

HAKUHO



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MARCH 2020

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Aloha, Members and Friends of Taishoji,

From February 13 to 16, the trainee monk from Sojiji Monastery, Rev. Toju Takahashi, stayed at Taishoji for one of this overseas training programs. He helped with our Nehan-e Service. During the service, he played the ukulele with me and sang Magokoro Ni Ikiru with all the participants. We had a very meaningful time. Nehan means the death of Buddha or blowing out of the fires of greed, anger and ignorance or the state of perfect peace of mind. Buddha passed away under twin Sala trees near the town of Kushinagara on February 15th. Everyone dies someday. We have to depart from this world. Have you ever thought about your own death? Some people think about it, but some people don't want to think about it. However, Soto Zen founder, Dogen said, "The most important issue of all for Buddhists is the thorough clarification of the meaning of birth and death." Dogen emphasized that as a Buddhist, we need to think about death which we cannot avoid.

This picture is Taishoji's Nehan-e Scroll. This Nehan-e Scroll is drawn with a lot of people and animals. Each of them has a special episode. I'd like to introduce you to one of the episodes.

Continued on next page



Deacon Jigaku Takenouchi, Rev. Toju Takahashi,
Rev. Shinsho Hata & Deacon Juho Kirkpatrick



Nehan-e Scroll

On the left side of the Buddha, there is a man who is holding food. Do you know who he is? His name is Cunda Kammāraputta. He was a blacksmith. It is said that after Buddha had Cunda's meal, Buddha suffered from fatal dysentery and passed away. Before Buddha passed away, Buddha worried about Cunda since Cunda would suffer from a guilty conscience and Buddha's disciples would accuse him of carelessness. So Buddha gave this sermon before he died. "Since I was born, I received two special meals. One of the meals was the rice pudding which Sujata offered me after I quit the ascetic practice. Thanks to the rice pudding, my body and mind became strong right away and could attain enlightenment. The other was Cunda's meal. Thanks to the meal, I can go to Nirvana where there are no worldly desires. Cunda's meal was equally as important as Sujata's rice pudding. Those were precious meals for me. So Cunda had a precious practice."



Left side of Nehan-e Scroll

After Cunda listened to Buddha's sermon, Cunda cried and felt happy. When I read the story, I was very surprised. Buddha passed away without blaming Cunda and regretting his death. Moreover, Buddha gave kind words to Cunda with compassion. If you had a meal from your friend and had a bad stomach ache, what would you do? You might regret receiving the meal from your friend or you might be angry at your friend. But Buddha didn't have regret at all when he died. I thought that the reason why Buddha didn't regret his death is that Buddha lived his life to the fullest so that he would have no regrets even if he died. Do you live your life to the fullest like Buddha? By thinking of one's own death, we understand that life is limited. If we are conscious of our limited life, we will try to live our life to the fullest. And if we are conscious of the limited life of others, we will act to others with compassion as much as possible. It is a very important idea of Zen. We cannot go back to past days. I'd like you to live your life to the fullest so that you will have no regrets even if you died like Buddha.

Finally, through the Nehan-e Scroll, we are able to know how much Buddha was loved by others. Probably, there are many other people who the painter couldn't draw in this scroll. People who were saddened by Buddha's death. If you are the center in this scroll instead of Buddha, how many people would gather around you? It depends on how much you loved and supported others. I'd like you to love and support others like Buddha and live your life to the fullest so that you will have no regrets even when you die. Let us cherish every moment and enrich our life.

In Gassho,
Rev. Shinsho Hata

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brrrr! Aloha Everyone,
Ending of January to the writing of this newsletter, it has been wet, windy and very cold with the temperatures in the 50's in the mornings with beautiful snow on for days. Is this due to climate change? Keep warm everyone. Its also flu season so get your shots.



Mauna Kea



and Mauna Loa

In January Taishoji held its annual Kyodan General Membership Meeting and Board of Directors election. For the years 2020-2022, officers and directors are President-Rodney Nishino, 1st Vice Edith Nishino, 2nd Vice-Walter Tachibana & 3rd Vice-Derrick Izumo, Secretary-Linda Matsushita, Treasurer-Ellen Yamauchi, Asst Treasurer-Brent Takenouchi & Elaine Miura, Auditors, Joseph Takenouchi, Michael Watanabe & Alan Jyo, Correspondence-Patricia Fuke, Directors-Yoko Gussman, Michael Nagai & Thomas Callis. Komons are Kazue Tanimoto, Hiromu Yamauchi and Larry Soma. Temple Advisors are Rev. Shinsho Hata and Mrs. Mamiko Hata.

