



June 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

Aloha.

The weather is getting a little hotter, with less rain, and the days are getting longer, making it feel more like summer.

Today I would like to share a story about a wedding that took place at Mantokuji last month, another first for me. This was the first wedding I had officiated as a minister. In Japan, weddings are usually held in Christian style at chapels, or in Shinto style at shrines. For many people, temples are places for funerals and memorial services, and only monks hold their weddings at temples. For many Japanese, marriage and religion are not linked, and the form of the wedding ceremony is determined by a preference for costume and atmosphere. So, it was a great opportunity for me to be asked by a Mantokuji member to perform a wedding ceremony.

On the day of the wedding, many people gathered at the temple to witness the exchange of vows and to wish the couple happiness, while receiving happiness from the couple themselves. The wedding ceremony is, of course, for the bride and groom, but their happiness must have filled the hearts of all who attended. I felt that happiness which was meant to be shared.

During the ceremony, I told the bride and groom, "Say 'I love you' every day." After the ceremony, an attendee who was listening teased me, "Do you say I love you to Okusan every day?" Honestly, I don't say it every day because it has been seven years since we got married! But please forgive me because I do think about it in my heart every moment. I am sure that the participants of the ceremony and at the wedding felt grateful for their partners, and I, myself, was very happy. I pray for the couple's everlasting happiness.

As summer approaches, so does O-Bon season. Mantokuji's O-Bon will be held on July 13 and there is a lot to prepare. Food prep, yagura and booth construction, hanging of lights and chochins and cleaning the temple, the grounds and cemetery. Please see the O-Bon article on page 4 and contact me if you have any questions about the O-Bon service on July 12, tobas, memorial ribbon, tanagyo and how you can help. We appreciate your help and thank you in advance for your continued support of Mantokuji.

Mahalo,

*Tomoki Hirasawa*



## Special O-Bon

### Enclosed in this Issue

Toba Request Forms

**Maui Buddhist Temples  
O-Bon Schedule is out!**

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

**June 9 2024 at 8:30am**

**July 14 2024 at 8:30am** (clean up only)

## 57<sup>th</sup> UHSSWA Conference

April 27-28 2024, hosted by Hilo Taishoji Soto Mission

Hilo Taishoji Soto Mission welcomed 85 participants from Aiea, Molokai, Wahiawa, Waipahu, Maui and Betsuin to join 20 of them for the 57<sup>th</sup> UHSSWA Conference. The conference theme was Hashu Kyoko, "Reach out and Live in Harmony with Others," a theme that couldn't be more appropriate at this time in our lives.



On Saturday morning, we gathered at the Taishoji social hall for a delicious continental breakfast of homemade biscuits, tamago yaki and kakuma which some of the early birds from Maui missed. After breakfast everyone went upstairs to the temple for the opening service officiated by Bishop Komagata. Following the opening service there was a memorial service to memorialize the members who had passed since the last conference. We remembered and prayed for Mrs. Sachie Toyota at this service.

After the traditional group picture on the steps of Taishoji to archive our annual gathering the group returned to the social hall for the General Membership Meeting where a lot was accomplished. Amendments and updates to the By-laws and

Guidelines, not addressed since 2006 and 2019 respectively, were proposed, discussed and adopted. To avoid having to change bank accounts and legal documents with a name change since men are now members of the organization, United Hawaii Soto Shu Women's Association was kept with dba UHSSWA added, so we are now UHSSWA. A Panda Express fundraiser was approved and will be done quarterly, the first to be held next month. New officers were voted in.

After lunch, each unit had set up their tables of craft and food items to be sold at the Country Store, a fundraiser for UHSSWA. There were various craft items and baked goods from the various units, mac nuts and avocados from Kona and the popular kakuma from Taishoji. Maui offered zen rocks, pipinola sanbaizuke, okoshi, bucket hats, scissors holders, bell tower note cards and crab spider catchers. All proceeds went to UHSSWA.



At the Saturday evening banquet at Nani Mau Gardens, after the usual introductions and speeches, we were entertained by Taishoji Taiko who put on a spectacular performance. Hopefully these dedicated taiko players will continue playing in college and/or professionally. Then the dance instructors put on their hapi coats, got everyone able to off their chairs and led the group to Tanko Bushi, Zumpa Ondo, a new dance for Maui which may be added to their O-Bon dance list, and Beautiful Sunday. The program closed with the candlelight ceremony where we stood shoulder to shoulder as each candle was lit and we renewed our pledge to keep our association a steppingstone to the Buddha's way, to help and serve all beings. The gala event ended with everyone dancing Heiwa Ondo.

