



Daifukuji Soto Mission

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*Treasuring the Past,
Embracing the Present*

June, 2009



Obon Service

*Sunday, June 28
10:00 a.m.*

Obon is the summer season when departed loved ones and family ancestors are remembered with gratitude. It's a time for meditation, prayer, and reflection, as well as a time to strengthen the bonds of family and community. Rev. Koshin Honda, interim minister of the Hilo Taishoji Soto Mission, will be the guest speaker at Daifukuji's Obon service on June 28. All are invited to this important Buddhist observance. Plan to stay for a fellowship luncheon following the service. Please turn in toba requests no later than June 7. (Form attached)

General Clean Up Day

Sunday, June 14 8:00 a.m.

Members and temple groups, please lend a hand in cleaning our temple and grounds for Obon. We'll begin with a short meditation in the temple at 8 a.m. Please bring rags, buckets, and garden tools. Refreshments will be provided. Questions? Call Ron (322-9147).

Daifukuji Bon Dance

Saturday, July 11

8:00 a.m. Yagura Set Up, Hall Set Up, & Festival Preparations. Many helping hands needed. We humbly ask for your kokua.

6:30 p.m. Opening Service

7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Bon Dance, Taiko Performance, Displays, & Food

10:00 p.m. Clean Up

Sunday, July 12 8 a.m. Yagura Dismantling. Kokua Needed.



Happy Bon Odori!

Bon Dance Practice Sessions

will be held on the following Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the social hall: June 30, July 2, July 7, and July 9. Everyone's welcome!

Domo arigato to dance instructor Winifred Kimura.



Hatsubon

At Obon, we surround with love those families who've lost a family member since last Obon. We send our loving thoughts to families of the late:

Namiko Fukunaga, Michael Oshima, Ethel Oda, Walter Oshima, Takao Ide, Setsu Chai, Tamotsu Iwanaga, Hatsuko Yoneyama, Fumiko Teshima Ow, Charles Rikio Sasaki, and Kiyoshi Deguchi

Obon Home Visits (Tanagyo)

Please contact Rev. Jiko at 322-3524 if you wish to have prayers offered at your home altar during the Obon season (June-August).

Membership Mahalo

Thank you to all who've sent in 2009 membership dues and donations. We appreciate your generous support, as well as confidence in our temple. Our latest membership count is 443 individual members. Our Dharma ohana is growing. Mahalo! Mahalo!

Conference Mahalo

from Cindy Asada, Alfreida Fujita, and Joyce St. Arnault, UHSSWA Conference Coordinators

GOKUROSAMA DESHITA Rev. Jiko, Jill Teiho, Mike, and to all of our Daifukuji OHANA! Our 44th UHSSWA conference was a HUGE SUCCESS! The success is a result of the endless KOKUA that each of you contributed! It was heartwarming to see all of you taking refuge, sharing your heartfelt compassion in making the conference memorable for all that attended! Each of you extended the true spirit of ALOHA to our extended Dharma families.

We have received many rave reviews on the warm hospitality and how wonderful the conference was. We thank each one of you for all that you did. How proud we are to have such a great team!





Taking Refuge Through the Seasons of Our Lives

***UHSSWA Conference Keynote Speech
Given at the Sheraton Keauhou Bay
Resort on April 25, 2009 by Patricia
Mushim Ikeda-Nash of Oakland, CA***

A friend remembers feeling sick one day when she was a child. She had a high fever.

"Mother," she said, "my head feels very hot."

Her mother reached out and felt her daughter's forehead, then went to get some medicine.

More than 50 years later, through all the seasons of her life, the daughter remembers. To some, this might not sound like something special or memorable. But this friend explained to me, "You know, my mother took care of me but she almost never touched me. She didn't hug or kiss me or spend time with me, teaching me to cook or sew. So I will always remember that one second of her hand on my face. It felt like silk - so cool and smooth and comforting,"

Just think: as women, or as men raised by mothers, aunties, obaachans, how much power there is, literally, in a

woman's touch. When we think of being born, growing up, going to the temple, to events at our school, think of the qualities we might associate with the work of women's hands: cooking, cleaning, organizing, dressing children, changing diapers, welcoming guests, caring for aging parents and spouses, listening, receiving, holding children on our laps, celebrating birthdays by making cakes, making the household beautiful, nurturing, healing, wise use of limited resources, helping to keep our families strong.

So, what we call "a woman's touch" can embody and communicate safety, comfort, and the deep support, understanding and love that holds us up during the most difficult and scary times.

We've all known pain and stress, and we've experienced grief, loss and anxiety as well as joy and happiness. Our present times present significant challenges in the economy, educational systems, and preservation of the environment. Life can be rough. Have you ever felt that you were being tossed about like a leaf in a storm, with nothing to hold onto?

