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 1708 Nuuanu Avenue  
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# SOTO MISSION OF HAWAII

## BETSUIN NEWSLETTER



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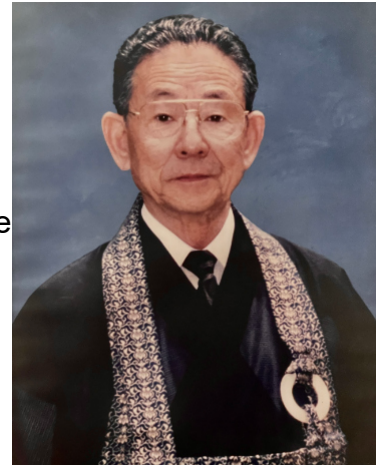
## Services and Events

### **Funeral for Former Bishop Jiho Machida (May 7 @ 3:00 PM)**

We regret to announce that our former Bishop, Reverend Jiho Machida passed away on March 5. Bishop Machida served many years at Soto Mission of Hawaii supporting its community.

He was especially well educated and helped translate many teachings, books, and tradition from Japanese style to Hawaii(an) style that we practice today and without his understanding and contribution, Soto Mission in Hawaii would not have been able to adapt to the local community as it serves today.

We would like to take this moment to express our gratitude to Bishop Jiho Machida for the many years he served the community of Hawaii in sharing the Dharma and Wisdom.



From the bottom of our hearts, Bishop Shugen Komagata, Board of Directors, temple ministers and staff, and members and supporters of Soto Mission of Hawaii, express our deepest condolences to Mrs. Violet Machida and the family.

**Bishop Machida's funeral service will be open to public and will take place at Soto Mission of Hawaii on May 7, 2023 at 3 PM (HST). To help the family with some idea on how many people may attend the funeral, we ask that you contact the temple if you intend to attend the funeral service.**

For more information regarding Bishop Machida and the funeral, please read the Dharma Lei attached at the end of the newsletter.

### **Mother's Day and Buddha Day Service (May 14)**

We will be celebrating Mother's Day and Buddha Day, Buddha's Birthday Service on May 14. Buddha Day is held to commemorate the birth of Siddhartha Gautama in Lumbini Garden. During the service, a flower shrine known as hanamido, is set up front of the main altar as a symbol of Lumbini Garden. In this shrine is placed a statuette of the infant Buddha, pointing his right hand toward the heavens and his left hand towards the earth. The Sangha offers flowers and pours sweet tea over the image. Kambutsu is the rite of 'bathing the body of the Buddha.' This simplified reenactment of the Buddha's birth signifies glory and joy that filled the world at this event.

***We will be decorating the Hanamido or the Flower Altar on Saturday, May 13. We are looking for flower donations and volunteer workers to decorate the altar. If you are able to, please call the temple to let us know that you will be available to help or to drop off the flowers. Flower donation will be accepted the day before (Friday, May 12, 8 AM to 4 PM).***

Please join us in sharing our appreciation to our Mothers and also celebrate the Birth of Shakyamuni Buddha, our founder at the service on Sunday, May 14.

### **33 Kannon Osunafumi Service (June 4)**

Once again this year, we will be observe the 33 Kannon Osunafumi Service. On June 4, we will be having our 33 Kannon Osunafumi Service. This service is a special service where we bring down the 33 Kannon Bodhisattvas that are enshrined on the altar. These



Kannon Bodhisattvas are a replica of the 33 Kannon Bodhisattvas of the pilgrimage temples in Western Japan.

This service is composed of two words, first word is Osuna or Suna, meaning sand and second word is Fumi, meaning to step on. Together Osunafumi means stepping on the sand, symbolizing pilgrimage. Many years ago, ministers/ jizoku/ members of our temples journeyed through the actual pilgrimage in Japan and collected the sands from each of these temples and brought them back to Hawaii. Today we are fortunate to experience and practice the pilgrimage of going to the 33 temples here in Hawaii through the efforts made by our pioneer members. Not to mention that this is the only time we bring down the 33 Kannon Bodhisattvas from the altar and for the public to come and see them closely.

Many people still to this day journey through the pilgrimage in Japan to pray for their loved one's well-being. Please come by for your journey at our temple to pray and wish to the all compassionate Kannon Bodhisattvas.

