



HAKUHO

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MARCH 2021

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Aloha, Members and Friends of Taishoji,

On Feb 14, we did a Nehan-e, Nirvana Day Service. Nirvana means the death of Buddha or blowing out of the fires of greed, anger and ignorance or the state of perfect peace of mind. Since Buddha passed away on Feb 15, Soto Zen temples have the Nehan-e Service around Feb 15. For me, February 15 is a very important day, because it is my wife's birthday! Every time the Nehan-e Service is coming, the Nehan-e reminds me of my wife's birthday. So fortunately, I've never forgotten her birthday. And my wife was born on the day when Buddha passed away, I sometimes think that my wife might be like a reincarnation of Buddha! She is a very generous person, that's why.

Anyway, when Buddha was 35 years old, he attained enlightenment. Ever since then, he listened to a lot of people's worries and saved them for 45 years. When he was 80 years old, he passed away under twin Sala trees near the town of Kushinagara. Just before Buddha passed away, one of Buddha's disciples asked Buddha, "Please tell me, Lord Buddha. How should we live our life without you?" Buddha said to all disciples, "All my disciples, make of yourself a light. Rely upon yourself. Make my teachings your light. Rely upon them."

To make of yourself a light is called "Jitomyo" (自灯明) to make Buddha's teachings your light is called "Hotomyo" (法灯明) in Japanese. These are very precious teachings of Buddha. First, to make of yourself a light, Jitomyo, is to act spontaneously without depending on others. Buddha taught the disciples that they should walk the path of their lives by illuminating their own light. If you always depend on your parents, friends or people around you and then lose them, you might not be able to live your life yourself. It is a very dangerous situation to depend on others. I think that Buddha was worried about this and taught Jitomyo to the disciples. As a human being, the time will come when we have to depend on others. But as Buddha said, we should try to act spontaneously without depending on others. I hope that you will become a person who can act independently without relying on others. Next, to make Buddha's teachings your light, Hotomyo, is to consider what is going on now and our own behaviors compared with Buddhist teachings and doing good for others.

Continued on next page

In our daily life, we sometimes use bad words or hurt others in anger. If we always live with Buddha's teachings, we will be able to use kind words and judge things calmly. So Jitomyo and Hotomyo are always illuminating our heart and the lights are emotional support for us.

In addition, Buddha taught us the impermanence of life through his death. Our life will end someday. But we normally don't think about it and just spend our time without treasuring every day. Now, I'd like to introduce you to the poem of a German poet. "Our life is like a lighted candle. Burning and illuminating, the candle is getting smaller day by day. Nobody can stop the decreasing of our own candle. We can only decide where we illuminate and how we illuminate. This is the only freedom human beings are given."

The poem touched my heart. Our lifetime is limited. Someday, the light of our life will go out just like the light of the candle goes out. But what is important is how we use the light of our own candle. If we fight each other, we might create the fire of greed, anger and hatred using the light of our own candle. This is not good. We need to illuminate the light of compassion. If there is a person who has lost his family or friend and is in deep sorrow around you, please warm the person's heart by your light of compassion. By doing so, the person's life will be easier than before. I'm always illuminated by Taishoji members' compassionate light and receive a lot of love. So I'd like to illuminate the light of my compassion to as many as possible from now on.

Finally, what is your emotional support? The teachings of Jitomyo and Hotomyo are Buddha's encouraging words which make your life enriched. Buddha always watches over you even though he has passed away. Through the Nehan-e Service, let us reflect on our behavior, make of ourselves a light, make Buddha's teachings our light and illuminate others' lives by our light of compassion. Thank you very much.

In Gassho,
Rev. Shinsho Hata

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha Members and Friends,

I'm hoping everyone is well and safe and those who qualified for their vaccine shots took their shots. Now, hopefully we may be able to gradually go back to our normal life style but still wearing masks (now double masking) is being recommended and social distancing which is very important.

