



# Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter



Konko Mission of Wahiawa  
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November 2015, Volume 23, No. 263

## WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

### November 2015

- 1 Sun -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama (9 am) 天地金乃神様 月例祭 \*Share Okage
- 7 Sat -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 8 Sun -Monthly Service for Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama (9am) \*Share Okage (till 11 am) 生神金光大神様 月例祭 -Hilo Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
- 11 Wed -Veteran's Day Holiday!
- 12 Thu -Rev. Reiko Yano will stay at Honolulu Church while Rev. Koichi Konko is in Japan (till 11/14)
- 15 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) \*Share Okage (till 11 am) -Rev. Edna Yano will be speaking at the Wahiawa Hongwanji Temple on, "Gratitude and how it can affect our health in a positive way" (9 am)
- 20 Fri -Monthly Volunteer Activity at Wahiawa General Hospital LTCF (10 am-10:45 am)
- 21 Sat -Church clean-up (9 am) -Chorus practice at HNL Church (2-4 pm)
- 22 Sun -Monthly Memorial Service (9 am) 月例霊祭 \*Share Okage (till 11 am) -Welcome luncheon for Revs. Drs. Leon & Linda Webber Visiting from Alaska with family (till 1:30 pm)
- 23 Mon-HCRP Meeting at Palolo Kwannonji Temple (11:30 am)
- 26 Thu -Happy Thanksgiving! HOLIDAY
- 28 Sat -KMH Board of Trustees Meeting at Honolulu Church (10:30 am-3:30 pm)
- 29 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) \*Share Okage (till 11 am)
- 30 Mon-Church clean-up (9 am)

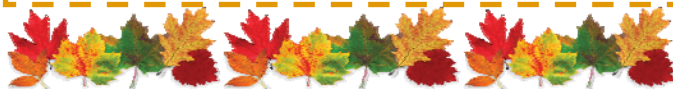
### December 2015

- 1 Tue -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama (7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭 \*Share Okage (till 11 am)
- 6 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) \*Share Okage (till 11 am)

## 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.



## HCRP Peace Prayer 10/25/2015 @Gedatsu



Rev. Yasuhiro Yano, President of the Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace gives the greeting. Rev. Dr. Todd Zenji Takahashi was the keynote speaker (center). Rev. Edna Yano represents the Konkokyo faith tradition during the prayer and delivered a micro sermon.

**Konko Sama says...**people talk about great blessings, but blessings are merely the shadows cast by the sincerity of each person. Therefore, if you show great sincerity towards Kami, you can receive great blessings. You cannot receive great divine blessings with a little sincerity. The shadow cast by sincerity will follow the shape of sincerity. (GIII Jinkyu Kyogoroku 21)

**Editor's thoughts:** The more love and care you forward to someone, the more it will return to you. The opposite can be said. A person who is mean to others will also have it come back to them. It's the law of attraction. Great blessings are a cause of great sincerity.



## Konko Mission of Wahiawa Annual Schedule for 2015

- 12/11 Fri -WGH Monthly Visit (10 am)
- 12/13 Sun -Rev. Haruko Takahashi's 43<sup>rd</sup> Memorial Svc. (10 am)
- 12/23 Wed -Rev. Fumio Yasutake's 20<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service at Amagi
- 12/27 Sun -End of the Year Service (9 am)
- 12/30 Wed -Wahiawa Church Mochi Pounding (8 am)

### Edna's Japan Trip 2015



Edna is in the Autumn Grand Ceremony at the Headquarters 10/10/15



We visit the Konkokyo Tokyo Church and the Meiji Jingu



### Happy Birthday

To all the people born in the month of November!

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

**Doreen Hirota**  
**Sharon Toma**  
**Merle Abe**

**Philip Oliveros**  
**Jensen Toma**  
**Lyann Makishima**

### Autumn Grand Ceremony 4/13/15



### Halloween Pumpkin Carving 10/30/15



## Editor's Note

Dear Reader, I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and overall wellbeing. October was a very busy month for me. One day before my Japan trip (10/2), my parents and I visited the Honouliuli National Monument with several other religious leaders through special arrangements by the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. This was the second time that I went to Honouliuli. **Ms. Betsy Young**, one of our tour guides from JCCH explained about the camp in detail and shared some pictures and poems of the internees. To the right, Betsy is holding a picture of rings, hand crafted by the internees. They are made of plastic toothbrushes. It was a surreal experience once again. I am glad that the actual location of the camp was disclosed to the public. So many untold stories remain of this place. It is our prayer that the wounds of the past will gradually heal and such things will never happen again in history. Eventually, a visitor's center will be built at that location.

