

Mantokuji Newsletter



January 2025

Dates to Remember

January 12

New Year's Blessing Service &
O-fuda Yaki Service

January 26

New Year's Party

REVEREND'S MESSAGE

Aloha everyone. Happy New Year!!

At the beginning of the new year, I would like to once again express our heartfelt appreciation to all those who have supported Mantokuji during 2024.

The year 2024 was the year of the dragon which was my zodiac, and 2025 is the year of the snake. They may be the most feared of the zodiac by people because of their unique appearance and the fact that some species are poisonous.

Snakes often appear in Japanese and world myths, and while they are considered awe-inspiring objects that bring disasters to people, they are also revered as sacred beings because of their image of "resurrection" and "rebirth" through repeated shedding of their skins.

In Buddhism, the image of a snake shedding its old skin is compared to an ascetic monk shedding his worldly desires and sufferings. Therefore, the Year of the Snake is a year of positive attitude toward new challenges and changes.

There have been many events in 2024. Some of you may be experiencing sadness and anxiety. However, let us take this milestone of a new year as an opportunity to renew our minds and create a bright, happy, and peaceful future together.

There are some changes to the New Year's events due to my circumstances. Joya No Kane, the New Year's bell will ring on December 31 at 11:00 p.m. The New Year Blessing Service after Joya No Kane has been cancelled. Also, the New Year Blessing Service and O-fuda Yaki Service scheduled for January 5 has been rescheduled for January 12. The New Year's party will be held on January 26 as originally scheduled. We hope you will join us for these events.

In gassho. *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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Facebook: www.facebook.com/Mantokuji/

Mangan Team

Bobbie, Cathy & Isabelle



Rev. Hoshino, who came from Oahu (Betsunin) on Dec. 8 to officiate the Jodo-e Service and teach us Shakyo.



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FUJINKAI NEWS

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

January 5, 2025 at 8:30am

February 9, 2025 at 8:30am

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and gentlemen who came to help on December 1, 2024 to help clean the nokotsudo and temple.

Bobbie Arita, Kay Hanano, Reverend Hirasawa, Yuki Hirasawa, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Eric Moto, and Cathy Murayama.

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHORS HATSUKO AND RYUHEI OGAWA

Hatsuko and Ryuhei Ogawa from Suzuka City in Mie, Japan have authored guidebooks for Japanese travelers interested in the religious lives and culture of the modern Japanese diaspora living in Hawaii. They have published the books: "Temple Tour on the Island of Aloha – Maukamakai Narrow Road (Hawaii Island)" and "We are Kauaians". The Ogawas have visited and written about Buddhist temples on the Big Island and Kauai, and now they are working on a book about Maui. On November 21, the Ogawa's interviewed Rev. Hirasawa and Eric Moto at Mantokuji to ask about our history, and current activities, services, goals, and endeavors. The Ogawa's took photos and shared omiyage treats with the temple. Their books by Higashi Ginza Publishing are available on Amazon.



Sunday December 8, four participants joined Rev. Hoshino to quietly practice Shakyo and traced the Heart Sutra in Japanese and in English.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

REVISED JOYA NO KANE SCHEDULE ON DECEMBER 31ST

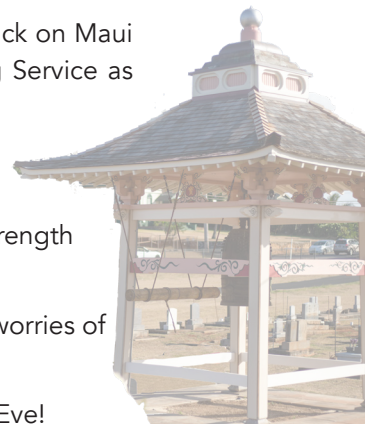
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AT 10:30PM

Reverend Hirasawa was called back to Japan for a family emergency. He will not be back on Maui until January 10, 2025. Therefore, we will not have the midnight New Year's Blessing Service as announced in December's mangan.

Join us for a bowl of soba at 10:30pm on December 31, 2024. This traditional dish symbolizes our hopes for a long and healthy life, as well as our desire to break free from the past. Just as the tough buckwheat crop endures and thrives, we too will gather strength and resilience for the year ahead.

At 11:00pm we will ring the temple bell, which serves to cleanse us of the troubles and worries of the past year and to welcome in the new year.

Let's all meet on the temple landing to share a bowl of soba at 10:30pm on New Year's Eve!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW YEAR'S BLESSING & O-FUDA YAKI SERVICES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025 AT 10:00AM

A New Year's Blessing Service will be held on January 12, 2025 at 10:00am. Reverend Hirasawa will perform "Daihannya Tendoku." Instead of reading the sutras page by page, he flips through the Daihannya book and prays for each attendee's happiness and rids their hearts of suffering. O-Fuda will be passed out to each family.

