



Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter

Konko Mission of Wahiawa
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April 2021, Volume 29

WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

**All services at Wahiawa Church will be streamed on Facebook Live*

April 2021

- 1 Thur -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama
(7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭
- 3 Sat -Church clean-up for Grand Service (8 am)
- 4 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
-Honolulu Church Spring Grand Service (11 am)
- 11 Sun -No Sunday Service at Wahiawa Church (Join Waipahu)
-Waipahu Church Spring Grand Ceremony (10:30 am)
-1-year Memorial Svc for Rev. Mitsuko Yasutake (after)
- 13 Tue-Wahiawa Church Spring Grand Ceremony (6:30 pm)
天地金乃神様御大祭 *Take home bento; pls RSVP
- 16 Fri -KMH Zoom conference planning mtg on Zoom (5pm)
- 17 Sat -Church clean-up (9 am)
-KMH Minister's meeting on ZOOM (2-4 pm)
- 18 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Okage Sharing
- 23 Fri -KMH CEOC Meeting on ZOOM (5 pm)
-Church clean-up (9 am)
- 24 Sat -Ehimemaru Mikan tree maintenance @ Kakaako (9 am)
- 25 Sun -Monthly Mem. Svc. (9 am) 月例霊祭 *Share okage
- 30 Thr -Church clean-up (9 am)

May 2021

- 1 Sat -Monthly Svc. for Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama
(7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭
- 2 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Share okage

Konko Daijin's teachings... Don't think that because you practice faith, you will never fall ill. Even the sun and moon have abnormalities of eclipses. It's only natural. People may practice faith, but their bodies are only human. Accept the fact that you are subject to illness, and think that you won't die from it. (*Gorikai I, Kondo Fujimori 40*)

Editor's thoughts: My thoughts on this is that there are people who have quit the faith because someone they loved in their family died and so they thought that there were no blessings in the practice of this faith. If we think like that, it's a clear indicator that our level of faith is still at the white belt level. Unexpected and unfortunate things happen in life, but faith is there to save our hearts when these kinds of things happen. Faith will change one's perspective of life. I'm sure there were lots of people in the 3/11/2011 earthquake and tsunami in Tohoku Japan who had a lot of faith, but still lost everything. But I believe that it's these people who had faith that were able to be grateful just for being alive. And it's with their strong faith core, they can get back on their feet again with new hopes, dreams and optimism. Even in the midst of illness, disaster and death, there is a history of blessings left unacknowledged. To be able to give thanks is to be Konko.

Sunday School Oath

I will advance my faith through understanding the Founder's teachings and will strive to become a more useful person to society.

Sincerity is the essence of my faith, and its basic principles are courtesy, kindness, and devotion in everything I do.



Spring
has come

天地金乃神様 御大祭 Spring Grand Ceremony For Tenchi Kane No Kami Sama

When: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.
Place: Konko Mission of Wahiawa
Who: All is welcome. Please join us in-person or via **Facebook Live**. Search Konko Mission of Wahiawa.

Bentos: We will be preparing take-home bentos. Please RSVP by Sunday, April 11 if you can make it in person so we will have a bento for you.

The Spring Grand Ceremony is one of the two large services held on a bi-annual basis. We seek to acknowledge and revere the Divine Parent, Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama—which is Our Great Life Force that sustains all life between Heaven and Earth. This includes the blessings of air, water, food, minerals and metals, bodily functions and life itself. Let's reserve this day for Kami-Sama. It's a very important day. Please join us in person if able to following the proper tier guidelines for the pandemic at that time.

