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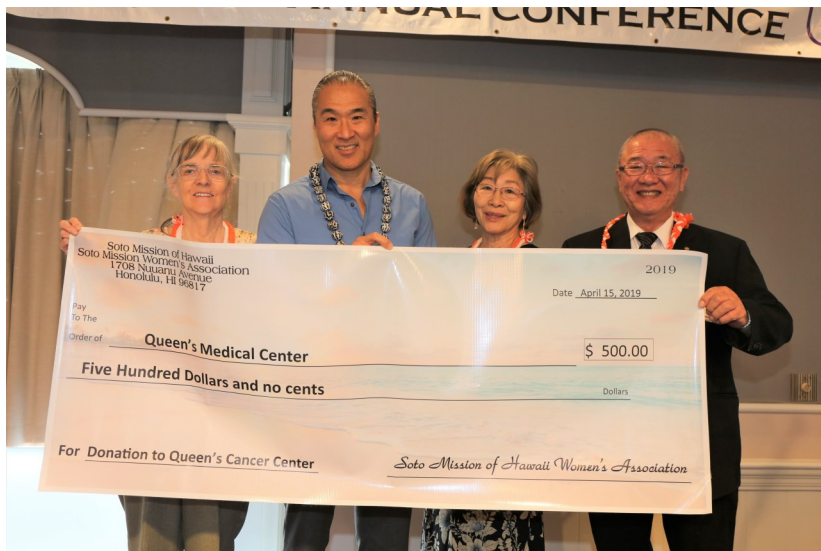


# TAIHEIJI BULLETIN



MAY & JUNE 2019

## 54TH UHSSWA CONFERENCE



*Michael Morimoto of Queen's Medical Center is presented with a donation from the Soto Mission Women's Association in memory of the late Mrs. Faye Komagata*

On Saturday, April 13 and Sunday, April 14, the Fujinkai ladies from the various Soto Mission temples in Hawaii gathered for the 54th Annual United Hawaii Soto-Shu Women's Association Conference. This year's theme was, "Every Day is a Precious Day," and the conference was dedicated to the late Mrs. Faye Komagata, who was the president of the Jizokukai (Board of Advisors to the UHSSWA) for the last ten years. Faye was the wife of Bishop Shugen

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Komagata and mother of Taiheiji's resident minister, Rev. Shuji Komagata. Faye passed away on November 5, 2018. Earlier this year, Taiheiji's Mrs. Jaymie Komagata was appointed as the new president of the Jizokukai.

Hosted by the Soto Mission Women's Association, the first day's events were held at the Soto Mission of Hawaii in Nuuanu. Although this year's conference was smaller than years' past, the ladies from the various units enjoyed spending time in fellowship with one another, discussed various topics at their annual general membership meeting, and raised money for their association at their annual country store. The ladies even made



*Verna Rabacal offering incense at the conference opening ceremony*

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*Bishop Komagata (center) with Jizokukai (ministers' families)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

their own juzu during the Dharma session! After completion, the juzu were collected and blessed in the next day's service.

The second day of the conference reconvened at the Princess Kaiulani Hotel in Waikiki. The keynote speaker, Dr. George Tanabe, delivered a wonderful, enlightening, and inspirational talk on the conference theme.



*Reigen Komagata and Rev. Shuji Komagata*

Along with the Komagata family, Taiheiji was represented by five Fujinkai ladies.



*Pictured (L-R): Carol Shishido-Ogata, Teri Wong, Reigen Komagata, Jaymie Komagata, Harriet Yamaki, Helen Tachino, Verna Racabal, Remi Komagata, Rev. Shuji.*

## MAY 2019 MONTHLY SERVICES: TSUICHO-E, MOTHER'S DAY, & KANNONKO SERVICES

Taiheiji will observe the Fujinkai Tsuicho-e, Mother's Day and Kannonko services on Sunday, May 5, from 9:00 a.m. Refreshments will be prepared by the Fujinkai.

