



WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

November 2017

- 1 Wed -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama (7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭
- 4 Sat -Kaka'ako Ehimemaru Memorial citrus tree care (10:15 am)
- 5 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Share okage stories till 11 am
-Wailuku Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am) and 25th Memorial Anniversary for Rev. Kiyotaka Yasutake
- 8 Wed -Rev. Yasuhiro Yano will attend 100th Anniversary of Kawanoishi Church in Ehime, Japan. (till 11/14)
- 10 Fri -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 11 Sat -Veteran's Day Holiday *Veteran's Day Parade at 10 am
- 12 Sun -Monthly Service for Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin (9 am) 生神金光大神様 月例祭 *Share Okage till 11 am
- 17 Fri -Monthly Volunteer Activity @Wahiawa Gen. Hospital Long Term Care Facility (10-10:45 am)
- 18 Sat -Church clean-up (9 am)
-Chorus practice at Honolulu Church (2-4 pm)
- 19 Sun -Monthly Memorial Service 月例霊祭 (9 am) (Share okage till 11 am)
- 23 Thr -Happy Thanksgiving! Holiday!
- 25 Sat -Kaka'ako Ehimemaru Memorial clean-up (9 am)
- 26 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Short service
-Late Rev. Kikue Kodama 20th Mem. Svc @HNL 11:00 am
- 30 Thu -Church clean-up (9 am)



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 -KMH Board of Trustees Mtg at HNL (10:30 am-3 pm)
- 3 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Share Okage till 11 am

Konko Daijin says... "I came to make a small donation. Other shrines put up donation placards, but you don't do that here?" Konko Sama explained, "If there are donation placards, people will think that they also must donate some money. This will stain their faith in Kami. That's why I don't put them up, regardless of how large the donation is." (GII Yoshihara Ryozo 1)

Editor's Thoughts: Some religions out there require their congregation to donate large sums of money to be a member of their community. Some religions have certain ranks for their members who donate more than others. Some place placards of the name and amount that a person has offered. In Konkokyo, free-will offerings are accepted in whatever amount that feels comfortable for the person making the offerings. There is no pressure or shame for people who are not able to make offerings. Kami never asks for offerings. An offering made out of a truly sincere and grateful heart will reach Kami-Sama.

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.

"Water is Life.--Expressing Gratitude to it in Daily Life."



The 24th Annual Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace- Peace Prayer was held on Sunday, October 22 at the Gedatsu Church of Hawaii. Rev. Edna Matsuoaka represented the Konkokyo Community for this year's Peace Prayer. Inspiring us that evening was Mr. Chris Cramer of the Maunaloa Fishpond Heritage Center.

20th Memorial Service for Rev. Kikue Kodama



Place: Konko Mission of Honolulu
Date: Sunday, 11/26/17 @ 11:00 a.m.

The Rev. Michiyoshi Yasutake of the Konko Church of Amagi will be officiating the service.

The Late Rev. Kikue Kodama was one of the founding ministers of the Konko Mission of Honolulu. She dedicated her life to serving Kami-Sama. In the break of WW2, she was given a suggestion to return back to Japan with her children, but she was very dedicated to the people of Hawaii and in these trying times, she refused to return back to Japan. She entrusted herself in the care of Kami-Sama instead. It was her dedication that kept the faith in Hawaii going. Let's remember this remarkable sensei.

Konko Mission of Wahiawa Annual Schedule for 2017

- 12/8 Fri - WGH monthly volunteer activity at 10:00 a.m.
- 12/16 Sat - Mochitsuki demo at JCCH (First group 9:30 am)
- 12/24 Sun - 45th Year Memorial Service for the late Rev. Haruko Takahashi, 10:00 a.m.
- 12/30 Sat - 26th Annual Mochi Pounding 8:00 a.m.
- 12/31 Sun - End of the Year Service 9:00 a.m.



The Autumn Grand Ceremony was held in blessedness on October 13, 2017



Nicholas Furusho was the speaker for the evening. He is the 1st son of Mr. & Mrs. Randy Furusho. He talked about his experience at the Konko Church of Amagi in Japan. See our Facebook page for the 10 minute video recording. <https://www.facebook.com/113438212023404/videos/1734816416552234/>

Halloween Pumpkin Carving 2017



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



Editor's Note

Dear Reader,



Happy Autumn! It's officially getting cooler! Halloween has passed by and the next holiday in line is Thanksgiving. What are you thankful for? When your days get depressing, all you have to do is sit down, grab a piece of paper and start jotting down the people in your life and things you are grateful for. You will then realize that there are more things to be thankful for than complain.

Just recently, my mom and I visited the Gedatsu Church of Hawaii to return something. The **Rev. Tatsunori Kamiya** who is the head minister there kindly served us a cup of tea and we talked about various things going on in the world from corrupt governance to controversies like artificial weather modification and genetically modified crops. Basically we talked about things that are beyond our control, but to seek for the assistance of a higher power.

