



# GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA  
www.gedatsu-usa.org

## OCTOBER 2019

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Gedatsu Kongo's  
Thought for the Month

*"God is love and power. Sincerity  
is also the essence of God."*

What is religious life?

Secluding oneself within a  
monastery or devoting oneself to  
chanting holy sutras and meditating  
may be a kind of religious life, of  
course, but only a limited number of  
people can live such lives. Most  
people have families and work every  
day to earn their living. Can they, too,  
lead religious lives?

Religion should be accessible to  
everyone and exist for everyone's  
happiness.

True religion should be practiced  
in our everyday lives. To sincerely  
pray to God and ancestors in the  
morning, devote ourselves to our  
daily duties during the day, and give  
thanks to God and ancestors for the  
day in the evening – such everyday  
practice is the true religious life.

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sat-Sun 5-6	Church Closed for Festival at L.A. Church
Sun 13 9:30 am	Appreciation Service "Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Tue 15	Church Closed (in lieu of Columbus Day)
Sun 20	Bazaar Volunteer Luncheon (TBD)
Sun 27 9:30 am	Appreciation Service / All Souls Service Regional Board Meeting

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sat 5 11am-6pm	Autumn Moon Festival
Sun 6 11am-5pm	Autumn Moon Festival
Sun 13 10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Tue 15	Church Closed (in lieu of Columbus Day)
Sun 20 10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese and English) Ujigami Service
Sun 27 10:00 am	English Appreciation Service L.A. Regional Board Meeting

## NOVEMBER 2019

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun 3 10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun 10 9:30 am	Appreciation Service Gedatsu Kongo Memorial Service / Regional Board Meeting
Sun 17 1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Thu – Fri 21 – 22	Church Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)
Sun 24 9:00 am	7-5-3 Children's Celebration
9:30 am	Appreciation Service / Gedatsu Kongo Birthday

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun 3 10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese and English) Gedatsu Kongo's Service
Sun 10 10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun 17 10:00 am	7-5-3 Children's Celebration
Thu – Fri 21 – 22	Church Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)
Sun 24 10:00 am	English Appreciation Service L.A. Regional Board Meeting



### Autumn Moon Festival – L.A. Church Saturday, October 5 – 11 am to 6 pm Sunday, October 6 – 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.

Members are encouraged to support the event by volunteering, urging family and friends to attend, providing donations and purchasing raffle tickets.



### October "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 Spiritual Center will hold its "Never Forgotten" Memorial Service on **Sunday, October 13**, immediately following the Appreciation Service at **9:30 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Kazuko Nakayama, Shane Holland, Yasuichi Sebe, Clarence Aiona, Sadako Taketa, Yoshi Tanaka, Motoji Ide** and **Shinji Kobayashi**.

The Los Angeles Church will hold its "Never Forgotten" Memorial Service on **Sunday, October 13, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Teruko Arakawa, Richard Hiroshi Kikuchi, Hiroko Kitagawa, Tomiko Konishi, Suzuko Mallek, Mariko Michiuye, Kazuya Nagura, Hiroshi Nakaguchi, Shizuya Nakaguchi, Hen Kim Nghe, Peggy Ogawa, Toki Kotake Shiroishi, Harumi Tanji, Tsugio Tanji, Robert Toshiaki Tomita, Mariko Maria Tsuruta** and **Yayeko Yamamoto**.

### Order Your Kuyo Plaques by November 1

Your *amacha kuyo* holy tea plaques should be replaced at the beginning of each year. To have new plaques by New Year 2020, complete the order form inserted in this newsletter and mail it by November 1 to your local church with your check for payment.



### Children Ages 7, 5 and 3 to Be Celebrated

In November, Gedatsu 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. 17, 10:00 am

Sacramento – Sunday, Nov. 24, 9:00 am

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

### Renew Your Church Membership for 2020

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? Email Addresses Requested

Did you move, change your phone numbers or add or change your email address in the past year? The 2020 annual "Seasons Greetings" membership roster is currently being updated. Please check the 2019 roster and advise **Rev. Naoya Okano** or the L.A. Church if you have any changes. All changes must be received by December 1. Rev. Okano's email address is: [naoya.okano@gedatsu-usa.org](mailto:naoya.okano@gedatsu-usa.org).

