



Soto Mission of Hawaii
 1708 Nuuanu Avenue
 Honolulu, HI 96817

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SOTO MISSION OF HAWAII

BETSUIN NEWSLETTER



JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2023

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Services and Events

Joya-no-Kane Service (Dec. 31 @ 11:30 PM)

We will be having the Joya-no-Kane service, the midnight bell ringing service is on Dec. 31 at 11:30 PM. We ring the bell 108 times to cleanse our mind, body and spirit as we welcome the year 2023. Please join us to ring the temple bell 108 times.

2023 Daihannya New Year Blessing Service (Jan. 8 @ 9:30 AM)

We apologize that the date on the Daihannya letter sent out last month along with the December Newsletter was incorrect. We apologize for the confusion it may have caused. The correct date is January 8, 2023.

2023 Daihannya New Year Blessing Service

Date: Sunday, January 8

Time: 9:30 AM

Bishop Komagata, together with all Oahu Ministers, will recite the *Daihannya-Kyo* (Great Wisdom Sutra), and pray for your family's happiness, prosperity, good health, traffic safety, and well-being in the Daihannya Blessing Service. Your Ofuda Packet (if you ordered) will be blessed and distributed to you upon completion of the service. If you are unable to attend, you may come to the temple to pick up your Ofuda that you ordered and any extras omamori at anytime.

Sunday Services and Kannonko Services at Betsuin

At Betsuin, we offer services to our congregation every Sunday from 9:30 AM. The services and Dharma Talks are conducted in English. We chant and sing together and learn about the Dharma.

On the third Sunday of the month, we have a Kannonko service. Kannonko is a service we honor the all compassionate Kannon Bodhisattva. For this service, you may make a special donation to have you and your family be blessed by the Kannon Bodhisattva standing tall in the Altar. Our Kannon Bodhisattva is also known as the 11 Faced Kannon, watching all directions and sensing all sorts of emotions to help individuals during the time of difficulty and laugh together in times of happiness.

We are currently the only temple on Oahu that conducts Sunday Service and we are conveniently located in Honolulu. Many of our members who attend the service say that "the week doesn't feel right without attending the service," so we encourage everyone to join us. This is also a great place to make new friends and enrich your life with new opportunity to socialize with like-minded individuals, similar age, and gain wisdom from our elderly members. As we begin the year 2023, we encourage you to join us and learn more about Buddhism by coming to our Sunday Services.

Sunday and Kannonko Service Dates

Jan. 8 (New Year Blessing), Jan. 15 (Kannonko), Jan. 22,
Feb. 5, Feb. 12 (Nehan-e), and Feb. 19 (Kannonko)

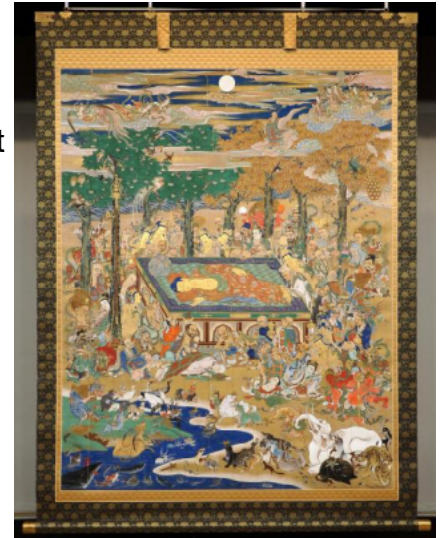


Nehan-E Service (Feb. 12 @ 9:30 AM)

On February 12, we will be observing Nehan-e, one of the three major services we have for Shakyamuni Buddha, our founder of Buddhism. It is a memorial service dedicated to him. It is said that about 2600 years ago, Shakyamuni Buddha passed away on the 15th of February in a place called Kushinagara, India.

At Betsuin, to observe this day and witness the last teachings by Shakyamuni Buddha, we hang the Nehan Scroll or the Pari-Nirvana Scroll from Feb.1 ~ Feb. 15 on the right side of the altar. We encourage everyone to come during these days to see the magnificent painting of the scroll, and join us for the Nehan-e Service.

Donation for the service is welcomed and appreciated. The donor's names will be read during the service by the Bishop to bless you and your family ancestors along with your prayers for Shakyamuni Buddha.



General Membership Meeting (Feb. 19 @ 10 AM) and New Year's Party (11 AM)

Every year after our Nehan-e Service, we have our General Membership Meeting. This is the time you will hear reports from our Board of Directors on financial reports to future projects. This is a great opportunity to speak to our Board of Directors and share your thoughts.

