

GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA
www.gedatsu-usa.org

MAY 2018

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 News and Announcements
- 5 Dear Reverend: *"As a teenager, how can I cope with stress?"*
- 6 Sermon by Bishop Okano: *"Take Care of Nature"*
- 7 A Brief Biography of Gedatsu Kongo: Trials and Tribulations
- 9 Offerings and Upcoming Events

Gedatsu Kongo's Thought for the Month

"Being alive now is the most precious thing we have."

If we were to narrowly escape death, we would surely be grateful to be alive. But once we again become accustomed to living, our feelings of gratitude may not last. We may begin to complain about things again.

It may be impossible for anyone to be filled with gratitude all the time. But, we should sometimes think about the fact that we are alive and be thankful for living.

Please think about this, especially when you are experiencing difficulties in life. You will then become aware of the preciousness of life and will be able to live with renewed confidence and hope.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	6	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	13	9:30 am	Sunday Appreciation Service Mother's Day Service / Regional Board Mtg.
Sun	20	1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	27	9:30 am	Appreciation Service <i>Joen-no-gi</i> (Plaque Burning)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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) Mother's Day Service
Sat	26	8:00 am	Rummage Sale
Sun	27	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service / <i>Ajikan</i> Meditation L.A. Regional Board Mtg. / "Life in Your 20s"

JUNE 2018

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	3	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	10	9:30 am	Sunday Appreciation Service Mother Kiyota Memorial Service Father's Day Service / Regional Board Mtg.
Sun	17	9:30 am	Clean-up / Setup for <i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar
Fri	22	9:30 am	Preparation for <i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar
Sat	23	11:00 am	<i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar
Sun	24	11:00 am	<i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	3	10:00 am	Japanese <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	10	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	17	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English) Mother Kiyota Memorial Service Father's Day Service / L.A. Regional Board Mtg.
Sat-Sun	23-24		<i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar in Sacramento



May “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.

The Sacramento Church will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, May 6, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Masao Taketa, Betty Ozaki, Larizlado Rodriguez, Shigeno Tateishi, Raymond Kaname Nakamoto, Isami Suzuki, Hyozaburo Hirose and Akino Ogawa.**

The Los Angeles Church will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, May 13, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Satsuki Akiyoshi, Keiji Ariyasu, Marilyn S. Ariyasu, Tsugu Endo, Shikazo Hamaoka, John Kuritani, Sumako Matsumoto, Tamotsu Matsuura, Kikuye Miyamura, Nobuichi Miyashita, Teruo Arthur Murayama, Tameharu Nagao, Hitomi Nakaguchi, Ronald Yoshio Nakamura, Shizuyo Nakamura, Sumiko Nakamura, Akino Ogawa, Ai Okada, Mitsuji Okada, Joyce Okimura, Miyoko Okimura, Adeline Sanchez, Rev. Jerry Shiroishi, Joe Mitsuhide Takara, Kiyo Tanji, Yozo Tsujimura and Jane Harue Wakasa.**



L.A. Church Rummage Sale

Saturday, May 26, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Members, friends and the public are invited to the L.A. Church rummage sale. Hundreds of items will be for sale – you never know what you’ll find!

The Church is currently collecting donated items for the sale: household decorative items, jewelry, cosmetic samples, perfumes, kitchen items, gently used, clean clothes – “anything you wouldn’t mind giving to a relative or friend,” say event organizers. “Nothing chipped or broken, please.”

Rokujizo Bazaar Raffle Tickets Now on Sale

Help support one of our biggest fundraisers of the year – the annual *Rokujizo* Bazaar – which takes place on **Saturday and Sunday, June 23 and 24** at the Gedatsu Spiritual Center in Sacramento.

Japan Tour Group

Have you signed up yet for 90th anniversary celebration of the Gedatsu Church in Japan this fall? A tour group from America is being organized to attend the Grand Fall Festival at Japan *Goreichi*. All U.S. members are encouraged to participate.

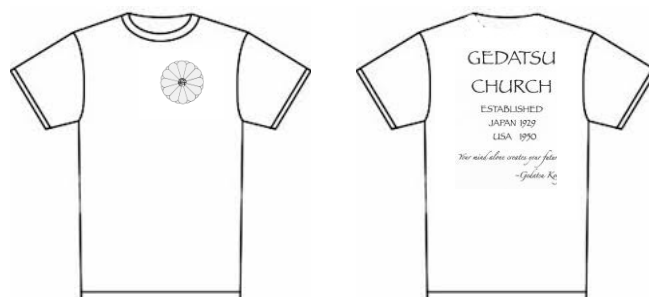
As an incentive, **Senior Deacon Jackson Ito** has offered to pay one-half of the airline travel fare for every attendee – and the *entire* fare for young people under the age of 25, or those not yet working full time. If you are interested in participating, contact **Rev. Naoya Okano** at the L.A. Church for an application form.



