



HAKUHO

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JUNE 2022

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Aloha, Members and Friends of Taishoji,

MAY 8th was Mother's Day. How did you spend your Mother's Day? For me, since I had our Sunday service on May 8th, I gave a gift and showed my gratitude to Taishoji precious ladies!

Do you know the origin of Mother's Day? In May 1907, at a church in Philadelphia, a woman named Anna Jarvis, handed out carnations to the participants because she wanted to mourn her late mother who opposed the war and contributed to the peace of the United States. Anna's will and the feeling of gratitude to her mother resonated with the people and spread throughout the United States, and now the second Sunday in May has been established as Mother's Day. Recently, I discovered this origin for the first time, and I was very impressed. Because I've always thought Mother's Day was just a day to express my gratitude to my mother. It is said that Anna's mother had been working hard to treat injuries during the war, regardless of whether they were an enemy or an ally. Anna not only appreciated her mother raising her, but also respected the way of life of her mother who contributed to peace activities. I thought that when Anna handed out carnations to the participants, she wanted to convey the importance of the peace activity which her mother cherished. Since I learned this origin, every Mother's Day, I don't only show my gratitude to my mother, but also remember Anna's actions and deepen my understanding of peace.

In addition, the existence of a mother is really important to us. Because without a mother we couldn't exist. After I became a priest, I often heard this phrase.

"Your birthday is the day on which your mother suffered the most."

Someone wrote this phrase, based on a Buddhist teaching called FUBO-ONJU-KYO. To give birth is very difficult. Two years ago, I was present at my wife's childbirth, and I felt that my wife had a hard time giving birth to a child. A mother gives birth to a child at the risk of her life.

Continued on next page

Therefore, our birthday is not just a day to celebrate our birth, but an important day to thank our mother. The existence of a mother is irreplaceable to us. Also, our mother is not a professional mother from the beginning. We must learn the efforts of mothers raising children.

Dogen Zenji left this Zen word “**SHO NI GEN JO (生児現成)**.”

It means that **"when a child is born, the parents become “parents” for the first time. The relationship between parent and child is based on the existence of each other and grows together."**

When we turned 1 or 2, at the same time, our mother turned 1 or 2 as a "mother." Since my wife gave birth, I've seen my wife work hard to raise our son and didn't get enough sleep. I also take care of our son and support my wife, but basically my wife does most of the work. It's not all good days every day, such as when she feeds our son and our son doesn't eat, or when she gives him a bath, water splashes on his face and he cries and cries. Little by little, she understands our son and is growing up as a mother. What will he eat? What should I do to be in a good mood for him? My wife always thinks about him and works hard to raise our son. she is very reliable and flexible. When I see my wife, I realize once again that the efforts of a mother to raise a child are immeasurable. We remember what we did for others, but we tend to forget what others have done for us. Some people might not remember much about their childhood, but we are what we are now thanks to the efforts of moms and dads. I recommend you think about the efforts of your mom and dad again.

Mother's Day already passed this year, but June 19 is Father's Day. June 19 is the day to express our gratitude to our father. I'd like you to cherish Father's Day too. Please give a gift and say thank you or I love you. Also, if any of you have already lost your father, bring flowers to his grave or his columbarium because your father and mother are irreplaceable to you. Let's continue to cherish Mother's Day and Father's Day from now on.

In Gassho,
Rev. Shinsho Hata

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha Members and Friends of Taishoji!

It's already June. Half of the year has gone by. As we go into the summer, let us continue to be safe and covid free so that we can hopefully enjoy in person gatherings safely. After two years, our Annual Temple picnic is back and scheduled for Sunday, June 12. Also, we are planning to have in person Bon Dance and Toro Nagashi in July.

I would like to Mahalo everyone that came out to help with the Fujin Kai fundraiser of preparing Kakuma on April 23 and 24. It was originally scheduled for April 30 but the Kakuma started coming out earlier than we had hoped. It was also the annual Fujin Kai conference on the 23. Thank you to those who represented Taishoji at the conference. Then on Sunday 24, the Busshin Kai held a general membership meeting. It was a very busy weekend to say the least. Also, congratulations to Grace Fuke and to the Fuke Ohana. Grace was the only graduate honored at this year's Baccalaureate service held on May 22, 2022. I look forward to seeing everyone at our Annual Picnic in June.

