



# GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA  
www.gedatsu-usa.org

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Gedatsu Kongo's  
Thought for the Month

*"Respect every person. If there is one individual you cannot respect, you will not be able to respect millions of others."*

We all know Mother Teresa, who devoted her whole life to helping the poorest of the poor in Calcutta, India. How great an effect she had on people all over the world! However, she never thought of her influence on others.

Mother Teresa always said, "I never look at the masses as my responsibility. I can love only one person at a time. The person in front of me is the only person in the world for me at this moment."

Let us remember this humble attitude as the beginning of world peace.

## AUGUST 2019

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sat-Sun 3-4	8:00am	70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bus Trip to Reno
Sun 11	9:30 am	<i>Benzaiten</i> Service
	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
		Regional Board Meeting
Sun 18	1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun 25	9:30 am	Appreciation Service
		Clean-up and prep for Fall Grand Festival
Sat 31	9:30 am	Preparation for Fall Grand Festival
	5:00 pm	<b>70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet (Crowne Plaza)</b>

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun 4	10:00 am	Japanese <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sat 10	10:00 am	<i>Tanabata</i> Festival Field Trip
Sun 11	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun 18	10:00 am	<i>Benzaiten</i> Service (Japanese & English)
Sun 25	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service
		L.A. Regional Board Meeting
Sat 31		<b>70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (in Sacramento)</b>
		Bus leaves at 7:00 a.m. from L.A. Church

## SEPTEMBER 2019

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun 1	9:30 am	<b>70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grand Fall Festival</b>
Tue 3		Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day)
Sun 8	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
		Regional Board Meeting
Sun 15	1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun 22	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / <i>Higan</i> Service
		Regional Board Meeting
Sun 29		Church Closed

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun 1		<b>Grand Fall Festival (in Sacramento)</b>
Tue 3		Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day)
Sun 8	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun 15	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English)
		<i>Higan</i> Service
Sun 22	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service
		L.A. Regional Board Meeting
Sun 29		Church Closed



### August “Never Forgotten” Memorial Services

“Never Forgotten” Memorial Services are held monthly at the Gedatsu Church to honor the memory of those who have passed away during that particular month. People of all faiths are welcome, so invite your friends and family members to attend. Even if you are unable to attend, you may still honor the soul of a loved one. Application forms are available from the branch churches.

The Sacramento Spiritual Center will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, August 11, at 10 a.m.**, after the 9:30 a.m. *Benzaiten* service. The memorial 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 11, 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, Shizuye Shiroishi, Kijiro Taniguchi, Yuki Tanji, Nora AyakoToguchi, Chohei Tomita and Tomoe Toyama.**

### 2019 Memorial Tower Enshrinements

The following souls will be enshrined in the Memorial Tower at the *Goreichi* in Sacramento in a special enshrinement ceremony in conjunction with the Grand Fall Festival: **Goro Kawamura, Fumiko Makishi, Kiyoshi (Kie) Maruyama, Mariko Michiuye, Tomiko Mizokami, Joe Nakamura, Steven Ikuzo Nakatani, Shizuye Shiroishi and Sumie Suyeyasu.**

### Saito Goma and Manbu Kuyo Applications Due

August 19 is the deadline to apply for plaques for the *Saito Goma* ceremony at the Fall Festival on September 1, as well as the *Manbu Kuyo* service in Japan. An application form for *Manbu Kuyo* is inserted in this newsletter, and additional forms for both services are available at your branch church.

### Rokujizo Bazaar Raffle Winners!

Congratulations to the following prize winners whose winning raffle tickets were drawn at the June Bazaar:

\$500	<b>Donna Shiroishi</b>
\$250	<b>Scott Taketa</b>
\$100	<b>Bryan Dario</b>
\$75	<b>Gabriela Fujikawa</b>
\$50	<b>H. Furuike, John Horner, Flo Sueyoshi</b>
Oto’s Market gift certificate: <b>Sonny Ganiban and Bernie LaCroix</b>	

### Ministers’ Schedule

During **Rev. Naoya Okano’s** temporary stay in Japan as he awaits U.S. permanent-resident status, ministerial support for the Los Angeles Church is scheduled as follows:

<b>Rev. H. Taki</b>	July 23 – October 8
<b>Rev. K. Yamada</b>	July 4 – 24
	October 2 – 14
	October 31 – December 18

Rev. Naoya will continue to have a presence in the L.A. Church through video presentations of his sermons for the fourth Sunday English services. **Deacons Jackson Ito and Rudy Tsujimura** will provide remarks for Japanese/English services as needed. Ministerial support of the Sacramento Spiritual Center will be covered by **Sr. Rev. A. Sebe** from October 8 – December 18.

