

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

APRIL 2021



Natori instructors of Hanayagi Dancing Academy led by principal Hanayagi Mitsujuro, held their annual New Years blessing

DONATIONS

Bill & Keiko Doughty
Rodney & Sharon Isa
James & Melba Kurashige
Yae Miko
Steve Miwa
Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh
Craig & Diane Nishida
Akiko Sanai
Gary & Linda Shinsato
Robert Stallings
Kai Suzuki
Alice Uratsuka
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Hanayagi Dancing Academy HI Foundation

Gayle Fujihara
Bryson Goda
Kathy Hamada-Kwock
Stacie Hata
Lorraine Kadota
Elaine Komatsu

Diane Nishida
Lillian Okamura
Clyde Shiigi
Jensen Toma
Sharon Toma
Jasmine Umeno

SAKE • BEER DONATIONS

Dean & Natsuko Fujimoto
Bryson Goda
Hanayagi Dancing
Academy HI Foundation
Islander Sake Brewery
Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh
Craig & Diane Nishida
Gary & Linda Shinsato
Masa & Irene Takizawa
Nadine Uratsuka



The annual blessing for the Hanayagi Dancing Academy Hawaii Foundation (HDAHF) was performed on March 28.

The Academy was established by Hanayagi Mitsuaki I (Viola Hosokawa) in 1947 to perpetuate the Japanese spirit through dance, *shamisen* and *Nagauta* style singing. Her legacy was preserved and shared by Mitsuaki II (Karen Fujishima-Lee).

Hanayagi Mitsujiyuro (Bryson Goda) remains firmly committed to fulfilling Mitsuaki I and Mitsuaki II's legacy and has awarded *Natori* Instructor's licenses to one student of *Nihonbuyo* dance and two students of *shamisen*.

Congratulations to:

Hanayagi-ryu School of Nihonbuyo

Hanayagi Mitsusae - Jasmine Umeno

Kineya School of Nagauta

Kineya Sakiko - Lillian Okamura

Kineya Sakikazu - Clyde Shiigi



GOKITO Private Blessings



A Blessing was performed for baby Lynn on 3/16



Yakudoshi Blessing to ensure a safe, healthy and peaceful year



We rejoice with you as you celebrate your Beiju 88th birthday!!!



Yakudoshi Blessing - being grateful for the good things in life

A *Beiju* (88th Birthday) Blessing was performed for a shrine friend on 3/27.

Beiju or *Yone no Oiwai* is a significant life milestone and a major cause for celebration in Japan.

Beiju Blessings are a way to celebrate the celebrant's

achievements, honor their sacrifices and to thank them for their love and wisdom.

Beiju is a play on *kanji* characters - when 88 is written in *kanji*, it resembles the character for rice.

The color for *Kanreki* is red. For *Beiju*, it is yellow or gold - colors

of ripening rice plants in the rice fields and of abundance and prosperity.

Common gifts to those celebrating *Beiju* are rice, sake (made from rice) and yellow or gold *chanchanko* vests.



Tango no Sekku or Boy's Day finds its origin approximately 2,300 years ago in China and is thought to have been imported to Japan in the 7th century.

Qu Yuan (340 - 278 BCE) a statesman and renowned poet was a member of the *Chu* royal clan in ancient China and served as an official under King *Huai* of *Chu*.

Qu Yuan was exiled because of slander by corrupt ministers at court and was reinstated but sent to posts outside his home state.

Exiled a second time by King *Qing Xiang*, *Qu Yuan* suffered from failing health and depression.

He committed suicide on the 5th day of the 5th lunar month by wading into the *Miluo* River.

Legend has it that villagers carried dumplings and set out in boats to the *Miluo* River to save *Qu Yuan*.

In ancient China, it was thought that carps that swam upstream eventually became dragons.

In order to keep the dragons and evil spirits away from his body, villagers beat drums, splashed the water with their paddles and threw rice into the river as food offerings to his spirit.

One night the spirit of *Qu Yuan* appeared before his friends and told them to wrap rice into three cornered silk packages to ward off the dragons. These packages became *Jung*, a *dim sum* made of *mochi* rice which are now wrapped in lotus leaves instead of silk.

