

Mantokuji Newsletter



December 2024

Dates to Remember

December 8

Jodo-e Service & Shakyo Session

December 15

End of Year Clean-up Day

December 31

Joya No Kane

REVEREND'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone.

It's already December and the year 2025 will soon be here.

What was the year 2024 like for you? For me and my family, 2024 was a year of major changes in our lives. The birth of our child was the biggest change for us. My life and my wife's life became daughter-oriented.

It has been five months since our baby was born. She is getting bigger day by day and I feel that the rhythm of her life has changed since she was a newborn. The way I parent her needs has changed as well. She doesn't stop crying the way she used to a month ago. These days remind me of a Buddhist phrase '諸行無常 Shogyo Mujo.' It means that everything in the world is destined to change, be born again and disappear again, and that nothing remains the same forever. Just like these words, when we see her growing every day, no day is the same at all. As adults, we do not visibly grow and change from day to day like babies do. But in essence we are changing day by day too.

Let's enjoy the daily changes in the few remaining days of 2024. I, too, will enjoy these changing days with my family.

On December 8th, we will have a Jodo-e service to celebrate when Buddha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree. A sutra copying experience (shakyo) will also be held in the afternoon on the same day. In conjunction with this historic day, we will also hold "Rohatsu Sesshin" (臘八接心), which is intensive Zazen meditation sessions from December 1 to 8 at Mantokuji Zendo. Zazen will begin each day at 8:00 am. Join us to calm your mind at the end of a busy year. We look forward to seeing you all.

Our Mission: Paia Mantokuji is a Soto Zen Buddhist temple founded in 1906 by Reverend Sokyo Ueoka and a community of Japanese immigrants. Our mission is to be a place of compassion, respect and kindness for all who seek truth through the teachings of Buddha, the practice of Zen meditation and arts, and the fellowship of the temple sangha.

Our Vision: Paia Mantokuji's short term vision is to stay in place in Paia, as a vibrant and relevant Soto Zen Buddhist Mission.

Our Values:

Honor Traditions
Respect Ancestors
Embrace Inclusivity
Nurture Fellowship
Practice Compassionate Kindness
Gratitude
Appreciation & Humility
Live the Dharma
Embody Buddhism

Paia Mantokuji Soto Mission

P.O. Box 790207,
Paia, HI 96779

Tel: (808) 579 - 8051
E-mail: info@paimantokuji.org
Web: www.paimantokuji.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Mantokuji/

Mangan Team

Bobbie, Cathy & Isabelle

Tomoki Hirasawa

Rev. Hirasawa - Oct. 6 -
Daruma ki Service



IN THIS ISSUE...

Reverend's Message	1
Reports	2
Announcements	3
Donations	5
Calendar	6

FUJINKAI NEWS

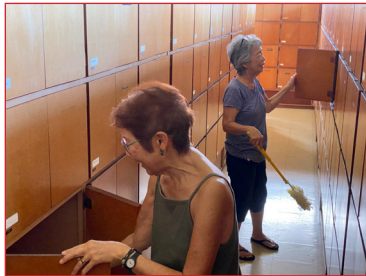
The Fujinkai will be having their monthly meetings and clean up as follow:

December 1, 2024 at 8:30am

January 12, 2025 at 8:30am

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and the gentlemen who came on Sunday, November 10, 2024 to help clean the nokotsudo, and help with the maintenance on the temple grounds. We are always grateful.

Bobbie Arita, Kay Hanano, Reverend Hirasawa, Yuki Hirasawa, Chester Kakiuchi, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Diane Orikasa, Lois Sato, Isabelle Scholl, Nora Takeuchi, and Neil Watanabe.



The Fujinkai Ladies during the monthly cleaning of the nokotsudo.

MAHALO FOODLAND'S GIVE ALOHA PROGRAM

Our sincere MAHALO to those who made a donation to the Give Aloha, Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts Program, September 1 – September 30. Mantokuji members and friends donated \$2480.03 at a Foodland or Sack-n-Save. The matching gift we received from Foodland totaled \$810.38. We received checks totaling \$3290.41. Thank you for your KOKUA and participation. A big MAHALO to Foodland for their matching gift.

KYODAN MEETING REPORT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024

Below are some of the topics that were discussed at the meeting.

