



Daifukuji Soto Mission

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

*Treasuring the Past,
Embracing the Present*

December, 2011

8 Mornings of Meditation

Dec. 1- 8 6:00 a.m. - 7:15 a.m.



Peaceful are the mornings of December, especially during the *Rohatsu sesshin*, a period of eight mornings of *zazen* practice that begins on December 1st and culminates on the 8th of December, the day of the

Buddha's enlightenment.

The members of the Daifukuji Zazenkai cordially invite you to join them on any number of mornings during this period. Everyone arrives in silence before 6 a.m. and selects either a chair or cushion (*zafu*) to sit upon. At 6 a.m., Rev. Jiko rings the starting bell. All is silent. After 25 minutes of sitting, the bell is rung again and everyone stands for 10 minutes of walking meditation called *kinhin*, which is followed by another 25-minute period of *zazen*. Just sitting. Quietly. Peacefully. In the darkness of a December morn. Then the Robe Verse is chanted and everyone participates in a 15-minute morning service. Please join us. Loose-fitting clothing in dark colors is recommended. No shorts or tank tops please. For more information, please call Rev. Jiko at 322-3524.

Bodhi Day Jodo-E Service, General Membership Meeting, & Potluck Lunch

*Dec. 11, 2011
9:30 a.m.*



Bodhi Day, the day of Shakyamuni Buddha's enlightenment, will be observed at Daifukuji on the 11th of December. The Dharma talk will be given by Rev. Jiko. All are invited.

A **potluck lunch** and **general membership meeting** will follow the service. Daifukuji members, please make an effort to attend this service & meeting. Bodhi Day is a very special day for Buddhists.



Mochi Time!

If you'd like to order mochi for the New Year's, please fill out the order form that's enclosed with this newsletter and mail it to Daifukuji as soon as possible. **Orders will be processed on a first-come-first-serve basis.** Avis and Brian will also be

taking orders after the Bodhi Day service on December 11.

Mochi-making day is Wednesday, Dec. 28th. Orders may be picked up between 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Any help that you can give on mochitsuki day is appreciated. We will begin at 5:00 a.m. with the traditional pounding of the mochi. The mochitsuki is a fundraiser that benefits Kona Daifukuji Taiko and the Daifukuji Teen Sangha. Questions? Please call Avis or Brian at 322-3167.

Kannon-ko & Ofudayaki *Wednesday, Dec. 21 10:00 a.m.*



Ofudayaki, the ceremonial burning of sacred objects, will be held together with the last Kannon-ko service of the year at 10 a.m. on December 21.

Please bring your old *omamori* (Buddhist charms), *ofuda* (house blessing cards), and other old burnable altar objects to the temple either before December 21 or on the morning of the 21st when you come to the service at which prayers of gratitude for the blessings and protection of the buddhas and bodhisattvas will be chanted.

If you wish, you may toss into the flames a list of those things (negative thoughts, words, and actions) which you do not wish to carry into the new year. May all obstructions to the Buddha Way of enlightenment be purified.

New *ofuda* and *omamori* will be available at the New Year's Blessing services.

Gift Shop **News**

by Clear Englebert



The gift shop will be open on December 11th from 8:30 – 9:30 am & 10:30 am – 11:30 am.

The venerable Buddhist Publication Society is in Sri Lanka. Our first order to them has arrived after five months in transit, and it proves that good things are worth waiting for. Not only are the topics varied and wonderful, they can be divided into two piles—the affordable and the very-affordable. Here's a sample of some of the intriguing titles from 50 cents to \$1:

How to Teach Buddhism to Children, Population Crisis & Conservation, Family Planning & Birth Control, Discourses of the Ancient Nuns, Ministering to the Sick, Buddhist Aids to Daily Life, Buddhism & Peace, Early Western Buddhists, Buddhist Attitude to Other Religions, Buddhist Women at the Time of the Buddha, and The Rebirth of Katsugoro, a famous Japanese tale retold by Lafcadio Hearn.

The children's books from BPS are of exceptionally good quality. There's a Life of the Buddha Coloring Book for \$3, and unique set: Morals in the Life Story of the Buddha, Stories & Activities, and the matching Lesson Plan book to go with it. A three-volume boxed set of the Jataka Tales for \$25 is the most expensive item on the order.



