



IZUMO TAISHA NEWSLETTER

IZUMO TAISHAKYO MISSION OF HAWAII
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*"I can become one with heaven if I live
as free as the flow of water"*

Words and Illustration by Brandon Goda
Instructor of Japanese Calligraphy



This photograph shows the tranquil appearance of the Shrine in the pre-WWII era. R. J. Baker, photographer. Courtesy of the Bishop Museum.

AUTUMN THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL TO BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

We have had to close the annual Thanksgiving Festival to the public for the past two years due to the pandemic restrictions. But this year, we will finally be opening up again to celebrate with everyone! **On Sunday, October 9th, at the Izumo Taisha Mission grounds, we will once again celebrate the Annual Autumn Thanksgiving Festival.**

According to Shinto tradition, Autumn Thanksgiving is one of the most significant occasions to express our appreciation and gratitude for the bountiful harvest of the year. It is a sincere expression of "thank you" to the *Kami* (Gods, Deities). Also, this year marks the 100th anniversary of the present Shrine building. The Shrine building was originally erected in 1922 on Aala Lane (present Waena Apartments location), but because of governmental persecution of Japanese Americans during World War II, it was requisitioned after 1941. Even after the war, a long court fight ensued to retrieve the Shrine building from the government. Finally, in 1969, the late Bishop Shigemaru Miyao and members were able to celebrate its re-dedication following its repair and relocation to the present Kukui Street location. Since that time, we have been conducting various services, celebrations, personal blessings, weddings, memorial services, and many annual events in the Shrine building, until the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, our activities will resume in 2022, so let us look back at our turbulent history and reflect on the past century.

Opening the festival, a Shinto worship service will be conducted, starting at 1:00 pm. The new rice harvest and other farm products will be dedicated at the altar. Following the service, an entertainment program will be provided for the public to enjoy.

Free parking will be available at the Hawaii USA Federal Credit Union and Kukui Center. Anyone visiting the Shrine is invited to this festival. Please join us to enjoy an afternoon of fun!

FEBRUARY BEAN-THROWING CEREMONY, GIRL'S DAY, BOY'S DAY, JULY STAR FESTIVAL SHRINE ACTIVITIES RETURN GRADUALLY

The New Year's 2022 Celebration was observed as near-to-normal as possible, with careful attention to assuring visitors' and volunteers' safety and health. Our regular monthly worship services, held on the 10th day of every month, resumed again from November 2021 and potluck refreshments after the service were resumed from April 2022. The bean-throwing ceremony (*mame-maki*) in February, Girl's Day in March, Boy's Day in May, the Star Festival (*Tanabata*) in July were celebrated at the monthly worship services. The Scholarship Golf Tournament was postponed for another summer, but the Memorial Day Cemetery visitations were held in May, followed by Shrine Clean-up activities in June, indicating a gradual return to normalcy. To learn more about future events, check our Facebook page!



Oni (devil) performer at the bean-throwing ceremony in February.



Girl's Day dolls displayed in March.



Boy's Day samurai armor displayed in May.

EMA (WOODEN WISH TABLET) DISPLAY RACK INSTALLED IN THE YARD



A new display rack for hanging *ema* (wooden tablets for writing wishes on) was installed in June 2022 near the *kukui* tree next to the Shrine building. The display looks just like the ones you find at Shinto Shrines in Japan, handmade by Mr. Chris Maeda, a local volunteer. *Ema* are available for purchase at the *Ofuda/Omamori* office.

Ema is a religious article, a piece of wooden board on which you handwrite your prayers or wishes and dedicate to *Kami* (Gods). *Ema* can be literally translated to mean "Pictured Horse." From ancient times, the horse was considered a sacred animal in Japan. People would dedicate their cherished horse to the Shinto Shrine as *Kami*'s vehicle. Over time, this practice was transferred to a wooden plaque with a picture of a horse drawn on it. In following this traditional custom, all you need to do is write down your prayer or wish on the *ema* and hang it on this display rack. Alternatively, you can keep or display it in your room for good fortune.



