

Mantokuji Newsletter



November 2024

Dates to Remember

November 17

Family Service - Shichi-Go-San Ceremony

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

REVEREND'S MESSAGE

Aloha everyone,

I am writing this article in Japan. Both, my wife and I are from Kanagawa Prefecture. It is unusually hot and humid here for mid-October but it hasn't been too bad. If you are planning to go sightseeing in Japan, now is a good time.

There will be a Shichi-Go-San service on November 17th at 9 am at Mantokuji. Shichi-Go-San is an ancient Japanese tradition to be thankful for our children's growth so far and to wish for their healthy growth in the future. Children grow so fast. Shichi-Go-San is a good opportunity for families to celebrate these important milestones. All families with children who are turning 7, 5, or 3 years old any time this year are welcome to attend.

On the same day, at 1:00 p.m., there will be a tea ceremony demonstration at Mantokuji Temple for the first time since my arrival. There is a close relationship between Soto Zen Buddhism and the tea ceremony. In ancient times, green tea was used by monks at the Zen temples to awaken the drowsiness of their severe ascetic practices. Also, there are the words "調身-choshin・調息-chosoku・調心-choshin" that are taught in zazen. "調身-choshin" means to correct one's posture. "調息-chosoku" is adjusting one's breathing. By doing these things, we get "調心-choshin" which means the mind is attuned and a sense of calmness is attained. The tea ceremony also has a set of manners (prescribed steps). It may seem difficult to memorize them, but I believe Zen and the tea ceremony share the same mindset in that the mind can be naturally adjusted by performing a certain form. Tea ceremony was part of my training at Sojiji Temple.

When do you drink tea? For example, when you are stuck in your thoughts, or when you want to calm your irritation or when you have finished a task and are ready to start the next one. There are many different occasions, but I think tea has the power to refresh you. When I stop my busy hands and sip a cup of tea, my tense mind relaxes and my heart suddenly feels at ease. You can see many things that you didn't notice when you were moving in a hurry. When I think back on my tea ceremony training, I still remember how delicious the sweets were! Everyone is welcome to the tea ceremony workshop at Mantokuji. If you would like to attend the Shichi-Go-San service or tea ceremony, please call (808) 579-8051.

Tomoki Hirasawa

Rev. Hirasawa - Sept. 15 -
Autumn O-Higan & Ryosoki Service



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FUJINKAI NEWS

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

November 10, 2024 at 8:30am

December 1, 2024 at 8:30am

Thank you to the ladies and gentlemen who came on September 8 to help clean the nokotsudo and grounds.

Bobbie Arita, Kay Hanano, Reverend Hirasawa, Yuki Hirasawa, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Isabelle Scholl, Nora Takeuchi and Neil Watanabe.

GIVE ALOHA, FOODLAND'S ANNUAL COMMUNITY MATCHING GIFTS PROGRAM

A big MAHALO to all who made a donation at Foodland, Sack N Save or Foodland Farms to benefit Paia Mantokji. Collectively, donations of \$2,480.03 were made. Your donations are partially matched by a gift from Foodland. Total donations and matching gift will be reported in December's mangan.

DARUMA-KI SERVICE AND DARUMA-SAMA THANK YOU PICNIC

HELD ON OCTOBER 6TH

Excitement and laughter filled the hall as the Daruma-sama picnic commenced after the Daruma-ki service. This service is held in remembrance of Daruma-sama, a 6th century monk who is said to have carried the teaching of the Buddha from India to China. According to legend, he was a person of great determination, who sat in meditation facing a wall at the Shorinji Temple in China for nine years. Daruma-sama is perseverance. As children we learned no matter how many times Daruma falls, he always gets up again.

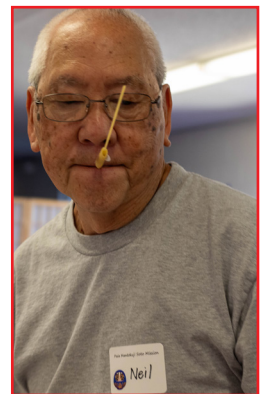
Everyone joining the picnic was given a nametag with a different colored Daruma. When the games began, groups were formed by the color of the Daruma on their nametag. There was a table of red darumas, green darumas, yellow darumas and purple darumas. The first game, Daruma Matching had team members huddled around 24 daruma faces that needed to be

paired up. Team members looked carefully as there were subtle differences among the pairs. When the team matched the 12 pairs, all members sat quietly as Daruma sat for nine years.

