

SOTO MISSION OF AIEA  
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# TAIHEIJI BULLETIN



**SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2022**

## Soto Mission of Aiea Online Auction October 16 to 22, 2022

As Taiheiji looks to grow and increase its positive presence in the Aiea community, the sustainable solution for the future is the construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center. This is an exciting and historic project that will serve as a nurturing place for our temple members and our community. Proceeds from Taiheiji's first ever "Online Auction" will go towards funding the new building project. There are many ways to support the project!

Be a Donor: We are asking our members, community, and businesses to help in donating auction items for this online event. Taiheiji is already accepting items to be added to the auction. Please take a look at the following list of example auction items.

*(‘Auction’ continued on page 18)*

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## Plant and Flower Sale

Friday, November 4, 2022: 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday, November 5, 2022: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Coming off the heels of the very successful Plant and Flower Sale at Taiheiji's recent Bon Dance in August, the next Plant and Flower Sale has been set. Proceeds from the sale will help fund the construction of the all-new Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center.

# Living Wreath Making Workshop

## Presented by Amy Tsuneyoshi

Location: Soto Mission of Aiea  
Date: Saturday, October 1, 2022  
Time: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Fee: \$15 per person

Would you like to learn how to make a living wreath? Join us for this fun workshop to create your own living wreath using Pele's Hair. You can decorate your wreath for the holidays or use it all year-round to display your favorite air plants, succulents and flowers. The living wreath is a perfect holiday gift for teachers, coworkers, friends, and family. This workshop is open to the public. Invite your friends and family for a fun afternoon.

We are seeking donations of wire hangers for the workshop. Please also help us by bringing your own pair of pliers from home to use. Contact Rev. Shuji Komagata at 808-488-6794 to



register or if you have questions. Space is limited. Registration closes on Friday, September 23, 2022.

We are very grateful and fortunate to have as our presenter, Amy Tsuneyoshi, daughter of temple members Earl and Rachel Tsuneyoshi. Amy grew up playing in the mud and still finds joy in getting her hands in the soil. She grows a variety of edible and ornamental plants in her urban jungle as well as Native Hawaiian plants. She has a degree in horticulture from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and is currently the President of the Friends of Hālawa Xeriscape Garden.

# Don't Miss this Opportunity to Invest in the Taiheiji Legacy-Endowment Bond

As we continue to wait for building permits to be approved, Taiheiji continues with its planning and fundraising for the project. If you are interested in purchasing the 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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## 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)

# Healthy Living with “KOJI” Fermented Seasonings A Special Workshop by Naoko Komagata Moller

Location: Soto Mission of Aiea

Date: Saturday, November 19, 2022

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Fee: \$25 per person

Rediscover the legacy of traditional Japanese fermented foods and learn about its potential health benefits. This 3-hour class will discuss healthful *KOJI* fermented foods that can easily be made at home.



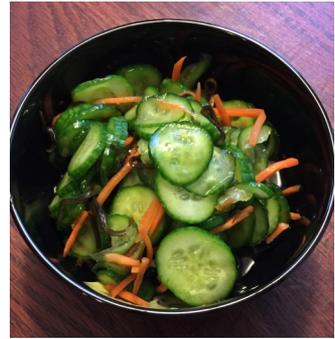
This class will provide an introduction to the fascinating world of koji, one of the fundamental building blocks of miso and other Japanese fermented products. You will learn about the process of fermentation through Koji mold spores and basic



Japanese practices that can be used to create healthy and delicious flavors, marinades, and condiments.

You will taste homemade samples and learn the history, nutritional values, and the process for each traditionally fermented food. Each participant will engage in the hands-on making of two different KOJI seasonings. You will also receive detailed workshop notes and recipes to continue to ferment at home.

Space is limited, so please call Rev. Shuji at 808-488-6794 to register. Registration deadline is November 1.



