

# GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA  
www.gedatsu-usa.org

## AUGUST 2018

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### Gedatsu Kongo's Thought for the Month

*"Our sincere hope and aspiration  
is for an everlasting peace and  
goodwill to prevail among all of  
humanity."*

We may sometimes ask  
ourselves these questions: What is  
our purpose in life? Why do we study  
Gedatsu? What is the meaning of our  
existence in this world? How should  
we live during our short lifetime? Are  
we living to fight with others? Do we  
live to complain about things and  
speak ill of others?

When we seriously ask  
ourselves these questions, the answer  
may reveal itself. We realize that, in  
our short time in this world, we  
should appreciate everything, help  
other people, and through our daily  
duties, work for people's happiness  
and world peace. We then realize the  
true meaning of our lives.

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sat-Sun	4-5	Lake Tahoe <i>Benzaiten</i> Trip and Service
Sun	12 9:30 am	Appreciation Service / <i>Benzaiten</i> Service
		"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
		Graduates Honored / Regional Board Mtg.
Sun	19 1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	26 9:30 am	Appreciation Service / Clean-up for Festival

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	5 10:00 am	Japanese <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	12 10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	19 10:00 am	<i>Benzaiten</i> Service (Japanese & English)
Sun	26 10:00 am	English Appreciation Service / <i>Ajikan</i> Meditation
		"Life in Your 20s" / L.A. Regional Board Mtg.

## SEPTEMBER 2018

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sat	1 9:30 am	Preparation for Fall Festival
Sun	2 9:30 am	138 <sup>th</sup> Fall Grand Festival
		Memorial Tower Service / <i>Saito Goma</i> Service
Tue	4	Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day)
Sun	9 10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	16 1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	23 9:30 am	Appreciation Service / <i>Higan</i> Service
Sun	30	Church Closed

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	2	Fall Grand Festival (in Sacramento)
Tue	4	Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day)
Sun	9 10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	16 10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English)
		<i>Higan</i> Service
Sun	23 10:00 am	English Appreciation Service / <i>Ajikan</i> Meditation
		"Life in Your 20s" / L.A. Regional Board Mtg.
Sun	30	Church Closed



### August “Never Forgotten” Memorial Services

The Sacramento Church will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, August 12, at 9:30 a.m.**, in conjunction with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Appreciation Service. The service will honor the souls of **George Nakayama, Konami Ide, Toshio Ide, Kuma Kotabe Ide, Rinpei Kino, Kiyota Mishima, Shirley Nakamoto Hughley, Yoshiye Ide Obu and W. Royal Domingo.**

The Los Angeles Church will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, August 12, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Masaru Akiyoshi, Mankichi Arakawa, Masako Azama, Mario Boras, Toku Dyson, William Ishibashi, Shige Ishida, Mitsu Ito, Nobuyoshi Ito, Kimiyo Kikuta, Masaru Kikuta, Sumishichi Kikuta, Kazuo Kumashiro, Shoji Kusumoto, Haku Michigami, Glenn Mizuki, Jim Nakamura, Toku Nishi, Masakazu Oishi, Umeko Sasano, Kijiro Taniguchi, Yuki Tanji, Nora Ayako Toguchi, Chohei Tomita and Tomoe Toyama.**

### Benzaiten Trip and Service – August 4

The northern California *Benzaiten* Service will be held on Saturday, August 4, at 10:30 a.m. on the west shore of Lake Tahoe at Meeks Bay (7941 Emerald Bay Road, Space B), the same location as the past few years. Some members will drive to Tahoe on Friday, staying through Sunday. For those who would like to caravan with others on Saturday, meet at the church at 7:30 am. Lunch is potluck, with barbecued hamburgers, hot dogs, and shrimp provided. If you have any questions or would like to attend, contact **Dave Ide** at [bassnfull@yahoo.com](mailto:bassnfull@yahoo.com) or (916)712-7097.

### Fall Grand Festival

The 138<sup>th</sup> Grand Festival will be held at the Gedatsu Spiritual Center in Sacramento on Sunday, September 2, from 9:30 a.m. The program will include the Memorial Tower Enshrinement and *Saito Goma* Fire Ceremony.

Again, through the generosity of **Senior Deacon Jackson Ito**, bus riders will be able to ride free of charge from L.A. to Sacramento for the Festival. Use the sign-up sheet to reserve your seat(s). Buses will leave from the L.A. Church at 10 p.m. Saturday night, September 1.

