



IZUMO TAISHA NEWSLETTER

IZUMO TAISHAKYO MISSION OF HAWAII

SPRING 2019 VOL. N4 ISSUE 1

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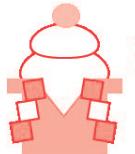
Illustration by Hideko Usami
Instructor of Japanese Calligraphy



at the start of the New Year. It is not just a moment for a calendar change, but also a spiritual period of renewal and refreshment. This is why people need to cleanse and purify themselves, reflect on the past year, and commit to a productive life in the New Year. Returning to one's origins – to their native situation and a "new" and fresh state – is considered the most powerful and ideal state in Shintoism.



The Year of the Boar, the end of the twelve signs of East Asian zodiac, indicates the fixed vital energy preparing for the next twelve year's cycle. At this New Year's visit, let us pray for our happiness, well-being, and prosperity – with much appreciation and gratitude for the past year.



NEW PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS

Alternate Energy, our energy contractor, will be adding a total of 54 photovoltaic panels on the roof of the Kazuo & Mary Yamane Hall and the priest's cottage. The process for obtaining a building permit took over a year but we've finally secured a permit. The new panels will reduce our monthly electric bill by over 50%! The work will commence in December, 2018 and will take approximately 2 days to install.

ADDITION OF NEW ACCESS RAMP

Izumo Taisha has added two ramps to allow for better access to the restroom and from the Shrine gate to the parking lot. The ramp was constructed in one day by Quality General Inc.

Previously, a heavy wooden ramp was stored between the office building and restroom. The ramp will be disassembled allowing more access to the restroom area.

OCTOBER THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL ENJOYED BY ALL

On Sunday, October, 7th, Izumo Taishakyo Mission of Hawaii celebrated its Annual Autumn Thanksgiving Festival. We appreciate the first harvest as blessings of the *Kami* (Gods). This year, we also celebrated in gratitude the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the *Gannenmono*, the first Japanese immigrants to Hawaii.



Shania Reverio danced the sacred *miko* (Shrine maiden) dance in the Shinto service.



Terrence Ing, Secretary, conducted the lucky number drawing.



Chef Shigeaki Nakanishi and **Dr. Danny Takanishi**, Vice President, cooked delicious *shoyu* chicken!

\$2,000 AWARDS

For the first time, Izumo Taisha awarded two \$2,000 scholarships at the Annual Autumn Thanksgiving Festival. These awards were made possible through the contributions and donations from the 28th Scholarship Golf Tournament held earlier in the year. The two recipients are: **Migiwa Kawachi** and **Katelyn Nakasone**. **Migiwa** is a PhD candidate at the University of Hawaii studying in the field of Botany. She expects to graduate in May, 2019. **Migiwa** is a long time member of Izumo Taisha. **Katelyn** is a student at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas and is expected to graduate with a degree in nuclear medicine in 2020. **Katelyn**'s mother **Leanne Nakasone** accepted on Katelyn's behalf. Katelyn's proud grandmother, **Kay Takemura**, is a long time member of Izumo Taisha.



Leanne Nakasone (Katelyn's Mother) and **Migiwa Kawachi**.



Master Dazzman Toguchi danced elegant dance.



John Sakai Music Studio performed karaoke.

The application for the 2019 Scholarships will be posted on the Izumo Taisha website in January of 2019. Izumo Taisha will be awarding four \$1,000 scholarships at its 2019 Scholarship Golf Tournament to be held on Friday, May 24, 2019.

Please visit <https://www.izumotaishahawaii.com> for more information.

