



Soto Mission of Hawaii
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SOTO MISSION OF HAWAII

BETSUIN NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2019

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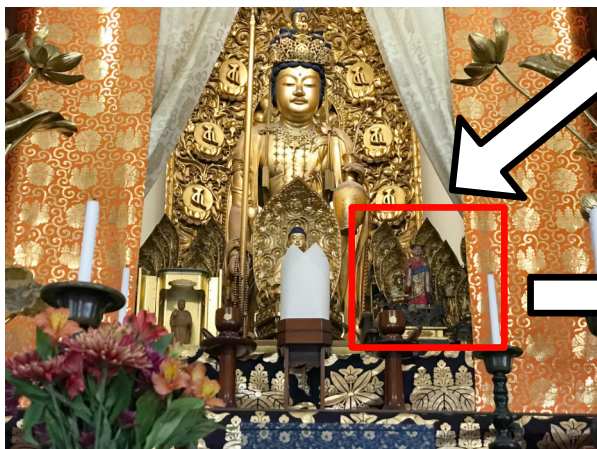
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Newsletter in charge: Rev. Hirosato Yoshida.

Osuna Fumi (33 Kannon Pilgrimage) & Eitakyo Service

On Sunday, **November 17 at 9:30 AM**, we will be observing Osuna Fumi and Eitakyo Services. Osuna Fumi is a special service where we bring out the 33 Kannon Bodhisattvas that are enshrined on the altar. If you have been wondering what is the small Buddhas on the altar, this would be the only chance for you to see it close. These Kannon Bodhisattvas are hand crafted and very delicate statues. They represent the 33 main Buddhas of the Western Japan's temples that are recognized as *Saigoku 33 Kannon*, and many people throughout Japan and around the world travel for the pilgrimage and pray to the 33 Kannon Bodhisattvas.



Do you remember seeing these Buddhist Statues on the altar and wondered what they were?



We take them out just once a year for this service

At Betsuin, we are very fortunate to have the replica of the statues and with the efforts of our pioneer members and ministers, we have collected sands from each of the temples. We lay them out on this special day with the 33 Kannon Bodhisattvas to spiritually connect with the 33 temples and make our prayers from Hawaii. You visit each temple as you offer your prayers and step on the sand placed at each Bodhisattva.

Together on the same day, we will also be observing Eitakyo Service, which is a perpetual service dedicated to members who asked the temple to conduct an annual memorial service every year. Many of the members who do not have a family to take care of them after their departure or those who wish not to burden their family may choose to have the temple take care of them.



We offer **two types of perpetual care** currently:

- 1) Eitakyo (Perpetual) Service = Minimum donation of \$300 to have your name in the Eitakyo Chronical Book
- 2) Nokotsudo Perpetual Care = Minimum donation of \$3000, which we will reserve a niche in our columbarium and you will be prayed each morning by our ministers.

If you are interested or have questions about Eitakyo (Perpetual Care), please call the temple.

Lastly on this day, we will be inviting **Rev. Ryohei Ishii of Waipahu Taiyoji Soto Zen Temple** as a guest minister. It's been over a year and a half since he was appointed from Betsuin to Taiyoji. We are very happy to finally have him visit us for this important service.

Please take this opportunity to see the 33 Kannon Bodhisattva up close and attend the Eitakyo Service and honor the members who have contributed to the growth of the temple.

Hawaii Soto Mission Association Fall Meeting and Conference

On Sunday, **November 24**, we will be hosting the annual Hawaii Soto Mission Association Fall Meeting and Conference. This is a conference where the delegates of the 9 Soto temples gather to discuss and address issues and create projects to help each temple. During this conference, as the host, we will plan a trip to Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii to learn about their organization structure. If you are interested in observing the meeting or attend the workshop, please call or email the temple. We would love to have enthusiastic young members come and join us to learn to help Betsuin prepare for the future.

Temple Fundraiser

Thank you very much for your support and contribution to this year's temple fundraiser. We especially thank those who volunteered from early morning to help set up and distribute the goods. Also, thank you to everyone who bought the smoked meat and pupu packs and supported the temple. Your contribution makes the biggest difference for us.

Upcoming Events (2019)

November 17	33 Kannon Osuna Fumi and Eitaikyo Services
November 24	Hawaii Soto Mission Association Fall Meeting & Conference (at Betsuin)
December 8	Hawaii Buddhist Council (HBC) Bodhi Day Service
December 22	Year End Temple Cleanup
December 31	Joya no Kane

Office Hour Changes for November

On November 11, the temple will be closed at 12 noon in observance of Veterans Day.
On November 28, the temple will be closed at 12 noon in observance of Thanksgiving.

