



February 2024

Dates to Remember

February 4

Nehan-e & O-juzu Mawashi

March 3

45th Annual Bazaar

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, grow, develop and mitigate erosion if possible.

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

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Mangan Team

Bobbie, Cathy & Isabelle

Reverend's Message

Aloha everyone,

On January 1, 2024, a major earthquake (magnitude 7.6) struck Ishikawa Prefecture in Japan. In the affected areas, there was tremendous damage, including collapsed houses, tsunamis, and fires. I would like to express my deepest condolences to the victims and their families. It was a shock that such a major disaster occurred on New Year's Day, a day that was normally so bright and full of hope. It was a reminder that our daily lives can change in a moment. Let us remember to be prepared for any emergency and to be thankful for our everyday life.

Now, I would like to introduce a traditional Japanese event called "Mamemaki" (bean-throwing). February 3 is considered the last day of winter in the Japanese calendar and celebrated with "Mamemaki". At the event, roasted soybeans are thrown while shouting "Oni wa soto, Fuku wa uchi" ("Oni goes out, good fortune comes inside."). Oni are imaginary creatures with devilish faces. Someone in the family puts on an Oni mask and others throw beans at the Oni to chase them away. Once the Oni are chased out, throw the beans inside the house so that happiness will come in. Finally, eat the number of soybeans of one's age and pray for good health for the year. Since I was a child, I too had Mamemaki at school and at home. It was one of the fun events for children to throw beans with all their might. It may be hard for parents to clean up the beans, but how about making Oni masks and throwing beans?

Finally, on February 4, the Nehan-e Service will be held at Mantokuji. The service is held to commemorate the achievements of Buddha on the anniversary of his death. After his enlightenment, the Buddha continued his journey of preaching his teachings to people until he passed away at the age of 80. Let us pray together in reverence for the Buddha, who left us his great teachings, and in remembrance of his disciples and followers who have diligently studied his teachings and passed them on for over 2,000 years. Please join us for the service.

Mahalo.

In gassho.

Tomoki Hirasawa

Also enclosed in this issue:

Dharma Lei

n.47

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Fujinkai News The Fujinkai will be having their monthly meeting and clean up as follows:

February 11, 2024 at 8:30am

March 10, 2024 at 8:30am

Thank you to all who came to help on the End of the Year clean up on December 17.

Bobbie Arita, Kay Hanano, Rev. Hirasawa, Becky Kikumoto, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Grant Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Priscilla Rafferty, Nora Takeuchi, Brian Watanabe & Neil Watanabe.

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and gentlemen who came to help with the clean up on Sunday, January 14.

Bobbie Arita, Kay Hanano, Chester Kakiuchi, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Brian Moto, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Lois Sato, Isabelle Scholl, Nora Takeuchi, and Brian Watanabe.

Kyodan Meeting Report

Held Sunday, January 14, 2024

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

- Erosion Project updates – the winter surf has dislodged another bag and another erosion spot has developed behind the garage.
- There was a discussion regarding the current beach restoration erosion mitigation plan. While approved by the State (DLNR), some questioned its long term feasibility. Alternative actions such as relocation on- and off-site were discussed. The topic of the near / distant future of Mantokuji remains an open and ongoing discussion.
- Oceanit Foundation's Climate Toolkit Project – Oceanit mentors have been working with the 5 interns in the areas of Sand Quality, Biology and Water Quality, Topography and Bathymetry and Beach and Biological Monitoring. The interns have been learning about and practicing data collection, media production and other scientific skills in preparation for formal work that begins in February.
- Mantokuji's 45th Annual Bazaar is scheduled for March 3, 2024, 8:00am – 12:00pm. See the Work Schedule in this mangan. All help is welcomed.
- Rev. Hirasawa will be in Japan from February 9 – 18, 2024. His wife Yuki will be traveling back with him.

Next Kyodan meeting will be on **Sun, April 14, 2024.**

Please join us for future meetings and be involved in these important discussions.