Members and staff are stepping forward to manage the programs, activities and operations of both churches as efficiently and effectively as possible through the coming months. Thank you for your cooperation and support.



**The Okano family** – from left, Yuko, Ryunosuke, Nanami and Rev. Naoya – returned to Japan at the end of June to await issuance of permanent U.S.-resident status.



### 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 "Romance in the Stars" hand-made *kazari* ornament. Church members, family and friends are urged to attend the Festival in Little Tokyo on **Saturday, August 10**. That's when you can cast your vote for the church's entry to win the People's Choice Award. The church is sponsoring a field trip to the Festival, and the church van will depart from the church at **9:30 am**. A light lunch will be served. Please contact **Deacon Jo Ann Shiroishi** if you are interested in attending the Festival.

The church's *kazari* entry in the Festival's theme division depicts the classic story of two star-crossed lovers. The colorful 8-foot hanging decoration was created by the *Tanabata* Committee, composed of members and friends (pictured above): **Sharon Reckers** (head *Tanabata* designer), **Judy Hamamoto** (head *lei* designer), **Jo Ann Shiroishi** (project chairperson), **Jane Tanji**, **Yoko Oishi**, **Tom Okimura**, **Arlene Okimura**, **Jo Ann Kaku**, **Linda Mahoney**, **Sally Kaku**, **Victor Mizokami**, **Marian Mizokami**, **June Kizu**, **Kazumi Chinen**, **Steven Chinen**, **Janice Wakasa**, **Teruko Nakamura**, **Marylin Nakamura**, **Michiko Maekawa**, **Kathy Yamamoto**, **Gloria Felix**, **Janet Hirayama**, **Carolann Hirayama**, **Kady Hirayama** and **Kayla Hirayama**. The committee also made gift *leis* for the church's graduate program and 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.



*Tanabata* Workshop helpers include, from left, Gloria Felix, Kazumi Chinen and Steven Chinen.



### Finally . . . Our Own Gedatsu Song!

We now have our own Gedatsu song: "My Gedatsu Life" – with lyrics by U.S. members and music created by **Tatsuyuki Sugimoto Sensei**, *Gedatsu-kai* member and noted musical composer. Sugimoto Sensei composed the melody and recorded the song with piano accompaniment and singing by his Gedatsu choral group. Their wonderful efforts produced a lovely and uplifting song that will become a joyous part of our church services and other occasions from now on.

The song lyrics are below. To hear the song, go to: [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uo9qo0arzpgiuv5/AABVTtnk7ts\\_6DmTJ4RxKZ88a?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uo9qo0arzpgiuv5/AABVTtnk7ts_6DmTJ4RxKZ88a?dl=0) We will be singing "My Gedatsu Life" together at our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, so please practice!

#### "My Gedatsu Life"

When I look back on the path I have taken  
I see blessings I have received  
From everyone and everything  
And all that came before me

#### *Chorus*

*Together, together, let us walk the pathway  
Together, together, let us enter the gateway  
Let us make a world of joy, hope and peace for all  
Let us make a world of joy, hope and peace for all*

It is the power and grace of the Divine  
That lifts my soul and sets me free  
This is the life of Gedatsu  
Forever . . for you and me

#### *(Chorus)*

I feel a deep and spiritual connection  
To everyone and to all things  
My prayers are filled with boundless thanks  
For countless gifts from Nature

#### *(Chorus)*

The Law of the Universe is eternal  
This path will shine on forever  
Let us share it with everyone  
For a brighter world for all