The presenter for the workshop is Naoko Komagata Moller, a Japanese cooking connoisseur, food activist, and ESL Educator.

Born in a Buddhist temple in Japan, Naoko was raised in Hawaii and in Japan. She obtained an MA from Birmingham University in the United Kingdom, majoring in English as a Second/Foreign Language (ESFL), and studied at Rudolf Steiner College in Sacramento, California.

Naoko operated an English School in Japan for over 20 years, and also worked as a teacher-trainer. She then moved back to Hawaii and taught Japanese language and Japanese culture at Honolulu Waldorf School. Naoko is currently producing an online “English as a Second Language” program.

Naoko is a culinary expert, and is kept busy conducting cooking workshops and giving lectures all over the world, mostly regarding Zen Buddhist vegetarian cooking, vegan cooking, and Japanese fermentation. She currently enjoys an off-the-grid life in Northern California with her husband.

To learn more about Naoko Moller Komagata, please visit the following!

HP: One Plate Zen

<https://www.oneplatezen.com/>

Blog: 丁寧な暮らし生活日記

<https://naokomoller.blogspot.com/>

Instagram: Naoko@Zen

[https://www.instagram.com/naoko\\_moller/](https://www.instagram.com/naoko_moller/)

# September Monthly Service

Sunday, September 11, at 9:00 a.m.

Please join us for September's Fall Higan, Ryosoki, and Kannonko Services. For the first time in two years, refreshments will be served after the service! Please join us for the service and fellowship.

## Higan Service

The following are excerpts from Bishop Jiho Machida's informational booklet, "Our Religion and Tradition."

"...Our Autumn Higan Service is held traditionally to pay our respect to the founders of Soto Sect, Dogen & Keizan Zenji, with prayer for peace and happiness of all beings. Of course, paying our tribute to the beloved ones who have departed from us is the most important practice of Japanese Higan tradition..."

"...As to Higan, there are many different explanations among Buddhists. For example, Higan is the time for us to practice six ways of self perfection to cross over from this shore, **Shigan\***, to the other shore, **Higan\*\***. Higan is also the time to visit the family grave, since the sun sets due west on that day indicating where Jodo (the Pure Land) is. They are well known explanations but many scholars disagree on this as to the origin of Japanese Higan..."

"...Japanese Higan, as you know, is observed twice a year on or around vernal and autumnal equinox days. The dictionary explains equinox as the time when the sun's center crosses the equator and day and night are everywhere of equal length. It happens about March 21 or September 23. The two days are called "Chunichi" and three days before and after the Chunichi is Higan Week. During this week people usually visit their family grave yard to pay respect to deceased family members..."

\*Shigan: Dualistic World, the world of happiness and misery, rich and poor

\*\*Higan: Non-dualistic world, the world beyond dualism

## Ryosoki Service

Ryosoki is the memorial services for the founders of the Soto Zen sect—Dogen Zenji and Keizan Zenji. Master

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

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)

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# October Monthly Service

Sunday, October 8, at 9:00 a.m.

Please join us for October's Darumaki and Kannonko Services. As conditions hopefully continue to improve, we hope to once again increase attendance at our temple services! Be sure to stick around for refreshments that will be served upon the conclusion of the services.

## Darumaki

The following section is an excerpt from the Soto Zen Publications, 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 both September and October'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.

# Recycling

Mahalo for the great response following the announcement of Taiheiji's participation in the Hawaii Deposit Beverage Container Program (HI-5) earlier this year. Each month, many people have been dropping 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! You can contact Rev. Shuji at 808-488-6794 or visit [www.sotomission.com](http://www.sotomission.com) for more information. If possible, please segregate cans, plastic bottles (no caps), and glass bottles.

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## Temple Cleanups Return in September and October

Saturday, September 10: 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, October 8: 8:30 a.m.

