



Soto Mission of Hawaii  
 1708 Nuuanu Avenue  
 Honolulu, HI 96817

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# SOTO MISSION OF HAWAII

## BETSUIN NEWSLETTER



**MARCH & APRIL 2023**

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## Services and Events

### **Spring Higan Service (March 19 @ 9:30 AM)**

We will be observing Spring Higan Service on March 19. This is a bi-annual service where we pray for our loved ones during the two equinox. This is a service dedicated to your loved ones and ancestors who has passed on and now live in the world we call “Higan”, meaning the other shore. In contrary, this world is called “Shigan” in Japanese. This is a time when we express our thought of gratitude and bring them back to this world through our actions by practicing the teachings that they shared through their life. It is also a time where we practice the six paramitas (Fuse-Generosity, Jikai-Discipline, Ninniku-Patience, Shojin-Dilligence, Zenjo-Meditative Concentration, and Chie-Wisdom).

If you are able to come to the temple to join us. We ask for your offering and donation to extend your gratitude towards your loved ones by dropping off or mailing a donation to the temple or by making donation with the use of credit card on our homepage at <https://rb.gv/hbngqu> and at the additional information part of the transaction, select Higan Donation.



### **Hawaii Buddhist Council Buddha Day Service (April 2 @ 9:30 AM)**

Hawaii Buddhist Council will be celebrating Buddha Day Service at Jodo Mission of Hawaii. At this service, all the Bishops of Hawaii Buddhist Council (HBC) will gather to celebrate the birth of our founder, Shakyamuni Buddha. We encourage you to join us for this service. This year’s guest speaker will be Dr. George Tanabe and the title of his talk is “Why do we tell stories.” There will be an interesting entertainment by Jefe Geer on Jakata Tales through the use of art. For more information, please see the flyer attached.

### **Sunday Services and Kannonko Services at Betsuin**

We would like to take this time to encourage you to join us and learn more about Buddhism by coming to our Sunday Services. We will be having Sunday Service on the following days in March and April.

#### Sunday and Kannonko Service Dates

Mar. 5, Mar. 12, Mar. 19(Spring Higan and Kannonko), Mar. 26,  
Apr. 9, Apr. 16 (Kannonko)

## Announcements

### **Rev. Shuji Komagata and Mrs. Jaymie Komagata**

We are very honored to have Rev. Shuji Komagata to join us as the Senior Minister of Soto Mission of Hawaii. As many of you already know, Rev. Shuji Komagata has been serving the community of Aiea Taiheiji as a resident minister for 18 years. His expertise on teaching the Dharma is deep and easy to understand. With many years of training under Bishop Shugen Komagata when he was still serving Wahiawa Ryusenji, resident minister at Aiea Taiheiji, VP at Bishop’s Office, and experiences and talents outside of ministry, we hope that he will be able to support Bishop Komagata in keeping the tradition and values that were passed down from our pioneer ancestors alive for many more years to come.

Also if you did not know, our Office Manager, Jaymie Komagata, is Rev. Shuji’s wife. She has been with us since end of 2021. We are very grateful to Mrs. Komagata for helping the office and managing many difficult tasks of correspondence, bookkeeping, and other



day to day tasks that are required to manage a temple. Mrs. Komagata has experience managing and organizing throughout her career and serves as the Jizoku-kai President to advising the Fujinkai and temple community throughout the state of Hawaii.

We are very excited to have both of them on board. With the two of them joining the Soto Mission staff, we are sure that their support to Bishop Komagata will bring many positive influence to Soto Mission of Hawaii. Please welcome Rev. Shuji Komagata.

## **UHSSWA Conference**

On April 23 and 24, there will be United Hawaii Soto Shu Women's Association Conference since COVID-19 that will take place in-person. This year, the host temple is Wahiawa Ryusenji. This is a annual conference where the Fujinkai Ladies from the different temples throughout Hawaii will gather to learn the teachings of the Buddha, share knowledge and wisdom, and enjoy the reunion and meeting of new members from each temples.

The first day will be at Wahiawa Ryusenji, having Opening Service and Memorial Services to all the Fujinkai Ladies who passed away since the last conference held April of last year. Later they will be having their general membership meeting followed by different activities such as country fair and buddhist study session.

