



Soto Mission of Hawaii
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SOTO MISSION OF HAWAII

BETSUIN NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022

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3 Office Hour: 8AM-4PM
3 Except for Federal Holidays
and 5th Sunday

4 Editor: Rev. Hirosato Yoshida.

Rummage Sale Sunday, Sept. 25 (9 AM to 12 Noon)

Friendly reminder that we will be having our rummage sale this coming Sunday, September 25. We have been getting many donations from our members and friends for this rummage sale.

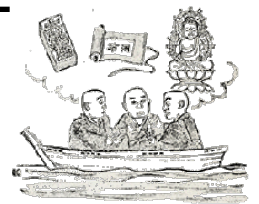
There are many good items that we see so far from branded bags, clothings, antique housewares, Japanese dolls, plants, kids toys, baby toys, kitchenware, Japanese fine dishes, and lots more. There are lots of great things to buy so make sure to come early.

The rummage sale is open to public, so even if your friends are not members of Soto Mission, make sure you bring them with you to have fun looking for treasures.



Zen Short Story: HOW THE COMPLETE SCRIPTURES WERE FIRST PUBLISHED

Long ago, travel between Kyoto and Osaka was by boat on the Yodo River. One day, three young monks happened to board the boat together. They were Kokei of the Todaiji in Nara, Manzan of the Soto School, and Tetsugen of the Obaku School of Zen. The karmic affinity which led them to travel in the same boat was not shallow; and they recounted to each other the vows which they had taken.



Kokei of Todaiji: "During the wars the Great Buddha Hall was burned down and I cannot bear to see the Great Buddha of Nara exposed to the rain. Somehow, during my life, I want to rebuild the Great Hall."

Manzan of the Soto School: "The Zen School reveres the Transmission of the Dharma Lamp, and everyone places emphasis on his Dharma Lineage, but today the lines of transmission are so disarranged that no one knows how many generations distant they are from Dogen Zenji, and no one can make heads or tails of these important genealogies. I want to straighten this out and make it easily understandable for everyone from which lineage they derive and how many generations distant from Dogen Zenji they are."

Tetsugen of the Obaku School: "More than a thousand years have passed since Buddhism was introduced to Japan, but a complete collection of the sutras has yet to be published here. Right now, we are relying on sutra books printed in Sung China, Ming China and Korea. If we do not use these books, we are in the position of having to copy them one by one, and therefore, I want to print the entire collection."



These were all the kind of people who leave their mark on history, and each of them from their early years lived under an extraordinarily great vow. Plus, the fact that they all lived during the same era, and all rode together on the same boat is unprecedented.

After that chance meeting, twenty years passed. Kokei went around the whole country collecting donations, and finally in 1709 the Great Buddha Hall of Nara, now known as the largest wooden structure in the world, was solemnly but happily dedicated. Manzan also had stayed busy, and finally in 1699 got some action out of the Shogunate and fulfilled his words by correcting the disarray in the line of succession of the Soto School. Tetsugen splendidly carried out his pledge to

publish the complete scriptures in 1678.

Because the printing of the scriptures vowed by Tetsugen required carving several tens of thousands of wood block plates, a tremendous expenditure of money would be incurred, and Tetsugen responded to this challenge with a superhuman devotion. About the time he had collected sufficient funds for the publication, a great famine occurred and the victims of the famine were wandering up and down the roads, some even dying of hunger. Seeing this, Tetsugen freely gave away as relief money all the funds which he had collected with so much trouble for his vow; he started over from zero. When this second fund-raising had just about reached the point where publication became possible, once again famine accompanied by floods came upon the land, and as he had done the previous time, Tetsugen donated the money for the relief of the people. However, the third time he collected funds, he was able to achieve his goal.



The first day of this third effort, Tetsugen stood at the approach to the busy Sanjo Bridge and requested donations of passersby. The very first man to come by was a samurai, and in spite of Tetsugen's earnest entreaties he passed on by pretending not to notice.

Tetsugen followed:

“Please contribute, even if it’s only a small amount”

“No! I won’t.”

“Please?”

“No!”

This dialogue continued for four miles. Finally, in spite of himself, the hard-hearted samurai was worn down and said, “What a pest this monk is!” and threw a penny at Tetsugen.

“Thank you. Thank you,” Tetsugen said.

Seeing how politely Tetsugen received the money and thanked him, the samurai asked, “Honorable monk, you must tell me why you are so happy after following me so far to receive only a penny.”



“Today is the first day I have begged for donations after making a great vow, and you are the first gentleman to give; if I had not been able to get this first penny, perhaps a doubt would have come into my mind. But now that I have received this donation, I firmly believe that I will be able to accomplish the vow. That is why I am happy,” answered Tetsugen, evidently pleased with himself. Then he returned to the place where he was originally standing by the Sanjo Bridge.

