

# Daifukuji Soto Mission

In the Light of the Hawai'i Kannon



79-7241 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kealahou, HI 96750

October, 2022

(808) 322-3524 [www.daifukuji.org](http://www.daifukuji.org)

See "archives" on our website for previous newsletters.



**Our online auction is coming up. We ask for your kōkua.**

**Donations of items will be accepted October 13 - 23.**

**The auction will be live October 26 - November 2.**

**There are many ways to help. See pages 2 & 3.**

<https://www.32auctions.com/Templekokua>



## Bodhidharma Service (Daruma-ki)

Sunday, October 2

10:00 a.m.

*Potluck Lunch & Food Collection for the Food Basket*

All are invited to join our Sangha in observing Daruma-ki in remembrance of Bodhidharma, the 28th patriarch in our lineage. Also known as Bodai Daruma Daishi, this 6th-century Indian Buddhist monk transmitted Zen from India to China. We honor him on the day of his memorial. The Dharma message will be delivered by Rev. Jiko.

All are invited to stay for lunch which will be a potluck affair. Please bring something to share if you can. If your dish is vegetarian, vegan, or gluten-free, please provide a label or note. The Gift Shop will be open.

(An Eitaikyo service will be held in conjunction with the Kannon-ko service on Oct. 19. See p. 4.)



## **Temple Kōkua Online Auction to be held October 26 - November 2**

*Accepting auction items October 13 - 23*

Daifukuji members and friends, please help make our upcoming online auction a success. Many costly repairs and upgrades to our temple buildings have been done during the pandemic and continue to be worked on in our board's efforts to maintain and preserve our historic temple. Our social hall has new panels and screens. Our roofs and sidewalks have been power washed. The buildings of our temple complex have just been fumigated for termites. And starting November, the roofs and exteriors of all buildings will be painted.

Fundraising is crucial and this year's online auction is our BIG fundraiser. Here's how you can help:

### **Donate to the auction**

**Auction items will be accepted inside the social hall from October 13 - 23. Drop off hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Please contact Rev. Jiko if you need to make special arrangements for drop off.)**

**We are asking for new, like new, and gently used items. Here are some examples of what can be donated:**

- \* Gift certificates/gift cards for retail stores, restaurants, hotel stays, rounds of golf, and services (Examples: massage, haircuts, manicures, yard service, etc.).
- \* Potted plants (orchids, flowering plants, and succulents are popular)
- \* Artwork, handmade items, jewelry, and accessories
- \* Buddhist items and Cultural items (Example: Japanese items and Hawaiian items)
- \* Collectibles and Vintage Items
- \* Musical instruments in good condition
- \* Houseware items in good condition
- \* Non-perishable gift basket items (Kona coffee, mac nuts, dried fruit, bagged snacks)
- \* Sporting goods and tools (If the item is heavy or bulky, please check with us first.)

**Please leave your name, phone number, and estimated value of your donation. A letter for tax purposes will be given to those who donate.**

*(Continued on page 3)*

*Continued from page 2 (Online Auction)*

### **Participate in the auction by bidding online**

The auction will begin at 9:00 a.m. Hawaii Time on October 26 and end at 5:00 p.m. Hawaii Time on November 2, 2022. To place a bid, please be sure to create your [32auctions.com](https://www.32auctions.com) account. Our link is <https://www.32auctions.com/Templekokua>. You will be able to view items online before the auction goes live on October 26.

### **Be a Volunteer**

Volunteers are needed to accept donations in the social hall and to help with the pick-ups. (Drive-thru works well so we'll do that again.) You'll have a choice of shifts: 10 am - 1 pm or 1 pm - 4 pm. Please contact Barb Shoshin Bosz at [barbarainkona@gmail.com](mailto:barbarainkona@gmail.com), 808-987-2673 (text & phone) to find out what days/shifts are available. Without volunteers, our fundraiser would not be possible. We would appreciate your help.

### **Pick Up Items in front of Our Social Hall (November 4, 5, and 6)**

**You will be notified if you are the top bidder.**

Friday, November 4            11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Saturday, November 5        10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Sunday, November 6         11 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Auction QR Code  
Use your cell phone.

