

GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA
www.gedatsu-usa.org

MAY 2019

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Gedatsu Kongo's
Thought for the Month

*"How can we live happily?
We should always have warmth
in our speech."*

What is human beauty?
Usually, we tend to focus on one's
appearance. But one's inner beauty is
what matters.

No matter how beautiful a
person may be, if he or she makes a
vainglorious show of his or her
appearance, we may tend to dislike
that person.

On the other hand, a person
who always speaks warmly is
generally liked by everyone. His or
her inner beauty naturally appears in
his or her speech and attitude. No
one can hide it.

Why don't you show your
sincerity in your speech and attitude
to everyone and everything you meet
each day? By doing so, you will
discover a key to living happily.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	5	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	12	9:30 am	Appreciation Service Mother's Day Service
Sun	19	1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	26	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / Plaque Burning (<i>Joan-no-gi</i>) Regional Board Meeting
Mon	27	9:00 am	Inter-religious Memorial Day Service (<i>Nikkei</i> Pioneer Monument – Odd Fellows Cemetery)
Tue	28		Church Closed (in lieu of Memorial Day)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	5	10:00 am	Japanese <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	12	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	19	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English) Mother's Day Service
Sun	26	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service L.A. Regional Board Meeting
Tue	28		Church Closed (in lieu of Memorial Day)

JUNE 2019

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	2	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	9	9:30 am	Appreciation Service Mother Kiyota Memorial Service Father's Day Service / Regional Board Meeting
Sun	16	1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	23	9:30 am	Clean-up / set-up for <i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar
Fri	28	9:00 am	Preparation for <i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar
Sat	29	11:00 am	<i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar
Sun	30	11:00 am	<i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar

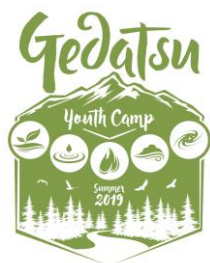
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	2	10:00 am	Japanese <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	9	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	16	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English) Mother Kiyota Memorial Service Father's Day Service
Sun	23	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service L.A. Regional Board Meeting
Sat-Sun	29-30		<i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar in Sacramento



Gedatsu Japan Announces Passing of Former Abbot

Gedatsu-kai Japan announced the death of **Seiho Okano**, former abbot of the Gedatsu Church, who died in Japan on April 3 at the age of 79. A descendant of **Founder Gedatsu Kongo**, Abbot Okano served as the spiritual leader of the Gedatsu Church from 1953 through 2016. He is survived by his wife and six children. His son, **Hideaki Okano**, serves as the current abbot. Formal funeral services for Former Abbot Seiho Okano are scheduled in Japan for May 19.



Summer Youth Camp 2019

**Thursday, July 25, to
Sunday, July 28**

Our second Gedatsu Summer Youth Camp will be held over four days – from Thursday through Sunday, July 25-28 – based at the Sacramento Spiritual Center.

The camp provides teens (ages 12 and up) and young adults with a variety of enjoyable experiences – like rafting down the American River and other outdoor adventures, group activities and games – designed to create an atmosphere of friendship and fun, while deepening participants' faith and understanding of Gedatsu. It's a great opportunity to interact in fun activities and discussions with **Rev. Naoya Okano** and other youth counselors.

The camp is free for participants. The church will provide all meals, transportation to outings, and sleeping / shower accommodations. Youths provide their own sleeping bags.

Further details will be announced at Sunday services and in future *Companion* issues. Questions can be directed to **Janet Hirayama** at jhirayama@roadrunner.com or (626) 330-8768.



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 month.

The Sacramento Spiritual Center will hold its "Never Forgotten" Memorial Service on **Sunday, May 5, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Masao Taketa, Kenneth 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 12, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Satsuki Akiyoshi, Keiji Ariyasu, Marilyn S. Ariyasu, Tsugu Endo, Andrué Gutierrez, John Kuritani, Sumako Matsumoto, Tamotsu Matsuura, Kikuye Miyamura, Nobuichi Miyashita, Teruo Arthur Murayama, Tameharu Nagao, Hitomi Nakaguchi, Ronald Yoshio Nakamura, Shizuyo Nakamura, Sumiko Nakamura, Mitsuji Okada, Joyce Okimura, Miyoko Okimura, Adeline Sanchez, Rev. Jerry Shiroishi, Joe Mitsuhide Takara, Kiyo Tanji, Yozo Tsujimura** and **Jane Harue Wakasa**.