English Editor: Rev. Jun Miyasaka
Japanese Editor: Bishop Daiya Amano
Proofreader: Karlton Tomomitsu
Photographer: Takeshi Kawaguchi

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD AFTER TWO-YEAR DELAY

On May 15, 2022, a General Membership Meeting was held for the first time since 2019. Because of the suspension of tourism from Japan these past two years, the economic situation of the Mission has undergone a lot of strain. However, we are getting through this adverse period together with the support of the local community. At the meeting, members of the new Board of Directors explained the upcoming new building project. A building construction permit has not yet been granted by the City & County of Honolulu that will allow us to begin construction, and the project has been suspended for the past two years due to pandemic restrictions, but we hope to begin construction early next year.

HIROSHIMA COMMEMORATION AND PEACE SERVICE HELD; THE PEACE BELL RINGS AGAIN!

On August 6, 2022, the Hiroshima Peace Bell, situated in front of the Shrine, was once again heard ringing loudly and clearly throughout the neighboring Chinatown area again after a two-year silence caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Izumo Taisha Hawaii, YMCA of Honolulu and Honolulu Hiroshima *Kenjinkai* (Hiroshima Club) convened the annual service on College Walk Mall in front of the Shrine. Mr. Karlton Tomomitsu, Board of Director, member at Izumo Taisha Hawaii, helped coordinate this event as representative of the Shrine. This inter-faith service was initiated to commemorate the Hiroshima bombing of 1945 and to offer prayers for world peace, recognizing the deep friendship between Hawaii and Hiroshima for the past 30 years.

The event started with a Shinto service, followed by keynote speeches by Dr. Roy Tamashiro, Professor Emeritus of Webster University, and Mr. Tom Leatherman, Superintendent of the Pearl Harbor National Memorial. (See excerpts from the speeches below) Buddhist, Jewish and Christian community representatives as well as local Japanese leaders and about 50 people participated.

"As I reflect on the meaning of today's ceremony and the past two and a half years of great uncertainty, I realize that it was also two years after the bombing in Hiroshima, on this date, August 6, 1947, when Shinzo Hamai, the then Mayor of Hiroshima issued the first Hiroshima Peace Declaration at the site of the bombing. 'Today,' he announced, 'on this second anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, we, Hiroshima's citizens, renew our commitment to the establishment of peace by celebrating a peace festival at this site. Mankind must remember that August 6 was a day that brought a chance for world peace. This is the reason why we are now commemorating that day by solemnly inaugurating a festival of peace, despite the limitless sorrow in our minds.' In our Homage to Hiroshima today, we embrace and live those words, 'celebrating a peace festival at this site.' Our Homage to Hiroshima today is an Homage to Life." —**Mr. Roy Tamashiro, Professor Emeritus at Webster University**

Izumo Taishakyo Mission of Hawaii Board of Directors (as of 2022)

President	Directors
Danny Takanishi, Jr., MD	Dana Arai
Vice President	Richard Fukeda
Dazzman Toguchi	Honorable Carol Fukunaga
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Bishop	Tomoko Takumi
Daiya Amano	Karlton Tomomitsu
	Honorary Member
	Florence Morikawa
	Historian
	Richard Miyao



"On this day, as we reflect on and commemorate the devastation at Hiroshima 77 years ago, we must see the connection between Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Pearl Harbor. We must learn as much as we can about these events and we must find a way to use the knowledge and compassion we gain to prevent something like this from ever happening again, to anyone. Only when we have learned this lesson can we truly honor those whose lives were lost, both here on Oahu and in Japan. Only then can we find Peace." —**Mr. Tom Leatherman, Superintendent of the Pearl Harbor National Memorial**

ALBERT C. KOBAYASHI SPOKE WITH HIS ACTIONS

By Richard T. Miyao, Shrine Historian, Grandson of Founder

(Note: Izumo Taishakyo Mission of Hawaii was founded in 1906 by the Rev. Katsuyoshi Miyao, 116 years ago. The Shrine endured countless hardships and problems, but dedicated believers, family members and friends of succeeding generations helped the self-supporting Shrine from the beginning. Among the devoted followers of the Shrine, there have been certain outstanding members who provided continuous, timely support of the Shrine. They will be featured in our newsletters.)

Albert Chikanobu Kobayashi was born on June 23, 1920, and died on July 12, 2015. When he was 12, he lost his parents and, in his early life, supported the family. He wanted to be a contractor and attended business school. The company he formed was called Albert C. Kobayashi, Contractor. He married Violet Chieko Sakai, daughter of a Japanese immigrant family. Violet's father, Kenta Sakai, helped his village shrine in Japan. It was second nature for Albert to join the family in being a member of the Hawaii Izumo Taisha.

