

Mantokuji Newsletter



November 2025

Dates to Remember

November 16

Family Service - Shichi-Go-San Ceremony

REVEREND'S MESSAGE

Aloha everyone,

It's November and the mornings and evenings are getting cooler and more comfortable. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Daruma-ki Service and the picnic. Hosting this annual picnic is Mantokuji's thank you for all your help throughout the year. We were happy to be able to spend a pleasant time together with fun games and good food and we look forward to seeing more of you at Mantokuji Temple in the future!

On November 16, we will have the Shichi-Go-San service. Shichi-Go-San, which means 7, 5, 3 in Japanese, is a traditional Japanese custom to celebrate the growth of children at the ages of 3, 5, and 7. Shichigosan is a celebration to thank parents for the safe growth of their children and to pray for the healthy growth of their children in the future. This custom was started at a time when medical care was not fully developed and children often became ill. However, even today with the development of medical care, this custom remains because of the unchanging love of parents for their children.

The origin of this ceremony is that it celebrated the age of 3 years old when children begin to grow their hair, which had been shaved before. Where I grew up, 3 years old was a celebration for girls, but there are also communities that celebrate both boys and girls at age 3. Celebrating a boy's fifth year was important as a milestone where boys wore "hakama" for the first time and were recognized as members of the community. A celebration for a girl turning seven marked the transition from wearing simple children's obi or ties to wearing a formal obi like an adult. Today, children celebrate in any type of clothing.

At this Shichi-Go-San service, we express gratitude to the Buddha and ancestors for the safe growth of your child and pray for their continued protection. Families with children turning three, five, or seven years old who would like to participate in this service, please contact me at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

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

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Web: www.paiamantokuji.org
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Mangan Team

Bobbie, Cathy & Isabelle

Tomoki Hirasawa



Darumas made during the Daruma-sama Picnic, Oct. 5th

IN THIS ISSUE...

Reverend's Message	1
Reports	2
Announcements & Reminders	3
Donations	5
Calendar	6

FUJINKAI NEWS

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

November 9, 2025 at 8:30am

December 14, 2025 at 8:30am

Thank you to the ladies and gentlemen who came on September 12 to help clean the nokotsudo and grounds.

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

GIVE ALOHA, FOODLAND'S ANNUAL COMMUNITY MATCHING GIFTS PROGRAM

Thank you very much to all who made a donation at Foodland, Sack N Save or Foodland Farms to benefit Paia Mantokuji. Collectively, donations of \$3,108.24 were made. Your donations are partially matched by a gift from Foodland. Total donations and matching gift will be reported in December's mangan.

KYODAN MEETING REPORT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

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

- Shoreline Erosion Project is in the process of requesting a permit extension of existing structure and an extension of the structure. Contractor CMAC proposal for the repair and extension - \$389K.
- Received \$500K from County grant & \$250K from a state Grant in Aid grant (Oceanit Research Foundation)
- Fuel Tank/Line clean-up – it was determined that the tank is filled with dirty sea water. Water will be removed and filled with grout. Decided against removing tank as the ground will become unstable.
- Notified by Mutual Underwriters that our insurance carrier Coaction Specialty Insurance Group requires an update to the electrical box. Electrical Connection was hired to replace the electrical panel (\$3,250) and to revamp the meter (\$5,735).
- The O-Bon Service (July 11) and Festival (July 12) were very successful. The hondo was filled with families of Hatsubon and sangha members. Concession netted \$20K.
- Scout Brennan Tanaka is doing an Eagle Scout Project to provide a directory of the cemetery.
- Jen & Dan Marshall donated the repair of the minister's residence bathroom.
- Extension application for Reverend Hirasawa and Yuki Hirasawa's R-1 VISA has been filed by attorney KahBo Dye-Chew.
- Mantokuji will be hosting a Welcome Back dinner for Reverend Kenji and Naoko Oyama on Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 6:00pm in the social hall. Mantokuji will provide the main dishes and attendees are asked to bring side dishes, pupus or dessert.

Next Kyodan meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 9, 2025.**

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

DARUMA-KI SERVICE AND DARUMA-SAMA THANK YOU PICNIC

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025

On Sunday, October 5, we gathered together for the Daruma-ki Service to honor one of Soto Zen's founding disciples, the Bodhi Dharma. After the service, Mantokuji hosted the Daruma-sama Picnic to celebrate and thank some of those you have helped and supported Mantokuji over this past year with manpower service and donations. The 48 attendees represented 24 individuals and families and they were treated to a day of food, fun, and fellowship. Diane Orikasa and Cathy Murayama organized an icebreaker mixer, a Daruma making activity, a word scramble game, and a tricky chopstick dexterity challenge. A special mahalo to Cathy and Kay Hanano and Joyce Kawahara for donating the great mahalo gifts and game prizes. And thanks to those who brought pupus and dessert to share. Our volunteers and supporters are always greatly appreciated, and everyone is encouraged to offer much needed help throughout the year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

For the fourth year, Mantokuji's Fujinkai is a \$1000 sponsor for the Walk to End Alzheimers on Maui and has formed a Walk team, TEAM VIOLETS. As all of our families have been affected in some way by this debilitating disease, Fujinkai wanted to support raising funds to end this disease. The Walk will be held at Queen Kaahumanu Shopping Center on November 22nd. Registration begins at 9:30am, Ceremony at 10:00am and the Walk starts at 10:30am. If you would like to support Mantokuji's team, go to act.alz.org and look for Team Violets, captain Cathleen Murayama. Let's walk together wearing a Mantokuji t-shirt, any color will do. Let's meet by the elevator before the Walk begins if you will be joining us.