The act of racing to search for *Qu Yuan's* body became the tradition of Dragon Boat racing, held on the 5th day of the 5th lunar month - the anniversary of his death.

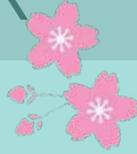
This tradition of revering *Qu Yuan* was observed in Japan by the

imperial court and warrior class as *Tango no Sekku* or Boy's Day - also on the 5th day of the 5th lunar month.

Japanese warrior dolls, dolls of Chinese heroes and Japanese implements of battle along with carps are used to decorate homes in hopes to ward off evil and grow strong, honest, courageous and loyal sons.



CALENDAR



APRIL

25 3:00 pm (INTERNAL)

Spring Thanksgiving Festival &
Scholarship Awards

MAY

2 3:00 pm (INTERNAL)

Tsukinami-sai Monthly Service

30 8:00 am (CANCELED)

Shinto Renmei Memorial Day Service

JUNE

6 9:00 am (CANCELED)

Chinowa for People & Pets

3:00 pm (INTERNAL)

Tsukinami-sai Monthly Service



HONCHO

Meaning: person at the top of his or her game, boss, big shot

Origin: The term *Honcho* dates back to around 1945, as World War II was coming to an end.

American prisoners-of-war learned the word while in captivity as they would hear Japanese squad leaders referred to as 班長 *Hancho* by the soldiers.

Army medic Ernest Norquist was a POW in a Japanese camp in the Philippines and kept a diary throughout his time on scraps of candy and cigarette wrappers. In a published version of his diary, frequent references were made to the "*Honchos* who ran the prison camp."

Not long after the war ended, General Eisenhower himself was called the "Chief *Honcho*" in a 1952 Los Angeles Times article.

Since, *Honcho* is used to describe someone who shows courage and leadership.

Words to live by....

Since ancient times, the Japanese have repeatedly used three phrases of Shinto origin in their daily lives -*bachi ga ataru*, *mottai nai* and *arigatai*.

I'm sure many of you have heard the word *bachi* or the term *bachi ga ataru* somewhere, sometime in your lives.

Bachi is a variant form of *batsu* or *Shin-batsu* which means divine retribution inflicted on someone who speaks or acts in a disrespectful or unbelieving way towards a *kami*.

In English, a similar phrase would be "what goes around, comes around."

Here in Hawaii, "you're going to get *bachi*" seems to sum it all when you've done something you shouldn't have.

A rough English equivalent of *mottai nai* would be "what a waste." Literally, it means "I am unworthy to be a recipient of these goods or services" and is a phrase which evolved from the Shinto concept of expressing gratitude for the bounties that we receive from nature and the need for reflection on the forces that sustain us.

The word "waste" has a negative nuance such as useless or worthless in the English language.

However, in Japanese "waste" expresses regret that a thing which is still useful isn't used to its fullest potential. This can be used for people, opportunities, situations, etc.

Arigatai is a form of *arigato* which literally means "something which

is difficult."

The term began as a phrase to express how rare it was for one to encounter a kind act, which eventually evolved into the phrase *arigatai*, *arigato* or thank you.

The word *arigatai* is seen in ancient text, however, the word *arigato* was not used to express thanks until the mid-1600s.

Arigatai or expressing gratitude to our ancestors, parents, nature, acquaintances, etc. is the foundation of Shinto.

Gratitude is also said to make us resilient to life's challenges both physiologically and psychologically and said to strengthen interpersonal relationships.



MAINTENANCE

Keeping trees and shrubs in good condition involves regular care and pruning to help conserve a tree's energy, manage its size and change its shape.

The shrine's Ficus Benjamina was pruned on 4/10 to remove dead and diseased branches, thin the canopy and maintain optimum health.

The leaves are the energy and food producing centers of a tree, pruning live tissues will always



have an impact on growth.

However pruning dead tissues and branches simply clears them away without impacting growth and will help control the size and shape of the canopy.



Omamori sighting in Taiwan



We received a photo of a *Yakudoshi omamori* amidst *sakura* blossoms in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

The word *omamori* comes from the word *mamoru* 守る or to protect.

Mahalo Jill for keeping your *Yakudoshi omamori* with you, wherever you go.