In Gassho,
Derrick Izumo

BUSSHIN KAI

Mahalo to everyone who attended our Busshin Kai General Membership meeting on April 22. I look forward to seeing what we accomplish together over the next two years.

As part of our ongoing educational program, Busshin Kai will host the second Soto Zen Workshop from 10-11:30 a.m. Sunday,

May 29 at the Taishoji social hall. The topic has been changed to Shushogi, one of the foundational documents in Soto Zen. Everyone is welcome to attend this free event taught by Rev. Shinsho Hata. Please join us so we can learn and grow as Buddhists together.

One of Busshin Kai's responsibilities is assisting ministers with church services. If you're interested in helping, please attend **another workshop at 10 a.m. June 11** where Rev. Hata will go over protocols and procedures, such as ringing the church bell, and other ways members can contribute.

Also, please fill out the lantern form in this newsletter for this year's Toro Nagashi and return it by **July 15**. **Checks should be addressed to Busshin Kai.** Mahalo!

In Gassho,
Tom Callis

FUJIN KAI

Aloha Fujin Kai Members, Family, and Friends,

Thank you very much for helping our Kakuma fundraiser. We appreciate your hard work harvesting, boiling, and peeling, and thank you for purchasing the finished product! It was a successful fundraiser because of you! And many thanks to Mr. Hagio for making our fundraiser possible by opening his farm to us.

The annual conference of the UHSSWA was held at the same day virtually and it also went well. The next year's conference will be in Wahiawa, Oahu. Our temple will host the conference in the following year 2024, how exciting!

On May 11th, Hata Sensei delivered our best wishes to the members at the Life Care Center and Hale Anuenue. Thanks for the loving donations of hand sewn items. We are praying for those who are staying at home as well as those in other facilities. Please take care.

In June, we will have Kaisan-ki/ Rekiju-ki/ Kannon-ko Service on June 5th. And our picnic will be on June 12th. Let's have a relaxing fun time by the beach.

Thank you again for your kind support and encouragement for Taishoji Fujin Kai.

In gassho, Yoko Chōyō Gussman



Our Kakumas are sold out! Thank you very much for your support!



Taishoji Fujinkai Members



Hand sewn items and Koinobori for the members at the care home

Buddhism in the modern world -- karma in daily life

My last article was about what we need to practice as a Buddhist. It was the Noble Eightfold Path which the Buddha Sakyamuni taught. Also as guidelines, some of the precepts we take when we become a Buddhist and receive our Buddhist name.

Why does this path work? It works because of the principle that we know as karma. Karma is a Sanskrit word meaning action, but when used in a Buddhist context, we know that every action we take has a result, everything we say and do. Good actions have good results, poor actions have poor results.

We all know karma, because we know that if we rob a gas station or commit a crime, we will be in big trouble. On the other hand, if we work hard, study, graduate from schools, we can get a better job, and improve our quality of life. We all know karma on a large scale. But we also make many small decisions every day, these also have effects on our lives. It is easy for us to see the results of large mistakes. Small mistakes are more difficult to see, but still yet give us smaller problems. It is this karma that explains the circumstances in which we find ourselves.

We tend to justify everything we say and do, even if we only tell small lies or exaggerate, or maybe some selfish or greedy behavior. We have to know that there is no escape from our karma. We will always receive the rewards of our actions. So it is best to follow the morality given in the Noble Eightfold Path, giving us a more happy and peaceful life.

In Gassho,
Deacon Juho

BAIKA-KO NEWS

Taishoji Baika-ko will be sponsoring the **Kaisanki & Rekiju-Ki (Memorial Service for the deceased founder and past ministers of Taishoji) / Deceased Baika-Ko Members Memorial Service / Kannon-Ko at 10:00am on June 5th**. The deceased Baika-ko Members Memorial Service honors our 78 deceased members. Their names will be read at the service. Family members and friends are welcome to participate in this service and offer incense to remember and honor them when their names are called. The service will be livestream via Facebook.