REMINDERS

SHICHI-GO-SAN CEREMONY ON NOVEMBER 16TH AT 9:00AM

Please call Mantokuji at (808) 579-8051 if you have children, grandchildren or great grandchildren who have become or will be ages 3, 5 and 7 this year by November 9 to have Reverend Hirasawa bless them for their well-being.

WELCOME BACK TO MAUI REVEREND KENJI & NAKO OYAMA!

Reverend and Naoko Oyama are looking forward to reconnecting with fellow sangha and community members they befriended while serving Mantokuji for 10 years, 2003 - 2013, as the sixth resident minister. Please join us for a potluck dinner on Tuesday, October 28 at 6:00pm. Mantokuji will provide the main dishes and we're asking you to share a side dish, dessert or pupu. Call or text Cathy Murayama, 808.283.6125 to sign up or email info@paiamantokuji.org. It should be a fun "homecoming" for the Oyama's!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha everyone,

It was great to gather together with some of Mantokuji's helpful volunteers and supporters at our annual Daruma-sama Picnic where we had a chance to say mahalo to everyone with a day of good fun and good food and fellowship. Thanks to all those who donated prizes and gifts, brought desserts to share, cleaned, decorated, organized games, and cooked!

At the end of October, we are excitedly anticipating a visit from our former resident minister, Reverend Kenji Oyama, and his wife Naoko. They will be on Oahu for the U.S. / Hawaii Soto Conference and will fly over afterwards for a few days to visit the Mantokuji sangha. The highlight will be a potluck dinner for the Oyama's on Tuesday, October 28 at 6:00 pm in the social hall. Let us know if you are interested in attending. Please refer back to October's mangan for sign-up details.

A Family Service to recognize and honor children in your family who are 7, 5, or 3 years of age through a Shichi-Go-San Ceremony is scheduled on Sunday, November 16 at 10:00 am. No one has signed up so far, but there is still time to let us know if you have a child or children whom you want to participate. After that we'll all be looking forward to turkey and stuffing. Take care.

Mahalo,

Eric Moto

President, Mantokuji Kyodan



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

"**Pumpkin Crunch** makes for the perfect dessert. Layers of pumpkin sitting atop a deliciously moist, but crunchy crust topped with a sweet cream cheese frosting. The ultimate fall dessert." by Relle Lum of *Keeping it Relle*.



PUMPKIN CRUNCH

By *Relle Lum* on keepingitrelle.com

Pumpkin Layer

- 1 15 ounce can pumpkin puree
- 1 12 ounce can evaporated milk
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon

Crust Layer

- 1 box 15.25oz yellow cake mix
- 1 box 3.4oz Jello-instant vanilla pudding mix
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 cup butter melted

Frosting Layer

- 1 cup cream cheese
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- ¾ cup Cool Whip

1. Preheat oven to 350F.
2. In a mixing bowl combine pumpkin, evaporated milk, eggs, sugar, cinnamon. Mix until well combined.
3. Pour into a greased 9x13 pan lined with wax/ parchment paper (don't skip this step). Then sprinkle over the top yellow cake mix, vanilla pudding mix, and chopped nuts. Spoon over melted butter.
4. Bake for 50-60 minutes or until golden brown.
5. While pumpkin crunch is baking mix the frosting. In a mixing bowl combine cream cheese, powdered sugar, and Cool Whip. Mix until well combined and no lumps are present.
6. Once pumpkin crunch has finished baking, remove from the oven and allow to cool completely.
7. Once cooled, flip pumpkin crunch so the cake layer is on the bottom and pumpkin on the top. Frost with cream cheese topping and ENJOY!



Making Darumas (top) and Word Scramble game (right) during the Daruma-sama Picnic, Oct. 5th.





Everyone enjoyed the games during the Daruma-sama Picnic, Oct. 5th

DONATIONS MADE IN SEPTEMBER

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

Hideo & Joyce Kawahara	Daruma-sama Picnic
Anne K Masuda	In Memory of Bernice Nagato
Mark & Lois Sato	33rd Year Memorial Service for Kuroku Kamimoto on 9.24.25
Diane Sueno	Sand Restoration Project - In Memory of John Yutaka Karakawa

Donations made for Ohigan & Ryosoki Service on September 21, 2025

Howard & Bobbie Arita, Kay Hanano, Hideo & Joyce Kawahara, Donald & Shirley Ann Kimizuka, Judith Matoi, Eric Moto, Allan & Cathy Murayama, Diane Orikasa, Mark & Lois Sato, Ann Takakura, Nora Takeuchi, Neil & Joyce Watanabe.

IN MEMORIAM

We express our heartfelt sympathy to the family of:

Teruo Charles Tomita, 98 years old, passed on September 27, 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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November 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 7:30am-8:30am Zazen	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 7:30am-8:30am Zazen 8:30am Clean-up 10:30am Fujinkai & Kyodan Meetings	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 7:30am-8:30am Zazen 9:00am Shichi-Go-San Ceremony	17	18	19	20	21	22 9:30am-11:00am Ikebana
23 7:30am-8:30am Zazen	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 7:30am-8:30am Zazen						

Coming up in December (Tentative Schedule)

Monday 1-8: Rohatsu Sesshin
Sunday 7: Jodo-e Service, Shakyo Session
Sunday 14: End of the Year Clean-up Day
Wednesday 31: Joya No Kane

Hospital and Hale Makua Visitations are scheduled during the month.