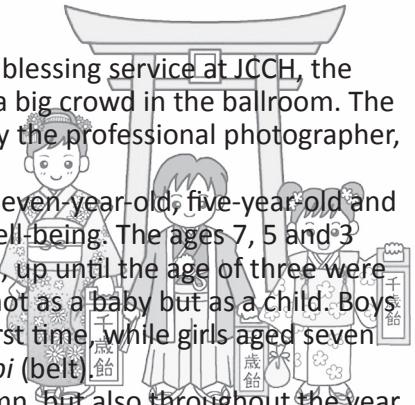


SHICHI-GO-SAN, THE CHILDREN'S BLESSING HELD AT JAPANESE CULTURE CENTER

On Sunday, November 11th, Izumo Taisha observed *shichi-go-san*, the children's blessing service at JCCH, the Japanese Culture Center of Hawaii. Over 100 local families showed up and made a big crowd in the ballroom. The children were dressed in formal *kimono*, by professional dressers, took pictures by the professional photographer, and then received a Shinto blessing performed by Rev. Jun Miyasaka.

Shichi-go-san, which means seven-five-three is a traditional rite of passage for seven-year-old, five-year-old and three-year-old children, held annually in autumn to celebrate their growth and well-being. The ages 7, 5 and 3 are consistent with East Asian numerology meaning good fortune. Children—who, up until the age of three were required by custom to have shaved heads—were allowed to grow out their hair, not as a baby but as a child. Boys aged five could wear the male *hakama* (formal Japanese men's bottom) for the first time, while girls aged seven replaced the simple cords they used to tie their *kimono* with the formal female *obi* (belt).

Izumo Taisha offers this service at our Shrine by appointment, not only in autumn, but also throughout the year.



CLEANSING RITUAL BATHING HELD ONCE IN A MONTH

Here in Hawaii, we are almost always experiencing a pleasant climate and peaceful atmosphere throughout the year. We should be grateful for this, but sometimes we need to experience some severe impacts or austerities that awaken us to become more conscious of our daily lives. That is why some of Izumo Taisha members have started doing their own cleansing and purification ritual called *misogi*, at the beach since 2016.

Misogi is the typical Shinto strict cleansing ritual or ritual bathing. The ritual is usually observed at naturally occurring water sites such as a clear river, waterfall, or the ocean. It is customarily performed by Shinto priests and followers to ritually cleanse and purify themselves. It is a severe, formal ritual for them because cleanliness and purity are the most significant virtues in Shintoism.

In our group, the participants wore white *kimono*, recited prayers on the beach and then down to the rough ocean waters with great enthusiasm, soaking in the water while reciting prayers asking *Kami* for spiritual cleansing and purification.

The participants may see the sun rising or sun set from the horizon, shining brightly right in front of them. Then, they are totally blessed by sun and ocean, filled with the energy from heaven and earth. It is impressive and we feel "Something Great" or Divine from the natural phenomenon of this experience. It could be said that this inspiration is the basis of the Shinto faith.

Rev. Miyasaka, Assistant Priest, tries to hold this once every month. It is usually held on the day of the full moon, either early in the morning or evening. If some of you would like to experience this traditional Japanese spirituality or Shinto religious activities, please contact the Izumo Taisha Shrine Office and ask for him for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Your *kokua* needed for the New Year's Monthly Worship Service and Autumn Thanksgiving Festival 2019! Training and introductions to Izumo Taisha Shintoism is provided to new volunteers, and all volunteers are invited to event meals and appreciation dinner. Please contact the Shrine office for volunteer opportunities and other opportunities for school credit or community service.

2019 New Year's Worship Service:

Volunteers needed January 10, 1:00pm-9:00pm
Kitchen Help
Set-up / Clean-up

2019 Autumn Thanksgiving Festival:

Sunday, October 13
Volunteers needed Saturday, October 12, and Sunday, October 13, Monday, October 14
Kitchen Help
Set-up / Clean-up
Ushers



***Misogi* participants cleanse and purify themselves in the ocean.**

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Publisher: Hawaii Hochi, Ltd.