T-Shirt Contest Winners!

Bobby Mukai – in digital image held by proud Mom, **Diana Mukai** – and **Cindy Tsujimura** were awarded \$100 each for their winning T-shirt designs.

Congratulations to L.A. members, **Bobby Mukai** and **Cindy Tsujimura**, for their winning entries in the recent competition to design the church’s official Gedatsu T-shirt. The winning designs (Bobby’s for the front, and Cindy’s for the back) were selected from 20 creative submissions. They each were awarded \$100 cash. The new T-shirt is being printed in time for the *Rokujizo* Bazaar in June. The contest was sponsored by the L.A. and Sacramento regional boards.



The T-shirt front features the Gedatsu crest, and the back reads: **Gedatsu Church – Established Japan 1929, USA 1950. “Your mind alone creates your future.” – Gedatsu Kongo.**

Highlights from the Board of Directors Meeting

At the Spring Festival in Sacramento, **Joyce Reid**, chairman of the Board of Directors of Gedatsu Church USA, reported on a few highlights from the Board's March meeting.

Investment Fund Growth

- The church continues to make progress in reducing its reliance on funding from Gedatsu-kai Japan, primarily due to members' donations and growth of investment funds. The largest of these funds were started as special memorial donations from members, as well as donations to the Gedatsu Kongo Appreciation, or *Hosankai*, Fund. These funds provided the initial investments, which have made profits available for church use, and continue to give well beyond the initial contributions.
- One of two new investment funds, a U.S.-born Minister's Endowment Fund will generate investment income to ultimately support a living wage for an American minister. **Jackson Ito** and **Sr. Rev. Akira Sebe** generously donated monies to initiate this fund.
- Also, a new Youth Propagation Expense Fund has been established to support the start-up of Gedatsu youth athletic teams. The initial funding for this came from **Rev. George Matsushashi**, as well as **Sr. Rev. Sebe**.

Semi-retirement Status for Sr. Rev. Sebe

- After serving the Sacramento Church for nearly 50 years, **Sr. Rev. Sebe** has requested a well-deserved reduction of his schedule as he steps into semi-retirement. He will continue to support the Festivals, Bazaar and other important events, but he now looks forward to having more time to spend with his family.

Gedatsu Spiritual Center

- Our Sacramento Church has a new name: Gedatsu Spiritual Center. This new title is in keeping with the meaning of *Goreichi* and the spiritual nature of our sacred grounds. The legal name remains Gedatsu Church USA. Donations checks should still be made payable to Gedatsu Church USA.



The Gedatsu Propagation Committee – composed of the Board of Directors, Los Angeles/Sacramento Regional Board members, advisers and ministers – met in L.A. in March to discuss ways to energize and grow the church. Above, Committee members communicate via Skype with No. Calif. member, Pauline Tomita.

Simplified Prayer Service Adopted

Over the past half year, at the Sunday Appreciation Services in Los Angeles and Sacramento, members have been performing, on a trial basis, a simplified English prayer service, which eliminates the bowing, clapping and other cultural rituals of the traditional prayer. Members simply put their hands together and recite the prayer in English. Its purpose is to make the prayer more understandable and less confusing to people of all faiths and cultures, especially newcomers and young people.

Regional board members, ministers and advisers agreed to permanently adopt the simplified prayer and expand its use to the Grand Festivals, where the congregation recited the new prayer at the Spring Festival on April 8.

"I like this prayer," says **Rev. Hisakazu Taki**. "When I experienced the new simplified prayer for the first time, I felt strange, because there was no *shiho hairei*, no *shi hakushu*, no *Tenjinchigi*. But, as I continued to say the simplified prayer each morning, I began to feel that I should live each day according to the words of the prayer. This was very helpful to me.

"I believe the essence of the Gedatsu teaching is included in this simple prayer. By saying it each day, the Gedatsu spirit will be deeply imprinted into our minds."



New Deacons Appointed

In ceremonies at the Spring Festival, two outstanding women members – **Jo Ann Shiroishi** and **June Tanaka** – were appointed deacons of the Gedatsu Church in recognition of their many years of dedicated selfless service to the church and their continued commitment to work in the spirit of Gedatsu Kongo for the happiness of Gedatsu members. Above, from left, **Sr. Deacon Jackson Ito**, **Jo Ann**, **Bishop Teruo Okano**, and **June**.

Jo Ann Shiroishi of the Los Angeles Church has been a Gedatsu member from a young age, and her parents, the late **Pat** and **Sayo Shiroishi**, were Gedatsu pioneers. After a distinguished 40-year career as a high school teacher and counselor in the L.A. Unified School District, Jo Ann has devoted herself to the Gedatsu Church, which she loves with a deep and unwavering passion.

