



# HAKUHO



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**JUNE 2017**

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Aloha, Members and Friends of Taishoji,



It is already June! It has been 1 year and 7 months since I came to Hawaii. Time goes by so quickly. We have to cherish the moment. I would like to share with you about 利行 (*Rigyo*) which means: "Beneficial Deeds." I talked about it at the last UHSSWA conference.

Beneficial Deeds, similar to Aloha, is to act to others with compassion without expecting anything in return. Dogen Zenji the founder of Soto Zen School said, everyone should always be ready and willing to help people in trouble. I think that the important part of the teaching is not to expect anything in return. Do you usually act to others with compassion without expecting anything in return? It might be a difficult task for many of us.

For example, if you cook something or wash some clothes for your husband or your child and they don't appreciate your deeds, you might be angry at them. As a human being, to expect something in return is obvious. But Dogen Zenji said, we should not expect anything in return. How should we go about doing that?

I would like to talk about different ways of how to expect nothing in return. Please imagine that you are getting hungry as you moved your body dancing the hula. You are starving! But you are smart. You have a Spam Musubi! However, Rev. Hata appears before you and is looking at your musubi hungrily! You noticed that and gave him half of your musubi as you are a giving person. He ate the musubi, but left without an expression of gratitude. At this point, you might be angry at him and think that "I was also starving and wanted to eat the whole musubi! What a rude man! After that, you might be in a bad mood all day.

But let us consider how you would feel if you were not starving, but was full? If you was full and gave your musubi away, even if it wasn't appreciated, you would not be angry at him as you would already be full. So, the point is, if you are filled with happiness and love, you are able to act with compassion without expecting anything in return.

We have to be happy ourselves in order to make other people happy.

Are you filled with happiness? Happiness is not something to obtain but something deeper.

When we were a baby, we couldn't do anything. We grew up supported by our parents, relatives and so on. Nobody gave them money or said thank you in return.

So we have lived by acting with compassion not expecting anything in return. We are already a happy person at that point in time.

That's why, we should actively act to others with compassion whether we are being thanked by someone or not.

It is similar to returning the favor for all the love and care someone has given us. Any time, anywhere, let us practice **Rigyo** with happiness and love! Thank you very much.

In Gassho,

Rev. Shinsho Hata

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha Members & Friends,

Sitting quietly at Sunday's Zazen session is a good way to begin my day. By trying to not think of anything, I am able to clear my mind before our Sunday School / Family Service.

It is so nice to be greeted by Rev. and Mrs. Hata with their warm smiles and *hands together in gassho*. *Seeing my friends and meeting new people* gives me a warm and comfortable feeling. Singing the Gathas accompanied by Mrs. Mamiko Hata playing the organ is so beautiful and uplifting.

Rev. Hata's Dharma messages are very interesting and meaningful. He shares his personal experiences to simplify his message. This makes it easy to understand and can be used in our daily lives.

My favorite is singing Sayonara

Sayonara minasan goki genyo

Sayonara sensei odaijini

Tanoshi kondono tsudo imade

We bow and wish everyone in the sangha to have a good day and to stay healthy until we meet again the following Sunday. What a great day to start the day and week.

In Gassho,

Rodney Nishino

## BUSSHIN KAI NEWS

Thank you members, who graciously help Rev. Hata and Okusan Hata in the altar ceremonies on major occasions and the Goeika / Baika hymns at many services both in Taishoji temple and at mortuaries. Please, kind other people, consider joining either or both groups in order to add dignity to our dear friends and relatives when the time comes. We must help each other in order one day to receive help...

Please remember that our Soto Zen religion is the only Buddhist sect that relies on what has been experienced (historically occurred). We do not believe in "what ifs" and "what might happen..." We believe in what is... Science and history are vital to our beliefs. Nature, such as the flower that enlightened Mahakasyapa, is what we admire. We do not have dreams or have visions. We do not pray to Shakamuni Buddha. We are not a faith religion. We meditate and think or sometimes not think. We are realists. We are awake!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Our Sunday School students have just completed a great year in growing up and becoming better people. They are acquiring the values of respect, responsibility and loving kindness that will be useful in their lives now and later on. At the same time, they are gradually helping Taishoji temple activities to run smoothly and well. The gathas that they sing are truly beautiful and educational --- both in English and Japanese.

Please invite friends and neighbors to pay us a visit in September.

## **Zen Practice**

In Zen Buddhism we do not learn only from a book or teacher, but from life, and we do not learn only at the temple, but from everywhere. Zen is experience itself, the truth of life as it is ever flowing by.

The way of Zen is not a withdrawal from life, but is found in all the activities of everyday life. The fusion of everyday life is a central theme of the Soto school of Zen, according to the founder Dogen Zenji.

