

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha - Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

MAY 2020



The May Tsukinamisai Monthly Ceremony was performed on May 24

MAHALO

for your Donations

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Private Blessings

A Memorial service and burial was performed on May 29 - the shrine's first private ceremony since the Stay-Home Order on March 25.

Modifications to funeral rituals were made to ensure the safety of the immediate family members who have been waiting patiently since mid-March to honor the memory of their beloved family member.



The service and burial was shared with relatives and friends via social media.



The larger limbs of the Ficus Benjaminia was cut by Rev. Takizawa to encourage new growth, minimize disease, allow better light penetration and increase safety by removing dead and damaged limbs.

The lower branches were left for use in Tamagushi.

Tango No Sekku

Tango no Sekku originated in Japan during the Nara period (710-794) and is one of the five seasonal rites performed at the Imperial court.

"*Tan*" means beginning and "*go*" means horse. *Tango no Sekku* originally meant, "the first day of the Horse of the 5th month." *Sekku* means seasonal celebration.

Tango no Sekku, was a time of seasonal change when people were prone to catching colds and flu viruses.

As such, dried iris flowers and *yomogi* mugwort were steeped as teas or scattered in baths to detoxify the body.

Fresh Iris flowers and *yomogi* mugwort were also used to

decorate the entrances to homes to ward off evil.

Many also eat *Kashiwa mochi*, a *mochi* wrapped in oak leaves on May 5 to ensure a year of good health.



Koinobori carp streamers billowing in the breeze, heralding the arrival of *Tango no Sekku* or Boy's Day.

CALENDAR



July

- 5 3 pm (Internal)
Tsukinamisai Monthly Service

August

- 2 10 am - 1 pm (Cancelled)
Back-To-School Blessing

September

- 27 3 pm (Internal)
Autumn Thanksgiving Festival

Shichigosan - exact dates, times and logistics to be determined in early August.

Please check our website
www.jinja.us or Facebook page in mid-August.

View Events pics at: www.flickr.com/kotohira-dazaifu

Baby Rituals

Japan has many food traditions connected to festivals and religious rituals.

Okuizome is a tradition that began during the Heian period (794 - 1185) and is usually observed on or after the 100th day after the baby's birth.

Parents brush food against the infant's lips to symbolically feed the child in hopes that he or she will never go without food during their life.

It is also called *Hashi-zoroe* (chopstick preparation) or *Hashi-hajime* (first chopsticks) because it the first time the child will be fed with chopsticks.

The *Okuizome* ritual also includes a *Hagatame-ishi* or teeth

strengthening rock. A small smooth stone is rubbed on the gums of the infant to ensure strong teeth.

In ancient Japan, it was thought that strong teeth and healthy gums were the secret to longevity.

A recent study, published in the Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology Journal investigated the link between tooth loss and mortality.

Results found that those with 20 teeth or more at the age of 70 had a considerably higher chance of living longer than those with less than 20 teeth. Oral health indicators such as gum disease have regularly been linked to a wide range of general health



problems such as heart disease, strokes, diabetes and dementia.

In recent years, the shrine has had increased interest in and several requests for *Hagatame-ishi*.

Please contact the shrine if you would like to receive a *Hagatame-ishi*. The rock comes with instructions on how to perform the ritual at home.

Congratulations to Sara for celebrating *Okuizome* and *Hagatame-ishi* on April 19.

Follow us on Instagram: [kotohiraDazaifu](#)

Renewal

Rev. Takizawa has been cleaning and sanitizing the shrine meticulously throughout the Stay-Home Order. The Kotohira-side altar area was wiped down and all fabric decorations were taken down and spot cleaned. A sheer inner veil was recently purchased as a replacement for the curtain and wooden drop curtain that was slashed by a vandal a year ago.



The new wooden drop curtains were slightly long. Rev. Takizawa shortened the length by removing the brocade trim, hemming the wooden slats to size and resewing the brocade trim.



Memorial Day

The Honolulu Shinto Renmei's annual Memorial Day service was canceled due to Covid-19, however on May 24, Rev. Takizawa visited and offered prayers at Punchbowl, Makiki and Moiliili cemeteries.

Memorial Day, which originated after the Civil War, commemorates the sacrifices of those who have fought and

died in the American armed forces.

On Memorial Day, let us pause to reflect upon our blessings as a nation.

We are grateful to our Armed Forces for the freedom we enjoy, for opportunities to flourish and for the security of our land.

Another annual tradition for Rev. Takizawa is to visit the grave of **Rev. Kunisuke Sakai**, the 4th Guji Chief Priest of the shrine.

Rev. Sakai arrived from Yamaguchi-ken in 1916 to serve as Guji of Lahaina Daijingu from 1937 until his deportation in 1945.

Rev. Sakai was taken hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor and confined at Sand Island with his wife Fujie and daughter Lillian. He was deported to Japan after the war and returned to Hawaii on October 7, 1957 to serve at Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha from August 15, 1959 until his retirement in 1971.



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