



Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

SEPTEMBER 2021

The Autumn Thanksgiving Festival is meant to remember the things we have to be grateful for.

It's a special time to give thanks... not just for the food we partake, but for the thousands of fortunate moments, the multitude of blessings that we receive everyday of our lives.

The 101st Autumn Thanksgiving

Festival commenced at 2:00 pm on Sunday, September 5, officiated by **Rev. Masa Takizawa** in the presence of Directors and Officers.

President **Dr. Shinken Naitoh** began the festival with a moment of silence in memory of the victims of COVID-19.

Our world now calls for kokua among our leaders, scientists,

healthcare providers and all who are instrumental in overcoming this pandemic.

May our gratitude, prayers and support be with all of them.



DONATIONS

Bill & Keiko Doughty
Bryson Goda
Miyoko Hanahara
Hanayagi Dancing Academy
Hawaii Foundation
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Jeanette Nakata
Craig & Diane Nishida
Akiko Sanai
Gary & Linda Shinsato
Robert Stallings
Gary & Waynette Taketa
Peggy Tsukida

DONATIONS

Taisai Sake • Beer
Choyo no Sekku Kiku

Bryson Goda
Mike Lee
Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh
Gary & Linda Shinsato

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 17 - 31 9:00 am - 3:30 pm**
Shichigosan, Totose no Oiwai, Jusan Mairi
- 17 2:00 pm (INTERNAL)**
Tsukinami-sai Monthly Service

NOVEMBER

- 1 - 21 9:00 am - 3:30 pm**
Shichigosan, Totose no Oiwai, Jusan Mairi
- 7 2:00 pm (INTERNAL)**
Tsukinami-sai Monthly Service



The annual *Choyo no Sekku* or *Kiku* Festival was observed on Sunday, September 5.



Sake laced with *kiku* chrysanthemum petals are served every September in hopes of a healthy and long life. This year, a genus of *kiku* called Magenta Beauty was used.

Kiku was used as medicine in Japan since ancient times and the aristocrats of the *Heian* court enjoyed gazing at rare *kiku* flowers from China while sipping *kiku* sake and writing and reciting poems of good health and longevity.

GOKITO - Private Blessings



A long distance blessing was performed on September 1, for a patient hospitalized at Queen's ICU from COVID-19. Prayers of healing energies were offered so he may have a sense of ease even in the midst of distress - surrounded with love, strength and hope.

Until further notice, Private *Gokito* blessings will be available by reservations with a maximum participation of 9 people in the shrine. (Rev Takizawa is the 10th person as allowed by C&C rules)

Social distancing is observed in the shrine, especially during private blessings.

We urge everyone visiting the shrine to continue to wear masks.

We also offer long distance *Gokito* blessings via Zoom.

The shrine has received several requests for private blessings for those who have succumbed to COVID-19 that are hospitalized or quarantined.

Please email the shrine at kotohira@hawaiiintel.net for information and reservations.



Baby blessing was performed for a baby boy on August 29



New car blessing was performed for a shrine friend on August 31



Congratulations to a shrine friend on his Koki birthday. May you continue this wondrous journey of new experiences

TOSHI IWAI - Auspicious Years

Since ancient times, the Japanese has celebrated longevity at each milestone. Every birthday from *Kanreki* on ~ is considered an auspicious, happy occasion.

In Shinto, there are many passages of later life rituals that support and guide people through the spiritual dimensions of those passages.

KANREKI - 61 years of age

Kanreki is observed at the completion of the Chinese zodiac cycle and is a joyous occasion which celebrates the beginning of a new cycle and evaluation of the meaning and purpose of one's life.

KOKI - 70 years of age

Koki originated from a famous Chinese poem "By the Winding River" by Tu Fu which expresses how rare it was for people to live until 70.

It is also a time for a new focus in life to see the value, quality and meaning of our lives even in the face of illness or declining physical or cognitive capacity. It also expresses how we should cherish and embrace this new chapter in our lives.

KIJU - 77 years of age

The kanji character for Ki means happiness and is written using the characters for seven, ten, seven or 77. Ju means longevity.

BEIJU - 88 years of age

Bei, the Kanji character for rice is written using the characters for eight, ten, eight and is often referred to as the "rice birthday." Ju means longevity

SOTSUJU - 90 years of age

Sotsuju is also known as the Graduation Birthday.

During the Heian Period (794-1185), it was unimaginable that a human being would live past 50 year old.

