



HAKUHO

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JULY 2022

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Aloha, Members and Friends of Taishoji,

I hope you and your family are doing well in this Obon season. As you know, I will step down as Taishoji minister at the end of July. From August, Deacon **Jigaku Takenouchi** will become the new minister of Taishoji and will share dharma messages as the main minister. I will return to Japan to take over my father's temple in Osaka. So this is my last minister's message.

My wife and I would like to express our deepest appreciation for your support and generosity. Thanks to you, we had many fulfilling days in Hilo. Dogen Zenji said "our life is like a flash of lightning." It is so true, life in Hilo passed really quickly. Fortunately, we were able to have a baby boy in May 2020. Our son grew up healthy in Hilo thanks to your care and support.

In our 6 years and 9 months in Hawaii, spending our lives with you was truly wonderful. Your smiles calmed our hearts, your words encouraged us, and we learned so much from you. The days spent with you are a true treasure. We are moving to Osaka, Japan, but we would like to visit the Big Island again and again. Or if you have the chance to come to Osaka, please let us know.

Finally, we sincerely hope that you will be healthy, surrounded by the compassion of the Buddha, and have a wonderful life.

Until we meet again.

Mahalo nui loa, in gassho,
Shinsho, Mamiko and Shogo Hata



REV. HATA'S LAST SUNDAY SERVICE MESSAGE

I'd like to talk about the **Heart Sutra, Hannya Shingyo**. We usually chant the Heart Sutra in both Japanese and English in our Sunday service. This sutra is the most recited sutra in Soto Zen, and I read it during my morning service and memorial services. Some of the members read the Heart Sutra every day in front of the Butsudan at home. The Heart Sutra was created in the middle of the 7th century. It is said that this sutra was translated from Sanskrit into Chinese by "Xuanzang, Genjo Sanzo," a Buddhist priest in the Tang dynasty, who brought back the Buddhist scriptures from India. It is said that Xuanzang walked 18,700 miles over 17 years and brought the Buddhist scriptures back from India to the Tang dynasty at his own risk. The Big Island is about 300 miles around, so if you walk about 62 laps around the Big Island, you're walking the same distance as Xuanzang! After he returned to the Tang dynasty, he translated various Buddhist texts from India for four years. And the number of volumes of the integrated sutra is 600, and the number of characters is 640 million. Please imagine everyone, I don't know how much the sutra weighs, but could you walk 18,700 miles from India to China in 17 years with more than 600 sutra books on your back? I might give up along the way or leave about 500 volumes of the sutra in India and return to China. Xuanzang translated all the sutras over four years and he completed the 600 volumes of Mahaprajnaparamita Sutra. He condensed all the 600 sutras into only 276 Chinese characters that became the Heart Sutra. Xuanzang died just 100 days after the translation. By listening to this story, you can understand how much effort Xuanzang made to produce this sutra. The Heart Sutra was created at the risk to his life. Today I'd like everyone to understand the sutra.

First of all, it is said that this Heart Sutra explains the important idea of "Mahayana Buddhism." Mahayana Buddhism is one of the two major schools of Buddhism, preaching in equal parts: salvation and Buddhahood of all living beings. Our Soto Zen school belongs to this Mahayana Buddhism. The official title of the Heart Sutra is "Maha Hannya Haramitta Shingyo." In English it is the Heart of Great Perfect Wisdom Sutra. The content of the Heart Sutra is that the Kanzeon Bodhisattva, Avalokitesvara speaks to Shariputra, one of the ten great disciples of the Buddha. Through this sutra, I'd like you to learn this way of thinking. It means **"accept change and live positively."** The teaching that is consistently shown in this sutra is the idea of "emptiness." In this sutra, the phrase, "Form itself is emptiness, emptiness itself form." "Form" represents something that is visible and has a shape, and "emptiness" represents something that is insubstantial and that is constantly changing. In other words, "Form itself is emptiness" means "things that have a shape will continue to change." I think this is easy to understand. No matter how important you are, things are broken, and youth is not eternal. All phenomena in the world are constantly changing. The more difficult part is "Emptiness itself form", which means "Change is the true form of things". For example, people get older, get sick, and die. There are no exceptions. So we are things that keep changing. However, we have been the same "ourselves" since we were born. Even if we get old, get sick, and die, we are still ourselves. In this way, the Heart Sutra shows that everything is a changing existence, and then explains that "change is the true form of things." But we humans sometimes hate change.