### Rokujizo Bazaar Raffle Winners!

Congratulations to the following price winners whose winning raffle tickets were drawn at the June Bazaar in Sacramento:

First Prize \$1,000	<b>D. Kimura</b>
Second Prize \$500	<b>Sarah Shaklan</b>
Third Prize \$200	<b>Sachiyo Matsumoto</b>
Fourth Prize \$100	<b>Kevin Goto</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> Prizes \$50	<b>Naomi Takara, Don Tateishi, Ryunosuke Okano, Sunday Hicks, Gabriela Fujikawa, K&amp;M Kimura, Leslie Tanaka</b>

### Come Out to Vote for L.A. Church’s Entry in Tanabata Festival Competition



The L.A. Church is once again participating in the L.A. *Tanabata* Festival competition with its “Spirit of Togetherness” hand-made *kazari* ornament.

Church members, family and friends are urged to attend the Festival in Little Tokyo on **Saturday, August 11, at 11 am.** That’s when you can cast your vote for the church’s entry to win the People’s Choice Award. Everyone’s vote is important! If you need a ride to the event, contact **Rev. Naoya** or **Jo Ann Shiroishi**. The church van will depart for the Festival at 10:30 am. The church will provide light refreshments at the Festival site.

### Manbu Kuyo Applications Due

September 3 is the deadline to apply for the *Manbu Kuyo* service in Japan. An application form is inserted in this newsletter. Note: Those attending the Fall Festival in Japan in October, and who apply for the blessing, will be able to participate directly in the service.

### WANTED: 70 Years of Gedatsu Memories

If you have any old photos, 35 mm slides and 8mm film of members and church activities over the past 70 years, we need them as part of next year’s 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Email your digital images (identified with names, dates, events, etc.) to **Cindy (Beana) Tsujimura** at [abbeana@gmail.com](mailto:abbeana@gmail.com). Or bring or mail your photos, etc., to your respective branch church. Be sure to include your name, address and email address.

## AROUND OUR CHURCH

### Sacramento Youth's Scouting Project: An Achievement in Leadership and Service

Sacramento member and Boy Scout, Everett McSwain, 18, fulfilled the most demanding requirement of his scouting advancement requirement – the Eagle Scout Service Project – by creating a lasting benefit for the Gedatsu Spiritual Center and its members. His proposed construction of a permanent wooden structure that would serve as a shaded game booth for the *Rokujizo* Bazaar and parking trellis is now a reality.

Recruiting labor from fellow scouts and church members, and securing funding from the church for materials, Everett led the planning, development and execution of the project, following the strict requirements of his scouting organization. The project was successfully completed in time for the June Bazaar, enabling Everett to advance to Eagle Scout.

Everett dedicated the project to his grandparents, Steve and Sadako Taketa. Steve Taketa was responsible for much of the construction work at *Goreichi* over the years, inspiring Everett to build something at the Spiritual Center to honor his grandparents' memory. Congratulations, Everett, and many thanks!



From left: The McSwain family, from left, Chris, Everett, Sally and Vivian. Chris serves as scoutmaster of Everett's troop. Second from left: Everett (on short ladder) finishes work on the trellis with his uncle, Scott Taketa (standing) and friend. Second from right: The trellis provided much-needed shade for the Bazaar game booth. Far right: Dedication plaque.



### Japanese Exchange Ambassadors Welcomed by U.S. Members

Exchange Ambassadors from *Gedatsu-kai* Japan – Ritsuko Sato and Satomi Takahashi – were welcomed to America by Sacramento members and immediately pitched in as part of the work crew for the *Rokujizo* Bazaar (see page 4).

Top left photo: The Ambassadors address Sacramento members. Top right: Sato (left) and Takahashi in L.A.

Bottom photo: L.A. Church members threw the two ladies a welcome party – complete with taco bar – and got to know them better through a Q&A session and their remarks at the Japanese *Kanshakai* service. (See more photos on back page.)



## AROUND OUR CHURCH

**“Thank You, Volunteers!”**

**Rokujizo Bazaar 2018 — Gedatsu Spiritual Center, Sacramento, June 23 and 24**





**Q**

**As an aging baby boomer, I am experiencing failing health. How can I accept my condition and eventual death?**

**A**

Aging is a natural cycle of life. It affects everyone – some at younger ages, others at older ages.

You may feel discouraged that you are unable to perform tasks as you had when younger. Or you may be feeling aches and pains that were never before a problem.

Life is a gift we must each be thankful for. When you wake up in the morning, be thankful that you have been granted another day of life. When you are faced with eventual death, material possessions you spent a lifetime accumulating no longer seem as important. From this point onward, live each day as if you had already died and you are looking at yourself as if you were already a spirit. From this viewpoint, what would you recommend doing with your remaining life on Earth?

