Daifukuji Soto Mission

Where Compassion Blooms







79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealakekua, HI 96750

November, 2024

(808) 322-3524 www.daifukuji.org

See "archives" on our website for previous newsletters.



Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 24 10:00 a.m.

Speaker: Sharlene Hōju Gee

All are warmly invited to Daifukuji's Thanksgiving service. Let us gather the Sunday before Thanksgiving to express our gratitude to Buddha, Dharma and Sangha, the Three Jewels in which we take refuge. This service offers a time for reflection on all that supports our existence and brings meaning and happiness into our lives.

Continuing with this year's theme of honoring Keizan Zenji on the occasion of his 700th memorial anniversary, Daifukuji member Sharlene Hōju Gee will be giving a talk on this great teacher. Hōju is a member of the Daifukuji Zazenkai, Dharma study and samu groups, and Daifukuji Zen Taiko.

Like all of our major monthly services, the Thanksgiving service will be live-streamed via Daifukuji's YouTube channel and later uploaded to the channel. We invite you to become a subscriber. https://www.youtube.com/c/DaifukujiSotoZenHawaii

Please consider bringing some canned or packaged food for the Hawai'i Island Food Basket, and your own set of reusable tableware if you plan on staying for refreshments.

The Daifukuji Gift Shop will be open before and after the service. This is a good opportunity to do some holiday shopping.

Aloha from Reverend Jikō

Aloha Sangha members and friends,

The weekend of October 12 - 13 was a mixture of jubilant and sorrowful moments. On Saturday, October 12th, hundreds witnessed and celebrated the formal installation of Bishop Shuji Komagata as the 8th bishop of Hawaii Soto Mission. The following day, hundreds bid farewell to the late Bishop Shugen Komagata, the 7th bishop of Hawaii Soto Mission, at a funeral service held at the Soto Mission of



Congratulations to Bishop Shuji and Mrs. Jaymie Komagata!

Hawaii. What was comforting was to see a strong thread of continuity linking father and son, teacher and disciple, past and present. On behalf of the Daifukuji sangha, I extend a heartfelt congratulations to Bishop Shuji and Mrs. Jaymie Komagata and their family. May their Dharma work be happy and fulfilling. Bishop Shuji was a little boy in diapers when his father served as Daifukuji's minister in the 70's. Temple members, myself included, remember having babysat him and his older brother Daishu. To think that he is now the spiritual leader of our Hawai'i Soto Zen temples fills us with pride.

On a separate note, the holidays are just around the corner. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all a happy Thanksgiving and to express my endless gratitude for each one of you. Having a Sangha 'ohana is a priceless treasure. Thank you for your loving-kindness, compassion, and support of Daifukuji.

In this swirling, ever-changing and unpredictable world, let us drink deeply from the Buddha's well of wisdom and compassion and, all together, take refuge in the Three Treasures. Namu kie butsu. Namu kie hō. Namu kie sō.

In gasshō,

Jíkō Nakade

12th Resident Minister of Daifukuji Soto Mission

Zazenkai Breakfast Meeting

Wednesday, November 6 7:15 a.m.



Zazenkai members, you are invited to the Zazenkai's next vegetarian breakfast meeting which will be held on November 6th following 6:00 a.m. zazen. If possible, please bring something to share, as well as your own set of reusable tableware.

We will be evaluating the public Zen retreat, going over our plans for the Rohatsu Sesshin in December, and talking about January's joint Zen retreat which is going to be hosted by the Taishoji Soto Mission Zazenkai in Hilo. All who come to zazen are welcome to be part of the Zazenkai.



New Members

Our Daifukuji sangha warmly welcomes Elizabeth Fitterer as a new member.

The Daifukuji Fujinkai welcomes new member Warren Ikeda.

Our various temple groups are always happy to receive new members. For information about group activities, please visit https://www.daifukuji.org/activities.html. Information regarding temple membership may be found online at https://www.daifukuji.org/membership_brochure.pdf or by calling the temple office at (808) 322-3524. Our Sangha welcomes you.

Jam Making

by Ann Nakamoto



In preparation for the upcoming jam making project on Saturday November 30, 2024, we are looking for 7 cases of 8 oz. jars and 33 lbs of white sugar. Used 8 oz. jars are also welcome. Lids for these are not needed as new lids and covers will be purchased.

Please drop off cases of new jars or used jars and sugar at Daifukuji **by Saturday, November 23, 2024.** Your donations are very much appreciated! Call Ann at (808) 937-0149 or Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524 if you have any questions.