### L.A. Gedatsu Church Wins Top Prize in Tanabata Festival Competition



L.A. Church's hand-painted and decorated *kazari* paper ornament won top honors in the 2019 L.A. Nisei Week Tanabata Festival in August. The "Romance in the Stars" ornament was awarded first place in the theme division and captured the coveted People's Choice Award.

The L.A. Church has competed in the Festival for the past 10 years, earning a reputation among Festival officials and the public for its creativity year after year.

Created entirely by hand by the Church's 25-person *Tanabata* workshop, headed by **Deacon Jo Ann Shiroishi**, the beautiful eight-foot hanging decoration was designed by head designer **Sharon Reckers** and hand-painted by Sharon and **Kady Hirayama**.

In addition, in honor of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, workshop and other members hand-folded 1,000 miniature *origami* cranes to create a spectacular hanging ornament (at left), also designed and strung by Sharon.

Under the guidance of **Judy Hamamoto**, workshop members also hand-crafted *leis* (see below), composed of red, white and blue satin ribbons and a flower made from three one-dollar bills, for *Gedatsu-kai* Japan guests at the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events.



L.A. Church member Mark Ishida and grandson Hiro gather and load donated school supplies, which were given to Maryvale students.

### Members Donate Back-to-School Supplies

L.A. Church members donated more than a thousand dollars to purchase much-needed school supplies for the children of Maryvale, a local agency that cares for orphaned, abused, neglected children in the foster care system.

Organized by **Mark and Marie Ishida**, who spearhead the Gedatsu Angel Program with Maryvale at Christmastime, the donation program enabled them to purchase everything from glue sticks, binders, dividers and pencil boxes to hand sanitizers, painting aprons and headphones. In addition, members **Donna** and **Rich Allum** generously donated more than 50 backpacks, writing tablets, composition notebooks, pens, pencils, sharpeners, erasers, markers and calculators. Grateful Maryvale representatives thanked Gedatsu members for their generosity.



### Weekend Fun and Games

Sacramento-area members, relatives and friends enjoyed a weekend bus trip and overnight stay in Reno in early August as part of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. With free bus fare and reduced hotel rates, the church group joined together in the gambling, dining and activities for the whole family.



## 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION





## 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Gedatsu Church USA

CELEBRATING

70  
YEARS

Growing Together

### Joyous Celebration of 70 Years

The 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gedatsu Church USA was celebrated with joy, laughter and feelings of nostalgia, friendship and gratitude. Gedatsu members from across the U.S. and 65 members from *Gedatsu-kai* Japan, as well as many family members and friends, joined in the two-day festivities in Sacramento. At the celebration banquet held on Saturday, August 31 (photos on page 4), attendees enjoyed a lovely reception and delicious buffet dinner, compliments of **Senior Deacon Jackson Ito**. During the evening program, MC'd by **Joy Sebe** and **Jason Detweiler**, attendees sang together for the first time their new "My Gedatsu Life" song, joined in other sing-alongs and played a lively game of "rock, paper, scissors," led by *Gedatsu-kai* HQ staffers.

The emotional heart of the program was the music video, "Celebrating 70 Years," created by **Beana Tsujimura** from old photos and film from members. Evoking tears and laughter, the 18-minute video was a nostalgic look back at people and events over the church's 70-year history.

The next morning, on Sunday, September 1, the 140<sup>th</sup> Grand Fall Festival was held on the *Goreichi* grounds (photos above), where the first Grand Festival of Gedatsu Church USA was held in 1950. It was a day of happiness and prayers of appreciation and gratitude for blessings over 70 years.



### Sermon by Bishop Teruo Okano Grand Fall Festival – Sunday, September 1

I feel truly grateful to be able to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gedatsu Church USA with you today. I sincerely appreciate the dedication and efforts of the many members and officers who have made this celebration possible.

Our world today is transitioning into a new era directed by the Universal Life Force. This new era requires humankind to develop a new set of values and grow spiritually to build a world of peace and harmony.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century has been called the Era of Women. This is because we need “feminine energy” to create a new world of acceptance, harmony, love, forgiveness, sensitivity and creativity. “Feminine energy” does refer to gender, but rather, a spiritual quality that is innately within all of us.

