



Soto Mission of Hawaii
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 Honolulu, HI 96817

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SOTO MISSION OF HAWAII

BETSUIN NEWSLETTER

MAY & JUNE 2024



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Bishop Shugen Komagata Retirement

Aloha! Greetings from the Soto Mission of Hawaii. I hope you and loved ones are doing well. Time flies quickly, and we are already nearing the halfway mark in 2024.

In 2008, I became the seventh chief priest of the Soto Mission of Hawaii. Throughout the years I have spent at Betsuin, I have had the privilege of working alongside many ministers and members for the sake of the mission. We celebrated Betsuin's centennial in 2013, had several Lay Confirmation Ceremonies. The experiences I have gained and the memories I have made will always hold a special place in my heart.

After lengthy discussion with my family, I have decided to retire from my position as Chief Priest at the Soto Mission of Hawaii due to health reasons on April 30, 2024.

This decision has not been easy for me, as Betsuin has been such an important part of my life both professionally and privately for nearly seventy years, having developed relationships with so many people within the temple. However, after careful consideration and consultation with my healthcare providers and family, I have come to realize that prioritizing my health is paramount at this stage of my life.

I am immensely grateful for the support and understanding I have received from everyone during this challenging time. Your kindness and compassion have meant more to me than words can express.

As I prepare to embark on this new chapter in my life, I am filled with a sense of gratitude for the opportunities I have been afforded and optimism for the future. While I will miss the daily interactions and sense of purpose that comes with my role, I am looking forward to focusing on my health and spending more time with my loved ones.

I am committed to ensuring a smooth transition as I prepare to step down from my position. I am grateful for the temple board's approval and support in naming Rev. Shuji Komagata as the next Chief Priest of the Soto Mission of Hawaii. He has worked closely with me over the past 16 months, and I am confident in his ability to lead our wonderful temple and its community.

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincerest thanks to you and the entire board for your unwavering support throughout my tenure. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the members, families, and supporters of the Soto Mission of Hawaii.

Thank you once again for your understanding and support.

In Gassho,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shugen Komagata". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shugen Komagata

Chief Priest, Soto Mission of Hawaii

Rev. Shuji Komagata's Message

Aloha! My name is Rev. Shuji Komagata. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and express my deep gratitude for having recently been selected as the new chief priest of the Soto Mission of Hawaii. This temple is special to me. This was my first home after being born and is where my great grandfather, grandfather, and father were bishops. I have relatives from my dad's (Komagata) side and my mom's (Watanabe) side of the family who are long time members of this temple.

For the past 19 years, I have been the resident minister at the Soto Mission of Aiea Taiheiji. With my wife, Jaymie, we raised our two children, Remi and Reigen, who are both university students in Oregon now.

I am deeply committed to continuing the rich traditions of the Soto Mission of Hawaii. Throughout the years, I have been assisting in Nuuanu at various events like the New Year's Daihannya service and Bon Services held each July. After joining the Soto Mission of Hawaii staff as the senior minister in January 2023, I had the opportunity to work alongside the bishop, learning more about this temple. Jaymie has been busy working as the office manager at Betsuin for a few years now, so many of you have gotten to know her already.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for extending so much love and compassion to my father as he now shifts his attention to his health and retirement. I look forward to meeting and working with you in the near future.

In Gassho,



Rev. Shuji



Services and Events

Mother's Day Service (Sunday, May 12 @ 9:30 AM)

On Sunday, May 12, at 9:30 AM, we will be observing Mother's Day Service. We express our gratitude to all the mothers and aunties who help us to be who we are today. Please join the service with your family to say "Thank You" to all the mothers out there.

33 Kannon Osunafumi Pilgrimage (Sunday, June 2 @ 9:30 AM)

On Sunday, June 2, at 9:30 AM, we will be observing the 33 Kannon Osunafumi Pilgrimage at the temple. This is the one time during the year that we bring down 33 Kannon Bodhisattvas that are enshrined on the altar. Each of these Kannon Bodhisattva protects the 33 temples in the region called Saigoku (Kyoto, Nara, Hyogo, Gifu, Osaka, and Wakayama Prefecture) and we have the replica of them. Through the efforts made by dedicated members led by Bishop Zenkyo Komagata, we have soil and sands from those 33 temples. We will place the Kannon statues and the sand throughout the main temple hall to simulate the pilgrimage that one would go through visiting the temples located in the 5 prefectures in Japan.



