

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

May 2017

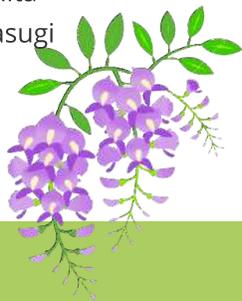


The annual blessing of Hanayagi Dancing Academy Hawaii Foundation (HDAHf) was performed on 4/2. In attendance was President Jensen Toma, Principal and Dance Master Hanayagi Mitsujiyuro, Vice Principal Hanayagi Mitsuakemi, Natori instructors and students. HDAHf is the longest continuing contributors to the perpetuation of classical Japanese dance and *Nagauta* in Hawaii.

MAHALO

for your donations

Thomas Agawa
Bill & Keiko Doughty
Hanayagi Dancing Academy HF
Bob Harada
Arashi & Pam Igarashi
Dorothy Kimoto
James & Melba Kurashige
Mike Lee
Steven Miwa
Yuko Morita
Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh
Yoshi & Lori Nakano
Craig & Diane Nishida
Paul & Renee Sakamoto
Akiko Sanai
Gary & Linda Shinsato
Allan Takeshita
Fukuo Wakasugi



Dr. Shinken Naitoh, shrine president did a presentation on Shinto via Skype on April 10 for the World Religions Class at Brigham Young University in Salt Lake City, Utah.



Dr. Elisa Pulido wrote that her class is undoubtedly one of the few classes in the US that were fortunate to have had the opportunity to speak to the president of two Shinto shrines and further expressed that they were very impressed with his kindness, calm manner, and lifetime of experience with Shinto.

Dr. Pulido's class consists of students that are exploring belief systems without creator gods and without Dr. Naitoh's willingness to talk to the class from so great a distance, what the students learned about Shinto would have been greatly diminished.



Sakaki or *Cleyera Japonica* is considered a sacred tree in Shinto and is used to make *Tama-gushi* or offerings of branches decorated with *shide* paper streamers.

Mahalo nui to **Allan Takeshita** for the gift of a thriving Sakaki plant.

The *le-barai* or House Blessing is a traditional Japanese purification rite meant to cleanse all negative energies from our environment and replacing it with a positive and uplifting energy to bring balance and harmony to the occupants of the home.



House blessing at a home in Liliha on 3/31

Many people are beginning to realize the value of ancient wisdom as our lives become deeply enriched by adapting the traditions of the past and blending it with our own spiritual realities.

House blessings were performed on March 31, April 6, April 14, April 19 and April 29.

The home is a very important aspect in our lives - it means security and

well being and is often treated like a living object as it needs to be taken care of and loved to sustain the harmony of the home life.

The House Blessing aims to "feed" the house, show proper treatment and respect to it to create a sense of peace, balance and harmony.



House Blessing at a home in Aiea on 4/14



House blessing at a home in Hawaii Kai on 4/6

MAY

14 3 pm (Date change)
Tsukinamisai

28 8 am
**Honolulu Shinto
Renmei Memorial
Day Service**

JUNE

3 1 pm
Chinowa prep

4 9 am ~ 2 pm
**Chinowa for
People & Pets**



Honolulu Shinto Renmei Memorial Service

In 1885 the first *kanyaku imin* -- Japanese contract plantation workers -- arrived in Hawaii.

289 of the *kanyaku imin* died in the islands leaving no trace of their existence but decrepit headstones at the back of Makiki cemetery.

The *mu-en botoke* (those who die without descendants) left no one to care for their graves or offer flowers, food or prayers. They had no children to honor them as ancestors, which is vastly important among Asian cultures.

However, these early Japanese were not forgotten. The late James Yonemura, a past president of the United Japanese Society rallied support to collect the remains of the *mu-en botoke* in a common grave.

Plans were drawn for a 12-foot, rose-colored granite monument to be engraved and imported from Okayama-ken.

In 1985 the Oahu Kanyaku Imin Centennial Celebration Committee and the Japanese Cemetery Association started working on the *Yose-baka* project, raising almost \$69,000. Kosuke Hiramatsu, who designed monuments for Japan's Imperial family helped with the project.

Committee members recorded the name, date of death and prefecture of birth on each of the 289 graves.

The committee then placed notices in the media looking for relatives who might object to the common grave.

They received no response. The Committee proceeded with their plan to place the contents of 289 *mu-en botoke* graves in the Imin Yosebaka Memorial.

