



GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA
www.gedatsu-usa.org

OCTOBER 2018

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Gedatsu Kongo's
Thought for the Month

*"To live each day fully with
sincere appreciation to ancestors
is more valuable than a hundred
years of merely going through
the motions of worship."*

To pay our respects to God
and ancestors in our daily lives is
essential for our happiness. However,
it's not to say that you should merely
go through the motions of worship.

If you think about what God
and ancestors want for you, you'll
know what you should do. Your
sincerity is most important. If you
pray sincerely, its appropriate form
will naturally follow.

Fully perform your daily
duties and offer your sincere prayers
to God and ancestors. This is the true
religious life. When you live each day
in this manner, you will be truly happy
and prosperous.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sat-Sun 6-7	Church Closed for Festival at L.A. Church
Tue 9	Church Closed (in lieu of Columbus Day)
Sun 14 9:30 am	Appreciation Service "Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun 21 1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun 28 9:30 am	Appreciation Service / All Souls Service Sacramento Regional Board Meeting

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sat 6 11am-6pm	Autumn Moon Festival
Sun 7 11am-5pm	Autumn Moon Festival
Tue 9	Church Closed (in lieu of Columbus Day)
Sun 14 10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun 21 10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English) <i>Ujigami</i> Service
Sun 28 10:00 am	English Appreciation Service / <i>Ajikan</i> Meditation "Life in Your 20s" / L.A. Regional Board Mtg

NOVEMBER 2018

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sat 3 8:00 am	Trip to Apple Hill
Sun 4 10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun 11 9:30 am	Appreciation Service Gedatsu Kongo 70 th Memorial Service
Sun 28 1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Thu-Fri 22-23	Church Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)
Sun 25 9:00 am	7-5-3 Children's Celebration
9:30 am	Appreciation Service / Gedatsu Kongo Birthday Sacramento Regional Board Meeting

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sat 4 10:00 am	Gedatsu Kongo 70 th Memorial Service (Japanese & English)
Sun 11 10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun 18 10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English) 7-5-3 Children's Celebration Gedatsu Kongo Birthday Service
Thu-Fri 22-23	Church Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)
Sun 25 10:00 am	English Appreciation Service / <i>Ajikan</i> Meditation "Life in Your 20s" / L.A. Regional Board Mtg



Autumn Moon Festival – L.A. Church

Saturday, October 6 – 11 am to 6 pm

Sunday, October 7 – 11 am to 5 pm

The L.A. Church's annual celebration and fundraiser is open to the public and features ethnic foods, farmers market, games, cultural demonstrations, entertainment and church tours.

Support the event by volunteering, encouraging family and friends to attend, providing donations and purchasing raffle tickets.



October "Never Forgotten"

Memorial Services

The Sacramento Church will hold its "Never Forgotten" Memorial Service on **Sunday, October 14, following its Appreciation Service at 9:30 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Kazuko Nakayama, Shane Holland, Yasuichi Sebe, Clarence Aiona, Yoshi Tanaka, Motoji Ide and Shinji Kobayashi.**

The Los Angeles Church will hold its "Never Forgotten" Memorial Service on **Sunday, October 14, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Teruko Arakawa, Tamayo Fujii, Richard Hiroshi Kikuchi, Hiroko Kitagawa, Suzuko Mallek, Mariko Michiuye, Kazuya Nagura, Hiroshi Nakaguchi, Shizuya Nakaguchi, Iwamatsu Nishi, Peggy Ogawa, Toshio Shiba, Toki Kotake Shiroishi, Ben Sumi, Hamayo Tamaki, Harumi Tanji, Tsugio Tanji, Robert Toshiaki Tomita and Mariko Maria Tsuruta.**

Order Your *Kuyo* Plaques by November 1

Your *amacha kuyo* holy tea plaques should be replaced at the beginning of each year. Therefore, in order for you to have new plaques by New Year 2019, please complete the order form inserted in this newsletter and mail it – by November 1 – to your local church, along with your check for payment.

Obituary

The Los Angeles Church sadly announces the passing of **Shizuye Shiroishi** on August 12 at the age of 95. The wife of the late **Terry Shiroishi**, she is survived by their children **Sherrie (Norm) Chodor** and **Donna, Debbie and Scott (Gail) Shiroishi**, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Children Ages 7, 5 and 3 to Be Celebrated

In November, Gedatsu Church members in L.A. and Sacramento will observe the *Shichi-Go-San* Festival, the traditional Japanese celebration for the well-being and healthy futures of children.

