

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

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Happy New Year



2015 heralds the sign of the Wood Sheep.

Unlike the rollercoaster ride of the 2014 Horse Year, the Sheep, Ram or Goat year will be a more relaxed and entertaining year of extravagant spending.

Oblivious to the rules of society, the Sheep is the most eccentric sign of the Chinese Zodiac but extremely compassionate, creative and adaptable.

As such, problems that brewed in the Snake or Horse years will be resolved under the tranquil and diplomatic influences of the Sheep.

This year, there will be much attention paid to ecological issues,

environmental protection, and healthy lifestyles.

2015 is ideal for expanding spiritually or nurturing creativity and we'll tend to focus on the aesthetic things in life this year - often neglecting work, responsibility and routine - resulting in dramatic changes in wealth.

This is not a year that will bring financial success. The Sheep year is one of gaining wisdom, happiness, tolerance and performing virtuous activities.

Those born in the year of the Sheep, Ox, Rat, Dragon and Dog should remain positive, patient, flexible and be prepared for the

unexpected. There will be major changes - both good and bad - affecting various aspects of their lives.

It will be a year of obstacles, restlessness, anxiety, misunderstandings - especially in the area of interpersonal relations.

If there is much negativity in your life and things are not going your way - attract positive energies this year by volunteering, donating blood or picking up a Sainan Yoke omamori from the shrine.

Whatever you choose to do this year, do not give up or be discouraged because the Sheep is not able to move backwards or sideways - it can only move forward !!

MAHALO for your generous donations

Thomas & Linda Agawa
Yeiso & Violet Arakaki
Dorothy Ching
Doughty Ohana
Richard & Emily Ebina
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Peggy Tsukida
Judy Usuba
Wasabi International
Edna Yaguchi
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Masue Yamada
Barbara Yamashita
Ronald & Emiko Yonemoto

MAHALO Volunteers - Hatsumode & Preparations

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Ricky Crum
Keiko Doughty
Chad Enoki
Alyssa Fujihara
Gayle Fujihara
Jeff Fujioka

Kazuumi Fujioka
Bryson Goda
Bob Harada
Arashi Igarashi
Kai Igarashi
Pam Igarashi
Arthur Isa
Arthur Isa, Jr
Tom Jannuzzio
Lorraine Kadota
Sherrie Kalua
Elaine Komatsu
Galen Komatsu

Kell Komatsubara
Kenneth Kunichika
Kathy Hamada Kwock
Milton Kwock
Mike Lee
Ruth Matsumoto
Marilyn Naitoh
Milena Naitoh
Shinken Naitoh
Hatsuko Nakazato
Craig Nishida
Diane Nishida
Jill Nishida

Debbie Nishikida
Diane Ogasawara
Carole Omura
Stuart Pang
Kei Sakamoto
Jay Sakashita
Pauline Sakashita
Skye Sakashita
Stirling Sakashita
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Allan Takeshita
Gail Tamashiro
Nelson Tamashiro
Naomi Teramoto
Sharon Toma
Val Tsutsumi
UH Nice Program
Yasuko Uyehara
Dane Yamada
Hiroshi Yamaji
Richard Yoshinaga



Shrine Visitors

January is a time of private blessings to herald the new year with hopes of invoking positive energies and new opportunities.

Rev. Takizawa performed the annual blessing for the Hawaii branch of Japan Airlines. to bring safety and a favorable year for the company and its employees.

A company or corporation is called *kaisha* in Japanese. In the West, a company is usually a secular entity engaged in economic activities.

However, in Japan many companies have a spiritual dimension which is either Shinto or Buddhist. Small Shinto shrines are constructed on the company compound or on the roof of the headquarters and religious ceremonies are regularly conducted.

Sagicho - burning of the old omamori



The annual Sagicho was conducted on Sunday, January 18 from 1:00 pm.

Thousands of omamori, ofuda, kumade, hamaya, hamayumi were burned after a ceremony to express gratitude for their protection throughout the year. Volunteers spent weeks removing plastic and metals from the omamori to prevent toxic fumes from harming the environment.

