



July 2023

## Dates to Remember

**Yagura Construction**  
June 25

**Mantokuji O-Bon**  
July 7 (Service) and 8 (Festival)

**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, grow, develop and mitigate erosion if possible.

**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

Hello Everyone.

The Obon season is here! This year, the Bon Festival at Mantokuji Temple will return for the first time in three years. This is the first Obon Festival for me so I am very excited. When I was in Japan, I didn't know that Obon festivals were so popular in Hawaii. I admire the tradition of the Mantokuji community bringing both Buddhist and non-Buddhist together to enjoy the obon festivities. I've learned that it's the wonderful Hawaiian culture we can be proud of.

Obon is said to have its origin in the story of Mokuren (Maudgalyāyana), one of the closest disciples of Buddha. One day Mokuren, who had achieved the psychic power to see everything, found out that his deceased mother was suffering in hell. His mother had fallen into hell because she had cared for her child so much that she had forgotten the mind of giving to others and had become wrapped up in a greedy mind. Mokuren wanted to help her somehow and asked Buddha to teach him how to do so. Buddha told him, "If you give a heartfelt meal to monks who are completing their summer ascetic practices, you will be able to rescue your mother." Mokuren did as he was told and was able to rescue his mother. He was so happy that he freed his mother from hell, he danced with joy! Buddha taught him that it is important to offer generosity not only to his mother but also to all. This story and the ancient Japanese custom of offering to ancestors are combined to form the current Obon Festival tradition where people offer thanks to their parents and ancestors, and make offerings to all spirits.

Obon is the period during which the spirits of ancestors and those who have passed away return home. Chochin lanterns displayed on the Yagura brightly light up so that they do not lose their way to their destination. During Obon, families clean Buddhist altars and graves together, offer flowers, incense, and food, and sincerely welcome the spirits of their returning ancestors. At Mantokuji, you will see families picnicking with their ancestors at their gravesites. Obon is an important event that brings us and people of the world in contact with our loved ones who have passed away.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Obon Festival on July 8. Let's dance with all our hearts!

Tomoki Hirasawa



Memorial Day Service

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

**July 9, 2023 at 8:00am** (cleanup only)  
**August 13, 2023 at 8:30am**

Thank you to the Fujinkai members who gathered on May 21<sup>st</sup> to put together the O-Bon letters and June mangan for mailing:

**Bobbie Arita, Reverend Hirasawa, Yuki Hirasawa, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, and Diane Orikasa.**

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and gentlemen who came to clean the nokotsudo and temple on June 11:

**Kay Hanano, Reverend Hirasawa, Yuki Hirasawa, Chester Kakiuchi, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Diane Orikasa, Lois Sato, and Neil Watanabe.**

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## Kyodan Meeting Report

Held Sunday, June 11, 2023

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

- Sandbag structure will be repaired as the contract has been signed with contractor CMAC Excavation on a time and materials billing
- Flood Adaptation Plan is still with the county. Recommended to start an EMS plan
- Oceanit Foundation Grant In Aid Plan – Mantokuji requested a formalized written plan which shows Mantokuji's participation in project
- Mantokuji will have an Online Auction in August, August 20 – September 2
- Membership, Dues, Fees and Offerings was updated
- Reverend and Yuki Hirasawa's VISA extensions have been approved to January 1, 2026. They both will visit the US Consulate in Japan to get their VISAs
- O-Bon Schedule is as follows:
  - Friday, July 7:
    - 6:00pm Obon Service only – no food sale or dancing
  - Saturday, July 8:
    - 5:30pm. Concession opens
    - 6:00-6:30pm Zenshin Daiko performance
    - 6:30-7:00pm Maui Taiko performance
    - 7:00-7:15pm Blessing Service by Rev. Hirasawa
    - 7:15-9:00pm Bon Dance
- Volunteers are needed to help with various tasks during obon such as parking attendants, cashiers, food prep, and concessions
- Sangha Meeting on Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 9:00am to discuss the future of Mantokuji
- Reverend and Mrs. Hirasawa will travel to Japan on August 5 for 2-3 weeks
- Zazen is scheduled every Sunday at 7:30-8:30am
- Next Ikebana class is scheduled for July 15 at 9:30am

**Next Kyodan meeting** will be on **Sun, September 10, 2023.**

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

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## Special Thanks

To **Wayne Kobayashi** of Printers Inc. for donating printing of meeting invitation.

To **Neil Hanzawa** of Electrical Connection Maui LLC for donating the labor costs to repair the electrical needs at Mantokuji.