- Kyodan Officers were elected for the 2024-2026 biennium:
President Eric Moto, Vice President Bobbie Arita, Secretary Cathy Murayama, Treasurer Brian Moto, Directors Kay Hanano, Isabelle Scholl and Diane Orikasa and Auditors Judith Matoi and Lois Sato.
- Mantokuji's New Year's Party will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 11:00am. A fun time and good food is planned for the event.
- Rev. Hirasawa was a visiting minister at Waipahu Taiyoji Soto Mission on Sunday, January 14, 2024 to assist with their New Year's Blessing Service.
- The Nehan-e & O-juzu Mawashi service will be held on Sunday, February 4 at 10:30am.
- Hawaii Soto Mission Association will have their Spring meeting on Sunday, February 24, 2024 at Soto Mission of Hawaii – Betsuin. Rev. & Mrs. Hirasawa, Eric Moto and Cathy Murayama will attend.
- Zazen is held every Sunday at 7:30am. Please note that no zazen will be held on February 11, 18 & 24, March 3 and April 28 .



Joya no Kane on December 31, 2023 followed by a New Year's service on January 1, 2024

Fifteen Mantokuji members and friends gathered on December 31, 2023 at 11:30pm to participate in Joya no Kane, ringing of the bronze bell. The bell was rung 108 times to cleanse the sangha of problems and worries of our 108 worldly desires. The perfect night was a bit nippy and began with a prayer by Rev. Hirasawa and his ringing of the bell three times. He was followed by Mantokuji and community members who came to this annual event.

Fireworks in the Paia community lit the skies as the bell was rung for the 108th time indicating the New Year 2024 had begun! Happy New Year!

Rev. Hirasawa conducted a short New Year's service to welcome the Year of the Dragon. All attendees were blessed and given a new Ofuda to put in their homes. The Daihannya Ofuda will protect your family and house through Buddha's blessings and his spiritual power. The Ofuda is placed on the inside wall above the main entrance to your home or business.



New Year's Blessing & Ofuda Yaki Services

Held on Sunday, January 7, 2024 at 10:00am



The New Year's Blessing Service on January 7th marked a new beginning for Mantokuji and its Sangha. Everyone present was blessed by Rev. Hirasawa and presented with a new Ofuda to place in their homes. Those who were not able to make it for the midnight service on January 1st were sure to attend this blessing service. It was nice to see the temple full of sangha members to receive their New Year's blessings from Rev. Hirasawa.

At the conclusion of the blessings, Rev. Hirasawa reflected on 2023 and the many tragedies and never-ending fighting among human beings. He reminded us that even when we are faced with adverse conditions, let's always try to be positive. "In Buddhism, there is a word called Kugo. The meaning of this word is that speaking kind words and positive things will bring good results, but lying and speaking negative things will bring bad results. Let us imagine a better world and say it. Each person's small hope will generate happiness for the whole world." He shared that he is a "Toshiotoko" which means he was born in the year of the Dragon. "The year of the Dragon is said to be the year of growth because of the Dragon's rising high into the sky. It is also said to be the year of accomplishments of what we have prepared for a long time. I pray that this year will be a happy year for each of you and for Mantokuji."

Everyone then adjourned outside to the driveway for the Ofuda Yaki service where all the old Ofuda, omamori and other burnable altar items were burned.

A big MAHALO to Paul Ueoka and Jeff Ueoka for preparing and organizing the burning of the objects.

President's Message

Aloha everyone,

Maui's mild winter always brings a slight chill and enough rain to brighten the landscape with lush greens. It also brings the Northshore surf that continues to pound away at our eroding shoreline. I'm amazed at how quickly and dramatically our Mantokuji beach can change from week to week, month to month. I am grateful that members of the Kyodan Board and volunteers from the sangha are working diligently with expert support from Oceanit and other agencies to monitor and study the situation in order to find feasible solutions to the erosion threats.

We start February with the Nehan-e & Ojuzu Mawashi Service on Sunday, the 4th at 10:30 am. It's always a special ceremony with the chanting and everyone gathered together to pass the beads of the large ojuzu in one large circle of prayer. On the 4th, we also begin the month long work of preparing for our 45th Annual Bazaar. Please check in with us for our weekly work schedule. We appreciate the help. Take care.

With aloha,

Eric Moto
President, Mantokuji Kyodan



Bishop's Office Newsletter

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First Quarter, 2024

Issue No. 47

Bishop's Message:

Happy New Year from the Hawaii Soto Mission Bishop's Office! I hope you and your family are having a happy holiday season. What a year 2023 was! Although COVID-19 is still a public health concern, I feel that we were able to return to many of our activities that filled our daily lives prior to 2020.

