



# TAIHEIJI BULLETIN



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

## HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021!

For the continued health and safety of everyone, the 2021 New Year's Blessing Service will not be held inside the temple, but instead will be a "DRIVE THRU" service held between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. We kindly request that you go to Taiheiji at the appropriate times listed below:

<u>Last Name of Person Placing Ofuda Order</u>	<u>Blessing and Pick up Time</u>
A—J	9:00—9:30 a.m.
K—N	9:30—10:00 a.m.
O—S	10:00—10:30 a.m.
T—Z	10:30—11:00 a.m.

Upon arrival, please remain inside your vehicle. Rev. Shuji will be outside the temple to bless everyone in your vehicle. You will also receive your entire ofuda order from the comfort and safety of your vehicle. Even though you pick up your entire family's ofuda order, please encourage them to drive themselves to the temple to also receive their New Year's blessing! Don't forget to drop off your old ofuda and omamori for proper disposal!

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## INVEST IN THE LEGACY ENDOWMENT BOND!!

**Bond purchases may be made until the end of 2021, but please notify Taiheiji how much you plan to invest by March 31, 2021**

By Rev. Shuji Komagata

Aloha from the Soto Mission of Aiea. Although 2020 was a challenging year with the COVID-19 pandemic, I pray that you and your family are doing well. After so much, I look forward to a more positive 2021.

As you may know, Taiheiji launched the Legacy Endowment Bond Pledge Drive at the beginning of 2020 with the goal of raising \$1,000,000 for the construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center. The bond is underwritten by the Hawaii Kansha Foundation, and will pay investors a fixed annual return of 3% for twenty years. After the 20-year period, the final interest payment and the return of the principal investment amount IN FULL will be made.

This creative method of raising money gives members and supporters the opportunity to choose between a traditional donation to the temple and a twenty year investment in the temple. Construction costs continue to climb (currently over \$1,400,000), so in addition to already backing the 3% annual payout for twenty years AND already securing the return of all principal contributions to investors in full at the end of twenty years, the Hawaii Kansha Foundation has recently completed making an additional \$400,000 donation to Taiheiji to help fund the construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center in 2022.

(Continued from page 1)

We were off to a fabulous start in early 2020, receiving over \$320,000 in pledges by late February. We projected that we would reach our goal of securing \$1,000,000 in pledges by the end of 2020. However, the pledge drive abruptly halted in March with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, we find ourselves needing to raise nearly \$600,000 more in investments in order to begin construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center. This is truly an uncertain time for Taiheiji as the most ambitious project in its 100 year history is in real jeopardy.

As the head and spiritual leader of this temple, I have spent a great deal of time contemplating how to proceed with the Legacy Endowment Bond given the environment surrounding the ongoing pandemic. I have struggled over how our members and supporters would receive my request for investments of \$1,000, \$5,000, or even over \$10,000 when enduring so much hardship. I have asked myself, “isn’t what we have at the temple good enough,” and “can’t we just continue to get by with what we have and are already doing at Taiheiji?”

I began to reflect upon the struggles our temple pioneers faced to establish Taiheiji and realized that those struggles still resonate today, even after 100 years—poverty, disease, prejudice, labor disputes, unemployment, and war. Yet, they made so much sacrifice and persevered to establish Taiheiji, a safe and meaningful place for their family and friends to gather for generations to come.

I revisit the question as to whether what we have now is good enough at Taiheiji. While the temple has been able to survive to this day, I am not so sure about the future. The decline of our temple membership we experienced over the last 40 years has stabilized over the past decade, but relying on that membership to keep the temple afloat is becoming increasingly challenging.

**The Legacy Endowment Bond: A Hidden Gem?**

The new Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center will pump new life into

We need your help!! Please invest in the Legacy Endowment Bond!

**Invest in Taiheiji's future!**

**IMPORTANT!**  
Bond purchases may be made until the end of 2021. However, please notify Taiheiji how much you plan to invest by March 31, 2021

We've raised close to \$400,000 so far!  
Help Taiheiji get to \$1,000,000!!!

\$1 Million
\$900K
\$800K
\$700K
\$600K
\$500K
\$400K
\$300K
\$200K
\$100K
\$0

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*(Continued from page 2)*

temple operations as it becomes the hub of future activities—the adult day care center, meditation room, and rooms used for classes, meetings, and activities.

Members and supporters will have a vested interest in the temple’s success as investors in the Legacy Endowment Bond.

