

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

December 2016



30 members of the Japan 21st Century Religious Committee visited the shrine on December 6 as part of their annual pilgrimage to Pearl Harbor.

This is the 35th year that a gathering of diverse religious leaders from Japan converged on Oahu to offer prayers of peace at Punchbowl, Kaneohe Marine Base, Ehimemaru Memorial and Pearl Harbor

753 Volunteers

BONENKAI



December is the busiest month of the year in Japan. People aren't busy shopping for Christmas — they're partying.

Bonenkai (literally: "forget the year party") are the most important parties of the year.

As the name implies, the purpose of *bonenkai* is to forget the troubles of the past year and look forward to success in the next.

Every company in Japan holds at least one *bonenkai*. In many cases, *bonenkai* happen at the company, team and department level.

Bōnenkai are seen as times for *bureikoh* or letting one's hair down and not worrying about the boss/employee formal relationship or the rank and age divisions.

Bonenkai first appears in a document from the 15th century which refers to several yearend convivial gatherings among samurai called *Toshi wasure* or literally "forget the year" parties.

Chyson Acoba
Leina Diamond
Bill Doughty
Keiko Doughty
Gayle Fujihara
Yasumi Gojo
Kathy Hamada
Kwock
Miyoko Hanahara
Bob Harada

Stacie Hata
Joseph Iseri
Kaela Iwai
Lorraine Kadota
Elaine Komatsu
Sage Maxwell
Marilyn Naitoh
Shinken Naitoh
Takemi Nakasone

Craig Nishida
Diane Nishida
Mikaela Nishida
Diane Ogasawara
Yukiko Shishido
Kulani Simafranca
Sharon Toma
La'akea Ushiroda



MAHALO for your donations

21st Century Japan Religious Cmtte
Douglas Abe
Scott & Stephanie Agena
Tomoko Anan
Kimberly Andrada
Miho Aoki
Kyoko Arasaki
Nobuhiro Ariyoshi
Wendy Asao
Janelle Awakuni
John & Emi Bethancourt
Megumi Bethel
Daniel Bizen
Mika Bueza
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Sara Shimabukuro
Jamie Shimozone
Gary & Linda Shinsato
Miyako Shiota
Kana Sin
Yumi Sjoblom
Ed & Erin Snyder
Gerald & Rachelle Sueyoshi
Hiromi Suganuma
Mami Sun
Katsue Teramoto
Chisato Takahashi
Larry Taki
Mimi Tilley
Daniel & Maki Tobias
Jensen & Judy Toma
Naoki & Makiko Tsukada
Noriko Uda
Dean & Yumi Ueda
Paul & Lei Umholtz
Cassie Uyekubo
Kana Vance
Aika Vivo
Hitomi Watanabe
Shannon Wright
Yohei Yamada
Consuela Yokomura
Keigo Yoshimoto
Joseph & LeeAnn Young



Congratulations to Sho and Nao! Family members hailed from Hiroshima and Yamaguchi to witness and celebrate the union on November 11.

We wish you happiness that reaches every corner of your hearts.

The most popular tradition of a Shinto wedding is the exchange of nuptial cups, called *Sankan no Gi* or *San san kudo*. *San* means 3 and *ku* means 9. So, *san san kudo* means three, three, and nine. The groom and bride drink sake three times each, from three different-sized cups called *sakazuki*. In their exchanging of cups, they are symbolically exchanging their marriage vows.



Congratulations to Mike and Diana from Texas who tied the knot on November 19.

May you always find in each other the love, laughter and happiness that only partners in life share.



Congratulations to Dustin and Kyle who were married on December 4! Marriage is a beautiful time when two souls start to share one heart.

Wishing two very special men a lifetime of happiness.





Shrine Director Bryson Goda performed for a Charity Concert on 12/2 in Kumamoto, in support of the victims of the series of earthquakes that shook Kumamoto this year.

The above three children and the shrine were featured in a Shichigosan Special on Nishi Nihon TV Fukuoka on Wednesday, November 11.

The annual Shichigosan and Jusan Mairi blessings continued until Sunday, November 20.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Shichigosan and Jusan Mairi 2017.

The shrine now has power needs beyond the design specs from several decades ago.

Electrical upgrades were made to a higher amp service in the shrine and meeting room by Hiroshi Denki on 12/6.

Mochi Making



The annual Mochi making was held on Saturday, 12/3 with the kokua of officers and volunteers.

MAHALO Volunteers

Keiko Doughty	Diane Ogasawara
Jeff Fujioka	Roosevelt HS Japanese Class
Miyoko Hanahara	Gary Shinsato
Arthur Isa	Linda Shinsato
Arthur Isa Jr	Yuko Takahashi
Shinken Naitoh	
Craig Nishida	



DECEMBER

- 3 8:30 am
Mochi Making & Susubarai
- 4 3 pm
Tsukinamisai Service & Bonenkai
- 26 ~ 31 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
2017 Omamori available in meeting room
- 30 5:30 pm
Hatsumode preparations
- 31 11 pm
Toshikoshi no O-harae

JANUARY

- 1 Midnight - 5 pm
Hatsumode

Finishing touches were made by Mike Lee and Bob Harada on 12/6 to the donation board to acknowledge contributions made



Mike Lee and Bob Harada completing renovations of the interior signage

towards a new stone monument to be erected in honor of shrine members who persisted against overwhelming odds in a lawsuit

Seizo Imamura of Osaka in front of the paddle acknowledging his contributions towards the stone monument

filed in 1949 against discrimination by the Federal Government.

The lawsuit by Kotohira Jinsha was the first ever initiated by a Japanese organization in the history of the United States, paving the way for similar lawsuits by other Japanese organizations.

The present stone monument erected in 1965 is suffering from crumbly disintegration as a result of fine particle and soot pollution from H-1 freeway.

The stone monument is meant to serve as a constant reminder of the hardships and indignities suffered at the hands of a nation misguided by wartime hysteria, racial prejudice and fear, which we must not allow to happen again to any group, regardless of race, religion or national origin.