

HAKUHO



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Hilo's Zen Temple

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SEPTEMBER 2020

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Aloha, Members and Friends of Taishoji,

How are you doing? I hope that you and your family are safe, and are doing the best you can during this trying time. My wife, our son and I were going to Japan to see our parents the middle of August, but we canceled due to the coronavirus. I heard that the number of COVID-19 cases in Hawaii was over 1,000 the beginning of July, but it's over **5,000** now! The number of COVID-19 cases are increasing faster. Hawaii Island doesn't have many cases, but we still have to be careful.

Since we couldn't have an O-bon Service and Toro Nagashi in person, we had a live streaming O-bon Service and Toro Nagashi Service without audience. The O-bon Service and Toro Nagashi videos were published on YouTube and Facebook. About 750 people watched the Toro Nagashi video. I received lots of good comments since members and friends who live in Oahu and Mainland also could watch the video. I am grateful for the volunteers who helped making lanterns and transporting them to the boat ramp. Especially, Mr. Derrick Izumo who played Aloha 'Oe on the ukulele for the Toro Nagashi video and Mr. Brent Takenouchi who helped with the video editing. Thanks to them, we were able to have the beautiful services. If you haven't watched the videos, please visit Taishoji YouTube or the Facebook page. If you are not familiar with a computer, please come to Taishoji and I will show the videos to you at the temple.

From August 30th, we will have our livestreaming Sunday School / Family Services again. I wanted to start in person services from September, but we still have to put up with not having in person services to protect ourselves and others. This is the practice of endurance (One of the six practices of Ohigan). Please chant the Sutra and learn Buddhist teachings at your home through our service videos. I always pray for you and your family's good health and happiness

In Gassho,

Rev. Shinsho Hata

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha Everyone,

We are in our 6th month of the Coronavirus and its not getting any better so be safe everyone.

Taishoji went through our O-Bon, Hatsubon and Toro Nagashi Services on Sunday, August 2nd starting at 9:00am. I hope everyone had a chance to view the O-Bon and Toro Nagashi on Facebook and YouTube which was shown on Monday, August 3rd at 3:00pm instead of 10:00am due to editing of the Toro Nagashi video. This year, due to the Coronavirus we had our members assemble the lanterns where by in past years the person who donated the lantern could assemble it themselves at the pier. The video's of the O-Bon and Toro Nagashi was very well done. Thank you to those who were involved in both events to make it a very successful weekend although we did not have the gathering of members, friends and Taishoji Taiko performance for entertainment as previous years during these services.

In Gassho,
Rodney Nishino

FUJIN KAI

Aloha Fujin Kai members, supporting family and friends!

How are you doing? I hope you are all continuing to do well. I am hoping for our activities to resume soon, once we know we can do so safely. Aki no Ohigan is the time when we think of our ancestors and of the fond memories we have shared. I am pleased that we can still put our hands together for our late family members and friends even if we cannot physically go to Hakamairi. We will not have a Fujin Kai Meeting in September. Please stay safe and keep in good spirits! Thanks to your support, we are happy to announce that our UHSSWA fundraiser cookbook "*Sharing Our Favorites with You!*" is on track for printing. It will be completed and ready for sale this fall. The cost will be \$10 per book and the proceeds will go toward helping the activities of the United Hawaii Soto-Shu Women's Association. Mahalo Nui Loa!



Higan-bana (Flowers of Ohigan Forest)

With gratitude in gassho,

Yoko Gussman

(Tel: 808-345-1765)

BUSSHIN KAI

Aloha, Everyone:

I hope that you and your family are all safe and healthy.

Thank you to Rev. Shinsho Hata and temple members who came to help make our Toro Nagashi a successful event on Sunday, August 2nd, at Wailoa River in Hilo. The weather was dry and the floating lanterns sailed down into Hilo Bay to send our spiritual family members back to their world. Among these was a floating lantern for our recently deceased former Taishoji resident minister, Rev. Shinryu Akita, who passed away at age 92 on June 16, 2020, May he rest in peace.

Our American nation is going through a difficult period since it got its freedom in 1781 at Yorktown. We won the revolution against England. But, we must remember that the people who made this happen were believers in the Buddhist ideals of liberty, equality and brotherhood.

