

Mantokuji Newsletter



MAN GAN
満願

March 2025

Dates to Remember

SUNDAY | MARCH 2
8-12
RUMMAGE SALE
NO FOOD

8-12
SATURDAY | MARCH 8
BAZAAR
FOOD & RUMMAGE

REVEREND'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone. Aloha.

Lately I've observed the length of the days getting longer with each passing day, and I feel the season changing to spring.

Today, I would like to introduce one of the Japanese traditional events, "Hinamatsuri" on March 3, which is called "Girls' Day" in Hawaii. Many of you with daughters or granddaughters may continue to observe girl's day as you did when growing up but may not have known of its origin. Since I only had a brother, I did not know the meaning of this event, but now that I have a daughter, I have learned about this cultural tradition and would like to share it with you.

The origin of this tradition is that in the old days, people used to purify their own bodies in the river to get rid of bad luck and evil spirits at the time of seasonal changes. This custom of washing away one's impurities and evil spirits was transferred to paper dolls which were thrown into the river. In those days, playing pretend with dolls was popular among children of the nobility, and these customs were combined to establish the current custom of decorating houses with Hina dolls, wishing for the beautiful and healthy growth of girls. The reason for decorating houses with dolls is to transfer their impurities to the dolls to take care of the bad luck and disasters, as was the custom when the dolls were floated down the river. This story is one of many that has been told.

The period for displaying Hina dolls is generally considered to be from the beginning of February to the beginning of March. Some people say that marriages are delayed because of the belief that if the dolls are put away too late, the bad luck they received on the girl's behalf will come back. I don't want to think about my daughter getting married, but I will remember to put the dolls away promptly. Have you ever had the experience of decorating your house with Hina Dolls? Enjoy this colorful and beautiful tradition on March 3.

This month at Mantokuji there will be a Rummage Sale on March 2, a Food and Rummage Sale on March 8, and a Spring Ohigan Service on March 16. We look forward to seeing everyone on those days. If time permits, please come and help with the Rummage and Food Sales. Also, during the Ohigan period, please come to the temple and visit your family's graves and Nokotsudo to commemorate your ancestors and offer Botamochi (rice cakes) and flowers.

I wish you all happiness and good health.

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

P.O. Box 790207,
Paia, HI 96779

Tel: (808) 579 - 8051
E-mail: info@paimantokuji.org
Web: www.paimantokuji.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Mantokuji/

Mangan Team

Bobbie, Cathy & Isabelle

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FUJINKAI NEWS

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

March 9, 2025 at 8:30am

April 13, 2025 at 8:30am

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and gentlemen who came to help prepare for the New Year's party on Saturday, January 25 and those who came early on Sunday, January 26 to prepare lunch for the party.

Bobbie Arita, Kathleen Davis, Kay Hanano, Rev. Hirasawa, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Setstuko Minatoya, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Lois Sato, Isabelle Scholl, Ann Takakura, Nora Takeuchi and Neil Watanabe.

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and gentlemen who came to help with the clean up on Sunday, February 9.

Bobbie Arita, Kay Hanano, Rev.Hirasawa, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Lois Sato, Nora Takeuchi, and Laura Yamada.

NEW YEAR'S PARTY

HELD ON JANUARY 26, 2025

Mantokuji celebrated New Year 2025, the year of the snake, on January 26th. As party goers gathered they were treated to yaki mochi that Reverend Hirasawa and Setsuko Minatoya worked diligently to cook. So oshii! The party began with welcomes from Kyodan President Eric Moto and Reverend Hirasawa. We were thrilled to welcome Mantokuji's taiko group to perform a few songs. Thank you taiko instructor Isabelle Scholl for gathering the members Yukie Pye, Chihagi Chiu, Stacey Sueoka, Miwako Curtis and Bobbie Arita after a long break since the pandemic to entertain us. WOW! It was great to hear taikos drumming again at Mantokuji. Then game coordinator Diane Orikasa began the fun with unwrapping the chocolate kiss with a toothpick using just one hand. Skilled Chihiro Suzuki was the fastest winning a giant kiss! Then everyone got up to shake their booties till the stick-on bow fell off. Matthew Matoi shook, shook, shook and even had a little help from Brian Watanabe to finally shake the bow off! Then the groups collaboratively made as many words as they could from AKEMASHITE OMEDETOU GOZAIMASU. You could even hear the children shouting words! The games ended with each member of the group taking turns to flip a coin with chopsticks! Much laughter and encouragement could be heard as team members encouraged each other to flip the coin and pass it on.