Sunday breakfast was on your own so the Maui group went to Hawaiian Style Café which lived up to its name. The portions were so large several of us shared one order and the pancakes were a side but came in twos and hung over the sides of the large plate and was light and delicious according to food critic Kay who was told, "Yes it was made with a box mix and not from scratch!"

We returned to the hotel for the final service, the dharma session and closing. After the Morning Service, special recognition of the Jizoku and Installation of Officers, the Dharma Session centered on the theme "Reach Out and Live in Harmony with Others" began. The guest speaker was Reverend Paul Ananda Normann. Reverend Normann is the Executive Director of the local non-profit Neighborhood Place of Puna and serves as the minister for Ananda Hawaii, a small group of Buddhist practitioners rooted in the vision of the Pureland and working to bring about an enlightened world. He leads his organization with passion and works tirelessly to prevent and end family and child homelessness.



## 57<sup>th</sup> UHSSWA Conference (Cont')



Each table was tasked to discuss ways to Hashu Kyoko, Reach out and live in harmony with others. Sharing ideas was the first step, then follow through with action. Hilo has already begun their journey by joining the Interfaith Communities in Action (ICIA), a coalition of various religious denominations working towards the goal of ending homelessness on Hawaii Island. The dharma session gave everyone food for thought for each unit to find their own path to Hashu Kyoko.

Thank you to Hilo Taishoji for their hard work to make the 57<sup>th</sup> UHSSWA conference such a success. Having the in-person conference for the second year where we could renew old friendships and make new ones, pray together, share memories and updates during the breaks and learn about activities of other temples by exchanging items at the country store was a valuable experience for all. And thankfully, the kakuma supply was not limited by travel constraints! Their theme highlighted by the dharma session was meaningful and heartfelt. It was a great weekend. We are looking forward to the 58<sup>th</sup> UHSSWA Conference in Aiea next year.

And just an aha moment, it didn't have to be on Oahu or in Japan for Maui people to find places to buy things and spend their money!!! Even the men found some very nice things.

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## Oceanit's Climate Change Toolkit Project Graduation Event

May 11 2024

A special "graduation" event was held at Mantokuji on Saturday, May 11 for the five student interns who just completed their six months of work for the Oceanit Research Foundation's Climate Change Toolkit project. The interns were accompanied by some of their family members, along with Mantokuji Board members and representatives from Oceanit and the Oceanit Research Foundation (in-person and online).

The morning event began with a silent meditative walk along the shoreline, followed by a brief blessing ceremony by Rev. Hirasawa. After everyone introduced themselves, Coastal engineer and Mantokuji consultant Mike Foley began a video presentation and spoke about the Toolkit project's purpose, goals and methodologies. Student interns Peyton Tokishi, Llyw MacMillan, Dyther Bugtong, Samuel Dameg, and Noah Munz took turns speaking about their work gathering and analyzing sand and water samples, documenting plant and animal life, and mapping ocean currents and topography.



Their presentations concluded with a moving video of the students speaking about their personal experiences, the special place Mantokuji has in our community, and the importance of their / our efforts to address the challenges of coastal erosion.

Each student intern, now conservation ambassador, was presented with a certificate of completion along with a lei and gift bag. The event ended with a lunch prepared by Mantokuji. Look for Mike Foley and some Oceanit representatives during our O-Bon at a table sharing information about the Climate Change Toolkit.

## Congratulations Reverend and Okusan!

Mantokuji's Fujinkai celebrated the upcoming birth of the Hirasawa's baby girl with a baby shower! This was a new experience for the Hirasawas as baby showers are not a common occurrence in Japan. Baby Hirasawa is due to arrive on June 24.



Fujinkai showered them with the whole experience . . . decorated the hall in pink, games were played and of course the pupus, lunch and desserts were plentiful and a bassinet full of must have things to welcome baby and much more.



Thank you to all for the contributions of osumami, ohirugohan and dezato that added to the festivities!

We will keep you informed when baby Hirasawa makes her debut. The Mantokuji sangha is excitedly awaiting baby's arrival.



## Special O-Bon

### Toba, Tanagyo and Memorial Ribbon Requests

Buddhists remember their departed loved ones and family ancestors during the O-Bon season. Prayers and toba (memorial tablets) are also offered in their memory during the O-Bon Service which will be held on Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. At the O-Bon Service, Reverend Hirasawa and visiting minister Reverend Jigaku Takenouchi will chant the toba memorial dedications and the merit dedications to the deceased.

If you would like to offer toba to family members who have passed away, and especially for those who are having their first O-Bon or Hatsubon, please send in the Toba Request Form enclosed by June 25<sup>th</sup>.