## Memorial Day & Eitaikuyo Service on Sunday, May 28, 2023

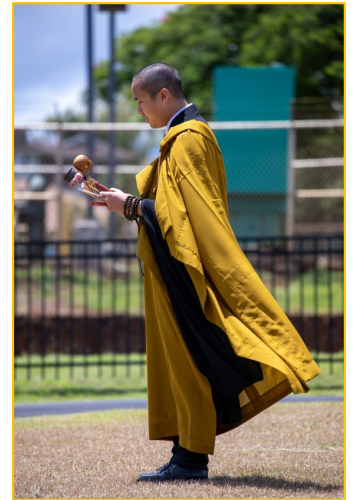
Paia Mantokuji welcomed 15 attendees to their Memorial Day/Eitaikuyo Service on Sunday, May 28, 2023. All the lives of those who passed away in the past and present wars, along with the deceased members who no longer have anyone to remember and pray for them were honored and memorialized at the service.

Reverend Hirasawa shared that he believes it is important that we not only pray for the deceased and victims of war but think of ways we can contribute to the prevention of unnecessary aggression and violence and pursue ways we can promote peace.

He never experienced war, therefore, takes peace for granted. He is happy that he never had to experience war. However, he shared a story that connects him to a past war. He was born and raised in a temple. His father told him that their temple used to have a big bell, about the size as the one we have at Mantokuji. But the bell he knows at his temple in Japan is about the size of the bell in the corner of the temple hall. When he was in Japan, he rang that small bell on New Year's Eve.

So where did the big bell go? His father told him that his grandfather or great grandfather told him that the big bell had been taken away in the war. During World War II, Japan was short of weapons and bullets and collected metal from everywhere. Temples were no exception, and the bells at his temple in Japan were collected by the government and converted into weapons. Bells and Buddhist statues were collected from almost all temples in Japan at that time. The small bells that exist today were bought after the war was over. This story of the bells makes him feel his connection to the past war.

Buddhism is a religion that wishes for peace. It does not favor conflict and prohibits the killing of living beings. However, when temple bells and Buddhist statues are transformed into weapons and used in the battlefield, it means they have indirectly participated in the war. He feels that it would have been impossible for temples to refuse the offerings of bells, given the social conditions at that time, and he feels very sorry about it. Once war has started, it is difficult to stop it. However, he believes Buddhism contains teachings on how to live in peace.



Buddha taught that we exist in this world dependent on each other. No one exists without others. If one exists, others exist. If one becomes extinct, others become extinct. In other words, we are alive because of others. When we forget that and misunderstand that everything is our own possessions, conflicts and struggles arise. Instead, we must think of others as we would think of ourselves or our own families.

For the people who passed away in the past, wishing for a peaceful world, let us pass on to the next generation the peaceful world they have given us. That is the reason we have Memorial Day today.

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## President's Message

Aloha everyone,

So, of course this month's message is about the return of our Obon festivities, but first I need to thank the people who joined us at our planning meeting on June 17. It is good to know that we have the support of some caring individuals who share in our commitment to the future of Mantokuji. We now have a better understanding of how to proceed with ongoing and upcoming projects, always doing what is best for Mantokuji and the sangha.

And now, on to Obon. After a three-year break, we decided to make some changes to our traditional schedule of two nights of Obon services and festivities. Our volunteer crew scaled down to a one-night event of dancing with all your favorite foods for sale on Saturday, July 8 and a single Obon service on Friday, July 7. We look forward to seeing you dancing around the yagura and taking an occasional break to purchase some refreshments. Take care.

Mahalo,

Eric Moto

President, Mantokuji Kyodan



# Announcements

## Hatsubon and O-Bon Service

Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

We will be honoring the Mantokuji members who have passed since last O-Bon. The toba that you requested for family members will also be blessed and names read during the service. The O-Bon service will be live-streamed on Mantokuji's Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Mantokuji/>) at 6:00pm on July 7<sup>th</sup>. It will be available for viewing after July 10, 2023 on Mantokuji's website ([www.paiamantokuji.org](http://www.paiamantokuji.org)).

Michie Tamane – June 25, 2022  
Setsuko Takahashi – Jul. 7, 2022  
Naomi Suehisa – Jul. 19, 2022  
Albert Sadao Watanabe – Nov. 24, 2022

Ethel Otaguro – Jan. 15, 2023  
Takeji Nihei – Jan. 21, 2023  
Hideo Ogata – Feb. 11, 2023

Harry Tanji – Feb. 16, 2023  
Meyer Leigh Ueoka – Feb. 24, 2023  
James Masa Shishido – Apr. 26, 2023  
Jeanne Saito – Apr. 27, 2023

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## Remember Mantokuji's O-Bon Festival on Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>!

Please join us for this joyous event! Come early for the performances and good food! Parking is also available across the street at the Paia Community Center and the Paia Hawaiian Protestant Church.

