

SOTO MISSION OF AIEA
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TAIHEIJI BULLETIN



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2023

From October 20 to 27, Taiheiji embarked on its second annual online auction. Utilizing the easy-to-use auction website 32auctions.com, people placed bids on 300 items and services, and in the end helped the temple raise over \$5,400 dollars—nearly \$1,000 more than last year! The proceeds will go to Taiheiji's mission to grow and increase its positive presence in the Aiea community with the construction of the new Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center.

Thank you to Corinne Gyotoku, Pam Matsuda, Susan Suzuki, Karen Matsukawa, Pat and Rusty Radona, Angie Naito, Carrolyn Emoto, George Hokama, and Keith Gyotoku for all their help to make the second annual online auction a huge success!!!

Buddhist Saying to live by...

*Even in the deepest mountain, you
cannot escape from the influence of
human relationships.*

September 19: Groundbreaking Ceremony



With the blessing of the Hawaii Soto Mission's leader, Bishop Shugen Komagata, the participation of Senator Brandon Elefante, Central Pacific Bank VP Jason Mukaida, Activity Center architect Glenn Miura, general contractor Jesse Alverio, and Taiheiji VP George Hokama, and the attendance of many Taiheiji members and supporters, the Soto Mission of Aiea officially started its construction of the new two-story Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center with a very special and memorable Groundbreaking Ceremony on September 19, 2023. This auspicious event comes after five years of discussions, planning, fundraising, and of course waiting.

With heartfelt speeches, congratulatory messages, and the ceremonial digging of soil, there were a lot of smiles and laughter. As the temple looks ahead to this next phase of construction, we are extremely grateful for your continued financial and in-kind donations that will help with the project.



(L-R): George Hokama, Glenn Miura, Bishop Shugen Komagata, Rev. Shuji Komagata, Jason Mukaida, Senator Brandon Elefante, Jesse Alverio



Rev. Shuji Komagata performs a special blessing ceremony to commemorate the Groundbreaking of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center

Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center Receives Support from Central Pacific Bank

At the special Groundbreaking Ceremony on September 19, Central Pacific Bank Vice President Jason Mukaida presented Rev. Shuji Komagata with a \$7,000 check. This is the second annual payment of a five-year \$35,000 grant awarded to Taiheiji for the construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center. Thank you to



Central Pacific Bank for supporting Taiheiji in its efforts to create a facility that will benefit the Aiea community.



Rev. Shuji and CPB VP Jason Mukaida

Discovery of Broken Pipes Lead to Added Cost of Project

Construction workers made a startling discovery while trenching the perimeter of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center ahead of the footings being placed. They unearthed old, corroded, and broken sewer pipes from the temple building that run under the planned foundation of the new structure.



The plumber was called to immediately replace the pipes with new PVC sewer pipes. Unfortunately, the cost of replacement is not covered under the new building contract.

We humbly ask you for your donations to help cover this added expense. Please contact Rev. Shuji to see how you can help.



Demolition of Japanese School



Japanese School Building



(L-R:) George Hokama, Corinne Gyotoku, Susan Tachino



Demolition of Old Parsonage





Making way for the new Activity Center



EITAIKYO, KANNONKO, & KEIZAN ZENJI'S BIRTHDAY SERVICES

Please join us on Sunday, November 12 at 9:00 a.m. for Eitaikyo (Perpetual Donors), Kannonko, and Keizan Zenji's birthday services. Everyone is invited to attend this occasion.

Keizan Zenji's Birthday Service

Our Soto tradition in Hawaii is traced back to our two founders, Dogen Zenji and Keizan Zenji. While both Dogen and Keizan will always be remembered as great teachers of Zen, Keizan Zenji is credited with initiating the rapid and wide spread growth and influence of Soto Zen throughout Japan. He laid the foundation for the development of Soto Zen by training many outstanding disciples who would propagate the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha. And so it is with deep reverence and gratitude that we honor and pay homage to Master Keizan.



