

Daifukuji Soto Mission

Where Compassion Blooms



79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealahakua, HI 96750

September, 2024

(808) 322-3524 www.daifukuji.org

See "archives" on our website for previous newsletters.



Our big fundraiser of the year, an online auction, is happening soon. We ask for your kōkua. Donations of items may be dropped off from August 17 - 23. Online bidding takes place from August 24 - August 30. We invite you to take a look at our auction site <https://www.32auctions.com/templemalama>. See page 3 for flyer. Please help by spreading the word!

All are cordially invited to Daifukuji's

**Autumn Equinox (Ohigan) and Soto Zen Founders (Ryosoki)
Service**

Sunday, September 15, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Japan Trip Presentation by members of Kona Daifukuji Taiko



Ohigan (お彼岸), a Buddhist holiday observed in Japan at the time of the spring and autumnal equinoxes, is considered the perfect time to strengthen one's practice of the Buddha's teachings of the Six Perfections of the Heart — the Six Paramitas — which are generosity, observation of the precepts, patience, vigor, meditation, and wisdom. It is also a time to pay homage to Dogen Zenji, the eminent founder of our Soto Zen tradition and Keizan Zenji, the eminent propagator of the Soto Zen teachings. Matthew Buskirk and Parker Felte, members of Kona Daifukuji Taiko, will be sharing a slideshow presentation of their group's recent Japan trip and taiko training.

Lunch will be prepared by members of the Daifukuji Soleful Strutters Moai. Please bring your own set of reusable tableware. The Gift Shop will be open.



On August 11th, Daifukuji and Taishoji Fujinkai members gathered for an afternoon of fellowship and fun.



Good friends Susie Weaver & Linda Matsushita

A Message from Reverend Jikō

Aloha Sangha members and friends,

Over 2,500 years ago, Ananda, the Buddha's disciple, asked the Enlightened One about friendship. He knew the importance of the Sangha and wondered if spiritual friendship was perhaps half the path. The Buddha replied, "No, Ananda, having good friends is not half of the Holy Life. Having good friends is the whole of the Holy Life."

The whole of the Holy Life indeed! Having good friends who value the Three Treasures and who lovingly support one another on the Path through the ups and downs of life is a treasure unlike any other. Such friendships shine like rare and precious gems on the bodhisattva path. We all know that friendships, even spiritual ones, can be challenging at times. In a Sangha, people come together from all walks of life and from various cultural backgrounds. People, being people, have different values, ideas, personalities, perspectives and ways of doing things. Thus, the sangha is a good training ground for practicing respect, patience, mindful speech, and loving-kindness. Fortunately, we have our sixteen bodhisattva precepts to light our way in navigating our relationships. Please join our sangha on September 14 at 2:00 p.m. to witness this year's precepts ceremony which will be officiated by Acting Bishop Shuji Komagata.

Speaking of friends on the Path, it was with great joy that the members of the Daifukuji Fujinkai welcomed Rev. Jigaku and Mr. Brent Takenouchi and members of the Taishoji Fujinkai to our temple for an afternoon of Sangha togetherness on August 11th. Friendships were formed and strengthened while members from both groups talked, ate, sang, danced, wrote poetry and laughed together. How truly grateful we are for our Good Friends on the Path!



In gasshō,

Jikō Nakade

12th Resident Minister of Daifukuji Soto Mission



Temple Mālama Online Auction

A BENEFIT FOR HISTORIC DAIFUKUJI SOTO MISSION

AUGUST 24 - 30, 2024

<https://www.32auctions.com/Templemalama>

Treasures galore!

Gift Cards
Gift Baskets
Collectibles
Local Specialities
Handcrafted Items
Art

Potted Plants
Vintage Items
Jewelry
Cultural Items
Tableware
and more!



Located in the town of Honalo, Daifukuji Soto Mission is a Soto Zen Buddhist temple that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and deemed a Kona Heritage Building by Pulama Ia Kona. We ask for your kōkua and invite you to support our fundraiser.

www.daifukuji.org

79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy

(808) 322-3524

We will be posting items on our 32 Auctions site as we receive them.
Wish to donate items? Questions? Please call or text Barb at (808) 987-2673.

