



GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA
www.gedatsu-usa.org

DECEMBER 2018

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	2	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	9	9:30 am	Last Appreciation Service of the Year Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service
Sun	16	1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun-Mon	23-31		Church Closed for Holidays

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sat	1	8:00 am	Casino Bus Tour
Sat	2	10:00 am	Japanese & English <i>Kanshakai</i> Service Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service
Sun	9	10:00 am	Church Clean-up
Sun	16	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English) Christmas Program
Sun-Mon	23-31		Church Closed for Holidays
Sat	30		Church Open (until noon)

Gedatsu Kongo's Thought for the Month

*"It is most important for us
to live up to our responsibilities."*

What is our most important purpose as humans?

Intelligence is a wonderful gift. The ability to speak persuasively is a splendid talent. Each of us possesses different personal assets. When we make positive use of our assets, we are able to create a good life for ourselves.

Our value as humans is not determined by how we compare with others, but rather by how sincerely we fulfill our duties in our daily lives.

Our most important goal as humans is to live each day with sincerity and appreciation.

JANUARY 2019

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Tue	1		New Year Homage
Wed-Thu	2-3		Church Closed
Sun	6	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	13	9:30 am	First Service of the Year Potluck Party & Gift Exchange
Sun	20	1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Tue	22		Church Closed (in lieu of Martin Luther King Day)
Sun	27	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / Regional Board Meeting

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Tue	1	7:30 am	New Year Homage (until noon)
Wed-Thu	2-3		Church Closed
Sun	6	10:00 am	Japanese <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	13	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	20	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English) New Year Service / Potluck & Gift Raffle
Tue	22		Church Closed (in lieu of Martin Luther King Day)
Sun	27	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service / <i>Ajikan</i> Meditation L.A. Regional Board Mtg./ "Life in Your 20s"



December “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service

“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. An application form is inserted in this newsletter.

The Sacramento Spiritual Center will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, December 2, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Tomiji Nakayama, George Sekikawa, Tokio Tateishi, Tomota Tateishi, Kiyoshi Tateishi, Soshiro Hatae, Kazuo Ide, Kanzaburo Ide, Mariko (Mizumoto) Takemura, Dorothy Keiko (Takemura) Nakamoto, Kiichi Ogawa, Kimi Yamada, Eizan Kishida and Albert Ryoza Akiyama.**

No “Never Forgotten” service will be held at the Los Angeles Church in December. Those souls who passed in December were honored at the November service.



“MAD” for Maryvale

Be a Gedatsu Angel and **Make A Difference**. Together, we can brighten the Christmas season for the children of Maryvale by making a charitable donation to the Gedatsu “MAD for Maryvale” Angel Fund. Donations will purchase Christmas gifts for children of Maryvale, a local agency that cares for orphaned, abused, abandoned and neglected children in the foster care system.

Donations in any amount are welcome and will be collected through December 9 at the L.A. Church. Please make checks payable to Gedatsu Church USA, earmarked for the Gedatsu Angel Fund.

The Gedatsu Angel program is a community outreach project promoted by the L.A. Regional Board and spearheaded by L.A. members **Mark and Marie Ishida.**

Many thanks to everyone who supported last year’s successful drive, which enabled us to purchase Christmas gifts for more than six dozen children and youths. Let’s fill the truck again!



Let’s Create Our Own Gedatsu Song!

Wouldn’t it be wonderful to have our own Gedatsu song that we can sing together with fellow members? To lift our voices in harmony at the end of our services?

Gedatsu members, we now have that opportunity! Tatsuyuki Sugimoto *sensei*, a Gedatsu-Japan member and noted musical composer, has offered to compose the melody for an original song for Gedatsu USA. *We just need to supply the lyrics.*

You’re invited to submit suggested lyrics. Or just write down what Gedatsu means to you – words, phrases, ideas . . . anything that might spark a lyric. Submit your lyrics and ideas to our Church Song Production Committee at the L.A. Church by the first of February. This will be a team effort to create a song that expresses our Gedatsu lives. Song-writers, get started now!

Renew Your Church Membership for 2019

Gedatsu Church USA is supported through pledges, donations and membership dues. Please renew your annual membership dues now:

Individual Fee:	Annual: \$45	Lifetime: \$450
Family Fee:	Annual: \$70	Lifetime: \$600
Additional Annual Women’s Club Fee \$6		

Become a Gedatsu Kongo Appreciation Fund Donor

The Gedatsu Kongo Appreciation Fund, or *Hosankai*, was established to allow members to demonstrate a higher level of commitment to the church. Participation in the Fund requires an annual pledge of \$600 a year, which is in addition to the general membership dues. This \$600 may be paid in a single lump sum; two biannual payments of \$300; or 12 monthly installments of \$50.

