



The Konko Missions in Hawaii will fulfill Ikigami Konko Daijin's vision to embrace the world with the Konko Faith.

## Attending the 120th Anniversary Service of Konko Church of Amagi: A Joyful Journey from Hawaii

By Rev. Koichi Konko, Konko Mission of Honolulu

On October 27, the Konko Church of Amagi, the parent church of Konko Mission of Honolulu, held its 120th Anniversary Service.

Planning for this trip began on May 18, when I booked a round-trip flight with Hawaiian Airlines: departing Honolulu for Kansai Airport and returning from Fukuoka to Honolulu. While the ticket cost about \$1,200, I used airline miles and only paid a small fee. I was reminded that Kami-Sama accepts travel expenses and time spent on pilgrimage as heartfelt offerings. The key was how much joy I felt in making this pilgrimage, as that joy determines how Kami-Sama receives our offerings.

In addition to attending the service, I stayed two nights at Konkokyo Headquarters' Kofukan for faith enrichment gathering. On the first day, I connected with members of the Headquarters' Women's Association and conversed with seminary students. On October 25, five of us from Hawaii visited Konko Church of Onomichi-Nishi. There, we learned about the history of the church and its founder, Fujii Kichibei Sensei. The purpose of visiting Onomichi-Nishi Church was to trace the path of the Konkokyo faith as it spread from Kasaoka to Kyushu. This journey follows the history of Fujii Sensei, who joined the faith at Kasaoka Church and spread the teachings to Yamaguchi Prefecture. There, Aketa Kakutaro joined the faith, which eventually led to Katsura Matsuhei Sensei establishing the Konko Church of Kokura and, later,



Konko Church of Amagi

the founding of Konko Church of Amagi. This visit aimed to relive and reconnect with this historical flow of the faith.

One of our group members, despite being elderly and needing a wheelchair, was determined to join the pilgrimage. Onomichi-Nishi Church has about 20 steps to its worship hall, making the visit physically demanding. However, witnessing this individual's strong wish to visit the church reminded me of the sacredness of worship and the heartfelt desires of those who seek blessings

from Kami-Sama. This experience deepened my appreciation for welcoming worshippers and understanding their sincerity and yearning for blessings.

On October 26, we traveled to Amagi, where the church kindly arranged a bus to pick us up from Hakata Station. We stayed at a nearby hotel, Grand Spa Avenue in Amagi city.

Since I was appointed to serve as a ceremonial assistant (Tenrei) for the anniversary service, I participated in the rehearsal on the afternoon of the 26th. Having never served in this capacity in Hawaii, I learned a great deal from the experience. The Head Minister of Amagi Church, Rev. Michiyoshi Yasutake, was also present during the rehearsal, and I could sense his overflowing joy.

Watching Rev. Michiyoshi joyfully fulfill his duties the day before the anniversary service was truly inspiring. I reflected on how, if it were me, I might



The steps up to Onomichi-Nishi Church

.....continued on page 2



have been stressed, thinking, "I still need to do this and that," or feeling inadequate about what was unfinished. However, Rev. Michiyoshi's joyful demeanor and radiant smile taught me that expressing gratitude for the journey leading up to this moment is the essence of the service.

The Chair of the Planning Committee mentioned during the morning briefing on the day of the service that we should offer a

"Yoka Smile." Rev. Michiyoshi embodied this "Yoka Smile," allowing us to also participate in the anniversary service with the same spirit. "Yo" represents joy, and "Ka" represents gratitude, making the "Yoka Smile" a greeting of joy and gratitude. This lesson emphasized the importance of maintaining a joyful and grateful mindset in our daily service to Kami-Sama.

The service itself went smoothly, despite a small mistake with the order of tamagushi (sacred branch) offerings. I had the honor of reading Rikkyoshinden, Divine Message and delivering a speech, which was

nerve-wracking with so many esteemed guests present. However, I received blessings and stayed calm.

The weather, which had been uncertain, turned out to be perfect for the service and the outdoor "Thanks Festa" that followed. Many worshippers, including ministers and members, shared joyful moments. Rev. Michiyoshi's trust in leaving the weather in Kami's hands exemplified faith in divine arrangements.

After the service, I stayed an extra night at the same hotel and visited Yufuin with members from Honolulu. On October 29, we returned to Fukuoka, enjoyed local food stalls in Tenjin, and flew back to Hawaii on October 30.