This is why Zen developed the cultivation of arts, such as tea ceremony, flower arrangement, bonsai, poetry and painting. Even in the field of martial arts like judo, karate, and aikido. The first supporters of Zen in Japan were the samurai, the warrior class, who found in Zen an emphasis on self-control and equanimity of mind, a discipline conducive to their own end.

The principle in these different applications of Zen is that any field of activity can serve as the means for realizing the truth of Zen.

The hope of Buddhism is to develop a peaceful mind, a peaceful life and an awareness of relationships between oneself and others.

“ Zen philosophy Zen practice”

## **KOKORO GARAGE SALE IV SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017**

As mentioned in previous editions of our Hakuho, members are starting to drop off their non-perishable items to the temple. If you have any items that we can offer to sell to the public during our garage sale, please call the temple before you come so someone will be there to receive the items and will be able to give you a donation form for your taxes next year. We are accepting, clothing, household items, furniture or any type of non-perishable items. If you have any perishable food items, like preserves or plants, please hold on to it until the week of the event.

## **TAIKO FESTIVAL - JUNE 3 & 4 UH HILO AUDITORIUM**

If you haven't purchased your tickets for this event yet, you have to hurry. It sells out fast. **June 3 at 7:30pm & June 4 at 2:00pm**. Tickets can be bought at the UH Hilo box office.

Festival features - Taishoji Taiko, Kona Daifukuji Taiko, Puna Taiko, Hui Okinawa Kobudo Taiko and Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Waimea/Kohala

## **DAIFUKUJI O-BON SERVICE SUNDAY, JULY 25 at 9:00 am**

If you want to attend the Daifukuji O-Bon Service but do not have a way, Please contact Rev. Hata to make arrangements to catch a ride.

## **EMPEROR ASHOKA: WHO WAS HE?**

In the Third Century B.C. E., Emperor Ashoka was ruling the vast Maurya Empire in India. He had taken the throne in a bloody war and was a ruthless leader with many violent triumphs to his credit. But during the eighth year of his rule, after a particularly gruesome battle, Ashoka became shaken by his own bloodbath --- upward of 100,000 people are said to have been slaughtered --- and it set the stage for a powerful change.

Emperor Ashoka became a Buddhist and was largely responsible for the spread of Buddhism beyond India's borders and its emergence as one of the world's great religions. He practiced tolerance and respect for other religious disciplines, promoted peace instead of war, and established schools, hospitals, and orphanages for his people. He was living proof that it is possible to rule a great nation with kindness and open-mindedness, promoting peace and goodwill. This is the start of Gnosticism, that Western civilization is so fascinated with today.

### JUNE 2017 TAISHOJI SCHEDULE

3	<b>Sat</b>	7:30 am <b>7:30 pm</b>	Temple Cleaning <b>Group #3</b> <b>Big Island Taiko Festival (UH Hilo Auditorium)</b>
4	<b>Sun</b>	<b>10:00 am</b> <b>2:00 pm</b>	<b>Kaisanki / Rekiju-ki / Kannon Ko Srvc (Baikako)</b> <b>Big Island Taiko Festival (UH Hilo Auditorium)</b>
10	<b>Sat</b>	7:00 am <b>1:00 pm</b>	Temple Cleaning <b>Group #4</b> <b>Kyodan Meeting</b>
17	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning <b>Group #5</b>
24	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning <b>Group #1</b>
25	<b>Sun</b>	<b>7:00 am</b> <b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Rev. Hata to Daifukuji for O-Bon Service</b> <b>Daifukuji O-Bon Service</b>

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE FOR TAISHOJI ZAZEN / TAIKO / BOY SCOUTS

Zazen	Mondays	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Taiko	Sundays	11:00 am - 1:00 pm
	Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Boy Scout Troop 95	Wednesday	7:15 pm

### TENTAIVE JULY 2017 TAISHOJI SCHEDULE

1	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning <b>Group #2</b>
2	<b>Sun</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Otakiage (Burning of Religious Items)</b>
7-8	<b>Fri-Sat</b>		<b>Rev. Hata to Mantokuji for O-Bon Service</b>
8	<b>Sat</b>	7:30 am <b>1:00 pm</b>	Temple Cleaning <b>Group #3</b> <b>Kyodan Meeting</b> <b>Daifukuji Soto Mission (Bon Dance)</b>
15	Sat	7:00 pm	Temple Cleaning <b>Group #4</b>
18	<b>Tue</b>	<b>7 - 8:30 pm</b>	<b>Bon Dance Practice (Jane Heit)</b>
22	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning <b>Group #5</b>
22	<b>Sun</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Move Yagura to Front of Temple</b>
25	<b>Tue</b>	<b>7 - 8:30 pm</b>	<b>Bon Dance Practice (Jane Heit)</b>
29	<b>Sat</b>	7:00 am <b>7 - 10:30 pm</b>	Temple Cleaning <b>Group #1</b> <b>Taishoji Bon Dance (Kyodan)</b>
30	<b>Sun</b>	<b>9:00 am</b> <b>1:30 pm</b> <b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Taishoji O-Bon / Hatsubon / Toba Kuyo Service</b> <b>Move Yagura to Back of Parking Lot</b> <b>Taishoji Toro Nagashi (Busshin Kai)</b> <b>(Floating Lantern Ceremony / Wailoa River Boat Ramp)</b> <b>(Performance by Taishoji Taiko)</b>

