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TAIHEIJI BULLETIN



MAY & JUNE 2023

Bon Services at Taiheiji in June

We are quickly approaching the middle of 2023, the start of the annual Bon Season! In-person Bon Services will be observed at Taiheiji on:

Thursday, June 15 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 18 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, June 17 10:00 a.m.

Monday, June 19 7:00 p.m.

The Bon Ooba Request Forms will be mailed to you in May. Please be certain to complete the form and send back to Taiheiji! See pages 5 & 6 for more information on Bon.

Tsuicho-e, Mother's Day, & Kannonko

A special service is held during each of the monthly services. In May, Taiheiji observes a very special memorial service called Tsuicho-e. Sponsored by the auxiliary group at the Soto Mission of Aiea called Fujinkai, Tsuicho-e is a memorial service dedicated to all its departed members. The Taiheiji Fujinkai has a very long and rich history dating back to 1929, when Mrs. Taki Yoshizumi, wife of Rev. Kogan Yoshizumi, organized the group. Through the decades, the Taiheiji Fujinkai selflessly volunteered their time and energy for the temple.

The Fujinkai Tsuicho-e will be held in conjunction with our Mother's Day and Kannonko services on Sunday, May 7, from 9:00 a.m.

Jizo-Ko Service and Kannonko

Please come to Taiheiji on Sunday, June 4 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 honor our mothers at Taiheiji. We will pay tribute to our fathers during June'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.

Hanamatsuri Then (2009) and Now (2023)

On Sunday, April 9, we celebrated the Buddha's birthday at Taiheiji Hanamatsuri Service. As I prepared for the service early that Sunday, I realized that this was the first time that both my children, Remi and Reigen, were not present to help decorate the Hanamido (miniature altar housing the baby Buddha statue) with flowers. They are both in college in Oregon. Wow... how time time flies... Has it already been eighteen years since I arrived in Aiea in May, 2005?

Then, in came Elise and Caden Maruoka, children of new temple members Colin and Erin Maruoka. The two kids excitedly decorated the Hanamido beautifully. In that moment, the sadness of missing my children was replaced with the joy of seeing the next generation of youths at Taiheiji. Thank you, Elise and Caden!!!



Reigen and Remi Komagata in 2009



Elise and Caden Maruoka in 2023

Mahalo for the donation of flowers!

Thank you to Rachel & Earl Tsuneyoshi, Carl & Mutsumi Kawauchi, and Gerilyn Higa for the beautiful flowers that adorned the Hanamido. The colorful and fragrant flowers were certainly a sight to see! Thank you also to Candace & Gary Tasoe for the fresh cut flowers that were placed on the altar during the Hanamatsuri service.

Rev. Shuji Komagata Appointed Senior Minister of the Soto Mission of Hawaii

Aloha! I would like to extend my deep gratitude to everyone for their continued support for the Soto Mission of Aiea!

In February, my father, Bishop Shugen Komagata fell ill and needed to take time off to convalesce at home. (Please read the Dharma Lei article that is included in this bulletin.) I was immediately brought onboard at the Soto Mission of Hawaii (Betsuin) as the senior minister to stand in for the Bishop for ceremonies and temple matters.

Since February, Bishop Komagata's condition has improved remarkably, actively managing and advising his staff, and has even conducted a few services at Betsuin. However, I will continue as the senior minister at Betsuin to continue overseeing the day-to-day operations at the temple, working closely with the other two Betsuin ministers, Rev. Hirosato Yoshida and Rev. Masataka Hoshino, and my wife Jaymie, who has been the office manager at Betsuin since the end of 2021.

The new hat that I wear will still allow me to focus my attention to the Soto Mission of Aiea. We still have a new building construction project that will hopefully begin soon, as well as a lot of work to be done as we continue to navigate ourselves out of the COVID-19 pandemic. As we move forward into the future, I ask for your patience and understanding. I pledge to continue to do my best and work hard at Taiheiji.

Recycling

Mahalo for the continued response to Taiheiji's participation in the Hawaii Deposit Beverage Container Program (HI-5). Each month, Rev. Shuji gathers the bottles and cans dropped off by Taiheiji members and supporters, and takes them to the recycling center. Mahalo for 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 for more information.

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. **You can make donations online to the New Building Construction Fund as well!**

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

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. Currently, only one niche remains 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.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MAY

7	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Tsuicho-e, Kannonko
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JUNE

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

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.

When does the Zazenkai meet?

The Zazenkai 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 Zazenkai?