This year, we are adding an additional option to honor your departed loved ones. Like the chochins hung outside during O-Bon with memorial ribbons hanging from them, we will hang chochin in the temple to give others an opportunity to pay tribute and honor their departed loved ones with a Memorial Ribbon hanging from a chochin. On Sunday after the O-Bon Festival, we will dismantle the chochin in the temple and remove the Memorial Ribbons. These Memorial Ribbons will be burned in a ceremonial fire. Please fill in your Memorial Ribbon requests on the form and send in by June 25<sup>th</sup>.

During O-Bon time, families may wish to hold a service in their homes to honor their deceased family members. This is a special opportunity for families to gather and remember deceased loved ones. If you would like to request an O-Bon House Visitation (Tanagyo), please fill out the bottom of the Toba Request Form with the date and time you would like Reverend Hirasawa to do your tanagyo. He will confirm date and time with you.

### Hatsubon (First O-Bon)

Hatsu Bon means "the first O-Bon" for those who had passed away within the last year from May 21, 2023 to May 24, 2024. We will be honoring the following who are having their Hatsubon during the O-Bon services on July 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

Masako Abe – May 28, 2023  
Clint Gima – June 29, 2023  
Baron Hisamune Ueoka – August 1, 2023  
Stella Kimura – August 23, 2023

Thomas Umetsu – August 26, 2023  
Ty Shimabuku – August 29, 2023  
June Sachie Toyota – October 17, 2023



## Mantokuji's O-Bon Service on Friday, July 12th

Mantokuji will have their O-Bon Service on Friday, July 12, 2024 at 6:00pm.

There will be no dancing or food concession after the O-Bon Service. There will be no O-Bon Service on Saturday.

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

Mantokuji is happy to announce their O-Bon Festival on Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. Here is the schedule of events for our O-Bon Festival:

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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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Additional parking will be available at the Paia Community Center and the Paia Hawaiian Protestant Church, both across the street from the temple.

We hope you will be able to join us for this festive occasion when we welcome back our ancestors as they temporarily return to visit their families during the O-Bon season.



## Bon Dance Practice at Mantokuji

Sensei Shannon Loo and Maui Minyo Kai members will be coming to Paia Mantokuji to conduct two Bon Dance practices on **Sunday June 23 at 1:30pm** and **Saturday June 29 at 1:30pm**.

## 2023 Maui Buddhist Temples' O-Bon Schedule

Date	Temple	Service / Dance	Phone
Jun 8 (Sat)	Puunene Nichiren	6:00pm / 7:30pm	871-4831
Jun 14 (Fri)	Wailuku Jodo	6:00pm / 7:00pm	244-0066
Jun 15 (Sat)	Wailuku Shingon	6:30pm / 7:30pm	244-3800
Jun 29 (Sat)	Kahului Jodo	6:30pm / 7:30pm	871-4911
Jul 12 (Fri) Jul 13 (Sat)	Paia Mantokuji	6:00pm No Dance / 7:00pm	579-8051
Jul 19 -20 (Fri/Sat)	Kahului Hongwanji	6:00pm / 7:30pm	871-4732
Jul 26 - 27 (Fri/Sat)	Makawao Hongwanji	6:00pm / 7:00pm	572-7229
Aug 2 – 3 (Fri/Sat)	Wailuku Hongwanji	6:30pm / 7:45pm	244-0406
Aug 17 (Sat)	Paia Rinzai Zen Mission	6:00pm / 6:45pm	268-4216
Aug 24 (Sat)	Kula Shofukuji	5:00pm / 7:00pm	661-0466

There will be three additional O-Bon Cemetery services: July 3 (Wed) at 5:00 p.m. at Maui Memorial Park and Lahaina and 3:00 p.m. at Makawao Veterans' Cemetery.



## Yagura Construction and General Clean-up Day

In preparation for O-Bon, we will be constructing the yagura on:

**Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am**

We will also be cleaning the temple and nokotsudo. Your kokua will also be needed to tidy the temple grounds and give the kitchen a thorough cleaning.

Dismantling of the yagura will be on:

**Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am**

Please come out and give us your helping hands!

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## In Need of Volunteers to Help at O-Bon!

