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TAIHEIJI BULLETIN



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2021

Legacy-Endowment Bond News

By Rev. Shuji Komagata

Aloha! As the COVID-19 restrictions begin to loosen here in Hawaii, things are starting to look up for the upcoming year 2022. Here at Taiheiji, things are beginning to look up as well. In early October we successfully raised \$1,000,000 in pledges for Taiheiji's Legacy-Endowment Bond. Given the overall challenges the COVID-19 pandemic presented us, I am so grateful for everyone's support.

The money we collect through the bond sales, along with donations from members, supporters, and the Hawaii Kansha Foundation, will be used to for the construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center in 2022. This activity center will be the home of the Taiheiji Adult Care Center, a safe, modern and affordable facility for our elderly *kupuna*. In addition, the layout of the new building will also include classrooms, meeting rooms, and a meditation hall to further support the community with new activities.

As it was previously printed in the last Taiheiji Bulletin, the cost of the project has climbed astronomically due to the pandemic. Thanks to a handful of very generous and thoughtful people who have donated their bond purchases back to the temple (totaling \$168,000), we have the opportunity to raise more money for the project. To date, \$156,000 in bonds are available for resale. Please contact me to purchase bonds!

(Continued on page 2)

Taiheiji is continuing to work with the architects, engineers and various contractors to lower the cost to a more affordable amount through value engineering and various plan revisions. In the end, however reluctantly, we may need to introduce bank financing to cover the shortfall. But for now, Taiheiji will continue to work hard to improve its position with each bond sale. All contributions in any amount will be greatly appreciated. Please note that the bond is being sold in increments of \$1,000. Please also consider, as others have done, donating your bond investment back to Taiheiji as another way to help the temple.

I am so happy to be able to a part of the Taiheiji family as we take a big step to the future. I still believe that this project is the best chance we have that will create HOPE for the future of our temple. Let's work together to create a sustainable future for the Soto Mission of Aiea as well as for the betterment of the Aiea community. Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you and please take care!



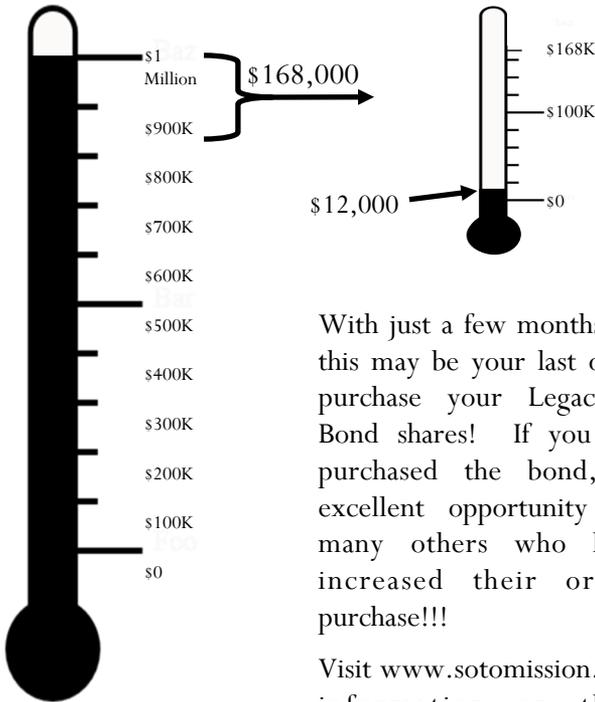
Now that we've reached our **\$1,000,000** goal, let's keep the momentum going by purchasing the additional bonds that are now available for resale thanks to the generous and thoughtful people who have donated their bond purchases back to the temple.

Invest in the Legacy-Endowment Bond!

\$168,000: Total bond pledges donated back to Taiheiji for resale:

\$12,000: Bonds that have been resold:

\$156,000: Bonds available for resale:



With just a few months left in 2021, this may be your last opportunity to purchase your Legacy-Endowment Bond shares! If you have already purchased the bond, this is an excellent opportunity to join the many others who have already increased their original bond purchase!!!

Visit www.sotomission.com for more information on the Legacy-Endowment Bond and to find downloadable forms.

