

Mantokuji Newsletter



MAN GAN
満願

May 2025

Dates to Remember

May 25
Memorial Day
and
Eitaikuyo Services

REVEREND'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone.

The cool weather is all gone now. It is very hot in Paia and the sun comes into my bedroom at 6 in the morning. The days are getting longer.

On April 5, we had the Hanamatsuri Service to celebrate Buddha's birthday at Paia Rinzai Mission. Last year, Mantokuji was the host, so this year Rinzai Mission was the host. Rev. Haga from Rinzai Mission and I welcomed Rev. Hoshi from Japan and we conducted the service together. This was my first time performing a service at Rinzai Mission. Since we both are Zen Buddhist ministers, we have a lot in common in the way we conduct the service, including the chanting of sutras and the three bows. However, I noticed some differences in the way the drums are beaten, the bells are rung, and the Eko is performed, among other things. These differences were very interesting to me. The service, sharing a delicious meal together and the bingo activity that followed completed a beautiful celebration of Buddha's birthday. Thank you Rinzai sangha for your gracious hospitality.

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

Mantokuji is currently working on a project to renew and archive the map of the cemetery out of respect for those who are buried there. This is because the existing map is old and incomplete. Last year, Chaysen Tanaka worked with us as his Eagle Scout project to remove dirt and algae from the graves and map their exact locations. Thanks to their excellent work, the letters on the headstones are now legible. As a next step, I am walking the cemetery every single day recording the information on the headstones. However, some of the graves erected over 100 years ago have had the letters scraped off and are difficult to read. Sometimes I try to read them by changing the angle from which I look at them, creating shadows, tracing the letters with my fingers, and using various other techniques. Through this hard work, I have learned many things. Some went to war in World War II and died young, others had lost their children in stillbirths, and many children were under the age of five when they passed away. As I read about their lives inscribed on the headstones, I sometimes felt a little emotional. At the same time, I realized that there are many things happening in our life, and no one lives without sorrow. I will let you know when we complete the project.

There will be a Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo service at Mantokuji on May 25. I look forward to seeing you all there.

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Paia Mantokuji Soto Mission

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Mangan Team

Bobbie, Cathy & Isabelle

Tomoki Hirasawa

FUJINKAI NEWS

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

May 18, 2025 at 8:30am

June 8, 2025 at 8:30am

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and gentleman who came on April 4 to help prepare Mantokuji's contribution of nishime and cabbage salad for the luncheon after the Hanamatsuri Service at Rinzai Zen Mission on April 5.

Bobbie Arita, Reverend Hirasawa, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, and Cathy Murayama.

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and gentlemen who came to help with clean up of the nokotsudo and temple grounds on April 13.

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

KYODAN MEETING REPORT

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025

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

- Sandbag structure needs to be repaired.
- County Manage Retreat Fund – Councilmember Nohe U'u-Hodgins sponsored Bill 188. Bill passed unanimously. Application for the funds are in process.
- Applications for a state Grant-in-Aid and FEMA are awaiting decisions.
- 47th Annual Bazaar (Rummage Sale and Bazaar) grossed \$33,638.57.
- Mantokuji had a joint Hanamatsuri Service with Rinzai Zen Mission on April 5, 2025. Fifteen Mantokuji members with family and friends attended.
- United Soto Shu Women's Association Conference will be hosted by Aiea Taiheiji on April 26-27, 2025.
- Early Bird registration deadline for the U. S. Soto Conference on October 23 – 26, 2025 is April 30.
- Maui High School teacher Keith Imada has reached out to Mantokuji. He would like his advanced engineering students to take drone footage of Mantokuji's shoreline erosion. He would like his students to document the current status of the erosion in the area. They would like to meet with county experts to see what mitigation efforts are currently under way.
- Minister's residence bathroom will be repaired.
- Brennan Tanaka will do his Eagle Scout project at Manokuji. He will provide a shelf for a directory to the cemetery graves as well as an enlarged map.
- Obon Festival will be held July 11 & 12, 2025. This is the schedule:
 - Friday, July 11, 2025
 - 6:00pm Obon Service only
 - Saturday, July 12, 2025
 - 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 Dance
- Memorial Day & Eitaikuyo Service on May 25 at 10:30am

Next Kyodan meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 8, 2025.**

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

SPECIAL THANKS

To **Eric Moto** and **Cathy Murayama** for the donation of two 30-cup rice cookers.

JOINT HANAMATSURI SERVICE HOSTED BY RINZAI ZEN MISSION

HELD ON APRIL 5, 2025



Hanamatsuri, which translates to flower festival in Japanese, is a celebration commemorating the birth of the Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama. Paia Mantokuji and Rinzaï Zen temples once again joined together for this celebration. Reverend Haga (Sen) was joined by Reverend Hoshi of Japan and Reverend Hirasawa of Mantokuji for this service.



With a filled temple, all in attendance offered incense and a flower to the Buddha as they poured amacha tea over his statue housed in the hanamido adorned with flowers.

Reverend Haga's ended his sermon with:

Today, I reflected on the Buddha's teaching in honor of Hanamatsuri. First, "Above and below the heavens, I am the most noble." All living beings are the most wonderful, and fulfilling the role given to our lives is important. Then as stated in the Dhammapada, we should nurture the heart of forgiveness, not conflict.