It may be easier for you to understand if I explain it with parent and child. A parent wants his child to be a good doctor, and the child listens to his parent's wishes and aspires to be a doctor. However, when the child becomes a college student, he might become more into music than studying medical science, and start on the musical path. At that time, the parent says, "you listened to everything I said and you were aspiring to become a doctor, but why do you want to play music? As I said, if you become a doctor, you can live a stable life." Sometimes the parent can't accept the change in his child's thinking. But for the child, playing music makes him happier than being a doctor. In this way, if people are obsessed with thinking that "it should be like this", they will complain when things don't work out as they expect. However, as the Heart Sutra says, "change is the true form of things." There are many changes around us. It is important for us to accept the changes.

Do you accept change? Are you depressed just because you made a mistake? Are you depressed because you are getting older and your body is getting weaker? Do you feel disappointed when it rains every day? Everyone has various worries that may not be easy for others to understand. However I'd like to reassure you, it's okay to make mistakes, because everyone makes mistakes. I also make mistakes. It's okay to get older and weaker, because everyone will one day. I will get older and weaker too. It's okay if it rains every day, because there are many areas in the world where it rains a lot, such as Macquarie Island in Australia raining about 300 days a year and Vancouver in Canada about 200 days a year. The important thing is to know that you are not the only one. There are many people in this world who are facing the same uneasy situations as you, so you don't have to worry or suffer alone. Let's accept changes. It is also important that you enjoy every day of your irreplaceable life. Even if you made a mistake, let's praise yourself for your efforts. Even if your body doesn't move well, let's try to offer your smile and talk to the people around you and say thank you. Even if it rains every day, let's increase your hobbies at home, such as reading books, doing yoga, and cooking. We can enjoy our lives depending on our way of thinking. Our hearts are very delicate and sensitive. However, the only thing that can be changed freely is our mind. You have the power to make your life wonderful. "Form itself is emptiness, emptiness itself form," let's accept any change, take any change positively, and live a prosperous life.

In Gassho,
Rev. Shinsho Hata

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha Members and Friends of Taishoji!

It is almost time for our Beloved Resident Minister and his family to go back to Japan. When I first heard of his request to move back to Japan I was surprised, and I think many of us was surprised too. I felt as though Sensei would have wanted to stay here longer. But it was important for him to return to Japan to help with his father's Temple. Sensei ensured us that he would find a suitable replacement before he goes back to Japan. After a two-year delay due to Covid 19, Sensei Hata's disciple is set to become our next resident minister. The Hata's will leave Hawaii in early August. Good luck and best wishes Sensei Hata, Mamiko, and Shogo! Until we meet again.

After two-year break, Taishoji held its annual Picnic at Bakers Beach. It was nice to see some of the older members again. It was a nice day with good food and fellowship. I would like to Mahalo the Kyodan board members for organizing and hosting the picnic. Also coming in July, we will have our Bon Dance, Obon Service, and Toro Nagashi. Due to the continued covid presence, our Bon Dance will be shorter than normal this year. Looking forward to seeing you again.

In Gassho,
Derrick Izumo

FUJIN KAI

Aloha Fujin Kai Members, and our supportive families & friends.