Mahalo to all the people who had volunteered to help at the monthly temple cleanups in the past. These cleaning days were held on the Saturday morning (usually the second Saturday) before monthly temple services. However, soon after the pandemic began in 2020, temple cleanups, along with many of the other temple activities were placed on an indefinite pause. As we slowly try to find our way out of the pandemic and return to our normal lifestyles, Taiheiji would like to begin having monthly cleanups again.

Rev. Shuji and family, with the help of temple president Teri Wong, have maintained the cleanliness of the temple throughout the extended shutdown.

Please join us for the upcoming temple cleanups in September and October! Mahalo!!!



# 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.

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## Nokotsudo Niches 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).

# Bon Dance Report



*A beautiful sight to see people the crowd growing at dusk*

After being cancelled in both 2020 and 2021, the Soto Mission of Aiea Bon Dance returned on August 12 and 13, 2022. The temple property was filled with hundreds of visitors eager to dance, eat, and enjoy taiko performances and live music. Thank you to all the many volunteers who gave several hours of their time to run the Bon Dance.

Mahalo to the dance leaders from the various Soto Mission temples on Oahu who tirelessly danced around the yagura all evening. A special thank you goes to Mike Tsue of Ryusenji for coming to help at the last minute to serve as DJ, and to Dwight Ishiguro of Ryusenji for collecting and dumping all the trash for us on both evenings.



*(Left): The Fujinkai Baked Goods Sale was a smashing success. Thank you to the many donors of baked goods.*



*(Below): The Suzuki Family posing for a group photo while running the choba!!*



*People dancing to Fukushima Ondo, led by the Aiea Taiheiji Yagura Gumi*



*The children of Somei Taiko performing for a packed audience*



*Over 300 red and white chochin (lanterns) adorn the temple grounds*

# Plant and Flower Sale Report



Efforts to raise money for the new Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center paid off with a very successful Plant and Flower Sale at Taiheiji's Bon Dance on August 12 and 13. Mahalo to the many people who donated plants and flowers for the sale. Their contributions helped generate over \$3,500! Thank you to Candace Tasoe and George Hokama for organizing the event.

The next Plant and Flower Sale is scheduled for November 4 and 5. Once again, we humbly ask for the donation of plants and flowers for the sale. Please contact Candace Tasoe at 808-294-2692 for more information!

# 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 Zazenkai?**

The Zazenkai is a group that sits together in Zen meditation. They support one another in the practice of Zazen. The meditation group is beginning to grow!

## **When does the Zazenkai meet?**

The Zazenkai meets every Tuesday from 6:00 am to 7:00 am in the Taiheiji social hall. Please 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 Zazenkai?**

The Zazenkai is open to everyone. No experience necessary.

## **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 Zazenkai.

- 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.

**Zazenkai Donations and Dues:**

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



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## UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### September

- 10 Sat 8:30 am Temple Cleanup
- 11 Sun 9:00 am Higan, Ryosoki, Kannonko

### October

- 1 Sat 2:00 pm Wreath Making Workshop
- 8 Sat 8:30 am Temple Cleanup
- 9 Sun 9:00 am Darumaki, Kannonko
- 16-22 Taiheiji Online Auction
- 23 Sun 9:30 am Hawaii Soto Mission Association Meeting
- 29 Sat 9:00 am Online Auction Item Pickup at Taiheiji
- 30 Sun 8:30 am Taiheiji Board of Directors' Meeting

