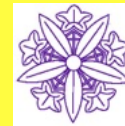


Daifukuji Soto Mission

Together With All Beings

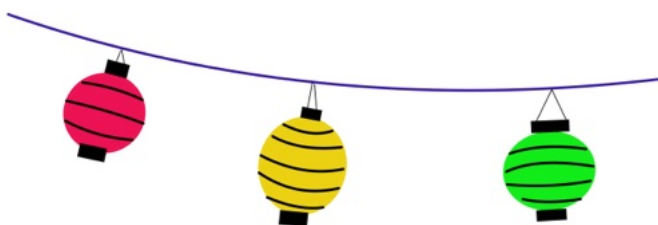


79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealahou, HI 96750

July, 2025

(808) 322-3524 www.daifukuji.org

See "archives" on our website for previous newsletters.



Daifukuji Soto Mission Bon Dance

Honoring Ancestors & Celebrating Community



**Saturday, July 12, 2025
3:00 PM - 6:30 PM**

Free Admission



Join us for our Obon festivities! Enjoy Bon dancing, taiko drumming, Zumba, and warm fellowship. The temple gift shop will be open, and the Kona Daifukuji Taiko group will be selling snacks and drinks.



Free Bon Dance practice sessions will be led by sensei Winnie Kimura. No experience needed—everyone is welcome!

Practice sessions will be held from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the temple's social hall:

Tuesdays in June: June 3, 10, 17, 24

Tuesdays and Thursdays in July: July 1, 3, 8, and 10

79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy next to Teshima's Restaurant in Honalo

www.daifukuji.org

(808) 322-3524

Help Is Appreciated

Bon Dance Set Up
Saturday, July 12 at 8:00 a.m.

Bon Dance Clean Up
Sunday, July 13 at 9:00 a.m.

Parking

If you will be arriving before the Bon Dance begins AND staying until the end, please park in back of the temple along the road leading to the cemetery. Others may park in the front yard. There will be several designated spaces for the handicapped. Space is limited so it's best to come early.



Obon: Why We Dance

by Rev. Jikō Nakade

Admittedly, Bon dancing is a fun way to get some exercise and enjoy the summer festivals, but these are not the only reasons we dance. We also dance to say “mahalo” to our deceased loved ones and family ancestors. Each step we take is an expression of gratitude, enhanced by the collective energy of joy and gratitude generated by the circle of dancers and taiko drummers. Not to spook you, but a few folks have told me that they’ve “seen” the spirits of the deceased dancing joyfully among the living and sitting on the benches watching everyone dance. One *kupuna* even told me that the spirits all line up on the temple roof to watch the Bon dance! “They come home,” she said, with a nod of certainty. Indeed, many temple members regard Daifukuji as their spiritual home, so it makes me happy to think that when the ancestors return for Obon, they make a stop at Daifukuji to enjoy the Obon festivities together with all of us.

And if this isn’t enough food for thought, what’s even more profound is that we can dedicate the merit of our dancing to feeding the hungry ghosts. “Hungry ghosts?” you might nervously ask. The hungry ghosts, known as *preta* in Sanskrit, are a class of beings described in Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain texts that suffer in the afterlife as a result of their insatiable desires, hungers, and thirst. In other words, these are beings who are never satisfied and always desire more. In Buddhism, the realm of the *preta* is one of the six realms of cyclic existence; understandably, it is a realm of suffering. Imagine always being consumed by greed. But, hungry ghosts do not only dwell in the afterlife. We encounter them in our daily lives, and even find them in ourselves when we become afflicted by greed. Without the peaceful state of mind that comes through satisfaction and gratitude, there is suffering. In fact, a major part of our Obon service is dedicated to freeing the hungry ghosts from their suffering and wishing for them the joy of liberation, also known as enlightenment. We offer them the spiritual nectar of the Buddha’s teachings. In the spirit of the bodhisattva who never rests until all beings are freed from suffering, we offer the food of the Dharma to beings everywhere. May all beings attain enlightenment together. May all be free from suffering.

A Buddhist sutra tells us that one of the Buddha’s closest disciples, Moggallāna, who was foremost in psychic powers, asked the Buddha for advice when he was dismayed to *see* his deceased mother suffering in the realm of the hungry ghosts. The Buddha advised him to prepare and offer food to the monks on the 15th day of the seventh lunar month at the end of the monsoon season. With help, he was able to do this and his mother was liberated. Thus, Obon is a time when we remember our departed loved ones and family ancestors. We thank them, feed them Dharma food, dance for them, and wish for them the joy and peace that comes with spiritual liberation.