### **Can you participate if you don't live on Hawai'i Island?**

Certainly. This is an online auction. Payment can be made through the auction's secure payment site. Just be sure to read the item description which will indicate whether or not the item can be shipped. Shipping charges are extra. Flat rate boxes will be used. You can also pay with a check when picking up your items. No cash, please.

### **Don't wish to participate in the auction, but still wish to contribute to this fundraiser?**

A monetary donation would be gratefully accepted. Please make your check payable to Daifukuji Soto Mission and mail it to P. O. Box 55, Kealakekua, HI 96750, or donate online through our website <http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html>. Include a note that it's for the auction.

**Questions? Please don't hesitate to contact auction co-chair Barb Bosz. [barbarainkona@gmail.com](mailto:barbarainkona@gmail.com), 808-987-2673, text & phone.**

**To help make Daifukuji's online auction a success, please help spread the word. Many people enjoy supporting good causes and finding treasures in online auctions. We truly appreciate your kōkua. Thanks so much!**

## Kannon-ko and Eitaikyo Service

Wednesday, October 19 10:00 a.m.

In conjunction with the October Kannon-ko service, an Eitaikyo service will be held in memory of those whose names are recorded in the Daifukuji Eitaikyo record book. The word *eitaikyo* means “chanting the sutras in perpetuity.” This annual service ensures that prayers are offered for the departed, even when family members of the deceased cannot be present for the service. If you are interested in having an individual or family’s name entered into Daifukuji’s Eitaikyo record book, please contact Rev. Jiko (808-322-3524, [rev.jiko@daifukuji.org](mailto:rev.jiko@daifukuji.org)). A one-time donation of \$250 per entry is requested.



## Project Dana: Lei Wili O Na Kupuna

by Rev. Jikō Nakade

I am honored to be part of a sangha which takes care of its elders. October marks the 15th anniversary of Daifukuji’s Project Dana, which was launched on October 10, 2007 with the blessing of the Daifukuji Board of Directors which continues to provide funding for this program. Vivian Ontai, the program’s first coordinator, gave our Project Dana group the Hawaiian name *Lei Wili O Na Kupuna* which means “The Intertwining Lei of Our Kupuna.”

Project Dana has held true to its name. Month after month, except during the pandemic shut down, this program has brought together temple *kupuna* and volunteers in what can appropriately be called a garland of aloha, offering chair exercises, educational sessions, seasonal and birthday celebrations, nutritious snacks and lunches, activities, and fellowship to temple members ages 60 and above at no charge. *Dana*, which means wholehearted giving in Sanskrit, is a core Buddhist teaching, one of the Six Paramitas. At Project Dana, everyone practices giving. It’s where warm hearts meet and happiness is shared.

Congratulations to Project Dana upon its 15th anniversary! Mahalo, *kupuna* and volunteers. Arigato, sangha members and supporters. For information about joining Project Dana, contact Joyce at (808) 329-3833 or Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524, [rev.jiko@daifukuji.org](mailto:rev.jiko@daifukuji.org).

For information about Project Dana in Hawai‘i go to <https://www.projectdana.org>.

## Welcome, New Members

Our sangha warmly welcomes new members Renee Horiuchi and Ken Rubin.

The Daifukuji Fujinkai welcomes new members Linda Calloway, Barbara Bosz, and Judie Fekete.

New members are always welcome.  
[http://www.daifukuji.org/membership\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.daifukuji.org/membership_brochure.pdf)



## Jam & Jelly Making October 4 & 5

Volunteers are needed for jam and jelly making on October 4 and 5 starting at 8:30 a.m. in the hall kitchen. Please call or text Ann Nakamoto at (808) 937-0149 as soon as possible if you can lend a hand.

We are also in need of 8-ounce glass jars (new or used) and bags of white sugar. Please contact Ann by September 27 if you can make a donation. (Phone number above)

A variety of jams and jellies will be available for purchase on November 20th after our Thanksgiving Service. They make great holiday gifts.



