



Soto Mission of Hawaii
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 Honolulu, HI 96817

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SOTO MISSION OF HAWAII

BETSUIN NEWSLETTER

MAY 2020

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Editor: Rev. Hiroshiro Yoshida.

Important Temple Update due to COVID-19

We are praying that you and your family are all safe and healthy. With changes happening at the temple, where we had to make difficult decisions on closing the temple to the public, we want to update you on how we will be changing our operation to better serve you and our community in this difficult times.

First of all, for those who did not receive or did not read our letter that was sent out on April 13, we have closed the temple to the public including visiting the Nokotsudo- Columbarium until further notice. You can visit our homepage to read the Bishop's message on this announcement. We are continuously observing the situation including Federal, State and City governments mandates. Let us work together as a community to prevent the virus from reaching our loved ones.

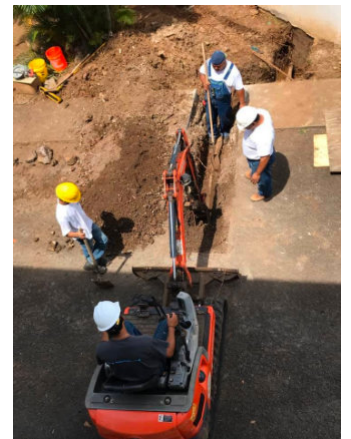
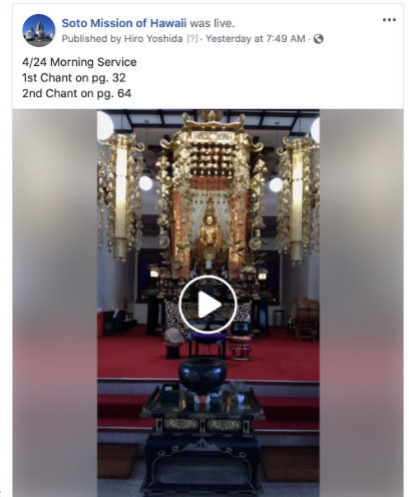
We do want to give you some good news about what has been happening at the temple.

First, if you follow us on facebook or subscribed to our E-newsletter, we announced that we began sharing our morning service on our [facebook page](#) during this time when we have to be at home. We will be live streaming on Monday thru Friday from 7:55 AM. You can join us in our prayers and connect to Shakyamuni Buddha and Kannon-sama.

On the same note, Rev. Yoshida has been sharing some interesting teachings, chants, and history of the temple on the facebook page.

Second, we are now making available **online prayers** for your loved ones. We can do it in the form of Blessing and Memorial Service which will be done during the Morning Service. Please call the temple to make your arrangements so that we can inform you when we will be doing the prayers so that you and your family can join us from the safety of your home through live streaming.

Third, starting the ending of March, we began our construction projects that were originally planned fir May and June. This is a big project that deals with digging through the pavement to change the water line as the lines were corroding from age. After the exchanging of the pipes are completed, we will begin fixing the support system of the steeple.



Lastly, the Fujinkai volunteers have tirelessly been making masks to share with our members who are in need of masks. If you need a mask, please call us to make an arrangement to pick it up. We hope for the safety and continued good health of our members and extend our prayers that this situation will cease soon where we are can welcome you back to the temple. Please also know that our doors may be closed but we are still here for you. **If you need anyone to talk to, give us a call and we would be happy to listen to your stories.**



Buddha Day & Mother's Day Service [Online]

May 10 @ 9:30 AM

Due to the COVID-19, Buddha Day and Mother's Day Services held every year on Mother's day in person service will be cancelled. However, we hope to do a live streaming of the service at the time scheduled. Please join us from the safety of your home in celebrating Buddha's Birthday and to thank all mothers and ladies who serve our community with love.

