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# TAIHEIJI BULLETIN



MAY & JUNE 2022

## Bon Services to resume at Taiheiji in June in-person

Aloha! I hope you and your family are doing well. Since early 2020, so many activities at Taiheiji were put on pause due to the pandemic. However, the Soto Mission of Aiea is beginning to get busier again. By June, things will be back in full swing as in-person Bon Services will be observed at Taiheiji on:

Thursday, June 16 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday, June 18 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday, June 19 10:00 a.m.  
Monday, June 20 7:00 p.m.

Please complete the Bon Otoba Request Form and send back to Taiheiji by Monday, June 6, 2022.

## Tsuicho-e, Mother's Day, & Kannonko

Taiheiji will observe the Fujinkai Tsuicho-e, Mother's Day and Kannonko services on Sunday, May 15, from 9:00 a.m.

In 1929, Mrs. Taki Yoshizumi, wife of Rev. Kogan Yoshizumi, organized Taiheiji's Fujinkai. Through the decades, the Taiheiji Fujinkai women volunteered their time unselfishly for the temple. Tsuicho-e is a special memorial service dedicated to the deceased Fujinkai members.

Saturday, May 14:

## Kala Kokua Fundraiser Pick up

Thank you for your support with the Kala Kokua Fundraiser! Don't forget to pick up your products on Saturday, May 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Soto Mission of Aiea.

## Taiheiji Bon Dance is Back!!! August 12 & 13

It's hard to believe that Taiheiji has not had a Bon Dance since 2019. We are excited to announce that the celebration will return to Taiheiji on Friday, August 12 and Saturday, August 13! We will also have taiko performance by Somei Taiko, Okinawan Bon Dancing led by Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu Kai, and Fukushima Ondo led by the Aiea Taiheiji Yagura Gumi. Please put the date down in your calendars to join us for this very special weekend!!!

## Jizo-Ko Service and Kannonko

Please come to Taiheiji on Sunday, June 5 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.

## Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center and Legacy–Endowment Bond Updates

Groundbreaking for the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center was scheduled to happen this summer, but ongoing delays by the Department of Planning and Permitting are threatening to push the date back further. In the meantime, Taiheiji will continue with its planning and fundraising for the project. If you are interested in purchasing Legacy-Endowment Bond, this may be your last chance to invest! The bond actually sold out by October 2021, but thanks to the generosity of a handful of investors, \$180,000 were donated back to the temple for resale. By January 1, 2022, only \$86,000 remained in available bonds. Now, only \$30,000 remain! Your bond purchase will help offset the increased construction cost caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Please contact Rev. Shuji or visit our temple website, [www.sotomission.com](http://www.sotomission.com) for more information.

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## Recycling

Mahalo for the great response following the announcement of Taiheiji's participation in the Hawaii Deposit Beverage Container Program (HI-5) in the previous Taiheiji Bulletin. In March and April, many people dropped off their cans and bottles at Taiheiji, giving the temple the opportunity to receive the 5¢ redeemable deposit benefit of this state funded program. Please stop by Taiheiji to drop off your recyclables, contact Rev. Shuji or visit [www.sotomission.com](http://www.sotomission.com) for more information.

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## Cemetery Plots Available for Purchase

Taiheiji can help you and your family make arrangements for a final resting place in the future. Through the generous donations by temple members and supporters over the years, the Soto Mission of Aiea owns several cemetery plots at Hawaiian Memorial Park Mortuary and the Valley of the Temples Memorial Park that are available to the Taiheiji community. If you are interested in acquiring a plot for you or a loved one, please contact Rev. Shuji at 488-6794. He will be able to send you more information. Additionally, if your family has an available plot they would like to generously donate to Taiheiji, please contact Rev. Shuji. Mahalo! More information can be found at [www.sotomission.com](http://www.sotomission.com)

## Visit the Temple website at [www.sotomission.com](http://www.sotomission.com)

Please take a moment to check out Taiheiji's updated website at [www.sotomission.com](http://www.sotomission.com). There, you'll find helpful information on various events and activities, as well as Buddhist resources. It is our hope that the website will be an effective way for members and supporters to stay connected to the temple. You also have the ability to make online donations. **You can make donations online to the New Building Construction Fund as well!**



## Mahalo for the donation of flowers!

Thank you for the many donations of flowers to decorate this year's Hanamido during the Hanamatsuri Service. Pictured above is Zayne Suzuki decorating the Hanamido as Rev. Shuji looks on.

## Nokotsudo Niches Now Available at Taiheiji

Located in the front corner of the Soto Mission of Aiea temple is a very special room called the Nokotsudo. This is the columbarium, a beautifully crafted room with dark mahogany niches adorned with traditional golden lanterns. It is the final resting place for many temple members and their families, including former resident minister, Rev. Kogan Yoshizumi and his wife, Mrs. Taki Yoshizumi. Just recently, a very limited number of niches have become available. If you are interested in learning more about how you can reserve a future space for you and your loved ones, please contact Rev. Shuji at 808-488-6794. Information is also available on the temple website, [www.sotomission.com](http://www.sotomission.com).

## Protective Masks at Taiheiji

Following the expiration of the statewide mask mandate on March 25, 2022, the Soto Mission of Aiea Board of Directors voted on April 24, 2022 to lift its requirement of wearing masks at Taiheiji. However, they continue to strongly recommend social distancing and wearing masks while at Taiheiji. The groups that use Taiheiji for their activities, like Taiko, Kendo, Karate, and Yoga, may set their own requirements on mask wearing.

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## Zazen at Taiheiji: Tuesdays, 6:00 a.m.