EITAIKYO, KANNONKO, & KEIZAN ZENJI'S BIRTHDAY SERVICES

After temple activities were paused for a few months due to COVID-19, in-person services will resume on Sunday, November 7 at 9:00 a.m. for Eitaikyo (Perpetual Donors), Kannonko, and Keizan Zenji's birthday services. Everyone is invited to attend this occasion.

Keizan Zenji's Birthday Service

Our Soto tradition in Hawaii is traced back to our two founders, Dogen Zenji and Keizan Zenji. While both Dogen and Keizan will always be remembered as great teachers of Zen, Keizan Zenji is credited with initiating the rapid and wide spread growth and influence of Soto Zen throughout Japan. He laid the foundation for the development of Soto Zen by training many outstanding disciples who would propagate the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha. And so it is with deep reverence and gratitude that we honor and pay homage to Master Keizan.



Keizan Zenji

Eitaikyo Service

Eitaikyo Service is held each year at Taiheiji, as an annual memorial service for deceased members of Taiheiji. What sets this special service apart from private memorial services is that Eitaikyo service is for “Perpetual memorial.” By making a donation over \$400 for this service, a deceased loved one is prayed for every year in this service. Their name will be read along with all other Eitaikyo recipients’ names that have been read since the beginning of Taiheiji’s long history. If you are interested in ensuring that your deceased loved one will be honored in the Eitaikyo service this year and every year to come, please call Rev. Shuji to make arrangements.

DECEMBER BODHI DAY SERVICE

Important: Due to everchanging COVID-19 restrictions of gathering, please contact Rev. Shuji to confirm this service date and time before coming to the temple. The wearing of facemasks is required at all times while at Taiheiji.

The teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha have touched the lives of people around the world. His words of love, mercy, and compassion have helped countless people find peace and happiness in their lives. Our Buddhist beliefs and practices can be traced back to a single event in the Buddha's life—his enlightenment. After sitting in quiet meditation under the Bodhi tree, Siddhartha Gautama became Shakyamuni Buddha, thus revealing to all people of the world the way to end suffering. On **Sunday, December 12, at 9:00 a.m.**, Taiheiji will be observing its Bodhi Day service honoring the Buddha's enlightenment as well as its monthly Kannonko service. We look forward to seeing you.



On December 9, 1979, seven Taiheiji YBA members: Susan Suzuki, Pam Suzuki, Pat Suzuki, Diane Suzuki, Corinne Fukumae, Chizuru Togami, and Craig Inuma won 1st place in a mural contest sponsored by the Hawaii Buddhist Council for their painting of the Buddha's Enlightenment.

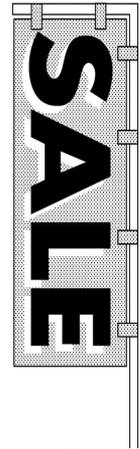
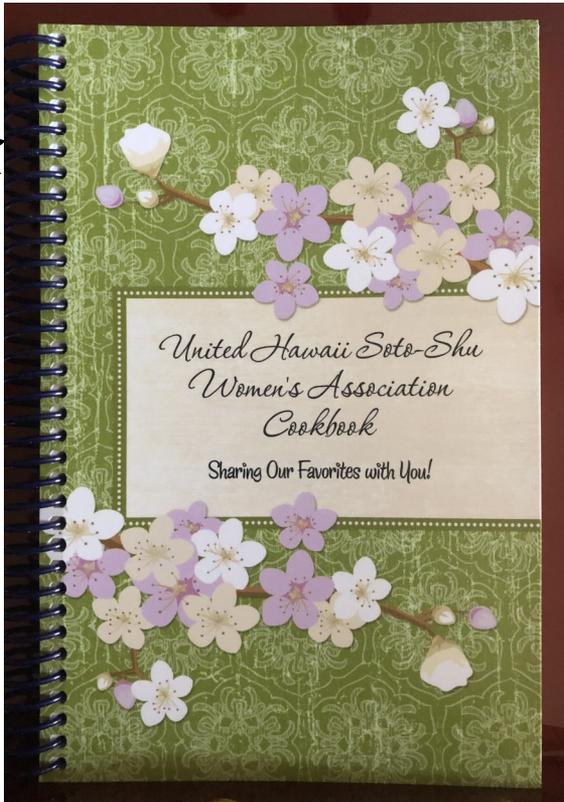
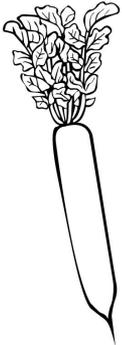
FUJINKAI COOKBOOKS FOR SALE!