Note: If you want to include a digital image of your loved one in the L.A. "Never Forgotten" memorial service presentation, email your digital image to **Rev. Naoya Okano** at last one week prior to the service.

2019 Memorial Tower Enshrinements

Applications for enshrinement in the Gedatsu Memorial Tower at this year's Fall Grand Festival in Sacramento will be accepted until June 16. The fee is \$300 per application. Application forms are available at your church office.

L.A. Church Rummage Sale Postponed

Because of a busy 2019 church schedule, the L.A. Church rummage sale will not be held this year. Please hold onto your rummage sale items for our big sale in 2020.



Join in Our 70th Anniversary Celebration!

Labor Day weekend

Saturday, August 31 – Celebration Banquet

Sunday, September 1 – Fall Grand Festival

Gedatsu Church USA celebrates its 70th Anniversary this year with our celebration banquet on Saturday, August 31, and the Fall Grand Festival on Sunday, September 1.

A new hotel location – Crowne Plaza Hotel in northeast Sacramento at Hwy. 80 – has been selected for our celebration event. (The formerly reserved Marriott Hotel banquet room is closed for renovations.) We have reserved a block of guest rooms and banquet room at the Crowne Plaza, enabling all guests to be under one roof.

We are also happy to announce that the price for ALL guest rooms will be limited to \$95 per night, plus tax. In addition, the Crowne Plaza breakfast buffet price (a \$17 value) has been negotiated down to \$10 and will paid by the church for all guests.

Please note, however, that only single queen/king rooms are available for U.S. Gedatsu members. (The limited number of double-bed rooms will be offered to Japan members.) Therefore, if you are driving your own vehicle and need more than one bed, you have the option of reserving a double-bed room at La Quinta Inn Rancho Cordova – or at any reasonably priced hotel – instead of reserving a single room at the Crowne Plaza. The church will pay the difference in price over the \$95 rate.

To reserve a room at the Crowne Plaza, call the hotel at 1(877) 504-0054 or email reservations@cpsac.com. Be sure to request the “Gedatsu Church” rate. If you already made a room reservation at either the La Quinta or Marriott Hotel, please call those hotels to cancel your reservations, unless you elect to remain there.

To make this generous offer of \$95 and complimentary breakfast, the Gedatsu Church will use funds from the **Heizaburo Kobayashi Fund**, which was established to promote goodwill and cultural exchange between Japan the U.S. Therefore, please express your gratitude and prayers to the Kobayashi family and ancestors.

And don’t forget that the cost of the celebration banquet – which includes a full buffet and beverages – will be paid through the generosity of **Sr. Deacon Jackson Ito**.

***Crowne Plaza Hotel
Northeast Sacramento –
new hotel location for
rooms and banquet***

***Special “Gedatsu
Church” room rate of
\$95/night plus tax
(includes free breakfast
buffet)***

***Estimated 100 members
from Japan expected to
join us at Celebration
Banquet and Fall Festival***

***Celebration Banquet
includes complimentary
buffet and beverages,
hosted bar***

***Fall Grand Festival
includes complimentary
luncheon***

Inter-religious Memorial Day Service



Ministers from the Gedatsu Spiritual Center in Sacramento will again participate in the annual Inter-religious Memorial Day Service at the *Nikkei* Pioneer Monument located in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Sacramento. (In photo at left, **Rev. Yamada** is shown at last year's service.)

Sponsored by the Sacramento Japanese-American Citizen League, this multi-faith service involves Buddhist (Gedatsu, Jodo Shinshu, Nichiren, Tenrikyo, Koyasan) and Christian (Methodist, Presbyterian) faiths. Chairmanships and sermons rotate among the various churches. **Rev. Sebe** chaired the service in 2017.

Exchange Ambassadors to Visit This Summer

As it does every year, Gedatsu USA will be hosting two *Gedatsu-kai* members from Japan this summer. They have been selected to serve as Exchange Ambassadors, who will visit the U.S. in late June to experience American culture and familiarize themselves with Gedatsu USA and its members. Both Ambassadors are employed by *Gedatsu-kai*, Tokyo



Koji (Ko-chan) Mokudai, 36, was born into Gedatsu and has looked forward to being selected as an Ambassador for a long time. "I don't speak or understand English, but I'm eager to learn."