The collected sutras which have come down to us today as the Obaku Edition of the Collected Sutras amounts to 6771 volumes. And this work was completed due to Tetsugen Zenji’s unstintingly pure spirit in carrying out his vow.

Four Vows

Beings are numberless; I vow to free them.
Delusions are inexhaustible; I vow to end them.
Dharma gates are boundless; I vow to enter them.
The Buddha ways is unsurpassable; I vow to realize it.

(Published by Soto Shu Headquarter)

Announcements

Upcoming Events

September 24 Rummage Sale Preparation Day
September 25 Rummage Sale
October 22 & 23 HSMA Fall Conference @ Maui Mantokuji

Temple Hour Changes

October 30 Temple close for 5th Sunday

Acknowledgement of Donations

Thank you very much for your generous donations during the month of August.

Charities Aid Foundation America	Donation	Jean Miyata	Nokotsudo Maintenance Fee 2022
Lawrence Cutwright	Donation (April - August)	June Motokawa	Service - Funeral for Toshiko Abe
Jane Fujiwara	Donation	Nakae Family	Donation
Jean Hayashi	Bon Otoba - Donation	Rodney Saito	Service - In Memory of Ronald Masuru Saito
Masae Hayashi	Bon Otoba - Donation	Lillian Sakazaki	Service - Inurnment for Mamoru Sakazaki
Katherine Higuchi	General Donation, Kannonko Service	Jean Sakimura	Donation
Alvin Honbo	Donation	James Sato	Donation - In Memory of Toshiko Abe
Ken Ito	Donation	Hiroshi Shimada	Donation
Carrolyn Iwamoto	Service - Autumn Higan	Vincent Soeda	Donation - In Mem of Takeo & Masayo Soeda
Richard Kanda	Omamori Sales	Glenn Suganuma	Bon Otoba
Kasahana Family	Donation	Sally Takakawa	Donation
Karen King	Donation	Roy Takara	Service - Funeral for Alvin Yasuo Takara
Adele Kiyota	Service - Funeral for Walter Masaru Kiyota	Keiko Tanaka	Service - Blessing for Baby Alex Hiroyuki Tanaka Mantua
Lawrence Koji	Donation	Haruya Toki	Service - Inurnment for Yoshiko Toki
Ryuko Kokuzo	Donation - Bon	Sadie Watanabe	Service - Funeral for Toshiko Abe
Gary Kondo	Donation	Glenn Yakuma	Service - Funeral for Yukie Yakuma
Kathryn Koshi	Donation		
Aurleen Kumasaka	Donation - In memory of Toshiko Sasaki & Toshiko Watanabe Abe		
Nora Kurosu	Donation - In Memory of Yoshiko & Edward Kurosu		
Dara Luangphinit	Donation		
Jean Matsuura	Bon Otoba - Donation		



Dharma Lei



Bishop's Office Newsletter

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Fourth Quarter, 2022

Issue No. 42

Bishop's Message:

Aloha from the Bishop's Office,

I hope that you and your family are doing well! We find ourselves approaching the end of summer, and the close of the 2022 Bon Season. While some temples elected to have virtual online Bon Services and skip the Bon Dance this year, other temples returned to having in-person Bon Services and even celebrated their Bon Dances. Whether virtually or in person, I am very glad that people had the opportunity to offer their prayers of gratitude to departed loved ones.

With the same sense of gratitude we expressed during the Bon Season, we begin looking ahead to Higan, a very important event in September. In the Soto Zen tradition, Higan is held twice a year—once in the spring (around the third week in March) and again in the fall (around the third week in September).

During the olden days in Japan, farmers would offer prayers to their ancestors in the spring, seeking the assurance of a successful crop. Then, again in the fall, they would offer prayers of gratitude for a bountiful harvest. This “ancestor worship” practice had a part in the establishment of Higan as national holidays in Japan on or around March 21 and September 23. During Higan, people in Japan spend time with their families and often visit their family's graveyard to pay their respects to deceased family members and ancestors.

Higan falls on or around Vernal (Spring) and Autumnal (Fall) Equinox Days, when there are 12 hours of day and 12 hours of night. The sun rises from the direction of due east—symbolizing the world of the living, called *Shigan*. In *Shigan*, things are in constant flux—like happiness and sorrow, and good health and illness. The sun also sets in due west—symbolizing the world of our departed loved ones and ancestors, called *Higan*. Higan, in fact, means “the other shore.”

The various symbolisms and significance surrounding the history of Higan compels us to deeply reflect upon our lives and express our gratitude to both our living and departed loved ones. Please take care of yourself and your loved ones.



In Gassho.