The following day, I went to Japan. I had quite an adventure going to Japan with my boyfriend, **Clayton** and his family. It was their first time going to Japan and I was invited to tag along and help with translation. I was spoiled to the max from the beginning to the end of this trip. This is the first time in my life that I flew first class on an airplane. It was incredibly generous of Clayton's father to place me in first class with the rest of them. I was originally planning to purchase my own ticket. But before I knew it, he had already purchased my ticket. I learned of the many benefits of being on first class. There was even a special wait lounge for first class passengers—complete with snacks and drinks to your fulfillment. The seats were extra wide and comfy. The backs recline and the foot rest goes up. There was chinaware for our meals and snacks. They gave us an amenities packet with simple toiletries. There was no limit to what you can watch on the entertainment on board. When we got off the airplane, our baggage even were the first to come out of the baggage claim.

We arrived at the beautiful Haneda International Airport in Tokyo around 10:30 pm. I have been to Japan numerous times but I was still mesmerized at how clean and neat everything is. A cab was already waiting for us as soon as we got out of immigrations and picked up our luggage. We stayed over at the super nice Cerulean Tokyu Tower in Shibuya. It was one that really stood out from the rest of the hotels. The very next morning we woke up early because of the time difference and also because we were so excited about exploring Tokyo. We first went to a governmental building to get a



great view of Tokyo. Then we headed on over to the Ghibli Museum. This is home to Miyazaki favorites like “Totoro”, “Spirited Away”, and “Kiki’s Delivery Service.” There was a gigantic cat bus, which I really would have wanted to take a picture of—but we were not allowed to use our cameras indoors. Next we went to the Meiji Jingū. We hit a sacred zone. The air was very fresh, cool and the atmosphere was serene. We tossed some coins in the offertory box, gave thanks for the trip and gave some prayers. Since we were already in Harajuku, we walked around the famous Takeshita Street, full of craziness and fashion. We walked for quite a bit that day. 12 miles to be exact—according to our pedometer. My knees were beginning to hurt a lot. We got back to the hotel and took a brief break and headed out to dinner, where we were treated

to the most mouthwatering, tender, and delicious beef in the world—Japanese Wagyū. It was truly a taste of heaven. Luckily the restaurant manager allowed us to dine there. They were actually maxed out with reservations, but we eat rather quickly, so they let us in before their next group came. Then we went back to the hotel and soaked our aching bodies in the furo and then crashed of extreme tiredness.

The next morning we woke up very early and headed to the Tokyo Sky Tree. We were there before they opened. And we were literally the first people in line. A little late and a line would be snaking all around us. It was a gorgeous day with clear blue skies and not even a cloud above us. As we entered the elevator and it was headed up high, our ears started to feel a lot of pressure. Even being in the beautiful elevator was entertaining. They had beautiful lights in the elevator and Halloween themed BGM to accompany for a futuristic experience. It was nothing short of pure coolness. Then the doors opened and we could see the panoramic view of Tokyo. It was insane! All throughout the trip, I kept repeating to myself, “How in the world did humans build this?”—The buildings, the rail system, the endless metropolis. Clayton and I stepped on the transparent glass flooring, looking straight down beneath our feet. It gave us the heebie-jeebies. I’m very much afraid of heights. And where we were standing was 1,480 ft high. The total height of the sky tree is 2,080 ft. It was an extraordinary piece of architecture. We ate breakfast overlooking Tokyo. It was an awesome experience.

Next we headed to Sensōji Temple. We made sure to get a good smoke bathing from the large burning incense pot outside and extended prayers of thanks for this trip. They had the largest

chōchin lantern ever. It was a very beautiful temple.

After Sensōji Temple, we headed over to the Imperial Palace, where the Emperor resides. But we were all too pooped out to go to the top of the hill, so we just stayed in the level courtyard and rested on the imperial stone slab. Amazingly at the imperial palace, there was a sakura tree that was almost in full bloom. It was an off season bloom. Very unusual; but very beautiful. We were too lucky.

