

HAKUHO



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OCTOBER 2020

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Aloha, Members and Friends of Taishoji,

How are you? I hope you and your family are doing well. In Hilo, the cases of Covid 19 have been increasing since the middle of August. Please take care of yourself and your family.

I'd like to introduce you to a Zen saying which I learned from a person who is very important to me. The person is Rev. Shinryu Akita, the 13th resident minister of Taishoji. As we informed you in a previous newsletter, Rev. Akita passed away on June 16th this year. He was 92 years old. He had worked at Taishoji for 10 years, from seventy years old to eighty years old. After that, he went to Saipan to reside in a small non-denominational temple he helped build to honor the memory of those who were killed in the war. He stayed in Saipan for three years and then went back to Japan. He was an active and smart person. I had a chance to meet Rev. Akita several times. Once, I asked him, what is your most favorite Zen saying? Rev. Akita said "Zuisho Ni Shu To Nareba Risscho Mina Shinnari (随所に主と作れば、立処は皆真なり)." This Zen saying means "No matter the circumstances, if you have a will for anything, and are proactive, you will be able to live a life worth living."

In our daily life, if things don't turn out the way we expected, we tend to complain about it or throw them out. Our life doesn't turn out as planned. Actually, there are many more cases when things go wrong than when things go well. I'd like to introduce you to a Buddhist story about this.

About 2600 years ago, after Buddha attained enlightenment, He visited various places and shared his teachings to help people who are suffering. One day, a man heard that Buddha was staying in a town which the man knew and he started a journey to meet Buddha with his friends. During the journey, they were caught in a nasty storm and the man got separated from his friends. The man asked a shepherd for help and stayed one night at the shepherd's house. The next day, when the man left the house, the shepherd was looking for sheep that escaped during the storm. The man wanted to leave the house to meet Buddha as soon as possible, but he decided to look for the sheep with the shepherd since the shepherd took good care of him the previous night. Finally, they found all the sheep, but it took three days.

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The man started the journey again. During the journey, the man stopped by a farm since he wanted to drink water. The man was about to leave the farm quickly after his drink, the farmer asked him for help to reap the harvest of vegetables. He decided to help and it took three weeks to finish. When the man arrived at the town where Buddha was staying, Buddha had already left. After that, the man tried to meet Buddha many times, but something always happened and the man didn't meet Buddha for twenty years. One day, the man heard that Buddha will go to Nirvana soon near here. The man was really surprised and it was the last chance to meet Buddha. So the man left his home to meet Buddha. But on the way, the man came upon an injured deer. At first, the man abandoned the deer, but he decided to return to take care of the deer. Then, he gave up trying to meet Buddha. When he arrived at the deer, he heard Buddha's voice. Buddha said, "you don't have to find me anymore." Then, the deer started shining and the deer changed to Buddha. Buddha said to the man, "if you abandoned the deer, you would not meet me. I was always watching your compassionate behavior. I will always be with you from now on." After the man listened to this, the man was so moved that his eyes were filled with tears. The end.

Quite a story? In this story, what was the man like? I thought the man was a generous person, because he gave priority to a person in need over his own desires. And he didn't meet Buddha for twenty years. But finally, he understood that Buddha was always with him, because his behavior was true action which Buddha cherishes.

I felt that Rev. Akita's favorite Zen saying, "Zuisho Ni Shu To Nareba Rissho Mina Shinnari," is the teaching which the man followed. In our life, it is no guarantee that we can have everything our own way. We sometimes might complain or get depressed. However, when the things you don't expect happen, if you accept the situation and act positively, you might discover new joy and happiness. Recently, everything doesn't turn out as planned due to the coronavirus. For me, there are some unexpected things, such as cancellation of our O-bon Service, Bon Dance and a Japan trip. But it's time to turn a negative situation into a positive situation. I started practicing new ukulele songs and my wife enjoys cooking and taking care of our baby. We discovered new joy and happiness. Rev. Akita enriched his life through the Zen saying. How about you? How can you make your life better? "Zuisho Ni Shu To Nareba Rissho Mina Shinnari," no matter the circumstances, let us live our life to the fullest with the precious opportunity which Buddha gave us. Thank you very much.