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

*Registration closes September 30*

This time our focus is on essays written by contemporary 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 is available through the Daifukuji Gift Shop. Dharma class members may purchase a copy at the special price of \$11. (The regular price is \$18.95.) Unfortunately, we are unable to handle mail orders. The book can be ordered online at <https://wisdomexperience.org/product/hidden-lamp/>. It is also available as an Ebook.

**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. HST (starting OCTOBER 6 - MARCH)**

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

Rev. Jikō offers Dharma classes free of charge. Donations are appreciated. If you feel inspired to offer a donation, you may do so at any time through the temple website: <http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html>.

Checks may be mailed to: Daifukuji Soto Mission, P.O. Box 55, Kealahou, 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](mailto:rev.jiko@daifukuji.org), (808) 322-3524. Registration closes September 30th.



## **October Programs**

**Shakyo (Tracing the Sutras) & Shabutsu (tracing pictures of buddhas) Art Meditation** - Saturday, October 1 from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in the Social Hall. All are welcome. By donation.

**Zazen and Chanting** - 6:00 - 7:00 a.m. every Wednesday and Friday in person and via Zoom. Practitioners are asked to arrive at 5:45 a.m. Contact Rev. Jiko at [rev.jiko@daifukuji.org](mailto:rev.jiko@daifukuji.org) to receive the Zoom link. On Wednesdays, a morning service follows zazen.

**Daifukuji Gay Sangha** - 1st Friday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Meditation and discussion. For information, call Clear Houn at (808) 328-0329.

**Sangha Sisters Women's Spirituality Circle** - Meetings are held on the second Friday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Call Susie at (808) 936-5817 for information.

**T'ai Chi** - Tuesdays - Beginners, Wednesdays - Intermediate, Thursdays - Advanced. All classes are one hour and start at 9:00 a.m. inside the Hisashi Kimura Cultural Hall. \$5.00 per class. Call instructor Philip Kakuho Hema : (808) 345-1492.

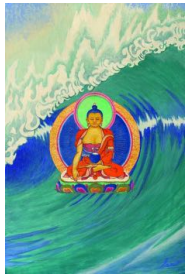
**Friday Morning Samu** - Join our Samu volunteers for a few hours of temple cleaning and grounds maintenance every Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. Coffee and refreshments follow the work period. If you wish, bring a snack or dish to share.

**Soleful Strutters** - T'ai Chi warm-up and walking on temple grounds at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesdays. For information, please contact Hannah Israel at (408) 421-8845 or Reverend Jiko at (808) 322-3524.

**Yoga** — Mondays from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. in the Hisashi Kimura Cultural Hall. No fee, but donations accepted. Bring a mat or towel. Call instructor Liz Aschenbrenner: (808) 345-1270 or [liz217a@hotmail.com](mailto:liz217a@hotmail.com). (Note: No class will be held on October 3.)

**Yoga via Zoom** - No classes in October. A new series will begin November 3.

Instructor: Ambika "Jō-An" Rose, who has been teaching yoga at Daifukuji for 10 years. For inquiry about her Zoom yoga classes: (808) 430-2620. Email for Registration & Zoom Link: [ambikarose@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:ambikarose@hawaiiantel.net).



## A Break From All the Noise: Peaceful Moments for Middle and High School Students

Starting October 9, 2022

Two Sundays a Month from 10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

- Learn to meditate and become friends with silence.
- Practice slowing down and relaxing into the present moment.
- Develop skills for mindful listening, mindful speech, mindful actions.
- Ask questions in a safe, non-judgmental group setting facilitated by Rev. Jikō.
- Interact with other youth through projects & discussions.
- Have an opportunity to join the Y.B.A. (Young Buddhist Association)
- Bring a friend.

For more information or to register, contact Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524, [rev.jiko@daifukuji.org](mailto:rev.jiko@daifukuji.org). Parents are welcome to attend.

### Daifukuji Board Report

By Steve Hōshin Mann, Board secretary



The Daifukuji Soto Mission Board of Directors met Thursday, September 1, via Zoom.