This trip to attend the Amagi Church's anniversary service was filled with joy, meaningful encounters, and deep blessings. It became a journey of gratitude, happiness, and unforgettable memories.



## Rev. Noriko Yasutake's Passing

By Rev. Akinobu Yasutake, Konko Mission of Waipahu

The late Rev. Noriko Yasutake, aged 62, passed away peacefully at 6:17pm on February 7, 2025 at the Queen's Medical Center - West Oahu. She was born on January 12, 1963 in Amagi, Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan as the first daughter of Rev. Tetsuro Yasutake and the late Rev. Mitsuko Yasutake. She grew up at Amagi church with her brother Rev. Akinobu and the late Rev. Mitsumasa Yasutake. She participated in various church activities, and took part in the Amagi church brass band playing the small drum and flute.

After graduating from Kurume Shinai Jyogakuin High School, she entered the Konkokyo seminary school in April 1983, and was ordained as a Konko minister in 1983. She moved to Hawaii to



Rev. Noriko Yasutake

assist her parents who had moved to Hawaii in 1980 to take over missionary work at the Konko Mission of Waipahu.

She started to show symptoms of muscular dystrophy a little over 20 years ago, but she could walk and work using a cane or walker. However, she needed to use a wheelchair for about the last 10 years. In the last few weeks, she became weaker, and was hospitalized on February 6 and passed away the next day.

Although she had a difficult disease, she had a fulfilling 62 years of life practicing Konko faith with all of you. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Her funeral service will be held at 11:00 am, Friday, March 28, 2025 at the Konko Mission of Waipahu.



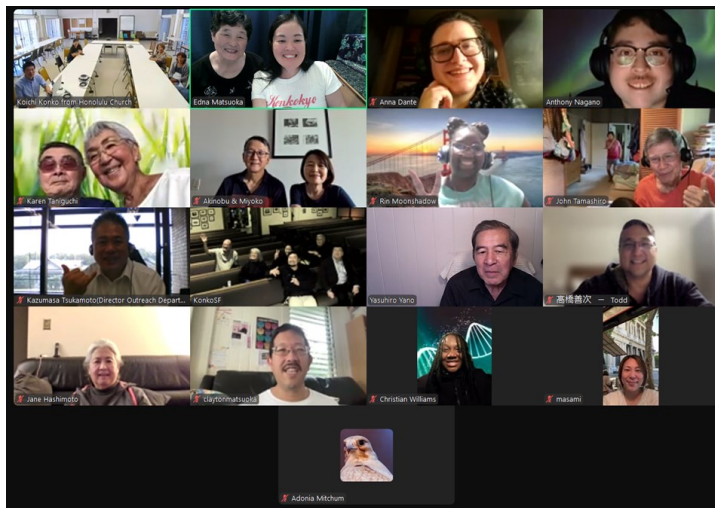
# The 4th Yatsunami Gathering

Rev. Edna Matsuoka, Konko Mission of Wahiawa

The 4th Yatsunami Gathering, which was held on Zoom on Saturday, November 16, 2024 was an inspiring event that brought people together virtually to reflect on faith, honor cultural traditions, and celebrate our shared connections.

Starting at 2:30 p.m., as participants joined the Zoom room, the discussions were already buzzing. People shared their experiences and perspectives on Konkokyo, creating a meaningful dialogue that felt both casual and profound.

At 3 p.m., the program officially began with opening remarks, setting a welcoming tone for what would be a memorable afternoon. Koichi Sensei led the prayer of Tenchi Kakitsuke and Yano Sensei shared an opening message, grounding everyone in gratitude and faith. A special tribute to the 5th Konko Sama, Rev. Heiki Konko, reminded everyone of his incredible legacy, paired with a touching video of the Odemashi and Ohike of the current 6<sup>th</sup> Spiritual Head, Rev. Hiromichi Konko, left a lasting impression.



The cultural highlights were just as moving. Wakaba Taiko energized us with their lively taiko performance and Yosa-koi dance, while Reiko Sensei shared stories of Hawaii's plantation days and performed her rendition of "Hole Hole Bushi." Rev. Kazuhisa Shimatani led a virtual chorus of "Ue o Muite Arukou," involving several churches in Japan to participate. It really lifted our spirits and created a sense of

unity.

Even after the official program ended, the learning didn't stop. Participants stayed on, asking questions and sharing reflections of the gathering. It became clear that these gatherings are more than just events—they're opportunities to grow and connect.

