



Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter



Konko Mission of Wahiawa
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July 2023, Volume 31

WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

**All services will also be streamed on Facebook Live*

July 2023

- 1 Sat -KMH Beach Clean-up and BBQ event at Haleiwa Ali'i Beach Park, next to Haleiwa Jodo (10 am to 2 pm)
- 2 Sun -**Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama (9 am) 天地金乃神様 月例祭 *Share Okage till 11 am**
- 4 Tue -Independence Day HOLIDAY!
-Shingyō Kikan (Intensive Faith Practice Period till 7/31)
- 5 Wed -KMH ZOOM Kyoten Study Group Session (5 pm)
- 7 Fri -Volunteer Activity at St. Francis (10:30 am)
-Tanabata Star Festival 
-Church clean-up (9 am)
- 9 Sun -**Monthly Svc. for Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin (9 am) 生神金光大神様 月例祭 *Share Okage till 11 am**
- 10 Mon -HCRP Mtg on ZOOM (6:30 pm to 7:30 pm)
- 15 Sat -Hawaii Gunpla Workshop at HNL Church (12 noon to 6 pm)
-KMH Minister's Gathering on ZOOM (2-4 pm)
- 16 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Share Okage till 11 am
- 19 Wed -KMH ZOOM Kyoten Study Group Session (5 pm)
- 21 Fri -Church clean-up (9 am)
-KMH CEOC Meeting on ZOOM (3 pm)
- 22 Sat -6th KMH/KCNA Joint MWSS on ZOOM (10 am to 12 noon)
- 23 Sun -**Monthly Mem. 月例霊祭 Svc & Back to School Svc. (9 am)**
- 29 Sat -Ehimemaru Memorial Clean-up (9 am)
- 30 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Share Okage till 11 am
- 31 Mon -Church clean-up (9 am)

August 2023

- 1 Tue -**Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama (7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭**
- 4 Fri -Volunteer Activity at St. Francis (10:30 am)
- 5 Sat -KMH Board of Trustees Mtg at HNL (10:30 am)
- 6 Sun -KMH Rotary Hanashikai on ZOOM Host: Wailuku (10:30 am)

Konko Daijin's teachings...

Be prudent. Any undertaking, even a small one will be considered successful if it continues over a long period of time. Even a narrow road is advantageous if it becomes wider by being traveled on frequently. So don't let grass grow on your road. *(Gorikai III Konko Kyoso Gorikai 84)*

Editor's thoughts: How true. This Konko teaching emphasizes the importance of prudence and perseverance, recognizing that even small undertakings can achieve success when approached with careful consideration and continued effort over time. It highlights the value of continuity, illustrating that even a narrow road can become advantageous through frequent travel. Additionally, the teaching encourages individuals to remain vigilant and proactive, not allowing obstacles to hinder their progress. By embodying these principles, individuals can make thoughtful decisions, sustain long-term commitment, and foster personal growth, ultimately striving for success and fulfillment in their lives.

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.

BACK TO SCHOOL SERVICE

Date: Sunday, July 23, 2023 @9:00 a.m.

Who: For students and teachers

Memo: Sensei will offer your forms and pray for your academic success for the whole year.




Hawaii Gunpla Workshop
Sat. 7.15.23
12 noon to 6 pm
Hosted by Clayton Matsuoka & Michi's Toy Box
Konko Mission of Honolulu
1728 Liliha Street
#hawaiigunplaworkshop

Come join us for another fun Gunpla Workshop At Honolulu Church



3rd KMH ZOOM Gathering 2023

*Konko Sama, Arigato Gozaimasu:
In Commemoration of the 140th
Memorial Year of Our Founder*

Date: Saturday, September 2, 2023

Time: 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Speaker: Rev. Koichi Konko
(Head Minister: Konko Mission of Honolulu)

ZOOM ID: 813 0406 1344

Passcode: 178619

Below is the schedule

- 1:00 pm -Open the ZOOM room
- 1:30 pm -Opening remarks
-Prayer
- 1:40 pm -Speech by Rev. Koichi Konko
- 2:00 pm -Q&A session
- 2:10 pm -Break out into groups
- 2:40 pm -Come back to the main room
-Group report till 2:55 pm
- 2:55 pm -Closing remarks and prayer
- 3:00 pm -End

Please register by Sunday, August 27, 2023
Email: ednakazuko@hotmail.com or text: 808-223-3448