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***“The most productive way you can spend the remainder of your life is to prepare your spirit for eternity.”***

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No matter how infirm you are, you can still pray and grow spiritually. The most productive way you can spend the remainder of your life is to prepare your spirit for eternity. The further you can progress spiritually, the more content your spirit will be after you die.

Let your family and friends learn from your experience, so that when they reach your life situation, they will have already attained a more enlightened spirit and truer perspective on materialism. When you are able to watch over them from the spiritual realm and observe their spiritual progress, that will give you the greatest gratification and happiness. Their spiritual progress is the greatest reward they can repay to their ancestors, just as you can repay yours. When descendants progress spiritually, ancestors benefit also.

In the meantime, pray for your body as it is the shrine for your spirit. To do so is not to merely extend the length of your life; it is to provide you with greater opportunity to increase your spiritual enlightenment. In order to attain spiritual enlightenment, ask for assistance to do so from the Universal Life Force, your ancestors and from your guardian angels. Express appreciation to Master Gedatsu Kongo for showing you the way.

**Senior Deacon Jackson Ito**

### Turning Points

Sermon by **Rev. Naoya Okano**

We all experience turning points in our lives – some big, some small. For me, my turning point in life came when I was a university student and failed the exam to become a teacher.

I had been dreaming about being a teacher since I was a junior high school student. While my school grades were just average, I never doubted that I would be a teacher someday.

I was confident because, up to that time, I had never experienced failure in my life. I was raised by my parents in a home full of love. I easily passed the high school and college entrance exams.

However, because I had never failed before, I did not apply myself to study as hard as I could have. As a result, four months before my college graduation, I failed the teacher exam.

It was a shock and a huge setback for me. My future career dreams suddenly collapsed. Day after day, I began questioning myself: “What am I going to do for my future?”

One day, when I was praying, I heard my father’s voice in my head. I kept hearing the question he had asked me many times before: “Why don’t you go to America?” He had been asking me this at least once a year since I was a child. Even though he kept asking, I never really gave it much thought, because the idea of going to the U.S. never seemed likely.

Anyway, the day after I prayed and heard my father’s voice, I told my mother, “I will go to America.” Most of you know what happened to me after that.

When I recall this experience, I feel strongly that everything happened as it should have. My father was sowing a seed of opportunity in my mind from childhood. The bud of that idea sprouted directly as a result of my failure of the teacher exam. And now, the flower of that seed my father planted in me is starting to bloom. When I think about all of this, I really appreciate everything that happened to me – especially my failing the teacher exam.

Whether big or small, everyone has experienced some kind of suffering, trouble, failure and so on. But no matter the setback, everything that has a beginning has an end. That is the blessing in life that we are given by God. We can all reach a turning point and be renewed. We can all grow and thrive and bloom again.



### A Brief Biography of Gedatsu Kongo

#### Chapter 8

#### Building the Gedatsu Pathway

By 1937, the Gedatsu teaching continued to advance throughout Japan, spreading to such areas as Nagoya, Aichi and Kobe.

In June of that year, President Okano was summoned to the headquarters of the Daigo Temple to meet with Head Priest Kaigyoku Okada. That visit would bring about new developments that would affect the Gedatsu teaching in various ways.

The backdrop to the meeting was Japan's pre-war relationship with China, which was becoming increasingly strained. As a result, the Japanese government instructed religious organizations to cooperate with one another to benefit the nation as a whole. Hence, the Daigoji Temple was tightening its control over its branch churches, which included the Gedatsu Church.

#### Cooperating with governmental, religious authorities

Therefore, at their meeting, Okada requested President Okano to adopt the basic doctrine of the Daigo School of Shingon Buddhism. President Okano understood the reason for the request, so he accepted without hesitation, agreeing to publish the Daigo doctrines in the monthly Gedatsu bulletin. He felt an obligation to the Daigo Temple and believed strongly that the essential teachings of Gedatsu would not be affected.

Head Priest Okada also requested President Okano to discontinue the performance of the *Goho* practice. To Okada's surprise, President Okano agreed, mainly because he had already considered suspending the practice.

The purpose of the *Goho* practice was self-reflection and self-reform through communication with ancestors and other spirits. When President Okano directly guided members, the *Goho* practice was performed according to this purpose. However, as members increased in number, he was unable to always guide them directly. This often resulted in the practice being performed incorrectly and departing from its intended purpose.

When members performed the *Goho* practice without the proper attitude or direction, they could become possessed by spirits or behave abnormally – sometimes causing the local police to be apprehensive of the practice. The following true account illustrates this misapplication of the *Goho*.