Keizan Zenji

Eitaikyo Service

Eitaikyo Service is held each year at Taiheiji, as an annual memorial service for deceased members of Taiheiji. What sets this special service apart from private memorial services is that Eitaikyo service is for "Perpetual memorial." By making a donation of \$500 or more for this service, prayers are made for your deceased loved each year during this service in perpetuity. Their name will be read along with all other Eitaikyo recipients' names that have been read since the beginning of Taiheiji's long history. If you are interested in ensuring that your deceased loved one will be honored in the Eitaikyo service this year and every year to come, please call Rev. Shuji to make arrangements. Please stay for refreshments served after the services. Donations of food and desserts to serve are greatly appreciated! Please contact Rev. Shuji if you can *kokua*!

DECEMBER BODHI DAY SERVICE

The teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha have touched the lives of people around the world. His words of love, mercy, and compassion have helped countless people find peace and happiness in their lives. Our Buddhist beliefs and practices can be traced back to a single event in the Buddha's life—his enlightenment. After sitting in quiet meditation under the Bodhi tree, Siddhartha Gautama became Shakyamuni Buddha, thus revealing to all people of the world the way to end suffering. On **Sunday, December 10, at 9:00 a.m.**, Taiheiji will be observing its Bodhi Day service honoring the Buddha's enlightenment as well as its monthly Kannonko service. Refreshments will be served upon conclusion of the service. Please contact Rev. Shuji if you are able to bring food or dessert to the add to the refreshments. We look forward to seeing you.



On December 9, 1979, seven Taiheiji YBA members: Susan Suzuki, Pam Suzuki, Pat Suzuki, Diane Suzuki, Corinne Fukumae, Chizuru Togami, and Craig Iinuma won 1st place in a mural contest sponsored by the Hawaii Buddhist Council for their painting of the Buddha's Enlightenment.

nonattachment

consciousness

PEACE bliss Love acceptance action

Bodhi Day Service



Sunday, December 3, 2023

9:30 a.m.

Nichiren Mission of Hawaii

33 Pulelehua Way

Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Guest Speaker:

Bishop Myokei Caine-Barret

“Buddhism and Women”



For More Information:

Nichiren Mission of Hawaii 595-3517

Soto Mission of Hawaii 537-9409

This event is sponsored by the
Hawaii Buddhist Council

non judgement **Four Noble Truths** presence **Sangha** stillness renunciation

The 700th Anniversary of Daihonzan Sojiji's Founder Taiso Keizan Jokin Zenji and the 120th Anniversary of the Hawaii Soto Mission

The Hawaii Soto Mission Association's (HSMA) 2023 Fall Meeting and Conference were held on October 21 and 22, 2023 at the Soto Mission of Hawaii in Honolulu. The weekend's events included the Preliminary Memorial Ceremony for the 700th Anniversary of Daihonzan Sojiji's Founder Taiso Keizan Jokin Zenji and the 120th Anniversary of the Hawaii Soto Mission.

Saturday, October 21, 2023

HSMA Fall Meeting and

Keynote Speaker Rev. Konjin Godwin

After the Opening Ceremony was completed, special guest Rev. Konjin Godwin, Director the Soto Zen Buddhism International Center and abbot of the Houston Zen Center, delivered a wonderful presentation on Soto Zen Buddhism in North America to the HSMA officers, delegates, ministers, and Jizoku (minister's spouse) gathered at Betsuin. Rev. Godwin shared a detailed analysis of the history, growth, and spread of Soto Zen, and her thoughts on what the future may hold for our organization. After a tasty lunch in the social hall, the HSMA held its fall meeting to discuss various topics that concern the Soto Mission temples statewide.

Preliminary Memorial Ceremony for the 700th Anniversary of Daihonzan Sojiji's Founder Taiso Keizan Jokin Zenji Special Decoction-offering

Late Saturday afternoon, a special ceremony offering “sweet hot water” to Taiso Keizan Jokin Zenji was held as a prelude to Sunday’s memorial service dedicated to him. Rev. Shinko Miura, the Director of Education at Kasuisai Monastery in Japan, officiated this ceremony. Rev. Miura humbly offered a series of prostrations to pay homage to and show his deep respect to the co-founder of our Soto Zen School.



Rev. Shinko Miura pictured with hands in gassho:

Sunday, October 22, 2023

The HSMA Conference attendees returned Sunday morning to the Soto Mission of Hawaii Betsuin and were joined by nearly 100 attendees and 30 ministers from Hawaii, the mainland, Japan, and South America to observe three very special services.