The pick-up days for auction winnings will be on Sunday, September 1 and Monday, September 2 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. outside the temple's social hall. Like last year, items not included in the auction will be put on sale on pick-up days. All are welcome to come over to browse.

Monetary donations for this fundraiser are also gratefully accepted. Please make your check payable to **Daifukuji Soto Mission** and mail it to PO Box 55, Kealahou, HI 96750, or donate online through our website <http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index/html>. Include a note saying that your donation is for the auction. Thank you very much.



Acting Bishop Shuji Komagata to Officiate the 2024 Soto Zen Buddhist Confirmation Ceremony

Saturday, September 14, 2024 2:00 p.m. Daifukuji Soto Mission

On Saturday, September 14 at 2:00 p.m., we will be honored by the presence of Acting Bishop Shuji Komagata, who will be serving as the officiant at this year's Soto Zen Buddhist Confirmation Ceremony. Members of the Sangha are warmly invited to attend this ceremony.

Three Daifukuji members, who will have completed a three-month weekly study of the precepts under the guidance of Rev. Jikō, will be receiving the sixteen bodhisattva precepts, as well as their Buddhist names. They are: Robert and Linda Branch-Dasch and Dr. Sarah Hathaway.

Tea will be served after the ceremony.

Note: The installation ceremony for Bishop Shuji Komagata will be held at the Soto Mission of Hawaii in Honolulu on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. The funeral service for the late Bishop Shugen Komagata will be held on Sunday, October 13 with visitation at 10 a.m. and a service at 11 a.m. Both events are open to the public.

September 21st Fujinkai Field Trip: Headcount Needed



All Fujinkai Members:

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, September 21! We will be visiting the largest Abalone Aquaculture Farm in the U.S. at NELHA next to the Kona International Airport. This is a free event for all Daifukuji Fujinkai members. Guests of members are welcome — they will need to pay for the tour and for lunch. (approximately \$45.00 for each guest of a Fujinkai member). Your district Fujinkai representative will be calling this month to take your reservation. Or you can let Rev. Jiko (808-322-3524) or Teri Jigen Hollowell (808-756-1697) know you want to join the tour, no later than September 9, 2024. Please call Teri, our field trip coordinator, if you have any questions.

September 9 Last day for Fujinkai members and guests to sign up for tour

September 16 Head count and payment delivered to Abalone Farm

September 21	9:30am	Carpool from Daifukuji to the Abalone Farm (or meet at the farm if that's convenient for you)
	10:30am	Tour begins at the Abalone Farm
	11:45am	Tour ends
	12 noon	Lunch at the Abalone Farm
	1:30pm	Carpool back to Daifukuji

The Essence of Tradition

by Kai Ioh



Big Mahalo to all who came out to our Bon Dance on July 13th and to the incredible volunteers who made the event so memorable. The Daifukuji community worked together seamlessly, like a well-oiled machine, just as we did last year.

Bon Dance is not just about dancing and rituals, it's about fostering a sense of community. This year, we proudly supported our Youth Taiko Group in their journey to Japan, where they learned Taiko firsthand from the best professional groups, Kodo and Ondekoza. It's heartening to remember that it was at last year's Bon Dance when our Youth Taiko Group announced their Japan trip and called for support. Thanks to the unwavering support of the Daifukuji community, the kids left Kona the day after this year's Bon Dance and returned from a successful trip. From the food booths at the Bon Dance to the fundraiser concert, silent auction, numerous performances, and generous donations, every effort contributed to the funds needed for the trip. This collective support is a testament to the strength and unity of our community.