Jo Ann started the L.A. Gedatsu Sunday School 27 years ago, and under her leadership, the program grew from two students to more than 50 students. She initiated the Gedatsu *Tanabata* Committee, the annual *shichi-go-san* (7-5-3) children's celebration, the student graduate recognition program and highly successful Holiday Crafts Faire fundraiser.

Jo Ann has organized scores of church activities and outings and serves on the L.A. Regional Board. She plans the monthly program for the English Appreciation Services, sends out monthly email reminders to 80-plus members, and for years has made countless personal contacts, by phone and email, to reach out to members – old, new and potential. To many, Jo Ann is the friendly, caring and helpful and face and voice of our L.A. Church.

June Tanaka of the Sacramento Church also has been a Gedatsu member since childhood. Her parents, **Sadaye Tanaka**, and the late **Karl Tanaka**, were also founding members of the Gedatsu Church. They instilled in her a deep sense of dedication, appreciation and service, which June has demonstrated throughout her life as an active volunteer in the church.

June is an analyst with the State of California. When she is not at work, June is super-active in just about every area of the church. She co-chairs the *Rokujizo* Bazaar, helps with the Festivals and serves on the Church Board of Directors and Sacramento regional board.

For the past 15 years, June has served as Sunday School teacher and has watched the children in her classes grow into young adulthood, taking with them the Gedatsu life lessons they learned from her.

For Sacramento Church members, June is the “go-to person,” because everyone knows that in her quiet, humble, unassuming way, June gets things done.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Gedatsu Summer Youth Camp July 26 – 29

Our Gedatsu Summer Youth Camp promises to be a wonderful opportunity for Gedatsu youth – ages 12 through 20 – to meet and bond with others of their faith, as they enjoy a variety of fun outdoor activities, team-building experiences, meals and games. The camp is free and will be held from late Thursday afternoon, July 26, through Sunday, July 29, at the Gedatsu Church in Sacramento. The church will provide all meals, transportation to outings, and sleeping/shower accommodations.

Please sign up by May 15. All campers must complete a registration packet, which is available at the L.A. and Sacramento Churches. For more information contact **Rev. Naoya Okano** at la_branch@gedatsu-usa.org (626) 288-1212 or **Pauline Tomita**, camp coordinator, at patomita58@gmail.com (415) 640-7123.



At the Spring Festival, Rev. Rodney Yano (left), associate minister of the Konko Church of San Francisco, was thanked by Bishop Okano for his generosity in sharing with the Gedatsu Church his experience and knowledge in managing a summer youth camp.

L.A. Church Awaits Its Newest Member



The March 18 Sunday Appreciation Service in Los Angeles included a surprise party for the Okano family, who will be welcoming a baby girl in May. As part of the musical entertainment, soon-to-be-older-brother Ryunosuke Okano joined in the ukulele performance.

DEAR REVEREND

Q

“As a teenager, how can I cope with the stress I feel at school, at home and among my friends?”

A

I still remember that, when I was in my teens, I was often frustrated with the status quo of myself and the world. But now, all of these memories make me feel nostalgic, and I really believe that those frustrating experiences in my youth made me grow. When I was in the midst of the frustration, I could never feel that way, of course, so it may be hard for you to believe this now. But I feel it will help you to keep this in mind.

When I was little, the world I lived in was very small. I lived every day surrounded only by my parents, my siblings, and those who were close to me. We knew each other very well, so things worked out mostly as I expected.

When I entered school, however, everyone was a stranger. I was around unfamiliar people and made friends one by one. As I grew, things sometimes did not go as I expected. To this day, I sometimes have difficulty communicating with some people. But, through these experiences, I have learned that people are all different, and that my thinking is not always right. I feel grateful to have experienced those difficult times when I was young.

***“Through difficult experiences with others,
we learn how to cope with this changing world.”***

During our lifetime, we sometimes face hardships, which are often difficult to accept. But I believe hardships are the challenges for our growth. Without experiencing hardships, we cannot grow. Through difficult experiences with others, we learn how to cope with this changing world. If things always go smoothly, we may not learn anything to grow. So, please don't run away from the difficulties you are facing now.

Before I conclude, I want to offer you a suggestion: meditation. You have a lot of stress in your relationships with other people. They may have viewpoints and values that are different from your own. I believe that the calming effect of meditation can be very helpful in settling your thoughts and feelings and creating a feeling of harmony within yourself that will be reflected in your relationship with others.

The church ministers will be happy to provide guidance in meditation. Why don't you try it?

Rev. Hisakazu Taki

Sermon at Spring Grand Festival

Take Care of Nature

By **Bishop Teruo Okano**

Translated by **Allen** and **Uzuko Shiroishi**

Good morning, Gedatsu members in America! I'm glad to see you all.

Last year, I was saddened to hear about the devastating fires in California that caused so much destruction of property and residences, as well as the loss of many lives. I pray for the souls of those who perished in the fires, and the survivors who are still trying to recover from their losses.