If you have children, grandchildren, nieces and/or nephews who are seven, five or three years old, urge them to participate in the Festival, which will be celebrated, as follows:

Los Angeles – Sunday, Nov. 18, 10:00 am

Sacramento – Sunday, Nov. 25, 9:00 am

Please complete the "7-5-3" application form available in your local church office.

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	\$45
Family	\$70
Additional Women's Club Fee	\$6

Lifetime Membership

Individual	\$450
Family	\$600

The Lifetime Membership option allows you to pay your membership dues just once, instead of paying annually.

Mail or deliver your check – made payable to Gedatsu Church USA – to your nearest church branch.

Year-End Membership Roster – Any Changes?

Did you move, change your phone numbers or add an email address in the past year? The 2019 annual "Seasons Greetings" membership roster is currently being updated. Please check the 2018 roster and advise **Rev. Naoya Okano** at the L.A. Church if you have any changes to your mailing address, phone number and/or email address. All changes must be received by December 1. Rev. Okano's email address is: naoya.okano@gedatsu-usa.org.

AROUND OUR CHURCH

Sacramento Spiritual Center Honors Recent Graduates



The Sacramento congregation honored students, and their families, who graduated from their schools in 2018.



Brianna Prescott, age 12, (with mother, Allison Horner, and little sister, Gwynevere) graduated from 6th grade. She enjoys reading, writing poetry and playing with Pokemon cards. She hopes to be a fashion designer one day. Grandparents: John and Nancy Horner.



Everett McSwain, age 18, (with parents Chris and Sally McSwain) graduated from high school in the top 20 of his class and is an Eagle Scout. He will enter the University of California at Santa Cruz in the fall, pursuing a degree in

Film with a minor in History. His career goals are to be a film director, screenwriter or history teacher. Grandparents: Steve and Sadako Taketa.

Sabrina Mullins (photo not available), age 21, graduated from the University of California, Irvine, with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology, Law and Society. Sabrina's career aspiration is a job in Forensics. She enjoys taking her dog, Logan, to the dog park and beach. Parents: Mark and Sherri Mullins. Grandparents: Steve and Sadako Taketa; and Troy and Marj Mullins.



Appreciating – and Enjoying – the Spirit of Water

On Sunday, August 4, members and friends of the Sacramento Spiritual Center participated in the annual *Benzaiten* service at Meeks Bay Resort at Lake Tahoe.

The day started with the offering prayers and *amacha* to show appreciation to the lake and the water. Then, everyone enjoyed the potluck lunch, including barbecued hamburgers, hot dogs, marinated shrimp and salmon. Throughout the day, many had fun on the beach and even braved the chilly lake water. The day was topped off with a visit to Taylors Restaurant in Loomis, famous for its hundreds of milk shake varieties.

Everyone had a great time. Special thanks to Penny Ide for setting up and organizing this annual event.



Our Place and Purpose in the Universe

Sermon by Bishop Teruo Okano

Sacramento Spiritual Center
Fall Grand Festival – Sunday, September 2, 2018

Today, I would like to talk about our world of living organisms, including ourselves, as human beings.

A theory called the Gaia Theory or Principle proposes that our earth is a complex, self-regulating system, in which all living organisms and the environment in which they exist are closely integrated to maintain and perpetuate life – much like our human bodies sustain our lives. In other words, earth itself is a living entity. This theory offers a unique perspective on our world, where each living organism interacts with and is interdependent on other organisms in the cycle of life and death.

We, as human beings, are allowed to live and interact with other beings and organisms within this earth system. We are part of Nature, as well as part of the society of mankind. We are so inherently bound within both, we can't separate one aspect from the other.

Our founder, Gedatsu Kongo, had a much wider vision on life, the infinite Universal Life. He said, "When we become aware that we humans – as living entities – are connected with all living things in the universe, the Universal Life Force becomes one with us. This is the spiritual awakening of our inner divinity."

It is most important to practice absolute appreciation and gratitude to the earth and all living things. Appreciation for the lives of humans, animals and plants. Appreciation for the blessings of Nature. Appreciation for the blessings offered by the sun. Appreciation for being allowed to breathe the fresh air.

We must show our appreciation to animals and plants for sacrificing their lives for us, and to the forests and plants that supply our air with oxygen. We must appreciate that we are born into this great natural world on earth.

Astronauts who return from outer space travel say that, from their vantage point far above Earth, conflicts between nations, races and religions appear trivial or silly.