I myself was a single mother when my son, who is now 20 years old, was born, and I had very little money. One day when my son was around two years old, I thought it might be fun for him to ride in the car with me through the free automatic car wash at the Jiffy Lube after I had the oil changed. I thought it might be kind of like a free amusement park ride, like Disneyland. We drove up to the back of the car wash and a man with a clipboard came out and instructed us to

drive slowly forward until the car locked into the track through the car wash. I drove forward, the car wash doors closed behind us and suddenly huge sheets of pounding water and giant whirling, grinding brushes were buffeting the car from side to side. My little boy went wild with fear. He began running around the inside of the car, pounding on the windows, screaming: "Call the man! Call the man!"

"Honey," I said to him, "I'm so sorry, but there is no man to call." My son was horrified! Finally it ended and we emerged, shaken, but with a good story to tell.

So it helps to have a sense of humor, even when we're sad, or discouraged, because when we can laugh a little, even through our tears, we can often see that our lives have seasons and cycles. Everything grows and changes in a very natural way. As women we are intimately connected to the source of life, birth, and often, too, we are called to help loved ones through the transition we call death. Our strength is enormous, in quiet and everyday ways. Our creativity is endless, often invisible and leaving no trace.

My Dharma sister, the Buddhist teacher, artist, and martial arts master, Michele Benzamin-Miki Sensei, remembers being in Japan with her obaachan. Like many young children, Michele wanted to draw with crayons on the walls. Rather than scolding her, Obaachan cleverly taped paper all over the walls. My friend drew on the walls, and grew up to be an artist. When we connect to our deep inner strength, to our patience and creativity and our faith in the Dharma, we become

a refuge for others. Like Michele Sensei's obaachan, we create a safe place where others can express their true nature in beautiful ways, a safe place where we can all grow - grow older, grow wiser, grow better at enjoying our lives, our changing bodies, and our precious natural environment.



The Buddha said:

So live in love,
Do your work.
Make an end of your sorrows.
Like the moon,
Come out from behind the clouds!
Shine.

This verse comes from the Dhammapada, one of the earliest recordings of the sayings of the historical Buddha, Shakyamuni.

So when I look at each of you, whether you are 17 or 70, 8 or 80, I can see that you shine in your own way and that your kindness and generosity, your hard work and effort, your willingness to follow the Buddha Way all create a light. For no act is too small to have a deep effect on someone's life.

Do you remember our sister from the beginning of this talk? She has carried her mother's wonderful touch on her forehead through the seasons of her life.

She is a Buddhist nun, a longtime practitioner of Zen.

When we take refuge in the Buddha, we grow more awake. When we take refuge in the Dharma, we grow in our ability to see the truth. When we take refuge in the Sangha, we know we are never



alone. Our ancestors are with us, helping us, and we walk hand in hand with them, and hand in hand with our children and their children, into the future.

Library News *by Clear Englebert*

Many wonderful books have come to the library and they are listed below. However one special book deserves extra attention, "Karma for Today's Traveler" by Phra Bhasakorn Bhavilai. This Thai monk has made one of the most puzzling aspects of Buddhism utterly clear. The 'today's traveler' in the title refers to people who are passing through life now --- you and I. The explanation of death and rebirth is about the most understandable you'll find anywhere. In it he says, "This final moment of perception is important because the qualities and characteristics of that final unit of perception will condition the new form that the mind takes. It will condition the next rebirth. Yet for the untrained mind, the data

flashes by much too quickly for the mind to consciously choose. It's something like musical chairs; when the music stops you grab the nearest chair." I wholeheartedly recommend this lucid book to everyone.

The other new books are:

"Women of Wisdom" by Tsultrim Allione

"Japanese Mandalas: Representations of Sacred Geometry" by Elizabeth ten Grotenhuis

"Buddhism" by John Snelling

"The World's Great Religions" by Life Magazine

"The Buddhist Doctrine of Life After Death" by Nayaka Thera Piyadassi

"Zen Comics II" by Ioanna Salajan

"Japanese Religion" by the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs

"The Way of the White Clouds: A Buddhist Pilgrim in Tibet" by Anagarika Govinda

"Going to Pieces without Falling Apart: A Buddhist Perspective on Wholeness" by Mark Epstein

"Glimpses of Abhidharma" by Chogyam Trungpa

"An Interview with the Dalai Lama" by John Avedon

"The Great Discourse on the Wheel of Dhamma (Dhammacakkappavattana

Sutta)” by Venerable Mahasi Sayadaw. This is quite a unique book from Burma.

“Buddhism” by Clive Erricker

“A Still Forest Pool: The Insight Meditation of Achaan Chah” by Jack Kornfeld and Paul Breiter

“Buddhism and Nonviolent Global Problem-Solving” edited by Glenn Paige and Sarah Gilliatt

Congratulations!

The Daifukuji Sangha Sisters celebrated their group’s 10th anniversary on May 8. This group meets once a month to share women’s wisdom, challenges, dreams, and a cup of tea. If interested, please call Rev. Jiko at 322-3524.



