Since ancient times, the Japanese people practiced *Toshikoshi-no-Ōharae*, a prayer to purify and to rid themselves of the year’s *yakunan* (illness, accident, injury, fight, etc.) or “bad luck” and *kegare*, or “withered spirit”. Over the course of the year, the energy of a person’s spirit is diminished by tiredness, stress, and other pressures, so *Toshikoshi-no-Ōharae* rituals are performed at the end of the year to cleanse and refresh this energy and recharge the spirit. **Shinto Shrine of Shusse Inari in America** provides these traditional services with mystic rituals that have been passed down through generations of our family.

One such ritual is the use of *katashiro*, or *hitogata* (when used for people) on which are written the mystic words, “*Tokusa-no-kam dakara*.” *Hitogata* are slips of paper that are cut into the shape of a person in order to represent the person it is being used for. In the *Toshikoshi-no-Ōharae* service, the *hitogata* is thought to carry all of that person’s *kegare*. We also offer this service for pets and vehicles.

**[How to use hitogata]**

1. Write your name, address and age on the front of *hitogata*.
2. Breathe upon the *hitogata*.
3. Wipe on the body part one wishes to improve or renew with the *hitogata*. For example, one suffering from knee pain would wipe the *hitogata* on their knee, or, if they wish to be smarter, on their head.
4. Complete the application form and select the package plan (please refer to other release form).
5. Prepare donation service fee.
   **Check:** Payable to Shinto Shrine of Shusse Inari in America
   **PayPal:** PayPal@ShintoInari.org; please include the PayPal’s transaction fee.
6. Mail (to arrive before December 28th) to Shrine Office.
   **Mailing address:** Shinto Shrine of Shusse Inari in America
   8931 W. 25th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90034

We will hold the *Toshikoshi-no-Ōharae* service on December 31st with your *hitogata* and notify you after completion of the service. We will then ship any requested packages.

The information you provide will only ever be used for services and information used by the Shrine.