



HAKUHO

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MAY 2022

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Aloha, Members and Friends of Taishoji,

“Everyone is a special existence.”

On April 10, we had our Hanamatsuri service. Many people attended the service. During my sermon, I shared the Buddha's phrase when he was born.

Buddha took seven steps forward after his birth and was a standing figure, with his right hand pointing toward Heaven and the left toward Earth. And he shouted, **“Ten Jo Ten Ge Yui Ga**

Doku Son (天上天下唯我独尊).”

This saying means that **everyone is a special existence**. Therefore, we don't need to compare ourselves with others. Everyone can enjoy a happy life by cherishing his or her own life and the lives of others. As soon as Buddha was born, he uttered this saying so that we can understand the significance of the day of his birth. There is a Buddhist story related to the preciousness of life.

When Buddha was walking along the banks of the Ganges river with his disciple Ānanda. Buddha asked Ānanda, "Ānanda, take the sand of the Ganges river in your palm. Which is more, the sand of the Ganges river or the sand of your palm?"



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Taishoji Hanamido in 2022

Ānanda replied, "Of course there is countless sand on the Ganges river, but the sand in my palm is very small." Then, Buddha said, "That's right, there are so many creatures on the earth like the sand of the Ganges river, but among those creatures, the only creatures that live as humans are on your palm." After that, Buddha asked, "Ānanda, which is more, sand on your nail or sand on your palms?" Ānanda replied, "The sand on the nail is very small." Buddha said, "I mentioned before, the number of humans is the amount of sand in the palms, but among them, the one who awakens to true value is as much as sand on your nail."

In this story, Buddha said to Ānanda how rare it is to be born as a person. Furthermore, Buddha said that the number of human beings who can know Buddhism and understand the importance of human life is as few as the number of sand on the nail.

We must once again thank ourselves for the irreplaceable importance of life and the opportunity to think about life through the teachings of the Buddha. I don't want you to waste your life. I'd like you to be aware of the importance of life which you are given by your parents and ancestors. Please cherish every moment of your life.

In Gassho,
Rev. Shinsho Hata

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha Members and Friends of Taishoji!

Since the covid restrictions were lifted, activities around our community are starting to appear. The BIBF Hanamatsuri service was held outdoors at Liliuokalani Park. Temples are starting to have in person services too. I hope we will not have a covid variant surge over the next few months so that we can enjoy upcoming temple activities together again.

I would like to Mahalo everyone that came out to our April 9th work day to repair the Jizo Altar roof. Many hands made the work go by faster and less strenuous. Also, a big Mahalo to the Fujin Kai ladies for preparing an awesome lunch. The weather held out just in time as it started raining soon after we were done. I am looking forward to the next work day.

Lastly, it is hard to imagine how much pain and suffering the people of Ukraine are experiencing right now. Let us put our hands together in gassho and pray for the people of Ukraine. May their conflict with Russia end soon and they can all live in peace.

In Gassho,
Derrick Izumo

FUJIN KAI

Aloha Fujin Kai Members, Family, and Friends,

Thank you for your support with the Fujin Kai sponsored Haru-no-Ohigan Service. It was a good time to remember our loved ones. Thank you for your hard work, donations, and well wishes. The flower filled Hanamatsuri has fully brought us into a happy spring mode, and I wish all of you a healthy happy spring-time. The annual UHSSWA Conference was held remotely this year. We thank Maui Mantokuji for hosting it.

In May, we will have hospital visitations to Hale Anuenue and the Life Care Center. Also, I will hold a **Fujin Kai meeting on Sunday, May 22nd, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** We will talk about Kaisanki on June 5th, our Picnic on June 12th, and Obon in late July. Please attend this meeting if your time allows.

Please stay safe and take care. Sending comfort and strength to those who are in recovery. Thank you for your continuous support for Taishoji Fujin Kai.

With gratitude in gassho, Yoko Chōyō Gussman (If you have any questions or suggestions, please call me at 808-345-1765)

**KAKUMA FOR SALE \$5 per 3 lbs. While they last.
Please call Taishoji 808-935-8407 for pick up arrangement.**

BUSSHIN KAI

Mahalo to everyone who joined us for the March 27 workshop on Fukan Zazengi (Universally Recommended Instructions for Zazen) written by Dogen Zenji. Did you find it as enlightening as I did? I want to give a special thank you to Rev. Shinsho Hata for providing this educational talk.