The Aiea Taiheiji Fujinkai sold its entire inventory of United Hawaii Soto-Shu Women's Association Cookbooks in a matter of weeks in October 2020. In response to popular demand, a second printing was done, and the cookbooks are now once again available for purchase.

Spearheaded by Mrs. Jaymie Komagata, over 300 recipe favorites were collected from the women of the Fujinkai groups at the various Hawaii's Soto Mission temples.

This beautifully edited and professionally printed new cookbook boasts nearly 70 recipes from Taiheiji Fujinkai ladies (and even Rev. Shuji). The United Hawaii Soto-Shu Women's Association Cookbook is now on sale for \$12. Please contact Rev. Shuji at 808-488-6794 to order your cookbooks for you and your loved ones!



NEW YEAR'S & DAIHANNYA BLESSING SERVICES

EARLY REMINDER!

On Saturday, January 1, 2022, Taiheiji's New Year's & Daihannya Services will be held at 9:00 a.m. It is important to pay your respects at Taiheiji, receive your New Year's blessing, and pick up your new ofuda packets.

Due to the ongoing restrictions on gatherings and to ensure the safety of all, the New Year's Blessing Service will be once again modified into a "DRIVE THRU" Service. Much like the annual chicken and sushi sale at Taiheiji, visitors will "drive thru" the temple parking lot and remain in their vehicles as they receive their annual blessing and new ofuda packets.

This innovative change was implemented for the 2021 New Year's Service, and it was well received by all. During these uncertain times in Hawaii and around the world, the 2022 New Year's Blessing and Daihannya Service on January 1 will certainly be a positive way to start the new year. See you on New Year's Day!!!

DAIHANNYA OFUDA PACKETS

On New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1, 2022, the new *Daihannya Ofuda* will be distributed to Taiheiji members and their families. Each household will receive in their NEW OFUDA PACKET: 1 wooden *kifuda*, 2 paper *ofuda*, 1 car *omamori*, and 1 wallet *omamori*. Order forms will be mailed to you at the beginning of December.



ARE YOU A MEMBER OF TAIHEIJI? SOTO MISSION OF AIEA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

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.

We regularly receive requests from nonmembers for services. It is during these times when people know of no other place to go that they realize the importance of being a member of the temple. Your Taiheiji membership enables you to access the variety of religious services available, whether for happy occasions like weddings, or for challenging times like dealing with the loss of a loved one.

We certainly feel that your membership donation is an encouraging sign of confidence that you place in the temple as an important and relevant part of your life.

An additional benefit active members receive is the opportunity to use the social hall to host parties and events. Currently, there is no rental fee for members, so booking the facility is simple with a donation made at the member's discretion. The social hall can comfortably accommodate up to 150 guests.

The annual membership donation is \$100 per household. In December, we will send out the membership/donation form for your household to join the temple or renew membership. **Please also encourage your parents, adult children, relatives and friends to renew their membership or to join our temple community.** If you have any questions, please call Rev. Shuji at 488-6794.

2022 FUJINKAI DUES

The Soto Mission of Aiea Taiheiji Fujinkai will soon be collecting Dues (\$10) for the year 2022. There are two membership options to choose from:

- Annual Membership: \$10/year
- Lifetime Membership (for current members of the Fujinkai with at least two years of active membership), based on age:
 - 50 and under - \$100
 - 51-60 - \$50
 - 61-70 - \$40
 - 70 and over - \$30

The Taiheiji Fujinkai membership form will be sent to you in December. Anyone interested in joining the Fujinkai is welcomed. If you are unable to pay the membership dues because of financial difficulties, please contact the Soto Mission of Aiea Fujinkai at 488-6794 to discuss options.