Looking ahead, we hope the next Yatsunami Gathering will deepen these moments of exchange, providing even more opportunities for discussion and collaboration. Together, we can continue to create a space where faith, culture, and community thrive.

## KMH and Reichi Fujinkai Joint Seminar

Mrs. Lanna Moriwaki, Konko Church of Gardena

*\*Lanna is married to Alex Yasutake (son of Rev. Akinobu Yasutake)*

On Wednesday, October 24, 2024, approximately 20 attendees from the Konko Missions of Hawai'i and the Reichi Fujinkai (Women's organization) participated in the first joint seminar at the headquarters in Okayama, Japan. The Reichi Fujinkai was established in 1926



Members of the Konko Missions in Hawaii and the Reichi Fujinkai gathered at the Konkokyo Headquarters in Okayama for the first ever joint seminar.

with Kura Fujii, daughter of the Founder, as the first president. Konko believers and ministers who live within the Konko area are members of the organization. Their roles include but are not limited to organizing monthly faith gatherings, children's sum-



one.” (Voice of the Universe, #261)

Other teachings included,

“Praying to Kami single heartedly means that you do not turn around once you have clapped your hands and faced the altar, even if a spear pokes you. Your single heartedness won't reach Kami if you allow yourself to be distracted by background sounds and voices.” (Voice of the Universe, #168)

“Those who practice faith should feel gratitude even after sitting and resting on a tree stump in the mountains.” (Voice of the Universe, #183)

mer gatherings, the lantern parade to celebrate the Founder's birthday, and radio taiso warm-up exercises during the summer.

The seminar began with an Icebreaker game in which we identified family relationships amongst the attendees; There were a number of parents, sons, and daughters. Then we enjoyed quality lunch time with our tablemates while sharing our relationship with the Konko Faith. We then chose one person



This was an enjoyable activity that tested not only our knowledge of teachings but our prompt creativeness and acting skills as well!

A visit to the Konko Seminary was next on the agenda. It was an honor to visit the sacred place where countless trainees have been educated and spiritually prepared to become ministers. While walking in the corridors, one can sense the history, cleanliness, and the respect towards the rooms for practices and preparations of offerings, as well as their library. As one of the seminary rules, a recent graduate shared that individual phones and laptops are not allowed.

from our group and introduced each other to all the attendees. The person I spoke to has been a part of the Reichi Fujinkai for many years. Her grandmother introduced her to the Youth group which motivated her to meet others and learn about the faith. Currently her grandchildren are the 5th generation to attend church. It was inspiring to hear that this faith has been passed down through generations within their family.

We played a game of Charades following our introductions. Each group chose a teaching from a given list to act out without using words. Two volunteers from our group acted out the teaching, “Those who practice faith should crawl between the legs of ten people rather than going over the shoulders of

The most interesting time was the hour we spent with the seminary students in their classroom. There were three groups- six students and five visitors in our group. Examples of our great discussion included our favorite teachings, life/schedule in the seminary, hardest and most fun part of being in the seminary, and their projected expectations after graduation in April. Most trainees would become the head minister of their home church after graduation. We all enjoyed asking each other questions, but It would have been wonderful to learn more about their beliefs and faith as they will become future leaders of the Konko faith. Perhaps that could be an opportunity in future joint seminars. I am truly grateful that I was able to be a part of this memorable experience and hope for more in the future.



# Relay of Life

New Year Broadcast by the Konkokyo Spiritual Head Hiromichi Konko

I was raised in a Konkokyo-believing family, under the profound prayers of my grandfather, the Fourth Konko-Sama, and my father, the Fifth Konko-Sama. The Fourth Konko-Sama cherished words like "Based on Gratitude" and "Heartfelt gratitude for all you receive" and always practiced them. As I passed by his room, I could always hear him saying, "Thank you." His room, separated by shoji screen, made it easy to hear. I have an image in my mind that he was always showing his faith through action. I believe this is crucial in the inheritance of faith.

The Fifth Konko-Sama, my father, said, "I will do as the previous Konko-Sama did," and succeeded him without imposing on me. He never told me to do this or that. When I lived in Tokyo, every beginning of the month without fail, he sent me rice offered to Kami-Sama and charged with prayers, which we call 'Goshinmai', or sacred rice. At that time, I lived a fast-paced urban life, feeling something unsettling deep inside. Alone in my room, thinking about the future would sometimes fill me with unbearable anxiety.