The second day will be at Ala Moana Hotel, starting with a morning service followed by Dharma teachings by the ministers and guest speakers.

If you are interested in joining us, please call the temple as soon as possible as registration deadline is near. This is a great opportunity for you to join our Fujinkai so if you would like to join us, please do so as well. Our Fujinkai is open to any age. We often hear that "I am not old enough to join." But you don't need to be a senior to learn the teachings of the Buddha and gain wisdom from our senior members.

## **Let's Learn About Sotoshu**

### **ZEN STORY: Content and Package**

"Yoto Kuniku" (sheep's head, dog meat) is a saying which means to put a sheep's head on the shop's signboard but to sell dog meat. In other words, an item of inferior quality is sold although the sign may advertise it as a quality item. Or one may try to appear great when in fact he is mean within.

The origin of this phrase is in the Zen classic Mumonkan, but the Chinese-Japanese character dictionary states that, in the Mumonkan, "horse meat" is written instead of "dog meat." Wondering whether this was true or not, I checked four or five editions of the Mumonkan, and every one of them had "dog meat." So, I immediately made an inquiry and received the following reply: "In the Chinese editions "horse meat" was originally used, but later "dog meat" came to be commonly used. In any case, as you have so kindly pointed out, the present Mumonkan has it as "dog meat", and therefore we have decided to revise the Chinese-Japanese character dictionary accordingly."

The change from "horse meat" to "dog meat" went unnoticed with the changing times, and most likely the difference between the signboard and the goods actually sold has become greater also.

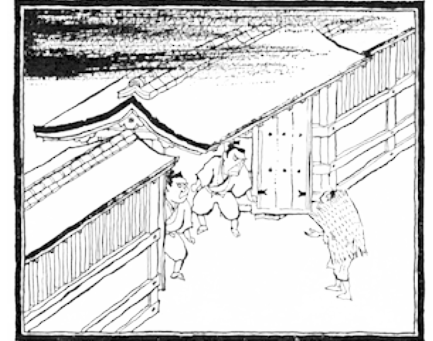
Those who have experience shopping in foreign countries are surely aware of the fact that in Japan much money is spent on packaging. The wrapping is a kind of signboard. For instance, an article which costs 1,000 yen (about ten dollars) may outwardly look more expensive due to expensive packaging. "Sheep's head, dog meat" may be going a little too far, but we can say for this age that "clothes make the man". Nowadays, we hear the phrase "culture of packaging", and doesn't this mean to wrap things nicely, regardless of the contents, so that the beauty in the eye of the beholder will sell great quantities of whatever it is?

Just recently, I heard that on graduation day at a certain high school the girls who were graduating rushed to the cosmetics stores to stock up on make-up. At the same time they were leaving the school which had aimed at their inward completion, they were changing over to the

“culture of packaging.” This is actually a magnificent way of transforming oneself, isn’t this?

Since this is the way things are, it is only natural that more and more people make value judgments on the basis of titles, dress, and accessories.

Well, my introductory remarks have become rather long. But in Zen, which respects the contents just as they are, the vulgar spirit which lets the mind be distracted by “the package” is not spared from the shout and the stick.



The following is a story which took place while Ikkyu Zenji was head of Daitokuji at Murasakino. One day a young man came to the temple gate and announced with an air of self-importance: “I am the servant of a rich man of Kyoto by the name of Takaido. And because next month is the first anniversary of the death of my master’s father, he definitely wants the Zenji to be present. If you only mention the name Takaido, you’ll have no trouble finding the place.”

When the monk who answered the door relayed this request to the Zenji, the Zenji had him confirm the time. Ikkyu must have had a plan of some kind, for he was usually disgusted by rich people who had an arrogant attitude because of their money.

The autumn day was short, and it was twilight when a lone beggar dressed in dirty rags and covered with a muddy straw mat came to the imposing gate of the Takaido residence.

“Please, alms for the poor...,” the beggar said in a faint voice. He rubbed his hands together and looked very pitiful. However, the men servants of the house crowded around him, shouted “Don’t bother us! Get out of here! Go back where you came from!” and tried to push him away,



The beggar repeated, “Please, alms for the poor ...

