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Paia Mantokuji Soto Mission



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November 2011

Aloha Members and Friends,

I recently returned from a trip to Japan where I attended an event called the International Symposium, which took place at the Tokyo Grand Hotel in Minato-ku. During the three-day event, we also visited Daihonzan Sojiji in Tsurumi and spent a night there and took part in the morning zazen and service.

Sojiji is the monastery where I trained for over three years, so it was a gratifying and humbling experience to be able to go back and sit in meditation in the zendo and chant the sutras in the temple hall. Although our stay was very brief, many memories of my time there came roaring back to me.

When I think about it, the three years that I lived there was so intense it seemed like I was there for a much longer time. At the monastery, we are so busy and always on the move, "time" was never our own, we were all just living together as one. Our "time" was everyone's "time" and vice versa.

It seems like there was never a wasted time spent and we were so immersed in living life. That is why it feels like I had been there for much more than three years, and the memories are so vivid even today.

Even now, under much different circumstances, living here in Maui, at Mantokuji, I feel like I am living my life in fullness, just as I was at Sojiji.

Although I would not want to go back and live in the monastery ever again, the experience that I had there has been invaluable in my life today, and it will always be a source of energy and encouragement for the rest of my life.

Sometimes, the most difficult times in life, become the most meaningful, and what seemed to be a tough experience may become a great one later in life.

Gratefully In Gassho,
Rev. Kenji Oyama

Paia Mantokuji will be participating in the
Ben Franklin Craft Fair
On **Sunday November 20, 2011**
From **9 am - 2 pm**
At **War Memorial Gym**

We will be selling maki sushi, dry mein, spam musubi, craft items for the holidays and more! Please come and give us your support!



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Kyodan Meeting Report

The Kyodan (membership) Meeting was held on September 11, 2011. Written below are some of the things that came up. Please join us for future meetings and be involved in these important discussions.

- Report and Evaluation of 2011 O-Bon Festival
- Report on Zumbathon/ Rummage Sale for Japan
- Update on International Symposium and U.S. Soto Conference
- Report on plan for hall kitchen repairs
- Daruma-sama Picnic – October 16, 2011
- Announcement of Confirmation Ceremony and Study Sessions in May 2012 (program sponsored by the Hawaii Soto Mission Association and Hawaii Soto Shu Bishop's Office)
- Next meeting will be held on November 6, 2011.

Nokotsudo Cleaning

At our Kyodan meeting, the topic of the nokotsudo (columbarium) cleaning was brought up.

Once a month, the Fujinkai (ladies club) have been cleaning the nokotsudo, but it has been increasingly difficult for the ladies who volunteer, as many are in the eighties. Also, over the past year, our already small group has become even smaller since some of the volunteers have fallen ill or injured.

So after discussion about whether we should consider not allowing any flowers in the columbarium so that the cleaning will not be so laborious, it was decided that we first ask everyone to help out as much as possible before we make any big changes.

Some things that you could do to help:

- *Bring flowers that don't scatter so much, like dry flowers, anthurium, etc.
- *Not putting water in the vase if you know that it will be left there for a few weeks so that the water does not become smelly.
- * Limit the amount of flowers that you bring/consolidate if possible.
- *Place flowers in the front (on the red shelf), or on the floor.
- *Come to help the ladies on our clean up days.

Job Description

The Fujinkai ladies meet at 8:30 am on the Sunday morning of their monthly meeting to start cleaning the nokotsudo. They first start by taking all the flowers and vases out of the niches (if it is not newly put in) and after throwing the old flowers away, they wash the vase and then put it either in the general section or back into the niche if it seems to be a personal one. They also wipe each niche with a cloth, and then sweep and mop the floor. It may not seem like much, but more often than not, there are a lot of flowers and only a few people working.

After cleaning the nokotsudo, if there are enough people, they also rake the leaves around the building, and then go up to the temple hall to vacuum, sweep, mop and wipe the chairs and furniture, and clean the temple and hall restrooms.

Fujinkai News

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

Sunday Nov 6, 2011 at 8:30 am
Sunday Dec 11, 2011 at 8:30 am

Thank you to all who came for the monthly clean up and meeting on September 11:
Tokuko Abe, Bernice Nagato, Grace Saito, Misa Umetsu, Marion Watanabe, Kathleen Davis, Michie Tamane, Naomi Takahashi, Kiyoko Suzuki, Gladys Nagata, Kiyoko Quiggle, Kay Hanano, Carol Moto, Violet Moto, Judy Matoi, Bobbie Arita, Meyer Ueoka, Baron Ueoka, Cathy Murayama, Naoko Oyama and Rev. Oyama.

Special thanks to **Kay Hanano** and **Naomi Takahashi** for conducting fun workshops in September. We enjoyed making and eating pizza, okonomiyaki and dorayaki.

Ben Franklin Craft Fair

Sunday November 20, 2011
9am – 2pm

We are busily preparing for the **Ben Franklin Craft Fair** at the War Memorial Gym on November 20, 2011.

