



Dharma Lei



Bishop's Office Newsletter

Soto Zen Buddhism Hawaii Office

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Bishop's Message:

Aloha to all the members and supporters of Soto Zen Buddhism in Hawaii! The days have begun to get longer, signaling the arrival of spring! Although our seasons in Hawaii are much milder than places like the mainland or Japan, we can still sense the change in the weather.

As many of you may know, I was diagnosed with a rather rare and aggressive form of cancer in December 2022. Although I underwent surgery to remove the cancer in February, it was determined that cancer had spread to different parts of my body. Although no longer curative, I am currently undergoing chemotherapy and will soon receive radiation treatments to relieve my symptoms.

As I assess my situation, I find myself reflecting upon one of my favorite words of advice to people—LIVE EACH DAY TO THE FULLEST. Although my days are filled with doctor appointments and treatments, I continue to do my best to make the most of each day. I relish in the occasional visits from temple members, relatives, and friends, and I look forward to attending temple services. With assistance from senior minister Rev. Shuji Komagata, Rev. Hirosato Yoshida, and Rev. Masataka Hoshino, I continue to lead the Soto Mission of Hawaii as chief priest.

And so, I once again encourage you to live each day to the fullest. I shared in the previous Dharma Lei that with our prior experiences in life having shaped our view of the world, we should look to this year with great hope. With that hope, though, must come action. “*Carpe diem!*” This famous Latin phrase means to “seize the day!” Please focus on the present, appreciating the value of every moment in life, and avoid postponing things unnecessarily.

In Gassho.

Bishop Shugen Komagata



2023 Precepts Study with Rev. Jiko Nakade A 3-month series of weekly online Zoom classes from June - August

Two groups (please choose 1):

Group 1: Thursdays from 1:00 -2:00 p.m. Hawaii Time, starting June 1

Group 2: Saturdays from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Hawaii Time, starting June 3

In June of 2023, Rev. Jikō will be starting a new series of precepts study sessions using ZOOM. This 3-month course is comprised of weekly one-hour sessions. This is an opportunity to learn about the 16 Bodhisattva precepts, which form the moral and ethical foundation of the Soto Zen tradition.

This is a 3-month period of study and reflection. The sharing of one's life is done in an atmosphere that is gentle, non-judgmental, and compassionate. Many have found their lives illuminated and enriched by this inner journey taken in the context of a loving sangha.

We will be using the book *Being Upright: Zen Meditation and the Bodhisattva Precepts* by Tenshin Zenki Reb Anderson Roshi, a senior Dharma teacher in the Soto Zen tradition of Shunryu Suzuki. *"A gifted storyteller, Anderson takes us to the heart of situations, where moral judgments are not easy and we do not have all the answers."*

If purchased through the Daifukuji Gift Shop, class participants may obtain the paperback book for the discounted price of \$10. The book is available online in hardcover, paperback and Kindle formats. Unfortunately, we cannot handle mail orders.

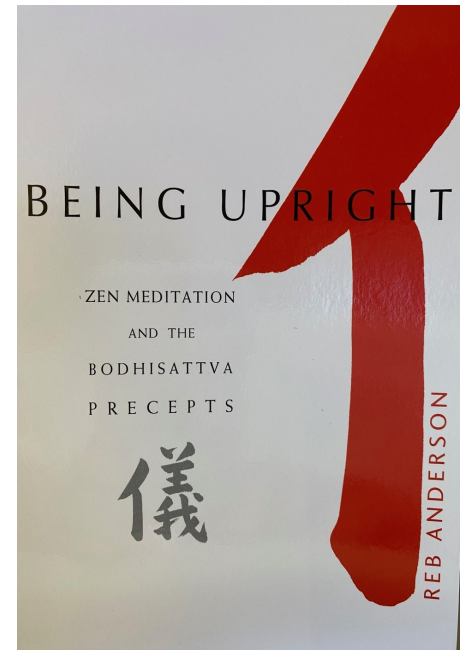
These sessions are open to all who are interested in studying the precepts and do not require participation in the precepts ceremony which will be offered at its conclusion.

Rev. Jiko offers the Dharma freely. There is no class fee. To support such programs, one may make a donation to Daifukuji Soto Mission.

<https://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html>

For more information or to register, please contact Rev. Jikō at (808) 322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.

Those who have studied the precepts in the past are welcome to deepen their understanding by joining these sessions.



In Remembrance: Bishop Jiho Machida



On March 5, 2023, retired Hawaii Soto Mission Bishop Jiho Machida passed away peacefully at home in Honolulu. He was 96 years of age. He is survived by wife Violet Machida.

Jiho Machida was born on November 3, 1926, in Chichibu, Saitama Prefecture, Japan. At the young age of 26, the then Reverend Jiho Machida left Kokenji temple in Saitama and arrived in Hawaii on November 3, 1952. After serving as resident minister of (the now closed) Waiahole Tomonji Soto Mission, he transferred to the Soto Mission of Hawaii. During his time as a minister at the Soto Mission of Hawaii, Rev. Machida succeeded Mrs. You Komagata as the second principal of the Nuuanu Wakei Gakuen (Japanese Language School), served as the president of the Hawaii Kyoikukai (Japanese School Association), and for a short time served as the Soto Academy principal.

Upon the retirement of Bishop Gyokuei Matsuura on October 31, 1997, Jiho Machida was installed as the 7th bishop of the Hawaii Soto Mission. Bishop Machida was a kind and friendly person. He was also a very smart man, instrumental throughout his career in creating Japanese language textbooks used in many of the Japanese Schools that were operating throughout the state of Hawaii. His also contributed to the Hawaii Soto Mission by creating much of the English Buddhist materials we use to this day. He retired on August 31, 2008, after 56 years of dedicated service to the Hawaii Soto Mission.

Bishop Machida's funeral service will be held at the Soto Mission of Hawaii on Sunday, May 7, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., with visitation to begin at 2:00 p.m. We kindly request that you let your minister know if you plan to attend the service. Please call 808-537-9409 for more information.

