

Mantokuji Newsletter

MAN GAN
満願



February 2025

Dates to Remember

February 2

Nehan-e & O-juzu Mawashi Service

March 2

Rummage Sale

March 8

46th Annual Bazaar & Rummage Sale

REVEREND'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone.

I was in Japan for about a month from December to the beginning of January absent from Mantokuji. The reason for my sudden absence was that my brother passed away on December 4. I was in Japan for his funeral, 49th day memorial service, and to clean up the place where he lived by himself.

I apologize for any inconvenience caused during my absence. I would like to express my gratitude to Rev. Hoshino and Rev. Jigaku for conducting the scheduled services in my absence. I also appreciate the board members and all members who have been and continue to help Mantokuji.

This was a very sad event for me and my parents. It is probably the saddest thing that has ever happened in my life. The last time I saw him was in October, when we had lunch together to celebrate my daughter's 100th day anniversary. I am so grateful for that time we spent with him. At that time, he appeared in good health so when I heard the news of his passing from my father, I could not believe it. He was 33 years old. A few days before he passed away, he had been talking about his health problems with my father, and he passed away the day before he was supposed to go to the hospital for a thorough checkup. It was so sudden that I think he himself was the most surprised at his passing.

As I write this, it has been exactly one month since he passed away. My family and I are slowly coming to terms with the reality of the situation. Buddhism teaches that we should cherish every day because we never know what will happen in life. We will have to live with this sadness for the rest of our lives. Even if we wish we could talk to him again, we can't. That's why we must cherish the time we spend with our loved ones and those precious days together. From this recent tragic experience, I deeply embrace this teaching.

On February 2, we will hold a Nehan-e service at Mantokuji in commemoration of the Buddha's passing on February 15. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

Mahalo.

Tomoki Hirasawa

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

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Mangan Team

Bobbie, Cathy & Isabelle



Ofuda Yaki
Service, Jan 12.

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FUJINKAI NEWS

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

February 9, 2025 at 8:30am

March 9, 2025 at 8:30am

Thank you to all who came to help with the End of the Year clean up on December 15.

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

Thank you to the ladies and gentlemen who came to help with the clean up on Sunday, January 5.

Bobbie Arita, Kathleen Davis, Kay Hanano, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Lois Sato, Nora Takeuchi, Colin Watanabe and Neil Watanabe.

JOYA NO KANE



HELD ON DECEMBER 31, 2024

Twenty-two Mantokuji members and friends gathered on December 31, 2024 at 10:30pm to partake in some traditional soba. The ringing of the bronze bell commenced at 11:00pm after participants recited the translation of Meisho no Ge. It was a nippy night with drizzles of rain as the bell was rung 108 times to cleanse the sangha of problems and worries of 2024.

We concluded 2024 with a string of crackling fireworks to ward off all evils and bring good luck in 2025.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha everyone,

It is so nice to have Reverend Hirasawa back from Japan. We hope the time with his family helped in their healing process as they mourn the loss of sensei's younger brother, Daiki. We are grateful that sensei had the strength and resolve to step right back in to his duties as Mantokuji's resident minister.

Thank you to all those who are doing some early spring cleaning and then donating their gently used household items and collectibles to our upcoming annual Fundraiser Bazaar. And thanks to the volunteers helping Mantokuji process the rummage items and prepare the food sale items. Please note the big change this year to a rummage-only sale on Sunday, March 2, followed by a separate food sale (with rummage) the following Saturday, March 8. Both events are scheduled between 8:00 am and 12:00 pm.

At a meeting of the Maui County Council on Friday, January 17, Bill 188 and Resolution 25-18 sponsored by Councilmember Nohe U'u-Hodgins both passed unanimously after second and final reading. Bill 188 amends the current budget to include \$500,000 for Mantokuji to investigate and address possible hazards posed by the old crematorium fuel tank located near the shoreline. Resolution 25-18 authorizes the use of County Hazard Retreat Revolving Funds for those purposes. Eric Moto presented oral testimony in-person and Oceanit consultant Mike Foley provided testimony via online video.

Rev. Hirasawa will begin February with the Nehan-e and O-juzu Mawashi Service on Sunday the 2nd at 10:30 am. Rev. Hirasawa and representatives from the Kyodan will attend the Hawaii Soto Mission Association's Spring Meeting on the 23rd, and we will report the results of the meeting in next month's mangan. Take care.