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENEROUS DONATIONS RECEIVED

Megan Ginoza	Donation to Temple
Liane Nishigaya	Donation to Temple
Gary & Candace Tasoe	Dollar a Day Donation
Lynn Watanabe	Funeral Service for the late Sanford Watanabe
Lynn Watanabe	7th Day Memorial Service for the late Sanford Watanabe
Lilly Ihara	Donation to Temple
Christy Kokami	Donation to Temple
Michiko Iwata	Inurnment Service for the late Ronald Iwata
Michiko Iwata	Inurnment Service for the late Kunio Tateishi
Gary & Candace Tasoe	Dollar a Day Donation
Sharon Bower	27th Year Memorial Service for the late Shigeru Nakamoto
Patrice Imai	Donation to Temple
Wayne Komamura	Donation to Temple
Harold Mizusawa	7th Year Memorial Service for the late Aiko Mizusawa
Lillian Takai	In Loving Memory of the late Debbie Doi Wong
Betty Matsui	Memorial Service for the late Clarence Matsui
Betty Matsui	In Loving Memory of the late Clarence Matsui
Jean Takata	In Loving Memory of the late Clarence Matsui
Earl & Mae Ohara	In Loving Memory of the late Clarence Matsui
Amy Imaguchi	In Loving Memory of the late Clarence Matsui
Wes Yoshida	Donation to Temple
Wendy Higa	1 Year Memorial Service for the late Michie Nagamine
Christy Kokami	Donation to Temple
Shibata Family	Funeral Service for the late Sadako Shibata
Shibata Family	49th Day Memorial Service for the late Sadako Shibata
Shigeru Sakuma	Donation to Temple
Matthew & Leah Flores	House Blessing Service Donation

# FUJINKAI COOKBOOKS FOR SALE!

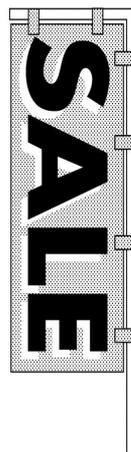
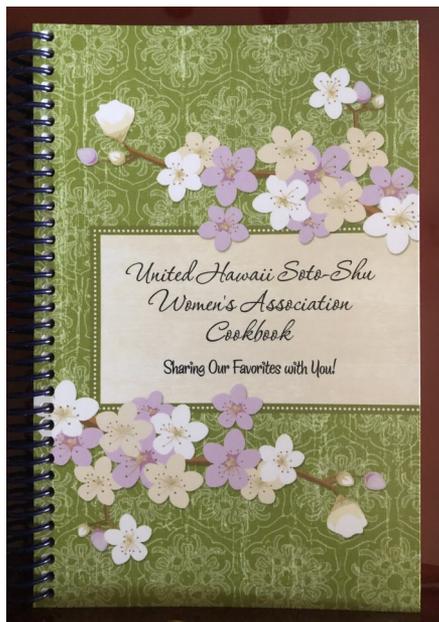


Published in October 2020, the United Hawaii Soto-Shu Women's Association cookbook sold out completely in a matter of weeks. In response to popular demand, a second printing was done, and the cookbooks are now once again available for purchase.

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!



*(‘Auction’ continued from page 1)*

**Example of Auction Items:**

- Artwork, Handmade Crafts
- Jewelry, Accessories
- Cultural Objects (e.g. Japanese, Hawaiian items)
- Buddhist Items (ojuzu, zafu, books, artwork)
- Collectibles (e.g. sports memorabilia, toys, etc.)
- Vintage Collectibles
- Musical Instruments
- Housewares (dishes, silverware, small appliances, etc.)
- Home and Garden (tools, decorative objects)
- Potted Plants, Orchids
- Non-Perishable Gift Baskets
- Non-Perishable Food (rice, coffee, bagged snacks)
- Services (massage, manicure, haircut, yard care, etc.)
- Gift Cards/Certificates (retail, food, service, gas)
- Business or organization donations are also welcome

(If your item is a service (e.g. manicure) we ask that you provide a gift card or authorized certificate.)

**Be a Bidder:** From October 16 to 22, the public will be able to make bids on all kinds of interesting items in the auction. Taiheiji has chosen 32auctions.com to host the online auction. To place a bid on an item, please be sure to create your 32auctions.com account!

Go to the temple’s website, [www.sotomission.com](http://www.sotomission.com) to learn more about the online auction. Auction items will be viewable from October 1. Auction item pickup is scheduled for Saturday, October 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please call Corinne Gytoku at 808-223-5735 for more information.

