



HAKUHO

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AUGUST 2018

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Aloha, Members and Friends of Taishoji,

How are you doing? July and August mark the arrival of the Obon season. This year, it comes during a volcanic eruption at Kilauea, which is still going on. It may take some time before the volcano quiets down. More than 2,000 people have been displaced by the eruption and have been living in shelters since May. I hope you and your families are safe and are doing the best you can during this trying time.

In June a big earthquake occurred in Osaka where my parents live. Then, in July, some towns of Hiroshima and Ehime prefectures were flooded by heavy rains. A lot of disasters appear to be happening lately. There are some things you can do during such disasters. For example, you can talk with your family about evacuation centers and evacuation routes. Make sure that furniture, TVs, and desktop computers are kept stable and will not drop, fall or move. Put emergency supplies by your bedside. Despite our efforts, if these situations continue for a long time, our peaceful existence will be disrupted.

That's why Buddha and Dogen teach us about impermanence. I'd like to introduce you to Dogen's saying: "That which is born will also die, that which has met will also part, what has been taken will be lost, what has been made will break. Time flies past like an arrow. All is evanescence. Is there, in this world, anything not transient?"

Dogen lost his father when he was three years old and his mother when he was eight. He had felt the vanity of life since he was a child. As Dogen says, nothing is permanent. All existence and all things in this world are changing constantly. But impermanence is not only about negative things. In the great cycle of being, life comes to an end, and a new life is born. The new life brings us joy, which sustains us as we raise the child to adulthood.

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If you develop a mind of gratitude for being alive, you can live peacefully, even in difficult circumstances. When you wake up, please appreciate that you were able to greet a fresh morning. Before you sleep, please appreciate that you were able to sleep calmly, even though you had your ups and downs. If you are overcome by a sad incident, please appreciate that the ability to recover from it resides within you. Finally, please appreciate that you are able to pray to Buddha and your ancestors at the temple or Butsudan.

Your present life does not consist of your effort alone. Thanks to the efforts of others, you are able to have food, clothing, a house, and other things you need to survive, live comfortably, and enjoy life. So please show your gratitude to them. To have a mind of gratitude for everything around you is to recognize the small happiness in your daily life. The small happiness brings the greatest happiness. By understanding impermanence and having a mind of gratitude, we will be able to live peacefully every day.

We have our Bon Dance and Hatsubon Service at the beginning of August when we honor the spirits of our ancestors. I look forward to seeing you during this precious time.

In Gassho,
Rev. Shinsho Hata

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's good to be back after a short absence from my duties as Kyodan President. Thank you Reverend. Hata, for publishing the Hakuho. To Edith Nishino, for conducting the Kyodan meetings. To the members who volunteered when help was needed. I appreciate the cooperation of from our Sangha. Thank you.

At our last Kyodan meeting it was decided to install security cameras around our temple due to vandalism. Our precious large cooking wok is missing and we are having problems with our water usage. We hope the cameras will make our temple a safe and secure place.

In Gassho,
Rodney Nishino

BUSSHIN KAI NEWS

We have the permit for our Toro Nagashi! So, please come to help our Busshin Kai project succeed. We would like helpers for setting up the tents, chairs and tables. We need people to aid in the assembly of the Floating Lanterns. We need help with the boats that tow the lantern rafts down the river. We wish to have people take down the tents & clean up the place when pau.

Let's hope for dry weather and calm waters. Let's send off our dear ones back to the Spirit World until we see them again next year... Namu Kie Butsu, Namu Kie Ho, Namu Kie So.

Walter Tachibana

SUNDAY SCHOOL / FAMILY SERVICE

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer, traveling, visiting relatives and maybe just kicking back taking a break from school. But now summer is over so back to Sunday School for 3 months and vacation starts again for the Christmas Holidays.

Sunday School / Family Service begins on **September 9, 2018 at 9:00am**. Sunday morning **Zazen Sessions** will also be held from **8:00 to 8:35am** before Sunday School.

LAY CONFIRMATION CEREMONY 2018

Lay confirmation ceremony will be held on Saturday, **November 17th at 10:00 a.m.**

Purpose:

To receive the sixteen precepts which are the moral & ethical foundation of our tradition.

To deepen one's understanding of the Dharma.

To receive a Buddhist name.

To provide spiritual confirmation within the Sangha in the presence of family & friends.

Cost: \$100

Receive:

Wagesa: A strip of cloth with a decorative knot, worn around the neck, as a symbol of having taken the ceremony in Zen Buddhism, to be worn at all services.

Study Books: Basic Buddhism, Soto Zen.

Buddhist name: A positive description of your qualities or of the moral virtues that you may nourish and cherish as you walk in the path of Buddhahood.

