



# Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter



Konko Mission of Wahiawa  
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November 2022, Volume 30

## WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

*\*All services will be conducted in-person and via Facebook Live*

### November 2022

- 1 Tue -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama (7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭
- 2 Wed -KMH Kyoten Study Group (5 pm) on ZOOM
- 6 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) \*Okage sharing  
-Wailuku Church Autumn Grand Ceremony and Rev. Kiyotaka Yasutake 30<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service (11 am)
- 9 Wed -KMH CEOC Meeting on ZOOM (3 pm)
- 10 Thr -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 11 Fri -Veteran's Day Holiday \*Private funeral (11 am)
- 13 Sun -Monthly Service for Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin (9 am) 生神金光大神様 月例祭 \*Okage sharing  
-Late Rev. Sugako Yoshino Funeral @HNL Church (2 pm)
- 15 Tue -KMH Yatsunami ZOOM-Gathering (1:30 pm to 3 pm)
- 16 Wed -KMH Kyoten Study Group (5 pm) on ZOOM
- 19 Sat -KMH Board Mtg (10:30 am) @HNL Church
- 20 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)  
-Konko Church of San Francisco 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 24 Thr -Happy Thanksgiving! Holiday!
- 25 Fri -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 26 Sat -Kaka'ako Ehimemaru Memorial clean-up (9 am)
- 27 Sun -Monthly Memorial Svc 月例霊祭 (9 am) \*Okage sharing  
-Late Rev. Kikue Kodama 25<sup>th</sup> Mem. Svc @HNL (10 am)
- 29 Tue -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 30 Wed -KMH Kyoten Study Group (5 pm) on ZOOM

### December 2022

- 1 Thr -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama (7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭

**Konko teaching:** At large gatherings, many people gossip and defame others. In such a situation, disclaim what they say by asserting, "That person is not as you say." (*Gorikai II Okida Kisaburo 15*)

**Editor's Thoughts:** I remember when I used to work night shifts. Most of the patients were sleeping and the nights were usually quiet—except for the staff. When there's nothing much to do, and there's a group of people who finished their charting—the gossip commences. I really did not like the gossip. So I would sit far away from everyone else, in my little corner. There was also one nurse who was ostracized by everyone else. When she had a question, she had no one to turn to because they didn't want to help her. So she turned to me and asked for help. As followers of the faith, we must try to put our faith into practice, and not contribute to the negative energy generated by others.

## 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.

### Autumn Grand Ceremony safely held on Oct. 13, 2022



Sermon by Edna Sensei



Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace  
HCRP 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Peace Prayer 10.23.22

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Yatsunami Gathering

**Date:** Tuesday, November 15, 2022  
**Time:** 1:30 pm to 3 pm (Hawaii time)



**ZOOM ID:** 862 3043 3190 **Passcode:** 829276

The ZOOM room will be open from 1 pm  
There will be a media presentation of the 6th Konko Sama: Rev. Hiromichi Konko and some presentations of wonderful talent by our willing volunteers. Let's celebrate the Birthday of Konkoko! November 15, 1859.

## Konko Mission of Wahiawa Annual Schedule for 2022

- 12/10 Sat -KMH Head Minister's Mtg (10:30 am) @HNL Church
- Mochitsuki Demo at JCCH (10 am to 12 noon)
- 12/18 Sun -50<sup>th</sup> Memorial Svc for Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi (10 am)
- 12/25 Sun -End of the Year Service (9 am)
- 12/27 Tue -Mochitsuki Demo at Prince Hawaii Hotel (10-11 am)
- 12/30 Fri -31<sup>st</sup> Annual Mochi Pounding at Wahiawa Church (8 am)



## 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

## In Loving Memory



### Rev. Sugako Yoshino

Passed away on Monday, October 3, 2022 at the blessed age of 89. She has been a long-time dedicated associate minister of the Konko Mission of Honolulu, and served the people in the faith community for over 40 years. We will miss her dearly and we pray for her continuous happiness and peace as a Mitama No Kami-Sama. Thank you Sugako Sensei for everything.



