



79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealahou, HI 96750

April, 2016

(808) 322-3524 www.daifukuji.org

(See "archives" on our website for previous newsletters.)



Hanamatsuri Buddha Day Service

Sunday, April 10 *9:30 a.m.*

All are cordially invited to join our sangha in pouring sweet tea over the baby Buddha as we celebrate his birth 2,600 years ago in Lumbini Garden. Our featured speaker will be Daifukuji member **Richard Gentei Diedrichs**, who assists Rev. Jiko with our Sunday family services. A former editor and elementary school teacher, Gentei Sensei is also an ordained Zen priest and writer. His latest book, *Living in Blue Sky Mind: Basic Buddhist Teachings for a Happy Life*, is based on talks which he's given to our Family Sangha between 2012 and 2015. His books will be available for purchase and signing during lunch.

There will be a **spring egg hunt** for the children immediately after the service, followed by a vegetarian meal prepared by our temple's Zazen-kai. **Donations of desserts are welcome.**

Donations of flowers for the altars and *hanamido* flower shrine may be dropped off on Friday, April 8th or by 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 9th.

Hanamatsuri is a joyful occasion to be shared with all. Feel free to invite relatives and friends. The children always enjoy the spring egg hunt.

Bazaar to be Held May 15

From May 1 - May 13 items for the bazaar may be dropped off inside the Daifukuji Social Hall. Please refer to the donation guidelines on page 6.

A bazaar planning meeting will be held after the Hanamatsuri lunch on April 10. All interested are invited to attend. Questions? Call bazaar co-chairs Stephen (322-2543) or Joyce (329-3833).

April's Project Dana



Kupuna and volunteers, a spring hat parade and contest will be the highlight of the April 13th Project Dana gathering.

Thank you to Fujiko Akamatsu and her daughter Phyllis for demonstrating the making of steamed manju at last month's Project Dana.



Avocado

Country Store Donations

The 51st Annual United Hawaii Soto Shu Women's Association (UHSSWA) Conference will be held on April 16 & 17 at the Soto Mission of Hawaii and the Pagoda Hotel. This conference is being hosted by the Guzeiji Soto Mission of Molokai Fujinkai with the help of the Soto Mission of Hawaii.

Donations of avocados, Kona coffee, and mac nuts are being sought for the conference's Country Store Fundraiser.

If you'd like to contribute any of these items, please call Joyce at 329-3833 or Rev. Jiko at 322-3524.



Jars Needed for Jam Making

8-ounce jars are needed for the making of jams and jellies for this year's temple bazaar. A total of 6 cases of jars are needed by April 16.

Please call Ann at 322-2601 if you are able to donate some jars.

Baccalaureate Ceremony

On May 29, there will be a blessing of the high school graduates who are the children and grandchildren of temple members. We will also be honoring graduates belonging to Kona Daifukuji Taiko. The blessing will take place following the morning's Memorial Day Service.

Invitations are now being sent to the graduates. Please inform Rev. Jiko if you have a graduate in your family or if you know of a graduate whose parents/grandparents are Daifukuji members. You may reach Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524 or info@daifukuji.org.



Zazenkai News

In preparation for the April 10th Hanamatsuri lunch, Zazenkai members will be working in the temple kitchen from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 9. Zazenkai members are asked to drop off food and vegetable donations by 9 a.m. on Saturday.

Hall set up & prep will take place on Friday, April 8 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Cooking on Sunday, April 10 will begin at 8:00 a.m.

Questions? Please call Philip Kakuho at 345-1492 or send an email to maukaclouds@icloud.com.



February 27th Pancake Breakfast Mahalo

We appreciate the long hours of preparation and cooking by the Fujinkai members. We were also fortunate to have had the Kona Daifukuji Taiko drummers and their parents help with serving the food, manpower to set up and break down equipment and tables, and many generous donations from temple members and the community.

Thank you to all who purchased tickets and supported the Daifukuji Fujinkai Women's Association. We look forward to next year's pancake breakfast.

