



# HAKUHO

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**MARCH 2022**

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Aloha, Members and Friends of Taishoji,

“Thich Nhat Hanh”

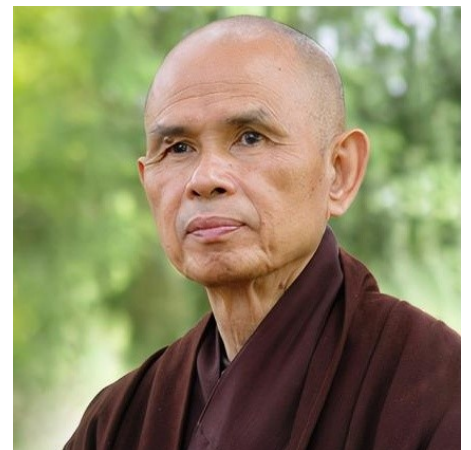
As many of you may know, Thich Nhat Hanh, a famous Zen priest from Vietnam, passed away on January 22nd last month at the age of 95. Thich Nhat Hanh was born in 1926 in central Vietnam. He was a Vietnamese Thiền Buddhist monk, peace activist, prolific author, poet, teacher, and founder of the Plum Village Tradition, historically recognized as the main inspiration for engaged Buddhism. He was a world-renowned spiritual leader and his outstanding teachings influenced the whole world.

He has provided his Dharma teaching in various places during his lifetime. In 2010, I entered Sojiji monastery, one of the head temples in Japan and practiced there for one year. During monastery life, I had a chance to listen to various famous monks' Dharma talk. Fortunately, the 14th Dalai Lama came to Sojiji monastery and I was able to hear his story. Thich Nhat Hanh was also scheduled to come to Sojiji monastery. I was very much looking forward to seeing him but at that time the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred and he couldn't come to Japan.

I couldn't meet him, but many Soto Zen monks, including myself, were influenced by his teachings and actions.

He was known as the "father of mindfulness." His mindfulness teaching is "the energy of being aware and awake to the present moment." This teaching is based on the teaching of the Noble Eightfold Path.

His famous practice is walking meditation, which brings the mind wandering between the past and future to the "now" by focusing on breathing while walking. By being aware and awake to the present moment, our condition will gradually become calmer, more stable, and our mind will always be peaceful.



**Continued on next page**

Thich Nhat Hanh and Chân Không, a Buddhist nun founded the Plum Village Monastery in 1982 and now there are branches in Germany, United States, Thailand, Hong Kong and other places. In 2019, 10 monks from Prime Village in New York came to Hilo. At that time, they visited this temple. After that, they went to Puna Hongwanji and shared their teachings and practice with people on the Big Island. At that time, I participated in and experienced their walking meditation. It was a very meaningful time and I learned from them that in order to create world peace, we need to find our calm and inner peace first. The main practice of the Soto zen school is zazen, so the training method is different, but the way of thinking is similar.

In addition, Thich Nhat Hanh emphasized the importance of togetherness through his teaching of "Interbeing." We are all connected. We should treat and appreciate the people around us and respect and appreciate everything around us. Furthermore, the reason why I liked him is that he treasured children with compassion. When Thich Nhat Hanh gave his Dharma talk, he talked to the children who participated first. About 10 minutes later, when the children were tired of his talk, he let them go out to play and then he started talking to adults.

I've also seen footage of his walking meditation and he welcomed children, leading and walking hand in hand with children. It looked so peaceful and I recognized how merciful he was.

Finally, I learned from him the importance of "the energy of being aware and awake to the present moment" and "living in peace with others." He has died, but his kindness and teachings are deeply engraved in our hearts. I have great respect for his way of life as a Zen priest.

Let's continue to think about peace through Buddhist teachings and pray to Buddha, respect each other, and create a peaceful society. Thank you very much.

In Gassho,  
Rev. Shinsho Hata

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Aloha and Happy New Year!

First of all, I would like to thank Rodney Nishino and the rest of the Kyodan board for the years of service and keeping Taishoji running smoothly. For those who are continuing to serve on the board, I look forward to working with all of you over the next two years. I've been involved with the Kyodan board as third VP for the past several years in charge of maintenance of the temple. You may have seen me around the temple doing small repairs and cutting the small patch of grass near the back gate. I look forward to serving as president and continue to support Reverend Hata, Deacons Juho, and Jigaku and our Taishoji Sangha.

The last couple of years was very difficult for our temple because of Covid. We had to cancel most of our annual activities because of limits on large gatherings. We all did our best to be safe and Covid free even if it meant not being able to see each other in person. We all did our part to get our covid vaccine and booster shots not only for ourselves and loved ones, but also for our big island community. I was very impressed with Reverend Hata, Brent Takenouchi for making it possible to have our services available on-line thru Facebook and YouTube, putting together our 2021 virtual bon dance and Toro Nagashi. Many hours were spent putting together the final videos that you see on YouTube. As we continue to deal with the pandemic, we will continue to provide on-line Sunday services. I look forward to seeing everyone in person again soon.