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*(‘Plants’ continued from page 1)*

Relying on the generosity of our temple members and supporters to create the inventory of plants and flowers to sell, we are very grateful for the pledges that have already come in for the November sale. We are actively seeking more donations of plants and flowers! So, if you are able to donate plants or volunteer to help with this project, please contact Candace Tasoe at 808-294-2692.

# 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.

## Check us out on Facebook and Instagram!!

In addition to the recent updates made to the Taiheiji website, [www.sotomission.com](http://www.sotomission.com), we have started to include information on both Facebook and Instagram.

Facebook and Instagram can be great ways for people to get connected to the temple and learn about new exciting programs, activities, and events at Taiheiji.

Be sure to "like," "share," and "follow" our posts on Facebook and Instagram.



Facebook: [@aieataiheiji](https://www.facebook.com/aieataiheiji)  
[www.facebook.com/aieataiheiji/](http://www.facebook.com/aieataiheiji/)



Instagram: [@aieataiheiji](https://www.instagram.com/aieataiheiji)  
[www.instagram.com/aieataiheiji/](http://www.instagram.com/aieataiheiji/)



# *Dharma Lei*



## **Bishop's Office Newsletter**

**Soto Zen Buddhism Hawaii Office**

c/o Soto Mission of Hawaii 1708 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu HI 96817 U.S.A.

Tel & Fax: 808-538-6429

email: [info@sotozenhi.org](mailto:info@sotozenhi.org) WEB: <http://global.sotozen-net.or.jp/eng/>

Fourth Quarter, 2022

Issue No. 42

### **Bishop's Message:**

Aloha from the Bishop's Office,

I hope that you and your family are doing well! We find ourselves approaching the end of summer, and the close of the 2022 Bon Season. While some temples elected to have virtual online Bon Services and skip the Bon Dance this year, other temples returned to having in person Bon Services and even celebrated their Bon Dances. Whether virtually or in person, I am very glad that people had the opportunity to offer their prayers of gratitude to departed loved ones.

With the same sense of gratitude we expressed during the Bon Season, we begin looking ahead to Higan, a very important event in September. In the Soto Zen tradition, Higan is held twice a year—once in the spring (around the third week in March) and again in the fall (around the third week in September).

During the olden days in Japan, farmers would offer prayers to their ancestors in the spring, seeking the assur-



ance of a successful crop. Then, again in the fall, they would offer prayers of gratitude for a bountiful harvest. This “ancestor worship” practice had a part in the establishment of Higan as national holidays in Japan on or around March 21 and September 23. During Higan, people in Japan spend time with their families and often visit their family’s graveyard to pay their respects to deceased family members and ancestors.

Higan falls on or around Vernal (Spring) and Autumnal (Fall) Equinox Days, when there are 12 hours of day and 12 hours of night. The sun rises from the direction of due east—symbolizing the world of the living, called *Shigan*. In *Shigan*, things are in constant flux—like happiness and sorrow, and good health and illness. The sun also sets in due west—symbolizing the world of our departed loved ones and ancestors, called *Higan*. Higan, in fact, means “the other shore.”

The various symbolisms and significance surrounding the history of Higan compels us to deeply reflect upon our lives and express our gratitude to both our living and departed loved ones. Please take care of yourself and your loved ones.