We reviewed our COVID restrictions, and decided to remove the 80-person limit for the social hall. This means there are no remaining temple-wide COVID restrictions. Indoor masking is suggested but not required, and groups remain free to establish precautions of their own.

The fumigation went faster than expected, and we are grateful Pacific Termite was able to remove their tents a day early.

We approved November 1 as Summit Painting's start date for repainting of the temple roof. They'll do rust remediation and replace any rusted screws. They'll start with the temple building, so work on the main building is expected to be finished before the December 1 start of the Rohatsu Sesshin.

Dr. Stephen Denzer, Dr. Robin Seto, and their family will be doing a restoration of the social hall's backdrop curtain as a gift in memory of Dr. Denzer's mother Tempe Denzer, the artist who created the piece.



## Uprooting the Self

By Michael Keller

In *Understanding Our Mind* (previous title, *Transformation at the Base*), Thich Nhat Hanh says,

*. . . We may think that we have pulled up the roots of being caught in the idea of self. But those roots were there before we were born and much more work still has to be done to transform them. We must be careful and recognize the latent tendency of attachment to self when it arises in one form or another.*

Presumably we inherit roots of self from our previous incarnation. I know virtually nothing about reincarnation. But I want to point out the usefulness of Thich Nhat Hanh's warning for zazen practitioners, not to suppose carelessly that self has been left behind. To leave it completely behind may not be at all possible.

In the early 1970's, I knew a spiritually advanced psychotherapist who was also the editor of a journal in the field of transpersonal psychology. This person told me that when his editorial board, mostly meditation practitioners, got together periodically to decide on contents for an upcoming issue of the journal, they would sometimes fall into vociferous disagreements among one another, but that eventually someone would laugh, others would join in, and the group would return to itself. Here was an eruption of self among a group of spiritually developed people.

The mantra at the end of the Heart Sutra, Gate Gate Paragate Parasamgate – go beyond, go beyond, go completely beyond – is an injunction to throw the self aside. It is an injunction to break free completely from one's "I-consciousness" or sense of personhood. This jettisoning of the self produces Bodhi, the awakened state.

Even so, the self or ego hangs around. So thinks Ajahn Chah, Jack Kornfield's main teacher. In *Food for the Heart*, Ajahn Chah says that in the development of a spiritual life, eventually the ego or self can seem like a mischievous child, who is "simply behaving according to its nature" and whom we can disregard and attend to other more consequential things. So the ego or self hangs around, but we can attend to it mindfully and prevent any harm from it. It needn't disturb us. We can brush it off.

### FREE COVID TEST KITS AVAILABLE

We have received some free Covid test kits through Project Dana for anyone in need. Call Rev. Jiko at (808) 322-3524.



## Orchard Rededication Blessing and Wish List

On **Sunday, October 16 at 9:00 a.m.**, we will break ground and rededicate the orchard behind the temple, and begin planting trees. Please join us. Volunteers on Fridays for the last couple of years have removed aging Macadamia nut trees, cleared brush and weeds, repaired pig-damaged terraces, established pathways, and enclosed the space with walls and fencing to make it secure from pigs. We've chosen fruit tree species to plant on the advice of the Fujinkai.

We'll begin by planting some of the commonest local fruit trees. Some have been donated already. Our wish list includes the following:

- \* A standard-sized orange
- \* Mango such as Keitt
- \* Summer avocado such as Yamagata
- \* Standard-sized Meyer lemon

If you have any of these on hand you'd like to donate, let us know - with variety name and fruiting season - before we begin our commercial ordering about September 20.

If you'd like to be part of the planning and preparation of the orchard, join us any Friday morning, or contact Steve Hoshin at 808-492-9835/ [steve@oldwaysfarm.com](mailto:steve@oldwaysfarm.com). Please contact Steve Hoshin or Reverend Jiko if you have a fruit tree mentioned in the wish list that you'd like to donate.



Volunteers Dan Gordon, John Ogg, Keith Barton, and Steve Mann stand in front of the new orchard gate which they constructed. Mahalo to our volunteer crew for their hard work week after week.



