

HAKUHO



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Hilo's Zen Temple

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MAY 2020

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Aloha, Members and Friends of Taishoji,

Our daily lives have been deeply difficult due to the coronavirus. I worry about each of you. How are you? How is your family? The other day, I called and texted some members, since I wanted to know whether they were okay or not and help them if they needed it. When I called them, I was surprised at their concern for me and my wife, more than I was concerned about them. Their kind words touched and warmed my heart. We cannot meet each other these days, but our hearts are always connected. If you feel anxiety, please feel free to call or send me a letter. I'd like to support you.

My wife and I refrain from going outside unless necessary. If I go to a grocery store, I always wear the cloth mask that my wife made. Each time I go home, I always change my clothes, wash my hands, and gargle. There's a limit to what we can do for prevention of the infection, but we should continue to do these things.

DOJI (同事) is one of the Buddhist teachings. It means empathy or cooperation. DOJI is to be considerate of other people's feelings and to live together in harmony. Do you regard your family and people around you with compassion? If you are considerate of others, please refrain from going outside. Instead communicate with each other by telephone without meeting. Please wear the mask when you go out.

Since you cannot come to Taishoji, please put your hands together in gassho in front of your family Butsudan and say, "**NAMU SHAKYAMUNI BUTSU**" (We take refuge in Buddha) three times to show your gratitude to Buddha and your ancestors. By doing so, Buddha and your ancestors will always watch over you.

In order to overcome the difficult situation at this time, we have to be considerate and help each other. Whatever hardships we may encounter in our lives, I'd like to do the practice of DOJI and overcome it together, with everyone. I'm praying for you and your family's good health and happiness.

In Gassho,

Rev. Shinsho Hata

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you are well and coping with the restrictions of the Covid 19 positively. Never did we realize how our lives would change overnight. Taishoji was our second home and the Sangha was our family. We miss Rev. Hata's heartwarming messages and ukulele, Okusan's organ accompaniment during Sunday School, and socializing with our friends. Just sitting in the temple, calmed our minds and gave us energy to look forward to a new week. Someday we can all be together again. Please take good care of yourself.

In our April Hakuho, temple activities were cancelled to **April 30th**. The Board of Directors have decided to extend the cancellation to **May 31st** since the crisis of the coronavirus has not diminished enough to not keep our distance of 6 feet between others and we cannot have a gathering of 10 or people.

Please call Rev. Hata at 935-8407 for family related services such as bedside services / Makura Gyo, funerals and memorial services. You can also call me at 959-7898 if you have any questions.

TAISHOJI GARAGE SALE

Due to the crisis going on now, we have decided to **CANCEL** our Garage Sale scheduled for **September 2020**. It will be rescheduled in **2021**. **Thank you everyone who made donations for the sale. It is greatly appreciated. We will keep all items we received in storage until next year.**

In Gassho,

Rodney Nishino

FUJIN KAI

Dear Fujin Kai Members, Friends and Families,

How are you doing? I hope all of you are staying safe and hanging in there at home during this challenging time.

Sending deep appreciation to all essential workers who are continuing to offer their time and efforts during this global crisis. Thank you.

Although Taishoji Fujin Kai activities have been cancelled or suspended until further notice, let us remain together at heart remotely. Please continue to stay safe and be well.

Feel free to reach out to me any time if you have any questions at (808)-345-1765.

Love and Gratitude,
in Gassho,

Yoko Gussman



Beautiful Cherry Blossoms

BUSSHIN KAI MESSAGE

I hope all of our Busshin Kai members and your relatives are fine and healthy in these crises times. Please use your face masks when you're supposed to and listen to the latest coronavirus news often for helpful news to save your life.

"All things hang like a drop of dew upon a blade of grass." With the abrupt insight of a Japanese haiku poet, the Irish poet Yeats here beautifully transmits the reality of impermanence. Our lives are precious, fragile realities. Everything can fall apart and disappear overnight, like that drop of dew. In time everything will change, following the endless cycle of death and rebirth. This realization, for Americans, was more dramatically grasped after the tragedy of September 11, 2001, and the present coronavirus pandemic of 2020, when the immediacy of death, so close for most of the world, horrifically broke through our usual privileges to remind us of our fragility. The wise acknowledgment is present in all the world's spiritualities, and very pronounced in our ordinary lives -- by face masks.

While Yeats reminds us of this sober truth through his beautiful natural imagery, he also offers us hope – an understanding based on a radical experience of the interdependence of all beings and realities, and also an intimate dependence on the Life.

In Gassho,

Walter Tachibana

Bishop Message from Dharma lei No. 32



Aloha from the Bishop's Office,

I hope you are doing well. As you already know, the world is currently in a great state of worry and uncertainty regarding COVID19, also known as the Novel Coronavirus.