Konko Mission of Wahiawa Annual Schedule for 2021

- 5/2 Sun -Wailuku Church Spring Grand Ceremony (11 am)
- 5/9 Sun -Hilo Church Spring Grand Ceremony (11 am)
- 5/15 Sat -KMH Board Meeting (10:30 am) @HNL Church ZOOM
- 5/31 Mon -Memorial Day visit to Punchbowl
- 6/12 Sat -KMH Summer Beach BBQ @Haleiwa Alii Beach (9 am)
- 7/17 Sat -KMH ZOOM Conference 2021 (1:30 pm-3:30 pm)
- 7/25 Sun -Back to School Service (9 am)
- 8/1 Sun -KMH Rotary Hanashikai Mtg @Wahiawa Church (10:30 am)
- 8/7 Sat -KMH Board Meeting (10:30 am) @HNL Church ZOOM
- 8/22 Sun -48th Memorial Svc for Late Rev. Masayuki Kodama (9 am)
- 9/6 Mon -KMH MWSS at Wahiawa Church (10:30 am-3 pm)
- 9/19 Sun -Honolulu Church Autumn Memorial Service (10 am)
- 9/26 Sun -Wahiawa Church Autumn Memorial Service (10 am)
- 10/3 Sun -Honolulu Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
- 10/10 Sun -Waipahu Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
- 10/13 Wed -Wahiawa Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (6:30 pm)
- 10/24 Sun -Hilo Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
-And 1-year Mem. Svc for the Late Rev. Makio Nagai (Hilo)
- 11/4 Thr -Pilgrimage to attend Iwatani Church Centennial
- 11/7 Sun -Wailuku Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
- 11/14 Sun -International Gathering at Gohonbu thru 11/15
- 11/20 Sat -KMH Board Meeting (10:30 am) @HNL Church
- 11/21 Sun -San Francisco Church 90th Anniversary (10:30 am)
- 11/28 Sun -24th Mem. Svc for Late Rev. Kikue Kodama @HNL (9 am)
- 12/11 Sat -KMH Head Minister's Mtg (10:30 am) @HNL Church
- 12/19 Sun -49th Memorial Svc for Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi (10 am)
- 12/26 Sun -End of the Year Service (9 am)
- 12/30 Thr -30th Annual Mochi Pounding at Wahiawa Church (8 am)

*The annual schedule is subject to change depending on the course of the pandemic.

Happy Birthday

To all the people born in
The month of April
Please continue to receive
Infinite divine blessings from



Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama &
Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama

Alyce Yamamoto
Andrea Toyofuku
Donna Toyofuku



Spring Memorial Service 3.21.21

Kokoro Kubari
Created by Kokoro-Match
Kokoro Kubari Shirt

Available Products:
Classic Tee: \$20.00 USD

Check out the new Konko
Merch on Teespring!!
Go to this link below and order
yours today! **Order by May 25**
[https://teespring.com/kokoro-
kubari?pid=2&cid=576](https://teespring.com/kokoro-kubari?pid=2&cid=576)
Proceeds will go towards the
Konkokyo Headquarters
Renovation Project!



Top left: Edna sensei is modeling the
flowy women's tank top in size M and
navy color. Top right is women's
triblend military green in size L

KMH ZOOM Conference 2021

"Kokoro Kubari: Living with Mindfulness"

Date: Saturday, July 17, 2021
Time: 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Guest Speaker:
Rev. Saijiro Matsuda
(Former Director of KMH Center &
Head Minister of Konko Church of Minamimuro)

Theme: Kokoro Kubari:
Living with Mindfulness

Purpose of the Conference:

- Defining Living with Mindfulness (Kokoro Kubari) in Konkokyo
- Practicing Mindfulness



To participate you will need:

- PC/Tablet/Smartphone
- Web camera/microphone
- Internet connection
- Email address
- Zoom app
- Kokoro Kubari shirt (Optional)

"Kokoro Kubari" apparel for this event on
sale at Teespring:
[https://teespring.com/kokoro-
kubari?pid=2&cid=576](https://teespring.com/kokoro-kubari?pid=2&cid=576)
Let's wear Konko Shirts!
(Shirts will take about 2 weeks to reach you. So, order early!)

Register by Saturday,
July 3, 2021

For more info, contact:
kmhcenter@konkomissionshawaii.org
or text: Koichi Sensei (808) 536-9078
or Edna Sensei (808) 223-3448

Konko Missions in Hawaii

KMH Summer Beach BBQ

What: KMH Summer Beach BBQ

When: Sat., June 12, 2021 from 9 am-1 pm

Where: Haleiwa Alii Beach Park
(Near Haleiwa Jodo Mission)

Who: All is welcome to join us

Cost: FREE

Food: The Konko Mission of Wahiawa will
prepare all the food. We will need
approximate headcount by Sat. 6/5.

Memo: Feel free to bring beach gear, fishing
gear and your own canopies and
beach chairs. Please take note, that
you may enjoy water activities such as
swimming and fishing, but you are
doing so at your own risk. Konko
Missions in Hawaii will not be
responsible.



Deadline to RSVP is Sat. 6/5/21
Please contact Edna (KMH CEO/C
Secretary) at (808) 223-3448



Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

Happy April!! Today I want to talk about the important things in life. I realized that at different stages in life, we realize what's important. There was a cute cat meme on Facebook the other day that said, "When you are a child, you want to be a teenager. When you are a teenager, you want to be an adult. When you are an adult, you want to be a cat." We learn about the psychosocial stages of human development according to Erik Erickson's theory. I have the diagram on here for your reference. We humans are always evolving. What we thought was important as kids, is nothing when we become teens. And what we think are important as teens is not important as we become adults. And when we become adults we realize what we have been doing all our lives and begin to question what truly is important in life.