The Daifukuji Fujinkai

[http://www.daifukuji.org/activities/Fujinkai\\_Brochure\\_2022.pdf](http://www.daifukuji.org/activities/Fujinkai_Brochure_2022.pdf)

On August 28, 2022 the Daifukuji Fujinkai held their general membership meeting both in person and via Zoom. President Joyce St. Arnault welcomed the group's 17 new members and said how proud of our Fujinkai she is. Daifukuji's board president Stephen attended the meeting to show his support. The members of the Fujinkai look forward to having many fun activities and invite any interested adult to become a member.

# October 2022

September 2022							October 2022							November 2022							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				
							30	31													

- Sangha Sisters
- Youth Taiko
- Adult Taiko
- Teen Sangha
- Major Service
- Temple Board
- Fujinkai
- Kannon-ko Service
- Project Dana
- Zazen
- Samu
- Special Events
- Baikako Practice
- Dharma Study
- Happy Strummers
- Work
- Offsite Backup
- Bon Dance Group
- Teen Sangha
- Orchid Club
- Family Service
- Major Service
- Home and 16 more...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 7:45 AM Baikako Practice	26 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	27 8:30 AM Soleful Strutters Moai 9:00 AM Tai Chi 6:00 PM Zen Taiko	28 6:00 AM Zazen & Service 9:00 AM Tai Chi 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	29 8:00 AM Zoom Yoga with Ambika 9:00 AM Tai Chi 6:00 PM Zen Taiko	30 Gift shop 10am - 1 pm 6:00 AM Zazen 8:00 AM Samu	1 Gift Shop 11am-2pm 8:00 AM Shakyo 10:15 AM Youth Taiko
2 10:00 a.m. Daruma-ki Bodhidharma Service Potluck Lunch 3:00 PM Happy Strummers	3 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	4 8:30 AM Soleful Strutters Moai 9:00 AM Tai Chi 6:00 PM Zen Taiko	5 6:00 AM Zazen & Service 9:00 AM Tai Chi 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	6 9:00 AM Library Staff 9:00 AM Tai Chi 1:00 PM Zoom Dharma Study 6:00 PM Zen Taiko 7:00 PM Temple Board	7 Gift shop 10am - 1 pm 6:00 AM Zazen 8:00 AM Samu 5:30 PM Gay Sangha	8 Gift Shop 11am-2pm 8:00 AM Zoom Dharma Study 10:15 AM Youth Taiko
9 10:00 AM Teen Sangha	10 8:30 AM Yoga with Liz 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	11 8:30 AM Soleful Strutters Moai 9:00 AM Tai Chi 6:00 PM Zen Taiko	12 Project Dana 9:30 AM 6:00 AM Zazen & Service 9:00 AM Tai Chi 5:00 PM Youth Taiko 6:30 PM Orchid Club	13 9:00 AM Tai Chi 10:00 AM Drop Off Auction Items 1:00 PM Zoom Dharma Study 6:00 PM Zen Taiko	14 Gift shop 10am - 1 pm ... Drop Off Auction Items 6:00 AM Zazen 8:00 AM Samu 6:00 PM Sangha Sisters	15 Gift Shop 11am-2pm ... Drop Off Auction Items 8:00 AM Zoom Dharma Study 10:15 AM Youth Taiko 1:00 PM Fujinkai Board
16 Orchard Blessing 9 a.m. ... Drop Off Auction Items 10:00 AM Teen Sangha	17 ... Drop Off Auction Items 8:30 AM Yoga with Liz 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	18 ... Drop Off Auction Items 8:30 AM Soleful Strutters Moai 9:00 AM Tai Chi 6:00 PM Zen Taiko	19 Kannonko & Eitaikyo 10 am ... Drop Off Auction Items 6:00 AM Zazen & Service 9:00 AM Tai Chi 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	20 ... Drop Off Auction Items 9:00 AM Tai Chi 1:00 PM Zoom Dharma Study 6:00 PM Zen Taiko	21 Gift shop 10am - 1 pm ... Drop Off Auction Items 6:00 AM Zazen 8:00 AM Samu	22 Gift Shop 11am-2pm ... Drop Off Auction Items 8:00 AM Zoom Dharma Study 9:00 AM Fall Ministers 10:15 AM Youth Taiko
23 ... Drop Off Auction Items 9:00 AM Fall HSMA Meeting	24 8:30 AM Yoga with Liz 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	25 8:30 AM Soleful Strutters Moai 9:00 AM Tai Chi 6:00 PM Zen Taiko	26 6:00 AM Zazen & Service 9:00 AM Tai Chi 9:00 AM Auction is Live! 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	27 ... Auction is Live! 9:00 AM Tai Chi 1:00 PM Zoom Dharma Study 6:00 PM Zen Taiko	28 Gift shop 10am - 1 pm ... Auction is Live! 6:00 AM Zazen 8:00 AM Samu	29 Gift Shop 11am-2pm ... Auction is Live! 8:00 AM Zoom Dharma Study 10:15 AM Youth Taiko
30 ... Auction is Live!	31 ... Auction is Live! 8:30 AM Yoga with Liz 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	1 ... Auction is Live! 8:30 AM Soleful Strutters Moai 9:00 AM Tai Chi 5:30 PM Gay Sangha 6:00 PM Zen Taiko 7:00 PM Daifukuji Board	2 ... Auction is Live! 6:00 AM Zazen & Service 9:00 AM Tai Chi 5:00 PM Youth Taiko	3 8:00 AM Zoom Yoga with Ambika 9:00 AM Tai Chi 1:00 PM Zoom Dharma Study 6:00 PM Zen Taiko 7:00 PM Temple Board	4 Gift shop 10am - 1 pm 6:00 AM Zazen 8:00 AM Samu 11:00 AM Auction Items Pick Up	5 Gift Shop 11am-2pm ... Auction Items Pick Up 8:00 AM Zoom Dharma Study 10:15 AM Youth Taiko



