



Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter



Konko Mission of Wahiawa
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September 2023, Volume 32

WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

September 2023

- 1 Fri -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama
(7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭
- 2 Sat -Hawaii Zoom Gathering (1:30 pm to 3 pm)
- 3 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Share Okage till 11 am
- 4 Mon -Labor Day HOLIDAY
- 8 Fri -Volunteer Activity at St. Francis (10:30 am)
- 9 Sat -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 10 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
-Happy Grandparent's Day!
- 13 Wed -KMH ZOOM Kyoten Study Group Session (5 pm)
- 15 Fri -Garage Sale Prep (1 pm)
- 16 Sat -Garage Sale (9 am to 2 pm)
- 17 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
-Honolulu Church Autumn Memorial Svc. (10 am)
-HCRP Meeting on Zoom (6:30 pm)
- 22 Fri -Church clean-up (9 am)
-KMH CEOC meeting (3 pm)
- 23 Sat -HCRP Interfaith Community Clean-up at Kaka'ako
Waterfront Park (10 am to 11 am)
-Hawaii Gunpla Workshop (12 noon to 6 pm)
- 24 Sun -Autumn Memorial Service 秋季霊祭 (10 am)
*Naorai lunch will follow
- 27 Wed -KMH ZOOM Kyoten Study Group Session (5 pm)
- 29 Fri -Happy 209th Birthday Founder, Konko Daijin-Sama! (9/29/1814)
-Church clean-up (9 am)
- 30 Sat -Ehimemaru Memorial Clean-up (9 am)



October 2023

- 1 Sun -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama
(9 am) 天地金乃神様 月例祭
-Honolulu Church Autumn Grand Ceremony in conjunction
With Rev. Sugako Yoshino's 1-year Memorial Service (11 am)
- 13 Fri -Wahiawa Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (6 pm)

Konko Daijin's teachings...

Everyone asks for divine blessings, but do they understand what true blessings are? Divine blessings are not limited to just having one's wishes granted. For some, death is a divine blessing. Others are saved from death through divine blessings. Since everything in this world is governed by Kami, there is nothing else but to depend on Kami. Even though it may seem like an inconvenience at the time, if you continue to practice faith without going against Kami's will, you will realize later the blessings you have received. Faith is pointless unless this much is understood.

(GIII Jinkyu Kyogoroku 35-1,2)

Editor's thoughts: To get to this level of understanding will take a lifetime. Even I struggle to recognize the blessings in bad or inconvenient things that happen. But for me at least, I do realize that things happen for a reason. And we can also learn from everything that happens in life.

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.



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

Autumn Memorial Service

Date: Sunday, September 24, 2023 @10 am

Place: Konko Mission of Wahiawa

Memo: Let us pay homage to the origins of our being. Even if the people that have passed away are no longer with us in physical form, they continue to desire to be remembered by you. All beings have two lives. The first life is gone when we are physically gone. But when we are no longer remembered, we are ultimately gone. *Naorai fellowship lunch will follow.

Autumn Garage Sale

Sat., September 16 from 9 am to 2 pm

Proceeds will go to the Konkokyo Headquarters as well as to help with the Wailuku Church victims of the Maui Wildfires. Your help is greatly appreciated!



Konko Mission of Wahiawa Annual Schedule for 2023

- 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 Ikgami 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 at Gedatsu Church (4 pm)
- 11/5 Sun -Wailuku Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
- 11/18 Sat -3rd International Yatsunami ZOOM Gathering (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 September
Please continue to receive
Infinite divine blessings from



Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama &
Ikgami Konko Daijin-Sama

Rev. David Yano Hope Morihara Stacey Toma

Urgent Relief for Lahaina Wildfire Victims Uniting for Support and Hope

In the wake of the devastating wildfires that have ravaged Lahaina, Maui on August 8, 2023, causing extensive damage to homes, businesses, schools and places of worship, we are calling upon our Konkokyo community to extend our compassion and support. Let's join prayers and action to help restore the spirits of those affected by this tragedy.

How to help: Your generous monetary donations will directly support individuals linked to the Konko Mission of Wailuku who have been impacted by this disaster. We have received reports that 11 to 15 families have lost their homes and livelihoods.

Please make checks payable to the: **Konko Mission of Wailuku.** They will oversee the funds to ensure that they reach the victims in the most impactful and direct manner.

Mail check to:

Konko Mission of Wailuku
2267 Mokuhau Rd
Wailuku, HI 96793



Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace HCRP Interfaith Community Clean-up

Saturday, September 23, 2023

10 am to 11 am

Kaka'ako Waterfront Park



Please wear comfortable clothes
and hat. Bring your water bottle.
Gloves, trash bags and rubbish
pickers will be provided

Feel free to email: konkowahiawa207@yahoo.com for more info

HAWAII GUNPLA WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 9.23.23
12 NOON-6 PM

Konko Mission of Honolulu
1728 Liliha Street

Hosted by Clayton Matsuoka
& Michi's Toy Box



#hawaiigunplaworkshop



Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

Happy September! Do you notice it getting a teeny bit cooler these days? This summer has been unusually hot and dry. Autumn is approaching!

Our hearts and prayers go out to the island of Maui, as they have faced unimaginable devastation due to the wildfires that destroyed pretty much the whole town of historic Lahaina, located on the west side of the island and parts of Kula as well. Everything was destroyed within a matter of hours on the evening of August 8th. 115 confirmed dead, and at least 100 still missing.