When we hear about destructive fires, floods and other natural disasters, we begin to think about our relationship with nature and earth.

Today, global warming is a huge problem for people all over the world. Global warming is the gradual rise in the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere due to the increase in greenhouse gases. The rising temperature is causing our glaciers and polar icecap to melt, raising sea levels, and triggering more extreme weather events and natural disasters, like heavy rains, floods, droughts, tornadoes and wildfires.

“Our goal as human beings is to live in joy and perpetual harmony with others and with the environment.”

While we need to be mindful of the greenhouse effect which causes global warming, we also need to be aware that without the greenhouse effect, our planet would be too cold to support most forms of life. So, nature is always creating balance. We need to watch this balance carefully. How much are we contributing to the negative effect of global warming? How big of a carbon-footprint are we leaving on our planet? Our goals as human beings is to live in joy and perpetual harmony with others and with the environment.

Earth is our precious home. As a planet, earth is unique. It is the only planet in the solar system that can sustain life as we know it. Water covers about 70 percent of the earth's surface. Water also makes up about 70 percent of the human body. Six elements make up almost 99 percent of the human body, and these same elements make up our earth, as well.

Earthquakes, typhoons, hurricanes, and volcano eruptions are natural occurrences caused by the relationship of the earth, sea, and atmosphere. It is natural to have the earth's core move and shake occasionally. It's like the earth is breathing and changing, similar to the human body that moves, shakes, and sometimes gets sick.

We cannot control nature. Instead, our obligation is to take care of nature, appreciate everything nature gives us, and live in harmony with it.

As you heard earlier in the recorded words of Gedatsu Kongo: “Ego destroys self, family, country and the world. It is an endless disease. Observe the present world condition.”

Our founder is asking us to self-reflect . . . and to look around us at the world we are making.

If we consider the workings of our bodies and minds as a kind of “small earth,” that gives us a clue to understanding how we should live in harmony with the larger, miraculous world of nature. That is to live our lives according to the Universal Law – the Gedatsu life of prayer and appreciation.

“We can show our appreciation to nature by taking care of nature.”

I hope that we can live in a world in which parents everywhere can talk to their children about the greatness of this world and together give their appreciation to earth and nature. I dream that humankind will use its vast intelligence to be responsible stewards of this earth and take good care of it.

We live in the world that we have created. If we want a better world tomorrow for society and future generations, we can make positive changes now.

So, let us continually self-reflect and live our lives like nature – unselfish and nonjudgmental. Let us live each day in deep appreciation for being allowed to live and receive the blessings from nature and this precious earth.

In this way, our planet will be a happy, healthy and safe place for everyone.

I wish you happiness.



A Brief Biography of Gedatsu Kongo

Chapter 5 Trials and Tribulations

In 1922, the storeowner of the Shimizu Shipping Company reorganized from a one-man business to a joint-stock corporation in order to put himself in the controlling position. Eizo Okano – wanting to become independent – asked the owner to allow him to leave. The storeowner agreed, allowing Eizo to take the staff of the Northern Sea Route department with him, as well.

The new company that Eizo formed was named the Hokkai Joint Company. Eizo was appointed director, and Hamada, the owner of the Hokkai Shipping Store, became adviser.

Around the same time, Eizo wanted to start another big business – a geisha house – in appreciation to Aki for her devotion in caring for him when he was gravely ill. Aki was very happy to hear the plan. They found a piece of land for sale in Araki-cho, Yotsuya. Eizo named the geisha house Akizuki after Aki. It was completed in March of 1923.

From happiness to catastrophe

Also, at this time, Eizo and Aki adopted a baby girl, Kikuye. They moved to Akizuki to live. Kikuye was healthy and growing, and the family was very happy.

On September 1, a severe 7.9 earthquake struck Tokyo, turning the city into hell in a moment. Nearly 100,000 people were killed by the quake and resulting fires, and another 40,000 were missing. Nearly 450,000 homes were destroyed.

In the quake, Kikuye was struck in the head and died four days later. A simple funeral was performed.



The Great Kanto Earthquake struck the Tokyo area just before noon on September 1, 1923.

In October, the Tokyo Clearing House resumed its operations. All the bills that Hokkai Joint Company had drawn before the earthquake were honored, but most of the banks that dealt with its customers dishonored the bills. This was a great shock to Eizo, who had spent all the capital of Hokkai Joint Company. It was doubtful whether the company would be able to operate. Eizo called the managing staffs to discuss the remedial measures to be taken. Some clerks who had been obedient spoke harshly of Eizo. In the end, several managing staff and 20 clerks left the company.

After they left, Eizo called the staffs to explain the company's course for the future. They had almost no capital, so they would borrow the money from Keika Company temporarily. With that money, they would charter two or three ships and transport goods from Hokkaido as much as possible. With those profits, they would increase the number of chartering ships and build an office building. When Eizo enthusiastically explained these plans, the staff's hope for the future was restored.