In the conversation, Rev. Kamiya revealed the importance of gratitude—saying that praying alone will not activate the prayer. But praying with gratitude in our hearts will. Rev. Kamiya is truly a humble and peaceful hearted sensei. He mentioned how a wrongful heart or any kind of thought that is not reflective of gratitude causes things to not go right—such as when he is pouring some coffee in a cup, it causes his hands to slip and some of it spills on the table.

While talking about this, my mom and I recalled similar situations, too. Like we'd stub our pinky toe on the leg of a chair, or bang our shins on the edge of something sticking out, whenever we say or do something that is not *pono* (right). However, when we do things in mindfulness or a grateful heart, we become more careful. And when we are careful, we don't stub our toes or bang our shins.

The thoughts that go through our head on a daily basis will begin to form the kind of person we will become. Sometimes we cannot help it because we are constantly fed information through TV commercials, movies, social media and the radio. News of conflict between North Korea and the United States, the Russian probe, shootings here and there—we are constantly fed negative news to make us negative.

I was observing television commercials one day. When a show was on that was targeted towards the audience of generally teens and young adults, many fast food or sugary drink commercials would play. I used to be fooled and tempted by those cheap 5 for \$5.00 menu items on TV or the ice cold soft drink commercials. But thankfully through education, I realized how unhealthy they are for us. These addicting foods that lead to diabetes, heart disease and high cholesterol—why on Earth are they being promoted!? I said to myself one day.

Next, when I was watching the regular 10 pm news, I noticed the commercials are targeted for the older people. I realized how many pharmaceutical commercials are being aired. The commercials say, "Have you noticed a lack in adequate sleep? Have you noticed more frequent trips to the bathroom? Have you been sad? Have you been depressed?" And after every pharmaceutical commercial they mention "Ask your doctor about this medicine," followed by the bazillion possible side effects that can be caused by the medication—some side effects are worse than the actual condition you may have. Even symptoms we never noticed or had before become apparent when those commercials

come on and ask us if we are feeling certain symptoms. Then the problem becomes real for them. We are being tempted by passive brainwashing every day whether you notice them or not.

Fortunately for me, my parents have been brainwashing me in a good way. They have been saying "What a divine blessing from Kami-Sama" or "Arigatai ne! (How thankful!)" for pretty much everything. And just like a commercial, I was like, "Hmm, ok." But after decades of constantly hearing "What a divine blessing, Okage," it finally clicks in my heart, and I begin to understand what true divine blessings are.

When we listen to good teachings, good music, good conversations with good people, our hearts will conform to that goodness. If we grew up constantly being told negative things, it will be like a commercial in their head that plays over and over again. And they will grow up to leave loose lives.

We can choose what to accept inside of our hearts. It's important not to be brainwashed with negativity to the extent of not knowing who we are or what to do with our lives anymore.

Everything is energy. I cannot stress this enough. Everything in this Universe according to what science has proven up till now is made up of energy. Even our thoughts and prayers are a type of energy. Energy is neither created, nor destroyed; it's an existence. Energy can however, change into different shapes and forms. We refer to this energy as Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama. We don't even know how this all came to be.

Our biology can change depending on our thoughts. When we get anxious or scared, our capillaries constrict, making our hands and feet cold. Our accessory organs take a pause, and the vital organs work overtime. Our heart pounds, and sometimes we develop sweaty palms. However, when we are happy, we can't help but put a smile on our faces. Our organs work in excellent standing and we just feel very good. The food that you eat will digest smoothly, and your hands will be nice and warm.

Whatever you think about in your regular day to day living is vital in maintaining your health. Vitamins, cod oil, and supplements will do no good if your inner spirit is not happy.

For me, attending church services is what maintains my sanity. Living a faith-based lifestyle makes me happy. Some people ask why I am so blessed, or why I always clock out of work on time. Well, the people who know me well know that my life until now was no walk in the park. I had my share of hardship and extreme financial difficulties. But through those hurdles, I was still receiving divine blessings. So I was just grateful for what I had and just kept having faith in Kami-Sama. I think about Kami-Sama every single day; not just on Sunday mornings. And I ask for Kami's divine guidance and thank Kami each day that I am blessed with life. Positive affirmations are also the key. I look forward to the future with

positive expectations, and not worry too much about things I cannot control. Another factor is that I know that many people are thinking about me and praying for me daily. I am very fortunate. This is basically why I am so blessed. Let's take control of our faith and thoughts and receive divine blessings.

Just a few reminders: I have booked our cabins for next year's Summer Ohana Camp at Camp HR Erdman! The dates will be **July 7-8, 2018**. Mark your calendars! And our Mochi Marathon will be on **Saturday, December 30th** from 8 am till we finish. We hope you can join us and help. It's something I look forward to every year. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

 Aloha, Edna

