

# HAKUHO



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APRIL 2021

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Rev. Shinsho Hata

Aloha, Members and Friends of Taishoji,

On March 14, we held our Spring Higan Service and Osunafumi Service (33 Kannon Pilgrimage). I invited a contemporary Japanese Mai dancer, Mrs. Shizuno Nasu as our special guest for the Osunafumi Service. At the end of the service, my wife and I had a Baika chanting (Kannon Gowasan) for Kannon Sama with her dancing. Mrs. Shizuno Nasu cherishes prayer very much. We also cherish prayer. By praying for Buddha or Kannon Sama, the mind



Rev and Mrs. Hata and Mrs. Shizuno Nasu

of our gratitude and compassion will be cultivated. I'm grateful for her participation and the time we spent together was very meaningful. During the Ohigan season, there are special practices for reaching the other shore of Enlightenment which Buddha taught. We call them "**the perfection of six practices**" in English, "**Rokuhara mitsu 六波羅蜜**" in Japanese. The six practices are **Giving (dana), Keeping the precepts (sila), Endurance (kshanti), Endeavor (virya), Meditation (dhyana), and Wisdom (prajna)**. These are not hard practices. Anyone can do them. I'll explain each of them. The **First** practice is **Giving (dana)**. This practice means to provide food, money, our knowledge of Buddhism to others. To provide kind speech, a happy smiling face or a warm glance to others are also the practice of giving. I recommend you provide something for others instead of desiring something from others in your daily life. The **Second** practice is **Keeping the precepts (sila)**. This practice means to keep Buddhist precepts or always respect the rules of society to live with others comfortably. In our daily life, there are a lot of rules. We must not steal something from others or hurt others and things. The important thing is to keep the rules whatever we do even if no one is watching. We tend to follow the rules when people watch us and not follow the rules when no one watches us. For example, littering the street or writing graffiti or destroying something on others' property. Even if no one watches us, Buddha always watches us. **continued on next page**

Let's be a person who always keeps rules and does good deeds for others. The **Third** practice is **Endurance (kshanti)**. This practice means to not be angry and to spend our daily life calmly. Life is not all good. We sometimes cannot control our anger and might hurt others or use bad words with others in our daily life. But if we are angry, we always regret it eventually. We lose sight of ourselves through anger. Conversely, if we can keep our anger down, we can always look at ourselves with an objective eye and think calmly. Let's be a person who always is calm with compassion like Buddha. The **Fourth** practice is **Endeavor (virya)**. This practice means to keep up the effort wholeheartedly. When we work, study or play sports, we cannot receive good results without effort. And the important thing is to keep up the effort. The Kannon chanting and dancing performance with Mrs. Shizuno Nasu was successful since I practiced a lot with my wife and Mrs. Nasu. Just because everything went well once doesn't mean we can stop the effort. To keep up the effort wholeheartedly is important. The **Fifth** practice is **Meditation (dhyana)**. This practice means to have a calm and peaceful mind without thinking of many things at a time. In our daily life, we sometimes cannot stay calm and have a busy mind thinking about our job or school. If we think about many things at a time, we might feel depressed or not be able to do what we have to do right now. If we stay calm, we have room in our hearts and can organize our thoughts. I recommend you sit in Zazen to calm your mind. Or you can write what you have to do today on a paper and give priority to those tasks. The **Sixth** practice is **Wisdom (prajna)**. This practice means to make a good judgment based on our experience of Buddhist practices. We can learn what is good judgment through our experience of five practices, giving, keeping the precepts, endurance, endeavor and meditation. For example, if you gave your money to a poor person as the practice of giving and the poor person used the money to gamble, it is not a good practice of giving. The person just wastes your money. Then, you will learn that you should have supported the person in a different way. The behavior which we think is good for others sometimes has a negative effect depending on the person. So we can learn through lots of different experiences. Everyone fails sometimes, but we can use the experience for our future life. To cultivate wisdom, we need to do Buddhist practices in our daily life. Through the practice of wisdom, we can enrich our life even more.

