

# Origins

*No. 280 December 2014*



**60th Anniversary Commemorative Symposium (11/22)**

***Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters of Hawaii***

## ***60th Anniversary of Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters of Hawaii Commemorative Symposium***

On November 22, the Commemorative Symposium was held at Ala Moana Hotel with a total of over 150 participants. In the symposium, after a movie entitled “Inori: Prayer - Conversation with Something Great,” Dr. Kazuo Murakami, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tsukuba delivered a motivational address. The movie was also shown on the same day from 3:00pm and 7:00pm at Mission Headquarters. Dr. Murakami also appeared at Mission Headquarters in the morning of Sunday, 23. He shared his experiences and talked in a friendly manner with people who joined the exchange.

### **Stretching our Possibilities by Switching on our Genes**

*Dr. Kazuo Murakami, Professor Emeritus, Tsukuba University*

#### **Opening Words**

Thank you very much for inviting me to come to Hawaii at this time. I'm very glad and grateful to meet all of you today. I also want to express my deep appreciation for all your concerns after the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011.

I have been engaged in research and education in the field of genetics for many years. This field is progressing very rapidly, even now. Above all, what draws my biggest attention is that genes have switches.

However, it is generally thought that genes are fixed. Let me recount an episode.

#### **Switching on and off of Genes**

A couple had three sons. The oldest two, did very well in school and were obedient to the parents. The youngest one, however, was very troublesome, hardly going to school,

not listening to his teachers, not doing his homework; he was uncontrollable.

To make matters worse, the youngest one alone did not look like the father. So the father was suspicious, but he could not tell others about it and was deeply troubled.

But, when his wife was finally facing death, he gathered enough courage to ask her, saying: “You've been a most wonderful wife to me. Whatever it is, please tell me the truth. Who is the real father of the bad youngest son?” Then the wife gasped, “He is the only one that is yours.”

In this way, it is well known that genes are passed down from the real parents to the real children, not from parents to children only because they are registered on the family registry.

Recently, all the genetic information of a human being has been decoded, and a very

interesting fact is found. Of all the genetic information, we only know about, just 2% of its function; we don't know about the other 98%, which is referred to as "junk DNA." However, I've always thought that the "junk DNA" occupying 98% is impossible. Now it's been found that the portion called "junk DNA" has an important role, related to the switching on and off of our genes.

In my relevant research, I've come to think that the functioning of our mind can be related to the switching on and off of our genes. So I started a "research workshop on mind and genes" with a hypothesis that the functioning of our mind, or use of our mind, has an impact on the switching on and off of our genes.

### **Laughing and Genes**

Then I embarked on a research to find out which genes get turned on or off by "laughing." Why is it that laughing is good for our health? Let me recount an experiment involving diabetic patients. We asked about 20 diabetics to take part in this 2-day experiment.

On the first day, right after eating lunch, they listened to a lecture on the "mechanism of diabetes" delivered by a college professor and, 40 minutes later, had their blood sugar level tested. The result was that their average blood sugar level rose by 123mg, which was more than anticipated.

Then on the second day, they listened to a Japanese comic dialogue instead of a lecture. The difference is that on the first day they listened to a lecture and on the second day

they listened to a comic dialogue by a duo called "B & B," which made them laugh so hard. Then right after laughing, they had their blood sugar level tested. The result was a drop to 77, while on the first day it was 123. So the difference was 46mg.

Doctors on diabetes were shocked with this big impact produced by laughing alone. If this experiment progresses, there may be a clinic which will prescribe a comic dialogue video instead of ordinary medication, asking the patient to watch the video before and after each meal.

In my public lectures, I've been asked various questions about this experiment. The funniest one was, "Where can I get this medicine called B&B?" I thought this was a joke, but the person was serious. Patients have a preconception that treatment means medication.

Laughing really relaxes our mind. A baby's smile brings a sense of happiness to the parents and to others nearby. However, it is not that the parents have taught the baby to smile.

Of course, they have not told the baby to smile. The baby was born with genes necessary for smiling. I think there exists a set of genes related to smiling. We've found genes which get turned on by laughing. Indeed laughing is not a laughing matter.

