



December 2023

Dates to Remember

December 3

Jodo-e Service & Shakyo Session

December 17

End of Year Clean-up Day

December 31

Joya No Kane

Our Mission: Paia Mantokuji is a Soto Zen Buddhist temple founded in 1906 by Reverend Sokyo Ueoka and a community of Japanese immigrants. Our mission is to be a place of compassion, respect and kindness for all who seek truth through the teachings of Buddha, the practice of Zen meditation and arts, and the fellowship of the temple sangha.

Our Vision: Paia Manokuji's short term vision is to stay in place in Paia, grow, develop and mitigate erosion if possible.

Our Values: Honor Traditions

- Respect Ancestors
- Embrace Inclusivity
- Nurture Fellowship
- Practice Compassionate Kindness
- Gratitude
- Appreciation & Humility
- Live the Dharma
- Embody Buddhism

Paia Mantokuji Soto Mission

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Mangan Team

Bobbie, Cathy & Isabelle

Reverend's Message

Hello everyone.

It is December already. Time flies fast!

This time, I would like to report on the 700th Preliminary Memorial for Keizan Zenji and Hawaii Soto Mission's 120th Anniversary Celebration held at the Soto Mission of Hawaii Betsuin on Oahu in late October, as well as my visit to Lahaina.

Thirty ministers from Hawaii, the mainland, Japan, and South America, were joined by nearly 100 attendees to observe these special services. The Preliminary memorial ceremony for Keizan Zenji, like the one I witnessed at the Betsuin is being held at Soto Zen temples outside of Japan around the world this year. The actual ceremony celebrating the 700th Anniversary of Daihonzan Sojiji's Founder Taiso Keizan Jokin Zenji will be held in Japan in 2024. I was honored to be a part of this beautiful memorial ceremony.

The history of Hawaii Soto Mission, dating back to 1903, is also the history of Japanese immigration. Officiated by Bishop Shugen Komagata, we offered prayers of gratitude and respect to the previous ministers and members who endured hardships and made many sacrifices to preserve Hawaii Soto Mission and their community over the past 120 years.

Following the weekend of ceremonies and celebration, several ministers from Japan, North America, and Honolulu flew to Maui and held a memorial service at Mantokuji for the victims of the Lahaina wildfire disaster. After the service, Rev. Murakami took the group to Wailuku Hongwanji Temple for a meeting between Rev. Gensho Hara of Lahaina Jodo Mission, one of the temples lost in the fire, and Rev. Tenyu Fukagawa, Director of Education and Dissemination at the Administrative Headquarters of Soto Zen Buddhism.

I would like to express my gratitude to the ministers who came to Maui to offer their compassion, to Rev. Murakami for arranging the meeting, and to Rev. Hara who guided us to the site where Lahaina Jodo Mission once stood, while he is still grieving and recovering from their loss. It was heartbreaking to see the places affected by the fire, and I could not find the words to express my feelings.

Although we had sad events in 2023, together let's look forward to a new and brighter year.

Tomok! Hirasawa

Also enclosed in this issue:

Dharma Lei n.46

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Fujinkai News

The Fujinkai will be having their monthly meeting and clean up as follows:

December 10, 2023 at 8:30am

January 14, 2024 at 8:30am

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and the gentlemen who came on Sunday, November 12, 2023 to help clean the nokotsudo and the temple, and help with the maintenance on the temple grounds. We are always grateful.

Kay Hanano, Rev. Hirasawa, Chester Kakiuchi, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, and Nora Takeuchi.

Kyodan Meeting Report

Held Sunday November 12, 2023

Below are some of the topics that were discussed at the meeting.