“We don’t have anything to give you! Get out, now!”

The young master of the house heard the commotion and came out to investigate. “Get rid of that beggar right now. If he won’t leave, kick him away!”

The beggar was cruelly beaten, kicked and pushed out onto the road where he fell. Rubbing his bruised legs he slowly got up and hobbled off into the twilight. Soon, he made his way to the Daitokuji gate. Standing there under the bright light of a lantern the beggar chuckled to himself, and who should the smiling face belong to but Ikkyu Zenji himself.

The following day, wearing a brilliantly colored robe and a gold brocaded surplice, Ikkyu Zenji left for the Takaido residence riding in a palanquin.

The areas inside and outside the Takaido gate had been cleaned, and many people had gathered together to pay their respects to the living Buddha. The master of the house and all of his retainers wore formal garments which bore the family crest, and they welcomed the Zenji in a very dignified manner. The latter was then led through the gate by the master of the house.



“Zenji, please step into the altar room.”

“No, thank you. This is far enough,” said Ikkyu, and he did not move.

“What is the reason? Please, come in.”

“No, this is fine. This straw mat is good enough for me.”

Ikkyu sat down on the mat that was spread before him and was not about to move no matter what they said.

The master of the house became irritated, grabbed Ikkyu’s arms, and tried to pull him up.

But the Zenji brushed him aside and said, “Here, take this robe and gold brocaded okesa to the altar room. My body is not welcome here, so it is enough for me to sit on this mat.” A cynical smile spread across his face, and he continued, “Master, to tell the truth, the beggar who came by yesterday and I, the monk, are one and the same person. Yesterday I was kicked and beaten; today I am welcomed and treated with great hospitality. Why is that? Isn’t it because this okesa shines so brilliantly?” Saying this, the Zenji laughed loudly.



When the master of the house and his followers heard this, they were astonished. Trembling and turning pale, they were speechless as they remembered their rudeness to the Zenji, who was highly respected by the Shogun and other feudal lords. Ikkyu Zenji then took off his robe and okesa with smiling, and as though without a care in the world said, “You’d better ask this robe and okesa to conduct the service.”

(Published by Soto Shu Headquarter)

## Upcoming Events

March 19	Spring Higan and Kannonko Service (9:30 AM)
April 2	HBC Buddha Day Service (9:30 AM @ Jodo Mission)
April 16	Kannonko Service
April 22	UHSSWA Conference Day 1 (@Wahiwa Ryusenji)
April 23	UHSSWA Conference Day 2 (@Ala Moana Hotel)

## Temple Closed / Irregular Hours and Dates

April 22	Temple closed at noon for UHSSWA Conference
April 23	Temple closed at noon for UHSSWA Conference
April 30	Temple closed all day for 5th Sunday

## Donations

Thank you for your their generous donations for the month of December and January.

Charities Aid Foundation America	Donation
Hanzawa Family	Service - 17th Memorial for Tadashi & Setsuko Hanzawa
HT Seo LLC	Donation - In Memory of Helen & Tadao Seo
Koide Family	Service - Daihannya
The Family of the late Ethel Watanabe	Service - Funeral for Ethel Watanabe
University of Hartford	Donation
Waikiki Bazaar, Inc.	Donation - New Year 2023
A. Saito	Service - In Memory of Dorothy, Fumiko & Kaname Saito
Akiko Shibuya	Donation - New Year 2023
Akio Nakagawa	Service - Daihannya
Akiyo Fujioka	Donation - New Year 2023
Alan Hiramatsu	Donation - New Year 2023
Alvin Honbo	Donation
Amy Dang	Service - In Memory of Lindsey Dang
Amy Hiraoka	Donation