- Shoreline Erosion Project: Repair work of the sandbag structure is completed. Several applications for grants have been submitted. Information letter to members and Paia Community has been distributed.
- Bishop Shugen Komagata's funeral (Oct. 13) and installation of Bishop Shuji Komagata (Oct. 12) has been attended by Rev & Mrs. Hirasawa, Eric Moto and Bobbie Arita.
- "Private Property" signs to put around the Bell Tower and at the entrance of the property are currently being made.
- Mr. & Mrs. Ryuhei Ogawa will be visiting Mantokuji November 21 at 10:30am to interview members.
- The Tea Ceremony workshop scheduled Nov. 17, 2024 at 1:00pm has so far 13 registered participants.
- Maui Buddhist Council annual meeting (Nov. 4) was attended by Bobbie Arita.
- Announcements
 - Shichi-Go-san Ceremony on Sunday Nov. 17, 2024 @ 9:00am
 - Dharma Keiki on Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024 at 9:30am
 - Rohatsu Sesshin Sunday, Dec. 1 – Sunday Dec. 8 @ 8:00am
 - Jodo-e Service on Sunday, Dec. 8 @ 10:30am
 - Shakyo Session on Sunday, Dec. 8 after lunch, 1:00pm
 - No Ikebana in December
 - Two momorial services have been held in Sep/Oct and four are scheduled in Nov/Dec.

Next Kyodan meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 12, 2025.**
Please join us for future meetings and be involved in these important decisions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JODO-E (BODHI-DAY) SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024 AT 10:30AM

Jodo-e also known as Bodhi Day, commemorates the birth of Buddhism. This meaningful day, observed on December 8th, marks the moment when Shakyamuni Buddha attained enlightenment and began sharing his teachings of compassion. We invite you to join us in celebrating Bodhi Day with friends and family.

Let's come together to honor this special occasion!

SHAKYO SESSION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024 AT 1:00PM



Shakyo means "tracing sutras." The Buddhist practice of Shakyo is a means of spreading the Buddha Way among people. Mindfully tracing the Heart Sutra and pictures of buddhas and bodhisattvas in silence unifies body, breath, and mind. During the Shakyo session, participants quietly sit at a table and trace the Heart Sutra, "Hannya Shingyo." We have English and Japanese versions. We also have pictures of the Buddha and bodhisattva art works to trace.

Please join us for this opportunity to practice Shakyo.

ROHATSU SESSHIN (8 DAYS OF MORNING ZAZEN MEDITATION)

DECEMBER 1 TO 8 (SUNDAY TO SUNDAY), AT 8:00AM TO 9:00AM

Please join Reverend Hirasawa for Rohatsu Sesshin, 8 days of zazen meditation, designed to enable one to get in touch with one's own Buddha nature. Although it's preferred to attend all sessions, you are welcome to join for the days you are able to attend.

END OF THE YEAR CLEAN UP DAY - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024 AT 8:30AM

At Mantokui, it's a long-standing tradition to give our temple, buildings, and grounds a thorough cleaning in preparation for the New Year. This practice is rooted in the belief that good luck will visit each household on New Year's Day, and by cleaning our homes, we can start the year fresh and free of past impurities. We kindly ask for your kokua to help us with this important task, ensuring our temple and grounds are ready for the year ahead. On this day, we focus on cleaning areas we don't typically get to during our regular monthly cleaning.

Our annual year-end cleanup will take place on **Sunday, December 15, 2024, starting at 8:30am**. Please bring your gloves, face masks if desired, and any additional cleaning tools you may need. **We would greatly appreciate your support in this effort.**

JOYA NO KANE

DECEMBER 31, 2024 AT 11:00PM

According to ancient custom, the bell is typically rung 108 times on December 31 to mark the arrival of the New Year. Each of the 108 strikes symbolizes one of the worldly desires—those anxieties and struggles stemming from material longing—that we experience in our lives. The final toll is believed to cleanse the listener of the troubles and worries of the past year.

We warmly invite you to join us for Joya no Kane, the ringing of our large bronze bell 108 times, followed by a New Year's Blessing Service.

Additionally, a New Year's Blessing Service will be held on Sunday, January 5, 2025, at 10:30am.

We look forward to welcoming you to Joya no Kane and the New Year's Blessing Service!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha everyone,

The officers and directors of the Kyodan always end the year with gratitude for the support we receive from the Mantokuji sangha. Each year, your generous monetary donations and membership dues and fees, and your volunteer time and hard work are all greatly appreciated. The Kyodan Board continues to work diligently on behalf of all of you to maintain a healthy and active temple. Next year, efforts will focus on major plans for bay wide ecosystem restoration and the grants and aids needed to fund the projects.

For now, we close the year with our traditional Rohatsu Sesshin, 8 days of zazen meditation at 8:00 am from December 1st to the 8th, On Sunday, December 8 at 10:30 am Reverend Hirasawa will conduct a Jodo-e Service and Shakyo session. Our End-of-the-Year Clean -up Day is on Sunday the 15th at 8:30 am, and finally, we will ring in the new year at 11:00 pm on the 31st at our Joya no Kane service. Enjoy your holiday celebrations with your family and friends. Take care.

