

Volume 3 Issue 2

May 2013



WHERE ANCIENT TRADITIONS THRIVE

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha
Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

Honolulu Shinto Renmei Memorial Day Service

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service.

There are many versions of its actual beginnings, with over two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day. There is also evidence that organized women's groups in the South were decorating graves before the end of the Civil War.

Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966.

It is more likely that it had many separate beginnings; each of those

towns and every planned or spontaneous gathering of people to honor the war dead in the 1860's tapped into the general human need to honor our dead, each contributed honorably to the growing movement that culminated in General Logan giving his official proclamation in 1868.

The Honolulu Shinto Renmei, comprised of the four shrines on Oahu came together to honor those who gave their all for our country.

The annual services are held on the last Sunday of May, at Punchbowl National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Makiki Cemetery and Mo'ilili Cemetery.



View more shrine photos at www.flickr.com/photos/kotohiradazaifu

MAHALO for your generous donations

Thomas & Linda Agawa
Susan Amato
Brenda Dang
Doughty Ohana
Toshiko Fujisaki
Andy Geiser
Miyoko Hanahara
Hanayagi Dancing
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Marissa Rossetti
Shiloh Rescue
Andrew Sinclair



Naomi Teramoto
John & Naoko Toma
Sonomi Uchida
Christopher Valdez
Cody Yoshimura

Koromo-gae - Changing of the wardrobe

June 1 is the official start of summer in Japan. It is also the start of *Koromo-gae* of literally, the changing of the wardrobe.

This is the day when the Japanese people change their wardrobe with either new clothes or clothes they have been storing during the winter months.

The change is visible mostly in school and work uniforms.

Clothes worn during the cooler

months are cleaned and packed to be stored away till they are ready to use again on October 1.

On October 1, lighter clothes worn during the warm months are cleaned, packed and stored for the season.

Schools in Japan have two sets of uniforms- Summer uniform (Natsu-fuku) and Winter Uniform (Fuyu- fuku). Summer uniform is worn from June 1 to September 30 whereas Winter uniform is worn from October 1 to May 31.

Some schools may have different dates but most schools stick to these dates, probably to avoid confusion.

Summer is also a time when people start wearing cotton kimonos known as “yukata” which are more suited for the heat and humidity. Even the fancy kimonos worn in summer are made of sheer, light fabrics which are not lined.

Like many other Japanese customs, *Koromo-gae* also has its origin in the Heian Period (794 to 1185).

There were strict guidelines on

summer and winter clothing and accessories.

For example, during summer, women held fans made of Japanese washi paper while in winter the fans were made of Japanese cypress wood.

With the rise of the Samurai class, *Koromo-gae* became even more complex during the Tokugawa Era.

There were restrictions on type of fabric, design, color, etc. for each season.

This practice is still observed by kimono wearers. Unlined or *Hitoe* kimonos are to be worn from June 1 to September 30. Lined or *Awase* kimono are usually worn from October 1 to May 31.

Home interiors were also revamped on *Koromo-gae* days.

Zabuton cushions, *fusuma* doors, *kakejiku* artwork were all changed to appropriate colors and designs to embrace the changing of the seasons.

This change of seasons also affects vending machines.

As of June 1, all the vending machines are changed so that you can buy cold drinks - including coffees and teas.



Pet Expo 2013

In celebration of both National Pet Week and Be Kind to Animals Week during May 5-11, the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association presented the annual Hawaii Pet Expo 2013, on May 11 & 12 at the NBC Exhibition Hall.

Mahalo to Bob Harada, Diane Nishida, Bryson Goda, Tom Jannuzzio, and Arthur Isa for helping with the shrine booth.



Tom Jannuzzio and Bob Harada at the shrine booth



Bryson Goda



Diane Nishida being interviewed by Denby Dung of The Pet Hui

Shrine Maintenance Project

Mahalo to Bob Harada for initiating the cleaning, stripping and painting of the shrine walkway.

Cracks in the concrete were repaired by Ricky Tamashiro and Ian Tamashiro in March.



The painting project was done on Saturday, May 25 with the help of Arthur Isa Sr and Arthur Isa Jr.

Due to rain in the afternoon, Bob returned on Sunday, May 26 to paint a second coat.

Upcoming Events



A Piece of History

Standing at the entrance of the Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha wing of the shrine, visitors can see a large wooden sign over the top of the altar.

The sign is the work of the legendary calligrapher, Kampo Harada, who presented it to the shrine as an offering on May 29, 1973.



Master Calligrapher Kampo Harada, founder of the Nihon Shuji schools of Japanese calligraphy was born in Fukuoka, Japan on March 21, 1911.

Master Kampo's overseas activities went beyond calligraphy. He used calligraphy to create bonds between people from different cultures and to expand mutual understanding on a level that transcends nationality, language, culture and race. Master Kampo taught numerous of times in the US and other countries.

There are Nihon Shuji schools throughout the US, including a chapter in Honolulu

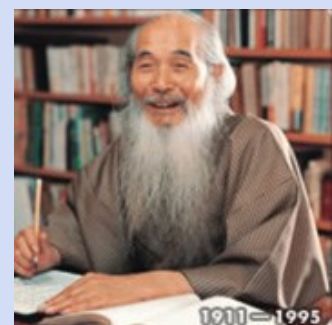
Coincidentally, Brandon Goda, a long time volunteer of the shrine is an instructor of Nihon Shuji.

ハワイ金刀比羅神社の社殿には1973年5月29に日本の書道家、原田観峰の筆になる奉納額が掲げてある。

原田観峰（かんぼう）は1911年3月21日、福岡県山門郡瀬高町に生まれ、戦後、故郷瀬高町で幼稚園を開園したことから教育者としての人生が始まった。

原田観峰は1953年、福岡で西日本書道通信学会（公益財団法人日本習字教育財団の前身）を創立し、「正しい文字・美しい文字」の普及活動を展開、1995年に亡くなるまで、多くの受講者（現在までのべ約2,350万人）のため、手本執筆と講習会等に奔走し、その半生を書道教育に尽くした。

海外においても、書道を中心とした文化交流を積極的に行い、日本の書道を紹介し



Wooden sign written and presented to the shrine as an offering by Master Calligrapher Kampo Harada, on May 29, 1973.