After the Meeting, we will be having our New Year's Party. With the pandemic, we were unable to have the party for the last two years and we are happy and hopeful that this year we will finally be able to have our New Year's Party once again. There will be lots of Onolicious Food and Entertainment Program that we are planning for you and your family to enjoy. We will have great prizes for Lucky Numbers like Gift Cards, Kitchenware, Toys, etc. for everyone to look forward to. Your donation for Lucky Number prizes will be greatly appreciated.



We will be honoring our Kupuna Members for sharing their wisdom and individuals for their contribution to our temple. **Please call the temple to sign up for the New Year's Party at (808) 537-9409 by February 10.**

New Year's Party

Date: February 19

Time: 11 AM

Price: \$15 per Adult, \$12 per Children (13 - 18 Years Old),
No Charge for (88 years and Above or 12 years and Under)

RSVP: Friday, February 10

Let's Learn About Sotoshu

ZEN STORY: The Sound Of The Bell

Ekido Zenji was a Zen master in the latter days of the Shogunate and the beginning of the Meiji Period who created a very stern Zen atmosphere. Before becoming head of Sojiji (one of the two main temples of Soto Zen), he was the head of Tentokuin Temple in Kaga (Presently Ishikawa Prefecture), and before that he was the head of Ryukaiin Temple in Maebashi.



In Zen temples, monks in training awaken at three or four o'clock in the morning. As soon as

they awaken, the monks go to the meditation hall (Zendo) and practice zazen for about an hour. Even if many people are present in the dark, pre-dawn hall, it is as quiet as if there were no one there at all. Occasionally the crack of the waking stick (Kyosaku) striking a monk's shoulder breaks the stillness, but that rather leads into a pool of deeper quietness which stills the whole body.

During this period of zazen the temple bell in the bell tower (Shorodo) sounds 108 times, now loudly and now softly; rapidly, then, slowly. Some people are good at ringing bells and some are not. Also, depending upon the weather condition of the day, sometimes the bell sounds clearly and sometimes not so clearly.



One cold winter morning Ekido Zenji, who was sitting zazen with a large number of monks, heard the solemn resounding of the temple bell, and he sensed that there was something mysteriously different in the way the bell was being struck.

“That’s strange. This is the bell I’m used to hearing, but this morning I feel sternness in the sound which goes right through my body.”

After zazen Ekido returned to the abbot’s quarters and instructed the attendant, “Go call the one who struck the bell this morning.”

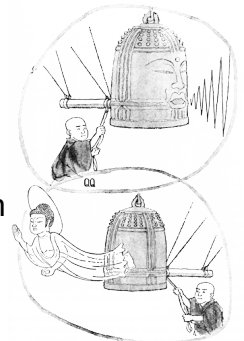
A newly arrived novice monk was ushered in. “You’re the one who hit the bell this morning, aren’t you,” said the abbot.

“Yes, sir. Well you see . . . this morning was the first time I . . .,” stammered the novice, timidly bowing his head and probably thinking he was going to be scolded for ringing the bell badly.



“No, I didn’t summon you because you rang the bell badly. I want to ask you, what were your feelings when you struck the bell?”

The novice answered, “I was taught that to strike the bell is to hear the voice of the Buddha. It is to bring forth the Buddha. Therefore, when we hit the bell we must hit it with this attitude. This morning my turn to strike the bell came for the first time. So, concentrating on hearing the Buddha’s voice and bringing forth the Buddha from the bell, I put the strength of my whole body into my hands when I grasped the mallet, and I hit the bell. After each strike of the bell I put my hands together and made a prostration.”



“Oh, so that’s it,” said the Abbot. “Well, don’t forget that feeling when you practice.”

This novice, who adored Ekido Zenji’s noble character and who never left his side for eighteen years, was the man who became the sixty-fourth abbot of Eihei Temple, Morita Goyu Zenji.

The rosy future dreamed of with the period of rapid growth has already become a tale of daydreams. The technological revolution didn’t simply change the processes of production; it ended up changing, before we knew it, everything – from the structure of industry to the structure of society.

There are many who are constantly lamenting the misfortune of their downfall due to these new forces. Consequently, everyone wants to know when, how, and in what direction the world is going to change.

We know that if we drop a glass on concrete it will break, but we do not know into how many

pieces it will break. In just this way, no one knows exactly what kind of change will occur. The uncertain future, the times already past, and the people around us are things we can not rely on too much. Therefore, the most important thing is to acquire the ability to adapt to any change; or, more precisely, to acquire the sense of self necessary to be the master of any situation, and to freely, according to our will, affect our environment which changes moment by moment.

