



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

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

Third Quarter, 2023

Issue No. 45

Bishop's Message:

Aloha from the Bishop's Office,

Oh, how time flies! As we find ourselves already in the middle of 2023, I hope that you and your family are doing well. The conditions surrounding COVID-19 have improved steadily and I am happy to see people slowly returning to their normal routines.

We are now in the middle of the Bon Season here in Hawaii. As I have mentioned in the past, Bon is a time for us to remember our departed loved ones. We offer our gratitude to them and pray for their continued peace in the world of Nirvana.

I would also like to emphasize the importance of Bon amongst the living. At the Bon Dance, while dancing around the yagura in a symbolic reunion with the departed, people further cultivate their love and appreciation for their families and friends as they spend time in fellowship. For those who are actively grieving the loss of a loved one, I pray that the Bon Service offers comfort and solace. Truth be told, there are also times in life when family members and friends go through challenging times with one another. I pray that the season of Bon, with all that it represents, offers people the opportunity for reconciliation, forgiveness, and healing.

I am happy to announce that Bon Services at all the Hawaii Soto Mission temples are in-person again this year. The Soto Mission of Hawaii will not be hosting its Bon Dance this year due to ongoing repairs and renovations on the temple and adjacent Komagata Hall, but I am excited that all the other Hawaii Soto Mission temples are having Bon Dance. Please inquire with your temple when your Bon Service and Bon Dance will be held. As you enjoy this beautiful summer, please continue to take care of yourself and your family.



In Gassho.

Bishop Shugen Komagata



2023 Hawaii Soto Mission Buddhist Study Tour

From May 26 to June 2, 2023, a group of ten from Japan, Hawaii, and New Mexico traveled to California for the **2023 Hawaii Soto Mission Buddhist Study Tour**. Led by Senior Minister Rev. Shuji Komagata, the tour began at Los Angeles Zenshuji Soto Mission for their Centennial Celebration and the North America Preliminary Service for Keizan Zenji's 700th Memorial. During the two days spent in Los Angeles, the group visited Zen Center of Los Angeles and the Hsi Lai Buddhist Temple. The trip next took the group to the Bay Area. Over the next four days, they visited Green Gulch Farm Zen Center, Sonoma Mountain Zen Center, the San Francisco Zen Center, Sokoji Soto Mission, Berkeley Zen Center, the Buddhist Church of America in Berkeley, and Kojin-An. All participants appreciated the opportunity to explore the richness and diversity of Buddhism in California. This trip was coordinated by the Hawaii Soto Mission Bishop's Office and sponsored in part by the Hawaii Soto Mission Association.



Sightseeing in San Francisco



With Bishop Akiba of North America at Kojin-An



Visiting Zen Center of Los Angeles