Amy Hirohata-Goto	Donation
Ann Yamamoto-Wong	Donation - New Year 2023
Ann Honbo	Donation - New Year 2023
Anne Fukumitsu	Donation - New Year 2023
Anne Kanemoto	Donation
Annette Matsumoto	Donation - New Year 2023
Arden & Mary Loomis	December & January Kannonko, New Year Donation
Audrey & Bryan Nishimura	Donation
Barbara Chu	Service - Daihannya
Baron Fukata	Donation - New Year 2023
Bary Suda	Service - Daihannya
Bernice Koike	Service - January Kannonko
Bette Terada	Service - In Memory of Kinue Terada, New Year Donation
Brian Sato	Donation - New Year 2023
Bryan & Audrey Nishimura	Service - Daihannya
Bryan Nishimura	Donation - New Year 2023
Carl & Helen Tanigawa	Service - Daihannya
Carl Kaneda	Donation - New Year 2023
Carol Matsuwaki	Donation
Catherine & Les Levine	Donation
Catherine Ohta	Donation - New Year 2023
Chris Tsukahara	Donation - New Year 2023
Claire Yamashita	Donation
Clara Ogawa	Donation
Clyde & Annette Matsumoto	Donation
Clyde Hanamoto	Service - Daihannya
Dara Luangphinit	Donation
David Suzuki	Donation - New Year 2023
Deborah Yoshizumi	Donation - New Year 2023
Drucilla Koide	Donation - New Year 2023
Duane Young	Service - Daihannya
Edna Hashimoto	Donation - New Year 2023
Edward Fukuyama	Donation - New Year 2023
Edward Idda	Donation - New Year 2023
Elaine Okimoto	Donation
Ellen Lee	Service - Funeral for Mabel Masako Tachi
Ellen Nishimura	1 Yr Mem. for Sandra Azuma, Dec. & Jan Kannonko, New Year Donation
Elsie Sugano	Donation - New Year 2023
Eric Kanda	Service - Donation
Eric Yamanaka	Donation - New Year 2023
Ernest Oi	Donation - New Year 2023
Faith Nakamura	Donation - New Year 2023
Flo Livingston	Donation
Frances Takakawa	Donation - New Year 2023
Frank Childs	Donation
Frederick Takakawa	Donation - New Year 2023
Fujiko Akiyoshi	Donation
Fumie Miyazono	Donation - New Year 2023
Gail Kim	Donation - New Year 2023
Gail Lum	Donation - New Year 2023
Gary Nakamura	Donation - New Year 2023
Gary Shigemura	Service - Daihannya
George Takeuchi	Donation - New Year 2023
Gerald Hirata	Service - December Kannonko
Gladys Yamamoto	Donation - New Year 2023
Glen Yamasaki	Donation - New Year 2023
Goering Toda	Donation - New Year 2023
Gordon Imata	Donation - New Year 2023
Grace Hu	Donation - New Year 2023
Grace Teragawachi	Donation - New Year 2023
Hal & Charlene Ochwae	Donation