In Gassho,  
Derrick Izumo

### **Fujin Kai**

Aloha Fujinkai members, friends and families,

I hope you are doing well as the days are getting longer and we have warmer weather. We will celebrate Spring Ohigan on the 20th of March at 10:00 am. We are planning to serve a light lunch. I am happy to announce that the United Hawaii Soto-shu Women's Association (UHSSWA) Annual Conference will be held on Saturday, April 23rd from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm. This will be our first virtual conference. The host temple, Maui Mantokuji, will hold the ZOOM conference and we will attend it together at Taishoji. If it is hard to come to the temple, you can attend the conference from home through Zoom if you have Zoom access. Bento will be served for the participants who attend at the temple. The program details are to be announced. The host needs to know the headcount by March 1st in order to prepare the materials, so please kindly let me know if you are interested in attending the conference by the end of February.

Thank you. Also I would like to have a short Fujinkai meeting on Sunday, March 13th, at 10:00 am to discuss the upcoming Haru-no-Ohigan and the UHSSWA Conference. Please attend if you are able. Thank you for your continuous support of Fujinkai.

With gratitude in gassho, Yoko Choyo Gussman (If you have any questions, please call (808) 345-1765)

When Morley Theaker became general manager of the Sears Store on Beretania Street in Honolulu in 1951, a little old lady named Teru Isomura sold boiled peanuts on the Young Street sidewalk nearby. One rainy August day, Theaker invited her to bring her boiled peanuts out of the heavy rain, to under Sears' big marquee (A marquee is the large roof at the store entrance.) Teru did, and from that moment on became known as "Mama Sears." Theaker learned that Mama's husband, Gisaku, was a veteran (perhaps the 442nd RCT), drawing a meager \$ 80 a month disability pension. Since he was constantly in and out of the hospital, he couldn't work. Eight years later, Dillingham began Ala Moana Center. The company needed an anchor tenant, a big store, to attract customers and stores from what had been Honolulu's traditional shopping district – downtown – and persuade them to what had been a swamp just 40 years earlier. Liberty House, the major retailer downtown turned them down as did Macy's, Marshall Fields and Allied Stores. In desperation, Dillingham turned to Sears. Negotiations between Sears and Ala Moana Center came down to one final point. Theaker insisted that the boiled peanut vendor come along. Ala Moana said "no sidewalk vendors" was part of the lease. Theaker put it all on the line. "If Mama can't sell her boiled peanuts, Sears stays where it is." Ala Moana gave in and agreed to make her the lone exception to the "no peddlers allowed rule." That's how Teru Isomura became the only sidewalk vendor allowed at the new Ala Moana Center. She set up her stall at the Pi'ikoi Street (west / 'Ewa) entrance of the store, "taking care of her boys and girls," as she called her customers. (Does any one remember seeing Teru and her boiled peanuts stall? Was it on the mall level <2nd floor>)? (Sears office was on the 3rd floor.)

Compassion (or "feeling" for others when they're facing hardships) is a central belief in Zen Buddhism. It makes us feel human and helps us get a little more enlightened. Morley Theaker displayed this idea excellently! Namu Shakamuni Butsu...

Walter Tachibana

### Value

I like to talk about how Buddhism is of value to us in this modern world, and how there are many ways in which Buddhist teachings can help us.

Many of the Buddha's teachings came to me through the mouth of my teacher, the Ven. Thich Thien An, at the International Buddhist Meditation Center in Los Angeles, where I lived for five years, and where he held a lecture/meditation class every week, in addition to the Sunday services. So I learned a lot of Dharma from his talks.

Many times in my life, when I have experienced some difficult situation, his words would come to me. For example; When I first came to Hawaii, I was trying to find a job in Honolulu. One day I went to an interview with an inter-connect company. During the interview, he asked me if I could make a certain kind of connection in five minutes. I did not think I could do it that fast, but I did not want to say I could not. Then I remembered something my teacher said. So I leaned over the table, looked him in the eye, and said "If another man can do it, I can do it."

My teacher actually said "If another man can do it, why not you?" Of course, he was talking about enlightenment in Buddhism. But it worked for me in that situation, because I got the job. Listening to all those talks and lectures, have been a big benefit for me throughout my life. I did not learn about Buddhism just from books, but from my teacher's stories and his example.

I would remind you that the Buddha's teachings are not just for those who want to be monks, nuns, or ministers. They are for all of us. We can all practice the Buddha's teachings. What does practicing Buddha's teaching do for us? It helps us to lead a peaceful and happy life.

In Gassho,  
Deacon Juho

## TAISHOJI UKULELE CLASS

New for 2022! Starting March 2nd, we will be having a ukulele class led by Derrick Izumo and Reverend Hata.

The class will be held every Tuesday from 4:30 to 5:30pm. We will learn to play Hawaiian, Japanese, Buddhist songs and many others. All are welcome. This is all about fun, fellowship and enjoying the ukulele. If you don't have an ukulele, we have a very limited amount of loaner ukulele available. If you are interested in the class, please call Taishoji (808) 935-8407.