Konko Mission of Wahiawa Annual Schedule for 2023

- 8/5 Sat -KMH Board of Trustees Meeting (10:30 am to 3 pm)
- 8/6 Sun -KMH Rotary Hanashikai Wailuku host ZOOM (10:30 am)
- 8/27 Sun -50th Mem Svc for Late Rev. Masayuki Kodama (10 am)
- 9/2 Sat -KMH ZOOM Gathering (1:30 p to 3 pm)
- 9/17 Sun -Honolulu Church Autumn Memorial Svc (10 am)
- 9/24 Sun -Wahiawa Church Autumn Memorial Service (10 am)
- 10/1 Sun -Honolulu Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
-Rev. Sugako Yoshino's 1-year Mem Svc (in conjunction)
- 10/8 Sun -140th Memorial for Ikigami Konko Daijin at Headquarters
- 10/13 Fri -Wahiawa Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (6 pm)
- 10/15 Sun -Waipahu Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
- 10/22 Sun -HCRP Peace Prayer TBD (4 pm)
- 11/5 Sun -Wailuku Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
- 11/18 Sat -KMH 3rd Yatsunami Gathering on Zoom (3-4:30 pm)
- 11/26 Sun -26th Mem. Svc for Late Rev. Kikue Kodama @HNL (10 a)
- 12/2 Sat -KMH Board of Trustees Mtg @HNL (10:30 am to 3 pm)
- 12/9 Sat -KMH Head Minister's Mtg (10:30 am) @HNL Church
- 12/17 Sun -51st Memorial Svc for Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi (10 am)
- 12/24 Sun -End of the Year Service (9 am)
- 12/30 Sat -32nd Annual Mochi Pounding at Wahiawa Church (8 am)



Happy Birthday

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



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

Rev. Yasuhiro Yano
Rev. Dr. Leon Webber
Brent Abe
Jordan Yamamoto

Rev. Megumi Yano
Alan Katsura
Neal Abe
Clayton Matsuoka

Enjoy our Japan Trip Pictures!



Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

Happy July! We are officially past the halfway point of the year. We made it till this day safely, through divine blessings of Kami-Sama. I went to Japan in June with my husband and two of his dedicated karate students, Sheri and Noel. It was their high school graduation present. We traveled throughout Japan for a total of 12 days. We went to Fukuoka, Okayama, Hiroshima, Osaka, Kyoto, Tokyo and Yokohama. This was a trip we had been carefully planning since 2018. We were originally supposed to go in the year 2020 when the 2 girls graduated from high school. But the pandemic put our plans to a halt. Thankfully, we were able to go this year. I personally thought it was better to go this year because we couldn't wait any further to go to the motherland—due to the pandemic blank. My husband was especially having Japan withdrawals LOL!

I would like to thank everyone who prayed for our safe journey and the blessings of the Life Force and the Mitama Spirits of our ancestors who were always watching out for us. I want to give a special thanks to the Konko Mission of Wahiawa for sponsoring our JR rail passes, so we could travel throughout Japan. With the gift of the rail passes, our assignment was to visit the Konko Church of Amagi in Fukuoka, and the Konkokyo Headquarters in Okayama.

When we got to the Headquarters, I had everyone give their own Otodoke Toritsugi Mediation to Konko-Sama. The Rev. Kiyoji Konko was sitting at the mediation desk (Okekai). He listened to each of us so sincerely and intently. He was able to talk with everyone in English, and we each had the opportunity to mediate our prayers with him. I believe it was a powerful experience. Every time I go to the Headquarters, I receive so much energy from the place. It is indeed my ultimate power-spot in Japan. And I was so happy that I was able to show everyone around the sacred grounds.

The 4 of us had non-negotiable items on our to-do and to-go list. And we were all able to go to all the important ones on each person's list, so that was a blessing in itself. For example, I wanted to go visit Amagi Church, Gohonbu, Kawanishi Church and Tokyo Church. My husband wanted to visit all 3 major Gundam hubs in Fukuoka, Odaiba and Yokohama. Sheri wanted to visit the Rabbit Island (Okunoshima), Rabbit Tail Pet shop, Rabbit Shrine (Okazaki Jinja in Kyoto) and the Natto Restaurant in Shimokitazawa, Tokyo. Noel wanted to visit the Rock Star Café in Osaka, Hard Rock Café at Universal Studios Osaka and also the Natto Restaurant. Being able to go to the places we want to go to may seem like a given, but it's really not. We can only do so because we were blessed physically, mentally, emotionally and financially. There are so many other factors that enables us to do the things we wish to do, like the weather, modes of transportation, the condition of the sea for the ferry, etc.