Takahiro (Taka) Saito, 36, was also born into a Gedatsu family. He's eager to learn about Japanese-American culture and see where and how U.S. members study Gedatsu.

Q

What should I think and say when I give my prayers?

A

There are two essential elements we should keep in mind in our daily prayers: one, appreciation and gratitude, and two, our pledge.

1. *Appreciation and gratitude*: We are all allowed to live by God. We receive the infinite blessings from everything in the universe and all of society, including water, air, sun light, food, clothing, shelter, various social services, etc. Our everyday life is impossible without them. We should be thankful for them first.
2. *Pledge*: As a token of appreciation, we promise God and ourselves to help people and work for the benefit of society through our daily duties.

"We thank God and ancestor for their blessings . . . and pledge to try our best for the benefit of society."

When we pray in the morning, we thank God and ancestors for their blessings, and as a token of appreciation, make a pledge to try our best for the benefit of society through our daily duties and activities. During the day, we try our best. And when we pray before going to bed in the evening, we say thank you for the day. These are our daily prayers.

Our Gedatsu prayer book is an expression of this.

"We join in giving reverence to the Universal Life Force, all guardian angels and the souls of our ancestors. We give thanks for the infinite blessings we receive. We resolve to live each day with appreciation and gratitude."

"May peace reign over the world and all people enjoy prosperity and happiness. May we unite and cooperate in the salvation of mankind. May we pray for the peaceful rest of all spirits. And may divine grace bless all things equally."

"I shall reciprocate the profound and immeasurable blessings I receive from my country, my parents, my teachers, society, and all creation in the universe."

"With respectful and sincere hearts, we dedicate ourselves to the practice of Gedatsu. We ask Master Gedatsu Kongo to guide us as we follow his example to live with appreciation and gratitude and to be of service to all."

Please sincerely say this Gedatsu prayer every morning and evening, which will lead you toward a happy and prosperous life.

Rev. Hisakazu Taki



The Miracle of Our Divine Inner Nature

Sermon by **Bishop Teruo Okano**

Spring Grand Festival – Sunday, April 14, 2019
Sacramento Spiritual Center

Today, I would like to talk about our inner divine nature, which protects us from misfortunes and guides us to lead happy lives.

Our physical body is a miraculous organism, which is often compared to the vast cosmos. On average, our body consists of 60 trillion cells. Each one of those cells carries 3.2 billion genetic messages. That, in itself, is amazing! But then consider . . . when we were born, our genetic code was already “written” with such wonderful genetic information within our DNA. Who authored those genetic messages in us? Certainly not by any human agent or random act of nature.

More surprisingly, the DNA gene structures of all living things – from microorganisms to the largest mammals on the planet – are basically the same. Molds, bacteria, animals, vegetables and human beings share the same basic gene structure.

So, if the basic structure of all creation is the same, it follows that all living things originate from the same source. Call it “Universal Wisdom,” “Great Power of Nature,” or “God.”

Each of us consists of 60 trillion organisms. In other words, 60 trillion organisms are supporting our existence. What an extraordinary, precious gift we have been given to be allowed to be born into this world by God through our parents and ancestors. This demonstrates how wonderfully mysterious and miraculous we are.

Master Gedatsu Kongo taught us the importance of life by saying, “If you truly feel thankful that you were born into this world as a human being, if you are aware that the Law of Nature is absolute, and if you see that every improvement and change in your life is possible because of the blessings from Nature, you will then realize how fortunate you are to be born as a human being.”

Our Founder also taught us that we are offsprings of God. He said, “Because we are each blessed with a part of God’s soul, our existence is sacred and divine. Therefore, intrinsically, we should not experience illnesses, misfortunes or suffering in our life.”

However, because we come into this world through our parents, we also carry enormous genetic information from our ancestors in our DNA. In that inherited information, there may be positive experiences of our ancestors – such as joyful, loving memories – but also negative information – such as fear, anger and anxiety. Those genetic messages may strongly affect our thoughts and actions in our everyday life.

Ego is also a factor. As long as we have physical bodies, we have egos, which are essential in maintaining our existence. However, when our egos become unnecessarily strong and willful, our selfishness can cause various illnesses and misfortunes. By controlling our selfish desires and the expression of negative genetic information, we can enjoy a happy life under divine guidance.

