

SOTO MISSION OF AIEA
P.O. BOX 926 AIEA, HAWAII 96701
PHONE AND FAX 808.488.6794
EMAIL AIEATAIHEIJI@GMAIL.COM



TAIHEIJI BULLETIN



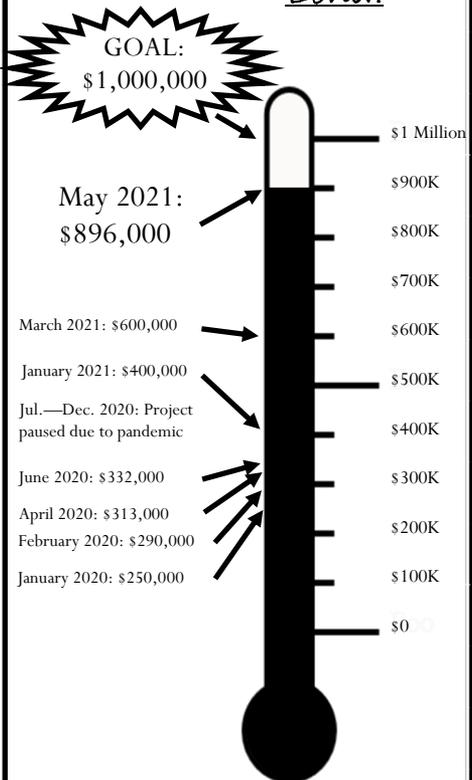
MAY & JUNE 2021

UPDATE: Legacy-Endowment Bond

It is with great excitement that I update you with news that we are very close to reaching our goal of raising \$1,000,000 for the Legacy-Endowment Bond! As of May 1, we have raised \$896,000! With this very encouraging news, we will be able to move forward with the project to build the new Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center.

However, in order to ensure that the construction project runs smoothly, it is imperative that we raise \$1,000,000 in investments in the Legacy-Endowment Bond. The

Keep the momentum
going strong!!! Contribute
to the Legacy-Endowment
Bond!



money raised will also ensure that the equally important Taiheiji Endowment Fund is properly established. The endowment is a special fund that is designed to assist Taiheiji in perpetuity.

Therefore, I ask those who have yet to participate—please invest in this bond. We have raised 90% of what we need. Your contribution will have a very positive impact on the project!

To those who have already made a pledge—thank you very much!! If you are able to, please consider making an additional pledge to the Legacy-Endowment Fund.

Although your pledges are due by the end of this year 2021, if you are able to, please consider sending in your pledged money sooner. Thank you very much for your continued support.

Please contact me to make an investment in the Legacy-Endowment Bond, or if you have any questions. Mahalo!

JIZO-KO SERVICE AND KANNONKO

Please come to Taiheiji on Sunday, June 6 at 9:00 a.m. for the Jizo-Ko Service and Kannonko. *Ojizo-sama*, also known as *Jizo Bosatsu*, is housed in front of the temple, in our *Nokotsudo* (columbarium), and in our Kannondo (Kannon Hall). *Ojizo sama* is the guardian of children and travelers. In Japan, *Jizo* statues made from stone can be found along the roadsides. Here in Hawaii, many of these stone statues were erected in various locations along the coasts throughout our islands to protect fishermen, divers, and beachgoers. Please pay a visit to the temple on this day with friends and relatives.

In May, we honored our mothers at Taiheiji. We will pay tribute to our fathers in this month'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.

2021 BON SERVICE NEWS

The COVID-19 pandemic has now been ongoing for over a year. Although churches and temples are beginning to open up, Taiheiji is not large enough to accommodate the large Bon Service crowds without compromising everyone's safety through social distancing.

Therefore, like last year, people will not attend the Bon Service in person. Instead, **the Soto Mission of Aiea Bon Service will be streamed live on Facebook on Saturday, June 19, at 10:00 a.m.** More information on how you can view this year's Bon Service will be sent out in mid May 2021 with your otoa request forms.

2021 BON DANCE

The 2021 Soto Mission of Aiea Bon Dance has once again been canceled. It was a very difficult decision that had to be made by the Bishop's Office. While the vaccination effort in Hawaii has been going well and we can be hopeful to reach herd immunity by August, we are still not yet able to confidently ensure everyone's safety and well being at an event like the Bon Dance.

We will set our sights on returning to having a Bon Dance in 2022.

