

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

VOLUME IV JANUARY 2008

Where ancient traditions thrive

Welcome the Year of the Rat

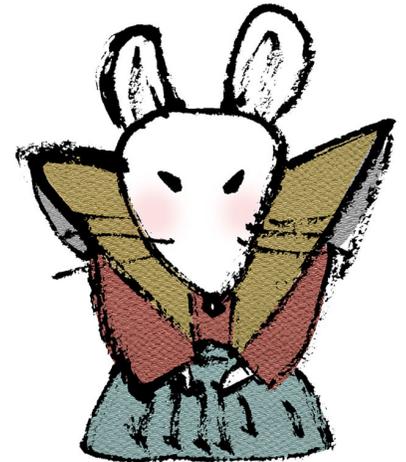
明けましておめでとうございます。Happy New Year!

The dawn of a new year overflows with hope that invites us to reflect and to recreate ourselves anew.

This year, may we all find a connection to spirit that can guide and nurture us in our growth as a nation and as individuals. Open your mind to new possibilities, discover the divinity within yourself and empower yourself to achieving your goals and purpose in life.

Positive energies and blessings go out to all in this year of the Rat.

Reverend Masa Takizawa



2008 is the year of the Earth Rat, symbolized by the two elements of earth and water. This is a year of clouded perceptions, and unexpected outcomes.

2008 brings movement and progress, but there is also much underlying tensions and confrontations.

Being the first animal in the Chinese zodiac, the Rat year promises new beginnings. The year will begin positively, but then backslide as we edge towards the end of the year, when the element of Water becomes overwhelmingly strong.

Being a year with heavy water elements, there will be accidents and natural disasters involving water, earth and fire, including floods, tsunami and other water disasters.

The clash between the fire and water elements will bring more than the usual number of air related accidents. The last Rat year in 1996 saw 20 major airline crashes in the U.S.

The earth element will bring earth related disasters such as earthquakes, landslides and accidents on the ground, such as traffic accidents. The effects of global warming will also

intensify in 2008.

Earth elements relate to the stomach in humans. As such, there will be more than the usual cases of food poisoning, digestive and stomach problems.

Diabetes will also be prevalent as the pancreas is considered an earth element in Chinese medicine.

It is also a hyperactive and restless year of potential nervous disorders and neurosis of every type. It will be a good year to explore relaxation methods such as meditation more thoroughly.

You will be more prone to illness and allergies this year as well, so be sure to eat your vegetables and take those vitamins!

2008 will be an intellectual one, as the Rat is the curious professor of the zodiac. Expect a renewed passion for knowledge, interest in the sciences and a hunger for travel and new experiences.

Exchanging and communicating are the priorities of a Rat year. We will all value companionship and love more than anything else this year. It is said that people fall in

love easily during Rat years.

It will be a year of much volatile and radical changes for the political scene and an unsettling year for governments around the world.

In the previous Rat year of 1948 the Jews of Palestine declared independence and the State of Israel was born on May 14, 1948.

Another major change occurred on May 26, 1948 when the new racist government of South Africa embraced Apartheid, bitterly dividing the country and the world.

This year's Rat is a night Rat, and so theft, break-ins, burglary and crime may go up, along with more scandals of corporate greed and embezzlement.

The Rat year signifies a new start and is a good time to start planning and planting the seeds for a whole new cycle.

Having an understanding of the energetic dynamics of a new 12-year cycle can help you increase awareness and preparation to take advantage of the natural cyclical trends in every aspect of your life.

Mahalo for your generous donations

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Japan 21st Century Religious Committee Pearl Harbor Memorial Service

Twenty five members of the Japan 21st Century Religious Committee visited the shrine on December 5. The delegation has visited Hawaii every year for the past two decades to participate in the annual Memorial ceremony at the Pearl Harbor Memorial on December 7th. The ceremony is hosted by the US Navy and National Park Service at Kilo Pier.

More than 3,800 attended the 2007 observance of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

Representatives from the Catholic Diocese of Hiroshima, Shingon-shu, Kawasaki Daishi, Iwashimizu Hachimangu of Kyoto, Rissho Kosei Kai, Omoto Kyo and other religious institutions participated in the tour.



MAHALO Hatsumode Volunteers

Milly Chang
 Thomas Chong
 Marissa Choy
 Darlene Estrada
 Amy Feng
 Alyssa Fujimoto
 Brandon Goda
 Bryson Goda

Judy Guo
 Kevin Guo
 Mitsuaki Hanayagi II
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 Naomi Teramoto
 Annie Tran
 Thanh Vo
 Hiroshi Yamaji
 Eli Yokoyama
 Yasuko Yokoyama
 James Yonemura
 Richard Yoshinaga



Seijin Shiki - Coming of Age Ceremony

Seijin Shiki or “Coming of Age” ceremony is celebrated on the second Monday of January.

All teens who turn twenty years old in that year celebrate *Seijin no hi* which officially marks the beginning of adulthood and the legal age for voting, drinking, and smoking in Japan.

Seijin no Hi or Coming-of-Age Day is observed as a national holiday, and celebrations are held nationwide, sponsored by city or prefectural governments.

Although styles of ceremonies differ from region to region, it is common for 20-year-olds to dress in formal outfits including long-sleeved kimono called *furisode* and *montsuki hakama* for men.

Seijin Shiki comes from the ancient ceremony of *genpuku* which was generally observed between the ages of 13 and 16 from the Nara period (710 - 794) to the Heian period (794 - 1192).

Around the 16th century, warriors changed the ceremony into *genpuku shiki* and added a few more rituals to the already elaborate ceremony.

Young men had their bangs cut, indicating that they became adults. Young women wore a skirt like garment over their outfit called



Recreation of an ancient Genpuku Shiki ceremony performed at a shrine in Japan

mo and styled their hair in an up-do.