The O-fuda Yaki service, the burning of sacred objects, will be conducted following the Blessing Service. Please bring your old omamori, o-fuda, and other burnable altar objects to the temple before January 12 or on the morning of the service. **Please remove all metal and plastic before putting the items to be burned in the container labeled "For O-fuda Yaki Service" on the office lanai.**

Omamori will be sold after the New Year's Blessing Service in the social hall. The cost is \$5 each. See the omamori available on the right.



NEW YEAR'S PARTY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025 AT 11:00AM



Paia Mantokuji will be celebrating New Year 2025 (year of the snake) on Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 11:00am. Please join us for good food and fun games!

To help us with the preparation, please call Mantokuji at 808.579.8051 or email info@paiamantokuji.org by January 19 to let us know you are coming and the number who will be joining us.

We will be delighted to have all of you join us to celebrate the New Year!

UNITED HAWAII SOTO SHU WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (UHSSWA) 58TH CONFERENCE

APRIL 26 & 27, 2025

Soto Mission of Aiea - Taiheiji will be hosting the 58th UHSSWA Conference. The theme for the conference is "Isshin," which is interpreted as, "One Heart, One Mind, One Path . . ." Let us unite our hearts and minds on the path to enlightenment.

The conference will be held at Aiea Soto Mission Taiheiji, Hawaii Okinawan Center and the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. If you are a Fujinkai member and are interested in attending this conference, call Cathy Murayama at 808.283.6125 as soon as possible.

2025 Calendar of Events

| | | | | |
|------------------|-------|---------------|----------------|---|
| January | 5 | Sunday | 8:30 am | Kyodan, Fujinkai & Bazaar Committee Meeting Meetings, Clean up |
| | 12 | Sunday | 10:00 am | New Year's Blessing Service & O-fuda Yaki Service |
| | 26 | Sunday | 11:00 am | New Year's Party |
| February | 2 | Sunday | 10:30 am | Nehan-e & Ojuzu Mawashi Service, Bazaar Set-up |
| | 9 | Sunday | 8:30 am | Clean up & Bazaar Preparation |
| | 23 | Sunday | 8:30 am | Hawaii Soto Mission Association Spring Meeting (Honolulu) |
| March | 2 | Sunday | 8am - 12:00 pm | 46th Annual Bazaar |
| | 9 | Sunday | 8:30 am | Fujinkai Meeting, Clean up, Bazaar evaluation |
| | 16 | Sunday | 10:30 am | Spring O-Higan & Kisan Rekijyuki Service |
| April | 5 | Saturday | 10:00 am | Hanamatsuri Service at Rinzai |
| | 13 | Sunday | 8:30 am | Kyodan & Fujinkai Meeting, Clean up |
| May | 18 | Sunday | 8:30 am | Fujinkai Meeting, Clean up O-Bon Newsletter Making & Committee Meeting |
| | 25 | Sunday | 10:30 am | Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo Service |
| June | 8 | Sunday | 8:30 am | Kyodan & Fujinkai Meeting, Clean up |
| | 29 | Sunday | 8:30 am | Yagura Construction and Clean up Day |
| | | | | O-Bon Committee Meeting |
| July | 1 ~ | | | House Visitation O-Bon Tanagyo Services begin |
| | 6 | Sunday | 8:30 am | O-Bon Set-up, O-Bon Committee Meeting |
| | 11 | Friday | 6:00 pm | O-Bon Services |
| | 12 | Saturday | 3:00 pm | O-Bon Service at Mantokuji Cemetery |
| | | | 6:00-7:00 pm | Taiko Performances |
| | 12 | Saturday | 7:15 pm | O-Bon Dance Festival |
| | 13 | Sunday | 8:30 am | Dismantling of Yagura and Clean up |
| | 20 | Sunday | 8:30 am | Clean up, O-Bon Committee Meeting – Evaluation |
| August | 1 ~ | | | House Visitation O-Bon Tanagyo Services |
| | 10 | Sunday | 8:30 am | Fujinkai Meeting, Clean up |
| September | 14 | Sunday | 8:30 am | Kyodan & Fujinkai Meeting, Clean up |
| | 21 | Sunday | 10:30 am | Autumn O-Higan and Ryosoki Service |
| October | 5 | Sunday | 10:00 am | Daruma-ki Service / Daruma-sama Picnic |
| | 12 | Sunday | 8:30 am | Fujinkai Meeting, Clean up |
| November | 9 | Sunday | 8:30 am | Kyodan & Fujinkai Meeting, Clean up |
| | 16 | Sunday | 9:00 am | Family Service – Shichi Go San Ceremony (7-5-3 Ceremony) |
| December | 1 ~ 8 | Monday-Monday | 8:00 am | Rohatsu Sesshin (8 days of morning zazen meditation) |
| | 7 | Sunday | 10:30 am | Jodo-e Service, Shakyō Session |
| | 14 | Sunday | 8:30 am | End of the Year Clean-up Day |
| | 31 | Wednesday | 11:00 pm | Joya no Kane |

Note – Notice of family services and workshops scheduled will be posted in future Mangans.

