



Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter



Konko Mission of Wahiawa
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January 2022, Volume 30

WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

January 2022

- 1 Sat -New Year's Day Svc. (9 am) 元日祭 *Ozoni soup after
- 2 Sun -No Sunday Service
- 4 Tue -Daily Devotionals—Shingyo Kikan from 1/4 to 1/31
(Prayer times: 6 am, 9 am, 7:30 pm)
- 5 Wed -KMH Kyoten Study Group (5 pm) on ZOOM
- 8 Sat -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 9 Sun -Monthly Svc. for the Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin
(9 am) 生神金光大神様 月例祭 *Share okage
- 14 Fri -KMH CEOC mtg on ZOOM (2-3 pm)
- 16 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Share okage
-Kagami Biraki *Mochi toasting! (after the service)
-Rev. Rodney and Fong will be back till 1/24
- 17 Mon-Martin Luther King Jr. Day HOLIDAY
- 19 Wed -KMH Kyoten Study Group (5 pm) on ZOOM
- 21 Fri -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 22 Sat -KMH Board Mtg at HNL and ZOOM (10:30 a-3 pm)
- 23 Sun -Monthly Memorial Service (10 am) 月例霊祭
*Sermon by Rev. Rodney Yano
-General meeting and New Year's Party (after service)
- 29 Sat -Ehimemaru Monument Cleaning (9 am)
- 30 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Share Okage
- 31 Mon-Church clean-up (9 am)

February 2022

- 1 Tue -Monthly Svc. for Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama
(7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭



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.



General Meeting and New Year's Party!

Date: Sunday, January 23, 2022

Time: 10 am Monthly Memorial Svc

General Meeting after the service and New Year's Party to follow! We will have lunch, BINGO, draw the PICASSO Year of the Tiger and door prize. Join us!

Memo: Please remember to bring a minimum **\$5.00** grab-bag per person for the gift exchange.



Konko Daijin says... "Since New Year's is to celebrate the whole year, it is truly auspicious. Angry people will be told not to be angry because it is New Year's. Live each day with the same happy heart you have on New Year's Day. When the sun sets, think that it's the last day of the year. It will make your life happy every day, and there will be no discord in your family. Live happily as if each day were New Year's Day." (GI Kondo Fujimori 52-2)

Editor's Thoughts: It's true that for many of us it's easy to have a happy and generous heart on special holidays or occasions like Birthdays, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. But to maintain that heart of joy on a day to day basis is very hard, unless you are already hard-wired with a spirituality based on gratitude. My mom says that every day is like Russian Roulette. The probability of living may be high, but there is always a chance that we may be dead by the end of the day. So she always reminds me to be thankful for the present—because the present is a gift that cannot be taken for granted. There is always room to be thankful every day. If we can be thankful every day, your family will be able to live in harmony, and people you interact with will also feel it.



By Rev. Rodney Yano

49th Memorial Anniversary for Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi
was held on Sunday, December 19, 2021.

(Rev. Haruko Takahashi passed away on 12/24/72)



Congratulations on your Graduation!

Nicholas Furusho

He graduated with a BAS Degree in Computer Science—Information Security Assurance at University of Hawaii West Oahu in December 2021. Way to go Nick!



**Meaning Behind Osechi
New Year's Day Cuisine**



数の子 Kazunoko
(Herring Roe)

Symbolizes fertility, and treasuring all children.

蝦 Ebi (Shrimp)

The curved spine symbolizes longevity, as elderly people have curved spines. The bulging eyes of the shrimp phonetically represents Medetai "Celebration" me=eye, de=protruding.



金団 Kinton
(Sweet potato balls)

Symbolizes wealth. Kin=gold.



黒豆 Kuromame
(Black beans)

Mame (beans) phonetically could be Mame as in good health and strength.

竹の子 Takenoko
(Bamboo Shoot)

The nodes or joints of the bamboo stands for virtue, fidelity or consistency.



煮物 Nimono

The radish stands for longevity. The burdock stands for energy. The lotus root stands for hope of happiness in the future.

ごぼう Gobo (Burdock)
Symbolizes energy since it is rooted firmly underground.



蓮根 Renkon (Lotus Root)
The holes of the renkon symbolizes seeing hope and happiness into the future.

鯛 Tai (Sea bream)

Tai is eaten on auspicious occasions, as omedetai means celebration.

蒲鉾 Kamaboko (Fish cake)
Symbolizes sunrise



御餅 Mochi



Symbolizes flexibility and endurance.



Happy Birthday

To all the people born in January
Please continue to receive
Infinite divine blessings from
**Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama and
Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama**



**Bryce Adkison
Linda Webber**

**Trisha Adkison
Janet Miyasaka**

**Pat Toyofuku
Minako Yano**

Mochitsuki prep day held on December 29th. We washed the mochi rice, rolled anko balls, labeled packaging and etc. We couldn't have our usual helpers come due to the pandemic. But we are very grateful for all the years we have had help with our mochitsuki.



Please fill out your New Year's Resolution below and cut out. Place it somewhere you will see it every day.

New Year's Resolution 2022

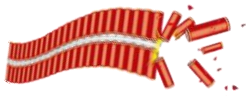
Sign here: _____



30th Annual Mochitsuki held safely on December 30, 2021! Mahalo for Your Help!