Finally lunch was ready and everyone was able to partake in the gochiso prepared by the Fujinkai ladies and friends. Thank you to all who brought a dessert or side dish to share for lunch. So nice to hear the chatter of the guests as they had their lunches.

After lunch, the excitement of the group winners was announced. The first place Team 2 was able to choose their prize first. Everyone went home with a \$10 gift card or \$10 cash! Thank you to the donors of prizes: Kay Hanano, Hideo and Joyce Kawahara and Allan and Cathy Murayama.

Many thanks to ikebana Sensei Kay Hanano for coordinating the floral arrangements that adorned the tables along with the special origami snakes.



NEHAN-E & O-JUZU MAWASHI SERVICE

HELD ON FEBRUARY 2, 2025

The Nehan-e or Nirvana Day was held at Mantokuji in conjunction with the O-juzu Mawashi service on February 2. Reverend Hirasawa shared a picture of the Nehan Zu that hung at his father's temple. Sensei explained what is seen in the Nehan Zu.

"First, the one lying in the center of the painting, golden and shining, is the Sakyamuni Buddha just after he drew his last breath. He is lying with his head to the north and his face looking west. When I was a child, I was taught that I should not sleep at home with my pillow facing north. Have you ever heard this story? This is because the Buddha died with his head to the north, it is not good for a living person the north, since the north pillow even today, it is a common the deceased with the head to some people do not care much the Mantokuji residence is also

Let us look at the characters Buddha & disciples, various priests, and legendary animals surround him. Many people and animals death of the Buddha. Here is a fainted. This person is believed the Buddha and one of the Ten to be the disciple who listened most, because he traveled time as the Buddha's follower Buddha's teachings. It is thought was the closest to the Buddha, great that he fainted.



and the legend remains that to sleep with one's head to is for the deceased. In fact, practice to lay the body of the north or west. However, about this. In fact, the bed in placed facing north.

drawn in the painting. bodhisattvas, ministers and and existing animals surround are sad and crying over the person who appears to have to be Ananda, a disciple of Great Disciples. He is said to the Buddha's words the with the Buddha for a long and always listened to the that he fainted because he and therefore his grief was so

Next, we see a woman watching from the sky. This person is believed to be Queen Maya, the mother of Buddha. She had already passed away, but she ran to see the Buddha when she heard that he was about to pass away. The furoshiki (wrapping cloth) and cane-like object she is holding have a variety of meanings. One theory is that it contains a medicine for long life that Queen Maya brought to help the Buddha. She threw the medicine from the sky, but eventually did not make it in time. Another story is that it is simply a cane, a robe, and a bowl. I prefer the story that it contained medicine.

Finally, there are eight trees, four of which are dying and losing their color. It is said that even the trees were so sad after the Buddha's death that they lost their leaves. The remaining lush sara tree is said to represent the permanent truth that the Buddha's teachings will never fade away. By drawing the dying and lush trees, we can recognize that death is something that cannot be escaped, and although it is a sadness, we can also recognize a universal truth that the Buddha's teachings will remain forever. I think this can be understood in the same way as the Buddha's last words to his disciples.

In his final words, the Buddha said, "Even though I am gone, you must take yourselves as your guide. Take the teachings I have given you and the truth of things as your guide." Even though the Buddha is gone, the teachings he left behind have been passed on to his disciples and live on to this day. We must keep his teachings in mind and live our lives by trusting in ourselves. On the occasion of today's service, let us keep this in mind once again and offer our hearts in gratitude to the Buddha who spent his life leaving us his Dharma."

(To be continued next page)

NEHAN-E & O-JUZU MAWASHI SERVICE (CONT')

HELD ON FEBRUARY 2, 2025

After the Nehan-e service we rearranged the chairs in a circle and the very, very large o-juzu was passed around. We all chanted the Heart Sutra three times as we passed the beads of the o-juzu around. When the ball with the fusa of the o-juzu fell in our hands, we held it on parts of our body that we felt needed healing. During the O-juzu Mawashi service we pray for healing and wellness.



The forceful north swells we have been experiencing frequently this winter has continued to eat away at the bank behind the garage.