In the past, differences among nations, religions and cultures have created divisions, wars and oppression among people. This separation, however, has been a necessary process of our planet’s workshop. We are now at the stage of transitioning from separation to integration.

The Gaia Theory, proposed by English scientist James Lovelock, views the planet Earth as a complex, integrated living entity in which we are an integral part.

Absolute appreciation and unconditional love are essential for us to live in this new era. We should appreciate and make the best use of each person’s uniqueness. We should appreciate all living things and act for the benefit of the planet. Men and women should respect each other and embrace their differences. This is the path for everyone to live happily.

I hope this celebration will be the start of a positive, new direction for you. Let us live each day according to the Universal Will and enjoy a happy and prosperous life.

I sincerely pray for your happiness. Thank you very much.



*“Exemplifying the Gedatsu ideal of giving without asking for anything in return”*

### Church and Congregation Say “Thank You” to Senior Deacon Jackson Ito in Special Tribute Presentation

As part of the Fall Festival program, **Senior Deacon Jackson Ito** was honored for his “faithful, selfless and valuable service” to the Gedatsu Church.

As Board member, treasurer and deacon, Jackson was cited for his financial leadership and exceptional investment skills, which have brought unprecedented stability to Gedatsu Church USA in recent years.

“Your many and generous monetary donations have benefited all of us,” stated **Deacon Hisato Tsujimura**, “from free and reduced airfare for members to attend the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year in Japan and free bus fare for L.A. members to attend the twice-annual Festivals to the complimentary reception, banquet and Festival meals we enjoy this weekend.”

In lasting tribute to his generosity and service, Jackson was presented with a handsome wooden plaque, which will be mounted outside the *Gochi* Sanctuary conference room, identifying it as the “Senior Deacon Jackson Ito Conference Room.” On a lighter note, he was also presented with a boxed set of his favorite TV comedy series, “The Big Bang Theory,” and a pair of sunglasses (for his “keen financial vision”).

**In photo at top: Sisters Kady (left) and Kayla Hirayama present Senior Deacon Jackson Ito with tribute gifts. Both girls were able to go to Gedatsu-kai Japan last fall because Jackson paid their full airfare.**

### **“Welcome to Gedatsu”**

**By Rev. Hisakazu Taki**



#### Chapter 4: Self-reflection and Self-awareness

##### **Self-reflection**

We are all allowed to exist by the grace of the Universal Life Force, receiving immeasurable blessing from everyone and everything in the universe. In other words, we are one with the universe. When we become aware of this, we will be filled with appreciation and will naturally want to demonstrate our gratitude by benefiting the world through our daily duties. This is the life of appreciation and gratitude that Master Gedatsu Kongo encouraged us to live.

Master Gedatsu Kongo urged everyone to self-reflect. This is because we are all selfish. He stated: *“Gedatsu is to self-reflect and abandon selfishness.”*

*“Egoism destroys self, home, country and the world. When you observe the present world condition, you will see that egoism knows no bounds. If you self-reflect and abandon egoism, you can enjoy happiness and prosper. This is because, when you make no demands, blessings are bestowed naturally upon you.”*

Master Gedatsu Kongo encouraged us to self-reflect, because it is the path for everyone to lead a happy life.

##### **The Secret of Practice**

We are all more or less selfish, but usually, we are not aware of it. We believe that we are right and that others are wrong. Therefore, it is no wonder that there are many conflicts and discords among people. This is why it is important to self-reflect.

Master Gedatsu Kongo encouraged us to self-reflect and abandon selfishness. We understand the importance of this intellectually, but it is difficult to actually practice it. How can we put this into practice?

Many people who study religions torture themselves by self-imposing “must do” and “must not do” rules. They try to follow the teachings, but the more deeply they try to self-reflect, the more they see their own inadequacies. For them, the gap between reality and ideal is widened. They feel a sense of hopelessness about themselves.

Please realize that the “you,” who wants to become an ideal person, and the “you” in reality are the same person. It is important, first of all, to accept what you are. You will then start to change. The same thing can be said about “abandoning your selfishness.” You cannot change yourself by fighting with the “you” in your mind. You change yourself by entrusting yourself to the Universal Life Force. This is the secret of “religious practice.”