## Sunday Services and Kannonko Services at Betsuin

We have Sunday Service on most Sundays. Please join us in the prayer and learn Buddhism.

### Sunday and Kannonko Service Dates

May 7, May 14, May 21 (Kannonko) , May 28,  
June 4 (33 Kannon Osunafumi), June 11, June 18  
(Kannonko), June 25

## Announcements

### Zippy's Fundraiser Ticket

We humbly ask you, your family, and friends to support Soto Mission of Hawaii through the purchase of Zippy's Fundraiser tickets. The price per ticket is \$10.00. Each ticket sold can be redeemed for: Chili, Portuguese Bean Soup, one (1) meat & egg breakfast with one (1) small coffee or soft drink, Or five (5) pices of cornbread.

The initial presale order form were mailed out in late March. By the time you are receiving this newsletter, deadline for presale order form is in few days. Please call the temple first to place your order as snail mail may not be received by us in time and mail in your donation if you are interested in helping us.

Timeline:  
Wednesday, April 12      Presale Order Form due (with payment)  
Monday, April 21          Tickets mailed out (approximate date)

This fundraiser effort to maintain and repair the temple buildings. We express our gratitude to all our members for your continued support.

### Komagata Hall Condition and Its Future

Due to the ongoing problem that we are facing with the Komagata Hall, there are much needed attention to Komagata Hall for safety reason. For more detail, please see the letter included in this newsletter.



## Bon O-Toba Service

We will be sending out more information about our Bon O-Toba Service at the end of May. Please keep an eye out for the information to sign up for the service.

## Bon Dance Canceled

As you may have already been aware of, we have been troubled by the deficient building conditions that became apparent on the Komagata Hall (Building that Soto Academy is using). Due to the construction that are planned to begin in June and initial analysis of the damage predicts that it may take up to the end of the year, we regret to announce that the temple will not be having Bon Dance this year again for the safety concern of the visitors during Bon Dance.

## Upcoming Events

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| April 22 | UHSSWA Conference Day 1 (@Wahiawa Ryusenji)           |
| April 23 | UHSSWA Conference Day 2 (@Ala Moana Hotel)            |
| May 7    | Bishop Machida's Funeral (3 PM at Temple)             |
| May 14   | Mother's Day and Buddha Day Service                   |
| May 28   | Los Angeles Zenshuji Centennial Commemoration Service |
| June 4   | 33 Kannon Osunafumi Service                           |

## Temple Closure & Modified Hours

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 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                |
| May 29   | Temple closed at noon in observance of Memorial Day |
| June 19  | Temple closed at noon in observance of Juneteenth   |

## Donations

Thank you for your their generous donations for the month of February and March.

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Nancy Abe                        | Donation   |
| Karen Akamine                    | Donation - Spring Higan  |
| Claudia Akizaki-Kuwana           | Donation   |
| Shizuko Ashikawa                 | Donation   |
| Stanley Ayano                    | Donation   |
| Fuchat Chan                      | Donation   |
| Charities Aid Foundation America | Donation   |
| Frank Childs                     | Donation   |
| Larry Cutwright                  | Donation - January & February                                    |
| Lawence Cutwright                | Donation   |
| Diamond Heart Meditation Center  | Donation   |
| Akiyo Fujioka                    | Donation - Spring Higan, March Kannonko & Buddha Day Service     |
| Carol Fujitani                   | Donation   |
| Rev. Taigen Goto                 | Donation - 13th Memorial for East-Japan & New Zealand Earthquake |
| Hanaoka Family                   | Service - Burial for Myles Hanaoka                               |
| Susan Hashimoto                  | Donation - Shinnenkai Party                                      |
| Miyeko Hashimoto                 | Donation - Spring Higan  |
| Kathleen Hashizume               | Service - In Memory of Tane Hashizume                            |
| Masae Hayashi                    | Service - Nehan-e  |
| Katherine Higuchi                | Service - Spring Higan   |
| Iguchi Family                    | Service - In Memory of William Iguchi                            |
| June Ikemoto                     | Donation - Shinnenkai Party                                      |
| Lynn Ishii                       | Donation   |
| Tom & Chiye Itagaki              | Service - Nehan-e, Kannonko                                      |
| Colin Itagaki                    | Donation - Shinnenkai Party                                      |

