

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 9 SEPTEMBER 2014



View event photos at www.flickr.com/photos/Kotohira-dazaifu

Choyo-no-Sekku - Chrysanthemum Festival

Choyo no Sekku, or Chrysanthemum (Kiku) Festival is an ancient festival celebrated on the ninth day of the ninth lunar month.

Double odd numbers - 1,3,5,7,9 are considered extremely auspicious. As such, most major Japanese festivals occur in odd months: January 1 - New Years Day, March 3 – Girl's Day (Momo no Sekku), May 5 - Boy's Day (Tango no Sekku), July 7 -Tanabata and September 9 -Choyo no Sekku.

The ninth day of the ninth lunar month was considered to be particularly potent because of the belief that the number nine, being the highest

odd number, was auspicious and therefore “two nines” (Ninth Day of the Ninth Month) was considered to be the ultimate in propitiousness.

On this day, beautifully cultivated chrysanthemums were displayed and admired while drinking chrysanthemum-laced sake.

Chrysanthemums have long been associated with longevity because they bloom magnificently during the Fall months when the rest of nature seems to be dying.

Chrysanthemum is also known for its medicinal value, including an aid in recovery from influenza, acne, the prevention of sore throat and the

reduction of fever.

In Korea, it is known for its medicinal use for making people more alert. In western herbal medicine, chrysanthemum tea is drunk to treat circulatory disorders such as varicose veins and atherosclerosis.

The chrysanthemum was first introduced to Japan during the Nara period (710 – 793 AC). Eventually, the 16-petal Chrysanthemum became associated with the Emperor of Japan.

Choyo no Sekku was celebrated at the shrine on Sunday, September 7 by partaking of the traditional Chrysanthemum sake.

MAHALO for your generous donations

Thomas & Linda Agawa
Doughty Ohana
Bob Harada
Matthew & Mariko Hatae
Luke Inoue
Kyoko Isa
James & Melba Kurashige
Link Bridge LLC
John Marshall
Matsumoto Ohana
Nanae Mori-Tanabe

Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh
Joan Okimoto-Chin
Jan Ota
Russell & Georgene Ridela
Akiko Sanai
Lacey-Sherae Tojo
Lauren-Ashly Tojo
Sheryl Tojo
Melissa Wong
Steven & Nobue Yoshida

Blessing of Honolulu Shokudo Bimi

Rev Takizawa performed a blessing for Honolulu Shokudo Bimi on Thursday, August 28.

Honolulu Shokudo Bimi is located in Yataimura, on the 2nd floor of Shirokiya and has a wide Array of Japanese on dishes.

Bimi mean "delicacy" in Japanese.

Pictured to the right is Rev Takizawa and Leo Uchida, owner and chef of Honolulu Shokudo Bimi.



Blessing of Salt Lake Laundromat

Rev Takizawa performed a blessing for Salt Lake Laundromat on Tuesday, September 9.

Salt Lake Laundromat is located in the Salt Lake Shopping Center and is owned by Russell and Georgene Ridela.



Upcoming Events

HDAHF
GARAGE SALE
9/21 Sunday
8 AM - 1 PM

Autumn Thanksgiving Festival
秋季感謝大祭 September 28
3:00 pm
Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha - Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

An illustration of a traditional Japanese shrine building with a thatched roof, surrounded by vibrant red maple leaves. The text 'Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha - Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu' is at the bottom.

Tsukinamisai
October 19 Sunday
3:00 pm

An illustration of a full moon in a dark blue sky, with palm trees silhouetted against the horizon.

Shichigosan
七五三
10/19 ~ 11/23
2014
Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha - Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

An illustration of a young child in a light blue kimono, standing in front of a stylized mountain range. The text 'Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha - Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu' is at the bottom.

Mochi Making
12/6/2014
Sat 8:30 am

An illustration of several white, round mochi balls arranged on a wooden surface.

Otaki Jinja



Otaki Jinja is one of the seven Jinja enshrined at Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha-Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu.

Otaki Jinja is the guardian kami of Otake City of Hiroshima-ken and was established on the Ninth day of the Ninth lunar month in 597 in Iyagasako, Hiroshima.

The shrine was dedicated to Tagitsuhi no Mikoto and was one of the seven associate shrines of Itsukushima Jinja of Miyajima. As such, Otaki Jinja shares the same shrine crest as Itsukushima Jinja.