120th Year Memorial Service for Deceased Ministers, Jizoku, and Members of the Hawaii Soto Mission

Bishop Shugen Komagata officiated a memorial service dedicated to all deceased Hawaii ministers, their spouses, and to all members of the Hawaii Soto Mission



Bishop Komagata reads his invocation
as Rev. Shuji looks on from the side

who passed over the course of the last 120 years. Acknowledging the many hardships endured and sacrifices made for the sake of the Hawaii Soto Mission, Bishop Komagata led the ministers and congregation in solemn prayer for the repose of the deceased.

Hawaii Soto Mission 120th Anniversary Service

Rev. Konjin Godwin returned to the spotlight to officiate the auspicious 120th Anniversary Service for the Hawaii Soto Mission. We were all extremely grateful for her presence and participation at these events. Just as Bishop Komagata has been able to do with the congregation in Hawaii, Rev. Godwin was able to make an instant connection with the English-speaking crowd at Betsuin.



Rev. Konjin Godwin



Ministers lead Rev. Tenyu Fukagawa into the temple



Preliminary Memorial Ceremonies for the 700th Anniversary of Daihonzan Sojiji's Founder, Taiso Keizan Jokin Zenji

A very warm mahalo is extended to Rev. Tenyu Fukagawa, Director of Education and Dissemination at the Administrative Headquarters of Soto Zen Buddhism, for officiating the memorial service dedicated to Keizan Zenji. During this “preliminary” service—held a year ahead of the 700th Memorial Service at head temple Daihonzan Sojiji in





2024—Rev. Fukagawa offered Dharma words, sweet hot water, rice, alms, cakes, tea, incense, and 18 prostrations (yes, that’s a lot of bows!)—to Keizan Zenji. Joined by the 29 other ministers, Rev. Fukagawa chanted the holy sutras while walking in circumambulation—a reverent processional on the altar. Albeit long, this ceremony was extremely beautiful and intriguing to witness.



Thank you to our very own Bishop Shugen Komagata, Rev. Tenyu Fukagawa, Rev. Konjin Godwin, Rev. Shinko Miura, the many other ministers in attendance, and of course to all the people who attended the ceremonies.



ZIPPY'S

BENEFIT FUNDRAISING

It's that time again for the Soto Mission of Aiea's annual fundraising event! We once again ask you for your support by purchasing Zippy's Fundraising tickets. The price per ticket is \$11.00. Each ticket sold can be redeemed for: Chili, Portuguese Bean Soup, one (1) meat & egg breakfast with one (1) small coffee or soft drink, OR five (5) pieces of cornbread.

The presale order form has been mailed out and is due on Friday, November 17. If you did not receive a preorder form, please contact Rev. Shuji at 808-488-6794! The Zippy's Fundraiser Event tickets you order and pay for will be printed and mailed out to you around November 29. Please remember—your tickets will be mailed to you only after payment is received. The tickets will be redeemable for approximately 10 weeks (estimated early February expiration).

Thank you for your participation in this fundraiser. The money raised helped Taiheiji manage the cost of maintaining the temple facilities.



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 can positively affect your life and the lives of others around you.



What is the Zazenkai?

The Zazenkai is the group that sits together, thus supporting one another through the practice of Zen meditation. The meditation group is beginning to grow! We have seven members that attend regularly!

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. 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.

DAIHANNYA OFUDA PACKETS

On New Year’s Day, Monday, January 1, 2024, the new *Daihannya Ofuda* will be distributed to Taiheiji members and their families. Each household will receive in their NEW OFUDA PACKET: 1 wooden *kifuda*, 2 paper *ofuda*, 1 car *omamori*, and 1 wallet *omamori*. Order forms will be mailed to you at the beginning of December.



