



Daifukuji Soto Mission

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808-322-3524 www.daifukuji.org

*Treasuring the Past,
Embracing the Present*

March, 2008

Spring Higan and 33 Kannon Osunafumi Services

Sunday, March 9

9:30 a.m.

For our sangha, the Spring Higan and 33 Kannon services signal the arrival of spring. At Ohigan, the time of the spring equinox, we pay our respects to our spiritual and familial ancestors and dedicate ourselves to the practice of the six paramitas or perfections of the heart. We also enjoy a mock pilgrimage to the 33 Kannon temples by holding a 33 Kannon Osunafumi service.

33 statuettes of the Bodhisattva of Compassion are displayed in the Kannon Hall. At the base of each one is placed a packet of the sand or soil that came from that particular Kannon temple in Japan. Mindfully we walk around the hall, carefully stepping onto each packet of earth and bowing to each Kannon while the sutras are being chanted. (*Osunafumi* means “stepping on sand.”) Looking into the faces of compassion, we pray for the awakening of compassion in our own hearts. *Namu Kanzeon Bosatsu.*

It is our practice at Daifukuji to offer a coin to each of the 33 Kannon plus two more, so

please bring 35 coins to this service in addition to your regular offering.

All are invited to stay for lunch which will be prepared by the Fujinkai.

Fujinkai members who are able to help with the cooking at 6 a.m. that day, please call Alfreida at 329-3457 or Elsie at 329-3316.

The 33 Kannon will be set up on March 8 at 8:00 a.m. and put away on March 15 at 8:00 a.m. We humbly ask for your *kokua* and for donations of flowers, which may be delivered on the morning of March 8 or the day before.

From March 9-14, you are welcome to bring friends to the temple to view the 33 Kannon and to spend a quiet moment in meditation.

Special thanks go to Nancy Kurihara for sewing new pilgrims vests for the occasion, to Winifred & Brian Kimura for donating the fabric, and to Reiko Sekine for her beautiful Japanese calligraphy. (See page 4)



Project Dana: Lei Wili O Na Kupuna

Wednesday, March 12

8:30 a.m.

The Project Dana Senior Activity mornings at Daifukuji are happening monthly and everyone (the kupunas, as well as the volunteers) are having a lot of fun.

Once folks arrive at 8:30, the morning opens with a prayer by Jiko Sensei, which leads into gentle exercises led by Mayo, followed by card games,



crafts, snacks, bingo, and then lunch. Last month Mayo's relatives from the Bay Area shared songs and hula. Everyone's day was brightened by their warm aloha.

Senior members of Daifukuji are all welcome to join Project Dana. To join, please call Elaine at 322-2084, Joyce at 329-3833, or Reiko at 334-1127.

We all send our love and best wishes for a speedy recovery to Vivian Ontai, our Project Dana coordinator.

The next Project Dana senior activity morning will be held on March 12, 2008. There will be a special guest that day.



Fujinkai Sushi Sale a Success

Thanks to everyone's hard work, the Fujinkai Sushi Sale held on February 16, 2008 was a success. Mahalo to all who generously donated ingredients, money to purchase ingredients, and lots of time, heart, and energy. With the many helping hands and the support of our community, this sushi sale was a successful fundraiser which brought in a net profit of \$3,345, which will be used not only for the UHSSWA conference, but also for other Fujinkai activities throughout the year. Mahalo to sushi sale coordinators Elaine Fernandez and Joyce St. Arnault for doing a great job.

Bazaar To Be Held May 18

Our 15th Annual Temple Building Fund Bazaar will be held May 18, 2008 from 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Items will be accepted beginning May 1st. Detailed information will appear in the April newsletter. Questions? Please call Alfreida at 329-3457. We'll be needing everyone's help at this annual temple fundraiser.

Temple to be Fumigated April 27, 2008

Preparation Work Day

April 12

All of our temple buildings will be fumigated by Terminex the weekend of April 26-27 at a cost of \$17,187. In preparation for the fumigation, we are required to clear away the foliage that's growing within 3 feet of our buildings. To do this, a sangha work day has been scheduled for Saturday, April 12 at 8:00 a.m. Please come with your garden tools and help if you can.

Food items will be bagged and other preparations done on Friday, April 25 at 8:00 a.m. Fujinkai members, your kokua is needed.

We sincerely thank all who have contributed to our temple building fund. Your generous contributions are greatly appreciated.

Welcome, New Members

With joy and appreciation we welcome Setsu Chai and Robert Chai into our sangha.

Mahalo Nui

Thanks to your generous donations, the Daifukuji sangha has collectively contributed \$710 to the Sojiji Soin Restoration Fund.

Mahalo nui to the Teen Sangha for their donation of a Yamaha Digital Piano for temple use.

Thank you to Lorraine Tanimoto, who is retiring from her job as temple librarian and to Clear Englebert, who has kindly agreed to fill Lorraine's shoes.