So, whether you’re dancing the *Tanko Bushi* or *Pokemon Ondo*, don’t forget to say “mahalo” to your departed loved ones and “arigatō” to your ancestors. In our homegrown Bon dance “Smile,” there is a place where we stop and give everyone a “shaka!” Obon is truly a time of joy, gratitude, and remembrance. *Namu kie butsu. Namu kie hō. Namu kie sō. Namu Shakamuni Butsu.*

In gasshō,

Jikō Nakade



In Loving Memory

Mr. Teruo Hanato passed away on May 10, 2025 at the age of 89. To his family, we express our deepest sympathy.

Mrs. Joy Kawakami passed away on May 20, 2025 at the age of 73. To her family, we extend our sincere condolences.

Mr. Masanobu Oga passed away on June 3, 2025 at the age of 98. We surround his family with our love.

Namu Kanzeon Bosatsu



New Members

With joy and gratitude, we welcome the following new members:

Mr. Dennis Doyle

Ms. Rebecca Shipper

New members are always welcome. For information, please stop by the temple to pick up a brochure or visit our website:

[https://
www.daifukuji.org/membership_brochure.
pdf](https://www.daifukuji.org/membership_brochure.pdf)



Gift Shop News

by Clear Hōun Englebert

Recently one of Kannon's many arms came and visited the temple. That's exactly what it felt like when the publisher of the nicest religious calendars that I've ever seen dropped by to see Rev. Jiko and myself. I've been selling calendars for over 60 years and I've never seen religious calendars made to this standard. Not only are they classy and respectfully produced, they are also available in Soto and Rinzaï Zen editions! She left us a copy and you can come to the shop and see it for yourself. And you may reserve a copy for when they arrive. In the photos you can see scroll shape and size of the calendars. You can also see that the calligraphy artwork is meant to be peeled off at the top and put on display. Some of the Zen calendars are translated into English and some are not—yet. We expect to get the untranslated calendars translated.

Gift shop hours are Fridays from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Saturdays from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., and during our major monthly services and special events.



龍門寺大衆禪道場長老
河野太通 老師

Kōno Taitō Rōshi
Master of Ryōmon-ji Taishū Zendōjō
(Hyōgo Prefecture)

Yume Masa ni kaku no gotoki
no kan o nasu beshi
Like a dream: view all things in this
way.





Phil & Andrea

Cyber Security Presentation: Protect Your Data by Phil and Andrea Shea

**Sunday, July 20 10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Daifukuji Social Hall**

All are welcome.

This presentation offers guidance for safeguarding your digital life. It highlights common online scams and how personal information can be exploited, providing key "red flags" to identify deceptive tactics. The presentation also covers practical security measures you can take on your computer and phone to keep yourself safe. We'll also talk about some tools you can use. Finally we'll give you some actions to take in case you do become a victim, and we'll conclude with the importance of vigilance and continuous learning in an ever-evolving digital landscape.

This is a very important topic. Feel free to invite family members and friends.



Dharma Reflections

by Rob Jizen

Jizen is a Daifukuji member who lives in Portland, Oregon.

When I was a kid I loved motorcycles. When I saw one parked I'd study it inch by inch. Later I learned about motorcycles in books, and at one point even collected motorcycle trading cards. I was only ten years old, but I was sure I was the world's leading expert on motorcycles. So I was stoked when a friend's brother bought a dirt bike. You can imagine what happened next: as soon as the brother was out of the house, my friend and I jumped on the bike and raced it through the woods near our house. I discovered right away that the studying, the reading, and the trading cards hadn't taught me how to drive. That was my first lesson in the difference between intellectual knowledge and practical experience. In the Buddha's day, this would be something like knowing what an ox is, but not knowing how to drive an ox cart. The opposite is also true; maybe some people drive motorcycles or ox carts without knowing anything at all about pistons or hooves. Book knowledge and lived experience both have value, and both can be true even when they contradict each other. It sounds like this was Nagarjuna's insight. If everything we can perceive is just a collection of *skandhas*, then there really isn't truth or falsehood - those are just dualistic misconceptions created by our egos. We can understand that intellectually, but in practice, to live our day to day lives we need to make those distinctions. When we learn about the middle path it's easy to think of it as a straight line, but when we walk the middle path we discover that it rises and falls and curves left and right.

July Activities

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



Dharma Keiki - We are on summer break during the month of July. Please join us on **Sunday, August 3** from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. There is a ZOOM option for the first Sunday of the month. Dharma Keiki is a program for children of preschool age to grade 3 and their parents. Siblings are 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 minutes prior to the starting time. Contact Rev. Jiko at rev.jiko@daifukuji.org to receive the Zoom link for the morning zazen sessions. <https://www.daifukuji.org/zazen.html>

Art Meditation: Shakyo (tracing the sutras) & Shabutsu (tracing pictures of buddhas) - Saturday, July 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Art supplies are provided. All are welcome. By donation. Call (808) 322-3524 for information.

Sangha Sisters Women's Spirituality Circle - Meetings are held in person on the second Friday of the month at 5:00 p.m. Call Susie at (808) 936-5817 for information.

Qigong - Thursday classes are one hour and held inside the Hisashi Kimura Cultural Hall. \$5.00 per class. Call or text instructor Philip Kakuho Hema for schedule and other information: (808) 345-1492.

Soleful Strutters - Qigong-T'ai Chi warm-up & walking on temple grounds at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. A good way to get some exercise and make new friends. For information, please contact Hannah Israel at (408) 421-8845 or Reverend Jiko at (808) 322-3524.

Samu Fridays - We welcome volunteers for temple cleaning and grounds maintenance on Friday mornings from 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Coffee hour & fellowship follows. We bring snacks to share.

Yoga with Liz - One-hour classes are 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.



2025 Precepts Study with Rev. Jikō to Begin August 2

A series of weekly online Zoom classes from August 2 - November 15, 2025*

Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. HST via ZOOM

Registration is open for a series of Zoom Dharma classes on the 16 Bodhisattva precepts, which Reverend Jikō offers once a year.

These precepts form the moral and ethical foundation of the Soto Zen tradition. They are not commandments. Rather, they can be regarded as trainings in mindfulness and mindful living. This course is meant to be a period of study and reflection on one's own life. Sharing is done in an atmosphere that is gentle and compassionate. Many have found their lives illuminated and enriched by this inner journey taken in the context of a supportive and non-judgmental sangha. All are welcome to join these sessions, including those who have previously studied the precepts and received their Buddhist names.

No textbook will be used. Rev. Jikō will provide the reading materials.

This study of the precepts will culminate in a Soto Zen Buddhist Confirmation Ceremony which will be held on November 22, 2025 at Daifukuji Soto Mission. Participation in this ceremony is optional.



Rev. Jikō offers the Dharma freely. There is no class fee. If one wishes to do so, one may make a donation to Daifukuji Soto Mission.

Registration closes on July 31, 2025.

For more information or to register for these classes, please contact Rev. Jikō at (808) 322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.

*Please note that no classes will be held on August 23, October 11, October 25, and November 8.

Rev. Jikō is considering offering Dharma classes on other topics in the late fall or early winter of this year. Announcements will appear in the Daifukuji newsletter.

Fujinkai Corner

by Susie Seien Weaver, Fujinkai President

- The July field trip to the dahlia farm in Naalehu has been cancelled.
- August 23 is the fellowship day with the Taishoji Fujinkai in Hilo. It starts at 11 a.m. We will leave the temple at 9:00 a.m. Team leaders will be contacting you for a head count and your transportation needs.
- September 14 is the Fujinkai's annual general membership meeting. We will package the dolls we recently made. The Fujinkai is responsible for the lunch preparation.
- On April 18 & 19, 2026, the Daifukuji Fujinkai will be hosting the UHSSWA conference at Daifukuji and the Royal Kona Resort. We are sewing the conference bags and are looking for donations of 100% cotton or cotton blend fabric. Everyone is welcome to help with various conference committees. More information will be provided as we proceed.



Call or email Susie for more information (808) 936-5817, susieweaver2000@yahoo.com. Wish to become a Fujinkai member? There's information on our website: https://www.daifukuji.org/activities/Fujinkai_Brochure_2025.pdf. https://www.daifukuji.org/activities/Fujinkai_Membership_Form.pdf

Mahalo to our Project Dana group for folding the Bon dance towels!



Our kupuna thank Sherry and Owen Yamaguchi for donating the supplies for a fun pen-and-notebook craft activity.





Putting Self Aside

by Michael Keller

In *Cutting Through Spiritual Materialism* (2002), Chogyam Trungpa says that on a true spiritual path, “We must . . . give something up in a very painful way. We must begin to dismantle the basic structure of the ego we have managed to create.” He continues about the pain of this dismantling, “It will be terrible, excruciating, but that is the way it is.” (p. 81)

Trungpa’s words remind me of my experience when I joined my first spiritual group about 40 years ago. The group was a branch of a traditional, Muslim Sufi order in California. The order’s home was Istanbul. The leader of the group, a Sheikh, and advanced members of the group, were intent on exposing a new member’s ego to him or her. For me, this exposure, even if Trungpa’s “excruciating” may be too strong for it, led to many uncomfortable junctures.

For instance, if I approached the Sheikh with some profound religious insight, he would turn away completely unconcerned. The advanced members might do the same if I tried to impress them. In time, I got used to putting my sense of specialness aside and just functioning as an everyday joe.

