



Soto Mission of Hawaii
 1708 Nuuanu Avenue
 Honolulu, HI 96817

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Honolulu, Hawaii
 Permit No. 1123

Return Service Requested



SOTO MISSION OF HAWAII

BETSUIN NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020

Watch Live Bon Service Replay
 Bon Dance Cancelled
 Credit Card Payment
 Upcoming Events
 Office Hour Changes for August
 Donations
 Dharma Lei

2
 2
 2
 2
 2
 2
 3-6

Soto Mission of Hawaii
 1708 Nuuanu Avenue
 Honolulu HI 96817

Tel: 537-9409 Fax: 537-6320
 E-Mail: info@sotomission.org
 HP: www.sotomission.org
 FB: [@sotomissionofhawaii](https://www.facebook.com/sotomissionofhawaii)

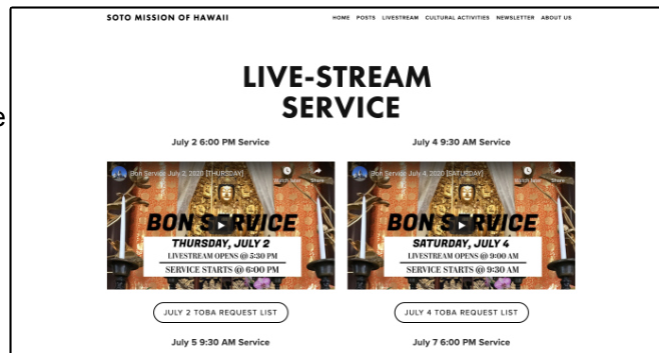
Office Hour: 8AM-4PM
 Except for Federal Holidays
 and 5th Sunday

Editor: Rev. Hirosato Yoshida.

Watch Live Bon Service Replay

First of all, we would like to say thank you very much to everyone for your patience as we worked on setting up the Bon Service Online. We had over 300 people viewing the services LIVE and currently over 1300 views for the Bon Service videos. We can't say thank you enough for understanding and although it was through the screen, prayed and chanted together to extend our gratitude to our loved ones.

If you have not watched the video yet, you can watch the video until the end of the year on our Homepage or on our YouTube page. If you are unable to watch the video, we are working on making DVD's of the services. If you are interested, please come to the temple to borrow a DVD so that you can watch the service on your TV at home.



We will also have a computer at the temple for you to use to view the Bon Service as well as Bishop's Message. To watch at the temple, please make an appointment by calling the temple.

Bon Dance Cancelled

As previously announced, we will be cancelling our Bon Dance this year due to the COVID-19. We apologize for any inconvenience and disappointment.

Credit Card Payment

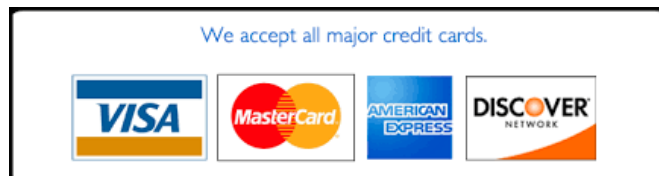
We are excited to announce that the credit card payment is now available. When making payment for services such as purchasing of goods to donation to the temple, can now be done using your credit card. We are accepting most major credit cards. We can also accept recurring donations for example setting up monthly donations to the temple.

Also we now have a Donate button on our Homepage as well, You can only make general donations online as of now. More options, such as paying for your membership dues, O-Toba and registering online, making specific donations, etc. will be made available at a later time.

If you are interested in using your credit card, please let our ministers or staff know. If there is anyone in our membership that is familiar with advance setups for credit card transactions and integration into our website, please contact Rev. Yoshida so that we can modernize our services.

Upcoming Events

September 20, 9:30 AM Autumn Higan and Ryosoki Service



Office Hour Changes for August

August 30 Temple Closed for 5th Sunday

Donations

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their generous donations.

Kannon-Ko Service Donations

Arden & Mary Loomis, Jean Maekawa, Ellen Nishimura, Sally Nozaki, Bernice Koike, Katherine Higuchi, Ethel Watanabe, Jamie Peterson, Michiko Sasaki, Mona Sawai, Kawagishi Family.