Thank you to those of you who have turned in your 2008 membership dues & donations.



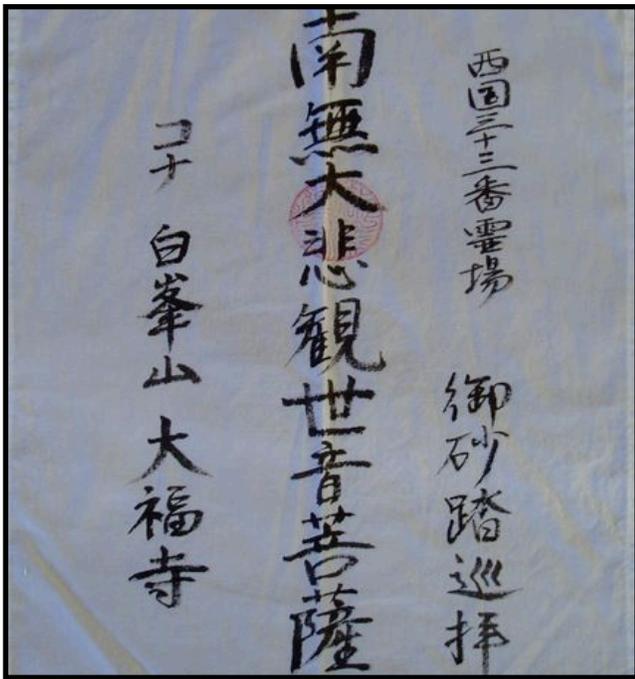
Teen Sangha Hike

by Jill Teiho Wagner

The Teen Sangha went on a hike in January up to Hualalai Mountain. It turned out to be a beautiful sunny morning and we enjoyed the cool mountain air at the top of Kaloko. We walked, talked, and picked ohelo berries, which were in season. The berries were bright red and were a real Hawaii winter treat. Then we climbed to the top of a small cinder cone. It was fun to walk along the edge of the cone and look down into the prehistoric looking bottom, with ferns and koa trees. We had a nice snack among the trees. We also collected seeds of native Hawaiian forest trees, which I will grow in my nursery!

Thank you parents and teens for a wonderful time together. We look forward to our next event, a moon-viewing party!





Reiko Sekine's calligraphy on the back of a new pilgrim's vest

Namu Daihi Kanzeon Bosatsu

From our hearts, let us say “*Namu Daihi Kanzeon Bosatsu*” which means “Homage to Kannon-sama, the bodhisattva of great compassion.”

Kanzeon Bosatsu or Kannon-sama is the Japanese name of this Bodhisattva, who was known in ancient India as Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva. In the Lotus Sutra it is said that Kannon Bosatsu transforms herself into thirty-three different forms to save all beings from suffering. The embodiment of boundless compassion, Kannon Bosatsu has been revered by the people of Asia for more than a thousand years. She is sometimes depicted with a thousand arms, extending outward in all directions to alleviate the afflictions of humanity. She inspires us to listen deeply to the cries of the world, and to

live each day with compassion, reflection, and courage. (Excerpt taken from the new sutra-gatha book to be published this year.)

Special Guests to Visit Daifukji March 11, 2008



Members and friends, you are invited to join us in welcoming a group of ministers from the Soto Shu Head Office in Tokyo who will be making an official visit to our temple around 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11. They will be escorted by the Reverend Shugen Komagata. Please come out to welcome them with aloha! For information, call Rev. Jiko at 322-3524.

Upcoming Events in April

Note: There will be no Kannon-ko service on the 3rd Wednesday in March. Also, the Hannya Shingyo workshop scheduled for March 8 has been postponed to May 24.

April 12 Fumigation Prep Work Day, 8:00 a.m.

April 13 Buddha Day “Hanamatsuri” Service at 9:30 a.m. Guest speaker: Rev. Shoji Matsumoto of the Kona Hongwanji Mission.

April 19-20 43rd UHSSWA Conference on Oahu.

April 26-27 Temple Fumigation (no family service April 27)



Daifukuji Soto Mission: Where the Sangha Flower Blooms Brightly Among the Coffee Blossoms by Reverend Jiko Nakade

Miyeko Miyose, age 88, her brother Chirio Miyose, 85, and Yoshiko Ikeda, also 85, arrive at Daifukuji at 7 a.m. on Friday mornings, ahead of the rest of the volunteers that dedicate themselves to cleaning the temple and grounds week after week. Miyeko sifts the incense ash, Chirio vacuums, and Yoshiko dusts the pews and windowsills. Over the course of the next hour, “The Samu Crew,” a group of about fifteen temple members, one by one enter the temple with cheerful good mornings and go straight to their tasks of cleaning the hondo, kannondo, and nokotsudo, and maintaining the temple yard and grounds. Members of all ages and ethnicity work side by side. When Bernard Mochizuki announces “coffee break,” everyone puts down their tools and rags and heads to the social hall to enjoy hot coffee & delicious snacks, and just to “talk story” and enjoy their Dharma friends. The Samu Crew, one of fifteen temples groups at Daifukuji, is like an ohana, the Hawaiian word for family.

