



Daifukuji Soto Mission

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

Treasuring the Past, Embracing the Present

March, 2009



Spring Higan & 33 Kannon Osunafumi Service

Sunday, March 15 9:30 am

33 Kannon Set Up March 13 8 a.m.
33 Kannon Clean Up March 20 8 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. If you would like to donate desserts or side dishes, please inform Alfreida, 329-3457.

The 33 Kannon will be set up on Friday, March 13 at 8:00 a.m. and put away on Friday, March 20 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 13 or the day before.

There will be no Kannon-ko service on March 18. However, from March 15-19, 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 a new stepping cloth for the occasion and to Reiko Sekine for her beautiful calligraphy.

2009 Membership Forms

2009 membership forms & calendars have been sent out to temple members. (A form is included with this newsletter for those who would like to join the membership or update mailing information.) Please call Rev. Jiko at 322-3524 if you have any questions.

Farewell to Rev. & Mrs. Akita



We at Daifukuji extend our warmest mahalo to Reverend and Mrs. Shinryu Akita for their decade of service to our sister temple, the Hilo Taishoji Soto Zen Temple, and for their kindness to our sangha. We wish them a happy retirement and a wonderful life in Saipan.

In Memoriam

To the family of the late Charles Rikio Sasaki, 84, who passed away on January 15, 2009, we express our deepest sympathy.

Our love and condolences are also extended to the family of the late Kiyoshi Deguchi, 86,

who passed away on February 4, 2009.

We will remember with much gratitude the late Mrs. Masuye Matsuura, 92, who passed away on February 13, 2009 at the Leahi Hospital on Oahu. The late Mrs. Matsuura, together with the late Bishop Gyokuei Matsuura and their family, served Daifukuji from 1945-1965.

Congratulations

Congratulations to temple member Stephen Mann whose Soto Zen Buddhist Lay Confirmation Ceremony was held on February 8, 2009 at Daifukuji.

Before the Buddha, and in the presence of Rev. Jiko,



Teiho, and invited guests, Steve took refuge in the Three Treasures and vowed to uphold the 16 Buddhist precepts in his daily life. He received the Buddhist name "Hoshin" meaning "Abundant Heart" and a *wagesa*, a sacred collar which he will be wearing to all services as a symbol of his commitment to the Buddha Way.

Please talk to Rev. Jiko if you are interested in making this spiritual commitment. She would be happy to explain to you what the Lay Confirmation Ceremony is about.



“Passing On” by Sachi Ainge

If I were to die today, my funeral services would be held in the large, white-trimmed red building next door to Teshima’s Restaurant in Honolulu on the Big Island of Hawaii. This is the Kona Daifukuji Soto Mission, a Zen Buddhist temple ministered by the smiling Reverend Nakade, a soft-spoken woman who wears the black robes of a priest.

My immediate family is only nominally Buddhist. We don’t drive the hour and twenty minutes to the Daifukuji every Sunday. For the most part, I am only there for funerals and the forty-ninth day and one-year memorial services that traditionally follow them. Lately this has been quite often. Over the last two years I’ve lost both of my maternal grandparents in addition to three of my grandmother’s five siblings. All five funerals were held at the Daifukuji temple. Always they are the same:

When we arrive, we park our car out front, either in the small parking lot or on the sprawling lawn. My sister and I step out of the car. We wear skirts and blouses, with heels instead of our usual rubber slippers. The relatives start to arrive. All of them are dressed up, the uncles in aloha shirts and dark slacks, the aunties wearing dresses, some plain and some flowered. We embrace them each in turn. It’s been a while since everyone was together like this, the

last funeral, maybe, and it’s good to see them again.

When everyone has arrived, we walk together up the steps of the temple, bowing as we cross the threshold, my parents without hesitation, my sister and I following more self-consciously. We find our places in the front pews. The altar is a simple one—more of a room, really—with gold statues of the Buddhas and three parallel tables laden with flowers. Reverend Nakade quietly lights the tall candles and bows deeply before the photo of the deceased. She kneels with her back to us on a cushion in front of a large, intricately carved wooden drum, a huge brass bowl of a bell at her side, and a mallet in each hand. She strikes both and begins to chant.

Is it Japanese? I can’t be sure. The monotone chant has no words, only long strings of syllables tying me back to my ancestors. When she is finished, she makes her way to the modest podium to the side of the altar. Everything about Reverend Nakade is so soft, so genuine. As she speaks kindly about my relatives, I find myself smiling through my tears. She tells us their new Buddhist names. My grandmother became Rakkai Yoshin Shinyo—Ocean of Enjoyment, Bright Heart.

