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Greetings!

Dear Members, Friends, and our Zenshuji Ohana,
We can all agree that the year 2020 was a most unusual year. By mid-March of 2020, a world-wide health crisis permeated every aspect of our lives and has changed it forever. What does not change is our appreciation of support, to Kauai Kookie, Grandma's Café, Stephanie Iona and her associates, and the County of Kauai for helping us with our virtual Obon. And, on a positive note, we know that things will get better as the months progress. Here's to a great year!

New Year, Fresh Start

We welcomed three new Board members, Eddie Beetschen, Ed Goka, and Mark Wagner. They bring expertise in areas of management, finance, and facilities planning. You will get a chance to know them and the rest of the Board in our next newsletter. Welcome on Board!

Dues and Donations

With the beginning of the New Year, we'd like to remind everyone that your membership is important to the temple and your continued support and donations enables the temple to sustain itself financially. Your membership dues for the year 2021 are now due. Everyone is welcomed to join. Thank you!

Challenges

As we begin the new year, one of our main concerns is assessing our temple's facilities. Currently the temple and the social hall roofs need repair. Both our bodhi and monkey pod trees need to be pruned. These are the obvious tasks, so we will further examine the rest of the facility repairs that need attention and estimate its cost.

Opportunities

- (1) Grow our temple membership by reconnecting with our traditional base and expand our outreach to the wider community.
- (2) Extend Rev. Yoshida's role as we begin the search for a permanent minister/spiritual leader.
- (3) Develop diversity programs that support our westside community through partnerships with other organizations in areas of early childhood education, family struggles with poverty, teen programs fostering leadership & positive recreational outlets, while addressing crime, drug use, mental health, high suicide rates, and LGBTQ issues as an example.
- (4) Promote health, wellness, and peace initiatives into our lives, especially among seniors, through activities, events, such as meditation and mindfulness; exercise, diet and fitness; educational programs that support the peace legacy of our Hanapepe native son, Senator Spark Matsunaga.
- (5) Strengthen our financial base to fund our anticipated maintenance needs, events, activities, and programs mentioned above

As we begin the Year of the Ox in February, I cherish your support and encouragement and look forward to your continued assistance and help. Let's have a good year!

Hands together in Gassho.
Aloha and Mahalo!

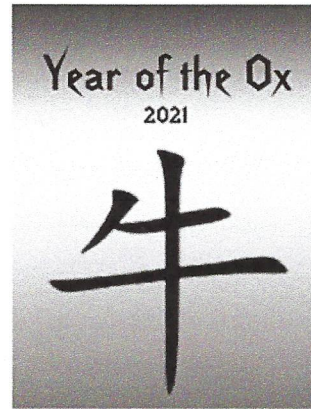
A Nice Story

Mrs. Yaeko Mato Chong lives in Fresno, California with her son Gary. Yaeko, 90 years young, wanted to make a donation to the temple and asked her son Gary to find out how she could do it. We received a phone call with a message. Long story short, when I returned the call, Gary said, "Why don't you speak with my Mom." I discovered that she was born and raised in Waipouli, and left Kauai in 1966. She remembered the Fujimoto family and their next door neighbors, the Miyasaki's, whose daughters were Yaeko's playmates, among them my mother, Fumiko! Such a small, small, world. Yaeko and her family last visited Kauai in the summer of 2016, to visit her parents' niche at the temple's columbarium. Her parents were Ryokichi and Suye Mato. To Yaeko and Gary, welcome back to our Zenshuji ohana! We are so happy to have made this connection with you, so please come again and visit us soon. -- *Gerald Hirata*

2021 CALENDAR

The status of the covid pandemic will determine whether or not the event will take place. The events below were published in the statewide Soto Shu calendar. Calendars are available to members.

- January 24 New Year's Blessing Service
New Year's Luncheon
- March 17 Spring Higan Service
Zen Workshop
- June 18-19 Soto Zen Bon Festival
- September 20 Autumn Higan Service
- September 21 International Day of Peace
- November 21 Keizan Zenji's Birthday Service
- December 7 Bodhi Day Service
Sesshin Workshop to celebrate
the Buddha's awakening
- December 26 Mochitsuki
- December 31 New Year's Temple Bell Ringing



The second animal of the Chinese zodiac, the ox denotes the hard work, positivity and honesty that will be manifested in all of us in the coming 12 months.

The New Year's Blessing Service was posted on YouTube, January 24. Rev. Hirosato Yoshida presided over the service.



Go to **YouTube.com** and search "2021 Kauai Daihannya Service"

Or, visit our temple's website for more information at **kauaisotozen.org**



Omamori or **ofuda** are good luck charms that are blessed to bring positive spirits and protection for the individual possessing them. We offer three different types.

- (1) Personal protection, wallet size, 2"x2.5" \$2.00
- (2) Car safety and protection, 2"x3.5", plastic case, tie \$7.00
- (3) House safety and protection, 2.75"x7.5" \$5.00

More information on how to purchase, check our website, or give us a call.