LAY CONFIRMATION CEREMONY

Congratulations to Ms. Teri Wong and Mrs. Amy Mijo, for participating in the recent Lay Confirmation Ceremony held at the Soto Mission of Hawaii in Nuuanu.

The United Hawaii Soto-Shu Women's Association (UHSSWA) holds an annual statewide conference for its members every April. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, both the 2020 and 2021 conferences were cancelled. In lieu of having a conference, the UHSSWA wanted to offer a special experience for its members.



Ms. Teri Wong (left) and Bishop Shugen Komagata (right)

From January through March 2021, Rev. Jiko Nakade of the Kona Daifukuji Soto Mission, led a weekly class on Zoom focusing on the 16 Buddhist Precepts—the core of what it means to be Buddhist. Teri and Amy were among the many attendees of this class, studying and discussing the precepts.

As a culmination of these classes, members of the UHSSWA who attended these classes were given the opportunity to participate in the Confirmation Ceremony.

During this ceremony, seven women including Teri and Amy formally received the 16 Buddhist Precepts and their “kaimyo,” (Buddhist name) from Bishop Shugen Komagata. It was a very special day for these women.

Thank you to Bishop Shugen Komagata, the Bishop’s Office, the Hawaii Soto Mission Association, and the UHSSWA for sponsoring and hosting the Lay Confirmation Ceremony.



Mrs. Amy Mijo (left) and Bishop Shugen Komagata (right)

Zooming Through the Precepts

by Rev. Jiko Nakade

“What a delightful surprise studying the precepts with a Zoom sangha has been! I appreciate the diversity of the sangha: ages teens to 80+ year olds, the diversity of experience in practicing Buddhism, from “I grew up in it but don’t know much about Buddhism” to “having studied and practiced for decades.” The Zoom sangha gives us an intimate, sacred space to share our thoughts and our life experiences as we contemplate the precepts. I am grateful for this opportunity to learn, share, and grow together.” **Mary Park**

I echo the sentiments expressed by Mary Park. Studying the precepts with an online Zoom Sangha has been a delightful surprise.

In March of 2020, just a few weeks after a group of Daifukuji members began studying the precepts together in person, the temple had to close its doors due to the Coronavirus crisis. Disappointed and saddened by this turn of events, we thought we would ride out the pandemic and meet again in a few months. As the pandemic stretched on and worsened and the hope of meeting any time soon began to diminish, I began to think that I could at least offer a course of study using Zoom, a video communications platform which was being widely used.

Not knowing how effective using Zoom would be, I decided that it would be worth a try using it to teach the sixteen precepts. Remembering that Bishop Shugen Komagata had announced at a ministers meeting that he wished to offer Soto Zen Buddhist Lay Confirmation ceremonies at our various Hawaii temples once it becomes safe to gather, I asked our bishop if he would like me to open up my classes to other Hawaii Soto Zen sanghas, since using Zoom would make this possible. Bishop Komagata gave his support and encouraged me to do so.

Shortly thereafter, I heard from Mrs. Jaymie Komagata that the United Hawaii Soto Shu Women’s Association (UHSSWA) was

considering having a virtual precepts ceremony, to be officiated by the bishop, for interested Fujinkai members in lieu of the association's annual conference, which had been cancelled due to the pandemic. She asked if it would be okay for Fujinkai members from our various Hawaii temples to join the Zoom precepts sessions. Gladly, I decided to offer a second series of sessions for this group.

Word went out and responses came in. Twenty-three people registered for the 8:00 a.m. Saturday classes, and seventeen for the 1 p.m. classes. Each group was comprised of a mixture of people from various temples.

“When Rev. Jiko started up a new series via Zoom this year I asked to sign up for the Saturday afternoon session. The class is very inclusive and encourages participation. I have met a new supportive Sangha from other islands and my understanding of the Precepts is growing. The informational emails we receive have been thought provoking. I am very grateful for this opportunity to study the Precepts again with Rev Jiko.”

Susie Weaver

What is delightful is not only having members of the various Fujinkai women's groups join the afternoon sessions, but several men as well, among them Glenn Tango and Carl Kawauchi of the Soto Mission of Aiea Taiheiji.

“We've learned that the 16 precepts are guidelines for living a 'good' Buddhist life. They are all presented together in one place. They are guidelines and not commandments, so should help us live good Buddhist lives if we can follow them. We are also learning other aspects of Soto Zen Buddhism: e.g., what is meditation and how do we do it; karma and the six realms of existence; how we should generally live our lives; discussions on abortion and homelessness.”