**The Legacy Endowment Bond, however, will enable the temple to create an endowment.** The endowment, combined with income from Adult Day Care Center, will perhaps give Taiheiji the best chances of survival and a sustainable future.

It is ironic that this opportunity to create a sustainable future for Taiheiji comes at such a difficult time for so many of its members and supporters. Collecting \$1,000,000 in investments was never seen as an easy task. However, none of this changes how important this opportunity is to create something meaningful and valuable for the future of Taiheiji. Most importantly, though, is that I believe that this project will create HOPE for the future of our temple.

The Taiheiji Vision Team, the committee overseeing the Legacy Endowment Bond, has unanimously agreed to give the bond a concerted and big push over the next three months of January, February, and March of 2021 to hopefully meet our \$1,000,000 goal. I humbly ask you to invest in the Legacy Endowment Bond. We are in desperate need of larger bond purchases to effectively close the deficit to a million dollars. However, bond purchases in any amount will be greatly appreciated. The bond will be sold in increments of \$1,000. It is also especially important to name your beneficiary to ensure that your investment can benefit both you and future generations of those you love.

I thank you for reading this article and for investing in the Legacy Endowment Bond. Let’s work together to create HOPE and a sustainable future for the Soto Mission of Aiea. Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you and please take care!



# JANUARY SERVICES

## HATSU KANNONKO & DOGEN BIRTHDAY SERVICES OFUDA-YAKI CEREMONY

On Sunday, January 17, at 9:00 a.m., you are invited to attend the “Hatsu Kannonko,” or first Kannonko service of the year. A service will be also held commemorating the birth of Dogen Zenji, one of Soto Buddhism’s two founders. After the temple services are completed, everyone will adjourn to the front of the temple for the *Ofuda-yaki* ceremony. All the old *ofuda* and *omamori* from 2020 will be burned during this service. Please stop by and join everyone. We look forward to seeing all of you.

# FEBRUARY SERVICES

## NEHAN-E, KANNONKO, & SETSUBUN

On Sunday, February 14, the Soto Mission of Aiea will observe Nehan-e (Parinirvana), Kannonko Service, and also celebrate the Setsubun (Bean Throwing) Ceremony. February is the month when Buddhists observe the passing of Shakamuni Buddha. At Taiheiji, the large Nehan-zu (scroll) that illustrates the Buddha’s passing is displayed for all to view. The scroll, painted back in the 1930s, was recently restored to its original beauty in 2008. As followers of the Buddha and his Teachings, it is important that many have the opportunity to see and appreciate the scroll to express our gratitude. We therefore urge all of you to pay a visit to the temple and join others at this annual observance. Although not a Buddhist practice, the Setsubun Ceremony is a Japanese tradition that the members of Taiheiji have adopted. Those born in “the Year of the Ox” will have the honor and privilege of tossing roasted beans while shouting, “FUKU WA UCHI,” (good luck in) and “ONI WA SOTO” (bad luck out). This lighthearted ceremony is a joy for participants of all ages.

## WHAT IS NEHAN (PARINIRVANA)?

February 15 is Nehan, the day that Shakyamuni Buddha died near the town of Kushinagara on the banks of the Hiranyavati River. A big scroll depicting the Buddha entering Nirvana is hung in the temple and a ceremony expressing our gratitude to the Buddha is performed.

It is said that at the time of his death the Buddha was sleeping on a bed that had been prepared between two sal trees; his head to the north, his face to the west, and his right hand for a pillow. At that time, white flowers bloomed on the sal trees and fell continuously.

Many of his disciples, the king and his family, men and women of all ages, and even birds and animals gathered, sighing with sadness. The Buddha gave his last discourse, expounding the fundamental truth – even though the physical body dies, the Dharma is eternal; in order to see the Buddha, it is necessary to see the Dharma. In this way, he taught his disciples the precepts and the way they should maintain the practice of Buddha’s Way. This last sermon is called the *Yuikyogyo*.

