

# Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

Volume 4, Issue 6



## Back-to-School Education Blessing てんじんさん学業成就

As our children start the new school year, we wish we could weave a protective cape for them. In fairy tales, the magic cape was often knitted with a generous hood or would sometimes make the wearer invisible.

Designs may differ with each tale, however, the magic cape always saved the child from danger.

If only we can give our children such protection. If only we can create for him or her a magic cape that would ward off all of life's dangers.

Perhaps we can. Perhaps the invisible shield we can give our children is made up of the values we instill in them and our love, caring, and prayers for their safety.

A new school year is a new beginning. New adventure awaits them as they prepare for school. Excitement for new possibilities and fear of the unknown mingle in their hearts.

Whether your children are starting kindergarten, entering high school, or leaving the nest for college, we invite you to have them specially blessed at our annual Back to School Education Blessing, as they go out to face the world.

Our special Back to School Education Blessing is offered to bring positive blessings to students, teachers and support staff as they begin this new school year - so they are surrounded by love, hope, vision, and protection and the courage to persevere in all they undertake and the gift of joy and wonder in all things.

Sugawara no Michizane was a 9th century scholar and nobleman who

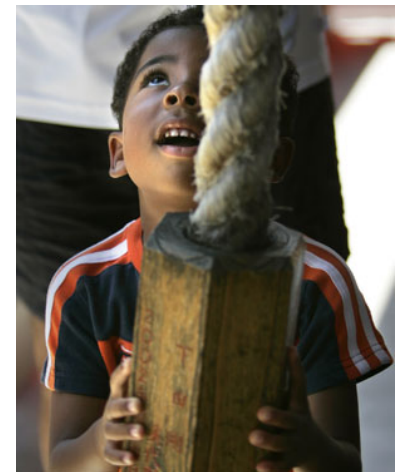
was falsely accused of improprieties at court and sent into exile where he died before being exonerated.

Later, his spirit was deified and today is venerated as the god of learning and scholarship at the 11,000 or so Tenmangu shrines dedicated to him throughout Japan.

Dazaifu Tenmangu in Saifu City, Fukuoka is the main shrine of all the Tenmangu shrines in Japan and millions of students flock to the shrine every year to receive blessings and education omamori amulets. We are the only branch shrine of Dazaifu Tenmangu outside of Japan.

This year, our Back to School Education Blessing was held on Sunday, August 3 from 10 am to 2 pm.

A big Mahalo goes out to event chair Axel Obara and the many volunteers who helped to make this special blessing available to the community.



## MAHALO for your generous donations

Thomas & Linda Agawa  
Toshiko Fujisaki  
Kuumeaaloha Gomes  
Mitsuru & Pam Igarashi  
Dawn Isa  
Kyoko Isa  
Sachiko Kele  
Milton & Kathy Kwock  
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Justin & Miyako Pilling  
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Yi Wah Tan  
Kathy & Darren Tsuru  
Ernest & Miwa Yokota

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha - Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit church.  
All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

### MAHALO Give Five August Volunteers

Arthur Isa      Arthur MJY Isa

## MAHALO Education Blessing Volunteers

Bryson Goda  
Melissa Hamada  
Ryuji Hoshino  
Yumi Hoshino  
Emi Igarashi  
Kai Igarashi  
Pam Igarashi  
Arthur MJY Isa  
Dawn Isa  
Brandon Lee

Shinken Naitoh  
Norman Nakashima  
Diane Nishida  
Jill Nishida  
Axel Obara  
Jay Sakashita  
Pauline Sakashita  
Skye Sakashita  
Stirling Sakashita  
Irene Takizawa



We would like to express our deepest condolences to the family of the late

Ricke K. Fujino  
Mary Y. Obara  
Gary Mason  
Glenn Matsuoka  
Peggy Lou Nakahara

## Shrine Calendar

### September

- 7 Tsukinami-sai Monthly Service 月次祭
- 27 Clean-up & Mochi Pounding 掃除と餅つき
- 28 Autumn Thanksgiving Festival 秋季感謝大祭

### October

- 1 Reservations accepted for Shichigosan 七五三予約受付開始
- 12 Tsukinami-sai Monthly Service 月次祭
- 25-31 Shichigosan 七五三

### November

- 1-30 Shichigosan 七五三
- 2 Tsukinami-sai Monthly Service 月次祭





# Back-to-School Education Blessing てんじんさん学業成就





# O-tsukimi - Moon Viewing お月見

お月見の由来は、中国にあります。中国では陰暦7月を初秋、8月を中秋、9月を晩秋と呼び、それぞれの時期の満月を拝み、めでる風習がありました。なかでも陰暦8月15日の満月を「中秋の名月」と呼び、一年で最も美しい月をめでて、お供え物をし、詩歌を詠みました。