46TH ANNUAL BAZAAR – DONATIONS AND HELP NEEDED

SUNDAY MARCH 2, 2025, 8:00AM TO 12:00NOON

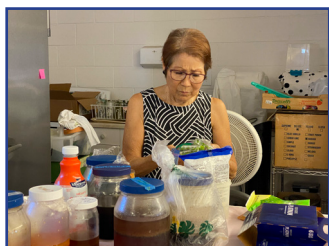
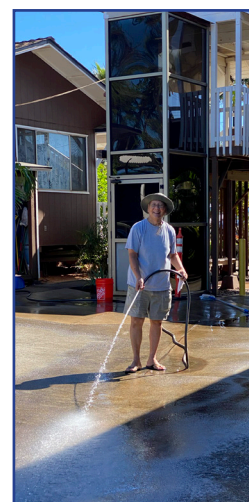
Paia Mantokuji is holding its 46th Annual Bazaar on March 2, 2025 from 8:00am – 12:00noon. The Bazaar is one of Mantokuji's biggest fundraisers and, as in the past, depends on your generous donations and helping hands for its success!

We are currently accepting donations. Mark your calendars with the Bazaar date to remember the big day! The work schedule will be published in the February mangan. Please help us by cleaning the items before bringing them to the temple. We will not be accepting electronics. Call the temple at 808.579.8051 to arrange a dropoff time.

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



End of Year
Clean-up,
December 15.



2025 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES & NOKOTSUDO/CEMETERY FEES

We invite all of you to become Paia Mantokuji members or if you are already a member to renew your membership. Membership at Mantokuji offers the teachings of the Buddha, the practice of Zen meditation and arts, and the fellowship of the temple sangha. See the membership brochure at www.paiamantokuji.org to learn about all the benefits and privileges of being a member of Mantokuji. Enclosed is the 2025 Annual Membership Dues Form.

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Membership Dues | \$50 per household |
| Nokotsudo Fees | \$40/year or in perpetuity (\$2000) per niche |
| Cemetery Fees | \$40/year or in perpetuity (\$2000) per plot |

Dues and Fees help pay for the many expenses to keep the temple operating. Please submit your dues and applicable fees with the Membership Form enclosed in this Mangan by April 1, 2025, if possible or at your earliest convenience. When submitting your nokotsudo and/or cemetery fees, please be sure to indicate the names of those the fees are being paid for. If you know the number of the niche in the nokotsudo, please include as that is very helpful.

If you have not paid your 2024 Membership Dues and, if applicable, Nokotsudo/Cemetery Maintenance Fees, we encourage you to do so before the Year's end.

Thank you for your support!

2025 Memorial Services Schedule

One Year Memorial Service - 2024 一周忌

Itaru Saito Gary Matoi Robert Takahashi

3rd Year Memorial Service - 2023 三回忌

Ethel Otaguro Takeji Nihei Hideo Ogata Harry Tanji Meyer Leigh Ueoka James Masa Shishido
Jeanne Saito Masako Abe Clint Gima Baron Hisamune Ueoka Thomas Umetsu June Sachie Toyota

7th Year Memorial Service - 2019 七回忌

Sally Satsue Ueoka Yoshin Kiyoe Kumasaka Robert Yamashita Kazuto Takahashi Kiyoko Suzuki
Thelma Tomeko Kasahara Sumiko Suzuki Mitsue Suehisa Seiya Ohata

13th Year Memorial Service - 2013 十三回忌

Shigeko Nemoto Goro Takatani Sumie Horiuchi Kinuko Nikaido Michiko Abe Kunichi Kunishige
Masako Suzuki Kimie Watanabe Tokio Shimanuki Doris E. Kumasaka Tadao Kanemitsu Akinori Watanabe
Yukie C. Takahashi Tadayuki Horiuchi

17th Year Memorial Service - 2009 十七回忌

Mitsuko Tamasaka Isami Toyota Fukiyo Ueoka Donald Hanzawa Howard Yoshina Noboru Matsuura
Edna Matsuba Ralph Hanzawa Eiko Sakuma Fusae Wada Hajime Hamashige George Takayama
Tsuyako Takahashi Motoyo Uyeda

23rd Year Memorial Service - 2003 二十三回忌

Yoshio Nishihara Satoru Tamane Robert Ueoka Chiyo Sato Tetsuo Tada

27th Year Memorial Service - 1999 二十七回忌

Takeshi Watanabe Dorothy Shimanuki Jack Kato Kamata Miyahira Suzue Omuro Tokue Shishido
Namie Sato Yasuno Fujiwara Robert T. Nikaido Kaizo Saito Takeo Oya Kimiko Otsu
Teruyo Sato Isamu Yamashita