- Erosion Project updates – Sandbag structure has been repaired
- Sandbag structure got confirmation from DLNR to remain until December 2024 with monthly rental of \$40
- Oceanit Foundations's Climate Change Toolkit Project – Kick-off gathering with students, Oceanit mentors and Mantokuji liaisons was held on Thursday, November 9, 2023. It began with a blessing by Rev. Hirasawa, overview of project by Mike Foley, tour of Mantokuji property and culminated with questions/answers and discussion and refreshments.
- Rev. Hirasawa and Brian Moto attended the HSMA Fall Meeting/Preliminary 700th Anniversary of Keizan Zenji/120th Anniversary of Hawaii Soto and Memorial service for all deceased ministers, jizoku and Betsuin members. Kauai Zenshuji has a minister, Rev. Scott Daruma Mangis.
- The Maui delegation of 12 was glad to support Rev. Kenji Oyama as he was installed as the head minister of Seiryuji Soto Zen Mission in Yamagata, Japan.
- Rev. Hirasawa and Kyodan President Eric Moto attended the annual Maui Buddhist Council meeting on Monday, November 6. It was confirmed that Paia Mantokuji will hold their Obon Service on Friday, July 12, 2024 and Bon Festival on Saturday, July 13, 2024.
- Mantokuji member June Sachie Toyota passed on October 17, 2023.
- Paia Rinzai Zen Mission has a new minister, Rev. Kodai Haga.
- It was approved for Rev. Hirasawa to travel back to Japan in February 2024 to accompany Yuki-san back to Maui.
- Jodo-e Service on December 3, 2023 at 10:30am followed by a Shakyu session at 1:00pm

Next Kyodan meeting will be on **Sunday, January 15, 2023.**

Please join us for future meetings and be involved in these important discussions. We will be electing Kyodan officers at this meeting. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact Cathy Murayama @ 808.283.6125.

MAHALO Foodland's Give Aloha Program

Our sincere MAHALO to those who made a donation to the Give Aloha, Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts Program, September 1 – September 30. Mantokuji members and friends donated \$3476.83 at a Foodland or Sack-n-Save. The matching gifts we received from Foodland and Western Union totaled \$1024.81. We received checks totaling \$4501.64. WOW! Thank you for your KOKUA and participation. A big MAHALO to Foodland and Western Union for their matching gift.

In Memoriam

We express our heartfelt sympathy to the family of:

June Sachie Toyota, 91 years, who passed away on October 17, 2023.

We pray for her and give our love and support to her family in this time of great loss.

Namu Kie Butsu, Namu Kie Ho, Namu Kie So



Reverend Kenji Oyama's Shinzanshiki Ceremony at Seiryuji Soto Zen Mission in Yamagata, Japan

On October 18, a group of 10 Mantokuji members from Maui, Oahu, and the Big Island traveled to Japan to attend a special ceremony for Mantokuji's former resident minister, Reverend Kenji Oyama (2003 to 2013). Rev. Oyama has been a minister at Seiryuji, his father-in-law's temple in Yamagata since leaving Mantokuji in 2013. In a series of ceremonies on Saturday, October 21 and Sunday, October 22 called Shinzanshiki, Rev. Oyama was formally installed as the new head minister of Seiryuji. The event concluded with a Taito-shiki, Retirement Ceremony, for Reverend Kodo Seino. Two other visiting Mantokuji members joined our group during the ceremony weekend, along with a group from Rev. Oyama's childhood temple, Waipahu Taiyoji that included Reverend Ryokei Ishii and his wife. During parts of the ceremony, it was a pleasant surprise to hear English spoken on a few occasions by Rev. Oyama and other ministers in recognition of Rev. Oyama's life at Waipahu and Paia. We were all honored to be there and grateful that Rev. Oyama graciously accepted our request to attend.

We were especially delighted to see Naoko-san and to reconnect with her parents and Rev. Oyama's parents and older brother. We look forward to the day when the Oyama's return to Maui for a visit or when we can return to Yamagata and spend time with the Oyama's in a more relaxed setting.



(Above) Yamagata Prefecture: Reverend Kenji Oyama's Shinzanshiki Ceremony.

(Below) Mantokuji members in Hokkaido (left: Noboribetsu Onsen; right: Uzusan)



Oceanit Foundation's Climate Toolkit Project KICKOFF

In September, the Oceanit Research Foundation received notice that their application for Grant-in-Aid (GIA) funds from the State Legislature for their Climate Change Toolkit Project proposal was approved. Oceanit then began a recruitment process for 4 to 6 motivated young adult students. An ambitious target start date of October was originally set for the project, but was later delayed to a more realistic, but still hopeful, start of November 6.