### IN MEMORIUM

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

**MRS. TSURUKO DAIMARU**  
June 26, 1925 - April 27, 2017

### Unsubscribe from HAKUHO

To unsubscribe, email to [hotrod001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:hotrod001@hawaii.rr.com)

**2017 TAISHOJI O-BON DONATION FORM**

Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Last

First

Donation for: O-Bon Service \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Toba @ \$2.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Toba Name (s): Please print

(1) \_\_\_\_\_  
Donor Dedicated To

(2) \_\_\_\_\_  
Donor Dedicated To

(3) \_\_\_\_\_  
Donor Dedicated To

(4) \_\_\_\_\_  
Donor Dedicated To

(5) \_\_\_\_\_  
Donor Dedicated To

.....PLEASE CUT ON LINE.....

Summer is **BON DANCE** season. People look forward to attending this event at different temples. Taishoji' Soto Mission's Bon Dance is on **Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>**. A short service at 7:00 pm will precede the Bon Dance. You can feel the excitement when people of all ages arrive at our temple to dance or watch the colorful celebration. The mesmerizing drumming of Taishoji Taiko makes you want to get up and dance. The awesome performance by the Taiko members at **9:00 pm** are always a hit for our Hilo Community.



Dancing to Fukushima Ondo

The O-bon service is on **Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>** at **9:00 am** officiated by **Rev. Shinsho Hata**, 15<sup>th</sup> resident minister of Taishoji. Rev. Hata will be assisted by **Rev. Jiko Nakade of Daifukuji Soto Mission** at our Bon Dance and O-Bon Service. Our guest speaker for the O-Bon Service will be Rev. Jiko Nakade.

Everyone is welcome to attend both services and welcome Rev. Jiko Nakade and members of Daifukuji Soto Mission in Kona to Taishoji.



O-Bon Service

By attending these events you can welcome your ancestral spirits back from their spirit world and dance with them before their departure back to their spirit world during the Toro Nagashi.



Performance by Taishoji Taiko

The memorial service held at O-bon have two meanings. One is to honor the Buddha and show reverence for one's ancestors and others who have died.

The other is to express gratitude to all people to whom we are indebted, including those who are alive such as our parents, relatives, and friends.

Toro Nagashi will be held at the Wailoa Small Boat Harbor at **5:00 pm**.

**2017 TORO-NAGASHI**



Toro Nagashi Lanterns on Raft  
To be transported by Suisan to be released

Our annual Taishoji Toro-Nagashi (Floating Lantern Service) will take place on **Sunday, July 30, 2017** at the Wailoa River Boat Ramp at **5:00 p.m.**

A limited number of lanterns (**96**) will be issued for this event on a "first come" basis. A donation of \$25.00 is requested for each lantern. The donor and two (2) names will be written on each lantern.

Each lantern needs a separate **Request Form**.

We shall need your help and cooperation in order to have a very successful Toro Nagashi so we can end our beloved ancestors' spirits back to their Nirvana Spirit World with "Aloha" after the O-Bon service with either the boat or cow



All donors are requested to be at the Wailoa River boat ramp by **5:00 p.m.**, or earlier to pick up their lanterns to lovingly assemble it for their loved ones. If you are not able to be at the boat ramp, we will ask others to do it for you. Egg plant depicting a cow to take our ancestors back to their world

**NOTE: NO PERSONAL LANTERN (S) WILL BE ACCEPTED DUE TO SAFETY CONCERNS.**

.....**Cut On Line**.....

**TAISHOJI SOTO MISSION  
2017 TORO NAGASHI LANTERN REQUEST FORM**

Donor's Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Dedicated to: (Print) \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Dedicated to: (Print) \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Donation of \$ **25.00** for each Lantern \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Make check or cash payable to **Taishoji Busshin Kai** **Check** **Cash**

Please mail or drop of form and donation to the Temple by **Saturday, July 15, 2017**

TO: TAISHOJI SOTO MISSION  
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