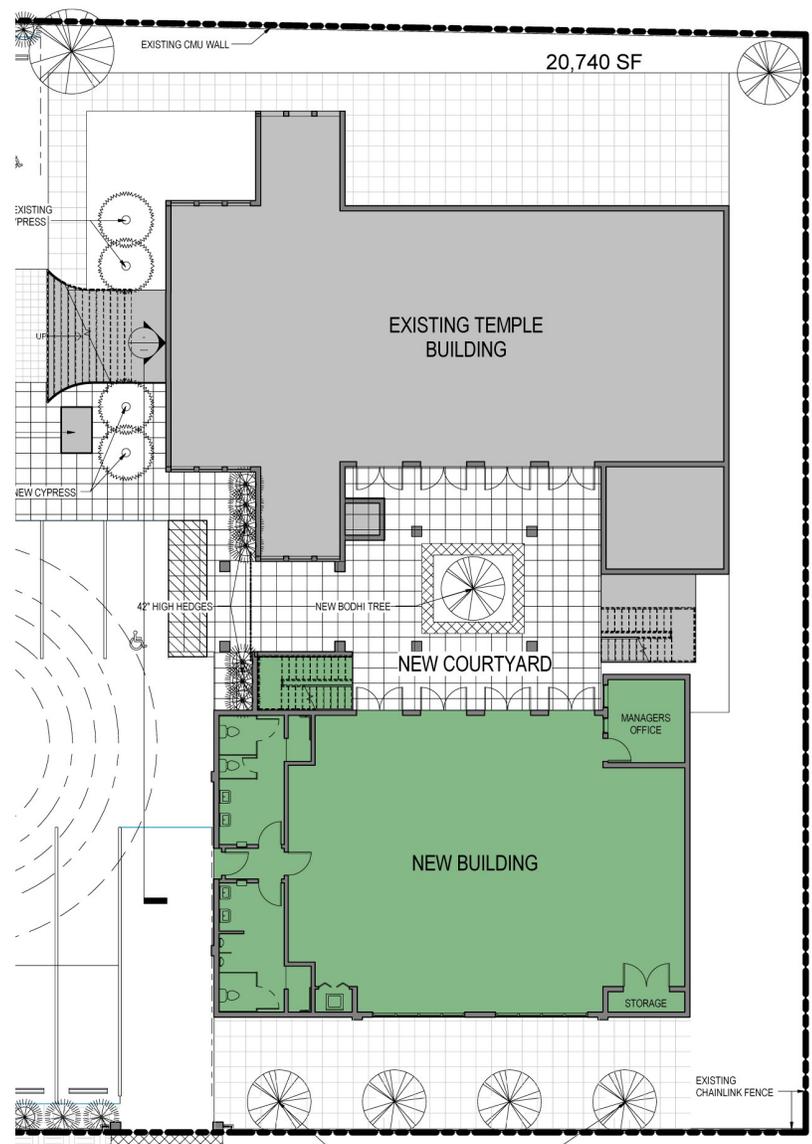
# SOTO MISSION OF AIEA ACTIVITY CENTER: FROM VISION TO REALITY

By Rev. Shuji Komagata

As Taiheiji enters its second century of existence, it is important that we establish our plans for the future. With ongoing operating costs and mounting repairs, temples and churches across the island are struggling just to keep their doors open. The valuable donations collected seem to evaporate into thin air just to cover these costs. I would like to find a better future of Taiheiji—not only of survival—but also of growth. I would like Taiheiji to both thrive and positively impact more and more people in the community. With that in mind, Taiheiji will break ground in 2022 on the construction of the new Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center—a new two-story multipurpose building. In addition to providing a new and 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.

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.



An aerial view of the existing temple (top) and the new building (bottom).  
The new 2 story building will boast over 5000 square feet of space for a variety of activities

## Our partnership with the Hawaii Kansha Foundation

Although there is no indication that this support is waning, the Taiheiji board of directors felt it important to explore other fundraising methods for the new Activity Center. We were ecstatic when the Hawaii Kansha Foundation—a private



charitable organization with Taiheiji roots—agreed to partner with us on this project. There are many reasons why the Hawaii Kansha Foundation chose to back the Legacy-Endowment Bond instead of simply paying for the construction of the Activity Center. This arrangement encourages temple members and supporters to truly be a part of this effort to start a new chapter of true sustainability for Taiheiji. However, instead of donating to the project, temple members and supporters can invest in Taiheiji through the bond—truly a mutually beneficial relationship. Over the lifetime of the 20 year bond, the Hawaii Kansha Foundation contribution to Taiheiji is projected to be in excess of over \$2,000,000—far more than what would have been awarded simply as a lump sum contribution today. The excess money from Hawaii Kansha Foundation will help start Taiheiji’s Endowment Fund—monies that Taiheiji will be able to use in perpetuity—the lasting mark of what can be our generation’s legacy.

