



GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA

www.gedatsu-usa.org

SEPTEMBER 2018

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Gedatsu Kongo's

Thought for the Month

"Regardless of any human suffering, when one lives with gratitude, one can attain true peace of mind and spiritual enlightenment."

Life is full of its ups and downs. No matter how sincerely we pray, we may sometimes experience pains and sorrows. We may feel very sorry for ourselves and think, "I worked so hard. Why me?"

In those moments, being deeply aware that we are alive – that our heart still beats – may awaken us to life. This is the power of faith.

As humans, we tend to think of our own convenience. When things go smoothly, we are happy. But when things do not work out as we expect, we suffer and complain. However, we should realize that, despite life's hardships, we are allowed to exist by God. This means that God love us unconditionally.

If we remember this, we will never lose hope to live and will have the strength to overcome hardships.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sat	1	9:30 am	Preparation for Fall Festival
Sun	2	9:30 am	138th Fall Grand Festival
			Memorial Tower Service / Saito Goma Service
Tue	4		Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day)
Sun	9	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	16	1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	23	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / <i>Higan</i> Service
			Sacramento Regional Board Meeting
Sun	30		Church Closed

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	2		Fall Grand Festival (in Sacramento)
Tue	4		Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day)
Sun	9	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	16	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English)
			<i>Higan</i> Service
Sun	23	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service / <i>Ajikan</i> Meditation
			"Life in Your 20s" / L.A. Regional Board Mtg.
Sun	30		Church Closed

OCTOBER 2018

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
Sat	20	8:00 am	Trip to Apple Hill (TBD)
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



September “Never Forgotten” Memorial Services

“Never Forgotten” Memorial Services are held monthly at the Gedatsu Church to honor the memory of those who have passed away during that particular month. People of all faiths are welcome, so invite your friends and family members to attend. Even if you are unable to attend, you may still honor the soul of a loved one.

The Sacramento Church will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, September 9, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Jeffrey Tellez, Robert Katsumi Fukushima, Soichi Nakatani, Masako Sakamoto Tagawa, Shigetaro Kino, Tetsuo Yomogida, Linda Carol Kashiwagi and Glenn Shuji Hatae.**

The Los Angeles Church will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, September 9, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Wai Choy Chang, David H. Dyson, Jr., Kazuko Endo, Ann M. Ghazarians, Nancy Kikuchi, Misako Kobata, Liam Mikael Kowal, Isao Kumashiro, Sayo Kumashiro, Hitoshi Matsumoto, Yasuko Matsumoto, Frank S. Miyamura, Nancy Mizuki, Charles Migiwa Nishi, Rod Tetsuya Nomura, Jacobus Johannes Reckers, Ruth Muriel Reckers, Kiyoshi George Sakuma, John Takeshi Sangen, Yuri T. Sangen, Setsu Shiroishi, Yoshio Fred Shoga, Himeko Tanji, Itsuya Frank Tanji and Moto Tanji.**



Fall Grand Festival – Sunday, September 2

The 138th Grand Festival will be held at the Gedatsu Spiritual Center in Sacramento on Sunday, September 2, from 9:30 a.m. The Festival program will include the Memorial Tower Enshrinement and *Saito Goma* Fire Ceremony.

2018 Memorial Tower Enshrinements

The following souls will be enshrined in the Memorial Tower in Sacramento at the Fall Festival: **Richard Orville Aadland, Migiwa Nishi, Teiichiro Noritake, Miyoko Okimura, Joe L. Sanchez, Dennis Koichi Toguchi and Noriko Yoshihara.**

Manbu Kuyo Applications Due

September 3 is the deadline to apply for the *Manbu Kuyo* service in Japan. Application forms are available at your branch church.

Autumn Moon Festival – L.A. Church
Saturday, October 6 – 11 am to 6 pm
Sunday, October 7 – 11 am to 5 pm



Poster design by John Hayashi

The L.A. Church’s annual celebration and fundraiser will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 6 and 7. Open to the public, the event features ethnic foods – including the church’s famous *huli-huli teriyaki* chicken, *chow mein*, *sushi*, fried *wonton* and other culinary favorites – as well as a farmers’ market, cultural demonstrations, entertainment and guided tours of the church.