The next Busshin Kai workshop -- free and open to everyone -- will be held **from 10-11:30 a.m. Sunday, May 29 at the Taishoji social hall**. The topic, also taught by Rev. Hata, will be **Zazen Yojinki (Points to Watch in Zazen) written by Keizan Zenji**.

Membership in the Busshin Kai organization is open to anyone who has received their Buddhist name. Annual membership fee is \$1. Message me at thomas.callis@gmail.com if you are interested in joining and helping to grow our educational and cultural activities at Taishoji.

In Gassho,
Tom Callis

JESUS LEARNED BUDDHISM AND LIVED IN INDIA TWICE

“The goal of historians is to find the truth;
The goal of theologians is to defend religion.”

Holger Kersten was born in 1951 in Germany. In 1973-74, he went on journeys to Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan to visit all the historical sites of Jesus. Then in 1974-79 he studied to become a teacher of religion in a Protestant college in the Black Forest of Germany. Next, for several months, he stayed in India to do his scientific investigations. Until 1982, he was a teacher of religious education at a vocational school near his home in Freiburg, Germany. In 1973, Holger heard the theory that Jesus had lived in India. From his many questions, he went there and his interviewing many knowledgeable people there produced a wealth of astonishing information about Jesus.

After five years of intensive historical research, Holger arrived at some sensational conclusions. 1) The “Three Wise Men” came from India to find the two-year-old Jesus and influenced his upbringing and spiritual and intellectual growth. 2) Around the age of 13, Jesus followed the ancient Silk Road towards India and there he studied living Buddhism. Then he adopted its teachings and became a Buddhist spiritual teacher himself. 3) Back in Palestine, the crucifixion marked the end of his mission as a Messiah... but,-- in fact, did not bring about his death. Exact analysis of the “Shroud of Turin” leads to scientific proof that Jesus survived the crucifixion and only appeared to be dead. 4) After the “Resurrection” (rise from the dead), Jesus lived at first in the Middle East and later returned to India, where He finally died at age 80 plus. His tomb exists in Kashmir, northwest India, to this very day.

Holger found that the Jews (Israelites) originated in Kashmir.. They migrated west later to Mesopotamia, Palestine, and Egypt’s delta region. The people of Kashmir are different from all the other people of India. Their history, language, facial features (especially the nose), way of life, their behavior, their morals, their clothing, customs and habits are typically Jewish.

From 6 CE to c. 30 CE (24 years), Jesus lived in India and traveled across northern India from west to east, from age 14 to age 30 or so – 16 years. India had been a Buddhist country under the beloved Buddhist emperor Ashoka of the Maurya Empire (268 BCE to 232 BCE). So, Jesus took up Buddha’s teachings and became a Buddhist Master on his return home. (It takes 3 years to walk from Palestine to Kashmir one way.)

Thus, Holger discovered a close relation between the ethical teachings of Buddha and Jesus. Both prohibited killing, stealing, lying and illegal sexual relations. Both demanded respect for elders. Both praised the peaceful at heart. Both want to overcome evil by good. Both preach compassion. Both advise not to heap up unnecessary treasures on earth. And both stress mercy instead of human / animal sacrifices.

When Jesus’ followers perform miracles they have their predecessors in the disciples of Buddha. For instance, St. Peter’s walking on the water was first achieved by a follower of Buddha. And in the same way as Peter begins to sink as soon as his belief starts wavering, Buddha’s disciple sank when waking up from his deep meditation in Buddha. And when St. Peter is saved by the Lord, Buddha’s disciple is saved by the renewed faithful thought of Buddha. That the Bible’s New Testament has adopted these incidents becomes evident through the fact that the idea of the strong believers to walk on water is totally unknown to the Jews but is old and wide spread in India.

