



Dharma Lei



Bishop's Office Newsletter

Soto Zen Buddhism Hawaii Office

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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.

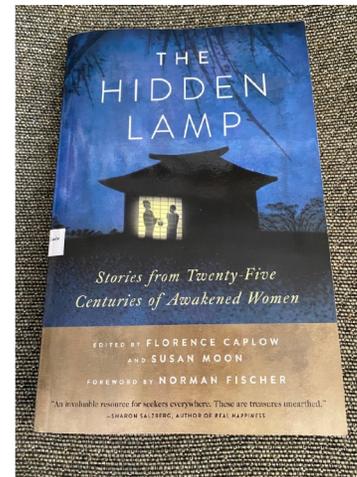
Bishop Shugen Komagata



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