When she begins to chant again, the family goes up to offer incense one by one. The procedure is exact: Bow. Approach the altar. Take a pinch of incense. Drop it onto the mound that already smolders in the lacquer ware box on the table. Bow your head and put your hands together in gassho. Step back. Bow again. Let the smoke

carry the prayers upward. I've done it a hundred times, but at every funeral I watch my aunts carefully, lest I forget something. I wonder what they pray. Or whether their prayers are even in words like mine are, always addressed directly to the deceased.

In my family, when the service is over, everyone adjourns to the event hall next door to eat, catch up, and talk story. I sit with my sister and cousins. We joke and smile. In a way, these memorial services are also our family reunions, the only occasion for us to cry and laugh together, collapsing months into a single afternoon. They are a time for us to preserve our traditions and to reconnect with the people we love, celebrating life as we are brought together by death.

(Sachi, a 12th grader, is the daughter of Drs. George and Leesa Ainge.)

Library News *by Clear Englebert*

The Daifukuji library is now receiving complimentary subscriptions for three Buddhist magazines: "Tricycle," "Shambala Sun," and "BuddhaDharma." They can be checked out, but please keep them no longer than one week. (This is the same return policy as for DVDs.) Back issues of magazines, like books and audios, can be kept for a full month. Current issues of magazines are a very appealing way to stay connected with the larger world of Buddhism. You're sure to find fascinating and informative articles, such as in the latest issue of "Shambala Sun" there's a review article about the eight bestselling Buddhist books of the past three decades. They are all in the Daifukuji

library as well as these new arrivals:

"Introducing Buddha" by Jane Hope and Borin Van Loon

"Everyday Suchness" by Gyomay Kubose

"The Tao of Zen" by Ray Grigg

"Lovingkindness: The Revolutionary Art of Happiness" by Sharon Salzberg

"Footprints of the Buddha" by Marie Byles

"The Zen Way to the Martial Arts" by Taisen Deshimaru

"Things Japanese in Hawaii" by John DeFrancis

"Cutting Through Spiritual Materialism" by Chogyam Trungpa

"Who Dies? An Investigation of Conscious Living and Conscious Dying" by Stephen Levine

"Biography of Ajahn Chah" (in Thai language)

Installation Luncheon Held for Bishop Shugen Komagata

An installation luncheon was held on February 15, 2009 in honor of Bishop Shugen and Mrs. Faye Komagata. The luncheon, sponsored by the Hawaii Soto Mission Association and Soto Mission of Hawaii, was held at the Pagoda Hotel in Honolulu. Representing Daifukuji were Rev. Jiko, Jill Teiho Wagner, and Walter Kimura. The luncheon was preceded by the spring meeting of the Hawaii Soto Mission Association. Congratulations, Bishop & Mrs. Komagata!



D a i f u k u j i Orchid Club Open House *by Fern Gavelek*

In its 27th year, members of the Kona Daifukuji Orchid Club invite the community to its March Membership Open House 7-10 p.m. Wednesday, Mar. 11 at the Daifukuji Mission Hall. Admission is free and refreshments prepared by club members will be served.

Attendees will be introduced to the hobby of growing orchids at seven interactive and educational stations staffed by friendly club members. Topics covered range from orchid potting techniques to different orchid varieties: cattleya, dendrobium, oncidium, vanda, phalanopsis and epidendrum. Handouts on orchid culture will be available and plants will be sold.

Members will also display their blooming plants and answer questions about the benefits of club membership.

The Kona Daifukuji Orchid Club is West Hawai'i's oldest orchidaceae organization with a mission to learn and foster orchid culture and promote fellowship among orchid collectors. The club meets the second Wednesday of every month at the Daifukuji Soto Mission Hall. For information, contact club president Laura Jennison, 938-2123.

Aloha from Walter Kimura

Aloha! Happy new year to you all! The Board members and I are looking forward to a good year for our temple and its membership. We look forward to your continued help and support.

Sincerely,
Walter Kimura
Daifukuji Board President

Dharma Study and Zen Practice

The Thursday evening Dharma study and zazen sessions are going well. You are welcome to join us at 6:45 pm on the following evenings in March:

March 12, March 19, and March 26

There is no session scheduled for March 5.

6:45 pm	Arrive, sign in, be seated
7:00 pm	Evening service begins
7:15 - 7:40	Zazen meditation
7:40 - 8:00	Watch DVD on Buddhism
8:00 - 8:20	Discussion, Q & A
8:20 - 8:45	Zazen (optional)
8:45 pm	Carry the silence home.

