



79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealahou, HI 96750

April, 2026

(808) 322-3524 [www.daifukuji.org](http://www.daifukuji.org)

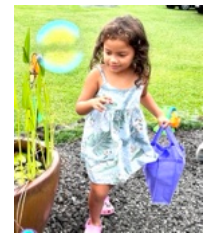
See “archives” on our website for previous newsletters.



## Hanamatsuri Buddha Day Service 花祭り

**Sunday, April 12, 2026 10:00 a.m.**

*Service, Egg Hunt, Lunch and Fellowship*



Meaning “flower festival,” Hanamatsuri is a joyous celebration of the Buddha’s birth which occurred 2,600 years ago in Lumbini Garden in southern Nepal. A small wooden pavilion called a *hanamido* is adorned with fresh flowers; inside, a small statue of the baby Buddha is placed in a basin of sweet, heavenly tea which service attendees pour over the statue. The Dharma message will be given by Rev. Jikō.

There will be a spring egg hunt for the children after the service, followed by a vegetarian meal prepared by the members of the Daifukuji Zazenkai. All are invited to stay for lunch and fellowship. We request that you bring your own set of reusable tableware to help Daifukuji be as eco-friendly as possible.

The Zazenkai is requesting donations of desserts for the Hanamatsuri meal.

Donations of flowers for the altars and *hanamido* flower shrine may be dropped off on Friday, April 10 or by 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 11.

Hanamatsuri is a special occasion to be shared with all. Feel free to invite friends and relatives. The children always enjoy the spring egg hunt after the service. The gift shop will be open. Donations of canned food for the Food Basket are always appreciated.

The service will be live-streamed via Daifukuji’s YouTube channel. We invite you to become a subscriber: <https://www.youtube.com/c/DaifukujiSotoZenHawaii>.

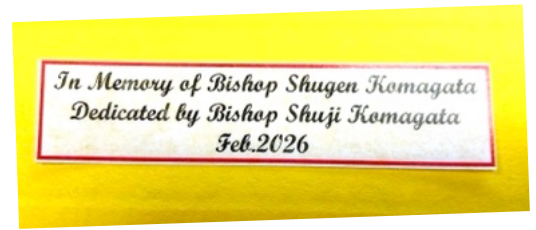
Fujinkai members attending the 59th UHSSWA conference will be meeting in the social hall after lunch at approximately 1:00 p.m. to go over conference details and practice songs and Bon dances.



Daihannya Sutra Books



Bishop Matsuura fanning a sutra book.



Example of a memorial dedication printed on Japanese “washi” paper.

## An Opportunity to Sponsor a Sutra Book in Memory of a Loved One

You now have the opportunity to help the temple by making a donation in memory of your loved ones and family ancestors. Thanks to the generosity of the Hawaii Soto Mission Association, Daifukuji has received 90 very special Daihannya sutra books. Your donation will go towards the making of a koa cabinet by Holualoa artist Gerald Ben of Dovetail Gallery. The cabinet will sit on the 33 Kannon altar. The gold-colored sutra books will be visible through a front glass panel, and a heating rod will be installed to keep the books free of mold. Memorial dedications, printed on durable Japanese “washi” paper, will be affixed to the inside cover of the sutra books as shown in the photo above. A donation of \$100 per book is appreciated.

The Daihannya Haramitta-kyō (Great Prajñāpāramitā Sūtra) is the largest scripture in all of Buddhism, consisting of 600 volumes that teach the wisdom of compassion, generosity, and emptiness—the understanding that all things are impermanent and interconnected. Brought from India to China by the great monk Xuanzang after years of hardship, this vast sutra is said to bestow blessings even through symbolic reading. Because it is impossible to chant every word, Buddhist ministers developed the practice of Tendoku, an abbreviated reading in which key passages are chanted while the volumes are turned, representing the recitation of the entire sutra for the benefit of all beings.

During the Daihannya Tendoku ceremony, the books are fanned, lifted, and moved with strong, deliberate motion. This ceremonial action is not theatrical. It expresses energy, protection, and prayer. The movement of the sutras is believed to dispel misfortune, purify the space, and share blessings with those present. Each volume represents wisdom carefully preserved for centuries, and caring for these sacred books is an act of devotion and gratitude. By supporting the upkeep of the Daihannya sutras, members help ensure that this powerful practice continues so that wisdom, protection, and compassion may be passed on to future generations. Please consider making a memorial dedication.

**If you would like to make a memorial dedication, kindly send a donation of \$100 per book to Daifukuji Soto Mission, P.O. Box 55, Kealahou, HI 96750, along with the following information for each book.**

**In memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dedicated by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions? Please contact Rev. Jikō . (808) 322-3524, [rev.jiko@daifukuji.org](mailto:rev.jiko@daifukuji.org)**

## **April 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 **April 5 and April 26** 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](mailto: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](mailto: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, April 4** 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 5:30 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](mailto:liz217a@hotmail.com).