*When a certain member performed the Goho practice at his branch, he was told by a spirit that a huge pile of gold was buried in a specific place. Members who witnessed this rushed to the place and began to dig.*

*One of the members reported this to President Okano, who said, "Good! Take this paper with you, and when you find the gold, say 'thank you' to the gods."*

*He then wrote a receipt for the buried gold and handed it to the person, who reported this to the others.*

*They continued to dig all night. Exhausted, they could not find the gold. Early the next morning, a messenger arrived, saying, "I am delivering a message to you from President Okano. Listen carefully."*

*In great anticipation, they waited and listened. Then the messenger loudly read President Okano's words: "You fools! You've dug to the depths of your avarice. See how deep your greed is!"*

#### Focus on practicing Gedatsu in daily life

Aware of this misapplication of the *Goho* practice, President Okano felt it necessary to alter his teaching. Relying less on *Goho* training, he instead urged members to put into practice what they learned in their daily lives. He focused on teaching them how to live as wartime citizens, encouraging them to donate care packages for soldiers and contribute to their country. Each month, members put aside money from their meager household budgets to support their communities and country. Members continued these activities until the end of war in 1945.

#### Mother Kiyota seeks guidance

In the fall of 1937, a woman from the United States visited House Number 6. Ine Kiyota had immigrated to America right after her marriage. With her husband's permission, she returned to Japan with her three children to learn from President Okano.

*(Continued on page 7)*

### *(Biography – Continued from page 6)*

On her first glance at President Okano, Kiyota felt intuitively that he was a god. She rented a house near House Number 6, and she visited President Okano almost every day to learn from him. Moved by her dedication, he allowed her to accompany him when he visited branches to teach members.

After half a year of her intense training, President Okano told her, “You may return to America now.” He gave her the scrolls of *Tenjinchigi* and *Gochi Nyorai*, Holy *Goho*, a *Kuyo* stupa and other symbols of worship, and told her, “Work for the happiness of all people and extend Gedatsu across the United States. When you return to America, you will realize what you should do.”

### Gedatsu takes root in U.S. soil

Kiyota returned to the U.S. In 1942, after the forced evacuation of Japanese Americans on the west coast to relocation camps, Gedatsu spread its roots in the United States. In the Tule Lake Relocation Camp where Kiyota and her family were interned, she began to propagate Gedatsu. After the war, she continued to teach the freed internees, who had relocated to Sacramento and San Francisco. Thus, the foundation of Gedatsu in the United States was established.

### Propagating Gedatsu through delegation, training

At the end of 1937, President Okano appointed seven leaders – including Takeo Kishida – as Gedatsu teachers. He hoped that they would serve him in attaining his goal to extend Gedatsu throughout Japan for people’s happiness and peace.

While President Okano sometimes visited various parts of the country to teach members, he urged regional leaders to come to House Number 6 for training. When they came, he had trainees prepare lunch for them. When members came from remote areas, he always treated them to a restaurant, asking, “What would you like to eat, sushi or unagi?”

### Establishing ties with Sennyuji Temple

In April 1939, President Okano visited the Sennyuji Buddhist Temple in Kyoto. For a long time, he had cherished a strong desire to defend and support the temple, because it was the only family temple of the

Imperial Family. While the general public was not permitted to visit the temple, members of the Sennyuji Association support group were granted visiting privilege.

Therefore, President Okano encouraged Gedatsu members to join the Sennyuji Association, and 144 members subsequently joined. President Okano was then allowed to visit the temple. After making an appointment, he traveled with Kishida to Kyoto, where they were welcomed at the station by a high priest of the temple. President Okano met with the chief priest and other high priests for four hours, thanking them for being allowed to join the Sennyuji Association and explaining the purpose and religious activities of the Gedatsu Church.

### President Okano makes a request

“I’ve been contemplating a plan in my mind for several years,” he told the priests. “It is the sincere duty of the Japanese people to serve the Imperial family. I believe there are three sites in Japan that we Japanese citizens should always respect. They are Ise Shrine, Kashiwara Shrine, and Sennyuji Temple. I’ve wished, as president of Gedatsu Church, to visit these three sites annually together with our members. But, I’ve felt it most difficult to visit Sennyuji Temple.”

He then asked the chief priest to allow Gedatsu members to visit the temple annually by themselves, but his request was denied. After a long discussion, the chief priest told President Okano, “When you make a good showing to ensure adequate financial support to protect the temple, let us discuss this matter again.”

Throughout the war years, President Okano encouraged members to put into practice what they learned. Thus, they showed their respect and appreciation to those who sacrificed their lives for the country by performing *Amacha* blessing for the war dead, including animals used in the war effort. They also donated articles for the care of war orphans.

