

Mantokuji Newsletter



July 2026

Dates to Remember

June 28

Yagura Construction

Mantokuji O-Bon

July 10 (service) & **July 11** (Festival)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha, everyone.

Well, if it's July, it can only mean one thing.....O-Bon! You know the routine, prepping and setting up at the start of the month, then gathering together to remember and honor our deceased family and friends at our O-Bon service on Friday, July 10 at 6:00 pm. The next evening, Saturday, July 11, we celebrate their lives with music, dance, and food. Don't forget the work of dismantling and cleaning up when all the festivities are done. And all through the month, families will visit gravesites and niches to bring offerings of flowers and food with lighted incense and hands in reverent gassho. The work of preparing is well on its way, with lots of work to go around to all of your much appreciated helping hands.

We have good news to report with recent greetings from Reverend Jiten Kurosawa, our next resident minister. While the Bishop's office is still working through the immigration process with the US Customs department and the Soto Shu head office, Shumuchō, in Japan, we do anticipate Rev. Kurosawa's arrival in the spring of 2027. Rev. Kurosawa and his wife are looking forward to serving the Mantokuji sangha and they hope to make a brief visit to Paia while in Hawaii this November for the HSMA Fall Meeting at Kauai Soto Zen Temple Zenshuji.

Many of you have been reading or hearing about Mantokuji's efforts to make plans for work on Mantokuji Bay and our shoreline to mitigate the erosion, along with the challenges we face. Thank you for inquiring about our efforts and for your words of encouragement and support. Your Board officers and delegates, along with our team of dedicated consultants continue to do our best for the welfare of the temple and the surrounding Paia community.

So, lots to do this month. We are energized by your kind support and we truly appreciate your generous O-Bon donations. Take care.

Mahalo,

Eric Moto
President, Mantokuji Kyodan

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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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Facebook: www.facebook.com/Mantokuji/

Mangan Team

Bobbie, Cathy & Isabelle

FUJINKAI NEWS

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

July 12, 2026 at 8:30am (dismantle yagura & clean-up only)
August 9, 2026 at 8:30am

Thank you to the Fujinkai and Kyodan members who gathered on May 17th to clean the nokotsudo and put together the O-Bon letters and June mangan for mailing:

Kathleen Davis, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Cathy Murayama, Lois Sato, Isabelle Scholl, and Nora Takeuchi.

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and gentlemen who came to help clean the temple on May 23rd and prepare for the Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo Service lunch

Kay Hanano, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Lois Sato, Isabelle Scholl and Nora Takeuchi.

MEMORIAL DAY & EITAIKUYO SERVICE

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026

The Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo Service welcomed 14 attendees on May 25th. Reverend Hoshino shared the connection between Memorial Day and the Obon season as we honor the fallen soldiers and our ancestors in his sermon. He also shared how taking to heart the poem, The Golden Chain of Love, written by Dorothy Hunt can lead to a peaceful world. His sermon is included below.



"Good morning, everyone. Thank you for coming to today's Memorial Day Service.

Do people say "Happy Memorial Day"? It is a holiday but not exactly a happy event. Memorial Day is a day to honor and remember those who lost their lives in military service.

But personally, I am happy to welcome this season — my favorite surf season. For really good surfers, winter in Hawaii is the best season, but for local surfers like me, summer is a wonderful time: warm water, longer days, and consistent waves.

Personally, Memorial Day means the beginning of surfing season, which I was looking forward to during the long winter days. But, welcoming this season means that Obon season is just around the corner — the busiest season for Japanese temples in Hawaii.

Actually, some people, especially Oahu people think that Memorial Day is the beginning of Obon season. Oahu's first Obon event usually starts in early June, and we also have the large lantern floating ceremony at Ala Moana Beach Park on Memorial Day. Because of that, many people naturally connect Memorial Day and Obon as part of the same event.

I don't blame their misunderstandings. Memorial Day and Obon are not exactly the same, but they are quite similar in some ways. They are the day and time to respect your loved ones and ancestors. We can spiritually connect to many people.

Around this time of year, I always remember one of Betsuin members, Beatrice Yoshimoto. You might know her. She was a Betsuin longtime active member and her name is in this green Sutra book. She passed away in May. She was an excellent music teacher. Unfortunately, I have no musical talent, so I couldn't learn much about music from her—that's such a shame. However, without realizing it, I was practicing one of her teachings.