One astronaut said, "When I viewed planet Earth below me, it seemed unbelievably stupid that humans would kill each other in wars over land or ideologies. It was so ridiculous, it made me want to laugh." That astronaut was able to see planet Earth as one life.

"Our earth is a living entity that provides us with great blessings. But we, as human beings, neither appreciate nor show concern for our earth."

If we accept that our earth is a living entity, when its life is thrown off balance, it naturally tries to repair itself. When air or water pollution damages its surface, or skin, the earth attempts to rid itself of the contaminants. Little wonder that we see this in such natural phenomena as the movement of the earth's crust or as extreme weather conditions.

Our earth is a living entity that provides us with great blessings. But we, as human beings, neither appreciate nor show concern for our earth.

Humankind is now faced with the time to reform its way of thinking. Up to now, we have been seeking only material wealth. We have learned the hard way the limits of material possessions and resources.

Finally, we are moving forward into a new era: the pursuit of spirituality. We are asking, "What is humankind's purpose?" "Who and what are we?" "Why were we born?" It is time to sincerely look for the answers to these questions. The earth is in the process of change, so we, too, must change.

(Continued on page 5)

OUR GEDATSU STUDY

(Sermon – Continued from page 4)

About 70 years ago, a German physicist, Winfried Otto Schumann, stated that the earth's atmosphere resonates certain electromagnetic frequencies. These were named "Schumann Resonances." The frequency of the wave the earth creates is 7.8 hertz. This is called the "brain wave of the earth."

When we enter a state of meditation, it is said that the frequency of our brain waves also registers 7.8 hertz. When we relax – such as when we hear the soothing sound of a babbling brook or the gentle blowing of the wind – our brain waves also are in the 7.8 range, which is the same as the meditative state.

"We must have the courage and will to take advantage of this opportunity that the Universal God has placed directly before us!"

When a healer performs a healing, the healer's brain waves also register 7.8 hertz. So, the healer, in essence, is in sync with the earth's resonance. By tapping into that vibration, the healer can impart the power of the earth to the patient.

Our Universal God desires a peaceful world in which everyone is happy, helping each other and living lives of prayer and appreciation. All phenomena are under God's will. It is as if God were extending a hand to guide us to a world of Gedatsu, where all things are in harmony. We need to tightly grab hold of the hand that God offers to us. We must have the courage and will to take advantage of this opportunity that the Universal God has placed directly before us!

"A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality." These are the words of the late John Lennon.

Let us put forth our fullest efforts to realize the great dream that is before us . . . and achieve the kind of world God wishes us to have.

I wish for your happiness. Thank you.



DEAR REVEREND

Q

Is my "wrongful way of thinking" really the cause of accidents, illness and other adversities in my life, as my Gedatsu parents tell me?

A

A number of older Gedatsu members – especially those of your parents' generation and older, who studied under Archbishop Kishida – can recall the rather harsh lessons that were taught in those earlier days of our church. The teachings of Cause and Effect seemed especially severe, causing members to blame themselves for all kinds of misfortunes in their lives.

That kind of judgmental teaching was never the intention of Archbishop Kishida and our early teachers. Above all else, they tried to convey the importance of receiving love from the Universal Life Force. But the simpler lessons of Cause and Effect – "when you do this, that occurs" – was easier for members to relate to, so they tended to retain those lessons and passed them down to their children.

The unfortunate aftereffect is that some members still tend to blame themselves when problems arise in their lives, thinking that their "wrongful thoughts or actions" are the cause. Sadly, this self-blame can lead to unhappiness, depression, self-hate and other harmful emotions.

"We must work hard to steer ourselves away from self-blame and judgmental thinking."

As Gedatsu members we are taught the importance of deep self-reflection and expressing gratitude in our everyday lives, the primary aim of which is to acknowledge the presence of and blessings we receive from the Universal Life Force and guardian spirits. When we fully recognize this guidance and support that we are constantly receiving, sincere appreciation and gratitude immediately and naturally fill our hearts. In this way, we leave no room for self-blame and judgmental thinking. Instead, our spiritual character is uplifted and strengthened. We are able to face our daily experiences with a positive and hopeful attitude.

When we blame ourselves for our problems, our spiritual growth is frozen. We must work hard to steer ourselves away from judgmental thinking and self-blame. Instead, we must open our hearts to receive the love, compassion and kindness that the Universal Life Force is always ready to give us.