Our Bon Dance encapsulates our community spirit. The preparation, songs, dances, cleanup process, and even the tradition of sharing *somen* after the dance have been passed down through generations without manuals. It's a sacred and natural tradition that we all cherish. As one of the parents, I deeply value the essence of community and intergenerational interaction. Both of my daughters, Makana and Momo, will never become professional Taiko players, but they vividly remember the many warm interactions at the temple members like Auntie Joyce, Uncle Stephen, and many others. They have learned important human qualities like kindness, diligence, perseverance, and respect.

Having lived in Japan, I never experienced Bon Dance in the same way. The sense of community has faded in many parts of busy Japan, but the Bon Dance in Kona remains unique. It's a rare and important event where young and old work together, valuing and respecting one another. We look forward to continuing this cherished tradition and fostering the strong bonds that make our community so special.

Mahalo for being part of this journey and for your continued support. A special mahalo to my co-chair Barb Shoshin. Let's keep the spirit of Bon Dance alive for generations to come!

Warmest regards,

Kai Ioh

Bon Dance Co-Chair

Zazenkai Retreat Planning Breakfast Meeting

Wednesday, September 4 7:00 a.m.

Zazenkai members, we are offering a one-day Zen retreat to the general public on October 5, 2024 and request your help putting it on. We will be meeting after our regular Wednesday morning zazen on Wednesday, September 4 and invite you to bring a vegetarian breakfast item for our potluck meeting, as well as your own set of reusable tableware.

A Day of Silence
Saturday, Oct. 5, from 9 to 3

Zen retreat



Daifukuji Zen Temple

All are welcome. www.daifukuji.org
79-7241 Mamalahoa Highway
(in Honalo next to Teshima's.)
A donation of \$15 is suggested.
Arrival & check-in at 8:30.
Wear loose, comfortable clothes in
subdued colors that cover your legs
and shoulders, and avoid fragrances.
Consider bringing a vegetarian dish
to share at lunch.

Pre-register:



(808)322-3524 or
info@daifukuji.org

Zen Retreat

If possible, please register using the QR code in the flyer. You may also register by calling (808) 322-3524 or sending an email to info@daifukuji.org.

This retreat is open to the general public.

Retreat Schedule

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 8:30 a.m. | Arrive and check in |
| 9:00 a.m. | Opening circle |
| 9:10 a.m. | Basic Instructions |
| 9:30 a.m. | Zazen (seated meditation) |
| 9:55 a.m. | Kinhin (walking meditation) |
| 10:05 a.m. | Zazen |
| 10:30 a.m. | Restroom/Water break |
| 10:35 a.m. | Go to Social Hall |
| 10:40 a.m. | Shakyo & Shabutsu (Art meditation) |
| 11:30 a.m. | Lunch in silence |
| 12:30 p.m. | Chair yoga inside temple |
| 12:50 p.m. | Dharma sharing by Zazenkai members |
| | Restroom/Water break |
| 1:30 p.m. | Zazen |
| 1:55 p.m. | Kinhin |
| 2:05 p.m. | Zazen |
| 2:30 p.m. | Closing circle, Group Photo,
Tea and Fellowship, Gift Shop open. |
| 3:00 p.m. | Clean up by Daifukuji Zazenkai members |

Meditation cushions (zafu) and chairs will be provided.
Please let us know if you have any special needs.

A Home With No Strangers

by Jordon Soujin Phillips

Community is a precious rarity in our world these days. It may not often seem so. We certainly see pictures and videos of people together on various shows and platforms. Some of us even join them with media of our own that showcases the blessings and abundance of our own myriad relationships. But I often wonder if that is all that community is. Is community something that can boil down to appearance? Or is it something deeper? More authentic?

Authentic community, for me, has always been rare and I have watched it become more fleeting around me as I have gotten older.

The technology we use, the environment we share, the society we steward, all of which has made me feel alone, estranged, and severed from a larger whole. I know I am not alone in this. What are we to do with the isolation so many of us feel and the fragmentation so many of us see?

Given the gravity of things like the uses of social media, the consequences of climate change, the rises in political tensions, it might seem like the Bon Festival at Daifukuji is small or irrelevant in comparison but not so.