On November 9, Oceanit co-hosted an informal gathering with Mantokuji to launch the Climate Change Toolkit Project. Present that afternoon from Oceanit were Mike Foley (Coastal Engineer), along with media and computer tech specialists James and Dylan. Nine other Oceanit science, engineering, and technology professionals joined the meeting via video link. Mantokuji project liaisons / temple "ambassadors" were represented by seven members of Mantokuji's Board of Directors. Everyone gathered in the temple hondo and the kick-off event began with a brief blessing ceremony by Reverend Hirasawa.

Following Rev.'s blessing, each one of the Mantokuji liaisons introduced themselves, and then each of the Oceanit team leaders and mentors introduced themselves. The six project applicants are: Peyton, a Maui High School senior; Dyther, Llyw, Noah, and Sam, students at the University of Hawaii Maui College; and Kathleen, continuing post-graduate work. Everyone participated in an ice-breaker game and then listened to Oceanit's PowerPoint presentation.



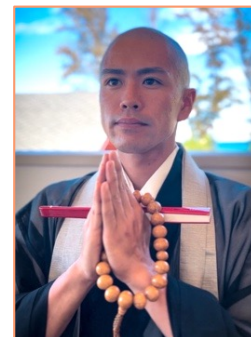
After a walking tour of the temple grounds and background / historical information from some of the Mantokuji liaisons, the evening came to a close with refreshments served in the social hall. A follow-up meeting was planned the following week for participants to receive their instructional and data collection packets from Oceanit. We look forward to working with our young participants and our Oceanit partners over the next six months and look forward to the final participant presentations scheduled for May/June 2024.

Paia Rinzai Zen Mission welcomes Reverend Kodai Haga

By Reverend Tomoki Hirasawa

I would like to introduce the new resident minister of Paia Rinzai Zen Mission, our neighboring Buddhist temple. His name is Reverend Kodai Haga. He is from Tochigi, Japan. He arrived in Maui on October 16. Paia Rinzai Zen Mission members held a welcome dinner the next day. President Eric Moto and I were invited to dinner to meet Reverend Haga.

I am happy to have a new minister at the nearby temple. He is a young man and very enthusiastic. It was suggested that our two sanghas hold Hanamatsuri together again. Please look forward to a combined Hanamatsuri in April.





Dharma Lei

Bishop's Office Newsletter

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Fourth Quarter, 2023

Issue No. 46

Bishop's Message:

Did you know that the most popular opening comment on the television news on November 1 is "Can you believe it? It's already November!" The funny thing is that I completely agree. 2024 has been a very busy year for the Hawaii Soto Mission, and we are now already in November.

On October 21 and 22, the Hawaii Soto Mission celebrated its 120th anniversary. Although Betsuin—the main temple I am at in Honolulu—was founded 110 years ago, the historic beginning of the Hawaii Soto Mission took place ten years earlier in 1903 when temples were established in the sugar plantation camps of Waipahu, Oahu by Rev. Sen'ei Kawahara, and Wahiawa, Kauai by Rev. Ryouun Kan. Over the next 120 years, our network of temples has grown to nine temples and one Zendo and has served the religious needs of thousands of members and their families.

As we commemorated our 120th anniversary, we offered our heartfelt gratitude to the six past bishops—Bishop Hosen Isobe, Bishop Zenkyo Komagata, Bishop Zenshu Komagata, Bishop Koryu Oyama, Bishop Gyokuei Matsuura, and Bishop Jiho Machida—and over one-hundred ministers and Jizoku for their faithful service to the temple community here in Hawaii. In addition, offered our prayers to all our departed temple members and supporters for their hard work and dedication to the temple.

We also observed the Preliminary Memorial Ceremony for the 700th Anniversary of Daihonzan Sojiji's Founder Taizo Keizan Jokin Zenji on October 22. This preliminary memorial ceremony was observed in each of Soto Zen Buddhism's four international regions—North America, South America, Europe, and Hawaii—as a prelude to the 700th Great Memorial Ceremony to be held at Sojiji in 2024. These services are held once every fifty years, so I am honored to have been able to participate in these same ceremonies back in 1974 at Sojiji Monastery.

