

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha - Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

February 2019



It is a privilege for the shrine to have witnessed four generations of annual Legacy blessings for this ohana who have been supporters of the shrine since the 1930s

MAHALO for your donations

Thomas & Linda Agawa
Daniel & Chie Aramaki
Bill & Keiko Doughty
Jon Faufata
Joyce Faufata
Omar & Scott Faufata
Jeanette Kam
Michael Kawazoe
Judy Leisher
Jeff & Jenn McNeff
Steve Miwa
Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh
Craig & Diane Nishida
Keiko Nishitakatsuji
Chief Priest Nobuyoshi Nishitakatsuji
Earl & Toyoko Okawa
Lois Okawa
Sue Okimoto
Akiko Sanai
Gary & Linda Shinsato
Tamiko Spencer
Sharon Tanigawa
Zenkoku Keishin Fujin Rengo Kai



GOKITO Private Blessings



The first Car Blessing for 2019 was performed on 1/18 for a longtime supporter



Longtime Shrine friend who came for his Ato-yaku Yakudoshi blessing



A Rites of Passage blessing celebrates and affirms new and significant change in one's life.



New Years blessings continue throughout the month. May this couple be blessed with a bright, healthy and peaceful year.

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SAGICHO - burning of the old omamori

Sagicho is an ancient ceremony to express appreciation to and purify by burning old ofuda, omamori, kumade, hamaya and hamayumi.

The shrine's Sagicho was held on Sunday, January 20 from 1:00 pm.

Mahalo to shrine officers and friends for preparing the old omamori and ofuda for burning by removing non-burnable items to prevent toxic fumes from harming the environment.

Our next Sagicho will be on Sunday January 19.



MAHALO Volunteers

Chad Enoki

Kei Enoki

Arthur Isa

Arthur MJK Isa

Becky Isa

David Jimenez

Masako Jimenez

Marilyn Naitoh

Shinken Naitoh

Craig Nishida

Diane Nishida

Devin Oishi

Dee Shimamoto

Staci Shimamoto

Gary Shinsato

Linda Shinsato



Zenkoku Keishin Fujin Rengo Kai

On 1/22, the shrine welcomed 25 officers and members of the Zenkoku Keishin Fujin Rengo kai, a national womens organization of 800 *Fujin kai* chapters with over 10,000 members.

The organization was established 71 years ago by women who volunteer for their respective shrines. The organization also supports students majoring in Shinto with annual scholarships.

Mrs. Keiko Nishitakatsuji, wife of Chief Priest Nobuyoshi Nishitakatsuji, Mrs. Michiko Muto, Mrs. Chiyomi Sana and Mrs. Kazumi Mita of Dazaifu Tenmangu was part



From left: Keiko Nishitakatsuji, Kazumi Mita, Chiyomi Sana, Michiko Muto from Dazaifu Tenmangu



Mrs. Takatsukasa presenting *tamagushi* during *Seishiki Sanpai*



of the delegation headed by Mrs. Kumiko Takatsukasa. Mrs. Takatsukasa is the wife of Naotake Takatsukasa, Chief Priest of the Grand Shrines of *Ise* and cousin of Emperor Akihito.

The delegation visited Hawaii in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the *Gannenmono*.

Mahalo to shrine officers and friends Shinken Naitoh, Diane Nishida, Gary & Linda Shinsato for providing hospitality for the guests.

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 10 1:00 pm
Kanreki Blessing
- 2:00 pm
Yakudoshi Blessing
- 3:00 pm
**Tsukinamisai Monthly Service
& Setsubun Bean Throwing**

MARCH

- 2 1:00 pm
Event Cleanup & Prep
- 3 3:00 pm
Sake Appreciation Festival

APRIL

- 13 1:00 pm
Festival Cleanup & Prep
- 14 3:00 pm
Spring Thanksgiving Festival
- 4:00 pm
Dinner & Scholarship Awards



The shrine was filmed on 1/20 and will be featured in "Hama-chan Ga", a Yomiuri TV program starring Masatoshi Hamada, sometime this Spring.

Hamada, an avid golfer happened to see our Golf Omamori on the bag of one of his fellow golfers and decided to visit the shrine the next time he was in Hawaii.

Prayers go out to shrine friend Ally for her recent surgery.

Ally had an Aveolar bone graft of her hip to add bone to the gum ridge to correct a cleft palate.

The surgery was necessary for proper tooth development and her overall health.

Ally - we admire your strength and courage! Here's wishing you a quick and complete recovery !!!



Event photos: www.flickr.com/kotohira-dazaifu

Shinto Priest Hierarchy

Shinshoku, or priests in Shinto officiates at all shrine ceremonies on behalf of and at the request of its worshippers.

Shinto has no founder, no sacred text or teachings. As such, Shinto priests are not spiritual leaders and are not expected to lecture or preach.

Rather, their main role is to preserve and perpetuate the spiritual and cultural traditions of Japan through rituals.

To qualify as a Shinto priest, one must attend an institution approved by *Jinja Honcho*, usually Kokugakuin University or Kogakkan University.

Shinto priests may marry and have families. Women may also be admitted to the priesthood.

There are various ranks in the

Shinto priesthood: *Meikai*, *Seikai*, *Gonseikai*, and *Chokkai*.

Within the Shinto priests ranks are also ranks that determine the color of the *hakama* trousers one will be wearing.



From right: Tokkyu Special rank, Ikkyu 1st rank, Nikyu no Jo Highest 2nd rank, Nikyu 2nd rank, Sankyu 3rd rank and Yonkyu 4th rank

Tokkyu Special rank wears a white *hakama* with white crests. This rank is reserved for those who have

contributed a lifetime to the preservation and perpetuation of Shinto.

Ikkyu 1st rank wears a purple *hakama* with white crests.

Nikyū no Jo Highest 2nd rank wears a purple *hakama* with lavender crests.

Nikyū 2nd rank wears a solid purple *hakama*.

Sankyu 3rd rank and *Yonkyū* 4th rank wears a blue *hakama*.

Congratulations to **Rev. Takizawa** for being promoted to *Nikyū no Jo* Highest 2nd rank by our shrines in Japan.

He is now the highest ranking Shinto priest outside of Japan.



Maintenance

MOLD - just mention of the word can bring shivers down one's spine.

Behind all mold growth is a water or a moisture problem. The moisture source for this wall is the shrine's yard, behind the wall.

Remediation companies were called, however, the earliest they could come in to assess the situation was mid-February.

After some intense research, we found there was no need to take a wrecking ball to the entire building.

Rev. Takizawa first killed the mold



with a mold killer over a span of three days. The dust was suppressed by misting the contaminated area, in accordance with EPA guidelines.

A wire brush was used to remove all the discolored and chipping paint. Debris was double-bagged and discarded.

The surrounding walls and ceiling were coated with an antimicrobial. The carpet was vacuumed and also misted with the antimicrobial solution.

All items stored in the surrounding areas were either cleaned with the antimicrobial solution or discarded.

Kell Komatsubara coated the walls with a water sealant to protect the brick

wall from moisture, followed by an EPA approved mold killing primer and paint.

It was a daunting task but thanks to Kell Komatsubara and Masa "the Mold Killer" the shrine was able to tackle the problem immediately.



Upon completion of the mold remediation, heavy-duty metal shelves were installed in the basement meeting room to provide much needed storage space.