UKULELE NEWS

The afternoon Ukulele class on Tuesdays is moving to Wednesday, Starting on June 8th, class will be from 4:30pm to 5:30pm. For those of you who work during the day, I have added an evening class from 6:30 to 7:30. Classes are held in the social hall. Feel free to call or text me at 808-936-1124 for questions or if you want to sign up for the class.

In Gassho,
Derrick Izumo

TAISHOJI TAIKO NEWS

Taishoji Taiko Recreational Group resume their practice from June 7, 2022. The practice will be held every Tuesday 4:30 –6:00pm. New participants are welcome. More information, please call Lei Kaniumoe (808-557-0175)

Taishoji Taiko



OBON AND BON-ODORI

Every year from July to August millions of Japanese and friends celebrate the Obon festival. They honor the spirits / memories of their dead ancestors who return for a short visit to the world of the living. Many businesses close and people go on summer vacation in Japan as well as Hawai'i. Employers hand out bonuses to workers. Businesses might give gifts to special customers and students might give something to teachers.

Families gather in the square. It's hot. Several men struggle to lug a huge taiko drum up onto a high yagura (platform for the musicians). Food booths offer tempting mounds of shaved ice with colorful syrup. Teenagers and children excitedly patrol the stalls, examining souvenirs and folk toys as well as the food.

Boom! Boom! Boom! The drummers begin. Rhythm fills the dance arena. A group of women begin to dance the bon-odori (various folk songs and dances chrome various areas of Japan and newer numbers). The dance steps are simple and graceful. Then others – men and women, boys and girls – join in. Many wear cotton yukata, the summer kimono. People dance in a wide circle around the yagura. A second circle forms, Then a third. Bamboo flutes and folk singers add to the cheerful excitement. Before the festival, people have cleaned their family graves. They have swept, pulled weeds, watered plants, and brought fresh flowers.

On the first night of the festival, families return to the cemetery. It is dark. Everyone carries a white lantern with a glowing candle inside it to show the spirits of their ancestors the way home. Burning incense sticks (senko) lend a spicy smell. Spooky? Nobody is afraid. The spirits will not hurt them. Back home, families will eat a festive dinner. They remember to prepare the favorite foods of their departed relatives, especially those who passed away recently. On the last night of the Obon festival, families with lighted lanterns will guide the spirits back to cemeteries and the Spirit World. If there is a river near-by, a Toro-nagashi is held, with floating paper lanterns and lit candles to travel down the river to the open sea and the Spirit World. The floating lanterns bear the names of families or individual relatives. Such is the Zen Buddhist tradition and it strengthens the family bonds.

Walter Tachibana

**TAISHOJI ANNUAL PICNIC
SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2022 / 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
IBEW Hall at Bakers Beach**

Our Taishoji annual picnic for our members and friends will be held at the **IBEW Hall at Bakers Beach**. Lunch, soft drinks and Bingo prizes will be provided by Taishoji Kyodan in appreciation for your unselfish time and cooperation during the year. A delicious lunch will be prepared for you including shave ice, water melon. Dessert is voluntary. We will have the grill going, so if anyone wants to bring some pupu to grill, it will be welcomed. Let's all come out and relax to join in the fellowship with our Sangha. Bring your fishing gear & swimming suits. Our main item is **BIN-GO!!** Let us enjoy ourselves, take a break and have fun on this relaxing day.



TAISHOJI BON DANCE PRACTICE

Tuesday June 21, July 5 & 19 at 6:00 - 7:30 pm, Taishoji will be having Bon Dance Practice. Come and join us for fellowship in our practice sessions and Bon Dance! Buddhist traditions were brought to Hawaii in the late 19th century by Japanese immigrants. The first Bon Dances were held on the plantations on which the immigrants lived and labored. Over the years the Bon Dance has become a community event in which all are welcome to participate.



Baccalaureate Service for Grace Fuke on May 22, 2022



Congratulations, Grace!