Ella Yasuda and Chris Wada, Team 3





April Dharma Programs

Dharma Study Classes - New series to begin June 7th

A new series of classes based on the book *Living by Vow* by the Reverend Shohaku Okumura, a Soto Zen priest and scholar, will begin in June. Classes will be held on Tuesday afternoons from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the temple library. More information in

next month's newsletter.

Buddhist Movie Night — Thursday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Compassion in Action: Dalai Lama Awakening Vol. 2, a 90-minute documentary film narrated by Harrison Ford, will be shown in the Kannon Hall. Tea and snacks will be provided. Please bring your own mug and join us for a relaxing movie night at the temple.

Family Sangha Services: Sharing the Dharma with Children - Sundays, **April 3 and 24** at 9:30 a.m. Singing, meditation, yoga, chanting, and stories. New families are welcome.

Zazen (Meditation)

- * Every Wednesday morning from 6 a.m. - 7:20 a.m.
- * Thursdays, **April 14 and 28** from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Both morning and evening sessions include 20 minutes of chanting. Donations may be placed in the box on the incense table.

Shakyo & Shabutsu Art Meditation - Saturday, April 2 from 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Mindfully tracing the Heart Sutra & pictures of buddhas and bodhisattvas in silence unifies body, breath, and mind and puts one in touch with the Buddha-Dharma. All supplies provided. By donation.

Baikako Plum Blossom Choir Practice - Sunday, April 24 from 7:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Tai Chi

Every Tuesday & Thursday from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. in the Hisashi Kimura Cultural Hall. Tuesday classes are for beginners; Thursday classes are for intermediate/advanced students. \$5 drop in or \$20/month. Call instructor Philip Kakuho Hema for information: (808) 345-1492.

Yoga, Music, & Meditation

Led by Ananda Yoga instructor Ryan Jigaku Nakade, these gentle yoga sessions followed by group singing and a brief meditation are held every Friday afternoon from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. & every Sunday afternoon from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. in the Kannon Hall. Bring a yoga mat or towel. Classes by donation. Call Ryan Jigaku for information: (808) 895-0784.

Introduction to Zen Meditation

Saturday, April 23 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Meditation is an essential Buddhist activity. If you'd like to learn to meditate, or just want a refresher course, come to Daifukuji's free class on Zen Meditation on Saturday, April 23 at 8:00 am. The class, which will be taught by Clear Houn Englebert, is an hour and a half. The topics include the correct postures on a cushion, bench, or chair. Etiquette in a zendo (meditation hall) is covered, and there will be time for questions. One of the most important parts of the class is what to do with your mind during meditation. The predominate form of meditation in Soto Zen is *shikantaza*---just sitting. It is simple but difficult, because there is nothing to rely on except your own willpower. There will also be a review of the meditation resources in the temple library. The class will end with a meditation session.



An Invitation to Taishoji Soto Mission's Centennial, October 15 - 16

Dear Rev. Jiko & Michael Nakade & Family, & Members of Daifukuji Soto Mission,

*In 1916, the Rev. Hakudo Ezawa became Taishoji Soto Mission's first minister in temporary quarters in Hilo's Shinmachi (the Bay Front area). We are grateful for our ancestors who built and supported our temple at its present location. On **October 16, 2016**, we will be celebrating Taishoji's Centennial. We hope you will join us in celebrating our temple's 100th Anniversary.*

We regret to inform you that our temple funds are limited and therefore must ask you to take care of your own hotel accommodations. Enclosed is the information for the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel.

On Saturday, October 15th, meetings for HSMA, UHSSWA and Jizoku Kai will be held. A Fun Night is planned for Saturday, October 15th. We hope you will join us for dinner and games while socializing with old friends and meeting new friends.

With Aloha and Gassho,

Rev. Shinsho Hata

Saturday, October 15th Fun Night at Taishoji: \$25.00

Hilo Hawaiian Hotel room rates for 10/15/16: Standard Garden View Room \$141.77; Deluxe Ocean View Room \$170.13 (tax included)

Sunday, October 16th Celebration Service at Taishoji - 8:30 a.m. Banquet lunch at Nani Mau Gardens \$35.00. Centennial photo \$15.