Mantokuji's annual O-Bon Festival will be held on July 13<sup>th</sup>. It takes a whole community to put on this annual festival. Please come whenever you are able to help and for as long as you are able to! We really appreciate any kind of help that you can give us. We are in need of parking attendants at Paia Community Center, the Hawaiian Protestant Church and Mantokuji grounds. The work schedule is as follows:

<b>Thursday, July 11</b>		<b>Saturday, July 13</b>	
8:00am	Prep food, set up hall	8:00am	Prep food Set up concession area
<b>Friday, July 12</b>		5:00pm	Parking attendants
8:00am	Prep food, set up chochin outside Set up chochin in temple and nokotsudo	5:30pm	Food booths open
5:00pm	Set up tents	9:00pm	Clean up
6:00pm	O-Bon Service	<b>Sunday, July 14</b>	
		8:00am	Dismantle yagura and chochin Clean up

We humbly ask for your KOKUA. Please email us at [info@paiamantokuji.org](mailto:info@paiamantokuji.org) or call (808) 579-8051 if you are available to help.

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## President's Message

Aloha everyone,

We are approaching the halfway point of 2024 and the start of Maui's O-Bon season. Services and festivities begin with Puunene Nichiren Mission on June 8 and end with Kula Shofukuji on August 24. Sadly, the three spots on the O-Bon calendar for Lahaina's Shingon, Jodo, and Hongwanji Missions remain open as they are still in the early stages of the long and difficult recovery process. Let us keep these Lahaina temples in our thoughts as we remember and honor our loved ones.

As usual, there is no service at Mantokuji this month, but O-Bon preparation tasks will keep our volunteers very busy every week. Please contact the temple to find out how you can help. We greatly appreciate the many precious hands that will be needed to make our July 12 O-Bon service and July 13 O-Bon event possible. Take care.

Mahalo,

Eric Moto  
President, Mantokuji Kyodan

# Donations made in April

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

## General Donations

Janice Asakura, Geoff & Lianne Haber, Vaughn & Gwen Kunishige, Louis Wada.

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Gary & Judith Matoi

Wedding on 4.20.24

Jamie M Shishido

1<sup>st</sup> Year Memorial Service for James Shishido on 4.13.24

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## Donations received for the Hanamatsuri Service on April 7, 2024

Tokuko & Ted Abe, Tetsu & Kana Anan, Howard & Bobbie Arita, George & Elaine Fujita, Traci Fujita, Yuriko Fukagawa, Kay Hanano, Risa & Anna Hiester, Julie M Higa, Steven Higa, Rev. Seiwa Higashiyama (Japan), Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judy Lindstrom, Gary & Judith Matoi, Janet C Miyahira, Eric Moto, Allan & Cathy Murayama, Alan & Fran Nago, Airi Nakajima, Erik Nelson & Tamara Sherrill, Diane Orikasa, Yukie Pye, Emiko Saito, Andy Taira, Ann K Takakura, Toenji Temple (Japan), Betty Tsugawa, Neil & Joyce Watanabe, Zuiganji Temple (Japan).



Mantokuji Fujinkai Ladies and Gentlemen attending the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

## 2024 Dues and Fees

The annual Mantokuji Membership (Kyodan) Dues, Nokotsudo (Columbarium) Maintenance Fees, and Cemetery Maintenance Fees for 2024 are as follows:

**Membership Dues: \$50 per household**

**Nokotsudo Fees: \$40/year or in perpetuity (\$2,000) per niche**

**Cemetery Fees: \$40/year or in perpetuity (\$2,000) per plot**

Thank you to those who have already sent in your dues and fees. A reminder to those who have not done so yet, please turn them in at your earliest convenience. Please drop off at Mantokuji or mail to:

**Paia Mantokuji Soto Mission, P. O. Box 790207, Paia, HI 96779.**

The 2024 Membership Form can be accessed on our website at [www.paiamantokuji.org](http://www.paiamantokuji.org)

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## June 2024

	Sunday	Monday	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday	Saturday
<b>June</b>							1
	2 7:30am - 8:30am Zazen 9:30 Dharma Keiki	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9 7:30am - 8:30am Zazen 8:30am Cleanup 10:30am Fujinkai & Kyodan meetings	10	11	12	13	14	15 9:30-11:30am Ikebana
	16 7:30am - 8:30am Zazen	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23 7:30am - 8:30am Zazen 1:30pm Bon dance practice	24	25	26	27	28	29 1:30pm Bon dance practice
	30 7:30am - 8:30am Zazen 8:00am Yagura construction	31					

<b>Coming up in July (Tentative Schedule)</b>	
Sunday 7	O-Bon setup, committee meeting
Friday 12	Mantokuji O-Bon Service
Saturday 13	Mantokuji O-Bon Festival
Sunday 14	Yagura dismantling, Clean up
Sunday 21	Clean up, O-Bon committee meeting & Evaluation

Hospital and Hale Makua Visitations  
are scheduled during the month.