It was in 1929 that Mrs. Taki Yoshizumi, wife of Rev. Kogan Yoshizumi, organized Taiheiji's Fujinkai. Through the decades, the Taiheiji Fujinkai women have continued to volunteer their time unselfishly for the temple. Under Fujinkai president, Verna Rabacal, the present Fujinkai is working hard to revitalize this auxiliary group. With the help from the *Jizoku* (*minister's spouse*) and advisor, Mrs. Jaymie Komagata, the Fujinkai has been able to take steps in a positive direction.

Tsuicho-e is a memorial service dedicated to the deceased Fujinkai members from the past. This service is important, as current members offer their gratitude for the path laid down by the *Issei* pioneer women of the temple. Members from Wahiawa Ryusenji Soto Mission Fujinkai will be joining us at these services. Please join us!

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## JUNE 2019 MONTHLY SERVICES JIZO-KO, FATHER'S DAY, & KANNONKO SERVICES

The Jizo-ko, Father's Day, and Kannonko Services will be held on Sunday, June 9 at 9:00 a.m. Jizo-ko honors *Ojizo sama* or *Jizo Bosatsu*, whose statues are housed in front of the temple, the *Nokotsudo* (columbarium), and the Kannondo. *Ojizo sama* is the guardian of children and travelers. In Japan, *Ojizo sama* statues made from stone can be found along the roadsides.

In May, we will have honored our mothers at Taiheiji. We will pay tribute to our fathers in June's service. Please join us as we pray for our dearly departed fathers and for the continued health and happiness of our fathers among us.

# TAIHEIJI BON SERVICES

In June, Taiheiji members and friends will gather to offer prayers for departed loved ones at the annual Bon Services, and then return to the temple in August to enjoy two nights of Bon Dance. The Bon Services will be held on four different days to accommodate everyone.

Thursday, June 20            7:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 22           10:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 23            10:00 a.m.

Monday, June 24            7:00 p.m.

Otoba Request Forms will be mailed to you in May. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Shuji at 488-6794.

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## UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### May 2019

- 4 Sat 8:30 a.m. Temple Cleanup
- 5 Sun 9:00 a.m. Tsuicho-e, Mother's Day, & Kannonko Services
- 26 Sun 9:00 a.m. Fujinkai Meeting

### June 2019

- 6-9 Tanagyo Services
- 9 Sun 9:00 a.m. Jizo-ko, Father's Day, Kannonko Services
- 15 Sat 8:30 a.m. Temple Cleanup
- 20 Thu 7:00 p.m. Bon Service
- 22 Sat 10:00 a.m. Bon Service
- 23 Sun 10:00 a.m. Bon Service
- 24 Mon 7:00 p.m. Bon Service

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## TEMPLE CLEANUP! PLEASE KOKUA

Please come to help at the monthly cleanup day at Taiheiji on Saturday, May 4, and Saturday, June 15. Cleanup begins at 8:30 and will run approximately to 10:00 a.m. Please call Rev. Shuji to let him know you are coming. Refreshments to follow.

# “TOBA KUYO”

The “Toba Kuyo” is another name for the Bon Services to be observed in June at Taiheiji. People often ask about the significance of the otoba. Please read the following, written by retired Bishop Jiho Machida, and published in the Soto Mission of Hawaii pamphlet, “Our Religion and Tradition.”

## “Toba-Kuyo”

Originally, the stupas were built to enshrine the Buddha’s remains. However, the religious significance of erecting a stupa changed in the long history of Buddhism in India, China, Korea, and Japan. The stupa became the symbol of Buddha’s glorious teachings and the site of the stupa became the center of Buddhist gathering which brought about the start of Buddhist temples.

The Royal family of Japan in the Heian Period started to build stupas in memory of the deceased emperor and empress. Later, many nobles and district rulers took it as a model and spread it all over Japan.