Living Life the Izumo Way

By Karlton Tomomitsu, Board of Directors Member

On the 10th day of every month, members of Izumo Taishakyo of Hawaii gather at 7 p.m. to participate in a special service featuring various prayers and words of wisdom from **Bishop Amano** and **Reverend Miyasaka**. A key part of the service is the reading aloud, by all attendees, of a 400-word explanation of the "Teachings of Izumo Taisha."

When I first started attending this monthly service, I wondered why we were required to recite the teachings out loud. Over time, I began to realize that hearing myself and others say those words, while simultaneously reading them, created an opportunity to not only self-reflect, but to also reflect on others in my life. The teachings are written very simply and concisely, providing a brief overview of "living life the Izumo way."

While I am not suggesting that those 400 words alone explain the entire Shinto belief system at Izumo Taisha, they do provide a general yet profound insight into what motivates its members and believers.

The following are a few excerpts from the "Teachings of Izumo Taisha" that should provide you with some valuable words to live by.

"Our society has been formed by the voluntary association of honest and benevolent people. The purposes of our association are:

FIRST: To make our hearts upright and to control our bodies.

SECOND: To have compassion for those who are less fortunate than ourselves and, to teach those who defy the divine will, by leading them to enter our upright fellowship.

THIRD: To find ways of realizing genuine happiness and to attain that spiritual power which pierces through all things both revealed and unrevealed and which exists both now and hereafter. Therefore, when we enter this Church, while reverently thanking and worshipping the divine goodness, we should first and foremost accept the divine virtue of loving our neighbors, and we should keep in mind our duty of continuous personal improvement and achievement. We should give expression to moral sincerity.

If we greedily seek divine blessings while disregarding our human duties, or if we are selfishly lacking in concern for others, such persons desecrate the divine goodness and defy the divine purpose of love for our neighbors. We should not misunderstand our human duty and betray the principles of the church.

We should abandon the distinction of 'other' and 'self' and should have a heart of compassion for our neighbors, ever mindful of the fact that acts of knowing the truth and acting accordingly are not performed merely for the sake of our own interests.

Suffering and blessing, advantage and disadvantage, are to be shared in common with others and not in violation of the divine purpose of compassion and equality, and not contrary to good faith towards our neighbors."



VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

You can find many informations of Izumo Taisha.
Please visit us!
<https://www.izumotaishahawaii.com>



和譲の心と波瀾の歴史

皆さんは“神様”は超人間的な存在で私たちとは全く異なった生活をされている、と思つていませんか。実際はそんなことはありません。神様は私たちの“親”なのですから。ハワイ出雲大社にお祀りされている大國主大神様も、若い時には私たちと同じ様に、恋人を慕い、愛や恋を語られ人間性が豊かであったことが“相聞歌”から拝察できます。

また“播磨国風土記”には次の様なお話があります。ある時、大國主大神様と少彦名神様とが世間話をされている時に、どちらからともなく粘土を入れた荷物を背負って遠くへ行くのと、用便をしないで遠くへ行くのと、何れが容易であろうかということになりました。

大國主大神様は「用便を我慢して行くのがた易い」と言い、少彦名神様は「それは粘土の荷を運ぶ方が余程楽であろう」と言いました。話の弾みで、それでは競争してみようという事になり、どちらかが我慢できなくなる迄歩き続けようとして、出雲から播磨の地へ向って出発されたのです。

この様な競争は時々私たちも経験します。自分は他より優れている事を誇ろうしたり、他の人が出来ない事を自分は出来るという優越感に浸りたいと思っているのです。

きっと自分を強く意識し過ぎているからであって、こんな事から“争い”が生じるのではないかでしょうか。つまりお互がそれぞれの天分と立場をしっかりと見つめておれば、自負心も優越感も起こる事は無く、醜い争いにも繋がらないのです。

さて、大國主大神様は少彦名神様と競争をお続けになりましたが、播磨国の神崎郡の或る岡の上に登られて、遂に我慢できなくなり坐られ用便をされました。これを見て少彦名神様は「あなただけではない。私も苦しかったよ」と言われ、粘土の入った袋を投げられました。そして、お互い顔を見合わせ大笑いしながら、こんな馬鹿氣な事はするべきではなかった。競争などは心も身も苦しめるばかりであると深く反省されたのでした。