Carl Kawauchi

“I have enjoyed the precepts Dharma class because it has given me a chance to contemplate the precepts and express my thoughts on the precepts. Usually, it is just the minister or a reading through which you get an interpretation of a precept. It has been

most interesting to hear what my fellow Buddhists have to say. I like this Zoom format because it gives a feeling of semi privacy. We are facing each other if you have your video on, but we are in our own comfortable private setting. I feel that I can be more open.” **Glenn Tango**

Although being together on Zoom is not the same as being together in person, people have found that Zoom Dharma study has its benefits, such as not having to drive and deal with traffic, being able to stay in the comfort of one’s home, being able to better hear what others are saying by controlling the volume on one’s personal device, and being able to focus on whoever is speaking without the distractions found in large group gatherings since everyone, except the speaker, is muted. Also, being able to attend a meeting without having to wear a mask.

“Studying the precepts with Rev Jiko via Zoom is lovely. While I’m not yet comfortable chatting on the medium, my own personal expansion of understanding has exploded. The convenience of not leaving home, coupled with the opportunity to join with others far away physically is absolutely wonderful. Internet-created sangha. Go Buddha nature, limitless, eternal, always connected. I’m grateful for my companions, walking each other home.” **Laura Brown**

“It has been my great good fortune to be a part of the Daifukuji online precepts class. I am not a tech savvy person and I would have never expected that this type of class being conducted online would have meaning to me - but it does. If anything, the online experience has been even richer than it would have been in person due to the time and energy saved by not having to take the long drive to and from the temple on a weekly basis.”

Dan Gordon

With more and more people getting vaccinated, I am looking forward to once again holding in-person Dharma study sessions at Daifukuji Soto Mission. I would also like to continue offering Dharma study through Zoom. Through the sharing of their thoughts and reflections on the precepts, as well as their life experiences and challenges, the members of the Zoom sangha

have bonded and are enjoying the sweet joy that spiritual friendship brings.

“The online Zoom Dharma sessions have been so far very enlightening. Each week is a new and important perspective of being a Buddhist. Having an opportunity to share the Buddhist precepts with others brings about right understanding. I am happy to have this chance and feel welcomed by the Sangha. Seeing people grow in the teachings while sharing is a very joyful experience.” **David Fiedler**

I can honestly say that I look forward each week to opening these Zoom meetings and to hearing the Zoom doorbell chime ring as, one by one, Sangha friends join the meeting from living rooms and kitchen tables throughout Hawai‘i. Seeing the faces of teenagers, young adults, mothers and their children, older adults, and seniors on my computer screen, all making time in their lives to study the Teachings of the Buddha and Dharma ancestors fills my heart with unspeakable joy and wonder. I wish to express my warmest mahalo to all of the members of the Zoom sangha. I also thank Bishop Komagata for supporting this endeavor.

Namu kie butsu, namu kie ho, namu kie so. We take refuge in Buddha, we take refuge in Dharma, we take refuge in Sangha.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENEROUS DONATIONS RECEIVED

Bishop Shugen Komagata	Contribution to Legacy Endowment Bond
Diane Maeda	Contribution to Legacy Endowment Bond
Betty Matsui	First Year Memorial Service for the late Clarence Matsui
Deacon Frank Childs	Contribution to Legacy Endowment Bond
Mae Suzuki	7 th Year Memorial Service for the late Nellie Tanaka
Dawn Matsuura	3 rd Year Memorial Service for the late Kesa Takahashi
Carol Matsuo	Contribution to Legacy Endowment Bond
Nellie Fukuda	Contribution to Legacy Endowment Bond
Yuriko Onaga	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Jerrilyn Segawa	Contribution to Legacy Endowment Bond
Mae Suzuki	Contribution to Legacy Endowment Bond
Myrtle Takiguchi	Donation to Temple
Gordon Toyama	Contribution to Legacy Endowment Bond
Roy & Faith Yamagishi	Contribution to Legacy Endowment Bond
Karen Maruoka	Contribution to Legacy Endowment Bond
Edwin Oka	Contribution to Legacy Endowment Bond
Shari Hasegawa	Contribution to Legacy Endowment Bond
Annette Distiso	Contribution to Legacy Endowment Bond
Leigh Goya	First Year Memorial Service for the late Kieko Kosuga
Tamikichi Kosuge	Contribution to Legacy Endowment Bond
Ernest Yuasa	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Michiko Iwata	Contribution to Legacy Endowment Bond
Michiko Iwata	First Year Memorial Service for the late Ronald Iwata
Paul Murato	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Glenn Tango	Donation in loving memory of the late Richard & Frances Tango
Randall & Wendy Nagano	Contribution to Legacy Endowment Bond
Soto Mission of Aiea Fujinkai	Contribution to Legacy Endowment Bond
Michael & Janet Watanabe	Contribution to Legacy Endowment Bond
Ralph & Lillian Yokouchi	Contribution to Legacy Endowment Bond
Thomas & Harriet Kazama	Donation to New Building Construction Fund

