



SOTO MISSION OF HAWAII BETSUIN NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020

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Newsletter in charge: Rev. Hirosato Yoshida.

Announcements on Opening Temple, Sunday Service, Bon Service and Dance

Good news to all The Mayor of Honolulu announced that in-person spiritual service can now resume provided that worshippers and organizations follow social distancing protocols. We will be using the guidelines set by the Bishop's Office (See page 4) as we slowly and gradually reopen the temple. If you plan on visiting the temple, please take a moment to read the guidelines not only to prevent the spread by to know that we are also taking the precautions to keep everyone visiting safe.

We are very happy to report to you that we will resume our Sunday Service starting June 7, 2020. Also, we will be once again opening the temple to the public for visiting and bringing flowers to your loved ones that rest in our Nokotsudo or Columbarium. Please feel free to come by anytime between 8AM to 4 PM, Monday through Sunday, except for Federal Holidays and 5th Sundays. Services may also be held at the temple. Please call to make reservations and learn about other rules that are in place.

Speaking of opening the temple, things will need to be done gradually. The **Bon Service will be Online Livestream Service Only**. We will not be doing in-person Services due to COVID-19 and regulations set by the government. Bon Service is one of the most important observance for Buddhists but due to the current situation, a difficult decision had to be made in order to keep the social distancing and safety as our priority. Attached to this newsletter, you will find more information of the Bon Services along with the Request form. Please complete the form to reserve your online service date and time.

Other important information and disappointing one for all of us is that we will be cancelling our Bon Dance for this year due to safety



concerns. This was a difficult decision made by, Bishop Komagata but after having a meeting with Bishops of other Buddhist denominations, **canceling of Bon Dances on Oahu and Neighbor Islands this year** would be the responsible action to take. We know that this will be a big disappointment to all as we all look forward to the Bon Dances but we hope everyone will understand the circumstances.

On the brighter side, the temple has been working and almost finish with our long waited water-line/sewage infrastructure repairs that needed to be done. We have also fixed the support system of the steeple of the temple, cleared out trees and bushes that were damaging fences, pavement, and the temple structure. It is exciting changes that we are very proud to tell you about. Most importantly, we thank you for your support and donations to the temple. Without your support and donations we would not have been able to make the necessary repairs and improvements.

Bon Service (Online Live-Streaming)

As mentioned above, we will be having our **Bon Service online live-streamed this year**. After thinking about different options of how we can officiate this year's Bon Services, it was decided that bringing hundreds of members to the temple would not be safe and appropriate due to the current situation. Thus we have decided that we would share the service to you so that you can pray at home, without having to leave and not feel the uncomfortableness of potentially transmitting and receiving COVID-19. The other reason of doing it as online **live-streaming** is so that we can be connected at the same time. Although we cannot physically communicate as if we were doing an in-person service, you will be able to see what is happening, being blessed by Bishop and ministers, and most importantly, praying and sharing our love TOGETHER during the Bon Service as though we were doing an in-person service. The service will be streamed live on our Youtube Page during the following dates and time:



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|-------------------|-----------|
| July 2 (Thursday) | @ 6:00 PM |
| July 4 (Saturday) | @ 9:30 AM |
| July 5 (Sunday) | @ 9:30 AM |
| July 7 (Tuesday) | @ 6:00 PM |

We would like to encourage you to join us with your family from your home to extend prayers and appreciation to your ancestors and your loved ones who have departed.

One very important thing to note is that regardless of you being able to join us for the online live-streaming service or not, as long as your prayers are there, **THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOMEONE WHO CAN JOIN US LIVE AND SOMEONE WHO IS UNABLE TO.** So please do not feel discouraged if you don't have the equipment, not tech savvy, or unable to join us during those dates and time. The Bishop and the ministers are here praying on behalf of everyone who is dedicating a O-Toba prayers to your loved ones and your ancestors.

Please use the attached form to make your request for this service and your preferred date and time. More detail information on how to navigate our live-streaming page will be in the July's Newsletter.

Online Dharma Message

In collective effort by the Bishop's Office and ministers in Hawaii, they are providing online Dharma talks on Youtube and Facebook starting May. You can watch videos of Bishop Shugen Komagata (May 10) and Rev. Jiko Nakade's (May 17) Dharma messages by using the link below. For upcoming schedule please see the list below.