平安時代の日本でも、欠けても満ちる月を生命や不死の象徴とみなし、詩歌を詠んで称えたり、江戸時代には一般家庭でも「お月見」として定着していきました。

ちょうどお月見シーズンは、農作物の収穫期直前ということもあり、豊作を祈る初穂祭としての意味合いもあります。

お月見の夜には団子、さといもなどの丸いものやすすき、秋の七草などを東に向けて供えます。サトイモは米が伝わる前の日本の主要作物であり、無事に収穫を終えたサトイモを供えたわけです。ススキは稲に見立てられ豊作を祈願しました。

The 15th of August on the Lunar Calendar (September 14th in 2008) is known as *Jugoya* - the day Japanese traditionally celebrate the first autumnal full moon.

Moon-viewing, or *otsukimi*

was introduced from China in the Heian era (794-1185), and celebrates the end of harvests.

People make offerings to the full moon of mochi, dango (rice dumplings), sato-imo (Japanese taro) and other autumnal fruits and vegetables, which are arranged on small, decorative stands and placed near the windows of Japanese homes.

Before rice became a staple in the Japanese diet, sato-imo or Japanese taro was imported to Japan from China and was widely grown and consumed.

At night, people gather with family and friends to view the moon and try their best to find the 'rabbit on the moon'. Similar to our 'man on the moon', Japanese believe there is a rabbit on the moon making rice-cakes for *Jugoya* - a myth derived from a Chinese folk tale that two rabbits live on the moon. Something to consider next time you gaze up at a full moon....

## Chinese Moon Festival

In China, the Moon festival also called Mid-Autumn festival is celebrated on the fifteenth day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar, when the moon is at its maximum brightness for the entire year, the Chinese celebrate "zhong qiu jie."

Children are told the story of the moon fairy living in a crystal palace, who comes out to dance on the moon's shadowed surface.

The legend surrounding the "lady living in the moon" dates back to ancient times, to a day when ten suns appeared at once in the sky.

The Emperor ordered a famous archer to shoot down the nine extra suns. Once the task was accomplished, Goddess of Western Heaven rewarded the archer with a pill that would make him immortal.

However, his wife found the pill, took it, and was banished to the moon as a result. Legend says that her beauty is greatest on the day of the Moon festival. There are several other legends surrounding the origin of the Moon Festival.

## Overthrow of Mongol Rule

According to a widespread folk tale, the Mid-Autumn Festival commemorates an uprising in China against the Mongol rulers of the Yuan Dynasty (1280-1368) in the 14th century.

As group gatherings were banned, it was impossible to make plans for a rebellion.

Noting that the Mongols did not eat mooncakes, Liu Bowen (劉伯溫) of Zhejiang Province, advisor to the Chinese rebel leader Zhu Yuanzhang, came up with the idea of timing the rebellion to coincide with the Mid-Autumn Festival.

He sought permission to distribute thousands of moon cakes to the Chinese residents in the city to bless the longevity of the Mongol emperor.

Inside each cake, however, was inserted a piece of paper with the message: "Kill the Mongols on the 15th day of the 8th Moon" (八月十五殺韃子).

On the night of the Moon Festival, the rebels successfully attacked and overthrew the government. What followed was the establishment of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). Since, the Mid-Autumn Festival was celebrated with moon cakes on a national level.





# Old Shrine Photos



The top photo was found on the internet and was taken on July 26, 1936.

Pictured are members of the Hawaii Chapter of the Dai Nippon Butoku Kai (Great Japan Martial Virtues Association) which was established in Kyoto in 1895 to solidify, promote and standardize martial arts disciplines and systems throughout Japan.

The shrine can be seen in the left, adorned with the Kotohira curtain. The old shrine is said to have been on the Eastbound lanes of H-1 and the large 2 storey building to the right is the Social hall, which was situated on the

Westbound lanes of H-1, next to the Queen Liliuokalani Center.

Pictured second from the left in the second row is the famous Sensei Harry Sei-shiro Okazaki.

There was a Renbujo martial arts dojo across the shrine, on the Diamond Head side of the property and a sumo ring next to the Renbujo dojo.

The photos in the middle and the bottom is of Sensei Tomu Arakawa. Sensei Arakawa established the Hawaii Senbukan Karate Dojo in 1963 and had dojos at the Jikoen temple and Kotohira Jinsha.

