

# Mantokuji Newsletter



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**February 2026**

## Dates to Remember

### February 1

Nehan-e & O-juzu Mawashi Service

### March 1

Rummage Sale

### March 8

47<sup>th</sup> Annual Bazaar & Rummage Sale

## REVEREND'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone.

I hope everyone at Mantokuji is healthy and doing well. I apologize for not being able to write my message for the January Mangan. As Mantokuji President, Mr. Eric Moto, reported in his January message, my father passed away on November 16, 2025. I have been back in Japan with my family since November. I am writing this message from Japan now.

I'd like to share my recent situation. On November 10<sup>th</sup>, I received news that my father had been suddenly hospitalized, so I returned to Japan with my wife and daughter the next day. He had liver problems. At the hospital, I was able to talk with him. We spoke about the temple's work and had our usual conversation. Both he and I believed that with a little time, we could return to our normal lives. However, five days later, he passed away peacefully. Since then, every day had been busy preparing for my father's funeral, the 49<sup>th</sup>-day memorial and the interment service. Now, with the new year arriving, things have gradually settled, and my heart has found some peace. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the members who worked diligently to ensure annual events such as the end-of-year cleaning and Ofudayaki service proceeded as usual. I also extend my gratitude to the Bishop's Office and ministers of the Soto Mission of Hawaii, and to Reverend Haga of the Rinzai Mission of Paia, who covered my duties during my absence.

There is one more thing I must tell you. While serving as my father's substitute resident minister for a few months, I came to the realization that managing both Mantokuji and my father's temple in Japan is too difficult for me to do. So, I hope to return to Maui as soon as I receive my new visa. When I return, I will resign from my position as resident minister at Mantokuji. Arriving on Maui in April 2022, I never imagined farewell would come so soon. I am deeply saddened and filled with regret. Having received tremendous support from so many people, I had finally believed I could repay that kindness. That it remains unfulfilled is deeply regrettable.

The Bishop's Office is working to appoint my successor. I sincerely apologize for the continued inconvenience caused by my absence. I'll do whatever I can until the new resident minister is appointed. Even though it will be for a short time, I look forward to returning to Maui and seeing you again soon.

Please stay healthy and safe. 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

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## FUJINKAI NEWS

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

**February 8, 2026 at 8:30am**

**March 14, 2026 at 8:30am** (note this is a **Saturday**)

Thank you to the ladies and gentlemen who came to help with the clean up on Sunday, January 11.

**Bobbie Arita, Kathleen Davis, Kay Hanano, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa and Nora Takeuchi.**

## JOYA NO KANE

*HELD ON DECEMBER 31, 2025*

Sixteen Mantokuji members and friends gathered on December 31, 2025 at 11:00pm to ring the bronze bell after Eric Moto recited the translation of Meisho no Ge. It was a beautiful night as the bell was rung 108 times to cleanse the sangha of problems and worries of 2025. Everyone took home a bowl of traditional soba.

We concluded 2025 with a string of crackling fireworks to ward off all evils and bring good luck in 2026.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha everyone,

On a weekend back in September 2019, Mantokuji had an unexpected and very brief visit from Reverend Masataka Hoshino from the Bishop's office accompanied by a quiet minister from Japan, Reverend Tomoki Hirasawa. Rev. Hirasawa very quickly agreed to return to Maui with his wife Yuki as Mantokuji's new resident minister. After completing his formal Soto Shu ordination process and the US Immigration process, and all while dealing with the challenges and delays of the Covid crisis, the Hirasawa's finally arrived in the spring of 2022.

We have been blessed to have Rev. Hirasawa as our 9<sup>th</sup> resident minister. During these past 3 ½ years, Sensei has experienced the joy of his daughter Ruri's arrival in 2024, along with the pain of loss following the deaths of his grandfather, Reverend Shinyu Hirasawa and then his brother, Daiki Hirasawa, and now his father, Reverend Sogaku Hirasawa. Each time, the Hirasawa's were called back to Japan to be with their family and now the call to stay and take over the duties and responsibilities of his father's Jyushoji temple is too strong. While we were always aware that Sensei's tenure here would be limited by his family and temple obligations back in Japan, we were hoping to have him with us a little longer. We understand the challenges of his circumstances and are helped now by Bishop's ongoing efforts to accommodate our current needs and help with Mantokuji's future.

