Mantokuji Newsletter

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December 2026

Dates to Remember

December 5 Saturday
Jodo-e Service & Shakyo Session

December 13
End of Year Clean-up Day

December 31
Joya No Kane

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

President's Message

Hello everyone.

And so we come to the close of another year. As always, we have much to be thankful for and many people to thank for helping Mantokuji to continue to conduct all of our services and memorials, our social activities and fundraisers, and the week to week jobs that keep the temple buildings and grounds looking good and functioning properly.

We were grateful that Reverend Jiten Kurosawa and his wife Marina visited us last month. They were given a warm welcome dinner by our sangha and Sensei and Okusan had an opportunity to observe some of our Hawaii service traditions and experience more of our Hawaiian hospitality here at Mantokuji and at Zenshuji on Kauai.



Kessei Ango and Hossenshiki
Hawaii Soto Mission Association Fall Meeting and Conference
Kauai Soto Zen Temple Zenshuji
November 7-8, 2026

This month, the Jodo-e Service will be held on Saturday, December 5, at 10:30am. May you all have a fun and safe New Year's celebration with your family and friends! See you next year and take care.

Mahalo,

E. H. Moto

Eric Moto
President, Mantokuji Kyodan

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Fujinkai News

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

December 13, 2026 at 8:30am
January 11, 2027 at 8:30am

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and gentlemen who came on October 11 to help clean the nokotsudo.

Kathleen Davis, Kay Hanano, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Diane Orikasa, Lois Sato, and Nora Takeuchi.

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies who came on October 25 who came to help tidy the minister's residence and hall for Reverend Kurosawa and wife's stay in November.

Kathleen Davis, Kay Hanano, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, and Lois Sato.

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 $2,463.35 at a Foodland or Sack-n-Save. The matching gift we received from Foodland totaled $841.22. We received checks totaling $3,324.57. Thank you for your KOKUA and participation. A big MAHALO to Foodland for their matching gift.

HSMA Fall Conference

November 7 - 8, 2026

The Fall Hawaii Soto Mission Association meeting and Conference was held at Kauai Soto Zen Temple Zenshuji in Hanapepe. The theme of the Conference was "Zenpu Keisho The Zen Wind Carries On From India to China, to Japan, and Onward to Hawaii." It was a very special event for the Zenshuji community because it has been thirty years since an HSMA meeting was held there.



The featured events at the Conference were a visit to the historical plantation camp where the old Zenshuji temple was located, an interactive temple tour of Kauai Zenshuji, a koan dharma session by Rev. Brian Butsudo Turner of Dragon Lake Zen, Boulder. CO, a grant writing workshop by Gerald Hirata, president of Kauai Soto Zen Temple Zenshuji, and celebrated Kim Shokan Loh and Todd Donin Cowdrey as they completed their Lay Temple Assistant training. The highlight of the Conference was witnessing the Hossenshiki of Cameron Shinzen Williams, disciple of Rev. Hirosato Yoshida. A Hossenshiki is a dharma battle to confirm Cameron Shinzen's knowledge and commitment to the dharma.





Mantokuji members Bobbie Arita, Cathy Murayama and Isabelle Scholl attended the Conference.





Maui Buddhist Council Meeting

Monday, November 2, 2026 at 7:00pm

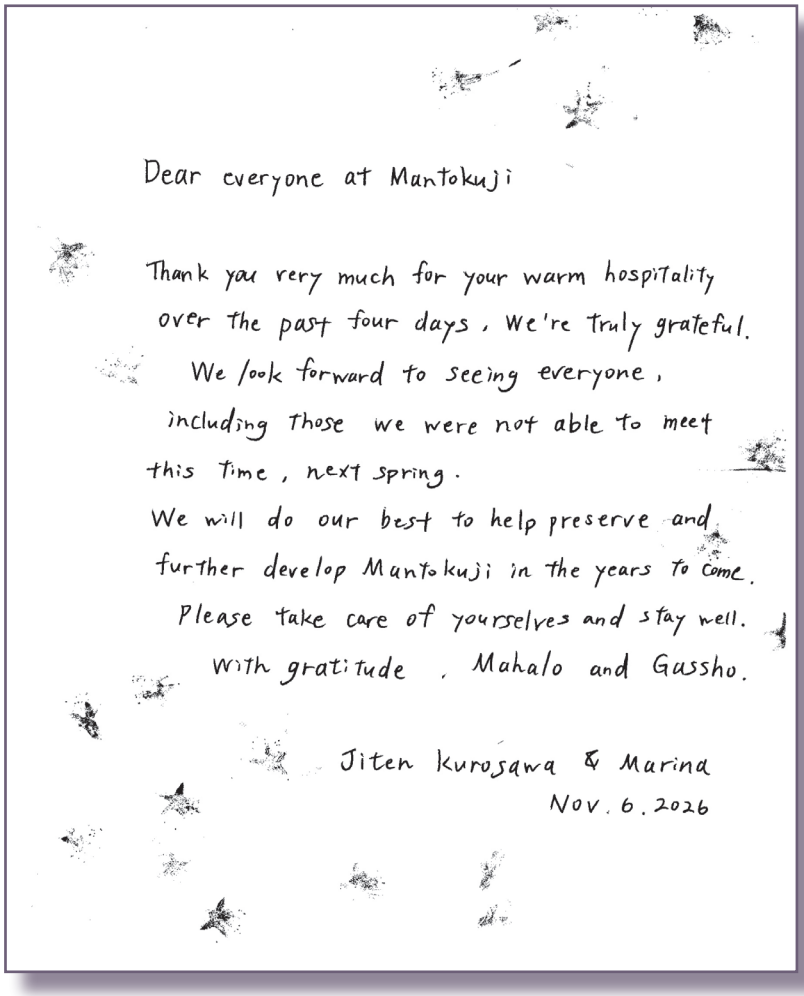
Cathy Murayama attended the annual November meeting of the Maui Buddhist Council. The council includes representatives from Maui's Buddhist sects and meets to confirm the 2027 calendar of County-wide Buddhist ceremonies and events. 2026 council leader, Reverend Kerry Kiyohara (Makawao Buddhist Temple), transferred the leadership position to Reverend George Kitagawa (Wailuku Shingon Mission) with Jocelyn Tengan (Kahului Jodo Mission representative) as Treasurer/Secretary. The council set dates for next summer's Obon schedule, coordinated Hanamatsuri Services dates and set service dates for Roselani Place, Hale Makua – Kahului, and Hale Makua – Wailuku.

