



# Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter



Konko Mission of Wahiawa  
207 Muliwai Avenue, Wahiawa, HI. 96786  
☎ & ☎ : (808) 621-6667 Cell: (808) 223-3448  
✉ ednakazuko@hotmail.com URL: <http://konkomissionshawaii.org/WahiawaMain.htm>



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## WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

### December 2017

- 1 Fri -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama (7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭
- 2 Sat -Chorus Group End of Year Party @ Toma's Karaoke (1:00 pm). \*Meet at HNL Church at 12:30 p.m. for prayer. -KMH Board of Trustee's Meeting at HNL (10:30 am-3pm)
- 3 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) \*Share okage till 11 am
- 7 Thur -Memorial Prayer for Mr. Tatsuyuki Kataoka and others @Waimea Beach (6:30 am leave)
- 8 Fri -Monthly Volunteer Activity at Wahiawa General Hospital LTCF (10 am-10:45 am)
- 9 Sat -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 10 Sun -Monthly Service for Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama (9am) \*Share Okage (till 11 am) 生神金光大神様 月例祭
- 16 Sat -JCCH Mochitsuki Demo at 9 am and 11 am (7 am leave to set up at JCCH)
- 17 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) \*Share okage till 11 am
- 23 Sat -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 24 Sun -45<sup>th</sup> Memorial Svc. for Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi (10 am) \*Naorai lunch will follow.
- 25 Mon-Merry Christmas! HOLIDAY
- 26 Tue -Mochi pounding at Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel (5-6 pm)
- 27 Wed-Mochi pounding at Hawaii Prince Hotel (10-11 am)
- 29 Fri -Prep for Mochitsuki \*Roll anko balls, wash rice (1 pm)
- 30 Sat -26<sup>th</sup> Annual Mochi pounding (8 am) \*Prep 7:30 am
- 31 Sun -End of the Year Service (9 am) \*Share Okage (till 11 am) 越年祭

### January 2018

- 1 Sun -Ganjitsu-sai New Year's Day Ceremony 元日祭 (9 am) -Traditional *osechi-ryori* will be served after the service

### Konko Teaching

"There is little harmony in my home. What should I do to make it harmonious?" I asked. Konko-Sama imparted, "For that, you should practice faith. For those who practice faith, it is important to keep peace in the family. Think that you can gain something from everything. To endure is most important. This is based on not quarreling. If you and your family keep this in mind and practice faith, you will all receive divine blessings for everything." (Gorikai I Saito Sōjiro 17)

**Editor's thoughts:** Family harmony is not a given. It takes effort. It means to accept each other for who they are and acknowledge their bad habits. It means to give thanks to each other for even those simple things they may do for the household, like the laundry, cooking, washing the dishes, and simply existing in good health. There will be harmony if we can be more grateful.

## 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.

## 45<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service for the Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi

**Date:** Sunday, December 24, 2017 @10:00 a.m.

**Place:** Konko Mission of Wahiawa

**Sermon:** Rev. Dr. Todd Zenji Takahashi

Let's honor, appreciate and remember the Founder of the Wahiawa Church by attending this important service in time and in person. Rev. Haruko Takahashi has laid down the foundations of this church. Her Mitama spirit continues to shower us with her love. Let's celebrate this 45<sup>th</sup> Memorial. All is invited. Naorai lunch will follow.



## New Year's Mochi Pounding

**Date:** Saturday, December 30, 2017

**Time:** Prep @ 7:30 am. Pounding @ 8:30 am.

Mochi pick-up time is from 3pm-6pm

**Memo:** Big Help needed!!

People to pound, fire-watch, cut the mochi, mochi shapers, and packers. Bring your family and friends☺. Lunch provided



to helpers. Your help is greatly appreciated. Mahalo nui in advance!! All mochi orders due by **December 26<sup>th</sup>**. If you have cardboard juice trays, please bring! Thank you!



The 20th Memorial Service for the Late Rev. Kikue Kodama was held at the Konko Mission of Honolulu. Rev. Kikue Kodama was the 2nd Head Minister of Honolulu Church. The Rev. Michiyoshi Yasutake of Amagi Church officiated the ceremony.



### Happy Birthday

To all the people born in the month of December!

Please continue to receive  
Infinite divine blessings from  
Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama  
Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama



Nicholas Furusho  
Aaliyah Perreira  
Kiana Yamamoto

Kimberly Suwa  
Delilah Perreira  
Bruce Yamamoto

## Ganjitsu-sai/Hatsumode New Year's Day Service!!

**Monday, January 1, 2018 @9 am**

Let's start this New Year on the right track by coming to this service as a family. Let's pray for a safe year in 2018.

\*Traditional Osechi New Year's cuisine will be served after the service.



100th Anniversary of Konko Church of Kawanoishi, Ehime, Japan 11/12/17



Rev. Yasuhiro Yano visited the Konko Church of Kawanoishi in Ehime, Japan on November 12 to celebrate the 100th Year Anniversary since its founding. Congratulations Kawanoishi Church! This is Yano Sensei's native church in Ehime. Currently, the 5th generation sensei, the Rev. Michiteru Hosaka is the head minister of Kawanoishi Church. We pray for their continued spiritual services in their community and prosperity of their church.