Thus “Toba-Kuyo,” offering of

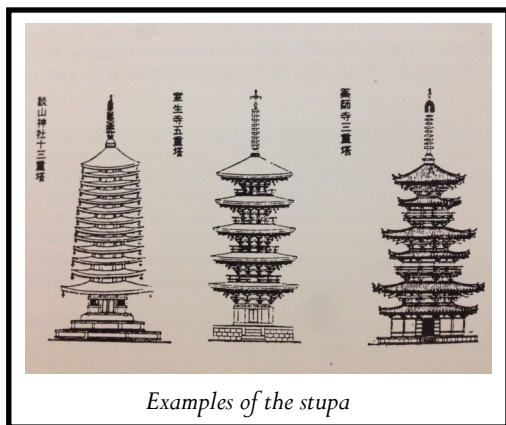
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Air Wind Fire Water Earth	“Kyakarabaa” Sanskrit writing for 5 Buddhist elements
ため - “tame”	O-toba dedicated to
	Name of deceased person or Family name
せんもうしょうれい “Sen mō shō rei” Dearly departed loved ones	The kanji in this section is different for Hatsubon O-Toba
ついぜんぼだい “Tsuizen bodai” May you attain lightenment	
せしゅ - “seshu” Dedicated by	
	Name of donor



stupa, became a Buddhist tradition to pay tribute to the deceased. People who were not able to erect a stupa, used a stupa shaped wood, which is called "Toba" to extend their wishes. What truly matters is not the size and shape of the stupa but offering one's sincerity through this tradition. The Toba-Kuyo has been the most essential Buddhist practice throughout the ages.



Hokekyo Sutra says: "Be it in a garden or in a forest or under a tree or in a monastery or in the house of a person in white robe (a layman) or in a hall or in a mountain or in a valley or in the wilderness, there should be a stupa erected and offerings made to it because, now this, the place where the stupa is erected is the place of enlightenment. Here the Buddha attained supreme wisdom. Here the Buddha turned the Wheel of the Law. Here the Buddha entered into Parinirvana."

## WHAT IS BON?

*The following is reprinted from Soto Zen literature published by the Soto-Shu Shumicho (Soto-Shu headquarters in Tokyo, Japan.)*

The memorial services held at Obon have two meanings. One is to honor the Buddha and show reverence for one's ancestors and others who have died. The other is to express gratitude to all people to whom we are indebted, including people who are alive such as our parents, relatives, and friends.

The full expression for Obon is Urabon-e which is derived from "Ullambana," an old Indian word. According to the Bussetsu Urabon Sutra, the origin of this tradition goes back to a ceremony performed by Shakyamuni Buddha for the deceased mother of Maudgalyayana, one of the Buddha's immediate disciples. Ullambana means "hanging upside down" and it was by means of this ceremony that the suffering of that world in which she lived (the suffering was so intense it was like hanging upside down) was removed.

These days, people think that this ceremony will prolong the life of parents and remove all suffering and anguish. This is also one of the traditional holiday periods in Japan when people exchange gifts. The other traditional time is over New Years. Obon is a ceremony to respectfully honor the spirits of the ancestors; it is also to ask for the long life of our parents. In preparation for meeting the spirits, it is customary to thoroughly clean our house and put ourselves in order as if meeting guests.

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## 9TH U.S. SOTO ZEN MEMBERS' CONFERENCE

On Saturday, October 26, 2019, the 9th U.S. Soto Zen Members' Conference will be held at the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. This one day event is hosted by Los Angeles Zenshuji and the North American Bishop's Office. Over 100 attendees are expected to join the event from temples and Zen Centers from the mainland and Hawaii.

The theme of the conference is "American Buddhism," and the keynote speaker for the event is Dr. Duncan Ryuken Williams, a professor of Religion and ordained Soto Zen priest.



