

Mantokuji Newsletter



March 2026

Dates to Remember

March 1

Rummage Sale
NO FOOD

March 8

47th Annual Bazaar
& Rummage Sale

March 15

Spring O-Higan & Kaisan Rekijyuki Services
Farewell Luncheon for Hirasawas after services

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha everyone,

Calling all volunteers and friends. Mantokuji's biggest fundraisers, the March 1st Rummage Sale and the March 8th Food & Rummage Sale are upon us and we need your helping hands to prepare the grounds, set up tents, finish processing and preparing all the food and rummage items for sale, helping with the sales, and cleaning up. Check out our work day schedule, then come by and we'll be sure to keep you busy doing the good work of supporting our temple.

We look forward to not only seeing you all, but also Reverend Hirasawa and Okusan Yuki, along with their mothers, and of course, little Ruri. Yuki-san, Ruri and both grandmothers are expected on March 1st, and then Sensei will arrive the following Sunday, March 8th. They will all be working on packing the family's belongings in the temple residence. On Sunday, March 15th Rev. Hirasawa will conduct a service for our sangha one last time before he returns back home to Japan on the 18th. The Spring O-Higan and Kaisan Rekijyuki Service will begin at 10:30 am, followed by a farewell luncheon. O-Higan is a time of balance, spiritual reflection, and ancestor worship. Kaisan Rekijyuki honors the founding minister and the successive deceased ministers of Mantokuji. Please let us know if you are able to attend the luncheon and any of our scheduled work days. Take care.

Mahalo,

Eric Moto

President, Mantokuji Kyodan

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@paiamantokuji.org
Web: www.paiamantokuji.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 14, 2026 at 8:30am (note this is a **Saturday**)

April 12, 2026 at 8:30am

Thank you to the ladies and gentlemen who came to help with the clean up on Sunday, February 15.

Bobbie Arita, Kathleen Davis, Sue Hiraga, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Lois Sato, Isabelle Scholl, Nora Takeuchi and Brian Watanabe.

NEW YEAR'S PARTY

HELD ON JANUARY 25, 2026

Mantokuji celebrated New Year 2026, the year of the horse, on January 25th. As party goes arrived, they were given one part of a compound word. They mingled with everyone to find their partner of the compound word . . . airport, cowboy, watermelon and more. Once all words were collected, teams were formed. As a team, the first task was to put all the



nine ministers who served at Mantokuji in chronological order, identifying the order and name of minister. "Wrong, try again!" was heard when teams thought they got it right! Finally, Team 4 correctly identified the order and names. Game two was a test of good hearing and memory and of course, brain power. Each team was given a set of numbers 0-9 on individual cards. A number was read out loud and the group used the number cards to show the number. The first numbers were pretty easy but as the numbers became larger, teams were scurrying to place themselves in the correct order and kept changing until they got it right, especially with the number two million seventy-six thousand one hundred thirty-four! The last game was to fill in the missing word from a line of a song. Diane, the game coordinator, challenged everyone with the songs she chose! Thank you, Diane, for a great job with the games.



Finally lunch was ready and everyone was able to enjoy the delicious lunch 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 guests as they had their lunches.

After lunch, the excitement of the group winners was announced. The first place Team 4 was able to choose their prize first. Everyone went home with a prize for playing games. The day ended with a lucky number prize for each family. Thank you to the generous donors for the \$25 gift card each family received: Bill and Carol Lau and Harold and Kathy Fujii. We are very grateful for your generosity.

Many thanks to Diane Orikasa, Neil Watanabe and ikebana Sensei Kay Hanano for coordinating the shochikubai arrangements that adorned the tables with the special origami horses.



NEHAN-E & O-JUZU MAWASHI SERVICE

HELD ON FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Mantokuji's annual Nehan-e and Ojuzu Mawashi services were conducted on Sunday, February 1st by our guest minister Reverend Ryokei Ishii of Waipahu Taiyoji. Along with Gotan-e (Hanamatsuri – Buddha's birth) and Jodo-e (Bodhi Day – Buddha's enlightenment), Nehan-e (Parinirvana Day – Buddha's passing) is one of the three most important commemoration days (San Bukki) in Soto Zen Buddhism. The ceremony is traditionally held on or around February 15th to honor the day the Shakyamuni Buddha entered Nirvana. A picture of a "Nehan-zu" scroll depicting the reclining Buddha as he passed away between two Sal trees, surrounded by mourning disciples, deities, and animals was displayed during the service. The scroll is displayed throughout the week in temples everywhere.

In his Dharma talk, Rev. Ishii spoke about Nirvana and death and loss. The word Nirvana literally means to extinguish, like putting out the flame of a candle. While we have not experienced Nirvana ourselves, we can try to understand a freedom from suffering and sadness. We can be enriched and comforted by the Buddha's teachings passed on to us through his disciples. The Buddha's teachings will guide us back to the right path and lead us to a life of peace.

Our Ojuzu Mawashi ritual is a beloved Buddhist tradition at Mantokuji in which a large set of juzu (prayer beads) is passed around in a circle of sangha members while the Hannya Shingyo – Heart Sutra is chanted. Mantokuji's ceremony is made all the more special with the participation of members of the Watanabe family whose grandfather presented the temple with our sacred hyakumanben juzu from Japan. Gathering in a collective circle to pass the juzu beads and chant together offers a way to pray for peace, remove bad karma, pray for healing, and pray for positive community-oriented intentions.



Shoreline situation after January and February storms.

Swells have continued to eat away at the bank behind the cemetery and behind the newly installed bags.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPRING O-HIGAN AND KAISAN REKIYU-KI SERVICE

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026 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 Kaison Rekiyu-ki is a memorial service for the founder and successive deceased ministers of Mantokuji. We will honor them at the same time we observe the O-Higan service.

Please come and join us in remembering and praying for our deceased ancestors and Mantokuji ministers on March 15, 2026 at 10:30am.

MANTOKUJI BIDS FAREWELL TO THE HIRASAWAS

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026 AT 10:30AM

The Spring O-Higan and Kaison Rekiyuki Service will be Reverend Hirasawa's last service at Mantokuji as he has been tasked to take over his father's temple, Jushoji, in Kanagawa Prefecture.

A farewell luncheon is planned for **Sunday, March 15, 2026** after the Spring O-Higan and Kaison Rekiyuki Service to thank Reverend Hirasawa and family for their service at Mantokuji. Please join us for some good food, fun and fellowship! Mantokuji will be providing the main dishes for the luncheon. We would appreciate your help in sharing a side dish, pupu or dessert for the luncheon.

Your RSVP is very important so the committee can plan adequately. Please call or text Cathy Murayama (808.283.6125) or email info@paiamantokuji.org by **March 9** with the following information: name, number attending, and what you will be bringing to share – side dish, pupu or dessert. Your cooperation with an **RSVP** is greatly appreciated.



47TH ANNUAL BAZAAR ON TWO DAYS – Please see the flyer on page 5.

Sunday, March 1 st – Rummage Sale only – NO FOOD	Sunday, March 8 th – Bazaar – Food and Rummage
Plants, Vases, Crafts, Shoes, Bags, Kitchenware, Small Appliances, Furniture, Tools, Toys and Collectibles.	Nishime, Chow Fun, Spam Musubi, Various Baked Goods, Ohagi, Mazegohan, Shiso Rice and Pickles. Rummage will also be sold.

2026 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES & NOKOTSUDO/CEMETERY FEES

The annual Mantokuji Membership (Kyodan) Dues, Nokotsudo (Columbarium) Maintenance Fees, and Cemetery Maintenance Fees for the New Year 2026 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 2026 Membership Form was sent with the January mangan or can be accessed on our website at www.paiamantokuji.org

Paia Mantokuji's 47th Annual

BAZAAR

TWO SUNDAYS • 8AM-12PM

MARCH 1 | MARCH 8

PLANTS-VASES-CRAFTS
ASIAN ITEMS-FURNITURE
CLOTHES-SHOES-BAGS
TOOLS-SMALL APPLIANCES
KITCHENWARE-JEWELRY
TOYS & COLLECTIBLES

No Food

NISHIME-SPAM MUSUBI
CHOW FUN-MAZEGOHAN
SHISO RICE-OHAGI-PICKLES
VARIOUS BAKED GOODS

RUMMAGE SALE



253 HANA HWY., PAIA, HI 96779 - ACROSS PAIA COMMUNITY CENTER

Mantokuji is happy to have the Alzheimer's Association - Hawaii Chapter present an informative session on Supporting Brain Health in the Community. All are welcome to join us for this presentation. Please call/text Cathy Murayama @ 808.283.6125 or email info@paiamantokuji.org - a count is needed so adequate handouts are available.

SUPPORTING BRAIN HEALTH IN THE COMMUNITY

An awareness program presented by the
Alzheimer's Association - Hawaii Chapter



Supporting Brain Health in the Community focuses on everyday habits that can help keep our brains healthy as we age.

This program highlights evidence-based strategies related to physical activity, nutrition, sleep, social connection, and overall wellness.

