



Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter



Konko Mission of Wahiawa
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December 2015, Volume 23, No. 264

WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

December 2015

- 1 Tue -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama (7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭
- 4 Fri -Church clean-up for monthly service (9 am)
- 5 Sat -Chorus Group End of Year Party @ Toma's Karaoke (1:30 pm). *Meet at HNL Church at 12:45 p.m. for prayer.
- 6 Sun -Monthly Service for Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama (9am) *Share Okage (till 11 am) 生神金光大神様 月例祭
- 7 Mon -Memorial Prayer for Mr. Tatsuyuki Kataoka and others who have passed at sea @Waimea Beach (6:30 am leave)
- 10 Thu -Church clean up (9 am)
- 11 Fri -Monthly Volunteer Activity at Wahiawa General Hospital LTCF (10 am-10:45 am)
- 12 Sat -JCCH Mochitsuki Demo at 9,10,11 am. (7 am leave)
- 13 Sun -43rd Memorial Svc. for Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi (10 am) *Naorai lunch will follow.
- 20 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Share Okage Story (till 11 am)
- 23 Wed -20th Memorial Service for the Late Rev. Fumio Yasutake of Amagi Church, Japan. Yano sensei will attend.
- 25 Fri -HOLIDAY! Christmas Day
- 26 Sat -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 27 Sun -End of the Year Service (9 am) *Share Okage (till 11 am)
- 29 Tue -Prep for Mochitsuki *Roll anko balls, wash rice (1 pm)
- 30 Wed -Mochi pounding (8 am) *Prep 7:30 am

January 2016

- 1 Fri -Ganjitsu-sai New Year's Day Ceremony 元日祭 (9 am)
- 3 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.



43rd Memorial Service for the Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi

Date: Sunday, December 13, 2015 @10:00 a.m.

Place: Konko Mission of Wahiawa

Let's honor, appreciate and remember the Founder of the Wahiawa Church by attending this important service in time and in person. Rev. Haruko Takahashi has laid down the foundations of this church. Her Mitama spirit continues to shower us with her love.



Let's celebrate this 43rd Memorial. All is invited.



Konko Teaching

Before practicing faith, I was honest, but I had a short and violent temper. When people did wrong, I would immediately retaliate. I believed this to be proper. But one day, Konko-Sama imparted, "When people speak ill of you, you think that because you practice faith, you must endure it. Therefore you endure. However, this is not enough. You must also give prayers for them to reform their hearts." These words touched me deeply. (GII Kataoka Jiroshiro 3)

Editor's thoughts: When people get angry, their intelligence level drops, causing them to say things that they may later regret in the heat of the moment. But before we begin yelling and throwing a tantrum, we should take a deep breath and become mindful of our own emotions. Ask yourself why you are angry. And ask yourself if it's worth it to blow your lid. Ask yourself if there is a better way of handling the situation without conflict. We should pray for people that upset us and pray we can be calm.

New Year's Mochi Pounding

Date: Wednesday, December 30, 2015

Time: Prep @ 7:30 am. Pounding @ 8:30 am.

Mochi pick-up time is from 3pm-6pm

Memo: Big Help needed!!

People to pound, fire-watch, cut the mochi, mochi shapers, and packers. Bring your family and friends☺. Lunch provided to helpers. Please call 621-6667 if you can volunteer your time to help. Mahalo nui in advance!! All mochi orders due by December 26th. If you have cardboard juice trays, please bring! Thank you!



Edna Yano invited as guest speaker at Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission 11/15



(L-R): Mr. Rod Moriyama, Mr. Clayton Matsuoka, Rev. Edna Yano, Rev. Reiko Yano, Revs. Kojun and Takako Hashimoto (Resident ministers of Wahiawa Hongwanji)



Happy Birthday

To all the people born in the month of December!

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



- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Nicholas Furusho | Kimberly Suwa |
| Aaliyah Perreira | Delilah Perreira |
| Kiana Yamamoto | Bruce Yamamoto |
| Ke'ala Takahashi | |



Photo by Rev. Dr. Leon Webber

Welcome Lunch for the Webbers visiting from Alaska and Illinois



Sand scribing at Ke Iki Beach with the Webbers

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Photo collage by Rev. Dr. Leon Webber



Editor's Note

Dear Reader, I hope this December children's newsletter finds you in peace and happiness. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving! I certainly did. Dad fire roasted a turkey outside in the handmade galvanized steel hibachi. The meat was so tender and juicy. And we had my fiancé's family over for dinner. That's right; I got engaged to **Clayton Matsuoka** a day before Thanksgiving. I will finally be getting married to the love of my life some time next year.

We met through an online dating site last year in September. I was really skeptical of finding anyone online at first. My friend, **Rev. Dr. Todd Takahashi** recommended me to put myself out there in the cyberworld because it was highly unlikely that a prince charming on a white horse would arrive randomly at my front door and ask me out. I mediated this to sensei first. I wanted Kami-Sama's assistance so Kami can guide me to the right man. I also prayed for all the single men and women online that are also trying hard to find the right one. So Kami can also help them find a match. It's not fair for only me to find a great match.