In many parts of the world where the number of infected people is rising, Soto Zen Buddhism has taken measures to prevent the spread of this virus. I was informed that Rev. Ryoju Tahara of the Soto Zen Buddhism South America Office in Brazil is just one of many ministers who decided to temporarily close their temples for the duration of the outbreak. Many Soto Zen temples in Japan will have observed their Ohigan service without their congregation present.

In Hawaii, we are also facing an increasingly difficult situation that seems to change with each passing day. While we hope and pray for the best, it is important that each of us does his or her part to keep our families and ourselves safe. I encourage you to do simple things like frequently washing your hands. Around the world, the "fist bump" has replaced the handshake. Perhaps we can also bow to one another with two hands in gassho instead of shaking hands!

Since the novel coronavirus may be spread even by individuals who may not be exhibiting symptoms, we have been encouraged to avoid unnecessary exposure by not going out into public, especially if you're older or have a preexisting medical condition. Although this new practice of "social distancing" appears to be the "new normal" until we gain the upper hand over the spread of this illness, we must remember to continue to be compassionate and caring towards others.

I will continue to pray for your health and safety. Please remain vigilant, and take care of yourself and loved ones.

In Gassho,

Bishop Shugen Komagata

Live Stream Hanamatsuri Service and Coronavirus Prayer

On April 12, a Hanamatsuri Service and a Memorial Service and prayer for the deceased people from the coronavirus were performed by Rev. Shinsho Hata. This service was live-streamed on the Taishoji Face Book page. People who are not familiar with Facebook can copy and paste the link below on your browser to watch it on YouTube. If you, your parents and your friends are interested in the service, please share the video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnmNS12FzTU>



Rev. Shinsho Hata performing Hanamatsuri Service



Hanamido (flower pavilion)
Flowers donated by Mrs.
Yaeko Fujiwara



Sunday School Hanamatsuri Bulletin Board



Mrs. Mamiko Hata changes the water for the temple flowers.
After our Hanamatsuri Service, she made three leis for our Jizo statues using the Hanamido flowers
THANK YOU OKUSAN



LIVE STREAM SUNDAY SCHOOL / FAMILY SERVICE

In May, Sunday School decided to cancel our services. Instead of the services, Rev. Hata will have a live stream:

Sunday School / Family Service
Sundays, May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 at 9am.

You can watch the service on **Face Book & You Tube**. Our service is not only for children, but we also offer all members and the people who are interested in Buddhism to cultivate our Buddha mind. Let's pray for Buddha and spend a beautiful time together in fellowship through visual connection.



Sunday School / Family Service

To watch the Sunday School / Family Service on **FaceBook**

1. Google to Taishoji Soto Mission **FaceBook**
2. In Taishoji Face Book page click on "**Videos**"
3. You can choose and play the "**Video**"

To watch it on **You Tube**

1. Google to Taishoji Soto Mission "**You Tube**"
2. In "**You Tube**", search for Taishoji Sunday School
3. Once you found Taishoji Sunday School, scroll down until you find Taishoji Sunday School, click on it and play the "**Video**"

CHANGES

Things in our lives are always changing. The new car becomes an old car, the puppy becomes an old dog, people in our lives come and go. Even diseases change, and become more resistant to our medicines. The world is constantly changing, so many things. Some changes are so small, that we hardly notice them, and some are bigger with a greater affect on our lives.

Today, with the coronavirus, perhaps, we have had to make some changes in our daily lives. What will our attitude be? Can we accept the change and move on, making the best of the situation, or do we grumble about it and not go along with recommendations?

As for me, I have been exercising at a gym for decades. Now the gyms are closed. I normally go to the Temple on the weekends. It is mostly closed also. So now, I have an opportunity to pursue some other things.

Buddhism teaches us that things are impermanent. That is why things change. It also teaches us that we should not hold on so tightly to these things. In general, people work to make their lives more comfortable, Nice home, secure position, etc. When something happens to disturb our lives, we don't like it. But when we cannot do anything about it, we need to go along with the change, and make it into an opportunity. Remember the old saying; "Every day is a good day"

Deacon Juho

WISDOM WORDS

"The supreme happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved. - Victor Hugo

Knowledge is of no value unless you put it into practice. -- Unknown

Character is doing the right thing when nobody's looking. - Unknown

"Happiness is not something ready-made. It comes from your own actions." - Dalai Lama

"Well done is better than well said." -- Benjamin Franklin, Freemason/Buddhist

TWO ZEN CLASSES (VIA ZOOM) on May 17 and 24

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, our two Zen Classes scheduled for May 30th and June 20th will be held Via Zoom on (May 17 and May 24)

Daifukuji Temple in Kona and Taishoji Temple in Hilo will offer two free Zen classes in May:

Mindfulness on Sunday, May 17, and Zen Meditation on Sunday, May 24. Each class is from 1:00 pm until 2:30 pm and preregistration is required.