These are the six practices for Ohigan. Which practice are you interested in? And please imagine that if you practice the teachings for your family and friends, how will your life change? If you become a giving person, how will your family and friends think about you? If you keep up the effort wholeheartedly toward your dream, how will your future change? I hope you will try to do the practices and that they will bring you good effect. Let's have the perfection of the six practices for ourselves and others.

In Gassho,  
Rev. Shinsho Hata

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha Members & Friends of Taishoji,

Thank you members and friends who came to set up for our 33 Kannon Osunafumi Service held on March 14 via live attendance, Facebook & YouTube. Thank you Fujin Kai and others who helped to prepare the ono bento lunches due to COVID19 for people who attended the service to take home, since we could not have a gathering in the hall for lunch and the donors of the many desserts. Thank you

Due to this pandemic, for now I hope you are watching our temple services live on **Facebook** and in the afternoon on **YouTube**. If you want, you can also attend in person by calling **Taishoji at 808-935-8407** to hold a space for you. Our services and activities are listed on the monthly newsletter. Please join us.

Although our temple services and activities are scheduled on our yearly calendar that was mailed out at the beginning of the year, due to COVID 19, we need to make adjustments here and there by changing dates and times and canceling some events. We are now in the wait and see portion of our planning to see if the other temples are going to cancel their Bon Dance or not and deciding if we should have a Garage Sale or not this year which was cancelled last year due to the virus. Please watch for updates in our monthly newsletter on changes happening during the course of this year. If you can not attend the services, you can always watch it **Live on Facebook & YouTube in the afternoon or whenever you are able.**

In Gassho,  
Rodney Nishino

## FUJIN KAI

Aloha Dear Members and Friends of Fujin Kai,

How are you doing? I hope you are doing well and are feeling hopeful as we enter the full bloom of spring.

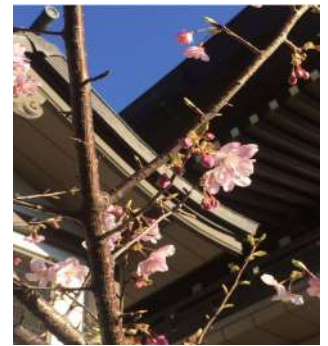
Taishoji Fujin Kai marked its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last year, 2020. It was a difficult year but the future is starting to become brighter. As our 81<sup>st</sup> year of Taishoji Fujin Kai proceeds, I appreciate each of you today and pay respect to all the ladies who have loved and worked so hard for this wonderful community in the past. So many loving memories are shared by family and friends here. Gassho.

We will celebrate Hanamatsuri on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Again socially distanced in-person and via online, Facebook live stream and later on YouTube.

The study session of the Bodhisattva16 precepts taught by Reverend Jiko Nakade of Kona Daifukuji is coming to a close and I would like to share with you a subject that stood out to me, "**Mindful Speech**". This precept gives us a practical guideline of how to speak in mindful ways. We can ask **(5)** questions to ourselves before we speak; **1)** Is it the right time to speak? **2)** Is it the truth? **3)** Is it loving? **4)** Is it beneficial? **5)** Is it spoken with a mind of good will? This study session was a great learning experience and I will share more of what I have learned with you in the future.

If you have any questions, suggestions about Fujin Kai, or address changes etc., please let me know. Also new members are always welcome! (Tel: 808-345-1765 Email: [hilo1989@gmail.com](mailto:hilo1989@gmail.com))

With Gratitude In Gassho,  
Yoko Gussman



Plum Flower Blossom  
at Soji-ji Temple, Japan

## BUSSHIN KAI NEWS

Aloha, Everyone,

I hope you had your vaccine shot (s). Just be strong, live long and happy, OK?