There is an interesting story told by a renowned Zen Master. In Buddhist temples, one of the important practices for Zen monks is the chanting of sutras every morning. We may think that they chant sutras in order to understand their meaning. However, according to the Zen Master, if you think about the sutras’ meaning as you chant, the sutra-chanting cannot be a true Buddhist practice. When you chant, you just read aloud each character of the sutra without thinking of its meaning. This is the true Buddhist practice of sutra-chanting. It illustrates a very important point. Interesting, isn’t it?

In our daily lives, we are constantly using our brains and thinking various things. We are continually making judgments. As we do so, we must be aware of our tendency to be self-centered, and that our judgments are made from this self-centered perspective.

This is why we need “actual practice” to become free from our self-centeredness. When we practice sutra-chanting, we just follow and read aloud each character of the sutra without thinking of its meaning. In other words, simply let go of your self-centered thoughts and give yourself totally to the Universal Life Force. When you practice this way, you will gradually be adjusted mentally, physically and spiritually according to the Universal Life cycle. This is the secret of practice.

*(Continued on page 8)*

*(Self-reflection – continued from page 7)*

Master Gedatsu Kongo said: *“I want you to definitely stop being jealous, hateful, sorrowful, combative and arrogant. However, this is not done so easily. This is because we are the physical and spiritual heritage of ancestors.”*

It is not so easy for us to change ourselves because we are the physical and spiritual heritage of our ancestors from ancient times. Within us, we have many good points and many not-so-good points we receive from our ancestors.

Regardless, we should accept who and what we are and appreciate the good heritage from ancestors. When you find shortcomings within you, try to correct them. This attitude and practice will bring happiness and prosperity.

Master Gedatsu Kongo also stated: *“Man is a spiritual offshoot of God. We are allowed to live by God. Just as our physical being exists in accordance with the universal phenomena, our hearts and minds must also exist in harmony with God. Herein lies the basic law – that we cannot, even for a second, be separated from God.”*

Although we are all selfish and not perfect, we should be aware that we are all allowed to exist by the Universal Life Force. We are one with the Universe. This awareness will encourage you to become a better person by correcting your selfishness.

### The Universal Law

Master Gedatsu Kongo gave us various kinds of “holy amulets” such as the Holy *Hiho*, Holy *Goho*, etc., which represent the Universal Law. Everything in the universe is governed by this Law. We were born and are allowed to live on earth according to this Universal Law.

Master Gedatsu Kongo explained this as follows: *“Each day consists of morning, noon and night. Each month has its beginning, middle and end. The four seasonal transitions are spring, summer, fall and winter. Modern science – no matter how advanced – can neither alter nor conquer Nature.”*

Our physical functions work according to the Universal Law. However, our thinking is sometimes against this Universal Law and tends to be self-centered. This causes various problems in life and conflicts among people. The purpose of the Gedatsu study is to become aware of our selfishness and free ourselves from it by entrusting ourselves to the Universal Law. We practice *Hiho* Meditation for this purpose.

### Hiho Meditation

When you practice *Hiho* Meditation, you respectfully hold the Holy *Hiho*, symbol of the Universal Life Force that Master Gedatsu Kongo wrote for us, between your palms. Sit on a chair with your spine erect. Your hands should be in front of your chest but with your shoulders and arms relaxed. Close your eyes and breathe naturally. Watch your breathing and repeat “*Namu-Gedatsu-Kongo*” silently in your mind. When a thought arises in your mind, let it go and return to your breathing. Repeat this process until the end of meditation. You don’t need to have a certain image or thought in your mind. Just be aware of breathing naturally.

When you practice the *Hiho* Meditation regularly, your mind and body will be gradually adjusted according to the Universal Life cycle by the power of the Holy *Hiho*. This is *Hiho* Meditation. You may feel it to be mysterious, but as you practice the meditation, you will understand its true nature as a powerful tool to help correct your self-centered thinking.