### What is Zazen?

Zazen is a meditative discipline that is typically the primary practice of the Zen Buddhist tradition. In general, it can be regarded as a means of insight into the nature of existence.

### Do I need to be a Buddhist to sit in Zazen?

Absolutely not! Everyone, no matter what their religious beliefs may be, should try to make meditation a part of their lives. The practice of Zazen is to make you a better self.

### What is the Zazenkaï?

The Zazenkaï is a group that sits together in Zen meditation. They support one another in the practice of Zazen.

### When does the Zazenkaï meet?

The Zazenkaï meets every Tuesday from 6:00 am to 7:00 am in the Taiheiji social hall. (First meeting is on May 3.)

Please check the latest [Taiheiji Bulletin](#) or contact Rev. Shuji at 808-488-6794 for the monthly Zazen schedule.

### I don't have any experience sitting in Zen Meditation. May I still join the Zazenkaï?

The Zazenkaï is open to everyone. No experience necessary. If you'd like, you may call Rev. Shuji to schedule an appointment for beginning instructions in Zazen, kinhin (walking meditation), and general etiquette.

### Zazen Etiquette

All participants are to arrive a few minutes early and be seated **before** beginning time. Please refrain from talking. While at Taiheiji, participants are asked to abide by the following five precepts, which promote the harmony and wellbeing of the Zazenkaï.

- Refraining from killing and harming living beings
- Refraining from taking that which is not given
- Refraining from causing harm through sexual misconduct or inappropriate behavior
- Refraining from false speech, harmful speech, gossip, and slander
- Abstaining from drugs, tobacco and intoxicants that cause carelessness or loss of awareness

Please dress comfortably and in a way suited to visiting a spiritual place. Please do not use strong fragrances during Zazen. Outside food and drink, with the exception of water, are not permitted. You may select either a chair or zafu (cushion) on which to sit.

### Zazenkaï Donations and Dues:

A small offertory bowl will be put out on the table. Your donations are greatly appreciated. You are also encouraged to (but not required to) officially join the Zazenkaï. Monthly dues for the Zazenkaï are \$40 and will be used to support Taiheiji and the meditation group. Thank you for your kind support.

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### MAY

14	Sat	8:00 a.m.	Kala Kokua Fundraiser pickup
15	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Tsuicho-e, Kannonko

### JUNE

5	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Jizo-Ko, Kannonko
16	Thu	7:00 p.m.	Bon Service at Taiheiji
18	Sat	10:00 a.m.	Bon Service at Taiheiji
19	Sun	10:00 a.m.	Bon Service at Taiheiji
20	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Bon Service at Taiheiji

## Editor's Notes...

In the March/April Taiheiji Bulletin, we spotlighted Teri Ann Wong-Tanaka in a section called, "Getting to Know our Taiheiji Sangha." We look forward to featuring another of our Taiheiji members in an upcoming Taiheiji Bulletin. More stories can be found in Taiheiji's commemorative history book entitled, "Soto Mission of Aiea Taiheiji...Our First 100 Years." Contact Rev. Shuji to purchase the book!

## Dollar a Day Donation Drive

The recent facelift of the Taiheiji's website has really given the temple a broader readership and made online giving an alternative, yet effective way to contribute to Taiheiji. Please visit the temple website to learn more about Taiheiji, and participate in the new "Dollar a Day Donation Drive." Donating to the Dollar a Day Drive is a positive expression of dana (selfless giving) and helps Taiheiji look optimistically to the future in sharing the Buddha-Dharma. This tax-deductible gift is collected monthly (\$30.00). Donors will be recognized in the Taiheiji Bulletin when they sign up to participate in the Dollar a Day Donation Drive. Donors will also be recognized on the Taiheiji website, [www.sotomission.com](http://www.sotomission.com).

**Instructions:** Please enter **\$30.00** (or more if you choose) as your donation amount. This amount will be charged to your credit card each month. Please contact Rev. Shuji Komagata at 808-488-6794 for more information.

## Acknowledgement of Generous Donations Received

Aki Tamura	Funeral Service for the late Toshiki Tamura
Onaga Family	Funeral Service for the late Yuriko Onaga
Takeo Maeda	13th Year Memorial Service for the late Momoe Maeda
Jean McMann	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Herbert & Caroll Takahashi Fund	Donation to Temple
Christy Kokami	Donation to Temple
Aki Tamura	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Edwin Oka	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Michiko Iwata	3rd Year Memorial Service for the late Ronald Iwata
Onaga Family	49th Day Memorial Service for the late Yuriko Onaga
Mae Oyama	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Ada Yamaki	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Sidney & Donna Matsufuru	Donation to Temple
Danette Kobayashi	Donation to Temple
Alayna Kobayashi	Donation to Temple
Danette Kobayashi	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Dew-Anne Nishida Langcaon	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Brian Nishida	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
John Nishida	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Joe & Gertrude Nishida	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Jean Takata	In Loving Memory of Edward Takata 23rd Year Memorial
Candace Tasoe	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Christy Kokami	Donation to Temple
Glenn Tango	In Loving Memory of the late Koji Tango

## 55th UHSSWA Conference hosted by Maui Mantokuji Fujinkai

On Sunday, April 23, after a two year hiatus, the 55th United Hawaii Soto-Shu Women's Association Conference, hosted by Maui Mantokuji Fujinkai, was held virtually with over 120 participants via Zoom. Many people gathered at their home temple, while others logged in from home to attend the virtual services, general membership meeting, game, and group activity. Mahalo to Maui Mantokuji Fujinkai and Rev. Tomoki and Yuki Hirasawa for putting on a wonderful conference!