HAKUJU - 99 years of age

Hakuju or the White Birthday is a play on words. 100 minus 1 is 99. In Japanese kanji, if you take the 1 or ichi away from the kanji character for 100, the resulting kanji becomes the character for shiro or white

HYAKUJU or **MOMOJU** - 100 years of age

Hyaku is literally 100 in Japanese. The kanji character can also be read as *Momo* and attaining 100 years is considered a significant milestone.



A Yakudoshi Blessing was performed to help and protect one through the challenges



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3rd Year **Bob Harada**
September 14, 2018

5th Year **Kyoko Isa**
September 22, 2016

1st Year **Kell Komatsubara**
October 30, 2020



Anniversary Memorial Services were held on September 1, for former shrine officers and friends who are enshrined at the shrine. The ceremony was performed for those who passed during the Autumn months.

In Japanese faith communities, the commemoration of a loved one doesn't stop the day after the funeral. There is no time limit on grief and an Anniversary Memorial Service is thought to help one cope, renew and help

family and friends to move on.

In recent years in Japan, the lack of burial space is changing age-old funeral practices of all faiths.

Grave slots are thought to be a perpetual grave right for the owners.

However, in Japan, perpetuity is being taken out of many grave rights as typical operating procedures render a cemetery unsustainable. Most plots are now leased for a maximum of 100 years.

SHICHIGOSAN

It's that time of the year - reservations for Shichigosan, Totose no Oiwai and Jusan Mairi have been accepted from **September 1**.

Please visit our website www.jinja.us/shichigosan.html for details as procedures have changed since last year. The online reservation page is www.jinja.us/onlinereservations.php

We no longer accept reservations by phone, fax or Email.

A confirmation email or text will be sent to you within 24 hours of receipt of your online reservation and donation.

Special Blessing includes:

Gokito Blessing, Omamori, Chitose ame, Goodie bag,

Complimentary kimono rental and dressing



Donation \$65

Our kimono dressing is a complimentary service provided by the shrine and its volunteers to preserve and perpetuate the Japanese kimono culture.

The selection of kimono for each child on the day and time of the appointment depends on the day's available supply and proper fittings for the child's age, height and arm length.

Selections proper for each child are made by the volunteer staff at the time of appointment.

Department of health regulations have not changed since 2020. As such:

- We are NOT able to offer hair, makeup or the use of *kanzashi* hair ornaments. Please style your child's hair **before** arriving for your reserved time
- All children are to be dressed in a thin V-neck or round neck T-shirt or tank top. No crew neck T-shirts. Please also wear shorts without any belts or bulky belt loops.



BOCHA

Meaning: Local slang that means "to take a bath"

Origin: *Bocha* is baby talk for the term to bathe. It seems to have come from the Hiroshima area.

Bocha bocha and is the sound of water splashing in the tub in standard Japanese.

Various regional dialects for "Bath":

Fukushima - Appu or Obu

Yamagata - Ama ponpon

Aichi - Dandan or Tantan

Okayama - Bosha

Hiroshima - Boccha

Fukuoka - Bucchan

Kumamoto - Obu or Bubutan

Okinawa - Yufuru



Jill Nishida, the shrine's 2012 scholarship recipient graduated from UH at Hilo with a M.A. from UH Manoa and spent a year at Daito Bunka University in Japan.

She has taught ELL in the DOE system and in Thailand and is now an instructor of English in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

Dr. Alexandria Carlyle, the shrine's 2015 scholarship recipient graduated from Oregon State University and Oregon Health & Science University. Dr. Ally and her husband Dr. Erik Quintana both practice dentistry in the Fort Worth, Texas area.



Lukela Los Banos, the shrine's 2013 scholarship recipient now resides in McKenna, WA where he is a full time Judo coach.

Lukela has also found his passion for bodywork and spends his free time healing his clients with deep tissue, trigger point and Zen BodyTherapy.

September is the month of *Shubun no Hi* or the Autumnal Equinox.

This year on September 22, the sun will rise exactly in the east and set exactly in the west, making day and night equal in length.

From this day forward, the sun crosses over the equator to the Southern

Hemisphere making the days shorter and the nights longer.

Shubun no Hi was named as a national holiday in 1948. Prior to 1948, the Autumnal Equinox was an imperial ancestral festival called *Shuki Koreisai*.

Many families visit graves and hold family reunions in honor of their deceased.