Gradually, what sprouted within me was 'prayer.' Until then, I hadn't thought deeply about it, but I began to intensely feel that I was being prayed for.

I believe that the parental figures in this Way of Faith plant the seeds of faith-based conviction in their children over many years, from childhood. For instance, even though I lived in Tokyo, far from the sacred place of Konko town for a long time, I had a vague sense that everything would be alright because of the sanctity of this place. This, too, I owe to my parents. It's truly a blessing. "Knowing the grace and repaying the grace" is very important in faith. It is thanks to my parents' deep prayers that I am who I am today.

After returning from Tokyo, getting married, and having three children, I also appreciate the blessing of having grandparents around for my children. Living together with the Fifth Konko-Sama and his wife meant timely meals, evening prayers after dinner, and a routine of bathing and bedtime—all blessings



indeed. Moreover, they enveloped us with great affection, teaching the grandchildren meticulously. Clearly, the children have grown up enriched because of their grandparents.

Every day, I think that world peace must start from peace at home, yet I deeply feel the difficulty of practicing faith in family life. For example, when the children hurt themselves or

feel pain, we partake in 'Goshinmai.' If something happens, I say, "Take the Goshinmai first," and they obediently do so. This, too, is a testament to their belief in 'the existence of Kami' and 'Goshinmai,' thinking, "This will rightly bring blessings." Although the children often fight, they are close siblings and are undoubtedly receiving great blessings day by day.

Our home altar cleaning day is fixed, and currently, my wife, having taken over from my mother, does the cleaning. However, rather than fixing it as "mother's duty," I want it to be perceived as "a duty that anyone in the family can do," so on cleaning days, I make sure that all available family members, including myself, help out. Even though the children might complain, when the time comes, they gather at the altar and assist. What makes me grateful is that the children ask innocent questions at the altar.

While wiping the displayed photos, they ask, "Who is this?" or "Is the Fourth Konko-Sama your father's father?" or "Isn't uncle Akinobu's photo too close to grandpa's?" Naturally discussing Kami and our ancestors during these moments feels incredibly joyful. The time we spend together at the altar is precious.

It's a blessing to have received such a long 'relay of life' from our ancestors and to be employed in Kami's divine duties. I always think about how much we're saved and the unwavering support we receive. However, rather than just feeling grateful, when I think about how to repay the grace and debts to Kami and our ancestors, I earnestly wish to teach and pass on the path of faith undistractedly and without loss, until the very end.

.....Japanese translation on insert



# 2025 KONKO MISSIONS IN HAWAII CALENDAR

## MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

### General Meeting

02/08 (Sat) 13:30 – 16:00

### Board of Trustees Meetings

01/11 (Sat) 10:30 – 15:00

05/10 (Sat) 10:30 – 15:00

08/09 (Sat) 10:30 – 15:00

11/29 (Sat) 10:30 – 15:00

### Ohana Program

Picnic at Haleiwa

07/12 (Sat) 10:00 – 14:00

### Faith Enrichment Program

Zoom/In Person Hawaii Gathering

09/06 (Sat) 13:30 – 15:00

### Kauai Gathering

TBD

### Ministers' Gatherings (Tentative)

03/29 (Sat) 14:00 – 16:00 Rev. Mayumi

Kawai (Nakano Church)

06/19 (Thu) 10:30 – 14:00 Rev. Sachiko

Yasutake (Amagi Church)

07/19 (Sat) 14:00 – 16:00

### Missionary Women's Group Meeting

06/18 (Wed) 10:00 – 16:00 Waipahu

### Community Activities

05/26 (Mon) 7:00 Memorial Day

10/19 (Sun) 16:00 HCRP Peace Prayer

### Rotary Hanashikai

03/09 (Sun) 10:30 Wahiawa

08/03 (Sun) 10:30 Wailuku

### 5<sup>th</sup> International Yatsunami

#### Gathering

11/15 (Sat) 15:00

### Zoom Monthly Kyoten Study

2 times a month on Wednesday

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Konko Mission Women's Group

TBD

### KCNA/KMH Joint Conference

07/04 (Fri.) – 07/06 (Sun.)