According to ancient legend, Susanoo no Mikoto, was ordered by the kami to have domain over the seas, but instead wished to visit his mother in the underworld (Ne no kuni). As a result, he was banished from the heavens. He next visited his sister Amaterasu in the Plain of High Heaven (Takamanohara), but he was suspected of insurrection and underwent a trial by a form of ancient divination called "ukei" to prove his loyalty.

Facing the river of Ameno-yasukawa, Amaterasu-Ōmikami asked for a sword called "Totsuka-no-tsurugi" and broke it into three pieces. She purified the pieces in a well called Ame-no-manai or True well of Heaven. She then

crunched the sword and spat out three kami. The kami were named Tagirihime-no-mikoto, Ichikishima-hime-no-mikoto and Tagitsuhi no-mikoto. Tagitsuhi no-mikoto is the kami enshrined at Otaki Jinja.

The three kami produced were females, which was taken as evidence of Susanoo's innocence. Amaterasu then commanded the three kami to descend to earth.

There, they were enshrined by the Munakata and Minuma clans in Tsukushi (Kyushu) and came to be called the "three kami of Munakata."

All three kami are believed to have been protectors of the oceans and are responsible for guarding ocean traffic.

In 1570, Otaki Jinja moved to the Nanatsuguro area of Hiroshima and was known as Tanaka Daimyojin Shrine.

In 1740, Otaki Jinja made a final move to its present location on Mt. Shidayama and revived its original name - Otaki Jinja. The Honden (inner sanctum) was built in 1777.

In October of 1930, a Gobunrei (symbol of the kami) from Otaki Jinja was authorized for worship in Hawaii and the Otaki Jinja Hosan Kai was established by the first President, Teiichi Sugimoto with a membership of over 120 Issei families from Otake Village. The Gobunrei was transported from Hiroshima and placed in the inner sanctum of Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha.



Steep steps lead to Otaki Jinja and the panoramic views from Mt. Shidayama

Continued on page 3

Continued from Page 3

Otake Shijinkai, was also established for immigrants from Otake city in the early 1940s and was active until the early 1990s.

Former president of the shrine, Nobuo Hayashi served as the Otaki Jinja Hosan kai and Otaki Shijinkai president for many years.

Otake City borders Iwakuni City of Yamaguchi and the Marine Corp Air Station Iwakuni, which is home to approximately half of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing .

Some notable locals who immigrated from Otake village are Mamoru Matsumoto, founder of M. Matsumoto Store, now known as Matsumoto Shave Ice and Frank Oda, an artist, illustrator and founder of Hawaii Glass Arts.

A few years ago, Kalaheo High School and Otake High School became sister schools to promote cultural understanding between the sister cities of Honolulu and Hiroshima.



First stone monument on the left, is that of Tadaichi Oda, former President of Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha.-Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu. The stone monuments overlooks Otake City.

Keiro no Hi 敬老の日 - Respect for the Aged Day

Respect for the Aged Day is a Japanese holiday celebrated annually to honor elderly citizens. It began in 1966 as a national holiday on September 15. Since 2003, Respect for the Aged Day is held on the 3rd Monday of September due to the Happy Monday System.

The Chinese social organization is based on family and Confucianism has held filial piety as their cardinal virtue. According to early Japanese documents, Confucianism was introduced to Japan via Korea in the year 404 CE. Some of the important Confucian principles are humaneness, sincerity, filial piety, loyalty and morality.

Neo-Confucianism was the foundation and official guiding philosophy of the Tokugawa period. Harmony was maintained by a reciprocal relationship of justice between a superior, who was urged to be benevolent, and a subordinate, who was urged to be obedient and to observe propriety.

There is one difference between Chinese and Japanese Confucianism. Chinese Confucianism places filial piety before loyalty, whereas Japanese Confucian ethics places loyalty before filial piety.

Chinese morality is founded on the family structure, with the most important being that of parent and child and its blood-related clans. The Japanese moral system is founded on a set of kinship relations that go beyond blood ties and extend to members who have no blood relationship, with the primary tie being that between leader and follower.

Japan is said to have a high population of senior citizens that live to be well over 100 years old. Some reasons attributed to the longevity include: strong community bonds, plenty of exercise, healthy and low-fat diet, low stress way of life, strong work ethics that keep them working as long as they can and a busy social life

Concern for the health of the aged receives a great deal of attention, and nearly free medical care for people over 70 years of age is national policy.