Young women also applied *ohaguro*, a dye made from iron soaked in tea or sake, which was effective in combating tooth decay. It was deemed fashionable to have dark, black teeth which required several applications of the dye throughout the day.

Later, these coming-of-age ceremonies were widespread among commoners, and lasted until the end of the Edo period.

There was no set date for *Seijin shiki* until it became a national holiday in 1948. *Seijin Shiki* was an auspicious ceremony observed by families in accordance with their own traditions, especially those of the imperial or samurai lineage.



Genpuku Shiki ceremony of a samurai family from the 1880s

成人の日は、新成人達が両親や周りの大人達に保護されてきた子供時代を終え、自立し、大人の社会へ仲間入りすることを自覚するための儀式（成人式）を行う日です。

各地方自治体で成人の日に行われる成人式では、女性は振袖、男性はスーツや羽織りなどの正装に身を包み、市長などから祝福の言葉を贈られます。

成人を祝う風習は古来から存在していました。男子は、髪を結び冠または烏帽子をつけ、服装を改め成人した事を周囲に



City sponsored Seijin Shiki ceremony

示しました。

女子の場合は“裳”という腰から下にまとう衣服を身に付ける裳着〔もぎ〕、髪を結び上げる髪上〔かみあげ〕、歯を黒く染めるお歯黒付けを成人の儀礼としました。

一方貴族のように位の高い人々のみにとどまらず、各地の村々でも村人たちが定めた成人の儀式が行われていました。

しかしそれは、現在のよう20歳を越えれば成人といった年齢基準ではなく、例えば「1日に60キロの柴を刈って12キロ売り歩いたら一人前の男である」など年齢に関係なくその行為が出来れば成人として認めるといったものでした。

これらの儀式は成年式・成女式などと呼ばれていましたが明治以降一部の地域を除き、衰退してゆきました。

明治以降になると、男子は兵役につく義務を課せられ、兵役につくためには徴兵検査を受ける必要があり、この徴兵検査が成人式の意味をもち、成人式制定のきっかけとなりました。

Sagicho - Burning of the old Omamori and Ofuda

Sagicho, also known as Dondo-yaki, Ombe-yaki, Hokkengyo, Hochoji, Sankuro-yaki, Saito-yaki, is an ancient ceremony originating in China to express appreciation to and purify by burning old ofuda, omamori and new years decorations.

This year, Sagicho was held on Sunday, January 20 from 2:00 pm.

Mahalo to volunteers for their kokua in preparing the old omamori and ofuda for burning by painstakingly removing plastic and metal ornaments and other non-burnable items to prevent toxic fumes from harming the environment.

We would appreciate your depositing all old omamori and ofuda in the specially marked box beside the shrine **by January 5 of each year.**

Kadomatsu and dolls are not accepted.



MAHALO Volunteers

Thomas Chong	Kyoko Isa
Bob Harada	Jon Lower
Emi Igarashi	Shinken Naitoh
Kai Igarashi	Axel Obara
Pam Igarashi	Naomi Teramoto



当宮では、1月20日午後2時より左義長を執り行いました。

一年間お守りいただいた古い御神札やお守りは、粗末にならないように感謝の気持ちを込めて神社に納めます。

納める先の神社は、授与品を受けた神社が望ましいとされていますが、違う神社のものでも当宮に納めて差しつかえありません。

ダイオキシンなど有害物質の発生が社会問題になっている昨今、行事を守り後世に伝えていくためにも、当宮ではお焚き上げの前にプラスチックやビニール類を極力取り外しておりますので古札は**毎年、1月5日までに**神社にお納め下さい。

JCCH New Years Ohana Festival

On January 13, the JCCH and Mo'ili'ili Field was transformed into a showcase of Japanese cuisine and entertainment; cultural art displays and demonstrations; a craft fair and book sale.

There were exciting activities for children including kimono dressing, make-n-take activities, games, jumpers and storytelling.

Mahalo to volunteers Shinken Naitoh, Bob Harada, Naomi Teramoto, Bryson Goda and Arthur Isa for helping at the shrine booth.



Olomea Street Construction

January 2008 - November 2008 7:00am - 3:00 pm

Construction is underway by Ideal Construction for a relief sewer on Olomea, Halona and Kohou Streets. The \$4.5 million project began on February 4, 2008, for completion in November 2008. Major construction in front of the shrine is scheduled to take place in April.

Meanwhile, we apologize for any inconvenience due to the road closures of Olomea Street. Please feel free to call the shrine at 841-4755 or Bob Shirai at the Project Hotline 216-2412 before visiting the shrine.

ONE-LANE CLOSURES

In the case of a one-lane closure, a sign will be posted at Houghtailing and Olomea allowing local traffic only, which includes shrine visitors. Please proceed to the shrine using the usual route on Olomea Street.

TWO LANE CLOSURES

In the case of a two-lane road closure, a sign posted at Houghtailing and Olomea will direct traffic to the shrine from Kohou Street. Two-way traffic will be allowed on Olomea Street with entry and exit from Kohou Street only.

KAMA LANE

You may also use the Kama Lane entry from King Street, across the Kapalama Post Office. The Kama Lane gate is closed to cars, but always open to pedestrians. Please park on Kama Lane, in front of the shrine gate and walk through the swing gate. Please disregard the No-Parking sign.

SHRINE CALENDAR

神社スケジュール

February 二月

- 10 General Membership Meeting
総会
Tsukinami-sai Monthly Service
月次祭
- 24 Hanayagi Dancing Academy
Garage Sale at the shrine

March 三月

- 2 Tsukinami-sai Monthly Service
月次祭

April 四月

- 5 Clean-up & Mochi pounding
- 6 Spring Thanksgiving Festival

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha

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