

# HAKUHO



Taishoji Soto Mission, 275 Kinoole St. Hilo, HI 96720-2944  
Hilo's Zen Temple

Phone - 808-935-8407 Fax - 808-961-6124

Email - hilotaishoji@gmail.com



**DECEMBER 2020**

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Aloha, Members and Friends of Taishoji,

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, we had a Sunday Service in-person for the first time in eight months. Thanks to everyone's cooperation, we were able to have the service under the safety measures taken. On that day, I talked about prayer. Normally, we put our hands together in gassho and pray to Buddha at the Sunday service. We pray not only at the Sunday service, but at the blessing and memorial services, too.

Do you know why we pray at the temple in the first place? When I was small, I saw my father and my grandfather pray, but I didn't know why. If we work, we receive money in return for the work. We can see the result of the work with our own eyes, but if we pray, we don't receive anything, and we cannot see anything by looking for it. Yet many people go to their temple or church to pray for Buddha and God. And I heard that Muslims pray 5 times a day. I learned that many people cherish prayer. Have you considered praying?

Regarding the prayer: I'd like to share Dogen Zenji's saying. This is the saying: **Aspiration toward the Buddhist Path. There are some religions for hoping a miracle will occur, and some religions for praying to get supernatural abilities, and even religions for imploring business success. But the Buddha's religion is a religion of seeking to guide society and to serve people. The aspiration toward the Buddhist path means loving the whole universe as parents love their children.**

"I thought of this as a good explanation about prayer in Soto Zen. Dogen said that we don't pray to work a miracle or to get something. Prayer in Buddhism is for the happiness of all beings and for expressing our gratitude the same way that parents pray wholeheartedly for children's happiness.

In addition, we don't only pray at the temple, but also pray for clear weather tomorrow, safety on a trip, recovery from injury, our family's good health, and so on. In our daily life, we pray naturally for them, right? I think that prayer is not just a special thing but is essential in our lives. We can become individuals who show thoughtful feelings and consideration to other people through prayer. Buddha said, **"We are what we think. All that we are arises with our thoughts. With our thoughts, we make the world."**

Continued on next page

It means that our behavior comes from our way of thinking. If we always think about ourselves, we will have everything our own way without considering others. But if we always pray for others' happiness and live with the mind of gratitude, we will naturally act toward people around us with compassion. Some people might feel that it's a waste of time to pray at the temple, but it is a precious practice to show our gratitude and cultivate the mind of our own gratitude.

I'd like to show my gratitude to Buddha and pray for our ancestors and the happiness of all beings with you from now on. Although we will not be able to have in-person Sunday Services for awhile, I will have Live Streaming service every Sunday with Deacon Juho and Jigaku.

If possible, please join the online service and let us pray for Buddha and cultivate our mind of gratitude together. Thank you very much.

In Gassho,  
Rev. Shinsho Hata

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha Members and Friends of Taishoji,

This year is coming to a close. Most of us missed our annual events and services that takes place at our temples during the year. Instead we had to settle for Live Streaming which was fine but it does not have the same feeling as being there. Something is missing.

Thank you, Rev. Hata, Deacon Juho, Deacon Jigaku and Brent Takenouchi for doing the services at Taishoji when it was scheduled and having it live streamed on Facebook and Rev. Hata showing it on YouTube later that day for those who do not have Facebook.

In Gassho,  
Rodney Nishino

## FUJIN KAI

Aloha Taishoji Fujin Kai members, families and friends!

How are you? I hope you are well and in a hopeful spirit. What a turbulent year we had in 2020. As I miss the in-person temple activities and the interaction with people, I came to realize how precious every moment of life is. I thank each one of you for being part of our Fujin Kai Family. Please continue to be careful and stay safe.