The *Yose-baka* (common grave) monument was dedicated on February 8, 1986.

Japanese plantation workers known as *gannen-mono* -- the 148 Japanese



Yosebaka monument at Makiki cemetery

who arrived in 1868, has a memorial which stands next to the *yose-baka*.

These earlier workers came without the contract that resulted from the 1881 visit to Japan by King Kalakaua.

King Kalakaua appealed to Emperor Meiji to resume sending workers to fill the labor shortage on Hawaii's plantations.

The *gannenmono* came to Hawaii to

Honolulu Shinto Renmei Memorial Service



Gannenmono Memorial at Makiki cemetery

work on plantations without authorization from the Japanese government.

After complaints of brutal conditions and low pay, the Meiji government dispatched an official to investigate the situation and an agreement was reached on January 11, 1870, in which the Japanese government paid to bring 40 of the *gannen-mono* back to Japan. The remaining 108 continued to live and work in Hawaii.

16 Japanese sailors who died here on Imperial navy warships passing by the

islands during the 1800s are also buried in Makiki Cemetery.

First named Waikiki Waena then Kamoiliili - Moiliili In the early 1900s was a swamp with a few residences and businesses.

The founding of the cemetery is attributed to Rev. Emyo Imamura of the Hawaii Betsuin Honpa Hongwanji.

He first established in 1906, the Missionary Institute which became the Hongwanji on University Avenue.

He then turned his attention to building a cemetery for his parishioners and recruited Rev. Tessho Kato and mission members Kametaro Morimoto and Katsuyoshi Maeda. With the assistance of Kamioka Contractors, they identified a piece of property behind Kuhio School.

The original property had 3 acres and was acquired for \$4,000. The funds came from Makiki Cemetery (\$1,500) and the Japanese Consulate (\$2,500).

The land was tested to ascertain that

there was no water underground that would interfere with a cemetery. The founders then applied to the Health Department for a permit.

Just as the cemetery was to open in October 1908, the State informed them that this could not be a cemetery exclusive to Hongwanji members, but must be open to others.

The name chosen for this cemetery was the Japanese *Kyodo Bochi* or Japanese Community Cemetery.

By the 1930s, 1,800 people had been buried in the cemetery -- after 40 years the cemetery was filled.

In 1956 more land was acquired and the name was changed to the Moiliili Shin-Bochi (Moiliili New Cemetery).

The cemetery and the Hongwanji both grew rapidly. Many people came to Moiliili by streetcar, bus and car for *ohaka-mairi* grave visits on Memorial Day and *obon* and purchased flowers from the flower shops along Beretania Street.

Moiliili eventually became the "floral capital" of Honolulu with numerous flower shops along the mauka side of Beretania Street.

Today, there are 2,008 monuments and an estimated population of 10,000 souls at Moiliili Cemetery.

The Honolulu Shinto Renmei Memorial Service this year will be held on Sunday May 28 from 8 am.

Priests and members of Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha-Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu, Izumo Taishakyo Mission of HI and Daijingu Temple of HI will participate in the offering of prayers and flowers at Punchbowl, Makiki and Moiliili Cemeteries.



Japanese American Boy Scouts cleaning Moiliili cemetery and placing flowers at each grave on May 30, 1932



Yoshi & Lori Hogan Nakano of Arizona visited the shrine on April 26. Yoshi established Zen Wellness Tribe in Mew Mexico and Arizona and offers various types of bodywork, diet consultation and Japanese healing arts. Rev Takizawa performed the couple's wedding at the Halekulani Hotel 6 years ago on April 26, 2011.



Shrine friend Jon Lower visited the shrine on 4/27. Jon was in Florida and New Jersey before making a pit stop in Honolulu to visit the shrine. Jon and his wife Axia will be working in Osaka from May.



Love A Keiki Learning Center held their annual Egg Hunt at the shrine on Good Friday, April 14.

Maintenance

Masonry repairs continue thanks to **Rudy Santiago**.

Repairs to the Diamond Head side stairs were completed and painted on April 16.

The last and most difficult section is the second floor walkway which will require construction of scaffolding for some major formwork for the concrete repairs.

Before



After



Mahalo to **Mike Lee** for repairing the sump pump frame on April 21.

The wooden frame suffered from decay and wood rot.



The shrine displayed its Koi Nobori on 4/20 in celebration of *Tango no Sekku* or Boy's Day.