



# NCC News

## November 24, 2013



*A Weekly Newsletter of Nu'uanu Congregational Church*

### Sukkah

The sukkah (“booth” or tabernacle”) is reminiscent of the fragile dwellings the Israelites lived in during the 40 years they wandered in the desert after they were freed from slavery in Egypt. It is also a reminder of God’s provision to the Israelites during that time.

Today, we are reminded of God’s provision in our lives. We invite you to place your food items in the sukkah during the hymn of praise. The collected food will be donated to the Hawai’i Food Bank. With gratitude, let us share our abundance with others!



### 52nd Nu’uanu Valley Interfaith Thanksgiving Service - Nov. 26

Join us on Tuesday, **November 26**, for this unique Thanksgiving service with our neighboring faith communities. The theme for this year is “We All Stand Together Shoulder to Shoulder.” The service will be held at United Church of Christ, 467 Judd Street at 7:00 p.m. Additional parking is available at Church of the Nazarene, 408 Judd Street or at Tenrikyo Honolulu Ko Church, 349 Judd Street (front lot only).

**Lorraine Gershun** from Kids Hurt Too Hawaii will offer the message. Kids Hurt Too Hawaii is a non-profit organization that supports children impacted by death, divorce, and placement in foster care. Training for workers and parents are offered, along with crisis intervention after deaths from homicide, suicide, accidents, and disasters. Kids Hurt Too Hawaii was selected as the beneficiary of the goodwill offering that will be collected that evening.

Each participating church has been asked to help with refreshments. If you are able to make something simple (cookies, fruit platter, etc.), please notify **Joyce Uyehara, Mabel Suzuki**, or the church office. If you are unable to attend the service, you may drop off your contribution at the church office. Mahalo.



## Greening the Church - November 29

Save **Friday, November 29!** We will be preparing the sanctuary at 8:30 a.m. for the *Hanging of the Greens Service* on **December 1**. Bring your garden clippers and lend a hand! Able-bodied men are needed to cut and set up the Christmas tree.



## All-Church Advent Activities

Advent begins on Sunday, **December 1**. The first three Sundays in Advent we will have activities following our 9:00 a.m. service in Kosasa Hall for the entire congregation.

**Dec. 1** we are having our annual Christmas Potluck Luncheon, advent wreath-making for all who would like to make one, and pictures with Santa. Pictures with Santa are \$10.00 with proceeds going to help fund the March 2014 Youth Mission Trip to Kauai.

**Dec. 8** we will be writing and sending Christmas cards to members and friends of NCC who are homebound and to our college students.

**Dec 15** we will be making gingerbread houses. All activities are intergenerational. Come and share the joy of the Advent season!

Board of Christian Nurture

## Nichigobu Christmas Lunch Buffet at Oahu Country Club



The Nichigobu (Japanese-speaking) congregation's Christmas lunch buffet at \$25.95 per person on **Thursday, December 5, 2013** at **11 a.m.** at Oahu Country Club, 150 Country Club Road. Nu'uaniu Church members and friends are cordially invited. Carpool at church parking lot. Sign up on Sundays with **Dorothy Kusumoto** by **December 1** or call Dorothy at 230-7031.

Dorothy Kusumoto

## Hui Hoaloha Christmas Luncheon - December 12

The Christmas luncheon will be held on Thursday, **December 12, 2013** at 15 Craigsides Place at 11:00 a.m. The cost of the buffet luncheon is \$12.00. Sign-up on the Fellowship lanai. Parking is limited, so please plan to carpool to Craigsides. December planners are Sets Takahashi, Edith Fujihara, Barbara and Howard Mau.



## 2013 Contributions

Just a reminder....in order for contributions to be credited for the 2013 tax year, they must be either mailed to the church with a USPS postmark not later than December 31, 2013 or dropped off at the church office before 12 noon, Tuesday, December 31, 2013. Contributions received after December 31 will be credited to 2014.

## Nichigobu Worship News

**The Rev. Yuji Nakamura**, supply pastor for Nichigobu (*Japanese speaking*) worship service, will preach today at 9 a.m. and on **December 1 and 8**. Last Sunday, **Linda Kim** and **Setsuko Tokumine** offered a gospel hula to a song composed by Rev. Nakamura who played the ukulele and was joined in singing with his wife **Chieko**. Linda and Setsuko will offer a gospel hula again today.

A graduate of Tokyo Biblical Seminary, Rev. Nakamura served as Pastor of West Oahu Christian Church in Waipahu for ten years. Currently on medical leave, Rev. Nakamura shared about his cancer now in remission, and his current health challenges at the Nichigobu Worship on September 15. He and his wife led the Nichigobu with familiar hymns and some upbeat songs he composed. The Nichigobu sang with gusto, accompanied by Rev. Nakamura on his ukulele. He recently released a CD of his composed Japanese Christian songs. They will depart in mid December for the East Coast for the Japanese Churches Christmas Concerts, and will include a visit with **Rev. Yoko Asada**, former Nichigobu Pastor of Nuʻuanu Congregational Church.

**Helen Pierce**, daughter of **Tokutaro** and **Hamako Hirota**, will share stories of her parents' service to Nuʻuanu Congregational Church on **December 22** at the 9 a.m. Nichigobu worship service. The kitchen in Kibo Kan is named after her beloved mom, Hamako Hirota, known for her *oishi sushi*, among other culinary skills she shared with the church.

Dorothy Kusumoto

## Treasure Hunt Sale

SAVE the DATE: **Saturday, January 25**, we will have a Treasure Hunt Sale at the church! This event is jointly sponsored by The Children's Center, Inc. and the church.

SAVE your TREASURES: Please begin saving all of your "treasures" that you no longer need/want that you can donate to the Treasure Hunt Sale. For more information, contact **Laurie Hamano**.

## Christmas Party Gifts for Transition House & Family Promise



The moms at the Transition House have provided us with specific requests for gifts that would be meaningful for each child. See Judy Keith on the fellowship lanai to pick up a card with a suggested gift for one of the children. Bring the gifts to Santa at our Christmas party, and he will make sure they are delivered to the Transition House keiki.

If you would prefer to make a monetary donation and let the Missions Committee take care of the shopping, bring your donation to the Christmas Party. We will purchase gift cards for the families at Transition House and Family Promise. If you are wondering why we are not doing something special for the Family Promise keiki, it is because every December it looks like Santa's workshop exploded at the Family Promise headquarters. Many other churches and organizations ensure that the Family Promise children are remembered over the holidays.

### White Christmas

We are collecting donations for the UCC Transition House and for River of Life Mission this year. A River of Life spokesperson says they can use "almost anything," such as gently used clothing, bedding, and towels. Some new suggestions this year included: band aids, tweezers, nail clippers, hand sanitizer, backpacks or fanny packs, baseball caps, and diapers. And of course, there are the ever popular underwear, socks and feminine supplies. Special thanks to the mystery Santa who started the giving season early last week.

Judy Keith

### Nursery - Coming Soon!

The Board of Christian Nurture is responding to the needs of parents with infants and toddlers and is planning to provide a nursery starting in January. It will be located in Hale 'Ohana and staffed by **Julia Nakamura** and rotating volunteers. If you love the little ones and would like to volunteer for a month as a helper, you will find the sign up on the fellowship lanai after service. Parents are welcome to stay in the nursery with their child if they so desire.



Future plans include providing audio of the worship service to the nursery. Wish list: high chairs and gently used, age appropriate books and toys.

Judy Keith