The next day, we went with a tour group to Mt. Fuji in Shizuoka Prefecture, and go on the ropeway in Hakone Prefecture. Again, blessings followed us wherever we went. It was another cloudless blue sky day. Tokyo Tower was in full view while the bus made its way through the city. A few hours later, we saw the magnificent Mt. Fuji. It was huge! The mountain greeted us. There was no snowcap, but it was still the most perfect cinder cone mountain I've ever seen. We were all very excited. We went to the 5<sup>th</sup> stop of the mountain. It was very cold. There we saw ponies, gift shops and a shrine. Clayton and I stopped by to give a quick prayer. I certainly would have wanted to stay there a little longer, but the bus was on its way to Hakone.

Hakone is currently known for its active volcanoes, *onsen* and black eggs. We took a brief ferry ride to the Hakone Ropeway. Again, magnificent beauty and nature surrounded us. At the top of the ropeway, we could faintly see the silhouette of Mt. Fuji from a distance. This is also a place I wanted to spend a little more time. I just can't get enough of Japan!

From Hakone back to Tokyo is a long ride back by bus, so we took the bullet train. This was the first time riding the bullet train for my boyfriend and his family. The bullet trains pass by so fast, that it made their jaws drop in pure amazement. Then we got into the actual bullet train. We passed through everything incredibly fast and made it back to Tokyo in about 45 minutes. What a day!

We weren't finished yet. We topped it off by going to one of the most popular and reasonable sushi restaurants in Shibuya. The presentation and taste of the sushi was incredible. I will never forget the sweet prawn sushi. Even its raw brains were sweet!

We were all pretty pooped out, but an authentic Don Quijote was nearby, so Clayton and I walked into the store and were mesmerized by the amount of stuff they had in the store. There were wall to wall of stuff. Even stuff hanging from the ceiling. Considering it was already 10 pm, there were still a ton of people walking the streets, enjoying the nightlife. Tokyo is truly a city that never sleeps.

Next morning we woke up very early and headed for Tsukiji Fish Market. That place was also very cool. They had the freshest seafood because the harbor was right there. But be careful, it's not a place for people who don't pay attention. Because you will get

rammed over by those mini fish transport trucks! There even were drivers who purposely aimed his vehicle towards pedestrians as if he wanted to ram them over. So be careful if you ever do go. Other than that, it's a really cool place. Clayton's brother got to purchase a large 7 inch wide scallop shell and had it opened on the spot so he could eat it. The inner scallop meat chunk was

literally 2 inches in diameter! It was insanely large and super fresh. He let me eat a piece of it. Man, our tastebuds were in heaven. At Tsukiji we again, ate authentic, and super delicious sushi. You can't get it any fresher.

After Tsukiji, we went to the Edo Tokyo Museum where we could see how life was like in the olde days of Tokyo. There were mini replicas of towns and structures. We got to hold manure pales

on our shoulder. It's quite heavy. And we got to see a real samurai blade in the case. Then we went to our long awaited destination—Akihabara!

Clayton was excited as ever! This is where he has always wanted to go—ever since childhood. And he was finally there in person. It was a surreal experience for him. We stopped at Mister Donuts and grabbed one of the most delicious donuts and stuffed our mouths. And after the sugar rush, we went to the Gachapon Kaikan. This is where there is basically every gachapon machine you can think of. Gachapon, btw are those little capsule toys. But in Japan, they don't cost a quarter. They cost 200-400 yen each depending on the type of gachapon you get. We were in Gachapon heaven.

Next, Clayton and I visited the Konko Church of Tokyo, which is in Akihabara. They have a beautiful contemporary marble altar and theatre seating. It's a very nice Konko Church.

The **Rev. Hata** was not present at that time, but another sensei was there to greet us and offer prayers.

After going to Tokyo church, we checked out Yodobashi Camera. It's a mega electronic store in the heart of Akihabara. It was a whopping 8 stories high. Literally like getting 4 American Best Buys and stacking them on top of each other—that's how Clayton described it, hehehe. There is literally nothing you can't find at that store. It's a one stop shop. After our adventure in Akihabara, we went back to Shibuya and went to see the Hachiko statue at the station. There was a cat under it, getting all the attention. It was a very cute cat. Apparently, it's a cat that is known to frequent the statue.

