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TAIHEIJI BULLETIN



MARCH & APRIL 2023

Spring Higan and Kannonko Services

Taiheiji will observe its Spring Higan and Kannonko services on Sunday, March 12, at 9:00 a.m. Higan, observed twice a year—at the beginning of the spring and fall seasons—is a time when prayers are made for our departed loved ones. Please visit Taiheiji to attend this memorial service for your departed loved ones and ancestors.

Taiheiji Hanamatsuri & April Kannonko

An early invitation is extended to everyone to attend Taiheiji's annual Hanamatsuri and April Kannonko services, which will be observed on Sunday, April 9, at 9:00 a.m. Hanamatsuri, translated as "Flower Festival," is also known as Buddha Day. Hanamatsuri commemorates the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, the prince of the Shakya clan, a tiny kingdom in India, in 563 BCE. Prince Siddhartha would later become Shakyamuni Buddha. During the Hanamatsuri ceremony, amacha, or sweet tea, is poured over the statue of the baby Buddha that stands under the *hanamido*, a miniature pavilion covered with fresh flowers. Taiheiji's monthly Kannonko service will also be held after the Hanamatsuri ceremony. Please join us for service and refreshments to follow.

Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center & Legacy-Endowment Bond Updates

By Rev. Shuji Komagata

The very successful Legacy-Endowment Bond offering completed its first year in 2022, and investors recently received their Year 1 interest checks. The modest 3% return on investment is actually very good considering how unstable the market is.

If you are interested in investing in the Legacy-Endowment Bond, you still have a chance! As a result of generous purchasers who donated their (\$180,000 worth of) bonds back to Taiheiji, we still have \$30,000 worth of bonds available for resale! Give us a call for more info!

As we worked toward reaching our original fundraising goals through the Legacy-Endowment Bond Drive and donation collections, the “Perfect Storm” had hit us hard—COVID-19 pandemic, the continuing war in Ukraine, the unstable stock market, rising interest rates, material shortages, high construction labor costs—forcing us to now ride out this storm.

Although we are working on introducing a bank loan to bridge the gap, our current plan is simple: continue to fundraise and hope for conditions to improve. With a bit of patience, a lot of praying, and some luck, I am confident that we will break ground in the near future.

I humbly ask you for your added financial contribution to get us closer to making the construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center a reality. Please contact me to learn more about how you can help!

January and February 2023 Recap

On January 1, Taiheiji members flocked to the temple to receive their New Year's blessing and new ofuda and omamori. After "drive-thru" blessing services in 2021 and 2022, we finally had an in-person New Year's Blessing Service on January 1. Although we were not expecting a large crowd, we were surprised that the temple was full of people. Thankfully, Mrs. Jaymie Komagata prepared a lot of New Year's specialty dishes like ozoni (mochi in broth with vegetables) and zenzai (mochi in sweet azuki beans soup). Several weeks later, service goers returned to Taiheiji for the first Kannonko service of 2023 and the Ofudayaki (Service to burn old ofuda).

In February, Taiheiji observed Nehan-e, which is the service held in remembrance of Shakyamuni Buddha's passing more than 2500 years ago. Taiheiji's beautiful Nehan Scroll was on display for this service. After the completion of Nehan-e, the Setsubun ceremony was held. Although not a Buddhist practice, the Setsubun Ceremony is a Japanese tradition that the members of Taiheiji have adopted. Everyone shouted, "FUKU WA UCHI," (good luck in) and "ONI WA SOTO!" Everyone enjoyed being part of this lighthearted ceremony.

Following the Nehan-e service, everyone adjourned to the social hall to celebrate the "Shinnenkai," or New Year's Party. Like so many other activities at Taiheiji, the Shinnenkai had been put on pause in 2021 and 2022. 140 temple members, their families, and friends, gathered for a fun filled day of great food, drinks, lucky number prizes, and entertainment.

Arriving guests were kept busy with a wide assortment of poke and other pupus, drinks, and music. For lunch, the menu consisted of awesome Hawaiian food from Kanak Attack 2 (yummy!). There were also so many wonderful desserts to choose from!

Everyone tested their luck with many lucky number winners. Food and beverage, gift items, gift cards, and even an Aulani Vacation were given away as lucky number prizes.

Thank you to the many donors who contributed towards making the 2023 Shinnenkai a fun filled day for everyone!



Request for flowers for Hanamatsuri ceremony

Taiheiji humbly requests donations of flowers to place atop the hanamido at Taiheiji's Hanamatsuri Ceremony on Sunday, April 9. Plumeria and dendrobium, or any other similar type of cut flowers to place on and around the hanamido will be appreciated.

If you are able to donate some flowers or have any questions, please call Rev. Shuji at 488-6794. Please drop off flowers by Saturday April 8. Mahalo!



Hanamido 2022

Dollar-a-Day Donation

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 a dollar each day can be 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.

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.