The dry, hot weather, in combination with the strong winds generated by a hurricane 500 miles south of the islands, made for the perfect fire storm that leveled the town of Lahaina to the ground. It sent the whole world into shock.

Some people refused to leave their homes. Some people had to abandon their homes and cars and jump into the ocean. Things can be replaced, but the worst kind of loss in this disaster was the loss of precious lives—which cannot be replaced.

Wildfires happen quite commonly in Hawaii during the hot summer months. And back when we were kids, there was controlled field burning of the sugarcane fields. I used to love it when the ashes would come raining from the sky like black snowflakes. It was called “Island snow.” Of course, people had to rush and take down their laundry that was drying on the lines outside, so they don't get black. I grew up used to seeing controlled field burnings. However, this wildfire that happened in Lahaina took all of us by surprise. We always expected fires to die down eventually or be controlled well so it doesn't cause mass devastation.

It really made me realize how everything we worked hard for can be reduced to ashes overnight without warning. There is really no way to be prepared for such a shocking event.

A few days ago, my husband ate a fortune cookie from Panda Express. We always like reading the fortunes inside the cookie. The one my husband got said: “Those who have hope, have everything.” He really appreciated this message, especially because he finds this year's class of students challenging (Clayton is an elementary school teacher). I also appreciated the message because it's so true, especially in the wake of the disaster in Maui.

When we lose our ability to do things, when we lose things that were so dear to us, when we lose everything, hope gives us the power to rebuild from scratch. Hope is invisible, but it's a mindset that achieves things with no boundaries. So, it's true that those who have hope, have everything.

Having strong hope is likeable to having strong muscles. It takes practice and training of our spirituality to have hope that is strong enough during crucial times. We cannot develop this powerful mentality overnight. It takes time. It's a foundation that is built daily, little by little. Konko Daijin stated, “You should practice faith wholeheartedly while you are in good health and enjoying a tranquil life, rather than starting after you are in trouble with illnesses or misfortunes. Kami will take care of you if you are an earnest believer. Kami will help you to overcome your critical illness and recover completely no matter how serious the condition may be. Enrich your faith.” (GIII Jinkyu Kyogoroku 122). In another teaching, Konko Daijin said, “People must receive divine blessings even when they have no problems. In a time of crisis, they need to receive more divine blessings. Receiving divine blessings is not guaranteed unless they hold fast

to their faith and do not have to look for it during crucial times. If an emergency arises, even if you are naked or in the middle of a field, just pray, ‘Konko Daijin, please help me,’ and you will soon receive divine blessings” (GIII Jinkyu Kyogoroku 17).

Hope can apply to everything. When we get sick with the common flu, we are usually hopeful that we will get better. There isn't even a doubt that crosses our minds that we won't get better. We get sick, get better and life goes on.

However, when we have a serious illness, the dreadful thoughts of dying begin to outweigh our hopes for recovery. In a sense, the hope that we have is like the concerted microscopic hopes of all 40 to 60 trillion cells in our body that are rooting for recovery. But when the burden on our cells gets overwhelming, and when the prognosis seems grim, the cells call out in surrender, and when all 40-60 trillion cells give up hope, we as a single human being housing all the cells will feel the hope disappear as well. The body gets weak, we get depressed, we lose our appetite, we fail to thrive, and everything begins to shut down, leading to our demise.

Having hope encourages our cells to achieve the goals you have in mind. I remember a patient I had years ago. She had cancer and things were not looking very good. She was mainly worried about not being able to be there for her young children. I encouraged her to have hope and to never give up on the fun things she wishes to experience when she gets well. I asked her what she wants to do when she gets better. She said she wants to travel to Japan with her family.

I am a Japanophile myself, so I planted images of Japan into her mind. And I said, “Yes, you will get well again, and you are going to Japan with your family. Then you are going to eat all the amazing foods there, and then you are going to soak in the heavenly onsen hot springs that await you.” She smiled with the thoughts of Japan. I also reminded her to continue to hold the heart of gratitude every day, even after getting better. I mentioned to her to also give thanks to her body and cells and hold the heart of compassion and kindness even to the cancer cells, because those cells are the ones that need the most love. She nodded and smiled.

She bravely went through every cycle of chemotherapy and attained the blessings of remission. And amazingly, one year later, I received a text of gratitude from her because she was able to go to Japan with her family. She was able to eat amazing food, spend time with her family and friends and was able to go to a shrine on New Year's to give thanks to the deity there and drink a sip of *otoso* (celebratory sacred rice wine). The hopes she had a year ago came true.

I will never forget this inspiring patient. The thing about her that really amazed me was that she asked the doctors not to give her the prognosis. She did not want to know how long she had left to live. She also told the doctors not to tell her family members about her prognosis. She concentrated all her thoughts on recovering. She took on each day positively and in gratitude. This is truly an example of how hope has the power to bring forth unlimited potential and achievements.

The same goes for the recovery process in Lahaina. It will be a long and arduous process, but if everyone has hope, Lahaina will recover and come back stronger. Let's continue to pray for Lahaina and support them in the many ways we can. Wishing you all a fantastic month in September!

Sincerely, Edna



THOSE WHO HAVE HOPE,
HAVE EVERYTHING.
PANDA EXPRESS