members, a part Hawaiian woman who is a wonderful lomilomi practitioner, recently told me that Soto Zen Buddhism, with its teachings of respect for one's ancestors and with its emphasis on zazen meditation, fits in well with her Hawaiian spiritual beliefs and practices. I, on the other hand, am discovering that my Japanese Buddhist heritage enables me to honor and respect Hawaiian spirituality and the many sacred ceremonies that connect people to their ancestral teachers and guardians and also to the land.

Ours is a so-called modern society which some feel is superior to societies of the past. Such thinkers shun the ancient ways and do not make time in their lives for meditation and training in the paths of the wise ones of the past. They do not regularly go to temple or church, have not learned how to walk on the sacred grounds or show respect to priests and ministers, and are not connected to their ancestral lineages. Thus we find many people today who have money, education, and free time, but still float around like pieces of seaweed carried here and there by the currents and tossed about on the waves of life. They have forgotten about their *piko*, that sacred place of

connection to mother, to Mother Earth, to the great sources of unconditional love and compassion, to the Buddha, to their own Buddha Nature. Thus, they have forgotten who they are, why they are here, and what their responsibility – their *kuleana*—is in this life.

Traditions such as Obon and the Bon O-toba service re-connect us to our ancestors, both familial and spiritual, remind us of our sacred responsibilities as human beings on this planet, and awaken us to our Buddha Nature, that great luminosity that is our True and Original Self, vast and infinite.

When you meditate, straighten your spine and sit with a strong back. Right here, right now you are connected to your departed loved ones and ancestral teachers who are guiding you through ancient teachings. Don't drift about like a floating piece of seaweed that has no roots. Find your center, your piko. The incense that you offer at the service rises and perfumes the air that you and others breathe; the chanting carries to you the wisdom of the Buddhas; the O-toba connect you to your ancestors; the family members and friends sitting next to you strengthen you with their love and remind you of your responsibility to live wisely in this world. Live with compassion and aloha, let go of all anger and bitterness, forgive yourself and others and ask for forgiveness from those you have hurt through body, speech, and mind. Remember why you are here.

*Dear friends, take refuge in the Buddha, Dharma,
& Sangha.*

*Your Path is right before you, but taking this path
is your responsibility.*

*Sit with a strong back, turning the light & shining
it inward.*

*Remember your connection to your parents and
spiritual ancestors.*

Remember.

With all my heart I wish you, dear members and friends, a warm and happy Obon season. Please join our Obon service and Bon Dance. Together we will dance in a circle and celebrate the Oneness of Life and the love that holds us together..

JULY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Goeika Practice 8 am (No Family Service)	2 Happy Strummers 7:30 pm	3 Bon Dance Practice 7:00-9:00 pm	4 Zazen 6 am Bon Dance Practice 1:00-3:00 pm	5 Bon Dance Practice 7:00 pm -9:00 pm	6 No Samu Temple Cleaning	7 8 am Temple Clean Up Day
8 (No Family Service)	9	10 Bon Dance Practice 7 pm – 9 pm	11 Zazen 6 am	12 Bon Dance Practice 7 pm -9 pm	13 Samu 8 am	14 8 am Obon Set Up 3:30 am Service 5:00 pm Dinner 7:30 pm Bon Dance
15 (No Family Service) Yagura Dismantling, Bon Dance Clean Up at 9:00 am, if not done the night before.	16 Happy Strummers 7:30 pm	17	18 Zazen 6 am Kannon-ko Service 10 am	19 Evening Zazen 7 pm	20 Samu 8 am Sangha Sisters 7 pm	21
22 Kona Daifukuji Orchid Club's Annual Show (No Family Service)	23	24	25 Zazen 6 am	26 Evening Zazen 7:00 pm	27 Samu 8 am	28 Kona Hongwanji Bon Dance
29 (No Family Service) Fujinkai Game Day Potluck Lunch Daifukuji Hall 9 am – 1 pm	30	31		Coming Up in August: Aug. 12 Family Services Begin Aug. 15 Kannon-ko Aug. 19 Teiho Wagner's Tokudo-shiki		

Regular Activities: * Youth Taiko- Mon 3:45 p.m. & Wed. 5p.m. ** Adult Taiko-Tues. 6:00 p.m.
 *** Yoga –Sun. 4 p.m. ****Aikido Tues. & Fri. 4:00-5:30 pm

Daifukuji Soto Mission

P. O. Box 55 Kealakekua, HI 96750 Phone 322-3524

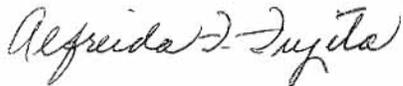
June 11, 2007

Dear Members:

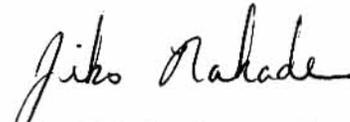
The Kona Daifukuji Soto Mission extends their warmest appreciation for your generous donations and support received during our 14th Annual Bazaar held on May 20, 2007.

The Bazaar was a great success thanks to your gift of time, energy, and donations. Thank you... Domo Arigato. We look forward to your continued support.

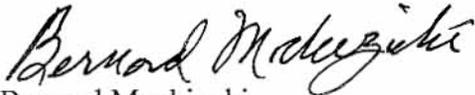
With Warmest Aloha,



Alfreda Fujita



Jiko Nakade, Reverend



Bernard Mochizuki



Jan Bovard, President



Avis Yamamoto

For Tax purposes:

Daifukuji Soto Mission Tax ID # 99-6006625

Items Donated:

Valued at: _____

Cash donation: _____