



May 2020

Dates to Remember

Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo Service Cancelled

Yagura Construction

June 28

Mantokuji O-Bon

July 10 and 11

Our Mission: Paia Mantokuji is a Soto Zen Buddhist temple founded in 1906 by 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 Mantokuji's short term vision is to stay in place in Paia, as a vibrant and relevant Soto Zen Buddhist Mission.

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

President's Message

Aloha Everyone,

As we continue to live through this novel coronavirus pandemic, it is difficult to know what message to send to you all for Mantokuji's May Mangan. It is still early April as I write and experts predict that the peak of the crisis is yet to come for Maui and the rest of the nation. The unknowns ahead make planning for this month and the summer months to follow difficult. We hope that your kitchens are well stocked and you all have the necessary supplies to keep you safe. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we put our schedule of previously planned services and events for these last couple of months on hold. We say mahalo to our Mantokuji board of directors who work at safe physical distances, making sure to process incoming member fees and donations, monitor ongoing work projects, maintain the grounds and facilities, and pay the bills. We pray that our sangha will be able to gather together before too long and that we all make it through this still whole and healthy.

Mantokuji's next big event is our O-Bon scheduled on July 10 and 11. Our board members have a lot to consider as we begin what is normally a time of planning and preparation. We will be seeking advice from the Bishop's office on Oahu and consulting with the Maui Buddhist Council while discussing the status of our O-Bon festivities.

In the meantime, we hope you all find wisdom in the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha, seek solace in meditation and prayer, and take comfort in the spiritual fellowship of our sheltering sangha. Please take care.

With aloha,

Eric Moto
President Mantokuji Kyodan

Also enclosed in this issue:


Dharma Lei n.32

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Fujinkai News

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic that the world is experiencing at this time, all Fujinkai activities have been suspended until further notice. Please be assured that Mantokuji is being looked after and the grounds are being maintained.

Please be safe and keep healthy by practicing “social distancing”, staying at home, washing your hands with soap and water frequently for at least 20 seconds, cleaning and disinfecting frequently, and if need to go out, wearing a face mask.

A Message from the President of Administrative Headquarters of Soto Zen Buddhism

Rev. Shunei Oniuda

I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences for those who have lost their precious lives from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and offer a prayer that they may rest in peace.

For those who have been affected by this illness, I pray that they will recover as soon as possible, and I would like to offer my deepest sympathy to their families and relatives who have also been affected by this illness.

Also, my thoughts are with all those experiencing tremendous difficulties whose lives have been affected by the spread of this epidemic and the need to stay home.

In the Kamakura Period of Japanese history when Dogen Zenji was teaching, there were times when cool summers caused by climate change often brought poor harvests. There were outbreaks of plague, and, during the Great Kanki Famine (1230-31), it is said that about a third of the population of Japan perished. In times such as these, Dogen Zenji emphasized that these were the very times to not neglect the Buddha Way.

With the spread of the novel coronavirus infection, many people are upset. They are frightened because of the spread of the infection and anxious because their own lives are at risk. It is in such a time that the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha, Dogen Zenji, and Keizan Zenji are necessary.

Shakyamuni Buddha taught right view, right speech, and right practice in the face of the sufferings of sickness and death. It is necessary to have correct and current information about the novel coronavirus infection to insure that harmful rumors and discrimination do not occur. It is also necessary to take care so that we do not become infected by this virus and other people are also not infected.

Even if people are agitated or anxious in the confusion caused by others who are fearful and buy up or hoard food and other goods, let us act calmly. Let us act in accordance with the spirit of Dogen Zenji's teaching of the intention of first saving others before ourselves and in accordance with the Bodhisattva's Four Embracing Actions.

By doing our best to disinfect our hands and maintain proper etiquette when coughing and sneezing, we are preventing not only our own infection but practicing good hygiene so that others are not infected. This is to naturally practice the way of benefitting others.

Also, Keizan Zenji taught that we should have compassion and love for all things, that we should sympathize with others' sufferings as if they are our own, and that with the mind of compassion we should be diligent in the practice of zazen. I encourage you to endeavor to practice zazen during this time that we must spend quietly at home.

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Bishop's Office Newsletter

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Second Quarter, 2020

Issue No. 32

Bishop's Message: **Bishop Shugen Komagata**

Aloha from the Bishop's Office,

I hope you are doing well. As you already know, the world is currently in a great state of worry and uncertainty regarding COVID19, also known as the Novel Coronavirus.