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Eric Kanda                | Donation - Shinnenkai Party                              |
| Miles Kasahara            | Service - In Memory of Noriko Kasahara                   |
| Keiko Kawagishi           | Service - Kannonko                                       |
| Gertrude Kihara           | Donation - Nehan-e, Spring Higan & General               |
| Clayton Kirio             | Service - Funearl and Inurnment for Jeannete Kirio       |
| Lori Ann Kiyabu           | Service - Precremation Service for Lillian Sakazaki      |
| James Koga                | Donation - Spring Higan                                  |
| Bernice Koike             | Service - Nehan-e, Spring Higan, Kannonko                |
| Pualani Kondo             | Donation - Shinnenkai Party                              |
| Kurogi Family             | Service - Spring Higan                                   |
| Ann Loo                   | Service - Funeral for May Sato                           |
| Arden & Mary Loomis       | Service - Kannonko                                       |
| Dara Luangphininith       | Donation   |
| Sharon Maekawa            | Donation   |
| Jean Maekawa              | Service - Spring Higan, Kannonko                         |
| Paul Matsuda              | Donation   |
| Annette Matsumoto         | Service - In Memory of Edwin & Gladys Nishimura          |
| Lynn Maurer               | Donation - Shinnenkai Party                              |
| Jean Miyake               | Donation   |
| Garrett Miyata            | Service Baby Blessing for Rylee Miyata                   |
| Herbert Miyata            | Service - Funeral and Inurnment for Alice Miyata         |
| Warren & Karen Motosue    | Service - Nehan-e, Kannonko                              |
| Bismark Muraoka           | Donation   |
| Nakai Family              | Donation   |
| Gary & Laura Nakamura     | Service - Spring Higan                                   |
| Lorna Nakasone            | Service - 1 yr Memorial for Hiroko Kotake                |
| Ellen Nishimura           | Service - Ihai Blessing, Donation                        |
| Jon Nishimura             | Donatin - In Memory of Edwin & Gladys Nishimura          |
| Eric Nobunaga             | Service - Blessing for May Sato                          |
| Sally Nozaki              | Service - Spring Higan, Kannonko, Donation               |
| Todd Nozaki               | Service - Kannonko                                       |
| Irene Ohbe-Arakaki        | Donation - In Memory of Kiyoshi Ohbe                     |
| Ronald Okamura            | Donation - New Year 2023                                 |
| Stanley Osada             | Donation - 2023  |
| Toshio Ozeki              | Donation   |
| Michiko Sasaki            | Service - February Kannonko                              |
| Brian Sato                | Service - Makuragyo, Funeral & Inurnment for Yaeko Sato  |
| Mona Sawai                | Service - February Kannonko                              |
| Mona Sawai                | Service - Spring Higan                                   |
| Shell Oil HERO            | Donation   |
| Akiko Shibuya             | Service - In Memory of Arthur Shibuya                    |
| John Shih                 | Donation   |
| Michael & Sarah Shildmyer | Service - Kannonko                                       |
| Hiromi Shimada            | Donation - Shinnenkai Party                              |
| Shodo Group               | Service - Nehan-e  |
| Susan Sturgill            | Donation - Spring Higan                                  |
| Morgan Takahashi          | Service - 1 Yr Memorial for Isamu Takahashi              |
| Tanaka Family             | Service - In Memory of Howard Masayuki Tanaka            |
| Bette Terada              | Donation   |
| Toba Family               | Service - Funeral for James Shichiro Toba                |
| Norman Ueoka              | Service - 1 Yr Memorial for Bernice Ueoka                |
| Linda Unten               | Nehan-e, Spring Higan, Kannonko, Donation for Shinnenkai |
| Wayne & Ann Uradomo       | Service - Nehan-e, Spring Higan, Kannonko                |
| Wayne Warashina           | Donation - Spring Higan                                  |
| Michael & Janet Watanabe  | Service - In Memory of Roy Watanabe & Ethel Watanabe     |
| Hideoko Watanabe          | Donation   |
| Yamane Family             | Service - Funeral for Dorothea Yuriko Yamane             |
| Esther Yokooji            | Donation   |

## **Soto Mission of Hawaii Heavily Affected by Recent Rainstorms**

February 2023 was a month of much needed rainfall throughout the islands. At the Soto Mission of Hawaii, though, the heavy rain had damaging effects. On February 19, several pieces of concrete roofing material along the fascia (roof trim) of the Komagata Hall popped off and dropped two stories on to the driveway below.