Donations to the Fund are tax deductible and can be made by completing the application form available at your church. A list of donors to the Fund is published annually in the *Gedatsu Companion*.

Casino Bus Trip

L.A. members and friends will travel by bus to Morongo Casino Resort on Saturday, December 1 at 8 am, returning around 5:30 p.m. Fare is \$30 (includes driver tip and \$25 free play). Six-hour stay; shuttle bus to two outlet malls.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Gedatsu USA to Celebrate Its 70th Anniversary

1949-2019
70 Years of Growing Together

Next year – in 2019 – members will celebrate the 70th anniversary of Gedatsu USA. It will be a special year to remember, appreciate and celebrate the people, events and activities that were part of our church's history over the past seven decades.

Mark your 2019 calendar NOW with these dates:

Labor Day weekend

Saturday, August 31 – Celebration Banquet

Sunday, September 1 – Grand Fall Festival

The banquet will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Rancho Cordova, near the Sacramento Spiritual Center. Through the generosity of **Sr. Deacon Jackson Ito**, there will be no charge for the banquet dinner. Also, at our Grand Fall Festival, we will continue our anniversary celebration with special activities and a catered luncheon for everyone.

To encourage members from Southern California to attend the banquet, the L.A.-to-Sacramento bus will leave the L.A. Church on the morning of Saturday, August 31, arriving in time for the banquet. Again, bus riders ride free of charge.

Hotel accommodations for bus riders on Saturday night will be reserved as a group at the La Quinta Inn, across the street from the Marriott. Those driving on their own are requested to make their own room reservations. Special Gedatsu room rates are available at the La Quinta Inn (\$95) and at the Marriott Hotel (\$109).

Because of the busy Labor Day weekend, travelers are urged to make reservations early. Call the Marriott at (916) 638-1100 or La Quinta Inn at (916) 638-1111. Ask for the "Gedatsu Church rate."

Return Your Old Kuyo Plaques

If you ordered new *Amacha kuyo* plaques, the church urges you to show the proper respect for your old plaques. Give prayers of appreciation to your old plaques, wash and dry them thoroughly, then return them to your local church. They will be burned in a plaque-burning service in Sacramento in the spring.

DEAR REVEREND

Q

No matter how hard I try, I can't stop feeling resentment toward those who have wronged me. What can I do?

A

As humans, we are often forgetful. But when we feel we are treated wrongly or deeply hurt, the memory of that incident stays with us a long time, because it is tinged with our intense emotion.

The more we try to forget that painful memory, the more we are reminded of it, because our attention remains focused on it. To relieve us of those hard feelings, it may be helpful to talk to a trusted third party. A different perspective from our own may possibly lead to a solution.

By confronting our thoughts and feelings – however painful they may be – we create the opportunity learn some precious lessons. Through deep introspection, we often discover useful and positive meanings of past events, especially when those experiences are painful.

No matter how much we may be assisted by others, however, this introspective journey must be made by ourselves.

***"We awaken . . . to the true purpose
of past hardships endured by each soul.
It is to elevate and purify our soul."***

Therefore, I encourage you to bring forth that memory and examine it calmly and objectively. At first, you may recall only the bitter feelings of that painful event, but as you repeatedly review it, the meaning of the memory will change. It may not disappear, but you will find an important lesson from the incident, and the intense emotions subsequently will subside.

As followers of the Gedatsu teaching, we view these experiences from a spiritual perspective. We realize that karmic aspects are often involved and, therefore, recommend the practice of *Amacha* blessing to purify the negative energies from karmic-related unrested spirits.

Through sincere prayer and *Amacha* blessing, as these negative karmic energies are purified, these now-positive energies are brought into our life.

In this way, we awaken in this lifetime to the true purpose of past hardships endured by each soul. It is to elevate and purify our soul.

Therefore, I encourage you to practice *Amacha* blessing to create a new spiritual pipeline through which positive energy will flow into your mind and soul.

Rev. Kazuo Yamada



Joy, Appreciation and Harmony!