#### *(Chorus)*



### 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

#### Celebration Banquet: Saturday, August 31

Crowne Plaza Hotel in Northeast Sacramento  
Reception at 5 pm. Banquet at 6 pm

#### Grand Fall Festival: Sunday, September 1

Goreichi, Sacramento Spiritual Center, 9:30 am

If you haven't yet responded (yes or no whether you will attend), please advise the L.A. Church as soon as possible for planning purposes. (Phone: 626-288-1212 Email: [la\\_branch@gedatsu-usa.org](mailto:la_branch@gedatsu-usa.org))

For hotel accommodations, special room rates are available at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (\$95, plus tax, for a queen/king room and complimentary breakfast). Call the hotel at (877) 504-0054 or email [reservations@cpsac.com](mailto:reservations@cpsac.com) and ask for the "Gedatsu Church rate."

Smart, casual attire for both banquet and Festival. For men (suit/tie or dress pants/sports coat) and women (summer dress or dressy skirt/pants and blouse).

There will be no charge for the banquet buffet and Festival luncheon, thanks to the generosity of Sr. Deacon Jackson Ito.

Free round-trip bus transportation between L.A. and Sacramento is available. The bus will leave the L.A. Church on Saturday morning, August 31, at 7 a.m. arriving at the Crown Plaza Hotel in time for the banquet.

#### Do you have questions?

Contact your branch church for further details.

L.A. Church: **Rev. Naoya Okano** (626) 288-1212.  
[naoya\\_okano@gedatsu-usa.org](mailto:naoya_okano@gedatsu-usa.org).

Sacramento Spiritual Center: **Rev. Kazuo Yamada**  
(916) 363-6054. [yamadagedatsula@gmail.com](mailto:yamadagedatsula@gmail.com).

**Q**

**I'm materially satisfied and blessed with family and friends. So, is it okay to keep living each day in the same way?**

**A**

It may seem like you're living a Groundhog Day life with each day the same. But don't worry. Living each day uneventfully is important to having a happy life.

As I grew into adulthood, started working, got married and became a father . . . as my social responsibilities became greater, I found myself feeling that every day was repetitive.

I strongly believe that our purpose in life is to achieve spiritual enlightenment. But how? In Buddhism, there are many kinds of practices to improve yourself, such as chanting Buddhist sutras, standing serenely beneath a waterfall, deeply meditating, and walking through remote mountains. What they have in common is doing something repeatedly.

In a book written by a monk, he explained that "a monk in training wakes up early each morning and cleans the temple and grounds, just as he cleaned them the day before. Even though no dust has accumulated, he cleans again. Then he eats breakfast at the same time. Why? Because he knows that repetition is important to our daily life and essential to our spiritual development."

Imagine what your life would be like if you ignored your household chores. Chores are boring but extremely important in your life.

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***"Repetition is important to our daily life and essential to our spiritual development."***

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We are allowed to live by Nature. The sun rises from the east, reaches its zenith in the south, and sets in the west. Every day. Day in, day out, the sun brings its warmth, light and energy to all things. That's the law of Nature.

A newborn baby is considered an existence closer to God than an adult. When a baby awakens, is fed and sleeps at the same time each day, he or she feels comforted and peaceful, embraced by its parents' love.

Please review the routine of your daily life and realize how fortunate you are to be able to live each day without sickness, injury or mishap. An uneventful existence can be the most important thing for a happy and fulfilled life.

**Rev. Naoya Okano**



## AROUND OUR CHURCH



### Once Again, with "Heart and Sweat" – Rokujizo Bazaar 2019

Our hardworking, dedicated team of volunteer members, families and friends came together again in June to create a successful event for the community. The annual *Rokujizo* Bazaar was held under sunny skies at the Gedatsu Spiritual Center in Sacramento, offering the community a variety of Japanese and Asian food items, entertainment and martial arts demonstrations, guided tours and a rummage sale and games for children. In thanking the volunteers for their "extraordinary efforts," Rev. Kazuo Yamada declared that everyone "worked tirelessly with their heart and sweat to accomplish a major event that benefits others."

The statues of the *Rokujizo* deity were donated to the church in 1951 by Mr. and Mrs. Yukichi Sakai for the consolation of their deceased daughter. Since they were enshrined in June 1953, the *Rokujizo* Bazaar has been held each June to share members' joy and appreciation with their friends and neighbors.