2022 TAISHOJI O-BON DONATION FORM

Name of Donor: _____

	Last		First
Donation for:	O-Bon Service	\$ _____	
	Toba @ \$2.00 _____	\$ _____	
	Total	\$ _____	

Toba Name (s): Please print

(1)	_____	
	Donor	Dedicated To
(2)	_____	
	Donor	Dedicated To
(3)	_____	
	Donor	Dedicated To
(4)	_____	
	Donor	Dedicated To
(5)	_____	
	Donor	Dedicated To

Make check or cash payable to **Taishoji Soto Mission, 275 Kinoole St, Hilo, HI 96720**
 Please mail or drop of form and donation to **Taishoji Soto Mission by Friday, July 15, 2022**

Summer is **BON DANCE** season. We decided to have our Obon Dance in person this year! Taishoji' Soto Mission's Bon Dance is on **Saturday, July 23rd**. A short service at 6:00 pm will precede the Bon Dance. You can feel the excitement when people of all ages arrive at our temple to dance or watch the colorful celebration. The mesmerizing drumming of Taishoji Taiko makes you want to get up and dance. The awesome performance by the Taiko members at **8:00 pm** are always a hit for our Hilo Community.

Since Covid could get worse, we may still cancel at the last minute. Thank you for your understanding.

The O-bon/ Hatsubon service is on **Sunday, July 24th** at **10:00 am** officiated by **Rev. Shinsho Hata**, 15th resident minister of Taishoji. Rev. Hata will be assisted by Deacon Juho Kirkpatrick and Deacon Jigaku Takenouchi at our Bon Dance and O-Bon Service. Our guest speaker for the O-Bon Service will be **Rev. Tomoki Hirasawa of Maui Mantokuji Temple**.

Everyone is welcome to attend both services. By attending these events you can welcome your ancestral spirits back from their spirit world and dance with them before their departure back to their spirit world during the Toro Nagashi.

The memorial service held at O-bon have two meanings. One is to honor the Buddha and show reverence for one's ancestors and others who have died.

The other is to express gratitude to all people to whom we are indebted, including those who are alive such as our parents, relatives, and friends. Toro Nagashi will be held at the Wailoa Small Boat Harbor at **5:00 pm**.



Dancing to Fukushima Ondo



O-Bon Service



Performance by Taishoji Taiko

2022 TORO-NAGASHI



Our annual Taishoji Toro-Nagashi (Floating Lantern Service) will take place on **Sunday, July 24, 2022** at the Wailoa River Boat Ramp at **5:00 p.m.**

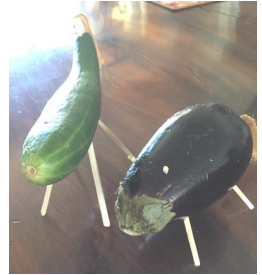
A limited number of lanterns will be issued for this event on a “first come” basis. A donation of \$25.00 is requested for each lantern. The donor and two (2) names will be written on each lantern.

Each lantern needs a separate **Request Form**.

We shall need your help and cooperation in order to have a very successful Toro Nagashi so we can end our beloved

ancestors’ spirits back to their Nirvana Spirit World with “Aloha” after the O-Bon service with ether the boat or cow.

All donors are requested to be at the Wailoa River boat ramp by **5:00 p.m.**, or earlier to pick up their lanterns to lovingly assemble it for their loved ones. If you are not able to be at the boat ramp, we will ask others to do it for you.



Cucumber Horse bringing a loved one quickly, and an Eggplant Cow slowly taking them back to their spirit world

NOTE: NO PERSONAL LANTERN (S) WILL BE ACCEPTED DUE TO SAFETY CONCERNS.

.....Cut On Line.....

TAISHOJI SOTO MISSION 2022 TORO NAGASHI LANTERN REQUEST FORM

Donor’s Name (Print) _____
Last First

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

Dedicated to: (Print) _____
Last First

Dedicated to: (Print) _____
Last First

Donation of \$ **25.00** for each Lantern \$ _____ \$ _____
Check Cash

Make check or cash payable to **“Taishoji Busshin Kai”**

Please mail or drop of form and donation to the temple by **Friday, July 15, 2022**

TO: TAISHOJI SOTO MISSION 275 KINOOLE STREET HILO, HI 96720-2944