Items like kadomatsu, Saiwai-gami paper liners for mochi should be discarded at home unless it was blessed at a shrine or temple. Place kadomatsu and/or saiwi-gami in a paper bag, sprinkle Hawaiian salt and discard with your household trash.

MAHALO VOLUNTEERS

Gayle Fujihara
Bryson Goda
Bob Harada
Arthur Isa, Jr
Tom Jannuzzio
Lorraine Kadota
Elaine Komatsu
Galen Komatsu
Kell Komatsubara

Mike Lee
Craig Nishida
Diane Nishida
Marilyn Naitoh
Milena Naitoh
Shinken Naitoh
Akiko Sanai
Sharon Toma
Val Tsutsumi



MAHALO to Kell Komatsubara for the donation of a steel drum barrel and Mike Lee for converting the barrels to fire pits for burning old omamori. Stainless steel doors and elevated Grills were added for safety and proper ventilation.

In Japan, sake has been shared by family and friends for centuries to celebrate the most important moments in life.

Sake's association with Shinto is so fundamental that it's impossible to think of one without the other. Most Shinto rituals are fueled by sake and when sake is offered to the kami, it is called *Omiki*.

In ancient Japanese texts, sake is referred to as *kushi*, a word which was also used to mean "medicine" and had connotations of "wondrous" or "miraculous." Seemingly, the effect alcohol had on people was regarded as something quite amazing.

Sake still plays a major role spiritually but also socially - in the enhancement of the quality of life and as a mental and physical analgesic that provides relaxation and relief from fatigue and stress .

New Years Omiki



Mahalo to Mike Lee for constructing a collapsible stand for the *komodaru* barrel and to Jill Nishida for making a ti leaf lei to decorate the *komodaru*.

Shirokiya Ala Moana Center

MAHALO VOLUNTEERS

Bryson Goda
Bob Harada
Marilyn Naitoh
Milena Naitoh
Shinken Naitoh
Diane Nishida
Jill Nishida
Akiko Sanai



The shrine was invited again this year by Shirokiya Ala Moana to share the spiritual and cultural tradition of the Japanese New Year with their customers.

Various omamori and auspicious items were available on the Mall Level of Shirokiya on January 9 and 10.

Shirokiya was established by Hikotaro Omura in the Nihonbashi district of Tokyo in August 1662.

It began as a kimono shop called Shirokiya Gofukuten and eventually expanded into a department store.

Shirokiya overcame a series of natural, man-made and financial disasters that completely devastated the company's fortunes.

JCCH New Years Ohana Festival

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH) hosted its 22nd annual New Years Ohana Festival on Sunday, January 11.

Two stages, on the Cultural Center's lawn and the adjacent field provided entertainment by various performing arts groups including the Hanayagi Dancing Academy Hawaii Foundation.

Food trucks and Kanjin-kai booths provided traditional favorites like Okonomiyaki and bento.

Numerous arts and craft vendors and cultural demonstrations were held in the Manoa Grand Ballroom.



MAHALO VOLUNTEERS

Bryson Goda
Bob Harada
Shinken Naitoh
Diane Nishida
Jill Nishida

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kanreki
Blessing

2/15/2015
Sun 1:00 pm

還暦

Kanreki Kit includes:
Kanreki Blessing Certificate,
Omamori, Ofuda and T-shirt.

Kanreki literally means "return" and "calendar." The ancient Japanese calendar was organized on 60-year cycles. The cycle returns to its starting point in 60 years and as such, Kanreki celebrates that point in our lives when we return to the Chinese zodiac sign under which we were born.

Kanreki is a time that prompts new beginnings. It is customary for the celebrant to be given a red hat and a red vest - clothes that were worn by babies and thus symbolize the celebrant's return to their birth.

Rituals afford us a sense of belonging and gives us a way to connect to family, past and present. Rituals tie us to our ancestors and to our heritage and helps us to understand where we came from. As a bridge between past and future, rituals strengthen our own identity.

Complimentary Kanreki blessings are offered once a year in February, to all those who purchase a Kanreki Kit.

The next complimentary Kanreki Blessing will be held on **Sunday, February 16, 2014 at 1:00 pm. Please arrive at the shrine with the Blessing Certificate in the Kit, by 12:45 pm.**