Thank you to all the guest ministers in attendance, our Hawaii ministers, Jizokukai, members of the Hawaii Soto Mission Association, and of course, all the members and supporters from within our Hawaii Soto Mission *ohana*. It was a wonderful weekend seeing everyone again. As we look forward to the holiday season, please take good care of yourselves.

In Gassho.

Shugen Komagata
Bishop Shugen Komagata



The Preliminary Memorial Ceremony for the 700th Anniversary of Daihonzan Sojiji's Founder Taizo Keizan Jokin Zenji and the 120th Anniversary of the Hawaii Soto Mission

The Hawaii Soto Mission Association's (HSMA) 2023 Fall Meeting and Conference were held on October 21 and 22, 2023 at the Soto Mission of Hawaii in Honolulu. The weekend's events included the Preliminary Memorial Ceremony for the 700th Anniversary of Daihonzan Sojiji's Founder Taizo Keizan Jokin Zenji and the 120th Anniversary of the Hawaii Soto Mission.

Saturday, October 21, 2023

HSMA Fall Meeting and Keynote Speaker, Rev. Konjin Godwin

After the Opening Ceremony was completed, special guest Rev. Konjin Godwin, Director of the Soto Zen Buddhism International Center and abbot of the Houston Zen Center, delivered a wonderful presentation on Soto Zen Buddhism in North America in front of the HSMA officers, delegates, ministers, and Jizoku (minister's spouse) gathered at Betsuin. Rev. Godwin shared a detailed analysis of the history, growth, and spread of Soto Zen, and her thoughts on what the future may hold for our organization. After a tasty lunch in the social hall, the HSMA held its fall meeting to discuss various topics that concern the Soto Mission temples statewide.

Preliminary Memorial Ceremony for the 700th Anniversary of Daihonzan Sojiji's Founder Taizo Keizan Jokin Zenji Special Decoction-offering

Late Saturday afternoon, a special ceremony offering "sweet hot water" to Taizo Keizan Jokin Zenji was held as a prelude to Sunday's memorial service dedicated to him. Rev. Shinko Miura, the Director of Education at Kasuisai Monastery in Japan, officiated this ceremony. Rev. Miura humbly offered a series of prostrations to pay homage to and show his deep respect to the co-founder of our Soto Zen School.



Priests entering the temple hall



Rev. Shinko Miura pictured with hands in gassho



The Preliminary Memorial Ceremony for the 700th Anniversary of Daihonzan Sojiji's Founder Taizo Keizan Jokin Zenji and the 120th Anniversary of the Hawaii Soto Mission

Sunday, October 22, 2023

The HSMA Conference attendees returned Sunday morning to the Soto Mission of Hawaii Betsuin and were joined by nearly 100 attendees and 30 ministers from Hawaii, the mainland, Japan, and South America to observe three very special services.

120th Year Memorial Service for Deceased Ministers, Jizoku, and Members of the Hawaii Soto Mission

Bishop Shugen Komagata officiated a memorial service dedicated to all deceased Hawaii ministers, their spouses, and to all members of the Hawaii Soto Mission who passed over the course of the last 120 years. Acknowledging the many hardships endured and sacrifices made for the sake of the Hawaii Soto Mission, Bishop Komagata led the ministers and congregation in solemn prayer for the repose of the deceased.



Bishop Komagata reads his invocation as Rev. Shuji looks on from the side



Rev. Konjin Godwin

Hawaii Soto Mission 120th Anniversary Service

Rev. Konjin Godwin returned to the spotlight to officiate the auspicious 120th Anniversary Service for the Hawaii Soto Mission. We were all extremely grateful for her presence and participation at these events. Just as Bishop Komagata has been able to do with the congregation in Hawaii, Rev. Godwin was able to make an instant connection with the English-speaking crowd at Betsuin.

