



July 2024

Dates to Remember

Yagura Construction
June 30

Mantokuji O-Bon
July 12 (Service) and 13 (Festival)

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

Hello Everyone.

The Obon season in Hawaii has started! Many of you may visit various temples each week to enjoy the dances, taiko performances, and specialty foods. Mantokuji's Obon this year will begin on July 12th with a service at 6:00 p.m. Then on the 13th, there will be a graveyard service at 3 p.m., food concessions will open at 5:30 p.m., taiko performances at 6 p.m., and dancing will begin at 7 p.m.

The service performed during Obon is called Daisejiki-e service, which is one of the Buddhist practices of offering food for hungry ghosts who wander through a world called "Gakido (Preta)." By offering food to all the lonely spirits who have no one to welcome them, we learn the heart of sharing which is called Fuse (Dana) in Buddhism. The merit generated by the practice is meant to be given back to our ancestors and dear family members who return during the Obon for their eternal peace. The Daisejiki-e is a very important service for us in which we learn the heart of Fuse and offer our gratitude and compassion to our loved ones.

This year, we are pleased to welcome Rev. Jigaku Takenouchi from Taishoji Temple in Hilo as our guest speaker for the service. He is the successor to Rev. Hata who came to Mantokuji's obon for many years until he returned to Japan. Please join us for Rev. Takenouchi's first obon service at Mantokji.

Obon is made possible by the many volunteer workers. We appreciate any and all help. So, if you have time, please join us to make the Obon Festival at Mantokuji a success. I look forward to seeing you at Mantokuji very soon.

Mahalo.

In gassho.

Tomoki Hirasawa



Blessing by Rev Hirasawa before the "Gravestone Cleaning" project began – March 24, 2024 (See article pages 2&3)

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

July 14, 2024 at 8:00am (cleanup only)
August 11, 2024 at 8:30am

Thank you to the Fujinkai members who gathered on May 19th to put together the O-Bon letters and June mangan for mailing:

Bobbie Arita, Kay Hanano, Reverend Hirasawa, Yuki Hirasawa, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Lois Sato, Isabelle Scholl and Nora Takeuchi.

Memorial Day & Eitaikuyo Service

Sunday, May 26, 2024

Paia Mantokuji welcomed 15 attendees to their Memorial Day/Eitaikuyo Service on Sunday, May 26, 2024. We honored the lives of those who have passed away in past wars in history and present wars of today. Reverend Hirasawa shared that we are here to pray for peace, understanding, and compassion in the world and the end to all this needless fighting. We are also here to remember our loved ones who have passed on and especially those who have no one left to pray for them.

He also believes that 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.

After the service in the temple, we all gathered at the War Memorial outside to honor and pray for the fallen soldiers. Feelings of thankfulness for the life we have today because of their sacrifices filled the air.



Mantokuji's Cemetery Headstones Cleaned and Catalogued

A BIG MAHALO to **Chaysen Hiromasa Tanaka**, son of members Scott and Kim Tanaka, for choosing to clean and catalogue Mantokuji's Cemetery headstones for his Eagle Scout Project. This was a task Reverend Hirasawa and wife Yuki had been working on before Chaysen took on the work through his Eagle Scout Project. He coordinated and led 35 people (scouts, other youth, Boy Scouts of America adult volunteers and family and friends) to assist him with his Eagle Scout Project.



To complete his project of cleaning, documenting and mapping 530 graves, Chaysen met with Mantokuji leaders, planned the execution of the project, solicited donation of materials, and made sure that all volunteers were safe while working on cleaning the gravestones. Another important aspect of the project



Chaysen included was a blessing by Reverend Hirasawa before the project began. He worked closely with the temple to be sure all work was done with reverence and respect.

(to be continued next page)

Mantokuji's Cemetery Headstones Cleaned and Catalogued (Cont')

He gave explicit directions on how to clean the old headstones carvings without damaging them, went over safety precautions when adults applied cleaning products, and reminded volunteers to take breaks as needed before the volunteers began the hard work. Throughout the two days working on the project, Chaysen worked alongside the volunteers to ensure the work being asked of them was acceptable and appropriate and encouraged all the volunteers throughout the entire project.

Chaysen also coordinated the lunch break meals and made sure the area was cleaned and tables and chairs were returned.

CONGRATULATIONS Chaysen for achieving your goal . . . rank of Eagle Scout! Chaysen demonstrated leadership skills and learned lessons in project management and taking responsibility. And thank you for helping Mantokuji with a much needed project.

President's Message

Aloha everyone,

O-bon has always been the big event of the year on Mantokuji's calendar and the main event for July, but this year we have something even more special. We will be welcoming the arrival of little baby Hirasawa, a precious new addition to Rev. and Okusan's family, and our Mantokuji sangha. Please excuse Yuki-san from the lively O-bon crowd as she and the baby will be resting inside. Let's hope baby can rest through the music and drumming.



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As for Rev. Hirasawa and the rest of us, we are eager to see you all at the O-bon Service on Friday, July 12 at 6:00pm and then on Saturday evening for fun, food, and Bon-odori. If you can lend a hand any time during preparation and clean-up your help will be greatly appreciated. Take care.

Mahalo,

Eric Moto
President, Mantokuji Kyodan

Announcements

State Fujinkai, UHSSWA, Panda Express Fundraiser

Friday, June 21, 2024

Our state Fujinkai, UHSSWA, to foster and preserve the better understanding of Soto Zen Buddhism and cultural development, is having a Panda Express fundraiser. It will be on **Friday, June 21**. Please share this information with your friends and family anywhere there is a Panda Express, nationwide. All orders will be **ONLINE ONLY** and apply code **923856** in the Fundraiser Code box during online checkout. See flyer on the left. Thank you very much for your support!