2024 NEW YEAR'S & DAIHANNYA BLESSING SERVICES

While the ongoing construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center is exciting to see, it also has limited—and in some places restricted—access to the temple and social hall. For the safety and comfort of all people who go to the Soto Mission of Aiea to receive New Year's blessings on January 1 every year, it has been decided that the 2024 New Year's Blessing Service will not be held inside the temple, but instead will be a "DRIVE THRU" service held between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

This will be similar to the drive thru service held during the COVID-19 pandemic. We kindly request that you go to Taiheiji on Monday, January 1, 2024, at the appropriated times listed below:

<u>Last Name of Person Placing Ofuda Order</u>	<u>Blessing and Pick up Time</u>
A—J	9:00—9:30 a.m.
K—N	9:30—10:00 a.m.
O—S	10:00—10:30 a.m.
T—Z	10:30—11:00 a.m.

Rev. Shuji will be outside the temple to greet and bless everyone in your vehicle. Even though you pick up your entire family's ofuda order, please encourage them to drive themselves to the temple to also receive their New Year's blessing! Don't forget to drop off your old ofuda and omamori for proper disposal.

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF TAIHEIJI? SOTO MISSION OF AIEA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Taiheiji strives to serve the social, spiritual, and religious needs of its members through its ongoing mission to provide a place where people are welcomed with open arms to receive the guidance of the Buddha Dharma.

We regularly receive requests from nonmembers for services. It is during these times when people know of no other place to go that they realize the importance of being a member of the temple. Your Taiheiji membership enables you to access the variety of religious services available, whether for happy occasions like weddings, or for challenging times like dealing with the loss of a loved one.

We certainly feel that your membership donation is an encouraging sign of confidence that you place in the temple as an important and relevant part of your life.

An additional benefit active members receive is the opportunity to use the social hall to host parties and events. Currently, there is no rental fee for members, so booking the facility is simple with a donation made at the member's discretion. The social hall can comfortably accommodate up to 150 guests.

The annual membership donation is \$100 per household. In December, we will send out the membership/donation form for your household to join the temple or renew membership. **Please also encourage your parents, adult children, relatives and friends to renew their membership or to join our temple community.** If you have any questions, please call Rev. Shuji at 488-6794.

2024 FUJINKAI DUES

The Soto Mission of Aiea Taiheiji Fujinkai will soon be collecting Dues (\$10) for the year 2024. There are two membership options to choose from:

- Annual Membership: \$10/year
- Lifetime Membership (for current members of the Fujinkai with at least two years of active membership), based on age:
 - 50 and under - \$100
 - 51-60 - \$50
 - 61-70 - \$40
 - 70 and over - \$30

The Taiheiji Fujinkai membership form will be sent to you in December. Anyone interested in joining the Fujinkai is welcomed. If you are unable to pay the membership dues because of financial difficulties, please contact the Soto Mission of Aiea Fujinkai at 488-6794 to discuss options.

The Fujinkai is the auxiliary women's organization of the temple, and has been a long time advocate for women inside and outside the Buddhist community. They help one another out in the time of need, and spend time together in fellowship at and outside the temple throughout the year. In addition to providing support for each other, the women of the Fujinkai take on added responsibilities. They make generous contributions to the maintenance and furnishing of the minister's residence, and purchase appliances for the temple. **Please remember to make your \$10 dues payable to "Soto Mission of Aiea Fujinkai."**

Recycling Program at Taiheiji Temporarily Paused for Duration of Construction

Taiheiji's highly popular and successful recycling program—the Hawaii Deposit Beverage Container Program (HI-5)—will be put on pause until the end of the construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center.

Due to construction, there are currently no secure locations on property to store the cans and bottles we receive for recycling. We hope to be able to resume Taiheiji's recycling program as soon as we possibly can.

Temple Cleanup in December

Saturday, November 11: 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 9: 8:30 a.m.

Please come to help at Taiheiji's temple cleanups in November and December. This is an important cleaning day, as it is also the end-of-the-year cleanup when we try to do a deep clean of the temple. The dust from construction has made it necessary to clean more frequently, so your help is greatly appreciated! Please contact Rev. Shuji if you have any questions!



UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

November 2023

- 7 Tues 6:00 a.m. Zazen
- 11 Sat 8:30 a.m. Temple Cleanup
- 12 Sun 9:00 a.m. Keizan Zenji Birthday Service, Eitaikyo, and Kannonko Service
- 14 Tues 6:00 a.m. Zazen
- 21 Tues 6:00 a.m. Zazen
- 28 Tues 6:00 a.m. Zazen

December 2023

- 2 Sat 8:30 a.m. Taiheiji Board Meeting
- 3 Sun 9:30 a.m. Hawaii Buddhist Council Bodhi Day (@ Nichiren Mission of Hawaii)
- 5 Tues 6:00 a.m. Zazen
- 9 Sat 8:30 a.m. Temple Cleanup
- 10 Sun 9:00 a.m. Taiheiji Bodhi Day & Kannonko Service
- 12 Tues 6:00 a.m. Zazen
- 16 Sat 9:00 a.m. 16 Bodhisattva Precepts Class (@ Betsuin)
- 17 Sun 10:00 a.m. Lay Confirmation Ceremony (@ Betsuin)

Tentative

2024 Calendar of Events

- January 1 New Year's Blessing & Daihannya Service (drive-thru)
- January 14 Dogen Birthday, Kannonko, Ofuda yaki Services
- February 4 Nehan and Kannonko Services
- March 10 Spring Higan and Kannonko Services
- April 7 Hawaii Buddhist Council Buddha Day Service
- April 27-28 UHSSWA Conference
- May 12 Fujinkai Tsuicho-e and Kannonko Services
- June 20, 22, 23 Bon Services
- August 9, 10 Bon Dance
- September 8 Fall Higan and Kannonko Services
- October 13 Daruma-ki and Kannonko Services
- November 10 Keizan Birthday, Eitaikyo and Kannonko Services
- December 8 Bodhi Day and Kannonko Services

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GENEROUS DONATIONS RECEIVED

Bishop Shugen Komagata	Dollar a Day Donation
Christy Kokami	Donation to Temple
Fumiko Kosuge	1st Year Memorial Service for the late Emiko Shirakawa
Mary Jane Shigesato	1st Year Memorial Service for the late Mary Suyetani
Sharleen Isoshima	Donation to Temple
Marilyn Au Hoy	1st Year Memorial Service for the late Dennis Au Hoy
Roy & Carol Suda	In Loving Memory of the late Dennis Au Hoy
Lynn Mauer	Donation to Temple
Keiko Akamine	49th Day Memorial Service for the late Yasuhiko Akamine
Gordon Toyama	New Building Construction Fund
Aiko Karaoke School	Donation to Temple
Angie Naito	New Building Construction Fund
Edwin Nose	New Building Construction Fund
May Kanada	Donation to Temple
Victor Michimoto	Funeral Service for the late Keiko Michimoto
Neal Imada	Home Blessing
Bishop Shugen Komagata	Dollar a Day Donation
Thelma Tanaka	23rd Year Memorial Service for the late Kenneth Tanaka
Teri Ann Wong	23rd Year Memorial Service for the late Kenneth Tanaka
Fukiya	Donation to Temple
Janice Kim	Donation for Use of Hall

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 "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. **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.

Columbarium Temporarily Closed

The Taiheiji Columbarium, or Nokotsudo, will remain closed throughout the duration of the construction of the Soto Mission of Aiea Activity Center. Normally, visitors enter the temple through a side door on the second floor. Unfortunately, due to the construction, the stairs and elevator are inaccessible. We humbly ask you for your understanding. We will announce later when the Nokotsudo will reopen.

Saturday, December 16

16 Bodhisattva Precepts Class

On Saturday, December 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Soto Mission of Hawaii will host a study session on the 16 Bodhisattva precepts, which serve as the foundation of all Buddhist thought and practice in the Soto Zen tradition. This study session is open to anyone, including those who have already studied the precepts in the past. The class will be held at the Soto Mission of Hawaii (1708 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu, 96817). Registration is \$50 per person, and includes refreshments and lunch. Please contact Rev. Shuji by December 1 if you are interested in attending this class.

Sunday, December 17

Lay Confirmation Ceremony

A Lay Confirmation Ceremony will be held on Sunday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m. at the Soto Mission of Hawaii. During this ceremony, participants formally receive the 16 Bodhisattva Precepts and confirm themselves as Buddhists.

The Lay Confirmation Ceremony is open to those who attended the Precepts Class on December 16 and to individuals who participated in previous Precepts Classes. Please contact Rev. Shuji if you are interested in studying and formally receiving the Buddhist Precepts on December 17.

**Soto Mission of Aiea
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