As the minister of Taiheiji, I am excited about the Legacy-Endowment Bond. I am investing in this project, and I humbly ask you to participate in this effort as well. I really want this construction of the Activity Center to be a success, so if my financial situation improves in 2021, I plan to invest more. The Taiheiji Legacy-Endowment Bond is a solid long term investment opportunity that can be part of your financial portfolio. However, we need people like you to support this project with your investment.

The idea of donating—giving selflessly to the temple—remains a fundamental principle that will continue to be practiced and encouraged. In fact, a number of our board members have already indicated that they would like to donate their pledged investment to the temple. This means that the bond they purchase will be donated back to the temple, and these funds will be invested toward the growth of Taiheiji’s Endowment Fund. For me personally, I have chosen to use the Legacy-Endowment Bond as a part of my investment portfolio as I work to build my retirement nest egg. Perhaps down the road I will change my investment into a donation. But that is why this is so appealing—I have choices... Please contact me with your questions, and I will do my best to answer them. Mahalo!!!

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### January

1	Fri	9:00 a.m.	New Year's Blessing Service
17	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Dogen Zenji Birthday Service, Hatsu Kannonko, and Ofudayaki
24	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Taiheiji Board Meeting
30	Sat	1:00 p.m.	Hawaii Soto Mission Virtual Temple Tour

### February

14	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Nehan-e, Kannonko, & Setsubun Ceremony
21	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Shakyo

## 2021 TENTATIVE CALENDAR\*

January	1	New Year's Day Blessing Service
	1	Daihannya Services
	17	Dogen's Birthday, Kannonko, Ofuda-yaki Services
February	14	Nehan-e & Kannonko Services
March	14	Spring Higan & Kannonko Services
April	11	Taiheiji Buddha Day & Kannonko Services
May	2	Fujinkai Tsuicho-e & Kannonko Services
June	17, 19	Taiheiji Bon Services
	20, 21	Taiheiji Bon Services
August	6, 7	Taiheiji Bon Dance
September	12	Autumn Higan, Ryosoki, and Kannonko Services
October	10	Daruma-ki & Kannonko Services
November	7	Keizan's Birthday, Veteran's Day Services
	7	Eitaikyo & Kannonko Services
December	12	Taiheiji Bodhi Day & Kannonko Services

\*Dates Subject to Change

# HAWAII SOTO MISSION VIRTUAL TOUR

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2021

Aloha!

On behalf of the Hawaii Soto Mission Bishop's Office, I would like to invite you to the Hawaii Soto Mission Virtual Tour and Discussion on Saturday, January 30, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. This is a free "virtual" tour that will be held on Zoom and is open to everyone. We are honored to have Professor George Tanabe and Professor Willa Tanabe, authors of the book, "Japanese Buddhist Temples in Hawai'i," serve as our tour guides. They will provide you with an in depth look at the Soto temples in Hawaii, with pictures and discussions on the many similarities and differences between our temples and the rest of the Buddhist community.

EVENT: Hawaii Soto Mission Virtual Tour and Discussion  
DATE: Saturday, January 30, 2021  
TIME: 1:00 p.m.  
LOCATION: This is a "virtual" tour, held online using Zoom  
HOST: Hawaii Soto Mission Bishop's Office  
PRESENTERS: Professor George Tanabe and Professor Willa Tanabe

All the temples are painted with its unique colors of history, but the future remains a blank canvas. Dwindling memberships, maintenance and operation costs, the changing community around the temple, the connection to the youth, and more—these are challenges so many of our faith-based institutions are facing today. Join us on this Hawaii Soto Mission Virtual Tour and Discussion to learn how many of the Hawaii Soto temples are taking on these issues. Our presenters will not only discuss how temples must adapt, transform, and change to meet the needs of the people of Hawaii, but also how the temples are embracing change to ensure a brighter future.

Participants on this Hawaii Soto Mission Virtual Tour will also be given the opportunity to ask Professors George and Willa Tanabe questions. Your presence and participation will bring depth to interactions and enrich the virtual tour for others as well.

Please type the link below into your internet browser to enroll.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwocumppzMiH9znNcabNTHmUckQLGognU5F>

An easier way to register will be to email me at [aieataiheiji@gmail.com](mailto:aieataiheiji@gmail.com) of your interest. I will then email you the registration link. Please share this information invitation with your family, friends, and colleagues, and encourage them to register for this free event. Event is limited to 100 participants, so don't delay in registering!!! After registering, you will be sent a link to the event. If you have any questions, please contact me on my cell phone at 808-224-2584 or email me!