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This is a very spiritual and memorable service so please join us through the pilgrimage.

Dharma Keiki by HSMA and Bishop's Office

Starting in May, every first Sunday from 9:30 AM to 10:15 AM, Rev. Jiko Nakade will be hosting a Zoom service for Keiki to learn about Buddhist teachings. Registration is required for the program. If anyone is interested in the program, please register through the link provided in the flier.

Schedules of Public Service at Betsuin

Please join us in fellowship to learn more about Buddhism through the services we hold for everyone. Services will begin at 9:30 AM, unless noted.

May 5, May 12 (Mother's Day Service), May 19 (Kannonko), May 26
June 2 (33 Kannon Osuna Fumi), June 9, June 16 (Kannonko), June 23

Announcements

Spring Higan Service Report

It was nice seeing so many of you here at the Spring Higan Service. This year, for the first time after Covid, we were able to bring back the making of botamochi. We thank everyone who came out to help make the botamochi and if you did come to the service, we hope that you enjoyed the treat.



Hawaii Buddhist Council Buddha Day Service Report

We thank everyone who came to the Soto Mission of Hawaii on April 7 to celebrate the Birth of the Buddha. Thank you to the Bishops and ministers from Higashi Hongwanji Mission, Honpa Hongwanji Mission, Koyasan Shingon Mission, Jodo Mission, Nichiren Mission, and Tendai Mission for praying and honoring the Buddha during the service.

Rev. Jiko Nakade, our guest speaker brought a new perspective into the teachings of the Buddha, as she emphasized the beauty of birth from the standpoint of the Buddha's mother. Thank you for bringing enlightening teachings for all to learn about Buddha Day and the interdependence we share with our mothers.



We would like to take this time to also thank all the volunteers who helped with making the flower altar- Hanamido, parking attendants, kitchen helpers, welcoming guests, and Somei Taiko for entertainment.

With everyone working together and sharing dhana, we can say that the service went well. Thank you!



Bon O-Toba Service

In the coming weeks we will be sending out a separate announcement along with the Bon O-Toba Request form. This year the Bon Service will begin at the beginning of July. Please keep your eyes open for the separate mail around the end of May.

Bodhi Tree and Playground Removal

When you come into Soto Mission, you will see that there has been many changes happening. One of which is the removal of the playground. The playground equipment and surfaces were too hazardous to rehabilitate

The iconic Bodhi tree that was planted many decades ago was also removed. It was made attention to us that the tree was infected and unfortunately we had to remove the tree. However, please rest assure that the cutting were taken and will be replanted later in a different location on the temple property.



Upcoming Events

May 12	Mother's Day Service
June 2	33 Kannon Osunafumi Service
Beginning of July	Bon O-Toba Service

Temple Closed Dates & Modified Hours

May 27	Temple closed at noon in observance of Memorial Day
June 19	Temple closed at noon in observance of Juneteenth
June 30	Temple closed for 5 th Sunday
July 4	Temple closed at noon in observance of Independence Day

Donations

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

Arden & Mary Loomis	Service - Jan & Feb Kannonko
Bernice Koike	Service - January Kannonko
Carl Yorita	Donation for 2024
Carol Fujitani	Donation for 2024
Carrolyn Iwamoto	Service - Spring Higan
Charities Aid Foundation America	Donation
Dara Luangphiniith	Donation
David Suzuki	Donation for 2024
Deborah Yoshizumi	Donation for 2024
Dorothy Morioka	Service - 13th Memorial for Mack Sakai