Participants will leave with practical tips and resources to support brain health at any age and learn how small lifestyle changes can make a meaningful difference over time.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12th
1:00 - 1:30 PM

Paia Mantokuji Soto Mission
253 Hana Highway

Questions: Maui Program Manager
Cindy Fowler cowler@alz.org
808.518.6655

alz.org/hawaii | 808.591.2771
24/7 Helpline 800.272.3900

ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION®

DONATIONS MADE IN JANUARY

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

General Donations

Colbert Abe, Rene M Egami, Pachi Haber, Sue Hiraga, Tsukasa & Julie Kamekaneya, Thelma Kasai, Dennis & Linda Kawachi, Thomas Kimizuka, Randall & Karen Kimura, Eleanor Machida, Deacon & Tomoe MacMillan, Paul & Jessie Mizoguchi, Terrie Mizoguchi, Brian Moto, Wesley & Janice Mukoyama, Myles Murakami, Lloyd Nihei, Marilyn Nishiki, David & Sidney Okada, Susan T Oshiro, Wendell Owara, Mark & Lois Sato, Isabelle Scholl, Hachiro & Susan Shimanuki, Faith Sodetani, Lloyd & Sharon Sodetani, Celia C Suzuki, Clyde Suzuki, Brian & Joyce S Takahashi, Greg & Alma Takahashi, Les & Linda Takahashi, Petty J & Sandra Takahashi, Ann Takakura, Tradewind Group Foundation (matching donation for Laurie Brooks), Gertrude Ueoka, Amy Misa & Glenn Umetsu, Brian Watanabe, James & Helene Watanabe, Linda Yoshioka.

Lydia Furomoto	New Year donation
Kay Hanano	Use of Hall – Ueoka Family
Margie Higa, Clayton Tomita, Glen Tomita & Tomita Family	In Memory of Teruo Tomita
Richard & Annie Ibara	In Memory of Zentaro & Yu Ibara and Heiichiro, Fuku & Seichi Ihara
Tom & Krystene Lam	In Memory of Clara Sodetani
Clyde Suzuki	In Memory of Satoshi & Kiyoko Suzuki
Gordon Tamasaka	In Memory of Mitsuko Tamasaka
Steven Tanabe & Ileene Kawahara	Happy New Year donation

Donations made for the New Year's Blessing & Ofuda Yaki Service on January 4, 2026

Tokuko Abe, Howard & Bobbie Arita, Kathlee Davis, Kelli Nakano Ha, Kodai Haga, Kay Hanano, Rebecca Kikumoto, Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Allan & Cathy Murayama, Melina Murayama & Erick Domingo, Ken & Alma Nakano, Diane Orikasa, Nora Takeuchi, Sharon Ueoka, Brian K Watanabe.

Donations made for the New Year's Party held on January 25, 2026

Rodney & Lori Carillo, Yasuko Collins, Risa & Anna Hiestler, Julie M Higa, Ray & Cynthia Ikeda, Judith Matoi, Wayne & Sandy Matsuda, Allan & Cathy Murayama, Brian Watanabe, Neil & Joyce Watanabe, Lester & Debbie Yokote.



HELP NEEDED

LONG, STRAIGHT BAMBOO PIECES NEEDED

Mantokuji needs about 12 long (8'-10'), straight pieces of bamboo with a diameter of 2-3" to replace the tattered bamboo fence surrounding the Japanese Garden. If you can help us, please email the temple at info@paiamantokuji.org or call/text Cathy Murayama at 808.283.6125.

SPECIAL THANKS

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

To **Neil Watanabe** for replacing the faucet in the women's bathroom behind the columbarium.

PAIA MANTOKUJI SOTO MISSION
P.O. Box 790207
Paia, HI 96779

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March 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:00am-12:00noon: Rummage Sale	2	3	4 8:30am Bazaar Prep	5 8:30am Food Prep	6 8:30am Make Manju 1:00pm Separate Chow Fun Noodle	7 8:30am Chow Fun prep Bazaar prep
8 4:00am Breakfast 5:00am Food Prep 8:00am-12:00noon: 47th Bazaar	9	10	11	12	13	14 8:30am Clean-up, Fujinkai Meeting
15 10:30am Spring O-Higan & Kaisan Rekiyuki Service & Farewell luncheon for Hirasawas	16	17	18	19	20	21 9:30-11:30am Ikebana
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Coming up in April (Tentative Schedule)

Saturday 5: Hanamatsuri @ Mantokuji
Sunday 12: Clean up, Fujinkai & Kyodan Meetings,
Alz presentation on Brain Health in the Community

Nokustudo Hours:

Saturdays and Sundays only, 9:00am-3:00pm
(until further notice)

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