



May 2021

Greetings!

To our Members, Friends and our Zenshuji Ohana, aloha kakou!
Where ever you are, we hope you are safe, in good spirits and health.

Are we there yet?

In our Jan-Feb newsletter earlier this year, we looked forward to an improving pandemic situation. Yes, it's getting better, but the recent spike in covid cases on Kauai have made our island residents uneasy.

The moving goalpost

This ever-changing situation is taxing my mental health. I registered for the Honolulu Marathon early February of 2020. The uncertainty of our pandemic progress quickly put a damper on the race so registrants were sent a nice yellow t-shirt that said "In training, 26.2 miles in paradise." We were encouraged to train for an event that did not happen. The pandemic is akin to running a marathon, requiring discipline and training to compete and complete, with a finish line that is constantly moving. With covid, no matter how much we comply, the end still seems uncertain,

Stay safe, take care

The Covid message says to wear a mask, safe distance, wash your hands, sanitize, do not gather in large groups. Despite taking these precautions, we know how taxing it is to maintain our mental well being. We continue to abide because it means staying positive and being grateful for the good gestures of kindness and compassion that have been displayed in every facet of our lives during these difficult times.

Looking ahead

With the success of the vaccines, we know the finish line for the marathon will be reached soon. We'll be opening the temple to normal activities. Even though the Obon season has been cancelled we are planning online activities June 18-19. We will begin zazen classes after Obon, and celebrate the International Day of Peace, September 21st, have our temple/community yard sale, and conclude the year with our annual mochitsuki and ringing of the bell. And we look forward to your support, help and participation.

Mahalo and aloha nui

I am deeply grateful for the words of encouragement and assistance passed onto me and our temple family, over the last year.



With Gratitude, *Gerald Hirata*

Obon, a time to remember : June 18-19

June, the beginning of the second half of the year, ushers in the Obon season. It is the time of year in Buddhist religious and folk tradition that we pay homage to those who came before us. Our parents, our grandparents, our great grandparents and beyond, who paved the way for us and make us who we are today. As with many other cultures, our cherished and honored ancestors points us towards the future. Another reason to express our gratitude.

A look back

An article appeared in *The Garden Island* newspaper, in August, 2009. It was titled "What Obon means to me." Please reference that article on our website.

Obon 2021 Season Cancelled

The Kauai Buddhist Council, schedules and coordinates the Bon dance season for Kauai's eight Buddhist temples, starting the second weekend in June through the first weekend in August. As in 2020, by general consensus, the Council again cancelled its 2021 season.

No temple will have a Bon Dance gathering on site, but will celebrate it in its own way on their scheduled weekend.

2021 SOTO ZEN OBON

It's still a pandemic year, but it does not damper our spirits to celebrate and remember.



Old traditions, New experiences

OBON 2021

Online, Website, Facebook, YouTube

Friday, June 18: Our Story
Discover our temple's rich history

Saturday, June 19: Fundraising
A Virtual Tour of Who we Are & What we Do

Sunday, June 20: Obon Toba Service
We remember

Meet our Friendly & Hard-working 2021 Board of Directors



Omi Elaban, Carla Dusenberry, Eddie Beetschen, Mark Wagner
Kris Nuding, Jane Kimata, Penny Dusenberry, Stanley Kunisaki



Gerald Hirata, Herbert Kimata, Russell Kuboyama, Roy Miyashiro
Leila Kuboyama, Diana Barrett, Ed Goka, Sandy Tateyama

Going Places with Fresh New Faces

Reverend Hirosato Yoshida, born in Shizuoka, Japan, raised and schooled on Oahu, joins us as our acting minister. Truly bicultural, bilingual, and generationally diverse, Rev. Hiro brings fresh perspectives to our temple. Welcome to Zenshujii!

Timely additions to our Board, Eddie Beetschen, Mark Wagner and Ed Goka provide an added boost. Bringing finance and management expertise among them, we look forward to their participation. Our mission to serve all segments of our community is now in good hands.