この様に昔も今もたわいもないことから争いが生じたり、自負心やプライドが争いを更に大きくするのです。無駄な争い事は私たちには要らないのです。譲る心が大切なことです。

長い人生には様々な出来事が起る様に、ハワイ出雲大社も波瀬萬丈の歴史を歩んでいます。1906年（明治39年）にハワイに於ける布教活動が始まり、当時の移民一世

の支援により社頭は賑わいをみせておりました。

しかし、第二次世界大戦の勃発によりハワイ出雲大社は敵国資産と看做され、神社は閉鎖、資産は没収、宗教活動は停止、そして神職は抑留の身となりました。終戦後、神社を取巻く状況は一変し、社殿の返還訴訟や移転修復等の苦労を重ねながらも、1961年には最終的に勝訴となり一連の裁判が終結、1968年には幸いにも遷座祭が斎行され、1969年の初詣から現在地での宗教活動が始まったのです。つまり神様が現在地に移転、鎮座されてより本年は50周年の記念すべき年になるのです。また、今年はハワイ政府より法人組織として認可されて丁度100年というお祝いの年でもあります。

私たちは設立当初には思いもしない波瀬の歴史を経て記念すべき本年を無事に迎える事が出来たのです。これ偏に大國主大神様の御神恩による事とは申せ、今までハワイ出雲大社の運営に携わられた役員、総代の皆様、並に赤誠ある信仰を捧げて下さった何世代にも亘る崇敬者の皆様方の御支援の賜と厚く感謝申し上げる次第です。今後共“親”神様のお蔭を戴かれ益々の御健勝御発展をお祈り申し上げます。

TYPICAL EXAMPLES OF CEREMONIES AND RITUALS OBSERVED AT SHRINE

NEW YEAR'S BLESSING (Hatsumoude)
is the visit to the shrine to receive blessing to start year with a “clean slate.”

BABY'S FIRST BLESSING
(*Hatsumiyamairi*) is held on or near the 32nd day since birth for a male baby and 33rd day since birth for a female baby. Convenient days and weekends and not exact days are allowable.

CHILDREN'S BLESSINGS
(*Shichi-Go-San*) are held in November for children who are 7, 5 and 3. These are like the confirmation or presentation to the shrine, thanksgiving for their health and well-being and progress in their growth and education.

CAR AND BOAT BLESSINGS
are performed for owners and amulets are given to them.

GROUND BREAKING (Jichinsai) for home, office and buildings are performed on site or at the shrine, to bless and purify the ground, the owners, family, business owners, contractors, equipment and others connected with the project.

HOUSE BLESSING (Iekiyoume) are held upon occupying the home, performed at home or at the shrine, to bless and purify the house, the home owners, family, and others.

SIGNIFICANT AGES (Yakudoshi)
celebrating of ages 25, 42, 61(*) for men and 19, 33, 37(*) for women. The ancient people who had shorter life spans considered these ages to be full of major changes and hazards. Therefore, these benchmark ages are traditionally marked with purification, blessing and thanksgiving. (*counted in oriental ages)

WEDDINGS WITH TRADITIONAL KIMO-NO OR WESTERN GOWN are performed with the traditional ceremony, such as, the “san-san-kudo” or “3 x 3 or 9 times” sipping from the sake cup and other rituals to bond the bride and groom.

ON SHINGO “PRAYER TO KAMI (GODS)”

The simple prayer below is recited three times during most services. You may recite it at any time:

**“SAKI-MITAMA, KUSHI-MITAMA,
MAMORI-TAMAI, SAKIHA-E-TAMAE.”**

This is the most basic prayer asking Kami for His protection and guidance at all times, and to ask for deliverance of happiness and well-being.