Welcome Dinner for Rev. and Mrs Kurosawa

November 4, 2026

Thirty Mantokuji sangha members gathered on Wednesday, November 4 to welcome our future resident minister and okusan, Reverend Jiten Kurosawa and Marina Kurosawa. They made a stop at Mantokuji before attending the HSMA Conference on Kauai. In Mantokuji style, we filled their appetites with an abundant buffet of local favorites . . . poke, steak, Rev. Hirasawa's karaage chicken, cabbage salad, tofu poke, lumpia, bok choy with shrimp, a steamed opakapaka, sekihan and all the sides and desserts that everyone contributed. We all had a chance to chat with them. Yes, they do speak some English!

They left feeling very comfortable at Mantokuji. Please see their letter of gratitude below:



Dear everyone at Mantokuji

Thank you very much for your warm hospitality over the past four days, We're truly grateful. We look forward to seeing everyone, including those we were not able to meet this time, next spring.
We will do our best to help preserve and further develop Mantokuji in the years to come.
Please take care of yourselves and stay well.
With gratitude, Mahalo and Gassho.

Jiten Kurosawa & Marina
Nov. 6. 2026



JODO-E (BODHI-DAY) SERVICE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2026 AT 10:30AM

Please note the change of date to Saturday, December 5 as a minister was not available to come on any Sunday in December. 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. Reverend Hirosato Yoshida of Soto Mission of Hawaii Shoboji will come to officiate this service.

Let's come together to honor this special occasion!

SHAKYO SESSION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2026 AT 11:15PM FOLLOWING THE JODO-E SERVICE

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 (Tuesday to Tuesday) is CANCELLED since Mantokuji presently does not have a resident minister.

END OF THE YEAR CLEAN UP DAY - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2026 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 13, 2026, 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, 2026 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, on December 31, 2026 at 11:00pm.

A New Year's Blessing Service and an O-fuda Yaki Service will be held on Sunday, January 10, 2027, at 10:30am.

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

Donations made in October

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

General Donations

Merrily Lee	In Memory of Margaret Hanzawa
Norman M Nagata	In Memory of Fusao & Gladys Nagata
Kyle & Colette Watanabe	In Memory of Toyoji & Kimi Watanabe

Donations made for Darumaki Service on October 4, 2026

Jonathan & Yaz Collins, Kathleen M Guaderrama, Kay Hanano, Risa & Anna Hiester, Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Deacon & Tomoe Macmillan & Family, Judith Matoi, Wayne & Sandy Matsuda, Janet C Miyahira, Eric Moto, Allan & Cathy Murayama, Melina Murayama & Erick Domingo, Diane Orikasa, Susan T Oshiro, Ann K Takakura, Mark & Lois Sato, Nora H Takeuchi, Sharon Ueoka.

In Memoriam



We express our heartfelt sympathy to the families of:

Nancy Mitsue Shishido, 92 years old, passed on October 16, 2026.

James Suehisa, 82 years old, passed on November 4, 2026.

We pray for them and give our love and support to their families in this time of great loss.

Namu Kie Butsu, Namu Kie Ho, Namu Kie So

Recipe of the Month



The year is zooming by, and Thanksgiving is almost here! We all love the traditional roast turkey with all the fixings. Tasted this Cranberry Relish several years ago and just loved it so wanted to share it with all of you. My friend, Janet Sato, shared this recipe her mother made every Thanksgiving. Thank you, Nanny Hazama!

Cranberry Relish

By Nanny Hazama

Ingredients

- 4 c. (about 1 #) fresh cranberries, picked over & rinsed
- 2 c. sugar
- ½ c. cranberry juice
- ½ c. fresh orange juice
- 1 T. orange zest

Instructions

1. Combine ingredients in heavy saucepan and stir well. Place pan over medium heat. Boil until berries pop open about 10 minutes.
2. Skim foam with metal spoon and let relish cool to room temperature.
3. Refrigerate covered.
4. Will keep up to 2-3 months.
5. Makes 10 servings.
6. Leftover relish can be mixed with cream cheese for a tasty spread over toast or bagels.

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December 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5* 10:30am Jodo-e Service 11:15am Shakyo Session
6	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*	*11*	*12*
13 8:30am End of Year Clean-up Day	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19* 9:30am-11:00am Ikebana
20	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24*	*25*	*26*
27	*28*	*29*	*30*	*31* 11:00pm Joya No Kane		

Coming up in January (Tentative Schedule)

Sunday 3: Cleanup, Fujinkai Meeting

Sunday 10: New Year's Blessing Service & O-fuda Yaki Service

Sunday 24: New Year's Party

Nokustudo Hours:

The nokotsudo will continue to be open on Saturdays and Sundays in December, 9:00am – 3:00pm.

If you need the nokotsudo opened outside of these hours, please call 808.283.6125.