Editor's Notes



Dear Reader,

Happy New Year 2022! We made it to a brand new year! What this year will hold for all of us is a mystery. Let us all look forward to the future with positive expectations and room for improvement to become a better version of ourselves than we were last year. Every year is a year for growth. 2021 may have been a year of pandemic fatigue for some but it also may have been a year of great happenings for others. Wishing you all a wonderful new year!

We were able to hold our 30th Annual Mochitsuki on December 30, 2021! The night before the mochitsuki, I was worried about the weather, because the weather forecast shows extreme weather in the morning. Church members were also concerned. But I had a feeling that Kami-Sama was going to still make the mochitsuki possible and that it would rain once the event was over. And that's exactly what happened! We had exactly 30 helpers with this event. It was so fun! Even with the ongoing pandemic, it was absolutely possible. We are very thankful to Kami-Sama for keeping everyone healthy and in great spirits. We pounded 14 batches of mochi (130 lb raw rice). The last few batches were yomogi and our special ube mochi with white bean jelly! Making mochi the traditional way is the best. It is our prayer that the mochitsuki can continue on for generations to come. Thank you to all the helpers and Kami-Sama for making this day be possible.

There is a Konko teaching that goes "Those who have faith should feel gratitude even after sitting and resting on a tree stump in the mountains." (Gorikai II Unknown 23). This is a well-known Konko teaching. It may imply to give thanks to an actual tree stump you find while you are hiking up a trail, but there is actually a deeper meaning to this teaching.

A Gakuin classmate of mine named **Rev. Kazuhisa Shimatani** created a YouTube channel called **Shimachannel** しまちゃんねる in hiragana. He mentioned about the deeper meaning to this teaching. It was so good, I just had to share it with you. He mentioned that life is very much like going on a journey. And in any long journey, we need a break.

Practicing faith is indeed a journey as well. You improve yourself in your faith a little at a time. We don't have to sprint through the journey of self-improvement. Sometimes we hit a dead end. Some paths are treacherous. The terrain is also not smooth every step of the way. There are bumps, potholes, inclinations and some paths are just not worth the risk. We may get tired in life, we may get tired of practicing faith, so we go and have a little break. This break gives us the opportunity to reflect on our lives. This break IS the tree stump. And so we give thanks for the rest of our body and spirit. Then we move on to the next leg of our journey. We are humans and we are not perfect. We mess up sometimes, have regrets and wished we'd taken the other path. But it's all within your unique journey, and no one can take that away from you. So we give thanks to Kami-Sama every step of the way.

Life may get discouraging at times. The neighbor's grass may look greener. **Rev. Shimatani** mentioned a key point for us to remember. And that is to never compare your life with another person. You might feel envious of your friend who has it all. You may feel like you are a loser compared to some other people. But don't compare yourself to others. You are your own special

person that is on a very unique journey. No one can take that away from you. Now, if your fortunate friend is motivating you to improve yourself, then that is totally ok. But putting yourself down because your life doesn't feel worthy is a mistake. **Rev. Shimatani** mentioned that the only person you should be comparing yourself to is yourself!

Compare yourself to a year ago. Have you made any improvements as a human being? Even a subtle change is worth celebrating. With the New Year already here. On this January 1st 2022, let's make a promise to ourselves to change. It could be just one goal. It could be as simple as making the bed every morning you wake up. It could be to smile widely at least once a day. It could be to just say "Thank you" more to Kami Sama and the people in your lives.

There is no need to climb a treacherous mountain to spiritually change. As Konko Daijin mentioned, we can create a mountain right in our hearts, and accept the challenge of everyday living as our spiritual practice for self-improvement.

Is a co-worker getting on your nerves? Ask yourself why that person bothers you so much. Ask yourself how you personally should change so you do not have these feelings anymore. A problem is only a problem because we make them a problem. From a standpoint of another person, the problem you may be having may be a non-issue. Assess yourself to become a broad-minded individual.

The **Rev. Koichi Konko** said something very interesting the other day when I visited the Honolulu Church. He said that to one person a cockroach may not scare them; but if he sees a spider, they get palpitations. But to another person, a spider may not scare them, but a cockroach will terrify them. People all have different viewpoints. We live in great diversity. So we have to try to improve ourselves to appreciate this diversity of viewpoints instead of having a one-track mind. This is a way to a more harmonious world of understanding. A heart of understanding is the heart of Kami. A heart of discriminating one's differences is one that Kami will not be so happy.

I have included the New Year's Resolution Sheet on the second page of this newsletter. Please write out your New Year's Resolution, cut along the dotted lines and tape it on the wall of your bathroom mirror or next to your dining room table where you will look at it every day. Writing out your prayers will activate them better than just saying a verbal New Year's Resolution. So, please write out your wishes for the New Year! At the end of the year, compare yourself to the beginning of the year when you first wrote your New Year's Resolution, and determine for yourself if you were able to accomplish them!

Practicing faith carefully step by step will take you to new heights. And before you know it, you will have accomplished quite a bit and be able to look back at your humble beginnings and see for yourself the positive changes that had unknowingly took place. So enjoy your life journey.

We will hold our General Meeting and New Year's Party on Sunday, January 23rd after the Monthly Memorial Service at 10 am. We hope you can join us! We will play BINGO, draw the year of the tiger picture and exchange gifts. My mom will also make traditional sweet bean soup with mochi Zenzai! Remember to bring a minimum \$5.00 grab bag per person!

Thank you again for reading! Wishing you a wonderful year full of blessings, great health and happiness. *Sincerely, Edna*