About 96 jars of our Tropical Jam and 12 jars of the Poha Jam will be on sale to members after the Jodo-E Bodhi Day service on December 15, 2024.

No Mochitsuki to Be Held

We regret that no *mochitsuki* (mochi making) will be held at year's end. The decision to discontinue this treasured tradition was a difficult one to make. We know that our sangha members have cherished memories of past *mochitsuki* events.

We are hoping that Daifukuji's *mochitsuki* will emerge again one day, perhaps in a new form, so that we may be able to revive and share this time-honored tradition with our Kona community.

In the meantime, Rev. Jikō's video on how to make mochi using a microwave oven can be found on the temple's YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=8X4l4FDMShI&list=PL1vCcj2ZDjWTlEm kBwLyVA4O92ppTPba6&index=4

Keizan Zenji stated, "Nurture thoughts of harmony and unity without fail." The disruption of harmony is always caused by human self-interest and desire, in other words, by greed. This greed is the source of suffering and the root of conflict and struggle. (from "A Message from the Head Priest of Sotoshu in 2024", Rev. Donin Minamisawa, <u>SOTOZEN.COM</u>)

Mahalo to the Businesses Which Donated to Our 2024 Online Auction

We wish to acknowledge and thank the following businesses for their generous donations:

Ted Daily Designs

Captain Cook Trading Co.

Kona Coffee & Tea

Bea's Knees Farm

Big Island Bees

Big Island Candies

Body Glove Cruises

Buddha's Cup Kona Coffee & Tea Farm

Costco

Kona Cloud Forest

Donkey Mill Art Center

Kona Stories Book Store

Designs by Kadooka

Kona Country Club

Kona Ken's Coffee

Kona Sea Salt Farms

Kuni Maru Farms

Massage with Aloha (Verna Chang)

Mrs. Barry's Kona Cookies

Bale Restaurant

Ocean Riders Seahorse Farm

Paleaku Gardens Peace Sanctuary

Paniolo BBQ Dinner at Kahua Ranch

Royal Kona Resort

Sundog Bread

Teshima's Restaurant



Ukulele Classes for Beginners

Raymond Baltero, the leader of the Daifukuji Happy Strummers ukulele group, will be offering a series of ukulele classes for beginners. The classes will start in January of next year and be held twice a month on Saturday afternoons.

If you are interested in signing up for Raymond's ukulele classes, please inform Rev. Jiko by calling (808) 322-3524 or by sending an email to rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.

Help Needed With Kitchen Mold Removal

Sunday, November 10 9:00 a.m.

Daifukuji's social hall kitchen is going to be spruced up in time for the new year!

Help is needed to scrub off the mold from the walls and cabinets. If you would like to join the work party on November 10, please inform Rev. Jikō.

Once the mold is removed, the kitchen will be painted by Dharma Keiki dad Gustavo Leite, a professional house painter who has generously offered to donate his time and labor to paint our hall kitchen. We are deeply grateful.



November Activities (More activities listed at https://www.daifukuji.org/activities.html)

Dharma Keiki - Two Sundays, November 3 and November 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. There is a ZOOM option for the first Sunday. A Dharma program for children of preschool age to grade 3 and their parents. Siblings welcome. By donation. Bring a healthy snack to share. Contact Rev. Jiko at rev.jiko@daifukuji.org for information. To register, please go to: https://forms.gle/Azubjv2fbmEHUJZk6.

Zazen (Meditation) - Zazen is offered in person and via Zoom every Wednesday and Friday from 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m. Wednesday zazen is followed by 20 minutes of chanting. Sunset meditation is held on Monday evenings from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Practitioners are asked to arrive 10-15 prior to the starting time. Contact Rev. Jiko at rev.jiko@daifukuji.org to receive the Zoom link for the morning zazen sessions.

Shakyo (Tracing the Sutras) & Shabutsu (tracing pictures of buddhas) - Saturday, November 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. All are welcome. By donation.

Sangha Sisters Women's Spirituality Circle - Meetings are held in person and via Zoom on the second Friday of the month at 4:30 p.m. Call Susie at (808) 936-5817 for information.

T'ai Chi - All classes are one hour and held inside the Hisashi Kimura Cultural Hall. \$5.00 per class. Call instructor Philip Kakuho Hema for schedule and other information: (808) 345-1492.

Soleful Strutters - T'ai Chi warm-up & walking on temple grounds at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. For information, please contact Hannah Israel at (408) 421-8845 or Reverend Jiko at (808) 322-3524.