### Sacramento members trace the footsteps of Japanese-American pioneers

On Saturday, June 8, members of the Sacramento Gedatsu Spiritual Center participated in “Wakamatsu Fest 150,” observing the 150th anniversary of the first Japanese- American settlement in North America. The event was held at Wakamatsu Farm in El Dorado County (40 miles east of Sacramento), the historic site that was settled in 1869 by immigrant-colonists from Aizu Wakamatsu in northern Japan.

Gedatsu members paid their respects to the spirits of the early settlers and visited the gravesite of a young woman named Okei, a member of the Wakamatsu colony and believed to be the first Japanese buried on American soil. They offered *amacha* blessing, remembering the souls of the 22 pioneers who crossed the ocean from Japan 150 years ago to flee civil strife and establish a new life in America.

“As Gedatsu students, we know the importance of acknowledging the contributions and sacrifices of our ancestors,” says **Rev. Kazuo Yamada**. “Many of our members have their ancestral roots in Japan, so we are fortunate to be able to trace the origins of our heritage here in America and demonstrate our appreciation through our prayers and *amacha* blessing.”

Following their prayers, the Gedatsu group visited an old farmhouse-museum, where they learned the history of the Wakamatsu colony. After the settlers established the Wakamatsu Silk and Tea Farm, they successfully introduced traditional Japanese horticulture to California, including silk-worm farming, tea, rice, citrus, peaches and bamboo. But within two years, the farm failed, and the colonists dispersed, some returning to Japan and others staying in California.

Members **Judy** and **Dennis Tsuboi** found the visit both educational and purposeful: “It was gratifying to offer *Hannya Shingyo* and *amacha* blessing at Okei-san’s grave, as well as to learn about the personal histories of the early migrants in Japan and in America.”

Learn more of the history of the Wakamatsu Colony at <http://www.discovernikkei.org/en/journal/2019/3/18hopes-and-dreams/>



This photo is believed to be of Okei at the age of 17, shortly after she immigrated with the Wakamatsu colonists. She died in 1871 at the age of 19, becoming the first Japanese to die in America. Her gravesite sits on a hilltop with her gravestone looking toward her hometown in Japan. She would sit every evening at that spot, hoping to receive communication from her family, which never arrived.



Sacramento members pay their respects at Okei’s gravesite to offer blessings and “remember the spirits of the Japanese pioneers.” Gathered behind Okei’s headstone are, from left, Judy Tsuboi, Dennis Tsuboi, Leslie Tanaka, Courtney Ide, Deacon June Tanaka, Yoko Yamada, Rev. Kazuo Yamada, Dave Ide, Sam Sekikawa, Scott Tanaka, Harriet Sekikawa and Ritsuko Nakatani.



### **“Welcome to Gedatsu”**

**By Rev. Hisakazu Taki**

#### Chapter 2: The Universal Life Force

I would like to explain the altar of the Gedatsu Church, in which the symbols of our worship are enshrined. The Gedatsu altar represents our religious outlook. There are three symbols enshrined in the altar: *the Universal Life Force* in the middle, *the Creative Principle* on the left, and *Gedatsu Kongo* on the right.

#### **The Universal Life Force**

Master Gedatsu Kongo stated: *“The universe in its entirety is the manifestation of God, and God resides in the interior of all things. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to regard all things as Divine Beings, and express profound respect. This attitude is the beginning of religious faith.”*

*“The ultimate object of worship, in any case, must be the Universal Life Force. This is because the Universal Life Force is the Absolute and Supreme Being in the Universe. Therefore, one should not be confused by various gods and deities in one’s faith. All gods, deities and spiritual entities are incorporated within this Universal God.”*

*“The law that governs and regulates the entire universe, the principle and source of creative energy, authority and benevolence – all are the manifestation of the Universal Life Force.”*

*“The essence of God is the perfect coordination of the universe, acme of Truth, Goodness and Beauty, and absolute love and power. It is omniscient and omnipotent. These essential functions are being executed by the organization of the divine realm in the hands of God. Therefore, we can get a glimpse of and revere the essence of God through every phenomenon in the universe.”*

Through these words, you may well understand what the Universal Life Force is. It is, in a word, the very source of life that governs everything in the universe.