The Fujinkai is the auxiliary women's organization of the temple, and has been a long time advocate for women inside and outside the Buddhist community. They help one another out in the time of need, and spend time together in fellowship at and outside the temple throughout the year. In addition to providing support for each other, the women of the Fujinkai take on added responsibilities. They make generous contributions to the maintenance and furnishing of the minister's residence, and purchase appliances for the temple. Please remember to make your \$10 dues payable to "Soto Mission of Aiea Fujinkai."

ZIPPY'S

BENEFIT FUNDRAISING

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Soto Mission of Aiea has not been able to hold its BBQ Chicken & Sushi sale in 2020 and again in 2021. The lost revenue from these fundraisers has made it difficult to keep up with the cost of maintaining the temple facilities and paying the minister.

In lieu of the chicken & sushi sales, Taiheiji Board of Directors unanimously voted to do the Zippy's Fundraiser Event. In just three weeks, Taiheiji members, supporters, and groups that use the temple facilities responded by selling over 1500 tickets! I would like to thank everyone for the tremendous support! Thank you also to those who sent in additional donations with their Zippy's Fundraising Event orders.

Each ticket sold can be redeemed for: Chili, Portuguese Bean Soup, Meat Sauce, one (1) meat & egg breakfast with one (1) small coffee or soft drink, OR five (5) pieces of cornbread.

The Zippy's Fundraiser Event tickets will be printed and mailed out around November 8. The tickets will be redeemable for approximately 10 weeks (estimated mid-January expiration).

A special thank you goes out to everyone who participated in this fundraiser.



UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

November 2021

- 7 Sun 9:00 a.m. (confirmed) Keizan Zenji Birthday Service, Eitaikyo, and Kannonko Service

December 2021

- 12 Sun 9:00 a.m. (tentative) Taiheiji Bodhi Day & Kannonko Service

Tentative 2022 Calendar of Events

- January 1 New Year's Blessing and Daihannya Service (drive-thru)
- January 9 Dogen Birthday, Kannonko, Ofuda yaki Services
- February 6 Nehan and Kannonko Services
- March 13 Spring Higan and Kannonko Services
- April 10 Hanamatsuri and Kannonko Services
- May 15 Fujinkai Tsuicho-e and Kannonko Services
- June 16, 18, 19, 20 Bon Services
- August 5, 6 Bon Dance
- September 11 Fall Higan and Kannonko Services
- October 9 Daruma-ki and Kannonko Services
- November 13 Keizan Birthday, Eitaikyo and Kannonko Services
- December 11 Bodhi Day and Kannonko Services

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENEROUS DONATIONS RECEIVED

Wendy Higa	7th Day Memorial Service for the late Michie Nagamine
Charlene Yamaguchi	1st Year Memorial Service for the late Fujiko Shiraki
Frederick Takakawa	7th Year Memorial Service for the late Betty Takakawa
Aiea Matsubayashi-Ryu Karate Club	Donation to Temple
Amy Imaguchi	New Building Construction Fund
Wendy Higa	Funeral for the late Michie Nagamine
Crane Saito	New Building Construction Fund
Ellen Sato-Lum	New Building Construction Fund
Jerrilyn Segawa	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Charlene Yamaguchi	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Cynthia Matsunaga	New Building Construction Fund