Akizuki, which was spared from the earthquake disaster, was repaired and prospered. Aki consulted Eizo and planned to build an annex of 20 rooms to Akizuki. They decided to buy a piece of land in the neighborhood and build another geisha house. Its construction started in December, and it was completed by the end of January. The new geisha house was named Chiaki.

The business of Keika Company was going well, and the stone-dealing business became busy. Eizo worked like a tiger, but his hard work affected his body. When he raised his arms, he felt an acute pain in the shoulders. Although he received Shiatsu massage and medical treatment, his condition did not improve.

Spiritual connections

In early 1924, Eizo began visiting the *Shukugawara Fudo-son* guardian spirit to receive its healing prayer and continued his visits for four years. Around the same time, Eizo started to visit the *Benzaiten* shrine of the Senzoku Pond in Tokyo. He went there alone at night and said nothing about his visits. After some time, he said, "As I continued to visit the Senzoku Pond *Benzaiten*, my shoulder pain disappeared."

Though it was not yet clear, a new world was unfolding before Eizo.

(Continued on page 8)

After the earthquake disaster, business morality had been deplorably corrupted, affecting Hokkai Joint Company and Keika Company, as well. Some of the employees were receiving bribes and loaning money to acquaintances, which were not repaid. Because most of the bad loans were irrecoverable, the board directors concluded that there was no way to recover. The company would be dissolved at the end of the year.

Business corruption takes its toll

One day, in the midst of this business turmoil, Eizo thoughtlessly left his registered seal on his desk for a brief time. The chief manager, whom Eizo trusted most, took the seal and executed a bond for debt under the name of the company. He then borrowed a large amount of money from a private financial company and disappeared. It caused the collapse of Hokkai Joint Company, which Eizo had built up through his tireless effort.

In the middle of August 1926, Eizo collapsed at the company office. He was hospitalized immediately. He was suffering from exhaustion and diabetes. His condition was very serious. His body became weaker day by day. He was overcome by deep despair and was a mere shadow of himself.

A glimpse of the future

One night, Eizo desperately wanted to see his face. Raising his weak body from his bed, he crawled to look into a mirror. His face looked completely different, thin and unshaven.

At that moment, he was struck by an indescribable feeling. Eizo later told one of his close associates that he had a mysterious experience at that time. According to that person's account, Eizo clearly saw his future in the mirror. He saw himself as the founder of the Gedatsu teaching, devoting himself to the salvation of mankind.

The following year, Eizo met Kensho Shimada, an ascetic Buddhist monk of the Nichiren Sect, who was gifted with psychic power. To heal his diabetes, Eizo often asked Shimada to pray for him. Shimada psychically understood the cause of the disease and was able to cure it. As he continued his spiritual practices with Shimada, Eizo developed psychic insight. Shimada played an important role when Eizo established the Gedatsu teaching four years later.

In May 1927, Eizo heard news that portions of the state forest in Tanzawa could be purchased. He decided to submit a bid for a lot. The Tanzawa mountain range was well known for its good timber of Japanese cedar and cypress, as well as its history for ascetic practices. Eizo and his employee, Riichi Komuro, drove into the mountain range as far as they could go, and then walked from there.

A notable incident

As he and Komuro went into the mountains, it began to rain heavily. When they reached a river, it was impossible to cross because of rising water. As Eizo walked down to the stream, his feet slipped in the mud, and he fell into the river. He later described this experience: "When I was swept away in the river and was struck on my head, I gained psychic insight."

From that time, Eizo began to exhibit psychic powers. Without having to walk into the mountains to count timber, he was able to give the exact amount. Often, after he sat on a stone meditating, he would avow the presence of spiritual masters: "There is a master who governs the whole area of Tanzawa, and various other masters are working on every ridge."

From the summer of 1927, Eizo continued the spiritual practice in the Tanzawa mountains, always dressing in formal kimono out of respect for the divine spirits of the masters, with whom he communicated. He also practiced with Shimada and visited various shrines and temples as he was guided by divine spirits to perform meditation.

At that time, Eizo also played an important role in the campaign to establish the Kitamotojuku Station in his hometown, making a large donation to support the campaign. The station was opened in August 1928.

Eizo owned a number of pedigree dogs. One day, he was secretly visited by a member of the Imperial Family, who wished to see his dogs. When he received the royal prince, Eizo was deeply moved by his noble character, which awakened in him an awareness of his Japanese traditional spirit and spiritual destiny.

This experience opened Eizo's spiritual eye. The year 1929, when the Gedatsu teaching was to be established, was just around the corner.

