Mantokuji Newsletter

MAN GAN
満願

May 2021

Dates to Remember

Memorial Day
and
Eitaikuyo Service
May 23

Our Mission: Paia Mantokuji is a Soto Zen Buddhist temple founded in 1906 by 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 vison 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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Paia, HI 96779

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Web: www.paiamantokuji.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Mantokuji/

Mangan Team

Bobbie, Cathy & Isabelle

President's Message

Aloha Everyone,.

Have you received your covid vaccinations? I am halfway there and will be fully vaccinated as we transition to May. The second shot provides some level of comfort and relief, if only from the fear of severe illness and hospitalization. Still, it's important to remember to wear a mask, sanitize, and continue to social distance…..all for our personal health and safety and the protection of others.

The recent series of online discussions of Buddhist precepts hosted by Reverend Jiko Nakade of Kona Daifukuji reminds us to take care of our spiritual well-being as well. Being mindful of our thoughts, feelings, words, and actions and how they impact ourselves and others helps to keep us on the right path. Healthy and whole individuals make an even stronger sangha, a sangha Mantokuji depends upon.

If your Buddhist spirit needs some exercise, we will be gathering, safely, on Sunday, May 23 for our Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo service at 10:30 am. Let us know if you plan on joining us so we may properly prepare. Take care.

With aloha,

Eric Moto
President Mantokuji Kyodan

Paia Hanamatsuri Service, April 4

Also enclosed in this issue:
Dharma Lei *n.36*

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Fujinkai News

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

May 2, 2021 at 8:30am
June 13, 2021 at 8:30am

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and gentlemen who who came on Sunday, March 21 to help with the monthly clean up:

Bobbie Arita, Kathleen Davis, Kay Hanano, Chester Kakiuchi, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Lois Sato, Sachie Toyota, Brian Watanabe, and Neil Watanabe.

Thank you very much to those who can to help with the Hanamatsuri preparation on Saturday, April 3 and early morning on Sunday, April 4 to prepare the bentos:

Bobbie Arita, Kathleen Davis, Kay Hanano, Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Lois Sato, Nora Takeuchi, Brian Watanabe, and Neil Watanabe.

Thank you to the Fujikai ladies and gentlemen who came on Sunday, April 11 to help with the monthly clean up:

Bobbie Arita, Kathleen Davis, Chester Kakiuchi, James Kendrick, Becky Kikumoto, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Lois Sato, Nora Takeuchi, Sachie Toyota, and Neil Watanabe.

Kyodan Meeting Report

Held Sunday, April 11, 2021

Below are some of the topics that were discussed at the meeting.

- Erosion Plan update – Mike Foley of Oceanit will be sending construction bid packages to enable Mantokuji to secure a contractor
- Bell Tower update – Revised permit will be issued soon to complete the reconstruction
- Painting of the office/apartment is complete. Flooring will be installed as soon as materials arrive
- Mantokuji had a drive through New Year's Celebration on January 24 and gifted families with a gift bag and bentos
- New Year's Blessing Service and Nehan-e Service were held on February 7, officiated by Rev. Yoshida
- Rev. Yoshida conducted the Hanamatsuri Service on April 4, 2021
- Memorial Day Service will be held on Sunday, May 23, 2021 at 10:30 am
- O-Bon festivities will not be held. Hatsubon Services and the O-Bon service will be held on Saturday, July 10. Rev. Hata of Hilo Taishoji will be here to conduct the services.

Next Kyodan meeting will be on **Sun, June 13, 2021**.

Please join us for future meetings and be involved in these important discussions.

Paia Hanamatsuri Service

Held on April 4, 2021 at Paia Mantokuji Soto Zen Mission

Nearly 30 temple members and friends celebrated Hanamatsuri at Paia Mantokuji on April 4. The Hanamatsuri service was officiated by Reverend Hirosato Yoshida of Soto Mission of Hawaii Shoboji. Like Lumbini Garden where the Buddha was born surrounded by colorful flowers, the hanamido was adorned with beautiful protea and statis donated by Allen and Janet Fukuda. Each came forward to offer flowers and pour amacha or sweet tea on the Baby Buddha, symbolizing the legendary sweet rain, kanro no ame, that fell from the heaven in great happiness at Buddha's birth.

Due to the restrictions of the pandemic, there was no gathering after the service. However, a scrumptious bento was given to everyone to take home and enjoy. As is the tradition, Mantokuji's signature nishime cooked by Nishime Chef Eric Moto was included in the bento. Thank you to all who came to help with the Hanamatsuri preparations.