Gedatsu USA Members Participate in Memorable *Gedatsu-kai* Japan's 90th Anniversary Celebration

In October, 57 members from Gedatsu USA joined an estimated 10,000 Japanese members in celebrating the 90th Anniversary of Gedatsu in Japan, participating in the Fall Festival on the *Goreichi* grounds in Kitamoto, Japan. The U.S. members – many who attended for the first time and whose ages ranged from five to 90 – were amazed by the sheer beauty of the grounds, scale of the event, warm hospitality of their hosts, and the huge amount of organization and cooperation that together created an experience they will never forget. The complete joy, appreciation and harmony they experienced among fellow Gedatsu members lifted everyone's spirits.

Members were especially grateful to the kindness and generosity of **Senior Deacon Jackson Ito**, who subsidized everyone's airfare to enable as many members as possible to attend the event and experience the 90th Anniversary, Fall Festival and sacred *Goreichi* grounds for themselves. *Arigato*, Jackson.

Photos, at top, U.S. members gather for group shot. Bottom, from left, June Tanaka, Joyce Reid and Pam Shaklan step out in the Branch Leaders' Processional; U.S. members (below canopy) join in prayer service, then later relax and enjoy luncheon.



Gedatsu USA Chairman Addresses *Gedatsu-kai* Members

During the 90th Anniversary celebration, **Joyce Reid**, chairman of Gedatsu USA, was called to the stage to be interviewed. First, greeting and thanking the gathering of 10,000 members in Japanese, she then answered the interviewers' questions in English, her responses interpreted by **Rev. Hisakazu Taki**.

Q: What is your impression of the Japan *Gedatsu-kai* Festival?

JR: *I believe that I speak for everyone in our American tour group when I say that participating in the Festival is an extraordinary, never-to-be-forgotten experience. It is a lovely, moving and deeply spiritual experience that truly makes you feel that you are communicating with the Universal Spirit.*

Because our numbers of Gedatsu members in America are very small, it is an exhilarating feeling to be among thousands of members who are following the same Gedatsu teaching that we love. When we come to Goreichi, we feel we have returned to our spiritual homeland to be with family members.

Q: What is the difference between the U.S. and Japan Gedatsu?

JR: *In America, we are a meld of people of all nationalities, faiths, cultures and traditions. That is very different from Japan.*

However, we take direction from Master Gedatsu Kongo, who said, "Religion should not be fixed. It should meet the needs of the people and move with the times."

So, in America, as our church has grown over the past 70 years, we have adapted Gedatsu to the changing times and the needs of the people. The key principles of the Gedatsu teaching and basic practice remain the same – only the form and style have been changed. This is to make Gedatsu more inviting and less confusing to people of all faiths and cultures – especially newcomers and young people. We believe that these changes are designed for the future of Gedatsu.

Q: Next year will be the 70th Anniversary of Gedatsu USA. Do you have any message to Japan members?

JR: *That is easy to answer. Please come celebrate with us! We American members are waiting in great anticipation and excitement for all of you to join us in our anniversary celebration. We are all one, united Gedatsu family, so think of us as your relatives. We are making plans now to make your visit next fall a fun, memorable and joyful celebration!*



Tom Okimura Tells His Story

As the oldest member of the Gedatsu USA tour group, L.A. member, **Tom Okimura**, 90, was asked how he deepened his faith in Gedatsu.

Introduced to Gedatsu in the late 1950s, Tom recalled how he was told by **Bishop Eizan Kishida** to study Gedatsu at the *Goreichi* in Japan. Although his study was difficult and rigorous, he was touched by the sincerity and compassion of his teachers. He attributes his happiness today to the strict, but affectionately given, lessons he learned.

When asked for the secret of his longevity, Tom answered, "The Gedatsu teaching!" He was grateful that he was able to attend the 90th Anniversary Fall Festival with family members and give his thanks to Gedatsu Kongo.



Flat-screen monitors throughout the grounds displayed images of the ceremony and celebration.





"We were in awe of the sheer number of members." "We were treated like royalty." "We experienced the greatness of studying Gedatsu." "So much pride, enthusiasm, appreciation and gratitude as I walked the Goreichi grounds." "It has forever changed the feeling I have inside of me." "An awesome display of formality and inspiration!" "Very impressed by the beauty of the grounds and the many happy people."



A Brief Biography of Gedatsu Kongo

Final Chapter For Eternity



The last formal photo taken of Gedatsu Kongo, spring 1948

In 1948, President Okano was becoming physically weaker.

After the Spring Festival in May, he looked very tired. His personal physician, Dr. Ichimatsu, examined him, saying that it was impossible for an ordinary man in that physical condition to teach or speak at length with anyone. He must have complete rest. However, with great mental fortitude, President Okano continued to teach members.