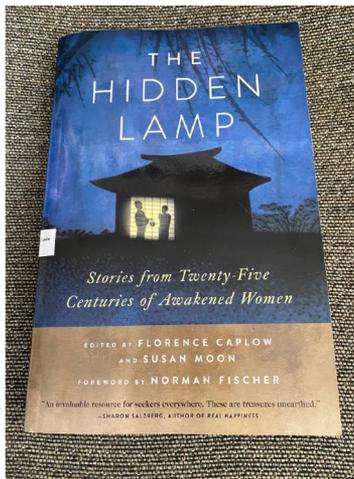
In Gassho,

  
Bishop Shugen Komagata

## The Hidden Lamp: A New Dharma Series on ZOOM Starting in October

**Registration is now open**

This time our focus is on essays written by Buddhist women teachers in response to 100 Buddhist stories and *koans*. Our online Dharma groups will be reading the book *The Hidden Lamp: Stories from Twenty-Five Centuries of Awakened Women*, edited by Florence Caplow and Susan Moon. This book will be available through the Daifukuji Gift Shop in September. Dharma class members may purchase a copy at the special price of \$11. (The regular price is \$18.95.) Sorry, we are unable to handle mail orders. The book can be ordered online: <https://wisdomexperience.org/product/hidden-lamp/>.



**Please select group 1 or group 2, whichever day works best for you.**

**Group 1: Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**(starting OCTOBER 6 - MARCH)**

**Group 2: Saturdays from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. (starting OCTOBER 8 - MARCH)**

Rev. Jikō offers Dharma classes free of charge. Donations are appreciated. If you would like to offer a donation, you may do so through the temple website: <http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html>. Checks may be mailed to: Daifukuji Soto Mission, P.O. Box 55, Kealakekua, HI 96750.

A Zoom link will be sent to you each week. Please attend as your schedule allows. Learning together via Zoom is a fun way to make new Dharma friends and stay connected with old friends. All are welcome.

To register for the series, to reserve a book, or to ask a question, please contact Rev. Jikō at [rev.jiko@daifukuji.org](mailto:rev.jiko@daifukuji.org), (808) 322-3524.

# MINISTER TRAINING PROGRAM COMPLETION CEREMONY

## Congratulations to Rev. Jigaku Takenouchi

On July 16, 2022, Jigaku Takenouchi's Hawaii Soto Mission Association Minister Training Program Completion Ceremony was held at Hilo Taishoji Soto Mission. This ceremony was officiated by Bishop Shugen Komagata with the assistance of Rev. Tatsunori Hata, Rev. Masataka Hoshino, and Deacon Juho Kirkpatrick. Also in attendance were Gwen Watanabe, president of the Hawaii Soto Mission Association, and many Taishoji members and supporters. Rev. Takenouchi was later installed as the new resident minister at Hilo Taishoji Soto Mission, replacing Rev. Hata, who recently returned to Japan with his wife Mamiko and son Jake.



# New Resident Minister of Hilo Taishoji Soto Mission



Hello Friends and family,

My name is Jigaku Takenouchi. Starting in August I became the 16th resident minister of Taishoji Soto Mission. I was born and raised in New Jersey and moved to Japan in 2004. I lived on a small island until I decided to move to Hawaii in 2006. Initially I lived on Oahu where I was taking religion classes. As part of my religion courses, I would visit various temples, prayer houses and churches of all faiths and discovered the unique style of Buddhism that can only be found throughout the islands of Hawaii.

Some of you may already know a little bit about me. I am a disciple of Reverend Shinsho Hata and was previously a deacon at Taishoji. Through Hata sensei's guidance I began deepening my Buddhist knowledge and began the path towards becoming a Hawaii Soto Zen minister. I am deeply grateful for his patience and willingness to take on me as

his disciple. With his perseverance we were able to overcome many challenges placed before us due to the pandemic. The relationship between teacher and disciple is a lifetime commitment that Reverend Hata and I now share. I am honored that he has taken me under his wing and will continue to work to make him proud. I am also thankful to Bishop Shugen Komagata for his support and commitment to growing ministers here in Hawaii.