Preliminary Memorial Ceremonies for the 700th Anniversary of Daihonzan Sojiji's Founder, Taizo Keizan Jokin Zenji

A very warm mahalo is extended to Rev. Tenyu Fukagawa, Director of Education and Dissemination at the Administrative Headquarters of Soto Zen Buddhism, for officiating the memorial service dedicated to Keizan Zenji. During this "preliminary" service—held a year ahead of the 700th Memorial Service at head temple Daihonzan Sojiji in 2024—Rev. Fukagawa offered Dharma words, sweet hot water, rice, alms, cakes, tea, incense, and 18 prostrations (yes, that's a lot of bows!)—to Keizan Zenji. Joined by the 29 other ministers, Rev. Fukagawa chanted the holy sutras while walking in circumambulation—a reverent procession on the altar. Albeit long, this ceremony was extremely beautiful and intriguing to witness.

Thank you to our very own Bishop Shugen Komagata, Rev. Tenyu Fukagawa, Rev. Konjin Godwin, Rev. Shinko Miura, the many other ministers in attendance, and of course to all the people who attended the ceremonies.



Rev. Tenyu Fukagawa offers sweet tea to Keizan Zenji



Ministers chant and walk in circumambulation

Saturday, December 16 16 Bodhisattva Precepts Class

On Saturday, December 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Soto Mission of Hawaii will host a study session on the 16 Bodhisattva precepts, which serve as the foundation of all Buddhist thought and practice in the Soto Zen tradition. This study session is open to anyone, including those who have already studied the precepts in the past. The class will be held at the Soto Mission of Hawaii (1708 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu, 96817). Registration is \$50 per person, and includes refreshments and lunch. Please contact Rev. Shuji by December 1 if you are interested in attending this class.

Sunday, December 17 Lay Confirmation Ceremony

A Lay Confirmation Ceremony will be held on Sunday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m. at the Soto Mission of Hawaii. During this ceremony, participants formally receive the 16 Bodhisattva Precepts and confirm themselves as Buddhists.

The Lay Confirmation Ceremony is open to those who attended the Precepts Class on December 16 and to individuals who participated in previous Precepts Classes. Please contact Rev. Shuji if you are interested in studying and formally receiving the Buddhist Precepts on December 17.



Hawaii Soto Mission Association Fall Meeting

On Saturday, October 21, 2023, Reverend Hirasawa and Treasurer Brian Moto represented Mantokuji Mission at the Hawaii Soto Mission Association (HSMA) Fall Meeting, held at the Soto Mission of Hawaii (Betsuin) on Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu.

At the meeting, delegates were introduced to the new resident minister for Kauai Zenshuji, Reverend Scott Daruma Mangis. Reverend Konjin Godwin of the Soto Zen Buddhism International Center delivered the Keynote Address on the spread of Zen Buddhism across the United States.

After a morning service and lunch, delegates discussed business agenda items, including:

- Approval of HSMA meeting travel expenses incurred by credentialed ministers from Hilo and Kauai.
- Support of Maui Wildfire Relief through donations to the Maui Buddhist Council.
- Proposed policy amendments to include Jizoku (temple families) and UHSSWA in HSMA events and meetings.
- The HSMA Spring Meeting on February 25, 2024, at Betsuin, the UHSSWA 57th Conference on April 27-28, 2024, at Hilo Taishoji, and the 10th U.S. Soto Conference to be held in 2025 in Hawaii.

In the evening, delegates and guests, including visiting clergy from the U.S. Mainland and Soto Shu Administrative Headquarters in Japan, enjoyed a nine-course Chinese banquet at Kirin Restaurant, in Waikiki. Reverend Yoshida entertained guests with his expert yo-yo skills.

On Sunday, October 22, 2023, delegates and the local community gathered for a series of three ceremonies: a Memorial Service for Deceased Ministers, Jizoku, and Hawaii Soto Mission Members; a 120th Anniversary Service for Hawaii Soto Mission Temples; and a Preliminary Memorial Ceremony for the 700th Anniversary of Daihonzan Sojiji's Founder, Taisho Keizan Jokin Zenji.



President's Message

Aloha everyone,

It was quite a year for Maui and Mantokuji. We stood powerless in disbelief as news of the devastating Lahaina and Kula fires was broadcast. We were all shaken by the lives lost and homes and businesses destroyed, but with the light of day and the strength of prayers, Maui quickly came together to do whatever they could to help the survivors. There is a long and arduous road ahead for the residents and business owners, but we will all continue to donate time and resources whenever possible.