56th UHSSWA Annual Conference

After being canceled in 2020 and 2021, and being held virtually in 2022, the 56th Annual Conference of the United Hawaii Soto Shu Women's Association (UHSSWA) will finally be held in-person on Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April 23. Wahiawa Ryusenji Fujinkai will host. The UHSSWA is the Buddhist Women's Association of the Soto Sect (commonly referred to as the "Fujinkai"), and provides an excellent platform for participants to share their ideas with one another. Please contact Taiheiji's Fujinkai Advisor, Mrs. Jaymie Komagata, if you are interested in attending this conference. Mahalo!!

UHSSWA Country Store: April 22

The UHSSWA Donation Drive, known as the "Country Store," is one of the highlights of the Fujinkai conference. It is tentatively scheduled to be held at Wahiawa Ryusenji Soto Mission on April 22, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. The Fujinkai units from the various temples sell items like fruits and vegetables, craft items, handmade bags, and potholders just to name a few. In the past, there have been specialty items like Kona Coffee from Kona Daifukuji, Kakuma and fresh anthuriums from Hilo, and fresh natto and peanut butter mochi from Maui. What wonderful items will be sold this year? Please contact Rev. Shuji at 808-488-6794 if you're interested in learning more about the Country Store!

REQUEST FOR BAKED GOODS

The Aiea Taiheiji Fujinkai is seeking donations of baked goods to sell at the Country Store on April 22. Taiheiji is famous for its baked goods, so please contribute by donating your favorite item! Please contact Mrs. Jaymie Komagata at 808-224-2602 to inquire how you can help!

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!

Niche Available in Taiheiji Columbarium

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 the last remaining niche as 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.

Please Join Us for Zazen

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 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.** 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.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENEROUS DONATIONS RECEIVED

George & Mercedene Hokama	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Beth Iwamoto	Donation to Building Fund
Beth Iwamoto	Donation to Maintenance Fund
Beth Iwamoto	Donation to Operating Fund
Bishop Shugen Komagata	Dollar-a-Day Donation (December)
Bishop Shugen Komagata	Dollar-a-Day Donation (January)
Diane Maeda	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Caroline Masutani	In Loving Memory of the late Jean Hamada
Caroline Masutani	Donation to Operating Fund
John Miyata	Donation to Operating Fund
John Miyata	Donation to Maintenance Fund
John Miyata	Donation to Building Fund
Colleen and Wayne Nakatsu	Donation to Building Fund
John Nishida	Donation to Temple
Rose Gladstein	Donation to Temple
Helen Katahira	Funeral Service for the late Jack Katahira
Diane Nakanishi	Blessing Service Donation
Annie Okoji	Donation to Operating Fund
Annie Okoji	Donation to Maintenance Fund
Annie Okoji	Donation to Building Fund
Stephen Omiya	Donation to Temple
Myrtle Takiguchi	Donation to Temple
Elaine Tanaka	Donation to Temple
Sandra Tanaka	Donation to Temple
Candace Tasoe	Donation to Operating Fund
Candace Tasoe	Donation to Maintenance Fund
Candace Tasoe	Donation to Building Fund
Candace Tasoe	Donation to New Building Construction Fund
Gordon Toyama	Donation to Temple

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENEROUS DONATIONS RECEIVED

Earl and Rachel Tsuneyoshi	Donation to Temple
Roy and Faith Yamagishi	Donation to Operating Fund
Roy and Faith Yamagishi	Donation to Building Fund
Roy and Faith Yamagishi	Donation to Maintenance Fund
Ada Yamaki	Donation to Operating Fund
Ada Yamaki	Donation to Building Fund
Ada Yamaki	Donation to Maintenance Fund
Jane Yoshizumi	Donation to Operating Fund
Aiea Taiheiji Kendo Club	Donation to Temple
Joseph and Sharon Katano	Donation to Maintenance Fund
Waipahu Seibukan Kendo Club	Donation to Temple
Jerrilyn Segawa	Donation to Operating Fund
Carol Shishido-Ogata	Donation to Operating Fund
Carol Shishido-Ogata	Donation to Building Fund
Carol Shishido-Ogata	Donation to Maintenance Fund
Kathleen Tagawa	Donation to Operating Fund
Betty Takahashi	Donation to Maintenance Fund
Frances Takakawa	Donation to Operating Fund
Harriet Yamaki	Donation to Temple
Aiko Karaoke School	Donation to Temple
Charles and Joy Hokama	Donation to Operating Fund
Beth Iwamoto	Inurnment Service for the late Kunitaro & Shigeri Tateishi
Body-n-Brain Yoga and Taichi	Donation to Temple
Janice Kim	Inurnment Service for the late Yuriko Onaga
Aiko Karaoke School	Donation to Temple
Frances Sugai-Obata	In Loving Memory of the late Sueko Sugai
Glenn and Elizabeth Tango	In Memory of the late Richard and Frances Tango
Herbert and Carol Ann Takahashi	Charitable Fund Donation to Temple

UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March 2023

- 11 Sat 8:30 a.m. Temple Cleanup
- 12 Sun 9:00 a.m. Higan & Kannonko Service

Zazen every Tuesday morning at 6:00 a.m.