Youtube Page Link

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsTHV_8A59kEfZIBRImDtRw

Facebook Page Link

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

Following Schedules:

Rev. Myoshin Kaniuumoe May 31, 2020

Rev. Hirosato Yoshida July 26, 2020

Rev. Masataka Hoshino June 14, 2020

Rev. Shuji Komagata August 9, 2020

Rev. Ryohei Ishii June 28, 2020

Rev. Shoryu Fukagawa August 23, 2020

Rev. Shinsho Hata July 12, 2020

Rev. Tom Wright September 6, 2020

Credit Card System

From time-to-time we have been asked if we are able to accept credit cards as payment option. We currently are able to only accept checks or cash. We are excited to share with you that we are working currently with the Bank to open a credit card payment system for the temple to accept a new form of payment option. This will help the temple open new possibilities including online donations, monthly recurring donations, and much more. We hope that many of you will take advantage of this new payment method once it becomes available.

E-Newsletter

If you have not signed up for our e-newsletter yet, please do so by visiting www.sotomission.org/news

Upcoming Events

| | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| June 7 | Sunday Service Resume |
| July 2 | First Bon Online Livestream Service |
| July 4 | Second Bon Online Livestream Service |
| July 5 | Third Bon Online Livestream Service |
| July 7 | Last Bon Online Livestream Service |

Office Hours Starting June 2020

Our new office hours for the Office, Nokotsudo (Columbarium), Services held at the temple will be

Monday thru Sunday: 8 AM to 4 PM

Federal Holidays: 8 AM to 12 Noon

5th Sunday: Closed

Donations

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

Memorial Service / Funeral / General Donations

Sandra K. Azuma, Leslie Ozawa, Ellen Nishimura, Jon & Cynthia Nishimura, Annette Matsumoto, Jane Yamashiro, Sue Nishiguchi, Stacy Y Shishido/ Yoshiko Kurosu Trust, Martin Matsuura, Frances S. Takekawa, Ernest S. Oi, Lloyd Watarai, Susan T. Takahashi, Robert Yamanaka, Robert & Bernice Koike, Mildred Fukumoto, Ann Honbo, Thomas Itagaki, Grace Shinohara, Clyde & Annette Matsumoto, Noriko Kasahara, Miles Kasahara, Jean Fujitani, Harlan Nakamura. Jon Nishimura, Claire Yamashita, Walter Morishige, Miyeko Hashimoto, Howard Tomatani, Michael Takaesu, Alvin & Pamela Honbo, Patricia Ishitani, Mitsugi Tayasu, Deborah Yoshizumi, Rae Shiraki.

Hawaii Soto Mission Bishop's Office Guidelines for Reopening of Hawaii Soto Shu Temples

Temple Cleanliness Policy

In an effort to mitigate spread of infection, **Soto Mission of Hawaii** will:

- Ventilate the temple by opening the doors (at least 5-10 minutes at a time, every 30 to 60 minutes).
- Minimize crowding: Schedule services that temple is only up to 1/3 full at a time. Gradually will increase to 2/3 over time.
- Avoid close contact: No hugging or shaking hands. Instead we shall gassho and bow reverently to one another.
- Fully disinfect temple: Regularly disinfect commonly touched/shared surfaces.
- Utilize PPE: Require anyone who enters the temple to wear a mask. Take the temperature of everyone upon entrance.

We ask that temple members, their families, friends, and visitors to support our efforts by:

- Following current rules on social distancing.
- Staying at home if they have a temperature or are not feeling well.
- Maintaining proper personal hygiene. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer upon entrance into the temple.

Here are a few tips from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention:

- Wash your hands often. Washing with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds is ideal.
- Hand sanitizer is an effective alternative to washing hands if hands are not visibly soiled. Gels, rubs, and hand wipes all work well, as long as they contain at least 60% alcohol. Hand wipes must be disposed of properly. Always read and follow label instructions when using hand sanitizer.
- Keep your hands away from your face and avoid touching your mouth, nose, or eyes when possible.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into your sleeve or the inside of your elbow. Do not cough or sneeze into your hands. If a tissue is used, it should be thrown out immediately.

If you suspect that you have contracted any illness it is important that you do not visit the temple until you are no longer symptomatic.

Thank you for your help in keeping everyone at the temple healthy.