We gratefully accept any donations of craftwork and ingredients for this craft fair.

We also ask for your kokua on **Saturday November 19, 2011 from 8:30 am** to prepare the food items for the Craft fair and also in the early morning on **November 20, 2011 from 4 am** to cook the food.

Yoroshiku Onegaishimasu!

Thank you very much for your support.

Shichi-Go-San Ceremony November 13, 2011 at 9 am

We will be having a special Shichi-Go-San Ceremony together with our regular family service on Sunday November 13, 2011 from 9 am.

Shichi-Go-San which means "Seven, Five, Three" in reference to the age of children is a special day in Japanese culture as it marks the different milestones in the beginning of one's life.

Together, we will pray for the good health and happiness of our children.

If you would like to have your children or grandchildren receive a blessing at this ceremony, please let Rev. Oyama know by November 6, 2011.

Contact: Ph : 579-8051

email: mantokuji@hawaiiantel.net

Donations Made in September

Thank you for your very generous donations!!!

General Donations

Karl and Linda Yoshioka – 3 year memorial for Eiko Sakuma
 Arnold Kotler and Therese Fitzgerald – General Donation
 Herbert Otaguro – In Memory of Saju Otaguro Family, Kosaburo Nakamura Family and James Minoru Otaguro
 Hazel Nasu and Nora Fong – 50 year memorial for Matsue Watanabe, 10 year memorial for Chozo Watanabe
 Ella Kimie Watanabe – 17 year memorial for Tsutomu Watanabe
 Norma Nakamura – General Donation
 Maui High School Class of '67 – Donation for use of hall
 Glenn Kosaka and Family – 7 year memorial for Ayako Kosaka
 Wendell and Janice Sakuma and Family – In Memory of Minerva Sakuma, funeral services, use of hall
 Robert, Carol, Mark and Ben Suzuki – In Memory of Kellie Dellplain
 Robert and Carol Suzuki – General Donation
 Shiichi Horiuchi – Building Fund Donation
 Travis Ueoka – General Donation
 Tammy Honjiyo – In Memory of Kasai Family
 Edith Shimabuku – 7 year memorial for Zenkichi Shimabuku
 Kyoko Segawa – In Memory of Jun Denny Sakugawa, funeral services
 Curtis Mizuno and Family – In Memory of Chisato Mizuno
 Paul and Gwen Ueoka – donation for the Daruma-sama Picnic

Sally Yoshina – donation for kitchen improvements

Many Donations Received for the Autumn O-Higan and Ryosoki Service held on September 4, 2011

November Schedule

2	Wednesday	10 am	Hale Makua Kahului Service (MBC)
5	Saturday	9 am	Kannonko and Goeika Practice
6	Sunday	8:30 am 12 pm	Fujinkai Meeting and Clean up Kyodan Meeting
7	Monday	7 pm	Maui Buddhist Council Annual Meeting at Kahului Hongwanji
11	Friday		Workday for BFCF (tentative)
13	Sunday	9 am	Family Service and Japanese Study Shichi-Go-San Ceremony Fujinkai Workshop
17	Thursday		Sokanbu Meeting and U.S. Soto Conference Meeting at Betsuin
19	Saturday	8:30 am	Prep for Ben Franklin Craft Fair
20	Sunday	4 am 9am -2pm	Prep for Ben Franklin Craft Fair Ben Franklin Craft Fair at War Memorial Gym (Wailuku)
24	Thursday		Happy Thanksgiving Day!
27	Sunday		Fujinkai Excursion to Kula

Coming up in December . . . (tentative schedule)

Dec. 1-8 Rohatsu Sesshin Period (Zazen Meditation in honor of Buddha's Enlightenment)
 Dec. 4 Jodo-e (Bodhi Day) Service
 Shakyo Session
 Dec. 11 Fujinkai Meeting and Clean up Day
 Dec. 14-15 Fujinkai Visitation of Kula Hospital and Hale Makua
 Dec. 18 End of the Year Clean Up Day (すす払い - 大掃除)
 Dec. 31 Joya no Kane (ringing of temple bell 108 times) and New Year's Blessing Service

Zazen Sessions are on Saturday at 7 am and Sunday at 5 pm.
 No Zazen on Dec. 18

Hospital and Hale Makua Visitations are scheduled during the month.

Kitchen Repairs

At our recent Kyodan meeting, it was decided to make improvements to our hall kitchen so that there would be more space to work, storage can be done better, add security, and make it easier to clean and upkeep. As a result it will upgrade the overall efficiency of our cooking, especially at large events such as our O-Bon and bazaar.

The kitchen has long been the center of our temple's activities and foundation of our temple fundraisers. This is where many members and friends of Mantokuji has spent a lot of time and made many valuable memories.

We hope that the improvements made will benefit everyone and more people can come to enjoy the camaraderie that goes on in the kitchen.

The repairs and refurbishing of the kitchen will be done in phases over the next year. The total cost for the improvements is estimated at about \$60,000.

