

Volume 3 Issue 6

September 2013



WHERE ANCIENT TRADITIONS THRIVE

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

Taku Taku Matsuri

Hundreds of local Anime and Manga fans gathered to celebrate Otaku-ism at the inaugural Taku Taku Matsuri held at the shrine on August 25

Many reveled in Cosplay Chess, Maid Café, Host Club holding court, mini water gun fights and watermelon smashing contests scattered throughout the property.

The event was conceived and organized by Yuka Nagaoka and Kell Komatsubara, who are hoping to have Otaku events several times a year at various venues.



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

MAHALO for your generous donations

Thomas & Linda Agawa
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Shinken & Marilyn Naitoh
William & Mikiko Stowers
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Ailene Tanji
Violet Yonekura



Choyo no Sekku

September 9 is *Choyo no Sekku*, or Chrysanthemum (*Kiku*) Festival.

According to Taoism, double odd or yang numbers - 1,3,5,7,9 are considered extremely auspicious.

As such, most major Japanese festivals occur in odd months - January 1 - New Years Day, March 3 - Girl's Day (Momo no Sekku), May 5 - Boy's Day (Tango no Sekku), July 7 - Tanabata and

September 9 - Choyo no Sekku.

Chrysanthemums have long been associated with longevity because *kiku* bloom magnificently during the Fall months when the rest of nature seems to be dying.

Choyo no Sekku was celebrated at the shrine on Sunday, September 1 by partaking the traditional Chrysanthemum sake.



Hilo Daijingu



With the departure of Rev. Daizo Watanabe in May, a new priest was welcomed at Hilo Daijingu on June 21.

Rev Naohiro Hotta was born in Yoro, Gifu prefecture in 1980 and graduated from Kogakkan University in Ise, which would make him a *kohai* of Rev Takizawa.



Rev Hotta served at Achi Jinja in Kurashiki, Okayama upon graduation.

Last February, he was chosen from among 10 applicants that applied for the position of Chief Priest at Hilo Daijingu and was authorized a work visa in June of this year. Rev. Hotta is married with one child.

Congratulations

Scott Motoda and Darcy Kagawa were united in marriage in a solemn Shinto ceremony on August 24 at The Kahala Hotel.

Congratulations to the newly weds as they embark on the greatest adventure of human interaction.



Keiro-no-Hi Blessing at The Plaza



Rev. Takizawa performed a blessing for the tenants of The Plaza on Thursday, September 5 for longevity and good health and to honor the contributions that they made to build the community that we live in.



September 17 is a Japanese national holiday called *Keiro-no-hi* or Respect-for-the-Aged Day.

It is a day to give respect to the elderly, who have served society for many years, and celebrate their longevity.

Upcoming Events

Hanayagi Dancing Academy
Hawaii Foundation

**GARAGE
SALE**

9/15 Sunday
9 am - 2 pm

Shichigosan
七五三
10/20 ~ 11/24



Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha • Hawaii Dazafu Tennagou

Tsukinami-sai Monthly Service
月次祭

10/20/2013
Sunday
3:00 pm



A Piece of History

Below is a photo of the shrine taken sometime in the early 1940s.

There were three shrines enshrined at that time - Kotohiragu, Shirasaki Hachimangu and Otaki Jinja.

In 1931, the shrine purchased the present site - a 50,075 sq. ft parcel of land with individual donations from members and the community.

Through fundraisers like *Katsudo-shashin* movie viewings, the shrine was able to raise funds to build a shrine office and cultural facilities.

A *torii* gate was erected in 1934 and in March the same year, a *temi-zusha* or absolution water basin was donated by the Fujin-kai.

In 1935, a pair of *Koma-inu* and *toro* lanterns were donated by the congregation. In 1936, a community center, martial arts center, kyudo archery range, outdoor theater, kendo hall and sumo ring were built.

By 1940, the shrine was home to numerous sumo, archery, martial arts tournaments and cultural activities for the Japanese community.

By 1941, annual festivals were being celebrated for all three shrines; Kotohira Jinsha, Shirasaki Hachimangu and Otaki Jinja, with an ever-growing membership of over 1,200 families.

However, the Japanese attack on

Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 threw the whole nation into turmoil.

In the worst abuse of government authority in the history of the U.S., more than 120,000 Japanese Americans were interned in relocation camps throughout the country.

Issei leaders of the community in Hawaii were immediately sent to internment camps on Sand Island, Honouliuli, Maui, Kauai, Lanai, Molokai, Big Island and the Mainland.

All religious and cultural activi-

ties were terminated as the war continued. All ties with the shrines in Japan - Kotohira-gu, Shirasaki Hachimangu and Otaki Jinja were also severed.

In 1943, the interned Rev. Isobe was deported to Japan, forcing officers to call a special meeting on July 21, 1945 to decide the fate of the shrine.

Kotohira Jinsha officially announced the temporary closure of the shrine and its activities on April 6, 1946.