One day, I was cleaning the Nokotsudo, cutting old flowers before throwing them away. A member saw me and said, "Hey Reverend, you're good—you cut the flowers before throwing them away." I was surprised to be praised for something I was doing unconsciously. Then I remembered—this was Beatrice's teaching. She used to come every week to take care of the flowers, and one day she told me, "Sensei, you should cut the flowers before throwing them away. It saves space." Since then, it has become my habit.

Even though I wasn't aware of it, she is still living in my heart — continuing to influence my actions. And if the members follow this action, her influence will be bigger. And I believe that these small actions can form a chain that makes the world a more peaceful place.

To be continued next page.

MEMORIAL DAY & EITAIKUYO SERVICE (CONT')

This idea of chain was the theme at the last UHSSWA conference:

"Buddhas Golden Chain of Love: Creating a Peaceful World." At the conference, we studied the "Golden Chain of Love." I knew this song was in the sutra book, but I don't recite it very often. I usually recite the Mettabhavana at the memorial service. I knew it was a good verse, but I had never really focused on it deeply. I also learned that this song was originally written for children.

Over the past hundred years, this song has been passed down and inspired not only children, but adults as well, encouraging us to live with kindness and to recognize the interdependence of all things, and our responsibility to care for one another. Because it was written for children, the words are simple and clear. But perhaps because of that simplicity, its meaning speaks to us more directly.

One line especially hit my heart: "I will try to think pure and beautiful thoughts, to say pure and beautiful words, and to do pure and beautiful deeds." There are three steps—thought, speech, and action—and they are connected like a chain: our inner thoughts become words, and our words become actions. These are beautiful steps and there are similar three steps in Zazen as well.

In Zen, posture, breathing, and mind, these are three stages. We begin with posture—something we can control. Good, straightened posture bring about good breathing and eventually leads to settling our mind. But if everything is connected like a chain, perhaps the order is not so important. Sometimes, working on the mind improves posture and breathing as well. When you feel your mind is settled more than usual, that mental condition chains to the better breathing and leads to the calmer mind condition. These are not just three steps; it is an endless chain.

Let's go back to the Gloden chain. You don't need to start with thought.

For me, the most difficult part is the thought: To think pure and beautiful thoughts are my goal. What if we start with action, which you can control first? Good deeds may lead to better thoughts, and better thoughts lead to better speech.

But sometimes, there is an occasion that I don't know what I should do as a minister. At that time, I always remember one minister and think what he would do when he was in this situation. That minister is not Rev. Hirasawa. He is Rev. Hata. I was impressed with him at Hilo Taishoji's anniversary. From that time, he has been my mentor.

When the family is still staying late in the social hall after a service or when I receive a late-night call requesting a bedside service, my thoughts always say no, but at the same time I remember Rev. Hata and try to act as he would. Then, somehow, the words "Yes, of course" come out of my mouth. When the family says, "Thank you," to my actions, my thoughts also become pure and beautiful.

Deeds, speech and thoughts are connected with each other, and this is an endless chain. As the chain of connections grows larger, the world becomes a better place. Sometimes through unconscious actions, and sometimes even through actions we take reluctantly, good deeds influence others, and little by little the circle continues to grow.

It is Memorial Day, as we enter this season of remembering our ancestors, let us not only remember them, but also remember their actions—and follow them. It does not have to be someone who has passed away. It may even be someone who is still living. Even the small actions become part of a greater chain.

And that chain, quietly and steadily, can help create a more peaceful world.

I hope you have a meaningful Memorial Day and Bon season."

After listening to Reverend Hoshino's sermon, we all gathered at the War Memorial outside to pay tribute and offer prayers



for those who lost their lives in service. A sense of gratitude for our present lives, made possible by their sacrifices, filled the air.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR THE UPCOMING O-BON ACTIVITIES

✧ Toba and Memorial Ribbon Requests

Please send in requests by June 23rd.

✧ Yagura Construction and General Clean-up Day

Sunday, June 28 at 8:00am –

We would appreciate your KOKUA!

✧ Volunteers for O-Bon Preparation Needed

The work schedule is as follows:

- * **Tuesday & Wednesday, July 7 & 8 at 8:30am:** general preparations,
- * **Thursday, July 9 at 8:00am:** food prep for nishime & chow fun, set up hall,
- * **Friday, July 10 at 8:00am:** food prep, set up chochin outside, in the temple and nokotsudo, set up tents,
- * **Saturday, July 11 at 8:00am:** food prep, set up concession area,
- * **Sunday, July 12 at 8:00am:** dismantle yagura & chochin & clean up.