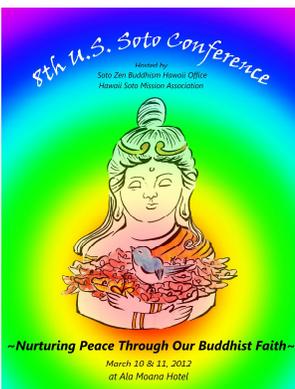
Rev. Enya Sapp of Shasta Abbey & Clear Englebert

2012 UHSSWA Conference *April 21 & 22, 2012*

The Wahiawa Ryusenji Soto Mission Fujinkai cordially invites all Fujinkai members to the **47th UHSSWA Conference which will be held on April 21 & 22, 2012** at the Wahiawa Ryusenji Soto Mission and also at the Ala Moana Hotel. The conference schedule includes Buddhist services, a UHSSWA business meeting, Dharma sessions, a donation drive (Country Store), and a banquet dinner.

The UHSSWA is the United Hawaii Soto Shu Women's Association, an organization that has been uniting Soto Zen Buddhist Women throughout the state of Hawaii ever since its first conference was held in 1966.

Fujinkai members, your district reps will be calling you with information regarding this conference. Also, please note that the **Fujinkai Hatsumairi** service and luncheon is scheduled for **January 8, 2012**.



U.S. Soto Conference *March 10 & 11, 2012*

“Nurturing Peace Through Our Buddhist Faith” is the theme of the 8th U.S. Soto Conference which is going to be held March 10 & 11, 2012

at the Ala Moana Hotel. This conference is being hosted by the Hawaii Soto Mission Association and the Bishop's Office.

About 200 participants are expected to attend from our nine Soto temples in Hawaii, the mainland Soto temples, and possibly representatives from South America and Japan.

The conference will begin with a 9 a.m. registration on Saturday, March 10 and end with an Aloha Luncheon on Sunday, March 11. Saturday's schedule includes an opening ceremony, slide show presentation, talk by Professor George Tanabe, a panel discussion, and a banquet dinner. Sunday's schedule includes a memorial service for tsunami and earthquake victims, a group discussion, a general meeting, a closing ceremony, and an aloha buffet luncheon.

Special room rates are available at the Ala Moana Hotel. Conference fees are \$15 for registration, \$20 for Saturday's lunch, \$35 for Saturday's dinner, \$30 for Sunday's lunch, and \$10 for a group photo. Children's rates are also available. **Please contact Rev. Jiko for a registration form if you are interested. She would like to collect all forms by January 6, 2012.**

Message from Our Temple President *by Dr. Julia Crawford*

Greetings, Members and Friends,

I am pleased to write to you once again as the calendar year comes to a close. Of course, the years and days keep on going and so does the work at the temple, but it is good to mark a time to gather with friends and family, a time to relax and enjoy the gift of life.

When the Board next gathers I can happily reflect on how much has been accomplished. Various committees have worked

hard to gather information for improvements to the physical structure of the temple. You will be seeing some of these changes over the next 12 months. Some work has already been accomplished, for example changes have been made to the electrical wiring. Though these changes are not visible they do improve the safety for everyone using the temple. I reported earlier on the mauka parking improvements, and I hope that the additional parking has been helpful at temple events. Some further improvements are under way in the cemetery to facilitate access by family members.

More importantly, work is also ongoing for the spiritual well being of our members. Wonderful dharma sessions are taking place in the temple. I have heard from many participants how valuable these sessions have been for them. There is always something more to learn, you can think of it as new wiring for the soul.

However you are wired, I look forward to seeing you at the temple in the last months of 2011. As we celebrate the new year I hope that your hearts are filled with peace and that you have many opportunities to share peace with others.

Studying the Precepts

by Jill Teiho Wagner



People ask, "What are the precepts? Are they vows, rules or are they points in which to guide our lives? How can we relate to them in a meaningful way? And how can we keep them and be true?"

I have learned that Zen philosophy shows us how to let go. We learn to let go of desires, opinions, culture, of structures that we create and that can imprison us. We let go of self & selfishness and accept change. And accept death.

When we sit in meditation and hear the bird sing, we allow the singing to be our experience and feel an expanse beyond the body. We feel one with the bird. This is an experience of a higher truth according to Buddhism that seems important for our development as human beings. It is a way of feeling that we are part of a complexity which encompasses all life and all experience. This is the teaching of shunyata. It says that we are empty of independent existence. It is an awareness of the interdependence of all things. Thus, none of the parts of self, the skandas, contain inherent existence. Some people call this an experience of the "absolute."