## The Gunpla Build Meet was Great Fun!!! 10.15.22



## Thank you for visiting Mr. Bernie & Mrs. Emiko Tom!



Bottom row 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> from left Emi and Bernie. We also celebrated Ms. Jane Sawa's Birthday (Bottom row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left)! Happy Birthday Jane!



## We had a Great Halloween Pumpkin Carving!

Total of 13 people were able to attend our Halloween jack-o-lantern carving event on October 28<sup>th</sup>. We have been doing pumpkin carvings since the late 1980s! It's our tradition.



## Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

Happy Autumn! I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and overall well-being. In great blessedness, our Autumn Godaisai (Grand Ceremony) was conducted smoothly on October 13<sup>th</sup>. This year would mark the 45<sup>th</sup> year that my parents **Yano Sensei** and **Reiko Sensei** have been in Hawaii for their missionary task at this church in Wahiawa. Every single year, we have been able to celebrate the Godaisai twice a year (Spring and Autumn) without interruption. Even the pandemic didn't stop us from cancelling the Godaisai. This is a great blessing from Kami-Sama. So, even after the conclusion of this past Godaisai, I am so thankful that we were all well, that the weather was favorable, that the service was able to be held, and people were able to attend safely. I pray that we will be able to continue holding the Godaisai with many more people being awakened to the truth of the Universe.

For this issue of the newsletter, I would like to share parts of my sermon I delivered for the Godaisai:

I'm not sure if anyone noticed, but the floor of the Goshinzen has been sanded down and re-glazed. Doesn't it look nice and shiny? It took my brother **David Sensei** about 20 hours to sand the floor to the bare wood. **Yano Sensei, Reiko Sensei** and I helped paint the floor with 5 coats of floor gloss. And the white wall outside by the mailbox has been repainted as well. It was our Godaisai projects for this year. If you would like to help beautify this church that belongs to everybody, you are more than welcome to. This church does not belong to the Yano family. We have only been allowed to care for this place. Let's all take good care of this church.

While painting the wall outside with my mom, I asked her, "Okaasan, I wonder what **Haruko Takahashi Sensei's** spirit thinks of our missionary work here at this church (She was the Founding minister of this church)? Do you think she approves? Do you think she's shaking her head in disappointment?" Then my mom said, "Hahaha, I think **Haruko Sensei** is doing a *nigamarai*," meaning, doing one of those wry smiles. The "It could be better, but I accept you" kind of smile. Then my mom added, "But you know, if you think about it and how far we have come, you can clearly see the amount of blessings we have been receiving. Especially financially, it was a big struggle for our family. We've had our utilities cut a couple times because we just couldn't pay."

I remember back when the Hawaiian electric car used to pull up into our driveway to give us the final warning before switching off our lights, and even the Board of Water Supply were on our tails. We had cars that would constantly break down on us. Like literally freeze in a busy intersection and have people push our car. We had a red 91 Nissan Sentra, with the license plate EXN 013 (execution 13). People tried to race us because my brother cut out his own stickers and placed them on the side of the car. "Got Balls?" it said. It's a provocative statement that seemed to have hyped other drivers who read it—meaning "Are you man enough to race me?!". One day we were told by someone, "Yano

Sensei, this car does not look like a minister's car."

Although money was a struggle, my parents never really complained. And sometimes I remember hearing them say "*Okane ga nai*" (No more money) when it came to paying the bills, or fixing the car that would break down many times. But one day, I noticed them saying "*Okane ga aru*" (We have money). Even if we still had no money, they began to say "We have money." My mom said, "If we say that we don't have money, it's the same as telling Kami-Sama, that we are not blessed. And eventually, our family financial situation improved to the extent where we are able to pay the bills, and still continue to function and keep our doors open.