Please call 808-488-6794 to confirm

April 2023

- 2 Sun 9:30 a.m. HBC Buddha Day Service
- 8 Sat 8:30 a.m. Temple Cleanup
- 9 Sun 9:00 a.m. Hanamatsuri, Kannonko at Taiheiji
- 22-23 Sat 56th UHSSWA Conference
- 30 Sun 8:30 a.m. Taiheiji Board Meeting

Temple Cleanup

Mahalo to all the people who had volunteered to help at the monthly temple cleanups in the past. These cleaning days are regularly held on the Saturday morning (usually the second Saturday) before monthly temple services. We humbly request for your kokua at our March (3/11) and April (4/8) cleanups. Cleanups start at 8:30 a.m. and usually finish by 10:00 a.m. Refreshments will be served.

Recycling

The Hawaii Deposit Beverage Container Program (HI-5) is a State of Hawaii funded program that places a 5¢ redeemable deposit on each qualified beverage container. Why throw away your recyclables when you can donate it to Taiheiji? Just look for the HI 5¢ label on your glass, plastic and metal containers, and drop them off at Taiheiji. We will take the recyclables to the redemption center to get cash back for the temple and help protect the environment at the same time. Contact Rev. Shuji or visit www.sotomission.com for more information.

The Hawaii Buddhist Council

Buddha Day Service 2023

You are cordially invited to attend the Hawaii Buddhist Council's Buddha Day Service 2023. It will be held on Sunday, April 2, 2023 from 9:30 a.m., at the Jodo Mission of Hawaii, located at 1429 Makiki Street in Honolulu. For more information, please call 808-949-3995.

The guest speaker at this year's service is Dr. George Tanabe. Born and raised in Waialua, Dr. Tanabe is a professor emeritus of the Department of Religion at the University of Hawaii. He currently serves as president of Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai (BDK) Hawaii and BDK America. He has written several books on Japanese religions and in 2012 released "Japanese Buddhist Temples of Hawaii," a comprehensive guide to 99 Japanese Buddhist Temples.

Following Dr. Tanabe's presentation, Jeff Gere, one of Hawaii's most famous storytellers, will present stories from the Jataka Tales. The Jataka Tales are Buddhist Teaching Tales in which the Buddha appears as an animal with life lessons. In this delightful family-friendly performance, popular Oahu storyteller Jeff Gere tells these simple profound tales in his animated dramatic style, and with shadow puppets.

Accompanying Jeff Gere is violinist, Lesley Kline, one of Hawaii's finest musicians. She currently plays in Martin and Kline, a swing era duo. With her rich musical textures, Jeff Gere's stories are sure to come alive.

Always free and open to the public, the Hawaii Buddhist Council's Buddha Day Service and Celebration is an event not to be missed.

FUJINKAI COOKBOOKS FOR SALE!

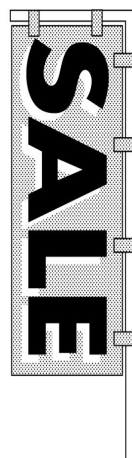
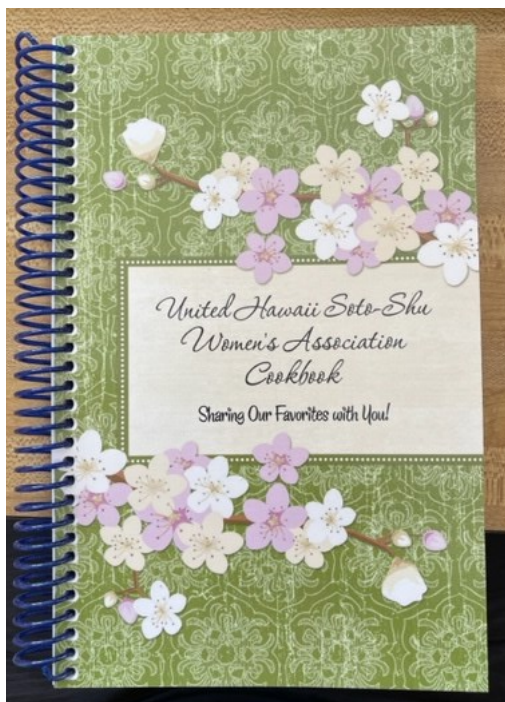
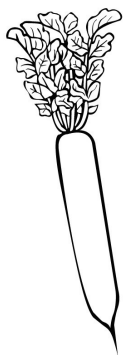


Published in October 2020, the United Hawaii Soto-Shu Women's Association cookbook sold out completely in a matter of weeks. In response to popular demand, a second printing was done, and the cookbooks are now once again available for purchase.

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!



Visit the Temple Website at www.sotomission.com

Please take a moment to check out Taiheiji's updated website at 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, 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

www.facebook.com/aieataiheiji/



Instagram: @aieataiheiji

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