Thank you for your support for the UHSSWA fundraiser. This cookbook contains many of our favorite recipes from the Fujin Kai of all the Hawaii Soto-Shu temples. I think it will make a wonderful Holiday / New Year gift. You can purchase the book at the temple's front entrance on Sundays from 9:40 to 10:00 am. or please call Rev. Hata (Tel: 935-8407) to make an appointment for other time options. The price is \$10 per book. If you would like a copy of the cookbook mailed to your house, please let me know. Yoko Gussman (Tel / Text: 808-345-1765, Email: [hilo1989@gmail.com](mailto:hilo1989@gmail.com))

Thank you very much for your kind heart and prayers throughout this year. Wishing you and your loved ones a peaceful happy new year.

With sincere gratitude in gassho,  
Yoko Gussman

### **IMPOTANT NOTICE FOR TAISHOJI SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2020 & JANUARY 2021**

**Jodo-e Service - December 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am- in person (audience) limited to (25) people (no live streaming)**

**Joya-No Kane - December 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:30pm - in person (audience) limited to (25) people (no live streaming)**

**New Year's Day Blessing Service - January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 at 9:00am (no audience Live Stream)**

**Drive Thru - New Year's Day Blessing Service - January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 from 10:00am - 11:30am.** Rev. Hata will hold a drive thru service in the parking area in front of the temple. (More information on page # 4)

Please call Rev. Shinsho Hata at (808-935-8407) or (email to [hilotaishoji@gmail.com](mailto:hilotaishoji@gmail.com)) to reserve your space for the in person audience services since space is limited to (25) people

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

**YouTube Link - [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSQ4EVugUml\\_rGhb1c-8RQQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSQ4EVugUml_rGhb1c-8RQQ)**

## BUSSHIN KAI MESSAGE

I hope all Busshin Kai and Taishoji members are safe and healthy in these days. This is a very special month for all Buddhists, for it's on Dec. 8 that Siddhartha Gautama after meditating for 49 days and he finally succeeded in realizing the answers to his big question: Why do we have suffering and sorrow? His Enlightenment at the dawn of the auspicious day was The Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path. Thus was born our world-famous Wisdom Religion of Buddhism.

For people to hear the Buddha's lessons, cute and interesting stories were used to reveal wisdom teachings to the common folks. Talking animals spoke to entertain and educate adults and children with Buddhist morals. When these Jataka Tales spread to Alexander the Great's Greek Empire (Hellenistic), they were called Aesop's Fables.

One such Tale is called "The Four Harmonious Friends," an ancient story of India of an elephant, a monkey, a rabbit and a bird. The story is about four animals who work together and show respect for one another in the tradition of the Dharma (Buddha's Teachings).

Once long ago a bird feeds on the sprouts of a very small tree, close to the ground. Because the bird cannot fly, the tree grows too tall for it to reach. A rabbit comes along and lifts the bird up on its back. But the tree grows higher. Soon a monkey comes along who can climb the tree and pick fruit for the bird and the rabbit. But it cannot reach the highest branches. When an elephant comes along, the monkey climbs on the elephant's back, the rabbit climbs atop the monkey, and the bird climbs atop the rabbit. In this way, they can reach the fruit of the highest branches, and all of them have enough to eat.

The story of the four friends illustrates the interdependence of all beings. It demonstrates how we can all work together in harmony, not being afraid to ask for help and lean on one another, in order to overcome any hardship. We find "The Four Harmonious Friends" especially relevant in this time of global pandemic. As Zen Buddhism reminds us, the way forward is through compassion in action, mutual support, belief in science and respect for one another.

Please take care, everybody...  
Walter Tachibana, President

## WISDOM WORDS

"It's no big thing that makes a friendship; It's a million little things." --- Anonymous  
Days, Go By, Seasons Change, But True Friendship Remains. --- UNKNOWN

"Zen pretty much comes down to three things - everything changes; everything is connected; pay attention." -  
Jane Hirshfield

If you have time to be mindful, you have time to meditate. Ajan Chah  
"Adopt the pace of nature. Her secret is patience." Ralph Waldo Emerson

## TOGETHER

Due to the corona virus, we all have experienced changes in our lives. We have had to adjust to new behavior patterns. Wearing a mask, social distancing, and so on. In many ways inconvenient for us. I would like to tell an old Buddhist story of the mother with a dead child.