Samu Fridays - Volunteers are needed for temple cleaning and grounds maintenance on Friday mornings from 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Coffee hour & fellowship follows. Bring a snack to share.

Yoga with Liz - No classes will be held during the month of November. Classes will resume December 2, 2024 and will be held on Mondays from 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. in the Hisashi Kimura Cultural Hall. No fee, but donations accepted. Bring a mat or towel. Call instructor Liz Aschenbrenner: (808) 345-1270 or liz217a@hotmail.com.

Pilgrimage Stamp Books Available in Gift Shop

The gift shop now carries the popular official pilgrimage books from Japan. They are called *goshuincho* and they are like "autograph books" for temples. The priest or office staff at each temple that is visited stamps a page in the book and adds some calligraphy. The pages are folded accordion-style and the books are quite charming. If you decide to purchase one, you can ask Rev. Jikō to start your collection with our temple's Hawaii Kannon stamp.



Library News

by Clear Houn Englebert

We have a richness of new arrivals:

Enku is an important early book by Kazuaki Tanahashi. Enku was a monk in the 1600's and this book has his biography as well as a collection of his sculpture which is simple, unique, and free.

Miniature Flower Arrangements and Plantings by Lois Wilson is a wonderful book for those who have home altars. It's rare to find a book on this subject.

Ornament of the Great Vehicle Sutras by Kenpo Shenga and Ju Mipham explains these six qualities/practices: great generosity, patience, energy, discipline, concentration, and wisdom, which are necessary for fully awakening.

The Dharma in DNA by Dee Denver is an examination in previously unexplored territory.

Opening to Oneness by Nancy Baker is subtitled A Practical & Philosophical Guide to the Zen Precepts.

Trying to be Human by Cheri Huber is a collection of her Zen talks edited by Sara Jenkins.

Radical Dharma by Angel Kyodo Williams is subtitled Talking Race, Love and Liberation.

Dear Maui is essays in Japanese by twelve writers on the theme of traveling around Maui, and there are some beautiful color photos. The book just came out earlier this year.

Three of our new books came directly from the Buddhist Publication Society in Sri Lanka:

The Fruits of Recluseship is a translation of the Sammannaphala Sutta and its commentaries by Bikkhu Bodhi. This book is immensely rich in content.

Opening the Door of Your Heart by Ajahn Brahm is subtitled And other Buddhist tales of Happiness.

Beginnings: Collected Essays of S. Bodhesako is especially important because of his long & brilliant essay "Change: An Examination of Impermanence in Experience".



Board Nominations for 2025 & 2026 Term

by Bobby Command, Nominations Committee

It's time once again to reach out to our sangha and ask if you are interested in becoming a member of the Board of Directors of the Daifukuji Soto Mission. As we are a significant-sized, tax-exempt organization, there are business decisions that must be made by an elected board of directors, which can be as large as 15 members. We currently have 11 board members but one has decided to move onto other things and so that leaves us with 10. While it sounds like a lot of work, being on the board certainly is not a heavy lift. The board meets on the first Thursday of every month for about an hour and a half by Zoom, and, occasionally, in person. Except for being at the New Year's Party, the only other duties are to be willing to chair an occasional committee, which adds a few more hours to this commitment. Daifukuji is an important part of our larger Kona sangha and your small commitment would ensure that we are around to serve our friends well into the future. **Any dues-paying temple member may nominate a dues-paying member, but their nomination must be received no later than two weeks prior to the general membership meeting on January 26, 2025.** If you would like more information about this fulfilling opportunity, please feel free to call Bobby Command at (808) 895-2416.



Generosity by Michael Keller

I have been re-reading a book of Ajahn Chah's talks entitled *Food for the Heart*.(2002) Ajahn Chah (d. 1992), associated with the Thai Forest Tradition, was the teacher of the well-known Jack Kornfield.

In a talk involving, partly, helpful aids in meditation, Ajahn Chah stresses the importance of generosity. He advises "doing away with. . .greed, through giving."

This advice reminded me of talks I heard by Sufi teachers when I was a member of a Sufi order between 1970 and 1985. We were urged to give money away as a way of training ourselves in generosity. Especially, we were advised to look at how we felt when we parted with money.

I followed this advice. When driving, if I saw someone begging on a street corner, I would make a point of giving him or her money, sometimes having to make a U-turn to do so. When I began to do this, I could see the resistance or resentment I experienced as I gave the money away.