“I’ll do it”

“俺がやる *Ore ga yaru* (Japanese proverb)”

Story by Rev. Daito Noda

“I’ll do it.” “I’ll take care of it.” Hearing these words makes anyone feel good. And when one enjoys doing something one is good at, these words come out naturally. But what if it’s work you don’t like?

There is a phrase which Zen monks often say, “Don’t pass on to someone else, work that is yours to do.” For Zen monks, this means that “I have been tasked to do this work as a part of my Zen training. To pass on some work to someone else because I don’t like doing it, is the same as robbing me of my zen training. There’s no way I’ll let that happen.”

I remember an incident that happened shortly after I entered the monastery. A fellow novice was assigned to clean the toilets for the next three months. I expected him to grumble how he, a college graduate, didn’t come all the way to these remote mountains to clean toilets.

To my surprise, he said, “Don’t pass on to someone else, work that is yours to do.” Then with a determined look, he said, “All right. I’ll make the toilets spotless until they shine.”

For me, his words and attitude were like a thunderclap in a cloudless sky. For the first time in my life, I had heard this Zen expression.

From then on, I repeat that phrase to myself, “Don’t pass on to someone else, work that is yours to do.”

In today’s world, if you truly want to develop spiritually, rather than staying in your comfort zone and doing what you are good at, wouldn’t it be better to face the “now” in your life, that which you dislike, what you would like most to escape? How about practicing this from this day?

TAIHEIJI'S BODHI TREE GETS A MAJOR "HAIRCUT"

On April 8, 1976, a young bodhi tree was donated to Taiheiji and was planted in the front corner of the temple. In 48 years, it has grown to be a beautiful and extremely large tree. It grew so much that it needed to be trimmed two to three times a year. It's branches reached out so wide that it touch the overhead powerlines.



This past April, it was time that Taiheiji's bodhi tree be trimmed down.

Mr. Jiro Fukumae (with shovel) participating in the tree planting ceremony on April 8, 1976



The powerlines can be seen behind the towering bodhi tree

Professional tree trimmers were called in to remove the large and long branches of the tree. Perhaps the more challenging work followed, as temple member Mr. George Hokama and his son Scott gave the tree a once in a generation topping.

Although it looks drastic, the base of the old branches were removed, making space for new and



stronger branches to grow again. The tree is quite healthy, as it is already beginning to sprout new branches only two weeks after being topped!

A special thank you goes to Mr. George Hokama and Mr. Scott Hokama (both pictured left), for spending several days topping off the bodhi tree!

TAIHEIJI

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

5/2	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Tsuicho-e, Kannonko Service
5/30	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Memorial Day Service
6/6	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Jizo-Ko, Kannonko Service
6/19	Sat	10:00 a.m.	Bon Service (Virtual only)

HANAMATSURI

On Sunday, April 11, the Hanamatsuri Service was held at Taiheiji. Service participants poured sweet tea (*amacha*) over the statue of the baby Buddha, standing under the golden pavilion called the *Hanamido*.

Thank you to Rachel Tsuneyoshi, Candace Tasoe, Teri Wong, and Gerlyn Higa for the beautiful (and fragrant) flowers that adorned the pavilion.

It truly was a beautiful *Hanamido* this year!!!



SDGs Lecture by Rev. Konjin Godwin



We invited Rev. Konjin Godwin, the Director of Soto Zen Buddhism International Center and held the event to learn about how Buddhism relates to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on February 21, 2021. Following is the link to the video.

<https://youtu.be/nraIpJsLS8Y>

Online Dharma Message



**Soto Mission of Aiea
P.O. Box 926
Aiea, HI 96701**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AIEA, HI
PERMIT NO. 5**