UHSSWA Conference

Our Fujinkai members have been working steadily in preparing for the April conference. There will be another conference prep session on **March 22** from 9 am - 3 pm in the social hall. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Mahalo to our wonderful ladies for the good work that they do!



A Bright Future for Soto Zen in Hawai'i

by Rev. Jiko Nakade

Things are looking brighter for Hawaii Soto Shu. A former Daifukuji minister, Komagata Sensei, has become our new bishop. Moreover, two new ministers have arrived from Japan to work at the Soto Mission of Hawaii Betsuin. Rev. Juo Shinohara is here with his wife Sachiko and their one-year-old baby Jukei. More recently, Rev. Ryokei Ishii arrived with his wife Ikuko and their two children Yuko and Tesshu. Both ministers speak English well. Hilo Taishoji Soto Mission has found an interim minister, the Reverend Shingo Honda. At Ryusenji in Wahiawa, Helen Jikyu Kishi is doing a great job as a lay temple assistant trainee. Here at Daifukuji, Jill Teiho is training diligently to become a Soto minister and Amy Jikai has made a good start in the lay temple assistant program. It feels as if a new era has begun and many bodhisattvas are coming to lead our sanghas.

It is also a wondrous Dharma blessing that Daifukuji member Stephen Mann has formally received the 16 precepts and committed himself to the Buddhist path. I'm hoping many others will follow. This Soto Zen Lay Buddhist Confirmation Ceremony is possible for any temple member. From my heart I encourage all of you to take this step. I will help as best I can to prepare you for your

confirmation ceremony, a ceremony which has the power to bring much peace and happiness into your life.

The greatest blessing in life is to have a spiritual path -- a path that is wise, stable, and liberating, a path full of light and compassion and truth, a path that you can walk together with your sangha friends.

The Buddha and bodhisattvas and all of our Dharma ancestors have given us the highest teachings. Based on wisdom and compassion, these teachings light our way like lamps in the night. Let us take refuge in the Buddha, Dharma, & Sangha. Together, we will create a bright future for Soto Zen in Hawai'i.

Taiko Youth Group Starting

Kona Daifukuji Taiko youth group is looking to start a new beginner's group in April for youth ages 10-17. Classes will be held on Wednesdays from 3-5 p.m. in the Cultural Hall. Class fees are \$30 per month during the 3-month introductory period. One need not be a member of the temple. Please contact Barb Bosz (325-3171 hm, 987-2673 cell) if you wish to join.

Lock Your Car Doors

Crime is on the rise in Honalo. We've recently had two incidents at our temple. Please lock your car doors when you come to the temple and immediately report any suspicious characters or activity to Rev. Jiko.

Coming Up in April....

April 12 Hanamatsuri Service
April 25-26 UHSSWA Conference

Sangha Photo Gallery



Project Dana Feng Shui Presentation by Clear



Project Dana January Birthdays



Lay Confirmation Ceremony for Stephen Hoshin Mann



Youth Taiko Beginners Group



33 Kannon Stepping Cloth

March 2009

February 2009							March 2009							April 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
							29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

- 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
1 9:30 AM Family Service	2 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:30 PM Happy Strummers	3 Happy Girl's Day! 5:00 PM Aikido	4 6:00 AM Zazen 3:00 PM Youth Taiko for Beginners 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 6:30 PM Adult Taiko 7:00 PM Fujinkai	5 6:00 PM Aikido	6 8:00 AM Samu 6:00 PM Adult Taiko	7
8 9:30 AM Family Sangha Field Trip	9 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:00 PM Bon Dance Session	10 5:00 PM Aikido	11 Project Dana 6:00 AM Zazen 3:00 PM Youth Taiko 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 6:30 PM Adult Taiko 7:00 PM Orchid Open	12 6:00 PM Aikido 7:00 PM Dharma Study	13 8:00 AM Samu 8:00 AM 33 Kannon Set Up 6:00 PM Adult Taiko 7:00 PM Sangha Sisters	14
15 33 Kannon 9:30 am	16 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 6:30 PM Happy Strummers	17 5:00 PM Aikido	18 6:00 AM Zazen 3:00 PM Youth Taiko for Beginners 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 6:30 PM Adult Taiko	19 6:00 PM Aikido 7:00 PM Dharma Study	20 8:00 AM Samu 8:00 AM Kannon Clean Up 6:00 PM Adult Taiko	21
22 9:00 AM Fujinkai Conf Prep 9:30 AM Family Service	23 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	24 5:00 PM Aikido	25 6:00 AM Zazen 3:00 PM Youth Taiko for Beginners 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 6:30 PM Adult Taiko	26 6:00 PM Aikido 7:00 PM Dharma Study	27 8:00 AM Samu 6:00 PM Adult Taiko	28
29 8:00 AM Goeika Practice 9:30 AM Family Service	30 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	31 5:00 PM Aikido	1 6:00 AM Zazen 3:00 PM Youth Taiko for Beginners 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 6:00 PM Fujinkai Board	2 6:00 PM Aikido 7:00 PM Temple Board	3 8:00 AM Samu 6:00 PM Adult Taiko	4