✧ Mantokuji's O-Bon Service on Friday, July 10 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 **Jonathan Fumio Alike Shibata, June Uyeno, Teruo Charles Tomita, Thomas Tanaka, Yukie Ueoka, Tokuko Abe, Smoosh Murayama,** and **Carol Haruko Lau** 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.

✧ Mantokuji's O-Bon Festival on Saturday, July 11

Additional parking is available at the Paia Community Center and the Paia Hawaiian Protestant Church, both across the street. Please cross Hana Highway where the police are located for safety. Here's the schedule:

- * **3:00pm:** Graveyard Service
- * **5:30pm:** Food Concession opens
- * **6:00pm:** Zenshin Daiko performance
- * **6:30pm:** Maui Taiko performance
- * **7:00pm:** Reverend Ryokei Ishii will perform a short blessing service at the yagura
- * **7:15pm:** Bon Dance

✧ Dismantling the yagura and clean-up on July 12 at 8:00am

Your help will be much appreciated.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

STATE FUJINKAI, UHSSWA, PANDA EXPRESS FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2026

Our state Fujinkai, UHSSWA, is having a Panda Express fundraiser to foster and preserve the better understanding of Soto Zen Buddhism and cultural development. It will be on **Friday, June 26**. Please share this information with your family and friends anywhere there is a Panda Express, nationwide. All orders will be ONLINE ONLY and apply code **905731** in the Fundraiser Code box during online checkout. Thank you for your support! Spread the word!!

FUNDRAISER FOR
UHSSWA

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When
Friday, June 26, 2026

Where
Available at Panda Express
locations nationwide
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Online orders only
Apply code **905731** in the
Fundraiser Code box during
online checkout at
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or via App

28% of sales will be donated to: UHSSWA

To foster and preserve the better understanding of Soto Zen Buddhism and cultural development.

CEMETERY MAP AND DIRECTORY

A big **MAHALO** to Eagle Scout candidate **Brennan Tanaka** for undertaking the project of creating and installing plot markers, having the cemetery map and directory engraved on laminate and affixing the map and directory on the columbarium wall for easy access.

How to use the directory and map:

1. Locate your ancestor(s) name on the directory (alpha order by last name)
2. Identify the Plot Number and Grave Number for your ancestor(s)
3. Use the map to locate your ancestor's grave

Many, many **THANKS** to Lloyd Sodekani for funding Brennan's Eagle Scout Project. The cemetery map and directory will allow the community to more easily locate their graves.

MAHALO also to former ministers Reverend Kenji Oyama and Reverend Tomoki Hirasawa who walked the cemetery to catalogue each grave.

This monumental task was finally realized by the efforts of many, **THANK YOU!**

An explanation with graphics of how to use the map and directory will be in the August/September mangan.



NEW MANTOKUJI T-SHIRT

A big **THANK YOU** to Jennifer Matsumoto of Matsumoto Studios for designing the new Mantokuji t-shirt which will be available for sale at O-Bon. The shirt will be available in a variety of colors and sizes for adults and youths. Cost of the new t-shirt is \$18/adult and \$15/youth. We do have inventory of the first Mantokuji t-shirt in limited sizes and colors for \$12.



Back

Front

RECIPE OF THE MONTH



Planning a backyard BBQ or going to a potluck dinner? This **7-Up Gelatin Mold** would be a refreshing addition for dessert. Especially since there is always room for jello! We always enjoy this dessert when Judith Matoi brings it to the temple.

7-UP GELATIN MOLD

By JUDITH MATOI

Cream together and set aside.

- 1 8 oz pkg cream cheese
- 1 c sugar

Mix together and let stand a few minutes.

- 4 envelopes unflavored gelatin
- 1 c juice from fruits (if not enough add water) – uses liquid from lychee

Then add 1 ¼ c boiling water.

Stir until gelatin is dissolved.

Add to the cream cheese mixture slowly while stirring.

Stir until smooth.

Add:

- 1 can 7up, refrigerated
- 2-3 Tbl lemon juice (squeeze of ½ juicy lemon)
- 2 cans mandarin orange
- 1 can lychee, cut up

Mix well and pour into a 10 c ring mold or in a 9"x13" pan.

Refrigerate.

Variations on fruits:

- 1 large can peaches, sliced
- 1 large can fruit cocktail
- 1 large can pears

IN MEMORIAM



We express our heartfelt sympathy to the family of:

Carol Haruko Ueoka Lau, 96 years old, passed on May 21, 2026.