Hazel Shintani	Donation - New Year 2023
Helen Tsuchiya	Donation - New Year 2023
Helen Yamamoto	Donation - New Year 2023
Helene Watanabe	Donation - New Year 2023
Herbert Ishikawa & Dever	Service - Daihannya
Herbert Kondo	Donation - New Year 2023
Herbert Murayama	Donation - New Year 2023
Hiroshi Shimada	Donation
Howard Tomatani	Donation - New Year 2023
Howard Yoshinobu	Donation - New Year 2023
Irene Noda	Donation - New Year 2023
James Koga	Donation - New Year 2023
James Sato	Donation - In Memory of Agnes T. Goto, New Year Donation
Jamie Peterson	Service - December & January Kannonko
Jane Ueyama	Donation - New Year 2023
Jane Watanabe	Donation - New Year 2023
Jean Maekawa	Service - December and January Kannonko, New Year Donation
Jean Miyata	Donation - New Year 2023
Jean Nakagawa	Donation - New Year 2023
Jeanne Kaneda	Donation - New Year 2023
Jill Inoue	Donation
Jon & Cynthia Nishimura	Donation
Jon Warashina	Donation - In Memory of Pansy, Howard & Bert Warashina
Joy Kida	Donation - New Year 2023
Joyce Fukata	Service - 7 Yr Memorial for Eiko Shishido
Judy Takeya	Service - Daihannya
Julie Nakagawa	Service - Daihannya
Jun Miyasaka	Donation - New Years 2023
June Ikemoto	Donation - New Year 2023
June Nakahara	Donation - New Year 2023
Kanrad Sasaki	Donation - New Year 2023
Kaoru Sato	Donation
Karen Akamine	Donation - New Year 2023
Katherine Higuchi	Service - December Kannonko, Donation
Kathryn Koshi	Donation
Kazuko Yamauchi	Donation - New Year 2023
Keiji McLellan	Service - Wedding Ceremony
Keiko Kawagishi	Service - In Memory of Andrew Tasaka, Dec & Jan Kannonko
Kikue Oyama	Donation - New Year 2023
Kurt Nunokawa	Donation - New Year 2023
Lawrence & Brenda Cutwright	Donation
Layne Wada	Donation - New Year 2023
Leatrice Scow	Donation
Leslie Ozawa	Donation - New Year 2023
Lillian Wakabayashi	Donation - New Year 2023
Linda Shirai	Donation - New Year 2023
Linda Thom	Service - Daihannya
Linda Unten	Service - Dec. & Jan. Kannonko, New Years Donation, 13th Memorial
for Chizue Funakoshi, 85th Memorial for Mitsue Funakoshi	
Lloyd Watarai	Donation - New Year 2023
Lois Yamamoto-Purdy	Donation - New Year 2023
Luann Suzukawa	Service - Daihannya
Lynette Fukunaga	Donation
Lynette Furuhashi	Donation - New Year 2023
Lynn Ching	Donation - New Year 2023
Lynn Fujise	Donation - New Year 2023
Lynn Sakaau	Donation
Marguerite Aono	Donation - New Year 2023
Mari Nakamura	Donation - In Memory of Tetsuko Nakamura
Mari Nakamura	Donation - New Year 2023
Marianne Honda	Donation - New Year 2023
Marilyn Tagawa	Service - Funeral for Yoshie Uchida

Masae Hayashi	Donation - New Year 2023
Merritt Sakata	Donation
Michael & Akane Shimoko	Service - House Blessing
Michael Shildmyer	Service - Dec. & Jan Kannonko
Michael Watanabe	Donation - New Year 2023
Michko Sasaki	Donation - New Year 2023
Miles Kasahara	Donation - New Year 2023
Milton Saito	Donation - New Year 2023
Mitsuo Fukushima	Donation - New Year 2023
Miyeko Hashimoto	Donation
Myrtle Nakamiyo	Donation - New Year 2023
Nancy Murakami	Donation - New Year 2023
Nancy Nishimura	Donation for 2022
Nancy Okamoto	Donation - New Year 2023
Naomi Numazu	Donation - In Memory of Shige Sato & Yukui Morishige
Naomi Shimomi	Donation - New Year 2023
Natalie Taniguchi	Service - 1 year Memorial for Ethel Aiko Hiraoka, New Year Donation
Nolan Sakoki	Donation - New Year 2023
Nona Tamanaha	Donation - New Year 2023
Patricia Ishitani Enoki	Service - Funeral for Dr. Donald Yukio Enoki, New Year Donation
Patricia Izumoto	Donation - New Year 2023
Patricia Katayama	Donation - In Memory of Beatrice Yoshimoto
Rene Tada	Donation
Roger Tayasu	Donation - New Year 2023
Ronald Horiuchi	Donation
Rose Fuse	Donation - New Year 2023
Ross Tanoue	Donation
Roy Taniguchi	Donation - New Year 2023
Ruby Mizue	Donation - New Year 2023
Sally Nozaki	Service - Dec. & Jan Kannonko, New Years Donation
Sandra Lovett	Donation - New Year 2023
Setsuko Kaneshiro	Donation - New Year 2023
Sharon Bryant	Donation - New Year 2023
Sharon Kunimoto	Donation - New Year 2023
Sharon Maekawa	Service - Daihannya
Sharon Ueoka	Donation
Shigeo Kato	Donation - New Year 2023
Shoroku Ohnuma	Donation - New Year 2023
Sue Nishiguchi	Donation - New Year 2023
Susan Iwasa	Donation
Susan Nadamoto	Donation
Susan Sturgill	Donation - New Year 2023
Teruko Towata	Service - In Memory of Noriyuki Towata
Thomas & Chiye Itagaki	Service - Dec. & Jan Kannonko, New Years Donation
Thomas Asahi	Donation - New Year 2023
Thomas Horio	Donation
Thomas Kamikawa	Donation - New Year 2023
Thomas Sparks	Donation - New Year 2023
Toni Matsuo	Donation - New Year 2023
Tsuyoshi Onuma	Donation - New Year 2023
Vaughn Kunishige	Donation
Vern Nakaguma	Donation - New Year 2023
Violet Machida	Donation
Walter Morreira	Service - Funeral for Judy Keiko Matsumoto
Walter Omuro	Donation - New Year 2023
Warren & Karen Motosue	Service - Dec. & Jan Kannonko, New Years Donation
Wayne & Ann Uradomo	Service - December Kannonko, New Year Donation
Wayne Warashina	Donation - New Year 2023
Wendell Ogitalani	Donation - Bldg Fund - In Memory of Iwai & Misao Ogitalani
Yeiso Arakaki	Donation
Yoko Inatsuka	Donation
Yoko Saiki	Donation - Butsudan Disposal