In Gassho,  
Rev. Shuji Komagata  
Executive Secretary to the Bishop

## TAIHEIJI BOARD MEETING

The Taiheiji Board meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24, at 9:00 a.m. We humbly ask that all board members be present at the meeting! Mahalo!

## FUJINKAI MEMBERSHIPS

If you haven't done so already, please submit your Fujinkai membership dues (\$10) for 2021. Please call Rev. Shuji if you need new membership forms. Mahalo!

## NEW YEAR'S PARTY CANCELLED

Sadly, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Taiheiji New Year's Party, or Shinnenkai, is cancelled. We can only hope that we will be able to gather together in 2022.

## SHAKYO: TRACING THE BUDDHIST SCRIPTURES

Taiheiji's Shakyō sessions will continue in 2021 on Sunday February 21. Shakyō, the practice of tracing the holy scriptures, is a form of meditation, requiring both concentration and patience. The small group of participants have gathered for several sessions, and there is space for a few more participants! Please join us on February 21!

## SOTO MISSION OF AIEA MEMBERSHIP

Taiheiji strives to serve the social, spiritual, and religious needs of its members through its ongoing mission to provide a place where people are welcomed with open arms to receive the guidance of the Buddha Dharma.

Whether for happy occasions like weddings and blessing services, or for the times to remember departed loved ones during memorial services and funerals, your Taiheiji membership enables you to access the variety of religious services available. We at Taiheiji certainly feel that your membership donation we receive is an encouraging sign of confidence that you place in the temple as an important and relevant part of your life.

Taiheiji regularly receives requests from nonmembers for services. The requests often comes at the time of a wedding or a funeral, or when people know of no other place to call. The strongest confirmation we receive that we have positively impacted someone's life is when they decide to join the temple as new members.

An additional benefit active members receive is the opportunity to use the social hall to host parties and events. With no set rental fee, members make a donation at their discretion for use of the hall. The social hall can comfortably accommodate up to 150 guests.

The membership/donation form for your household to join the temple or renew membership has already been sent to you. Please send your membership in if you have not already done so. **Please also encourage your parents, adult children, and relatives to renew their membership or to join our temple community by becoming a member.**

The annual membership donation is \$100 per household, and is customarily received in December and January. If you have any questions, please call Rev. Shuji at 488-6794.

# ARE YOU OBSERVING A MEMORIAL SERVICE IN 2021?

## **Memorial Services (*Nenki Service*)**

1 Year Service	17th Year Service
3rd Year Service	23rd Year Service
7th Year Service	27th Year Service
13th Year Service	33rd Year Service

At memorial services, we remember our departed loved ones and ancestors with love and gratitude. We remember the ways in which they enriched our lives and pray for their continued peace. Prayers are also made for the well being of the family. This is the traditional custom of properly honoring the deceased.

If possible, the first memorial service should be conducted just before the first year has passed. For subsequent memorial services, the memorial services should be conducted before the beginning of the particular memorial year.

For example: using the date of passing (*meinichi*) as a starting point, the seventh year memorial service should be held right before the sixth anniversary after passing.

## **Memorial service offerings that are traditionally brought to the temple by the family:**

- Ihai (Wooden Memorial Tablet)
- Photo of the deceased (optional)
- Flowers (non-thorny, of any color, cut or potted)
- Food offerings (*osonaemono*) - sweets or fruits
- Osaisen Small monetary offering by everyone attending the service (place in the offertory chest)
- “*Ofuse*,” or Donation to Soto Mission of Aiea\*  
Average “*Ofuse*” donation amount is \$150
- “*Orei*,” or Discretionary Gift of Appreciation to Minister\*  
Average “*Orei*” amount to minister for a memorial service is \$150

*\*It is customary to place monetary “Ofuse” donation to temple and “Orei” to minister in separate envelopes*

# Memorial Services for 2021

## 1st Year Memorial Service (2020)

3/5/2020 Doi	Sumiko	96
3/10/2020 Matsui	Clarence	81
3/23/2020 Iwata	Ronald	74
4/4/2020 Kosuga	Kieko	95
4/15/2020 Kono	Esther	96
5/3/2020 Yoshioka	Kazuo	87
5/10/2020 Shimizu	Tazuko	89
5/28/2020 Sumimoto	Janet	86
7/8/2020 Kurosawa	Reiko	92
9/5/2020 Shiraki	Fujiko	94
11/3/2020 Kurosawa	Roy	80

