

Mantokuji Newsletter



October 2025

Dates to Remember

October 5

Daruma-ki Service &
Daruma-sama Picnic

November 16

Family Service - Shichi-Go-San
Ceremony

REVEREND'S MESSAGE

Aloha everyone,

It's already October. The waves hitting the shore at Mantokuji have grown higher, and I can feel the season changing. I returned to Japan again in August to help with the Obon services at my father's temple. I'd like to write about that experience this time. My father's temple is located in Kanagawa Prefecture. The average temperature this August was around 95 degrees Fahrenheit. I clearly remember how hot it was when we arrived at Haneda Airport, even though it was nighttime.

In the area of the temple, it is believed that ancestors return to each home mainly around mid-August. Families specially decorate their home Buddhist altars for their ancestors, and Buddhist minister chant sutras before them. This custom is called "Tanagyo" and is said to have begun approximately 400 years ago. Mantokuji also offers Tanagyo service in our Obon letters, but many families no longer have Buddhist altars, so just a few families currently request this service. However, many families in Japan still hold Tanagyo services. My father and I share the duties, and this year we each visited about 100 homes in five days.

Tanagyo services in Japan is one of the hardest duties for me, but the most painful part is the pain in my legs. This is because most Japanese homes have a Buddhist altar in a tatami room, where I must kneel in seiza position to chant sutras. I also kneel while talking with the family after the sutra is chanted. So by the afternoon of the fifth day, I've lost almost all feeling in my legs. Additionally, some homes do not have air conditioning, or they turn it off to prevent the candle flames from going out, so it is also very hot. I travelled to nearby homes on a motorcycle, so when it rains, it becomes even more difficult. By the time the memorial services are over, I have lost weight.

On Maui, I perform Tanagyo services at a few homes in July, and I like this time because I don't have to sit on the floor, and I can talk with the family without worrying about the time. Next Obon season, I encourage you to hold a Tanagyo service to welcome back your family members. If you're interested, please feel free to contact me.

On October 5th, a Daruma-ki Service will be held at Mantokuji. The Daruma-ki Service is a Buddhist service commemorating Bodhidharma, the great patriarch of Zen Buddhism. Following the service, we invite everyone who helped in various ways with Mantokuji's Obon festival to join us for a picnic with games and lunch. We look forward to seeing you there.

Mahalo.

Tomoki Hirasawa

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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Mangan Team

Bobbie, Cathy & Isabelle

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FUJINKAI NEWS

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

October 12, 2025 at 8:30am

November 9, 2025 at 8:30am

Thank you to the Fujinkai ladies and gentlemen who came on September 14 to help clean the nokotsudo.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DARUMA-KI SERVICE AND THANK YOU PICNIC

Sunday, October 5, 2025 at 10:00am Service – 11:00am Daruma-sama Thank You Picnic

The Daruma-ki Service and Picnic will be held on Sunday, October 5. This event gives the members of Mantokuji a chance to thank our friends who come to help Mantokuji throughout the year whenever help is needed . . . on clean up days, our annual bazaar, our O-Bon Festival and Mantokuji's various services and events. Their generosity and kindness are invaluable.

We will start with a service at 10:00am in honor of Daruma-sama, or Bodhidharma, the patriarch of Zen Buddhism. Followed by the Thank You picnic beginning at 11:00am. There will be games and activities for children and adults. Lunch will be served at noon. **Please come and enjoy the fellowship, food and fun!**

Please **RSVP** to Cathy Murayama by text or call (808) 283-6125 or email info@paiamantokuji.org by **September 27** to let the committee know if you will attend so we can plan accordingly.



SHICHI-GO-SAN CEREMONY AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

Sunday, November 16, 2025 at 9:00am

We will have a family service together with the Shichi-Go-San Ceremony on



Sunday, November 16, 2025 at 9:00am

If you have children, grandchildren or great grandchildren who have become or will be ages 3, 5, and 7 this year, please bring them for the Shichi-Go-San Ceremony to pray for their well-being. Please call Reverend Hirasawa at (808) 579-8051 by November 9 to sign up for this ceremony.