Please contact Rev. Jiko by May 8 if you would like to attend Taishoji's Centennial. We are hoping to arrange carpooling. Questions? Call Rev. Jiko at 322-3524.

Daifukuji Soto Mission Bazaar
Sunday, May 15, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Bazaar Guidelines

1. **Donations may be dropped off at the Daifukuji Hall from May 1 to May 13, 2016. Place items inside the hall. Write the donor's name and address on the donation sheet. We are NOT able to accept old computers, large electronic equipment, exercise equipment or large appliances.**
2. Please have all rummage items cleaned. Clothing should be washed.
3. Donation of live plants may be dropped off on Saturday, May 14th or by 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 15th.
4. Donation of vegetables and other perishables may be dropped off Saturday, May 14th by 4:00 p.m.
5. Donation of baked goods and food items may be dropped off Sunday, May 15th by 7:00 a.m. Please label all food items and also include the donor's name.
6. All bazaar sale items are final: no refunds, returns or credits.
7. All members, please refrain from purchasing items until 11:00 a.m.
8. All members, please wear your Daifukuji T-shirts. See Rev. Jiko to purchase shirts. We are planning to have shirts in a new design available in time for the bazaar.
9. The Snack Shop and Temple Gift Shop will open at 8:00 a.m. on the day of the bazaar. All other units will open at 9:00 a.m.
10. Workers/members' vehicles should be parked in the cemetery area. Carpool if possible. If you need your car parked, please fill out and attach an identification tag to your keys for our parking staff. Key identification tags will be provided.
11. Lunch will be provided to all workers. Meal tickets will be issued to each Unit Chair by Avis Yamamoto.
12. At closing, each unit is responsible for cleaning its respective areas. Please assist other units as needed.

Mahalo for your cooperation.



Happy Birthday, Buddha!

What is *Hanamatsuri*? *Hanamatsuri*, a Japanese word which means “Flower Festival,” is an observance of the Buddha’s birth. At Daifukuji, the service involves the chanting of the sutras, the singing of gathas, and the pouring of sweet tea over a small statue of the baby Buddha by the members of the sangha. The baby Buddha is set inside a miniature pavilion called a *hanamido*, which is adorned with fresh flowers and foliage to recreate the garden of Lumbini, in which Prince Siddhartha Gautama, the buddha-to-be, was born around 563 B.C.E. in what is modern-day Nepal. At our temple, we are fortunate to have Avis and Brian Yamamoto who, every year, decorate our *hanamido* with great care the day before *Hanamatsuri*. They welcome those who wish to help, and appreciate receiving flowers from the gardens of temple members. (If you have flowers to donate, please drop them off by 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 9 or the day before.)

The pouring of sweet tea or *amacha* is symbolic of the sweet rain that is said to have fallen from the heavens at the time of the Buddha’s birth. It is a lovely ceremony in which young and old alike participate, a way in which all can honor the birth of a great human being, whose teachings have spanned over two millennia and spread across the face of the Earth, bringing peace, joy, and liberation to millions. Empires have risen and fallen, civilizations have come and gone, advances in science and technology have changed the world. Yet, almost 2,600 years after the Buddha’s birth, his teachings — the Dharma which he expounded with compassion — is what is being studied and practiced by millions of Buddhists today. We are among those who have had the good fortune of encountering such wondrous teachings.

I wonder what the Buddha would say if he were able to comment on this Buddha Day ceremony. Perhaps he would gently remark that Buddhists should focus more on his teachings than upon the story of his birth. Yet, services such as *Hanamatsuri* connect us to the Buddha and to the Dharma in the context of the Sangha. In essence, we are taking refuge in the Three Treasures, which are the foundation of the life of a Buddhist. When we pour sweet tea over the baby Buddha, we not only honor our great teacher & resolve to practice the Dharma, but also water the seeds of buddhahood within ourselves. We become baby buddhas born in the flower gardens of Hawaii, who aspire to live with loving-kindness and compassion and walk softly upon the earth. The Enlightened One would surely see this as skillful means.