Personally, 2023 was a challenging year. Since my cancer diagnosis and surgery 12 months ago, I have had to make many changes in my life. Although many of my days are filled with doctor visits and treatments, I have done my best to remain as active as possible with temple work. I am grateful that I have been well enough to travel to Kona Daifukuji to participate in their Lay Confirmation Ceremony in September. Most recently, I officiated another Lay Confirmation Ceremony here at the Soto Mission of Hawaii.

On October 21 and 22, the Hawaii Soto Mission celebrated its 120th anniversary and observed the Preliminary Memorial Ceremony for the 700th Anniversary of Daihonzan Sojiji's Founder Taizo Keizan Jokin Zenji. All in all, it was a busy year for the Hawaii Soto Mission.

As we look forward to 2024, the Year of the Dragon, I am filled with hope and optimism. I pray for your continued good health and prosperity.

In Gassho.

Shugen Komagata

Bishop Shugen Komagata



"Living with the End in Mind" Weekly Zoom Dharma Study with Rev. Jikō Nakade Starting February, 2024

"When we live each day with the end in mind, looking into the face of impermanence, something extraordinary happens."
~ Rev. Jikō ~

Registration is now open for an 11-session series of weekly Dharma classes which will be offered via Zoom by Reverend Jikō Nakade of Daifukuji Soto Mission. Sign ups will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.

For this series, Reverend Jikō has selected the book *Heartwood: The Art of Living with the End in Mind* by author Barbara Becker, an interfaith minister, mother, writer, and hospice volunteer who has received mentoring from respected Soto Zen teachers Koshin Paley Ellison and Chodo Campbell of the New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care.

One is invited to register for either the Thursday or Saturday morning classes. Each class is an hour long, and a commitment to being non-judgmental and to holding others' personal stories confidential is required.

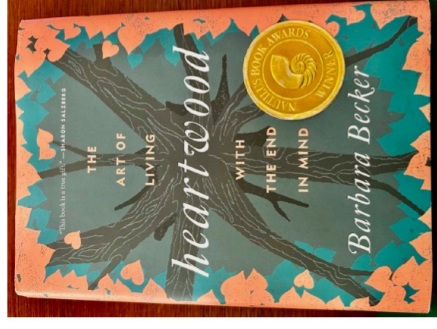
Please select group 1 or group 2 when registering.

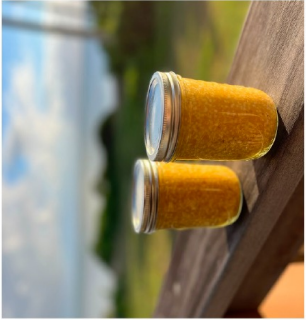
Group 1: Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to Noon (February 1 - April 11)

Group 2: Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (February 3 - May 11, skipping certain Saturdays)

Heartwood will be available through the Daifukuji Gift Shop at a reduced price for Dharma class members who are able to pick up a copy. Please contact Rev. Jikō if you would like to have a copy reserved for you. Unfortunately, the gift shop does not provide the service of mailing out books. This book is available for online purchase in hardcover, Kindle, and Audiobook formats.

Rev. Jikō offers the Dharma freely. There is no class fee. Donations may be offered to Daifukuji Soto Mission. For more information or to register, please contact Rev. Jikō at (808) 322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.





SOTO MISSION OF HAWAII
&
One Plate Zen

Miso

Miso making and Zen Vegetarian Lunch

MISO is umami-rich, versatile fermented seasoning.
In this class, you will prepare MISO to take home and learn all about MISO including the history, nutritional values, and Japanese fermentation.

Date: Saturday, January 27th
Time: 9:30 am -12:30 pm

Place: Soto Mission of Hawaii Social Hall 1708 Nuuanu Ave.

Fee: \$50.00

(include a jar of MISO to take home, lecture, and Zen vegetarian lunch)

To Register: Email: info@sotomission.org

Phone: 808-537-9409



Instructor:

Naoko Komagata Moller

<https://www.oneplatezen.com/>

✉ naoko.moller@gmail.com



Announcement of Japan Tour from the International Center

Dear Dharma friends,

We are delighted to announce that the tour to Japan in honor of the great ceremonies for Keizan Zenji at the two head temples, Eihei-ji and Sojiji, is ready for registration. Please see the attached flyer for details of the tour. Notice that there is a gathering at Soto Zen Headquarters on the final day of the tour. You can register by accessing the QR code on the flyer.