## SERVICES & GRAND

## CEREMONIES

### Spring Memorial Services

03/16 (Sun) 10:00 Honolulu

03/23 (Sun) 10:00 Hilo

Waipahu

Wahiawa

03/30 (Sun) 10:00 Wailuku

### Tenchi Kane No Kami Grand Ceremonies

04/06 (Sun) 11:00 Honolulu

04/13 (Sun) 17:00 Wahiawa

04/20 (Sun) 10:30 Waipahu

05/04 (Sun) 11:00 Wailuku

05/18 (Sun) 11:00 Hilo

### Autumn Memorial Services

09/14 (Sun) 10:00 Honolulu

09/21 (Sun) 10:00 Hilo

Waipahu

Wahiawa

Wailuku

### Ikigami Konko Daijin Grand Ceremonies

10/05 (Sun) 11:00 Honolulu

10/12 (Sun) 11:00 Waipahu

10/13 (Mon) 17:00 Wahiawa

10/26 (Sun) 11:00 Wailuku

11/09 (Sun) 11:00 Hilo

### Anniversary / Memorial

04/20 (Sun) 10:30

Rev. Mitsuko Yasutake 5 Year Memorial Service

08/31 (Sun) 11:00

Rev. Yoshie Nagai 1 Year Memorial Service

09/14 (Sun) 10:00

Rev. Sugako Yoshino 3 Year Memorial Service

○ Services

○ Meetings

○ Activities

○ Ministers Meetings

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# 「命のリレー」

## 金光教教主 金光浩道様

私は、金光教を信仰する家に生まれ、金光教教主を務めた祖父にあたる四代金光様と、父であります五代金光様の、大きな祈りの中で、お育ていただきました。祖父である四代金光様は、「お礼を土台に」や「世話になるすべてに礼を言う心」という言葉を大切にされ、そして常に実践しておられました。祖父のお部屋の前を通り掛かりますと、いつも「ありがとうございます」という声が聞こえてきました。障子のお部屋ですからよく聞こえるわけです。私の中には、「常に信心の背中を見せてくださっていた」というイメージが残っております。これは信心継承において、大事なことではないかと思わせていただいております。

そして、父である五代金光様は、「前の金光様がしておられたとおりのことを自分はする」とおっしゃって、跡を継がれ、御用くださいました。父のすごいところは、私を放っておくことなんです。父は私に、あしなさい、こうしなさいとは決して言わなかったですね。私

ごしんまい

が東京に住んでいた頃は、毎月欠かさず、月の初めに、「御神米」といって、神様にお供えして祈りを込めてくださったお米を送ってくださっていました。当時の私は、都会のスピードに流されるような生活で、心の底に何かしっくりこない部分を抱えていました。一人で部屋にいる時、将来のことを考えると、たまらなく不安になることもありました。そんな自分の心の中で、徐々に芽生えてきたのが、「祈り」ということです。それまでは深く考えたこともなかったのですが、祈られている自分があるということを、ひしひしと感じるようになってきたのです。

私が思うに、このお道の親様は、ご信心を基にした信念を、子どもが小さいうちから何年、何十年とかけて、植え付けてくださっていると思うんですね。例えば私がご霊地である金光町を離れて東京に長くいても、このご霊地には確かなものがあるから大丈夫だ、という漠然とした感覚があった。これも、親様のおかげですね。本当にありがたいことです。「ご恩を知り、ご恩に報いる」ということが、信心において非常に大切なところだと思わせていただきます。親様の深い祈りがあって今日の私があるということです。

東京から親様の元へ戻りまして、結婚させていただき、3人の子どもを授かりましたが、子どもたちにとっても、いわゆる、「じいじばあば」がそばに居てくださる家庭でお育ていただいたことのありがたさも実感しています。五代金光様ご夫妻と一緒に生活させていただいたおかげで、時間通りに食事ができ、夕食後のご祈念、そして、入浴、就寝といった、規則正しいルーティーンを頂いてきたこと、これはありがたいことだと思うんですね。さらには、大きな感性で包んでくださり、時には孫たちに懇切丁寧に教えてくださり、明らかに、じいじばあばのおかげで子どもたちは心豊かに育ってきたと思えてなりません。

日々私は、世界の平和もまずは家庭の平和からと思わせていただいておりますが、家庭生活における信心実践というものの難しさも痛感しております。例えば、子どもたちが、けがをしたり、体のどこかが痛いなど、何かしらあった時には、御神米を頂くようにしております。何かあれば「まず御神米を頂いて」と言うと、「うん」と言って、素直に御神米を頂くんですね。これも「神様の存在」「御神米」を信じてくれていることの証といえますか、「これで良いようにおかげが頂ける」と、子どもたち自身が信じてくれているからこそであると思います。子どもたちも、けんかばかりしていますが、仲の良い3人きょうだいであり、日に日に大みかげを頂いていることは、間違いのない事実だと思います。