Everyone used their eye-hand coordination to thread a daruma penne pasta with a spaghetti noodle held in their mouths, no hands allowed! Once threaded, the person walked carefully to the chart that spelled Bodhidharma and carefully placed the daruma penne in the oval below each letter. Total concentration was needed to succeed! At the completion of the chart, all team members stood up and bowed in gassho.

The next game was Daruma Toss. Team members kept the Daruma balloon off the floor as it was passed over their heads to the next person. When the Daruma balloon got back to the first person, everyone jumped up and down.

The games ended with an old childhood game of Hula Hoop. Each team member was tasked to hula hoop five times. There was so much laughter as the hoop went around once and dropped! Start again . . . until five complete circles were done. Everyone was counting ... one two ... oh no! Start again... one two three four five! Yay! When everyone finally finished, all team members clapped 5 times in unison.



DARUMA-KI SERVICE AND DARUMA-SAMA THANK YOU PICNIC (CONT')

Finally it was lunch time. A delicious lunch prepared by the Fujinkai with side dishes and yummy desserts brought by volunteers were enjoyed by all.

After lunch everyone on each team got to choose a gift card bought from locally owned stores or restaurants. And as the prizes were a bit different this year, the choosing of the prizes was also different. We started with the 4th place team, then 3rd and 2nd and the 1st place team was the last to choose! Everyone went home with a gift card!

Thank you to all who attended the Daruma-ki service and Daruma-sama Thank You Picnic. The picnic is Mantokuji's mahalo to you and all your family and friends who come out throughout the year to help at our bazaar, obon and other fundraising events. We truly appreciate your continued support.

And a very big THANK YOU to those who made monetary donations for all the gift card prizes: Jim & Laurie Brooks (Honolulu), Harold & Kathy Fujii (Cupertino, CA), Kay Hanano, Ken & Donna Hayashida (Honolulu), Hideo & Joyce Kawahara, Allan & Cathy Murayama, and Paul & Gwen Ueoka. Your generosity is very much appreciated.



REMINDERS

NOKOTSUDO HOURS IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

Just a reminder that the nokotsudo will be open only on the weekends for the remaining of October and the first week in November.

Beginning November 4th, the nokotsudo will be opened daily, 9:00am – 4:00pm.

Thank you for your understanding.

SHICHI-GO-SAN CEREMONY ON NOVEMBER 17TH AT 9:00AM

Please call Mantokuji at (808)579-8051 if you have children, grandchildren or great grandchildren who have become or will be ages 3, 5 and 7 this year by November 10 to have Reverend Hirasawa bless them for their well-being..

TEA CEREMONY WORKSHOP ON NOVEMBER 17TH AT 1:00PM

Members of the Urasenke Tankokai will teach you the elegant art form of Japanese tea ceremony. Don't miss this opportunity to explore and experience this tranquil art. We look forward to welcoming you! To reserve your spot please call (808) 579-8051. All materials will be provided. It's free (donations are welcomed and appreciated).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha everyone,

While life remains relatively calm here at Mantokuji in November, there is much going on around us as we finally come to the conclusion of this election year. And whatever the outcomes, I am happy to report that Mantokuji will always strive to be a place of Soto Zen stability and serenity for you all.

Last month, our head temple in Nuuanu, the Soto Mission of Hawaii, Shoboji was busy with a weekend of services and events. Officers and delegates from the nine Soto temples across the islands gathered for the Hawaii Soto Mission Association's Fall meeting, the wake and funeral services for the late Bishop Shugen Komagata, and the installation ceremony and banquet for our new Bishop Shuji Komagata. As you can imagine, there was a mix of emotions as we moved quickly (and smoothly) through each service, ceremony, and event. The temple delegates were joined by members of the Komagata family, members of the Betsuin sangha, and numerous guests priests from Japan and the mainland. At each ceremony, Bishop Shuji Komagata, his wife Jaymie, his daughter Remie, and his son Reigen showed strength and leadership as they played the roles of hosts, emcees, and organizers. Bishop Komagata showed everyone that he is ready, willing, and able to step into his new leadership role.

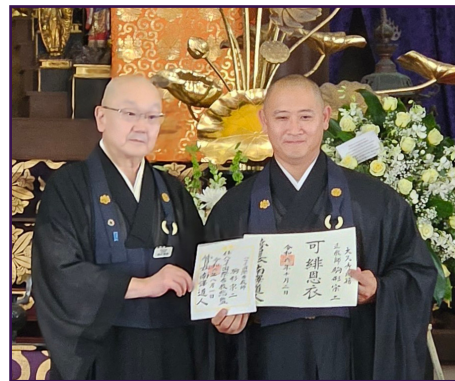
The main topic of discussion at the HSMA meeting was the planning and development of the 10th U.S. Soto Conference 2025 that will be hosted by Hawaii (Betsuin). Bishop Komagata asked for ideas for the conference sessions and called on everyone to find a way to volunteer for the many various committees being formed in this planning stage. We will keep you informed as conference details get confirmed.