Due to Covid-19, Taishoji Soto Mission is following the CDC guidelines during our services with members and friends in attendance. We apologize for the inconvenience this is causing for those who want to attend the services. However, for now, we can accept only 25 people at any service. If you want to attend these services, please call **Rev. Hata (808-935-8407)** to reserve a seat in advance for any of the services. The upcoming **Fujin Kai Ohigan Service followed by the Kyodan Osunafumi Service on Sunday, March 14th at 10:00am** will be with **(audience participation)**, so please call in to save a seat.

Please watch the **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** for information on services and **(audience participation)**

Due to COVID-19 in 2020, we could not attend church so Rev. Hata with the help of several members of our temple started to feature not only our services but other services concerning Taishoji on **Facebook & YouTube**. The links below will take you to **Facebook** where services can be viewed live and on **YouTube** can be viewed later in the afternoon. **(HIGHLIGHT LINK AND CLICK TO OPEN HYPERLINK)**

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

March 14th (Live) 10:00am - Fujin Kai Ohigan Service / Kyodan Osunafumi Service

YouTube Link - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSQ4EVuqUml_rGhb1c-8RQQ

March 14th Service can be viewed on YouTube in the afternoon

In Gassho,
Rodney Nishino

JAPANESE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION of HAWAII SCHOLARSHIP

The **JCAH** awards **2 - \$1500** scholarships each year.

Here is the **link** to the JCAH Scholarship **[Apply for 2021 JCAH Scholarship! \(icahawaii.org\)](https://www.icaohawaii.org)**

Also, a **link** to the 2020 awardees **[2020 JCAH Scholarship Recipients \(icahawaii.org\)](https://www.icaohawaii.org)**.

JCAH

FUJIN KAI

Dear Fujin Kai Members, Families and Friends! "HAPPY SPRING"

We have been patient and finally there is a Covid-19 vaccine but let's continue to be careful and diligent until we are safe. Please stay healthy during this season as the days get longer but the nights remain cold. As Haru no Ohigan approaches, we put our hands together to remember our late mothers, sisters, family members and friends. We will have a Haru no Ohigan Service / Osunafumi on March 14th, socially distanced in-person and online via Facebook livestream and YouTube. Thank you again for your support with the Cookbook fundraiser. They are all sold out. If you have any questions, suggestions about Fujin Kai, or address changes etc., Please let me know. Also new members are always welcome! (Tel: 808-345-1765 Email: hilo1989@gmail.com)

With Gratitude in Gassho,
Yoko Gussman

BUSSHIN KAI

Everyone, please take care from the coronavirus-19 and other dangers. Wear 2 (?) masks for the good of self and others and keep 6 feet away and no 10+ social gatherings. We wish that you will find comfort in following science, experts and Zen's wisdom ways.

March is a month to honor all girls, young and old, because March 3 is Girls' Day (Momo-no-Sekku / Peach Festival). The following is to honor all grand-daughters:

From the time that you were new
 And I would stare for hours at you ,
I memorized each little part
 And held them all inside
 My Heart

From the time I cradled you,
 I'm sure it was the day I knew
That somehow that you would always be,
 A very Special Part
 Of me.

Please live strong, long and healthy, everyone...

WISDOM WORDS

Pain is unavoidable, suffering is optional - - Buddhist Wisdom "We are shaped by our thoughts" - - Buddhist Dharma
You only lose what you cling to - - Buddhism The trouble is, you think you have time - - Buddhism
 If you light a lamp for somebody, It will also brighten your path - - Buddhist Saying

Walter Tachibana, President

HOW WE THINK

In our green book, the Eightfold path says "we will be aware of our thoughts, because our words and actions arise from our thoughts." And of course all of our actions have results. The better our thoughts, the better our actions, leading to an easier life.

My teacher used to talk about anger being a bad condition. It stirs up or (agitates) the mind. He gave a dirty water story,,,. He said our mind is like a glass of water with sand at the bottom, if the water is stirred up, then it becomes dirty and hard to see through. if the water is calm, then it becomes clear.