Sr. Rev. Akira Sebe

Brief Biography of Gedatsu Kongo

Chapter 10

Under the Air Raid Threat

On February 25, 1943, President Okano visited Kitamotojuku as usual and delivered his sermon for members and local residents around *Goreichi*. He then gave them some personal guidance. When he finished speaking, the crowd sensed something unusual about him. At that moment, President Okano collapsed and briefly lost consciousness. When he recovered, he stated that while he was unconscious, he had a vision of Tokyo and other major cities in flames.

After he returned home, President Okano called an attendant and told her, "I have something to tell you. From now on, be ready to flee at a moment's notice. Japan is now in a state of emergency. Tokyo and other parts of Japan will be in flames before long."

He explained how to escape in the event of an emergency. He predicted that all parts of Japan very soon would be in flames because of the U.S. air raids.

Counseling members on wartime activities

President Okano continued to give members guidance in their industrial activities to aid Japanese suffering from wartime shortages.

Shinichi Asai of Nagoya and Shigeru Kubota of Nagano were the central figures in these activities. Asai produced socks, shirts, underwear and other consumer goods in his factory. Kubota produced other articles of clothing and sent them to President Okano. He produced yarn from waste cocoons, too. Michiko Sobora, who had been instrumental in instructing members in silk-lace knitting, had gone there to teach a class. Miyoko Inagaki produced lap (batts of undyed silk) and floss silk. She also organized a workshop for silk-lace knitting for war widows. The war widows then became able to produce goods of silk-lace knitting later in the year.

President Okano wrote letters to members throughout Japan, instructing them in various industrial activities. He always encouraged them to put forth maximum efforts for their country, not for their own benefit. Following his guidance, members started a number of industrial activities in various parts of the country.

From July of 1943, President Okano turned to Hima-silkworms as a means to increase production of clothing. Hima-silkworm is a kind of silkworm, which grows by eating the leaves of Hima, or castor-oil plants. The research for Hima-silkworm raising was started in Japan and became industrialized in Manchuria and Taiwan. President Okano believed that the Hima-silkworm was a wonderful gift from God for the increased production of clothing. He encouraged members to raise Hima-silkworms, and production increased rapidly as members responded to his urging.

Putting Gedatsu into practice for others' welfare

Sahichi Okubo, Kamekichi Abe, Shichinosuke Asano and Mitsuo Yuge were assigned as instructors in Hima-silkworm production. They received a letter from President Okano, requesting them to come to the church headquarters because he had something "special" to say to them.

When they arrived, President Okano told them, "Go out for your study."

They understood by these words that they were assigned as instructors. The three older men humbly accepted the appointment. But Yuge, the youngest among them, was troubled. He declined, saying, "I am ill-prepared to teach members."

President Okano then told him sternly, "Who told you to teach them? Relate only what you've done until today. You can do that, can't you?"

Yuge was then sincerely determined to accept the appointment.

Okubo was also shocked by President Okano's words and felt unsettled.

President Okano told him, "Man is allowed to be born into this world by Nature. Living things will surely be fed. If you truly feel thankful for the blessing from Nature, why don't you devote your whole life to the salvation of people with the sun-spirit? You now have of an important duty as instructor. Don't be mistaken. If you don't like it, you may quit. I'm not asking you for my sake. What a shame that you should be influenced by a petty contracted idea!" Okubo was then fully determined to devote himself to Gedatsu at that time.

(Continued on page 7)

(Biography – Continued from page 6)

In January of 1944, the Japanese government, believing that U.S. Army air raids were inevitable, ordered the evacuation of citizens from buildings in Tokyo and Nagoya to rural areas.

People were confronted with a very difficult situation they had never experienced. President Okano encouraged each member to live positively with an unshakable faith, no matter what difficult situation they might be confronted with.

The President's unwavering support of members

One very hot mid-summer day, a member from Nagoya visited the church in Tokyo, wiping away his perspiration. President Okano appeared and said warmly, "Thank you for coming from such a long distance. I'm sorry to have kept you waiting."

President Okano was in full formal attire but was not perspiring. Having a cup of hot tea, President Okano said, "You feel hot, don't you? It is because you are always against Nature. But you have to remember that you are allowed to live by Nature. When it is hot, you drink something cold to fight the heat. That's why water is boiling in your stomach. When it is hot, drink hot tea. When cold, drink something cold. Man is called the lord of all creation. But we often forget appreciation. If you waste money, you will be pressed for money. Gedatsu is to appreciate everything and make the most of it. Study Gedatsu sincerely and put it into practice."