For us Buddhists, something dreadful is going on in southeastern Africa that concerns our religion and heritage. Every 15 minutes, a bush elephant is being poached (illegally shot) by uncaring persons. In 10 years the gentle giants, who live on the plains and savannahs of east central Africa (in the Seregeti and Maasai Mara regions in Kenya and Tanzania), will become extinct. These are the largest elephants on earth and cannot be tamed. The more familiar Asian (Indian) elephant can be tamed and its head is the highest point of its body. The bush elephant's back is its highest point and their tusks curve up. Marc Goss who leads the Mara Elephant writes: I still remember it like it was yesterday. I was hiding quietly less than 150 feet from a herd of elephants slowly gathering around the mutilated body of a loved one, whose face had been hacked off by poachers to make a quick escape with their ivory plunder. It was little unnerving to see a herd of elephants suddenly stop and stand side-by-side in pure silence, but what happened next stole the breath from my lungs as I watched in stunned silence as the elephants began solemnly comforting one another while taking turns paying their final respect to a beloved member of their herd with gentle strokes of their trunks. The soft moans and masked cries of the bereaved made it painfully obvious that I was watching an elephant funeral. As you can imagine, an elephant funeral is difficult to watch. The sadness pouring from these gentle giants as they took turn honoring their loved one was over-whelming. While the herd slowly peeled away from the scene one by one, I learned those closest to the slain elephant (especially children) often stand sentry over the body for days, unwilling to leave until the herd returns to rescue them from their grief. Sometimes, however, the bereaved elephants are so grief-stricken, they're unable to return to their daily lives and eventually starve to death, literally dying from the inescapable sadness. It's heart-wrenching to witness first-hand how elephants, like humans, suffer intense heart-break from the death of a family member or loved one especially one violently slain before their time. And just as you and I visit the graves of those we've lost, this herd will return to this exact spot for years to mourn their loved one, heart-breaking proof that "an elephant never forgets."

As I watched these gentle giants grieving together, I was crushed by the realization that they just lost something incalculably more valuable than the \$6,000 worth of ivory poachers stole from them. And my heart broke knowing another herd of elephants is about to suffer the same devastating loss because poachers murder...ONE ELEPHANT EVERY 15 MINUTES.

In the amount of time it took you to get ready this morning, poachers could've taken the lives of at least two elephants. The time it takes you to watch your favorite television show is the same as two more elephants slain, and a dinner at your favorite restaurant is another four elephants gone forever. (Continued on next page)

I'm not trying to burden you with guilt, but I want you to see...WE'RE RACING AGAINST THE CLOCK. Poachers slaughter over 35,000 elephants a year, which is 10% of all remaining elephants. With criminal poaching operations growing more wide-spread, organized, and advanced...Poachers alone could wipe-out every single elephant within the next 10 years. But elephants are also being killed at an alarming rate by human encroachment, loss of habitat (living space), and human-elephant conflicts (home and city constructions, farming new fields and killings by elephants.) This coming together of threats has forced elephants to the brink of extinction. With this crisis is fast approaching the point of no return...EVERY SECOND COUNTS.

For us Buddhists, elephants are very special. In a legend, a white elephant, in a dream, entered the side of Queen Maya of the Shaka Clan and made her pregnant with the baby Siddhartha Gautama, whose birth is celebrated on Hanamatsuri Day (Flower Festival) and who 35 years later was enlightened to become Shakyamuni Buddha (The Wise Man of the Shaka Clan). He was the Historical Buddha, and he lived and died as all humans do.

-- Walter Tachibana

## BASICS

From the Dhammapada, it is written " Speak or act with a pure mind, and happiness will follow you like a shadow that never leaves you. Speak or act with an impure mind, and trouble will follow you, as the wheel follows the hoof of the draught-ox."

This is simply Karma. One of the basic principles of life, accepted and taught by Buddhism and other religions. Karma is why the morality put forth in the Buddha's Noble Eight Fold Path is so important. That is Right speech, Right action, and Right livelihood. We need to pay attention to these things because we make many large and small decisions every day. These decisions all affect our daily lives, for good or bad.