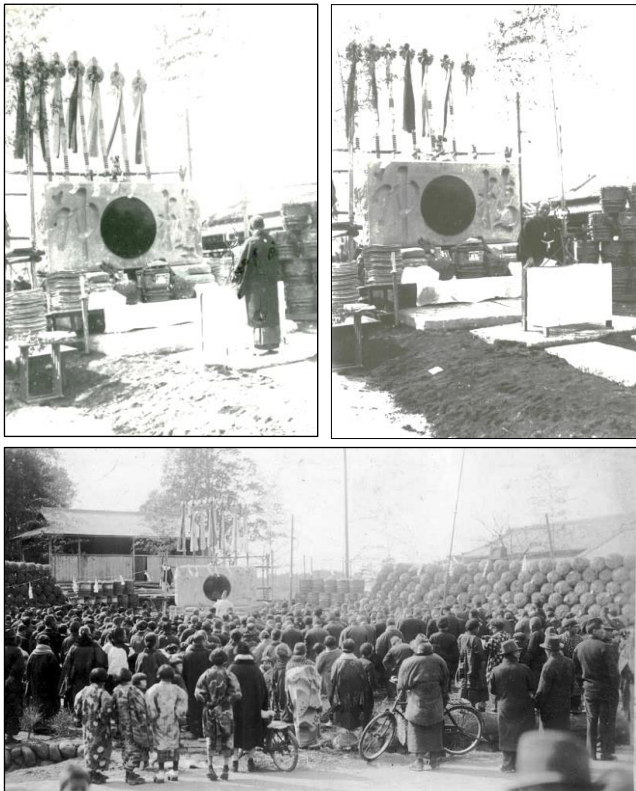
Because of severe material shortages, President Okano instructed members to be resourceful and create their own industries, such as the production and distribution of foods, charcoal and manure. For example, because charcoal was highly controlled, he had members send charcoal directly from production areas to consumers. To resolve the shortage of foods and manure, he encouraged using seaweed.

*(Continued on page 8)*

### *(Biography – Continued from page 7)*

After the New Year service in 1940 – in preparation for the unveiling ceremony of the Sun Spirit Monument the following month – President Okano purchased five kinds of cereal grains: rice, wheat, soybeans, millet and corn. He wanted to get as much of these grains as possible to offer at the ceremony, a difficult task because of wartime shortages. Members made every effort to get them.

The unveiling ceremony was held in *Goreichi* on February 11, an auspicious day marking the Empire Day of the 2600<sup>th</sup> year of the Imperial reign. The Sun Spirit Monument was covered with a white cloth. On both sides of the stone monument, 50 casks of *sake* from all parts of the country and 1,048 bags of grain were stacked in one enormous pile. The plaza before the monument was filled with the participants.



After the Sun Spirit Monument was unveiled, President Okano asked a member, who was rice dealer, to mix the bags of grain and send a portion to every branch in Japan. President Okano wanted all members to recall the hardships of their ancestors and thank them for their blessings by eating the mixed grains.

The results of this gesture were not all positive. Many members failed to understand President Okano's thoughts regarding the significance of the grain. Some members regarded the mixed grains as animal feed and returned them to the branches.

### Teaching that daily life is the religion

President Okano encouraged members to practice Gedatsu by cultivating their spirituality through their daily lives. He would repeatedly say, "Life is religion. Religion is life." He wanted members to work – with appreciation and without complaint – for the supply and distribution of foods, manure and clothing, despite the harsh wartime circumstances and material shortages that they faced daily.

By 1940, with church branches throughout the country and membership exceeding 10,000, House Number 6 in Tokyo was too small to hold the meetings of church leaders, who gathered on the first and 15th of each month. So, a new church meeting hall – *Dojo* of Great Japanese Spirit, or Tokyo *Dojo* – was erected in the Yotsuya district of Tokyo on property that was purchased with members' donations.

### Celebrating the past, facing the future

On November 10, the 2,600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Imperial Reign of Japan was celebrated in the Imperial Palace Garden. President Okano was invited to the celebration to represent the Saitama prefecture residents. He attended the ceremony wearing brand new formal attire. Emperor and Empress, other Imperial Family members, the prime minister and other ministers of state attended the ceremony.

President Okano was deeply moved and greatly honored to attend, thinking of the 2,600 years of Japanese history that culminated in this moment. Now, approaching the age of 60 – in Japanese tradition, the age that marks a rebirth to a second life – he was filled with deep emotion. He renewed his resolution to devote himself to work for the realization of peace and mankind's happiness through Gedatsu.