Buddha as well as Jesus never performs miracles in order to create sensations. Thus Buddha says to a yogi, who after 25 years of self-mortification, has acquired the ability to cross a river without even wetting his feet: “So, you have been wasting your time on a thing like that, while nothing more than a coin was needed for the ferryman to take you over in his boat.”

Buddhism is a religion of wisdom, and Jesus came home and shared the teachings of wisdom and compassion to all classes of people.

Walter Tachibana

WHAT WE PRACTICE

Last month I wrote about the importance of Buddhist practice, and the value of the teachings. But what is it that we actually need to practice?

We know, because Sakyamuni told us. Many times in the old scriptures, He says "formerly and today O monks, I teach but one thing, suffering and the cessation of suffering". To this end, He gave us the Four Noble Truths. One of which is the Noble Eight Fold Path. These eight are the things for us to follow, or practice.

We have in our green book an outline of the Noble Eight Fold Path. This path has three parts; sila, samadhi, and prajna. That is; Moral disciplines, mental disciplines, and the cultivation of wisdom. Right speech, right action, and right livelihood are moral disciplines. Right effort, right mindfulness, and right concentration, (meditation) are mental disciplines. Right views, and right understanding are called the cultivation of wisdom, or prajna. These three parts work together in helping us become a better person and enjoy a more peaceful and happy life.

Sometimes these disciplines need more explanation. For example, Right speech. There are many forms of speech to be avoided, not just to be truthful, but not to swear, or gossip, or talk stink about someone. Many things. Because of this, we need to study the Sutras to obtain a deeper understanding of the Noble Eight Fold Path. We have some in our green book. Also, there are other books which explain the basic teaching of the Buddha. "What the Buddha taught" by Walpola Rahula is a good one. I used it in college, and we have it in our library.

Buddhism is a large and diverse religion, so you will find a number of books with various ideas. use good judgement.

In Gassho,
Deacon Juho

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

A Bacalaureate Service honoring high school graduates will be held on **Sunday, May 22, 2022 at 10:00am**. **Grace Fuke** will be graduating from Hilo High School. If there are any graduates who would like to participate in this service, please call Rev. Shinsho Hata at 808-935-8407.



Maintenance Project.: Jizo altar roof repairs on April 9, 2022

We are removed the old wood shingles and replaced it with new asphalt roof shingles. Thank you for your hard work!



Hanamatsuri Service on April 10, 2022



Yoko Gussman, Kazumi Dollwet, Kinue Ito, Audrey Jyo, Mamiko and Shogo Hata



SANGE (Purification Ritual by incense, water and flowers) by Rev. Hata, Deacon Juho and Deacon Jigaku



Harry Fuke



BIBF Buddha Day Service on April 3, 2022



55th Annual UHSSWA Fujinkai Conference (Zoom) on April 23, 2022



Packing Kakuma for sale on April 23, 2022



Peeling Kakuma



TAISHOJI MAY 2022 SCHEDULE

1	Sun	8-8:35am	Zazen
		9:00 am	SS / Family Service (In Person & Virtual)
7	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 4
8	Sun	8-8:35am	Zazen
		9:00 am	SS / Family Service (In Person & Virtual)
14	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
15	Sun	8-8:35am	Zazen
		9:00 am	SS / Family Service (In Person & Virtual)
		10:00 am	Kyodan Meeting
21	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
22	Sun	8-8:35am	Zazen
		9:00 am	SS / Family Service (In Person & Virtual)
			Baccalaureate Service
		11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Fujin Kai Meeting
28	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
29	Sun	8-8:35am	Zazen
		9:00 am	SS / Family Service (In Person & Virtual)
		10:00 am - 11:30 am	Busshin Kai Study Workshop

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 JUNE 2022 SCHEDULE

4	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 4
5	Sun	10:00 am	Kaisan-ki/ Rekiju-ki/ Kannon-ko Service (In Person & Virtual)
11	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
12	Sun	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Taishoji Picnic IBEW Hall (Baker's Beach)
18	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
25	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
26	Sun		Daifukuji O-Bon Service

IN MEMORIUM

Our Deepest Sympathy and Condolences to the Family and Relatives of the late:
Mrs. Aiko Kanekuni February 19, 1923 - April 3, 2022