Of immediate concern was ensuring the safety of the students and faculty of the Soto Academy, an elementary school in the Komagata Hall. Overhead protection was quickly constructed, and safety barriers were placed in potentially hazardous areas. This would allow students to finish out the school year in person. During the very thorough examination of the Komagata Hall, a laundry list of other problems began to reveal itself—a never-before-replaced roof over fifty years old, more spalling around the building and in stairwells, rusting railings, hidden drainage problems, and cracked sidewalks.

This comes at a time when the Soto Mission of Hawaii is already dealing with extensive repairs in the temple building. In fact, the walls of the temple restrooms currently under renovation sustained water damage on the same day the Komagata Hall spalling incident occurred. This has reinforced the need for timely repairs to be done on the temple roof as well.

Remedial construction on the Komagata Hall will begin in June 2023 and is estimated to continue to the end of year, if not longer. Due to the extended duration of repairs, it has already been determined that the Soto Mission of Hawaii will not have a Bon Dance in August 2023. For years, the Bon Dance had been one of the temple's main annual gatherings and fundraising events. This year will be the fourth year in a row (Bon Dance was canceled in 2020, 2021, and 2022 due to Covid-19) that there will not be a Bon Dance in Nuuanu.

The Soto Academy is also devastated. In May 2022, after years of low enrollment and rising operational costs, parents were notified that this school year would be its last. They quickly rallied to form a new school entity and were in negotiations for a new lease on the Komagata Hall when the spalling began. And so, it was with a heavy heart that on March 2, the Soto Mission of Hawaii notified the new administration that it would not be able to further negotiations on a lease since the much-needed repairs would continue well into the next school year. Since then, the parents and leaders of the Soto Academy have been working hard to find a new home for their students. They have held sign waving events and even asked a local news station to share their story to increase awareness and ask the public for help in finding a new home.

The repairs on both the Soto Mission of Hawaii temple building and the Komagata Hall—albeit costly and lengthy—are necessary. Every effort is being made to keep costs down while utilizing quality materials and workmanship. We humbly ask you for your financial support. Your contributions will be put to good use as we work hard to properly address this problem.

The Soto Mission of Hawaii is currently coordinating a donation drive for the repairs of the temple and the Komagata Hall. In the meantime, please call 808-537-9409 to learn more about how you can help the temple. Mahalo!





# Dharma Lei



## Bishop's Office Newsletter

Soto Zen Buddhism Hawaii Office

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Second Quarter, 2023

Issue No. 44

### Bishop's Message:

Aloha to all the members and supporters of Soto Zen Buddhism in Hawaii! The days have begun to get longer, signaling the arrival of spring! Although our seasons in Hawaii are much milder than places like the mainland or Japan, we can still sense the change in the weather.

As many of you may know, I was diagnosed with a rather rare and aggressive form of cancer in December 2022. Although I underwent surgery to remove the cancer in February, it was determined that cancer had spread to different parts of my body. Although no longer curative, I am currently undergoing chemotherapy and will soon receive radiation treatments to relieve my symptoms.

As I assess my situation, I find myself reflecting upon one of my favorite words of advice to people—LIVE EACH DAY TO THE FULLEST. Although my days are filled with doctor appointments and treatments, I continue to do my best to make the most of each day. I relish in the occasional visits from temple members, relatives, and friends, and I look forward to attending temple services. With assistance from senior minister Rev. Shuji Komagata, Rev. Hirosato Yoshida, and Rev. Masataka Hoshino, I continue to lead the Soto Mission of Hawaii as chief priest.

And so, I once again encourage you to live each day to the fullest. I shared in the previous Dharma Lei that with our prior experiences in life having shaped our view of the world, we should look to this year with great hope. With that hope, though, must come action. “*Carpe diem!*” This famous Latin phrase means to “seize the day!” Please focus on the present, appreciating the value of every moment in life, and avoid postponing things unnecessarily.

In Gassho.

Bishop Shugen Komagata



**2023 Precepts Study with Rev. Jiko Nakade**  
**A 3-month series of weekly online Zoom classes from June - August**

Two groups (please choose 1):

Group 1: Thursdays from 1:00 -2:00 p.m. Hawaii Time, starting June 1

Group 2: Saturdays from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Hawaii Time, starting June 3

In June of 2023, Rev. Jikō will be starting a new series of precepts study sessions using ZOOM. This 3-month course is comprised of weekly one-hour sessions. This is an opportunity to learn about the 16 Bodhisattva precepts, which form the moral and ethical foundation of the Soto Zen tradition.