E-Newsletter

As we learn a lot from this COVID-19 Pandemic, the best way to contact our members with immediate updates and information is through the use of Online Media. We encourage you to sign up for our E-Newsletter at this time. If you are not comfortable using email, please see if other family members can help sign you up or share important information with you. Please take this opportunity to get yourself familiar with E-Newsletter and at the same time, help the temple be Eco-Friendly by reducing paper waste. To sign up, visit www.sotomission.org/news

Upcoming Events

May 10 [Online] Buddha Day Service and Mother's Day Service

Message from the President of Sotoshu Shumicho

Rev. Shunei Oniuda, Japan



I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences for those who have lost their precious lives from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and offer a prayer that they may rest in peace.

For those who have been affected by this illness, I pray that they will recover as soon as possible, and I would like to offer my deepest sympathy to their families and relatives who have also been affected by this illness.

Also, my thoughts are with all those experiencing tremendous difficulties whose lives have been affected by the spread of this epidemic and the need to stay home.

In the Kamakura Period of Japanese history when Dogen Zenji was teaching, there were times when cool summers caused by climate change often brought poor harvests. There were outbreaks of plague, and, during the Great Kanki Famine (1230-31), it is said that about a third of the population of Japan perished. In times such as these, Dogen Zenji emphasized that these were the very times to not neglect the Buddha Way.

With the spread of the novel coronavirus infection, many people are upset. They are frightened because of the spread of the infection and anxious because their own lives are at risk. It is in such a time that the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha, Dogen Zenji, and Keizan Zenji are necessary.

Shakyamuni Buddha taught right view, right speech, and right practice in the face of the sufferings of sickness and death. It is necessary to have correct and current information about the novel coronavirus infection to insure that harmful rumors and discrimination do not occur. It is also necessary to take care so that we do not become infected by this virus and other people are also not infected.

Even if people are agitated or anxious in the confusion caused by others who are fearful and buy up or hoard food and other goods, let us act calmly. Let us act in accordance with the spirit of Dogen Zenji's teaching of the intention of first saving others before ourselves and in accordance with the Bodhisattva's Four Embracing Actions.

By doing our best to disinfect our hands and maintain proper etiquette when coughing and sneezing, we are preventing not only our own infection but practicing good hygiene so that others are not infected. This is to naturally practice the way of benefitting others.

Also, Keizan Zenji taught that we should have compassion and love for all things, that we should sympathize with others' sufferings as if they are our own, and that with the mind of compassion we should be diligent in the practice of zazen. I encourage you to endeavor to practice zazen during this time that we must spend quietly at home.

Office Hour Changes for May

With the COVID-19 situation, we will be closed to the public. We will continue to take precaution and follow the State and City and County Orders until further notice. Please keep an eye out on our E-Newsletter, Homepage and Facebook for most recent information. You may also call the temple at 537-9409.

Donations

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

March Kannon-Ko Donations

Thomas & Chiye Itagaki, Jamie Peterson, Mona Sawai, Jane Yamashiro, Michiko Sasaki, Arden & Mary Loomis, Ellen Nishimura, Sally Nozaki, Katherine Higuchi, Jean Maekawa, Bernice Koike, Ethel Watanabe,

Memorial Service / Funeral / General Donations

Ellen Nishimura, P. Umetsu, Katherine Higuchi, Yooko Suzuki, Nakai Family, Patsy Katada, Frank Hirazumi & May Maruyama, Hawaii Soto-Shu Head Office, Nancy Murakami, Karen Britos, Ryuko Kokuzo, Requiuld Kokubun, Fuchai Chun & Yeeling Chan, Katherine Fujii, Wayne Yagi, Takagi Kazuyo, Harry Kurosu, Dannette Heu, Wendy Tsuda, Dorthy Takeshita, Exercise thru Bon Dance, Derrick Iwata, Herbert Ishikawa, Leslie Ozawa, Kenneth & Joyce Ito, Jon Warashina, Waikiki Bazaar - Yoko Kimura, Miyahara Family.