33rd Year Memorial Service - 1993 三十三回忌

Matsukichi Nakasone Genzo Abe Katsuji Tomita Nobuko Kishimoto Satsuko Sato Ralph S. Tanaka
Ishi Umetsu Iris Masae Arakawa Iwao Watanabe Wase Takahashi Jitsuo Toyota Kuroku Kamimoto

50th Year Memorial Service - 1976 五十回忌

Robert Watanabe Sukehachi Saito Genosuke Suzuki Hatsu Shimahara Ushi Shiroma Fukusaburo Isobe
Tomiko Miyahira Iroku Shishido Kazuyuki K. Kawachi Kanari Furomoto Moto Sato Toki Sato
Shinosuke Suda Hikotaro Nakajima Kichibei Saito Torao Takaie Sadanosuke Watanabe Tamotsu Murakami
Tsuru Arakaki

The names on this list were found in the Mantokuji Kakocho Files. Because they are handwritten in kanji, some names were very difficult to read/decipher. Also, some names may have been inadvertently left off this list.

Please inform Cathy Murayama of any mistakes that you may find. Thank you very much.

Memorial Services (Nenkai Kuyo Hoyo) for the individuals listed above may be scheduled during the year.

Contact Mantokuji at (808) 579-8051 to make an appointment for a service or for any questions regarding services.

The service may be held at the temple, gravesite, or at your home.

We may have services done together for deceased family members who share the same memorial year.

DONATIONS MADE IN NOVEMBER

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

| | |
|--|--|
| Tokuko Abe | Daruma-ki Service |
| Howard & Bobbie Arita | In Memory of Margaret Murayama – 3rd Year Memorial |
| Marian M Merce (Kubo Family) | In Memory of Kenneth Kubo & Mitsue Sato Kubo |
| Allan, Amy & Glenn Murayama | In Memory of Margaret Murayama – 3rd Year Memorial |
| Allan & Cathy Murayama | Shichi-Go-San Ceremony |
| Melina Murayama & Erick Domingo | Shichi-Go-San Ceremony |
| Jordon, Marilyn, Jennifer & Jeremy Nishiki | In Memory of Kaoru Moto – 33rd Year Memorial & In Memory of Carol Moto – 7th Year Memorial |
| Judith van Raalten | Use of hall on 11.9.24 for Speed Cubing Event |
| Sachie Toyota's Family | 1st Year Memorial Service |
| Amy A Watanabe | In Memory of Albert Watanabe – 3rd Year Memorial |

Donations for the Tea Ceremony held at Mantokuji on November 17, 2024

Bobbie Arita, Anna & Risa Hiester, Eric Moto, Diane Orikasa, Isabelle Scholl, Ann Takakura, Sherry Tamayose.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha everyone,

The Mantokuji sangha begins the new year wishing Reverend Hirasawa and his family condolences for their recent loss. We send them peace and comfort to help them at this time. It will be good to have the Hirasawa's back in early January at their Maui home. We are grateful for the help and support provided by Bishop Shuji Komagata while Sensei is away, and we thank Reverend Masataka Hoshino (Betsuin-Soto Mission of Hawaii Shoboji), and Reverend Jigaku Takenouchi (Hilo Taishoji) for traveling to Maui to conduct our December services.

The start of the new year is a good time to remind all of you that we depend upon your kindness and generosity to ensure that Mantokuji has the financial resources to maintain its year-long schedule of services and activities, and special projects. Your donations also support the daily and monthly operational costs that happen behind the scenes. We humbly ask for your monetary donations to help Mantokuji protect its future for our families and our community.

Please be aware that the New Year's Blessing Service and O-fuda Yaki Service has been rescheduled to Sunday, January 12 at 10:00 am to accommodate Rev. Hirasawa's travel schedule. We will close out the month on a more celebratory note with the New Year's Party on Sunday, January 26 at 11:00 am. Happy New Year! Take care.

Mahalo,

Eric Moto

President, Mantokuji Kyodan

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Paia, HI 96779

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January 2025

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|------------------------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 8:30am Clean up, Kyodan, Fujinkai & Bazaar Committee Meetings | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 9:30am-11:00am Ikebana |
| 12 7:30am-8:30am Zazen 10:00am New Year's Service & O-fuda Yaki Service | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 7:30am-8:30am Zazen | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 7:30am-8:30am Zazen 11:00am New Year's Party | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

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

Coming up in February (Tentative Schedule)

Sunday 2: Nehan-e & Ojuzu Mawashi Service, Bazaar Set-up
Sunday 9: Clean up & Bazaar Preparation
Sunday 23: Hawaii Soto Mission Association Spring Meeting (Honolulu)