Remember that we are all the physical and spiritual heritage of generations of ancestors. Therefore, it is very hard to change our bad habits by our will alone. That is why Master Gedatsu Kongo gave us the holy practices of *Hiho* Meditation, *Goho* study, *Amacha kuyo* and other tools to help us align our attitude and thinking in accord with Universal Life cycle.

Why don’t you try these practices to live a happy and prosperous life?

*(Next issue: “Gedatsu Teaching”)*





## AUGUST 2019 OFFERINGS

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**\$5–\$49:** M/M B. Ide, S. Tanaka, L. Tanaka, M. Rodriguez, K. Tsukamoto, M. Fukushima

**\$50–\$99:** S. Taketa, M/M D. Ide, Nakatani family

**\$100+:** J. Tanaka, M/M K. Yamada, M/M J. Horner, J. Detweiler/J. Sebe, M/M D. Tsuboi, M/M R. Sakamoto, G. Kaneko

**\$200+:** S. Nishino

**\$500+:** J. Ito

#### **Special Acknowledgment**

M/M D. Ide            Appreciation for Courtney Ide –  
Disney University (\$100)

M/M D. Ide            Appreciation for Chris Ide – graduation  
/new job (\$100)

M/M R. Nakatani    In memory of Steven's 1-year service  
(\$100)

S. Nishino            Memorial Tower appreciation (\$300)

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**\$5–\$49:** P. Chen, M/M B. Mizokami, M/M V. Mizokami, M. Nakamura, A. Okimura, S. Reckers

**\$50–\$99:** M/M K. Chinen, M/M B. Hamamoto, J. Kaku, M/M S. Mukai, H. Murakami, T. Murakami, T. Nakamura, L. Sanchez, De. Shiroishi, T. Tetsuhiro, M/M H. Tsujimura

**\$100+:** M/M R. Allum, M/M F. Barthel, K. Fujii, M/M T. Kukushima, M/M M. Ishida, M. Kimura, M/M T. Matsumoto, Y. Oishi, M. Okada, T. Okimura, M/M S. Shiroishi

**\$200+:** T. Ishida, L. Ito, Do. Shiroishi

**\$400+:** J. Ito

**\$700+:** S. Okimura

#### **Special Acknowledgment**

Gwen Hass            Appreciation for ancestor blessing (\$200)

Tadao Ishida            "Never Forgotten" for Shige Ishida (\$100)

Donna Shiroishi      One-year memorial service  
for Shizuye Shiroishi (\$200)

Debra Shiroishi      One-year memorial service  
For Shizuye Shiroishi (\$200)

Tina/Mike Hamada    "Never Forgotten" for  
Nora Ayako Toguchi (\$100)

Victor/Marian Mizokami "Never Forgotten" service (\$100)

Anonymous            Gratitude for blessings (\$1,200)

#### **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            \$200

## 2019 / 2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 1 (Sun)	L.A. Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service
Dec 7 (Sat)	L.A. Church Clean-up
Dec 8 (Sun)	Sacramento Last Service of Year / Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service
Dec 15 (Sun)	L.A. Last Service / Christmas Program
Dec 22-31	Church Closed

### 2020 Events

Jan 1 (Wed)	New Year Homage
Jan 2-3 (Thu-Fri)	Church Closed
Jan 12 (Sun)	Sacramento New Year Service
Jan 19 (Sun)	L.A. New Year Service
Jan 21 (Tue)	Church Closed (in lieu of Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
Feb 16 (Sun)	L.A. Sun Spirit Service
Feb 18 (Tue)	Church Closed (in lieu of Presidents' Day)

Mar 13 (Fri)	Propagation Meeting 10 am
Mar 14 (Sat)	Board of Directors Meeting 10 am
Mar 15 (Sun)	L.A. <i>Higan</i> Service (Japanese & English)
Mar 22 (Sun)	Sacramento <i>Higan</i> Service
Mar 29 (Sun)	Church Closed

Apr 12 (Sun)	141 <sup>st</sup> Spring Grand Festival 9:30 a.m.
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May 10 (Sun)	Sacramento Mother's Day Service
May 17 (Sun)	L.A. Mother's Day Service
May 24 (Sun)	Sacramento plaque burning ( <i>Joen-no-gi</i> )
May 25 (Mon)	Sacramento Inter-religious Memorial Day Service
May 26 (Tue)	Church Closed (in lieu of Memorial Day)