Although he was head of the Albert C. Kobayashi construction company, later known as the well-established Kobayashi Group, he was known in his early years of Shrine membership for being fully occupied with the simple tasks of the Shrine. He was humble and a good follower of the leaders. For years, he quietly swept the yard, cleaned the toilets, and otherwise cooperated in group activities such as the Autumn Festival (Omatsuri) and New Year's. At New Year's he spent days selling Omamori (amulets) and Ofuda (protection for family, home, and business).

Albert was not known for his singing, but he organized a group of young adults to teach karaoke. He used the training tapes of his nephew, Jon Sakai, who was a karaoke teacher. The class followed Albert singing in groups and individually. The singing greatly improved over the years.

Another talent he had was his wok cooking for the Omatsuri. Before cooking, he would set a cone of salt next to the stove. He said it was for good luck and for cooking of the rice, chicken heka, akuhead with tofu and nishime. There was nothing as delicious as wok-cooked burnt rice and the rest of the cooked food. Others, such as the late Stanley Morikawa, followed Albert's style of wok cooking. The volunteer women's group (fujinkai) also prepared the other traditional foods. There were never any leftovers. The women's group has made our annual Omatsuri plate unbeatable.

Albert was elected president of the Shrine for two terms, 1986-1990. He previously had been president for the Hawaii Contractors Association and conducted the Shrine Board meetings in a strict manner. Also, when the Shrine roof was being redone, Albert saw to it that his company's long-arm lift device was on site to raise the new materials to the roof and observed the progress of the re-roofing.

It has been a tradition for the Kobayashi Group, with sons Bert, James and Ronald, to purchase over 100 amulets at New Year's for their employees' health and well-being.

Albert was sought after for his leadership. He declined a vice president position at the Shrine to be the next president of a large prominent local organization, but he preferred being an elder leader for the Shrine. It has been said that the happiest people are elder volunteers of non-profit organizations. Albert enjoyed his role as a leader who taught and transmitted the religion and the Japanese and Japanese American cultural heritage to the next generations. The Shrine has been very fortunate to have had the volunteer work of elder retirees like Albert. We thank all our retirees and active members for making Hawaii Izumo Taisha what it is today. We thank them all for a century of support.



Albert C. Kobayashi
(1920 - 2015)

MEMBER'S VOICE

The Hybrid Workplace & The Future of Education

By Ken Kiyohara, MBA
PhD in Learning Design & Technology
Izumo Taisha Member

Some say that the COVID-19 pandemic sped up the technological advances that might have otherwise taken ten years in the U.S. and Japan. As a consequence of pandemic lockdowns, employees were forced to work from home using digital technologies. During the mass adjustment to remote work in Japan, some companies began taking additional steps to relocate parts of their operations to different parts of Japan to avert the risks posed by future disasters, including major earthquakes in the Tokyo region, the possible eruption of Mt. Fuji and frequent mega-flooding caused by super typhoons. These forward-thinking companies decided to shift part of their operations to the Western part of Japan, including Osaka and other cities.

The risk of natural disasters combined with increased use of digital technologies, Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics and more convenient and economical transportation systems in Japan have started a shift in workstyles of Japanese laborers. Some companies have even started to implement a 4-day work week, as some European countries have. With all the changes that are occurring in Japan, companies and their employees are both redirecting their workstyles to a hybrid mode, combining work at the office and work from home.

This trend is more noticeable in the United States. According to a survey conducted by McKinsey & Company (June 23, 2022), 58 percent of Americans in a variety of jobs reported that they are choosing to work from home at least one day a week, while 35 percent of respondents reported that they have opted to work from home five days a week. In addition, more than 4 out of 5 survey respondents who worked in hybrid environments during the past two years prefer continuing to work in hybrid mode in the future.

Through my doctoral qualitative research with Human Resources (HR) professionals regarding online workforce training, the general consensus was that they preferred hybrid training utilizing a combination of in-person and online training modes for their employees. Most of the HR professionals deemed hybrid workforce training more practical and effective in today's work environment. Now, three years after the start of the pandemic, employees are starting to prefer work in hybrid mode. In the corporate world, it appears that both management and employees are starting to lean toward favoring a hybrid workplace.