Ellen Nishimura	Service - Jan & Feb Kannonko
Esther Yokooji	2024 Donation
Family of the Late Janet Fujie Kawakami	Service - 13th Yr Memorial for Janet Fujie Kawakami
Gary Nakamura	Donation for 2024
Glenn Fukushima	Donation for 2024
Guy Shinagawa	Donation
Hiromi Shimada	Donation
Imada Family	Service - Funeral for Dennis Imada
Jamie Peterson	Service - Jan & Feb Kannonko
Jay Kurihara	Service - Yukan for Joan Kurihara
Jean Maekawa	Service - Jan & Feb Kannonko
Joann Kiyabu	Service - 1st Yr Memorial for Lillian Sakazaki
Joy Kida	Service - Inurnment & 49 Day Service, Funeral for Donald Kida
Judy Takeya	Donation for 2024
Katherine Higuchi	Service - Feb & Mar Kannonko
Katie Costello	Donation for 2024
Keiko Kawagishi	Service - Jan & Feb Kannonko
Koide Charitable Fund	Donation
Kotani Family	Service - Funeral for Ethel Kotani
Lillian Ishimaru	Donation for 2024
Linda Unten	Service - Jan & Feb Kannonko, Nehan-e
Masae Hayashi	Service - Daihannya Gobutsuzen
Michael & Sarah Shildmyer	Service - Jan & Feb Kannonko
Michelle Watanabe	Donation
Michiko Sasaki	Donation
Mike Fujii	Donation for 2024
Miles Kasahara	Service - Spring Higan
Mitchell & Tomomi Nakagawa	Donation
Miyeko Hashimoto	Service - Spring Higan
Mona Sawai	Service - Jan & Feb Kannonko
Myra Nohara	Service - Nehan-E
Nancy Nishimura	Donation for 2024
Naomi Numazu	Donation - In Memory of Shigiji Sato & Yukie Morishige
Neal Imada	Donation for 2024
Norma Maeda	Donation for 2024
Okamoto, Oasa, Okimoto & Kida Family	Donation - In Memory of Donald M. Kida
Rajakumary Muthukumar	Donation
Richard Kanda	Donation for 2024
Robert Koike	Donation for 2024
Robert Ono	Service - 49 Day Service for Sachiko Ono
Robert Tasaka	Donation - Butsudan Disposal
Roger Nishimura	Donation
Roy Koizumi	Service - Spring Higan
Ruth Mizuno	Donation
Sally Ito	Service - Precremation Service for Stanley Ito
Sally Nozaki	Service - Jan & Feb Kannonko
Stanley Ayano	2024 Membership
Stanley Osada	Donation for 2024
Stanley Seo Family	Service - Inurnment for Stanley Seo
Sumiyo Corral	Service - 1 yr Memorial for Mrs. Narita
Susan Iwasa	Donation for 2024
Teruko Towata	Donation for 2024
Thomas & Chiye Itagaki	Service - February Kannonko
Tod Morimoto	Donation for 2024
Todd Nozaki	Service - Jan & Feb Kannonko
Warren & Karen Motosue	Service - January Kannonko
Wayne & Ann Uradomo	Service - January Kannonko
Wayne Warashina	Service - Nehan-E
Wayne Warashina	Service - Spring Higan
Yoko Inatsuka	Donation for 2024



DHARMA KEIKI

BUDDHIST TEACHINGS FOR KIDS & THE YOUNG AT HEART

Supported by the Hawaii Soto Mission Association and administered by the
Hawaii Soto Mission Head Office

First Sunday of the Month Starting May 5, 2024

9:30 a.m. HST - 10:15 a.m. HST

Via ZOOM at Your Local Hawai'i Soto Zen Buddhist Temple
or From Your Home

- Registration is required and must be done online.
- A waiver and release of liability form must be signed.
- Adult participation is required. Zoom sessions will not be recorded by the host. Participants must agree to not record nor screenshot any part of the program or its participants.
- Children learn Buddhist teachings through music, meditation, songs, stories and mindful movement.
- Material is presented by experienced teachers.
- In support of this program, a donation may be given to one's local Hawai'i Soto Zen Temple.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT REVEREND JIKO. Call (808) 322-3524 or send an email to: rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.

TO REGISTER, PLEASE GO TO: <https://forms.gle/Azubjv2fbmEHUJZk6>