Memorial Service / Funeral / General Donations

Marianne Honda, Hanayagi Dancing Academy- Hawaii Foundation, Karen Kuraoka, Reginald Kokubun, Katherine Higuchi, Sharon Maekawa, Paul Ashitomi, Baron Y. Fukata, Naomi Sarae, Lynne KTP Howells, Chikako Shimamura, Pualani K. Kondo, Calvin M. Tsuda, Esther S. Kondo, Bruce K. Nishi, Rae Chiyomi Shiraki, Raymond Sekiya, Ichiro Mori, Joyce Ueda, Gwen Fukuhara, Hawaii Soto-Shu Head Office, Helen Watanabe, Linda M. Shirai, Ruby E. Mizue, Mike T. Fujii, Linda Fujimoto Thom & David J. Thom, Doris & Stanley Osada, Annette & Clyde Matsumoto, Dorothea Yamane, Faye Chiogioji, Acarajethan Thevarajah, Alice M. Ige, Chizuko Ota, Frances R. Tanaka, June Aono.



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

E-Mail: info@sotozenhi.org WEB: <http://global.sotozen-net.or.jp/eng/>

Third Quarter, 2020

Issue No. 33

Bishop's Message: **Bishop Shugen Komagata**

Aloha from the Bishop's Office,

As we continue through these unprecedented times, I hope that you and your family are doing well. The novel Coronavirus has infected millions of people worldwide with COVID-19 in a little over six months, and the devastation of this pandemic will certainly continue for quite some time. I pray that we will be able to weather these turbulent times and soon be able to return to a life of normalcy.

The longer days and warm weather of the summer months have long announced the arrival of the annual Bon Season here in Hawaii. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, our Soto Mission temples here in Hawaii have been forced to modify our Bon Services to follow the restrictions on physical distancing. Thanks to modern technology, Virtual Bon Services—services that will be filmed and broadcast over social media—will allow people to still be a part of this year's ceremonies. I am happy that most of our temples in Hawaii will be able to observe Bon Service this year using this method.



Bon is a time for us to remember our loved ones. Even though our congregations won't be able to physically visit the temple for Bon Services this year, it is still important to take this time to cultivate our ability to love, appreciate, and celebrate the lives we are so fortunate to live. It is important to also pause to honor and remember those who are no longer with us physically. The quote, "Heijoshin kore do," interpreted as "the Buddhist path lies in the ordinary mind of our daily lives," comes to my mind during this time of Bon. It shows us that even though we cannot physically participate in Bon Services this year, the true meaning of Bon—having a sense of "gratitude"—can still manifest itself within our hearts each day in our daily lives.

Recently, we have seen the relaxation of some social and travel restrictions in Hawaii. Nonetheless, in the best interest of everyone's safety and health, I recommended that all the Soto Mission Bon Dances be cancelled this season. I hope that the global environment will improve in time for next year's Bon Season!

Let us extend our prayers to all the people who have lost their lives because of the novel Coronavirus, and those millions of people who have been infected worldwide. And again, please continue to take care of yourself and your family.

In Gassho,

Bishop Shugen Komagata



Shushogi, Chapter 5: Verses 26-29

By Rev. Jiko Nakade
Daifukuji Soto Mission



V. Practicing Buddhism and Repaying Blessings

“Arousing the thought of enlightenment is mainly something that human beings in this world should do. Should we not rejoice that we have had the opportunity to be born in this land of the Buddha Shakyamuni and to have encountered him?”

Have you ever considered how fortunate you are to have encountered the teachings of the Buddha and ancestors? When I think about the circumstances of my own birth and the compassion of my birth parents which resulted in my being raised in Hawai'i, I feel a surge of gratitude. Had I not been given to my adoptive parents who lived in Hawaii, I could have grown up in a small town in Ohio without ever having encountered the Buddha-Dharma. But, thanks to the supreme generosity, love, and thoughtfulness of my Aunt Alice and Uncle Bob (my birth parents), who gave me as a gift to my adoptive parents whose baby had died, I was carried to Hawaii as an infant, immediately immersed in a Buddhist household, and raised by loving parents who took me to Daifukuji throughout my childhood. Truly, I rejoice in my good fortune and wish to repay the blessings bestowed upon me by the buddhas & bodhisattvas, as well as by my teachers, ancestors, and two sets of parents. Had the circumstances been different, even by a hair, I might not have had the good fortune of encountering the Buddha Shakyamuni. If you are reading this, it means that you, too, have had the good fortune of encountering the wondrous Dharma. Let us rejoice together!