## 3rd Year Memorial Service (2019)

1/5/2019 Imamura	Jane	97
3/28/2019 Yamaki	James Jimmy	93
5/27/2019 Seto	Eiko	90
6/5/2019 Kihara	Marian	80
6/22/2019 Yoshimura	Glenn	65
8/13/2019 Mitsuzawa	Yoshio	96
9/4/2019 Kurashige	Ayako	91
11/16/2019 Naito	Yoshiaki	74
12/13/2019 Yamaki	Melvin	87
11/25/2019 Tsuha	Hideichi Peter	97

## 7th Year Memorial Service (2015)

1/2/2015 Yoshimura	Vickie	87
1/14/2015 Wakata	Evelyn	92
1/19/2015 Kamihara	Mitsuko	95
2/4/2015 Hoshino	Merle	70
2/17/2015 Enomoto	Akiko	84
2/28/2015 Takano	Helen	87
3/2/2015 Yoshimura	Elaine	76
3/6/2015 Tanaka	Nellie	76
3/26/2015 Nakashima	Thelma	96
4/16/2015 Tanaka	Helene	95
5/14/2015 Morishige	Yoshie	92
5/25/2015 Odagiri	Jane	86
5/30/2015 Kamisato	Minoru	86
9/5/2015 Takakawa	Betty	82
12/2/2015 Tamano	Laurence	78
12/25/2015 Arakawa	Marion	70

## 13th Memorial Service (2009)

1/22/2009 Yoshimura	Yoshihiko	82
1/25/2009 Tamasaka	Mitsuko	91
2/2/2009 Arita	Peter	83
2/16/2009 Saito	Irene	
3/27/2009 Okuda	Chieko	86
3/20/2009 Chun	Joseph	64
3/28/2009 Arie	Charlotte	70
4/1/2009 Kodama	Arthur	86
4/1/2009 Kaneko	Kenneth	75
6/2/2009 Nakasone	Kenneth	70
6/20/2009 Kuroda	Haruyuki Sr.	93
6/25/2009 Kurashima	Elsie	83
10/22/2009 Imai	Edwin	73
12/12/2009 Kikuta	Jerry	80

## 17th Memorial Service (2005)

1/31/2005 Yamaki	George Susumu	80
2/24/2005 Abe	Stanley	71
7/27/2005 Aisaka	Reginald Masuo	
8/29/2005 Fukutomi	Seiya	77
10/21/2005 Kanemoto	Kay Kameko	88
12/3/2005 Tanaka	Aiko	89
12/21/2005 Yoshimura	Gary Genji	61
12/23/2005 Enga Fujikawa	Gen Daniel	18

## 23rd Memorial Service (1999)

1/12/1999 Yokoyama	Alice	68
1/23/1999 Kazama	Haruko	80
5/21/1999 Koizumi	George	
7/2/1999 Suzuki	James	79
8/12/1999 Imai	Kiku	96
9/7/1999 Fuyumuro	Jane Shizue	76
11/13/1999 Koga	Katsumi	79
12/3/1999 Odagiri	Tokie	86

## 27th Memorial Service (1995)

1/7/1995 Hamada	Akiko	75
1/11/1995 Yonamine	Shigeo	73
4/21/1995 Kurosawa	Akiko	65
5/6/1995 Yoshimura	Teiichi	86
5/12/1995 Fukumae	Shizuko	
6/14/1995 Itagaki	Yuriko	84
7/4/1995 Murato	Taketomo	
7/17/1995 Tachino	Shigeru	
7/31/1995 Tango-Wiltschko	May	41
8/17/1995 Imai	Masao	77
9/11/1995 Fukuhara	Asaho	71
10/3/1995 Tachino	Tokie	78
11/12/1995 Tamashiro	Robert Seitoku	86

## 33rd Memorial Service (1989)

1/28/1989 Abe	Noboru	41
1/28/1989 Kurosawa	Hide	89
2/26/1989 Omiya	Mine	97
4/13/1989 Toyama	Kin	95
5/21/1989 Fukuda	Tamae	65
5/30/1989 Imai	Jingo	98
6/4/1989 Kurosawa	Tetsu	91
6/29/1989 Iwata	Yoshiko	76
7/30/1989 Fukuhara	Asae	67
9/28/1989 Tachino	Yoshio	71
10/9/1989 Ono	Shigeshi	63
10/19/1989 Ito	Fumie	73

