



79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealahou, HI 96750

October, 2025

(808) 322-3524 www.daifukuji.org

See "archives" on our website for previous newsletters.



Bodhidharma Service (Daruma-ki) **Sunday, October 12, 2025 10:00 a.m.** **"My Baika Journey" by Teri Jigen Hollowell** **All are welcome.**

All are invited to join our Sangha in observing Daruma-ki in remembrance of Bodhidharma, the 28th patriarch in our lineage. Also known as Bodai Daruma Daishi, this 6th-century Indian Buddhist monk transmitted Zen from India to China. We honor him on the day of his memorial.



Teri Jigen

A Dharma talk on "My Baika Journey" will be given by Teri Jigen Hollowell. Jigen serves as the corresponding secretary on the Daifukuji Board and as the recording secretary on the Fujinkai Board. She is also a member of the Zazenkai, Baikako, Samu and Dharma study groups.

All are invited to stay for lunch which will be prepared by the Sangha Sisters group. To help minimize landfill waste, we request that you bring your own reusable plate, utensils, and mug or cup.

Donations of canned and packaged food may be brought to the temple for the Hawaii Island Food Basket. The Gift Shop will be open. Beautiful 2026 calendars have arrived.

Mahalo for supporting our online auction fundraiser!

www.32auctions.com/templemakana

Bidding will end on September 25 at 8 p.m. HST.

All are invited to come to our tent sale on 9/27 & 9/28. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Many items at very reduced prices!

Daifukuji's Bodhi Tree: The Story Begins to Unfold

by Rev. Jikō Nakade



My story begins with a tree, a tree that's been standing very close to the north end of Daifukuji Soto Mission for many decades. I am referring to Daifukuji's Bodhi tree. Are you familiar with Bodhi trees? The historical Buddha Shakyamuni attained a great awakening under a Bodhi tree in what is now Bodhgaya, India over 2,500 years ago. Thus this tree, *Ficus religiosa*, is called the Tree of Enlightenment.

Since becoming the minister of Daifukuji twenty-one years ago, I have often wondered who planted the Bodhi tree at Daifukuji and when it may have been planted. The tree has elegant heart-shaped leaves with long pointed tips. Bodhi trees can grow to great heights and widely spread out their branches. Daifukuji's tree has had to be pruned back from time to time because it's very close to the temple structure.



Dr. Patricia
Masters

The story of this tree is being revealed to me in wondrous ways. To begin, in 2013 I met a remarkable woman by the name of Dr. Patricia Lee Masters, who was invited to speak at the Hawaii Association of International Buddhists Buddha Day service which was held at the Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Dr. Masters, now deceased, was a professor of Buddhist Studies who had taught in a number of countries — Japan, Sri Lanka, India, and Hawai'i. A vibrant and compassionate woman, who had tremendous knowledge and aloha, Dr. Masters made an amazing discovery in 1996 when she went to Sarnath, India for the first time. Sarnath was where the Buddha delivered his first teachings in about 528 B.C.E. It was here that Dr. Masters visited the Mulagandhakuti Temple and noticed a

marble plaque in the entranceway that read:

Mulagandhakuti Temple
Erected by
The Anagarika Dharmapala
Founder and General Secretary of
The Mahabodhi Society
With the generous help of
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Foster
Of Honolulu, and others
On the site where
Lord Buddha
Promulgated the teachings 2,500 years ago.

Mary Elizabeth Foster of Honolulu? Who was she? For someone who had lived in Honolulu for over four decades, Dr. Master did not know who Mary Foster was. Do you? This story will be continued in next month's newsletter, so please stay tuned.

To be continued...

To register for the Zen retreat:

<https://tinyurl.com/mrxbx27w>

a day of silence
Saturday, Oct. 11, from 9 to 3
Zen retreat



with Daifukuji Soto Mission
on the theme "Loving speech and compassionate listening."

Arrival and check-in at 8:30.
All are welcome. A donation of \$20 is suggested.

Attendance is limited and pre-registration is required.
For information and registration: (808)322-3524,
info@daifukuji.org, or <https://tinyurl.com/mrxbx27w>

At 79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy, Honalo www.daifukuji.org

**sit
with
us**



Sunrise meditation
Wednesdays 6am-7:20 and Fridays 6am-7

Sunset meditation
Mondays 6pm-7

We sit in seated silent meditation (zazen), walk for a few minutes in meditation (kinhin), and then return to zazen. On Wednesdays, we have a brief, optional Buddhist chanting service after meditation.

