Spring is a joyful time when life bursts forth from the earth and the chains of winter are broken.

We are reborn as we emerge from winter, ready to partake of all the bounties of the earth.

As we celebrate, we remember that Spring is not only a season; it is a state of mind.

In many cultures, Spring Festivals are traditional blessing of the land and prayers for bountiful crops.

The shrine’s annual Spring Thanksgiving Festival was conducted on Sunday, April 12 by Rev Masa Takizawa, assisted by Rev Kimitomo Idemitsu of Dazaifu Tenmangu, Fukuoka.

In keeping with ancient tradition, rice plants and morijio by Allan Takeshita were offered to secure the blessings of the kami.

Rev. Tsuyoshi Nishihara also of Dazaifu Tenmangu presented offerings from the main shrine during the solemn ceremony.

Dance Master Hanayagi Mitsujyuro made an offering of Asahimai, a rare performance of a ceremonial priest dance.

In closing, Dr Shinken Naitoh and Rev. Tsuyoshi Nishihara offered their greetings to all attending the Spring Festival.

In the main hall, the 2015 Scholarship awards were presented, as we continue to highlight motivated individuals in the pursuit of knowledge.

Mahalo Nui to Principal Hanayagi Mitsuai sensei, and students of Hanayagi Dancing Academy Hawaii Foundation for their performances, to Bob Harada, Diane Nishida and Tom Jannuzzio for MCing, and to the officers and volunteers for their kokua in making this a meaningful event for all.

View Event photos at: www.flickr.com/kotohira-dazaifu
View Event videos at: www.youtube.com
MAHALO for your generous donations

Thomas & Linda Agawa  
Anekurahime Jinja  
Mary Carias  
Daijingu Temple of Hawaii  
Dazaifu Tenmangu  
Doughty Ohana  
Anthony Fujii Ohana  
Nicholas Fujii  
Brent Furuya  
Yasumi Gojo  
Miyoko Hanahara  
Hanayagi Dancing Academy  
Hawaii Foundation  
Bob Harada  
Hawaii Ishizuchi Jinja  
Noboru Hayase  
Mitsuru & Pam Igarashi  
Florence Imai  
Arthur K. Isa  
Arthur MJY Isa  
Kyoko Isa  
Izumo Taishakyo Mission of Hawaii  
Tom Jannuzzuio  
Lorraine & Elsie Kadota  
Hidetaka & Risa Kojima  
Elaine Komatsu  
James & Melba Kurashige  
Kerry & Yuka Matsumoto  
Takeyuki & Hanae Miyamoto  
Roy Morioka  
Koji Mukaeyama  
Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh  
Masateru & Hatsuko Nakazato  
Craig & Diane Nishida  
Diane Oasawara  
Akiko Sanai  
Danielle Sato  
Senbukan Karate  

Mahalo to Mitsuru & Pam Igarashi and Takenoko Sushi of Hilo for the donation of Koshihikari rice.

2015 Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu Scholarship Awards

A Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu scholarship was established in 2012 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu and to highlight motivated individuals in the pursuit of knowledge.

Congratulations to the four recipients for 2015:

- **Milena Naitoh** - Presently a Master’s student and fellow at Harvard University
- **Alexandria Carlyle** - Presently attending Oregon State University
- **Dane Yamada** - Presently attending Kapiolani Community College
- **John Sunahara** - Presently attending Leeward Community College

From left to right: Rev Kimitomo Idemitsu, Rev. Tsuyoshi Nishihara, John Sunahara, Cassandra Carlyle accepting on behalf of Alexandria Carlyle, Dane Yamada, Marilyn Naitoh accepting on behalf of Milena Naitoh, Dr. Shinken Naitoh
Shrine Visitors

Dr. Manako Ogawa of Ritsumeikan University of Kyoto, visited the shrine on March 13.

Dr. Ogawa recently published a book entitled *Sea of Opportunity* about Japanese pioneers of the fishing industry in Hawaii.

When Japanese fishermen arrived in Hawaii from Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, and Wakayama, they brought traditional Japanese fishing techniques and adapted them to Hawaiian waters. Within a short period of time, they expanded the fishing industry into one of the pillars of our local economy.

The Japanese fishermen provided a larger variety and quantity of fish to meet the needs of the ever growing immigrant population. By 1930, the fishing industry in Hawaii was yielding over $2 million annually with over 1000 Japanese immigrants engaged in all aspects of the industry.

Around this time, Italian fishermen were brought in by the U.S. Government from the mainland to curb the activities of the Japanese fishermen. They did not stay long in the islands. Since, fishing remained a monopoly by the Japanese immigrants until World War II.

The shrine, as the guardian kami of the Issei fishermen is mentioned in the book.

Anekurahime Jinja

Chief Priest Nariyuki Wakamiya and members of the *Anekurahime Jinja* of Toyama-ken visited the shrine on March 17.

*Anekurahime Jinja* was established in Kureha, Toyama in 737. *Anekurahime* is the goddess of weaving and is said to have first introduced looms and a special weaving technique of hemp to *Etchu*, present day Toyama prefecture.

Fukuoka Convention Bureau

Toshiki Tanaka, Chief of the Fukuoka Convention Bureau Events Department visited the shrine on March 17. The shrine will be assisting Fukuoka Convention Bureau and the Fukuoka Lions at the International Convention in Honolulu this June.
Congratulations

Congratulations to Kerry and Yuka Matsumoto. Wishing you a life together filled with love, laughter and happiness from this moment throughout eternity!

Asahi Mai

Asahimai is a dance performed at shrines as an offering to the kami and is also one of the dances designated as a Saishimai ceremonial dance by Jinja Honcho (Association of Shinto Shrines).

Asahimai lyrics are actually two poems composed by Emperor Meiji and put to music by Wataro Togi in 1950. The choreography is very masculine and is usually performed by Guji Chief priests.

Dance Master Hanayagi Mitsujyuro performed Asahimai at the recent Spring Thanksgiving Festival.

Taisai Preparations

MAHALO

Bryson Goda
Bob Harada
Arthur K. Isa
Marilyn Naitoh
Shinken Naitoh
Allan Takeshita

Upcoming Events

Visit www.e-shrine.org

Tsukinami-sai

May 3, 2015
3:00 pm

Chinowa for People and Pets

June 7 9 am - 2 pm