Our *Hanamatsuri* speaker this year is Buddhist teacher Richard Gentei Diedrichs, whose newly published book *Living in Blue Sky Mind: Basic Buddhist Teachings for a Happy Life* is a precious Dharma gem, one which I’m hoping will find its way onto the bed stands and coffee tables of our sangha members. Practicing the basic teachings of the Buddha does indeed lead to a happy life. I highly recommend *Living in Blue Sky Mind*.

Happy Birthday, Buddha! Happy Hanamatsuri, everyone!

Warm aloha, in gassho,

Rev. Jiko

Mahalo Nui

A sincere mahalo to all who've sent in donations for the purchase of new bazaar tables. Donations are still being accepted. We have ordered 18 Lifetime professional grade 8-foot tables from Costco at a cost of \$2,840. Thank you very much for your support.

Soto Zen Buddhism in Hawaii Video

You will see familiar faces in the recently produced video on Soto Zen Buddhism in Hawaii. Last year a video crew came to Daifukuji to film our temple's Memorial Day service and blessing of the high school graduates. Some of you were at this service and appear in the video.

This sixteen-minute video can be viewed by going to the SOTOZEN-NET website: <http://global.sotozen-net.or.jp/eng/>. Please click on "Movie Soto Zen Buddhism in Hawaii."

Coming up in May.....

May 14.....Bazaar Set Up 8 a.m.

May 15..... Annual Building Maintenance Fund Bazaar

May 29.....Memorial Day Service & Blessing of the Graduates
Guest Speaker: Dr. Richard Stevens, Hawaii Community College



Please note that there will be no Project Dana or Kannon-ko service during the month of May.



*Pouring sweet tea over the baby Buddha,
I vow to water the seeds of awakening
in my heart and in yours*

~ Jiko ~

Sangha Joy



April 2016

March 2016							April 2016							May 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:45 AM Baikako 9:30 AM Family Service 4:00 PM Yoga & Music 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Beginners T'ai Chi 5:00 PM Zen Taiko 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM T'ai Chi 5:00 PM Zen Taiko 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30 AM Samu 4:30 PM Yoga & Music 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Shakyo 9:30 AM Youth Taiko
3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Family Service 4:00 PM Yoga & Music 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:30 PM Happy Strummers 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Beginners T'ai Chi 5:00 PM Zen Taiko 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:00 PM Fujinkai Board 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM T'ai Chi 5:00 PM Zen Taiko 7:00 PM Temple Board 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30 AM Samu 4:30 PM Yoga & Music 7:00 PM Sangha Sisters 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Zazen kai Food Prep 9:30 AM Youth Taiko
10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hanamatsuri 9:30 12:00 PM Bazaar Meeting 4:00 PM Yoga & Music 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Beginners T'ai Chi 9:00 AM Bare Bones Writers 5:00 PM Zen Taiko 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Dana 8:30 am 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:00 PM Orchid Club 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM T'ai Chi 5:00 PM Zen Taiko 7:00 PM Evening Zazen 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30 AM Samu 4:30 PM Yoga & Music 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM UHSSWA Conference 9:30 AM Youth Taiko
17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:15 AM UHSSWA Conference 4:00 PM Yoga & Music 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 7:00 PM Bon Dance Class 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Beginners T'ai Chi 5:00 PM Zen Taiko 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kannon-ko 10 am 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM T'ai Chi 5:00 PM Zen Taiko 7:00 PM Buddhist Movie 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30 AM Samu 4:30 PM Yoga & Music 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intro to Zazen Class 9:30 AM Youth Taiko
24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:45 AM Baikako 9:30 AM Family Service 4:00 PM Yoga & Music 	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Beginners T'ai Chi 5:00 PM Zen Taiko 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 AM Zazen 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM T'ai Chi 5:00 PM Zen Taiko 7:00 PM Evening Zazen 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30 AM Samu 4:30 PM Yoga & Music 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Youth Taiko