All are welcome. If it's your first time with us, come 20 minutes early for an orientation, or call to make an appointment for basic instruction. Wear comfortable, dark-colored clothes that cover your shoulders and legs. You may sit on a cushion, bench, or chair.

Daifukuji Zen temple

Daifukuji Soto Mission is at
79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy, in
Honalo next to Teshima's.
(808) 322-3524
info@daifukuji.org
www.daifukuji.org



In Loving Memory

The late Elaine Fernandez

September 14, 2025

Age 77

Funeral services for Elaine will be held at Daifukuji on Saturday, October 4th. Visitation at 2:00 p.m. Service at 3:00 p.m. Open to the public.



The late Gay "Gigi" Morley

September 17, 2025

Age 77

Big Island Taiko Festival 2025

**U.H. Hilo Performing Arts
Center**

**Saturday, October 11 at
7:00 p.m. (reserved
seating)**

**Sunday, October 12 at 2:00
p.m. (reserved seating)**

*Featuring : Puna Taiko,
Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko,
Kona Daifukuji Taiko, Hilo
Taishoji Taiko, & Hui Okinawa
Kobudo Taiko*

To purchase tickets:

[https://pay.hilo.hawaii.edu/
pac/tickets/](https://pay.hilo.hawaii.edu/pac/tickets/)

October Activities

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



Dharma Keiki - Dharma Keiki is a program for children of preschool age to grade 3 and their parents. Siblings are welcome. Please join us on **Sunday, October 5 and Sunday, October 19** from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. There is a ZOOM option for the first Sunday of the month. 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>

The October 4th shakyō art meditation session has been cancelled. Please join us on November 1 at 9:30 a.m. for shakyō. 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.

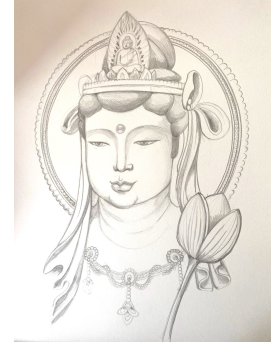
Soleful Strutters - Qigong-T'ai Chi warm-up & walking on temple grounds at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. A good way to get some exercise and make new friends. For information, please contact Hannah Israel at (408) 421-8845 or Reverend Jiko at (808) 322-3524.

Samu Fridays - We welcome volunteers for temple cleaning and grounds maintenance on Friday mornings from 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Coffee hour & fellowship follow. Snack contributions are welcome.

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.

Kannon-kō and Eitaikyō Service

Wednesday, October 15 10:00 a.m



*Hawaii Kannon
by Tina Cintron*

In conjunction with the October Kannon-kō service, an Eitaikyō service will be held in memory of those whose names are recorded in the Daifukuji Eitaikyō record book. The Japanese word *eitaikyō* means “chanting the sutras in perpetuity.” This annual service ensures that prayers are offered for the departed, even when family members of the deceased cannot be present for the service. This is one way to remember and express perpetual gratitude to one’s deceased spouse, parents, grandparents, and departed loved ones.

If you are interested in having an individual or family’s name entered into Daifukuji’s Eitaikyō book, please contact Rev. Jiko (808-322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org). A one-time donation of \$250 per entry is requested.

Mahalo Nui Loa



Mahalo nui loa to Joel Reese for his drone photos and video of Daifukuji. Joel is the son-in-law of Daifukuji board member Linda Calloway.

Joel’s 1-minute & 55-second video of Daifukuji is breathtaking. A must see!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ups_NV7Oew0



Arigatō to temple supporter Aaron Muraoka for digging up clumps of invasive guinea grass, pruning trees, and cutting down African Tulip trees on temple property weekend after weekend.

Always, we thank our dedicated Samu team and Little Fire Ant Control crew for keeping our temple & grounds safe and beautiful.



Fujinkai General Membership Meeting on September 6th



Fujinkai Board with Advisors
Not pictured: Cindy Asada, V.P.

Fujinkai Corner

by Susie Seien Weaver, Fujinkai President

- On October 4th, a funeral service for the late Elaine Fernandez will be held. Elaine was a very dedicated Fujinkai member and we are truly grateful for all that she did for our temple & Fujinkai.
- DATE CHANGE: Saturday, November 1 at 11 a.m. is the new date and time for the deep cleaning of the kitchen and social hall.
- February 14, 2026 is the date of the Fujinkai’s annual pancake breakfast.
- On April 18 & 19, 2026, we will be hosting the 59th UHSSWA conference at Daifukuji and the Royal Kona Resort.
- Holiday crafts and fundraising are in the planning stages. Stay tuned.
- Food donations for the HI Food Basket at the temple’s entrance are an ongoing Fujinkai project.