“We should calmly consider that if this was a time when the true dharma had not yet spread in the world, we would not be able to encounter it, even if we vowed to sacrifice our very lives for it. We who have at present encountered the true dharma should make such a vow. Do we not know that the Buddha said, ‘When you meet their teachers who expound supreme enlightenment, do not consider their family background, do not regard their appearance, do not dislike their faults, and do not think about their conduct. Simply, out of respect for wisdom, bow to them three times daily, honor them, and do not cause them any grief.’”

It is said in our Buddhist tradition that it is not an easy thing to encounter the Buddha-Dharma. In fact, not only is it considered rare to be born into human life — just think of how many different kinds of life forms there are! — it is even rarer to encounter the precious Dharma which liberates one from suffering.

Continued on next page



Using an ancient metaphor, to have this opportunity to meet teachers such as the Buddha who expound supreme enlightenment is as rare as a blind turtle in a vast ocean swimming up to the surface and, by chance, poking its head through a ring that just happened to be there. In other words, when, in the course of one's life, one meets a sensei who teaches the Dharma, regard this as a precious opportunity and don't hesitate to demonstrate your respect and appreciation to your teacher and sangha. You have indeed received a great blessing!

“That we are now able to see the Buddha and hear the dharma is due to the blessings that have come to us through the practice of every one of the buddhas and ancestors. If the buddhas and ancestors had not directly transmitted the dharma, how could it have reached us today? We should be grateful for the blessings of even a single phrase; we should be grateful for the blessings of even a single dharma. How much more should we be grateful for the great blessings of the treasury of the eye of the true dharma, the supreme great dharma. The injured bird did not forget its blessings, but showed its thanks with the rings of three ministries. The trapped tortoise did not forget its blessings, but showed its thanks with the seal of Yubu. If even animals repay their blessings, how could humans ignore them?”

One's joy and appreciation are heightened when one considers how the Dharma has been transmitted, heart to heart and mind to mind, from the Buddha Shakyamuni who lived 2,600 years ago in India to people like ourselves, living in the 21st century. Just the fact that the Dharma has passed through many lands and reached us is mind-blowing! One can only imagine the countless number of men and women, monks and laypersons alike, who've diligently practiced the Buddha Way and transmitted the Dharma light through the ages! Had they not done so, we today would not have received even a single verse of the Dharma. Truly, we are blessed. Therefore, let us not take this precious opportunity for granted. Like the injured bird and the trapped tortoise who were recipients of acts of great compassion & showed their gratitude, let us rejoice and offer our thanks, for we have received something of great value. We have received the gift of Dharma which excels all other gifts.

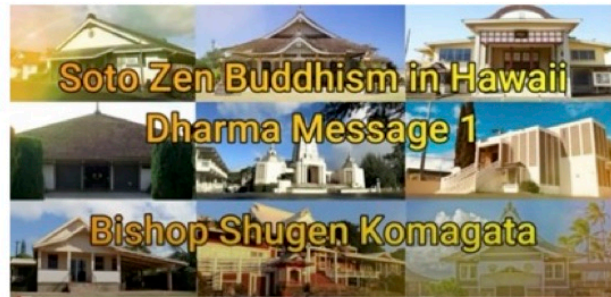
“Our expression of gratitude should not consist in any other practices; the true path of such expression lies solely in our daily practice of Buddhism. This means that we practice without neglecting our lives day to day and without being absorbed in ourselves.”

How do we express our gratitude to the buddhas and ancestors? Dogen Zenji is saying that we do so through our daily practice of the Buddha Way; that is, by living each moment of our precious lives with mindfulness and by dedicating our practice to the welfare of others, so that others, too, may be liberated from suffering and attain spiritual peace. To have such an aspiration is the Way of the Bodhisattva. To live in such a way is to repay the blessings of the buddhas and ancestors.



Online Dharma Message

Soto Zen Buddhism in Hawaii is providing online Dharma talks on Youtube and Facebook every two weeks. You can watch videos of Bishop Shugen Komagata and some Hawaii ministers' Dharma messages by using the link or scanning the QR code below.



Youtube Page Link

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsTHV_8A59kEfZIBRlmDtRw

Facebook Page Link

<https://www.facebook.com/Soto-Zen-Buddhism-in-Hawaii-111602773848472/>



Please scan the QR code with your smartphone to access the website!!



Following is the schedule;

Rev. Ryokei Ishii June 28, 2020
Rev. Shinsho Hata July 12, 2020
Rev. Hirosato Yoshida July 26, 2020

Rev. Shuji Komagata August 9, 2020
Rev. Shoryu Fukagawa August 23, 2020
Rev. Tom Wright September 6, 2020