My days in Tokyo ended with Clayton and his family, as I had to make

a train ride over to Okayama the following morning. I woke up at 4:40 a.m. and walked to the station at 5:10. Clayton accompanied me as my personal bodyguard. My train is to come and leave at 5:42—however, there was an announcement that the 5:42 train to Shinagawa was delayed due to traffic problems, so it said for us to



ride on the earlier train which will be coming in a few minutes. This was a great blessing. I had everything timed out. But because I rode on the earlier train, I was able to make it to Shinagawa in ample time and not miss my shinkansen ride to Shin-Osaka. If I didn't ride on that shinkansen, everything else would have been delayed. I was required to arrive at the Konkokyo Headquarters by 1200 noon. Thankfully, I arrived at the headquarters at 11:20 a.m. It took roughly 6 hours from Tokyo to Konko Town! But I made it! I was so happy. It felt like home to be in Konko. This is where I spent about a year in the Seminary 13 years ago. The Headquarters is my power spot.

I had to be at the Headquarters by noon because there was going to be a *shūrei* (Ceremony Practice) at the main ceremonial hall at 1:30 pm. I had to eat lunch, get settled and get ready for the *shūrei* as soon as possible. But before all this, I had to go to the main worship hall and give thanks for the safe trip up to this point. The **Rev. Hiromichi Konko** was sitting at the mediation seat. He was in full smiles and I was very happy to see him. He is the first son of the current 5<sup>th</sup> Spiritual Head of Konkokyo. After extending my prayers, I went to the Yūzaki Hill to visit the Founder, Konko Daijin's tomb and also the tomb of the successive spiritual heads of Konkokyo. Then I went to Tsuchiya's restaurant and inhaled a bowl of Tsukimi Udon and rushed to get my kimono in time for the *shūrei*. Whew! I made it just in time. Low and behold! Two of my Gakuin seminary classmates were also selected to be in the main stage officiants group. I was so happy to see them. It was like a mini class reunion.

I met so many friends at the Headquarters, thereafter. The *shūrei* ended well with much practice. Then I took a nice walk around Konko town and soaked in as much spiritual goodness of this place.

The very next morning, I woke up at 3:30 am, got dressed and dashed over to the main courtyard to greet the Rev. Hiromichi Konko and his escorts for the early morning 3:40 a.m. procession from his residence to the main worship hall. This is called the *Odemashi*. The odemashi happens every single day of the calendar year.

The Autumn Grand Ceremony at the Headquarters began at 1:30 p.m. Thousands of people began to fill the grand ceremonial hall. It instantly became a mega church. People come from near and far to attend the grand ceremony. Some churches have to charter the Shinkansen bullet train, so they could all attend.

The head officiant was Rev. Hiromichi



Konko. There were 14 members for the main stage officiants. It was an extreme privilege and honor to be selected as one of the 14. I was very nervous for my role as *Sanja* #3. I was to pass out the *tamagushi* sacred evergreen stems to the 5 dignitaries. There were a lot of steps that I needed to remember. My heart was pounding and my hands were sweaty, but thankfully, the ceremony went smoothly without mistakes. I really owe a lot to Kami-Sama and the many people who were watching out for me.

After the ceremony was over, I met several other friends before my uncle Rev. Seijiro Inagaki picked me up (Photo 3<sup>rd</sup> from top). I went to his church and spent some time with his family at Iwatani Church in Hiroshima. They are always so welcoming and great to be around. They took me to the Konko Church of Fuchū the next morning. That is the church I trained at for a few weeks while I was a seminarian. **Rev. Miyamoto's** daughter, **Yasuko** was so grown up. It was really good to see them again.

After coming back, my cousin and her on took me on a walk around their peaceful quiet town of Fuchu. It was a change of pace from the rushed atmosphere of Tokyo. There were beautiful rice paddies and mountains surrounding us. Then they treated me to authentic Hiroshima style *Ononomiyaki*. It was super delicious!

My final leg of the journey came, as I was now headed toward Osaka, where my good friends and Gakuin classmates were waiting for me. It was another ride on the shinkansen. I loved it! I finally reached the Honmachi station where my friend

**Rev. Michiko Katada** and **Rev. Sachie Shirakami** were waiting for me. They took me to see **Rev. Kimio Shirakami** (husband of Sachie sensei) and the four of us went to the entrance of the Osaka Castle. The main castle was a bit of a far walk so we didn't go, but it was still an awesome view from far away. The architecture of that place was breathtaking.

Evening was fast approaching and I needed to get to the airport. But before that, the **Rev. Kimio Shirakami** treated us to the most delicious sashimi platter ever and sushi with *otoro!* (Super fatty tuna). I was hesitant to eat more than one morsel because it was such a luxury, but they insisted, saying that I can't eat this back home in Hawaii, so eat up now. My, oh my, I indulged in their generous invitation.