## Fujinkai Corner

by Susie Seien Weaver, Fujinkai President

Dear Daifukuji Fujinkai members:

- We are delighted to welcome new members to our Fujinkai this month. They are Heather Johnson and Panit Lisy. If you do not know them yet, reach out and let them know how happy we all are that they have joined the Fujinkai.
- Thanks to everyone for making the pancake breakfast a fun and successful community gathering. After deducting the expenses, the pancake breakfast, manju, sushi vinegar, country store sales and donations brought in approximately \$6,000.
- On April 18 & 19, 2026, the Daifukuji Fujinkai will be hosting the UHSSWA conference at Daifukuji and the Royal Kona Resort. In preparation for this event, we have the following meetings scheduled, so please join us: **1) March 28 at 1 p.m., 2) April 4 at 11:30 a.m., 3) April 12 at 1 p.m., and 4) April 17 at 1 p.m.** There are many ways to get involved.
- We will have a country store fundraiser at the conference to benefit the UHSSWA. The folks from other islands always love to shop for our Big Island specialities. Donations of baked goods, fruits and vegetables, Kona coffee, macadamia nuts, and crafts are appreciated. Daifukuji members, would you please consider helping the Fujinkai? Let me know what you can contribute. Susie (808) 936-5817, [susieweaver2000@yahoo.com](mailto:susieweaver2000@yahoo.com).
- May 10 is Daifukuji's Mother's Day service and tea which will be held from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Bring a photo of your mother and/or grandmother. Lei making will be led by Barb and Reiko. Our Fujinkai will provide the refreshments.

Questions? Call, text, or email Susie at (808) 936-5817, [susieweaver2000@yahoo.com](mailto:susieweaver2000@yahoo.com) or Andrea at (916)205-3534. 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_Brochure_2025.pdf). [https://www.daifukuji.org/activities/Fujinkai\\_Membership\\_Form.pdf](https://www.daifukuji.org/activities/Fujinkai_Membership_Form.pdf)





## Congratulations

Our sangha warmly congratulates Georgia Kellough who received the sixteen bodhisattva precepts in a Soto Zen Buddhist confirmation ceremony held on February 15. Georgia, a resident of Maine who studied the precepts under Rev. Jikō via Zoom Dharma classes, received the Buddhist name “Kishin” (喜深), meaning “Deep Joy.” Georgia’s friends Will Kijun, Dennis Shōtoku, Sharlene Hōju, and Michael Nakade attended the ceremony, which was officiated by Rev. Jikō with the assistance of Deacon Amy Jikai.

## Welcoming Our New Members

With joy and gratitude, our sangha extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Gary Leveque

Takeo and Merna Izawa

Susan Main

New members are always welcome. Please stop by the temple to pick up a brochure and membership form or send an email to [info@daifukuji.org](mailto:info@daifukuji.org). [https://www.daifukuji.org/membership\\_brochure.pdf](https://www.daifukuji.org/membership_brochure.pdf)



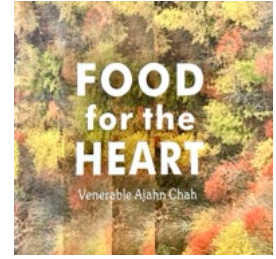
## Basic Life Support Education Class Held

On the 28th of February, Rev. Jiko and Michael Nakade, temple group leaders and members, and board members attended a basic life support education class taught by Nadine Calloway Reese R.N. and Rose Arraujo, R.N. All extend a big mahalo to Nadine and Rose for their excellent instruction on life-saving methods.

The temple has purchased an AED (automated external defibrillator) which will soon be installed in a visible location on the premises.

## Library News

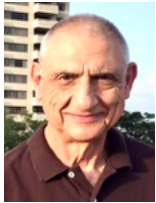
by Clear Hōun Englebert



The first three new books come from the Theravada tradition. The first one is *Sayings of the Dhamma* translated by Bhikkhu Sujato. It's the Dhammapada in a wonderful new translation. The next book is *Gemstones of the Good Dhamma* compiled by Venerable Dhammika. It's a collection similar to the Dhammapada. The last book is *Food for the Heart* by Ajahn Chah, one of the most renowned Thai teachers.

*Analects* is by Master Kuang-chin who was the abbot of a Chinese monastery that was mostly Pure Land, but also included Zen teachings. He was illiterate, yet a great abbot.

There are three new children's books all by Christine Huynh. They have very attractive color illustrations. They are: *My Middle Path*, *My First Dharma Book*, and *The Buddha in Me*.