Certain events in life change our thoughts dramatically into a good or bad direction. Do you notice that your thoughts have changed over the years? This change is what we should appreciate.

I work as a nurse on an oncology unit, which is the cancer unit. So of course we encounter many kinds of cancers and patients. One day, one of my coworkers were mentioning how sad it was for the terminal cancer patients because there is almost no escaping death, especially the pancreatic cancer patients. I acknowledged that it is really sad and painful to know that they are reaching their end of life.

I have known several people who have died of cancer. But since we are humans, we are all going to die one day. We never know when or how we will die, but we will die and that is a fact. With that being said, I asked, "Would you rather die knowing that death is coming in a matter of months, so you can at least prepare for your grand departure? Or would you rather choose to die suddenly without any warning or planning? I could sense a moment of deep thought. I mean who ever thinks of their death? Have you ever pondered about when you will die or how you will die? At what age will you die? Will it be painful? Will I feel content of my life when the time comes? I think about those things. I guess it's a bit morbid, but because I encounter patients who get unusual diseases, cancers and accidents at any age, I think "This can totally happen to anyone!" Life is so unpredictable!

We could drop dead while we are putting on makeup, while brushing our teeth, or get into a car accident while driving, or while taking a walk across the street! I'm not trying to scare you. But what I do want to emphasize is that every day is like a game of Russian roulette. That's what my mom says. You are 99.999% likely that you will still be alive at the

end of the day. But there is always that 0.001% chance that your body will be wrapped in a white vinyl body bag and placed in the morgue refrigerator at the end of the day. There are no guarantees. But that doesn't mean we have to live with fear that we might die today. Living in constant fear is not practicing faith. Instead, give thanks to Kami-Sama and be in awe how much we are being kept alive daily. There is a Konko teaching that I would like to share "Everyone knows the names and causes of illnesses, but no one knows the cause of receiving divine blessings. You should seek the cause of blessings instead of the cause of illnesses (*Gorikai III Jinkyu Kyogoroku 34*)."

People get diagnosed with cancer, heart disease, lung problems and the like. And they put so much thought into the possibility that they are going to die from their cancer or their other medical conditions. So I see people trying to eat healthy, and exercise to try to prevent death from coming prematurely. All the while, they don't appreciate all that is still going well for them and all that had gone well for them. And there's no guarantee that they will even die from their primary health conditions. People live in fear all the time.

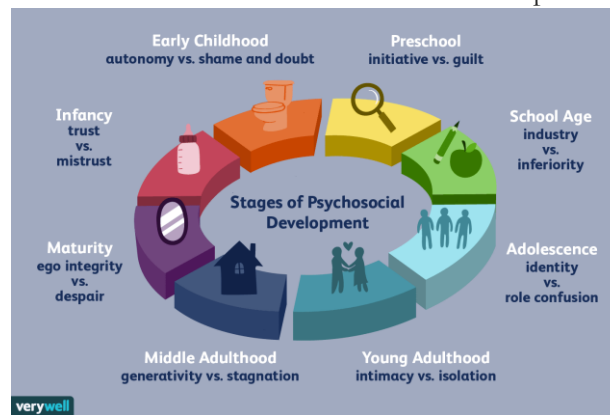
If our lives made up the 10 fingers on our hands, and the cancer or other medical problem is just 2 of the 10 fingers, we put too much thoughts of negativity towards just the two fingers and are totally oblivious to the fact that the rest of our life factors are perfectly fine. We have the roof over our heads, enough money to pay the bills, bodily functions that still work fine, and family and friends that care. There is so much to be grateful for.

There isn't a single human being in this world that was born wanting to be born. Everyone came into this world as a divinely blessed miracle. So no matter how short or long someone's life was, all was a life that came into this world in blessedness. We are born amidst divine blessings, live amidst divine blessings and die amidst divine blessings.

People think dying is a curse and it's the worst thing that the living have to encounter one day. People die only because we have received the blessing of having a life. Life and death go hand in hand.

The cause of our human suffering and not being able to accept death is due to our ignorance of the blessings we receive on a moment to moment basis from the Universe. If we can truly understand the benevolent nature of Kami-Sama, we would not think of anything as a suffering. And even in death we can still be appreciative.

Behind every person's illness, there are blessings left unmentioned and unacknowledged. People may go to the shrines and temples asking the deities for a cure. That's not



a bad idea. Because it usually takes an illness or accident for people to wake up and seriously face our hearts to the deities. But usually after we receive the blessings, we tend to forget the blessings we received after some time passes.