(To be continued next month)



MARCH 2018 OFFERINGS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: M/M R. Nakatani, K. Kitasoe, S. Tanaka, K. Gibson, M/M T. Yui, Anonymous

\$50–\$99: M/M D. Ide, S. Taketa, J. Tanaka, M/M D. Tsuboi, M/M C. Tanaka

\$100+: M/M S. Seikikawa, D. Sebe, M/M K. Yamada, T. Wakabayashi, H. Graham, S. Nishino, J. Detwiler / J. Sebe, Anonymous, J. Ito

\$200+: A. Sebe, M/M J. Horner

Special Acknowledgment

G / M Tahara	In memory of Kiyoko Oto (\$300)
S. Tanaka	In memory of Noboru Tateishi (\$300)
Akashi family	Home remodel (\$250)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: P. Chen, M/M K. Chinen, J. Choy, M/M M. Hamada, I. Long, M/M L. Muronaka, M. Nakamura, R. Nakamura, T. Okazaki, K. Sato, M/M A. Shiroishi

\$50–\$99: M/M T. Hiram, D. Ide, J. Kaku, M. Kimura, M/M B. Mizokami, M/M V. Mizokami, M/M C. Morioka, M/M M. Murakami, M. Okada, A. Okimura, T. Okimura, A. Sebe, M/M S. Shaklan, J. Tanaka, M/M H. Tsujimura, M/M R. Tsujimura

\$100+: M/M R. Allum, M/M F. Barthel, M/M N. Chodor, K. Fujii, M/M T. Fukushima, M/M B. Hamamoto, S. Kaku, M/M K. Kuritani, T. Matsuura, M/M S. Mukai, T. Murakami, T. Nakamura, Y. Oishi, J. Reid, L. Sanchez, H. Taki, C. Tanaka, M/M K. Yamada

\$200+: M/M M. Ishida, T. Ishida, M/M T. Matsumoto, M/M N. Okano, D. Shiroishi

\$300+: Gedatsu Kendo Dojo

\$500+: J. Ito

Special Acknowledgment

Nestor Gonzales	In memory of Noriko Yoshihara (\$500)
M/M N. Chodor	Terry Shiroishi memorial service (\$100)
Donna Shiroishi	" (\$200)
M/M Scott Shiroishi	" (\$100)
Debra Shiroishi	" (\$200)
Shizuye Shiroishi	" (\$200)
Jackson Ito	"Never Forgotten" for Kazuye Ito (\$200)
Mahoney/Kaku families	"Never Forgotten" for Thomas Mahoney (\$100)
Tom Okimura	"Never Forgotten" for Emiko Okimura and Hisano Miyashita (\$200)

MARCH 2018 OFFERINGS (Continued)

Special Acknowledgment (Continued)

Jo Ann Shiroishi	"Never Forgotten" for Pat Shiroishi (\$100)
Linda Sanchez	"Never Forgotten" service (\$100)
M. Kimura	Naoe Kimura memorial service (\$100)
Toyomi Iwata	Appreciation for Hatsumiya Mairi (\$100)
Nozomi Chuk	Appreciation for Hatsumiya Mairi (\$200)
Akira Sebe	Vacuum for church (\$350)

2018 UPCOMING EVENTS

Jul 4 (Wed)	Church Closed (Independence Day)
Jul 15 (Sun)	L.A. <i>Obon</i> Service/Graduates Honored
Jul 22 (Sun)	Sacramento <i>Obon</i> Service
Jul 26-29 (Thu-Sun)	Youth Camp in Sacramento

Aug 4 (Sat)	Lake Tahoe <i>Benzaiten</i> Service (TBD)
Aug 29 (Sun)	L.A. <i>Benzaiten</i> Service

Sept 2 (Sun)	Fall Grand Festival 9:30 a.m.
Sept 4 (Tue)	Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day)
Sept 15 (Sun)	L.A. <i>Higan</i> Service
Sept 23 (Sun)	Sacramento <i>Higan</i> Service

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. <i>Ujigami</i> Service
Oct 28 (Sun)	Sacramento All Souls Service

Nov 4 (Sun)	L.A. Gedatsu Kongo 70 th Memorial Service
Nov 11 (Sun)	Sacto Gedatsu Kongo 70 th 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

5 月度 教会行事予定

ロサンゼルス教会

6 日 (日) 10:00A	日本語感謝会
13 日 (日) 9:30A	祥月追善法要
20 日 (日) 10:00A	日英感謝会・母の日サービス
26 日 (土) 8:00A	ラメージ・セール
27 日 (日) 10:00A	英語感謝会 リージョナル委員会

サクラメント教会

6 日 (日) 10:00A	祥月追善法要
13 日 (日) 9:30A	感謝会・母の日サービス リージョナル委員会
20 日 (日) 1:00P	サンノゼ感謝会
27 日 (日) 9:30A	感謝会・浄炎の儀