When our mind is agitated (stirred up) we cannot think clearly, and then we make poor decisions, we have all said things in anger that we wish we had never said. Remember that we always have to suffer the consequences of our actions. When our mind is calm and quiet, we can think more clearly and make better decisions. Meditation helps us with this.

When I lived at the Buddhist Meditation Center in Los Angeles, one of my stories was about getting angry while driving to work on the freeway. Then that evening during meditation, sitting with a calm mind, I realized where my thinking was wrong. Because of this, I don't get mad at bad drivers anymore.

We all change our thoughts as time goes by. strive to change them for the better.

In Gassho,
Deacon Juho

HANAMATSURI (FLOWER FESTIVAL)

Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 9:30 am, the Taishoji Kyodan will be hosting our **HANAMATSURI / KANNON KO / TOBA KUYO SERVICE**. We will be celebrating Shakyamuni Buddha's birthday. He was born more than 2,500 years ago to King Siddhartha and Queen Maya in the garden of Lumbini 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 one person." At each temple through out Japan, 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 statue is bathed with sweet tea and this is the way Flower Festivals are observed.

Flower festivals are not held only at temples, however. It is also observed as a general, public event. Let us believe in the true happiness brought about by Shakyamuni Buddha's teaching and celebrate the unsurpassable joy it gives. Sweet tea is essential of the Flower Festival. According to the legend, two Dragon Kings rained warm and cold sweet water from heaven to bathe 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 as 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.

PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING SHAKYAMUNI BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY!

.....CUT ALONG LINE.....

HANAMATSURI DONATION

Member's Name:

	Last	First
Donation For:	Hanamatsuri Service	\$ _____
	Toba _____ @ \$2.00 each	\$ _____
		Total \$ _____

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

1)	DONOR	DEDICATED TO
2)	DONOR	DEDICATED TO
3)	DONOR	DEDICATED TO
4)	DONOR	DEDICATED TO
5)	DONOR	DEDICATED TO



Nehan-e Scroll



33 Kannon



People on Pilgrimage



Rev, Hata accompanying Goeika members singing Nehan Gowasan



Goeika Members at Nehan-e Service



Rev. Hata Reading Toba Names from Stupa Boards



Rev, Hata's Dharma Lesson on Nehan-e



Mrs. Mamiko Hata at the Organ (Welcome Back)

MARCH 2021 SCHEDULE

6	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
7	Sun	8-8:35 am	Zazen
		9:00 am	SS / Family Service
13	Sat	7:00 am	Temple cleaning Group # 4
		8:00 am	Prepare / Set up for Osunafumi Service
14	Sun	10:00 am	(Volunteers Please Help. Need To Carry Tables)
		After Ohigan Service	(AUDIENCE) Haru No Ohigan Service (Fujin Kai)
			(AUDIENCE) Osunafumi Service (Kyodan)
20	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
21	Sun	8-8:35 am	Zazen
		9:00 am	SS / Family Service
27	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
28	Sun	8-8:35 am	Zazen
		9:00 am	SS / Family Service

On March 14th the Fujin Kai will be having their Ohigan Service and the Kyodan Osunafumi Service which was moved to this date to follow. Please address your donations to the Fujin Kai. It is a Fujin Kai Service. Kyodan had their Nehan-e Service on February 14th

TAISHOJI ZAZEN / YOGA / TAIKO / TROOP 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
Go Class	Thursday	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

TENTATIVE APRIL 2021 TAISHOJI SCHEDULE

3	Sat	7:00 am	Temple cleaning Group # 3
4	Sun	9:00 am	BIBF Hanamatsuri Service (Honpa Hongwanji)
10	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 4
11	Sun	9:30 am	Taishoji Hanamatsuri / Kannon-Ko / Toba Kuyo
			(Kyodan Service)
17	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
17 & 18	Sat & Sun		UHSSWA Conference (CANCELLED UNTIL 2022)
24	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
25	Sun	8-8:35 am	Zazen
	Sun	9:00 am	SS / Family Service