



May 2023

Dates to Remember

**Memorial Day
and
Eitaikuyo Service**
May 28

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 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 Everyone,

First of all, I would like to thank the members of Mantokuji, Reverend Hoshino from Betsuin, and everyone for allowing me to go to Japan right after my grandfather passed away and for all the support given me during my bereavement. I would like to apologize for any inconvenience my sudden absence may have caused.

My grandfather passed away on March 7, having fulfilled his long life of 92 years. I went to Japan to help my father with the funeral service at my family temple. My grandfather was my Buddhist teacher and sometimes he and I performed services together. He had a big body and a loud voice, and members often told me "I get a lot of energy from him". To have that impact on members was one of my goals. I believe that he will be watching over me, our family, friends, and members from now on.

Looking back over the past year, my first annual service as a minister at Mantokuji was the Memorial Day & Eitaikuyo service. I remember that I didn't know what to do, so Rev. Yoshida from Betsuin supported me as I conducted the service. Over the past year, I have performed many different types of services. When I was working as an assistant minister in Japan, I only performed funerals and memorial services. However, at Mantokuji, I have performed funerals, memorial services, Makuragyo service, and service for demolished tombs as well as blessings for Shichigosan, store renewal, new houses, and shoreline projects. Performing those services has been a great experience for me. Of course, I could not have done it on my own, but with the help of other Soto Zen ministers and the sangha, I have been able to do them. I will continue to do my best.

We will have the Memorial Day & Eitaikuyo Service on Sunday, May 28th. Please join us for this memorial tribute to our deceased loved ones, our fallen soldiers, and members who no longer have living family to remember them. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Mahalo.

Tomok! Hirasawa

Also enclosed in this issue:

Dharma Lei n.44

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

May 7 2023 at 8:30am

June 11, 2023 at 8:30am

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and gentlemen who came to help with clean up and preparations for Hanamatsuri on Saturday, April 1:

Bobbie Arita, Kay Hanano, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa.

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and gentlemen who came to help with the preparation for lunch on Sunday, April 2:

Bobbie Arita, Kay Hanano, Joyce Kawahara, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Lois Sato, Nora Takeuchi.

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and gentlemen who came to help with clean up of the nokotsudo and temple grounds on April 9:

Bobbie Arita, Kathleen Davis, Kay Hanano, Reverend Tomoki Hirasawa, Yuki Hirasawa, Chester Kakiuchi, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Lois Sato, Isabelle Scholl, and Neil Watanabe.

Kyodan Meeting Report

Held Sunday, April 9, 2023

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

- Sandbag structure needs repair as one of the sandbags has been dislodged and two more are falling out. CMAC has provided a work proposal of \$83K.
- Meeting held with Jim Buika, Maui County Lead Coastal Resources and Shoreline Planner to discuss future plans for the shoreline. Beach restoration was more favorable than a flood wall.
- Reverend Hirasawa's R-1 VISA approval was extended to September 2025. Working on R-2 VISA approval for Yuki Hirasawa.
- 44th Annual Bazaar held on March 5, 2023 was very successful. Thank you to all who donated items and volunteered their time.
- Change of cleanup day to May 7 instead of May 14.
- Obon Festival will be held for only one night, Saturday, July 8, 2023. This will be the schedule:
 - Friday, July 7, 2023
 - 6:00pm Obon Service only
 - Saturday, July 8, 2023
 - 5:30pm. Concession opens
 - 6:00-6:30pm Zenshin Daiko performance
 - 6:30-7:00pm Maui Taiko performance
 - 7:00-9:00pm Bon Dance
- Memorial Day & Eitaikuyo Service on May 28 at 10:30am.
- Sangha Meeting on June 17, 2023 at 9:00am – lunch to plan Mantokuji's future
- Ikebana class on the third Saturday of the month – April 15, 2023 @ 9:30am
- Zazen sessions have resumed – Sundays at 7:30-8:30am
- Nokotsudo is open daily, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Next Kyodan meeting will be on **Sun, June 11, 2023.**

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

Welcome, New Members

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

Mavis M. Suda
Jonah Valois-Nishimura

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

Hanamatsuri Service at Mantokuji

Held on April 2, 2023

Celebrating Hanamatsuri.

Thirty-one temple members and friends celebrated Hanamatsuri at Paia Mantokuji on April 2. Like Lumbini Garden where Shakyamuni Buddha was born surrounded by colorful flowers, the hanamido was adorned with beautiful protea, status and greenery donated by Allen and Janet Fukuda and Kay Hanano.

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 in great happiness at Buddha's birth.



Reverend Hirasawa told the legendary story of Buddha's birth that has been handed down for generations. About 2500 years ago, in a country in the north of India, the king, Suddhodana, and his wife, Maya, lived a happy life, respected by the people of their country. However, they had one problem. They did not yet have a prince. Every day, the queen prayed for the birth of a prince.

One night, Maya had a strange dream in which a white elephant with six tusks entered her belly. When she asked the Hermit Ashita about it, he told her, "Soon a prince will be born to you. When he grows up, he will either be a great king or a supreme religious leader."

In the spring, on her way back home, Maya rested in a flower field. Here she gave birth to a healthy baby boy. At this time, sweet, delicate rain fell from the sky and purified the prince's body.

The newborn prince immediately walked east, west, south, north, and with his right hand pointing to the sky and his left hand pointing to the earth, he declared, "Tenjo Tenge Yuiga dokuson." The prince was named Siddhartha and grew up to be a great man. Instead of becoming a king after his father, he became a religious leader who helped many people.

To explain the words that Buddha first said when he was born, tenjo refers to the entire universe, tenga means only we humans and yuiga means most precious. Translated as one's own life is the most precious and important in the entire universe. This word also includes the teaching to value not only one's own life but also the lives of others and to be compassionate to others.

At the conclusion of the Hanamatsuri Celebration, Reverend Hirasawa entertained us with some of his skillful tennis ball handling.

A Spring egg hunt for the children followed. We ended this joyous occasion with a buffet lunch prepared by the Fujinkai ladies. Thank you to all who shared desserts and other tabemono to complement the buffet.

Thank you to Gary and Judith Matoi, Allan and Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa Naomi Takahashi and Krystene Tom who graciously provided prizes for the egg hunt.





Dharma Lei

Bishop's Office Newsletter

Soto Zen Buddhism Hawaii Office

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Second Quarter, 2023

Issue No. 44

Bishop's Message:

Aloha to all the members and supporters of Soto Zen Buddhism in Hawaii! The days have begun to get longer, signaling the arrival of spring! Although our seasons in Hawaii are much milder than places like the mainland or Japan, we can still sense the change in the weather.

As many of you may know, I was diagnosed with a rather rare and aggressive form of cancer in December 2022. Although I underwent surgery to remove the cancer in February, it was determined that cancer had spread to different parts of my body. Although no longer curative, I am currently undergoing chemotherapy and will soon receive radiation treatments to relieve my symptoms.

As I assess my situation, I find myself reflecting upon one of my favorite words of advice to people—LIVE EACH DAY TO THE FULLEST. Although my days are filled with doctor appointments and treatments, I continue to do my best to make the most of each day. I relish in the occasional visits from temple members, relatives, and friends, and I look forward to attending temple services. With assistance from senior minister Rev. Shuji Komagata, Rev. Hirosato Yoshida, and Rev. Masataka Hoshino, I continue to lead the Soto Mission of Hawaii as chief priest.

And so, I once again encourage you to live each day to the fullest. I shared in the previous Dharma Lei that with our prior experiences in life having shaped our view of the world, we should look to this year with great hope. With that hope, though, must come action. “*Carpe diem!*” This famous Latin phrase means to “seize the day!” Please focus on the present, appreciating the value of every moment in life, and avoid postponing things unnecessarily.

In Gassho.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Shugen Komagata'.

Bishop Shugen Komagata



2023 Precepts Study with Rev. Jiko Nakade A 3-month series of weekly online Zoom classes from June - August

Two groups (please choose 1):

- Group 1: Thursdays from 1:00 -2:00 p.m. Hawaii Time, starting June 1
- Group 2: Saturdays from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Hawaii Time, starting June 3

In June of 2023, Rev. Jikō will be starting a new series of precepts study sessions using ZOOM. This 3-month course is comprised of weekly one-hour sessions. This is an opportunity to learn about the 16 Bodhisattva precepts, which form the moral and ethical foundation of the Soto Zen tradition.

This is a 3-month period of study and reflection. The sharing of one's life is done in an atmosphere that is gentle, non-judgmental, and compassionate. Many have found their lives illuminated and enriched by this inner journey taken in the context of a loving sangha.

We will be using the book *Being Upright: Zen Meditation and the Bodhisattva Precepts* by Tenshin Zenki Reb Anderson Roshi, a senior Dharma teacher in the Soto Zen tradition of Shunryu Suzuki. *"A gifted storyteller, Anderson takes us to the heart of situations, where moral judgments are not easy and we do not have all the answers."*

If purchased through the Daifukuji Gift Shop, class participants may obtain the paperback book for the discounted price of \$10. The book is available online in hardcover, paperback and Kindle formats. Unfortunately, we cannot handle mail orders.

These sessions are open to all who are interested in studying the precepts and do not require participation in the precepts ceremony which will be offered at its conclusion.

Rev. Jiko offers the Dharma freely. There is no class fee. To support such programs, one may make a donation to Daifukuji Soto Mission.
<https://www.daifukuji.org/donation/index.html>

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

Those who have studied the precepts in the past are welcome to deepen their understanding by joining these sessions.



In Remembrance: Bishop Jiho Machida



On March 5, 2023, retired Hawaii Soto Mission Bishop Jiho Machida passed away peacefully at home in Honolulu. He was 96 years of age. He is survived by wife Violet Machida.

Jiho Machida was born on November 3, 1926, in Chichibu, Saitama Prefecture, Japan. At the young age of 26, the then Reverend Jiho Machida left Kokenji temple in Saitama and arrived in Hawaii on November 3, 1952. After serving as resident minister of (the now closed) Waiahole Tomoniji Soto Mission, he transferred to the Soto Mission of Hawaii. During his time as a minister at the Soto Mission of Hawaii, Rev. Machida succeeded Mrs. You Komagata as the second principal of the Nuanu Wakei Gakuen (Japanese Language School), served as the president of the Hawaii Kyoikukai (Japanese School Association), and for a short time served as the Soto Academy principal.

Upon the retirement of Bishop Gyokuei Matsuura on October 31, 1997, Jiho Machida was installed as the 7th bishop of the Hawaii Soto Mission. Bishop Machida was a kind and friendly person. He was also a very smart man, instrumental throughout his career in creating Japanese language textbooks used in many of the Japanese Schools that were operating throughout the state of Hawaii. His also contributed to the Hawaii Soto Mission by creating much of the English Buddhist materials we use to this day. He retired on August 31, 2008, after 56 years of dedicated service to the Hawaii Soto Mission.

Bishop Machida's funeral service will be held at the Soto Mission of Hawaii on Sunday, May 7, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., with visitation to begin at 2:00 p.m. We kindly request that you let your minister know if you plan to attend the service. Please call 808-537-9409 for more information.



Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo Services

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

Sunday, May 28, 2023 at 10:30am

The Memorial Day Service is observed to honor our veterans and victims of all past wars and the current war in Ukraine 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, and have no family members left to visit them. As their extended family, let us join together to offer incense and prayer for them.

We hope you will all join us for this service.

President's Message

Aloha everyone,

This month we begin the work of preparing for this summer's O-Bon service and Bon Odori. Mantokuji has decided on some scheduling changes to these events to help make things more manageable for our volunteers and more convenient for our member families. You'll be informed of the details soon.

Also behind the scenes, the Board continues to address needed repair work of the shoreline sandbag structure, and fulfilling our State permit requirement for future plan reporting. All of these efforts will be needing substantial commitments of money and work from all of us. We greatly appreciate your ongoing support.

Mantokuji ends May with the Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo Service on Sunday, the 28th at 10:30 am. Please join us in fellowship and prayer. Take care.

With aloha,

Eric Moto

President, Mantokuji Kyodan



Hanamatsuri fun time and delicious lunch.

Donations made in March

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

General Donations

Anonymous, Edward & Jennifer Baldwin, Irving Fujioka, Ronald & Kay Fukumoto, Patricia "Pachi" Haber, Julie Higa, Gwen O. Hiraga, Mitsuru Hirano & Juaneva Smith, Roy Horiuchi, Wayne & Evelyn Kajiwara, Gwen A. Kunishige, Leonard & Merlyn Nagata, Allen & Mitsuko Nikaido, Michael Okazaki, Lloyd & Sharon Sodetani, Valerie Sowder, Mavis M. Suda, Daniel & Jane Takahashi, Thomas Tanaka, David Trewhitt, Kenneth & June Uyeno, Diana S. Yamauchi, Karl & Linda Yoshioka.

Colbert Y. Abe	Bazaar
Harold & Kathy Fujii	In Memory of Meyer Leigh Ueoka
Jeral & Karlynn Fukuda	In Memory of Clara Sodetani
Kay H. Hanano	Bazaar
Richard & Jance Horylev	In Memory of Meyer Leigh Ueoka
Alfred Y. Itamura	In Memory of Sidney Inokuma – 3 rd Year Memorial
Dennis & Linda Kawachi	In Memory of Yoshimi & Masayuki Takehara
Hideo & Joyce Kawahara	In Memory of Meyer Leigh Ueoka
Carol U. Lau	Bazaar
William & Carol U. Lau	In Memory of Meyer Leigh Ueoka
Tsunao Miyasato	In Memory of Niwa & Ume Miyasato
Les & Linda Takahashi	In Memory of Konami Takahashi
Robert S. & Deborah Takahashi	Memorial Service for Konami Takahashi on March 16, 2023
Gordon & Delta Tamasaka	In Memory of Tadayoshi Tamasaka – Memorial Service
Miles & Nani Watanabe	In Memory of Van Tomita

Donations received for the Spring O-Higan & Kaisan Rekijyu-ki Services on March 19, 2023

Howard & Bobbie Arita, Kay Hanano, Hideo & Joyce Kawahara, Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Gary & Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Allan & Cathy Murayama, Norman M. Nagata, Diane Y. Orikasa, Mark & Lois Sato, Nora H. Takeuchi, Amy Misa Umetsu, Brian Watanabe, Neil & Joyce Watanabe.

In Memoriam

We express our heartfelt sympathy to the family of:

Hideo Ogata, 92 years, passed away on February 11, 2023.

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

Namu Kie Butsu, Namu Kie Ho, Namu Kie So.



Special Thanks

To **Neil Watanabe** for making and installing new doors for the garage storage.

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May 2023

	Sunday	Monday	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday	Saturday
May		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7 7:30am - 8:30am Zazen 8:30am Cleanup, Fujinkai meeting	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14 7:30am - 8:30am Zazen	15	16	17	18	19	20 9:30-11:30 Ikebana
	21 7:30am - 8:30am Zazen 8:30am O-bon Newsletter making & Committee Meeting	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28 7:30am - 8:30am Zazen 10:30 Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo Service	29	30	31			

Coming up in June (Tentative Schedule)

Sunday 11	Clean up, Fujinkai & Kyodan Meetings
Saturday 17	Sangha Meeting
Sunday 25	Yagura Construction and Clean up Day O-Bon Committee Meeting

Hospital and Hale Makua Visitations are scheduled during the month.