Therefore, in order to live a happy life, we should open our senses to the greatness and beauty of Nature and deeply feel the divine love of the Universal God. Appreciating fine artwork and beautiful music, as well as enjoying sports and other pleasant pastimes, can also help to elevate our thoughts and feelings.

When we become deeply aware of our inner divine nature, we realize the uniqueness and dignity of our existence, our true selves. We can enjoy a life full of peace, joy and hope – a life in which our souls are active and energetic.

Master Gedatsu Kongo said, “When you deeply meditate within yourself, you will be able to find your true self.”

Now is the time of change. Now is the time to become aware of our true inner selves and create a new world of peace, joy and hope for everyone. Our Gedatsu Church will help us move forward on that path.



A Brief History of Gedatsu Church USA – Part 5

STEPPING TOWARD NEW GENERATIONS

By Rev. Hisakazu Taki

Ever since 1950, when **Archbishop Eizan Kishida** left his position and responsibilities as head of *Gedatsu-kai* Japan to assume leadership for the teaching and propagation of Gedatsu in America, he dedicated himself wholeheartedly to the growing U.S. congregation.



As the 1960s approached, however, leadership and management issues within the Gedatsu organization in Japan exerted pressure on Archbishop Kishida, forcing him to divert his attention from his U.S. activities. A difficult period was about to ensue for him, as well as the fledgling Gedatsu Church in America.

Divided Leadership

When the president of *Gedatsu-kai* Japan resigned in 1962, Archbishop Kishida was suddenly recalled by Japan Headquarters to assume the post of *Kyoto*, or head of the Gedatsu Church. Thus, for the next 20 years, Archbishop Kishida was required to travel between the U.S. and Japan twice a year, juggling the leadership of Gedatsu on both sides of the Pacific Ocean.

Without Archbishop Kishida's continual presence, the U.S. Gedatsu Church encountered a number of difficulties, especially related to differences in the way the Gedatsu teaching was being propagated in Japan and in America.

After a decade of Archbishop Kishida's efforts to adapt the Gedatsu teaching to American life and culture, his propagation work had just gotten on track and started to gain momentum. He did not want to roll back his hard-fought results.

Church membership in the Los Angeles area, especially, was rapidly growing, while the **Tsujimura Family** home continued to be used as the church.

When the house next door became available, the Tsujimuras purchased it, moving next door to allow their old residence to become the official L.A. Church. After it was remodeled (photo below) to accommodate up to 200 people, it became the center of Gedatsu propagation in Southern California.



Succession of Minister Appointments

Because L.A. members needed a resident minister, a series of teachers from Japan was appointed, starting with **Rev. Yamadera** in 1965. His two-year term was followed by **Reverends Shinchi, Otsuka, Sugita, Ito,** and **Tonogi**, who, one after another, came to live and teach in the U.S. **Rev. Jerry Shiroishi** was later appointed as resident minister, becoming the first American-born Gedatsu minister. **Rev. Junnosuke Ishida**, a U.S. Gedatsu member, was also appointed as resident minister. Thus, the membership of the L.A. Church grew through the efforts of these ministers.

In Northern California, **Mother Kiyota** resided in the San Francisco Church, teaching Bay Area members. The Sacramento Church, however, had no minister until 1967, when **Rev. Shimizu** came to teach, followed by **Rev. Noda** in 1972. **Rev. Sebe** became resident minister in 1975.

Archbishop Kishida's Passing

Archbishop Kishida passed away in 1981. Members and officers of the church were stunned and saddened by the untimely death of their beloved leader. His heroic efforts to make Gedatsu truly suitable for American people remain as a lasting legacy to his memory.

(Continued on page 7)

OUR GEDATSU STUDY

(History – Continued from page 6)

Sadly, Archbishop Kishida died before he could see the completion of his long-cherished dream – the building of the *Gochi* Sanctuary in Sacramento. With the full support and financial backing of Gedatsu Church Japan, the spiritual center was completed in 1983, symbolizing the aspirations for Gedatsu in America.



Above, dedication ceremonies for the *Gochi* Sanctuary in Sacramento. Below, the Los Angeles Gedatsu Church.



In 1989, a spacious new Los Angeles Church in Rosemead was built. The adjoining property was purchased seven years later, creating parking and recreational facilities for expanding church activities.