The Zazenkai 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 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 to (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

Christy Kokami Yoga LLC	Donation to the Temple (February)
Shugen Komagata	Dollar a Day Donation (February)
Candace & Gary Tasoe	In Loving Memory of the late George & Kiyoko Yamaki
Gordon Toyama	17th Memorial Service for the late Kenji Toyama
Sharleen Toyama	17th Memorial Service for the late David Toyama
Fukiya	Donation to the Temple
Wesley & Carolyn Fukuda	7th Memorial Service for the late Takashi Omiya
Wesley & Carolyn Fukuda	Donation to the Temple
Aiko Karaoke School	Donation to the Temple
Christy Kokami Yoga LLC	Donation to the Temple (March)
Todd Imamura	Donation to the Temple
Tetsuo Hamada	In Loving Memory of the late Jean Hamada
Karen Hamada	In Loving Memory of the late Jean Hamada
Tricia Kamikawa	1 Year Memorial Service for the late Reed Kamikawa
Edwin Oka	New Building Construction Fund Donation
Candace & Gary Tasoe	In Loving Memory of the late George & Kiyoko Yamaki
Shugen Komagata	Dollar a Day Donation (March)

What is Bon?

The following is reprinted from Soto Zen literature published by the Soto-Shu Shumicho (Soto-Shu headquarters in Tokyo, Japan.)

The memorial services held at Obon have two meanings. One is to honor the Buddha and show reverence for one's ancestors and others who have died. The other is to express gratitude to all people to whom we are indebted, including people who are alive such as our parents, relatives, and friends.

The full expression for Obon is Urabon-e which is derived from "Ullabana," an old Indian word. According to the Bussetsu Urabon Sutra, the origin of this tradition goes back to a ceremony performed by Shakyamuni Buddha for the deceased mother of Maudgalyayana, one of the Buddha's immediate disciples. Ullabana means "hanging upside down" and it was by means of this ceremony that the suffering of that world in which she lived (the suffering was so intense it was like hanging upside down) was removed.

These days, people think that this ceremony will prolong the life of parents and remove all suffering and anguish. This is also one of the traditional holiday periods in Japan when people exchange gifts. The other traditional time is over New Years. Obon is a ceremony to respectfully honor the spirits of the ancestors; it is also to ask for the long life for our parents. In preparation for meeting the spirits, it is customary to thoroughly clean our house and put ourselves in order as if meeting guests.

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.

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.

Awareness Series Workshop: Making a Tie Dye Furoshiki

Presented by Gertrude Nishida and Danette Kobayashi

On Saturday, February 25, the Aiea Taiheiji Fujinkai hosted a Tie Dye Furoshiki workshop at Taiheiji. Fujinkai member Danette Kobayashi guided everyone through the very interesting workshop, making traditional Japanese cloth wrappers (Furoshiki) to be used as a sustainable way to wrap gifts, or carry food and other goods. These cloths, very useful and versatile, can also be used as a beautiful dish towel or given as a special handmade gift to a loved one. Thank you to Fujinkai member Gertrude Nishida for sharing this activity through her daughter Danette! This workshop was part of the "Awareness Series Workshops," aimed to give temple members, their families, and friends opportunities to learn various hands-on skills and crafts in a safe and nurturing environment at the Soto Mission of Aiea. Please check future Taiheiji Bulletins or call Rev. Shuji to inquire about future Awareness Series Workshops.



Taiheiji Bon Dance is Back!!! August 11 & 12

It's hard to believe that the new Bon Season is just around the corner! We are excited to announce that the celebration will return to Taiheiji on Friday, August 11 and Saturday, August 12! We will also have a 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!!!



Dharma Lei

Bishop's Office Newsletter

Soto Zen Buddhism Hawaii Office

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Second Quarter, 2023

Issue No. 44

Bishop's Message:

Aloha to all the members and supporters of Soto Zen Buddhism in Hawaii! The days have begun to get longer, signaling the arrival of spring! Although our seasons in Hawaii are much milder than places like the mainland or Japan, we can still sense the change in the weather.

As many of you may know, I was diagnosed with a rather rare and aggressive form of cancer in December 2022. Although I underwent surgery to remove the cancer in February, it was discovered that cancer had spread to different parts of my body. Although no longer curative, I am currently undergoing chemotherapy and will soon receive radiation treatments to relieve my symptoms.

As I assess my situation, I find myself reflecting upon one of my favorite words of advice to people—LIVE EACH DAY TO THE FULLEST. Although my days are filled with doctor appointments and treatments, I continue to do my best to make the most of each day. I relish in the occasional visits from temple members, relatives, and friends, and I look forward to attending temple services. With assistance from senior minister Rev. Shuji Komagata, Rev. Hiroshiro Yoshida, and Rev. Masataka Hoshino, I continue to lead the Soto Mission of Hawaii as chief priest.

And so, I once again encourage you to live each day to the fullest. I shared in the previous Dharma Lei that with our prior experiences in life having shaped our view of the world, we should look to this year with great hope. With that hope, though, must come action. "*Carpe diem!*" This famous Latin phrase means to "seize the day!" Please focus on the present, appreciating the value of every moment in life, and avoid postponing things unnecessarily.