In many parts of the world where the number of infected people is rising, Soto Zen Buddhism has taken measures to prevent the spread of this virus. I was informed that Rev. Ryoju Tahara of the Soto Zen Buddhism South America Office in Brazil is just one of many ministers who decided to temporarily close their temples for the duration of the outbreak. Many Soto Zen temples in Japan will have observed their Ohigan service without their congregation present.

In Hawaii, we are also facing an increasingly difficult situation that seems to change with each passing day. The Soto Mission of Hawaii has cancelled all the services and all activities, including classes, events, and meetings until the end of April 30. Please contact your temple to learn about any schedule changes or cancellations.

While we hope and pray for the best, it is important that each of us does his or her part to keep our families and ourselves safe. I encourage you to do simple things like frequently washing your hands. Around the world, the "first bump" has replaced the handshake. Perhaps we can also bow to one another with two hands in *gassho* instead of shaking hands!

Since the novel coronavirus may be spread even by individuals who may not be exhibiting symptoms, we have been encouraged to avoid unnecessary exposure by not going out into public, especially if you're older or have a preexisting medical condition. Although this new practice of "social distancing" appears to be the "new normal" until we gain the upper hand over the spread of this illness, we must remember to continue to be compassionate and caring towards others.

I will continue to pray for your health and safety. Please remain vigilant, and take care of yourself and loved ones.

In Gassho,

Bishop Shugen Komagata

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Shushogi, Chapter 4: Verses 21-25

By Rev. Shuji Komagata
Soto Mission of Aiea



This article is part of a series of commentaries on the sutra, Shushogi, mainly comprised of extracts taken directly from Dogen Zenji's Shobogenzo (The Treasury of the True Dharma Eye).

In this article, I will discuss the meaning of the Bodaisatta Shishobo, which is written in Chapter 4, verses 21-25 of the Shushogi. The Bodaisatta Shishobo, written by Dogen Zenji on May 5, 1243, describes the "four actions of a bodhisattva." Since we are all aspiring bodhisattvas in our Soto Zen tradition, the Shishobo describes what we should be practicing in our daily lives. To gain a better understanding of the Shishobo, let's first discuss in a little more detail what "Shishobo" means. The "shi" part of "Shishobo" means four; "Sho" refers to embracing, unifying, or integrative. "Bo" is another reading for "ho," with means the path, way, or method. Therefore, we can interpret the "Shishobo" as the four skillful ways a bodhisattva embraces all living beings. Most importantly though, is that we must understand that these four actions of the Shishobo are not only about what we do, but also the mindset we must have when helping others.

The first action is, "Fuse," or "giving." Rev. Hirotsato Yoshida discussed fuse in the previous Dharma Lei (Chapter 4, verse 21), so I will not discuss it in detail here. However, in a nutshell, "fuse" refers to being generous without seeking or expecting anything in return. We engage in free giving simply to share our strength with others.

The second action is "Aigo," or "kind speech" (Chapter 4, verse 22). At the very least, Dogen Zenji did say that we should refrain from rude or unkind speech. I'm certain you have heard the phrase, "If you have nothing good to say, then don't say anything at all." It is true that we should refrain from hurting others with our words. However, the basic meaning behind the Shishobo is to focus on action, not non action. While refraining from unkind speech may avoid negative results, there is so much more positive potential in bringing joy to other people through the sharing of kind and loving words. We should endeavor to share caring and loving words with others. However, this can sometimes be very challenging. Although we may not always agree with others, the key is to shift our perspective and position on things that enables us to successfully find ways to engage in kind speech. According to Dogen Zenji, when meeting others, we think kindly of them and offer them affectionate words. Kind speech is fundamental for pacifying one's enemies and fostering harmony among one's friends. We should realize that kind speech has the power to move the heavens.

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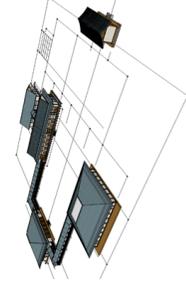
The third action is “Rigyo,” or “beneficial deeds” (Chapter 4, verse 23). Although “beneficial deeds” means finding ways to help others, it is much more involved than simply responding compassionately in the moment to someone in need. According to Dogen Zenji, “beneficial deeds” are defined as acting “skillfully to benefit all classes of sentient beings; that is, to care about their distant and near future, and to help them by using skillful means.” It is like a mother picking up a crying baby, who does it without seeking reward or thanks.