## The Riding Mower

by Michael Keller

Let's suppose you live in a house that sits on two acres of grass. You have a very advanced riding mower that is self-propelled and has a laser feature that measures the height of the grass. Being self-propelled, the mower goes where it goes no matter whether you have other preferences. When mowing your vast lawn, you can just sit on the mower and think your thoughts or read a book, and the mower does the job all by itself.

According to Buddhism, if I am correct, this is a passable image of a person's life. Usually a person's life is governed by his or her thoughts, likes and dislikes, and bodily sensations, all of which are included in the term "skandhas." Ajahn Chah's *Food for the Heart* (2002) offers an extremely clear explanation of the workings of the skandhas, saying that "they come and go of their own: there is no 'self' that is running things"(48).

In life, we are forever on that riding mower that is self-propelled. We may think that we run our lives, but we don't. In any event, that is my understanding of Buddhism.

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



## What the Monks' 108-Day Walk for Peace Meant to Me

by Betsy Kairen Morrigan

For a little over 100 days, I spent my late afternoons not watching the news, but experiencing the approximately twenty Buddhist monks from their Theravada Buddhist monastery, the Hường Đạo Vipassana Bhavana Center, in Fort Worth, Texas, on their 108-day, 2,300-mile Walk for Peace to Washington, DC. It started on October 26, 2025, and ended exactly 108 days later on February 10, 2026. The 108-day duration is a sacred number in Buddhism, representing spiritual completion and cosmic order. It also represents the 108 desires and temptations that cause us to suffer, which we must overcome to achieve enlightenment.

I was always so happy and relaxed watching the line of monks walk single file through the ten states they traversed, in their saffron and patchwork robes, often barefoot. It was hot when they started out in October in Texas, but by the time they were in Virginia, they spent days walking through cold rain and blinding blizzards in weather many of them, who were mostly from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, had never experienced. They ate only one meal a day, and slept wherever the community offered at night, sometimes in tiny tents in an open grassy area under trees. One monk, Venerable Piyathammo, a Thai forest monk, slept sitting up, as he had for many years. Every evening for at least an hour, after walking twenty miles every day, wherever they found themselves, they welcomed the community and visitors with a peace talk, often accompanied by chanting and meditation. Venerable Bhikkhu Paññākāra spoke, "I am having a peaceful day. Let us have a peaceful day together. Is this your peaceful day?" The witnesses, black, white, Indigenous, Asian, and Hispanic, would answer in one voice, "Today is my peaceful day." I wish I could have been with them in person on the road, but I was with them in spirit. And yes, today is my peaceful day.

They carried no protest signs, they did not speak out against the injustices of the world, or push an agenda, but their 108-day silent walk spoke louder than words. The crowds of witnesses grew from a few dozen to thousands, uniting all races and all ages along the gentle journey. On this 2,300-mile journey, the monks experienced an outpouring of love and material assistance, and no intentional harm.

"Today is my peaceful day." I use that mantra now myself. Whatever crazy and terrible things are happening with greater intensity and frequency in our own country and all over the world, I know that peace has to start with me. If I start my day doomscrolling, angry, and jangled, there is no peace in my heart. The monks reinforced that. I know I need to center myself in the morning, to sit in my chair among my flowers and cats and meditate for a while until my greed and anger whoosh away across the surface of the ocean, and I am back with my peaceful day, which I can then share with you.

And then there's Aloka, the peace dog. Aloka, walking beside the head monk with his head up, wagging his tail, friendly to all, became a symbol in this 2,300-mile walk that delighted so many people, including me. He was a street dog that Venerable Bikkhu Pannakara adopted when they did a similar walk in India, restored to health, and developed a deep bond together. (continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

Aloka is a cheerful, handsome dog with a clear white heart on his forehead, and now he has his own social media following! He needed an operation on his knee injury partway through and was very well treated for free by the vet clinic in Charleston Veterinary Referral Center in Charleston, South Carolina, and at the end, was able to walk into Washington, D.C. with the monks.



Three images along the Monks' Walk for Peace are engraved in my mind. Everywhere they went, through every small town and large city, the local police, sheriffs, state troopers, and firemen lovingly protected and safeguarded them with great kindness and interest. Again and again, I saw these massive, uniformed officers – of all races – tower over the smaller monks in their saffron robes, and approach them in a physically close, protective, and profoundly tender manner. In each town, the police chief, sheriff, mayor, or fire chief pinned a badge of that town or city on Venerable Bikkhu Pannakara's shoulder shawl. By the end of the journey, his fabric shawl weighed about fifteen pounds and represented a "living story of the road" and a "moving record of goodwill." Ven. Bikkhu Pannakara had a daily backache from carrying this heavily weighted shawl, his personal possessions, and the leader's staff for twenty miles a day, but he said it was worth it as a symbol of connection with the communities and the public. Also, throughout the journey, as the monks walked in silence, in single file close to the side of the road, in touching distance of the throng of witnesses, every time they saw an adult or child in a wheelchair, the head monk, Ven. Bikkhu Pannakara stopped the whole line, so each monk could bend down to that person, smile, and look at them, and then one of the monks tied a peace bracelet around their wrist. What a difference this encounter made to the person in the wheelchair!