Mahalo,

Eric Moto

President, Mantokuji Kyodan



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

As we get closer to the winter months and the weather gets cooler, a bowl of Portuguese Soup would be so satisfying! Cathy Murayama's friend, Janet Sato, shared this recipe from their Favorite Family Recipes cookbook that they published in 1989 for their Hazama Family Reunion. Cathy has been making this Portuguese Soup for her family with this delicious recipe since the days her girls played soccer. Give it a try . . . it's a winner!!

PORTUGUESE SOUP

By Janet Sato

1. Boil 2 hours
1½ lbs ham hock to 3 qt water
2. Add and cook for 30-40 minutes
1 diced Portuguese sausage
1 cup carrots
2 diced potatoes
1 cup diced celery
1 cup chopped onion
1 can tomato sauce
2 bay leaves
½ can tomato sauce
3. Add and simmer for 15 minutes
1 can red kidney beans
1 cube chicken bouillon
1 cube beef bouillon
2 Tbsp Lea & Perrins sauce
10 drops Tabasco sauce
1-2 Tbsp sugar

Adjust taste to your liking.

Cool soup and reheat before serving.

Good with fresh watercress added just before serving.

Also good with macaroni or spaghetti noodles added in!

If there are any leftovers, it freezes well.



DONATIONS MADE IN OCTOBER

We would like to sincerely thank you for your very generous donations.

General Donations

Mitsuru Hirano & Juaneva Smith, Betty Watanabe.

Rodney & Lori Carillo	Daruma-sama Picnic
Kay Hanano	Daruma-sama Picnic
Hideo & Joyce Kawahara	Daruma-sama Picnic
Wayne & Sandy Matsuda	Daruma-sama Picnic
Eric Moto	33rd Year Memorial Service for Kaoru Moto & 7th Year Memorial Service for Carol Moto
Colin Watanabe	Use of hall on 8.24.24

Donations made for Darumaki Service on October 6, 2024

Tetsu & Kanan Anan, Yuriko Fukagawa, Kay Hanano, Risa & Anna Hiester, Julie Higa, Doanld & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Deacon & Tomoe MacMillan & Family, Eric Moto, Allan & Cathy Murayama, Melina Murayama & Erick Domingo, Diane Orikasa, Amy Pung, Yukie Pye, Mark & Lois Sato, Emiko Saito, Chihiro Suzuki, Ann Takakura, Nora Takeuchi, Neil & Joyce Watanabe, Sachiko Yamamoto.

IN MEMORIAM

We express our heartfelt sympathy to the family of:

Gary Matoi, 80 years, who passed away on November 10, 2024.

We pray for him and give our love and support to his family in this time of great loss.

Namu Kie Butsu, Namu Kie Ho, Namu Kie So



The members of the Chado Uransenke Tankokai came to Mantokuji November 17th to introduce us to the art of Chado or Japanese tea ceremony. After a presentation and a formal demonstration, each of the 14 participants could practice and enjoy being successively host and guest preparing and tasting sweets and tea. Thank you to Sachi Lane, Diana Saltroon-Briggs, Sayaka Reasones and Mimi Rulloda for a rich cultural workshop.



Sage Domingo who turns 7 years old on December 1st, was blessed by Reverend Hirasawa for a long, healthy life at the Shichi-Go-San Ceremony held on November 17th. After receiving the



Blessings of the Daihannya, as is customary, Sage was gifted with a bag of sweets (chitose-ame) and an ema (wooden plaque). He wrote on his ema, "I wish for everything I need." Reverend's

sermon shared the meaning of itadakimasu. Sage learned that itadakimasu means "to be thankful for the life of the food and the people who prepare the food." Therefore, before any meal, we should always say itadakimasu.



PAIA MANTOKUJI SOTO MISSION
P.O. Box 790207
Paia, HI 96779

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PAIA, HI
PERMIT NO. 20

December 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:00am-9:00am Rohastu Sesshin 8:30am Clean-up 9:30am Dharma Keiki 10:30am Fujinkai Meeting	2 8:00am-9:00am Rohastu Sesshin	3 8:00am-9:00am Rohastu Sesshin	4 8:00am-9:00am Rohastu Sesshin	5 8:00am-9:00am Rohastu Sesshin	6 8:00am-9:00am Rohastu Sesshin	7 8:00am-9:00am Rohastu Sesshin
8 8:00am-9:00am Rohastu Sesshin 10:30am Jodo-e Service 1:00pm Shakyō Session	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 7:30am-8:30am Zazen 8:30am End of Year Clean-up Day	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 7:30am-8:30am Zazen	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 7:30am-8:30am Zazen	30	31 11:00pm Joya No Kane / New Year's Blessing Service				

Coming up in January (Tentative Schedule)

Sunday 5: New Year's Blessing Service & O-fuda Yaki Service
Sunday 12: Cleanup, Fujinkai Meeting, Kyodan Meeting
Sunday 26: New Year's Party

*Hospital and Hale Makua Visitations are
scheduled during the month.*