Every person is born with an irreplaceable life. We are helped by others, and at times, we are hurt by others. We make mistakes, and we sometimes disagree. But we have to go through it together with forgiveness. Fortunately, recently, more people have been coming to the temple. Today, many people have come to offer respects. When many people gather, there will be joyful moments but also moments of worry. To conclude today's talk I will share one more story about salt and sugar.

Salt and sugar are ingredients we use every day. However, when trying to make a sweet baked item, just sugar alone doesn't make it sweet. By adding a little salt, the sweetness of the sugar becomes more pronounced. Similarly, on a hot day, it feels good to enter the cold ocean, but on a cold day, you wouldn't want to go into the cold ocean. When taking pictures, if you take them against a background of similar colors, the result might be very hazy, but if you take the picture with a background that has strong contrast, the photo looks sharper. We tend to gather with people who have the same hobbies or ideas, but perhaps the people who help us to grow and bring out the best in us are those with opposing views or sensibilities.

As I said, everyone has a wonderful role in life, and we have gathered here in this moment. Let's appreciate that, respect one another, and help each other when needed as we live together. "Above and below the heavens, I am the most noble." All lives are precious, and we are fulfilling our roles. "Overcoming hatred with love." Let us cultivate the spirit of forgiveness and walk together.

Thank you Reverend Haga for a thought-provoking sermon. For his entire sermon, see rinzaï-maui.org/newsletters.

We all enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch with their famous pig's feet soup and Mantokuji's one-of-a-kind nishime. Thank you to all who shared desserts and other items.



The day ended with the Hanamatsuri tradition of playing Bingo. Everyone went home smiling with a prize!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL DAY AND EITAIKUYO SERVICES

SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025 AT 10:30AM

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

Sunday, May 25, 2025 at 10:30am

The Memorial Day Service is observed to honor our veterans and victims of all past wars and the current wars in Ukraine and Gaza 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha everyone,

We approach May with County, State, and Federal grant funding applications in the works to support ongoing and future shoreline-erosion mitigation projects. Behind the scenes, the Mantokuji Board of Directors, with the help and support of our administrative and engineering consultants, continue to address repair and maintenance needs, along with preventive measures to ensure the physical and spiritual stability of the temple. Our focus is always on preserving our precious temple for our sangha.

This month we begin to prepare for our annual O-bon service and festivities in July. It's never too early to start working on all the many details that go into the planning and execution of this very important event. Please let us know if you would like to help in any way. You are also invited to join us for the Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo Service on Sunday, May 25 at 10:30 am. So, come by the temple for prayer and fellowship, and maybe some good volunteer work too. Take care.

Mahalo,

Eric Moto,
President, Mantokuji Kyodan



NEW MEMBER

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

Kristi Hamai

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

DONATIONS MADE IN DECEMBER

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

General Donations

Myrtle Char, Kennard Finn, Natalie K Hashimoto, Mitsuru Hirano & Juaneva Smith, June Kato, Wayne Kobayashi, Vaughn & Gwen Kunishige, Carol U Lau, Leslie & Karen Maeda, Koki Masuda, Susan Morohashi, Allen Nikaido, Hachiro & Susan Shimanuki, Kenneth & June Uyeno, Carol Yamanuha.

Tokuko Abe	Bazaar Donation
Janet Fukuda	Bazaar Donation
Kay Hanano	Bazaar Donation
Glenda Joyo	Bazaar Donation
Norman Nagata	Bazaar Donation
Diane Orikasa	Bazaar Donation
Isaac & Jane Toyama	In Memory of Fumie Matsumoto

Donations received for the Spring Ohigan & Kaisan Rekijyuki Service on Sunday, March 16, 2025

Howard & Bobbie Arita, Kay Hanano, Hideo & Joyce Kawahara, Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Allan & Cathy Murayama, Narman Nagata, Neil & Joyce Watanabe.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

A refreshing vegetable recipe that's easy to make and delicious. It can be used on any veggies.

GARLIC BOK CHOY

By *STEPHANIE CHOI* on INSTAGRAM (munchieswithsteph)

Ingredients

- 1 bag bok choy
- 6 cloves garlic (minced)
- 2 tbsp oyster sauce
- 2 tbsp soy sauce (I used 1 tbsp)
- 1 tbsp shaoxing wine (Chinese cooking wine)
- 1 tbsp sesame oil
- 1 tsp cornstarch
- ½ tsp - 1 tsp sugar
- ½ cup water

Instructions

1. Cut bok choy in half and wash well.
2. In a large pot, boil water and add your veggies and blanch for 1 minute. Then drain out all the water and set bok choy aside.
3. In a sauce pan combine all ingredients except bok choy on medium high and heat until it thicken (2-3 minutes).
4. Add sauce to hot pan on medium high heat until it thickens (2-3 minutes) and
5. Pour on top of bok choy.

IN MEMORIAM

We express our heartfelt sympathy to the family of:

Wesley Kumasaka, 67 years old, passed on March 30, 2025.

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



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May 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 7:30am-8:30am Zazen	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 7:30am-8:30am Zazen	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 7:30am-8:30am Zazen 8:30am Clean-up, Fujinkai Meeting, O-Bon Newsletter Making & Committee Meeting	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 7:30am-8:30am Zazen 10:30am Memorial Day and Eitaikuyo Services	26	27	29	29	30	31

Coming up in June (Tentative Schedule)

Sunday 8: Kyodan & Fujinkai Meetings, Clean up
Sunday 29: Clean-up, Yagura Construction,
O-Bon Committee Meeting

*Hospital and Hale Makua Visitations are
scheduled during the month.*

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