Daifukuji Soto Mission 2009 Annual Membership Form

Please check one of the following:

- I am a new member.
 I am a continuing member.
 I am not a member, but I would like to receive your monthly newsletter
 and be a supporter of the temple. Enclosed is my donation of \$_____.
 Please remove my name from your mailing list. Name _____

Please list the members of your household who are members of the Daifukuji Soto Mission:

- | | | | |
|----|-----------|------------|---------------|
| 1. | Last Name | First Name | Date of Birth |
| 2. | Last Name | First Name | Date of Birth |
| 3. | Last Name | First Name | Date of Birth |
| 4. | Last Name | First Name | Date of Birth |
| 5. | Last Name | First Name | Date of Birth |

(Please add names on a separate sheet if necessary.)

Mailing Address _____

Street Address (if different from mailing address) _____

Phone Number _____ Cell Number _____

E-mail Address _____ Check if you would like to receive your newsletter by email.

***2009 Annual Membership Dues**

\$40.00 per household \$ _____

***Annual Temple Operation**

Donation (Ijihi) \$ _____

*For utilities, insurance, minister's salary, office equip, basic maintenance, altar & kitchen supplies ,etc.

***Building Fund** (septic tank) \$ _____

***Cemetery Fee: \$5 per plot**
(if applicable) \$ _____

***Annual Nokotsudo Maintenance** **Family Name on**
Fee: \$10 per niche (if applicable) \$ _____ **Niche(s)** _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Daifukuji Soto Mission.
 Membership forms and donations may be dropped off at the temple office or mailed to:
 Daifukuji Soto Mission, P.O. Box 55, Kealakekua, HI 96750. Thank you.

Daifukuji Soto Mission

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Membership Information

Annual membership dues for Daifukuji Soto Mission are \$40.00 a year, per household.* Being a member of the Soto Mission gives you immediate access to ministerial and ceremonial services such as blessings, marriages, memorial services, and funerals, to name a few. Joining the membership is a positive expression of *dana* (giving), and shows your confidence in and commitment to Daifukuji. Your contributions enable us to look optimistically to the future in sharing and spreading the ideals of the Buddha-Dharma. Most importantly, it offers you a place to practice the path and to embrace the *sangha* (spiritual family) in a tradition founded on teachings of wisdom and compassion.

*Exemptions are given to those who cannot afford the full annual membership fee of \$40. Please see Rev. Jiko.

You may be wondering what constitutes membership. According to our bylaws: *members are those that show commitment to the Buddha, Dharma (teachings), and Daifukuji Soto Mission Sangha and pay annual membership fees.*

Privileges of current membership include:

- 1) Use of social hall for private functions at a \$250.00 donation, plus a fully refundable \$100.00 cleaning deposit.**
- 2) Reservation of a niche in the columbarium at a one-time donation of \$400.00 plus a \$10.00 per year maintenance fee for the privilege of using the niche space. **
- 3) Taking the Precepts & receiving one's Buddhist name in a Soto Zen Buddhist Lay Confirmation Ceremony
- 4) Participation in Project Dana, a monthly kupuna activity program which is provided free for temple seniors.
- 5) Use of temple's lending library.
- 6) Monthly newsletter.

****Members become eligible for use of social hall and columbarium after two years of consecutive membership. A membership application may be submitted for each household. However, adult household members may submit separate applications if they so choose. If membership fees are not received for 2 consecutive years, the membership will be considered resigned or inactive.**

If you have any questions regarding the membership benefits please feel free to contact Rev. Jiko with your questions.



Programs & Activities Offered at Daifukuji

Fujinkai (Temple Women's Association)
Family Sangha (Sunday Dharma Program for Families & Individuals)
Teen Sangha (Buddhist program for Teens)
Baikako (Plum Blossom Choir)
Zazenkai (Zen meditation group)
Sangha Sisters Women's Spirituality Circle
Kona Daifukuji Taiko (Youth Taiko)
Daifukuji Zen Taiko (Adult Taiko)
Happy Strummers Ukulele Group
Daifukuji Orchid Club
Daifukuji Aikido Club
Project Dana Kupuna Program
Dharma Study & Zen Practice
Bon Dance Classes
Daifukuji Lending Library