*Dr. Duncan Williams*

The U.S. Soto Zen Members' Conference is held every several years, and is hosted by either Soto temples in Hawaii or the mainland. The purpose of the conference is to promote fellowship amongst Soto Zen members throughout North America. This event is open to all, so please contact Rev. Shuji if you are interested in attending or would like more information.

The conference registration fee is \$130, and includes lunch and dinner at the conference. We hope to see you at the conference!



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENEROUS DONATIONS RECEIVED

Geraldine Nishida	Donation to Temple
Norman & May Kanada	House blessing
Soma Family	Funeral Service for the late George Soma
Wesley & Carolyn Fukuda	3rd Memorial Service for the late Takashi Omiya
Fukiya	Donation to Temple
Matthew & Lisa Iguchi	Donation for Wedding Ceremony
Irvin Komamura	Donation to Temple
Donald & Jerrilyn Segawa	7th Memorial Service for the late Henry Okuda
Stephen Omiya	3rd Memorial Service for the late Takashi Omiya
Shizendo	Donation to Temple
Aiko Karaoke School	Donation to Temple
Sharleen Toyama	13th Memorial Service for the late David Toyama
Shizendo	Donation to Temple (March)
Darren Saiki	Donation for Boat Blessing
Linda Fujikawa	Donation to Temple
Fukiya	Donation to Temple
Kevin & Robyn Fujita	Donation for House Blessing
Geraldine Nishida	Donation to Temple
Myrtle Takiguchi	Donation to Temple
Fukiya	Donation to Temple
Bishop Shugen Komagata	Donation to Taiheiji Baikako in Memory of the late Faye Komagata
Soma Family	49th Day Memorial Service for the late George Soma
Grant Takahashi	In Loving Memory of the late Kesa Takahashi
Aiko Karaoke School	Donation to Temple
Society of Nepalese in Hawaii	Donation to Temple

## TANAGYO PRE-BON SERVICES

**Tanagyo services are held between June 6 and June 9.**

Call Rev. Shuji at 488-6794 if you would like him to visit your home to conduct the Tanagyo service. Tanagyo is performed during the Bon season before the June Bon Services at your home in front of the family altar (*butsudan*). Rev. Shuji offers prayers for the continued happiness of departed loved ones.



# *Dharma Lei*



## **Bishop's Office Newsletter**

### **Soto Zen Buddhism Hawaii Office**

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Second Quarter, 2019

Issue No. 28

### **Bishop's Message:**

**Bishop Shugen Komagata**

Greetings from the Bishop's Office!

I hope you and your families are doing well. I feel this past winter has been quite cool, so I am looking forward to the warmth spring in Hawaii brings, when we can enjoy longer days. Before we know it, though, I'm certain we will find ourselves moving into summer and the annual Bon season.



Later this year, on Saturday, October 26, 2019, the 9th U.S. Soto Zen Members' Conference will be held at the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. This one-day event is hosted by Los Angeles Zenshuji and the North American Bishop's Office. It's so interesting that when a survey was taken to see where attendees would like to visit, Las Vegas was the top choice!

The U.S. Soto Zen Members' Conference has been held every several years and is hosted by either the Soto temples in Hawaii or the

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mainland. The purpose of the Conference is to promote fellowship amongst Soto Zen members throughout North America.

The theme of the Conference is “American Buddhism,” and the keynote speaker for the event is Rev./Dr. Duncan Ryuken Williams, a professor of Religion and ordained Soto Zen priest. I feel the Conference theme is perfect for the audience at this Conference. As I look back to the first U.S. Soto Conference held over thirty years ago, I remember that nearly all the participants were of Japanese ancestry coming from Soto Zen temples on the mainland and Hawaii. I am pleased that through the years, there has been a steady increase in the diversity of people attending this Conference. This year, the invitation to attend this Conference has been extended to several Zen Centers on the mainland as well as Hawaii (Alaneo Zendo in Hilo). With over 100 attendees expected to join the event, I look forward to the opportunity of meeting members from congregational Buddhist temples as well as zazen practitioners from Zen Centers. There will certainly be a lot to discuss and learn from one another.