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- 3:00pm Graveyard Service
  - 5:30pm Food Concession opens
  - 6:00pm Zenshin Daiko performance
  - 6:30pm Maui Taiko performance
  - 7:00pm Reverend Tomoki Hirasawa will perform a short blessing service at the yagura
  - 7:15pm Bon Dance
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## Soba Masters will be back at Mantokuji!

Sunday, July 30, 2023 at 9:00am



The art of making traditional Japanese soba is over 400 years old. Mantokuji will be hosting soba masters from Japan who will demonstrate this art.

You are cordially invited to attend a demonstration by the soba masters from Tokyo, Japan. The masters will demonstrate how traditional Japanese soba is made. They will then cook the soba for all to eat and eat and eat! You will be able to taste the difference from the soba you buy at the market! The cost is \$30 per person.

**The deadline to sign up is July 21.** Please email: [info@paiamantokuji.org](mailto:info@paiamantokuji.org) or call (808) 579-8051 to reserve your space by the deadline.

We hope you will join us for this soba demonstration and eating experience!

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Silent Auction is coming in August!

August 20 – September 2

Bidding for the silent auction will begin on August 20 at 8:00am. The silent auction will close on September 2 at 5:00pm.

Look for more information on the silent auction in the August mangan!



# Donations made in May

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

## General Donations

Karen Bretharte, Sandra Daniells, Clyde & Gail Hamai, Evelyn Hamai, Margaret Nakashima, Rev. Shunko Sakai (Japan), Isabelle Scholl, Aiko Helen Yamashige.

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Lydia Furomoto	In Memory of Meyer Leigh Ueoka
Darren Konno	Sensei's visit to Masako Abe
Nancy Shishido	Funeral Service for James Shishido on May 18, 2023
Les & Linda Takahashi	In Memory of Bryce Takahashi
Isaac & Jane Toyama	In Memory of Kenji Matsumoto – 17 <sup>th</sup> Year Memorial Anniversary
Glenn Umetsu	Blessing

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## Donations received for the Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo Services on May 28, 2023

Tokuko Abe, Yuriko Fukagawa, Kay Hanano, Rebecca Kikumoto, Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Gary & Judith Matoi, Allan & Cathleen Murayama, Melina Murayama & Erick Domingo, Eric Moto, Diane Orikasa (In Memory of J. Sato & Fukuyoshi Family), Nora Takeuchi, Misa Umetsu.

## O-Bon Donations made in May 2023

Sharla Hasegawa, Akime Hiwatashi, Clyde & Jean Kono, Peter & Gail Nakamae, Patrick & Iris Nitta, Jane N. Omura, James & Velma Sugimoto, Michael & Nancy Tanji, Amy Misa Umetsu, Amy Yamamoto, Edward M. Yasui, Patsy H. Yoshimura.

## O-Bon Donations made in Memory of a Loved One in May 2023

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Don & Ronnie Duda	In Honor of Marion Watanabe
Ronald M. Furukawa	In Memory of Takuichi Furukawa, Susumu Furukawa, Cynthia Gray, & Susan Cuffe
Herbert H. Otaguro	In Memory of Ethel Otaguro

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## Toba Requests made in May 2023

Jules Ino, Gary & Judith Matoi, Norman M. Nagata, Jane N. Omura, Herbert H. Otaguro, Watanabe Family, Toshiko Sugiki, Amy Misa Umetsu.

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## In Memoriam

We express our heartfelt sympathy to the families of:

**James Masa Shishido**, 93 years, passed on April 26, 2023,

**Jeanne Saito**, 67 years, passed on April 27, 2023,

**Masako Abe**, 94 years, passed on May 28, 2023.

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.

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## Nokotsudo Hours

The nokotsudo is open daily. Hours are 9:00am – 4:00pm. If you need to come outside of these hours, please call Reverend Hirasawa at (808) 579-8051.

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## July 2023

	Sunday	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday	Saturday
<b>July</b>							1
	2 7:30-8:30am Zazen	3	4	5	6 8:00am Prep food Set up hall	7 8:00am Prep food Set up chochin 5:00pm Set up tents 6:00 pm O-Bon Service	8 3:00pm Graveyard Service 5:30pm Food Concession opens 6:00pm Zenshin Daiko 6:30pm Maui Taiko 7:00pm Blessing 7:15pm O-Bon matsuri
	9 8:00am Dismantle yagura and chochin & Clean up	10	11	12	13	14	15 9:30am Ikebana
	16 7:30-8:30am Zazen	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23 7:30-8:30am Zazen	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30 7:30-8:30am Zazen 9:00am Soba demonstration and tasting	31					

### Coming up in August (Tentative Schedule)

Sunday 13	Clean up, Fujinkai Meeting
Aug 20 – Sep 2	On-line Silent Auction

Hospital and Hale Makua Visitations are  
scheduled during the month.