We pray for her and give our love and support to her family in this time of great loss.

Namu Kie Butsu, Namu Kie Ho, Namu Kie So

DONATIONS MADE IN MAY

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

General Donations

Janice Asakura, Jules Ino

DONATIONS MADE IN MAY (CONT')

Abe Family	49 Day Memorial Service for Tokuko Abe
Janice Abe & James Char	In Memory of Tadashi & Tokuko Abe
Faith Kasahara	In Memory of Ross Tamayose – 7th Year Memorial Anniversary
Judith Matoi	In Memory of Tokuko Abe
Allan & Cathy Murayama	In Memory of Tokuko Abe
Erwin, Aimee, Jason, Jeremy & Jenna Shibata	In Memory of Jonathan FA Shibata
Celia C Suzuki	In Memory of Akio Hanano
Nora Takeuchi	In Memory of Tokuko Abe
Nora Takeuchi	In Memory of Kimie Fukuyoshi
Albert & Glenda Ujiie	Jodo-e donation
Albert & Glenda Ujiie	In Special Memories of Baron Ueoka on his birthday – May 24th
Amy Misa & Glenn Umetsu	In Memory of Tatsuo Umetsu
Arlene S Yamamoto	In Memory of Tokuko Abe
Henry & Betty Yamashiro	In Memory of Yukie Ueoka

Donations received for the Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo Services on May 24, 2026

Kay H Hanano, Rebecca Kikumoto, Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Allan & Cathy Murayama, Lois Sato, Nora Takeuchi.

O-Bon Donations made in May 2026

Cynthia Chin, Richard & Yoshiko Fukumura, Alvin & Marth Fukunaga, Mikiko Gushi, Arnold Imae, Faith Ito, Alvin T Iwamoto, Wayne & Evelyn Kajiwarra, Faith Kasahara, Peter & Gail Nakamae, Jane N Omura, Ronald M Ouchi, Howard Sakata, Colleen Sakuma, Allan T Shishido, Faith Sodemani, Toshiko Sugiki, Velma Sugimoto, Leslie & Sandra Tamasaka, Patsy H Yoshimura, James & Marian Yoshioka.

O-Bon Donations made in Memory of a Loved One in May 2026

Don & Ronnie Duda	In Honor of Marion Watanabe
Marjorie Higa	In Memory of Teruo Charles Tomita – Hatusbon
Ted & Margaret Hori	In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Kunihei Nakamori
Thomas Ito	In Memory of Haru Watanabe Ito
Kenneth & Dorothy Sorayama	In Memory of Kanichi & Fushijo Sorayama & In Honor of the Sorayama niche
Kenneth S Uyeno	In Memory of June T Uyeno, Yukie Ueoka & Jonathan Shibata - Hatusbon

Toba Requests made in May 2026

Laurie Brooks, Charlotte Hee & Janice Kainuma, Marjorie Higa, Jules Ino, Faith Ito, Wayne & Evelyn Kajiwarra, Faith Kasahara, Cathy Murayama, Debra Nakama, Jane N Omura, Faith Sodemani, Garth & Nina Sodemani, Toshiko Sugiki, Kenneth S Uyeno.

Memorial Ribbon Requests made in May 2026

Laurie Brooks, Cynthia Chin, Claire Ching, Marjorie Higa, Faith Ito, Cathy Murayama, Debra Nakama, Jane N Omura, Faith Sodemani, Garth & Nina Sodemani, Toshiko Sugiki, Kenneth S Uyeno.

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P.O. Box 790207
Paia, HI 96779

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July 2026

SUNDAY	MON.	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 8:30am Clean-up	6	7 8:30am General prep	8 8:30am General prep	9 8:30am General prep	10 8:00am Food prep, Set up chochin Set up tents 6:00 pm O-Bon Service	11 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 & O-Bon matsuri
12 8:00am Dismantle yagura & chochin, Clean up	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 8:30am Clean up, O-Bon committee meeting & evaluation	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Coming up in August & September (Tentative Schedule)

Aug Sunday 9: Clean-up, Fujinkai

Sep 13: Clean-up, Fujinkai & Kyodan Meetings for members

Sep 20: Autumn O-Higan and Ryosoki Service

Nokustudo Hours:

The nokotsudo will continue to be open on Saturdays and Sundays until further notice, 9:00am – 3:00pm except Tue. 7 - Fri 10 open 9:00am-3:00pm

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