There are two things about Karma we have to know. One is that there is no escape. We will always receive the results of our actions. Second is that you cannot build up merit, (read the dialogue between Bodhidharma and Emperor Wu-Ti of the Liang dynasty).

Even if you do many good things, then do something bad, the bad action will always have a corresponding result. It is easy for us to see the results of our large mistakes, but sometimes small mistakes are more difficult to see, but still yet give us smaller problems.

If we learn to recognize Karma in our daily lives, we become more careful of the things we say and do. Then life runs a little smoother,

In Gassho,  
Deacon Juho

## BIBF HANAMATSURI ZOOM SERVICE



**DR. MANULANI  
ALULI MEYER**

The Big Island Buddhist Federation will be holding a Hanamatsuri Zoom Service in celebration of the birth of the Historical Buddha on **April 4, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** The featured speaker will be Dr. Manulani Aluli Meyer. The topic will be "Awakening Intelligence in These Times".

Manulani Aluli Meyer is the fifth daughter of Emma Aluli and Harry Meyer who grew up on the sands of Mokapu and Kailua beach on the island of O'ahu, and along the rainy shoreline of Hilo Palikū. She works in the field of indigenous philosophy and its role in world-wide awakening. Professor Manulani Aluli Meyer obtained her doctorate in Philosophy of Education from Harvard (Ed.D.1998) and has taught at UH Hilo, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, and UH West Oahu. She has been nourished by the Dharma for 40+ years. Ulu a'e ke welina a ke aloha. Loving is the practice of an awake mind.

A limited number of people without Zoom access will be allowed to view the service in the YBA Hall at the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin located at 398 Kilauea Avenue.

Anyone interested in this option should call the Hilo Betsuin Office at 961-6677 to reserve a seat by April 1, 2021. For those who would like to participate in the ritual of pouring sweet tea over baby Buddha (representing the sweet rain that fell when the Buddha was born), a drive through option will be available at the Sangha Hall from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The Zoom Meeting link is:

<https://zoom.us/j/93470607158?pwd=NTdqRDBaUmhSQ2VXZHM5ZzdGOEZGUT09>

Meeting ID: 934 7060 7158

Passcode: HHHB



## DAILY ZEN FOREVER CALENDAR

Taishoji is selling a new Zen Calendar "**HIMEKURI ZEN.**" Each page has a Zen word which encourages your life. 31 Zen words was selected by Rev. Shinsho Hata. All the calligraphies was written by **Mr. Koki Takehara, Japanese Calligraphy Artist**, who gave his live performance at **Taishoji in 2017** and at the **BIBF Service in 2018**. You can put the calendar on a table or hang it on the wall. The cost is **\$12** each. If you are interested in purchasing a calendar, please call **Rev. Hata (808-935-8407)**.



MR. KOKI TAKEHARA



DAILY ZEN FOREVER CALENDAR



## DAILY ZEN FOREVER CALENDAR

This forever calendar pages must be turned daily to coincide with the day of the month. This calendar does not have to be changed or recycled yearly since it has no **DAY, MONTH OR YEAR** written on it. It can be used year after year. In other words this is a **FOREVER CALENDAR**. Calendar on left is free standing on a table and calendar on right is hung on the wall. When you reach day 16, you have to turn the calendar around and flip the page to day 17. When you reach day 30 or 31 and you want to go to day 1, you turn the calendar around again and turn the page to day 1.