Real happiness, I think, it is not simply found in living a long life but in encountering something to which one can dedicate their life. I believe that our genes get switched on when we put our life into something, risking our life for something.

Anyway, I'm hoping that my research on laughing will open the way for studies on the mind and genes. The mind is academically a difficult subject to study. What is the mind? I divide mind into two kinds. One is the joyous mind; the other is the gloomy mind. The joyous mind turns on good genes, while the gloomy mind turns on bad genes. This is my general idea.

Quite recently, I have started researching on prayer and genes. We're finding some genes that get turned on in people praying.

### **Decoding the Genetic Codes in Rice**

It is not that I have researched on nothing but laughing. After retiring from the university, I was involved in a big project trying to decode all of the rice genetic information.

Rice is what Japanese people have long been producing, which has had a great impact on the way of living and thinking of the Japanese people. Rice production is indeed a gene for culture.

Science has no national boundaries. It can be done by anyone anywhere. Scientists, however, have national boundaries. So I was determined that decoding of the rice genetic information had to be done in Japan.

I always say that settling the mind is primary in research. Especially, a research project that does not proceed unless the leader settles their mind. I'd heard that "God will help us if we really put our hearts and efforts into it for three years, one thousand days." As a result of researching while putting all of ourselves into it, almost desperately, for three years, one thousand days, Japanese scientists

miraculously became the first to decode all of the rice genetic information in the world. The young ones in my research team worked really hard. We have compiled a big encyclopedia of the rice genetic information. We are very proud of it. Sometimes looking at the genetic codes we decoded, I remind myself of our team's great efforts.

### **Something Great**

However, I have come to be aware of something marvelous before. Our technology of decoding the genetic codes is wonderful, yet there is something which is far more wonderful than this. That is, before being decoded, these genetic codes had been written. Because these have been written already, we can decode them. Who wrote them? It is not human beings. Human beings could not have possibly written all the genetic codes involving human beings themselves. Genetic codes are like a design for living things and human beings. It could not have been written at random. An amount of human genetic information that matches 10,000 volumes of writing have been written down in what is only a 200-billionth of a gram and a 500,000th of a millimeter. This cannot be a human act but God's work.

So in the actual field of science, I've come to a conviction that this must be the work done by God or Something Great. It is generally thought that nature is what has written down the genetic codes in that very tiny space and keeps them working. Nature, as we know it, refers to the sun, the moon, the earth, mountains, and rivers; all these are

clearly visible. And there are other things, like oxygen and hydrogen, which are not so visible but measurable. Nature as these, cannot possibly write the genetic codes. So I've come to think that nature has two modes.

One is nature which is visible or tangible. The other is nature that is invisible or intangible. What is really important to us human beings may be the latter. Love or affection is invisible. Parental love is also invisible. Our mind or heart is also invisible. Our life is also invisible. It seems that people today are taking lightly the value of invisible things.

### **The Value of Being Alive**

We often say that we live, but there is no one who lives by their own power. Now we can produce human proteins and hormones by using bacteria. We were shocked with the news that insulin used for diabetic treatment was produced from bacteria. Can bacteria really produce human hormones or enzymes? How is it possible? Do you know?

About 60 years ago from now, the substance of genes was revealed. It was chemical material called DNA. Since then, this field has progressed greatly. Then it was discovered that all living things—microbes, insects, plants, animals—existing in the past, present, and future, share the same genetic codes.

What this means is that not only human beings but all living things are connected by the same genetic codes of DNA, implying that all are linked to one origin. All living things are connected with one another. Thus,

from a scientific perspective, life or being alive is itself a great wonder.

We can produce human hormones and enzymes by using bacteria, but we can never produce a simple bacterium even if all the scientists in the world collaborated or all the countries' budgets were spent on this. We know well about its components, yet we cannot produce a living cell simply by assembling the components. This shows the magnitude of the wonder that life is. Even a simple living cell is a magnificent wonder.

