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SOTO MISSION OF HAWAII

BETSUIN NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022

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Except for Federal Holidays
and 5th Sunday

Editor: Rev. Hirosato Yoshida.

Hawaii Buddhist Council Buddha Day Service (April 5 @ 9:30am)

On March 21, 9:30 AM, Hawaii Buddhist Council will be having their online Buddha Day Service. This is a service where we dedicate and celebrate the birth of our founder, Siddhartha Gautama or the Shakyamuni Buddha. Along with the service will be a memorial service for the victims of COVID-19. This year, HBC will be invitind Dr. Clenda Nogami Steufert as a guest speaker. The theme of her talk is “Adapting & Responding to uncertain situations - Interacation with others.” For more information, please see the flyer.



Ministers will be attending the Buddha Day Service at Jodo Mission of Hawaii. Therefore, we will not be having Sunday Service on this day.

55th Annual UHSSWA Conference (April 23)

The 55th Annual UHSSWA Conference that has been postponed since 2020 due to COVID-19 Pandemic will be back and hosted by Maui Mantokuji. Normally this is a time when everyone from all the temples gather at the host temple to pay tribute to the deceased members of Fujinkai, learn about the Buddhist teachings, and enjoy the fellowship. However although the pandemic seems to be close to an end, we will be taking our precautions and have the conference virtually on Zoom.

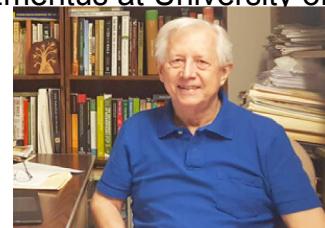
If you are interested in learning more about the conference or would like to join Fujinkai, please call the temple at 808-537-9409.

2022 General Membership Meeting

On April 24, 10:30 AM, we will be having our annual general membership meeting. It was originally scheduled for February but was postponed to a later date. The Meeting will be held **in person** after our weekly Sunday Service. For more information regarding the meeting, please see our February Newsletter.

2022 HAIB Earth Day: Natural Wisdom - Meditations on Buddhist Ecology and Environmentalism

On April 16, 1:00 PM, Hawaii Association of International Buddhist (HAIB) will be having an Earth Day event. This event will focus on connecting Buddhist teachings to our current Ecological challenges we face today. Guest speaker for this event will be Dr. Leslie Sponsel, Professor Emeritus at University of Hawaii. He is known especially to the Religious and Academic community for sharing his knowledge about Spiritual Ecology. For more information, please visit www.hawaiibuddhists.org/posts/2022earthday



Dr. Leslie Sponsel (Biography)

A humanistic scientist, Leslie E. Sponsel earned the B.A. in Geology from Indiana University (1965), and M.A. (1973) and Ph.D. (1981) in Anthropology from Cornell University. Over four decades he taught at seven universities in four countries, including twice as a Fulbright Fellow in Venezuela and later Thailand. In 1981 he was hired at the University of Hawai'i to develop and direct the Ecological Anthropology Program. Although retired as Professor Emeritus since 2010, he still usually teaches one course each semester, including Spiritual Ecology, Sacred Places, and Anthropology of Buddhism. The rest of his time is devoted to research and publications. These and his teaching focus on the interface of ecology, religion, and peace.

Sponsel publishes numerous journal articles, book chapters, encyclopedia entries, and books. His monograph, *Spiritual Ecology: A Quiet Revolution*, won the science category of the Green Book Award in San Francisco in 2014. The companion website is: <http://spiritualecology.info>

Zen Short Story: Cutting Off Your Arm On A Snowy Morning

Bodhidharma, known as Daruma-San in Japanese, came from India to China after traveling for three years. The teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha were handed down from master to disciple just as water is transferred from one vessel to another without any leakage. The Dharma Lamp was passed from Shakyamuni to Mahakashapa, from Mahakashapa to Ananda, and eventually down to Bodhidharma, who was the twenty-eighth generation of this lineage.



The intrepid spirit needed to set out for an unknown country at a time when transportation had not been developed and, moreover, to do it at an advanced age is something which an ordinary man who guards his body and life would not even think of. But this is the noble practice of Buddhas, who from their great compassionate hearts wish to faithfully transmit the Truth and save deluded sentient beings.

Emperor Wu of Liang found out that Bodhidharma had arrived in Kwangchow on September 21, 520, and dispatched an emissary to invite him to what is now Nanking. The emperor inquired of Bodhidharma, "I have up until now built temples, had sutras copied, and supported monks and nuns. What merit is there in these things?"

Bodhidharma curtly replied, "No merit!"

This greatly disappointed Emperor Wu, who was expecting a favorable answer.

The shallow thinking of ordinary people would have dictated flattering the Emperor, but for Bodhidharma, who had vowed to save deluded sentient beings, there was not the slightest intention flattering or compromising with anyone.



When Bodhidharma met Emperor Wu, who was called "The Son of Heaven of the Buddha Mind", he realized that the emperor was nothing more than a Buddhist fanatic who was seeking temporal gain. So, Bodhidharma crossed the Yangtze River, entered the country of Wei, settled down at Shao Lin Temple, sat down facing a wall and practiced zazen for nine years. The people of the area referred to him as "The wall-gazing Brahmin".