An important step to remember is to go to the shrines and temples and give appreciation for all that is going well for us and all the blessings we have been and are still receiving. Kami Sama is well aware of what we have been troubled with. So our needs will already be taken care of by Kami Sama. We need not worry. In the meantime, try to be kind to each other. Help each other out. Don't leave a bad impression after we die.

A few days ago I was cleaning up my desktop. And I found messages written by our wedding guests back in 2016. They were messages of advice to a happy marriage. I found three exact same messages coming from three different people. The message read "Don't go to sleep mad." How many of you have done that? I'm not gonna lie. I have. It feels terrible! So I try to resolve any kind of conflict before I go to sleep so I can have peace of mind. You don't want to go to sleep mad and never wake up. Or have your partner or family member that you were mad at not wake up the next morning. You will regret it for the rest of your life.

Always try to resolve conflict before going to bed. And if you still can't get it off your chest, pray to Kami-Sama. Recite the Tenchi Kakitsuke (Divine Reminder) or call the divine name "Konko Sama." Never go to sleep mad.

Day in and day out, give thanks for everything. Pray throughout your day for others, for yourself and even for your haters. Because in the end, it's all about the relationship you have with Kami Sama. Nothing else really matters. Establish your personal relationship with Kami-Sama who is our Life Force by connecting with Konko Daijin who is the Yoda of Konkogyo. Enhance your spirit every day. Practice faith every day by accepting all challenges as a way to strengthen your spirit. Don't live for people's approval; live a life that Kami-Sama approves.

Through becoming a Konko faith guru, you will be able to attain an inner level of happiness and gratitude that cannot be bought with money.

People tell themselves that they will be happy for the rest of their lives only if they can get that car they always wanted. Or win the Powerball lottery, or obtain other materialistic possessions. But in reality, the happiness is only short lived. Because when you are stripped of your material possessions, your sense of self-worth will be so low. Don't tie your life with tangible items. Don't let brand names and your material possession determine your self-worth. Cultivate your spirit. By cultivating the core essence of Konko, one can be happy and grateful with what they already have.

Taking vitamin supplements, and herbal remedies is useless unless your heart is grateful. I see patients trying to do all these "healthy" things thinking it'll extend their lives, like essential oils, organic foods and herbal remedies. All the while they are critical and complain about the hospital food, saying hospital food sucks. They constantly want this and that and

complain about everything and are unappreciative towards the staff. If our heart is not in balance with the heart of the Great Life Force, all our remedies will be meaningless.

There's no greater medicine than to have a grateful appreciative heart. A heart that realizes all that we are blessed with is the beginning of divine blessings.

March 11 this year will mark 10 years since the great Tohoku earthquake and tsunami in Japan. People lost everything! All they had were their lives and the dirty clothes on their backs.

There was a sake brewing company that got destroyed completely, but as the owner was checking out the general area where his factory used to be, he found a priceless item from his factory. It was a tiny glass test tube of the special yeast spores specifically used to brew his brand of sake. When he found that he was so happy. It was a glimmer of hope for him. With that tiny test tube of spores, he was able to reestablish a brand new sake brewing company with the signature taste of the sake he used to make. Tens of thousands of people lost their houses, all their possessions and even their beloved family and friends during that disaster. Ask yourself "Is my faith strong enough even during crucial times?" One will never know until that moment comes. And

of course we would never want to encounter such hardship and disasters. But the faith we practice now will help us in any given situation. Spirituality is indeed a muscle that needs to be exercised.

Let's practice faith on a daily basis; not only on Sunday mornings. Act with faith and live with faith. My mom always says, you have to be Kintaro ame no matter where you are cut. *Kintaro-ame*

is a candy that has the shape of Kintaro a Japanese folk tale character (pictured above). Wherever you cut the Kintaro candy stick, the same image is there. In other words, even when we are amongst our friends, we have to be Konko. Don't only be Konko when you step into the Hiromae worship hall. Whether we are at work, while driving, while, hanging out with friends, or out in public, we have to practice being Konko. It's even a challenge for me! But at least try to be Konko wherever you are, whomever we interact with and in whatever task we do. Even when no one is watching, practice being Konko—because Kami-Sama is our witness.

And this is where I would like to announce the Grand Ceremony that is coming up on **Tuesday, April 13 at 6:30 pm**. The Grand Ceremony is to honor and appreciate our Life Force Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama. Please attend in person or join us on Facebook Live. If attending in person, please follow the designated pandemic tier precautions. Please also RSVP by Sunday, April 11 if you will be attending in person. We would like to prepare a take-home bento for you after the service is over. By all means, make every possible effort to attend this very important service day. Dedicate this day to Kami-Sama for all the blessings we have been able to enjoy thus far. Please take care and have a wonderful month in April.

Aloha, Edna