If the U.S. education system is tasked to train today's workers, then that system will need to accommodate

the shifting desires of the workforce, including where, when and how they want to work. How is our education system going to meet the changing demands of American employees? It would seem to make sense that the education system also "go hybrid" so that our students will be able to function effectively and successfully in the workplace of the future. Working flexibly (remote) will require different skills beyond just taking classes in-person.

In order to educate young students effectively, they need to be constantly exposed to learning through digital classroom platforms such as Blackboard Collaborate and Zoom. They should also be prepared to work in the work environment of the future, using AI and robotics and, as a consequence, school curriculum should include mandatory computer programming courses geared for managing AI and robots. Computer programming courses have become mandatory curriculum in Japan's elementary schools since April 2020. The basics of coding are being taught from the 5th grade, as the Japanese government attempts to equip a new generation with information technology skills (*Nikkei Asia*, March 27, 2019)

A variety of different skill sets may be needed for learning in the hybrid work and future educational environments. For instance, communication skills will need to be more sophisticated as the diversity of the global workforce will produce workers of varying backgrounds in religion, language and values. New time management skills will be necessary for hybrid work as co-workers and project team members spread out globally, over multiple time zones.

As a closing thought, it would be important to start thinking about what kinds of jobs will disappear due to the changes in the workplace and what jobs might be needed in the future. Based on projections, new educational curriculum should be developed. For instance, we started seeing *MIRAI*, Toyota's fuel cell vehicle (FCV), on the streets of Hawaii. Toyota Motor Corporation and BMW will jointly start mass production of FCV from as early as 2025. (*Nikkei Shimbun*, August 11, 2022) I cannot help but wonder who will train our mechanics and how many technicians in Hawaii will be able to repair my FCV if I have any fuel cell mechanical problems. *MIRAI* means "future" in Japanese and there seem to be many challenges ahead for our education system in that future.



Autumn Thanksgiving Festival

謝恩大祭 鎮座 116年

Sunday, October 9, 2022 1 p.m.

例大祭 神事	午後 1 時	於 . 神社
" 祝賀式	午後 2 時	於 . ステージ
" 奉納余興	午後 2 時半	於 . ステージ

〈神社の歴史〉

・出雲大社 ハワイ産土神	1906鎮座 116年	・ワイアナウエア氏神社	1975鎮座 47年
・沖縄神社 波上宮 普天満宮	1941鎮座 81年	・ケエアウモク稻荷神社	1922鎮座 30年
・恵美須神社 (アイエア氏神)	1969鎮座 53年	・モイリイリ稻荷神社	2000鎮座 22年

上記神社の合併大祭です。神恩に感謝し、世界平和、日米親善、ハワイ繁栄、家内安全、靈魂平安を祈願します。近隣の皆様もお誘い合わせの上、賑々しく御参拝下さいよう御案内申し上げます。

〈奉納余興〉

- ・太鼓
- ・日本舞踊
- ・琉球舞踊
- ・カラオケ
- ・福引き

完成！ “みおしえおみくじ”

かねてより要望のありましたハワイ出雲大社特製の“みおしえおみくじ”が出来上りました。出雲大社教の初代管長、千家尊福公（1845 – 1918）が詠まれた和歌の中から出雲大社の信仰や教えに関する内容のものを30首選び、その和歌から学ぶ“みおしえ”を日本語と英語で解り易く記したものです。この“おみくじ”は1つ\$1.00で配布いたします。どうぞお守り授与所にお立寄り下さい。尚“おみくじ”的歌に託された神様の“みおしえ”は充分に味わい、家に持ち帰り、時々読み直したりして大切に保管して下さい。

Introducing Izumo Taisha Hawaii's Omikuji

Coming soon for visitors to the Shrine will be our own unique Izumo Taisha Hawaii Omikuji (Messages of Good Fortune). Unlike Omikuji at other Shinto Shrines, our Omikuji feature 30 different uplifting poems (*waka*) written by the Most Reverend Takatomi Senge (1845-1918), the 80th generation of Izumo Taisha Head Priest. His poems speak of daily appreciation and gratitude, as well as positive messages based on Japanese traditional values. The Omikuji are available at the Shrine office for a \$1.00 donation. We hope you keep these sacred words with you always.