Certificate: Certificate of Lay Confirmation Ceremony

Participant : 6 members

Schedule:

Day 1: 10/14 (Sun) 10am - 11am

Study workshop (the ceremony, sixteen precepts, Buddhist Name)

Day 2: 10/21 (Sun) 10am - 11am

Study workshop (Basic Buddhism)

Day 3: 10/28 (Sun) 10am - 11am

Study workshop (Soto Zen Buddhism)

Day 4: 11/10 (Sat) 10am - 11am

Rehearsal for the ceremony

Day 5: 11/17 (Sat) 10am - 11:30 am

Lay Confirmation Ceremony (Family and friends are invited to attend) A Potluck luncheon will be held after the ceremony



Lay Confirmation Ceremony 2017

To allow those who have already received the precepts an opportunity to renew their commitment to this sacred path. This is a good opportunity to promote better understanding of Buddhism. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Registration is required by September 15th. Call 808-935-8407 for more details.

RYOSOKI / AKI No-O-HIGAN / KANNON Ko Service
Sunday, September 9th at 10:00 am

September is a National Holiday in Japan. It's Autumnal Equinox Day. On the equinox day, as you may know already, the length of daytime and night are approximately equal. Of course, an equinox occurs twice a year, in March and in September. In Japan, the seven days, from three days before the equinox day till three days after, are called "O-Higan", which is one of the Buddhist customs carried out even now. This is when families visit ancestors graves.



Visiting the grave

Ryosoki is a Memorial Service for Dogen Zenji and Keizan Zenji. Kannon Ko is a precious service held in honor of the Bodisattva Kannon. During the service we dedicate the merit and energy of loving kindness for the well being of all Taishoji members and friends by offering by incense and chanting the Kannon Sutra and songs.

This is also the time for Bota Mochi or Ohagi as people call it which is similar. Except it is called Bota Mochi during the Spring Higan when the Botan flower is in bloom (Looks similar to a Camellia flower but smaller) and Ohagi during the Autumn Higan



Botan Flower (Spring)



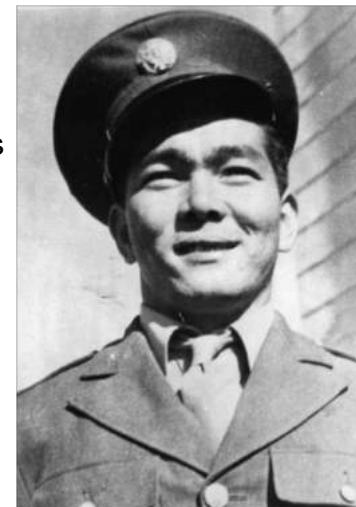
Bota Mochi or Ohagi

AJA MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE at VETERANS CEMETERY # 1
Sunday, September 23rd at 9:45 am

The public is invited to the AJA Veterans Memorial Service at 10 am on Sunday, Sept. 23, at Veteran's Cemetery No. 1 in Hilo. This annual service was initiated by World War II Americans of Japanese ancestry veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442 Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service and the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion. It takes place this time of year as it was Sept. 29, 1943, when the soldiers lost their first comrade, Sgt. Shigeo "Joe" Takata, in a battle near Montemarano, Italy.

As the veterans aged, the AJA Veterans Council along with the Sons and Daughters of AJA Veterans organization continued the memorial services, which have changed from a time to express gratitude to the veterans for their service and sacrifice, to remembering and honoring their legacy.

"We are hoping the generations that followed these proud warriors heed the call to not let their contributions be forgotten as we have benefited so much from their efforts," said Ali Akamine of the Sons & Daughters of AJA Veterans.



Sgt. Shigeo "Joe" Takata

Community participants include ministers from various Buddhist Temples in Hilo, the Hawaii County Band, the Junior ROTC from Hilo High School and Boy Scout Troops. The graves throughout Veterans Cemetery Nos. 1 and 2 will be decked with flags.

The AJA Veterans Council was created as the guiding body consisting of representatives from the organizations of AJA veterans from World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars. As the aging veterans have dwindled in number and strength, the organizations for the WWII and Korean War veterans have been disbanded, however, the council continues to provide guidance to the Sons and Daughters of AJA Veterans in their efforts to continue the legacy of their parents.

Taishoji is the Toban Temple and Rev. Shinsho Hata will be the Toban Minister for the Buddhist Service.

THE JOY OF LIVING

At its heart, Buddhism is very practical. It's about doing things that foster serenity, happiness, and confidence, and avoiding things that provoke anxiety, hopelessness, and fear. The essence of Buddhism practice is not so much an effort at changing your thoughts or your behavior so that you can become a better person, but in realizing that no matter what you might think about the circumstances that define your life, you're already good, whole, and complete. It's about recognizing the inherent potential of your mind. In other words, Buddhism is not so much concerned with getting well as with recognizing that you are, right here, right now, as whole, as good, as essentially well as you could ever hope to be.

Yongey Mingyur Rinpoche

ASHOKA THE GREAT BUDDHIST EMPOROR

Ashoka the Great was the ruler of the mighty Maurya Empire of India (274 BCE- 232 BCE) who whole-heartedly spread Shakyamuni Buddha's teachings to the Middle East, Egypt, Persia, Tibet, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Asia Minor (Turkey today), Mesopotamia (Iraq today), China, Kashmir, Nepal, Sri Lanka (Ceylon), Thailand, Myanmar (Burma), Alexander the Greay's Greek Empire (Hellenistic), and to key cities such as Alexandria in Egypt and Antioch in Syria.

The teachings spread by Ashoka's Buddhist missionary monks (Sramana) would remain in the minds and hearts of the people of the ancient world and the new world for centuries. This is what the Cathars (the Buddhists of southern France), the Knights Templar, the Freemasons and the first five U. S. Presidents believed in.

Because Buddhism believed in equality of the sexes and social classes in respect and compassion, and in non-violence and the inability to end suffering and sorrow, the golden thread of the Buddhist legacy remained in world history, even though destructive religions called them "heretics" and exterminated thousands of people.

Although Ashoka, a word which means "without sorrow" in Sanskrit, conquered his vast empire with much bloodshed while he was still a warlike Hindu emperor, he felt so much guilt and sadness for the great carnage and destruction that he caused when he conquered the Kalinga kingdom in 261 BCE, that he became a Buddhist like his third wife, Devi, was.

From then on, he worked extremely hard to make the lives of his subjects a much happier and comfortable one. Science fiction novelist H. G. Wells wrote of Ashoka:

"In the history of the world there have been thousands of kings and emperors who called themselves 'Their Highness:' [Their Majesties," and 'Their Exalted Majesties' and so on. They shone for a brief moment, and as quickly disappeared. But Ashoka shines and shines brightly like a bright star, even unto this day."

Emperor Ashoka is the only emperor in history to rule by moral persuasion. The founders of the modern country of India regarded Ashoka so greatly that they put the Ashoka Chakra (Buddhist Wheel) in the center of the Republic of India's flag. Plus, the emblem of India is a replica of the three lions of the Ashoka Stone Pillar.

Thus, once there was a time when the largest empire that India ever had was ruled by a Buddhist, wise and compassionate ruler --- Ashoka.

WISDOM WORDS

"If I had my life to live over again, I would find you sooner so that I could love you longer."

CHILDREN ARE THE RAINBOW OF LIFE.

GRANDCHILDREN ARE THE POT OF GOLD

Retirement is when you stop living at work and start working at LIVING.

Live Your Life and forget your age.

TAISHOJI AUGUST 2018 SCHEDULE

4	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group #4
		7 - 10:30 pm	Taishoji Bon Dance (Kyodan)
5	Sun	9:30 am	Taishoji O-Bon / Hatsubon / Toba Kuyo Service (Kyodan)
		1:30 pm	Move Yagura to Back of Parking Lot
		5:00 pm	Taishoji Toro Nagashi (Busshin Kai) (Floating Lantern Ceremony / Wailoa River Boat Ramp) (Performance by Taishoji Taiko)
6	Mon		Rev. Shinsho Hata to Japan - return 8/18
		6:30 pm	ZAZEN CANCELLED
11	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group #5
		1:00 pm	KYODAN MEETING - CANCELLED FOR AUGUST
13		6:30 pm	ZAZEN CANCELLED
18	Sat	7:00 am	Temple cleaning Group #1 Rev. Shinsho Hata returns from Japan
25	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group #2
26	Sun	2:00 pm	Ireisai Service Alae Cemetery (Taishoji)

During the absence of Rev. Shinsho Hata from August 6 to August 18, please call
Taishoji Soto Mission at 808-935-8407 or Rodney Nishino at 808-640-9956

TAISHOJI ZAZEN / TAIKO / BOY SCOUTS SCHEDULE

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

TENTATIVE SEPTEMBER 2018 SCHEDULE

1	Sat	7:30 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
8	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 4
		1:00 pm	Kyodan Meeting
9	Sun	9:00 am	SS / Family Service (RESUMES UNTIL DECEMBER)
		10:00 am	Ryosoki / Aki No-O-Higan / Kannon Ko Service (Busshin Kai)
15	Sun	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 5
16	Sun	8:00 am	ANNUAL TEMPLE CLEAN-UP
22	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
23	Sun	9:45 am	AJA Memorial Day Service / Veterans Cemetery #1 (Taishoji is Toban Temple)
29	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
30	Sun	9:00 am	SS / Family Service

IN MEMORIUM

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

Mr. Yoichi Stanley Oba
September 21, 1933 - June 23, 2018