



HAKUHO

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Aloha, Members and Friends of Taishoji,

“On March 20, we had the Spring Higan and Osunafumi service. Higan is good opportunity to convey our gratitude to our ancestors. Also, Higan is great opportunity to use Buddhist teachings in our daily life. I’d like to share this teaching with all of you. It is **“The Seven Kinds of Offering (無財の七施 MUZAI NO SHICHISE).”** There are seven kinds of offering which can be practiced by even those who are not wealthy. I’ll introduce all the seven offerings.

The first is **the offering of eyes**. This is to offer a warm glance to others that will give them tranquility. You need to pay attention with your eyes when you talk with others. When I was child, I remember that my parents and my grandparents always gave me a fond look. They looked at me very fondly, which was a relief to me. So, like them, I would like to do the same with everyone. When you see others, please offer a warm glance to them.

The second is **the offering of a happy, smiling face**. This is my favorite offering. This offering is very easy. If you keep smiling, your smile will make your family smile. And your family’s smile will make others smile! Both children and adults can do it. It’s simply a smile. So please offer your happy, smiling face to others.

The third is **the oral offering**. This is to offer kind and warm words to others. If you offer kind and warm words to others, your words will cheer them up and make them feel happier. And please say “Thank you,” “I love you,” and “I always cherish you,” to your family. Your companionate words will definitely reach their hearts.

The fourth is **the physical offering**. This is to offer service by one’s labor--for example, by carrying heavy things for others, by helping to roll a wheelchair or by looking for what others have lost.

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When I go shopping, I sometimes see a person who kindly opens the door for others. I was impressed with the person's behavior. So I try to open the door for others, as well. Please offer service through your labor with a joyful mind.

The fifth is **the spiritual offering**. This is to offer a compassionate heart (ALPHA) to others. If you always think about others' feelings, your actions will be filled with affection.

The sixth is **the offering of a seat**. This is to offer one's seat to others. When you ride a bus or a train, you can offer your seat to an old person and a pregnant woman. Or if you go to the park to eat lunch, where there is only one bench, and a man is walking toward the bench, what will you do? Will you run toward the bench to sit before the man does? If you are seated on the bench before the man arrives, the man might feel sad. So anytime, anywhere, please offer your seat to others.

The seventh is **the offering of shelter**. This is to let others spend the night at one's home. This offering is also to provide a place for others to rest. The important thing is to have a heart of hospitality to the person who will stay at your house. In order to welcome others, you need to tidy up and clean up your house.

These are the seven kinds of offering. Which offering do you usually do in your daily life? Through this Ohigan, please think about these practices and use them. I know some Taishoji members naturally use these offerings in their daily life. They always think about my family and ask if we need help. They always bring some vegetables and help with our cleaning. They invite my family to their house and speak to my family with a smile. So they use the seven kinds of offering naturally. The person who can offer something to others is rich in heart. If such generous persons increase in number, we can create a peaceful world. Let us use these teachings in our daily life and cultivate our Buddha mind.

In Gassho,
Rev. Shinsho Hata

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha Members and Friends of Taishoji!

What a difference a Month makes. As the county and state covid restriction are slowly being lifted, I am excited yet still cautiously optimistic that we will be able to have in person gatherings for the rest of the year. Let's all continue to be safe and covid free.

The Kyodan board currently does not have a third VP (in charge of temple maintenance). If anyone is interested in serving in this VP role on our Kyodan board, please contact any one of our current board members. In the meantime, we put together a temporary committee to organize and plan repair and maintenance workdays throughout the year. The committee would like to ask fellow members to volunteer their time, skills, and efforts to assist with these projects around the temple grounds. We will be announcing these project workdays in the coming newsletters. I thank you in advance for your support.

In Gassho,
Derrick Izumo

FUJIN KAI

Happy Spring to our Fujinkai members, family & friends.

There is good news from the Governor regarding the lifting of Covid restrictions. However, I still feel we should be very careful as Covid is an on-going disease.

