

Kanreki Blessing

In Asian cultures, the aging process is celebrated with the honor and recognition it deserves. In the U.S., we worship youth and looking young and entering our 60s is approached with dread and humor about being “over the hill” or having one’s “foot in the grave.”

Entering 60 gives us an uneasy feeling that they have moved into unknown territory. For most of us, the first half of life was defined by our work; in the second half, we may not have a clue as to who we really are.

Kanreki is a time to re-evaluate our lives, when we may begin to face our mortality, get serious about what we want our lives to be about, make transformative changes and reaffirm a sense of gratitude for the goodness and richness of our years.

The 60s also heralds the need for us to cultivate new relationships to our bodies. For many of us, our bodies no longer do what they used to. They don’t respond with the grace and ease they once did.

Kanreki is a time to take stock of how life is working for you let go of what no longer serves you to create your legacy.

The Kanreki Blessing can be wonderfully life-affirming. Instead of seeing the 60s as a time of loss, see it is a time to listen the callings of your soul.

Embrace the blessings of life – it is a time of personal renewal and empowerment. Now is the time to continue on your miraculous journey living life by your heart. Celebrate Life !!

The annual Kanreki and Yakudoshi blessings were performed on Sunday, February 16.



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

MAHALO for your generous donations



Christa Adams
Thomas & Linda Agawa
Aloha Koi Appreciation Society
Daniel & Chie Arakami
Ken Barnes
Douglas & Ai Cheung
Yukari Ervin
Aiko Everet
Clark & Gayle Fujihara
Ayako Fukuda
Ben & Linda Goda
Bryson Goda
Lisa Hagiwara
Bob Harada
Yoshiko Hasegawa
Mariko Hatae
Chiaki Hayashi
Naomi Iho
Eiji Kato
Hiroyuki Kikuchi
Kiyomi Kise
Amy Kwong

Ikuyo Maki
Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh
Keiko Nakamitsu
James Nelson
Craig & Diane Nishida
Nana Nishimura
Jay Norris
Geraldine Ochikubo
Gladys Okamura
Maiko Oshima
Robert Piemme
Fumiko Sakakibara
Jay & Pauline Sakashita
Toshiko Ogura
Charles Shimata & Ohana
Alice Sugimoto & Ohana
Nga Lei Sui
Yuko Suzuki
Keith Tanigawa
Sharon Tanigawa
Tokushima-ken Jinjacho
Krysten Torigoe

Bruce Yonemoto
Glenn & Junko Yonemura
Jane & Janelle Yoshida
Damian & Sara Zukeran

**Mahalo to Bob Harada for
shampooing the rugs in the
shrine, hall and meeting room.**

Setsubun Bean Throwing

Setsubun is the day before the beginning of Spring in Japan and literally means “seasonal division.”

Setsubun or Tsuina was celebrated at the shrine on Sunday, February 16.

Roasted soy beans were thrown to expel negative energies and welcome positive energies for the year.



House Blessing



First graders from Hanahauoli School were invited by the owner of the home to participate in the House Blessing performed on January 21.



AKAS Koi Exhibition



The popular International Aloha Koi Show sponsored by the Aloha Koi Appreciation Society (AKAS) in conjunction with the Japan Nishiki Koi Expo was held at the Waikiki Aquarium on Saturday, February 15.

Rev. Takizawa performed the opening blessing attended by AKAS President James Kinney, Dr. Andrew Rossiter of the Waikiki Aquarium and Nobuyuki Hiroi of the Hiroi Koi Farm of Ojiya-city, Niigata.



For more info on AKAS, visit www.alohakoi.org

Dr. Jay Sakashita and his Religion class students from Leeward Community College visited the shrine on Thursday, February 6 for Seishiki Sanpai and lecture on Shinto.



Shrine Visitors

Eleven members of the Tokushima-ken Jinjacho led by Ikuyo Maki of O-Asahiko Jinja visited the shrine on Tuesday, February 4.

The Tokushima-ken Jinjacho is a religious administrative organization that oversees the 1,300 or so Shinto shrines within Tokushima prefecture.



Upcoming Events

Sake Appreciation Festival

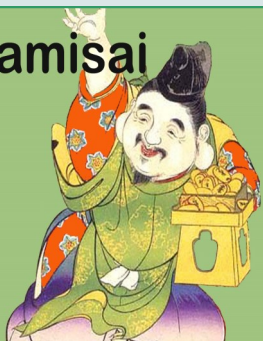
醸造感謝祭

March 2 (Sunday)
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm



Tsukinamisai

April 6
Sunday
3:00 pm



April 20
3:00 pm

Spring

Thanksgiving Festival

Tsukinami-sai



May 4
Sunday 3:00 pm

Visit www.e-shrine.org
for updated
information on events

Toshi Iwai - Special Years

In Shinto, there are many passages of later life rituals that support and guide people through the spiritual dimensions of those passages.

KOKI 古希 70 years old Color: Navy blue, Purple

Koki originated from a famous Chinese poem by To Po which expresses how rare it was for people to live until 70. It is a time for a new focus in life - to see the value, quality and meaning of our lives even in the face of illness or declining physical or cognitive capacity.

KIJU 喜寿 77 years old Color: Purple

The kanji characters for *Ki* means happiness and is written using the characters for seven, ten, seven or 77. *Ju* means longevity.

BEIJU 米寿 88 years old Color: Yellow

Bei, the Kanji character for rice is written using the characters for eight, ten, eight and is often referred to as the "rice birthday". *Ju* means longevity.

SOTSUJU 卒寿 90 years old Color: Gold

The character *sotsu* can be rearranged as 九十 or 90.

HYAKUJU 百寿 100 years old Color: White

Literally means "hundred celebrations." In Japan, centenarians receive a silver cup and a certificate from the Prime Minister of Japan upon their 100th birthday.