Mahalo,

Eric Moto,

President, Mantokuji Kyodan

NEW YEAR'S BLESSING & OFUDA YAKI SERVICES

HELD ON JANUARY 12, 2025

The Sangha was happy to welcome back Reverend Hirasawa to Maui to perform the New Year's Blessing Service on January 12th. This service marked a new beginning for Mantokuji and its Sangha. Everyone present was blessed by Reverend Hirasawa and presented with a new Ofuda to place in their homes above their entryway. It was nice to see the temple full of sangha members to receive their New Year's blessings from Reverend Hirasawa.



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

New omamori were on sale in the hall following the services.



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

KYODAN MEETING REPORT

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025

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

- The severe winter waves have dislodged 11 bags from the sandbag structure.
- Hall flooded with the huge swells on December 21/22. The driveway was also flooded and caked with a thick layer of mud. Thank you to Bobbie Arita, Kathleen Davis, Kay Hanano, Judith Matoi, Allan Murayama, Cathy Murayama, Wendee Murayama and Neil Watanabe for helping to clean the hall and driveway on December 22.
- Mike Foley of Oceanit and Cody McDonald of CMAC were both notified.
- Erosion behind the garage is accelerating.
- Councilmember Nohe U'u-Hodgins sponsored Bill 188 to access funds from the County's Manage Retreat Fund for Mantokuji's fuel tank removal project. Eric Moto and Mike Foley provided testimony at the council meeting.
- Signs are being made to put on property indicating temple grounds are PRIVATE PROPERTY, not a public entity.
- New Year's Blessing Service will be on January 12, 2025 at 10:00am followed by the Ofuda Yaki Service.
- New Year's Party on January 26, 2025 at 11:00am. Everyone welcome to attend. RSVP by email or calling 808.579.8051.
- Nehan-e and Ojuzu Mawashi Service on February 2, 2025 at 10:30am.
- 46th Annual Bazaar on Sunday, March 2, 2025 – Rummage only and Saturday, March 8 – Food Sale and Rummage. Both days 8:00am – 12:00noon.
- Mantokuji's Kyodan will be offering koden to Reverend Hirasawa for his brother's passing.
- Reverend will return on January 10 and his family will return at a later date.
- Thank you to Reverend Takenouchi of Hilo Taishoji for doing a Memorial Service for Violet Yoshiye Ishii and Funeral Service for Blake Shiigi (Taishoji member) on December 27, 2024.
- Thank you to Reverend Shinkai Murakami of Wailuku Hongwanji for conducting a Funeral Service for Robert Takahashi on January 3, 2025.
- U. S. Soto Conference on October 23-26, 2025 to be held on Oahu. If you are interested to learn more about attending this conference, please contact Mantokuji.
- Ikebana will be held on February 15, 2025 at 9:30am.

Next Kyodan meeting will be held on **Sunday, April 13, 2025**.
Please join us for future meetings and be involved in these important decisions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEHAN-E & O-JUZU MAWASHI SERVICE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025 AT 10:30AM

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

In our Soto Zen tradition, Nenah-e (Parinirvana Day) 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 (Buddha's teachings) 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.

46TH ANNUAL BAZAAR — SUNDAY, MARCH 2 AND SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2025

Doors will open at 8:00am – 12:00noon on both days

This year the Bazaar will have a different look! The first day, Sunday, March 2nd, will be a **RUMMAGE SALE** where rummage (clothing, footwear, bags, kitchenware, small appliances, fabric, etc.), furniture, plants, crafts, collectibles, and tools will be sold. **NO FOOD will be sold on March 2nd.** The second day, Saturday, March 8th, will be our Bazaar where food and rummage will be sold.

Donations are still being accepted for the **Rummage sale** and **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.

Schedule

Help Needed for Rummage Sale Preparation

February

Sunday 2 nd	After Nehan-e Service: Set up for Rummage Sale, Rummage prep begins
Wed 5 / Fri 7 / Sun 9	8:30am
Wed 12	
Thur 13	8:30am – Chicken prep for nishime
Fri 14 / Sun 16 / Wed 19	8:30am
Fri 21 / Sun 23 / Wed 26	
Fri 28	8:30am 5:00pm – Tent set up

March

Sat 1 st	8:30am Set up Rummage
Sun 2 nd Rummage Sale	6:30am Breakfast

Help Needed for Food Prep for Bazaar

March

Thur 6	8:30am	Nishime vegetable prep
	1:00pm	Make manju
Fri 7	8:30am	Chow Fun prep
Sat 8	4:00am	Breakfast
	5:00am	Spam Musubi
		Mazegohan
	6:00am	Ohagi
		Chow Fun

Any and all help is appreciated. We work hard, eat well, and have fun!