### Konko Teachings

If you practice faith, you should not say bad things even idly. What you say will come true. You should be careful when you scold your children. You should not scold them by telling them they are fools or that they should not do such stupid things. You should tell them they are good, and because of this should not do bad things. Children will be good and will not do bad things when they think on their own. However, if they have been told that they are fools, they will do bad things because they think they are fools. When they don't listen to you after all your efforts, pinch their bottoms without verbally chastising them. *(Gorikai III Jinkyu Kyogoroku 164)*

Everyone knows the names and causes of illnesses, but no one knows the cause of receiving divine blessings. You should seek the cause of divine blessings, instead of the cause of illnesses. *(Gorikai III Jinkyu Kyogoroku 34)*

## Editor's Note

Dear Reader,



I hope this December children's newsletter finds you in peace and happiness. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving! I certainly did!

I cannot stress how much we take our good health and happy days for granted—unless we fall ill, get into accidents or other tragic things happen in life. Giving thanks on a daily basis is like holding a cane of support before we even fall.

Just recently, I had an epiphany of the true nature of Kami-Sama and what divine blessings are. Although I know Kami-Sama in theory, there was no better way to explain Kami's existence and power. The power of our thoughts is what activates Kami's workings. Kami is energy in scientific perspective. Energy is an existence. It always was, and it always will be there. We are surrounded by energy. And through practicing faith, we can learn to harness this Universal energy.

Someone who is trying to practice faith in Kami may say, "Kami cannot hear my prayers" when things are not going their way. Sadness, depression, anxiety, hopelessness are all thoughts that resonate with the negative wavelengths and frequencies of the Universe. By keeping these thoughts constantly, we will be bombarded with negative divine blessings.

In Japanese, Okage (divine blessings) means shadow (Kage). The thoughts we harbor in our hearts will grasp the okage energy wavelengths that free flow throughout the Universe. Think positive thoughts, and our shadow will be positive. Think negative thoughts, and our shadow will be negative.

Kami is absolute fairness. This energy does not discriminate against anything. It doesn't care what faith you believe in. This divine energy is like a radio transmitter that transmits divine blessings of astronomical variety.

When you want to listen to classical music, you are in that mindset. Then you tune into the radio station that plays classical music, and you can enjoy its music. Our thoughts are exactly the same. We are like walking radios. When we are in a happy mood, our antennas are catching radio waves of the happy channel. And when that happens, you will receive divine blessings of that channel. That's why good things happen to happy people.

I also notice this with generous people. People who always give their time as well as gifts, get back much more from the Universe. That's because their thoughts are on the channel of giving. So when you give with good intentions, Kami, the Universal Energy also gives.

In trying to explain the concept of Kami and practicing faith to someone, this person said, "Kami cannot hear me. I am practicing faith, yet I am sad, lonely, depressed and anxious. I have no stable job, my car broke down, my spouse left me, etc." And that's when I realized...Oh my God! This is it! I told that person, "You ARE receiving a ton of divine blessings!!!" I got so excited. In a state of zero appreciation, in a state of constantly being sad, depressed, lonely and anxious—Kami, the Universal Energy granted exactly what has been held with conviction in the heart. We cannot blame Kami; we can only hold our hearts accountable for the feedback we got from the Universal Energy.

I told this person, "Imagine the kinds of divine blessings you'd receive if you are happy, full of gratitude, care and consideration. Instead of feeling upset that the car broke down, take this time to thank your car for the many miles it has driven you. Instead of complaining about what you don't have, give thanks for what you still have. I'm sure you have clothes to wear, food to eat, house to live in, air to breathe, clean water to drink, have a smart phone and internet to communicate, etc." When times get difficult, we just need someone to remind us of blessings. And that's where the church or temple plays a big role in redirecting our hearts to catch the good channel of divine blessings.

Divine blessings (Okage) are not necessarily good things every time. Some divine blessings are absolutely undesirable.

But divine blessings are just a feedback of the thoughts we hold in our heart. Sometimes these negative divine blessings act as a lesson to strengthen ourselves. Sometimes when we hit rock bottom, that's when the good life begins to sprout. I strongly recommend you to practice faith before you hit rock bottom, so you won't

have to experience such a thing. In any case, we need to be thankful, because the blessings are definitely there—right under our noses, whether you noticed them or not.

Listening to good music, watching great movies, reading inspiring books, encountering kind people, experiencing laughter, going to fun places, being mindful of blessings we already have, eating delicious foods, going to church, and praying are all great ways to tune into the channel of desirable divine blessings. Do yourself a favor by thinking positive, even if you have to force yourself at times. And I can guarantee, your life will begin to change spontaneously into the direction you desire.

It is through this recent epiphany that the Divine Reminder received by our Founder Ikigami Konko Daijin makes more sense than it did a month ago. And it goes like this: *Pray sincerely with all your heart. Be one with Kami. Kami's blessings begin within hearts grateful and caring, in harmony and joy. Look to Kami always, now and forever; on this very day, pray.*

December is a month full of events! In Japanese, December is also called, "*Shimatsu*," meaning that even the temple monks run amok because they're so busy.

Then we have Rev. Haruko Takahashi's 45<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> from 10 am. She passed away on (December 24, 1972). Let us honor and remember this amazing sensei, who established our church in Wahiawa. Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> will be our church End of the Year Service at 9 am. We hope you can join us to close the year properly with a prayer of thanks to Kami-Sama for all the blessings we received for the year. On Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, we'll hold our 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Mochitsuki at our church from 8 am. Prep starts from 7:30 am. We will need lots of help, and manpower! It's gonna be busy, but very fun. It's an event that I look forward to every year. Thank you for everything, 2017! It has been a great year! Wishing you a Happy Holiday Season! Looking forward to a great year in 2018! Come to our New Year's Day Service @9am! *Aloha, Edna*

Everything that's around you  
right now in your life  
(including the things you're  
complaining about),  
you've attracted.

– Joe Vitale