One day a woman came to the Buddha. She had a dead child in her arms. She was crying and begged the Buddha to bring her child back to life. He said He would, but first she had to bring him ashes from a home that had not experienced someone in the family dying. (in those days people cooked with fire and also heated there home with fire. They had lots of ashes.) So the woman went straight to the village, and went to the door of the nearest home. There she asked if someone in the family had ever died. The person who answered the door said yes; their father and a sister had passed away. The woman then went to the next house, and asked the same question. There too, someone in the family had died. On she went through the village. Nowhere could she find a home where someone in the family had not died. After hearing the stories of so many people dying, she realized she was not alone. All families have experienced the death of loved ones. She was then able to bury her son and continue with life.

These Buddha stories are not just stories. They have meaning in our lives. Many of us remember Sachi. After her son died, she was much like the woman in the story.

We are all together here in the same boat. Strive to make the best of any situation.

In Gassho,  
Deacon Juho

## ROHATSU SESSHIN (One week of intensive Zazen)

Rohatsu Sesshin (One week of intensive Zazen) will be held to commemorate Buddha's enlightenment from December 1 to 8 under the safety measures taken. Masks are Required.

**Date:** December 1-8, 2020. (Tuesday to Tuesday)

**Time:** 6:30 am - 7:30 am [Zazen (25 minutes)

Kinhin (10 minutes) Zazen (25 minutes)]

Let us sit in Zazen



Sitting in Zazen

## IN PERSON NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE - JOYA no KANE

In person New Year's Eve Service will be held on December 31, 2020 at 11:30pm.

“Joya” means to remove “Bonnou (our worldly desires)” to greet the New Year with a pure heart. It is said there are 108 kinds of Bonnou in Buddhism. By tolling a bell at the service, we can remove our Bonnou for this year.

The maximum number for the service is 25 people.

**Registration is required by December 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**To pre-register, send an email to [hilotaishoji@gmail.com](mailto:hilotaishoji@gmail.com) or call Taishoji at (808) 935-8407.**



Joya no Kane  
Ringing Temple Bell

## LIVE STREAMING & DRIVE THRU NEW YEAR BLESSING SERVICE

**Friday, January 1, 2021 from 9:00am - 10:00am, (Live Streaming New Year's Day Blessing Service will be held via Facebook & later on same day it can be viewed on YouTube)**

**After the live streaming service, Rev. Shinsho Hata will perform a short blessing service for you at a Drive Thru New Year Blessing Service in the parking area fronting the temple. Please come by the temple parking area from 10:00am – 11:30am.** Each person attending will receive an Omamori (amulet) for safety and good health. Additional Omamori and Daihannya Ofuda can be purchased at \$5.00 each after the blessing.

We will keep the lines moving, so please don't stop for conversations. Let's keep everyone safe and safely distanced! There will be volunteers posted at the entrance and exit of the gates.

**If you have any questions, please call 808-935-8407 for more details.**



Rev. Hata Performing Drive Thru Blessing



Omamori

Daihannya Ofuda  
Use Scotch Tape To  
Place Above Entrance  
Door To Residence Or  
Business



Mochi, Omamori & Kadomatsu  
For New Year Blessing Service



## KTA SAVE--A--TAPE for TAISHOJI FUJIN KAI



**KTA**  
**SAVE-A-TAPE AD**  
**11/6/2020**

Our Taishoji Fujin Kai is asking our members and friends to please help them by sending in your KTA receipts if you will not be using it. They will use the points from these receipts to receive free grocery items for our Temple to use during our **HOYO** after services. This will really help our Kyodan, Fujin Kai and other organizations of Taishoji.

This is an going project for the Fujin Kai. Although **KTA** has this promotion several times during the year, if we keep sending in the receipts every time you shop at **KTA**, we can have enough points when we need it. We don't know when the promotion is held until it comes out in their **NEWSPAPER AD**.

The best way to do it is to hold on to the receipts until you see the **KTA** promotion **AD** than bring it or send it in to Taishoji.