This is nothing other than completely burning up our here-and-now life, which is the most certain thing in this uncertain world.

Zen and Dogen Zenji's Shobogenzo teach us how to do this.

(Published by Soto Shu Headquarter)

Announcements

2023 Membership Dues and Nokotsudo Maintenance Fee

We thank everyone who has turned in and paid for your 2023 Membership Dues early. For those who have not yet turned in, this is a friendly reminder that payment for the Membership Dues and Nokotsudo Maintenance Fee for 2023 are now being accepted. The forms have been sent to you in the December newsletter. At your earliest convenience, please turn in your dues and fees. This allows the temple to protect and keep our legacy and tradition alive and provide a spiritual homes to our ancestors. If you need the form, you can download from our webpage at www.sotomission.org/posts or call the temple and we can mail the form to you.

Spring HSMA Meeting (Feb. 26 @ 9:30 AM)

On February 26, Hawaii Soto Mission Association will be having its 2023 Spring meeting. This meeting will be in-person. This is a meeting where representatives from Soto Mission temples throughout Hawaii gather to discuss the different challenges each temple face and future of Soto Mission in Hawaii. Betsuin will be the host temple for this meeting. We are still working on the venue and price to attend. If you are interested in observing the meeting, please contact the temple in February to learn more about the meeting, price for luncheon, and agenda.

2023 California Buddhist Study Tour

You are cordially invited to join the Bishop and ministers on the 2023 California trip. The trip includes attending Los Angeles Zenshuji's Centennial Celebration in May and visits to Zen Centers and temples in Los Angeles and the Bay Area. Registration is now open to the public. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Shuji Komagata ASAP as seats are limited. For more details please refer to the Dharma Lei or contact Rev. Shuji at (808) 488-6794.

Upcoming Events

December 31	Joya-no-Kane (11:30 PM)
January 8	Daihannya New Year Service (9:30 AM)
January 15	Kannonko Service
February 12	Nehan-e Service (9:30 AM), Meeting (10 AM), New Year's Party (11 AM)
February 26	HSMA Meeting

Temple Closed / Irregular Hours and Dates

December 31	Temple closed at 4 PM and reopen at 11 PM for Joya-no-Kane Service
January 1	Temple will be open at 7 AM and close at 2 PM
January 16	Temple closed at noon for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 29	Temple closed all day for 5th Sunday
February 20	Temple closed at noon for President's Day

Donations

Thank you for your their generous donations for the month of November.

Charities Aid Foundation America	Donation
Dan K. Uyemura Trust	Donation - In Memory of Dan K. Uyemura & Parents
Julene Davis	Service - In Memory of Ronald Otomo
Family of Iris Emiko Kida	Service - Blessing Service
Family of the Late Alice Aiko Iwamoto	Service - Funeral & Inurnment for Alice Iwamoto
Family of the Late Jane Yamashiro	Service - 1yr Memorial for Jane Yamashiro
Mike Fujii	Service - In Memory of Tsutako Fujii
Charlotte Fujita	Donation - In Memory of Isauro & Yone Takiguchi
Masae Hayashi	Service - Eitaikyo
Katherine Higuchi	Donation, Service - Kannonko
Alvin Honbo	Donation
Rue Inuma	Service - In Memory of Tamotsu Inuma
Thomas & Chiye Itagaki	Service - October and November Kannonko, Eitaikyo
Jocelyn Kaneshiro	Service - Burial Service for Yoshiaki Ikeda
Miles Kasahara	Service - Eitaikyo
Keiko Kawagishi	Service - October and November Kannonko, Eitaikyo
Gertrude Kihara	Service - Eitaikyo
Suzanne Kirio	Service - Funeral for Evelyn Y. Kirio
Corlis Koga	Service - 3rd Memorial for Florence Hamano
Drucilla Koide	Donation - In Memory of Helen S. Kamiya
George Koide	Donation
Bernice Koike	Service - October and November Kannonko, Eitaikyo
Milton & Kathy Kwock	Service - Eitaikyo
Arden & Mary Loomis	Service - October and November Kannonko
Dara Luangphinit	Donation
Jean Maekawa	Service - October and November Kannonko, Eitaikyo
Mae Matsumoto	Service - Funeral for Stanley Watanabe
Martin Matsuura	Donation - In Memory of Bishop Gyokuei & Masuye Matsuura
Matsuzaki Family	Donation
Gary Morikawa	Service - Inurnment for Isumu Morikawa
June Motokawa	Eitaikyo Dedication for Isamu & Toshiko Abe
Warren & Karen Motosue	Service - Eitaikyo
Rajakumary Muthukumary	Donation
Nakai Family	Donation
Sumie & Hirotooshi Nishikawa	Donation - In Memory of Richard Hashimoto
Ellen Nishimura	Donation and Service - October and November Kannonko, Eitaikyo
Teruko Noto	Service Donation
Sally Nozaki	Service - October and November Kannonko
Toshio Ozeki	Service - In Memory of Kyoko Ozeki
Jamie Peterson	Service - November Kannonko
Mona Sawai	Service - October Kannonko
Michael Shildmyer	Service - November Kannonko
Hiroshi Shimada	Service - In Memory of Masanobu Shimada
Susan Sturgill	Service - Eitaikyo Dedication (Harold Minami & Minami Ancestors)
Lorene Suzuki	Service - Funeral for Laura Suzuki
Scott Takahashi	Service - In Memory of Molly S. Takahashi
Helen Tsuchiya	Eitaikyo & Perpetual Nokotsudo
Calvin Tsuda	Service - 13th Memorial for Kinuko Tsuda
Doken Unkai	Donation
Linda Unten	Service - October and November Kannonko
Wayne & Ann Uradomo	Service - October Kannonko and Eitaikyo
Wayne Warashina	Service - Eitaikyo
Derek Yamashiro	Service - 1yr Memorial for Jane Yamashiro