My humble wish is to continue to serve as your bishop for as long as I effectively can. I pledge to continue to work hard for the Hawaii Soto Mission. Thank you to everyone for your continued words of encouragement and prayers. My heart is filled with gratitude for all the love and support I received and continue to receive from everyone.

In Gassho.

Bishop Shugen Komagata



2023 Precepts Study with Rev. Jiko Nakade

A 3-month series of weekly online Zoom classes from June - August

Two groups (please choose 1):

Group 1: Thursdays from 1:00 -2:00 p.m. Hawaii Time, starting June 1

Group 2: Saturdays from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Hawaii Time, starting June 3

In June of 2023, Rev. Jikō will be starting a new series of precepts study sessions using ZOOM. This 3-month course is comprised of weekly one-hour sessions. This is an opportunity to learn about the 16 Bodhisattva precepts, which form the moral and ethical foundation of the Soto Zen tradition.

This is a 3-month period of study and reflection. The sharing of one's life is done in an atmosphere that is gentle, non-judgmental, and compassionate. Many have found their lives illuminated and enriched by this inner journey taken in the context of a loving sangha.

We will be using the book *Being Upright: Zen Meditation and the Bodhisattva Precepts* by Tenshin Zenki Reb Anderson Roshi, a senior Dharma teacher in the Soto Zen tradition of Shunryu Suzuki. *"A gifted storyteller, Anderson takes us to the heart of situations, where moral judgments are not easy and we do not have all the answers."*

If purchased through the Daifukuji Gift Shop, class participants may obtain the paperback book for the discounted price of \$10. The book is available online in hardcover, paperback and Kindle formats. Unfortunately, we cannot handle mail orders.

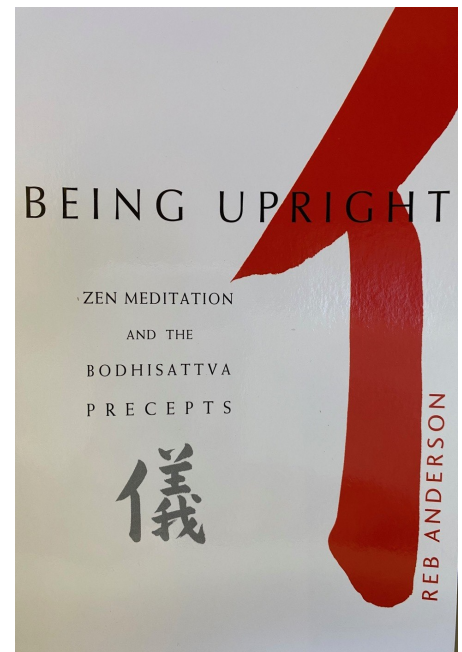
These sessions are open to all who are interested in studying the precepts and do not require participation in the precepts ceremony which will be offered at its conclusion.

Rev. Jiko offers the Dharma freely. There is no class fee. To support such programs, one may make a donation to Daifukuji Soto Mission.

<https://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html>

For more information or to register, please contact Rev. Jikō at (808) 322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.

Those who have studied the precepts in the past are welcome to deepen their understanding by joining these sessions.



In Remembrance: Bishop Jiho Machida



On March 5, 2023, retired Hawaii Soto Mission Bishop Jiho Machida passed away peacefully at home in Honolulu. He was 96 years of age. He is survived by wife Violet Machida.

Jiho Machida was born on November 3, 1926, in Chichibu, Saitama Prefecture, Japan. At the young age of 26, the then Reverend Jiho Machida left Kokenji temple in Saitama and arrived in Hawaii on November 3, 1952. After serving as resident minister of (the now closed) Waiahole Tomonji Soto Mission, he transferred to the Soto Mission of Hawaii.

During his time as a minister at the Soto Mission of Hawaii, Rev. Machida succeeded Mrs. You Komagata as the second principal of the Nuuanu Wakei Gakuen (Japanese Language School), served as the president of the Hawaii Kyoikukai (Japanese School Association), and for a short time served as the Soto Academy principal.

Upon the retirement of Bishop Gyokuei Matsuura on October 31, 1997, Jiho Machida was installed as the 7th bishop of the Hawaii Soto Mission. Bishop Machida was a kind and friendly person. He was also a very smart man, instrumental throughout his career in creating Japanese language textbooks used in many of the Japanese Schools that were operating throughout the state of Hawaii. His also contributed to the Hawaii Soto Mission by creating much of the English Buddhist materials we use to this day. He retired on August 31, 2008, after 56 years of dedicated service to the Hawaii Soto Mission.

Bishop Machida's funeral service will be held at the Soto Mission of Hawaii on Sunday, May 7, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., with visitation to begin at 2:00 p.m. We kindly request that you let your minister know if you plan to attend the service. Please call 808-537-9409 for more information.

**Soto Mission of Aiea
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