I watched carefully how they moved gracefully and peacefully through suffering and pain, and kept smiling. During the time of their journey, I had a major personal challenge myself: a hip replacement surgery that for three weeks was very painful. Every late afternoon after my surgery, with my leg elevated, when I watched the monks on their single-file, silent, twenty-mile journey, on bandaged bare feet, battling heat, exhaustion, and snow, to show us their message of perseverance, kindness, and compassion, my pain melted away and was gone, and I got up to walk.

I shared with my grandchildren this selected YouTube video "Walk for Peace, Venerable Bikkhu Pannakara Walk for Peace, which I know you would love too. <https://youtu.be/At8RM0pya3M?si=xUOVcdpWWsLCp84n>.

Several of them asked me what this long, quiet walk with no protest signs meant. I told them, "They are showing us how to find peace within ourselves, and then to send it out with kindness to your family, friends, teammates, school, and the world." Some of my grandchildren told me they were happy I shared the Monks' Walk for Peace with them and that this made a difference to them.

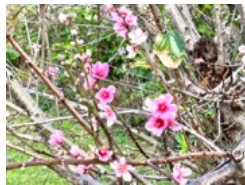
I know that "Today is going to be my peaceful day," and I hope it will be yours, too.

*Note: A few of these specific facts were found on Google and Wikipedia.*



## HAIB Buddha Day Observed at Kona Hongwanji Temple

On March 8th the 14th Annual HAIB Buddha Day celebration sponsored by the Hawai'i Island chapter of the Hawaii Association of International Buddhists was held at the Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Emceed by Daifukuji members Yukino Sasaki and Deacon Amy Jikai, the service featured the pouring of sweet tea by representatives of various temples and presentations by a number of Buddhists groups from around the island. A most inspiring keynote address was given by Ms. Trinidad Hunt. Daifukuji's Dharma Keiki and Happy Strummers groups offered musical presentations together with Rev. Jigaku and the members of Taishoji Soto Mission. Daifukuji president Barb Shōshin acknowledged the many volunteers who made this event possible. Mahalo to Rev. Blayne and Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple for hosting this annual Buddha Day service.



## Coming Up in May...

- Shakyo.....May 2
- Baika Practice.....May 3 and May 24
- Dharma Keiki.....May 3 and May 24
- Baika Workshop.....May 9
- Project Dana.....May 13
- UHSSWA Panda Express Fundraiser....May 22
- Kannon-ko Service.....May 27 (4th Wed.)

## Mahalo Nui Loa



A big mahalo goes to John Ogg for building this freestanding book display unit for the Daifukuji Gift Shop. The unit was designed by gift shop manager Clear Hōun Englebert.

The regular Gift Shop hours are 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Fridays and 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturdays. The shop is also open when major services and events are held. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Clear at (808) 328-0329.

# April 2026

March 2026							April 2026							May 2026							
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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29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
														31							

- 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
29 8:00AM Baika Practice	30 8:30AM Yoga with Liz 5:00PM Youth Taiko 6:00PM Sunset Meditation	31 9:00AM Soleful Strutters Moai 6:00PM Zen Taiko	1 6:00AM Zazen & Service 5:00PM Youth Taiko	2 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 Shakyo 9:30 AM 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm 11:30AM Fujinkai
5 Dharma Keiki 9:30 AM 7:45AM Baika Practice 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 5:30PM Sangha Sisters	11 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm
12 10:00 a.m. Buddha Day Service Spring egg hunt 1:00PM Fujinkai Meeting	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 Kannon-ko 10 am 6:00AM Zazen & Service 5:00PM Youth Taiko	16 9:00AM Qigong 6:00PM Zen Taiko	17 Conference Set Up 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm	18 UHSSWA Conference 8:30AM Gift Shop
19 UHSSWA Conference	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 9:00AM Qigong 6:00PM Zen Taiko	24 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm	25 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm
26 Dharma Keiki 9:30 am	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	1 6:00AM Zazen 8:00AM Samu 10:00AM Gift shop 10am-1pm	2 10:15AM Youth Taiko 11:00AM Gift Shop 11am-2pm