Gedatsu Kongo addresses attendees at the Spring Festival in May 1948.

At this time, construction of the new Tokyo Dojo church building was finally completed, and its opening ceremony was held on June 6. President Okano went to Tokyo by car to attend the ceremonies. Looking up at the new church building, he was filled with emotion. "It's very well done," he said, as tears welled in his eyes and ran down his cheeks.

Addressing the members who packed the main hall, he delivered an exceptionally long speech in a strong voice.

"No matter what situation you may be confronted with," he told members, "you should stand as firm as a rock. One person's error will lead to the errors of many. Please study sincerely and grasp the essence of Gedatsu.

"Remember, the Japanese people are all captives now. Let us endure this difficult time and make every effort to rebuild the country."

After the cheerful banquet, President Okano left. Members stood before the church building to see him off until his car was out of sight. That was to be President Okano's last visit to Tokyo.



Opening of the new Tokyo church building, June 6, 1948

After the opening ceremony of the new church building, President Okano's physical condition worsened. Dr. Ichimatsu examined him carefully, administering medications every three hours. By the following day, his condition stabilized, but his prognosis was not good. Dr. Ichimatsu came every day to examine and administer to him.

Teaching despite declining health

From that time, the following words were written on every page of the church journal: "Lengthy consultations with President Okano are discouraged to avoid tiring him."

However, whenever his condition improved, President Okano called members into his room to teach.

(Continued on page 9)

(Biography – Continued from page 8)

On September 2, Hirano, the head priest of Sennyuji Temple, visited *Goreichi*. President Okano expressed his firm determination to protect Sennyuji after his death. He also requested that Hirano allow him to rest in the grounds of the temple after his death.

Hirano considered for a while and said, “I cannot make a decision by myself. I must discuss this with all priests of the temple. We must also consult the Imperial Household Office. We all realize your sincerity to protect the Imperial Family temple. We will do our best to grant your request.” Hirano left, promising to bring him good news.

A great honor is bestowed

Soon after, President Okano received a letter from Sennyuji, permitting *Gedatsu-kai* to perpetually use approximately one acre of the Sennyuji grounds. President Okano’s long-cherished dream was thus realized. Reading the letter, President Okano was moved to tears, saying emotionally: “I was born of a peasant’s family. Now, I am allowed to use the grounds near the Imperial Mausoleum in the Sennyuji Temple as my resting place after I die. This is the greatest honor for me and all members.”

In September, President Okano told some of his close associates, “I have spoken and written everything that I want to say. My duty on earth is completed. After my death, please read my books repeatedly. The book entitled *Shinko*, or ‘Sincere Practice,’ is especially important. Though it is a small book, it contains everything. Please read it again and again until you fully understand it. You may avoid the clutches of man-made laws, but you will never be able to evade the Law of Nature. Please study and practice Gedatsu sincerely and become happy.”

On October 10, the day of the Fall Festival, Dr. Ichimatsu forbade President Okano to speak or even appear before the audience, instructing attendants to keep him at rest. However, when members from all parts of the country gathered in *Goreichi*, President Okano said, “They came here from great distances, so I will speak to them.” He then spoke in a strong voice through a microphone.

President Okano told the audience: “It is most important for man to practice humility and poverty. You are too clever. A knowledgeable person easily quarrels with others. Understand that humility is the

best way to live a happy life. When you sincerely pray for other’s happiness, you will surely be happy, too.

“After I die, I will be allowed to rest in Sennyuji in Kyoto. If you want, you will also be allowed to rest there as a spirit after you die. I have no earthly attachments now. Please study Gedatsu with all your heart and go forward step by step. Man must have a taste of humanity. Enjoy humanity to the fullest.”

Listening attentively, the audience wept, feeling President Okano’s love and compassion. When he finished his speech, President Okano said, “I feel better now. I want to meet everyone.”

However, he was told, “It will be too stressful for you to speak to each of them. So, so each branch will pay its respects through a representative.”

Paying final respects to their beloved teacher

President Okano agreed. He sat on a legless chair to receive each member. Representatives from each branch quietly entered the room one after another, looking at President Okano through their tears and bowing deeply. He responded with compassionate smiles. It took about 30 minutes for 2,700 people to pay their last respects to President Okano. This was his last Grand Festival.

