

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha - Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

APRIL 2019



Sakamoto Hachimangu in Dazaifu City - site of Otomo Tabito's famous Plum Blossom Banquet and origin of the poem which the new Gengo era name, Reiwa was taken from

MAHALO

for your donations

Thomas & Linda Agawa

Bill & Keiko Doughty

Miyoko Hanahara

Seizo Imamura

Andy Khee

James & Melba Kurashige

Kenji & Mara Kwock

Milton & Kathy Kwock

Steve Miwa

Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh

Adele Nakamura

Craig & Diane Nishida

Akiko Sanai

Sherrie Santiago

Gary & Linda Shinsato

Alice Sugimoto

Sugimoto Ohana

Adam & Mimi Tilley

CALENDAR

APRIL

13 1 pm
Cleanup and Festival prep

14 3 pm
Spring Thanksgiving Festival

28 2 pm
Advance Directives Seminar

MAY

5 3 pm
Tsukinamisai Monthly Service

26 8 am
Honolulu Shinto Renmei Memorial Day Service

JUNE

1 1 pm
Cleanup & Prep

2 9 am - 1 pm
Chinowa for People & Pets

JULY

1- 7 Tanzaku strips for Tanabata wishes available in shrine

7 3 pm
Tsukinamisai Monthly Service & Tanabata



Private Blessings



Congratulations to the Tilley's on the birth of their sweet baby boy.



A Yakudoshi blessing was performed for Mara on March 29

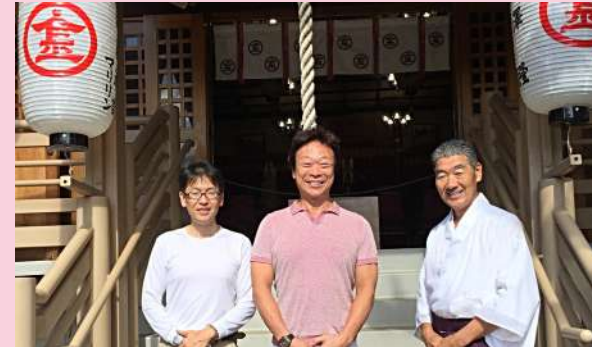


An annual home blessing was performed for a longtime friend of the shrine in front of their kamidana.



A long distance blessing for healing was performed for Joshie on March 29. Joshie has been in Pet ER for the past 2 weeks suffering from pneumonia and complications from Pancreatitis.

When a medical emergency befalls our furry friends and you would like a private blessing, a long-distance ceremony can be performed in-absentia. Please email us for details. The shrine has also done long-distance Baby and Health blessings for many throughout the globe.



An annual Blessing was performed for the shrine's friends from Osaka

Advance Directives Seminar

Plan Ahead To Make Your End Of Life Wishes Known

Date: April 28 (Sun)

Time: 2:00 pm

Place: Shrine Meeting Room

Just as we prepare for the many milestones throughout our life, it is important to plan in advance for the end of our life with Advance Directives. Advanced care planning may not be an easy conversation, but a necessary one.

By thinking ahead and communicating your treatment preferences early on, you can spare those close to you the anxiety of having to guess your wishes.

Advance directives are legal documents completed by individuals to specify how they

would like health care delivered should they not be able to speak for themselves. Attend this educational seminar presented by the shrine's president - **Dr. Shinken Naitoh**, who has focused his practice exclusively in Healthcare law.

The seminar is part of our community service to the public and will be offered at no charge.

The seminar will review the benefits of planning ahead, discuss end-of-life decisions and help you to complete your advance directive at the seminar.

Email your RSVP to the shrine: **kotohira@hawaiiintel.net** or text Irene at 284-1040 to reserve a space.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Rev. Nobuhiro Nishitakatsuji** as he is ordained as the 40th Chief Priest of Dazaifu Tenmangu.

Chief Priest Nishitakatsuji is a graduate of



Tokyo University, majoring in Art History. He received his priest's license, majoring in Shinto studies at Kokugakuin University. In 2010, he received his masters in Japanese Studies at the Reischauer Institute of Harvard University.

Shrine Visitors



Journalist and camera crew of EI Publishing Company of Tokyo visited the shrine on March 21 to introduce the shrine and its mamori on the 2020 edition of "Hawaii-bon" a popular Japanese travel magazine.

Gengo - Japanese era names

The current period in Japan is known as *Heisei* and began on January 8, 1989, the day after the death of Emperor Hirohito. His son, the 125th Emperor Akihito ascended the throne on January 9, 1989.

