



February 2023

Dates to Remember

February 5

Nehan-e & O-juzu Mawashi

March 5

44th Annual Bazaar

Our Mission: Paia Mantokuji is a Soto Zen Buddhist temple founded in 1906 by 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 spending my first winter here on Maui. I found that it is colder at night than I expected, but the warm sunshine is pleasant during the day. In Japan, my wife always curled up in a Kotatsu (a table with a futon and electric heater) during this time, so we are enjoying the beautiful weather.

February 5th is the Nehan-e Service at Mantokuji Temple, one of the most important Buddhist memorials to commemorate the day of Buddha's passing, along with Hanamatsuri service in April which celebrates his birth, and Jodo-e service in December which commemorates his enlightenment.

After his enlightenment, the Buddha continued his journey of preaching his teachings to people until he passed away at the age of 80. During this time, many people were guided by his teachings and became disciples. The final destination of his travels was Kushinagar, where he realized that he was about to die. When the Buddha realized that he was about to die, he told his disciples,

"After I am gone, go forward, taking not me but yourself as your refuge, and the Dharma I have given you as a lamp to light up the darkness."

As time went on, Buddhists were divided in their understanding of the Buddha's teachings, depending on whether they were to be limited to the words of the Buddha or whether they were to include the teachings that were intended by the Buddha's words. The latter was the basis for the development of Mahayana Buddhism, which eventually spread to Japan via China and other countries and became the foundation of modern Japanese Buddhism.

The history of Buddhism, which has been handed down from generation to generation, has always been traced back to Shakyamuni Buddha. I would like to express my gratitude to Shakyamuni Buddha for his great teachings, as well as to his disciples who have diligently studied and passed on his teachings to us today for over 2600 years. Please join us on February 5 for the Nehan-e and Ojizu Mawashi Service at 10:30am.

Take care of yourself. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Mahalo.

In gassho.

Tomoki Hirasawa

Also enclosed in this issue:

Dharma Lei

n.43

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

February 12, 2023 at 8:30am

March 12, 2023 at 8:30am

Thank you to all who came to help on the End of the Year clean up on December 18. Although the rainy weather didn't allow us to get everything done, we were able to get a lot done indoors. Many, many thanks!

Bobbie Arita, Markus Karlstad, Kay Hanano, Rev. Hirasawa, Yuki Hirasawa, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Brian Watanabe, and Neil Watanabe.

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and gentlemen who came to help with the clean up on Sunday, January 15.

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

Kyodan Meeting Report

Held Sunday, January 15, 2023

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

- Working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on a grant application for the shoreline landscaping. The grant will pay 50% and Mantokuji will need to pay the remaining 50%.
- Architects Hawaii, Ltd. submitted studies of flood-proofing options with the cost estimates done by J. Uno & Associates, Inc. Board will schedule a meeting with Mike Foley and Katie Stephens to discuss the options.
- Retained immigration attorney KahBo Dye-Chiew to work on Rev. Hirasawa's R-1 VISA renewal. Current VISA expires on July 1, 2023. Cost is \$2,000 + fees.
- Maui Arbor Scapes will be removing the fallen trees and cleaning away the debris on January 26 & 27, 2023. Cost is \$4,765.59
- Hawaii Soto Mission Association Spring meeting will be held on Sunday, February 26, 2023 at Betsuin. Rev. & Mrs. Hirasawa to attend. Eric Moto and Cathy Murayama will be the delegates.
- 44th Annual Bazaar is on for Sunday, March 5, 2023 – 8:00am – 12:00pm. Work schedule included on page 6.
- New Year's Party will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 11:00am.
- Ikebana classes will resume on January 21 @ 9:30am. It will be held on the third Saturdays.
- No Zazen on February 26, 2023 – Rev. Hirasawa will be attending the HSMA meeting on Oahu.

Next Kyodan meeting will be on Sun, April 9, 2023.