# HANAMATSURI (FLOWER FESTIVAL)

On Sunday, April 10, 2022 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 Suddhodana 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 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 statue is bathed with sweet tea and in this way the Flower Festival is observed.



Flower festival 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 in 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.

**PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING SHAKYAMUNI BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY!**

===== CUT ON LINE =====

## HANAMATSURI DONATION

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Donation for: Hanamatsuri Service \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Toba \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$2.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return donation form by Monday, April 4, 2022  
To Taishoji Soto Mission, 275 Kinoole St., Hilo, HI 96720**

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

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Aloha Taishoji Family and Friends,

Buddhist teachings come in many shapes and forms and its teachers can be as varied and as diverse as anything else on this planet. Reading books on Buddhist teachings can be quite confusing; many books end up being difficult to understand or inaccessible to all audiences. However, not all Buddhist teachings are wrapped in riddles or confusing poetic lines. Other times they are exactly that, but more understandable when written in modern language. Have you heard of Star-bellied and Plain-bellied Sneetches? Or Dr. Seuss? I find that many of the stories written by Dr. Seuss tend to have Buddhist teaching in them for a younger audience. For example, in the book “The Sneetches and other stories”, the Sneetches with stars on their bellies felt they were better than those that do not have stars on their bellies and did not want to interact with the plain bellied Sneetches. One day a man comes and sells the plain bellied Sneetches stars to put on their stomachs, which makes the Star bellied ones wish they did not have theirs, to which the man then sells them the services of removing their stars. This goes back and forth until none of the Sneetches can remember which had stars on their bellies and which did not.

In Buddhism we believe in upekkha or equanimity. This means having an equal attitude towards everyone no matter race, gender, or background and that prejudice is an example of ignorance which leads to suffering (dukkha). Due to ignorance the Sneetches were locked in a vicious cycle of suffering. Yet by coming to the realization that their differences did not matter the Sneetches were able to live harmoniously with each other.

By providing our keiki with stories like the “Sneetches and other stories” we are treating them with equanimity and providing powerful Buddhist lessons.

In Gassho,  
Jigaku

## Taishoji Lay Confirmation Ceremony

Congratulations!! 11 people participated our lay confirmation ceremony on Jan 29, 2022. Before the ceremony, they had study workshops to deepen their understanding of the Dharma. And during the ceremony, they received Soto Zen sixteen precepts, Wagesa and Buddhist Name. Following is the Buddhist names which Rev. Hata provided.

Yoko Gussman	澄洋 (Chōyō) <i>Clear, Ocean</i>	Marjane Aalam	清覚 (Seigaku) <i>Pure Awakening</i>
Derrick Izumo	明源 (Myōgen) <i>Source of light</i>	Lew Fox	道賢 (Dōken) <i>Wise Way</i>
Audrey Jyo	恵咲 (Keishō) <i>Mercy, Bloom</i>	Daniel Takahashi	法逸 (Hōitsu) <i>Excellent Dharma</i>
Aria Marcella Mckain	智海 (Chikai) <i>Wisdom, Ocean</i>	Tammy Miyashiro	觀真 (Kanshin) <i>Watch over, Truth</i>
Dennis Gibo	繼正 (Keishō) <i>Continuation of Righteousness</i>		

The two names below were already received from the past minister and Bishop.

Kathleen Fujioka	瑞圓正光尼上座 (Zui En Shō Kō Ni Jo Za) <i>Felicity, Circle, Right, Light, Nun, Great, Woman</i>
Barbara Fujimoto	恵雅 (Keiga) <i>Merciful elegance</i>



### TAISHOJI MARCH 2022 SCHEDULE

5	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
6	Sun	8-8:35am 9:00 am <b>10:00 am</b>	Zazen SS / Family Service (In Person & Virtual) <b>Kyodan Installation &amp; Kyodan Meeting</b>
12	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 4
13	Sun	8-8:35am 9:00 am <b>10:00 am</b>	Zazen SS / Family Service (In Person & Virtual) <b>Fujin Kai Meeting</b>
19	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
20	Sun	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Spring Higan Service (Fujin Kai) (In Person &amp; Virtual)</b> <b>Osunafumi Service (Kyodan) (In Person &amp; Virtual)</b>
26	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
27	Sun	8-8:35am 9:00 am	Zazen SS / Family Service (In Person & Virtual)

### ZAZEN / YOGA / TAIKO SCHEDULE

YOGA & Zazen	Monday	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Taiko	Thursday, Friday	5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
Ukulele	Tuesday	4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

### TENTATIVE TAISHOJI APRIL 2022 SCHEDULE

2	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
3	Sun	9:00 am <b>1:00 pm</b>	SS / Family Service <b>Fujin Kai Meeting</b>
9	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 4
10	Sun	9:00 am <b>1:00 pm</b>	BIBF Buddha day service <b>Kyodan Meeting</b>
16	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
17	Sun	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Hanamatsuri / Kannon-ko / Toba Kuyo Service (Kyodan)</b>
23	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2 <b>UHSSWA Conference (Zoom)</b>
24	Sun	9:00 am	SS / Family Service
30	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3