Emperor Akihito, 85 planned his date of abdication as April 30, 2019 due to stress-related illnesses. His eldest son, Emperor Naruhito, 59 will be ascending the throne on May 1, 2019 as the 126th Emperor.

The system for era names or *Gengo* began in China more than 2,000 years ago. Many monarchs throughout Asia followed the system but Japan remains the only country to retain the ancient practice.

The *Gengo* era name becomes an

emperor's official posthumous name. Emperor Akihito's father, Emperor Hirohito is now named after his era name "*Showa*" and is referred to as Emperor *Showa*.

The *Gengo* is only for domestic use but is used on currency, drivers' licenses, official paperwork as well as in counting years.

Elderly people often use *Gengo* to identify their generations, while younger people prefer the Western calendar.

The Gengo Era Name Act stipulates that a name must be written with two *Kanji* characters, it must have a positive meaning and be easy to read and write. Beyond that, the selection process is confidential.

The first *Gengo* was "*Taika*" in the 7th century and meant "to lead



Prime Minister Abe delivering a press conference to explain the meaning of Reiwa

people with great virtue." Since, there have been 247 *Gengo* era names.

This is the first time a *Gengo* era name originated from a 1200-year old classic Japanese poem, rather than a Chinese text.

New *Gengo* names carry with it hopes and expectations for the future of Japan.

Reiwa - the new Gengo era name

On April 1, 2019, the new era name **Reiwa** was announced with great fanfare.

The city of Dazaifu immediately became the center of attention as the new *Gengo* era name finds its roots in a poem written in 731 in Dazaifu, Fukuoka.

Otomo no Tabito (665 - 731) a *Nara* Period court noble who served as Governor-General of Dazaifu is best known for his many poems on *sake* but mostly this poem from the *Manyoshu* - "I wish I could stop being a human and become a jug so I can remain immersed in sake forever."

The *Manyoshu* has 20 volumes of about 4,500 poems written between 600 and 759.

This eclectic aristocrat hosted a Spring Plum Blossom banquet in the year 731 with 31 people at his

official residence in Dazaifu . All the participants recited their own poems admiring the magnificence of the *ume* plum blossoms blooming in *Tabito's* garden.



Hakata Ningyo dolls depicting Otomo Tabito's famous Plum Blossom Banquet

In his opening remarks at the banquet, *Tabito* said "*Hatsuharu no reigetsu nishite kiyoku kaze yawaragi*" or in this auspicious early spring month, the air is clean and the breeze is gentle.

Reiwa, the new era name means "achieving peace" and is derived from two *kanji* characters in *Tabito's* opening remarks. *REI* in *reigetsu* and *WA* in *yawaragi*.

The original site of *Tabito's* Plum Blossom banquet was torn down centuries ago and is now *Sakamoto Hachimangu* shrine, at the foot of the Shiojiyama mountains.

Rev. Yoshitomo Mita of Dazaifu Tenmangu also serves as the Chief priest of *Sakamoto Hachimangu*.



Maintenance

Totan galvanized metal was a popular building material until the 1960s.

The Japanese word *Totan* comes from the Portuguese word *Tutanaga* which means "metal containing crude zinc and bronze."

Kamaboko houses or Quonset huts made of *totan* were imported to Hawaii by the military in the 1940s and used to house troops. After the war, Honolulu faced a housing shortage and the Navy had an excess of Quonset Huts.

Building supply firms such as Kilgo's, Tajiri's and Frank Fasi's Supplies obtained the government contract to salvage huts for resale.

The most famous of the building supply company owners was Frank Fasi, who after moving here to work for the Army Corps of Engineers, ran his salvage business until 1966 when he ran for Honolulu Mayor.



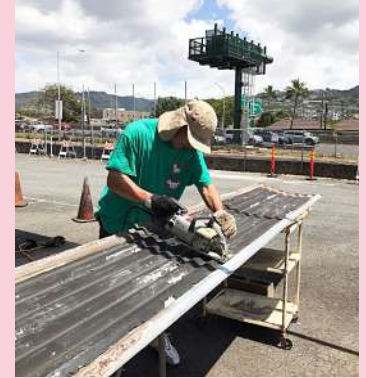
The shrine's *totan* or galvanized metal roof over the garage was in

dire need of replacement.



Mahalo Nui to **Rudy Santiago**, the shrine's neighbor for completing Phase 1 of the Garage Roof project. The *totan* roof that was used to roof the garage from 1983 was finally removed on 3/24.

On 3/29, **Rev. Takizawa**



into 4 ft long pieces to comply with City & County Bulky Items collection rules. Mahalo Nui to **Mike Lee** for use of his circular saw.