This is a 3-month period of study and reflection. The sharing of one's life is done in an atmosphere that is gentle, non-judgmental, and compassionate. Many have found their lives illuminated and enriched by this inner journey taken in the context of a loving sangha.

We will be using the book *Being Upright: Zen Meditation and the Bodhisattva Precepts* by Tenshin Zenki Reb Anderson Roshi, a senior Dharma teacher in the Soto Zen tradition of Shunryu Suzuki. *"A gifted storyteller, Anderson takes us to the heart of situations, where moral judgments are not easy and we do not have all the answers."*

If purchased through the Daifukuji Gift Shop, class participants may obtain the paperback book for the discounted price of \$10. The book is available online in hardcover, paperback and Kindle formats. Unfortunately, we cannot handle mail orders.

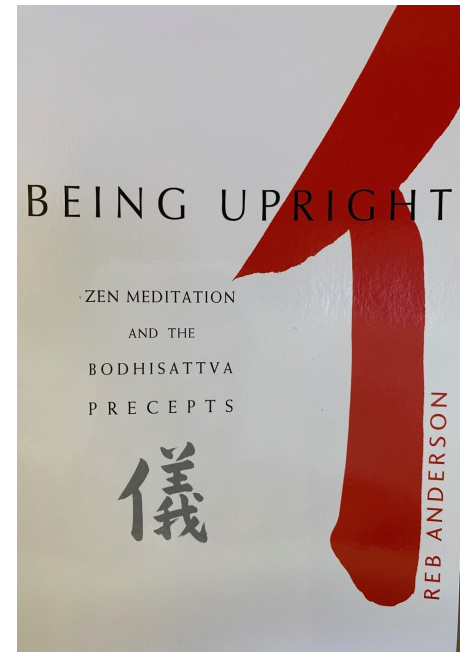
These sessions are open to all who are interested in studying the precepts and do not require participation in the precepts ceremony which will be offered at its conclusion.

Rev. Jiko offers the Dharma freely. There is no class fee. To support such programs, one may make a donation to Daifukuji Soto Mission.

<https://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html>

For more information or to register, please contact Rev. Jikō at (808) 322-3524, [rev.jiko@daifukuji.org](mailto:rev.jiko@daifukuji.org).

Those who have studied the precepts in the past are welcome to deepen their understanding by joining these sessions.





# In Remembrance: Bishop Jiho Machida



On March 5, 2023, retired Hawaii Soto Mission Bishop Jiho Machida passed away peacefully at home in Honolulu. He was 96 years of age. He is survived by wife Violet Machida.

Jiho Machida was born on November 3, 1926, in Chichibu, Saitama Prefecture, Japan. At the young age of 26, the then Reverend Jiho Machida left Kokenji temple in Saitama and arrived in Hawaii on November 3, 1952. After serving as resident minister of (the now closed) Waiahole Tomonji Soto Mission, he transferred to the Soto Mission of Hawaii. During his time as a minister at the Soto Mission of Hawaii, Rev. Machida succeeded Mrs. You Komagata as the second principal of the Nuuanu Wakei Gakuen (Japanese Language School), served as the president of the Hawaii Kyoikukai (Japanese School Association), and for a short time served as the Soto Academy principal.

Upon the retirement of Bishop Gyokuei Matsuura on October 31, 1997, Jiho Machida was installed as the 7<sup>th</sup> bishop of the Hawaii Soto Mission. Bishop Machida was a kind and friendly person. He was also a very smart man, instrumental throughout his career in creating Japanese language textbooks used in many of the Japanese Schools that were operating throughout the state of Hawaii. His also contributed to the Hawaii Soto Mission by creating much of the English Buddhist materials we use to this day. He retired on August 31, 2008, after 56 years of dedicated service to the Hawaii Soto Mission.

Bishop Machida's funeral service will be held at the Soto Mission of Hawaii on Sunday, May 7, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., with visitation to begin at 2:00 p.m. We kindly request that you let your minister know if you plan to attend the service. Please call 808-537-9409 for more information.