Announcements

Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo Services

You are cordially invited to attend the Memorial Day and Eitakuyo (Perpetual Memorial) Services to be held on:

Sunday, May 23, 2021 at 10:30am

The Memorial Day Service is observed to honor our veterans and victims of all past wars and to pray for peace and understanding in our world so that we may live in harmony with one another.

At the same time, we will be holding the Eitaikuyo or perpetual memorial service to remember those who have passed away, but have no family member left to visit them. As their extended family, let us join together to offer incense and prayer for them.

Please call 579-8051 to let us know if you will be joining us for this occasion. All safety guidelines will be followed - wearing masks, social distancing and sanitizing.

Memorial Service

If you are interested in scheduling a Memorial Service for a loved one, Reverend Yoshida from Soto Mission of Hawaii will be here for Mantokuji's Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo Services on May 23, 2021 and is available to do Memorial Services before or after the service. Please call Eric Moto at 579-8051 to request a service by May 1st.

Revised Nokotsudo Hours in 2021

The nokotsudo will be open **9:00am – 4:00pm** only on Saturdays, Sundays and on the following holidays:

Memorial Day – Monday, May 31
Veterans' Day – Thursday, November 11
Christmas Day – Friday, December 24
Labor Day – Monday, September 6
Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 25
New Year's Eve Day – Friday, December 31

If you would like to visit the nokotsudo outside of the scheduled hours and days, please call 579-8051 a day in advance. Please let your family and friends (who may not get the mangan) know about the new nokotsudo hours.

Please remember… Mantokuji is on smile.amazon.com

How do I shop at AmazonSmile? To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com on your web browser or activate AmazonSmile on your Amazon Shopping app on your iOS or Android phone (found under settings on your app). On your browser, you may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. When you're using the app, always check for the "AmazonSmile" logo to ensure you're activated for AmazonSmile.

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile? On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. They will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make through AmazonSmile will result in a donation. AmazonSmile will occasionally contact you about donation amounts disbursed to your chosen charity or about the program. **Please select Mantokuji Mission of Paia Maui**.

Special Thanks

To **Neil Watanabe** for doing repairs in the office/apartment in preparation for painting.

To **Kathleen Davis** for painting the office/apartment single-handedly! It's beautiful!

To **Allen and Janet Fukuda** for the beautiful flowers used to decorate the hanamido for Hanamatsuri.

To **Kay Hanano** for the beautiful floral arrangements that adorned the temple for the Hanamatsuri service

Dharma Lei

Bishop's Office Newsletter

Soto Zen Buddhism Hawaii Office

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Second Quarter, 2021 Issue No. 36

Bishop's Message:

Bishop Shugen Komagata

Aloha from the Bishop's Office,

Time flies faster than a speeding arrow! Spring is already here in Hawaii! I pray that you and your family are staying healthy and safe throughout these difficult times. April is a happy month, because it is when we observe Hanamatsuri, transliterated as the "Flower Festival." Hanamatsuri falls on April 8 and commemorates the birth of Prince Siddhartha Gautama (who would later become Shakyamuni Buddha). Flowers adorn the hanamido, a miniature pavilion housing a statue of the infant Buddha. Sweet tea called amacha is poured over the statue, like sweet rain from the heavens. Legend has it that the infant prince emerged from his mother's side, walked seven steps, and said while pointing to heaven and earth, "this is my last rebirth."

I received my second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination several weeks ago (one of the perks of being over 75 years-old) and look forward to traveling soon. However, I know that we are not out of the woods yet, so I will continue to do my best to wear my mask and socially distance in public. I encourage everyone to do the same and take advantage of the first opportunity you get to be vaccinated.

Life at the temple has been a bit challenging over the past twelve months. We had to cancel our Fujinkai conference, Bon Dances, and various other services. At one point, we were not even able to allow people to visit the columbarium to put flowers! However, one of the amazing things I witnessed was our ability to adapt. We had virtual Bon Services, online dharma talks, a virtual temple tour, and even online classes on the Buddhist precepts! In April, the United Hawaii Soto-Shu Women's Association will be hosting a "hybrid" Lay Confirmation Ceremony. Ceremony attendees will have the option to participate in person or virtually.

I would like to thank the ministers, deacons, and Lay Temple Assistants, along with all the temple members and supporters, for "hanging in there" throughout these difficult times. Although navigating through the pandemic has been challenging, I am extremely grateful for their continued commitment to supporting the temples.

Please take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

In Gassho,

Shugen Komagata

Bishop Shugen Komagata

Online Study of *Zen Seeds* to Begin in April

"60 Essential Buddhist Teachings on Effort, Gratitude, and Happiness" by Shundo Aoyama Roshi

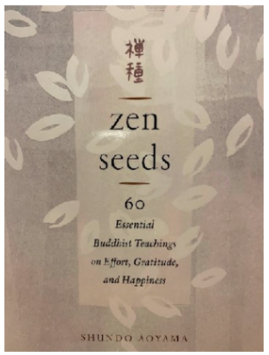
Translated by Patricia Dai-En Bennage Roshi

One may register for either group 1 or group 2. Facilitated by Rev. Jikō, these weekly Dharma sessions will offer participants a chance to read the material and share their thoughts, reflections, and life experiences in an online atmosphere that is kind, respectful, and compassionate.

Group 1: Starting April 6, Tuesdays from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Group 2: Starting April 10, Saturdays from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Zen Seeds is a sparkling collection of short stories by Shundo Aoyama Roshi, who is among the foremost Zen teachers in contemporary Japan and a living treasure of Soto Zen. She now serves as advisor to Sojiji Monastery and is the chief priest of a training temple for female priests in Nagoya, Japan.
The book may be ordered online.
Like all Dharma offerings, these sessions are open to all at no charge. Donations to Daifukuji Soto Mission are welcome. http://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html

For more information or to register,
please contact Rev. Jikō at (808) 322-3524, rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.



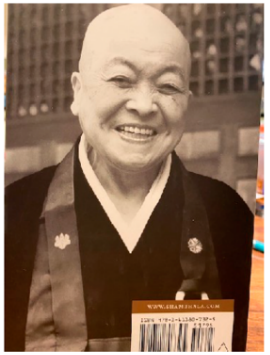


Photo Tour of SE Asia - Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam

April 18, 2021
10:00 a.m. via ZOOM
by Betsy Kairen Morrigan

Please take a trip with me and experience the Buddhist temples, amazing ancient sites and modern cities, and the people, places, and food of Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. In January and February 2020, I traveled to S.E. Asia for the first time. Thailand is an emerging bustling economy, very tourist oriented, with all signs in Thai and English, both Buddhist and Muslim. Angkor Wat, a major Buddhist temple complex located in Cambodia, is the largest religious temple in the world in a desperately poor country. Vietnam continually surprised me in its religious and geographic variety as I travelled 1500 miles north from Ho Chi Minh City (old Saigon) to Hanoi by bus and sleeper train. I went to Vietnam partly to do penance for the atrocities our country committed there during the twenty year Vietnam War.

I'd like to invite you to join me on this trip through a Zoom presentation lasting about an hour on April 18 at 10:00 AM. Reverend Jiko will send you a Zoom link and all you have to do is click on it to enter. There will be plenty of time for your questions and responses.

If you would like to receive the Zoom link, please give Rev. Jiko your name and email address (rev.jiko@daifukuji.org.).

Zooming Through the Precepts
by Rev. Jiko Nakade

"What a delightful surprise studying the precepts with a Zoom sangha has been! I appreciate the diversity of the sangha: ages teens to 80+ year olds, the diversity of experience in practicing Buddhism, from "I grew up in it but don't know much about Buddhism" to "having studied and practiced for decades." The Zoom sangha gives us an intimate, sacred space to share our thoughts and our life experiences as we contemplate the precepts. I am grateful for this opportunity to learn, share, and grow together." ***Mary Park***

I echo the sentiments expressed by Mary Park. Studying the precepts with an online Zoom Sangha has been a delightful surprise.

In March of 2020, just a few weeks after a group of Daifukuji members began studying the precepts together in person, the temple had to close its doors due to the Coronavirus crisis. Disappointed and saddened by this turn of events, we thought we would ride out the pandemic and meet again in a few months. As the pandemic stretched on and worsened and the hope of meeting any time soon began to diminish, I began to think that I could at least offer a course of study using Zoom, a video communications platform which was being widely used.

Not knowing how effective using Zoom would be, I decided that it would be worth a try using it to teach the sixteen precepts. Remembering that Bishop Shugen Komagata had announced at a ministers meeting that he wished to offer Soto Zen Buddhist Lay Confirmation ceremonies at our various Hawaii temples once it becomes safe to gather, I asked our bishop if he would like me to open up my classes to other Hawaii Soto Zen sanghas, since using Zoom would make this possible. Bishop Komagata gave his support and encouraged me to do so.

Shortly thereafter, I heard from Mrs. Jaymie Komagata that the United Hawaii Soto Shu Women's Association (UHSSWA) was considering having a virtual precepts ceremony, to be officiated by the bishop, for interested Fujinkai members in lieu of the association's annual conference, which had been cancelled due to the pandemic. She asked if it would be okay for Fujinkai members from our various Hawaii temples to join the Zoom precepts sessions. Gladly, I decided to offer a second series of sessions for this group.

Word went out and responses came in. Twenty-three people registered for the 8:00 a.m. Saturday classes, and seventeen for the 1 p.m. classes. Each group was comprised of a mixture of people from various temples.

"When Rev. Jiko started up a new series via Zoom this year I asked to sign up for the Saturday afternoon session. The class is very inclusive and encourages participation. I have met a new supportive Sangha from other islands and my understanding of the Precepts is growing. The informational emails we receive have been thought provoking. I am very grateful for this opportunity to study the Precepts again with Rev Jiko."
Susie Weaver

What is delightful is not only having members of the various Fujinkai women's groups join the afternoon sessions, but several men as well, among them Glenn Tango and Carl Kawauchi of the Soto Mission of Aiea Taiheiji.

"We've learned that the 16 precepts are guidelines for living a 'good' Buddhist life. They are all presented together in one place. They are guidelines and not commandments, so should help us live good Buddhist lives if we can follow them. We are also learning other aspects of Soto Zen Buddhism: e.g., what is meditation and how do we do it; karma and the six realms of existence; how we should generally live our lives; discussions on abortion and homelessness." ***Carl Kawauchi***

"I have enjoyed the precepts Dharma class because it has given me a chance to contemplate the precepts and express my thoughts on the precepts. Usually, it is just the minister or a reading through which you get an interpretation of a precept. It has been most interesting to hear what my fellow Buddhists have to say. I like this Zoom format because it gives a feeling of semi privacy. We are facing each other if you have your video on, but we are in our own comfortable private setting. I feel that I can be more open." ***Glenn Tango***

Although being together on Zoom is not the same as being together in person, people have found that Zoom Dharma study has its benefits, such as not having to drive and deal with traffic, being able to stay in the comfort of one's home, being able to better hear what others are saying by controlling the volume on one's personal device, and being able to focus on whoever is speaking without the distractions found in large group gatherings since everyone, except the speaker, is muted. Also, being able to attend a meeting without having to wear a mask.

"Studying the precepts with Rev Jiko via Zoom is lovely. While I'm not yet comfortable chatting on the medium, my own personal expansion of understanding has exploded. The convenience of not leaving home, coupled with the opportunity to join with others far away physically is absolutely wonderful. Internet-created sangha. Go Buddha nature, limitless, eternal, always connected. I'm grateful for my companions, walking each other home." ***Laura Brown***

"It has been my great good fortune to be a part of the Daifukuji online precepts class. I am not a tech savvy person and I would have never expected that this type of class being conducted online would have meaning to me - but it does. If anything, the online experience has been even richer than it would have been in person due to the time and energy saved by not having to take the long drive to and from the temple on a weekly basis." ***Dan Gordon***

With more and more people getting vaccinated, I am looking forward to once again holding in-person Dharma study sessions at Daifukuji Soto Mission. I would also like to continue offering Dharma study through Zoom. Through the sharing of their thoughts and reflections on the precepts, as well as their life experiences and challenges, the members of the Zoom sangha have bonded and are enjoying the sweet joy that spiritual friendship brings.

"The online Zoom Dharma sessions have been so far very enlightening. Each week is a new and important perspective of being a Buddhist. Having an opportunity to share the Buddhist precepts with others brings about right understanding. I am happy to have this chance and feel welcomed by the Sangha. Seeing people grow in the teachings while sharing is a very joyful experience." ***David Fiedler***

I can honestly say that I look forward each week to opening these Zoom meetings and to hearing the Zoom doorbell chime ring as, one by one, Sangha friends join the meeting from living rooms and kitchen tables throughout Hawai'i. Seeing the faces of teenagers, young adults, mothers and their children, older adults, and seniors on my computer screen, all making time in their lives to study the Teachings of the Buddha and Dharma ancestors fills my heart with unspeakable joy and wonder. I wish to express my warmest mahalo to all of the members of the Zoom sangha. I also thank Bishop Komagata for supporting this endeavor.

Namu kie butsu, namu kie hō, namu kie sō. We take refuge in Buddha, we take refuge in Dharma, we take refuge in Sangha.

I'll do it

"俺がやる Ore ga yaru (Japanese proverb)"
Story by Rev. Daito Noda

"I'll do it." "I'll take care of it." Hearing these words makes anyone feel good. And when one enjoys doing something one is good at, these words come out naturally. But what if it's work you don't like?

There is a phrase which Zen monks often say, "Don't pass on to someone else, work that is yours to do." For Zen monks, this means that "I have been tasked to do this work as a part of my Zen training. To pass on some work to someone else because I don't like doing it, is the same as robbing me of my zen training. There's no way I'll let that happen."

I remember an incident that happened shortly after I entered the monastery. A fellow novice was assigned to clean the toilets for the next three months. I expected him to grumble how he, a college graduate, didn't come all the way to these remote mountains to clean toilets.

To my surprise, he said, "Don't pass on to someone else, work that is yours to do." Then with a determined look, he said, "All right. I'll make the toilets spotless until they shine."

For me, his words and attitude were like a thunderclap in a cloudless sky. For the first time in my life, I had heard this Zen expression.

From then on, I repeat that phrase to myself, "Don't pass on to someone else, work that is yours to do." In today's world, if you truly want to develop spiritually, rather than staying in your comfort zone and doing what you are good at, wouldn't it be better to face the "now" in your life, that which you dislike, what you would like most to escape? How about practicing this from this day?

SDGs Lecture by Rev. Konjin Godwin

We invited Rev. Konjin Godwin, the Director of Soto Zen Buddhism International Center and held the event to learn about how Buddhism relates to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on February 21, 2021. Following is the video of the link.

https://youtu.be/nraIpJsLS8Y

Online Dharma Message

Donations made in March

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

General Donations

Masako Abe, Rodney & Lori Carillo, Claire M. Ching, Norene Y. Fukuda, Natalie Hashimoto, Roy Horiuchi, Dennis & Grace Ishii, Robert & Virginia Karpovich, Gwen Kunishige, Tsunao Miyasato, Wendell & Janice Sakuma, Mark & Lois Sato, Daniel & Jane Takahashi, Greg Takahashi, Les & Linda Takahashi, Wayne Takehara, Thomas Tanaka, Ivan Watanabe, Carol H. Yamanuha.

Janice Abe & James Char	In Memory of Tadashi Abe
Larry & Mae Chung & Henry & Betty Yamashiro	Service for Walter Ogata
Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka & Family	In Memory of Fukiyo Ueoka
Gary & Judith Matoi & Family	In Memory of Fukiyo Ueoka
Ronald & Rena Matsunaga	Uprighting family headstones
Daniel Okada	In Memory of Shigeo Nikaido
David Sumabat	In Memory of Violet Moto
Warren & Eileen Taguchi	In Memory of Yo Yamaguchi – 17th Year Memorial
Gordon Tamasaka	In Memory of Tadayoshi Tamasaka
Art Ueoka Family	In Memory of Fukiyo Ueoka
Meyer L. & Sharon H. Ueoka	Bazaar
Lester & Danna J. Yamaguchi	In Memory of Yo Yamaguchi – 17th Year Memorial

Donations received for the Spring O-Higan & Kaisan Rekijyu-ki Services on March 14, 2021

Erick Domingo & Melina Murayama, Kay Hanano, Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Gary & Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Allan & Cathy Murayama, Ruth Nakao, Sachie & Eric Toyota, Joy Ueoka, Misa Umetsu, Brian Watanabe, Neil & Joyce Watanabe.

In Memoriam

We express our heartfelt sympathy to the families of:

Addison "Bud" Harrison, 79 years, passed on March 9, 2021,
Hisao Kohatsu, 82 years old, passed on March 30, 2021,
Sidney Inokuma, 68 years old, passed on April 3, 2021.

We pray for them and give our love and support to their families in this time of great loss.

Namu Kie Butsu, Namu Kie Ho, Namu Kie So

Welcome, New Members

The Mantokuji Sangha extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Rollin Ives
Ivan and Son Watanabe

We are always grateful to have new members. For information about membership, please contact the temple.

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

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May 2021

May	Sunday	Monday	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday	Saturday
							1
	2 8:30am Cleanup 10:30am Fujinkai meeting	3	4	5	6	7	8 9:30am-12:00noon Ikebana
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16 8:30am O-bon letter folding	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23 10:30am Memorial Day & Eitaikuyo Services	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31					

Coming up in June (Tentative Schedule)	
Sunday 13	Clean up, Fujinkai & Kyodan Meetings

Hospital and Hale Makua
Visitations will resume when
advised it is safe.