5 月度 みさとし

「生命は人間の全部であり、
一番大きな喜びである」

われわれ人間はともすれば不平不満をもらしがちだ。それは、人間というものは現状に慣れやすいものだからである。大病を患い九死に一生を得たようなとき、誰でも「命があって本当によかった」と生かされていることに心から感謝するにちがいない。しかし、その感激と感謝の気持ちも長続きせず、やがて生きていることが当たり前になってくる。そして、あれが足りない、これが足りないと、不平不満を言い出すのである。いつも感謝の心であふれているなどということは人間にはあり得ないことかもしれない。しかし、いま命があるということほど有難いことはないのだということを、心の片隅にはいつも忘れないでおきたいものだ。「命あつての物種」ということわざがある通り、生命はわれわれのすべてなのだ。その生命が、いま自分に与えられているのである。特に、苦しみや悲しみに見舞われたようなとき、このことを思い出すといい。そうすればきっと、忘れていた大切なものに気づき、感謝の心を取り戻すと共に、生きる力と希望を与えられるにちがいない。

第 137 回 春 季 大 祭

大きな変革の時期に、さらなる心の変革を

総長・岡野英夫

昨年は、カリフォルニア州のそこかしこで複数の森林火災が発生し猛威を振るい、多数の犠牲者がでたり、広大な森林や家屋が焼失したりするなど大きな被害がありました。亡くなられた方々のご冥福を祈る

とともに、心からお見舞い申し上げます。

地球温暖化の進展とともに気候の変動の幅が

大きくなり、今後さらに激しい集中豪雨や洪水、干ばつや山火事などの多発が予想されるなか、地球温暖化抑止に向けた世界の動きはようやく加速しつつあります。石油に依存した文明は、すでに限界がきており、自然エネルギーへの転換が必要になってきています。

温暖化でネガティブなイメージで語られがちな「温室効果」ですが、それ自体は基本的にはなくてはならない地球の保温メカニズムです。大気中の二酸化炭素や水蒸気のベールによって生命の繁殖に適した温度に保たれているのも事実です。また地球は水に祝福された惑星で、水が生命体にとって必要不可欠である事実以上の奇跡を地球にもたらせています。液体の水が存在すること自体、宇宙では極めて稀なことなのです。

また、台風や地震や火山噴火すらも海と大地を生き返らせる地球の循環作用の一部だといわれます。これらのエネルギーは太陽の恵みです。地球は常に太陽から無尽蔵のエネルギー供給を受けおり、風や海流、川の流れといったかたちで循環して極致まで多様性に満ちた生命圏の形成を可能にしています。地球はつねにダイナミックに呼吸し、変動する生きた星です。その呼吸が、地震や火山噴火といった局所的で突発的な地殻変動として表れる事もあれば、エルニーニョ現象のように何年かに一度、世界中で異常気象を引き起こす地球規模の海水温と気流の変動として現れることもあります。

大きな災いと恵みをもたらす地球の営みではありますが、私たちの身体と同様に地球も流れ、揺らぎ、呼吸しながら平衡を維持しているといえます。

自然を支配してきたという妄想、人間中心主義は捨てるべきです。変動する地球との共生が必要で、私たちは「どんな文明を創りたいのか」「どんな人類でありたいのか」私たちの在り方も常に大きな自己変革の可能性に開かれています。

金剛さまが、「自我充実は、身も家も国も世界も

皆亡びる。現世界の動きを知られたい。自我は無限であるからです」と申されました。小宇宙といわれる人の身体や心のメカニズムを解明するように、大自然の奇跡ともいえるメカニズムを解明し、地球の営みと共生する人間の生き方や生活様式を作り上げていかなければならないと思います。

それは、まさしく宇宙・大自然の真理法則に合わせた人類の生き方の改革であり、祈りと感謝報恩に活きる解脱の教えそのものであると感じます。

願わくば、生まれ来る子供たちに地球の危機や人間の愚かさではなく、地球という星の素晴らしさ、ありがたさ、そして地球の未来に向けて人間という知的な存在が果たしうる役割を語れる環境を早く実現したいものです。

今、大きな変革の時期を私たちの家庭も個人も国際社会と同様に迎えています。私たち一人一人の心が、今という時代を作り上げてきたのです。自分の心を検証し自我を捨て、生かされていることに感謝し、安心と歓喜と希望の生活を実現できるよう努力をさせていただきます。

米国解脱教会 青少年サマーキャンプ



エキサイティングな夏休み！ サクラメントで“ユース・キャンプ”

解脱教会は、夏休み中の7月26日（木）～29日（日）の3泊4日、サクラメント教会で12歳から20歳の青少年を対象に「サマー・ユース・キャンプ」を開催いたします。

このキャンプでは、若者たちが、様々なアウトドア・アクティビティ、チーム・ビルディング経験、食事、ゲームを楽しむことで、他の人たちと出会い、絆を結ぶ素晴らしい機会になるにちがいありません。