Jun 7 (Sun)	Sac'to Mother Kiyota Memorial Service
Jun 21 (Sun)	L.A. Mother Kiyota Memorial Service
Jun 27-28 (Sat-Sun)	<i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar Sacramento 11 am

Jul 4 (Thu)	Church Closed (Independence Day)
Jul 12 (Sun)	Sac'to <i>Obon</i> Service / Graduates Honored
Jul 19 (Sun)	L.A. <i>Obon</i> Service / Graduates Honored
Jul 23-26 (Thu-Sun)	Youth Camp – Sacramento

Aug 1-2 (Sat-Sun)	Lake Tahoe <i>Benzaiten</i> Service (TBD)
Aug 16 (Sun)	L.A. <i>Benzaiten</i> Service

Sep 6 (Sun)	142 <sup>nd</sup> Fall Grand Festival 9:30 am
Sep 8 (Tue)	Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day)
Sep 20 (Sun)	L.A. <i>Higan</i> Service

## 10 月 教 会 行 事

### ロサンゼルス教会

5(土) 11:00A ムーン・フェスティバル 1 日  
6(日) 11:00A ムーン・フェスティバル 2 日  
13(日) 10:00A 祥月追善法要  
15(火) 教会振替休日(コロンバスデイ)  
20(日) 10:00A 日英感謝会・氏神祭  
27(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

5(土) - 6(日) 教会休み(LA フェスティバル)  
13(日) 9:30A 感謝会・祥月追善法要  
15(火) 教会振替休日(コロンバスデイ)  
20(日) 教会ボランティアお礼昼食会(予定)  
27(日) 9:30A 感謝会/萬霊魂感謝祭  
リージョナル委員会

## 10 月 度 み さ と し

「愛は神なり力なりである。  
誠も亦神の本質である」

信仰生活とはいかなる生き方をいうのだろうか。修道院やお寺にこもり、常に神仏に祈り、あるいは四六時中念仏や題目を唱えたり、瞑想にふけったりするような生活も、信仰生活のひとつのあり方ではあろう。しかし、そのような生活を送ることのできる人は、ごく限られた人たちだけだ。世の中の多くの人々は、家庭を持ち、日々生業に従事して生活しているのである。そのような人々は、では、信仰生活を送ることができないのだろうか。そんなことは、決してないのである。宗教は万人に開かれたものであり、万人の幸福のために存在しているのだ。だから、日常生活の真只中においてこそ、真の信仰生活は実践されるべきなのである。朝夕、神仏に感謝の祈りをささげ、日中の生活において、目の前の一人の人に対して思いやりをもって接し、いま携わっている仕事にまごころをもって取り組むこと——このような日々の生活こそ、真の信仰生活というべきである。

## 創立 70 周年 記 念 式 典

### 70 年 の 歴 史 に 感 謝 祝賀晩餐会および秋季大祭盛大に



米国解脱教会創立 70 周年の祝賀晩餐会が 8 月 31 日(土) サクラメント・クラウンプラザ・ホテルにおいて、また秋季大祭が 9 月 1 日(日) スピリチュアルセンターにおいて、それぞれ盛大に行なわれました。日本から 65 名の会員がお祝いに駆け付けるなど日米合わせて 300 人を超える会員たちが共に感謝の祈りを捧げつつ、70 年の歴史を祝しました。解脱霊廟も開眼から 50 周年を迎え、この日に合わせて修復された門も美しくお披露目されました。

この一年、多くの会員たちがこの記念式典を盛り上げようと様々に奉仕してまいりました。この 70 年の節目が米国教会のさらなる発展に向かう新たな章の幕開けとなることが期待されています。

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### 70 周 年 祝 賀 晩 餐 会 挨 拶

米国教会総長 岡野 英夫



米国会員の皆さまをはじめ日本からも多くの会員の皆様にお越しいただき盛大に米国解脱教会創設 70 周年の記念大祭を挙げていただけますことは誠に有難く感謝に堪えません。