### **Functioning of Altruistic Genes**

The likelihood of a simple living cell being accidentally produced is similar to the likelihood of winning a one-million-dollar lottery for one million straight times, which is impossible. Each of us has about 60 trillion of such cells, for one kilogram in an adult is made up of one trillion cells. Whereas the world population is 7 billion, each human being has within him/herself tiny living things about 9,000 times as many. Yet it is a wonder that those cells never fight against each other.

Each cell functions in its own way, but each organ cannot function properly unless all the cells composing the organ work together. And each organ works with other organs to keep us alive. This is really a wonderful collaboration. How this is possible cannot be explained by science, though. I believe there are altruistic genes—genes for helping and working with others within, for the sake of the whole. Such genes will be found in this century. Or we hope to find them.

## **Life is a Gift from God**

Anyway, being alive is not something ordinary. People often say “make a baby,” but that is human arrogance. We human beings cannot even produce a simple bacterium. How can we possibly produce a baby by our human power alone? All we can do is to arrange the conditions necessary for a conception. Thereafter, it is said that a re-creation or replay of the whole evolutionary drama takes place in the mother’s womb, from a fish-like state, to a reptile, a mammal, and, finally, a human being. The history of living things is said to be about 3.8 billion years, which is replayed in the mother’s womb in just 38 weeks. This is a tremendous speed.

Roughly speaking, a week in the mother’s womb equals 100 million years for the fetus. If the mother gets drunk for a day, the fetus is drunk for over 10 million years. The drama of human creation taking place in the mother’s womb is far beyond human power. The baby will, of course, belong to the parents, but before it is born the evolutionary drama of 3.8 billion years has to unfold. So in this sense, life is very valuable.

Therefore life is a gift, a thing granted, from God, called God the Parent in Tenrikyo.

## **21st Century Calls for a Genuine Religion**

In the 21st century, the problems of global environment and natural resources will be more and more serious. Science and technology alone is not enough to solve these problems. A religious approach based on a deep sense of respect and reverence

for the Great Nature or Something Great will be needed. For that purpose, dialogues between scientists and religionists become more important than ever.

The human genetic information is virtually the same in everyone. Whether it is a Nobel Prize winner or the ordinary old man sitting next to you, genetically 99.5% is the same. This is because all human beings are children of God the Parent. Never does God the Parent favor certain children over others. That’s why all human beings have been born with the 99.5% identical genetic information.

Genes have existed since 3.8 billion years ago, continuously without a single break. Not even a single mistake has occurred. This illustrates the very wonder, the miracle, of our being alive now. So having gone through the selection process of 3.8 billion years to be born into this world, each of us should try to fully realize our potential, instead of comparing ourselves to others.

## **The Joyous Life as our Way of Living**

For what purpose do we exist? Tenrikyo teaches us that we have been created to live the Joyous Life. For that to be realized, it is essential to know the existence of Something Great, who is the Parent of the origin of life and to be thankful for Its workings. Furthermore, it is our task to construct a world of the Joyous Life and to enjoy that world, not just for ourselves but with others and together with the Parent of the origin of life, namely, God the Parent.

May health and prosperity be with you. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

## November Monthly Service Prayer

Appearing before You, God the Parent, Tenri-O-no-Mikoto, I (Shugo Yamanaka) bishop of the Mission Headquarters of Hawaii speak with reverence on behalf of the Hawaii congregation.

God the Parent, You revealed Yourself to this world by receiving Oyasama as the Shrine and taught us the truth of all things, guiding us on the path toward the Joyous Life. Knowing this truth, we are living in joy and high spirits as we feel Your blessings each and every day. At the same time, we are putting forth our efforts to grow spiritually by trying to follow the Divine Model of Oyasama as much as possible. Today is the day we are granted to conduct the November Monthly Service at this mission headquarters. We, the service performers will unite our hearts as one to perform the Seated Service and the Dance with Hand Movements joyously in high spirits. We will be joined by brothers and sisters of the path in Hawaii who have looked forward to this day and have gathered here today, in singing the Songs for the Service in unison and praying in earnest for a Joyous Life World. As You watch us, we hope You will be spirited as well.