We humbly ask for any amount of donations to help with the funding of the costs for this big project. Checks may be made to Mantokuji with the note - *kitchen repairs*. Please send to:
P.O. Box 790207, Paia, HI 96779.

UHSSWA Conference April 21-22, 2012

Next year's United Hawaii Soto Shu Women's Association Conference (Fujinkai Conference) will be hosted by Wahiawa Ryusenji on April 21-22, 2012. It will be held at the temple and also at Ala Moana Hotel.

It will be expensive when you consider the airfare, hotel and meals (bento, banquet, luncheon) so I would recommend that you also use this trip to visit with family and friends who live in Oahu during the free time, and also it is a good chance to go shopping at Ala Moana Shopping Center.

The estimated cost for the conference is about \$350-400 per person. (We need to keep in mind that airfare tends to go up as the plane gets full.)

I encourage everyone to join us for this event as it is a way to connect with our roots, to enjoy our present moments together with people who we can relate to, and to plant valuable seeds for the future.

Registration forms will be sent out as soon as we receive information from the host temple.

If you have any questions regarding the conference, please do not hesitate to contact Rev. Oyama at 579-8051.

In Memoriam

We express our heartfelt sympathy to the family of the late **Jun Denny Sakugawa**, 75, who passed away on September 8 at the Maui Memorial Medical Center, and the family of the late **Minerva Hiroko Sakuma**, 90, who passed away at her residence in Kula on September 9 for their great loss.

We pray for them and give our utmost support to their families during this time of mourning.

Namu Kie Butsu, Namu Kie Ho, Namu Kie So



Fujinkai Workshops in September

Clockwise from top: ①Marion Watanabe flattens her dough, ②Bernice Nagato is ready to put her pizza in the oven, ③Dorayaki, ④Kay Hanano teaches how to make homemade pizza, ⑤Okonomiyaki, ⑥Pizza, ⑦Naomi Takahashi demonstrates how to make dorayaki to Sachie Toyota and Eric Moto, ⑧Cassidy, Elise, and Emily makes their own pizza.



Report on International Symposium – October 4-6, 2011

On October 4, over 200 members and friends of Soto Zen temples and zen centers from Hawaii, North America, South America, Europe and Japan gathered at the Tokyo Grand Hotel (Soto Shu Shumuchō Headquarters) in Tokyo, Japan. There were 14 people from Hawaii that attended this event including Rev. Oyama. Former ministers of Mantokuji, Rev. Seigo Hanuki and Rev. Ui Otani were also in attendance. We also saw former Hawaii ministers; Rev. Yodo Oyama (Waipahu), Rev. Koichi Miyoshi (Kauai), Rev. Kotoku Yoshida (Betsuin), Rev. Shunko Sakai (Betsuin), Rev. Ryuji Tamiya (Kona), Rev. Naoyuki Iijima (Betsuin), Rev. Bunryu Oyama (Rev. Oyama's brother) and Rev. Hirosato Yoshida (Rev. Yoshida's son).

Booths for each Bishop's Office (Hawaii, North America, South America, and Europe) sold items from their respective districts and played a dvd that showed the activities and temples of each area.

The event started with a World Peace Memorial Ceremony, a keynote lecture given by Associate Professor Noriyuki Ueda, slideshow presentation of each district, a panel discussion, and ended with a social gathering with pupus and drinks. The Soto Zen International group then hosted a dinner get together at a nearby Chinese restaurant.

The next day, October 5, started off with the Bodhi Dharma Memorial Ceremony (Daruma-ki) and a tour of the Soto Shu Shumuchō office. Then we were off to visit Chokokuji, the branch temple of Daihonzan Eiheiji, and from there we moved on to Komazawa University Fukazawa Campus for lunch and to listen to the lectures on the theme: Sotoshu and Modern Japan. The question and answer period that followed was very impressive. We then rode the bus to Daihonzan Sojiji in Tsurumi, Kanagawa where we had our dinner, and then listened to an enlightening dharma talk by Rev. Shoko Morita (Godo Roshi of Sojiji).

The next morning, we woke up at 3:30 am for morning zazen and then went to the temple hall for the morning service, memorial service for the deceased former ministers who served overseas, and a ceremony for the 100th Anniversary of the relocation of Daihonzan Sojiji officiated by Bishop Dosho Saikawa (South America). After a short tour of Sojiji and breakfast we all said farewell to the new friends that we made and were on our way. It was the first time that we had an event like this that included all the Soto Zen temples from all over the world. It was a very fulfilling and meaningful three days for all.



Slideshow presentation by Bishop Komagata

Hawaii Booth for Japan Relief Fundraiser

Keynote Lecture by Prof Ueda



Rev Otani and Rev Oyama

Rev Hanuki

Jane Ishii and Rev Tamiya

Rev Sakai and Rev Yoshida

Rev Miyoshi



Lecture at Komazawa University for Sojiji Symposium

Dharma Talk by Rev Morita

Morning Zazen at Sojiji



Morning Service at Sojiji

Breakfast at Sojiji

Rev Hirosato Yoshida gives tour of Soto Shu Shumuchō Headquarters