On October 15, the day of the Appreciation Service, the instructors thought President Okano would be unable to deliver a sermon, but he told them to set up a microphone. He then made a speech from his bed.

“Embracing each of you in my heart, I’ve always wished you to be able to stand on your own feet. This is my dearest wish. As long as I live, even if I fall down at a microphone and cough blood, I will never stop speaking for the sake of your happiness. May all of you be happy and healthy. Oh, how sacred Gedatsu is!”

This was President Okano’s last sermon.

Final days, final words

From October 23, President Okano’s condition deteriorated. Nonetheless, when someone came for instruction, he met the person. On the evening of October 29, his condition took a sudden turn for the worse. Two doctors came to examine him, and the next morning, Dr. Ichimatsu came. President Okano’s condition became stable in the evening. He called his close associates to his bedside and said, “I won’t be able to live for more than a few days.”

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(Biography – Continued from page 9)

Listening to his words, they all cried. Beaming with a compassionate smile, President Okano told them, “The Three Monuments in *Goreichi* – the Sun Spirit Monument, All Souls Monument and Monument of Encomium – represent the essence of the Gedatsu teaching. When you sincerely pray at these monuments, I will teach you whatever you need. My soul is immortal. I will never die. Only my physical body will disappear. I wonder how much you may miss me when my body disappears from your view.” President Okano then looked at them with peaceful eyes.

Grateful for his doctors’ care

On November 3, 1948, Dr. Ichimatsu came and told President Okano that he had to travel on business.

President Okano then said, “Dr. Ichimatsu, thank you very much for your kind care for a long time.”

It was President Okano’s farewell to Dr. Ichimatsu, who had treated him since 1943. After a short time, Dr. Banno, who was a Gedatsu member, came from Nagoya. President Okano then asked him, “Could you examine me today, Dr. Banno?”

At first, Banno declined his request because he felt too unworthy to even feel his pulse. But, at President Okano’s earnest urging, Banno examined him carefully. When he finished the examination, Banno bowed deeply and said, “Thank you very much, President Okano.” He could say nothing more. Banno left the room and cried, because he could not hear the second beat of President Okano’s heart.

Concern, compassion for members to the last

Immediately thereafter, President Okano told the trainees to prepare hot meals for the members who came from a distance, showing his concern for members until the last moment of his life. In the evening, he fell asleep quietly. Dr. Ichimatsu returned from Kamakura and found President Okano sleeping soundly. All his family and relatives were called to his bedside. After 10 p.m., he fell into a comatose state.

On November 4, at 1:20 a.m., President Okano uttered loudly, “Ah....Um!” Dr. Ichimatsu had a tense look. After a short while, he announced President Okano’s death.

The mysterious light on the Master’s passing

At that time, someone realized that President Okano’s brother, Shosuke, was not there, so a trainee went to inform him of President Okano’s death. When he went outside, he was surprised at the brightness of the sky, although it was a moonless night.

“Why is it so light?” he thought, as he looked up at the sky. He then saw a bright ray of light coming from the direction of the Tenmanten Shrine, traveling toward the forest of *Goreichi* and passing over the Sun Spirit Monument. The trainee observed the light ray in surprise for some time.

Recovering his composure, he rushed to Shosuke’s home under the brilliant light ray, seeing the road clearly in the light. However, when he reached Shosuke’s home and came outside again, he found himself completely surrounded by darkness.



**Bishop Eizan Kishida delivers memorial address
at funeral for Gedatsu Kongo**

President Okano’s private funeral was held on November 11, 1948. The formal funeral was observed on November 27, officiated by the head priest of Daigoji Temple with thousands of members from all parts of the country in attendance. Daigoji Temple gave him the Buddhist name *Gedatsu Kongo*. Since then, President Okano came to be called *Master Gedatsu Kongo*.

Gedatsu Kongo’s ashes were enshrined in the *Kaie-do* Hall of Sennyuji Temple after the 100-day memorial service.