Poetry of Takatomi Senge

The Most Reverend Takatomi Senge (1845-1918) the 80th generation of Izumo Taisha Head Priest and the first Superintendent of Izumo Tatsukyo, was an elaborate religious leader in 19th century Japan who composed many poems describing Shinto teachings. His poems mentioned daily appreciation and gratitude, as well as Japanese traditional heart, and were carried down from generation to generation. These poems mention the importance of productive daily life and continuous personal improvement and achievement.

Teachings through Poetry

Classical Japanese poems called *waka* or *tanka* consist of five lines (*ku*, or phrases) of 5-7-5-7-7 syllabic units, containing 31 syllables total. In these poems, people are encouraged to live with a Shinto heart. Daily life habits, motivations toward our civil business, ambitions toward our humanity all eventually concern our spirituality. From the poem "Praise of the Sun" we can learn valuable lessons from Kami (gods). In society, it is believed that all people are assigned certain roles in life by Kami and should serve with moral cleanliness, purity, righteousness, sincerity and honesty. May you keep these sacred words with you always.

これは出雲大社教初代管長、千家尊福公の詠まれた和歌です。日々の運勢や吉凶を表すものとは異なりますので、大切に保管して、歌に託された神様の“みおしえ”を充分に味わい、これから的生活に活かしましょう。

— Today's Poem by Takatomi Senge —

"Asa wa toku Oki te butome ba Amatsu no Toyosaka noboru Sachiya ete mashi"

朝はとく 起きてとめば 天空の 豊栄登る 幸や得てまし

<Teachings Based on This Poem>

As we pray to the Gods, breathing in the fresh morning air and thanking them for their divine blessings, may you have a most fulfilling day. Bestowed with your daily duties, showered with the sun's bright light, partake of your blessings and natural environment.

<この和歌から学ぶおしえ>

爽やかな朝に神様に祈り、神恩やお懃に感謝し、素晴らしい一日になる様に努めましょう。太陽が昇る勢いで

与えられた任務に励み、清々しい朝の光、神恩や自然の恵みを戴きましょう。

• • • ANNUAL AUTUMN THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL • • •

IZUMO

TAISHA



MATSURI

ALOHA FROM IZUMO TAISHA HAWAII

FELLOWSHIP
ONO FOOD
TRADITIONAL BLESSINGS
ENTERTAINMENT
LUCKY NUMBER

PROGRAM

- 1:00PM SHINTO SERVICE
2:00PM STAGE PROGRAM
2:30PM FELLOWSHIP LUNCH
ENTERTAINMENT
TAIKO
JAPANESE DANCE
OKINAWAN DANCE
KARAOKE
LUCKY NUMBER

4:45 PM PAU

OUR HISTORY

- HAWAII IZUMO TAISHA HAS BEEN A COMMUNITY HOME FOR FAMILIES FROM JAPAN AND HAWAII SINCE 1906. THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN ENSHRINED AND CARED FOR AT THE SHRINE:
SINCE 1906 : IZUMO TAISHA, HAWAII UBUSUNA-NO-KAMI
SINCE 1941 : NAMINOUE-GU, OKINAWA JINJA,
 FUTENMA-GU (OKINAWA UJIGAMI)
SINCE 1969 : EBISU JINJA (AIEA UJIGAMI)
SINCE 1975 : WAIANAE UJIGAMI
SINCE 1992 : KEEAUMOKU INARI JINJA
SINCE 2000 : MOILIILI INARI JINJA

SUNDAY
OCTOBER

9

FROM 1PM
2022

PLEASE CELEBRATE WITH US AT
**IZUMO TAISHAKYO
MISSION OF HAWAII**
215 NORTH KUKUI STREET

FREE PARKING AT HAWAIIUSA FCU + KUKUI CENTER

FOR MORE INFO CALL: 808-538-7778 OR
EMAIL: IZUMOTAISHAHAWAII@GMAIL.COM

116TH ANNUAL AUTUMN THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL

According to Shinto tradition, Autumn Thanksgiving is one of the most significant occasions to express our appreciation and gratitude for the bountiful harvest of the year. It is a sincere expression of "thank you" to the Kami (Gods, Deities).

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