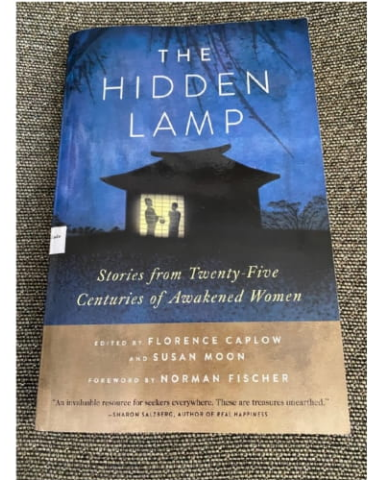
Bishop Shugen Komagata



The Hidden Lamp: A New Dharma Series on ZOOM Starting in October

Registration is now open

This time our focus is on essays written by Buddhist women teachers in response to 100 Buddhist stories and *koans*. Our online Dharma groups will be reading the book *The Hidden Lamp: Stories from Twenty-Five Centuries of Awakened Women*, edited by Florence Caplow and Susan Moon. This book will be available through the Daifukuji Gift Shop in September. Dharma class members may purchase a copy at the special price of \$11. (The regular price is \$18.95.) Sorry, we are unable to handle mail orders. The book can be ordered online: <https://wisdomexperience.org/product/hidden-lamp/>.



Please select group 1 or group 2, whichever day works best for you.

Group 1: Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

(starting OCTOBER 6 - MARCH)

Group 2: Saturdays from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. (starting OCTOBER 8 - MARCH)

Rev. Jikō offers Dharma classes free of charge. Donations are appreciated. If you would like to offer a donation, you may do so through the temple website: <http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html>. Checks may be mailed to: Daifukuji Soto Mission, P.O. Box 55, Kealakekua, HI 96750.

A Zoom link will be sent to you each week. Please attend as your schedule allows. Learning together via Zoom is a fun way to make new Dharma friends and stay connected with old friends. All are welcome.

To register for the series, to reserve a book, or to ask a question, please contact Rev. Jikō at rev.jiko@daifukuji.org, (808) 322-3524.

MINISTER TRAINING PROGRAM COMPLETION CEREMONY

Congratulations to Rev. Jigaku Takenouchi

On July 16, 2022, Jigaku Takenouchi's Hawaii Soto Mission Association Minister Training Program Completion Ceremony was held at Hilo Taishoji Soto Mission. This ceremony was officiated by Bishop Shugen Komagata with the assistance of Rev. Tatsunori Hata, Rev. Masataka Hoshino, and Deacon Juho Kirkpatrick. Also in attendance were Gwen Watanabe, president of the Hawaii Soto Mission Association, and many Taishoji members and supporters. Rev. Takenouchi was later installed as the new resident minister at Hilo Taishoji Soto Mission, replacing Rev. Hata, who recently returned to Japan with his wife Mamiko and son Jake.



New Resident Minister of Hilo Taishoji Soto Mission

Hello Friends and family,

My name is Jigaku Takenouchi. Starting in August I became the 16th resident minister of Taishoji Soto Mission. I was born and raised in New Jersey and moved to Japan in 2004. I lived on a small island until I decided to move to Hawaii in 2006. Initially I lived on Oahu where I was taking religion classes. As part of my religion courses, I would visit various temples, prayer houses and churches of all faiths and discovered the unique style of Buddhism that can only be found throughout the islands of Hawaii.

Some of you may already know a little bit about me. I am a disciple of Reverend Shinsho Hata and was previously a deacon at Taishoji. Through Hata sensei's guidance I began deepening my Buddhist knowledge and began the path towards becoming a Hawaii Soto Zen minister. I am deeply grateful for his patience and willingness to take on me as his disciple. With his perseverance we were able to overcome many challenges placed before us due to the pandemic. The relationship between teacher and disciple is a lifetime commitment that Reverend Hata and I now share. I am honored that he has taken me under his wing and will continue to work to make him proud. I am also thankful to Bishop Shugen Komagata for his support and commitment to growing ministers here in Hawaii.



In 2017, I began attending services at Taishoji and the peaceful atmosphere within the temple was noticeable. The Sangha was both heartwarming and uplifting and made me feel welcomed from the first visit. From that day on I began attending Sunday services weekly and would volunteer for various temple activities when I could. In November of 2017, I was bestowed the Buddhist name of Jigaku during the Jukai ceremony. The character Ji 慈 means compassion and Gaku 岳 means high mountain. They are a reminder to always act with compassion towards others. Actually, my name consists of 2 additional characters Tai 泰 meaning Peace/Tranquil and Yo 隊 meaning Bright/positive. 泰隊慈岳. My belief is that I was given this name as a reminder to be a beacon of compassion and tranquility to those around me. I will do my best.

I can see the dedication our members put into making Taishoji an active part of the Buddhist community and the importance of making sure there is a place where seekers can come and learn the teachings of the Buddha. In 2017, Taishoji was that place for me, and I would like to ensure that there is a place for anyone who may be in need of it in the future. I look forward to growing and continuing the teachings of the Buddha with you all.

In Gassho,

Jigaku Takenouchi