In the meantime, we continue to work on resolving immigration and travel issues to allow the Hirasawa's to return for their belongings here and to say farewell to Mantokuji. We thank them for their service to Mantokuji and wish them well as they take on their duties at Jyushoji back home in Japan.

Here at Mantokuji, we are grateful for the administrative Board members and temple volunteers that work to carry on Mantokuji's services and events and activities. On February 1 at 10:30 am we will have our Nehan-e and Ojuzu Mawashi Service when we honor Buddha's passing into nirvana and also receive blessings as we chant and pass the beads of our special Ojuzu. We hope you can join us. Take care.

Mahalo,

Eric Moto,

*President, Mantokuji Kyodan*

## NEW YEAR'S BLESSING & OFUDA YAKI SERVICES

HELD ON JANUARY 4, 2026

The Sangha was happy to welcome Reverend Ryokei Ishii to Maui to perform the New Year's Blessing Service on January 4<sup>th</sup>. He was assisted by Rinzaï Zen Mission's Reverend Kodai Haga. This service marked a new beginning for Mantokuji and its Sangha. Everyone was blessed by Reverend Haga and Reverend Ishii 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.



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 THANK YOU to Paul Ueoka for preparing and organizing the burning of the objects.

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## REVEREND ISHII GREETINGS DURING THE NEW YEAR'S BLESSING SERVICE

"HAPPY NEW YEAR!"

明けましておめでとうございます。

*As we enter the new year, let us reflect on life's impermanence and the opportunities each moment brings. The new year is a chance to renew our hearts, deepen our practice, and strengthen our compassion for all beings.*

*May this year bring you peace, wisdom, and the clarity to walk the path of the Buddha. Together, let us cultivate gratitude and spread kindness in all we do.*

*Thank you for your continued dedication to the Dharma and our Paia Mantokuji temple community.*

*I look forward to sharing this journey with you in the year ahead.*

南無帰依佛 *Namu-kiebutsu,*

南無帰依法 *Namu-kieho,*

南無帰依僧 *Namukieso.*

今年もよろしくお願いいいたします。

*Kotoshimo-yoroshiku-onegai-itashimasu.*



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## NEW MEMBERS

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

**Kendric Kimizuka**

**Ann K Takakura**

We are always grateful to have new members. For information about membership, please refer to the Membership Brochure on our website ([www.paiamantokuji.org](http://www.paiamantokuji.org)) or contact the temple.

## KYODAN MEETING REPORT

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

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

- Repair work of the sandbag structure and extension behind the garage has been completed by CMAC.
- The County grant of \$500K paid for most of the work. An additional 20 sandbags were needed to complete the project of which Mantokuji paid \$170K.
- Brennan Tanaka's Eagle Scout project to create a directory and map for the cemetery with area markers in the cemetery has been approved by the Boy Scout leadership and signed off by Mantokuji. Work will be done in the first quarter of 2026.
- Reverend Hirasawa's R-1 VISA extension application has not yet been approved. His VISA expired on January 1, 2026. Upon returning to Maui he will resign to assume responsibility at his father's temple. The Bishop's office is actively recruiting a new minister for Mantokuji.
- 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Bazaar will be held on two days: March 1, 2026 Rummage only (no food) and March 8, 2026 Food and Rummage. Workdays will begin in February: Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays and Saturdays when necessary.
- Nokotsudo Hours continue to remain open on Saturdays and Sundays, 9:00am – 3:00pm only in the absence of a minister.
- Officers for 2026-2028 biennium were elected at the meeting. These are the officers: President Eric Moto, Vice President Bobbie Arita, Secretary Cathy Murayama, Treasurer Brian Moto, Directors Kay Hanano, Diane Orikasa and Isabelle Scholl, and Auditors Judith Matoi and Lois Sato.
- Mantokuji member Thomas Tanaka passed on Friday, January 9, 2026.
- Ikebana class on January 17, 2026.
- New Year's Party on January 25, 2026 at 11:00am.
- Nehan-e and O-juzu Mawashi Services on February 1, 2026 at 10:30am.