(Continued on back page)

OCTOBER 2018 OFFERINGS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: M/M B. Ide, K. Gibson, S. Tanaka, J. Tanaka, P. Tomita
\$50–\$99: S. Taketa, M/M D. Tsuboi, M/M D. Ide, S. Tanaka
\$100+: J. Detwiler/J. Sebe, Rev. A. Sebe, M/M C. Tanaka
\$200+: M/M J. Horner

Special Acknowledgment

Gedatsu-kai Japan U.S. Grand Fall Festival (\$1,000)
 M/M S. Sekikawa In memory of Clarence Aiona (\$100)
 J. Tanaka Appreciation for Japan trip (\$100)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: P. Chen, M/M M. Hamada, H. Malik, M/M V. Mizokami, A. Okimura, F. Sueyoshi, N. Takara, T. Toyama
\$50–\$99: A. Fukuura, M/M K. Kuritani, T. Murakami, M. Nakamura, M/M H. Tsujimura, M/M R. Tsujimura
\$100+: M/M R. Allum, M/M T. Fukushima, M/M M. Ishida, T. Ishida, T. Nakamura, E. Ogawa, L. Sanchez, B. Ton, M/M G. Wood, M/M K. Yamada
\$200+: C. Barthel, M/M N. Okano, D. Shiroishi
\$300+: J. Ito, Gedatsu Kendo Dojo
\$500+: M. Okada

Special Acknowledgment

Hatsumi Inouye Never Forgotten for Tomiko Konishi (\$100)
 Frances Miyasato In memory of Ben, Nora & Dennis Toguchi (\$100)
 Akira Sebe Church vacuum (\$300)
 Linda Sanchez In memory of Shiz Shiroishi (\$100)
 Shiroishi Family In memory of Shiz Shiroishi (\$2,000)
 M/M H. Tsujimura Autumn Moon Festival (\$100)
 Debbie Shiroishi Autumn Moon Festival (\$100)

Goreichi Care Fund

The Fund is established to pay for repairs, upgrades and ongoing maintenance of structures and property of the *Goreichi* Holy Grounds in Sacramento.

H. Graham \$100

2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

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)

Jun 9 (Sun) Sacramento Mother Kiyota Memorial Serv.
 Jun 16 (Sun) L.A. Mother Kiyota Memorial Service
 Jun 29-30 (Sat-Sun) *Rokujizo* Bazaar Sacramento 11 am

Jul 4 (Thu) Church Closed (Independence Day)
 Jul 14 (Sun) Sacramento Graduates Honored
 Jul 21 (Sun) L.A. *Obon* Service / Graduates Honored
 Jul 28 (Sun) Sacramento *Obon* Service
 Jul 25-28 (Thu-Sun) Youth Camp (TBD)

Aug 3 (Sat) Lake Tahoe *Benzaiten* Service (TBD)
 Aug 11 (Sun) Sacramento *Benzaiten* Service
 Aug 18 (Sun) L.A. *Benzaiten* Service
Aug 31 (Sat) 70th Anniversary Banquet (Sacramento)

Sep 1 (Sun) 70th Anniversary Fall Grand Festival 9:30 am
 Sep 3 (Tue) Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day)
 Sep 15 (Sun) L.A. *Higan* Service
 Sep 22 (Sun) Sacramento *Higan* Service
 Sep 29 (Sun) Church Closed

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. *Ujigami* Service
 Oct 27 (Sun) Sacramento All Souls Service

今月は『90周年記念特集』のため日本語ページは含まれません。ご理解たまわりますようお願いいたします。

Due to special coverage of the 90th Anniversary celebration, the Japanese-language pages are not included this month.



The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for members like **Scott Tanaka** of Sacramento. Scott, 23, is a computer applications developer. A third-generation Gedatsu member, he is the son of **Calvin** and **Stacie Tanaka**, and the grandson of **Sadaye** and the late **Karl Tanaka**, who

were among the early pioneers of the Sacramento Church.

In October, Scott visited Japan for the first time, participating in the 90th Anniversary celebration. He likes the Gedatsu teaching because it promotes appreciation for all things – family, friends, experiences and opportunities.

Rev. Kazuo Yamada, Editor

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(Biography – Continued from page 10)



Gedatsu Kongo's ashes are transferred to their eternal resting place in the Memorial Tower on the grounds of Sennyuji Temple.



On the sixth anniversary of Gedatsu Kongo's passing, in November of 1954, the Gedatsu Kongo Memorial Tower was dedicated on the grounds of Sennyuji Temple.

Gedatsu Kongo's ashes were transferred to the tower, where they remain enshrined forever.



*This concludes "A Brief Biography of Gedatsu Kongo," which was published this year to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the passing of Gedatsu Kongo. This 12-part series on the life of our Founder was condensed from The Biography of Gedatsu Kongo, which was published in 1988 (with English translation published in 1998). As with many of our Gedatsu written materials, we are gratefully indebted to **Rev. Hisakazu Taki**, who translated the original volumes into English and condensed them for this series.*

Editors, *Gedatsu Companion*