Actually, one day before our trip to Japan, my mom was worried that there was going to be a huge earthquake in Japan, because seismic activity was increasing throughout the country, and also because of a prediction made by a renown fortune teller in Japan who also correctly predicted prior catastrophic events. I thought it was a joke, but when I looked online, there were several different people saying the same thing, that on June 3rd there will be a catastrophic earthquake in the Kyushu region—which happened to be the region we were going to land. But of course I prayed to Kami-Sama and hoped that our trip was going to be just fine. Thankfully, there was no earthquake. We even dodged a very strong typhoon that landed in Japan a day before we reached there. I feel that Kami-Sama is

always on our side to guide, protect and comfort us. I am just so thankful that we were able to go on this trip in good health and return home safely in one piece. There is just so much to share of our trip, but this time, I'll have Noel, Sheri and Clayton share their experiences of Japan.



By Noel Sniffen: Going to Japan was no doubt an amazing experience! This being my first time out of the U.S, I found myself mesmerized by all the different sights, the sound of native wildlife, tastes of foods, and the culture of Japan.

My absolute favorite activity my gang participated in is definitely going to the Rockstar Café based in Osaka. Being a reptile enthusiast and someone that wants to keep some as pets in the future, I was in heaven. They had a wide variety ranging from two different species of tegus, a blue tongued skink, a bunch of snakes, leopard geckos, basilisks, plated lizards, and even free roaming iguanas. Getting the chance to interact with reptiles has been a life's dream for me, particularly tegus.

We also got to check out another branch of the Rockstar Cafe which had small animals such as rats, groundhogs, rabbits, chinchillas, mice, ferrets, and even meerkats along with so much more. I never expected to see so many species in one place that we could interact with! Being in Hawaii, we never really get to see those types of animals which made things unique.

Next up has got to be the food. Being someone that loves all things noodles, I was so excited to try ramen and udon straight from Japan. I was not disappointed. In fact, I've gotten hooked on tempura udon because of this trip! Omurice was also something I tried during lunch, and it turned out better than I'd imagined it to. It was a great savory dish that I hope to learn to make at home. Onto the desserts, Hokkaido milk ice cream is killer in the best of ways! It's like French vanilla, but better.

Visiting Hiroshima's peace park and museum, although somber in tone, was also educational. The horrifying reality of the bombing of Hiroshima is communicated through various pictures both real and drawn along with items from those who passed.

Although overwhelming at times, I found riding trains, buses, and the shinkansen interesting. As Oahu only has a bus system and the upcoming Rail, the variety of ways to get around in Japan struck me. It makes sense since this country has pretty significant foot traffic (especially in Tokyo...)

I'm grateful to have gotten the chance to visit this beautiful country with some of the people I love. My gratitude goes to all those that helped us go on this trip such as the rail passes from Konko Mission of Wahiawa, monetary donations from both friends and family, tips on how to acclimate to the social norms up in Japan, and also wholesome moral support. This trip has been the best vacation I've ever taken!



By Sherilyn Matsuoka: First and foremost, I'd like to thank Edna and Sensei Clay for curating our trip to Japan.

I felt confident and comfortable in their guidance while we explored Japan and all its essence, from the lovely people we met through Edna, to learning more about Japan's rich history!

Walking the busy stations and streets I found it to be a bit overwhelming, and as such—also found it to be quite difficult to keep up. However, every day was lively and exciting!

The first place we visited in Fukuoka was the Konko Church of Amagi, and it was a pleasure to meet Rev. Michiko Yasutake!

She was so sweet and it was an honor to be blessed by her. We also visited the Konko Headquarters! Here, we gave our prayers to Kami and our ancestors in Japan, and also confided in Rev. Kiyoji for a personal prayer.

It was also so generous of Edna and Sensei Clay to give my sister a shared sum of their blessed rice :) (Goshinmai). Edna gave us a tour of the Headquarters and told us about her time there when she was training to become a minister.

On this trip I was also able to meet up with my high school pen pals (Sakura and Kou). Together we all visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. That day, it also happened to be overcast and rainy...but despite learning about all the heartache at the desolation and loss of lives, the park symbolizes eternal peace and tranquility. In addition, visiting Miyajima was also serene, taking a walk on the sands with a bit of drizzle to the Torii gate was so calming. It was amazing to be able to spend a whole day with Sakura and Kou again! They also took us to eat authentic Hiroshima okonomiyaki, and it was so ono! In fact, all the food I ate in Japan was so delicious, having Japanese food in Hawaii cannot compare, especially how much cheaper it was.

In Hiroshima, we also went to Rabbit Island, and it was so adorable! While there weren't as many rabbits as I thought there were going to be, we still had a wonderful time there and enjoyed Hokkaido milk ice cream with (rabbit poop. Aka chocolate balls). The rabbits were not a fan of cucumbers, so we gave them to Edna's good friend Mikako's mother who made a comforting and delicious home cooked meal (The best karaage chicken and homemade chawanmushi!).