**Next Kyodan meeting** will be held on **Sunday, April 12, 2026.**

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



*On December 17<sup>th</sup> the Fujinkai ladies and gentlemen prepared a holiday meal for our older Fujinkai members and distributed the lunches with a poinsettia to them.*



## NEHAN-E & O-JUZU MAWASHI SERVICE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026 AT 10:30AM

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

In our Soto Zen tradition, Nehan-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 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.

## 47<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BAZAAR — SUNDAY, MARCH 1 AND SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026

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

The first day, Sunday, **March 1<sup>st</sup>**, will be a **RUMMAGE SALE only** 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 1<sup>st</sup>**. The second day, **March 8<sup>th</sup>**, 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		Help Needed for Food Prep for Bazaar		
	<b>February</b>		<b>March</b>		
	Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	5:00pm Set up for Rummage Sale	Wed 4	8:30am	Bazaar Prep
	Wed 4 / Fri 6 / Sun 8	8:30am	Thur 5	8:30am	Nishime vegetable prep
	Wed 11		Fri 6	8:30am	Make manju
	Thur 12	8:30am – Chicken prep for nishime		1:00pm	Separate Chow Fun noodles
	Fri 13 / Sun 15 / Wed 18	8:30am	Sat 7	8:30am	Chow Fun prep
	Fri 20 / Sun 22 / Mon 23			4:00am	Breakfast
	Tue 24 / Wed 25 / Fri 26			5:00am	Spam Musubi
	Fri 27	8:30am 5:00pm – Tent set up	Sun 8	6:00am	Mazegohan
Sat 28	8:30am – Set up Rummage			Ohagi	
<b>March</b>				Chow Fun	
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> Rummage Sale	6:00am Breakfast				

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

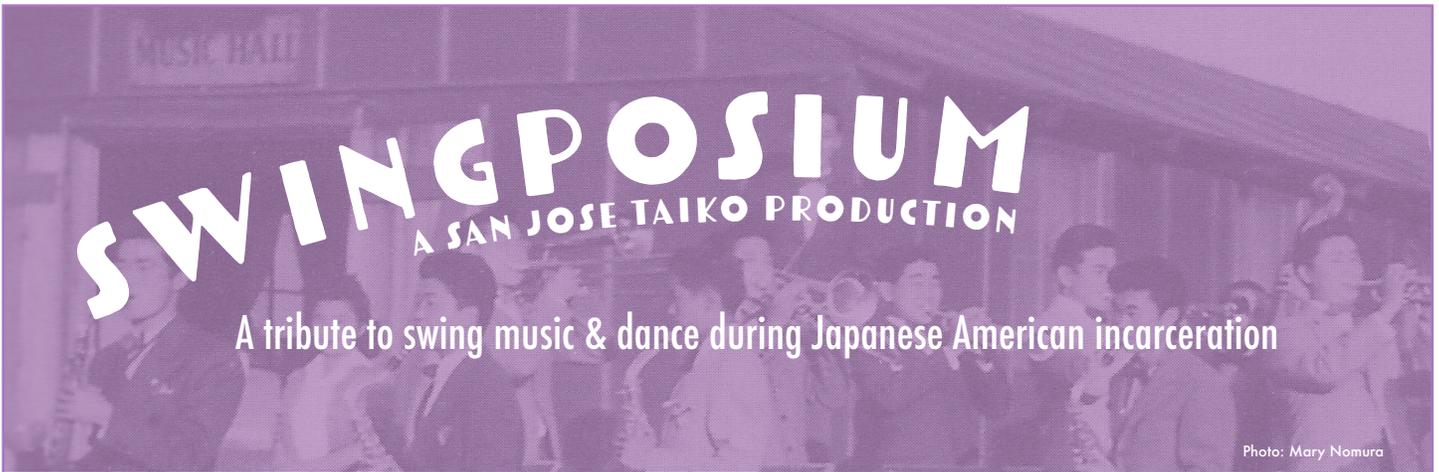


Photo: Mary Nomura



Photo: Mark Larson

Sunday, February 15  
TWO SHOWS - 3:30PM and 7:00PM

Mayor Hannibal Tavares Community Center, Pukalani, Maui

Tickets and more information:



<https://taiko.org/swingposium-maui>



Swingposium: Maui is offered free of charge due to support from the County of Maui Office of Economic Development, Maui Taiko, and generous donors. Space is limited - reserve your spot today!



## SPECIAL THANKS

To **Wayne Omura** for crafting three new mochitsuki mallets for Mantokuji. They are beautiful!

## IN MEMORIAM

We express our heartfelt sympathy to the family of:

**Thomas Tanaka**, 87 years, who passed away on January 9, 2026.

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*



# DONATIONS MADE IN DECEMBER

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

## General Donations

Jim & Laurie Brooks, Roy & Barbara Huntley, Hideo & Joyce Kawahara, Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Jeff & Carol Loescher, Judith Matoi, Sandra L Morioka, Susan S Morohashi, Allan & Cathy Murayama, Melina Murayama & Erick Domingo, Michael Okazaki & Carolann Guy, John & Francine Paxson, Myra M O Reed, Yuki Lei Sugimura, Ira & Marilyn Tagawa.

Melvin & Carole Endo	2026 New Year's donation In Memory of Takeo Endo
Todd & Heidi Hiraoka	In Memory of Clara Sodetani
Ray & Cynthia Ikeda	Happy Holidays!
Donald & Shirley Kimizuka	In Memory of Jonathan Shibata
Marian Merce on behalf of Kubo Family & parents Kenneth & Mitsue (Sato) Kubo	In Memory of Kubo & Sato relatives interred at Mantokuji
Norman Nagata	In Memory of Fusao & Gladys Nagata
Erwin & Aimee Shibata, Jason, Jeremy & Jenna	In Memory of Jonathan Shibata
Erwin & Aimee Shibata, Jason, Jeremy & Jenna	In Memory of Clara & Douglas Sodetani
Mavis M Suda	In Memory of Miyoko & Michael Suda
Roger & Judith Ueoka	In Memory of Norman & Bernice Ueoka
Kyle & Colette Watanabe	In Memory of Toyoji & Kimi Watanabe

## Donations made for Jodo-e Service on December 7, 2025

Janice Abe, Tokuko Abe, Howard & Bobbie Arita, Kay Hanano, Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Allan & Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Mark & Lois Sato, Nora Takeuchi, Neil & Joyce Watanabe.

# RECIPE OF THE MONTH



With Super Bowl LX happening in a few weeks, here's a pupu recipe to add to your repertoire of potluck dishes to share. A delicious Won Ton recipe Lois Sato shared with me many years ago. Always a hit at any potluck!

## Won Ton

*By Cathy*

1½ cups pork hash  
1 tsp. salt  
1 egg  
1 tsp. shoyu  
1 tsp. cornstarch  
7 to 8 shrimp, chopped  
1 can water chestnuts, chopped  
Green onions, chopped  
Dried mushrooms (optional)  
1-2 pkg. won ton wrappers  
Oil for deep frying

Mix all ingredients except won ton wrappers.  
Drop by teaspoonful onto wrapper.  
Moisten edges of wrapper.  
Fold in half to form a triangle.  
Deep-fry until golden brown

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## February 2026

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

### Coming up in March (Tentative Schedule)

- Sunday 1: Rummage Sale
- Sunday 8: 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Bazaar
- Saturday 14: Fujinkai Meeting, Clean up, Bazaar evaluation
- Sunday 15: Spring O-Higan & Kaisan Rekiyuki Service

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

**Nokustudo Hours:**  
**Saturdays and Sundays only, 9:00am-3:00pm**  
*(until further notice)*

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