For example, the movement of the heavenly bodies, the seasonal transition, the growth and activities of living things on earth, our bodily functions, etc., are all governed by the Universal Life Force.

The Universal Life Force is unseen, but it permeates throughout the universe and gives life to all living things on earth. In other words, the Universal Life Force is the very source of our life. Everything in the universe is an expression of the Universal Life Force.

*(Continued on page 8)*

*(Universal Life Force – continued from page 7)*

Therefore, no matter what religion you may believe, no matter what god you may worship, you should be aware that all gods, deities and spiritual entities are ultimately incorporated within the Universal Life Force.

### **The Creative Principle**

The Universe is one and its activities are carried on regularly without interruption. It is the manifestation of the one Creative Principle, which is infinite and inexhaustible. All physical forms in the universe are brought into existence through this Creative Principle. This life force is indestructible, and it is the life substance behind all forms.

Humans, who are born from this vast creative principle, are bound within the small circumference of self. Their attachment to the immediate and apparent circumstances blinds them from the truth, and they become slaves to delusion.

By cultivating their spiritual faculties and shedding the barriers of illusion and ignorance, humans can realize the most direct relationship between themselves and the Universal Life Force. They must worship God who gave them life and understand the commonality of all creation. Even though individuals may differ, and species of life may differ, they all derive their life from the one Creative Principle.

The illumination of this wisdom motivates humans to dispel selfish illusions and cultivate love and community among all beings.

In the Gedatsu altar, both the Universal Life Force and the Creative Principle are enshrined together. They are one in essence, because the Universal Life Force is working as an ever-changing movement of great variety that generates all life.

Through these two objects of worship enshrined in the altar, we pay our respects to the Universal Life Force, which allows us to live and give thanks for its infinite blessing.

### **Gedatsu Kongo**

Gedatsu Kongo is the posthumous name of the founder of Gedatsu Church, Seiken Okano, who was born in Japan on November 28, 1881.

He spent his energetic boyhood in his hometown and served his apprenticeship in a liquor shop in Tokyo for some time. He then returned home and engaged in the cotton textile business. He had his ups and downs in youth. He achieved success in business, but he later failed and attempted to commit suicide. For a period of time, he lived a penniless, homeless existence.

At the age of 30, Okano realized that Japan's potential economic growth was to be found in the shipping industry. He strived diligently and established a very profitable marine transportation business. With the economic success that he had acquired, he realized that material success alone caused a person to degrade one's human qualities by indulging in various forms of sensual pleasure. He believed that humanity's true happiness and fulfillment lay in religious pursuits. Therefore, he turned away from his material successes and resolved to find religious truth.

Okano's religious training and learning were not restricted by a particular school. He visited many Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines and came in contact with their spiritual essence. At times, he took the ascetic approach and went into the mountains alone to meditate and experienced divine inspiration. He allowed his subconscious spirit to freely guide him to whatever source provided him with the realization of divine essence.

He established the Gedatsu teaching by divine revelation in 1929. For the next 20 years, he devoted his life to salvation of people and world peace. He passed away on November 4, 1948 at the age of 68.

He established Gedatsu as the path for everyone's happiness and world peace based on the Universal Law.

*(Next issue: "Appreciation and Gratitude")*





## JUNE 2019 OFFERINGS

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

#### May Offerings (not included last month)

**\$5–\$49:** K. Tsukamoto, S. Tanaka, R. Nakatani, A. Akimoto, M/M D. Tsuboi, J. Tanaka, M/M D. Ide, M/M B. Ide, Anon.

**\$50–\$99:** S. Taketa

**\$100+:** M/M S. Sekikawa, M/M K. Yamada, A. Sebe

**\$300+:** M/M J. Horner

#### **Special Acknowledgment**

J. Tanaka                      Appreciation for trip to Japan (\$200)

A. Sebe                        Tree donation (\$2,500)

H. Graham                  *Goreichi* Care Fund (\$100)

H. Sakamoto (Japan) *Goreichi* Care Fund (\$300)

#### June Offerings

**\$5–\$49:** Y. Hirai, N. Murakushi (Japan), R. Nakatani, Y. Oishi, M/M B. Ide, J. Tanaka

**\$50–\$99:** S. Taketa, M/M D. Ide, M/M D. Tsuboi, Vicki/Stacy/Shari Matsuura, N. Murakoshi (Japan)

**\$100+:** T. Murakami, H. Sakamoto (Japan), K. Mukudai (Japan), M/M K. Yamada, B. Yamamura, J. Detwiler/ J. Sebe, Anonymous