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

Welcome, New Member

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

Joyce Nagata Sasaki

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

Joya no Kane on December 31, 2022 followed by a New Year's service on January 1, 2023

Mantokuji members gathered on December 31, 2022 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 the problems and worries of our 108 worldly desires. The perfect night began with a prayer by Rev. Hirasawa and his ringing of the the bell three times. He was followed by Mantokuji and community members who came to this annual event. It was a wonderful feeling to be led by Mantokuji's resident minister!

Fireworks in the Paia community lit the skies as the bell was rung for the 108th time indicting the New Year 2023 had begun! Happy New Year!

Rev. Hirasawa conducted a short New Year's service to welcome the Year of the Rabbit. All attendees were blessed and given a new Ofuda to put in their homes.



New Year's Blessing & Ofuda Yaki Services

Held on Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 10:00am

January 8th marked a new beginning for Mantokuji and its Sangha with the New Year's Blessing Service. Everyone present was blessed by Rev. Hirasawa and presented with a new Ofuda to place in their homes.

At the conclusion of the blessings, Rev. Hirasawa gave his first New Year's sermon at Mantokuji. He reminded all of us that the biggest news for Mantokuji in 2022 was getting a new minister and Okusan after four years! He reviewed what happened at Mantokuji since he arrived on April 18, 2022. Then he introduced us to the Zen word, Sho Shin, the mind with which we begin something – "Beginner's mind." Rev. Hirasawa's sermon is shared below.

"Happy New Year! Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu! Hau 'oli Makahiki Hou

It has been a week since the New Year began. I am very happy to be able to celebrate the new year with all of you today.

The biggest news for Mantokuji in 2022 is surely the same thing you are all thinking of. Yes, that after four years, Mantokuji finally has a new minister and Okusan! I think you have probably all started to forget about this, so I am reminding you by announcing it myself!

Of course, that's not all. After a long period of restriction due to the pandemic, many things have started to move again. In June and November, our rummage sales ended with great success. Working as a resident minister in Japan, I rarely got to prepare for bazaars, so the time I spent working with the members was very refreshing and enjoyable. During the sales and prepping for them with the sangha members I felt the spirit of fuse, the Buddhist teaching to share happiness, both spiritually and physically, and not to keep it to oneself, which was heartwarming for me. And, Judy even let me handle the pricing gun!!

To be continued next page

New Year's Blessing & Ofuda Yaki Services (Cont')

On the issue of beach erosion, the setting up of sandbags on the shoreline was successfully completed in October. This winter is my first winter on Maui, and seeing the huge waves hitting the shoreline, I am realizing how important this project is for us, by actually seeing and hearing it. I believe that the long-term planning and action that we are going to take is one of the most challenging events in the long history of Mantokuji. However, we go about it, the decisions we make are sure to encourage not only Mantokuji but the community as a whole. I can only contribute what little I can, but I hope to continue to work closely with the sangha to move toward a better future.

As noted in the January newsletter, the year 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit. It is said that the year of the Rabbit is the year of improvement and progress because of the rabbit's hopping. I have a feeling that this year will be just that for Mantokuji.

In my first Dharma talk of the year, I would like to introduce the Zen word "初心-Shoshin", the mind with which we begin something. In English, it could be translated as "Beginner's mind".

At the beginning of the New Year, many people make New Year's Resolutions. What goals do you have in mind this year? "This year, I want to speak Japanese," "I want to run a full marathon," "I want to lose 10 more pounds," etc. Many people start out with goals and then move toward them. Buy textbooks, go running in the park, cut back on sweets, and so on. "Beginner's mind" gives us the power to move forward.

But after a while, yeah, probably by the time the Bon Dance comes around, the goals become fuzzy, and many of us have forgotten that we even set goals.

Can you imagine that? My goal last year was to speak English. I remembered it when I was writing this script. Actually, I speak a little English now. As we all know from experience, when we set a goal, we are all motivated and willing to work hard to achieve it. However, as time goes by, this feeling gradually fades away, and the effort becomes too hard, and finally you stop. In order to keep going we need to keep our original motivation, that is, the vitality that we had when we first started.