*(To be continued next month)*





## JUNE 2018 OFFERINGS

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**\$5–\$49:** Anonymous, M. Rodriguez, M/M R. Nakatani, K. Sato, C. Umeda, M/M D. Ide, S. Taketa

**\$50–\$99:** E. Ogawa, A. Cool, M/M N. Okano, M/M K. Kuritani, T. Murikami, M/M S. Sekikawa

**\$100+:** M/M J. Horner, M/M R. Tsujimura, J. Tanaka, T. Ishida, M. Nakamura, K. Fuji, S. Tanaka, M/M K. Yamada, K. Gibson, M/M C. Tanaka, M/M J. Detwiler, T. Okimura, S. Takahashi, R. Sato

**\$200+:** S. Nishino

**\$300+:** M/M D. Detwiler, J. Ito, M/M S. Mukai, A. Sebe

#### **Special Acknowledgment**

Dan Harada                      Appreciation for Rev. Kiyota (\$100)  
G. Kaneko                      Appreciation for retirement (\$500)

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**\$5–\$49:** P. Chen, M/M M. Hamada, J. Kaku, M/M V. Mizokami, M/M M. Murakami, T. Murakami, M. Nakamura, R. Nakamura, Y. Naruko, A. Okimura, K. Sato

**\$50–\$99:** M/M K. Kuritani, T. Nakamura, M/M S. Shaklan, F. Sueyoshi, T. Toyama, M/M R. Tsujimura

**\$100+:** M/M F. Barthel, T. Ishida, L. Ito, S. Kaku, M. Kimura, M/M T. Matsumoto, M/M S. Mukai, Y. Oishi, M. Okada, T. Okimura, M/M/ G. Wood

**\$200+:** M/M N. Okano, D. Shiroishi

**\$300+:** N. Chuk, K. Naito

**\$400+:** M/M M. Ishida, J. Ito

#### **Special Acknowledgment**

Jackson Ito                      Japan 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
   Air fare subsidy (\$25,000)  
Mary Kimura                      Never Forgotten Service (\$200)  
J. Shiroishi/Family              Memory of Tsuna & Hidekichi Shiroishi (\$100)  
Mike/Tina Hamada              Memory of Harry Arakawa & Ben Toguchi (\$100)  
Kaku/Mahoney Families              Never Forgotten for M. Kaku (\$100)  
Naoya/Yuko Okano              Nanami's Hatsumiya Mairi (\$300)

#### **Goreichi Care Fund** (Maintenance of *Goreichi* grounds)

M/M H. Graham                      \$100

## 2018/2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 6-7 (Sat-Sun) L.A. Autumn Moon Festival  
Oct 9 (Tue) Church Closed (in lieu of Columbus Day)  
Oct 20 (Sat) Sacramento Trip to Apple Hill (TBD)  
Oct 21 (Sun) L.A. *Ujigami* Service  
Oct 28 (Sun) Sacramento All Souls Service  
Nov 4 (Sun) L.A. Gedatsu Kongo 70<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service  
Nov 11 (Sun) Sacto Gedatsu Kongo 70<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service  
Nov 17 (Sat) L.A. Casino Bus trip (TBD)  
Nov 18 (Sun) L.A. Gedatsu Kongo Birthday and 7-5-3 Children's Celebration  
Nov 22-23 Church Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)  
Nov 25 (Sun) Sacramento Gedatsu Kongo Birthday and 7-5-3 Children's Celebration  
Dec 2 (Sun) L.A. Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service  
Dec 9 (Sun) Sacramento Last Service of Year  
   Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service / Church Clean-up  
Dec 9 (Sun) L.A. Church Clean-up  
Dec 16 (Sun) L.A. Christmas Service  
   Last Appreciation Service  
Dec 23-31 Church Closed

### 2019 (Events / dates subject to change)

Jan 1 (Tue) New Year's Homage  
Jan 2-3 (Wed-Thu) Church Closed  
Jan 13 (Sun) Sacramento First Service of the Year  
Jan 20 (Sun) L.A. New Year's Service  
Jan 22 (Tue) Church Closed  
   (in lieu of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day)  
Feb 17 (Sun) L.A. Sun Spirit Service  
Feb 19 (Tue) Church Closed (in lieu of Presidents Day)  
Mar 15 (Fri) Propagation Meeting 10:00 am  
Mar 16 (Sat) Board of Directors Meeting 10:00 am  
Mar 17 (Sun) L.A. *Higan* Service (Japanese & English)  
Mar 23 J(Sat) L.A. Casino Bus Trip (TBD) 8:00 am  
Mar 24 (Sun) Sacramento *Higan* Service  
Mar 31 (Sun) Church Closed  
**Apr 14 (Sun) Spring Grand Festival 9:30 am**  
May 12 (Sun) Sacramento Mothers' Day Service  
May 19 (Sun) L.A. Mothers' Day Service  
May 25 (Sat) L.A. Rummage Sale (TBD) 8:00 am  
May 26 (Sun) Sacramento plaque burning (*Joen-no-gi*)  
May 27 (Mon) Sacramento Inter-religious Memorial Day Service  
May 28 (Tue) Church Closed (in lieu of Memorial Day)