Many bags of the shoreline structure have been displaced during the enormous swells in December and January and continues to weaken the bank.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha everyone,

The busy schedule of preparation work for our big fundraiser events has made the month of February fly by, and now we are ready for March. We are trying something new this year, starting with a Rummage Sale on Sunday, March 2 from 8 am to 12 noon where there will be rummage items only and NO FOOD. Then, on Saturday, March 8 from 8 am to 12 noon Mantokuji will have its traditional Bazaar fundraiser with your favorite food items for sale, along with the remaining rummage pieces and collectibles. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers for their many hours and days of work. Please mark your calendars and set your alarm clocks to get here early.

Reverend Tomoki Hirasawa will conduct the Spring O-Higan and Kaisan Rekiyuki Service on Sunday the 16th at 10:30 am. You are all welcome to join us in prayer and fellowship. Take care.

Mahalo,

Eric Moto,
President, Mantokuji Kyodan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPRING O-HIGAN AND KAISAN REKIYU-KI SERVICE

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025 AT 10:30AM

The Spring O-Higan is a time to remember and offer spiritual prayers to our deceased loved ones. Along with O-Bon and Autumn O-Higan, it is one of the three major occasions during the year we join together with family and friends to make our offerings to our departed loved ones. O-Higan is a time to reflect on the six paramitas (six perfections) and concentrate on nurturing our inherent Buddha Nature. In doing so, we naturally and spontaneously bring peace and morality to our lives and to all those around us.

The Kisan Rekiyu-ki is a memorial service for the founder and successive deceased ministers of Mantokuji. We will honor them at the same time as we observe the O-Higan service.

Please come and join us in remembering and praying for our deceased ancestors on March 16, 2025 at 10:30am.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

If you are interested in scheduling a Memorial Service for a loved one, Reverend Hirasawa is available to do a service at Mantokuji, graveside, or at your home. Please call him at (808) 579-8051 or email him at info@paiamantokuji.org to schedule a service.

2025 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES & NOKOTSUDO/CEMETERY FEES

The annual Mantokuji Membership (Kyodan) Dues, Nokotsudo (Columbarium) Maintenance Fees, and Cemetery Maintenance Fees for the New Year 2025 are as follows:

Membership Dues	\$50 per household
Nokotsudo Fees	\$40/year or in perpetuity (\$2000) per niche
Cemetery Fees	\$40/year or in perpetuity (\$2000) 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 send them in at your earliest convenience.

The 2025 Membership Form was sent with the January mangan or can be accessed on our website at www.paiamantouji.org

REMINDER

46TH ANNUAL BAZAAR ON TWO DAYS – Please see the flyer on page 6

Sunday, March 2nd – Rummage Sale only – NO FOOD

Plants, Flowers, Vases, Pots, Crafts, Clothes, Shoes, Bags, Kitchenware, Small Appliances, Furniture, Tools, Toys, and Collectibles.

Saturday, March 8th – Bazaar – Food and Rummage

Nishime, Chow Fun, Spam Musubi, Various Baked Goods, Ohagi, Mazegohan, and Pickles. Rummage will also be sold.