The fourth action is “Doji,” or “cooperation” (Chapter 4, verse 24). “Do” means same, and “ji” means thing or task. Therefore, “doji” is often translated as cooperation or empathy. Another translation can be to have “identity of purpose,” or “sharing the same aim.” I personally like the interpretation, “being in the same boat.” Doji means not to differentiate; to make no distinction between self and others. Cooperation means the association of persons for a common benefit. We must see ourselves in others and others in ourselves.

In the Shushogi, chapter 4, verse 25, a summary of the Shishobo is given. Remember, in the title, “Bodaisatta Shishobo,” bodaisatta (bodhisattva) refers not only to Kannon-sama or Ojizo-sama. It also refers to all ordinary human beings. Your life is precious and you must not waste it. You should give generously; speak kind words, help others, and empathize with others, not for personal gains, whether material or spiritual, but rather solely for the sake of the act itself. These actions should be done with awakening to the true reality of emptiness and interdependent origination. This is the true practice of Buddhism.

Progress of the Tenpyozan Bodaishinji Project

LOCATION: 23700 Morgan Valley Road, Lower Lake, CA 95457, U.S.A



Donation. *Tenpyozan is a 501(c)(3) organization (Tax ID: 30-0853001); donations are tax deductible

There are two easy ways to contribute to Tenpyozan:

1) Secure online donation through the website (www.tenpyozan.org)

First click on “Get Involved” and you will see a donation button.

Our recently upgraded online donation platform is easy to use and secure

2) By mailing a check

Tenpyozan c/o Oakland Zen Center

6140 Chabot Road Oakland, CA 94618 USA

☆ We Need ☆

(1st Period, site preparation and Monk’s Hall)

○ Bridge and road work at the site: \$200,000

○ Change Water storage tank: \$200,000

○ Restroom Attached Zendo (GOKA): \$200,000



Every little help will make the Gigantic Future for ZEN

Donations made in March

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

General Donations

Patricia "Pachi" Haber, Natalie Hashimoto, Mitsuru Hirano & Juaneva Smith, Carol Lau, Leslie Maeda, Anna Mae Shishido, Celia CU Suzuki & Yukie Ueoka, Daniel & Jane Takahashi, David Trehwitt, Albert & Glenda Ujiie, Stanley Yumen.

Janice Abe & James Char	Shoreline Erosion Project
Kumasaka Family	1 st Year Memorial Service for Kiyoe Kumasaka
Koki Masuda	Shoreline Erosion Project
Celia CU Suzuki	In Memory of Akio Hanano for Shoreline Erosion Project
Brian & Joyce Takahashi	3 rd Year Memorial Service for Bryce Takahashi
Les & Linda Takahashi	In Memory of Bryce Takahashi

Donations received for 43rd Annual Bazaar on March 1, 2020

Shirley Kodani, Carol Lau, Gladys Nagata, Meyer & Sharon Ueoka.

Donations received for the Spring O-Higan & Kisan Rekijyu-ki Services on March 15, 2020

Yuriko Fukagawa, Kay Hanano, Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Gary & Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Allan & Cathy Murayama, Mark & Lois Sato, June Sachie & Eric Toyota, and Misa Umetsu.

Announcements

Nokotsudo Closed

In the absence of a resident minister, temple members have been driving to Mantokuji to open and close the nokotsudo on Saturdays and Sundays. To comply with the "stay in place" mandate by the Centers for Disease Control, Governor Ige and Mayor Victorino and to be sure that everyone is safe, the nokotsudo will be closed until further notice. Thank you for your understanding.

United Hawaii Soto Shu Women's Association Cookbook 2nd Edition

The United Hawaii Soto Shu Women's Association (UHSSWA) will be producing another cookbook (2nd Edition) for their 2020 fundraiser. The goal is to get the cookbook published and ready to sell for Christmas 2020. Each temple is asked to submit 25-30 recipes or more to help with this project. If you have any recipe or recipes you would like to share, please mail, email or bring them to Mantokuji when we resume meetings.

In Memoriam

We express our heartfelt sympathy to the family of:

Ross Tamayose, 87 years, passed on March 1, 2020.

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

Namu Kie Butsu, Namu Kie Ho, Namu Kie So



Welcome, New Member

The Mantokuji Sangha extends a warm welcome to the following new member:

James Mitchell

We are always grateful to have new members. For information about membership, please contact the temple.

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P.O. Box 790207
Paia, HI 96779

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May 2020

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Coming up in June (Tentative Schedule)	
Sunday 14	Clean up, Fujinkai & Kyodan Meetings
Sunday 28	O-Bon Committee Meeting & Yagura Construction

Hospital and Hale Makua
Visitations will resume when
advised it is safe.