Here at Mantokuji, we were blessed to be spared from any damage from the passing hurricane winds, but we did experience some movement of a few of the sand bags from our shoreline sand bag structure during one of spring's high surf events. With the aid of our project consultant, Mike Foley, his team at Oceanit, and contractor, Cody MacDonald (Cmac) repairs were completed before the next winter swells. We also began the process of addressing exposed fuel lines at the former site of our crematorium. And we were all excited and eager to launch Oceanit's Climate Change Toolkit Project that will give six young people the opportunity to learn a variety of skills needed to study and understand the challenges associated with sea level changes and shoreline erosion.

Reverend Tomoki Hirasawa begins the month with 8 days of zazen sessions from Friday, December 1 to Friday, December 8 at 8:00 am each morning. On Sunday, December 3, Rev. Hirasawa will conduct a Jodo-e Service at 10:30 am, followed by a Shakyo Session. We invite volunteers to our End-of-Year Cleaning on Sunday, December 17 beginning at 8:30 am. And finally, we end 2023 and ring in 2024 with Joya no Kane at 11:30 pm, Sunday, December 31. Have a safe and happy holiday month. Take care.

Mahalo,

Eric Moto

President, Mantokuji Kyodan

Jodo-e (Bodhi-Day) Service

Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 10:30am

Jodo-e or Bodhi Day is the occasion of the birth of Buddhism. The special day, December 8th, marks the moment of the enlightenment of Shakyamuni Buddha and beginning of the spreading of his compassionate teachings. Let us celebrate Bodhi Day together with friends and family.

Please join us to celebrate this special day!

Shakyo Session

Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 1:00pm

Shakyo means "tracing sutras." The Buddhist practice of Shakyo is a means of spreading the Buddha Way among people. Mindfully tracing the Heart Sutra and pictures of buddhas and bodhisattvas in silence unifies body, breath, and mind. During the Shakyo session, participants quietly sit at a table and trace the Heart Sutra, "Hannya Shingyo." We have English and Japanese versions. We will also have pictures of the Buddha and bodhisattva art works to trace.

Please join us for this opportunity to practice Shakyo.

Rohatsu Sesshin (8 days of morning zazen meditation)

December 1 – 8 (Friday to Friday) at 8:00am – 9:00am

Please join Rev. Hirasawa for Rohatsu Sesshin, 8 days of zazen meditation, designed to enable one to get in touch with one's own Buddha nature. Although it's preferred to attend all sessions, you are welcome to join for the days you are able to attend.

End of the Year Clean Up Day – Sunday, December 17, 2023

An annual yearly tradition at Mantokuji is to thoroughly clean the temple, buildings and grounds in preparation for the New Year. It is believed that good luck visits each household on New Year's Day, so we thoroughly clean our homes in preparation for the New Year.

We would like to ask for your kokua to assist us with cleaning our temple, buildings and grounds before the New Year so we don't carry over impurities of the past year to the New Year. On this day, we like to do cleaning that we normally don't get to do on our regular monthly cleaning days.

Our annual end of the year cleanup day is scheduled for **Sunday, December 17 2023 from 8:30am**. Please come with your gloves, face masks if you choose, and any other tools you need for cleaning. **We would appreciate your kokua.**

Joya no Kane

Saturday, December 31, 2023 @ 11:30pm

According to ancient custom, the bell is typically rung 108 times on December 31 and into the New Year. Bridging one year to the next, the bell is rung a total of 108 times. This number represents the **108 worldly desires** (These desires refer to the anxiety and hardships caused by material wants.) that a person experiences throughout the course of their life. When the bell is finally struck for the 108th time, it is believed that you'll be cleansed of your problems and worries from last year.

Come and join us for Joya no Kane, the ringing of our big bronze bell 108 times. A New Year's Blessing Service will be held following Joya no Kane.

There will also be a New Year's Blessing Service on Sunday January 7, 2024 at 10:30am.

Looking forward to seeing you at Joya no Kane or the New Year's Blessing Service!

Donations made in October

We would like to sincerely thank you for your very generous donations.

General Donations

Tammy H. Honjiyo.