In 2017, I began attending services at Taishoji and the peaceful atmosphere within the temple was noticeable. The Sangha was both heartwarming and uplifting and made me feel welcomed from the first visit. From that day on I began attending Sunday services weekly and would volunteer for various temple activities when I could. In November of 2017, I was bestowed the Buddhist name of Jigaku during the Jukai ceremony. The character Ji 磁 means compassion and Gaku 岳 means high mountain. They are a reminder to always act with compassion towards others. Actually, my name consists of 2 additional characters Tai 泰 meaning Peace/Tranquil and Yo 暎 meaning Bright/positive. 泰暎滋岳. My belief is that I was given this name as a reminder to be a beacon of compassion and tranquility to those around me. I will do my best.

I can see the dedication our members put into making Taishoji an active part of the Buddhist community and the importance of making sure there is a place where seekers can come and learn the teachings of the Buddha. In 2017, Taishoji was that place for me, and I would like to ensure that there is a place for anyone who may be in need of it in the future. I look forward to growing and continuing the teachings of the Buddha with you all.

In Gassho,

Jigaku Takenouchi

# Failure is the basis of success

Well, since I have told you one story about a conscientious farmer, please be kind enough to listen to just one more farming story.

Mr. Mitsuru Ueno, the head of the Shintone Agricultural Cooperative, was repatriated to Japan at the end of the war.

In the beginning he planted rice in chest-deep paddy field mud and made 300,000 yen the first year. The following year he tried to increase his yield by installing a drainage system, but his profit was still at the 300,000 yen level. The third year he planted grass for hay as a second crop, but even so, his earnings did not exceed the 300,000 yen mark. The reason for the decrease in earnings was a late hay cutting which caused a delay in rice planting.

The fourth year he brought in a hay baler, so the rice planting went according to schedule and he thought that this would be the year, but there was no change in income. This was because he let the hay spoil which he had taken so much trouble to grow. During the fifth year he built a silo, but because he had too few cattle to consume the feed, his earnings stopped at the 300,000 yen level. In the sixth year he acquired five milk cows and after the harvest season he had a profit of one million yen.



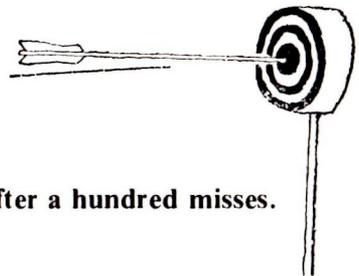
This story makes one think. The road from 300,000 to one million yen did not lead up a gentle slope, but rather a sheer cliff. The steep 300,000 yen cliff had to be climbed one step at a time, not knowing when the payoff would come. However, having climbed to the top after six years, a new

field of vision opened up, and his feet were firmly planted on the one million year summit.

If results are obtained which are proportionate to the amount of effort put forth there is no problem, but sometimes, no matter how much effort is expended, nothing comes out of it. If one quits at this point, he has gone to a lot of trouble for nothing. Whereas, if one continues his efforts, even though it may seem futile at first, that 'futility' can produce unexpected results in the long run.

"Having aroused the mind which seeks wisdom, and having begun the practice of Buddhism, people earnestly carry out very difficult practices. But even so, they will not succeed one time in a hundred. However, if one follows a knowledgeable teacher or the sutras, he will finally succeed. Today's success comes after a hundred failures in the past. Hearing the Teachings, practicing the Way, and Realization are all like this." (From the Shobogenzo – Sesshin Sessho).

When we first shoot at a target with a bow, we cannot hit it at all. However, if we shoot arrow after arrow and practice and practice, finally on the strength of that practice we will begin to hit the target. The shot which finally pierces the bull's-eye is the result of the hundred previous misses. In the same way, when one begins (Buddhist) practice, at first he does not succeed one time out of a hundred and cannot understand it at all. But, being led by a teacher and becoming familiar with the written word, and putting these things into actual practice, he can begin to hit the target on the strength of his previous failures. It is said that failure is the basis of success. Mr. Ueno exerted himself for five years without results, but in the sixth year his earnings suddenly trebled. This was the result of his hundred previous misses.



**The bullseye comes after a hundred misses.**

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