The Bon Festival was unlike anything I had ever experienced. For most of the event, I stood in the far back of the car hold, sheltered behind a foldable plastic table, selling tiny books and paper fans. Yet even there, the event touched me. Thunderous taiko drums and the laughter of families resounded through space. The smell of food carried in the air and the taste of shaved ice was perfect under the sun. My senses were alive with an energy that felt almost tangible. But it was not simply the sights and sounds that made the Bon Festival stand out. The authenticity of the community was indisputable.

The whole of the temple grounds became a home with no strangers - even though I knew only a handful of names. Guests who wanted

to purchase something looked at me like we were old friends and I felt myself meet them in kind. Among coworkers I had met only once before, we now shared our aspirations and convictions like longtime comrades. But most striking of all was the dance. I cannot recall another time in my entire life that I had seen teens and elders, high schoolers and retirees, dance together with such authentic joy and natural harmony. The lines between generations, ones that can feel so insurmountable now, had been thoroughly banished. I was taught the steps to what was later humorously described to me as the "Okinawan Electric Slide" by a thoughtful stranger. I was astonished by the grace they demonstrated that age seemed powerless to diminish. Among the dancers there truly were no young or old. This was amazing to me. Revelatory, even. In the vivid authenticity of the community that had gathered, I had learned something of great importance.

Continued on page 7



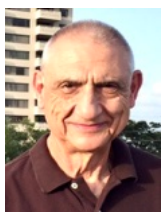
Continued from page 6



Jordon
Soujin

Many of us offer up three vows. We vow to take refuge in Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. Yet there are many times, many places, in the world today where it is not easy to find Sangha, let alone take refuge. Community is indeed a rarity in the world. But the Bon Festival at Daifukuji found it in no short supply. Quite the opposite, I had never felt such a powerful presence of Sangha before. It served as a necessary salve to the injuries left by the divisiveness found beyond. That day the gathered people of Daifukuji collectively became my teacher. The lesson I took is that our Sangha, our community, is not just about who a person is or what they're like. It is about how you meet them. I am deeply grateful to the Bon Dance and all who attended. It is by their courage and compassion that I can go forth to meet the world a little less with the scrutinizing eyes of what makes us different and a little more with the open invitation to dance together.

Jordon Soujin serves our temple as a gift shop volunteer on Saturday afternoons. Our warmest mahalo to Soujin!



Island of Peace

by Michael Keller

I've been rereading Thich Nhat Hahn's *The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching* (New York, 1998). He advises us to "practice mindful breathing and return to your island of self" (p. 163). Let's call this the "island of peace."

Imagine yourself to be in a little boat on a choppy sea. You go up and down with the waves, alternating between elation and disappointment. You worry about capsizing. Eventually you spot an island, you row towards it, and soon you land where there is mild air, stability, and nothing to worry about. You have reached the island of peace.

As Thich Nhat Hahn says, you get to the island of peace through mindful breathing. He says that "mindfulness is remembering to come back to the present moment." (p. 64). Zazen is the practice of coming back to the present moment. The practitioner puts thinking and conceptualization aside, when they occur, and returns to exactly what he or she perceives in the present, which is his breathing. That puts him on the island of peace.

For a zazen practitioner, it is easy to reach the island of peace outside of meditation. Whatever he is doing – taking a walk, washing the dishes, trimming the grass – he can put thinking aside and just attend to what he is doing or take in whatever his senses receive. The island will emerge and he will be at peace.

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

September Activities (More activities listed at <https://www.daifukuji.org/activities.html>)

Dharma Keiki - Two Sundays, September 1 and September 22 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.

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 zazen sessions.

Shakyo (Tracing the Sutras) & Shabutsu (tracing pictures of buddhas) - Saturday, September 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. All are welcome. By donation.

Daifukuji Gay Sangha - 1st Friday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Meditation and discussion. All welcome. For information, call Clear Houn at (808) 328-0329.

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 — Every Monday 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. Note: No class will be held on September 9.