These words became etched into the mind of the visitor, and he was determined to practice Gedatsu with all his soul and heart. It was a time of national emergency, but President Okano's personal guidance to members was basically the same as before. His words were filled with warmth, compassion, generosity and clarity.

Putting the welfare of members first

In November of 1944, the U.S. Air Force began its air attacks on Tokyo. In these circumstances, President Okano thought that he should explain to members how to cope with the air raids. Therefore, at the Appreciation Service on December 1, he explained that, if members took a calm attitude toward air raids, they could extinguish a fire and escape.

Rather than their own safety, however, members' main concern was President Okano's safety. They urged him to evacuate from Tokyo.

President Okano said, "I understand your feelings, but I cannot leave Tokyo because the Emperor is still remaining in Tokyo. We have to protect the Imperial Metropolis Tokyo at the risk of our life."

The members bowed deeply and left the room. However, they were racked with anxiety. They then returned to President Okano and with determination, told him, "We will protect the Imperial Metropolis at the risk of our lives. Therefore, please evacuate from here!"

President Okano then said, "I understand you have such a strong determination. I will then move to Kitamotojuku."

In December, President Okano moved to Goreichi in Kitamotojuku. After he moved there, members continued to visit President Okano to learn from him. In those days, no one could be sure whether they would live or die. Members made desperate efforts each day to study Gedatsu in earnest.



New Year of 1945 opened with the B-29 bombers' air raids on Tokyo. President Okano greeted New Year in Kitamotojuku for the first time since he established the Gedatsu teaching. Every day, members faced critical situations everywhere, whether they were making desperate efforts in the fierce battlefields or experiencing life-threatening air raids and severe material shortage.

Continued on page 8)

(Biography – Continued from page 7)

President Okano said, “I shall be happy to die if my one day’s life will revive 100 members.” He sincerely prayed for members’ happiness and safety each day.

One day, after the morning prayer, someone asked President Okano, “What do you pray for every morning?”

President Okano then said, “As President of Gedatsu Church, I pray for members’ good health first.”



By September 1945, Tokyo had been almost completely destroyed by the bombing air raids. (U.S. National Archives)

War's tragic toll on Japan and its people

The war situation was becoming more serious. In February, the U.S. mobile troops began to land at Iwo Jima. In March, the U.S. Army occupied Manila, and 30,000 Japanese soldiers in Iwo Jima were killed. The U.S. Army was approaching the main island of Okinawa.

Since January, the B-29 bombers bombed Tokyo frequently. In March, the U.S. Army carried out unprecedented massive bombing raids on Tokyo, Osaka and Kobe. On March 10, 334 B-29 bombers dropped about 2,000 tons of bombs on Tokyo. Tokyo became a sea of flames in an instant. Forty percent of Tokyo was destroyed, 250,000 houses were burned down, and 80,000 people were killed. Under this situation, people in cities were in a hurry to relocate their relatives to provincial areas.

On April 13, the Gedatsu Tokyo Dojo church building was burned down by an air raid.

When Kishida reported that the church building was burned down, President Okano said only, “What’s done cannot be undone.”

The destruction of the church building gave President Okano a shock, but he remained calm and directed that church operations proceed as usual. Two days later, on April 15, the Pilgrimage to the Three Sacred Sites was performed as previously arranged. The Spring Festival was held on May 8.

President Okano spoke, “Now is the time of natural selection. Those who do not keep their heart in the right place will definitely be washed out.” With these words, he encouraged members to exert themselves to persevere and cope with the reality of their challenging circumstances.

A member’s devotion touches the President’s heart

Immediately after Tokyo was bombed, a member in Tokyo visited Goreichi to see President Okano. As soon as he saw her, he exclaimed, “You still have two legs!”

“Yes, I do,” she replied. “That is why I came here.”

President Okano then yelled at her and said, “You fool!”

His words touched her heart. She said, “I am very sorry to be late in coming. The railway was reopened for service today, so I came. Fortunately, my house was not burned down.”

President Okano then told her, “I am not scolding you. I do not have much longer to live, but you are still young. I want you to pass Gedatsu on to your descendants. Therefore, I want you to live longer. Since I did not hear from you, I thought you were killed so young. I was so sad.”

He then cried. Seeing his tears, the member felt how deeply President Okano was concerned about her safety. Her eyes welled up with hot tears, and she threw herself down and cried.