In Buddhism, "Shoshin" means especially to the mind when someone first begins to practice Buddhism. The importance of maintaining one's "beginner's mind" has been explained time and again by previous Zen masters.

Dogen Zenji, the founder of Soto Zen, said, "There are no beginners or masters in Buddhist training." Also, Suzuki Roshi, founder of the San Francisco Zen Center, said, "The goal of Buddhist training is to always maintain a beginner's mind." When we hear these words, we think, "Huh? Aren't we training to become masters?" The question may come to mind. But in fact, we should not become masters.

Because if we have the mind of a master, our mind becomes limited and lazy. It becomes boring, wanting, and unsatisfied, bringing us suffering. On the other hand, the beginner's mind is a mind that can accept a variety of things; it is an empty and open mind. The beginner's mind has unlimited possibilities. And as long as we keep our beginner's mind, we will be able to keep going straight forward. For us, the most important thing and also the most difficult thing is to keep our beginner's mind. It means that even if we repeat something every day, we do it as if we are doing it for the first time.

It is very difficult for me to keep my beginner's mind as well. Before coming to Hawaii, I started studying English. Even though I slept through most of my English classes in High school and college, my English skills have improved more than before. But recently, I have had less time to study English. It is proof that I am getting used to life here, but at the same time, I almost forgot my beginner's mind. I spoke today about "Shoshin" as a way of reminding myself of the importance of this word once again. It is a very important word, so please remember it. If I have forgotten my beginner's mind and am living a lazy life, please remind me.

Finally, I would like to conclude my new year's sermon by praying from the bottom of my heart that there will be much happiness and aloha all around you."

At the conclusion of the New Year's Blessing Service, everyone adjourned outside to the driveway for the Ofuda Yaki 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.



Dharma Lei



Bishop's Office Newsletter

Soto Zen Buddhism Hawaii Office

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First Quarter, 2023

Issue No. 43

Bishop's Message:

Aloha from the Bishop's Office,

As we near the end of 2022, I would like to extend holiday greetings to you and your family. After two years of limited activities at our Soto Mission temples in Hawaii due to Covid-19 restrictions, it was nice to see a return of many services and activities in 2022.

2023 is the Year of the Rabbit. The rabbit is the fourth symbol in the Japanese Zodiac. If you are born in the Year of the Rabbit (*Usagi*), rejoice in knowing that you are considered as optimistic, warm, virtuous, and open minded. If Rabbits come together with sheep and boars, great positive energy arises. They are also compatible with dogs but should be wary of roosters.

Rabbits live peacefully in groups, so this zodiac animal is known to focus on the "well-being of the family." In the spirit of the rabbit's ability to leap forward, we can be hopeful that 2023 will be a year of "great forward progress in business."

With our prior experiences in life having shaped our view of the world, I invite you to look ahead to 2023 with great hope. With that hope, though, must come action. "Carpe diem!" This famous Latin phrase means to "seize the day!" I encourage you focus on the present, appreciate the value of every moment in life, and avoid postponing things unnecessarily.

Please continue to take care of yourself and your loved ones. May the Peace from the Lord Buddha's enlightenment arise in your hearts. May his teachings continue to guide you in your lives. May the love and Blessings of the temple surround you and help you find peace. I wish all of you a very Happy New Year!

In Gassho.

Bishop Shugen Komagata



ATTENTION: Please contact Rev. Shuji Komagata at 808-224-2584 or 7676shuji@gmail.com if you have any questions.

2023 Hawaii Soto Mission Buddhist Study Tour
Dates: Friday, May 26, 2023 to Friday, June 2, 2023
Destinations: Los Angeles, San Francisco Bay Area

Tour cost: \$1,600 (airfare not included)

TRIP DETAILS

<http://www.sotomission.com/2023tour>

HOW DO I REGISTER?

<http://www.sotomission.com/registration>

Registration is now open through January 15, 2023.