また、自宅のご神前はお掃除の日が決まっています、現在は母から受け継いで妻がさせていただいておりますが、家族の中で、「これはお母さんの御用」と決めつけるのではなく、「家族みんな誰もができる御用」として受け止めてもらいたいので、お掃除の日には、私も含め、できるだけ家族みんなですせてもらうようにしています。子どもたちも「え～」などと言いながらも、時間になったらご神前に集まって手伝ってくれます。そこで、ありがたいなあと思わせていただくのは、ご神前で、子どもたちが素直な質問をしてくるんですね。例えば、飾られている写真を拭かせていただきながら、「これは誰？」とか、「四代金光様は、おじいさんの、お父さん？」とか、「おじいさん

あきのぶ

の写真は、明信おじさんとくっつき過ぎじゃない？」など、自然と、神様やご先祖様の話ができていることは、大変うれしく感じます。家族でご神前にいる時間があります。

ご先祖様からここまで長い命のリレーを頂いていること、そして神様の御用に使っていただいていることで、どれだけ助かっているか、揺るぎないよりどころを頂いていることがどれだけありがたいことかと、いつも思わせていただくんですね。しかし、ありがたいで終わるのではなく、ここまでに受けたおかげ、神様、ご先祖様のご恩に報わせていただくにはどうすればよいか考えた時、信心の道を迷わず失わず、末の末まで教え伝えさせていただきたいと、切に願うばかりであります。



# If Only They Could Speak

By Mrs. Karen Taniguchi, Konko Mission of Waipahu

When the call went out asking for donations for the Konkokyo rummage sale, you delivered. Many of you readers dropped off boxes filled with treasures, many with years, or even generations of rich stories within them. They were a menagerie of things, that maybe your people worked hard to get, then cherished, used carefully, or displayed in their homes with joy. They were things that gave people pride in possessing or were needed. And at this rummage sale, those treasured items changed hands to the next owners who bought them for the same reason. If the silent items displayed in Sonoda Hall were in an animated movie, they would come alive with lively chatter, sharing their stories, their history of being. If only we could hear it: Whose home did you come from? Who were your people? What was your life like? What brought you here? If only we could eavesdrop on the chatter.

Here are their voices (imagined)- the creators, the owners, the objects:

Boxes of dishes, glassware, cups and more were delivered. Fragile items were wrapped carefully in tissue, bubble wrap or newspaper. One box had cups and dishes that were stored away from 1998. The newspaper they were wrapped in was brittle with age, and brown, Honolulu Advertiser, July 26, 1998. The Sunday paper that they were wrapped in were two full pages of the ad for the Liberty House Zooper Sales. Remember those days? Another page had an ad of a clunky cell phone promising an enticing plan of six-months of free long-distance calls. Another page carried an article mentioning President Clinton. This box and its contents were secured and put away by someone in the household until found and brought to the rummage sale twenty six years later.

On a long table banked against the windows stood dozens of vases of different sizes, styles, and colors, many sparkling in the sun streaming in from the windows. If only they could hear the human chatter, they would have heard many words of admiration from potential buyers who appreciated their beauty. And the silent vases waited for the special

someone to buy them, their new owners. Some of the vases were dramatic in their size and style. Maybe they came from a home of pottery collectors, or an ikebana aficionado. Many vases were created by skilled potters' hands at the wheel and thoughtfully glazed, then admired by the artist. They were carried home with new admiration from their new owners.

On another table, another artist, perhaps someone's grandmother or grandaunt, made a Japanese doll dressed in a beautiful kimono, all hand sewn. The hair looked like they were sewn in strand by strand, then artfully coiffed in the style of ancient samurai days. She was captured in the graceful pose of a Japanese dancer with a beautiful expression. The painted face was exquisite, as were the fluid lines of the dancer. Even its glass case appeared to have been hand made decades ago. They both looked lovingly made, with pride.