Other rabbit related places we visited were The Okazaki shrine, and the Rabbit Tail Ebisu store for my Moch :)

In addition, Mikako (at Kawanishi Church) brought back Osaka's famous jiggly cheesecake (Uncle Rikkuro's), so plush, like a cloud! (I wish I had eaten a bigger piece!). Her birthday was a day before mine, so I suppose this was our birthday cake xD. Mikako also spoke a bit of English, and both her and her mother were so sweet and welcoming.

We also accidentally went to the wrong Rock Star Cafe (Small Animal), we originally intended to see the reptile one for Noel (Her reptile heaven; she was blessed with a Tegu poop!). I wanted to hold a tarantula, but it was not available to handle- so I bought an air-dried tarantula snack for around \$24, but it's their No. 1, so it must be good!

Going to Japan's Universal Studios was also a huge eye opener. I have never been to something so huge, nor have I been on a roller coaster, and so riding the Flying Dinosaur in particular was so bizarre! It really felt like I was picked up and put into the air by a pterodactyl! The Super Nintendo World also felt so surreal, a sensory overload! The architecture is spot on, it really did feel like I was in another world!

Enough with my rambling, but I would also like to mention that our last lunch in Japan (well...just Edna, Noel, and I. Sensei Clay HATES natto) was a specialty natto restaurant in Shimokitazawa! And if you could finish your two types of natto choices, you could order two more, but the "small" bowl of rice just made me so full. I wanted to try all the natto varieties!

We also couldn't get to all these amazing places without the help of Edna's Church (Konko Mission of Wahiawa) for proving us so generously with our rail passes!

By Clayton Matsuoka: I've been asked to write an article about our trip to Japan and I'm betting most of you think that the first emotion I felt getting off the plane was EXCITEMENT!! Well, you'd be wrong! The first emotion that I felt was relief. Not because we didn't crash, but because we finally got my two karate students to Japan. Why so much relief for bringing them to Japan you ask? Well, because it's taken 4 years for this trip to happen. The girls worked really hard to earn money towards the trip by



helping out with church activities and getting donations from friends, but the pandemic put a stop to all of our plans. We've had to wait years to finally see Japan with them. Thankfully, we had a safe trip and now it's time to give you all a short review of what we were up to in Japan.

Fukuoka was our first stop. The first place we visited was Amagi Church, where we were just minutes away from missing Oyasensei. Thankfully we didn't miss him and had a chance to say hello to him. We then talked to Ookusama for a little while. After that, it was time to visit the Nu Gundam! I've been waiting years to see it and it's absolutely huge. The cute animal café in the mall served as a nice animal break for everyone. Noel held her first bearded lizard ever there! At that point, I knew the rest of the trip was just going to be the frosting on the cake for her.

The next day, we headed to Okayama and Hiroshima. We of course made a stop to Gohonbu to visit the main church there. We had a chance to speak to Rev. Kiyoji Konko and do Otodoke (Mediation).

In Hiroshima, Sheri was happy to finally see her pen pals again from high school. We met at the Atomic Bomb Dome, and we toured Hiroshima, the Atomic Bomb Museum, and Miyajima with them. Hiroshima has the best okonomiyaki by far! The next day, we went to Sheri's dream island. Also known as Okunoshima Island. Bunnies all over the place. Perfect for Sheri.

Osaka and Kyoto was the next destination. With it came Universal Studios Japan! But before that, we stopped in to see Mikako and her mother at Kawanishi Church for dinner. Her mom made her awesome karaage again! This time though, I was ready with a plushie from a claw game in exchange. We had a great time there hanging out for the night.

The next day, we were ready for Universal Studios. We headed straight to the timed entry for Super Mario World which I desperately wanted to see with my own eyes. After getting the entry, Edna suggested we do a nice and easy-looking rollercoaster...It wasn't as nice or as easy as we first thought. It was way faster than the other rides we had been on in the past, but it was really fun. Then we got into Super Nintendo World. It's just like being in the video game. We ate lunch at Kinopio's Café, which I also really wanted to do and tried their really tasty food and drinks.

Our last stop of course is Tokyo! We stayed in Akihabara which is the best area to be in. So many fun things to do like go shopping for stuff (Gundam!), play UFO games and eat interesting desserts. We also visited Ikebukuro, Shimokitazawa and Yokohama in the last few days. It was a wonderful trip and I hope the girls had the time of their lives. Thank you to everyone for the help and support to make this trip possible!

Our Back-to-School Service will be held on Sunday, July 23 at 9:00 am. It's almost time to go back to school! Let's pray for a safe and blessed new school year for all teachers and students. Have a wonderful 4th of July and enjoy the remaining days of your summer break!

Sincerely, Edna