Memorial Day Service & Baccalaureate Luncheon

Sunday, May 24, 2009

9:30 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Mr. Morris
Kimura

Join us in honoring the
graduates.

Aloha from Jiko Sensei

What a showing of aloha there was when our Fujinkai greeted our UHSSWA conference guests with true Kona-style hospitality! To conference coordinators Joyce, Cindy, and Alfreida, as well as to Fujinkai members and supporters, *gokurosama deshita* and mahalo nui for a job well done. As Cindy Asada once said, **we are the temple of aloha!**

Now that the conference is over, my thoughts are turning to preparations for Obon. The new otoba made out of cedar by Jill Teiho has brought the fresh scent of the forest into our temple. (Thank you, Teiho.) I am looking forward to this season of bon dancing, taiko drumming, and sending prayers of love and gratitude to our many ancestors.

My thoughts are also about the safety of the many guests who will come to our temple for the Obon Service, Bon Dance, and Orchid Show. I keep looking at the grass-covered lot next door, hoping that we will have the good fortune of acquiring it so that we will be able to provide our members & guests with a safe place to easily park their cars. May the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas guide us with their wisdom.

Summer blessings to all!

Coming Up in July...

July 2, 7, & 9 Bon Dance Practice

July 11 Daifukuji Bon Dance

July 26 Daifukuji Orchid Show

Sangha Photo Gallery

Gokurosama deshita, Daifukuji Fujinkai!



Welcoming Our Guests



Lining Up for Picture Taking



Manju Making for Conference



Matsue & Eileen at the Sheraton



UHSSWA Officers

June 2009

| May 2009 | | | | | | | June 2009 | | | | | | | July 2009 | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|
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| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

- Aikido
- Youth Taiko
- Adult Taiko
- Family Service
- Major Service
- Fujinkai
- Kannon-ko Service
- Project Dana
- Zazen
- Sangha Sisters
- Special Events
- Baikako Practice
- Dharma Study
- Happy Strummers
- Temple Board
- Bon Dance Group
- Teen Sangha
- Orchid Club
- Samu

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| 31 9:30 AM Family Service | 1 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:30 PM Happy Strummers | 2 5:00 PM Aikido 6:30 PM Adult Taiko | 3 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:00 PM Fujinkai Board | 4 6:00 PM Aikido 7:00 PM Temple Board | 5 8:00 AM Samu 6:00 PM Adult Taiko | 6 |
| 7 9:30 AM Family Service | 8 5:00 PM Youth Taiko | 9 5:00 PM Aikido 6:30 PM Adult Taiko | 10 Project Dana 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:00 PM Orchid Club | 11 6:00 PM Aikido 6:45 PM Dharma Session | 12 6:00 PM Adult Taiko 7:00 PM Sangha Sisters | 13 |
| 14 General Clean Up Day | 15 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:30 PM Happy Strummers | 16 5:00 PM Aikido 6:30 PM Adult Taiko | 17 Jizo Matsuri 10 am 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko | 18 6:00 PM Aikido 6:45 PM Dharma Session | 19 8:00 AM Samu 6:00 PM Adult Taiko | 20 Community Bon Dance 6:00 PM Keauhou Shopping Ctr |
| 21 8:00 AM Baikako 9:30 AM Family Service | 22 5:00 PM Youth Taiko | 23 5:00 PM Aikido 6:30 PM Adult Taiko | 24 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko | 25 6:00 PM Aikido 6:45 PM Dharma Session | 26 8:00 AM Samu 6:00 PM Adult Taiko | 27 |
| 28 OBON SERVICE 10 AM | 29 5:00 PM Youth Taiko | 30 5:00 PM Aikido 6:30 PM Adult Taiko 7:00 PM Bon Dance Practice | 1 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:00 PM Fujinkai Board | 2 6:00 PM Aikido | 3 8:00 AM Samu 6:00 PM Adult Taiko | 4 |

Daifukuji Soto Mission O-Toba and Ko-Toba Request Form
Please submit by June 7, 2009

YOUR NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

At Obon, Buddhists express their gratitude to their ancestors by making prayer offerings in the form of TOBA. The names of the deceased will be read by the minister during the Obon Service to which you are invited on June 28, 2009. Please send or bring your request form to Daifukuji as soon as possible and no later than June 7 and make checks payable to **Daifukuji Soto Mission**. If you have any questions, please call Rev. Jiko at 322-3524.

O-TOBA (written on wood)..... Donation \$5.00 per request

O-TOBA are offered in remembrance of :

1. Your family ancestors as a group (example: The Nakade Family Ancestors)
2. A family member or friend for whom this is a first Obon (hatsubon)

Please print names clearly.

I dedicate the merits of these prayers to.....

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

KO-TOBA (written on paper)..... Donation \$2.00 per request

KO-TOBA are similar to Otoba, but are written on paper instead of wood and are a second option. Please print names clearly.

I dedicate the merits of these prayers to.....

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

Your Name _____
Total enclosed _____