Last month, in his sermon after the Autumn Grand Service at Church Headquarters' Main Sanctuary, the Shinbashira exhorted each and every Yoboku to decisively engage in whatever salvation work one can do in his/her own way in this important season, now two years after the issuance of the Instruction Three and a little more than a year before Oyasama's 130th Anniversary. With firm determination, each of us will strive to accomplish our resolutions as well as engage in the final pre-anniversary activities.

On the 22nd of this month, we'll be holding a symposium commemorating the 60th Anniversary of Hawaii Dendocho, inviting Dr. Kazuo Murakami. By listening to his talk on the newest genetic research and his Tenrikyo faith, we hope to further heighten our awareness and confidence about our own faith.

Together we vow to accord with the intention of God the Parent, whose desire is for all humankind to live the Joyous Life, and as instruments of Oyasama we will walk firmly on the path of single-hearted salvation and single-heartedness with God here in Hawaii. Especially, those of us who are head ministers serving as the core of respective churches should never forget that we all received divine sanction from the everliving Oyasama and thus have a very important role. Being in the important season of approaching Oyasama's 130th Anniversary, each and every one of us will take the initiative to make decisive efforts to grow spiritually. May You, God the Parent, accept our sincerity, and we ask that You guide us further towards the advancement of the Path in Hawaii and the reconstruction of the world into a Joyous Life World where everyone will live together in harmony helping and caring for one another even a day sooner. Together with all present, I sincerely pray that You bless us so.

# Mission HQ November Monthly Service Sermon

*Mrs. Lee Ann Inouye* Spouse of Head Minister of Hawaii Central Church

Good morning! I would like to take a few minutes of your time and share my experience.

My name is Lee Ann Inouye and my husband is the Head Minister of Hawaii Central Church. One year ago, I got a phone call from the Bishop asking if I could give a sermon. I humbly declined as I don't like public speaking. He then said that it wouldn't be for another year and that I would have ample time to think about what I'm going to say. I humbly declined, again. A couple days passed and he called again and asked if I could give the sermon. I thought, "This guy is not going to give up!" So I told him I would think about it. A couple of days later, my husband asked if the Bishop had called me about the sermon. I told him that I wasn't going to do it. We discussed and even argued about it. Needless to say, I agreed to do it. As each month passed, I never forgot about it and somehow just accepted it. So here I am today.

I am the youngest of three and grew up in a Tenrikyo church. Growing up in a Tenrikyo church was not easy. My weekends was usually filled up with monthly services and hinokishin, but it prepared me for the life that I have now. It taught me that life wasn't all about you. It was about everyone around you



and how you can help them. When I was about 6 years old, I remember living with my great grandmother, Miyuki Kawasaki. She helped me realize that doing things for other people, who cannot do things for themselves, really make them happy and in return, it makes you happy. I remember "hiobachan" loved her sweets. As she lay in her bed I would bring her a cold can of Sprite with a straw and when she drank it, she would squint her face from the strong carbonation. However, she would make a loud "Ahhhh" as to have quenched her thirst. So, I would stir the soda to get rid of some of the carbonation. On another occasion, as I was told by my mother, she would chase me around with a broom because I put too much ketchup on my plate after being told not to do it myself.

In 1992, I started dating my husband. He lived with his parents and took care of them. I would always talk to his mother when I went over. I was afraid to talk to his father

because he was a very quiet man and he just looked scary. I imagined him yelling at me for interrupting him while watching his favorite show, National Geographic. During dinner, I watched his mother, lovingly; prepare his tofu, lettuce and sake. Over the years, I sometimes helped her to prepare his dinner like how she did it.

After 4 years, we got married and I started to take on the role of taking care of them. Taking them shopping, making sure they hadn't fallen down or even checking to see if they have eaten.

Although she was my mother-in-law, she was almost the same age as my grandmother. And with that age gap, we had very different ways of doing things. She would get upset when I would throw away things. She would say, "Mottainai", which means wasteful.

