

Volume 4 Issue 6

June 2014



WHERE ANCIENT TRADITIONS THRIVE

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

Chinowa for People & Pets



A procession of humans, dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, and hamsters went through the Chinowa ring on Sunday, June 1 for the 9th annual Pet Blessing at the shrine.

Some pets hung around for some “yappy hour” while others slurped Pet Shave Ice. As usual, all had a tail-wagging good time.

Mark your calendars for the next Pet Blessing Festival and Chinowa Ring of Renewal on **Sunday, June 7, 2015.**



View more shrine photos at www.flickr.com/photos/kotohira-dazaifu

KITV video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8q76tWyUhm>

KHON video at: <http://youtu.be/3d7Tbd1i3HI>

MAHALO for your generous donations



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Congratulations



Shrine volunteer Alexandra Yuriko Roth graduated from UH Manoa last month with two Bachelor's Degrees at the age of 19!

Alexandra is pictured above with her parents, Mitch and Noriko of Hilo.



20-year Milestone

On June 15, Rev Masa Takizawa will begin his 21st year of service to the shrine.

Rev Takizawa was born and raised in Nagoya and was ordained as a Shinto priest in 1992 upon completion of graduate studies in Shinto at Kogakkan University in Ise.

He served at Shiroyama Hachimangu shrine in Nagoya for three years before moving back to Hawaii to serve at Kotohira Jinsha- Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu from June 1994.



Shrine Visitors



Pictured above are the newlyweds, Mr. & Mrs. Usami, visiting from Fukuoka. Mrs. Usami is a former Miko shrine maiden at Dazaifu Tenmangu, Fukuoka. Miko shrine maidens are single females that must retire upon marriage or at 26 years of age.

Article in MidWeek

The shrine and Melvin Monces, the 2014 recipient of the shrine's Scholarship were featured in an article written by Dr. Jay Sakashita on the May 21 edition of MidWeek.

Read the full article at the below link or on the shrine's Website.

<http://www.e-shrine.org/inthenews.html>



Makiki Cemetery



Yokohama harbor in 1868. The approximately 150 men and women came from diverse backgrounds - urban dwellers, displaced samurai, tradesmen, craftsmen and an assortment of rogues.

The treatment of *Gannen mono* by the plantations caused a negative impression of Hawaii in Japan. Japan therefore, blocked further migration until the Hawaiian government agreed to protect the laborers. It took 17 years of negotiations to rejuvenate Japanese immigration in Hawaii.

In February 1885, the steamer City of Tokio brought 900 Japanese immigrants to Hawaii. The young, single males working under three-year binding contracts came with dreams of making their fortunes in Hawaii and returning to Japan with status and wealth.

The stone memorial honoring the *gannen mono* who arrived in 1868, stands next to a granite memorial known as *Yosebaka*.

In 1885 the first *kanyaku imin* Japanese contract plantation workers, arrived in Hawaii. Many stayed, but 289 died on Oahu without any descendants. They are known as *muen botoke* or those who died without descendants and were buried at Makiki Cemetery in the late 1880s.

With no one to tend the graves of the *muen botoke*, James Yonemura, then president of the United Japanese Society rallied support from the Japanese-American community to collect the remains in a common grave marked by a 12-foot mauve colored granite monument.

The monument, known as *Yose-baka*, was dedicated on Feb. 8, 1986. This day was also the 101st anniversary of the arrival of the first 944 *kanyaku imin* aboard the S.S. City of Tokio.



There is another stone memorial at Makiki Cemetery which was erected in 1971 to commemorate the death of 16 Japanese sailors who died here or on Imperial navy warships passing by the islands during the Meiji Era.

The 16 Japanese Imperial Navy sailors at the cemetery died between 1860 and 1890, while in the islands to support the arrival of the *gannen mono*. The Japanese Consulate on Oahu arranged to have them buried at Makiki Cemetery, which began the Japanese section of the cemetery.

From 1905, the Japanese immigrants observed a special memorial day of their own on the first Saturday of December at Aala Park, beginning with religious ceremonies followed by a parade to Makiki Cemetery to perform religious rituals at the graves of the fallen soldiers. They walked back to Aala Park to continue with a day of Kabuki, Sumo, entertainment and food, ending with a fireworks display.

Sailors of today's Japanese self-defense forces always visit the graves of the Imperial Navy soldiers to pay respects during port calls in Honolulu. Since 1971, the Japanese government has provided a \$500 annual stipend to Hawaii Meiji Kai to help maintain the site.

