



Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter



Konko Mission of Wahiawa
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WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

December 2018

- 1 Sat -**Monthly Service 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 till 11 am
- 7 Fri -Memorial Prayer for Mr. Tatsuyuki Kataoka and others
@Waimea Beach (6:30 am leave)
-Monthly Volunteer Activity at Wahiawa General
Hospital LTCF (10 am-10:45 am)
- 8 Sat -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 9 Sun -**Monthly Service for Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama (9am)**
*Share Okage (till 11 am) 生神金光大神様 月例祭
- 14 Fri -Chorus Group End of Year Party @ Toma's Karaoke
(1:00 pm). *Meet at HNL Church at 12:30 p.m. for prayer.
- 15 Sat -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 16 Sun -**46th Memorial Svc. for Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi**
(10 am) *Naorai lunch will follow.
- 22 Sat -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 23 Sun -**End of the Year Service (9 am) *Share Okage (till 11 am)**
越年祭
- 25 Tue -Merry Christmas! HOLIDAY
- 26 Wed -Mochi pounding at Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel (5-6 pm)
- 27 Thr -Mochi pounding at Hawaii Prince Hotel (10-11 am)
- 29 Sat -Prep for Mochitsuki *Roll anko balls, wash rice (1 pm)
- 30 Sun -27th Annual Mochi pounding (8 am) *Prep 7:30 am
- 31 Mon -Church clean-up (9 am)

January 2019

- 1 Tue -**Ganjitsu-sai New Year's Day Ceremony 元日祭 (9 am)**
-Traditional *ozoni* and *osechi-ryori* food after the service
- 4 Fri -Mochi pounding at Ritz Carlton Waikiki Hotel (10-11 am)
- 6 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Okage sharing (till 11 am)

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

Tuesday, January 1, 2019 @9:00 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 2019.

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



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.

46th Memorial Service for the Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi

Date: Sunday, December 16, 2018 @10:00 a.m.

Place: Konko Mission of Wahiawa

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 46th Memorial. All is invited. Naorai lunch will follow.



New Year's Mochi Pounding

Date: Sunday, December 30, 2018

Time: Prep @ 7:30 am. Pounding @ 8:30 am.
Mochi pick-up time is from 3 pm-6 pm

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 Thur. 12/20. If you have cardboard juice trays, please bring! Thank you!





Konko Mission of Wahiawa

80th Anniversary
Sun., 3/15/2020
Save the date!

Our Mini Bazaar and Rummage Sale held on November 3rd was a great success! Thank you for your generous donations of goods and for helping with this event.



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 Ferreira
Chad Hiromasa
Kiana Yamamoto

Kimberly Suwa
Delilah Crosby
Fong Yip
Bruce Yamamoto



Konko Teachings

Divine blessings can be received if you are determined to receive them through your own heart. So even when others criticize you, don't let it trouble your heart. Perform your work honestly, and receive divine blessings. It is you, not other people who must practice faith.

(Gorikai II Morimoto Nobu 1)



When western umbrellas came into fashion, Konko-Sama said, "Don't try to be the first to have a western umbrella. If your body is dressed up in fine clothes, your heart will be in rags. Dress your heart in brocade. And dress your body in cheap but strong material, instead of expensive but weak material." (Gorikai II Namba Ko 16)



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! Pumpkin crunch is my favorite dessert for Thanksgiving. My husband is the master baker of our household and he made a whole pan of this soul satisfying treat this year. What is your favorite dish or dessert for Thanksgiving?

Just recently during our regular Sunday Service after Thanksgiving, I had a vision come to my heart from the altar as I was conducting the service. "Look forward to the future," was the message I could sense. As I had my eyes closed for the silent prayer, I can see an enormous glowing flower bud coming up from under our church. This flower bud was at least a meter in diameter. Another message I received in this brief moment was that the seed that was planted by the Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi had been nurtured for 78 years. It was nurtured by all the ministers, members and friends who ever had connections to this church. And this most stunningly beautiful flower is about to bloom magnificently. It was a bit hard trying to draw the mystical flower using a computer mouse, but it wasn't impossible. The flower bud you see here on this page is the image I saw.