Taishoji: Call 935-8407 to check if Rev. Hata is in to drop off **OR** drive thru the gate, drive straight back to the handicap parking stall, walk up to the temple building and there will be a **drop box** on the right side of the kitchen door where you can drop of the receipts **OR**. You can mail the receipts to: **Taishoji Soto Mission**  
**275 Kinoole St.**  
**Hilo, HI 96720**

## KADOMATSU & MOCHI TSUKI

To Our Loyal Members and Friends who come to help yearly,

I am truly sorry that we can not have our traditional gathering for making the Kadomatsu and pounding of Mochi for this year due to COVID 19. This year as compared to prior years, we are limiting the amount of people that will be involved in making the Kadomatsu & Mochi for the temple. Those who are involved in this activity has already been notified. This small amount of people is due to us having to wear masks and keeping our social distance to comply with the State and County regulations. Kadomatsu will be for the Temple only and the Mochi for the different altars will be made by machine instead of pounding. All this we hope, will be done in one day.



**KADOMATSU MAKING**



**COOKING MOCHI RICE**



**POUNDING MOCHI RICE**



**MAKING MOCHI FOR ALTAR**

## DECEMBER 2020 SCHEDULE

<b>1-8</b>	<b>Tue-Tue</b>	<b>6:30 am-7:30 am</b>	<b>Rohatsu Sesshin (Zazen Session)</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Sat</b>	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning <b>Group # 2</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>BIBF Jodo-e Service (Higashi Hongwanji Toban)</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Sat</b>	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning <b>Group # 3</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>((With Audience) Taishoji Jodo-e / Kannon-ko Toba Kuyo Service</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Sat</b>	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning <b>Group # 4</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>S/S / Family Service (Sunday School End Of Year Service For Children)</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Sat</b>	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning <b>Group # 1</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Kadomatsu Making &amp; Mochi Tsuki Day (Limited People)</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>11:30 pm</b>	<b>(With Audience) New Year's Eve Joya no Kane Service (Ringing of Temple Bell 108 Times)</b>

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

Yoga & Zazen	Monday	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Zazen	Sunday's before Sunday School	8:00 am - 8:35 am
Taiko	Thursday, Friday	5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
Troop 95	Wednesday	7:15 pm
Pack 95	Friday	6:30 pm
Go Class	Thursday	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

## TENTATIVE JANUARY 2021 SCHEDULE

<b>1</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>(Live Stream) Facebook &amp; YouTube) New Year's Day Blessing Service</b>
		<b>10:00 - 11:30am</b>	<b>Drive Thru New Year Blessing Service (Rev. Shinsho Hata) (WILL GIVE BLESSING &amp; GIVE OMAMORI)</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Sat</b>	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning <b>Group # 2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>(With Audience) S/S / Family Service / Ojizo Matsuri</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Sat</b>	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning <b>Group # 3</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>S/S / Family Service (members &amp; friends)</b>
		<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Kyodan Meeting</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Sat</b>	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning <b>Group # 4</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>S/S / Family Service (members &amp; friends)</b>
		<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>(CANCELLED) Busshin Kai Meeting &amp; Shinnen Kai</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Sat</b>	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning <b>Group #1</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>S/S / Family Service (Dogen Zenji Birthday (members &amp; friends)</b>
		<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>(CANCLLED) Fujin Kai General Membership Meeting / Sokai</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Sat</b>	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning <b>Group # 2</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>S/S / Family Service (members &amp; friends)</b>
		<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>(CANCELLED) Kyodan General Membership Meeting</b>

## IN MEMORIUM

Our Deepest Sympathy and Condolences to the Family of the late:

**MRS. KATSUKO OYAMA**  
**NOVEMBER 24, 1922 - OCTOBER 17, 2020**

**MRS. SUGI SUGAI**  
**MAY 8, 1920 - OCTOBER 23, 2020**

**MRS. JANE HIROKO TANGO**  
**MAY 23, 1935 - OCTOBER 27, 2020**

**JODO-E / KANNON-KO / TOBA KUYO SERVICE**  
**Sunday, December 13, 2020 / 9:30 am.**

**December 8<sup>th</sup>** is the actual date we celebrate Shakyamuni Buddha's realization of the Way. Following years of difficult ascetic practice, Siddhartha Gautama sat in Zazen beneath the Bodhi Tree. At dawn on December 8<sup>th</sup>, Siddhartha saw the morning star and realizing awakening, he then became Shakyamuni Buddha. He was no longer an ordinary, common person and instead had achieved the brilliance by which to free all of humankind.



