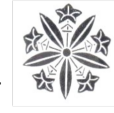




HAKUHO



Taishoji Soto Mission 275 Kinoole St. Hilo, HI 96720-2944
Hilo's Zen Temple
Phone (808) 935-8407 Fax (808) 961-6124



MARCH 2017

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Aloha, Members and Friends of Taishoji, We did the Nehan-e Service on February 19. Nehan is called nirvana in Sanskrit. Nirvana means the death of Buddha or blowing out of the fires of greed, anger and ignorance or the state of perfect peace of mind. When Buddha was 35 years old, he attained enlightenment. Since then, he had listened to a lot of people's worries and saved them for 45 years. When he was 80 years old, he passed away under twin sala trees near the town of Kushinagara. Many gods, humans, and animals were saddened by the death of Buddha. Even the flowers. Buddha gave all living things his compassion. Everyone dies someday. If you lost a person close to you, how do you feel about it? Maybe you will be sad or suffer.

For me, when I was 10 years old, I lost my uncle. It was the first experience to lose a person close to me. My uncle was a little bit overweight. He had a wonderful smile. I really liked him. I remember he gave me a ride on his shoulders and we went to the summer festival. When he laid on his back, my sister and I always beat his belly as if it were a drum. But he passed away young at the age of 49 through illness. When I saw my uncle not moving, I didn't understand why he couldn't move. I felt so sad to lose him. The more we receive deep compassion from a person, the more we will feel so sad when we lose him. The death of my uncle was very shocking for a person like me who was 10 years old. I was very sad. However, nowadays, the time I spent with him and his kindness is a good memory.

On February 3rd, we had Baika practice. Rev. Ryuryo Watanabe came from Japan. He introduced us to one of the Goeika songs for the Nehan-e Service. After he introduced the song, he said that Buddha died and there was a beautiful full moon in the sky, but the moon entered the clouds after Buddha passed away. Then you might think that the moon was lost in the sky since you couldn't see it. But even if we cannot see the moon because of the clouds, the moon always brightens our world. In a similar way, we cannot see Buddha, but Buddha's teachings will keep living forever in our hearts. "Even this once Buddha has entered the clouds of pure Nirvana. The moon still shines serenely, brightening the world of man.

When I heard this story from him, I felt very warm in my heart and was reminded about my uncle. I realized that my uncle's kindness and compassion keep living in my heart just like Buddha's teachings will keep living forever in our hearts. So just like the moon brightens the world, Buddha's teachings and feelings for our loved ones brighten our hearts and keep living forever. When I lost an important person, I not only pray for his continued peace, but I also cherish the memories I spent with him. And I tell a lot of people about his kindness and his compassion. Through the Nehan-e service, we are reminded of Buddhist teachings and our feelings for our loved ones, Let us be the person who can shower many people with affection.



2017 Baika Instructor Rev. Ryuryo Watanabe

Thank you very much.

In Gassho,

Rev. Shinsho Hata

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How quickly time passes. We are in the month of March and 1/4 of the year has passed us by. As we go about our business in our busy lives, we see our temple members are getting older. So where are the younger members?

We struggle to get new members young or old. Here at Taishoji, Rev. Shinsho and Mamiko Hata has made many friends and several of them have become members. Rev. Hata created a Taishoji web site (taishoji.org.) and face book page that is updated often posting our activities and other items of interest monthly. We also have a brochure at the entrance of our hondo explaining the services, activities and organizations of our temple hoping that when members of families that come to Taishoji for memorial services or to visit and are not affiliated with any temple would speak to the minister about Taishoji and hope that whomever it is will be interested to attend our services at Taishoji and someday follow in their parents or relatives footsteps and become a member.

We now have a membership committee comprised of members of the Hawaii Soto Mission Association temples in Hawaii. They meet in February and October during the HSMA meeting. They are working very hard to come up with ideas to increase our dwindling membership for all our temples. Other Buddhist Temples in Hawaii are also having problems trying to gain members. If you have any idea in this matter, please speak up.

Let us hope the membership committee can come up with a solution to our problem.

In Gassho,

Rodney Nishino

CANCELLATIONS AND CHANGES OF SERVICE DATES FOR APRIL

April 2 - 9:30 am - Taishoji Hanamatsuri / Kannon Ko / Toba Kuyo Service is CANCELLED

It is rescheduled for ***April 9, 2017 at 9:30 am.***

April 2 - 9:00 am - Sunday School and Family Service members are asked to participate in the Big Island Buddhist Federation Hanamatsuri Service at Puna Hongwanji.