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

Project Dana News

To our Project Dana kūpuna:

“Halloween Fun” is the theme of our October gathering on Wednesday, October 8. Project Dana members are invited to bring a Halloween costume. Our program begins at 9:30 a.m.



Daifukuji’s Project Dana program is open to temple members age 60 and above. We gather on the second Wednesday of the month for chair exercises, seasonal celebrations, educational sessions, bingo, nutritious meals, and fellowship. Project Dana is made possible by funds provided by Daifukuji and the generosity of our members. For information, please contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524 or Joyce at (808) 329-3833.

Gift Shop News

By Clear Hōun Englebert



The 2026 calendars have arrived.

The early shoppers will have the

best selection. The prices are \$16 for the domestic ones and \$17 for those from the German company Tushita. Also, it seems that the scroll-type Japanese calendars that we were looking forward to will not arrive due to the current mess around imported goods.

We have received some wooden ojuzu with peep-hole images of the Three Founders or Sho Kannon (the type we have as the main image in the Kannondo). They are \$12 each and are available in dark or light wood.

Daifukuji Board Report

by Betsy Kairen Morrigan, Recording Secretary

The Board is busy with plans and projects to maintain and upgrade the temple grounds and buildings, and to provide for the safety, security, and comfort of our members and our Minister.

- Improvements to the Minister's Residence: Electrical re-wiring, rock wall stabilization, gutters for the laundry room, and new kitchen flooring are all completed or are in the works.
- Tree topping and plaque for Bodhi tree: We have topped the three large trees in the front yard, including the Bodhi tree. We have purchased an anodized aluminum plaque for our historic Bodhi tree. Through DNA reports, we know that our Bodhi tree is a propagate clone of the original one from India. Warren Ikeda of the Friday samu group will make a stand for it.
- Professional cleaning of the Temple carpets: The temple carpets in the main hall and the meditation hall will be cleaned on September 22, paid for by the Zazenkai.
- The massive invasive African tulip trees on the border with Teshima's have been cut down and chipped.
- Crematorium conversion to workshop space: The crematorium, located in the upper part of our property, mauka of the cemetery, will be converted into a safe, dry workshop space for use primarily by our taiko groups to reskin their drums.



Library News

By Clear Hōun Englebert

These are the new arrivals:

No Beginning, No End: The Ultimate Heart of Zen by Jakusho Kwong who is in Shunryu Suzuki's lineage. It is based on talks he gave at the Sonoma Mountain Zen Center which he founded.

Dreaming Me: An African American Woman's Spiritual Journey by Jan Willis who is a Tibetan Buddhist practitioner.

Zen and Christianity by Eiko Hanaoka has a very appealing subtitle—*From the Standpoint of Absolute Nothingness*.

Essentials of Buddhism by Kogen Mizuno is absolutely fabulous! It goes into some complicated concepts in a very understandable way and it includes charts, which are wonderful aids.

The Vision of Buddhism by Roger Corless is similar to the previous book and makes an excellent compliment. For instance, the Mizuno book never mentions the Trikaya, but Corless goes into it quite well. His book also includes charts. I recommend them both—they don't simplify Buddhism, they just lay it out in all its complicated glory.

Soto Zen in Medieval Japan by William Bodiford is a great way to get to know the period in which Dogen and Keizan lived and how the basics of our Soto practice got formulated at that time.

Shobogenzo: Uji---Living Time is one of the more obscure chapters of Dogen's Shobogenzo. It's translated by Daitso Tom Wright, and his annotations are immensely helpful.

Voices of the Dharma by Peggy Curry is a compilation of many different authors, Buddhist as well as those from other traditions.