Thus, by 1990 – a half century after the pioneering efforts of Mother Kiyota and Archbishop Kishida to establish a foothold for Gedatsu teaching in America – new generations of Gedatsu members were stepping forward to follow the path left by their dedicated teachers and forebears.



(Next issue: Gedatsu USA annual events, Gedatsu Church of Hawaii, toward the future)

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

I Heard the Voice of Divine Guidance

By Chiyo Funahashi

Member of *Gedatsu-kai* Kobe-Chuo Branch, Japan

Translated by **Rev. Hisakazu Taki**



At left, Chiyo in the U.S. in the early 1970s and, at right, in Japan today

I was born Chiyo Ota in Toyama, Japan. After my mother was introduced to Gedatsu, our whole family – including my four sisters and me – began to study Gedatsu.

I met the late **Archbishop Eizan Kishida** for the first time in January 1970. A year later, someone told my parents that a Gedatsu couple in America wanted to adopt a girl, and Kishida *Sensei* was looking for a suitable person. “How about Chiyo-chan?”

My invitation to America

I accepted this request as a voice from heaven. So, after graduating from high school and studying for a brief time as a Gedatsu trainee in Tokyo, I said farewell to my family at the airport. I’ll never forget my father crying behind an airport pillar. My mother told me, “Remember, whenever you have a difficult time, look up at the stars in the sky. I will see the same stars.”

Thus, in January 1971, I flew to the United States on a jumbo jet together with Kishida *Sensei*.

A month later, I met the couple who wanted to adopt me, but after experiencing some “spiritual occurrences” (such as strange sounds and unsettling noises), we mutually agreed to cancel the adoption.

Kishida *Sensei* then told me, “Stay in America for a while and go to school.” So, I stayed at the L.A. Church with **Rev. and Mrs. Sugita** and attended Roosevelt High School in Los Angeles. After a couple of months, I was introduced to an American family, who allowed me to stay in their home as a “school girl” until I graduated from high school in June 1972.

(Continued on page 8)

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

(Voice – Continued from page 7)

I will never forget those happy days. During my stay in Los Angeles, Rev. and Mrs. Sugita treated me like their child. And I received the kindness of members, such as **Rev. and Mrs. Jerry Shiroishi, Mr. Tom Okimura, the Tsujimuras, Mrs. Mizokami, the Oguras and Joyce**, and many others.



Chiyo, at the former L.A. Church, with Rev. and Mrs. Sugita, Archbishop Kishida and other U.S. and Japan ministers and members.

My question answered

However, I seriously worried about what I should do after I returned to Japan. Every day, I performed *Ohyakudo*, one-hundred-rounds, before the *Ujigami* shrine. One day, when I was sincerely doing *Ohyakudo* as usual, I sensed something and heard a voice telling me, “Go to Kobe!” I found myself shedding tears.

I consulted Kishida *Sensei*, who told me, “There is a Gedatsu branch in Kobe. The branch leader, **Rev. Nakayama**, and his wife are wonderful teachers. Why don’t you go there to study Gedatsu?”

I returned to Japan in January 1973 and immediately went to Kobe, where I had many wonderful experiences. Two months after I arrived there, **Mrs. Nakayama** told me, “Today is *Higan*, so I will visit the Funahashi family grave to pay respects. Please make *Amacha* tea and let us go together.”

I went to the grave with Mrs. Nakayama. While we offered a prayer before the grave, I casually heard her say, “I brought a girl who would marry into the **Funahashi** family.” While I was still wondering what she meant, Mrs. Nakayama said, “Let us go to the Funahashi home to pay respects to their ancestors.” So, we went to the Funahashi home and paid respects to the Funahashi ancestors before the altar.

A year after coming to Kobe, I married into the Funahashi family. My husband’s father had died in a traffic accident 10 years earlier, and his mother was running a small bakery shop by herself and raising four children. My husband was the sole financial supporter, but six years earlier, he had received a serious lesson from God relating to his eyes. Following Rev. Nakayama’s sincere advice, he quit his job and devoted himself to the propagation of Gedatsu.

Therefore, when we married, my husband had no job. We lived in poverty, but I did not worry about the future. I just left everything to God and lived every day with appreciation.

Mrs. Nakayama always said, “Appreciate what you have unconditionally. Don’t hold back your husband. Remember that *Amacha Kuyo* is the holiest of the holy. Respect everyone who should be respected.” I have heeded her sincere advice. Over the 45 years of our marriage, we have been blessed with six children and 10 grandchildren. I am truly grateful to God, ancestors, Master Gedatsu Kongo and my husband.