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENEROUS DONATIONS RECEIVED

Melvin Yamaki Jr.	One Year Memorial Service for the late Melvin Tsutomu Yamaki
Troy Fukuhara	One Year Memorial Service for the late Frederick Fukuhara
Angela Naito	Eitaikyo Dedication in memory of the late Yoshiaki Naito
Corinne Gyotoku	Eitaikyo Dedication in memory of the late Jiro Fukumae
Angela Naito	One Year Memorial Service for the late Yoshiaki Naito
Sharleen Isoshima	Funeral and 7th Day Service for the late Esther Kono
Pat Radona	23rd Year Memorial Service for the late Yuri Suzuki
Diane Kawauchi	Donation to the New Building Construction Fund
Sandra Loo-Chan	Donation to the New Building Construction Fund
Brian & Melissa Kawauchi	Donation to the New Building Construction Fund
Pat Radona	Contribution to the Legacy Endowment Bond
Earl & Rachel Tsuneyoshi	Contribution to the Legacy Endowment Bond
Michiko Iwata	Funeral Service for the late Ronald Iwata
Joseph & Sharon Katano	Donation in place of Chicken & Sushi Sale
Sidney & Donna Matsufuru	Donation in place of Chicken & Sushi Sale
Angela Naito	Contribution to the Legacy Endowment Bond
Jerrilyn & Donald Segawa	Donation in place of Chicken & Sushi Sale
Masuyo Tanaka	Donation to Maintenance Fund
Charlene & Nelson Yamaguchi	Donation in place of Chicken & Sushi Sale
Wesley Fukuda	Donation in place of Chicken & Sushi Sale
Todd & Nicole Imamura	Donation for Home Blessing Service
Kelsey Tasoe	Donation in place of Chicken & Sushi Sale
Kelsey Tasoe	Contribution to the Legacy Endowment Bond
Candace & Gary Tasoe	Donation in place of Chicken & Sushi Sale
Candace & Gary Tasoe	Contribution to the Legacy Endowment Bond
Sharon Bower	Donation in place of Chicken & Sushi Sale
Katsumi Kazama Family Partners	Contribution to the Legacy Endowment Bond
Wallace & Diane Kazama	Contribution to the Legacy Endowment Bond
Amy & Ken Mijo	Donation in place of Chicken & Sushi Sale
Herbert & Caroll Ann Takahashi	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Verna Rabacal	Donation in place of Chicken & Sushi Sale
Lynn Ballesteros	Donation in place of Chicken & Sushi Sale
Robin & Linda Fujikawa	Donation in place of Chicken & Sushi Sale
Sidney & Donna Matsufuru	Contribution to the Legacy Endowment Bond
Helen Tachino	New Year's Grand Service Donation
Glenn & Ivis Tanaka	Donation for Car Blessing
Steven & Berlye Yamaki	Donation in place of Chicken and Sushi Sale
Steven Aisaka	Donation to Temple
Harold Haga	Donation to Temple
Charles & Joy Hokama	Donation to Temple
Lynne Kazama	Donation to Temple
P. Maki McHenry-Arens	Donation to Temple
Alice Masutani	Donation to Temple
Loren Odagiri	Donation to Temple

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENEROUS DONATIONS RECEIVED

## Operating Fund

Mildred Aisaka  
Steven Aisaka  
George Akahori  
Harold Haga  
Wallace & Diane Kazama  
Vernon & Ann Koizumi  
Karen Maruoka  
Glenn Nakagawa  
Ed Nose  
Kathleen & Raymond Tagawa  
Gordon Tamasaka  
Dennis & Anne Tanioka  
Arlene Watanabe  
Chester & Carol Fujimoto  
Troy Fukuhara  
Lilly Ihara  
Amy Imaguchi  
Alice Ito  
Carl & Mutsumi Kawauchi  
P. Maki McHenry-Arens  
Alice Masutani  
Caroline Masutani  
Karen & Ron Matsukawa  
Cynthia Matsunaga  
James Matsuoka  
Gail Nagamine  
Colleen Nakatsu  
Satoru & Gertrude Nishida  
Loren Odagiri  
Annie Okoji  
Elbert Saito  
Calvin Sato  
Kevin & Lara Sugimoto  
Thelma Tanaka  
Marion Taketa  
Candace & Gary Tasoe  
Earl & Rachel Tsuneyoshi  
Harold Yokouchi  
Ralph & Lillian Yokouchi  
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Annette & Franklin Distiso  
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Steven Aisaka  
Harold Haga  
Phyllis Kawachi  
Wallace & Diane Kazama  
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Glenn Nakagawa  
Caroline Masutani  
James Matsuoka  
George Niino  
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Calvin Sato  
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Ada Yamaki  
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Harold Haga  
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Joseph & Sharon Katano  
P. Maki McHenry-Arens  
Alice Masutani  
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Pam Matsuda  
James Matsuoka