The remainder of the new arrivals are written in Japanese:

Dogen Zen no Kotoba (Dogen: Zen Words) by Katsunori Sakaino

The Heart Sutra: Words That Change Your Life by Toen Fujiwara

Futto Kokoro ga Karukunaru Zen no Kotoba (Zen Words That Make Your Heart Light) by H. Ishitobi

Kokoro no Shinkokyu: Sutto Kimochiga Rakunaru Zengo (Deep Breathing for the Heart: Zen Words That Make You Feel at Ease) by T. Matsubara and H. Ishitoba

Hannya Shingyo: Kokoro no Osoji (The Heart Sutra: Big Clean-up of Heart) by Y. Natori

Arasuji: to Irasuto de Wakaru Zen (Understandable Zen by Synopsis and Illustration) by S. Masunami

12 Months Shushogi by Yaoko Mizuno

12 Months Shushogi, Part Two by Yaoko Mizuno

The Heart Sutra That Fulfills Your Wishes: A Book of 262 Words of Wisdom by Oguri Doei

Okoranui Zen no Saho by Shunmyo Masuno



Breathing and Zazen

by Michael Keller

An important stage in zazen occurs when one stops breathing. Not literally, of course, but when a practitioner stops “doing” his or her breathing, that’s an important stage.

We breathe continually during our lives, both waking and sleeping, and we would perish if we did not. We also breathe automatically, without thinking about it. Just as blood circulates through our arteries and veins automatically, breathing takes place entirely on its own.

However, when a zazen sitter begins the practice, the usual thing is to “do” the breathing himself or herself. That is, the sitter makes a deliberate effort, as slight as it may be, to draw each breath in and to expel it. Let’s call this “doing” one’s own breathing. I don’t know why a practitioner begins this way, but I recall very clearly “doing” my own breathing when I started zazen many years ago.

Alternatively, a zazen practitioner can just “watch” his breathing and not “do” it. Switching to watching the breath can be facilitated by reflecting on the discussion above about the automatic nature of breathing; or it may happen, as in my case, that a sitter takes a breath without consciousness of it and sees that he has done so.

In any event, starting to “watch” the breath instead of “doing” it frees energies in the zazen process to reduce the workings of ego more quickly. So it’s worth trying.

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

Coming Up in November...

Shakyō Session.....	November 1
Dharma Keiki.....	November 2 and 23
Project Dana.....	November 12
Thanksgiving Service.....	November 16
Kannonko service.....	November 19
Soto Zen Buddhist Confirmation Ceremony.....	November 22
Temple and Grounds Clean Up.....	November 30



October 2025

September 2025							October 2025							November 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					1	2	3	4							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
													30							

- Sangha Sisters
- Youth Taiko
- Adult Taiko
- Major Service
- Dharma Keiki
- Temple Board
- Fujinkai
- Kannon-ko Service
- Project Dana
- Zazen
- Samu
- 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
28 Auction Items Pick Up 10-8	29 8:30AM Yoga with Liz 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	30 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai 6:00PM Zen Taiko	1 6:00AM Zazen & Meeting 5:00PM Youth Taiko	2 9:00AM Library Staff Meeting 9:00AM Qigong 6:00PM Zen Taiko 7:00PM Temple Board	3 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm 4:00PM Fujinkai Board	4 8:00AM Zoom Precepts Study 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm
5 Dharma Keiki 9:30 AM Baikako Practice 7:45 am 2:00PM Happy Strummers	6 8:30AM Yoga with Liz 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	7 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai 6:00PM Zen Taiko	8 Project Dana 9:30 am 6:00AM Zazen & Service 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:30PM Orchid Club	9 9:00AM Qigong 6:00PM Zen Taiko	10 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm 5:00PM Sangha Sisters	11 All-day Zen Retreat Pre-registration Required 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm
12 10 a.m. Bodhidharma Service Speaker: Teri Jigen	13 8:30AM Yoga with Liz 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	14 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai 6:00PM Zen Taiko	15 Eitaikyo Service Kannon-ko 10 am 6:00AM Zazen & Service 5:00PM Youth Taiko	16 9:00AM Qigong 6:00PM Zen Taiko	17 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm	18 8:00AM Zoom Precepts Study 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm
19 Dharma Keiki 9:30 am	20 8:30AM Yoga with Liz 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	21 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai 6:00PM Zen Taiko	22 6:00AM Zazen & Service 5:00PM Youth Taiko	23 8:00AM U.S. Soto Conference 9:00AM Qigong 6:00PM Zen Taiko	24 ... U.S. Soto Conference 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm	25 ... U.S. Soto Conference 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm
26 ... U.S. Soto Conference	27 8:30AM Yoga with Liz 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	28 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai 6:00PM Zen Taiko	29 6:00AM Zazen & Service 5:00PM Youth Taiko	30 9:00AM Qigong 6:00PM Zen Taiko	31 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm	1 8:00AM Zoom Precepts Study 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm