



May 2024

## Dates to Remember

**Memorial Day  
and  
Eitaikuyo Service**  
May 26

**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

## Reverend's Message

Aloha,

Thank you to everyone who came to the Hanamatsuri Service. You joined 50 others in the joint celebration with Rinzai Temple, a tradition that Mantokuji was happy to revive. We welcomed Rev. Haga from Rinzai, as well as Rev. Higashiyama from Toenji and Rev. Chujo from Zuiganji, Japan, guest ministers of Rinzai, to participate in the service. Everyone was invited to lunch and enjoyed the games, especially picture bingo. Bingo was a tradition started by our Rinzai partners. Then everyone, ministers included, helped clean up. It was a pleasure to hold the service with Rinzai Temple and to strengthen our friendship once again. Thank you to everyone for your hard work preparing for this event.

We all celebrated Buddha's birthday together. I'm sure all of you celebrate your own or your family's birthdays. I would like to share a Buddhist story about birthdays. When Buddha was walking along the banks of the Ganges River with his disciple Ananda, Buddha asked Ananda, "Ananda, take the sand of the Ganges River in your palm. Which is more, the sand of the river or the sand in your palm?" Ananda replied, "The sand in the palm of my hand is very small." Buddha said, "That's right. Think of the grains of sand in the river as the number of all creatures in the world, animals, insects, birds, fish and the grains of sand in your palm as the number of humans." Then Buddha continued, "Now try to put sand on your fingernails from the sand in your palms. Which is more?" Ananda replied, "There is no need to compare." Buddha said, "Right. As I mentioned before, the number of humans is the amount of sand in your palm, but among them, most people do not realize the value of being born as a human being. Only a few, like the few grains on your fingernails, would awaken to its value and rejoice in it." In this story, Buddha conveyed how precious it is to be born into this world. The Buddha's dharma is the teaching of rejoicing in the fact that we have received our body as a human being. Even if you can't answer the question, "How old am I now?" there is no reason not to celebrate your birthday. Please remember this story at your birthday and be grateful for the life given to you. Happy birthday to all of you.

Mahalo.

Tomoki Hirasawa



Ohigan Service, March 17, 2024

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

**May 19 2024 at 8:30am**

**June 9, 2024 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 6 and on Sunday morning, April 7 to help with the preparation for lunch:

**Bobbie Arita, Kathleen Davis, Kay Hanano, Julie Higa, Reverend Hirasawa, Yuki Hirasawa, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Diane Orikasa, Ann Takakura, Neil Watanabe.**

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and gentlemen who came to help with clean up of the nokotsudo and temple grounds on April 14:

**Bobbie Arita, Kay Hanano, Reverend Hirasawa, Yuki Hirasawa, Chester Kakiuchi, Donald Kimizuka, Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Lois Sato.**

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## Kyodan Meeting Report

Held Sunday, April 14, 2024

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

- Erosion Updates:
  - Sandbags need to be repaired after the very rough winter. Mike Foley will talk with contractor Cody: 1. Add 4 sandbags and reestablish the anchors. Availability of materials and cost by Cody. 2. Consult Cody about locating fuel tank, remnant from crematorium. 3. Repair broken exposed pipe.
  - Climate Change Toolkit Project: 1. Project completion presentation event on May 11, 2024. 2. Mike Foley looking into the Hazard Mitigation Grant through FEMA. Eric Moto reached out to Gina Albanese of MEMA (Maui Emergency Management Agency). 3. Mantokuji & Oceanit will collaborate on application.
- 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Bazaar held on March 3, 2024 was very successful. Thank you to all who donated items and volunteered their time.
- Mantokuji will hold a Silent Auction August 18-31, 2024. More information forthcoming.
- Chaysen Tanaka & his fellow scouts (Troop 1 at UH Maui College), families and volunteers have completed his Eagle Scout Project to clean and catalogue the graves in Mantokuji's Cemetery. Thank you, Chaysen!
- Obon Festival will be held July 12 & 13, 2024. This will be the schedule:
  - Friday, July 12, 2024
    - 6:00pm Obon Service only
  - Saturday, July 13, 2024
    - 5:30pm. Concession opens
    - 6:00-6:30pm Zenshin Daiko performance
    - 6:30-7:00pm Maui Taiko performance
    - 7:00pm Blessing
    - 7:00-9:00pm Bon DanceThank you to Reverend & Yuki Hirasawa for the donation of 100 uchiwa (fan) for the Bon Festival - custom designed for Mantokuji
- Mantokuji will be purchasing an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) – Philips FRx Package \$1686.63
- Memorial Day & Eitaikuyo Service on May 26 at 10:30am
- Ikebana class is cancelled for April
- Keiki Dharma sessions begin on May 5. See flyer on page 6.

**Next Kyodan meeting** will be on **Sun, June 9, 2024.**

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

## Joint Hanamatsuri Service with Rinzai Zen Mission at Mantokuji

Held on April 7, 2024

On April 7, Paia Mantokuji and Rinzai Zen temples joined together again to celebrate Hanamatsuri, the birth of Buddha. The service was attended by 50+ Mantokuji and Rinzai Zen temple members and their friends. Reverend Haga of Rinzai Zen Mission, with Rinzai's guest ministers from Japan, Reverend Higashiyama and Reverend Chujo, participated in the service with Reverend Hirasawa. The Hanamido, adorned with beautiful proteas and spring flowers, represented the field of flowers where Queen Maya gave birth to the Buddha. Housed in the Hanamido was the statue of Buddha with his right hand pointing to the sky and left to the earth as he did at birth. Each attendee offered a flower to the Buddha as they poured amacha tea over his statue, like the sweet rain that fell during his birth.



At the start of his sermon, Reverend Hirasawa welcomed Rinzai Zen Mission members and ministers to this joint celebration which Mantokuji missed for the last six years. He thanked the members of both temples for their hard work to make the Hanamatsuri celebration a success.

In celebration of Hanamatsuri, the flower festival, Reverend focused his sermon on the lotus flower which is closely associated with Buddhism. The lotus flower is seen on altars, a cushion where Buddha sits, Kannon-sama holds the lotus and those who practice zazen folds their legs in the "lotus position." The lotus grows in ponds and swamps and originated in India. In Japan, white or pink lotus flowers bloom around June. The root of the lotus, renkon, is Reverend's favorite vegetable. He also shared that his father grows lotus flowers at his temple and sends him photos when they bloom.

One may ask why the lotus flower has been used as a symbol in Buddhism since the beginning. One reason may be that the lotus flower originated in India at the time of Buddha's existence. More importantly, the lotus grows in the mud underwater, but the buds grow straight out of the mud toward the sky and blooms into a beautiful flower. The black mud reminds us of the world of suffering while the beautiful pure flowers remind us of the world of enlightenment. In other words, a lotus flower blooming beautifully out of the mud brings to mind a person who has finally attained the peace of enlightenment through practice in the world of suffering. "Our everyday life is filled with a lot of difficult, painful and sad things. However, true happiness comes when we look at ourselves during such situations and live each day by taking what is difficult as nutrition for ourselves." Reverend told his story and how he deals with and overcomes his everyday difficulties and encouraged us to do the same.

## Joint Hanamatsuri Service with Rinzai Zen Mission at Mantokuji (Cont')

After the service, everyone enjoyed the scrumptious buffet prepared by the Fujinkai, which included Rinzai's signature pig's feet soup prepared by Chef Alan Nago and Mantokuji's nishime, cooked by Chef Eric Moto. After lunch it was time for bingo, a Hanamatsuri tradition. Bingo with a twist! Picture bingo of everything Mantokuji and Rinzai, including their specialty chefs! Thank you, Rinzai, for the generous gift cards and Fujinkai ladies for the many packages of assorted baked products. Everyone had a great time.



*"Thank you for Hanamatsuri. You guys always have a nice and fun event! We really enjoyed!"*

*"Had a good time at Hanamatsuri. The Picture Bingo was a novel idea. You guys really know how to throw a party!"*

Thank you to the following people for their contributions to this Hanamatsuri celebration:

- ❖ Rinzai and Fujinkai ladies for the many bingo prizes
- ❖ Rinzai and Mantokuji families for desserts
- ❖ Joyce Kawahara for Hanamatsuri flower pins
- ❖ Rinzai for signature Pig's Feet Soup
- ❖ Reverend Haga, Reverend Higashiyama and Reverend Chujo for your participation and help with cleanup
- ❖ Cathy Murayama for creating the Picture Bingo
- ❖ Allen and Janet Fukuda, Dave Langille and Sherry Allison and Kay Hanano for flowers and greenery for Hanamido and bouquets
- ❖ Lois Hiranaga for flowers attendees offered to the Buddha



## 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 26, 2024 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.

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## Dharma Keiki . . . Buddhist Teachings for Kids & the Young at Heart

Mantokuji will be participating in Dharma Keiki. If you are interested in having your child or grandchild participate in these sessions, please see the flyer next page and register online. Bring your keiki to Mantokuji on May 5!

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## President's Message

Aloha everyone,

Let's start off by thanking the Fujinkai and sangha of Hilo Taishoji for hosting the 57<sup>th</sup> annual United Hawaii Soto Shu Women's Association (UHSSWA) conference on April 27-28, 2024. It is always good to gather together with members from our nine Soto Shu temples across the islands, especially in beautiful and welcoming Hilo.

For the past six months, Mantokuji's shoreline has been the site of important scientific, historical, and social data collection and research as part of the Oceanit- and Legislature-sponsored Climate Change Toolkit project. Four local student interns from UHMC and one from Maui High School have been working with a team of mentors from Oceanit to collect data on Mantokuji Bay's water quality, sand composition, wave action, water currents, biology, and sea life. The team has also documented the temple's long history in Pa'ia and its importance within the community. The Climate Change Toolkit project will conclude with a very special gathering of project participants, temple representatives, and intern family members on Saturday, May 11. The five student interns will present their work and findings via video and verbal presentations at that time. The research findings and recommendations will also be presented to a small group of local and state officials / leaders at a later date this summer. We are grateful to Oceanit for choosing to use their Legislative grant to fund this project that will greatly benefit Mantokuji in our efforts to gain approval for future beach restoration work.

We end the month with the Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo Service on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. As always, you are all welcome to join us in prayer and fellowship. Take care.

Mahalo,

Eric Moto

President, Mantokuji Kyodan



# **DHARMA KEIKI**

## **BUDDHIST TEACHINGS FOR KIDS & THE YOUNG AT HEART**

Supported by the Hawaii Soto Mission Association and administered by the  
Hawaii Soto Mission Head Office

**First Sunday of the Month Starting May 5, 2024**

**9:30 a.m. HST - 10:15 a.m. HST**

**Via ZOOM at Your Local Hawai'i Soto Zen Buddhist Temple  
or From Your Home**

- Registration is required and must be done online.
- A waiver and release of liability form must be signed.
- Adult participation is required. Zoom sessions will not be recorded by the host. Participants must agree to not record nor screenshot any part of the program or its participants.
- Children learn Buddhist teachings through music, meditation, songs, stories and mindful movement.
- Material is presented by experienced teachers.
- In support of this program, a donation may be given to one's local Hawai'i Soto Zen Temple.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT REVEREND JIKO. Call (808) 322-3524 or send an email to: [rev.jiko@daifukuji.org](mailto:rev.jiko@daifukuji.org).**

**TO REGISTER, PLEASE GO TO: <https://forms.gle/Azubjv2fbmEHUJZk6>**

# Donations made in March

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

## General Donations

Claire M Ching, Jeral & Karlynn Fukuda, Natalie Hashimoto, Sue Hiraga, Thelma Kasai, Hideo & Joyce Kawahara, Wayne K Kobayashi, Joyce Masuda, Janet Miyahira, Norine Miyazono, Susan Jo Morohashi, Daniel D Okada, Marion T Santo, Mavis M Suda, Daniel & Jane Takahashi, Petty J & Sandra Takahashi, Iris Takitani, Thomas Tanaka, Alice M Tobita, Minoru & Betty Uehara, Ron & Vivian Ueoka, Kenneth & June Uyeno, Carol H Yamanuha.