Hot summer days are here, how are you doing? We hope this newsletter finds you in good health and happiness. During this Obon season, we send our prayers especially to the hatsubon families. Gassho. This year, our Bon Dance will be happening in person on Saturday, July 23rd but we will not make or sell any food for the Bon Dance. Obon Service, Toba Kuyo, and Toro Nagashi will be on Sunday, July 24th. We will cook and serve Lunch for the Obon Service. We are looking forward to meeting Maui Mantokuji's new minister Rev. Hirasawa and his wife Mrs. Hirasawa and some of the dear Mantokuji members. Thank you for visiting. Our beloved Hata Sensei, Mamiko san, and Shogo chan will be leaving Taishoji at the end of July to take care of his family temple in Japan. We appreciate their many years of service, and we will miss them. Our new minister to be, Deacon Jigaku Takenouchi's Completion Ceremony with Bishop Komagata will be on Saturday, July 16th and we are serving lunch that day. **The Hata Family's farewell party (potluck) will be on Sunday, July 31st, following the new minister's Installation Ceremony at 10:00 am.** We hope to see you there. Also in July, **our Fujin Kai meeting will be held on Sunday, July 10th at 10:00 am.** Please attend if your time allows. It would be great if we could see each other sometime during this Obon season. Please take care and stay safe. With gratitude in gassho, Yoko Gussman (If you have any question, please call me at 808-345-1765)

BUSSHIN KAI

Mahalo to the Busshin Kai members who attended our workshop on June 11 when we learned more about how to support and be active participants in the temple's services. A special thank you to Rev. Hata for providing us these important instructions. If you haven't already, please submit your **Toro Nagashi form by July 15** with the check made out to Taishoji Busshin Kai. This year's Toro Nagashi will be held July 24. Everyone is invited to attend. Mahalo!

In Gassho,
Tom Callis



Busshin Kai Workshop on June 11



Rev. Hata is teaching how to hit the bell.

“We are in touch with the highest spirit in ourselves, we too are a Buddha, filled with the Holy Spirit, and we become very tolerant, very open, very deep, and very understanding.”

— Thich Nhat Hanh

To be a Buddha is to be truly awake — to the nature of existence, change, impermanence, suffering, liberation, compassion, and love. To be awake is our deepest truth and goal. We are each the Buddha, but the question is: do we know it; do we accept this noble calling? Or, do we run from it, hiding behind the firewall of addiction and ignorance? The highest spirit in us is the Buddha-nature or the Holy Spirit. This highest spirit is discovered in the depths of the present moment and so requires mindfulness to know it and be it. May we each develop our capacity for mindfulness.

Please stay healthy and happy. — Walter Tachibana

Change in daily life

In Buddhism, one of the characteristics of existence is impermanence (anicca). Things are impermanent because they change. We all know this.

As we have lived our lives, we have seen many changes. Some within ourselves, and some out in the world. Some we like and some we do not like. We cannot stop change. It is best to accept impermanence as it is so we can still enjoy life as things come and go.

Our temple will go through a change soon, as Rev. Hata and family will return to Japan. He and his wife have done a wonderful job here at Taishoji. We should all be happy for the years Rev. Hata and wife have given to us, and wish them well in the future at his father's temple.

I myself have worked with him for a number of years now, and will be sad to see him go. but at the same time I have to embrace the new changes as they come about.

I hope that we all can come together and help Jigaku continue the traditions and services of Taishoji. I am sure there will be many new changes brought forth for us to enjoy.

In gassho,
Deacon Juho

Joseph Jigaku Takenouchi's Minister Training Program Completion Ceremony

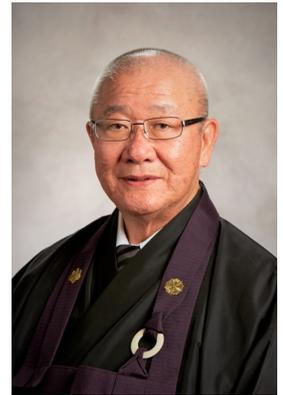
Jigaku Takenouchi's Minister Training Program Completion Ceremony will be held on **July 16 at 10:00am**. The officiating minister is **Bishop Shugen Komagata of Soto Mission of Hawaii**.