There are other groups at Daifukuji that are like ohana. Jan Bovard has belonged to the zazenkai for over twenty years and has rarely missed a Wednesday morning six a.m. sitting. Today Jan is the president of the Daifukuji Board of Directors and works hard, often behind the scenes, to ensure that the facilities are maintained and that the temple is operating smoothly. A potter and a farmer, Jan is also a faithful student of

the Way who encourages many to make the Dharma a part of their everyday lives.

Fujiko Akamatsu is the oldest member of the Daifukuji Baikako. At 89, she comes to goeika practice twice a month. Having been nurtured spiritually at Daifukuji since she was young girl, Fujiko’s faith is deep and pure, and she sits serenely with a straight back and respectful gaze. At times her voice trembles a little, but she sings strongly and beautifully with complete devotion and poise.

Six-year-old Mako and her two-year-old brother Koutaro have been coming to the temple with their mother Midori since they were infants. Entering the temple, they gassho, offer incense, and follow their mother to the Kannon-do where they attend the family service almost every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. Mako, who loves to sing and dance, leads the Kannonsama Prayer and chants the Hannya Shingyo loudly. During the service she helps her mother take care of little Koutaro in a room filled with parents and children, other adults, and visitors.

These are just a few of the members of Daifukuji. The sangha of the Daifukuji Soto Mission, which was founded in 1914 by the Reverend Kaiseki Kodama on the slopes of Kona, Hawaii, has seen many changes over the past 94 years, but continues to be a lovely Flower of the Dharma that blooms brightly amidst the white coffee blossoms that cast their fragrance to the wind.

(This article will appear in the Soto Zen International newsletter.)

March Picture Board



Samu Crew



Sushi Rollers at Work



Daifukuji Zazenkai



Sakae & Hilda Making Sushi



Rice Cookers Julio & Chirio

March 2008

February 2008							March 2008							April 2008						
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24	25	26	27	28	29		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
							30	31												

- Youth Taiko
- Adult Taiko
- Yoga
- Family Service
- Major Service
- Kannon-ko Service
- Project Dana
- Zazen
- Sangha Sisters
- Aikido
- Japan Tour
- Dharma Study
- Happy Strummers
- Temple Board
- Fujinkai
- Orchid Club
- Samu
- Special Events
- Goeika

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 8:00 AM Baikako Meeting 9:30 AM Family Service 4:00 PM Yoga	25 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	26 5:00 PM Aikido 6:30 PM Adult Taiko	27 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	28 6:00 PM Aikido 7:00 PM Dharma Study	29 8:00 AM Samu	1 1:00 PM Happy Strummers Performance
2 8:00 AM Zazen 8:00 AM Goeika 9:30 AM Family Service 4:00 PM Yoga	3 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:30 PM Happy Strummers	4 5:00 PM Aikido 6:30 PM Adult Taiko	5 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:00 PM Fujinkai Board	6 6:00 PM Aikido 6:00 PM Temple Board Fellowship	7 8:00 AM Samu	8 Hiroshima Kenjinkai 8:00 AM 33 Kannon Set Up
9 9:30 AM O-higan & 33 Kannon Service 4:00 PM Yoga	10 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	11 3:00 PM Official Visitation 5:00 PM Aikido 6:30 PM Adult Taiko	12 6:00 AM Zazen 8:30 AM Project Dana 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:30 PM Orchid Club	13 6:00 PM Aikido 6:50 PM Dharma Study	14 8:00 AM Samu 7:00 PM Sangha Sisters	15 8:00 AM 33 Kannon clean up
16 9:30 AM Family Service 4:00 PM Yoga 5:00 PM Japan Tour Gathering	17 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:30 PM Happy Strummers	18 5:00 PM Aikido 6:30 PM Adult Taiko	19 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	20 10:00 AM HAIB Meeting at Hongwanji 6:00 PM Aikido 6:50 PM Dharma Study	21 8:00 AM Samu	22
23 9:30 AM Family Service 4:00 PM Yoga	24 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	25 5:00 PM Aikido 6:30 PM Adult Taiko	26 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	27 6:00 PM Aikido 6:50 PM Dharma Study	28 8:00 AM Samu	29 Yamaguchi Kenjinkai 9:00 AM Benefit for Vivian Ontai at Greenwell Garden
30 8:00 AM Goeika 9:30 AM Family Service 4:00 PM Yoga	31 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	1 5:00 PM Aikido 6:30 PM Adult Taiko	2 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 6:00 PM Fujinkai Board	3 6:00 PM Aikido 7:00 PM Temple Board	4 8:00 AM Samu	5