キャンプの参加は無料です。7月26日木曜日から始まるすべての活動は、教会指導者と青少年相談員の監督下で行われます。なお、教会はすべての食事、交通費、宿泊室/シャワーの施設を提供します。若者たちは持参した寝袋を使用します。ぜひ、12歳から20歳までのお子さんたちをお誘いください。

全てのキャンパーは6月1日までにロサンゼルス教会かサクラメント教会にあるサマーキャンプの登録書（連絡先情報、同意書、キャンブルール、交通ニーズ、健康アンケートなど）に記入し提出する必要があります。詳細は下記担当までお願いします。

・青少年キャンプコーディネーター：

Pauline Tomita ; (415) 640-7123

<patomita58@gmail.com>

・岡野尚也師（L.A.教会）；（626）288-1212
(la-branch@gedatsu-usa.org)

掲 示 板

● 立教90年日本ツアーについて

秋の日本解脱会・立教90年式典に参加する「日本ツアー」が計画されています。ツアーは10月11日にロサンゼルス空港を基点に出発し、10月14日の記念式典に参加、その前後に埼玉県大宮市のホテルに3泊します。その後日本国内をめぐる10日間のオプションツアーもあります。

特に、米国教会首席ディーコンのジャクソン伊藤氏から、「各出席者の航空運賃の半分。また、25歳未満の若者あるいはフルタイムで働いていない人には全航空運賃を支払う」との篤志奉納があります。この機にできるだけ多くの方の参加をお待ちします。各教会にツアー申込書が準備されています。

● 新たに2つの投資ファンドが設立されました。

今春季大祭で、ジョイス・リード理事長が去る3月の理事会のハイライトを報告しました。米国教会における各投資基金は順調な進展を続けています。その中で、新しい2つの投資ファンドが設立されました。ジャクソン伊藤氏と瀬部先生の寄付による「米国生まれの大臣基金」と、松橋先生と瀬部先生の寄付による「青少年布教費基金」の2つです。

● 瀬部先生セミリタイアへ

サクラメント教会の瀬部明先生は、大祭やバザー、その他の教会行事に引き続き従事しますが、今後家族と過ごすより自由な時間を確保すべく、仕事のペースを抑える意味でのセミ・リタイアメントを希望され、認証されました。

● 「ゲダツ・スピリチュアル・センター」について

サクラメントの御霊地は、「Gedatsu Spiritual Center」という新しい英語の呼称が付きしました。これは私たちの聖地である「御霊地」の意味に沿って英語化した呼称です。正式名称は「Gedatsu Church USA（米国解脱教会）」に変わりありませんので、寄付金のチェックに書かれる時は、従来通り“Gedatsu Church USA”とご記入ください。

● 新たに2人のディーコンが任命されました

今大祭でロサンゼルス教会のジョアン・城石さん、サクラメント教会のジュン・田中さんの2名が解脱教会のディーコン（開教師補佐）に任命されました。今後さらにディーコンとして献身的に奉仕されます。



The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for members like **Dave Ide**, a third-generation Gedatsu member, following his parents, **Buster** and **Reiko Ide**, and pioneering grandparents, **Kanzaburo** and **Hisaye Ide**.

Dave and his wife, **Penny**, reside in Elk Grove with their children, **Christopher** and **Courtney**, and dog, Koda. Dave is active in the church, serving as chair of the Sacramento Regional Board. For years, he has managed the barbecue area for the *Rokujizo* Bazaar and supported countless other church activities. He enjoys spending time with his family and pursuing his passion, bass and striper fishing in the Delta.

Rev. Kazuo Yamada, Editor
Joyce Reid, Editor-in-Chief
Kiyoko Hirayama, Arlene Okimura, Yoko Yamada,
Photographers

Editorial contributors to this issue:

Dave Ide, Rev. Naoya Okano, Allen Shiroishi, Jo Ann Shiroishi, Uzuko Shiroishi, Rev. Hisakazu Taki, Calvin Tanaka, June Tanaka, Cindy Tsujimura

Gedatsu Church USA
Los Angeles Branch
7850 Hill Drive
Rosemead, CA 91770

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EL MONTE, CA
PERMIT NO. 110



WANTED: 70 Years of Gedatsu Memories

Next year – 2019 – we will be celebrating 70 years of Gedatsu in America. As part of our celebration, we have begun collecting images of the people and activities that illustrate our church's history over those 70 years.

Do you have any images, like old photos, 35mm slides (remember them?) or 8mm film? If you can email us a scan or a digital image of your photos, that's great. If you can't, send them to us, and we will copy and return them to you. Be sure to include as much information about the images as possible – names, dates, events, etc.

Email your digital images to **Cindy (Beana) Tsujimura** at abbeana@gmail.com. Or you can bring or mail your photos, etc., to **Rev. Naoya Okano** at the L.A. Church, or to **Rev. Kazuo Yamada** at the Sacramento Church. Be sure to include your name, address and email address.