Quiz

How many of you know who this urn is and the significance of this individual to the history of this temple? Also do you know where this Buddha statue is located at the temple? Little known history and facts about this temple but a very important to the foundation of this temple. To find out, go to Soto Mission of Hawaii's Facebook page or Rev. Yoshida's Facebook for Answer to this quiz! Or you can go directly to the video by entering this webpage address. <https://www.facebook.com/hirosato.yoshida/videos/10103883015887026/>





Dharma Lei



Bishop's Office Newsletter

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Second Quarter, 2020

Issue No. 32

Bishop's Message: Bishop Shugen Komagata

Aloha from the Bishop's Office,

I hope you are doing well. As you already know, the world is currently in a great state of worry and uncertainty regarding COVID19, also known as the Novel Coronavirus.

In many parts of the world where the number of infected people is rising, Soto Zen Buddhism has taken measures to prevent the spread of this virus. I was informed that Rev. Ryoju Tahara of the Soto Zen Buddhism South America Office in Brazil is just one of many ministers who decided to temporarily close their temples for the duration of the outbreak. Many Soto Zen temples in Japan will have observed their Ohigan service without their congregation present.

In Hawaii, we are also facing an increasingly difficult situation that seems to change with each passing day. The Soto Mission of Hawaii has cancelled all the services and all activities, including classes, events, and meetings until the end of April 30. Please contact your temple to learn about any schedule changes or cancellations.

While we hope and pray for the best, it is important that each of us does his or her part to keep our families and ourselves safe. I encourage you to do simple things like frequently washing your hands. Around the world, the "fist bump" has replaced the handshake. Perhaps we can also bow to one another with two hands in *gassho* instead of shaking hands!

Since the novel coronavirus may be spread even by individuals who may not be exhibiting symptoms, we have been encouraged to avoid unnecessary exposure by not going out into public, especially if you're older or have a preexisting medical condition. Although this new practice of "social distancing" appears to be the "new normal" until we gain the upper hand over the spread of this illness, we must remember to continue to be compassionate and caring towards others.

I will continue to pray for your health and safety. Please remain vigilant, and take care of yourself and loved ones.

In Gassho,

Bishop Shugen Komagata



Shushogi, Chapter 4: Verses 21-25

By Rev. Shuji Komagata
Soto Mission of Aiea



This article is part of a series of commentaries on the sutra, Shushogi, mainly comprised of extracts taken directly from Dogen Zenji's Shobogenzo (The Treasury of the True Dharma Eye).

In this article, I will discuss the meaning of the Bodaisatta Shishobo, which is written in Chapter 4, verses 21-25 of the Shushogi. The Bodaisatta Shishobo, written by Dogen Zenji on May 5, 1243, describes the "four actions of a bodhisattva." Since we are all aspiring bodhisattvas in our Soto Zen tradition, the Shishobo describes what we should be practicing in our daily lives. To gain a better understanding of the Shishobo, let's first discuss in a little more detail what "Shishobo" means. The "shi" part of "Shishobo" means four. "Sho" refers to embracing, unifying, or integrative. "Bo" is another reading for "ho," with means the path, way, or method. Therefore, we can interpret the "Shishobo" as the four skillful ways a bodhisattva embraces all living beings. Most importantly, though, is that we must understand that these four actions of the Shishobo are not only about what we do, but also the mindset we must have when helping others.

The first action is, "Fuse," or "giving." Rev. Hirosato Yoshida discussed fuse in the previous Dharma Lei (Chapter 4, verse 21), so I will not discuss it in detail here. However, in a nutshell, "fuse" refers to being generous without seeking or expecting anything in return. We engage in free giving simply to share our strength with others.