In many ways, I can attest to the blessings we have received from Kami-Sama. So, my mom said, "In comparison to our past and present, we definitely received okage. So we must be doing something right." I just shared a teeny portion of the many blessings the Yano family has received to this point in time. And I know you are here because you have your own story of receiving Okage through practicing the faith. And you are sincerely thankful for them. Share your blessings with your family and friends. Pass on your priceless faith. That is the ultimate way you give back to Kami-Sama. No gesture of gratitude can top this. I am very thankful to my parents who have passed down the faith to me and my brothers.

When everything is lost, if you still have the faith, you will be able to stand up again. The Autumn Grand Ceremony is to celebrate, honor, remember and appreciate our Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin Sama for the many sacrifices he made and for the various sufferings he encountered. He made it so everyone after him like you and I can more easily understand the true nature of our Life Force, Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama. He paved the way for us. Cautioning us the dangerous path, and lighting the way to a safer and easier route. We can always take the harder way, but the Founder already did that for us. He has been through much suffering, and even lost several of his beloved family. Yet it was ultimately his sincerity that enabled him to create that bond with Kami-Sama, the Life Force.

Konko Daijin was a man of great integrity and sincerity. He never cut corners. He always did good honest work, even if no one was watching. He feared no one, but Kami-Sama only. Fear that he was being irreverent to Kami, somehow, and in some way. The government prohibited him from giving teachings and prayers to the people who came to seek it. The offerings on the altar were confiscated by the government officials. The altar fixtures got torn down and damaged. But Konko Daijin didn't flinch. He kept his trust in Kami-Sama, at all times. And it was through his sincerity, that the Life Force was able to communicate with Konko Daijin on a regular basis, to tell the rest of humanity what is an acceptable way of life by the laws of the Universe.

I use the words Life Force when I describe Kami-Sama to English listeners. Because saying "Kami-Sama is God," automatically brings in a Judeo Christian image of what the divine looks like. A Caucasian man with a beard, beaming from the sky. But when I say the Life Force, then all of a sudden Yoda from Star

Wars pops up and he says "My ally is the Force, and a powerful



ally it is. Life creates it. Makes it grow. Its energy surrounds us, binds us. Luminous beings we are, not this crude matter. You must feel the Force flow around you. Here, between you, me, the tree, the rock, everywhere, yes, even between the land and the ship.” Makes me wonder if George Lucas secretly knew about Konko. Because “The Force” as described in Star Wars is a perfect description of our Life Force, Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama. The great Life Force is in everything, and everybody. It has no gender or humanoid figure. It’s energy. Plants, animals, rocks, trees, water, air, sun, moon, planets and galaxies, and the Universe as a whole, all make up the body of Kami-Sama. We each have a soul given to us by the Life Force. Kami-Sama taught all of this to the Founder, Konko Daijin.

We are so fortunate to have had a Founder who can communicate with the Universe. Our bodies grow with the nutrition we receive from the foods we eat and the water we drink. How is it possible for the meal we eat to be converted into energy? How is your body able to extract the necessary nutrition and eliminate what is not necessary? Of course there is a scientific explanation on how the body works; but no one knows why, and there is still a lot we do not understand. No one pays

attention to our body’s ability to digest food and its incredible functions from the time we consume to the time we eliminate. Even the body’s natural ability to fight off infections and heal itself. Who does that? We take these things for granted. Konko Daijin said in a teaching “Being cured is not a blessing. Being in good health is.” People pray desperately to God when they get sick or are in a life threatening situation. I see it all the time though in the hospital. People suddenly become religious and start to read the bible, watch spiritual YouTube videos and seek the prayers from a chaplain. And when they are healed, they do not acknowledge God’s workings enough.

It’s great if a sudden adversity makes people turn their hearts to Kami-Sama, but even that won’t do it for some people. Some people just don’t wake up. So what is a lifestyle that is agreeable with the laws of the Universe? It’s easy! If you feel that inner soul of yours feeling grateful, you are on the right track. And like the Tenchi Kakitsuke Divine Reminder tells us, divine favor is granted to us if we have a harmonious and joyful heart. Blessings are harder to notice when we are feeling sad, angry, frustrated and depressed. That’s the spiritual clutter we don’t need in our lives. Because it won’t leave you room for your blessings. So that’s when you come to the church and leave your spiritual clutter with us and go home feeling relieved.