On the ninth day of December a monk-in-training called Shen-kuang (Shinko, in Japanese) came looking for Bodhidharma. A deep snow had covered the mountains and Shen-kuang had to break a trail through the snow as he tried to follow the path, but finally he arrived at Bodhidharma's wall. The winter night on the high mountain peak was so cold that even the joints of the bamboo cracked, and it seemed impossible to stand outdoors, but Bodhidharma did not even turn around to look. Shen-kuang stood stock-still throughout the night without sleeping, sitting, or resting. The falling snow drifted up to his waist; his tears froze into beads of ice; and his robes froze to his body so that he became like a block of ice. His whole body was rigid with cold, but the mind which seeks the Way was burning brightly.



Finally, as the night was turning to dawn, Bodhidharma turned and asked, "You've been standing in the snow a long time. What is it you're looking for?"

"I have a request. Please have mercy on me and show me the true Buddhist teachings!"

But Bodhidharma's answer to Shen-kuang's tearfully earnest entreaty was colder than ice. "One seeks the Buddha's teaching at the risk of one's life. It is a waste

of time for an ignorant person of little virtue to carelessly and conceitedly seek the teachings of the Buddha.”

Hearing this, Shen-kuang made his resolve even firmer. Taking a sharp sword he cut off his left arm at the elbow and presented the severed arm to Bodhidharma.

Bodhidharma realized that this very Shen-kuang was a person worthy of succeeding to the teachings and allowed him to be a disciple.

In this manner, Bodhidharma became the first patriarch of Chinese Zen, and Shen-kuang (later known as Huike, or Eka in Japanese) became the second.

(Published by Soto Shu Headquarter)

Announcements

Upcoming Events

April 5, 9:30 AM	2022 HBC Buddha Day Service (Zoom)
April 23, 9:30 AM	55 th UHSSWA Conference (Zoom)
April 24, 10:30 AM	2022 Betsuin General Membership Meeting
May 8, 9:30 AM	Buddha Day & Mother’s Day Service

Donations

Thank you very much for your generous donations during the month of February.

Linda Sato, Neil Kamikawa, Miles Kasahara, Layne Wada, Mitsugi Tayasu, Barbara Chu, Scott Hirashiki, Irene Arakaki-Ohbe, Claire Yamashita, Charlen Otomo, Ellen Nishimura, Linda Unten, Dara Luangphinit, Diane Yoneda, Kazuo Kumagai, Herbert Murayama, Bernice Koike, Hiromi Shimada, Nana Horoiwa, Shizuko Kusaka, Marguerite Aono, Stanely Ayano, Dennis Imada, Colleen Kainuma, James Koga, Ruth Mizuno, Vern Nakaguma, Sue Nishiguchi, Patricia Ishitani, Carol Sato, David Suzuki, Jon Nishimura, Jean Miyake, Alan Miyamoto, Katherine Higuchi, Alvin Honbo

Hawaii
Buddhist
Council

2022

Buddha Day Service

“Hanamatsuri”

& Memorial Service
for the Victims of COVID-19



DATE

Sunday, April 3, 2022
09:30 AM
(HST)

SPEAKER

Dr. Glenda Nogami Streufert
Former Manager,
Kauai Civil Defense Agency

- Theme -

“Adapting & Responding to uncertain situations – Interaction with others”

Dr. Glenda Nogami Streufert grew up on the Island of Lanai before moving to the Midwest, to Germany and later to Washington DC, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. She has worked in both academic and governmental positions in Germany and the U.S. Since retiring to Kauai, she has managed the Kauai Civil Defense Agency (now Kauai Emergency Management Agency) and served on the County Planning Commission & on Board of Hawaii Health Services Corporation. She holds a Ph.D. from Purdue University.

Zoom Link

Meeting ID: [881 7684 8159](https://us02zoom.us/j/88176848159)
Passcode: [593636](https://us02zoom.us/j/88176848159)



Donations Welcome

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<https://qr.quei.jp/pv.php?b=3vx2egS>



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For more information, please...

☎ (808)-949-3995 | ✉ mail@hawaiiibuddhistcouncil.org

HAIB INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAM
PRESENTS

EARTH DAY

Saturday, April 16, 2022

**Natural Wisdom:
Meditations on Buddhist Ecology and Environmentalism**

Key Note Speaker: Dr. Leslie Sponsel

Dr. Leslie E. Sponsel is a humanistic scientist, who earned the B.A. in Geology from Indiana University (1965), and M.A. (1973) and Ph.D. (1981) in Anthropology from Cornell University. Currently, he is a Professor Emeritus at University of Hawaii

Dr. Sponsel publishes numerous journal articles, book chapters, encyclopedia entries, and books. His monograph, *Spiritual Ecology: A Quiet Revolution*, won the science category of the Green Book Award in San Francisco in 2014. The companion website is: <http://spiritualecology.info>



**For More Info and to Register:
www.hawaiiibuddhists.org/posts/2022earthday**