Yet I am a particular person. I have a particular chemistry, size, form, experience, culture, language and thoughts. Those things are real and comprise every moment of my life. To what degree can I let them go? I function in every situation with my particular experience.

In studying the precepts we can reflect on them from both a "higher" point of view and a relative, or everyday point of view.

Let's look at the precept of not killing. What does it mean? I can understand it very literally and say it means, do not kill. Anything. Killing causes suffering. Therefore we should not kill animals, insects or plants.

When I think about not killing from a "higher" perspective I have other questions. Is anything really being killed? Is it simply the cycle of nature, of life and death that I am part of? Is that not impermanence and the way things are? Can I really avoid killing? To what degree?

If I reflect on killing from an every day point of view I would reflect on a particular situation. Suppose I was hungry and my child was hungry and there was an animal that I could kill and eat to sustain us? Suppose I was raped and became pregnant and decided to have an abortion. If I were in a situation that requires thoughtful questioning, the precept becomes personal and requires wisdom and heart. Other questions can arise about killing. Do I kill something regretfully, or with gratitude for its life? Do I turn away from killing? Perhaps thinking negative thoughts are a kind of killing. Does my speech kill? Does my intolerance kill something good in myself?

There are many questions that can be asked in studying the precepts from both a "higher" and a relative point of view. These questions deepen my awareness of my life.

Let us look at another precept -- telling the truth, not lying. Are there times when telling the truth will cause suffering? Is it important to always tell the truth no matter what? What about if I am protecting a person from being killed, such as in the second World War with the Nazi's? Are there times when telling the truth will cause more suffering than lying? Does everyone have the same view of these questions? Who knows?

This is the way I formally studied the precepts. It was a process that took two years, going over each precept from many ways of looking at them. I think we can continue to reflect on what the precepts mean and continue to refine our understanding of how to be compassionate. After I studied the precepts formally for two years I had a *jukai* ceremony and was given my Buddhist name. I think it is very good to take each precept and flip flop it. It gives balance and a way of seeing that feels sane and whole. This is the practice.

Studying the Precepts



Saturday Morning Study Group

December 3 11 a.m. - noon
(to be preceded by sutra tracing
from 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.)

December 17 9 - 10 a.m.

January 14 9 - 10 a.m.

January 28 9 - 10 a.m.

These sessions are open to all. If you will be participating in the Buddhist confirmation ceremony in March or are thinking of doing so, you will find these sessions especially meaningful. Questions? Please call Rev. Jiko at 322-3524 or send an email to rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.

For those receiving the precepts who have not been able to attend the Saturday morning sessions, Rev. Jiko will be holding two condensed study sessions on Tuesday evenings in February: Feb. 7th and Feb. 21, 2012. Please mark your calendars.

December Project Dana Potluck



The holidays will be celebrated at the December 14th gathering of Project Dana. Seniors and volunteers, please come dressed in holiday colors and bring something for the **potluck lunch**.

Welcome, New Member

With much aloha our sangha welcomes Chris McLaughlin. Thank you, Chris, for becoming a member of Daifukuji.

Bodhi Day Greetings from Rev. Jiko

Dear Daifukuji members and friends,

Happy Bodhi Day! My family joins me in wishing you a joyous holiday season. We thank you for your kindness and support throughout 2011. I think of each one of you with much gratitude and love, and pray for your happiness, safety, and well being. During the year, the times that I have spent with you, however brief, are precious to me. Your aloha, your smiles, your kokua, and your commitment to Daifukuji have warmed my heart and boosted my spirit countless times. We have a kind and giving sangha that practices the Way of the Buddha.

I also wish to thank Jill Teiho for her assistance at services, Steve Hoshin for volunteering his time as temple handyman, Daifukuji Board president Julia and board members for their leadership, temple group leaders & instructors for their hard work, the samu crew for their weekly kokua, and all who give of their time and resources to make our temple the thriving spiritual community that it is today.

My heart is pained by the great suffering that is happening in our world -- by the natural disasters & man-made calamities, by the harm inflicted upon the Earth, as well by the suffering that takes place in people's lives. As this year ends and a new year begins, let us renew our vows to live with mindfulness, love, and care for each other and for the planet on which we live.