The second action is "Aigo," or "kind speech" (Chapter 4, verse 22). At the very least, Dogen Zenji did say that we should refrain from rude or unkind speech. I'm certain you have heard the phrase, "If you have nothing good to say, then don't say anything at all." It is true that we should refrain from hurting others with our words. However, the basic meaning behind the Shishobo is to focus on action, not non action. While refraining from unkind speech may avoid negative results, there is so much more positive potential in bringing joy to other people through the sharing of kind and loving words. We should endeavor to share caring and loving words with others. However, this can sometimes be very challenging. Although we may not always agree with others, the key is to shift our perspective and position on things that enables us to successfully find ways to engage in kind speech. According to Dogen Zenji, when meeting others, we think kindly of them and offer them affectionate words. Kind speech is fundamental for pacifying one's enemies and fostering harmony among one's friends. We should realize that kind speech has the power to move the heavens.

Continued on next page



The third action is “Rigyo,” or “beneficial deeds” (Chapter 4, verse 23). Although “beneficial deeds” means finding ways to help others, it is much more involved than simply responding compassionately in the moment to someone in need. According to Dogen Zenji, “beneficial deeds” are defined as acting “skillfully to benefit all classes of sentient beings; that is, to care about their distant and near future, and to help them by using skillful means.” It is like a mother picking up a crying baby, who does it without seeking reward or thanks.

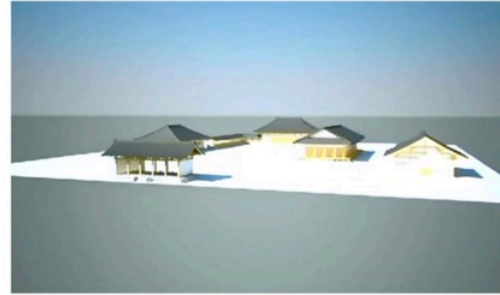
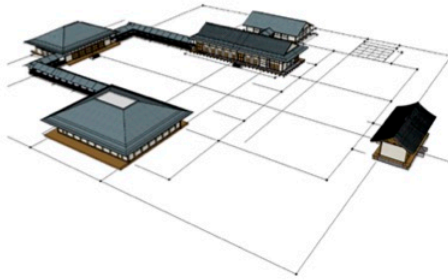
The fourth action is “Doji,” or “cooperation” (Chapter 4, verse 24). “Do” means same, and “ji” means thing or task. Therefore, “doji” is often translated as cooperation or empathy. Another translation can be to have “identity of purpose,” or “sharing the same aim.” I personally like the interpretation, “being in the same boat.” Doji means not to differentiate; to make no distinction between self and others. Cooperation means the association of persons for a common benefit. We must see ourselves in others and others in ourselves.

In the Shushogi, chapter 4, verse 25, a summary of the Shishobo is given. Remember, in the title, “Bodaisatta Shishobo,” bodaisatta (bodhisattva) refers not only to Kannon-sama or Ojizo-sama. It also refers to all ordinary human beings. Your life is precious and you must not waste it. You should give generously, speak kind words, help others, and empathize with others, not for personal gains, whether material or spiritual, but rather solely for the sake of the act itself. These actions should be done with awakening to the true reality of emptiness and interdependent origination. This is the true practice of Buddhism.



Progress of the Tenpyozan Bodaishinji Project

LOCATION: 23700 Morgan Valley Road, Lower Lake, CA 95457, U.S.A



Donation *Tenpyozan is a 501(c)(3) organization (Tax ID: 30-0853001); donations are tax deductible

There are two easy ways to contribute to Tenpyozan:

- 1) Secure online donation through the website (www.tenpyozan.org)
First click on "Get Involved" and you will see a donation button.
Our recently upgraded online donation platform is easy to use and secure
- 2) By mailing a check
Tenpyozan c/o Oakland Zen Center
6140 Chabot Road Oakland, CA 94618 USA

☆ We Need ☆

- (1st Period, site preparation and Monk's Hall)
- Bridge and road work at the site: \$200,000
 - Change Water storage tank: \$200,000
 - Restroom Attached Zendo (GOKA): \$200,000

Every little help will make the Gigantic Future for ZEN