I am not sure in what way it will bloom, but this was most certainly an auspicious sign that I received for our church. I immediately told this to the congregation and jotted this episode in my journal. Perhaps it has something to do with our church's 80th Anniversary Celebration in two years.

The date has already been set to **Sunday, March 15, 2020**. The service will be conducted at the Konko Mission of Wahiawa. For any church or temple to remain open is no easy task. Countless people from the past and present contributed in some way to add on to the continuing history of our church. Whether it would be through helping out with our annual mochi poundings, donating items for our garage sales and showing up at various church events and services, all contribute to adding life to our church.

A church is a living organism. Ministers and church members must cooperate in mutual interdependence to sustain its life and regularly nurture the roots of its existence.

We may not have a large congregation that fills every seat during Sunday Service, but we have a cozy family-like congregation that continues to hold steady.

Again, the seed that was planted years ago has been nurtured for so long. The roots of this plant anchor itself deep into the soil of Wahiawa. A beautiful flower is going to bloom soon. And I am very excited.

Up to this point in 2018, I can say I had a great year in blessedness. The day to day blessings we receive feel so miraculous. I mean everything. When I travel on the freeway, I think of all the other drivers, and I am amazed how Kami-Sama keeps us all alive and coordinated in our driving. It means that the drivers' brain and body function right, and the car also works properly. And majority of the times we arrive safely to our destinations. Just recently I had two close-calls in our neighborhood. I was driving back to Wahiawa and the car coming from the opposite direction was driving slowly and swerving right into my direction as if it were going to crash head

on to me. I swerved to the right, almost onto the sidewalk just to get out of her way. I am not sure if she was drugged, drunk or had a health issue, but she seemed to be in the zombie state. And just a couple days ago too, on the same street, I had another similar encounter. This time it was a male driver who also looked like a zombie driver, and he was driving slowly yet dangerously. I had to swerve to the right for safety as well. I could clearly see that his eyes were not focused on driving at all. He looked like he was half sleeping. It was very dangerous for both situations.

As we all should know by now, texting or using your cell phone/smart phone while driving is illegal in our state. 38 states have banned cell phone use while driving and 47 states have banned texting while driving. I see many drivers still using their smart phones while driving. Even on the freeway! Driving is already a big task for our body and brain to coordinate and concentrate on. Adding in texting will increase the risks for accidents.

We have to receive divine blessings for everything. No matter how careful of a driver we try to be, if another driver on the same road is driving recklessly, there is nothing we can do. That is why I pray in my car before heading off. It's a brief two second prayer. I just clasp my hands together and say, "Konko-Sama, Onegai-shimasu." It is best translated as, "Konko-Sama, I place myself in your care."

With too many unknown factors, there is no telling if or when we will be involved in accidents. The holiday season is especially risky with an increase in motorists on the road, as well as intoxicated drivers. So we not only have to be vigilant, we have to hold fast to our faith as well.

When I say that brief prayer, I feel like Kami-Sama is helping me behind the wheel, and it also feels like the road will be safer.

When I arrive at my destination safely, I put my hands together and say, "Arigato gozaimasu Konko-Sama (Thank you)" because arriving safely at our destinations is a huge blessing. The way our brain coordinates with our body to drive a car is unbelievably miraculous, but it's so mundane to most people, we take this blessing for granted. So giving appreciation to Kami-Sama for the safe drive is essential.

I challenge you to add that into your daily faith practice. Pray before going for a drive, and give thanks after. Nothing difficult, but it may take practice to incorporate into your regular habits.

December is a month full of events! We will have the Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi's 46th Memorial Service on Sunday, December 16th 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 23rd 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 Sunday, December 30th, we'll hold our 27th 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, 2018! It has been a great year! Wishing you a Happy Holiday Season! Looking forward to a great year in 2019! Come to our New Year's Day Service @9am!

Aloha, Edna



TEXTING WHILE DRIVING



TRIPLES
THE RISK OF CRASH