April 9 -9:00 am - Sunday School is CANCELLED

1:00 pm - Fujin Kai Meeting is ***CANCELLED*** for April

April 9 - 9:30 am - Taishoji Hanamatsuri / Kannon Ko / Toba Kuyo Service

Member's Name: _____
Last First

Donation For:

Membership Dues \$60.00 (if not paid)	\$	_____
Hanamatsuri Donation	\$	_____
Toba _____ @ \$2.00 each	\$	_____
2017 Temple Projects Fund	\$	_____
Total		\$ _____

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

1)	_____	_____
	<i>DONOR</i>	<i>DEDICATED TO</i>
2)	_____	_____
	<i>DONOR</i>	<i>DEDICATED TO</i>
3)	_____	_____
	<i>DONOR</i>	<i>DEDICATED TO</i>
4)	_____	_____
	DONOR	DEDICATED TO
5)	_____	_____
	DONOR	DEDICATED TO
6)	_____	_____
	DONOR	DEDICATED TO

CUT ON LINE _____

Thank you for supporting Taishoji Soto Mission Namu Kie Butsu. Namu Kie Ho. Namu Kie So

HANAMATSURI / KANNON KO / TOBA KUYO SERVICE

Sunday, April 9, 2017 at 9:30 am

Rev. Shinsho Hata

Assisted by Deacon Juho Kirkpatrick

Celebration of Shakyamuni's birthday which is held in April began among the early Indian Buddhists and soon spread to Central Asia, China, and Japan. Today, Buddhists all over the world honor the occasion. In Japan the correct name for the occasion is Kanbutsu; or the Ceremony of the Hana Matsuri or Flower Festival. At temples all over the country, statuettes of the new born Shakyamuni are housed in shrines with flower-bedecked roofs and pillar. Visitors ladle a liquid called *amacha* (sweet tea) over the figure and drink some of the tea themselves. The flowery shrine represents the garden where Shakyamuni is said to have been born. Pouring the sweet tea over the statuette symbolizes nectar poured on him by the Naga Kings in a first bath of purification and celebration.

Please attend this service to celebrate the birth of Shakyamuni and pouring sweet tea on baby Buddha. Everyone is welcomed.



Donated by
Mr. & Mrs. Makoto & Sumiko Mikami

KOKORO GARAGE SALE IV

The thought of having our 4th KOKORO GARAGE SALE is very exciting! Yes, we do need to raise some funds for our 2017 projects for Taishoji but what is more exciting is working together in our Sangha. The Garage sale will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2017 from 8:00 am to noon.

Chairperson:	Rev. Shinsho Hata & Edith Nishino
Finance:	Ellen Yamauchi
Crafts:	Kimie Watanabe
Barazushi:	Yooko Suzuki
Nishime:	Fusako Lee & Mamiko Hata
Baked Goods:	Jane Onuma
Preserves:	Joann Ohama
Produce:	Yuko Tsukamoto
Plants / Flowers:	Calvin Miyashita & Yaeko Fujiwara
Clothing:	Harold & Gayle Yamamoto
Household Goods:	Edith Nishino
Furniture:	Naoshi Watanabe
Books:	Deacon Juho Kirkpatrick
Religious Items:	Rev. Shinsho Hata
Concession:	Taishoji Taiko & Boy Scouts Troop 95

Any useable items will be sold at our Garage Sale. What you don't need may be useful to someone else. Please call Rev. Hata at 935-8407 and bring your boxed non-perishable items to Taishoji. We do need everyone's help to make this a successful project.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

On February 5, our students, parents and other adults were marvelously treated to a splendid "Setsubun" Festival at Taishoji. Everyone was first taught to fold individual Setsubun boxes via the origami method, and each drew a demon's face on the box front. Then were placed bags of roasted beans in the boxes, and all awaited the demons' arrival. Boy! What a ruckus the two demons created when they pranced in. Reverend Hotta of Hilo Daijingu Temple was the red demon and his father was the blue one. To chase away the demons and the bad luck they represented, we all tossed the bags of beans at them. The purpose was to start the new Spring Season in a great manner by ridding all homes and temples of the many demons (bad luck) that lingered from the winter time. Thus, we all chanted "Oni Wa Soto! Fuku Wa Uchi! (Demons out! Good Fortune in!)". The beans are symbolically supposed to chase out the evil and protect all who live there. In various regions of Japan, such as the Tohoku area, such as Aizu-Wakamatsu City in Fukushima-ken, they chant "Oni Wa Medama Buttsubuse!!" (Smash the demons' eyeballs!). All these traditions try to give us a good, happy life ahead.

See you again at Taishoji Sunday School!

ON DEATH

From our Shushogi:

The most important issue of all for Buddhists is the thorough clarification of the meaning of birth and death.

Remembering death especially is said to be like a friend and teacher to one who wishes to practice the Dharma. Remembering death acts as a discouragement to excessive desire and ill will. How many quarrels and disagreements fade into insignificance before the recognition of the inevitability of death.

We know that death is absolutely certain. There has never been a single living being who has escaped death. Yet while death itself is certain, the time of death is uncertain. It is said that life is like a candle in the wind, or a bubble of water. At any moment it may be snuffed out. At any moment it may burst.