To see this resistance was the purpose of the giving exercise. In bonafide spiritual traditions, the goal of spiritual practice is to diminish the role of ego in our lives. In the Theravadan tradition, Ajahn Chah says, "We uproot views stemming from self-importance. We uproot the very essence of our sense of self." In the Mahayanist Zen tradition, Suzuki Roshi says that the goal of practice "means to die as a small being, moment after moment."

To read more essays by Michael Keller, visit his website https://www.zazenessays.com/.







Congratulations

September 14th was a joyful day at Daifukuji. Three Sangha members — Sarah Hathaway, and Rob and Linda Branch-Dasch — took part in a Soto Zen Buddhist Confirmation ceremony which was officiated by Rev. Jikō with the assistance of Deacon Amy Jikai. We extend our warmest congratulations to Sarah Chinen, Rob Jizen, and Linda Jiren.

Fujinkai Holiday Craft Making

Saturday, December 7 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Social Hall

Andrea Harai Shea will lead us in simple origami which we can use on cards or as ornaments. Teri Hollowell will help with wreaths made of candy canes. Susie Weaver will have Yule logs and Buddha succulent bowls. Bring scissors, glue guns, native plants such as A'ali'i, Moa, and succulent cuttings. At the end of our session you may bring your creations home. Any extra will be available for sale on a donation basis at the Bodhi Day service on December 15. If you're interested in attending this activity or have questions, please call Andrea at (916) 205-3534, Teri at (808) 756-1697, Susie at (808) 936-5817, or Rev. Jikō at (808) 322-3524. For information about joining the Fujinkai, a group which is open to all, please visit https://www.daifukuji.org/activities/Fujinkai_Brochure_2022.pdf or stop by the temple for a brochure and Fujinkai membership form. Dues are \$10 annually.

Coming Up in December...

Temple and Ground	ls Clean Up	December 1
Shakyo & Fujinkai	Holiday Craft Making	December 7
Rohatsu Sesshin		December 1-8
Project Dana		December 11
Bodhi Day Service	(Jodo-e) & Potluck Lui	nchDecember 15
Kannon-ko and Ofu	ıdayaki ceremony	December 18

Fire Safety Tips

CANDLES AND INCENSE

Make sure these items are secure and won't be knocked over. Keep them away from drapes and curtains. Never leave them unattended. Be careful if using them around oxygen tanks. Battery-operated candles are a good option.

Sangha Togetherness, Sangha Happiness

Daifukuji Fujinkai's Field Trip to Big Island Abalone at NELHA in Kailua-Kona and picnic at the Old Airport beach park on September 21, 2024.