Rev. Hata on his Pilgrimage

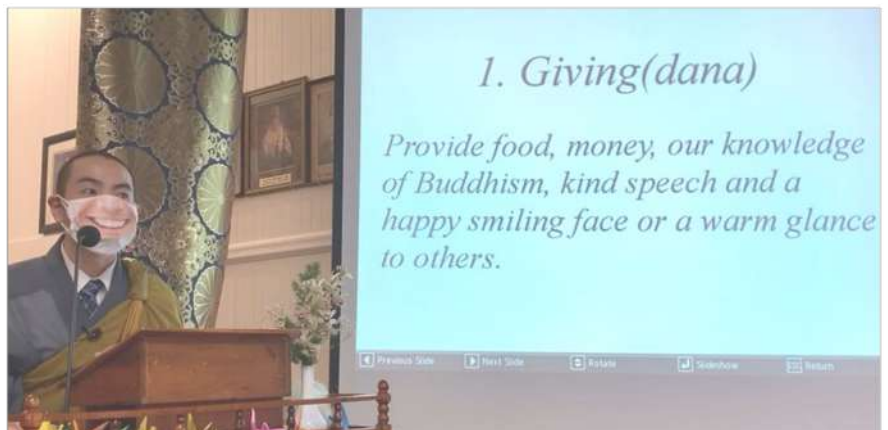


33 Kannon Sama



Social Distancing during their Pilgrimage

**Giving!** Rev. Hata provided his offering of a happy smiling face with a printed smiling mouth on the face mask during his sermon



### APRIL 2021 TAISHOJI SCHEDULE

3	Sat	7:00 am	Temple cleaning Group # 3
4	Sun	9:00 am	<b>BIBF Hanamatsuri Service (Honpa Hongwanji)</b>
10	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 4
11	Sun	9:30 am	<b>Taishoji Hanamatsuri / Kannon-Ko / Toba Kuyo (Kyodan Service)</b>
		11:00 am	<b>Kyodan Meeting</b>
17	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
18	Sun	9:00 am	SS / Family Service
24	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
25	Sun	9:00 am	SS / Family Service

### TENTATIVE MAY 2021 TAISHOJI SCHEDULE

1	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
2	Sun	9:00 am	<b>SS / Family Service / Children's Day (S/S)</b>
8	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 4
9	Sun	9:00 am	SS / Family Service
		10:00 am	<b>Kyodan Meeting</b>
		1:00 pm	<b>Fujin Kai Meeting</b>
15	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
16	Sun	9:00 am	SS / Family Service
22	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
23	Sun	9:00 am	SS / Family Service
29	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
30	Sun	9:00 am	SS / Family Service (Last SS / Family Service) (SS resumes again September 5, 2021 at 9:00am)
31	Mon	9:45 am	<b>BIBF Memorial Day Svc at Veterans Cemetery #1</b>

### SUNDAY SCHOOL / FAMILY SERVICE

*Sunday School / Family Services* will be with participants in attendance and can be viewed ON Facebook (live) and YouTube in the afternoon. Copy & paste the links in your browser

Facebook Link - <https://www.facebook.com/Taishoji-Soto-Mission-121688031174831/>

YouTube Link - [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSQ4EVuqUml\\_rGhb1c-8RQQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSQ4EVuqUml_rGhb1c-8RQQ)

**CDC GUIDELINES ON MASK AND SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE FOLLOWED**

### TAISHOJI ZAZEN / YOGA / TAIKO / TROOP 95 / GO SCHEDULE

Yoga & Zazen	Monday	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
<b>ZAZEN</b>	<b>SUNDAY'S / BEFORE SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>	<b>8:00 am - 8:35 am</b>
Taiko	Thursday, Friday	5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
Troop 95	Wednesday	7:15 pm

### TEMPLE DUES

I know this is a terrible time for all of us. Maybe some of us have forgotten to pay our dues or need assistance. If you do, please call Taishoji at 935-8407 and speak to Rev. Hata and he will assist you or get in touch with someone who can. Dues are used for our temple maintenance, upkeep of the grounds, paper goods and supplies, cleaning and sanitizing supplies for COVID 19 so we can have our members come to the services in person and be assured it is safe. Hand sanitizers are available at the entrance to the hondo & the hondo is sanitized after every service.

In Gassho, Rodney Nishino