Understanding that the time of death is uncertain, we now have the conditions and opportunity to practice the Dharma. We ought to practice it quickly so that we may not waste this opportunity and this precious human life.

"Fundamentals of Buddhism"

OHAGI MOCHI

There are many variations on making these delectable treats. This version, using regular white rice mixed with mochigome, is easier for children and seniors to swallow. After refrigerating, soften the ohagi mochi by microwaving them in a covered dish.

I. MAKING THE TSUBUSHI-AN

2 cups washed azuki beans
10 cups water
3/4 to 1 cup sugar
1/2 tsp. Salt

Soak beans in cold water overnight. Discard water and rinse the beans. Put them in a large pot, cover with water (about 2 inches above the beans), and bring to a boil. Remove from heat and let sit for 5 minutes; drain and rinse the beans. Return to pot and add 10 cups of water (using a ratio of 5 parts water to 1 part azuki). Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer, stirring occasionally, until beans are soft and can be easily squashed. Stir in salt; add sugar to taste. Stir mixture, turning it over completely every so often until liquid is reduced, and falls slowly from the spoon in a thick glob, and a line can be drawn in the bottom of the pot with a spatula. Set aside to cool and shape into balls while rice is cooking.

II. COOKING THE RICE

2 1/2 cups mochigome (sweet glutinous rice)
1/2 cup regular white rice
(for less sticky rice, use: 2 cups mochigome and 1 cup white rice)
4 1/2 cups water

Place both kinds of rice together and wash well until water runs clear; drain. Add water and soak rice overnight or at least an hour before cooking to absorb water.

Cook the rice, following one of the 2 methods below:

a. Stove-top method: Bring rice to a boil. Turn heat down to low and cook for 15-20 minutes. When rice is plump from absorbing the water, turn off heat and let steam for 5 minutes before uncovering.

b. Rice-pot method: Let the pot do the cooking. When done, and rice pot switches to warm setting, unplug and let steam for 5 minutes before uncovering.

Transfer to deep, flat-bottom pot or bowl and fluff with rice paddle. Working quickly, mash while hot with wet wooden pestle or potato masher. Rice will be sticky but have some texture (not smooth, like mochi).

III. SHAPING THE BALLS

Sprinkle salt in a bowl of water (deep enough to dip your fingers in) while handling the sticky mochi. Scoop rice with a tablespoon, shape into balls, and arrange on a plate.

Flatten a ball of tsubushian in the palm of your hand, place a ball of rice on it, and enclose it

evenly with the bean paste, leaving no part uncovered. Serve on individual plates or on a large platter. For parties, place each ball in a paper muffin cup and arrange on a nice tray.



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MARCH 2017 TAISHOJI SCHEDULE

4	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group #5
5	Sun	9:00 am 1:00 pm	S/S Family Service Fujin Kai Meeting
11	Sat	7:00 am 1:00 pm	Temple Cleaning Group #1 Kyodan Meeting
12	Sun	9:00 am 10:00 am	S/S Family Service Haru No O-Higan / Kannon-ko Service (Fujin Kai)
18	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group #2
19	Sun	9:00 am	S/S Family Service
24	Fri	8:30 am	Prep for Fujin Kai Fundraiser (Fujin Kai)
25	Sat	7:30 am	Fujin Kai Cooking (Fujin Kai)
		7:30 am	Temple Cleaning Group #3
26	Sun	9:00 am	S/S Family Service

WEEKLY SCHEDULE FOR TAISHOJI ZAZEN / TAIKO / BOY SCOUTS

Zazen	Mondays	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Zazen (Before S/S / Family Service)	Sundays	8:00 am - 8:35 am
Taiko	Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
	Sundays	11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Boy Scout Troop 95	Wednesday	7:15 pm

TENTATIVE APRIL 2017 TAISHOJI SCHEDULE

1	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group #4
2	Sun	9:00 am	<i>BIBF Hanamatsuri Program (Puna Hongwanji) (S/S)</i>
8	Sat	7:00 am 1:00 pm	Temple Cleaning Group #5 Kyodan Meeting
9	Sun	9:30 am	<i>Hanamatsuri / Kannon Ko / Toba Kuyo Service (Kyodan)</i> <i>Fujin Kai Meeting Cancelled for April</i>
15	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group #1
16	Sun	9:00 am	SS / Family Service
22	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group #2
22 & 23			<i>UHSSWA Conference at Waipahu Taiyoji</i>
23		9:00 am	<i>SS / Family Service Cancelled</i>
29	Sat	7:30 am	Temple Cleaning Group #3
30	Sun	9:00 am	SS / Family Service

IN MEMORIUM

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

Mrs. Fumiko "Helen" Takahashi

December 14, 1924 - February 19, 2017