Please continue to stay safe and take care. Cheers to those who are living strong despite hard conditions and to those who are tirelessly taking care of family members. Also, I put my hands together for those who passed on recently. They gave us so much compassion and knowledge while they were with us. We share fond memories, and we appreciate them very much. Gassho.

Spring means the kakuma season! We will harvest sometime soon. So much gratitude to nature, the kakuma farm owner, and the hard work of our members. Arigatō gozaimasu! I hope to see you at our Hanamatsuri Service in April if your time allows. Please keep in touch. Thank you for your continuous support of Fujinkai.

With gratitude in gassho, Yoko Choyo Gussman (If you have any questions, please call (808) 345-1765)

BUSSHIN KAI

As the president of Busshin Kai for the next two years, I want to recognize Past President Walter Tachibana for his many years of service to the organization and the temple. I know I will lean on Mr. Tachibana for his wisdom and knowledge, and I look forward to working with him and other Busshin Kai members to strengthen the Sangha and the practice of Soto Zen Buddhism on Hawaii Island.

I am also grateful that we can host **our Busshin Kai general membership meeting this year at 10 a.m. Sunday, April 24 at the Taishoji social hall.**

Prior to that, we will host **a study workshop with Rev. Shinsho Hata from 10-10:45 a.m. Sunday, March 27 at the Taishoji main hall.** The topic will be Fukuan Zazengi (Universally Recommended Instructions for Zazen) written by Dogen Zenji. All are welcome and invited to attend this free workshop. Mahalo to Rev. Hata!

I look forward to feedback on the workshop and how we can use such study sessions or other activities (Zen retreats, community partnerships/service, etc.) to further practice of Soto Zen teachings together.

In Gassho,
Tom Callis

HACHIKO, THE MOST LOYAL DOG OF JAPAN

Each year on April 8, the mayor of Shibuya ward in Tokyo, the police chief, and the Shibuya train station master conduct a memorial service for a furry pet male dog with a light brown body and whitish face with upright ears and a tail that curled to the left. This was Hachiko.

The great deed Hachiko did was to wait for his master to come home from work and then walk home. One day while he was at work, the master died of a stroke. BUT, no one told Hachiko. So, he went to the station for the 4 pm train and waited looking for the familiar face and voice. But, he wasn't there. Hachiko waited and walked home, and went back the next day and waited and waited for nine plus years.

Hachiko, a rare, pure-breed Akita dog, who was born in the town of Odate in Akita-ken in northern Japan on November 10, 1923. When full-grown, he would weigh 130 pounds.

When Hachiko was one-and-a-half years old, he was acquired by Professor Hidesaburo Ueno of Tokyo University's Department of Agriculture. Their home was near Shibuya Train Station two miles southwest of the Imperial Palace. Tokyo University was two miles north of the Imperial Palace.

Each day Hachiko went to the train station with Dr. Ueno and waited there until the 4 pm train arrived. But on May 21, 1925, the professor had a brain seizure while giving a lecture at work and died there. For over nine years Hachiko walked and waited there at the same spot where he last saw his master come home on the 4 o' clock train.

On March 8, 1935, Hachiko died from cancer and worms. Admiring people built a bronze statue of him at his favorite spot at Shibuya train station and called him Chuken Hachiko (Loyal Dog Hachiko). During World War II, the military killed many Akita dogs for officer coats. At war's end there were only 16 pure-bred Akitas in Japan.

So, some times Hachiko is called just Hachi, and movies are made about him.

Buddhism focuses on sentient beings, that is, people and other living beings with feelings. In Hachiko, people saw the great love that a dog had for his beloved master and his remarkable loyalty to his master. — Walter Tachibana

Walter Tachibana

PRACTICE

In our green book we have excerpts from the Dhammapada, which is a book of short Buddhist sayings, written down around 100 BCE. It is one of the most popular Buddhist books, today, having been translated into 32 languages.

Here is one; "By oneself evil is done, by oneself one is defiled. By oneself evil is left undone, and by oneself one is purified. Purity and impurity depend on oneself, No one can purify another."

