

# HONOLULU DIAMOND SANGHA

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Dear Honolulu Diamond Sangha Members and Friends,

Sesshin passes  
bell by bell -  
bong, bong.

-Aitken Roshi

As we wrap up 2021 and year two of our experience in a global pandemic, we can take heart in Sangha and the care we have taken of one another. Whether here at the Palolo Zen Center or among your family and friends, isolation can show us in new ways how brilliant the jewel of Sangha really is.

In 2021, we held four sesshin with modifications for health safety. All the sesshin were alive and bubbling with energy. In September, our Robert Aitken Memorial Dharma Study took up the topic of revising the translations of the Heart Sutra. There were concerns that this topic was dry and uninteresting, but it showed itself to be a rich subject for personal exploration. We selected two Sangha Care Coordinators – Kendra Martyn and Clark Ratliffe, who have graciously agreed to serve. They will coordinate care for Sangha members, such as rides to and from doctor's visits. Both of our temple-keepers, Michael Hofmann and Gretchen Jude, stepped down from their service and moved on to new endeavors. We said goodbye in a beautiful memorial service to long-time Sangha member, Jennie Peterson who passed on August 26, 2021.

This year we achieved a lot in maintaining the building and grounds. We graded the back yard to repair the damage from the feral pigs, repaired the leaking roof on the lanai, replaced the oven (which was ancient), replaced the microwave oven, cleaned out the workshop and hauled away accumulated junk, serviced the weed-whackers, and repaired a few gutters. The pig fence, which was installed in 2020, has been effective thus far. As our building ages, the maintenance needs change and the Board and Sangha are staying alert and foreseeing future projects which will keep the temple and grounds beautiful and functional.

Our facility is remarkable in supporting our practice. Please remember us with your pledge this year. Your donations are essential in allowing us to make this place available to all who wish to practice. With your help, we can support our small staff and teacher, maintain the grounds and the buildings, and offer regular programs that include sesshin, zazenkai, orientations to practice, Dharma Study, newsletters, Sangha meetings, Jukai, and other functions. Each of us can offer our talents freely, and many of us do so. Some mow the lawn, some clean the bathrooms and some cook lunch. We also need to support the Palolo Zen Center financially to keep it open to all. Please pledge as generously as you are able for 2022.

May your generosity uplift your heart and the hearts of all beings.

Jing Crystal Zhong, President

Clifton Royston, Treasurer