NEW MEMBER

The Mantokujii Sangha extends a warm welcome to the following new member:

Kathleen Tatem

We are always grateful to have new members. For information about membership, please contact the temple.

DONATIONS MADE IN DECEMBER

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

General Donations

Jean Akana (for Nagasako Family), Mark & Dianne Figge, Roy & Barbara Huntley, Brian Kawabe, Thomas Kimizuka, Jeff & Carol Loescher, Sandra L Morioka, Myles Murakami, Lloyd Nihei, Lucille & Carl Ogata, Wendell Owara, Faith Sodetani, Lloyd K Sodetani, Clyde Suzuki, Ira & Mariyn Tagawa, Les & Linda Takahashi, Roger & Judith Ueoka, Sharon Ueoka, Norbert Ujiie, Amy Misa Umetsu, Bonnie M Watanabe, Brian K Watanabe.

Tokuko Abe	Darumaki
Melvin & Carole Endo	2025 New Year's donation – In Memory of Takeo Endo
Roger & Gail Hasegawa	In Memory of Yoshio & Fumiyo Hasegawa
Ray & Cynthia Ikeda	2024 Holidays
Dennis & Grace Ishii	In Memory of Violet Yoshiye Ishii – 17th Year Memorial
Hideo & Joyce Kawahara	2025 New Year's donation
Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka	2025 New Year's donation
Tom & Krystene Lam	New Year's donation In Memory of Douglas & Clara Sodetani
Judith Matoi	Funeral Services for Gary Matoi on 11.30.24 & Use of the Hall
Judith Matoi	In Memory of Gary Matoi
Judith Matoi	New Year's donation
Jon & Lynn Mikami	In Memory of Satsuki & Sakuji Watanabe
Wesley & Janice Mukoyama	In Memory of grandmother
Erwin, Aimee, Jonathan, Jason, Jeremy & Jenna Shibata & Family	In Memory of Douglas & Clara Sodetani
Robert K Shiigi	Funeral Services for Blake Shiigi on 12.27.24
Clyde Suzuki	In Memory of Satoshi & Kiyoko Suzuki
Steve & Ileene Tanabe	In Memory of Sodetani Grandparents
Brian K Watanabe	In Memory of Gary Matoi
Kyle & Colette Watanabe	In Memory of Toyoji & Kimi Watanabe

Donations made for Jodo-e Service on December 8, 2025

Kay Hanano, Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Eric Moto, Allan & Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Mark & Lois Sato, Nora Takeuchi.

IN MEMORIAM

We express our heartfelt sympathy to the family of:

Robert Takahashi, 87 years, who passed away on December 7, 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



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February 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 7:30am-8:30am Zazen 10:30am Nehan-e & O-juzu Mawashi Service 1:00pm Set up for Rummage Sale, Rummage prep begins	3	4	5 8:30am Rummage Sale Prep	6	7 8:30am Rummage Sale Prep	8
9 7:30am-8:30am Zazen 8:30am Clean-up & Rummage Sale Prep	10	11	12 8:30am Rummage Sale Prep	13 8:30am Rummage Sale Prep	14 8:30am Rummage Sale Prep	15 9:30am-11:00am Ikebana
16 7:30am-8:30am Zazen 8:30am Rummage Sale Prep	17	18	19 8:30am Rummage Sale Prep	20	21 8:30am Rummage Sale Prep	22
23 8:30am Rummage Sale Prep	24	25	26 8:30am Rummage Sale Prep	27	28 8:30am Rummage Sale Prep 5:00pm Tent set up	

Coming up in March (Tentative Schedule)

Sunday 2: Rummage Sale

Saturday 8: 46th Annual Bazaar

Sunday 9: Fujinkai Meeting, Clean up, Bazaar evaluation

Sunday 16: Spring O-Higan & Kaisan Rekijyuki Service

Hospital and Hale Makua Visitations are scheduled during the month.

Nokustudo Hours:
open daily, 9:00am – 4:00pm