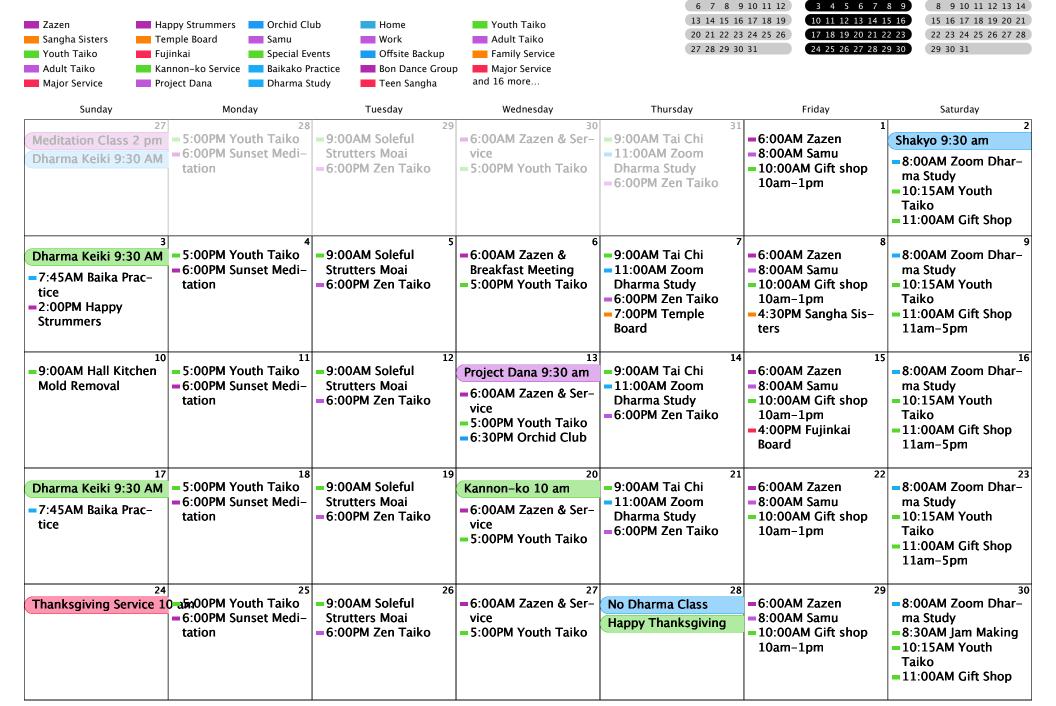
Zen Retreat on October 5





Project Dana Kupuna Program Celebrating birthdays and Halloween

November 2024



October 2024

SMTWTFS

1 2 3 4 5

November 2024

S M T W T F S

December 2024

SMTWTFS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7



Okagesama De

Okagesama de is a humble Japanese expression that means "thanks to you and your support." Okagesama de, Daifukuji Soto Mission is here, thanks to the support given by the ministers and members of the past, whose dedication, sacrifice, perseverance, and moral integrity are embedded in the very walls of our temple. Okagesama de, Daifukuji is here today, thanks to your support for which I bow deeply in gratitude.

In Gasshō, Rev. Jikō Nakade 12th Resident Minister

Daifukuji Soto Mission P.O. Box 55 Kealakekua, HI 96750 (808) 322-3524 daifukuji.org/endowment Tax exempt #99-6006625



We awaken to the truth that innumerable beings, visible as well as invisible, have contributed to the existence of our temple over the course of its more than 100 year history. Sustained by the entire universe—the earth, sea, sky, people, animals, plants, Buddhas, and Bodhisattvas—Daifukuji Soto Mission is here today.

Our hearts overflow with gratitude.

Contributing to the Daifukuji Soto Mission Legacy Endowment Fund will help ensure that our beautiful temple continues to serve our community for generations to come. Please make checks payable to: DAIFUKUJI SOTO MISSION LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND.

Daifukuji Soto Mission Legacy Endowment

Fund



Honor the Past Continue the Legacy Shape the Future

Honor the Past



Since 1914, Daifukuji Soto Mission has stood along Mamalahoa Highway at the gateway to mauka Kona on the island of Hawaii. Our temple holds tremendous significance as one of the oldest existing structures in the area and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Throughout its 100 plus year history, our temple has provided a safe, nurturing sanctuary for both religious and cultural events.

Today, our temple is home to many groups: Project Dana Kupuna Program, Fujinkai, Daifukuji Youth & Adult Taiko, Dharma Keiki, Dharma Study Group, Kona Daifukuji Orchid Club, Bon Dance Classes, Baikako Buddhist Choir, Zazenkai Meditation Group, Tai Chi, Yoga, Shakyo and Soleful Strutters Moai. The temple is also home to our annual Obon Festival, Bazaar, and Orchid Show. We have a library, gift shop, orchard, columbarium, and cemetery.

To ensure the realization of our mission and to remain a light in our community, we must take action now to protect the legacy left to us by our predecessors, and strengthen our temple's financial stability.

Continue the Legacy



An endowment fund is a permanent, selfsustaining source of funding. The endowment assets are invested and only the earnings on those investments may be used for specific purposes. The original donations are not used. In this way, an endowment fund can grow and provide support for its designated purpose in perpetuity.

The Daifukuji Soto Mission Legacy Endowment Fund Charter specifies that the sole purpose of the endowment's earnings are for the "preservation, maintenance and capital improvement of the temple and its surrounding buildings and grounds." Donations help us address these needs without depleting our reserve assets or putting undue strain on our general operating fund. Eventually, the endowment will allow us to expand our programs and services.

Our endowment fund is managed in strict accordance with the temple's Investment Policy Statement. The Legacy Endowment Fund Board of Trustees provide another level of oversight in adherence to the endowment's Investment Policy and Spending Policy.

Shape the Future



Donating to the Legacy Endowment Fund can be a benefit to the donor as well as to Daifukuji Soto Mission. Leaving a legacy gift helps ensure our beautiful temple is maintained to support the many programs and activities that benefit both members and the community well into the future.

The donor may benefit from tax advantages in addition to the satisfaction of helping sustain the rich legacy of the temple. Donations of any size are greatly appreciated and may include:

- Cash
- Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds
- Required Minimum Distributions from IRAs
- Other gifts on a case-by-case basis: Real Estate, Life Insurance, Annuities

Consult your tax professional, estate attorney, or financial advisor for guidance on any tax benefits of charitable giving before making a donation.

If you are interested in making a donation, please call the temple office at (808) 322-3524 or visit our website at: www.daifukuji.org/endowment