(To be continued next month)



AUGUST 2018 OFFERINGS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: M. Rodriguez, K. Tsukamoto, P. Harada, T. Nagao, A. Cool, S. Yabut, J. Tanaka, K. Gibson

\$50–\$99: M/M D. Tsuboi, S. Taketa, M/M C. Tanaka, M/M D. Ide, P. Tomita, A. Sebe

\$100+: M/M K. Yamada, M/M S. Sekikawa, N. Tagawa, S. Bush, M/M R. Nakatani, J. Detwiler/J. Sebe

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

Special Acknowledgment

Rev. N. Okano Summer Youth Camp (\$100)
D. Tsuboi Successful carotid artery surgery (\$100)
M/M R. Nakatani Steven's funeral (\$100)
Anonymous Gedatsu Spiritual Center (\$20,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: P. Chen, M/M K. Chinen, K. Greenhouse, M/M M. Hamada, M/M L. Muronaka, M. Nakamura, A. Okimura, K. Sato, N. Takara

\$50–\$99: M. Kimura, M. Mizokami, M/M S. Mukai, M/M M. Murakami, T. Murakami, F. Sueyoshi, T. Toyama, M/M H. Tsujimura, M/M R. Tsujimura

\$100+: M/M F. Barthel, K. Fujii, M/M T. Fukushima, M/M B. Hamamoto, G. Hass, M/M M. Ishida, J. Kaku, M/M T. Matsumoto, M/M B. Mizokami, M/M V. Mizokami, T. Nakamura, Y. Oishi, M. Okada, T. Okimura, T. Palelek, M/M J. Peck, L. Sanchez

\$200+: M/M R. Allum, T. Ishida, M/M N. Okano, S. Okimura, H. Taki

\$300+: G. Kendo Dojo

\$400+: Y. Daiko

\$900+: J. Ito

Special Acknowledgment

M/M V. Mizokami Ancestor Kuyo (\$200)
M/M M. Hamada "Never Forgotten" Nora Toguchi (\$100)
T. Ishida "Never Forgotten" for Shige Ishida (\$100)
Gedatsu Kendo Dojo Appreciation for Kendo Camp (\$300)
M/M V. Mizokami "Never Forgotten" service (\$100)
Gedatsu Kendo Dojo Donation for 3rd Prize of Autumn Moon Festival raffle (\$286)
M/M S. Shiroishi "Never Forgotten" Phillip Nakamura (\$100)
H. Shiroishi Appreciation for acceptance into nursing school program (\$100)
Family of Shizuye Shiroishi Appreciation for funeral service for Shizuye Shiroishi (\$2,000)
M/M K. Kuritani Appreciation for 50th wedding anniversary (\$200)

2018 / 2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 2 (Sun) L.A. Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service
Dec 9 (Sun) Sacramento Last Service of Year
Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service / Church Clean-up

Dec 9 (Sun) L.A. Church Clean-up
Dec 16 (Sun) L.A. Christmas Service
Last Appreciation Service

Dec 23-31 Church Closed

2019 (Events / dates subject to change)

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



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
J. Ito \$10,000

10 月度教会行事予定

ロサンゼルス教会

6(土) 11:00A ムーン・フェスティバル 1 日目
7(日) 11:00A ムーン・フェスティバル 2 日目
9(火) 教会振替休日 (コロンバスデイ)
14(日) 10:00A 祥月追善法要
21(日) 10:00A 日英感謝会・氏神祭
28(日) 10:00A 英語感謝会・阿字観法/ R. B. Mtg.

サクラメント教会

6(土) - 7(日) 教会休み (LA 教会フェスティバル)
9(火) 教会振替休日 (コロンバスデイ)
14(日) 9:30A 感謝会・祥月追善法要
21(日) 1:00P サンノゼ支部感謝会
28(日) 9:30A 感謝会/萬靈魂感謝祭 /R. B. Mtg

10 月度みさとし

「悟りに生きる一日の供養は 凡夫百年の祭祀に勝る」

日々、神仏に祈り、ご先祖さまに天茶供養を捧げることが、われわれの幸せな人生につながることは間違いない。しかし、それをただ形だけやっておればよいというわけではないのは、もちろんである。神仏やご先祖は、はたしてわれわれに何を望んでおられるのだろうか、と考えてみれば、それがはっきり分かるはずだ。大切なのは、われわれの「まごころ」である。もちろん、心があれば、形式はどうでもよいというわけではないだろう。しかし、真にまごころがあるならば、当然、それにふさわしい形が伴うものである。日々、まごころをこめて神仏に祈り、ご先祖さまに天茶供養を捧げる。そして、感謝のまことをもって、その日一日、自分に与えられた役目に精一杯お使いいただく。——これが、真の祈りであり、真の供養であって、そのような日々の生活が、われわれを真に幸福で充実した人生に導いてくれるのである。

