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TAIHEIJI BULLETIN



SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2019

REV. HOSHINO TO CONDUCT SEPTEMBER SERVICES AT TAIHEIJI

Please join us on **Sunday, September 15, at 9:00 a.m.**, to observe the Fall Higan and Kannonko services, together with Ryosoki—the memorial services for the founders of the Soto Zen sect, Dogen Zenji and Keizan Zenji. Rev. Masataka Hoshino, one of the resident ministers at the Soto Mission of Hawaii, will conduct this service as Rev. Shuji will be out of town. Please go to the temple to have the opportunity to meet Rev. Hoshino! Refreshments will be served upon the conclusion of the services.

Master Dogen (1200-1253 C.E.) brought the Soto branch of Zen Buddhism to Japan after his 1223 visit to China. Master Keizan (1268-1325 C.E.) initiated the great social development of the Soto sect throughout Japan. Thanks in large part to these individuals, Soto Zen Buddhism has gained great popularity in Japan and throughout the world. (from the Sanbutsu)

SOTO MISSION OF AIEA LEGACY-ENDOWMENT BOND NEWS

At the 2019 Bon Services at Taiheiji and in the July/August 2019 Taiheiji Bulletin, the Soto Mission of Aiea's next BIG project for the future was announced—the **Soto Mission of Aiea Legacy-Endowment Bond**.

Please turn to page 9 for important news
and updates!!! Mahalo!

OCTOBER SERVICES

Everyone is invited to attend Taiheiji's Daruma-ki and October Kannonko services, which will be observed on **Sunday, October 13, at 9:00 a.m.** The following section is an excerpt from the Soto Zen Publication:

Zen Friends, Vol 12, No. 3, 2001

October the fifth is the anniversary of the death of Bodhidharma, the famous Indian monk and founder of Zen (Chan in Chinese) Buddhism. Heir to the teachings of the Buddha, he traveled to distant China, where he spread the Buddhist spirit through seated meditation, or zazen. Today, when mental magnanimity is greatly in demand, interest in zazen is rising. Bodhidharma physically demonstrated the quintessence of Zen, and his teachings preserve their vigor even now 1,450 years after his death. On the anniversary of his death, we of Soto Zen pay reverence to him and conduct ceremonies, like the Daruma-ki, to repay our debt to him.

During this month's services, prayers will also be made to Kannon Bodhisattva, who embodies the Buddha's teachings on love, mercy, and compassion. Through prayers made, Kannon ensures the safety of one's family, their good health and happiness. Refreshments will be served after the services.

MONTHLY TEMPLE CLEANUPS

Mahalo to the following groups that have volunteered to participate in the upcoming monthly temple cleanups.

Saturday, September 7	8:30 a.m.	Aiea Taiheiji Judo Club
Saturday, October 12	8:30 a.m.	Fukiya Group

Please come down to the temple to work alongside our group volunteers, as there are many tasks to be completed, from cleaning inside the temple and the social hall, to picking up leaves and rubbish on the temple grounds. Refreshments will be served at the cleanups. We hope to see you at the upcoming monthly cleanups!! Thank you!

BON DANCE REPORT

The Soto Mission of Aiea observed two nights of Bon Dance on August 9 & 10, 2019. It was a bit hot and humid, but otherwise the weather was perfect for Bon Dance.

Volunteers arrived from 8:00 a.m. to begin preparations for the Bon Dance. They worked hard to mix andagi batter, set up the concession stand, and prep for the Bon Dance.

Dancers began arriving from as early as 2:00 p.m. to find a parking space, and by 5:00 p.m., very large crowds had already assembled at Taiheiji. Thankfully, the concession stand opened early, and the growing number of people arriving at the temple were able to enjoy an early meal.





At 6:30 p.m., the taiko classes of Rev. Shuji & Jaymie Komagata's Hawaii Matsuri Taiko and Somei Taiko entertained the audience on both Friday and Saturday. Aiea Taiheiji Yagura Gumi & Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu Kai provided live music for dancing throughout the evening. There were many lighted uchiwa (fans) being used during the dances. The customary long line for the tasty andagi had formed, and many people enjoyed refreshing shave ice throughout the night.

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Thank you to all the volunteers and dancers for helping make the Bon Dance a success. A special thank you to all those who donated tasty baked good items and snacks that were sold by the Fujinkai. Even with so many items to sell, everything was sold out well before the end of the night.



IROKAI LUNCHEON: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

On Sunday, September 8, Bon Dance volunteers from the four Soto temples on Oahu will gather for the annual Irokai luncheon. This year, the Irokai, hosted by the Soto Mission of Hawaii, will be held at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH).

The Irokai is a social event for the volunteers, and a time for them to enjoy a relaxing meal with other volunteers at the Bon Dance. Many of them were busy leading the dancing, or helping in the concession stands and choba.