In Gassho,
Rev. Shinsho Hata



REV. Shinryu Akita visited Taishoji and held a Baika workshop in June 2017

LIVE STREAMING DARUMA KI / EITAIKYO SERVICE



Daruma Doll

Our Live Streaming Daruma Ki / Eitaikyo Service will be held on Sunday, October 4, 2020 at 9:00am on Taishoji Facebook page. The video will also be posted on Taishoji YouTube later in the afternoon.

Daruma Ki is the memorial service for the famous Indian Monk Bodhidharma who is the 28th Indian Buddhist teacher in a direct line from Buddha and also regarded as the first master in Chinese Zen tradition. Eitaikyo Service (eternal memorial service) is the precious service to convey the family's gratitude who has made a request that their loved ones be placed in the Eitaikyo book and board. Kannon Ko is a precious service held in honor of the Bodhisattva Kannon. During the service, we dedicate the merit and energy of loving kindness for the wellbeing of all Taishoji members and friends by offering incense and chanting the Kannon Sutra and songs.

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

Taishoji YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fe-Gw75is2s&t=15s>

BAIKA CHANTING VIDEO

The “Baikaryu Eisanka” are Soto Zen Buddhist hymns that are chanted all over the world. Soto Zen Buddhism have created a video of people gathering together remotely to chant Baikaryu Eisanka.

Taishoji Baikako participated in the project. You can watch the video from the link below.

Please copy the link below and paste it in your browser to watch the videos:

Urabon-e Gowasan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fe-Gw75is2s&t=15s>

Higan Gowasan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxFCJh7fZCk>



PPRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha Everyone,

I hope everyone is doing okay. There is not much going on at the temple now due to Covid19. We are practically shut down except for Rev. Hata, Deacon Juho, Deacon Jigaku and camera person Brent doing the Sunday School and other temple services viral on Facebook & YouTube on Sundays when its scheduled.

In Gassho,
Rodney Nishino

Fujin Kai

Aloha dear members, families and friends of Taishoji Fujin Kai,

As our beloved community of Hilo continues to be affected by the Covid-19, I sincerely pray for the nursing home residents and the families. Please hang in there. I also pray for those who are staying at home, or are working in the community. Please stay safe and please take care. Sending my love and prayers.

In gassho,
Yoko Gussman

BUSSHIN KAI MESSAGE

I hope all of you are safe and healthy amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Here is a story to think about and find inspiration.

STEVEN PAUL JOBS: BELOVED SŌTŌ ZEN BUDDHIST

“I never graduated from college...”

— Steve Jobs, Apple Computers, Inc. co-founder, chairman,
CEO, and Soto Zen Buddhist

The whole world fondly remembers and honors Steve Jobs for making our lives so different and enriched from his many technology inventions and achievements. But, most of all we respect him and his memory for his simple, admirable lifestyle acquired through his 30+ years practicing Soto Zen Buddhism in California.

Born on February 24, 1955, in San Francisco to a college student dad of Syrian descent and a German ethnicity college student mom, who were not married, Jobs was given up for adoption to a married couple ^{named} Jobs.

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Why did he drop out of Reed College in Portland, Oregon? Because he wasn't sure what he wanted to be and felt it was eating up too much money from his hard-working parents. One day he dropped in on a class in calligraphy and learned about fonts, serif, and sans-serif, which became very useful 10 years later in creating many fonts for the Macintosh computer. He audited classes at Reed while sleeping on the floor in friends' dorm rooms, returning Coke bottles for food money from the 5-cents deposit, and getting free meals at the local Hare Krishna temple.

In mid-1974 Jobs visited India for spiritual enlightenment, but after 7 months he returned to the U.S. He had shaved his head and wore traditional India clothing. Then he did zazen retreats at the Soto Zen monastery at Tassajara Zen Mountain Center, the oldest Soto Zen monastery in the U.S. Jobs considered being a monk at Eihei-ji Temple in Fukui-ken, Japan.

He chose the name "Apple" after his remembrance of a happy summer he had spent picking apples. In 1976 Steve Wozniak invented the Apple 1 Computer. Then, Jobs, Wozniak and Ronald Wayne started the Apple computer company in the garage of Jobs' parents to sell the first Apple computers.

Jobs earned only \$1.00 a year as CEO of Apple, Inc. Zen Buddhism helped to make him a thoughtful, humble man, whose computer designs were rooted in his Zen roots.