Thank you to Reece Tanabe for your help at Mantokuji's O-Bon Festival. Our apologies for inadvertently missing your name in the August/September mangan. You helped the ladies with the heavy rice pots and worked in the shave ice booth. Many thanks for your volunteer service.



Give aloha

Shop at Foodland and make a donation to:

Paia Mantokuji

78996

Foodland will match a portion of your gift!

Please provide our 5-digit organization code and your Maika'i Member number when making your donation.

Now through September 30





give aloha

Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts Program



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha everyone,

As I write this message, there are important Fuel Tank and Sandbag Repair projects still needing to proceed as Mantokuji and our consultants finalize work contracts, gather work materials, and secure grant funds. Completion of work to seal off the remaining fuel lines and tank from the former crematorium and work to repair/extend the shoreline sandbag structure is targeted by the end of summer-early fall, so look for on-site construction workers and equipment throughout the month. We want to be ready to face another round of winter surf.

Back on shore, we start the month with the Daruma-ki Service and the Daruma-sama Picnic. The service to honor Bodhi Dharma, one of the founders of Soto Zen Buddhism, begins at 10:00 am on Sunday, October 5. The picnic to recognize and thank all of our Sangha helpers and volunteers will take place right after the service. Please let us know if you are able to come and be with us that day. Take care.

Mahalo,

Eric Moto

President, Mantokuji Kyodan

WELCOME BACK TO MAUI REVEREND KENJI & NAOKO OYAMA!

Reverend Oyama and Naoko-san, Mantokuji's 6th resident minister and okusan for 13 years, will be coming to Maui on October 26 – 30. We would like to give them a warm welcome back to Maui!

A welcome back dinner is planned for **Tuesday, October 28 at 6:00pm** at Mantokuji's social hall. Please join us for some good food, fun and fellowship! Mantokuji will be providing the main dishes for the dinner. We would appreciate your help in sharing a side dish, pupu or dessert for the dinner.

Your **RSVP** is very important so the committee can plan adequately. Please call or text Cathy Murayama or email info@paiamantokuji.org by **October 19** with the following information: name, number attending, and what you will be bringing to share - side dish, pupu or dessert. Your cooperation with an **RSVP** is greatly appreciated.



DONATIONS MADE IN AUGUST

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

General Donations

Randall & Karen Kimura.

Diane Orikasa	In Memory of June Uyeno
Mark & Lois Sato	In Memory of June Uyeno
Erwin & Aimee Shibata	Funeral & 49 day Services for Jonathan Shibata via ZOOM
Nora Takeuchi	In Memory of June Uyeno
Celia Suzuki & Yukie Ueoka	In Memory of Meyer M Ueoka (August 26)

Obon Donations made in August 2025

Janice Abe & James Char (In Memory of Tadashi Abe), Cynthia Alm (In Memory of Buzzy T Okazaki), Todd & Heidi Hiraoka (In Memory of Clara Sodehani), Masue Kimura (In Memory of Ito Family), Celia Suzuki (Donation for shiso rice Ingredients).

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October 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 7:30am-8:30am Zazen 10:00am Daruma-ki Service 11:00am Daruma-sama Picnic	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 7:30am-8:30am Zazen 8:30am Clean up 10:30am Fujinkai Meeting	13	14	15	16	17	18 9:30am-11:00am Ikebana
19 7:30am-8:30am Zazen	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 6:00pm Dinner with Oyamas	29	30	31	

Hospital and Hale Makua Visitations are scheduled during the month.

Coming up in November (Tentative Schedule)

Sunday 9: Clean up, Fujinkai & Kyodan Meetings
Sunday 16: Family Service - Shichi-Go-San Ceremony (7-5-3- Ceremony)

NOKOTSUDO HOURS IN OCTOBER

For the month of October, the nokotsudo will be closed on Wednesday, October 22 – Sunday, October 26. It will be opened on all other days in October. The daily hours are 9:00am – 4:00pm.
Thank you for your understanding.