Our tour is limited to 100 participants from our four international dissemination regions outside of Japan (North America, South America, Europe, and Hawaii) which means basically that each region is allotted 25 spaces. If one region doesn't use all their spaces, the openings will be given to applicants from other regions.

We plan to create a waiting list if one of the regions fills quickly. Space permitting, we can open available spots from one region to other international regions. We are optimistic about accommodating all interested practitioners.

Deadline for registration is January 15, 2024

The payment information will be sent in February for registered participants.

We look forward to seeing you in Japan next April.

Deep bows from the International Center,
Konjin Godwin, Taiga Ito, and Zenki Nishimura

700th Anniversary of
Daitonzan Sojiji's Founder +
Taizo Keizan Jokin Zenji Tour
From April 21st to 23rd, 2024

Visit Eihei-ji and Sojiji, The Two Head Temples, during the time of the
Great Memorial Ceremony for the 700th Anniversary of Keizan Zenji

Hotel Alloway
Sojiji
Eihei-ji

Tour Price \$ 650.00~ / Per Person
(Onsite occupancy at hotel, dorm housing at Sojiji)

Limited to only 100 participants
Maximum for each Sangha : 3 participants

Registration Due by: January 15, 2024

✉ TOUR SCHEDULE AND MORE DETAILS ON THE BACK (2ND PAGE)

Nehan-e & O-juzu Mawashi Service

Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 10:30am

You are cordially invited to attend the Nehan-e and O-juzu Mawashi services.

In our Soto Zen tradition, Nehan-e is a special ceremony to commemorate the Buddha's passing and to express our gratitude to him for his teaching. The Buddha taught that although the physical body dies, the Dharma is eternal. By living the Dharma and practicing the precepts, we can see that the Buddha is always with us.

Following the service, we will have the O-juzu Mawashi Service. It is a tradition at Mantokuji to form a circle and pass the beads of a large o-juzu around the circle. The beads form a circle symbolic of the connection between all beings and passing the beads from person to person represents the evolution of the world and harmony with all beings.

Everyone is invited to join us for these services.

45th Annual Bazaar – Sunday, March 3, 2024

Doors will open at 8:00am – 12:00noon

Donations are still being accepted for the bazaar. Please help us by cleaning the items before bringing them to the temple. We are not accepting electronics. Call the temple at 808.579.8051 to make arrangements to drop off your donations.

Help Needed for Bazaar Preparation – Any and all help is appreciated. We work hard, eat well, and have fun!

Here's the schedule:

February	
Sunday 4	After Nehan-e Service: Set up for Bazaar, Bazaar Prep begin
Wed 7 / Fri 9 / Sun 11	8:30am
Wed 14 / Fri 16 / Sun 18	
Wed 21 / Fri 23 / Sun 25	
Wed 28 / Thurs 29	

March	
Fri 1 / Sat 2	7:30am
Sunday 3rd: 45th Annual Bazaar	
Breakfast	4:00am
Musubi making	5:00am

Nokotsudo Hours in February

The nokotsudo will not be opened on the following days in February:

February 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15 & 16. It will be opened on all other days in February. The hours are 9:00am – 4:00pm.

Thank you for your understanding.

Zazen in February

Rev. Hirasawa conducts zazen sessions every Sunday 7:30am – 8:30am. In February, zazen will be held only on the first Sunday, February 4. There will be NO zazen on the following Sundays: February 11, 18 and 25.

Special Thanks

To **Lois Hiranaga** for the donation of foliage used for the New Year's arrangements for the temple.