## 8 月度教会行事予定

### ロサンゼルス教会

5 (日)	10:00A	日本語感謝会
12 (日)	10:00A	祥月追善法要
19 (日)	10:00A	弁財天祭 (日本語・英語)
26 (日)	10:00A	英語感謝会・阿字観法 LA リージョナル委員会

### サクラメント教会

4-5 (土・日)	レイクタホ弁財天
12 (日)	9:30A 感謝会・弁財天祭 祥月追善法要 卒業生祝賀 リージョナル委員会
19 (日)	1:00P サンノゼ支部感謝会
26 (日)	9:30A 感謝会 大祭前清掃奉仕



## 8 月度みさとし

「我等の希求する社会は、  
共存共栄全世界の平和である」

われわれはいったい何のために生きているのか。そして、何のために解脱を学んでいるのか。自分がこの世に生を受けた意味とは何か。どんなに長くてもせいぜい百年ほどの人生を、いったい如何に生きるべきか。——このような問いかけを、ときには一人静かに自らに投げかけてみたいものである。他人と喧嘩するために生きているのか。不平不満や他人の悪口をいうために生きているのか。こう、一つひとつ自らに問いかけていくならば、きっと、この短い人生を、そして今日の一日を、どう過ごすべきかがはっきり自覚できるはずだ。それはきっと、他人のよろこびを自分のよろこびとし、他人の悲しみを自分の悲しみとすることのできる心を持ち、他人の幸せと世界平和を心から願いつつ、そのために自分の役目を通じて日々精一杯お使いいただくという生き方であるに違いない。そしてそれが、自分にとってまた、もっとも生き生きとした、幸せな生き方であることがわかるだろう。

## 誌 上 講 話

### 「返報性の原理」に学ぶ

— 人にはお返しをする気持ちがある —

サクラメント・山田一雄

会

員さんから、「サクラメントのエリアにも日本の会社がある」と聞かされました。私はサンフランシスコやシリコンバレーからもほど遠い(約 100 マイル内陸に入る)この地に、なぜ日本企業が来たのか興味津々で、どんな企業なのか尋ねました。すると、「キッコーマン」と「月桂冠」の二社で「フォルサム」にあるとのことでした。

フォルサムは、サクラメント・ゲダツ・スピリチュアル・センター(御霊地)から、フリーウェイ 50 号線をさらに東に 20 分ほど走った辺りで、山から湧く雪解け水が「フォルサム・レーク」という湖を作るほど水が豊富で風光明媚なところです。フォルサムの街に住む人たちは水道から直接水を飲むことができるほど水質もいいとのこと。だから、きれいな水を必要とする日本企業がわざわざそこに進出したのだということでした。

特

に「月桂冠では工場見学と試飲がある」と聞きましたので、大祭の翌日、ビショップと一緒に出かけようことにしました。私たちは工場見学を手早くすませ、早速、「試飲」をしました。驚いたことに、5 種類のお酒の試飲が無料でした。私は試飲の後、手土産に 4 - 5 本のお酒を買って帰りました。

\*

経営の世界では「試飲」や「試食」は、『返報性の原理』に基づく戦術だと言われています。



『返報性』とは、「人は、人から何かをしてもらったら”お返し”をしなくては申し訳ない気持ちになる」という心理作用を指します。そのような情感は、アメリカ人や日本人に限らず、人間本来、誰もが持っている自然な気持ちなのです。日本風に言えば、{恩}とか「義理」とか「人情」のようなものかもしれません。

たとえば、お店の人から素晴らしいサービスをされたら、チップを大目に上げようと考えたり、Facebook で「いいね!」をもらったら、お返しに「いいね!」



をしてあげたくなるなど、人は何か親切や好意をうけたら、こちらも相手に何か好意を返したくなる——そのような自然に起きる情感、それが「返報性」です。

そんなわけで、フォルサムの月桂冠で無料で5杯も試飲して、「タダで飲んでただ帰るだけじゃ申し訳ない」という気持ちになりお酒を買ったのも、いわば返報性の効果なのです。