In deep gassho,
Rev. Jiko

**Thursday Evening Zen
Daifukuji Kannon Hall
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

December 15: Zazen & Chanting

and

December 22: Zazen & Chanting

Zazen will also be held daily from Dec. 1 - 8, 2011 from 6 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. during the Rohatsu Sesshin.

Zazen is held every Wednesday morning throughout the year. Please call Rev. Jiko at 322-3524 for more information or for instruction in beginning a meditation practice.

Family Service Winter Break

**No services Dec. 18, Dec. 25,
Jan. 1, Jan. 8**

Have a happy holiday season!

**Family services will begin on
January 15, 2012.**

Coming Up in January...

Dec.31 at 11:45 pm.....New Year's Blessing Service

Jan. 1.....New Year's Blessing Service

Jan. 8.....Fujinkai Hatsumairi

Jan. 11.....Project Dana

Jan 15.....Family Services Begin

Jan. 18.....Kannon-ko Service

Jan. 22.....Daifukuji's New Year's Party

Sangha Photo Gallery



Family Sangha Beach Day at Kaloko Pond



The Kuwada family having a fun time



"Thank you, Dana Volunteers. Happy Thanksgiving To All" is what the icing says on this cake, which was donated by Yaeko Hakoda, pictured here with Project Dana's many wonderful volunteers.



Sakae, Phyllis, Teiho, and Fujiko enjoying Project Dana's Thanksgiving gathering



Kelly, Kikuko, & Merle working hard for the Fujinkai Bento Sale

December 2011

November 2011							December 2011							January 2012						
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				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31				

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 General Clean Up 8 am	28 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	29	30 6:00 AM Zazen 6:30 AM Zazenkai Meeting 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	1 6:00 AM Zazen 9:00 AM Tai Chi Session 7:00 PM Temple Board	2 6:00 AM Zazen 8:00 AM Samu	3 6:00 AM Zazen 9:30 AM Shakyo 10:00 AM Youth taiko-beginners 11:00 AM Precepts Study
4 6:00 AM Zazen 8:00 AM Baikako Practice 9:30 AM Family Service	5 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:30 PM Happy Strummers	6 6:00 AM Zazen	7 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:00 PM Fujinkai Board	8 6:00 AM Zazen 7:30 AM Zazenkai Breakfast 9:00 AM Tai Chi Session	9 8:00 AM Samu 7:00 PM Sangha Sisters	10 10:00 AM Youth taiko-beginners
11 Jodo-e 9:30 am 11:00 AM Gen. Membership Meeting, Potluck	12 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	13 10:30 AM Happy Strummers Performance	14 Project Dana Potluck 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:00 PM Orchid Club	15 9:00 AM Tai Chi Session 7:00 PM Evening Zazen	16 8:00 AM Samu	17 9:00 AM Precepts Study 10:00 AM Youth taiko-beginners
18	19 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:30 PM Happy Strummers	20	21 Ofudayaki 10 a.m. 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	22 7:00 PM Evening Zazen	23 8:00 AM Samu	24
25	26 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	27 8:00 AM Mochitsuki Prep	28 MOCHITSUKI Mochi Pic...9:30-3:00	29	30 8:00 AM Samu	31 Blessing s...11:45 pm

2011 Daifukuji Mochi Order Form

Mochi Tsuki is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 28, 2011**

Pick up from 9:30am – 3:00pm.

A fundraiser for the Daifukuji Soto Mission's Teen Sangha & Taiko Group

If you are not able to place your order at the Jodo-E service on Dec. 11, please complete the information below and return promptly. Do not enclose payment. We will accept payment on pick up day, December 28, 2011. Please call the temple, 322-3524, with any questions.

While every effort will be made to accommodate our members and long-time customers, we will process orders on a first come first served basis. Once we are sold out, names will be added to a Wait List. Once we determine that we have extra mochi, we will call individuals from this list.

We enjoy being a part of your New Year tradition and truly appreciate your support!

We humbly ask for volunteers to help with our Mochi Tsuki. It has been said that Mochi Tsuki helps to keep everyone together because the mochi is so sticky. Although we will be starting at 5:00 a.m., we would welcome help throughout the day. Please stop by and join us.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Quantity Ordered	Item	Price	Total
	 Kagami Mochi	\$5.00 per set	

	Ko Mochi	\$5.00 tray of 10	
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Return form to: Daifukuji Soto Mission
79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy.
Kealahou, HI 96750
ATTN: Mochi Order

Grand Total	
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