Donations

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

Autumn Higan and Ryosoki Service Donations

Katherine Higuchi, Bernice Koike, Sally Nozaki, Ethel Watanabe, Jane Shiraki, Arden & Mary Loomis, Warren & Karen Motosue, Michiko Sasaki, James Koga, Miyeko Hashimoto, Stanley Fujii, Gladys Kotaki, Thomas & Chiye Itagaki, Helen Tsuchiya, Masae Hayashi, Gary & Laura Nakamura, Jane Yamashiro, Wayne & Ann Uradomo, Kenneth Kunisaki.

Kannonko Donations (September)

Katherine Higuchi, Bernice Koike, Sally Nozaki, Ellen Nishimura, Jean Maekawa, Bunzo Kawagishi, Arden & Mary Loomis, Warren & Karen Motosue, Michiko Sasaki, Miyeko Hashimoto, Stanley Fujii, Gladys Kotaki, Thomas & Chiye Itagaki, Helen Tsuchiya, Mona Sawai.

Memorial Service / Funeral / General Donations

Ellen Nishimura, Allen & Jane Hiraoka, Katherine Higuchi, Soto Mission Women's Association, Tatsuo's, Komagata Tutoring Services LLC, Gertrude M. Mori, Cynthia W. Lai, Terrie Mizoguchi, Waikiki Bazaar Inc., Aki No Kai, Theodore M. Kaneshiro, Miyeko Hashimoto, Karen Motosue, Craigsides Retirement Residence, Claudia Akizaki Kuwana, Sharon Nozaki, Myrtle Kaita, Hawaii Soto-Shu Head Office, Norikazu Miyata, Rev. Irene E. Matsumoto, Ryuko Kokuzo, June Aono, Suzanne Nakamura, The Aikido Ohana, George Yamasaki, Lloyd T. Watarai.



Bishop's Office Newsletter

Soto Zen Buddhism Hawaii Office

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Fourth Quarter, 2019

Issue No. 30

Bishop's Message: **Bishop Shugen Komagata**

Aloha from the Bishop's Office,

As we move from summer into fall, we find ourselves at the end of another Bon season here in Hawaii. I would like to thank everyone for helping and participating in the various Bon Services and Bon Dances held throughout the state of Hawaii.

In the Soto Zen tradition, October is the month when we honor Bodhidharma, also known in Japanese as Daruma. It is written in the Soto publication, *Zen Friends*, Vol. 12, No. 3, 2001: *October the fifth is the anniversary of the death of Bodhidharma, the famous Indian monk and founder of Zen (Chan in Chinese) Buddhism. Heir to the teachings of the Buddha, he traveled to distant China, where he spread the Buddhist spirit through seated meditation, or zazen. Today, when mental magnanimity is greatly in demand, interest in zazen is rising. Bodhidharma physically demonstrated the quintessence of Zen, and his teachings preserve their vigor even now 1,450 years after his death.*



Daruma's perseverance and unwavering dedication to zazen serves as an inspiration for Zen practitioners who sit in meditation. His great influence has even found its way into popular Japanese culture as a red doll with no arms or legs. Often made of papier-mâché, the Daruma doll has a round shape, is hollow and is weighted at the bottom so that it automatically rights itself back up when rolled on its side. This symbolizes the ability to overcome adversity, be successful, and recover from any misfortune. From this emerged the saying, "nanakorobi yaoki," translated to mean "seven times down, eight times up." Let's take a moment to reflect upon the positive impact Bodhidharma can have on our lives, whether it is through zazen or simply to never give up.

Lastly, the 9th U.S. Soto Zen Members' Conference will be held in Las Vegas on October 26. With over 30 participants from Hawaii attending this conference, I am excited for the opportunity for us to meet and network with conference participants from across the mainland USA.

Please take care of yourself and your loved ones.

In Gassho,

Bishop Shugen Komagata



Daruma doll



The Daifukuji Gift Shop

by Rev. Jikō Nakade

When I first thought of having a temple gift shop in 2010, I imagined it occupying a corner of the small room (choba) located off the temple porch and making available three hard-to-find items in Kona: ojuzu, fine incense, and zafu (meditation cushions). I asked temple member Clear Houn Englebert, who had both a passion for the Dharma and retail experience, if he'd help with the shop and he agreed to volunteer. Our temple board provided startup funds. The shop quietly opened. That was nine years ago.

From its simple beginnings, the shop began to grow. And grow some more. Some items were ordered and others were donated. Before long, the small room wasn't big enough and items began to spill onto the temple porch, requiring gift shop volunteers to arrive at least an hour before any event to set everything up and then to stay at least an hour afterwards to put everything away. This happened month after month.