TOUR SUMMARY

You are invited to join the **2023 Hawaii Soto Mission Buddhist Study Tour**. The tour begins at Los Angeles Zenshuji Soto Mission's centennial celebration (also commemorating 100 years of Soto Zen Buddhism in North America) and will explore the richness and diversity of Buddhism in California. Coordinated by the Hawaii Soto Mission Bishop's Office and sponsored in part by the Hawaii Soto Mission Association, the 2023 Hawaii Soto Mission Buddhist Study Tour will visit eleven Buddhist temples and Zen Centers in Los Angeles and the Bay Area over the course of a week. Additional activities include museum visits, sightseeing, wine tasting, shopping, and eating delicious food California is famous for.

Currently, there are only 6 remaining slots open for this trip.
Additional tour seats may be added later based on demand.
Don't delay. Register today!



Minister's residence spared during the storm on December 18 & 19, 2022

Rev. Hirasawa inspects the damaged caused by the storm Maui experienced last month on December 18 & 19. The huge ironwood tree on the right side of the shoreline, with footing undercut by the waves, fell right between the minister's residence and the neighbor's fence. On the way down, it snapped off the top of a coconut tree and a nearby smaller ironwood tree. Mantokuji was very fortunate that the residence was spared.

Maui Arborscapes has been hired to remove the tree and debris.



Okusan's Mother visits Mantokuji

by Yuki Hirasawa

My mother, Noriko Shimura, visited Mantokiji from Japan for a week from January 1. This was her first stay in Hawaii and her first trip abroad by herself. So she was very excited and nervous.



When she arrived at Mantokuji, she was amazed at the beautiful and historic structure. We reported her safe arrival to the Buddha and thanked him.

During her 7-day stay, we brought her to many places including Kihei, Wailea, Kula, Makawao, Lahaina, and so on. The beautiful nature, towns, and mild climate fascinated her. Whale watching was especially impressive!

She also had the opportunity to connect with several sangha. "Thank you for always supporting Tomoki and Yuki. Thank you for your continued support." She gave a short speech in English, which she had been practicing. She was relieved to know that Reverend and I were working in the warmth of the sangha.

Although the trip was short, she enjoyed her time on Maui very much. She is looking forward to returning with my dad and other family members.

Thank you for your warm welcome to her.



President's Message

Aloha everyone,

This year, Mantokuji continues to ease back into our pre-pandemic calendar of activities and events and that means that February is all about preparing for our big Bazaar fundraiser. The 44th Annual Bazaar will take place on Sunday, March 5. All month long our faithful members and volunteers will be busy gathering, curating, and pricing rummage items, setting up the hall and temple grounds, preparing a variety of food items, and working on all the many other tasks on our To-Do list.

We start the month with the Nehan-e Service on the 5th at 10:30 am. We are pleased to be able to include on that day the Ojuzu Mawashi ceremony as well. It is an old tradition that was greatly missed during the restrictive pandemic period. We look forward to gathering in a circle with one another as we pass the beads of our super-sized ojuzu and pray for healing and wellness. We hope to see you there. Take care.

With aloha,

Eric Moto

President, Mantokuji Kyodan

Nehan-e & O-juzu Mawashi Service

Sunday, February 5, 2023 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 death and express our gratitude to him for his teaching. His last words to his disciples "All compound things are subject to vanish. Strive with earnestness." These words, though simple, were the essence of his teaching: nothing is permanent, and we need to strive to discover our Buddha nature with every breath we take.

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.

44th Annual Bazaar – Sunday, March 5, 2023

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 5 | After Nehan-e Service: Set up for Bazaar, Bazaar Prep begin |
| Wed 8 / Fri 10 / Sun 12 | 8:30am |
| Wed 15 / Fri 17 / Sun 19 | |
| Wed 22 / Fri 24 / Sun 26 | |
| March | |
| Wed 1 / Thu 2 / Fri 3 / Sat 4 | 7:30am |
| Sunday 5 th : 44 th Annual Bazaar | |
| Breakfast | 4:00am |
| Musubi making | 5:00am |



Recipe of the Month



With the Pro Bowl and Super Bowl coming up on Sunday, February 5th and 12th, respectively, pupus are always needed for those parties. An easy and delicious pupu to share is Edamame.