138 回 秋季大祭

「母なる地球」に感謝

米国教会総長 岡野英夫

皆様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、米国解脱教会秋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、地球生命と人間についてお話いたします。

さまざまな生命が満ち溢れている地球、地球は私たちと同じように生きている「生命体」です。地球全体を一つの生命体と捉える『ガイア思想』があります。

ガイア思想は、個々の生命は、食物連鎖や生死をはじめとした動植物のかかわり合いの中で、相互に依存しながら成り立っていると捉える、新しい世界観です。

私たち人類もまた、生命の仕組みの一部分として生かされており、生きとし生けるものは、すべてつながり合って生きています。人間は自然の一部であり、自然もまた私たちの社会の一部であり、自然と人間は切り離せないほど深く結びついています。

解脱金剛さまは更に大きな宇宙生命を悟られて、「自己が人類のみならず生命の一切を包含する宇宙全体の生存に関係し、宇宙の生命と自己の生命と同一体に知覚できた時、宇宙の生命は自己の生命となり、ここに真の神仏が自身の魂に顕現するのである」と申されています。

何よりも尊重すべきことは、この地球と、地球上に住む”すべての生命”への感謝です。人間の命、動物の命、植物の命への感謝です。大地の恵みに感謝し、太陽の恵みに感謝し、胸いっぱい新鮮な空気が吸えることに感謝しなければなりません。私たち人間に、「命」を分け与えてくれる動物や植物に感謝し、新鮮な酸素を補給してくれる森林や植物に思いを寄せることです。そして、豊かな自然にあふれるこの地球に生まれたことに感謝することです。

多くの宇宙飛行士が例外なく言うことは、「国家や民族間の争い、宗教間の対立がバカバカしい。眼下に地球を見ていると、いま現に、このどこかで、人間と人間が領土やイデオロギーのために対立し、ついには戦争まで起こして、互いに殺し合っていることが、ほんとうに信じられないくらいバカげていると思えてくる。声を出して笑い出したくなるほど滑稽だと思えてくる」と。宇宙飛行士が見た地球、それは「生命体」としての地球なのでしょう。

地球が「生命体」であれば、生命のバランスが崩れれば、それを修正しようとする。大気汚染や水質汚濁などで、地球の表面（皮膚）が汚染されると、生命体である地球はそれを取り除こうとする。それが地球の変動、異常気象との現象なって現れても、なんら不思議ではないでしょう。

地球は生きている『生命体』なのです。そして、私たち人間に不相応なほどの恵み、生命を与えてくれています。しかし、人間はこの「母なる地球」に感謝しなければ、気遣いもほとんどありません。

今、地球は、大きな変革のときを迎えています。私たちは、物質的な豊かさだけを追い求めてきました。それも大切な「学びの一つ」でした。しかし、ようや

く、私たちは自らの「霊性」を思い出し、新たな時代に向けて進んでいます。「人間とは何か、自分とは何か」、「何のために生まれてきたのか」というような問いかけに、真正面から取り組まなければならない時代を迎えています。この地球も生まれ変わろうとしているのです。

今から70年ほど前（1952年）、アメリカのイリノイ大学の「シューマン教授」が、地球が超低周波の電磁波と共振していることを発見し、この波長が『シューマン共振』と名づけられました。地球が発する波動は、「7.8ヘルツ」と言われ、「地球の脳波」とも呼ばれています。人が瞑想状態になると、脳波は地球が発する波動と同じ「7.8ヘルツ」になると言われます。リラックスした状態で、川のせせらぎや風の音を聞くと、脳波は「7.8ヘルツ」になり、これは深い瞑想状態になったのと同じなのです。ヒーリング中のヒーラーの脳波は「7.8～8ヘルツ」なのだそうで、これはヒーリングの際に、ヒーラーの脳波が地球の波動と同調することで、地球のエネルギーを取り入れているのかもしれません。

神は常に今よりもさらに平和な社会になり、そこに住むすべての人が幸せで、お互いが労わりあい助け合って、祈りと感謝の生活が実現することを望んでいます。一切の現象の裏には神の意志があります。神は、宇宙に存在するすべてが調和した解脱世界へ私たちを誘うべく手を差し伸べておられます。