This is why we need to practice for ourselves. I have made a number of trips to asia, and visited many Buddhist temples. I have found that most of the members go to the temples to have the monks pray for them. They don't think about practicing for themselves. Things were much the same here in the early 1990's. Most everyone who went to zazen were not of Japanese ancestry.

Many times I have talked about Buddhism being like swimming, in that you can read all the books about swimming and know all the terminology, but if you never go into the water, you only know about swimming, not swimming itself. It is the same for Buddhism. If you read many books and listen to the teachers, you know about Buddhism, but if you do not practice, you do not know Buddhism. And what will the practice do for us?

From the Dhamma-charra sutra "it gives vision, it gives knowledge, it leads to calm, to insight, to enlightenment, to Nirvana." All good reasons to practice.

In Gassho,
Deacon Juho

ONLINE YOUTUBE BIBF HANAMATSURI BUDDHA DAY SERVICE

Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

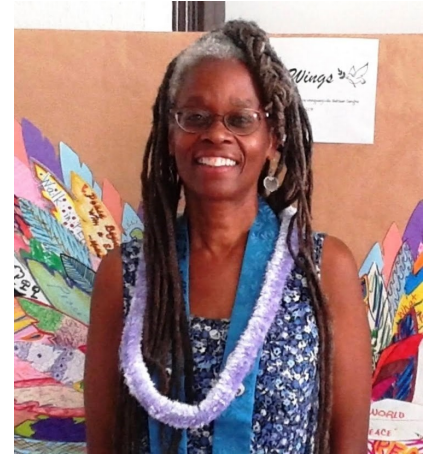
There will be an online Big Island Buddhist Federation (BIBF) Hanamatsuri Buddha Day Service available for your viewing on Puna Hongwanji YouTube Channel. Puna Hongwanji will post a recorded video that will premier on **Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.**

Our featured guest speaker will be **Ms. Edythe Vassall** from the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin. She will be talking about the profound essence of the spirit of the "Asoka Flower" found in the poetry written by Lady Takeko Kujo. Sakyamuni Buddha was born under the Asoka tree which means "Flower without fear" and he delivered the teaching that would alleviate suffering and bring comfort and tranquility to all. Touched by the Buddha's teaching, Lady Takeko Kujo, who was the daughter of the 21st Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji Head Priest, eloquently expressed herself as a human being in the light of Buddha and beautifully expounded the joy of life that is warmly within the great embrace of Buddha.

Following is the link of the service.

Puna Hongwanji YouTube Channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtQ19ePwF_lwTH0A_hwklwg



Ms. Edythe Vassall

If you are not familiar with YouTube, please come to Taishoji at 9am on April 3rd. You can watch the service on the screen at the Taishoji main hall with Rev. Hata.

TAISHOJI HANAMATSURI SERVICE

On Sunday, April 10, 2022 at 9:30 am, our Hanamatsuri (Flower Festival), Kannon-ko and Toba kuyo services will be held at Taishoji. We will pour sweet tea over the statue of the baby Buddha during the service. Let us celebrate Buddha's birthday.

He was born 2500 years ago to King Suddhodana and Queen Maya in the garden of Lumbini which was located in Kapilavastu, a small kingdom in the Himalayan foothills. He was called Siddhartha and later, Shakyamuni Buddha.



Rev. Hata and Deacon Juho took a Sunday service video at Wailoa River Park, and the video was published on YouTube on Feb 27, 2022.



First Taishoji Ukulele class on March 1, 2022

Taishoji Kyodan Installation Ceremony on March 6, 2022



New Officers (From right)
Kyodan President - Mr. Derrick Izumo
Kyodan Vice President – Mrs. Edith Nishino
Kyodan Auditor - Mr. Gregory Morrical
Kyodan Treasurer - Mr. Michael Nagai
Kyodan Secretary - Mr. Tom Callis
Director – Mrs. Ellen Yamauchi



Spring Ohigan and 33 Kannon Osunafumi Services on March 20, 2022



Spring Ohigan Service



Osunafumi (Pilgrimage)



**Ukulele Performance (Hawaii Aloha)
Derrick Izumo, Mio Nishimura and Mamiko Hata**



Fujin kai made Kashiwa Mochi

