



HAKUHO

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OCTOBER 2018

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Aloha, Members and Friends of Taishoji,

New Sunday services started from last month. I'd like you to learn more about Zen and try to do Zen practice in your daily life. So first, I'd like to talk about "Zen." Taishoji is a Zen Buddhist Temple. I'd like to ask you, what is Zen? If your friend asks you this question, how would you answer? Someone might answer that Zen is Zazen or Meditation or concentration of the mind. Actually, there are different answers depending on Zen monks. We don't have a definite answer about Zen.

Dogen Zenji, the founder of the Soto Zen school in Japan emphasized that Soto Zen cherishes the teaching of "不立文字 (Furyu Monji)." This teaching means that spiritual awakening cannot be experienced with only words and letters; Spiritual enlightenment can be attained only by means of communion of mind with mind. It doesn't deny the possibility of words and letters, but we cannot understand the whole meaning with just words and letters. For example, if I asked you what is love, how would you answer that? It might be difficult for you to explain love clearly with just words. I think that the person who has never been loved by others would not be able to answer the question. However, if you are a singer or actor, you might express love through song or acting. But I think, when we love others or are loved by others, we can understand love. The same with Zen. The person who has done Zen practice for a long time, will be able to understand for the first time.

In addition, I said that we cannot understand Zen completely just with words and letters, but many monks have been trying to explain Zen using their words. So I'd like to introduce some explanations. First, this is from the Soto Zen Official website. "Zen refers to seeing into and discerning the truth of the way things are, then harmonizing the mind to properly correspond with that understanding."

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Could you understand this? It is difficult for me to understand since they use high level words. Next, this is from Rev. Shunryu Suzuki, a Soto Zen monk and teacher who helped popularize Zen Buddhism in the United States. "ZEN is right here. ZEN is right now!" I feel that Zen is to cherish every moment from his words. Last, this is from Eno (Hui-neng), sixth patriarch of Zen in China. "Zen is to look at one's heart calmly and believe in one's Buddha mind." Personally, I like these words. It's very simple and makes me encouraged. Those are the explanations of Zen. As I said before, we cannot understand Zen completely just with words, but their words encourage or help us in our Zen practice.

Finally, to learn Zen teachings is very important in our daily life. Now, thanks to growth of the internet and industry, our lives are more convenient. However, we take it for granted and tend to forget the mind of gratitude. If we can learn and practice Zen teachings, we can always remember the mind of gratitude with a calm mind. Taishoji is the precious place to do that.

Through Sunday school, I'd like to teach you how to do Zen practice in your daily life.

In Gassho,
Rev. Shinsho Hata

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THANK YOU, Members and Friends, for helping with our Annual Temple Cleanup. Everyone arrived with a bright smile and a spirit of giving and gratitude. "Thank you for letting us have our Taiko practices or Boy Scout meeting here at Taishoji. How we help?" The jealousies were cleaned, screens and fan washed, floors swept and mopped and ramp washed. The Fujin Kai ladies cleaned the kitchen while the men helped with everything else. By 11:00 am the temple was clean and sparkling. It was time for lunch. Delicious chili with nachos and a array of desserts were made by members and enjoyed by all. What a great Sangha full of giving and gratitude.



Temple cleaning



Lunch enjoyed by everyone

In Gassho,
Rodney Nishino

FUJIN KAI

Aloha members and friends of Fujin Kai,

We have celebrated this year's ***Aki no Ohigan***. Thank you for the wonderful luncheon. Also, thank you very much for your hard work and the delicious lunch donation for the annual temple cleanup day.

In October, we shall have the ***Eitaikyo / Darumaki / Kannon ko Service*** on Sunday, October 10, 2018. A luncheon will follow the service. Prep work on the day before (Saturday) is not necessary for this luncheon.

October Fujin Kai meeting is scheduled for **1:00 pm on Sunday, October 7, 2018** after the Eitaikyo / Darumaki / Kannon ko Service.

Thank you very much for your continued support!

With best wishes in Gassho,
Yoko Gussman

INITIATION CEREMONY

Congratulation! Lay Temple Assistant Jigaku Takenouchi's initiation ceremony was held on Sunday, September 9, 2018.

During the ceremony, Rev. Shinsho Hata presented a Wagesa (a strip of cloth with a decorative knot, worn around the neck, as a symbol of having made the pledge in Zen Buddhism) and a Kairyō-e (spiritual black robe) to him.