Siddhartha Gautama Sitting  
Under a Bodhi Tree

Please call the temple 808-935-8404 or email [hilotaishoi@gmail.com](mailto:hilotaishoi@gmail.com) to reserve a seat **Limit is (25) people. This service will not be Live Streamed on Facebook or YouTube.**

Rev. Shinsho Hata will be presiding over the Service.

.....CUT ON LINE.....

**TAISHOJI JODO-E / KANNON KO / TOBA KUYO SERVICE**  
**December 13, 2020 / 9:30 am**

**PLEASE RETURN FORM BY DECEMBER 6, 2020**

**Donors Name  
(Print)** \_\_\_\_\_

	Last		First
Jodo-e Donation		\$ _____	
Toba @ \$2.00 each		\$ _____	
	<b>Total</b>	\$ _____	

**Toba Reading: (Please Print)**

- |              |    |                     |
|--------------|----|---------------------|
| (1) _____    | -- | _____               |
| <b>Donor</b> |    | <b>Dedicated To</b> |
| (2) _____    | -- | _____               |
| (3) _____    | -- | _____               |
| (4) _____    | -- | _____               |
| (5) _____    | -- | _____               |
| (6) _____    | -- | _____               |

**Please send or bring form to: Taishoji Soto Mission**  
**275 Kinoole St.**  
**Hilo, Hi 96720-2944**

**Donations: Payable to TAISHOJI SOTO MISSION**

## ON LINE STUDY OF THE PRECEPTS (JANUARY– MARCH 2021)

“How can I live a life of wisdom and compassion?”

Instructor: Rev. Jiko Nakade, Daifukuji Soto Mission

12 weekly classes via ZOOM

Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

First class: Saturday, January 9, 2021

Receiving the precepts & one's Buddhist name and formally becoming a disciple of the Buddha is an important event in the life of a Soto Zen Buddhist. In this course, one will go through a process of study and reflection together with Rev. Jikō and a group of Sangha friends. The sharing of one's life is done in an atmosphere that is gentle, accepting, and compassionate. Many have found their lives illuminated and enriched by this inner journey.



Rev. Jiko Nakade



Bishop  
Shugen Komagata

In January of 2021, Rev. Jikō will be starting a new series of precepts study sessions using ZOOM. This 3-month course is comprised of 12 weekly one-hour sessions. It is an opportunity to learn about the 16 Bodhisattva precepts, which form the moral and ethical foundation of the Soto Zen tradition.

Once it is safe to travel and gather, Bishop Shugen Komagata will be going from temple to temple to offer Soto Zen Buddhist Lay Confirmation ceremonies.

These sessions are open to all who are interested in studying the precepts and do not require participation in the precepts ceremony.

There is no class fee. If desired, one may make a donation to Daifukuji Soto Mission.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Rev. Jikō at (808) 322-3524, [rev.jiko@daifukuji.org](mailto:rev.jiko@daifukuji.org)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL END OF YEAR SERVICE FOR CHILDREN

Taishoji Sunday School did not have as many in person services this year due to the coronavirus. Because of this, it was decided we have a **END of YEAR SUNDAY SCHOOL SERVICE on December 20, 2020 at 9 am.** We would like to invite the children and their parents to join us. An activity for the children is planned for after Sunday School Service.

The maximum number of people for the service is **(25) people.**

Please call or email to pre-register:

**Call Taishoji: Rev. Hata at  
(808) 935-8407**

**Email: [hilotaishoji@gmail.com](mailto:hilotaishoji@gmail.com)**



Sunday School 2019