Another thing that stood out was a heavy large book; something special. It was a Norman Rockwell book, a collector's item. Inside the cover, someone had inscribed a message in lovely script, to an aunt, gifting her the precious book on her birthday. Aunt must have enjoyed leisurely leafing through it, admiring page after page of poster quality photos of the Rockwell paintings, many iconic of the painter, and some surprising, like the beautiful portraits of past presidents. Stories of the people depicted and handwritten note were the heartbeat of the book.

On several tables, the display of pots and pans and tableware showed good use in peoples' kitchen. Many aluminum pots and pans had dings and deep dents, but still found appreciative buyers and new homes to carry out their intended uses. Plates by the stacks were carried home, as well, to be used in their new homes. Some were recognizable for their familiarity, like the Golden wheat pattern dinner plates and soup bowls popular in the 50's and 60's, that were gotten with grocery store stamps, or the huge serving platters with ornate oriental designs, almost family heirloom pieces that probably came out only at New Year's or at large family parties, and the smaller side-dish plates with the Japanese motif painted on, the kind of dish that was often given as an appreciation gift, to reciprocate monetary gifts received. That most were not complete sets did not matter, they moved from one cupboard to another, from one family to another.

A different kind of dishes stood apart from the common, everyday usage ones. It was a collector's set of painted plates, in pristine condition, each in its own box, browning with age, with a crackling brittle tissue covering it. The dishes were like framed art-





work, scenes from the story of Aladdin. Each scene was detailed and intricately painted. This and another set, that one with Russian motif, came with certification of authenticity. Judging from the weathered boxes and papers within, these were purchased pre-Amazon. How and where were they were purchased? Who was it, that loved these paintings so much as to collect the entire set, yet never took them out to display?

Also standing wonderfully, in its own special sphere were two objects, one a wooden carving of Buddha and the other a metal cast-



ing of a Ganesha elephant, symbolizing wisdom and the ability to overcome adversities. What was their story? Where did they live? Who made them? The artist who carved the sitting Buddha was created by a master's hands that brought out the serene energy and beauty of the

Buddha. The intricate details of the headdress and folds of the robe were a testament to his artistry. And it went to a buyer who carried it in her arms with care and a smile, as she left.

Skilled hands crocheted little stuffed animals large and small. Each had personality, thoughtfully created in the faces and bodies of the characters: A large lion with curly mane, unicorn, bear, rabbits, hedgehog, aardvark, giraffe, six baby turtles that popped out from the mother turtle's belly, and more. The joy that went into its creation was palpable. And they found their way into someone's life to carry on this happiness.



On a nearby table lay little trinkets. Jewelry. Some were fancy sparkles, fun to wear on special occasions, while others were for everyday wear, all full of happy energy and maybe dreams. Those bracelets, pendants, necklaces, and rings were once bought with purpose, worn, then later donated, to find its way to



the jewelry table, to be passed on to others to wear; a second life for them. A middle-aged man stood in the cashier's line with several necklaces and bracelets dangling from his fingers, and rings in his palm. He waited

patiently, with purpose, and with no other apparent purchases. Those would go to someone special. Whose hands and neck are they gracing now?

On a more poignant note were Okusan's clothes. Women took them off the clothes rack, liked them and carried them home. They looked like they were gently used. Some even looked new. Okusan never got to use these "going out" clothes much, and these outfits moved on to a new second life. On the same clothes rack were two sets of dressy black suits, well-tailored women's suits with the Bally label on them. They were a curious contrast to the everyday casual wear on the same rack. What was the story behind them?

Finally, a man waited in line, carefully holding a soda box sagging under 15 mugs on it. All of them had colorful decorations on them, some with seasonal sentiments, some from gift shops from far away places, maybe souvenirs bought by a traveler. He carried them home, giving them a chance to create their own stories.

To all of you who shared your treasures, and you who carried home these treasures, thank you. May you give them new life and create new stories. If you would like to give voice to some of the items you donated, please contact us. We would love to hear your stories and make the chatter real.



# Konko Missions in Hawaii

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## KMH Mission Statement

The Konko Missions in Hawaii addresses the spiritual needs of the people of Hawaii by promoting the Konko faith through a better understanding of the life and teachings of Konko Daijin, and through the practice of Toritsugi (Divine-Mediation).

“Malamalama” is now available through e-mail!

For our devoted readers who would like to receive the “Malamalama” electronically, please let us know at [kmhcenter@konkomissionshawaii.org](mailto:kmhcenter@konkomissionshawaii.org)

For our readers who would still prefer a hard (paper) copy, please do not hesitate and let us know.

Thank you!

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