Important Reminders for the Upcoming O-Bon Activities



❖ **Bon Dance Practice at Mantokuji**

Sunday, June 23 and Saturday, June 29 at 1:30pm – Come and learn the new dance for 2024 and practice the old ones. Thank you Sensei Shannon Loo!

❖ **Toba, Memorial Ribbon and Tanagyo Requests**

Please send in requests by **June 25th**.

❖ **Yagura Construction and General Clean-up Day**

Sunday, June 30 at 8:00am – We would appreciate your KOKUA!

❖ **Volunteers for O-Bon Preparation Needed**

The work schedule is as follows: **Thursday, July 11 at 8:00am** (food prep, set up hall), **Friday, July 12 at 8:00am** (food prep, set up chochin outside, in the temple and nokotsudo), **Saturday, July 13 at 8:00am** (food prep, set up concession area) and **Sunday, July 14 at 8:00am** (dismantle yagura & chochin & cleanup).

❖ **Mantokuji's O-Bon Service on Friday, July 12th at 6:00pm**

This is the Hatsubon (first O-Bon) service for those who have passed away since last O-Bon. We will be honoring **Masako Abe, Clint Gima, Baron Ueoka, Stella Kimura, Thomas Umetsu, Ty Shimabuku and June Sachie Toyota** at this O-Bon Service. The toba memorial dedications and the merit dedications to the deceased will also be done at the O-Bon Service. Everyone is welcome to attend the O-Bon Service. Reverend Jigaku Takenouchi of Hilo Taishoji will be our guest minister and assisting Reverend Hirasawa.

❖ **Mantokuji's O-Bon Festival on Saturday, July 13th**

Here's the schedule:

3:00pm	Graveyard Service
5:30pm	Food Concession opens
6:00pm	Performance by Zenshin Daiko
6:30pm	Performance by Maui Taiko
7:00pm	Blessing Service by Reverend Hirasawa Bon Dance



CORRECTION TO MAUI BUDDHIST COUNCIL'S AD IN THE MAUI NEWS ON SAT, JUNE 1, 2024

Please note that there will be no taiko performance, food concession or dancing on Friday, July 12 after the O-Bon Service. The taiko performances will be on Saturday, July 13 beginning at 6:00pm followed by a blessing and the Bon Dance at 7:00pm.

❖ **Dismantling the yagura and cleanup will be on July 14th at 8:00am**

Your help will be much appreciated.

Mantokuji's Annual Online Silent Auction is coming in August!

August 18 – August 31

Bidding for the silent auction will begin on August 18 at 8:00am. The silent auction will close on Saturday, August 31 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

Mark Beauchamp Building Contractor, David Koizumi, Norman Nagata, David & Michiko Watanabe.

Darren Konno	1 Year Memorial Service for Masako Abe
June Konno	1 Year Memorial Service for Masako Abe
Minoru & Betty Uehara	Parking on June 15, 2024
Paul & Gwen Ueoka	Cost to redo yagura posts
Albert & Glenda Ujiie & Family	In Memory of Baron Ueoka on his birthday, May 24

Donations received for the Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo Services on May 26, 2024

Howard & Bobbie Arita, Kay Hanano, Rebecca Kikumoto, Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Gary & Judith Matoi, Brian Moto (In Memory of Veterans Kaoru, Buster & Mitsugi Moto), Eric Moto, Allan & Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Mark & Lois Sato, Neil & Joyce Watanabe.

O-Bon Donations made in May 2024

Jules Ino, Wayne & Evelyn Kajiwara, Peter & Gail Nakamae, Howard Sakata, Faith & Garth Sodetani, Velma Sugimoto, Daniel & Jane Takahashi, Yoshiko Takamura, Edward M Yasui, Patsy Yoshimura.

O-Bon Donations made in Memory of a Loved One in May 2024

Sharon Shimabukuro	In Memory of Hatsumi Hayashi
Allen K Watanabe	In Memory of Kazuo Oishi Family

Toba Requests made in May 2024

Norman Nagata, Faith & Garth Sodetani, Jules Ino, Watanabe Family.

Memorial Ribbon Requests made in May 2024

Norman Nagata, Warren & Helen Orikasa, Faith & Garth Sodetani, Daniel Takahashi, Watanabe Family.

Special Thanks

*Thank you,
Sue Hiraga,
for repairing and
painting
the cranes in
Mantokuji's
Japanese
garden.
They look lovely!*



To **Paul & Gwen Ueoka** for financing the rebuilding of the yagura posts, painting the new posts and fixing the floor boards of the yagura.

To **Paul Ueoka, Jeff Ueoka, Travis Ueoka, Kevin Kimizuka, Erick Domingo, Ross Matoi** and **Jon Hanano** for helping with setting up the yagura at Paul's residence to be sure the posts fitted right and returning the next day to dismantle the structure.

PAIA MANTOKUJI SOTO MISSION
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July 2024

	Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5	6
July	7 7:30am - 8:30am Zazen 9:30am Keiki Dharma	8	9	10	11 8:00am Prep food Set up hall	12 8:00am Prep food Set up chochin 5:00pm Set up tents 6:00 pm O-Bon Service	13 8:00am Food prep, set up concession areas 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
	14 8:00am Dismantle yagura and chochin & Clean up	15	16	17	18	19	20 9:30am-11:30am Ikebana
	21 7:30am - 8:30am Zazen 8:30am Clean up, O-Bon committee meeting & evaluation	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28 7:30am - 8:30am Zazen	29	30	31			

Coming up in August (Tentative Schedule)

Sunday 11	Clean up, Fujinkai Meeting
Aug 18 – 31	On-line Silent Auction

Hospital and Hale Makua Visitations are
scheduled during the month.