**\$200+:** M/M S. Sekikawa, S. Nishino, M/M J. Horner

**\$500+:** J. Ito, D. Mukai

#### **Special Acknowledgment**

Bocho Doshi-kai            Appreciation for picnic on *Goreichi* grounds (\$200)

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**\$5–\$49:** P. Chen, M/M K. Chinen, M/M N. Chodor, M/M M. Hamada, M/M V. Mizokami, Y. Naruko, A. Okimura, M/M K. Shiroishi, N. Takara

**\$50–\$99:** M/M K. Kuritani, L. Mahoney, T. Miyamoto, M/M M. Murakami, T. Murakami, M. Nakamura, M/M S. Shaklan, M/M A. Shiroishi, F. Sueyoshi, T. Toyama, M/M R. Tsujimura

**\$100+:** M/M R. Allum, M/M F. Barthel, K. Fujii, M/M T. Fukushima, M/M S. Mukai, T. Nakamura, Y. Oishi, M. Okada, M/M N. Okano, T. Okimura, M/M H. Tsujimura

**\$200+:** M/M M. Ishida, T. Ishida, S. Okimura, De. Shiroishi, Do. Shiroishi, A. Yokota

**\$300+:** M/M T. Matsumoto

**\$600+:** J. Ito

#### **Special Acknowledgment**

Allen, Uzuko and            “Never Forgotten” for Hidekichi and Tsuna Shiroishi (\$100)

Tina/Mike Hamada        “Never Forgotten” for Ben Toguchi and Harry Arakawa (\$150)

Mary Kimura                “Never Forgotten” for T. Kimura, A. Okada And K. Hirano (\$150)

Sally Kaku                    “Never Forgotten” Mitsuko Kaku (\$100)

Jackson Ito                    Donation for 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (\$5,000)

## 2019 / 2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 5-6 (Sat-Sun)	L.A. Autumn Moon Festival
Oct 15 (Tue)	Church Closed (in lieu of Columbus Day)
Oct 20 (Sun)	L.A. <i>Ujigami</i> Service
Oct 27 (Sun)	Sacramento All Souls Service
Nov 3 (Sun)	L.A. Gedatsu Kongo's Service
Nov 10 (Sun)	Sac'to Gedatsu Kongo Memorial Service
Nov 17 (Sun)	L.A. 7-5-3-Year Children's Celebration
Nov 24 (Sun)	Sac'to 7-5-3-Year Children's Celebration / Gedatsu Kongo Birthday
Nov 28-29	Church Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)
Dec 1 (Sun)	L.A. Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service
Dec 7 (Sat)	L.A. Church Clean-up
Dec 8 (Sun)	Sac'to Last Service of Year / Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service
Dec 15 (Sun)	L.A. Last Service / Christmas Program
Dec 22-31	Church Closed

#### 2020 (Events / dates subject to change)

Jan 1 (Wed)	New Year Homage
Jan 2-3 (Thu-Fri)	Church Closed
Jan 12 (Sun)	Sacramento New Year Service
Jan 19 (Sun)	L.A. New Year Service
Jan 21 (Tue)	Church Closed (in lieu of Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
Feb 16 (Sun)	L.A. Sun Spirit Service
Feb 18 (Tue)	Church Closed (in lieu of Presidents' Day)
Mar 13 (Fri)	Propagation Meeting 10 am
Mar 14 (Sat)	Board of Directors Meeting 10 am
Mar 15 (Sun)	L.A. <i>Higan</i> Service (Japanese & English)
Mar 22 (Sun)	Sacramento <i>Higan</i> Service
Mar 29 (Sun)	Church Closed

### **A Snapshot in Time**

Many of you recognized the photo below, which was taken at the 1957 Spring Festival. It shows five little girls singing “Sugar Time,” accompanied by a harmonicist, during the member talent show that always followed the Spring Festival in those days. The girls? From left, Sherrie Shiroishi Chodor, Janis Mizokami Peck, Jo Ann Shiroishi, Kathy Shiroishi Giroux and Ikuko Tsujimura Kuritani. Their accompanist? Rev. Jerry Shiroishi. Happy memories.