My friends took me to the Tennōji

Station in Osaka, where another Gakuin seminary classmate/friend was waiting to see us—**Rev. Harumi Sugimoto**. We chatted for a while at a little café at the station. We talked about ministerial life and the faith. Our talk became so interesting and fun, we lost track of time and before we knew it, the train to the airport will be leaving in 3-4 minutes! Gaaaahh!! Oh my gosh! My friends and I dashed out of the café after paying very quickly. There was a big staircase that led to the bottom platform that I need to be on. I had my suitcase and two other bags. **Revs. Katada** and **Sugimoto** grabbed my ridiculously heavy suitcase and ran down the stairs and managed to get it on to the Haruka Super Express bound for Kansai International Airport. I followed a few seconds after. As soon as I got onto the train, the train closed its doors 30 seconds after and it departed. Hahaha! It was like a scene from a comic strip. I had side pain from laughing so hard. They helped me big time.

Whew...I finally made it to the airport in time and made it back to Hawaii in one piece. As soon as the airplane lands and stops at the gate, the plane encounters a major electrical problem, per captain. The whole plane blacked out. Air conditioner went off, lights went off, and everything went off. They even had trouble opening the door because of this, so we had to wait in the plane for some time. Luckily it didn't happen when we were flying in the air. All throughout this trip, Kami-Sama was watching over me and making sure I was ok.

My boyfriend and his family returned to Hawaii safely a day before I came back. They too enjoyed a wonderful and memorable trip to Japan. **Clayton** and I are already talking about where we want to go in Japan again. We can't wait to go back.

On the day I returned to Hawaii, it was the Autumn Grand Ceremony at Waipahu Church. **Clayton** picked me up and we went straight to the church to attend the service. It was Sunday, October 11.

Two days later was our church grand ceremony. Without a day of rest, we got the church prepared for the service. Many people were able to attend. The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Akinobu Yasutake of the Waipahu Church. The Kibimai scared dance was offered by Miss Ke'ala Takahashi.

Then from October 23 and 24, we had the **Rev. Mitsuko Yasutake** of the Chikushi Hongo Church visit Hawaii to be a presenter for the Itsukushimi No Inori Peace Prayer, sponsored by the Apostles of Konko Daijin (AKD). She was a great inspiration as a female minister. She had a firm belief in the blessings of Kami-



Sama, and has a conviction that through divine mediation, everyone can be saved.

On Sunday, October 25, the HCRP Peace Prayer was held at the Gedatsu Church of Hawaii. Seventeen faith groups and peace group representatives presented their prayers and brief thoughts on world peace. We were very lucky to have the Rev. Dr. Todd Takahashi (Associate minister of Konko Mission of Honolulu) be the keynote speaker for the evening. He really presented a feast for our hearts and souls regarding gratitude and extending prayers—even to the people in our lives that hurt us. It was a very inspirational presentation. Thank you again, Todd sensei!

On Friday, October 30, I went to Aliamanu Elementary School to be in their Halloween costume parade. Clayton and I dressed up as Samurai. He's actually wearing my dad's old seminary robes. But he sure looks like a samurai...(actually he looks like a Konko Minister, hehehe). It was very fun. In the evening, we held our annual Halloween pumpkin carving at our church. A total of 15 people were present to enjoy this annual seasonal activity. Everyone is so creative in carving out their pumpkins. I look forward to this every year.

Halloween arrived! I prepared 54 goodie bags for the neighborhood kids. I had to work that evening, so my mom passed out the candy. She said that so many kids came; the candy ran out in less than an hour!

It's been a while since I wrote this many pages on my editor's note. So if you found yourself reading till this very line, give yourself a good pat on your

back. Thank you for reading. I hope you will have a great month in November—the month of Thanksgiving. Wait, what am I talking about? We need to be thankful every day. Please take this time in quiet reflection of all the people and things in your life to be grateful for. Your perpetual state of gratitude will carry you forward to continuous blessings.

By the way, the Wahiawa Church has been requested to perform the Mochitsuki Demonstration at JCCH on Saturday, December 12 from 10:00 am till noon. Please come and help if you are able to.

As for our own church's New Year's Mochitsuki, it will be held on Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am. Order forms are available. Orders for the first 250 pounds will be accepted. Manpower and Woman power are greatly welcome!

*Aloha, Edna Yano*