解脱金剛さまに直接ご指導を享けられたマザー清田の献身的なご努力によって解脱の教えの種が蒔かれ、岸田英山先生の慈愛によって発芽し、先人たちが解脱の教えを実践することによって見事な花を咲かせました。皆様と共に、その労苦をしのび、功績を讃え、心からお祝いさせていただきましょ



今日のこのひと時が、日米の会員の皆さまの信頼と絆をさらに強め、育てる機会となりますよう祈念いたします。



## 創立 70 周年 秋 季 大 祭 講 話

### 新たな時代への変革の時

米国教会総長 岡野 英夫

米国解脱教会創設 70 周年の記念大祭を迎えることができましたこと、心から感謝申し上げます。今大祭を開催するにあたり、米国解脱教会の理事長ジョイスをはじめ役員の皆さま、会員の皆さまの献身的なご奉仕とご努力に対し衷心より敬意を表します。

世界は新しい時代へ移行しようとする変革の時を迎えています。神が私たちに変化することを求めているのです。新たな価値観を構築し、より豊かで平和で調和した国家社会を、そして人類の精神的成長を求めているのです。

「21 世紀は女性の時代」といわれてきたのも、女性の能力や特性を活かし更なる社会の発展を期すばかりではなく、受容、調和、愛と許し、感受性、創造性といった「女性エネルギー」の必要な時代を迎えているということです。

「女性エネルギー」とは、生物学的にいう男性・女性の区別でのエネルギーではなく、精神的に見た区別で、程度の差はありますが誰でもが持っている男女両性の精神性を意味します。

過去に、世界が民族・宗教・文化などの違いなどによって、互いにいがみ合ったり、抑圧したりする「分離」のプロセスを体験してきたことも、地球ワ

ークショップの中では必要なカリキュラムであったことですが、これからは「分離」が終わり「統合」の体験ワークに移ってきていると言えます。

イギリス人科学者ジェームス・ラブロックによって提唱された、地球をひとつの生命体として考える「ガイア理論」もまた、地球生命体の一細胞たる人類への警告と変化の要求ではないかと感じられます。

そうした来るべき時代への変化に必要なことは、「絶対感謝」と「無償の

愛」です。感謝と愛の目的は、そのものを「輝かせる」ことです。

人類は地球上のすべての生命に感謝し、地球そのものを輝かせるよう行動しなければなりません。また、男性は女性を女性として輝かせ、女性は男性を男性として輝かせ、親は子を人として輝かせるのです。相手を輝かせることが出来た人は、自分も必ず輝くことが出来るはずです。

今日の日が、新たなチャレンジのスタートの日となりますよう願っています。共に、神の意思と心のままに輝き、明るい豊かな人生を歩んでまいりましょう。皆さまのお幸せを心から祈念いたします





The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for members like **Deacon Jo Ann Shiroishi**, a second-generation Gedatsu member, who was introduced to Gedatsu by her parents, the late **Pat** and **Sayo Shiroishi**. Recognized for her exceptional commitment and dedication, Jo Ann is credited with starting the current L.A.

Sunday School program, 7-5-3 Children's Service, Graduate Recognition and *Tanabata* workshop, and serves as Deacon and Regional Board member. She attributes her good fortune to her 40 years working with students, parents and administrators as a high school teacher and counselor, as well as guidance from her parents and church. She enjoys retirement, supporting the church, following the Dodgers and Rams, watching Korean dramas and playing with her dog, Taylor.

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## Fresh New Look, Renovations on Sacramento Holy Grounds

In time for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, several key structures on the *Goreichi* grounds in Sacramento have been renovated and improved. The existing *torii*-style sign at the north entrance was transformed with a striking new look: bold red roof design and symbol, identifying the grounds as "Gedatsu Spiritual Center." Attractive dry landscaping, consisting of rock boulders and cobblestone "lake," now surround the sign. In addition, the concrete sign at the south entrance was lightly sandblasted, repairing previous damages. We are grateful to member Dennis Tsuboi, a former professional landscape architect, for overseeing the sign renovation projects.

The wooden façade of the Gedatsu Memorial Tower (below right) was rebuilt, painted and detailed, restoring the original structure that had deteriorated since the Tower was erected fifty years ago.



These capital improvements and renovations were made possible through the financial resources of the Grace Yuko Sato / Mariko Michiuye Memorial Fund.