## 教会行事

### 8月の予定

#### ロサンゼルス教会

- 4 (日) 10:00A 日本語感謝会  
 10 (土) 10:00A セタ祭り (小東京)  
 11 (日) 10:00A 祥月追善法要  
 18 (日) 10:00A 弁財天祭 (日本語・英語)  
 25 (日) 10:00A 英語感謝会  
 LA リージョナル委員会  
 31 (土) 70 周年祝賀・晩さん会 (サクラメント)  
 \*バスは朝 7:00 に LA 教会を出発します

#### サクラメント教会

- 3-4 (土・日) リノー泊・バス旅行  
 11 (日) 9:30A 弁財天祭  
 祥月追善法要  
 リージョナル委員会  
 18 (日) 1:00P サンノゼ支部感謝会  
 25 (日) 9:30A 感謝会  
 大祭前清掃準備奉仕  
 31 (土) 9:00A 大祭準備奉仕  
 5:00P 70 周年祝賀・晩さん会



### 9月の予定

#### ロサンゼルス教会

- 1 (日) 9:30A 70 周年・秋季大祭 (サクラメント)  
 3 (火) 教会振替休日 (レイバーデー)  
 8 (日) 10:00A 祥月追善法要  
 15 (日) 10:00A 日英感謝会・彼岸法要  
 22 (日) 10:00A 英語感謝会  
 リージョナル委員会  
 29 (日) 教会休み

#### サクラメント教会

- 1 (日) 9:30A 創立 70 周年・秋季大祭  
 霊廟祭祀の儀 / 柴燈護摩供  
 3 (火) 教会振替休日 (レイバーデー)  
 8 (日) 10:00A 祥月追善法要  
 15 (日) 1:00P サンノゼ支部感謝会  
 22 (日) 9:30A 感謝会・彼岸法要  
 リージョナル委員会  
 29 (日) 教会休み

## 8月度 みさとし

「一人を尊重せよ、  
 一人を尊重し得ざるは  
 万人を尊重し得ない」

インド・カルカッタのスラム街で、もっとも貧しい人々や死にゆく人々のために献身するという生涯を送ったマザー・テレサのことを知らない人はいないのではないだろうか。その彼女の生涯が、どれほど多くの人々に感動を与え、世界中にどれほど大きな影響を及ぼしたことだろう。しかし彼女自身、世界にそんな影響力を及ぼそうなどという考えはひとつもなかったのである。マザー・テレサはいつも、こう語っていたという。「私はいつも一人の人だけを見ています。私には一度に一人の人しか愛することができないのです。いま目の前にいる人が、私にとって、いま世界中でただ一人の人間なのです」。いつでも、いま目の前にいる一人の相手に対して、まごころのありったけを尽くすこと——ここに、世界平和の原点があることをけっして忘れてはならない。

## 若松フェスト

### 日系先駆者たちの足取りを訪ねる

#### 「おけいの墓」で天茶供養

サクラメント教会

去る6月8日(土)、サクラメント教会の会員たちは

「若松フェスト 150」に参加して、150 年前に日本からアメリカに渡った先駆者たちの開拓精神を偲びました。

「若松フェスト 150」とは、北米への日系アメリカ人の最初の入植 150 周年を祝うイベントで、6月6日から9日

まで、カリフォル

ニア州ブラサー

ビルにある 1869

年の茶と絹の農

場の歴史的な場

所である「若松フ

ーム」にて、現



皆でおけいの墓に天茶を捧げた



#### おけいさんの墓前にて般若心経を唱える会員たち

在内地を管理所有する「アメリカン・リバー保護協会」の主催のもとに開催された祭典です。「若松ファーム」は、アメリカに埋葬された最初の日本人女性「おけい」の墓がある場所として知られています。