Living By Vow: A New Dharma Series to be Offered Via Zoom

Group 1: Thursdays from 11 a.m. to Noon HST — Starting September 26

~~Group 2: Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. HST — Starting September 28 (FILLED)~~

*Space is available in the Thursday classes.
The Saturday classes have been filled.*

Rev. Jiko will be starting a new series of Zoom Dharma classes using the book *Living By Vow: A Practical Introduction to Eight Essential Zen Chants and Texts* by Rev. Shohaku Okumura, a Soto Zen scholar-priest who founded the Sanshin Zen Community in Bloomington, Indiana and the author of several books on Soto Zen teachings and philosophy.

“This immensely useful book explores Zen’s rich tradition of chanted liturgy and the powerful ways that such chants support meditation, expressing and helping us truly uphold our heartfelt vows to live a life of freedom and compassion.” (Publisher’s quote)

Class participants may purchase a copy of this book at the discounted price of \$10 through the Daifukuji Gift Shop, where the book is currently available for purchase. (Please let the gift shop clerk know that you have signed up for this class.) Unfortunately, the gift shop is unable to handle mail orders. The book is readily available online.

To register for the Saturday classes or ask questions about the series, please contact Rev. Jiko at rev.jiko@daifukuji.org or call (808) 322-3524.

These classes will be offered free of charge. If one wishes, one may make a donation to Daifukuji Soto Mission.

September 2024

- Zazen

Sangha Sisters

Youth Taiko

Adult Taiko

Major Service
- Happy Strummers

Temple Board

Fujinkai

Kannon-ko Service

Project Dana
- Orchid Club

Samu

Special Events

Baikako Practice

Dharma Study
- Home

Work

Offsite Backup

Bon Dance Group

Teen Sangha
- Youth Taiko

Adult Taiko

Family Service

Major Service and 16 more...

August 2024							September 2024							October 2024							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30							27	28	29	30	31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Dharma Keiki 9:30 AM Auction Items Pick Up 10-11 7:45AM Baika Practice 2:00PM Happy Strummers	2 Auction Items Pick Up 10-11 8:30AM Yoga with Liz 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	3 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai 6:00PM Zen Taiko	4 6:00AM Zazen & Breakfast Meeting 5:00PM Youth Taiko	5 9:00AM Tai Chi 6:00PM Zen Taiko 7:00PM Temple Board	6 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm 4:00PM Fujinkai 5:30PM Gay Sangha	7 9:30AM Shakyo 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-5pm
8	9 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	10 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai 6:00PM Zen Taiko	11 Project Dana 9:30 am 6:00AM Zazen & Service 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:30PM Orchid Club	12 9:00AM Tai Chi 6:00PM Zen Taiko	13 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm 2:00PM Precepts 4:30PM Sangha Sis-	14 Precepts Ceremony 2 pm 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-5pm
15 Lunch to follow Ohigan Service 10 am	16 8:30AM Yoga with Liz 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	17 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai 6:00PM Zen Taiko	18 Kannon-ko 10 am 6:00AM Zazen & Service 5:00PM Youth Taiko	19 9:00AM Tai Chi 6:00PM Zen Taiko	20 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm	21 Fujinkai Field Trip 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-5pm
22 Dharma Keiki 9:30 AM	23 8:30AM Yoga with Liz 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	24 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai 6:00PM Zen Taiko	25 6:00AM Zazen & Service 5:00PM Youth Taiko	26 9:00AM Tai Chi 11:00AM Zoom Dharma Study 6:00PM Zen Taiko	27 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm	28 8:00AM Zoom Dharma Study 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-5pm
29	30 8:30AM Yoga with Liz 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	1 7:45AM Baika Practice 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai 6:00PM Zen Taiko	2 6:00AM Zazen & Service 5:00PM Youth Taiko	3 9:00AM Tai Chi 11:00AM Zoom Dharma Study 6:00PM Zen Taiko	4 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm 5:30PM Gay Sangha	5 Zen Retreat 9-3 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-5pm