CHICKEN AND SUSHI BENEFIT SALE

On Saturday, October 19, 2019, the Soto Mission of Aiea will hold its Chicken & Sushi Benefit Sale. The chickens will be prepared on location by Hoku BBQ Chicken. We ask for your kind support and “*kokud*” in this undertaking of raising funds for the general improvement of our temple, hall and parsonage, and termite fumigation of the temple building. Tickets will be mailed out in mid September. Upon receipt of your tickets, if you are able to sell additional tickets, please contact Rev. Shuji by calling 488-6794.

We ask all of you—members and friends—to come and help with preparing the chickens starting from 6:30 a.m. Please call Rev. Shuji at 488-6794, or email him at aieataiheiji@gmail.com to let him know you will be able to help. **Pick up times for orders are from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 19.**

UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

September

- 7 Sat 8:30 a.m. Temple Cleanup
- 8 Sun 11:00 a.m. Bon Dance Irokai at JCCH
- 15 Sun 9:00 a.m. Higan, Kannonko, Ryosoki Services

October

- 12 Sat 8:30 a.m. Temple Cleanup
- 13 Sun 9:00 a.m. Daruma-ki, Kannonko Service
- 19 Sat 6:30 a.m. Taiheiji Benefit Chicken and Sushi Sale
- 19 Sat 9am—1pm Chicken & Sushi Pick up
- 20 Sun 9:00 a.m. Temple Board Meeting

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENEROUS DONATIONS RECEIVED

Aiko Karaoke School	Donation to Temple
George Akahori	Donation to Temple
Fukiya	Donation to Temple
Sachiko Kazama	One Year Memorial Service for the late Shogo Kazama
Kihara Family	Funeral Service for the late Marian Kihara
Leslie Nakashima	3rd Year Memorial Service for the late June Nakashima
Geraldine Nishida	Donation to Temple
Seto Family	Funeral Service for the late Eiko Seto
Shizendo	Donation to Temple
Betty Takahashi	Inurnment Service for the late Leonardo & Elaine Cordero
Brian Yoshimura	Funeral Service for the late Glenn Yoshimura

Also, a Special Mahalo for all the generous donations received throughout the 2019 Soto Mission of Aiea Bon Season!!

SOTO MISSION OF AIEA LEGACY- ENDOWMENT BOND PROJECT: THE POWER OF A PLEDGE

At the Soto Mission of Aiea Bon Services in June 2019 and in the July/August Taiheiji Bulletin, the Soto Mission of Aiea Legacy-Endowment Bond was introduced.

This bond, issued by the Soto Mission of Aiea, will pay investors a fixed 3% interest annually for a period of 20 years. After the 20th year, the final interest payment AND the return of the principal investment amount IN FULL will be made.

The one million dollars in bond purchases collected from our temple members and supporters from January to December 2021 will be used in 2022 to build the 5000+ square foot Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center, the home for the Taiheiji Adult Care Center, meeting rooms, and zazen meditation hall. This is definitely one project that will require the participation and contributions of as many members and supporters as possible.

Although the bond issue is still more than a year away (January 2021), we would very much like to know as soon as possible that we have the support of our temple members and supporters.

Therefore, between now and January 2021, we will be seeking your pledge to participate in this bond purchase. Each pledge we receive helps the temple get one step closer to reaching the goal of raising the funds required to start this project. Please read on to learn more about the Soto Mission of Aiea Legacy-Endowment Bond!

Taiheiji: The Next 100 Years

The Soto Mission of Aiea was established in 1918 with a humble mission to serve the religious needs of Japanese immigrant workers and families living in and around the sugar plantation town of Aiea. The pioneer members of the temple selflessly contributed what they could—some even taking a second mortgage on their homes—to help cover the construction costs of the temple. Through the years, Taiheiji has been blessed by the continued support from members and supporters, and we

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are extremely grateful to have been able to arrive at our centennial celebration in 2018 enjoying a warm, safe, and inviting gathering place for religious and social activities. As we look with great optimism and hope to the next 100 years of the Soto Mission of Aiea, we must ask ourselves some very important questions.

- *What can we do now that will positively impact the future of the temple?*
- *What will be our legacy?*

When we stop for a moment to appreciate the rich history of Taiheiji and to contemplate how we can make a positive difference as the stewards of our temple, we discover that we are actually in a very fortunate position to do something now that can very well lead to even further growth of our temple and activities.



Taiheiji temple dedication service, 1924. (Earliest known photo of Taiheiji)

Through the vision of resident minister, Rev. Shuji Komagata, and with the unanimous support of the Taiheiji Board of Directors, we are excited about the plans to build the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center—a new multipurpose building and activity center.

In partnership with the Hawaii Kansha Foundation and your financial support towards the Legacy-Endowment Bond, we are confident for the bright future of Taiheiji over the next century and beyond.

Introducing the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center

In addition to the temple that serves the religious needs of Taiheiji members, the social hall and Japanese School building currently is home to various extracurricular activities offered to people of all ages.