Chiyo (middle row, third from right) and husband, Hiroshi (seated with baby), proudly pose with their family, now spanning four generations.

My deepest gratitude

Just as Master Gedatsu Kongo taught, as I sincerely practiced what I learned, everything in my life gradually changed for the better. I believe it is because of the guidance and protection of generations of ancestors. I cannot fully express my deep feeling of appreciation. I believe it is our duty to pass on forever the Gedatsu teaching to our descendants.

Finally, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the U.S. Gedatsu members and my best wishes for their happiness.



MARCH 2019 OFFERINGS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: M/M B. Ide, M/M R. Nakatani, S. Tanaka

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

\$100+: M/M S. Sekikawa, J. Sebe / J. Detwiler, K. Chinen, Rev/Mrs. Yamada

\$200+: S. Nishino, J. Ito

\$300+: M/M J. Horner

\$500+: Rev. A. Sebe

\$5,000+: Anonymous

Special Acknowledgment

K. Kitasoe	In memory of Richard Kitasoe (\$100)
G/M Takara	In memory of Kiyoko Oto (\$300)
H. Graham	<i>Goreichi</i> Care Fund (\$100)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: P. Chen, M/M K. Chinen, J. Choy, G. Hiram, D. Ide, K. Kuritani, I. Long, M/M L. Muronaka, R. Nakamura, A. Okimura, M/M N. Reckers, S. Reckers, M. Sakata, F. Sueyoshi, N. Takara, B. Ton

\$50–\$99: M/M M. Hamada, M/M T. Hiram, E. Ogawa, M/M V. Mizokami, M/M M. Murakami, M. Nakamura, T. Nakamura, Y. Oishi, M. Okada, A. Sebe, M/M S. Shalkan, De. Shiroishi, J. Tanaka, T. Toyama, M/M H. Tsujimura

\$100+: M/M F. Barthel, K. Fujii, M/M T. Fukushima, M/M B. Hamamoto, M/M M. Ishida, J. Kaku, M/M N. Okano, M/M K. Kuritani, M/M S. Mukai, T. Murakami, T. Okano, J. Reid, T. Sugimoto, H. Taki, M/M R. Tsujimura, M/M K. Yamada

\$200+: M/M R. Allum, T. Ishida, M. Kimura, M/M T. Matsumoto, T. Okimura, L. Sanchez, D. Shiroishi

\$600+: J. Ito, Gedatsu Kendo Dojo

Special Acknowledgment

K/K Chinen	Funeral service for Fumiko Makishi (\$200)
Mary Kimura	"Never Forgotten" service for Naoe Kimura (\$100)
Ernest Ogawa	New apartment housing (\$100)
Linda Sanchez	"Never Forgotten" service (\$200)
Debbie Shiroishi	Terry Shiroishi memorial service (\$200)
Donna Shiroishi	Terry Shiroishi memorial service (\$200)
M/M Rudy Tsujimura	New car (\$100)
M/M Scott Shiroishi	Terry Shiroishi memorial service (\$100)
M/M Scott Shiroishi	Blessing for surgery (\$100)
M/M Norman Chodar	Terry Shiroishi memorial service (\$100)

2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

Jul 4 (Thu)	Church Closed (Independence Day)
Jul 14 (Sun)	Sac'to <i>Obon</i> Service / Graduates Honored
Jul 21 (Sun)	L.A. <i>Obon</i> Service / Graduates Honored
Jul 25-28 (Thu-Sun)	Youth Camp
Aug 3-4 (Sat-Sun)	Lake Tahoe <i>Benzaiten</i> Service (TBD)
Aug 18 (Sun)	L.A. <i>Benzaiten</i> Service
Aug 25 (Sun)	Sacramento <i>Benzaiten</i> 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. <i>Higan</i> Service
Sep 22 (Sun)	Sacramento <i>Higan</i> 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. <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



A Snapshot in Time

Many of you recognized the faces in this photo from the *March Companion*. Enjoying lunch at the 1978 Grand Festival are (clockwise, from lower left) Shoji Takimoto, Joe Sanchez, Linda Sanchez, Sherrie Chodar, Terry Shiroishi, Shiz Shiroishi, Sherrie Takimoto, Ted Hayashi with sons Rick and Steve, and Pat Shiroishi.