Edamame

Ingredients

1# edamame
 ¼ c. shoyu
 2 T. sesame oil
 1 clove garlic, minced
 ¼ tsp. chili flakes

Preparation

In a large bowl, mix the shoyu, sesame oil, garlic, and chili flakes.
 Boil the edamame as directed on the package.
 Drain and add to bowl and mix with sauce.

Donations made in December

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

General Donations

Tokuko Abe, Peter Hanano, Island Insurance Foundation (matching donation for employee Laurie Brooks), Faith Kasahara, Yuko Kobayashi, Eleanor Machida, Sandra L. Morioka, Myles Y. Murakami, Takeiji Nihei, Bert & Susan Ogasawara, Joyce L. Ogawa, Michael & Myra M. O. Reed, Glenn & Sandra Sato, Faith Sodetani, Celia C. Suzuki, Clyde Suzuki (temple operations), Elton Wada.

| | |
|--|--|
| Tony & Irene Arakaki | 2023 Happy New Year |
| Melvin & Carole Endo | In Memory of Takeo Endo |
| Kay Fukumoto & Amy Watanabe | Funeral Service for Albert Watanabe on December 30, 2022 |
| Kay Hanano | Jodo-e |
| Kay Hanano | In Memory of Yoshie & Kyle Kimizuka & Toshiko Ueoka |
| Natalie & Carl Hashimoto | Christmas |
| Tammy Honjiyo | Christmas |
| Roy & Barbara Huntley | In Memory of Dr. & Mrs. Seiya Ohata |
| Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka & Family | Joya no Kane & New Year's Service |
| Kenneth & Mitsue Kubo Family | In Memory of Kenneth & Mitsue Sato Kubo |
| Spenser Kunishige | In Memory of Uncle Mark Nishijo – 13 th Year Memorial |
| Tyler Kunishige | In Memory of Uncle Mark Nishijo – 13 th Year Memorial |
| Jeff & Carol Loescher | In Memory of the Ono Family |
| Gary & Judith Matoi & Family | 2023 New Year's |
| Allan & Cathy Murayama | 2023 New Year's |
| Norman Nagata | In Memory of Fusao & Gladys Nagata |
| Joyce Nagata Sasaki | In Memory of Fusao & Gladys Nagata |
| Russell Nakano for Hasegawa Clan | In Memory of Harriet Harumi Hasegawa Nakano |
| John & Francine Paxson | In Memory of Masaaki & Misao Nakagawa |
| Jerry & Elsie Sakugawa | In Memory of Naomi Suehisa |
| Erwin Shibata & Aimee Sodetani-Shibata | In Memory of Douglas & Clara Sodetani |
| Jason, Bailey, James, Jordan & Ellie Shibata | In Memory of Douglas & Clara Sodetani |
| Jenna Shibata | In Memory of Douglas & Clara Sodetani |
| Jeremy Shibata | In Memory of Douglas & Clara Sodetani |
| Jonathan & Katherine Shibata | In Memory of Douglas & Clara Sodetani |
| Clyde Suzuki | In Loving Memory of Satoshi & Kiyoko Suzuki |
| Clyde Suzuki | In Memory of Yoshio Higuchi, Frayon Nihei, Tori Nihei, Yukie Nihei |
| Kenneth & June Uyeno | 2023 New Year |
| Betty A. Watanabe | In Memory of Jan Watanabe |
| Kyle & Colette Watanabe | In Memory of Toyoji & Kimi Watanabe |
| Edward & Judith Zwick | In Memory of Scott Hanano |

In Memoriam

We express our heartfelt sympathy to the family of:

Albert Watanabe, 96 years, who passed away on November 24, 2022.

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



February 2023

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

Coming up in March (Tentative Schedule)

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Sunday 5 | 44 th Annual Bazaar |
| Sunday 12 | Fujinkai Meeting, Clean up |
| Sunday 19 | Spring O-Higan & Kaisan Rekijyuki Service |

Hospital and Hale Makua Visitations are scheduled during the month.