



KOBOJI SHINGON MISSION

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October 2023

Aloha Koboji Members and Friends,

The goma (Jp. 護摩) ritual of consecrated fire is unique to Esoteric Buddhism. The ritual we perform at Koboji was introduced to Japan by Kobo Daishi in 806 CE. These fire ceremonies are rarely held outside of Japan and are a unique experience that inspires the senses of those who watch.

The goma fire is central to two upcoming services: the *Saito O-goma* in November and the *Hoshi Matsuri* star festival in February.

Saito O-goma Service

Sunday, November 26, 2023
9am | Reception opens at 8am

You are welcome to attend this year's *Saito O-goma* (柴燈護摩法会) service on November 26. This service prepares us to purify our hearts, minds, and bodies to begin a new year. Attendees will participate by throwing their large *goma-gi* (prayer sticks) into the large holy fire conducted in the temple courtyard. Archbishop Yagi will officiate this service. *Goma-gi* can be received by donation beginning at 8am.

Hoshi Omamori (Star Amulet) Request

Due January 12, 2024

We also invite you to request your *hoshi omamori* that will be blessed in the *goma* fire created in February 2024. Each *omamori* is carefully handwritten according to the heavenly stars that quietly correspond with our lives. We request that you submit your forms to the office by January 12, 2024.

In Gassho,

Rev. Bryan Z. Yanagihara

Instructions to Complete Hoshi Matsuri Register

Person in charge (PIC) - Please list a single individual as the PIC. List your name on line 1, then your immediate family. Then bunch sub-families starting with the head of each sub family. You may use brackets to bunch family members or highlight the head of household.

Column A – Print full name. No nicknames.

Column B – Person’s date of birth.

Column C – Write the age the person will turn in 2024.

Column D – Write star (sei) name according to chart. Just write Doyo, or Suiyo, or Rago, etc. You may omit writing “sei” at the end.

Column E – Regular omamori is \$3.00 per person. Each person should request this even if requesting a special or lifetime omamori. If a person’s star is fully white, then this omamori is all you need to request.

Column F – Special omamori is \$6.00 per person. This omamori should be requested if a person’s star is fully or partially black to guard against misfortune.
A regular omamori should also be requested.

Column G – Lifetime omamori is \$35.00 per person. A lifetime omamori should be requested just once in the person’s lifetime. A regular omamori should also be requested.

Hoshi omamori are blessed during the goma fire of the Hoshi Matsuri service. Omamori will be available for pickup immediately following the service.

For those who wish to have their omamori mailed to them in February, please make sure your address is clearly written and write “MAIL” on the top left of the register. USPS limits the thickness of First Class letters, so please do not include stamps or self-addressed stamped envelopes. Omamori for multiple individuals will be shipped via USPS Ground Advantage.

Please do not include any house omamori requests or other requests on your hoshi omamori form. Contact the office if you have any questions.

Late requests may be assessed a “late fee” and no requests will be accepted on the day of service.

Please mail or bring in your forms no later than JANUARY 12, 2024.