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENEROUS DONATIONS RECEIVED

Cynthia Matsunaga	Donation to Temple
Lloyd Itagaki	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Noriko Fukumae	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Noriko Fukumae	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Diane Maeda	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Diane Maeda	New Building Construction Fund
Takeo Maeda	New Building Construction Fund
Angela Naito	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Clayton Maeda	New Building Construction Fund
Archer Yamaki	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Kevin & Lara Sugimoto	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Glenn Tanaka	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Ivis Tanaka	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Aiko Karaoke School	Donation to Temple
Ryoko Fukutomi	New Building Construction Fund
Charles & Joy Hokama	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Pam Matsuda	New Building Construction Fund
Gail Nagamine	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Michael Kurosawa	New Building Construction Fund
Braxton Fukutomi	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Noriko Fukumae	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Sidney & Donna Matsufuru	Donation to Temple
Geraldine Nishida	New Building Construction Fund
Glenn Tango	In Loving Memory of the late Richard & Frances Tango
Candace Tasoe	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Kelsey Tasoe	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Warren & Michiko Nishimoto	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Archer Yamaki	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Elbert Saito	New Building Construction Fund
Kevin & Lara Sugimoto	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Aiea Taiheiji Yagura Gumi	New Building Construction Fund
Alice Masutani	Legacy-Endowment Bond
Amy Mijo	Donation to Temple
Sharon Chun	Graveside Service for the late Mitsue Suzuki
Kate Shibata	New Building Construction Fund
Jean Takata	New Building Construction Fund



Dharma Lei



Bishop's Office Newsletter

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Fourth Quarter, 2021

Issue No. 38

Bishop's Message: Bishop Shugen Komagata

Aloha!

I hope this message finds you in good health and spirit! In what now feels like a very long time, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to loom over the world. I extend my thoughts and prayers to you and your family.

Personally, I had high hopes to be able to travel again to visit relatives in Japan and enjoy the summer season of Bon Dance in Hawaii. However, Japan still requires everyone entering the country to quarantine, and large public events in Ha-waii are still not allowed. Additionally, I recently suffered a compression fracture in my already injury plagued spine. I would say that 2021 isn't going the way I had expected.



Although I couldn't travel to Japan, I am so happy that I

instead chose to visit my older son Daishu and his family this summer in New Mexico. It was so much fun to play with my four-year-old and six-year-old granddaughters, albeit exhausting! I miss the large crowds at the Bon Dances, but I'm grateful that I can still enjoy chatting with occasional visitors over a cup of tea. The pain in my back is at times excruciating, especially in the morning. Still, I get out of bed each morning and go about my day. I told my son, Rev. Shuji, that as I heal little by little each day, "pain and I have become friends." So, as I enter the final months of 2021, I try to reflect positively upon this year, knowing that there are many things I am grateful for even during a global pandemic.

I encourage you to also try to reflect positively upon your experiences so far in 2021. By continuing to live each day to the fullest, let us be hopeful for a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving and holiday season. With palms together in gassho and prayer, may the blessing and protection of Kannon-sama be extended to you, your family, and friends. Namu Kie Butsu, Namu Kie Ho, Namu Kie So.

In Gassho,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shugen Komagata". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the final character.

Bishop Shugen Komagata

Adjusting how you breathe

“呼吸を合わせる (*Kokyu wo Awaseru*)”

Story by Rev. Daito Noda

Adjusting how you breathe

The Niihama region of Ehime Prefecture, where I did some monastic training, has a unique greeting in the morning. It goes like this: “O-hayō, kōkyū shiyon-na? (Good morning! Are you breathing okay?)” Folks respond: “O-hayō, kōkyū shiyoruzo” (Good morning. I’m breathing fine).”

We human beings die when we stop breathing. With a loud cry, we begin to breathe immediately after being born. Our lives end with a sigh at our last breath. We breathe in and out without thinking about it, according to the laws of nature. It would be the height of arrogance to not be awed and grateful at being able to breathe this way. There are people who are sick, who can no longer breathe on their own, and who must receive oxygen at a hospital. People in the Niihama care about each other by greeting others by asking if they are breathing.

This year, how about focusing on the source of our life, the very act of breathing? We must get to know ourselves well, in order to breathe in just the right amount of air suitable for our bodies. In addition, we must not neglect how we breathe, no matter when or where we are.

I think that how one breathes is the same as one’s personal rhythm. At its essence, the universe moves according a particular rhythm. If we can align our own rhythm with that of the universe, I believe great energy will be unleashed. This universe is also called the Buddha’s world. If you wish to improve exponentially or wish to accomplish more than what you think you can, how about starting by working out your own appropriate breathing pattern?

Alright. Here is the Niihama Style response: “Yes. I’m breathing fine.”

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