Dharma Lei



Bishop's Office Newsletter

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First Quarter, 2023

Issue No. 43

Bishop's Message:

Aloha from the Bishop's Office,

As we near the end of 2022, I would like to extend holiday greetings to you and your family. After two years of limited activities at our Soto Mission temples in Hawaii due to Covid-19 restrictions, it was nice to see a return of many services and activities in 2022.

2023 is the Year of the Rabbit. The rabbit is the fourth symbol in the Japanese Zodiac. If you are born in the Year of the Rabbit (*Usagi*), rejoice in knowing that you are considered as optimistic, warm, virtuous, and open minded. If Rabbits come together with sheep and boars, great positive energy arises. They are also compatible with dogs but should be wary of roosters.

Rabbits live peacefully in groups, so this zodiac animal is known to focus on the "well-being of the family." In the spirit of the rabbit's ability to leap forward, we can be hopeful that 2023 will be a year of "great forward progress in business."

With our prior experiences in life having shaped our view of the world, I invite you to look ahead to 2023 with great hope. With that hope, though, must come action. "Carpe diem!" This famous Latin phrase means to "seize the day!" I encourage you focus on the present, appreciate the value of every moment in life, and avoid postponing things unnecessarily.

Please continue to take care of yourself and your loved ones. May the Peace from the Lord Buddha's enlightenment arise in your hearts. May his teachings continue to guide you in your lives. May the love and Blessings of the temple surround you and help you find peace. I wish all of you a very Happy New Year!

In Gassho.

Bishop Shugen Komagata



ATTENTION: Please contact Rev. Shuji Komagata at 808-224-2584 or 7676shuji@gmail.com if you have any questions.

2023 Hawaii Soto Mission Buddhist Study Tour
Dates: Friday, May 26, 2023 to Friday, June 2, 2023
Destinations: Los Angeles, San Francisco Bay Area

Tour cost: \$1,600 (airfare not included)

TRIP DETAILS

<http://www.sotomission.com/2023tour>

HOW DO I REGISTER?

<http://www.sotomission.com/registration>

Registration is now open through January 15, 2023.

TOUR SUMMARY

You are invited to join the **2023 Hawaii Soto Mission Buddhist Study Tour**. The tour begins at Los Angeles Zenshuji Soto Mission's centennial celebration (also commemorating 100 years of Soto Zen Buddhism in North America) and will explore the richness and diversity of Buddhism in California. Coordinated by the Hawaii Soto Mission Bishop's Office and sponsored in part by the Hawaii Soto Mission Association, the 2023 Hawaii Soto Mission Buddhist Study Tour will visit eleven Buddhist temples and Zen Centers in Los Angeles and the Bay Area over the course of a week. Additional activities include museum visits, sightseeing, wine tasting, shopping, and eating delicious food California is famous for.

Currently, there are only 6 remaining slots open for this trip.
Additional tour seats may be added later based on demand.
Don't delay. Register today!