## ビジネスで使われる「返報性の原理」

**ア**メリカの社会心理学者がこの「返報性の原理」について本に書いてから、「返報性の原理」はビジネスの世界で広く応用されています。たとえば、化粧品の販促などでよく「無料お試し期間」などどやっていますが、あれも「タダで使わせてもらったんだから、何か少しでも買わなきゃ悪いなあ」という「返報性の原理」を応用しています。食品売り場での「試飲」や「試食」、テレビショッピングなどで、はじめから値引きをしたりおまけをつけたりして譲歩することも、「返報性の原理」を導入したものです。つまり、はじめにサービスをして見返りを期待するという「プロモーション戦略」です。

そのように、「人は他人から何らかの施しを受けた場合、お返しをしなければならないという感情を抱く」。その返報性がビジネスの戦略にも応用されているわけです。

しかし、返報性は、好意を受けたときだけに起きる気持ちではありません。悪意を受けた時にも起こるのです。「返報性」は下記の4つに分けて説明されます。

- ・**好意の返報性**:…好意を受ければ、こちらも好意を示したくなる。
- ・**敵意の返報性**:…敵意を見せられれば、こちらも敵意を示したくなる。
- ・**譲歩の返報性**:…相手が譲歩すれば、こちらも譲歩する。
- ・**自己開示の返報性**:…相手が心を開けば、自分も同じ程度に心を開く。

## 人生は「受ける-与える」出し入れの勉強

**実**は、私たちは、このようなことを、普段自然と、無意識に行なっているわけです。

笑顔で話しかけられれば、自然と笑顔で返事したくなりますし、難しい顔で話しかけられれば、こちらも警戒します。相手が値段を下げて譲歩すれば、こちら

も思い切って買うなどの譲歩をします。恨めば恨まれます……。

このようなことを考えると、人生は常に「受ける—与える」あるいは「与える—受ける」の繰り返しで、いわば「出し入れ」の勉強をしているのだと言えなくもありません。

金剛さまは、「人生は山彦生活だよ」とおっしゃいました。自分の発したエネルギーが山彦のように自分に返ってくるという原理を教えられたのです。その意味では、自分の運勢は自分で作っていると言えるわけで、何を与え、何を受けるか—何を出し、何を入れるか—ということが、人生の質を決めていく重要な勉強になるわけです。私たちは自らのエネルギーの出し入れにもう少し注意を払う必要があると思います。

**「解**脱は施しに徹する生活である」と金剛さまは言われました。施すとは、簡単に言えば、人の喜び、幸せ、発展につながるような「善きこと」を与えなさいということです。イエスさまは「人からしてもらったら嬉しいと思うことを人にしてあげなさい」と言われています。

ですから、まずそのようなポジティブなエネルギーを自らが発してみる。そうすればあらゆる関係において、共に喜び合える関係が生じ、共存共栄の世界を作る一歩になることは、「返報性の原理」が教えてくれていることです。

## 掲 示 板

- **第138回秋季大祭が9月2日(日)に举行されます**  
サクラメント・解脱スピリチュアルセンターにおいて**秋季大祭が9月2日(日)に举行されます**。聖堂内の式典につづき、2018年度・解脱金剛靈廟斎祀の儀、及び、柴燈護摩法要が行われます。
- **柴燈護摩および萬部供養の申込みについて**  
サクラメント秋季大祭での柴燈護摩、および日本での萬部供養の申し込みを受け付けています。〆切は8月19日(日)。早めに申し込みください。  
\*特に日本の90周年の記念大祭に参加される方は、ぜひ萬部供養を申し込みましょう。
- **LA教会から秋季大祭の無料バスが出ます**  
サクラメント秋季大祭に向けロサンゼルス教会から無料バスが9月1日(土)夜10時に出発します。バス代はジャクソン伊藤さんの寄付です。この機会にご家族、友人をお誘いください。利用希望者は教会のサインシートにご記入ください。



The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for members like **Micaela (Mica) Rodriguez** of Sacramento. She and her partner, **Henry Calderon**, are raising their three children: son, **Pop** (12), and daughters, **Ami** and **Mariana** (both 10).

Mica says she enjoys the “inclusive, realistic and progressive” aspects of the Gedatsu teaching. She is also happy that, through Gedatsu, she can honor her family ancestors – especially the spirit of her great-grandmother, who used to bring Mica to the *Rokujizo* Bazaar when she was a little girl. She hopes one day to teach Gedatsu to others.

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From late June, Exchange Ambassadors from *Gedatsu-kai* Japan – **Ritsuko Sato** and **Satomi Takahashi** – spent two weeks in California, meeting with members and making friends.

As tourists, they enjoyed sightseeing in the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Las Vegas, Disneyland, Hollywood and L.A.'s Little Tokyo. Read more about their American adventure on page 3.