The time had come to look for a bigger space for the shop. The storage room in the basement looked promising, but it was filled with all sorts of things. Here was a good chance to clean up, but where would we move all of the things we needed to keep? We had to find alternate storage spaces. With the help of our samu group that does the weekly cleaning of the temple, a lot of junk was taken away and the needed-to-be-kept items hauled to their new locations. The emptied-out room was painted; the old floor tiles were removed. Track lighting was installed, along with shelving & display cases. It was a tremendous undertaking, made possible by many sangha volunteers. Everyone shared the vision & brought it to fruition.

Why was so much time and energy invested in expanding this gift shop? Because it is a valuable vehicle of the Dharma. Through this shop, Buddhist teachings go out into our community. Through items such as books, scrolls, cards, art, statuary, and meditation cushions, the Buddha-Dharma is being spread far and wide. Without a doubt, this is the primary mission of the Gift Shop. It is a wondrous Dharma gate.

Next, proceeds from the shop directly support our temple and lending library. Many of the books and videos found in our library are purchased through the gift shop. We've gotten so many books over the years that we've donated boxes of them to other temples and to the Prison Mindfulness Project. Moreover, the gift shop has not only returned its start-up fund, it has also made generous contributions to the temple's Dharma fund.

Having a beautiful gift shop has sparked the interest of our island community. The shop has been featured in several local publications. On Bon Dance night and the day of the Daifukuji orchid show & bazaar, it was abuzz with visitors. This gift shop is a jewel in the basement — a Dharma jewel, for sure. I am grateful to the many volunteers and sangha members who support it and make it shine. Please drop by the next time you're in Kona. <http://www.daifukuji.org/giftshop.html>



Shushogi, Chapter 3: Verses 15-17

By Rev. Shinsho Hata
Hilo Taishoji



Aloha everyone,

In the last Dharma Lei, Reverend Ishii introduced the Shushogi, chapter 3, verses 11-14. We learned about the importance of taking refuge in the three treasures [Buddha (①), Dharma (②) and Sangha (③)]. Throughout chapter 3, Dogen emphasized that we should live our life with Buddhist precepts. To learn and practice the Buddhist precepts with faith and confidence is to walk the true path of Buddha. Do you do zazen? Zazen is the main practice of Soto Zen, but there are some members who don't feel comfortable doing zazen. Shikantaza (just sitting) might be difficult for them. However, Buddhist precepts are easy to understand and practice. It is not only for monks, but also for us. Buddhist precepts are a precious gift from Buddha. I'd like to introduce the second half of the Shushogi, chapter 3.

Verse 15:

[Next we should receive the three sets of pure precepts: the precepts of restraining behavior (④), the precepts of doing good (⑤), and the precepts of benefiting living beings (⑥). We should then accept the ten grave prohibitions. First, do not kill (⑦); second, do not steal (⑧); third, do not engage in improper sexual conduct (⑨); fourth, do not lie (⑩); fifth, do not deal in intoxicants (⑪); sixth do not criticize others (⑫); seventh, do not praise self and slander others (⑬); eighth, do not be stingy with the dharma or property (⑭); ninth, do not give way to anger (⑮); and tenth, do not disparage the three treasures (⑯). The buddhas all receive and upheld these three refuges, three sets of pure precepts, and ten grave prohibitions.]

In this verse, Dogen introduced the three sets of pure precepts and the ten grave prohibitions that we must learn. The green book writes of "ten grave prohibitions," but I think that Buddhist precepts are not prohibitions. Buddhist precepts are guidelines to balance the needs of body and mind, and the great path to live correctly.

①-⑯ are called "The Sixteen Soto Zen Precepts." Three sets of pure precepts (④-⑥) are the precious vows to save all beings as Mahayana Buddhists. ⑦ is to have respect for all life. Life dwells in all animals and nature. Thanks to them, we are able to live in this world. That's why we must appreciate them. Please don't hurt others. Please eat food with appreciation. In addition, we must cherish our own life, too. We must not hurt ourselves or commit suicide.



A true Buddhist is a person who can treasure both self and others. ⑧ is to not take that which is not given. Let's become persons who are satisfied with what we have now. ⑨ is to respect the relationship between husband and wife. Please do not misuse your sexuality. ⑩ is to use true and kind words to others all the time. ⑪ is to live with clarity. Please don't drink alcohol too much and cloud your mind. If we drink alcohol, we are likely to break other precepts. The original meaning of it is to not drink alcohol. Monks don't drink it during their life in the monastery. But it is difficult for lay followers to abstain. So its meaning changed after the precept came to Japan. We sometimes drink a small quantity of Japanese sake at a New Year service or a celebration to pray for good health or the prosperity of the temple. The important thing is to live our life with clarity and peace at all times. ⑫ is to be mindful of our own speech. We shouldn't speak of the faults of others. ⑬ is to not elevate ourselves and blame others. We need to maintain modesty. ⑭ is to become a giving person. Let's share our knowledge of Buddhism with others to enrich their lives. ⑮ is to be calm and stable. Do not let anger take control of you. ⑯ is to hold the Three Treasures in your heart and never speak ill of others. These are The Sixteen Soto Zen Precepts. I'd like you to cherish the precepts and use them in your daily life to live correctly as a Soto Zen Buddhist.