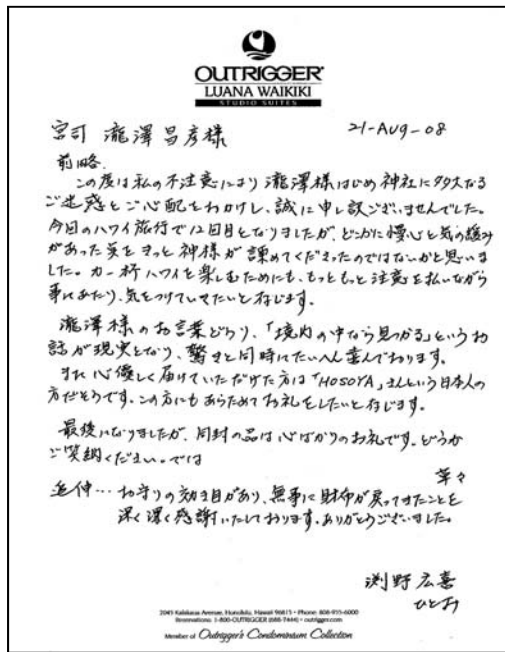
The photo is said to have been taken in 1967, a few years after the completion of the 20B Houghtailing exit on H-1. A very young Sensei Alan Lee and Sensei Tomu Arakawa are pictured in the first row. H-1 can be seen in the right.

The bottom photo was taken in the early 1970s. The H-1 side of the property is covered with a rather large mock orange hedge and trees.

The Kotohira shrine still stands alone in this photo. The Dazaifu shrine was added to the Kotohira shrine building pictured here, in the late 1970s, creating the L-shaped shrine building that stands today.



# Faith Restored



Hiroki Fuchino from Tokyo felt sick on Wednesday, August 20, when he realized what a big mistake he'd made - he'd left his wallet in the shrine, on the table next to the *omikuji* tray.

Credit cards, hotel key, and over \$500 in cash. All gone.

Unable to find his wallet in the car, Mr. Fuchino rushed back to the shrine an hour later and spoke to Rev. Takizawa who, along with Mr. Fuchino searched high and low, throughout the shrine and the shrine grounds for the wallet.

Rev. Takizawa suggested that Mr. Fuchino submit a police report at the Waikiki station. Rev. Takizawa felt that there was a good chance that the wallet would be turned in if it was left somewhere IN the shrine.

Mr. Fuchino immediately drove back to Waikiki and submitted a lost property report at the Waikiki station, when the attending officer notified him that his wallet was turned in a few hours ago.

Hosoya-san, also a tourist and visitor to the shrine found Mr. Fuchino's wallet next to the *omikuji* tray and handed it over to the Waikiki police station with all the contents untouched. Mahalo to Hosoya-san for being honest and forthright!

Losing a wallet can happen to anyone. When away from home, on business or vacation, one of the worst things that can happen is to have your wallet lost or stolen. Here are some helpful hints on what you can do before a trip to minimize a possible problem.

1. Make two photocopies of everything, including passports and credit cards, and write down crucial phone numbers. One set of copies should be left with a trusted friend or relative; the other you should keep in your carry-on. Once you check in to your hotel, keep the copies and other valuables in the in-room safe (if available). For some extra handiness, make this document electronically available by placing it on an online source such as Google Notebook.
2. Store some backup cash in the hotel room safe. If you're not a cash carrying person, this tip can give you a bit of peace of mind while you're stranded without your ATM or debit card.
3. Limit the amount of confidential information you carry in your wallet. Experts recommend that you not carry around bank account numbers, personal identification numbers (PINs), passports, birth certificates, and most importantly, Social Security cards.
4. Don't keep more than what's necessary in your wallet. This is the easiest way to avoid headaches. You may have 10 credit cards, gas cards, etc., but how many do you really need to use when you travel? Putting less in your wallet not only means less hassle when it's lost.
5. Take along a list of the toll-free telephone numbers for your bank and credit card companies - not your card numbers - and keeping the list in a safe place other than your wallet.
6. Don't take out your wallet until you actually need it, and never set down your wallet unless your hand is attached to it.

## Newsletter Distribution

In our attempts to go "green", we would like to distribute our newsletters via Email. To receive our newsletters and notification of events in pdf format via Email, please send an Email to: [kotohira@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:kotohira@hawaiiantel.net) with 'Newsletter' on the subject line.

If you prefer not to disclose your Email address, please read our newsletters online at [www.e-shrine.org](http://www.e-shrine.org).

If you are presently receiving our newsletters and would like to cancel subscription, please send an Email to the above address with "Stop Newsletters" in the subject line. Mahalo