Although the Japanese School building and minister's residence have served the temple for nearly a century, there are costly major repairs and upgrades needed to improve the structures. As Taiheiji looks to grow and increase its positive presence in the Aiea community, the more sustainable option and viable solution for the future is the construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center—a new two-story multipurpose building. In addition to providing a new and



Construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center to begin in 2022.

upgraded home for many of our existing activities, the new building's footprint better utilizes the limited space on the temple property. On the second floor, two activity rooms will provide the ample space for various groups to use simultaneously. There are plans to open a Zazendo (meditation hall) with enough space to accommodate more than 20 practitioners. There will also be a large meeting room with seating for over 50 people.

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As part of our continued commitment to serve both our temple members and community, plans are underway to open on the ground floor the Taiheiji Adult Care Center. This modern facility will provide a friendly, comfortable, and nurturing environment for our *kupunas* of the temple and Aiea community. With plans to accommodate up to 30 clients, we are confident that the Taiheiji Adult Care Center will make a positive difference in people's lives.

What is the Legacy-Endowment Bond?

The LEGACY-ENDOWMENT BOND is a bond offering issued by the Soto Mission of Aiea, Taiheiji. The "BOND"* is very similar to a 20-year U.S. Treasury Bond that currently (as of 5/31/19) pays 2.39% interest. Our "BOND" will also be for 20 years, but will pay a 3% fixed annual interest. After the 20-year period, the "BOND" owners will receive the final interest payment AND the principal investment amount back IN FULL.

*This bond offering is an investment. It is not a donation. All interest received would be fully taxable.

How much is Taiheiji seeking to raise?

The "BOND" goal amount is ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

What is the bond for?

The "BOND" will be used for a large capital improvement project that includes tearing down the aging Japanese School building and the residence building, and replacing it with the construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center—a new multipurpose building.

Why do it?

This will be just the beginning of what will become our current temple generation's legacy. This project would certainly help make Rev. Shuji's shared vision and dreams become a reality.

When will it start?

The “BOND” will be issued in 2021 and all money will be collected by the end of December 2021. However, although collection is important, early pledges are also very critical. While the goal is to raise the ONE MILLION DOLLARS by December 2021, collecting pledges as soon as possible will give a good early indication of your support.



How will the temple pay for the interest and principal?

We are very pleased to announce the commitment of the HAWAII KANSHA FOUNDATION. The foundation has pledged to help ensure the success of the LEGACY-ENDOWMENT BOND by donating an annual monetary gift that more than covers the annual interest payments of the “BOND” (with the excess amounts invested into the temple’s Legacy-Endowment Fund account). It has been projected that the total annual excess funds invested into the Legacy-Endowment Fund account over the course of 20 years will be in excess of ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

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How will the bond be recorded?

The “BOND” purchases will be recorded using the commonly practiced method of proper accounting procedures referred to as “book-entry.” All investments and payments will be recorded into the temple’s accounting records.

How much will it cost?

Each “BOND” will be valued at ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS and can only be purchased in one thousand-dollar increments.

Are there any limits?

The minimum amount is ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS. While there is no maximum established, any large purchase should be made only after consulting with a tax advisor. Our goal is to reach the ONE MILLION DOLLARS by sharing the opportunity and the experience with many of our members and supporters—not just a few.

Who can buy?

The “BOND” issue will be offered to all members and supporters of Taiheiji. It will not be available to the general public.

Who will manage the funds?

Two temple accounts have already been established with AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. The new “LEGACY FUND” account will initially hold all funds collected from the “BOND” issue. These funds will then transfer to the new “BUILDING FUND” account to pay for construction expenses. The “LEGACY FUND” will then be used to hold all annual gift payments from the HAWAII KANSHA FOUNDATION and to distribute all interest payments and the final principal payment when due.

With everyone’s support, the “LEGACY FUND” will eventually create the “ENDOWMENT FUND,” to provide sustainability and assure us that the SOTO MISSION OF AIEA, TAIHEIJI will be able to continue its mission in perpetuity.

AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. will provide monthly statements to selected temple board members that show transactions and investment performance. The entire board of directors will provide oversight within their Fiduciary responsibilities.

About the Hawaii Kansha Foundation

The Soto Mission of Aiea expresses its deep gratitude to the Hawaii Kansha Foundation for the incredible opportunity to embark on this exciting project to issue the Legacy-Endowment Bond that will enable us to build a multipurpose building.

The Hawaii Kansha Foundation was established in 2017 by a Taiheiji family whose relationship to the temple began in the early 1960s. This private family foundation seeks to support organizations committed to providing programs, services, assistance, and activities for people in need.

The Hawaii Kansha Foundation has touched the lives of many people through its charitable contributions to:

- Shriners Hospital
- Ronald McDonald House Charities Hawaii
- Lanakila Meals on Wheels
- Make a Wish Foundation of Hawaii
- Victor Elementary Educational Fund (CA)
- Inland Empire United Way (CA)

Additional note:

The Hawaii Kansha Foundation, in addition to its pledge to underwrite the Legacy-Endowment Bond, has also generously pledged an additional \$400,000 to Taiheiji's Building Fund. With this additional pledge, the total pledge of the Hawaii Kansha Foundation is valued at TWO MILLION DOLLARS for the entire project.

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