In the past, I used to describe the Toritsugi Mediation seat as a spiritual toilet bowl, so people can come to relieve themselves. Lately, I have been saying that going to Toritsugi is like going to a Spiritual ER. My brother **Rodney Sensei** inspired me on this one because he broke his arm a couple months ago and he had to get a cast at the Kaiser ER in San Francisco. While waiting in the ER, he noticed a statement of non-discrimination there. It stated “Kaiser Permanente is known for its commitment to diversity and inclusion. We all have the responsibility to treat one another with dignity and respect. Kaiser Permanente does not discriminate on the basis of sex, age, economic status, educational background, race, color, religion, immigration status, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, marital status, veteran status, or source of payment.” Hospitals can’t be picking and choosing who they want to deliver

care to. Their primary focus is to help treat the ill and the injured. I was like, this is it! I was very inspired. This is how a true Konko Church should be. This is what all churches, temples and mosques should be. So I changed our church website non-discrimination statement as well. Please have a look when you get the chance. [www.konkowahiawa.org](http://www.konkowahiawa.org).

Konko churches have the responsibility to accept whoever comes to seek mediation. We do not even ask for payment! The average cost of psychotherapy and mental health counseling ranges between \$100 to \$200 an hour out of pocket. You get the same service and prayers included for free! Zero obligation. No strings attached. We cannot be associating the Toritsugi Mediation desk as a money oriented, fee for service type feature in the Konko church. If we do that, then even the people who are struggling to make ends meet cannot be saved. However, if you feel very glad that you came and would like to sincerely offer something because you were saved, you are more than welcome to. It will be accepted and offered to Kami-Sama. Never offer out of negativity or because you feel obligated to do so. Kami-Sama only accepts your sincerity. As my great friend **Todd Sensei** puts it, take full advantage of the Toritsugi Mediation desk. We can say it because we take full advantage of it, and have been saved on numerous occasions.

My brother **Rodney Sensei** who does goyo at the Konko Church of SF said he noticed that a lot of the younger generation have been doing Toritsugi Mediation. The older generation just come to greet, place and offering and leave. It must be because they have no requests, no problems, and they are only thankful. He said that majority of the people who come to seek mediation come for human relationship issues. Whatever the issue you may have, know that this place is here for you. Own this place. We will listen to you and offer prayers. How lucky is that?!

In conclusion of my talk this evening, I just want to remind everyone to practice being in a state of gratitude. When your heart becomes negative, flip it and try to see the blessings amidst your suffering. Realize that the Life Force surrounds you with blessings, like a warm hug, even if you do not notice them. The main cause of suffering is our ignorance of Kami-Sama’s blessings, from the mysterious and wondrous, to the boring and ordinary blessings that normal people don’t even appreciate. Konko Daijin has been taught all of this, and we have learned from him. Let’s continue to learn and put our faith into daily practice. Thank you for being an important part of the Godaisai.

On **Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 pm to 3 pm**, Hawaii time, the Konko Missions in Hawaii will be holding its **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Yatsunami Gathering** on ZOOM! This event is to celebrate the Birthday of Konkokyo, AKA: *Rikkyo Kinnenbi*. It’s the day that the Founder, Konko Daijin received the Divine Call to the Founder and his family. November 15<sup>th</sup> is the Birthday of Konkokyo. This year is the 163<sup>rd</sup> Year for our faith. There will be a brief prayer and visual presentation of the 6<sup>th</sup> Konko Sama, and presentations of music and dance by KMH, KCNA, Japan and Brazil! Join us, by all means! You can meet other Konko believers from overseas as well. Wear your Konko T-shirts if you have one! The **ZOOM ID is: 862 3043 3190** and the **Passcode is: 829276**. Email me at [ednakazuko@gmail.com](mailto:ednakazuko@gmail.com) or text me at 808-223-3448 if you would like to participate. Wishing you a wonderful month in November. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!! *Aloha, Edna*