In Gassho, Rodney Nishino

FUJIN KAI

Aloha Fujin Kai Members, Friends & Families!

Thank you for your hard work, good wishes & support! Although we still have some cold nights and mornings, days are getting longer and the spring is near! In March, let's celebrate Spring Ohigan together on 3/15. Our Niigata fundraiser will be on Saturday, March 7th (If you can help, the prep work will start at 8:30 am on Friday 3/6 and the cooking will start at 7:00 am on Saturday, 3/7. Thank you.) Also, this year's Kakuma picking / boiling / peeling date is set for Saturday, 3/28. Please come to help us if your time allows. There will be no Fujin Kai meeting in March. The next meeting is planned for April 5 at 1 pm. Thanks again for your support near and far. Wishing you good health and happiness. Always. If you have questions, please call (808)345-1765.

PS: Fujin Kai is always welcoming new members. Please join us!

With gratitude in Gassho,

Yoko Gussman

BUSSHIN KAI

Eighty-five years ago, the most loyal and, now famous, pet dog passed away on March 8, 1935. It was a purebred, male Akita dog named Hachikō. Hachikō belonged to a breed of dogs not far removed from their wolf origins. He had a thick coat of fur, golden light brown in color, a whitish face, and with an upright tail that curled to the left. He stood 2 ft and 1 inch and weighed 90 lbs. He was gentle and calm.

Akita Prefecture in northern Japan had harsh and long winters. Hachikō was born in the town of Ōdate in northeastern Akita on November 10, 1923. When he was 2, Hachikō was purchased by Eizaburo Ueno, a professor of agriculture at Tōkyō University, who for a long time had been looking for a purebred Akita dog.

In Tōkyō they formed a close bond, which led to Hachikō going down with the professor to Shibuya train station for his morning ride to work and then at 4 p.m. for the master's return from work by train. This went on for sometime, until on May 21, 1925, Professor Ueno suffered a cerebral hemorrhage at work and passed away there at age 53. So, he never did come home on the 4 p.m. train that Hachiko was waiting for.

No one told him what happened. Friends and relatives cared for him, but they could not stop him from going to the Shibuya train station to wait for his master. People began to notice him waiting year after year for the 4 p.m. train. They put up a statue of Hachikō in 1934 at the train station with him as the guest of honor. He kept on waiting for 9 years. Until one day he died alone and on the street near Shibuya train station.

People called him Chūken Hachikō (The Loyal Dog, Hachikō). Statues have been made of him at Shibuya train station, in Ōdate in Akita Prefecture, and in Rhode Island where the movie "Hachi, a Dog's Tale" was made. Today in Ōdate is the Akita Dog Museum with a special section for Hachikō. In 2016, a statue of Hachikō and Dr. Ueno reunited was unveiled.

Each year on April 8, a memorial service is held at Hachikō's statue, led by the mayor of Shibuya ward, its police chief, and the Shibuya stationmaster. And the cherry blossoms are in full bloom.

In Zen Buddhism, we believe animals are sentient beings and can have Buddha nature. That's the lesson of Hachiko. Please come and join everyone in Hilo for the BIBF Hanamatsuri Service at Higashi Hongwanji at 9:30 am on April 5. And, then, come together for our own Taishoji Hanamatsuri, Kannon-ko, and Toba-Kuyo service on April 12 at 9:30 am

Walter Tachibana

BALANCE

Reading many books on Zen Buddhism, may provide some groundwork for the understanding of Zen, but knowledge and wisdom are two different things. Knowledge is gained by learning things from external sources. Wisdom is developed from inner experience and realization. In Zen, wisdom is the more important, and gained through practice and insight. The practice of Zen is not limited to sitting. We must remember that true Zen cannot be practiced if the student does not follow the teachings of the Buddha. Mahayana Buddhism tells us that in order to attain perfect enlightenment, one must develop two qualities; "prajna" or wisdom, and "karuna" or compassion. We need to balance these two.

In our temple, compassion is represented by Kannon (Avalokiteshvara) holding the sacred healing waters to comfort the suffering. Wisdom is represented by Manjusri, who holds the sword of wisdom to cut off all delusions.

To develop wisdom and destroy ignorance and illusion, one should begin with the observance of the precepts and practice meditation. To develop compassion one should practice the six paramitas, the attributes of a Bodhisattva; "dana" generosity, "sila" morality, "ksanti" patience, "viryā" energy "dhyana" meditation, and "prajna" wisdom. "Dana" giving selflessly being very important, developing loving-kindness and concern for all life. The ideal is a balance of wisdom and compassion.