# Dharma Lei



## Bishop's Office Newsletter

Soto Zen Buddhism Hawaii Office

c/o Soto Mission of Hawaii 1708 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu HI 96817 U.S.A.

Tel & Fax: 808-538-6429

E-Mail: [info@sotozenhi.org](mailto:info@sotozenhi.org)

WEB: <http://global.sotozen-net.or.jp/eng/>

Fourth Quarter, 2022

Issue No. 42

### Bishop's Message:

Aloha from the Bishop's Office,

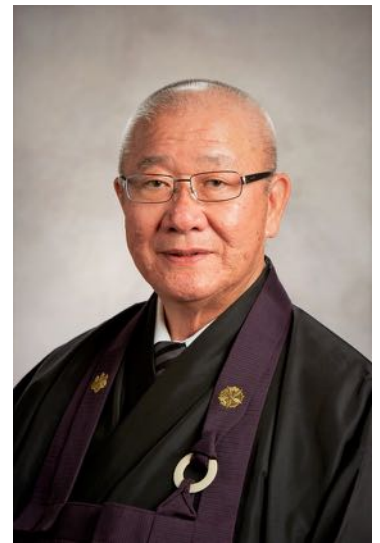
I hope that you and your family are doing well! We find ourselves approaching the end of summer, and the close of the 2022 Bon Season. While some temples elected to have virtual online Bon Services and skip the Bon Dance this year, other temples returned to having in-person Bon Services and even celebrated 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.

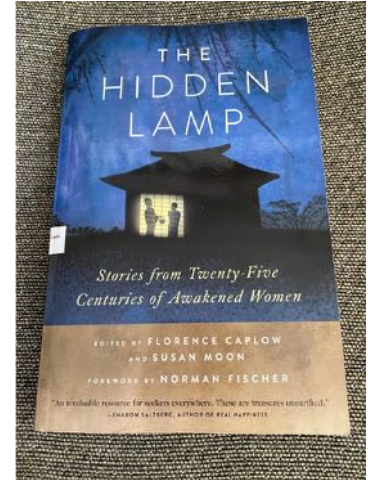
Bishop Shugen Komagata



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

### *Registration is now open*

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**(starting OCTOBER 6 - MARCH)**

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## 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