In 2008, she had a stroke. We spent the next few weeks trying to rehabilitate her back to normal. Her motor skills and speech were getting better. She had to use a walker, which meant the hallways had to be clear of anything obstructing her path. She would often fall down in the bathroom or in her room so someone would always need to be there just in case she needed help getting up. I had quit my job when I got pregnant prior to this, so I was able to be at home with her. I dropped her off at the daycare every morning and Tyron would pick her up in the afternoon. We eventually had to put a commode in her room so she wouldn't have to go far to use

the bathroom. She hated it. One day, I used the commode to block the doorway of her bedroom. I caught her trying to move the commode while she was using her walker. I had to laugh but insisted that she use it for her safety. She never did. She was set in her ways and I have to respect that. So we let her do whatever she wanted to.

As she got older, at the age of 92, her bones were getting brittle and she fractured her back and was hospitalized for therapy. However, her health deteriorated. She would hardly eat anything despite the home cooking that was brought for her. Everyone would take turns during meal time and feed her, hoping she would eat and get some energy. Despite everyone's effort, she stopped eating and she later passed away for rebirth.

I believe with every departure of some kind, there is something new reborn. In 2013, we were notified that the Shinbashira will be attending the 60th Anniversary of Dendocho and will be visiting a couple of churches and Hawaii Central would be one of them. If any of you have been to Hawaii Central before, you probably noticed all the termite holes and peeling paint. It took a little over 10 years to finally get a loan, plan and execute this renovation plan. I believe God the Parent got tired of waiting and sent Shinbashira to hurry this along. We had about 6 months to change out everything except the roof. It seemed like a big task to do in only 6 months, but it had to be done. So in November of 2013, we started

construction. The construction started off slow with little progress, but as the weeks passed, there were visible changes. New walls, a floor and a new ceiling. In March, we flew in someone from Japan to make a new altar. He stayed for about two weeks and barely finished it before he left. At that point, we only had about a month and a half before the Shinbashira would arrive. The floors were bare, the shinden area was filled with scaffolding and the walls were not finished. I had my doubts about finishing the construction, but I believe God the Parent was watching over us and on April 5, 2013, we held a hokokusai, a service to put back the shrine to its original place. We were all very happy and relieved that we had finished the construction safely, with even some time to spare. We spent the next couple of weeks preparing to receive the Shinbashira, such as, taking out the fancy dishes, washing the oshibori and meeting with the congregation to discuss the layout of that day. We were all so busy with the preparation, I didn't notice that our Yorozuyo sign had a hole in it. Upon closer inspection, due to the age and brittleness, a piece in the middle of the paper was missing. When I removed it from the wall, I saw a small hole, thinking only one thing could have made this, a nail. I knew we couldn't leave it like that, so when I returned to Jiba on April 16th, I went hunting for a new one. Going through hondori, sticking my head in all the stores that sold kamisama things, I finally found

one that sold the Yorozu signs. There were ones that were already in frames, but I wouldn't be able to put it in my suitcase. Then I asked one of the employees if they sold just the paper. She said they do and brought out this big roll, but I would need to look through each one and pick the one I wanted. After about 20 minutes, I had chosen one and they were nice enough to put it in a tube for safe transport. When I returned to Hawaii, about 8 days later, I had to remount the paper in the frame. I had no idea how to do it, so I discussed the matter with my niece and she said she would try and do it, so with the help of her husband, they started to work on it. I gave them some red material that I had leftover to border the paper, which they ironed and glued it to some cardboard. They put it together with the frame and it was done. I was very happy how it turned out.

The day arrived and we were as ready as we could be. Everyone was anxious and excited. On May 16, 2013, we received the Shinbashira in our newly renovated church. Having this incredible opportunity to be able to receive the Shinbashira in this lifetime is a huge blessing and I'm very grateful to the previous kaichosan and okusan for planting those seeds.

Looking back, I am still amazed how such a big task was done in such a short period of time. I know that the previous kaichosan and okusan are looking down and are very pleased and happy at how things turned out.

Thank you for your time.