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Allen & Janet Fukuda	Bazaar donation
Peter Hanano	Bazaar donation – refrigerator truck rental
Randall & Karen Kimura	In Memory of Satoru, Shizuno & Carolyn Kimura & Seija Takahashi
Dawn Komine & Kathi Nakatani	In Memory of Elaine Komine (7 <sup>th</sup> Year Memorial) & Kikuyo Nagashima (50 <sup>th</sup> Year Memorial)
William & Carol Lau	Bazaar donation
Leslie & Karen Maeda & Gary Kuwashima	7 <sup>th</sup> Year Memorial Service for Tsurue Kuwashima & 27 <sup>th</sup> Year Memorial Service for Harold Kuwashima
Gary & Judith Matoi	Use of hall on March 30, 2024
Lucille Ogata & Carl Ogata	In Memory of Hideo Ogata – 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Memorial Service
Susan T Oshiro	Shoreline Project
Janet Shimada	Bazaar Donation
Brian & Joyce Takahashi	Memorial Services for Bryce Takahashi – 7 <sup>th</sup> Year Memorial, Setsuko Takahashi – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Memorial and Shizuo Takahashi – 17 Year Memorial
Les & Linda Takahashi	In Memory of Shizuo Takahashi – 17 <sup>th</sup> Year Memorial, Setsuko Takahashi – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Memorial, and Bryce Takahashi – 7 <sup>th</sup> Year Memorial
Gordon & Delta Tamasaka	In Memory of Tadayoshi Tamasaka – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Year Memorial Anniversary
Sharon Ueoka	Bazaar Donation

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## Donations received for the Spring O-Higan Service on March 17, 2024

Howard & Bobbie Arita, Yuriko Fukagawa, Kay Hanano, Wayne & Evelyn Kajiwara, Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Gary & Judith Matoi, Brian Moto, Eric Moto, Allan & Cathy Murayama, Melina Murayama & Erick, Sage & Seth Domingo, Norman Nagata & Joyce Nagata Sasaki, Diane Orikasa, Jean T. Pozsar, Nora Takeuchi, Amy Misa Umetsu.

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## Welcome, New Members

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

**Susan Yonezawa,**  
**Arie Korporaaz, Kai Korporaaz & Maile Korporaaz**

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

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## Special Thanks

To **Jon Hanano** for the donation of a new stove in the hall kitchen. And to **Ralph Miyamoto** who helped Jon install the stove.

To **Reverend Tomoki** and **Yuki Hirasawa** for their donation of 100 custom designed uchiwa (fan) for the Bon Festival.

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

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## May 2024

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>May</b>				1	2	3	4
	5 7:30am - 8:30am Zazen 9:30am Dharma Keiki	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12 7:30am - 8:30am Zazen 8:30am Cleanup, Fujinkai Meeting	13	14	15	16	17	18 9:30-11:30 Ikebana
	19 7:30am - 8:30am Zazen 8:30am Cleanup, Fujinkai meeting, Obon newsletter making & Committee meeting	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26 7:30am - 8:30am Zazen 10:30 Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo Service	27	28	29	30	31	

### Coming up in June (Tentative Schedule)

Sunday 9	Clean up, Fujinkai & Kyodan Meetings
Sunday 30	Yagura Construction O-Bon Committee Meeting

Hospital and Hale Makua Visitations are  
scheduled during the month.