私たちは差し伸べられた神の手をしっかりと握りしめ、目の前に現れたチャンスに果敢に挑戦することを選択していかなければなりません。

「ひとりで見る夢それは夢に過ぎない。しかし、みんなで見ると夢は現実となる」。神の望んでおられる素晴らしい世界の実現という大きな夢と希望をもって、自分の出来るすべてのことに積極的にチャレンジしてまいりましょう。

解脱人生相談

子供に家庭のルールを守らせたい…。

【質問】 子供たちと意見の衝突が続いています。特に宿題や就寝時間など家庭のルールを守らせるのに苦慮しています。どうしたらよいですか？

回答者：神谷龍典

会 祖解脱金剛さまは、「しろしろといっても、子供はしないよ。親のしている通りにするものなんだよ」とおっしゃいました。まずはご自分の日常を振り返り、

はたして子供さんたちにとって模範的な親であったかどうかを自己反省してみてください。

ま た、「親の精神、肉体の延長にわが子があるのだから、子は親の写し鏡なんだよ、子を見て親が反省しなければ。今日まで親としての足らざる一切の不徳をよくお詫びさせていただくことだね」という金剛さまのお言葉もございます。

わが家でも子供たちが家庭でのルールを守らなかったり、宿題をしていないときなどは、まずは私と妻が自己反省します。たいてい私たち親の生活態度が乱れていたり、子供たちへの気配りが足りなかったりということに気づきますので、夫婦で改めるように努力すると、不思議なことに子供たちも自然とルールを守り宿題を始めます。ぜひ一度この機会にご自分の生活態度を見なおしてみたいかがでしょうか。

解 脱の先生から、「子供たちに対して『指示、禁止、命令』の言葉を使わないように」とのご指導をいただいたことがあります。例えば「今すぐ宿題を始めなさい!」ではなく、「ちょっと休憩してから宿題を始めたら?」というように言い方を工夫するということです。もし子供たちが言うことを聞かないときには、叱り飛ばすのではなく、悲しそうな様子をしてみせるということも教わり、私たち夫婦で実践しています。

巷 では「子供にはまず躰が大切」という考えが一般的です。たしかに躰は必要ですが、その前に、子供さんたちと接するときにはぜひ「思いやり」の気持ちを忘れないようにしてください。宿題をしなかったり、就寝時間に寝なかったりというのには何か理由があると思います。子供さんたちの言葉に一度耳を傾けて、たとえルールを守らなくても叱ったりせず、慈愛の心であたたかく見守ってあげてください。些細なことでも子供たちが親に望むことになるべく応えてあげてください。これは甘やかashiではなく、たとえ子供であっても、ひとりの人間として理解し尊重してあげることです。子供たちの要求にひとつひとつ応えてあげる努力を重ねることで、親と子の信頼関係が築かれます。「子供は親のしているとおりにするもの」ですから、親の要求に応えてくれるようになります。子育ては大変ですが、やりがいのある仕事です。がんばってください。

訃報

- ロサンゼルス教会会員・シズエ・城石さん(95歳)におかれましては8月12日に逝去されました。ここに謹んで哀悼の意を表します。



The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for members like **Pam Shaklan**, who lives in Pasadena with husband, **Stuart**. They have three children: **Sarah**, 20, **Jonathan**, 18 and **Andrew** 14. Pam is the daughter of **Arlene** and **Rudy Tsujimura** and the fourth of 11 grandchildren of

Gedatsu pioneers, **Sumiko** and **Yozo Tsujimura**. She has fond memories of sleeping at her grandparents' Los Angeles home on Saturday nights with her many cousins, and on Sunday morning attending church, conveniently located next door.

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L.A. Church's Entry Captures Popular Vote in *Tanabata* Competition



Despite the heat and humidity, two dozen L.A. Church members and friends came out to the 10th Annual L.A. *Tanabata* Festival in Little Tokyo to support Gedatsu Church's entry in the competition. Their votes helped the L.A. Church to win the "People's Choice" Award for its *kazari* entry in the theme category, "Spirit of Togetherness."

Many thanks to members and friends who attended the two workshops to create the church's entry, and for casting their votes in the judging competition. Special appreciation is extended to Sharon Reckers, *kazari* designer, and to Jo Ann Shiroishi, who chaired the project. Donations for next year's project are greatly appreciated!