# Island News & Mission HQ Announcements

## **Spiritual Development Course, English Class at Jiba**

The Spiritual Development Course English Class will be held from late March for three months. Due to the time necessary to obtain a visa good for over 3-month period, it is advised that those who wish to enroll in these classes contact Mission Headquarters in advance.

## **Church Headquarters Mission Visit for Oyasama's 130th Anniversary**

This will be held on Saturday, December 20, from 9:00am at Dendocho. All head ministers of churches and mission stations and Dendocho service performers are requested to attend it. Rev. Mitsunori Toi will be serving as lecturer.

## ***Newlyweds!***



On Sunday, November 16th, Kyle Kikuchi (Shuto Grand Church/ Aloha Church) and Michelle Inouye were married at Foundress' Sanctuary of Church Headquarters. Congratulations and Best Wishes to the new Mr. & Mrs. Kikuchi!



## **Mission HQ Personnel Changes**

On Saturday, November 8, Mr. Kazuya Maegawa (Shikishima Grand Church/ Senami Branch Church) returned to Japan after finishing his duty as a staff of Dendocho for two years. We thank him for his dedication and efforts!

## ***New Baby Girl on Board!***

**Zarina Yukari Taylor**

Born: November 4, 2014

7 lbs 5.4 oz 19 inches

Parents:

David & Annabella Taylor

(Pearl Church)

Third child & second daughter

Congratulations!



# Tid Bits

## Associations' Reports

### WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

I believe that many people were given courage and hope in their faith by watching the movie "Inori: Prayer" and by listening to Dr. Kazuo Murakami's speech. The upcoming event is the Church Headquarters Mission Visit which will be held on Saturday, the 20th. The lecturer, Rev. Mitsunori Toi, came to Hawaii for the 30th Anniversary of Hawaii Young Men's Association as an attendant of the President of Young Men's Association. Let us listen to his lecture attentively so as to start the final year of "three years, one thousand days" spiritedly.

#### Nuuanu Hale Visitation

December 6th (Sat) 9:30 a.m.

#### Monthly Meeting

December 8th (Mon) 9:00 a.m.

#### WA Musical Instruments Practice

December 16th (Tue) 9:00 a.m.

\*The December Monthly Service luncheon hinokishin is assigned to Godo-A group.

### BOYS & GIRLS ASSOCIATION

#### Leaders Camp and New Year's Park Cleanup and BBO Picnic

Our annual Leadership Camp will be held on Saturday January 24 through Sunday, the 25th, 2015. The New Year's Park Cleanup and BBQ Picnic on Sunday, January 25, 2015 at 10am.

#### Spring Camp and General Meeting 2015

For those who need to plan ahead the 2015 (40th) Spring Camp and General Meeting will be held on March 20 – 22 Fri-Sun, 2015. March 16-20, 2015 is Spring Recess for most public schools. Please mark your calendars!



#### UNICEF

Thank you for your kind and sincere efforts in collecting donations for UNICEF. Total amount of donation will be announced soon. The above picture was taken at Waikiki when we did trick or treating for UNICEF on Halloween night.

## YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION

Aloha YMA members! Please allow me this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to you for all of your continued support of THYMA in 2014 in all forms of prayer, hinokishin, positive thoughts, donations, spirit, and most importantly, your time. As we look ahead into the new year 2015, many opportunities await our initiative, our energy, and our resolution to grow ever more spiritually toward the 130th Anniversary of Oyasama. Let us put our faith into action by following the lead of our new President, Daisuke-sama. THYMA will be engaging in kaminanagashi each month following the luncheon after the Dendocho monthly services which we began last month with a total of 6 participants.

We will be assisting the HUGS Holiday party to be held on Saturday, December 20th with set-up, parking, and clean-up. We humbly request your time, and assistance in bringing joy to others through this community service project.

May I encourage all of you to continue to inspire others through your daily actions of hinokishin, selflessness, and sincerity where ever you may work, play, and reside. Wishing you and your family a joyous, and prosperous new year! Hinokishin with a smile!