I hope you will attend this Conference in Las Vegas in October, to get acquainted or reacquainted with members from Soto temples or Zen centers in the mainland, and to both learn and share our Buddhist ideals that can be implemented in the American way of life. As we look forward to attending the Conference we would like to thank the ministers and members of Los Angeles Zenshuji and the North American Bishop’s Office for being the host and planning this exciting get-together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shugen Komagata". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shugen" and last name "Komagata" clearly distinguishable.

Bishop Shugen Komagata

# **Trainee Monk from Sojiji Head Monastery: Rev. Bunryu Yanai Hawaii Report**



Aloha, everyone! My name is Bunryu Yanai. I am training at the Soto Zen Buddhism Sojiji Head Monastery in Yokohama City, Japan. There is a program here that happens every year in which one representative trainee monk goes to America for a training course—and this time I was chosen to go. During the program I stayed in Hawaii for one month (Dec 14th to Jan 25th). While most of my time was spent in Honolulu, I visited seven other Soto temples, and I could feel the efforts of the Soto Zen in Hawaii. What I felt at the temple in Hawaii is that historically the Temples had functioned as the center of a Japanese society. Although much has changed, there are still some traditions that are observed to this day. I participated in some of these kinds of events, like Mochitsuki (pounding steamed rice into cake), and the New Year's Day celebration. I was really surprised by the large number of volunteers who came to help us and

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participants at services. I think in Japan it is not that common to see so many people livening up and gathering at events like that.

There has been so much change during the 150 years since the first Japanese immigrants came to Hawaii, but it was amazing to see how many descendants of the Japanese immigrants who have been American citizens for generations now still treasure their Japanese heritage. I'm so happy to see how the temple is passing on the rich Japanese culture and history to the new generation.

My training course in Hawaii was a wonderful experience. I no longer view Hawaii simply as a sightseeing spot. My experiences in Hawaii helped me see and understand from various angles rich and beautiful Hawaii really is. Thank you very much for this short time with you.



# Shushogi, Chapter 2 :Verses 7 - 10

By Rev. Masataka Hoshino



Aloha everyone!

Repentance brings guidance to our life. However, just because we repent of having done evil things, it does not mean that the karmic consequences of our deeds disappear. There is no reset button we can press to fix real life problems that our acts cause. Let us study together so that we can experience what Buddhist repentance means in our real life.

7. We stand in front of the vast gate of compassion through which the Buddha and ancestors have already passed. Fortunately, this gate is always open. There are no preconditions we must meet in order to pass through this gate. However, our passing through does not necessarily make us happy. We must still face what wrongs we have done. But repentance gives us the power to carry on with life in spite of our guilt.

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8. Once we pass through the gate, we can look back on our lives. We see the evils we have done and the karma that results from them. If we can admit our wrongs and their consequences in the presence of the Buddha and repent, our heart will be pure. This pure heart will help us go upon the right path, and when this pure heart emerges, it affects not only us. Everybody and everything, including mountains, rivers, and all of nature will feel the effects of our pure heart.

9. When we decide to repent, we pray and vow, and we realize there is a true path, and decide to seek it. Our many bad deeds can seem like obstacles that block our path, and we might think we are not entitled to pursue the truth. This is why the Buddha and the ancestors who first walked this way now watch over us without abandoning us, and show us mercy and compassion. We are able to become a Buddha when we are purified through repentance.

10. “All our past evil deeds were the result of beginningless greed, anger, and ignorance: products our body, speech and mind. Of all these do we now repent.”

Gashaku Shozo Shoakugo

我昔所造諸惡業

Kaiyuu Mushi Tonjinchi

皆由無始貪瞋痴

Jushinkui Shishosho

從身口意之所生

Issai Gakon Kaisange

一切我今皆懺悔



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