Debra A. Nakama

In Memory of Mitsue & Katsumi Nemoto

Donation made for Darumaki Service held on October 1, 2023

Howard & Bobbie Arita, Kazuko & Frida Boeker, Yuriko Fukagawa, Risa & Anna Hiester, Tad & JoAnn Kato, Hideo & Joyce Kawahara Ohana, Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Gary & Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Allan & Cathy Murayama, Melina Murayama & Erick & Sage Domingo, Diane Y. Orikasa, Ann K. Takakura, Nora H. Takeuchi, Sharon H. Ueoka, Neil & Joyce Watanabe, Les & Debbie Yokote.

Donations made in October In Memory of Baron Ueoka

Howard & Bobbie Arita, Marian Barclay, Lydia Furomoto, Kay H. Hanano, Thelma & Jayson Kasai, Jane N. Omura, Mele & Roy G. Ueoka, Ronald & Vivian Ueoka, Mitzi, Keiko & Jade Watari.

Donations made in October In Memory of Stella Kimura

Lori Ann Dela Cruz Ohana, Wendy A. Hlga, Blanche N. Ito, Mieko Kanemoto, Rose A. Kawasaki, Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Jean H. Kuwada, Richelle Lu, Maybelle A. Moore, Iris T. Nitta, Lynne Schildmeyer, Iris S. Takitani, Stacey & Tracy Teshima, Antoinette Tampoya, Joyce Yamada.

700 Years: In the Footsteps of Zen Master Keizan Zenji

Save the Date April 21-24, 2024

Join the Soto Zen Buddhism International Center on a tour April 21-24, 2024, in honor of Keizan Zenji's importance to everyone in Soto Zen, the 700th year after his entry into parinirvana.

Please join the tour with your sangha members. You can arrive in Japan anytime before April 21st and join the International Center April 21st. Or you can plan to stay on after the tour ends on April 24th.

The tour begins April 21st at Fukui station near Eiheiji. We will visit and practice together at Eiheiji, founded by Dogen Zenji. We will stay the night in a nearby onsen/hot springs hotel. April 22nd we will travel by Shinkansen/bullet train together to Sojiji, founded by Keizan Zenji, for a lecture on Keizan Zenji and for major ceremonies on April 22nd and 23rd. We will stay at Sojiji and participate in morning zazen and ceremonies.



On April 23rd, in the afternoon, we will visit Shumuchō/Soto Zen Headquarters in Tokyo. We will stay at the Tokyo Grand Hotel, which is operated by Shumuchō.

Details and costs for the trip are in development, but the members of the Soto Zen Buddhism International Center want to keep you informed. We will send further information as it develops. We will be with you on the trip.

For further information, and answers to any questions, please contact Zenki Nishimura, the International Center secretary based at Sokoji in San Francisco. zenki@sotozen.com. You are welcome to sign up now to reserve a place.

We look forward to seeing you on the journey.

Below: The sodo of Sojiji. Above: Hondo, Dharma Hall of Sojiji.



Special Thanks

To **Wayne Kobayashi and Ashley Torricer** of Printers Inc. for donation of the colored Climate Change Toolkit flyer included in the November mangan.

To **Neil Watanabe** for trimming the hedge in the Japanese Garden.

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December 2023

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December						1 8:00am-9:00am Rohatsu Sesshin	2 8:00am-9:00am Rohatsu Sesshin
	3 8:00am-9:00am Rohatsu Sesshin 10:30am Jodo-e Service 1:00pm Shakyo Session	4 8:00am-9:00am Rohatsu Sesshin	5 8:00am-9:00am Rohatsu Sesshin	6 8:00am-9:00am Rohatsu Sesshin	7 8:00am-9:00am Rohatsu Sesshin	8 8:00am-9:00am Rohatsu Sesshin	9
	10 8:30am Cleanup 10:30am Fujinkai meeting	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17 8:30am End of Year Clean- up Day	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31 11:30pm Joya no Kane						

Coming up in January (Tentative Schedule)	
Sunday 7	New Year's Blessing Service & O-fuda Yaki Service
Sunday 14	Clean up, Fujinkai Meeting, Kyodan Meeting

Hospital and Hale Makua Visitations
are scheduled during the month.