

2024 CHURCH SCHEDULE REMINDER



February

Greetings, Konko Ohana!

As we step into February, let's take a moment to reflect on the opportunities and blessings that lie ahead. With the new month comes fresh possibilities for growth, connection, and spiritual enrichment within our Konko community. Read on to discover what's in store for February 2024.

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

4	Sunday Service – Corporation Board of Directors' Meeting
11	Monthly Service
18 10:00a.m.	Sunday Service General Membership Meeting and New Year's Potluck Party
25	Monthly Service & Monthly Memorial Service Church Yard Work

General Meeting and New Year's Potluck Party

Date: Sunday, February 18, 2024

Time: After Sunday Service (Approximately 11:00 a.m.)

We want to remind you of our upcoming New Year's Potluck Party and General Meeting on **February 18, 2024**, immediately following the Sunday Service, which starts at 10:00 a.m. This year, we will be gathering in person at the Konko Mission of Honolulu.

During this event, the Shinto-Kai (members association) will present its annual report, and we will also discuss the expenses and budget of the Konko Mission of Honolulu.

Of course, it wouldn't be a potluck party without delicious food and enjoyable activities. We invite you to share your favorite dishes, and we'll also have a fun game of bingo.

Please save the date and join us for this special occasion as we come together to celebrate the New Year and strengthen our community bonds. Thank you for your participation and support.



January Sermon Summaries:

As we step into this new month, let's gather inspiration from our past sermons and reflect on the enduring wisdom of the Konkokyo tradition.

Intro - Honoring the 4th Konko-Sama

This month, we remember and celebrate the life of the Fourth Konko-Sama, Konko Kagamitaro, who passed away in January, 1991 at the age of 81. His teachings, deeply rooted in gratitude and humility, continue to resonate with us. He emphasized the importance of a heart filled with gratitude, which

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not only creates peace but also brings light into the world and helps people move forward in their lives. These teachings encourage us to recognize our daily blessings and to express our gratitude openly and sincerely.

The 4th Konko-Sama's Tanka Poems

In his Tanka poems, the Fourth Konko-Sama conveyed profound messages about the essence of living a life grounded in gratitude. He eloquently captured the notion that a heart that constantly expresses thanks to everyone for their care and support is the heart that creates peace, brings light to the world, and helps people thrive. These poems serve as a gentle reminder of the power of gratitude in our daily lives.

Learning from Life's Experiences

An enlightening story from the Konkokyo newspaper serves as a poignant illustration of these teachings. A farmer, upon finding only small sweet potatoes in his field, initially felt disappointment and frustration. However, upon introspection, he realized his discontent was inadvertently directed towards Kami. This realization was a turning point, helping him see the importance of appreciating every blessing, no matter how small.

Transformative Power of Gratitude

Similarly, another touching narrative tells of the farmer who, during an illness, struggled to eat and drink. Initially grateful for being able to consume milk, his perspective shifted to frustration as his condition persisted. Yet, upon reflection, he recognized the significance of every small step towards recovery, transforming his mindset to one of gratitude. Years later, as a cancer survivor, he learned to cherish every meal, understanding the true value of health and well-being.

Conclusion - Embracing Gratitude in All Circumstances

These stories teach us that practicing gratitude is not confined to moments of joy and ease. In fact, it is equally, if not more, important during challenging and painful times. Recognizing and appreciating Kami's blessings in every situation fosters a sense of contentment and peace. It is about seeing the good in what we have, rather than lamenting what we lack.

Moreover, the practice of gratitude extends beyond personal benefit. It creates a ripple effect, uplifting those around us and contributing to a more harmonious and compassionate community. When we express gratitude, we acknowledge the interconnectedness of our lives with others and with Kami.

Living a Grateful Life

As we continue our journey, let us strive to incorporate these lessons into our daily lives. Let us count our blessings, big and small, and express our thankfulness not just in words, but through our actions and attitudes. Let's make gratitude the foundation of our lives, creating a brighter, more peaceful, and meaningful existence for ourselves and for those around us.

Let us carry these reflections into the month ahead, letting them guide our thoughts, actions, and interactions. May this month bring you countless opportunities to experience and express gratitude in its many forms.