長老・岡野聖法さま遷化

岡野聖法長老さま(79)におかれましては4月3日霊界入りされました。聖葬祭(教団葬)は日本御霊地にて5月19日(日)に行なわれ、米国教会を代表しジャクソン伊藤氏、瀬部明師が参列します。謹んでご冥福をお祈りいたします。

5月度 教会行事予定

ロサンゼルス教会

5日(日) 10:00A	日本語感謝会
12日(日) 10:00A	祥月追善法要
19日(日) 10:00A	日英感謝会・母の日サービス
26日(日) 10:00A	英語感謝会
	リージョナル委員会
28日(火)	教会休み(メモリアルデイ代休)

サクラメント教会

5日(日) 10:00A	祥月追善法要
12日(日) 9:30A	感謝会・母の日サービス
19日(日) 1:00P	サンノゼ感謝会
26日(日) 9:30A	感謝会・浄土の儀
	リージョナル委員会
27日(月) 9:00A	日系人先駆者慰霊祭
28日(火)	教会休み(メモリアルデイ代休)

5月度 みさとし

「美しく生きる条件はむずかしくはない。
言葉一つにも温か味を持つことである」

人間の美しさとは何か。通常は容姿の美しさばかりが目されがちであるが、人間の美しさとは、それとは異なったものなのではないだろうか。いくら美人でも、自分の容姿を鼻にかけて相手を見下げるような態度をとっている人は、付き合っているうちに、その高慢でわがままな内面が全身ににじみ出ているように感じられて、何となく嫌な人間に思えてくるものだ。一方、容姿はそれほど美しくなくても、いつも温かく親切な言葉や態度をもっている人は、付き合っていくうちにその内面的な美しさが全身ににじみ出ているように感じられてくるものである。人間の内面は、日常のなにげない言葉や態度のなかに隠しようもなくあらわれるものだ。出会う一

人ひとりの相手に対して、ありったけのまごころをもって接していきたいものである。

第139回 春季大祭

神から授かった靈魂をもつ私たち

総長 岡野 英夫

本

日、皆さまの献身的な御奉仕により準備が整えられ、サクラメント御霊地で、米国解脱教会春季大祭を開催することができますこと心から感謝申し上げます。

本日は、皆さまの生涯を通じて、災難から守ってくださったり幸福な人生を歩めるよう導いてくださったりする靈魂についてお話しいたします。

私

たちの身体は、時として宇宙にたとえられる程に奇跡的な生命体です。体は60兆個の細胞からなり、その60兆の細胞の一つひとつに、32億個の塩基(遺伝子情報)が書かれているそうです。これだけでも驚異的で、すごいことです。

生まれたときには、すでに遺伝子情報が“書かれている”ということです。いったい誰が書いたのでしょうか？もちろん人間ではありませんが、かといって自然にできあがったものでもありません。

さらに驚くべきことは、微生物を含め、すべての生物の遺伝子の基本構造は全部一緒だそうです。カビも大腸菌も、人間も動物も植物も、すべて同じ基本原理、「A、T、C、G」の遺伝子の組み合わせでできていることが分かってきました。遺伝子工学の世界では、基本原理が同じということは、起源を一つにしているということを意味します。

人はそれを、「大宇宙の叡智」、「大自然の偉大な力」、「神」と呼んでいます。

60兆個の生命体からなる人間、それは奇跡的なことです。人は、60兆個の生命の支えで生きているのです。この世に「生を受けた」ということだけでも素晴らしいことです。

私たちは、この世に生みなそうとする神の意志によって、最もふさわしい両親を介して生まれてまいりました。私たちは、なんと神秘的で奇跡的な存在なのでしょう。

解

脱金剛さまは、「全く人として世に生みなされた事に感謝が出来たなら、大自然の法則の絶対なる

事を知られたなら、その大自然の恵みに依ってこそ人生に無限の進歩と変化がある事を覚られたなら、人として生れたることの余りにも幸福なるを自覚することが出来るのでありましょう」と、私たちの存在の尊さを説いています。

さらには、「我々凡体は八百萬の神々様の御霊子を授けられて此の世に生を享けたる者、その凡体に病氣災難等悩みのある筈は絶対にありません」と、私たち一人ひとは神から霊魂を授かっている神の子であるとも説いておられます。そして、神の子であるから、本来は、病氣災難などの悩み苦しみはあろうはずがない尊い存在であるとも説いておられます。