The minister training program is sponsored by Hawaii Soto Mission Association. This program was created in the late 1980s to develop Soto Mission ministers who would serve in Hawaii. Minister trainees were trained in Hawaii by existing Soto Mission ministers under the guidance of the current bishop and Bishop's Office staff.

Upon completion of training, the minister trainee is evaluated by the training minister, current bishop and Bishop's Office staff. Upon successful completion of the minister training program, the individual receives the title, "Hawaii Soto Mission Minister."



Jigaku Takenouchi



**Bishop
Shugen Komagata**

Jigaku Takenouchi started this program the beginning of 2020 after he became a Taishoji deacon in 2019. In April 2020, he had his Tokudo Ceremony, first monk ceremony. In May 2021, he had his Hossen-shiki ceremony, Dharma combat ceremony. And in October 2021, he had his Denpo ceremony, Dharma transmission ceremony under Rev. Hata. He learned how to perform the services and behave as a Hawaii minister from Rev. Hata for two and a half years. We are really pleased that he is becoming Hawaii Soto Mission Minister. Jigaku has demonstrated a sincere commitment to serving the Three Treasures of Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha for many years. He made sacrifices to be able to assist Rev. Hata and the sangha of Taishoji Soto Mission at major services, Kannon-ko services, and to help the members of the temple on a regular basis. We respect him and appreciate him. He will be a great minister.

Please attend the ceremony and let's celebrate his promotion!

Joseph Jigaku Takenouchi's Installation Ceremony and the Hata Family's farewell party

On July 31, Joseph Jigaku Takenouchi's installation ceremony will be held at 10:00am. After the ceremony, he will start working as the 16th resident minister of Taishoji! Right after the service, we will hold the Hata family's farewell party at the social hall. This is a potluck lunch. Please join us.

**TAISHOJI ANNUAL PICNIC ON JUNE 12
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!**



TAISHOJI JULY 2022 SCHEDULE

2	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 4
5	Tue	6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Bon Dance Practice
9	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
10	Sun	10:00 am	Fujin Kai Meeting
16	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
		10:00 am	Jigaku's completion ceremony
23	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
		6:00 pm	Taishoji Obon Dance
24	Sun	10:00 am	Taishoji Obon Service
		5:00 pm	Toro Nagashi Service
30	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 4
		10:00 am	Kyodan Meeting
31	Sun	10:00 am	Jigaku Takenouchi's Installation Ceremony & the Hata Family's farewell party

ZAZEN / YOGA / TAIKO SCHEDULE

YOGA & Zazen	Monday	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Taiko Performance Group	Thursday, Friday	5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
Taiko Recreational Group	Tuesday	4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Ukulele	Wednesday	4:30 pm - 5:30 pm and 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

TENTATIVE TAISHOJI AUGUST 2022 SCHEDULE

6	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
13	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
14	Sun	10:00 am	Kyodan Meeting
20	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
27	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 4
28	Sun	9:00 am	SS / Family Service
		2:00 pm	Ireito Hoyo Memorial Service at Alae Cemetery

IN MEMORIUM

Our Deepest Sympathy and Condolences to the Family and Relatives of the late:
Mrs. Kiyoko Sakai

June 15, 1927 - June 17, 2022

O-BON & TORO NAGASHI REMINDER



Our Bon Dance will start at 6:00pm on July 23rd. Our Bon Service will be held on July 24th at 10:00am and our Toro Nagashi will be held on July 24 at 5:00pm.

It's still not too late to turn in your O-Bon donations and Toro Nagashi request forms that was printed in the June issue of the newsletter. It is due by Friday July 15th. Lanterns are a donation to the Taishoji Busshin Kai for \$25.00 each for 2 names written on it. Donation for the O-Bon Service donation is to Taishoji Soto Mission for (1) one of our (4) four Major Temple Services during the year for remembering our ancestors in gratitude and remembering them in our prayers. If not for them we would no be here today.