The Apple II came out in April 1977. The Macintosh emerged in January 1984. And the iMac entered our world in 1998.

TODAY WE HAVE THE IPHONE, THE IPAD, THE IPOD AND MANY OTHER NEW GADGETS TO ENHANCE OUR DAILY LIVES. All thanks to Steve Jobs and his Soto Zen Buddhist lifestyle and outlook.

Steve was married to Laurene Powell (married 1991-2011) They had a daughter — Lisa Brennan-Jobs

When Steve Jobs died of cancer on October 5, 2011, in Palo Alto, CA, his last words a few hours before his passing into Nirvana were:

"OH WOW. OH WOW. OH WOW!"

Everyone, please take care...

Walter Tachibana, President

SELF CONTROL

Previously, I wrote about how Buddhism is of value to us in this modern world. There are many ways in which Buddhist teachings can help us.

Last talk I mentioned my teacher being a Zen master, because he was a master of himself, not of other people. He had a lot of self control. I know this because having spent five years in the International Buddhist Meditation Center in Los Angeles, I saw him handle many difficult situations.

I have been a Buddhist for almost 50 years now, and have traveled to Buddhist countries in Asia. I Have noticed that most Buddhist monks, nuns, and ministers, have developed some degree of self control. You may have noticed that yourself, also among our Soto Zen ministers.

Why do you think this is? I believe probably because they practice the Buddha's teachings a little bit more than most people.

In the Dhammapada, there are many references to self control, conquering yourself, or self mastery. The Dhammapada is a book of sayings from the Buddha. It is taken from the Tripitaka, which is was written in the Pali language more than two thousand years ago. It is available on line, or at most any book store. We have it in our library, and some of the verses are in our green book.

We have all said things we wish we had not said, and done a few things we wish we had not done. It is easy to see how self control can help us in these situations, which are fueled by anger or desire. Young people may have problems with sexual desires. It is a very strong instinct. Self control can help us in many different ways, it is a very valuable tool in our lives.

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

SHABUTSU EXPERIENCE

Shabutsu (Tracing Buddha image) is one of the Zen practices. Through Shabutsu, please show your gratitude to AVALOKITESHVARA(Kannon sama) and cultivate your Buddha mind.

1. Sit with good posture, regulate the breath, and allow the mind to calm down.
2. Do gassho (put palms together) and pick up a pen and start tracing the baby Buddha quietly.
3. After the tracing, do gassho



KAN ZE ON BO SATSU

觀世音菩薩

AVALOKITESHVARA

OCTOBER 2020 SCHEDULE

3	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
4	Sun	9:00 am	(VIRTUAL) Darumaki / Eitaikyo Kannon-ko Service (Busshin Kai)
10	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
11	Sun	9:00 am	(VIRTUAL ZOOM) (HSMA MEETING (SOTO MISSION OF HAWAII))
17	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
18	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 4
25	Sun	9:30 am	SPECIAL SERVICE / NO AUDIENCE Shinsanshiki Service for Rev. Shinsho Hata Hossenshiki Service for Deacon Jigaku Takenouchi to enter a monastery to become a minister

TAISHOJI ZAZEN / YOGA / TAIKO / TROOP & PACK 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
Pack 95	Friday	6:30 pm
Go Class	Thursday	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

TENTATIVE NOVEMBER 2020 SCHEDULE

1	Sun	9:00 am	SS / Family Service (LIVE ATTENDANCE BY SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS)
7	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
8	Sun	9:00 am	SS / Family Service
		10:00 am	Kyodan Meeting
11	Wed	11:00 am	Veterans Day Service / Veterans Cemetery #1 (No attendance)
14	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
15	Sun	9:00 am	SS / Family Service (Keizan Zenji Birthday)
21	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
28	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 4

NEW TAISHOJI MEMBER

Please welcome **MRS. NAOMI TAMASHIRO** and her family to our Sangha. She is the daughter of Mrs. Margie Omuro who was a member of Taishoji and recently passed away. Mrs. Tamashiro has joined our temple to continue the membership and memory of her mother although she lives on Kauai. We welcome Mrs. Tamashiro & her family to join us at Taishoji in our services and activities.

IN MEMORIUM

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

MR. GEORGE "BULL" TAMOTSU FUJIWARA

January 2, 1928 - September 17, 2020