We welcome Mr. Joseph Jigaku Takenouchi into our special sangha.



Purification Ritual by Rev. Shinsho Hata

MESSAGE FROM LAY ASSISTANT JIGAKU TAKENOUCHI

Hello Everyone,

My name is Joseph Jigaku Takenouchi. I am very happy to have begun my training to be a Deacon at Taishoji. Everyone has been so kind and welcoming since I first started attending services. I look forward to spending time with you all and spreading our Soto Zen teachings to our community and to everyone who is interested in our Soto School of Buddhism. Although I am normally quiet, please feel free to talk to me about anything. Lastly I would like to leave you with these final words; Every single moment is precious, Every single moment is enlightenment, every single moment your Buddha nature awakens.

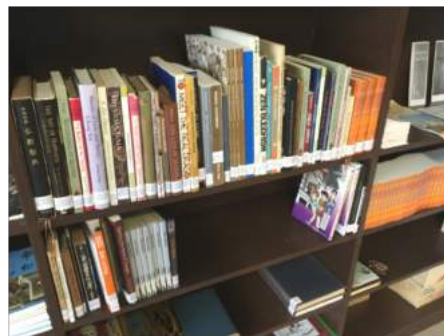
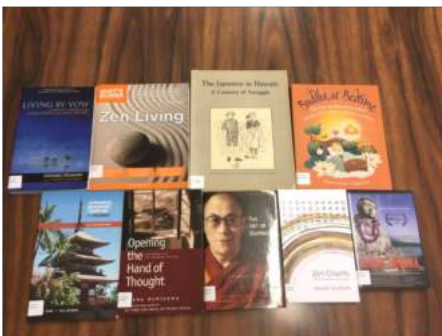
In Gassho,
Jigaku



Jigaku Takenouchi and Rev. Shinsho Hata

TAISHOJI LIBRARY IS OPEN

Thanks to Mr. Argon Steel, Mr. Blake Shiigi and Mr. Sergey Chebruchan's help, we started the small library from last month. Everyone can check out these books for three weeks. We are also grateful to Daifukuji members who donated some books for our library. Let's enjoy reading and deepen our Zen teachings!!



BODHIDHARMA, THE FOUNDER AND HERO OF ZEN BUDDHISM

Bodhidharma, also known as Daruma-san in Japan, was an Indian Buddhist monk who is considered the founder of Zen Buddhism (called Chan Buddhism in China).

He was born in a city near the southeastern coastal city of Madras (Chennai today) in the early 450-500 C.E. in India. He was the 3rd son of the king of Kanchipuram city and was raised in the warrior caste. However, Bodhidharma was not interested in becoming king and instead was interested in the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha. He began to show great wisdom at the young age of 7 years old.

The people of South India are known as the Dravidians, the first civilized people in India when they used to live in the fertile Indus River Valley in the north. The Dravidians were a black-skinned, intelligent people that were pushed southward by the invading, more warlike, brown-skinned Aryan herding people that rule India to this day.

Bodhidharma became a monk and changed his name from Bodhitara to Bodhidharma. Then, he started living in the monastery where he learned the way of the Buddha.

After his father's death, Bodhidharma began to spread the knowledge and beliefs of Buddhism throughout India.

Years later Bodhidharma left the monastery and went to China to fulfill the last request of his deceased master: spread the real teachings of the historical Buddha further into China. It is believed that he traveled from Madras to Guangzhou province in China by sea, and then by land to Nanjing. It is believed that he traveled across the Pamir Plateau, which is north of the Himalaya Mts. and Afghanistan. The journey to China took 3 years, it is said.

Once in China, Bodhidharma started to teach real Buddhism in the face of strong opposition. He stressed that Buddhist scriptures (sutras) were only a guide for achieving Enlightenment, and that enlightenment itself can only be attained by practicing Zazen. Note that, at that time in China, Buddhist scriptures, and not meditation, were at the heart of Buddhism.

Bodhidharma's teaching of authentic meditation-based Buddhism got him shunned and hated. He had to live as a beggar for many months. He then left Luoyang province and went on to the Henan province where he traveled to Shaolin Monastery in central China between the Yellow River and the Yangtze River.

After being refused entry to the Shaolin temple, Bodhidharma lived in a nearby cave, where he did Zazen facing a wall for 9 long years, not speaking for the entire time.

The Shaolin monks were so impressed with his dedication to his Zazen that he was finally given permission to enter the Shaolin Monastery. He taught his "wall-facing" meditation (like Sōtō Zen) to the monks, but he quickly realized that they were not strong enough to undertake the difficult and long sessions of meditation. They were so weak that they would often fall asleep during Zazen or get sick. So Bodhidharma tried to increase their strength and willpower by teaching them Indian breathing exercises as well as martial arts. He taught them moving exercises, designed to both enhance "chi" flow and build strength. These sets, modified from Indian yoga were based on the movements of the 18 main animals in Indo-Chinese iconography (e.g., tiger, deer, leopard, cobra, snake, dragon, etc., were the beginnings of Shaolin Kung Fu.

Bodhidharma stayed and taught at Shaolin temple for many years and died at 100+ years old. He was poisoned by some disciple as revenge because he had not been chosen as the successor.

Bodhidharma was an energetic teacher who called all Buddhists, monks or lay people to make their best effort in this lifetime. He was opposed to the idea of earning merits by making donations. Instead, he declared that everyone has Buddha-nature and encouraged each and everyone to Awaken.

Bodhidharma is the 28th Patriarch (Great Teacher) of Buddhism in a line of descent from the Buddha via his first disciple Mahākāśyapa, Buddha's successor after his death.

Besides being known as the father of both Zen Buddhism and Shaolin martial arts (Kung Fu), Bodhidharma remains today as a prime symbol of determination, willpower, self-discipline, and is the perfect embodiment of Buddhist Enlightenment.

He loved the color red, and his Daruma doll is always in a red robe. It never falls, but keeps getting upright with determination and compassion.

DARUMA KI / EITAIKYO / KANNON KO SERVICE

Sunday, October 7, 2018 at 10:00 am

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 well being of all Taishoji members and friends by offering by incense and chanting the Kannon Sutra and songs.

Everyone is welcome to attend our Service.



Bodhi Dharma

ZEN COOKING CLASS 9/2/2018



Homemade Tohu



Zen Dish



Mrs. Naoko Moller and participants

TAISHOJI PARKING DECALS

Members, if you haven't received your Taishoji parking decals, please call Walter Tachibana at **959-9374** for these clear electro-static Taishoji parking decals for parking in our temple grounds for vehicles that are driven to our temple for services, etc. They will be mailed inside your next newsletter. If you receive the newsletter by email and live on the Island of Hawaii, please call Rev. Hata at 935-8407 and you can pick it up at Taishoji.



Due to having illegal parking by outsiders, we are using these decals to identify Taishoji members vehicles. Without a decal, your vehicle could be towed by a towing company.

Attach the decal on the inside of your vehicle's wind shield or rear window.

OCTOBER 2018 SCHEDULE

6	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
7	Sun	10:00 am	Darumaki / Eitaikyo Kannon Ko Service (Kyodan)
		1:00 pm	Fujin Kai Meeting
13	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
		1:00 pm	Kyodan Meeting
14	Sun	9:00 am	S/S / Family Service
20	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
21	Sun	9:00 am	S/S / Family Service
27	Sat	7:00 am	Temple cleaning Group # 4
28	Sun	9:00 am	S/S / Family Service
		2:00 pm	Ireito Service / Alae Cemetery / Taishoji is Toban

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 NOVEMBER 2018 SCHEDULE

3	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
3 & 4	Sat & Sun		Aiea Taiheiji 100th Anniversary Celebration
9	Fri	9:30 am	Fujin Kai Hospital Visitation
10	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
		1:00 pm	Kyodan Meeting
11	Sun	9:00 am	S/S / Family Service
		11:00 am	Veterans Day Service / Veterans Cemetery #1
17	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
18	Sun	9:00 am	S/S / Family Service / Keizan Zenji Birthday
24	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 4
25	Sun	9:00 am	S/S / Family Service

BUDDHA and PEOPLE

That we move ourselves and understand all things is ignorance. That things advance and understand themselves is enlightenment. It is Buddhas who understand ignorance. It is people who are ignorant of enlightenment. Further, there are those who are enlightened above enlightenment and those who are ignorant of ignorance. When Buddhas are truly Buddhas, they are not necessarily aware of themselves as Buddhas. But they are enlightened ones. They advance in enlightenment.

SEEING and UNDERSTANDING

When we see things and hear things with our whole body and mind, our understanding is not like a mirror with reflections, nor like water under the moon. If we understand one side, the other side is dark.