Donations made in December

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

General Donations

Jim & Laurie Brooks, Harold & Kathy Fujii, Roy & Barbara Huntley, Donald & Faith Ito, Thomas Kimizuka, Randall & Karen Kimura, Darren Konno, Carol Lau, Gerald & Eleanor Machida, Leslie T & Karen Maeda, Sandra L Morioka, Susan Jo Morohashi, Marilyn M Nishiki, Glenn & Sandra Sato, Mark & Lois Sato, Faith S Sodemani, Celia C Suzuki, Ira & Marilyn Tagawa, Les & Linda Takahashi, Tradewind Group Foundation (Corporate Matching Program for Laurie Brooks), Norbert Ujiie, Elton S Wada, Michael Watanabe, Neil & Joyce Watanabe, Henry & Betty Yamashiro.

Clayton Allencastre	Parking on 12.5.23 for MPM Training Day
Bobbie Arita & Family, Colin Watanabe, Cathy Murayama & Family, Kerry Watanabe & Donna	In Memory of Satoshi & Michiko Kimizuka, Yoshie Kimizuka, & Kyle Kimizuka
Melvin & Carole Endo	New Year 2024 In Memory of Takeo Endo
Jeral & Karlynn Fukuda	New Year 2024
Todd & Heidi Hiraoka	In Memory of Clara Sodemani
Ray & Cynthia Ikeda	Happy Holidays!
Wayne & Evelyn Kajiura	New Year's Blessing Service
Hideo & Joyce Kawahara	New Year 2024
Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka & Family	Joya no Kane
Kimizuka Family	Memorial Services for Satoshi Kimizuka (33 years), Michiko Kimizuka (17 years), Yoshie Kimizuka (1 year) & Kyle Kimizuka (3 years)
Tom & Krystene Lam	New Year 2024
Jeff & Carol Loescher	In Honor of: The Ono Family
Gary & Judith Matoi	New Year 2024
Marian Merce	In Memory of Kenneth & Mitsue Sato Kubo & Kubo & Sato relatives interred at Mantokuji
Brian Moto	In Memory of Carol Suzuki
Marilyn Nishiki	In Memory of June Sachie Toyota
Ken & Alma Nakano	13 th Memorial Service for Sakai Horiuchi
Erwin & Aimee Shibata	In Memory of Douglas & Clara Sodemani
Erwin & Aimee Shibata	In Memory of Meyer Leigh Ueoka, Baron Ueoka & Bernice Ueoka
Jason, Bailey, James, Jordan & Ellie Shibata	In Memory of Douglas & Clara Sodemani
Jenna Shibata	In Memory of Douglas & Clara Sodemani
Jeremy Shibata	In Memory of Douglas & Clara Sodemani
Jonathan & Katie Shibata	In Memory of Douglas & Clara Sodemani
Lisa K Sodemani	In Memory of Douglas & Clara Sodemani
Lloyd & Sharon Sodemani	Maui Wildfire Relief
Lauren S Sodemani-Yoshida	In Memory of Douglas & Clara Sodemani
Steve Tanabe & Ilene Kawahara	New Year 2024 In Memory of Douglas & Clara Sodemani
Albert & Glenda Ujiie	Gratitude from Baron
Kenneth & June Uyeno	New Year 2024
Brian Watanabe	In Memory of Sachie Toyota

Donations made in December for Jodo-e Service on December 3, 2023

Tokuko Abe, Howard & Bobbie Arita, Kay H. Hanano, Rebecca Kikumoto, Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Gary & Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathleen Murayama.

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February 2024

February	Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wednesday	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
					1	2	3
	4 7:30am - 8:30am Zazen 10:30am Nehan-e & O- juzu Mawashi Service	5	6	7 8:30 am Bazaar Prep	8	9 8:30 am Bazaar Prep	10
	11 8:30 am Clean-up, Bazaar Prep	12	13	14 8:30 am Bazaar Prep	15	16 8:30 am Bazaar Prep	17 9:30am-11:30am Ikebana
	18 8:30 am Bazaar Prep	19	20	21 8:30 am Bazaar Prep	22	23 8:30 am Bazaar Prep	24
	25 8:30 am Bazaar Prep - HSMA Meeting in Oahu -	26	27	28 8:30 am Bazaar Prep	29 8:30 am Bazaar Prep		

Coming up in March (Tentative Schedule)

Friday 1 & Saturday 2	Bazaar Prep
Sunday 3	45 th Annual Bazaar
Sunday 10	Fujinkai Meeting, Clean up
Sunday 17	Spring O-Higan & Kisan Rekijyuki Service

Hospital and Hale Makua Visitations are
scheduled during the month.