Verse 16:

[Those who receive the precepts verify the unsurpassed, complete, perfect enlightenment verified by all the buddhas of the three times, the fruit of buddhahood, adamant and indestructible. Is there any wise person who would not gladly seek this goal? The World-Honored One has clearly shown to all living beings that when they receive the buddha's precepts, they join the ranks of the buddhas, the rank equal to the great awakening; truly they are the children of the buddhas.]

The 16 Soto Zen Precepts are the great path to live correctly as Soto Zen Buddhists. Buddha mind dwells in each of us. We each have the potential to become a Buddha. By practicing the precepts, we can walk the path of Buddha as Buddha's disciples.

Verse 17:

[The buddhas always dwell in this, giving no thought to its various aspects; beings long function in this, the aspects never revealed in their various thoughts. At this time, the land, grasses and trees, fences and walls, tiles and pebbles, all things in the dharma realm of the ten directions, perform the work of the buddhas. Therefore, the beings who enjoy the benefits of wind and water thus produced are all mysteriously aided by the wondrous and inconceivable transformative power of buddha, and manifest a personal awakening. This is the merit of non-intention, the merit of non-artifice. This is arousing the thought of enlightenment.]

Buddha's mind doesn't dwell only in us, but also dwells in all sentient beings. There are beautiful mountains, waterfalls, rivers, ocean beaches, and forests in Hawaii. Everything has Buddha's nature and all are connected as ohana. So all things around you are precious parts of your existence. You are also a precious part of their existence. Let us appreciate both other lives and our own life, which is supported by others. By doing so, your Buddha mind will be cultivated and be as brilliant as a rainbow!



November 2019

October 2019					November 2019					December 2019										
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27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

■ Soto Mission of Hawaii

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:30 AM Sunday Service	28 6:30 AM Zazen 7:00 PM Exercise with Bon Dance	29 4:00 PM Aikido Ohana 7:00 PM Sanshin Class	30 6:30 AM Zazen 4:00 PM Tea Ceremony Class	31 9:00 AM Cultural Workshop (Color Fudepen Art Class) 7:00 PM Kyudo	1 6:30 AM Zazen 4:00 PM Aikido Ohana	2 1:00 PM Koto Class
3 9:30 AM Sunday Service	4 6:30 AM Zazen 7:00 PM Exercise with Bon Dance	5 4:00 PM Aikido Ohana 7:00 PM Sanshin Class	6 6:30 AM Zazen 9:00 AM Tomonokai 4:00 PM Tea Ceremony Class	7 7:00 PM Kyudo	8 6:30 AM Zazen 4:00 PM Aikido Ohana 4:00 PM Shodo/Sumie Class	9 10:00 AM Living Ohana 1:00 PM Koto Class
10 9:30 AM Sunday Service	11 Temple Closed at noon 6:30 AM Zazen 7:00 PM Exercise with Bon Dance	12 4:00 PM Aikido Ohana 7:00 PM Sanshin Class	13 6:30 AM Zazen 9:00 AM Tomonokai 4:00 PM Tea Ceremony Class 7:00 PM Zazen	14 7:00 PM Kyudo	15 6:30 AM Zazen 4:00 PM Aikido Ohana 4:00 PM Shodo/Sumie Class	16 1:00 PM Koto Class
17 9:30 AM 33 Kannon Os-unafumi & Eitaikyo Service	18 6:30 AM Zazen 7:00 PM Exercise with Bon Dance	19 4:00 PM Aikido Ohana 7:00 PM Sanshin Class	20 6:30 AM Zazen 4:00 PM Tea Ceremony Class	21 7:00 PM Kyudo	22 6:30 AM Zazen 4:00 PM Aikido Ohana 4:00 PM Shodo/Sumie Class	23 1:00 PM Koto Class
24 HSMA Fall Meeting & Conference	25 6:30 AM Zazen 7:00 PM Exercise with Bon Dance	26 4:00 PM Aikido Ohana 7:00 PM Sanshin Class	27 6:30 AM Zazen 4:00 PM Tea Ceremony Class	28 Temple Closed at noon 7:00 PM Kyudo	29 6:30 AM Zazen 4:00 PM Aikido Ohana	30 1:00 PM Koto Class