I believe there is a perfect match for all people, but they just haven't found each other yet.

Anyways, I made a profile, posted some pictures and put myself out there. I felt very vulnerable and scared at first. I must say, there were several creepy people that texted me online, which I immediately blocked. When **Clayton** messaged me, I felt a different vibe. It wasn't creepy. I sensed genuine sincerity, similar spirituality and core principles. Someone once said that people of similar spiritualities are most compatible. I believe this to be true. I made him wait a full month before we met in person. I appreciate how patient he was hehehe. But we messaged each other daily in the meantime. Every step of the way, I mediated to sensei and gave thanks. Now we are officially engaged. I feel very blessed. And I pray that Kami-Sama will continue to guide us every step of the way. I really thank **Todd sensei** for recommending online dating for me. If it weren't for him, I would have never met **Clayton**. I also give thanks to all the people who have been praying for our happiness. It's thanks to all the blessings combined. It's truly a fortunate encounter and a twist of fate. It's good to pray. As Konko Daijin used to say that we don't have to make distinctions of what we should pray for and what things are too minor to even include in prayers. "Pray to Kami-Sama for everything."

Pretty much everything that I have prayed for in the past has manifested itself. We can all receive blessings if we put trust in Kami-Sama and be grateful for the present moment.

Thanksgiving Day is every day in our household. We hold Thanksgiving Prayers three times a day in the worship hall and also include a daily thanksgiving *Goban Gokinen* (Meal prayer) before we eat dinner. This had made our family very happy and blessed for all these years. We try to incorporate Kami-Sama's message in our daily life. That's how I grew up. It's a way of life that I can fully appreciate at this age.

Just last month, on Sunday, November 15, I was given the privilege and honor of sharing my thoughts as a guest speaker at the Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Sunday Service. My friend, **Mr. Rod Moriyama**, who I send my newsletters to, talked to his board and invited me to speak.

I felt very welcomed by the warm smiles of the congregation and several hellos and hugs by the people I knew. The faint smell of burning incense was reminiscent of the times when I was a first

grader at the Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission Japanese School. We went in the temple once a month for appreciation and I remember offering incense. Back then, the resident minister and principal of the school was **Rev. Thomas Okano**. I loved it when we went to the temple once a month for a brief prayer of thanks.

The **Revs. Kojun and Takako Hashimoto**, resident ministers of the temple, also welcomed me very warmly. The service was great. This was the first time I had attended a regular Sunday Service at a Hongwanji temple. I felt a great sense of good energy. The temple is so large and gorgeous. I could tell many people in the past and present have received blessings at this temple.

I shared the one topic that I have a strong passion for. It's really nothing new. It's about incorporating gratitude in our daily life. It's about saying "Thank you and I'm sorry" to our individual body parts, organs and cells. It's about being mindful of our blessedness that we may take for granted. I shared that the concept of gratitude and

apology can apply in every situation. It can apply not only for our own bodies, but for relationships with our spouse, family members, friends, employees, boss, random strangers and so forth. It applies even to inanimate objects like trees. When I went to Japan in October, my uncle told me a true story of a man that killed a tree using only words—bad words.

I shared an episode of an actual patient of mine who received blessings of having no more pain and being able to eat again—just by being mindful and appreciative.

I emphasized that it is important to keep in mind that mindfulness and gratitude should not be used as an alternative form of medicine, but that we must be genuinely appreciative, apologetic and understanding of situations just because. It's not a matter of give and take—but quite simply because we care and because we appreciate our body parts, organs and cells in an unconditional manner. It is from that point, the negative energy in our body will change instantaneously, and we will be able to receive divine blessings from within.

I also talked about the importance of reciting the *Onembutsu*, "*Namu Amida Butsu*." In Konkokyo, our word of great power is "*Konko-Sama*." In Buddhism, it is *Namu Amida Butsu*. By calling out these words of power, we can already be blessed. Reciting these words of power already incorporates that everything we have and everything that has ever been is a blessing of the Amida Buddha.

It was a joy to be able to share my thoughts that Sunday morning. Many thanks to the **Revs. Kojun and Takako Hashimoto** and the Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission congregation.

Can you believe it's already December!? This will be a very busy month once again. Please please have a look at the schedule on the first page and come join us for the various services and activities planned. We have Mochitsuki, 43rd Memorial Service for Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi, End of the Year Service, Mochitsuki prep day...etc, etc.

I hope you had a wonderful year overall in 2015. Thank you for reading my newsletters. It is my prayer that you will have an even greater year in 2016! Bye bye to the sheep. Next year is the year of the Monkey! Happy Holidays to you!



"I still remember the days I prayed for the things I have now."