### **Monthly Meeting**

December 17th (Wed) 7:30pm  
Rainbow Hale

## YOUNG WOMEN'S CLUB

Long time no see! Thank you everyone for continuing to support the YWC in my absence over the past 3 months. One thing that stuck out to me through out the different courses was the importance of unity of mind. The importance for us to come together because the joyous life can not be realized by oneself, it is when we all live joyously together.

### **Uganda Project**

Fantastic! We did it everyone! We are thrilled to report that we were able to send double our proposed goal to the kids in Uganda. This marks the end of the project but don't worry there will be many more projects to come. I'd like to say a deep heartfelt thank you to all who showed (and didn't show but had the thought in mind to) support for the Uganda Project! We couldn't have done it without you guys!

### **Help Hawaii's Students**

Hey all you Uganda Project helpers come on over and help us to close out this year with the final push to help Hawaii's students by collecting school supplies for those who are unable to afford their own. Backpacks, bags, pens, pencils, notebooks, paper etc. You can bring them to the mini bazaar or contact me and we can work something out if you can't make it to the monthly service. Michelle #808-469-5347 December is the last month for this so lets show em' whatchya got!



# The Hungry Reporter

I have been looking for a light and simple cranberry dessert perfect for the holidays. I came across this easy to make one that I know you will enjoy. Sure to be a crowd pleaser as a potluck item or simply served at your own holiday gathering. Hope you enjoy this!!

## Holiday Cranberry Salad

### Ingredients:

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- 2 cups water
- 1 (6 oz) pkg Strawberry Flavored Jello Mix
- 1 (10 oz) pkg Frozen Strawberries, thawed
- 1 (16 oz) can Whole Cranberry Sauce
- 1/2 cup Chopped Pecans
- 8 leaves lettuce
- 1 (3 oz) pkg Cream Cheese, softened
- 1 cup Sour Cream
- 1/3 cup White Sugar
- 1 Tbsp Lemon Juice



### Directions:

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1. Boil the water and combine with the strawberry flavored gelatin mix in a medium bowl. Mix in the strawberries, cranberry sauce and pecans. Transfer to a 2 quart mold. Chill in the refrigerator 6 to 8 hours, or overnight.
2. Place the molded gelatin mixture on a serving plate and surround the base with lettuce leaves.
3. In a medium bowl, mix the cream cheese, sour cream, sugar and lemon juice with an electric mixer until well blended. Use this mixture as a topping for each serving of salad.



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## December Calendar 2014

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mon	Monthly Nioigake Day WA Committee Meeting	Meet @ Mission HQ Mission HQ	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tue	Community Hinokishin Day TCC Monthly Service	Meet @ Mission HQ TCC	9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
6 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	WA Nuuanu Hale Visitation	Meet @ Mission HQ	9:30 a.m.
8 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	WA Monthly Meeting	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
13 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	Adopt A Hwy Cleanup Hinokishin	Meet @ Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
15 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	TCC & Bunko Joint Comm. Meeting	TCC	7:30 p.m.
16 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	WA Musical Instruments Practice Nurturing Comm. Meeting	Mission HQ Mission HQ	9:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.
17 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Mr. Akihiko Nishimura to arrive as a coordinator of OSII (until Dec. 25) BOD Preparatory Meeting YMA Meeting	Mission HQ Rainbow Hale	1:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
18 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Rev. Mitsunori Toi to arrive in Hawaii (until Dec. 20) BGA Meeting	Rainbow Hale	7:30 p.m.
20 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	Church Headquarters Mission Visit BOD Meeting	Mission HQ Mission HQ	9:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.
21 <sup>st</sup>	Sun	Mission HQ Monthly Service Sunday School Head Ministers Meeting Oyasato Seminar Course II (until Dec. 24)	Mission HQ Rainbow Hale Mission HQ Mission HQ	9:00 a.m. After Yorozyuyo 12:45 p.m. 1:30 p.m.
26 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Yohaishiki (26th day service) Yearend Cleanup	Mission HQ Mission HQ	9:00 a.m. After Yohaishiki
30 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Yearend Mochi Pounding	Mission HQ	After Morning Service