In Sufism, putting one’s “I” aside made room for the love of God to enter the heart. I think that heart-opening may have happened with me to some degree. Certainly I eventually felt freer, lighter, happier.

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

K o n a
Hongwanji
Taiko and
K o n a
Daifukuji
Taiko at the
2025 Obon
Fest




10th U.S. Soto Conference

Hosted by the Hawaii Soto Mission Association
October 23-26, 2025
 Soto Mission of Hawaii
 1708 Nuuanu Ave.
 Honolulu, HI 96817



VISIT THIS LINK FOR MORE INFORMATION
SIGN UP TODAY!

Join the US Soto Conference, connecting Soto Zen Buddhist communities across Hawaii and the mainland US. Engage in diverse classes and activities, network with fellow practitioners, and explore a wide range of topics. There's sure to be something for everyone.

Classes and Presentations

- Introduction to Zazen
- Shishobo: The Four Wisdoms
- The Many Faces of Kannon
- New Buddhist Music
- Sutra Writing Workshop
- The Roots and Varieties of Buddhist
- Manga and Anime
- A Record of Persistence and Assimilation:
- Japanese Buddhist Temples in Hawaii
- Soto-Shu Music in Hawaii
- Dharma Keiki: A Buddhist Program for Children
- Project Dana: A Program for our Kupuna (Elders)
- More to come...

Activities

- Zen Cooking
- Baika
- Zazen
- Calligraphy
- Art Project Workshop
- Juzu Making Workshop
- Shakyo: Tracing the Sutras
- Let Making Workshop
- Taiko Workshop
- Bon Dance Workshop
- More to come...

Additional Activities

- Marketplace
- Social Mixer
- Banquet Dinner
- Tour Oahu's Four Soto Zen Temples
- Luna Dinner Show
- More to come...

Coming Up in August...

- Shakyō Session.....August 2
- Dharma Keiki.....August 3 & 24
- Jizo Bodhisattva Service.....August 10
- Project Dana.....August 13
- Orchid Show - Kona Daifukuji Orchid Club.....August 17
- Kannonko service.....August 20

Conference website: <https://sites.google.com/taishoji.org/10th-ussotoconference/home>. The registration fee increases on July 1st.

July 2025

June 2025							July 2025							August 2025						
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	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30						29	30	31					29	30	31				

- Sangha Sisters
- Youth Taiko
- Adult Taiko
- Major Service
- Dharma Keiki
- Temple Board
- Fujinkai
- Kannon-ko Service
- Project Dana
- Zazen
- Special Events
- Baikako Practice
- Dharma Study
- Happy Strummers
- Work
- Offsite Backup
- Bon Dance Group
- Teen Sangha
- Orchid Club
- Family Service
- Major Service
- Home and 17 more...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Obon Service 10 am Gift Shop 9 am-12 noon	30 8:30AM Yoga with Liz 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	1 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai 6:00PM Zen Taiko 7:00PM Bon Dance Class	2 6:00AM Zazen & Service 5:00PM Youth Taiko	3 9:00AM Qigong 6:00PM Zen Taiko 7:00PM Bon Dance Class 7:00PM Daifukuji Board	4 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm	5 Shakyo 9:30 AM 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm
6 2:00PM Happy Strummers	7 8:30AM Yoga with Liz 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	8 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai 6:00PM Zen Taiko 7:00PM Bon Dance Class	9 Project Dana 9:30 am 6:00AM Zazen & Service 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:30PM Orchid Club	10 9:00AM Qigong 6:00PM Zen Taiko 7:00PM Bon Dance Class	11 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm 5:00PM Sangha Sisters	12 BON DANCE 3 p.m. Dance ends at 6:30 pm Set Up 8 a.m.
13 9:00AM Bon Dance Clean Up	14 8:30AM Yoga with Liz 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	15 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai 6:00PM Zen Taiko	16 Kannon-ko 10 am 6:00AM Zazen & Service 5:00PM Youth Taiko	17 9:00AM Qigong 6:00PM Zen Taiko	18 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm	19 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm
20 Cyber Security Presentation 10 am 7:45AM Baika Practice 2:00PM Fujinkai Shiori Workshop	21 8:30AM Yoga with Liz 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	22 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai 6:00PM Zen Taiko	23 6:00AM Zazen & Service 5:00PM Youth Taiko	24 9:00AM Qigong 6:00PM Zen Taiko	25 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm	26 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm
27 10:00AM Taishoji Obon Service	28 8:30AM Yoga with Liz 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	29 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai 6:00PM Zen Taiko	30 6:00AM Zazen & Meeting 5:00PM Youth Taiko	31 9:00AM Qigong 6:00PM Zen Taiko	1 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm	2 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm