



# HAKUHO

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**MAY 2019**

## **MINISTER'S MESSAGE**



Aloha, Members and Friends of Taishoji,

The spirit of "Mottainai"

Do you know the meaning of Mottainai? Have you ever heard the word? It means do not waste things. To be accurate, it is to regret wasting things without utilizing their value or duty. I sometimes see people who order too much food and leave without eating all of it at the restaurant. When I see that, I always feel "Mottainai"! If we cannot eat all, we can take the leftovers home or we should order only the food which we can eat. If we can cherish all foods, we can reduce trash.

I'd like to introduce you to a great monk who can take good care of things with the spirit of Mottainai. Once upon a time, there was a great, great monk in India. His name was Ānanda. Ānanda was a disciple of the Buddha. He was a handsome man and popular with women. One day, Ānanda was invited by the King and gave his sermon to 500 women in the castle. After his sermon, the 500 women were impressed and gave 500 cloth fabrics which were received from the King to Ānanda in return for his sermon. The King was surprised and called Ānanda to the castle soon after. The King asked Ānanda heatedly, "I heard that you received 500 cloth fabrics from the women. Is that right?" Ānanda said calmly, "Yes, it is. I received the cloth fabrics as a donation for the temple. They are not my personal gift. Why is there a reason for me to reject their offering? I received them in appreciation." The King said to Ānanda, "What are you going to do with all that?" Then, Ānanda said, "Lord Buddha has a lot of disciples. I'm going to share the cloth fabrics with the disciples for their new robes." Ānanda's answer was great. The King couldn't argue with Ānanda about it, but the King asked again viciously. "I see, but will you throw the old clothes away?"

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Ānanda said, “No, we will remake the old cloth into underwear or underpants.” The King asked again, “I see. How about the old underwear and underpants?” Ānanda said, “We will sew them together and remake a mattress.” The King asked again, “How about the old mattress that you used?” Ānanda said, “we will remake the old mattress into dust cloths.” The King asked again, “How about the old dust cloths?” Ānanda said, “Well, we will shred the old dust cloths and mix them up with mud which we will use to daub on the walls and floor. We will not waste whatever we received.” After that, the King was impressed with what Ānanda said and really respected Ānanda.

Quite a story? What do you think about the story? Ānanda was a very great monk who could take good care of things. Have you ever made a mattress from your underpants? When I first read the story, I was really surprised. Because I’ve never imagined that old underpants could become part of mud for a wall or floor. In this story, Ānanda didn’t only cherish old things, but he also strived to recycle them. It is very important. We strive for the same recycling activities in Taishoji. If we have old clothes, fabrics and furniture, we have a garage sale. Last year, we made Juzu bracelets using old Juzus. I took the Juzu bracelets to a hospital and a care home and gave them to the residents. Thanks to our Sunday school member’s help, they were so happy.

By recycling old things, we can create new value and change the old things to new gifts. So if we recycle old things, it will lead to the practice of giving. We can cultivate Buddha mind. I don’t say to please make a mattress from your underpants, but there are many ways to recycle from your old things. We can live our life with the spirit of “Mottainai”, we will be able to reduce our trash. A person who can cherish old things is a person who can cherish people around them and oneself. Let us be a person who can think about the feeling of things like Ānanda.

In Gassho,  
Rev. Shinsho Hata

### PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Taishoji held a Basic Buddhism Dharma class on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Instructor Deacon Juho Kirkpatrick who is very knowledgeable in Buddhism, explained how Buddhism started. Dharma class on Basic Buddhism will be held on the last Sunday of the month from 10:00am - 10:30am. Our next session will be on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Deacon Juho also writes articles for our Hakuho. Everyone is welcome to join the Dharma class. Call Taishoji Soto Mission at 935-8407 for information.

Deacon Juho Kirkpatrick

A Deacon is a certified Lay Temple Assistant who trained under a minister for one year. After completion of their training, a ceremony is held recognizing that person as a Deacon. Jigaku Takenouchi is presently training with Rev. Shinsho Hata. The Lay Temple Assistants are a great asset for our temple.

In Gassho,  
Rodney Nishino



Lay Temple Assistant  
Jigaku Takenouchi

### KYODAN BOARD MEETINGS

#### CHANGE OF DATE & TIME

At our April Kyodan Board of Directors Meeting, The Board decided to change our meeting date and time beginning **June 2019 to the second Sunday of the month at 10:00am. The first new meeting date will be on June 9<sup>th</sup>**. Meetings will be held in the meeting room. Hopefully, this will be a more convenient time for our Board Members.

## **BUSSHIN KAI**

### **EMPEROR ASHOKA**

During the third century B.C.E., Emperor Ashoka was ruling a 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 against Kalinga, the area south of his empire, Emperor 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.

Ashoka ran into a monk who told the mighty ruler that he could use his power for good instead of evil. The monk was a Buddhist. Ashoka soon put down his sword and picked up the dharma (Buddha's Teachings) instead.

He stopped hunting, started meditating, stopped fighting and started doing humanitarian work wherever he could. Instead of soldiers he had missionary monks, who spread the dharma wherever they could, reaching out past the boundaries of India and into the neighboring nations. He built thousands of stupas (dome-shaped burial monuments, some later became pagodas in China and Japan) and thousands of monasteries throughout the land. Emperor Ashoka inscribed his new beliefs on rocks that can be found throughout India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Afghanistan today. These inscriptions would come to be known as the Edicts of Ashoka and included such promises as moderate spending, proper schooling for children, medical treatments for everyone (like Medicare for All of today?), promotion of proper behavior; he promised to practice the dharma until the end of time, to always be available --- no matter what he was doing --- for the affairs of his people; he 'promoted respect for everyone and all religions ... and so on (Ashoka for U.S. President!).

Because he practiced such spiritual generosity, many less-devoted practitioners entered the Buddhist religion, and the purity of the Buddhist practice was diluted (weakened). Emperor Ashoka sought to weed out these weak links from the monasteries he had created and called a new council with genuine, steadfast monks who were left. This council is said to have had 1,000 attendees, the largest world Buddhist council.

At the Third World Buddhist Council, the teachings were reviewed and a new, purified collection was set forth. Nine missions of arhats (worthy ones; those who have an enlightened mind and are free of desires and cravings) were sent out to spread the dharma into different areas of India and to cross the boundaries into other countries. This golden thread of the Buddhist Dharma went to Egypt, Palestine, the Middle East, Italy, France, England, and America in the minds and hearts of groups of people known as the Cathars, the Knights Templar, the Freemasons, and persons such as Leonardo da Vinci, Esclarmonde of Foix, Michelangelo, Eleanor of Aquitaine, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison.

Thus, Emperor Ashoka 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 religions, 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. --- Walter Tachibana

## **FUJIN KAI**

Aloha to all Fujin Kai members and friends!

Thank you so much for your hard work gathering and preparing Kakuma. We will be taking the Kakuma as well as the Takuwan (Daikon pickles) to the UHSSWA Conference. I will give a report on how much they loved our Kakuma at the next Fujin Kai meeting which is on May 5<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00am. Thank you also for your help on cooking lunch for the Haru no Ohigan. Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> is our Hospital Visitation Day. This time we will be visiting Hale Anuenue, Okutsu Veterans Home and the Life Care Center. The Kaisanki / Rekijuki / Kannon-ko Service will be on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. This service is sponsored by the Taishoji Baikako. Also, our Fujin Kai is welcoming everyone to be a member, men and women. Please join us! Thank you for your continuous support near and far. Wishing you all the best, good health and spirit. Take care.

With gratitude, in Gassho,

Yoko Gussman

## IMPERMANENCE

In Buddhism there are three characteristics of existence. One is impermanence, The fact of impermanence is irrefutable.

As we look at our lives, we can see the constant change of all things. Our cars, boats, TVs, favorite clothes, all of our possessions are subject to decay. Living things also. We see our pets come and go over time. The same is true of our friends and relatives.

We ourselves notice our bodies growing old and changing. Skin wrinkles, hair turns grey, Just look at the photos of years past.

We do not like impermanence.

We want our favorite things to last forever. When they don't, we feel sad or angry or discouraged. It is the same when we dwell on those things that are gone. Life is not fun when we are sad or angry. To enjoy life, we need to learn to accept the change and move on, looking to a better future, and keeping a positive attitude. But is not so easy.

As we read and study the Buddha's teachings, it helps us understand the transient nature of things, and gives us ways to live our lives with a calm and happy mind.

Deacon Juho

## BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

On May 19, 2019 at 10:00 am, following our Sunday School / Family Service at 9:00 am, Taishoji will be honoring a graduating High School Senior. She is Meghan Nagai, daughter of Michael and Sylvia Nagai. Let's celebrate her graduation!!

If there are any members family who has someone graduating from high school this year and would like to participate in the Baccalaureate Service, please call Rev. Hata at 935-8407



## BON DANCE PRACTICE DATES

Next Bon Dance practice will be on **Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 - 8:0pm.**

**There will be no practice in June.**

In **July**, practices will be on **Tuesday's July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>** from 7:00pm - 8:30pm.



Bon Dance Practice lead by Jane Heit

## RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!



Enjoy the serenity of walking around Liliuokalani Park.  
You will be practicing mindfulness without realizing it.  
Appreciate the beauty of Hilo



## UHSSWA CONFERENCE



REV. HATA & TAISHOJI FUJIN KAI MEMBERS



KAKUMA & TAKUWAN AT COUNTRY STORE



BEAUTIFUL ORCHID PLANTS FOR SALE

## HANAMATSURI



KENCHATO



BAIKAKO



HANAMIDO



AMACHA

### MAY 2019 TAISHOJI SCHEDULE

3	Fri	9:30 am	Fujin Kai Hospital Visitation
4	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
5	Sun	8:00 - 8:35 am	Zazen
		9:00 am	SS / Family Service / <b>Children's Day</b>
		11:00 am	<b>Fujin Kai Meeting</b>
7	Tue	7 - 8:00 pm	<b>Bon Dance Practice (Jane Heit)</b>
11	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 4
		1:00 pm	<b>Kyodan Meeting</b>
12			<b>Cancelled SS / Family Rev. Hata to Betsuin for Hanamatsuri Service)</b>
18	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
19	Sun	8:00—8:35 am	Zazen
		9:00 am	SS / Family Service
25	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
26	Sun	8:00 - 8:35 am	Zazen
		9:00 am	SS / Family Service ( <b>Last Svc until September 8</b> )
		10:00 am	<b>Basic Buddhism Class</b>
27	Mon	9:45 am	<b>Memorial Day Svc at Veterans Cemetery # 1</b>

### TAISHOJI ZAZEN / TAIKO / SCOUTS SCHEDULE

Yoga	Monday	5:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Zazen	Monday	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Taiko	Sunday	11:00 am - 1:00 pm
	Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Troop 95	Wednesday	7:15 pm
Pack 95	Wednesday (twice monthly)	6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Go Class	Thursday	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

### TENTATIVE JUNE 2019 TAISHOJI SCHEDULE

1	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
2	Sun	10:00 am	<b>Kaisanki / Rekiju-ki / Kannon-ko Service (Baikako)</b>
8	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 4
9	Sun	10:00 am	<b>Kyodan Meeting (<u>NEW DATE &amp; TIME</u>)</b>
15	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 1
22	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 2
23	Sun	8:00 am	<b>Otakiage (Burning of religious items)</b>
29	Sat	7:00 am	Temple Cleaning Group # 3
30	Sun	7:00 am	<b>Rev. Hata to Daifukuji for O-Bon Service</b>

### TAIKO FESTIVAL

Taiko Festival at the UH Performing Arts Center Auditorium featuring vibrant drumming and physical choreography will bring together the best of Big Island Taiko! Featuring Taishoji Taiko, Puna Taiko, Hui Okinawa, Kona Daifukuji Taiko & Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko (Kohala). **General \$20, Seniors \$15, Under 17 & UHH students \$7.** Show time is **Saturday, 6/8/19 at 7:30pm & Sunday, 6/9/19 at 2:00pm. No reserve seating.** Performances usually sells out so get your tickets now. **Box Office open Tue - Fri from 10:00am - 2:00pm. Ph: 808-932-7490**



Taishoji Taiko