しかし、私たちは人間であるがゆえに、先祖代々の遺伝子情報を自身の DNA の中にすべて記憶して生まれてまいります。その情報の中には心とむようなものばかりではなく、忘れてしまいたいような恐怖や不安をともなった情報も沢山あるでしょう。そうした情報は、私たちが日常の生活の中での思考や行動、願いに大変強い影響を及ぼします。また、肉体の存する限り自我充実意識のあることは自己存続上絶対必要のものでありますから避けることはできません。ですが、あまりにも強く自我欲に執着いたしますと、病氣災難を誘発する原因になることは間違いありません。ともあれ、神から授かった霊魂の持つ偉大な力を生活上に発揮して幸せな人生を歩むことができるかどうかは、有益でない遺伝子情報の発現を抑え、自我欲を軽減させなければなりません。

そのためには、大自然の荘厳さや美しさに触れることや神の愛に包み込まれた感覚を実感できるような経験を積むことが必要です。素晴らしい芸術や音楽を楽しんで感動したり、スポーツにいそしんだりすることも大変に有効なことです。

安心と歓喜と希望に溢れた生活とは、自身の霊魂が生き生きと活きた生活のことです。

すべてのものにはただ一つの個体としての存在があり、個性がある如く、その霊魂にも個別があります。その個別の存在こそが、私たち一人ひとりの命の尊厳に他なりません。金剛さまは、「人間は心を一境に静めて、無念無想の状態に入る時、必ず自己を発見いたします。」と申されました。

大きな変革の時を迎えた今、本当の自己を発見し新たな世界に向かって飛躍するエネルギーを蓄える

必要があります。できるだけ数多く教会に通い、清らかな霊気に触れエネルギーを補填してください。皆さまの益々のお幸せを祈念申し上げます。

掲 示 板

● 70 周年記念祝賀会とホテルについて

米国教会創立 70 周年の記念祝賀会(バンケット)は、8 月 31 日(土)、 sacrament のクラウン・プラザ・ホテルで行われることになりました。この祝賀会の行なわれるクラウン・プラザ・ホテルに、会員が宿泊できるよう、教会では予め多くの客室を予約し確保しています。すべての会員は 1 部屋 1 泊 95 ドル・プラス税の料金(朝食付き)で泊まれるよう教会から援助されます。電話または E メールで予約します。なお予約の際は必ず“Gedatsu Church rate”とホテル側にお伝えください。祝賀会の参加はジャクソン伊藤さんからの奉納により無料です。

Crowne Plaza Hotel Northeast Sacramento:

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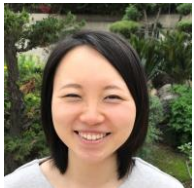
email: reservations@cpsac.com.

● サマー・ユース・キャンプ 2019 について

解脱教会は、夏休み中の 7 月 25 日(木)~28 日(日)の 3 泊 4 日、 sacrament 教会で 13 歳から 20 代の青少年を対象に「サマー・ユース・キャンプ」を開催します。アメリカン・リバーのラフティングなど楽しい活動と、若者に焦点を合わせた解脱の勉強がなされ、解脱の友との絆と信仰を深める機会を提供します。参加者は寝袋を持参してください。参加費は無料で交通費の助成もあります。ぜひ、お子さんたちの参加をご奨励ください。なお参加者はサマーキャンプの登録 PACKET (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。Janet Hirayama: jhirayama@roadrunner.com or (626) 330-8768

● 解脱霊廟の斎祀申込み締切りは 6 月 16 日です

秋の大祭における解脱霊廟・祭祀申込のべ切は 6 月 16 日です。1 霊につき 300 ドルをそえて申し込み下さい。申込書は各教会にあります。



The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for members like **Yuko Okano**, wife of **Rev. Naoya Okano** of the L.A. Church, and the mother of their two children, **Ryunosuke**, 3, and **Nanami**, 1. Born and raised in a Gedatsu home in

Japan, Yuko was actively involved in Gedatsu Youth activities for more than 15 years. Today, she's a busy homemaker, who enjoys looking for supermarket bargains and cooking sweets. She continues to be impressed by the "volunteer spirit" of American members. Yuko hopes to improve her English skills so that she can make friends and communicate with them.

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.

(See page 9 for individuals identified in the March *Companion* photo.)