サクラメント教会・会員たちは、若松ファーム到着後、まず丘の上のおけいの墓を訪れ、おけいを含む会津若松から来た開拓者たちの霊に天茶供養を捧げました。

続いて一行は、博物館となっているファームハウスに行き、様々な展示物とその説明を通し、当時の「若松コロニー」の歴史を学びました。

### 明治2年（1869年）、会津若松（福島県）からやって

きた移民団22人はカリフォルニアにアメリカ本土初の日本人入植地「若松コロニー」を形成しました。日本からアメリカ本土に渡った最初の入植者です。会津藩の軍事顧問であったプロイセン人の武器商人ヘンリー・シュネル率いるこの移民団は、戊辰戦争に破れた会津藩の侍などで形成され、カリフォルニアの地で茶と絹の栽培を試みましたが、わずか2年で若松コロニーは崩壊。その後、彼らは日米で別々の人生を歩むこととなりました。その一員であったおけいは、19歳という若さで亡くなり、アメリカ本土の土に眠る最初の日本人女性となりました。

#### 掲 示 板

- 70周年秋季大祭を期に、柴燈護摩の祈禱内容の一部が変更されました。

このほど柴燈護摩の申し込みの少なくなった一部の祈禱項目を、時代の要請に合わせて新たなものへと変更いたしました。

今秋季大祭での柴燈護摩の申し込みには、ぜひ新しくなった申込書をお使いください。締め切りは8月18日（日）です。

#### ● 創立70周年記念祝賀・晩餐会について

米国教会70周年の祝賀晩餐会は、サクラメント「クラウン・プラザ・ホテル」にて8月31日（土）午後5時に受付け、6時に開始されます。晩餐会は、ジャクソン伊藤さんの奉納により無料です。

#### ● LA教会からサクラメントのホテルの晩餐会に向け、8月31日朝7時に無料バスが出ます

バスは8月31日土曜日の朝7:00時に、ロサンゼルス教会から、サクラメントの「クラウン・プラザ・ホテル」に向かい出発します。バス代は、ジャクソン伊藤さんの奉納により無料です。希望者は、LA教会までお申込みください。

#### ● 岡野開教師不在に伴う各開教師スケジュールについて

ロサンゼルス教会の岡野尚也開教師は、6月末、永住権取得手続きのために一時帰国し、日本でその取得を待つことになりました。留守中、ロサンゼルス教会のサービスおよび布教業務は下記の先生方によりカバーされる予定です。

◇ 瀧久和開教師 = 7月23日～10月8日、

◇ 山田一雄開教師 = 7月4日～24日、10月2日～14日、10月31日～12月18日。

なお、10月の第3・第4日曜のサービスは、開教師補佐のルディ・辻村氏、ジャクソン・伊藤氏が担当する予定です。

またサクラメント・スピリチュアル・センターでは、瀬部明首席開教師が10月8日～12月18日までの間、各サービスをカバーする予定です。

会員及び役員たちは、今後数カ月、両教会のプログラム、活動、運営を可能な限り支援するようご協力ください。

#### 2019年・解脱霊廟祭祀の精霊名

〈North〉

Goro Kawamura, Kiyoshi (Kie) Maruyama, Joe Nakamura, Sumie Suyeyasu, Steven Ikuzo Nakatani,

〈South〉

Fumiko Makishi, 道上まり子, Tomiko Mizokami, Shizuye Shiroishi





The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for members like **Flo Dyson-Palumbo**, a second-generation Gedatsu member who resides in New Jersey. Born in Japan, Flo grew up with the Gedatsu teaching after her late mother, **Toku Dyson**, became a member. Later, when her family

moved to the U.S., Flo studied Gedatsu with **Bishop Kishida** and **Sr. Rev. Sebe**. Today, as a practitioner of aura massage, Flo helps others to heal and learn Gedatsu. Says Flo, "I am grateful that Gedatsu teaches us to appreciate all things and, most importantly, to show our gratitude and reverence to our ancestors and teachers."

**Rev. Kazuo Yamada**, Editor

**Joyce Reid**, Editor-in-Chief

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### A Snapshot in Time

This photo was taken some time in our church's 70-year history.

Can you identify the date, activity and people in the photo?

If you can identify any of the details relating to this photo, email your answer(s) to [la\\_branch@gedatsu-usa.org](mailto:la_branch@gedatsu-usa.org).