PAIA MANTOKUJI'S 46th ANNUAL

RUMMAGE

SUN | MAR 2 | 8-NOON | NO FOOD

PLANTS·FLOWERS·VASES·POTS·CRAFTS·CLOTHES
SHOES·BAGS·KITCHENWARE·SMALL APPLIANCES
FURNITURE·TOOLS·TOYS·COLLECTIBLES

BAZAAR

**SAT | MAR 8 | 8 AM to NOON
FOOD & RUMMAGE SALE**

NISHIME·CHOW FUN·SPAM MUSUBI·MAZEGOHAN
OHAGI·PICKLES·VARIOUS BAKED GOODS
RUMMAGE WILL ALSO BE SOLD

253 HANA HWY, PAIA, HI 96779 · ACROSS PAIA COMMUNITY CENTER

DONATIONS MADE IN DECEMBER

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

General Donations

Colbert Abe, Tokuko Abe, Rodney & Lori Carillo, Claire Ching, Yuriko Fukagawa, Theodore & Lana Furuichi, Patricia "Pachi" Haber, Calvin & Sharon Higuchi, Faith Kasahara, Dennis & Linda Kawachi, Gerald & Eleanor Machida, Terrie Mizoguchi, Brian Moto, Eric Moto, Norman M Nagata, Angela Nielsen, Marilyn Nishiki, David & Sidney Okada, Harry M Saito, Marion Santo, Glenn Sato, Mark & Lois Sato, Isabelle Scholl, Sharon Shimabukuro, Faith & Garth Sodetani, Lloyd & Sharon Sodetani, James Y Suehisa, Celia Suzuki, Brian & Joyce Takahashi, Petty J & Sandra Takahashi, Eileen E Taketa, Thomas Tanaka, Sharon Taniguchi, Carol M Tanji, Alice M Tobita, Eric Toyota, Brian K Watanabe, Karl & Linda Yoshiokae.

Kay Hanano (for Ueoka Family)	Use of Hall on 12.24, 24, 12.28.24 &12.31.24
Tina Haraguchi	In Memory of Naomi Suehisa
Richard M Ibara	In Memory of the Ibara & Ihara Families
Wayne & Sandy Matsuda	2025 New Year's donation
Ruth Nakao	2025 New Year's donation
Jean Pozsar	In Memory of Andrew Pozsar
Melvin & Sandra Shimomura	In Memory of Saichi, Chieko & Jeanne Saito
Mavis Suda	In Memory of Shinosuke Suda
James Y Suehisa	In Memory of Mitsue Suehisa – 7th Year Memorial Anniversary
James Y Suehisa	In Memory of Naomi Suehisa
Shane & Yumi Suehisa & Family	In Memory of Naomi Suehisa
Brian & Joyce Takahashi	Blessing of new niche
Ann Takakura	2025 New Year's donation
Jeff & Nancy Tank	In Appreciation of the Ishii Family
Kenneth & June Uyeno	Happy New Year 2025!
Louis & Jean Wada	In Memory of Haruo & Fusae Wada.
Karl & Linda Yoshioka	In Memory of Eiko Sakuma – 17th Year Memorial Anniversary

Donations made for the New Year's Blessing & Ofuda Yaki Service on January 12, 2025

Tokuko Abe. Howard & Bobbie Arita, Yuriko Fukagawa, Kathleen Guaderrama, Kay Hanano, Rebecca Kikumoto, Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Brian Moto, Eric Moto, Allan & Cathy Murayama, Melina Murayama & Erick Domingo, Susan T Oshiro, Diane Orikasa, Yukie Pye, Mark & Lois Sato, Isabelle Scholl, Nora Takeuchi, Sharon Ueoka & Family, Brian K Watanabe.

Donations made for the New Year's Party held on January 26, 2025

Tokuko & Ted Abe, Chihagi Chiu, Miwako Curtis, Yuriko Fukagawa, Kay Hanano, Risa & Anna Hiester, Sue Hiraga, Hideo & Joyce Kawahara, Setsuko Minatoya, Kenji & Tomoko Nonaka, Todd Smith & Karmella Paradiso, Yukie Pye, Emiko Saito, Kolea Schonwalter, Stacey Sueoka, Chihiro Suzuki, Ann Takakura, Akiko Tanimoto, Laura Yamada.

SPECIAL THANKS

To **Neil Watanabe** for giving our Japanese Garden a much needed trimming.

To **Kathleen Davis** for taking care of the metal recycling.

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Paia, HI 96779

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March 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:30am Rummage Prep
2 8:00am-12:00noon: Rummage Sale	3	4	5	6 8:30am Food Prep	7 8:30am Food Prep	8 4:00am Breakfast 5:00am Food Prep 8:00am-12:00pm: 46th Bazaar
9 7:30am-8:30am Zazen 8:30am Clean-up, Fujinkai Meeting, Bazaar Evaluation	10	11	12	13	14	15 9:30am-11:00am Ikebana
16 7:30am-8:30am Zazen 10:30am Spring O-Higan & Kaisan Rekijyuki Service	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 7:30am-8:30am Zazen	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 7:30am-8:30am Zazen	31					

Hospital and Hale Makua Visitations are scheduled during the month.

Coming up in April (Tentative Schedule)

Saturday 5: Hanamatsuri @ Rinzai
Sunday 9: Clean up, Fujinkai & Kyodan Meetings

Nokustudo Hours
open daily, 9:00am – 4:00pm