When the Buddhist emperor of India, Emperor Ashoka, sent missionary monks into the Greek empire of Alexander the Great, it set into motion a long golden thread of teachings of wisdom, equality and loving kindness --- ideas that the Ancient World of Europe and the Middle East of the Third Century BCE did not have. These beliefs remained in the hearts and minds of countless people even though believers in gods and goddesses suppressed them and killed them so many times in history. Cover-ups were started to defend the newer religions.

(continued on next page)

The man who was Jesus of Palestine went twice to India to learn about Buddhism --- first when a young boy and second as a middle-aged, married man and father of a girl but as a refugee from violent rulers. His wife and daughter went to live in southern France with many refugees from conquered Palestine. They even had a kingdom in southwestern France called Septimania, named after the retired soldiers of the Roman Seventh Legion. Among the colonists were three Mary's who arrived in a boat, 40 miles west of the city of Marseilles. The place is called Saintes Maries de la Mer, These European Buddhists did not build and worship in churches and cathedrals but did so outdoors. The Cathars were persecuted and killed by the godly religion based in Rome, Italy. When godly Arabs conquered the homeland of Palestine, the people of southern France went on the First Crusade to regain their sacred land --- and they succeeded. A few years later some knights tried to retrieve the sacred relics of Palestine and in the process of digging, learned masonry and construction of stone buildings. Back at home in Europe, they became masons for the rich, northern French lords. Then, later, some masons became independent workers, or Freemasons. These Freemasons were intelligent, well-read people who yearned for freedom, equality and loving kindness. Many came to America and led the American Revolution to establish a new experimental nation in North America. Many of the Founding Fathers of America were Freemasons, such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, James Madison, James Monroe, Benjamin Franklin, the Marquis de Lafayette of France, and even the British general who lost at Yorktown, Lord Charles Cornwallis. George Washington did not go to church, according to Thomas Jefferson's writings. If he did, it was because wife Martha forced him to attend, and they left service before Holy Communion. It was Freemasons like George Washington, a surveyor, who planned and built the District of Columbia --- 10 square miles --- that became our nation's capital. If you look at the one dollar bill, it shows the eye of wisdom.

Thus, the gentle religion of Buddhism created the goodness of the American nation.

Please take care...

"WASH YOUR HANDS AND SAY YOUR PRAYERS BECAUSE KANNON-SAMMA AND GERMS ARE EVERYWHERE."

Walter Tachibana

FROM THE DHAMMAPADA

"Of paths, the Eightfold Path is best, following this Path you shall make an end of suffering. This verily is the Path declared by me when I had learned to remove the arrow. (of suffering)"

This refers to the parable of the arrow, as follows;

One day a monk came to the Buddha and asked him many questions. In reply the Buddha gave this story;
O monk, suppose a man is wounded by a poison arrow, and his friends bring him to a surgeon. Suppose the man should then say" I will not let this arrow be taken out until I know who shot me; whether he is of the warrior caste, or priestly caste, or the trading caste, or the low caste; what his name and family may be; whether he is tall, short, or of medium stature; whether his complexion is black, brown, or golden; from which village or town he comes. I will not let this arrow be taken out until I know the kind of bow with which I was shot; the kind of bowstring used; the type of arrow and from what kind of material the point of the arrow was made."

O monk, that man would die without knowing any of these things. Therefore, bear in mind what I have explained as explained, and what I have not explained as unexplained. Why have I not explained those questions you asked? Because they are not useful, not connected with the spiritual and holy life, not conducive to detachment, tranquility, realization, or enlightenment.

What have I explained? I have explained suffering, the arising of suffering, the cessation of suffering and the path leading to the cessation of suffering.

In Gassho ,
Deacon Juho

MONDAY ZAZEN SESSION & YOGA CLASS

Taishoji Zazen Kai has decided to resume Monday Yoga and Zazen session from August 3rd.

Yoga class 5:30-6:00pm

Zazen class 6:30-7:30pm

Following is the COVID-19 Policy and Instructions

• Rev. Hata will be outside of the hall to answer any questions before the session.