# Dharma Lei

## Bishop's Office Newsletter

Soto Zen Buddhism Hawaii Office

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First Quarter, 2021

Issue No. 35

### Bishop's Message: Bishop Shugen Komagata

Aloha from the Bishop's Office,

I pray that this message finds you and your family in both good health and spirits. One year ago, the Novel Coronavirus was discovered. Since then, over sixty-nine million people have been infected with COVID-19, and 1.5 million people have died from it. We pray for the repose of all those who have died, and we pray for the recovery of those who are suffering the effects of this devastating illness.

I am encouraged by the news of a vaccine that is arriving in Hawaii. Although it will take time, I am hopeful for a positive resolution to this pandemic.

2020 has certainly been an unusual year. The pandemic has redefined nearly every aspect of our daily social interactions. Social distancing, masking up, frequently washing hands, quarantines, and restriction on gatherings are just a few of the things we experience daily now. Despite all the challenges, I have also seen how resilient people this year have been. So many people in Hawaii are very considerate, patient, courteous, tolerant, and polite.

2021 is the year of the Ox, or "Ushi" in Japanese. The ox is the second symbol in the Japanese Zodiac. Legend has it that when all the Zodiac animals were initially summoned by the gods, the rat hitched a ride atop the ox for the long journey. At the end of the trek, the rat jumped off and ran ahead to the finish line right before the ox. Although the ox came in second, the gods recognized the ox for its steady determination and patience on the long journey. So, in the spirit of the Ox in 2021, let us be both steadfast and patient in our journey to realize the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please take care of yourself and your loved ones.

In Gassho,

Bishop Shugen Komagata



# *You can't predict the future*

“人間万事塞翁が馬 *Ningen banji saiou ga uma* (Japanese proverb)”

*Stories by Rev. Daito Noda*

In this world, there no telling what event might lead to happiness or unhappiness.

Long ago in China, there lived a wise old man in a remote fortress town. This old man had a son who was adept at riding a horse. One day, this horse the son was taking care of ran away from a barn, and nobody knew where the horse went. Many in the fortress town visited the old man and expressed their condolences. To these folks, the old man said, “Well, in this world, there is no telling if this incident might lead to fortune or misfortune in the future.”

A few months later, that missing horse came back with six beautiful wild horses. Neighbors came over to the old man's house and remarked how lucky he and his son were. To this, the old man said, “Well, in this world, there is no telling if this incident might lead to fortune or misfortune in the future.”

A few days later, this man's son fell off from one of the new horses. The son broke his leg. The injury was so severe that the son limped visibly thereafter. Folks in this village came to the old man's house and expressed their sorrow. To this, the old man said, “Well, in this world, there is no telling if this incident might lead to fortune or misfortune in the future.”

One year later, the neighboring enemy country invaded the old man's fortress town. Every able-bodied young man in this town was drafted and went to war. But the old man's son was not drafted due to his disability and remained in the village. While almost all young men died in this war, the son lived on. He was the only young man left in this village.

Fortunes and misfortunes are all parts of one's life. The only thing we can do is to do our best in this world.

# Online Dharma Message

Soto Zen Buddhism in Hawaii is providing online Dharma talks on Youtube and Facebook two times a month. Rev. Shuji, Rev. Hata and Rev. Hoshino's video have been published. You can watch the videos by using the link or scanning the QR code below.



## Youtube Page Link

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsTHV\\_8A59kEfZIBRImDtRw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsTHV_8A59kEfZIBRImDtRw)

## Facebook Page Link

<https://www.facebook.com/Soto-Zen-Buddhism-in-Hawaii-111602773848472/>



*Please scan the QR code with your smartphone to access the website!!*



## Schedule

Rev. Myoshin Kaniumoe Dec 27, 2020  
Bishop Shugen Komagata January 10, 2021  
Rev. Hiroshiro Yoshida January 24, 2021  
Rev. Ryokei Ishii February 14, 2021

Rev. Daitso Wright February 28, 2021  
Rev. Shoryu Fukagawa March 14, 2021  
Rev. Jiko Nakade March 28, 2021





**Soto Mission of Aiea  
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