



# Rinzai Zen Mission Newsletter

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Next to Baldwin Beach Park ☼ (808) 579-9921

September-October 2013

## A Spectacular Bon Dance Circle!

Because of your volunteering and participation in this year's Obon, we had a very successful festival and one of the biggest gatherings in our 81-year history.

Thank you very much for your continuous generosity and hard work to keep Hawaii's only Okinawan Bon festival to not only survive, but to thrive for many years to come.

皆様方のおかげで、今年のお盆も無事に終えることが出来ました。今年のお盆踊りの輪は特に大きく、艶やかなものとなりました。

これもひとえに皆様のご奉仕とご援助のおかげさまです。

心より御礼申し上げます。

—Rev. Ryozo Yamaguchi

## Ryukyu Kajimaya 琉球風車

This year's Obon was so cheerful and such a spectacular one because of the young dancers and drummers from Okinawa. They are college students of a traditional eisa dance group called *Ryukyu Kajimaya*.

Thirty two of them worked hard to save money to join our dance circle. They really made this year's Bon dance the best one ever. Thank you for coming such a long way to make our Obon a very special one.



## Happy 100th Birthday

to Howard Oshiro, our sole Centenarian, and such a healthy one at that! We send our best wishes to you, Howard!

## Schedule

Sept. 7-8 Wailuku Hongwanji Cub Scout campout  
Sept. 8, Sun. Cleaning Day  
Sept. 15, Sun. Fall Ohigan Service. 10:00 a.m.  
Sept. 21, Sat. Maui Okinawan Festival at Maui Mall  
Oct. 13, Sun. Cleaning Day  
Oct. 20, Sun. Daruma-ki Service

## Many Thanks!



A sense of accomplishment, pride, and relief were just some of the emotions we felt during our very successful Obon festival. So much effort put forth by everyone gave us the best Obon festival ever according to the "old timers."

From our guests from Okinawa and Oahu to great food and everyone who provided our community with such a wonderful event, we express our deepest appreciation.

Also, thank you to Reverend Seiya Chisaka and everyone at the

Myoshinji Temple in Japan for their support. May all of you continue to enjoy good health. Thank you!

In Gassho,  
Alan Nago, President  
and Board of Directors  
Rinzai Zen Mission

## Strong Okinawa Connection

Our connection with Okinawa is a very strong one. We have had many visitors from Okinawa in recent months. The visit by Ryufukuji and Rengein congregations led by Rev. Okamoto was an especially important one. Rev. Ekou Okamoto's grandfather was our founder's brother monk. The current Rev. Okamoto has visited us many times in the past. Because of him, we have many books from Okinawa in our mission to study Okinawan history and culture. His congregation members are familiar looks and names, and we all belong to Myoshinji school of Rinzai Zen Buddhism. They wish to join us at our Obon next year which will be a week after theirs.

There are no more Kochi family Totome next to Shakyamuni Buddha in the Altar. The return of Kochi's Totome was big news in Okinawa because of recent political unease. For us, it is preferable to have a family member care for the totome rather than having it sit on a temple altar. We wish the Kochi family totome to stay for many years with his descendants.