Juho

MARCH 2020 SCHEDULE

1	Sun	8:00-8:35 am 9:00 am	Zazen SS / Family Service
6	Fri	8:30 am	Fujin Kai (Niigata Lunch Prep)
7	Sat	7:00 am 7:00 am	Fujin Kai (Niigata Lunch Cooking) Temple cleaning Group # 3
8	Sun	8-8:35 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 1:00 pm	Zazen SS / Family Service Kyodan Meeting Fujin Kai Meeting
14	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 4
15	Sun	10:00 am	Haru No Ohigan / Kannon-ko Service (Fujin Kai)
21	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
22	Sun	8-8:35 am 9:00 am	Zazen SS / Family Service
28	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
29	Sun	8-8:35 am	Zazen

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

Yoga & Zazen	Monday	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Zazen	3 rd Saturday of Month	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
	Sunday's before Sunday School	8:00 am - 8:35 am
Taiko	Sunday	11:00 am - 1:00 pm
	Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Troop 95	Wednesday	7:15 pm
Pack 95	Friday, Hilo Union School Library	6:00 pm
Go Class	Thursday	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

TENTATIVE APRIL 2020 TAISHOJI SCHEDULE

4	Sat	7:00 am	Temple cleaning Group # 3
5	Sun	9:30 am 1:00 pm	BIBF Hanamatsuri Service (Higashi Hongwanji) Fujin Kai Meeting
11	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 4
12	Sun	9:30 am 10:00 am	Taishoji Hanamatsuri / Kannon-Ko / Toba Kuyo KYODAN MEETING (Cancelled)
18	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
18 & 19	Sat & Sun		UHSSWA Conference (Maui Mantokuji)
25	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
26	Sun	8-8:35 am	Zazen
	Sun	9:00 am	SS / Family Service

WE WELCOME A NEW MEMBER TO OUR SANGHA

Mrs. Cynthia Morris

You and your family are welcome to join in our activities and events at the temple through out the year. There is a Brochure at the entrance to the Hondo about Taishoji and its activities and events held during the year and the different organizations of Taishoji.

Thank you for joining our Sangha

IN MEMORIUM

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

Mrs. Tsuneko Watanabe

November 6, 1923 - February 6, 2020



SETSUBUN



UH Students and Children



Kanakanaka Okita on Key Board



Board of Directors Installation



Wedding of Suwimol & Dr. Argon Steel



Rev. Toju Takahashi



Kenchato



Kannon Sama



Pilgrimage lead by Rev. Hata



Osuna Fumi



**Magokoro Ni Ikiru
Rev. Hata & Rev. Takahashi on Ukulele**

TAISHOJI HANAMATSURI SERVICE - April 12th at 9:30am
Flower Festival: Celebrating Buddha's Birthday

Shakyamuni Buddha's birthday is celebrated on April 8th. He was born 2500 years ago to King Siddhartha and Queen Maya under an Asoka tree 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.

It has long been said that at the time of his birth Shakyamuni Buddha said, "Heaven, Earth and I are all one person." At each temple, a small pavilion, covering a statue of the baby Buddha pointing one index finger toward heaven and the other toward earth, is set up and decorated with flowers. This stature is bathed with sweet tea and this is the way Flower Festival is observed. Let us believe in the true happiness brought about by Shakyamuni Buddha's teaching and celebrate the unsurpassable joy it gives.



Hanamido

Sweet tea is an essential element of the Flower Festival. According to the legend, two Dragon Kings rained warm and cool sweet water from heaven to bathe the baby Buddha. Not only is sweet tea drunk at the Flower Festival, but there is also the custom of grinding Sumi ink with it and writing "April 8th is a day of good fortune and insects are driven away." The piece of paper this is written on is hung upside down and thought to keep away disagreeable insects.

-----CUT ON LINE-----

HANAMATSURI DONATION FORM

Member's Name _____

Last

First

Hanamatsuri & Toba Donation

Hanamatsuri Donation \$ _____

Toba _____ @ \$2.00 each \$ _____

Membership Dues for Year 2020 / \$60.00 (if not paid) \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Toba Name (s) (Please Print) (Include another sheet if more is needed)

1) _____
DONOR DEDICATED TO

2) _____
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Thank you for supporting Taishoji Soto Mission Namu Kie Butsu. Namu Kie Ho. Namu Kie So