This month, Mantokuji conducts a Family Service and the Shichi-Go-San Ceremony (7-5-3 Ceremony) on Sunday, November 17 at 9:00 am and a Tea Ceremony Workshop at 1:00 pm. If you can't make it on the 17th, you're also invited to join in our monthly temple clean-up on Sunday, November 10 at 8:30 am. Take care.

Mahalo,

Eric Moto

President, Mantokuji Kyodan



DONATIONS MADE IN SEPTEMBER

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

General Donations

Cindy M Matsuo, Grace Shibano.

Jim & Laurie Brooks	Daruma-sama Picnic
Harold & Kathy Fujii	Daruma-sama Picnic
Ken & Donna Hayashida	Daruma-sama Picnic
Edward Kushi	In Memory & Honor of Meyer M Ueoka
Allan & Cathy Murayama	Use of hall on 8.31.24
Francis & Katherine Nakamoto & Family	2024 Obon Donation
Paul & Gwen Ueoka	Daruma-sama Picnic

Donations made for Ohigan & Ryosoki Service on September 15, 2024

Tokuko Abe, Howard & Bobbie Arita, Yuriko Fukagawa, Kay Hanano, Rebecca Kikumoto, Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Gary & Judith Matoi, Brian Moto, Allan & Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Yukie Pye, Mark & Lois Sato, Isabelle Scholl, Chihiro Suzuki, Nora Takeuchi, Amy Misa Umetsu, Neil & Joyce Watanabe.



Mantokuji Soto Mission of Paia

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October 22, 2024

Aloha Friends and Family of Mantokuji,

We are grateful for your support and interest. We write you today with a general update on our shoreline restoration project progress and general plans, which are costly and dynamic.

As you know, we have experienced significant erosion especially due to the large winter waves and storms. Mantokuji Beach has a long history of being mined of sand, which has depleted our bay of an important buffer against waves. Our coastal erosion is being further impacted by climate change, rising sea levels and deteriorating reef systems.

It is estimated that 70% of Hawaii's beaches and 80% of Maui's beaches are experiencing the serious effects of erosion. With this continual erosion, our property, graveyard and temple are at increasing risks. For the past ten years we have been actively addressing the situation and want to keep you abreast of where we are now.

To mitigate the short-term impacts, we obtained State and County permits in 2022 to put an emergency control sandbag structure in place along the shoreline fronting the temple. We were aware that this would be temporary only and needing repairs until we were ready to pursue the larger work of restoration. The sandbags have successfully helped prevent damage to the foundation of our kitchen. We are currently permitted until next year so an extension will be requested as we continue to research and develop long terms plans.

Our Mantokuji Mission Administrative Board, guided by the expertise of Oceanit's coastal engineer Mike Foley, Organizational Development consultant Linda Morgan and research provided by Architects Hawaii Ltd., explored five adaptation options for the future. In 2023, the Mantokuji Board agreed that option of beach restoration is the optimal adaptation pathway. Our first step was to secure State funding for the research and design of a Climate Change Toolkit. We completed the project in June 2024 which provided us with data and deeper awareness of the conditions we need to take into account to proceed. Our successful Climate Change Toolkit also has the potential to be shared broadly to help other communities faced with the need to adapt to a changing shoreline environment.

This Fall and Winter we are coordinating plans with State and County agencies to gain their support and funding for the future. Our goal is to protect our shoreline and temple from coastal challenges and to allow our Mission to serve our community long into the future. Stay tuned for further updates later in the year!

In gassho,

Mantokuji Mission Board

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November 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 9:30am Dharma Keiki	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 7:30am-8:30am Zazen 8:30am Clean-up 10:30am Fujinkai & Kyodan Meetings	1	12	13	14	15	16 9:30am-11:00am Ikebana
17 7:30am-8:30am Zazen 9:00am Shichi-Go-San Ceremony 1:00pm Tea Ceremony Workshop	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 7:30am-8:30am Zazen	25	26	27	28	29	30

Hospital and Hale Makua Visitations are scheduled during the month.

Coming up in December (Tentative Schedule)

Sunday 1-8: Rohatsu Sesshin

Sunday 1: Clean up, Fujinkai & Kyodan Meetings

Sunday 8: Jodo-e Service, Shakyo Session

Sunday 15: End of the Year Clean-up Day

Tuesday 31: Joya No Kane