# Hawaii Buddhist Council

# BUDDHA DAY SERVICE 2023

“Hanamatsuri” - Celebrating the Birth of Shakyamuni Buddha



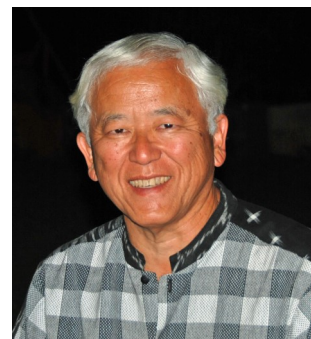
Date: Sunday, April 2, 2023  
9:30 am (HST)  
Place: Jodo Mission of Hawaii  
1429 Makiki Street, HNL  
Phone: (808)949-3995  
Message: Dr. George Tanabe  
“Why We Tell Stories?”

Feature Show: JATAKA TALES @10:45am  
by Jeff Gere with Lesley Kline  
(co-sponsored by BDK Hawai'i)

Hospitality of Tea & Refreshments

## Dr. George Tanabe Biography

Born and raised in Waialua, **George Tanabe** graduated from Willamette University (B.A.), Union Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and Columbia University (M.A. and Ph.D.). From 1977 to 2006, he taught in the Department of Religion at the University of Hawaii and retired as Professor Emeritus. He currently serves as president of BDK (Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai) Hawai'i and BDK America (Berkeley). His books about Japanese religions are published by university presses at Harvard, Princeton, and Columbia, and include *Japanese Buddhist Temples of Hawai'i* (UH Press). In 2012, the Japanese government honored him with the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun. He still lives in Waialua.



## Special Presentation of JATAKA TALES by Jeff Gere with a violinist Lesley Kline

**Jataka Tales** are Buddhist Teaching Tales in which the Buddha appears as an animal with life lessons. In this delightful family-friendly performance, popular Oahu storyteller **JEFF GERE** tells these simple profound tales in his animated dramatic style, and with shadow puppets. Innovative violin wizard **LESLEY KLINE** adds her rich musical textures.



**Jeff Gere** is among Hawaii's top storytellers. He created and produced Talk Story Festival, Hawaii's largest storytelling celebration for 27 years, a Story TV Series and Talk Story Radio. He constantly performs (for all ages) throughout the state & internationally, sometimes with shadow puppets. He will tour India in July (3rd trip.)



**LESLEY KLINE** is one of the finest violinists in Hawaii. She came to Oahu from Paris. She has performed in Hawaii's finest Irish & Appalachian bands, cutting edge drum & bass, and currently Martin & Kline, a swing era duet. Make a point to come hear her with Jeff.

## Free & Open to the Public

For more information: Please contact (808)949-3995 or email at [mail@hawaiibuddhistcouncil.org](mailto:mail@hawaiibuddhistcouncil.org) / YouTube Live is also available from the HBC YouTube channel.



HBC YouTube LIVE