Mindfulness is the simple, repetitive effort of bringing one's attention back to the task at hand throughout the day and, although it's simple to define, doing one thing at a time is difficult to practice. The class will include: suggestions for recentering oneself, being mindful in difficult situations, and dealing with bothersome thoughts.

The meditation class will include correct posture on a cushion, bench, or chair and etiquette in a meditation hall. There will be special emphasis on what to do with your mind during meditation. The main form of meditation in Soto Zen is shikantaza---just sitting. It is simple but difficult, because there is nothing to rely on except your own willpower. This class will end with a meditation session, and there will be time for questions at both classes.

These practices are essential parts of Zen training and, together with keeping the Buddhist precepts, lead to the "goalless goal" of awakening. The classes will be held via Zoom and taught by Clear Houn Englebert.

This is a great opportunity to start mindfulness and Zen meditation at your home. To pre-register, send an email to hilotaishoji@gmail.com or call the temple office at (808) 935-8407. People who sign up will receive the link to the zoom class by email three days before the class.



Clear Houn Englebert

These statues are called "Shishi" (獅子) They are enshrined in the Taishoji main hall on the altar. It was donated by Rev. Shinryu Akita when he was the resident minister. These are not dogs. "Shishi" are lions but these are not ordinary lions. The lion is called the king of beasts. The ancients made statues of lions, as a guardian deity of their buildings. The relationship between "Shishi" and Buddhism started 2,500 years ago. "Shishi" has a special force and is believed to be a guardian deity which eats someone's evil thoughts in Buddhism. The chair which Buddha sits on is called "Shishi chair". These days, many temples put the "Shishi" statue like this as a symbol to renounce worldly desires. Head temples Eiheiji and Sojiji also have the "Shishi" statues.



SHISHI LION "hum"
(left side of altar)



SHISHI LION "A"
(right side of altar)

These two statues look similar but they are not the same. One of them has its mouth open but the other one has its mouth closed. This is called "A hum" in Japanese. The opened mouth expresses the first sound "A". The closed mouth expresses the last sound "hum". This expresses the beginning and end of the universe. It expresses a religious awakening and nirvana.

"A hum" also expresses attunement because it is said in one breath. "A hum". Making our hearts one will make events at Taishoji successful. Even if one person does a wrong thing, our hearts will not be one and we will not be working together to make it successful. These two "Shishi" pray that our heart becomes one.

MAY 2020 TAISHOJI SCHEDULE

1	Fri	9:30 am	Fujin Kai Hospital Visitation (CANCELLED)
2	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
3	Sun	9:00 am	(LIVE VIDEO) SS / Family Service / Children's Day (S/S)
9	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 4
10	Sun	9:00 am	(LIVE VIDEO) SS / Family Service
16	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
17	Sun	9:00 am	(LIVE VIDEO) SS / Family Service
		10:00 am	Kyodan Meeting (CANCELLED)
		1:00 pm	Fujin Kai Meeting (CANCELLED)
		1:00 - 2:30 pm	(ZOOM VIDEO LIVE) Mindfulness Class (Clear Houn Engelbert)
23	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
24	Sun	9:00 am	(LIVE VIDEO) SS / Family Service
		1:00 - 2:30 pm	(ZOOM VIDEO LIVE) Zen Meditation Class (Clear Houn Engelbert)
25	Mon	9:45 am	BIBF Memorial Day Svc at Veterans Cemetery #1
30	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
31	Sun	9:00 am	(LIVE VIDEO) SS / Family Service (Last SS Family SS) (SS begins again on September 6, 2020 at 9:00 am)

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 TAISHOJI JUNE 2020 SCHEDULE

6	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 4
7	Sun	10:00 am	Kaisanki / Rekiju-ki / Kannon-ko Service (Baikako) (Honoring the deceased members of the Baikako)
13	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
14	Sun	10:00 am	Kyodan Meeting
		1:00 pm	Fujin Kai Meeting
20	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
21	Sun	8:00 am	Otakiage (Burning of religious articles)
27	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
28	Sun	9:30 am	Rev. Hata to Daifukuji for O-Bon Service

TEMPLE CLEANING

Since the temple will be closed until May 31st, Rev. & Mrs. Hata will continue with the temple cleaning as they did in April. Sensei will ask members for flowers whenever necessary. Thank you Sensei & Okusan for taking care of the temple while we are going through this crisis. I hope it all ends soon so we can go back to the temple for services and fellowship. I'm sure our members and friends miss going to the temple and other activities held at Taishoji.

In Gassho,
Rodney Nishino