PLEASE SIGN IN BEFORE ENTERING THE HONDO

- Masks are Required.
- People with any signs of illness such as cough, runny nose, fever, headache should not attend.
- Even if you know your symptoms have an innocent cause such as allergies, others don't know this! You should not attend.
- You will not be able to offer a stick incense to Buddha when you enter the hall. So please show your Aloha and gratitude to Buddha with a bow and go immediately to your seat.
- Zafus are located in marked spaces that have been measured out to provide a safe 6 foot distance from each other. Do not move the zafus.
- You can use Zabutons, Chairs and Benches if you want. Pick your accessories and place them on the Zafu.
- The session consists of our standard 25 minutes Zazen, 10 minutes Kinhin, and 25 minutes Zazen.
- Take care not to get too close while performing Kinhin.
- We will not have any chanting and discussion. After Zazen is complete and the session has ended, please leave the hall.
- Bathrooms will be equipped with disposable paper towels and hand sanitizer for your use.



ZAFU

CHANGES TO SUNDAY SCHOOL / FAMILY SERVICE

Due to the Coronavirus is still with us and not getting any better, Sunday School / Family Service which was to start with Sunday School members and friends on **Sunday, August 30th**, is postponed until **Sunday, October 11th** for now. However, starting on Sunday, August 30th, Sunday School will go viral again on **Sundays, September 6, 13, 20 & 27** with Rev. Shinsho Hata and either Deacon Juho Kirkpatrick or Deacon Jigaku Takenouchi on **Facebook at 9:00am and on YouTube at approximately 1:30pm same day.**

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

YouTube Link - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSQ4EVugUml_rGhb1c-8RQQ

Hopefully we will be able to go back on a regular schedule next year. Until then, please check the monthly schedule in the newsletter since there won't be Sunday School every Sunday.

O-BON & TORO NAGASHI / SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2020



Rev. Shinsho Hata / O-Bon Service



**Rev. Shinsho Hata & Deacons Juho & Jigaku
Hatsu Bon Service**



Members Assembling Lanterns



Assembled Lanterns



**Rev. Hata, Deacons Juho & Jigaku
Chanting during Toro Nagashi Service**



Lighting of Lanterns



Lanterns on Float to be towed by Row Boats



**Rev. Hata With Derrick Izumo signing ALOHA 'Oe
As the Lanterns begin its journey to the other shore**



Lanterns on Float towed by Row Boats



**Lanterns being towed to entrance of
Wailoa River**



**We Say Aloha 'Oe to Rev. Shinryu Akita & others
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN**



**Lighted Lanterns carrying Our Ancestors back to the
Other Shore**

SEPTEMBER 2020 SCHEDULE

5	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
6	Sun	9:00 am	(Virtual) SS / Family Service
12	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
13	Sun	9:00 am	(Virtual) Autumn Ohigan (Busshin Kai)
		10:30 am	Kyodan Meeting
19	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
20	Sun	9:00 am	(Virtual) SS / Family Service
26	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 4
27	Sun	9:00 am	(Virtual) SS / Family Service
		10:00 am	AJA Memorial Day Service / Veterans Cemetery #1 (No audience. Scaled down to 10 people only) (Bouquets are welcomed)

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 OCTOBER 2020 SCHEDULE

3	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
4	Sun	10:00 am	Darumaki / Eitaikyo Kannon-ko Service (Busshin Kai)
10	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
11	Sun	9:00 am	SS / Family Service (with members & friends)
17	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
18	Sun	9:00 am	SS / Family Service
24	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 training to become a minister

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2020 TAISHOJI SCHEDULE UPDATE

If you noticed, our September & October 2020 schedule has changed drastically from the original schedule sent out in December 2019. This is due to COVID-19. We are deleting the events that were scheduled for these months such as our **Garage Sale** on September 19th, **Annual Temple Clean-Up** on October 11th and **Annual Picnic** on October 18th. For the rest of this year, please check the monthly schedules in the newsletter since there could be changes monthly. Do not depend on the schedule that was sent out in December 2019. The current month and the following month's schedule are posted in every newsletter.

IN MEMORIUM

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

MRS. MARGIE OMURO

April 8, 1924 - July 22, 2020