Raffle Tickets Now on Sale

Please support the event by volunteering your time, encouraging family and friends to attend, providing donations and purchasing raffle tickets for great prizes.

Obituary

The Sacramento Spiritual Center sadly reports the passing of **Steven Nakatani**, who passed away on July 13 at the age of 47. Steven was the son of long-time members **Roy and Ritsuko Nakatani** and the younger brother of **Debra and Thomas.**

AROUND OUR CHURCH

L.A. Church Honors Its Graduates



Five young graduates were honored in July by the L.A. Gedatsu Church. In a special program sponsored by the L.A. Sunday School, each graduate received a congratulatory certificate and ribbon lei. Congratulations, graduates!

At left, Kady Hirayama (with lei) with, from left, her mother, Janet Hirayama, and sisters, Kayla and Carolann.



Ryann Young, age 11, graduated from 6th grade and will be going to Wildwood School in the fall. She enjoys playing basketball, piano, reading, spending time with family and friends and cuddling with her dog, Dolly. Parents: Patrick and Wendy Young. Grandparents: Howard and Carole Tsujimura.

Gavin Tsujimura (photo not available), age 13, graduated from 8th grade and will attend San Pedro High School. On the Honor Roll, he enjoys playing sports and video games and eating breakfast. Parents: Todd Tsujimura and Sonya Lowe. Grandparents: Howard and Carole Tsujimura.



Andrew Shaklan, age 14. Graduated from 8th grade and will be attending La Canada High School. On the Honor Roll and placed first in robotics competition. He enjoys playing video games, baseball, golf, hanging out with his family, as well politics and sports. Parents: Stuart and Pam Shaklan. Grandparents: Rudy and Arlene Tsujimura.

Kady Kimiko Hirayama (pictured above), age 18, graduated from high school and will be entering Otis School of Art and Design next spring, pursuing a career in animation. She enjoys drawing, playing video games, knitting and sewing. Parent: Janet Hirayama. Grandparents: Mitsuji and Minaye Okada.



Jonathan Shaklan, age 18, graduated from high school and will enter Chapman University in the fall with plans to study Business. Received 2018 MVP and All League award. He enjoys playing baseball and golf, hanging out with friends and eating. Parents: Stuart and Pam Shaklan. Grandparents: Rudy and Arlene Tsujimura.

Construction and Ceremony at Sacramento Spiritual Center



A new structure has been erected on the *Goreichi* grounds of the Gedatsu Spiritual Center in Sacramento. A durable storage unit now protects and secures the Center's power mowers and other equipment and machinery. The 12x24 wooden shed, conveniently located adjacent to the barbecue and refrigeration area, was constructed from a kit by members John Horner and Scott Taketa. The area was graded, tarped and spread with gravel (above left), before the wooden flooring was installed.

The project was made possible by a generous donation from Sr. Rev. Sebe, whose gift also includes the purchase of a new commercial riding mower to maintain the *Goreichi* grounds. "I have been blessed by the guidance of Gedatsu Kongo and the Universal Life Force," says Rev. Sebe. "This is a token of my appreciation to Gedatsu."



Sacramento members, led by Sr. Rev. Sebe and Rev. Yamada, performed the annual *Joen-no-gi* plaque burning ceremony. Old *kuyo* plaques and stupas were gathered and burned while members offered prayers.

AROUND OUR CHURCH

Gedatsu Summer Youth Camp 2018 – Fun, Faith and Friendship



Seven Gedatsu teens and young adults from northern and southern California came together in late July at the Sacramento Spiritual Center for the Gedatsu Summer Youth Camp – four days of fun, faith and friendship-building. They included sisters **Carolann** (25), **Kady** (18) and **Kayla** (15) **Hirayama** from Los Angeles; **James Akashi** (16) from San Francisco; and siblings **Christopher** (24) and **Courtney** (19) **Ide** and **Vivian McSwain** (12) from Sacramento. They bonded over a variety of experiences designed to deepen their appreciation for the Universal Life Force and the blessings of Nature.

Despite sweltering temperatures, the campers enjoyed everything from a river-rafting adventure, a variety of indoor and outdoor games, delicious well-prepared meals (including a trip to the local ice cream parlor and a *somen* bridge lunch), a tree-planting activity to commemorate their camp experience, and morning and evening prayers led by the campers themselves. They also participated in faith discussions with **Youth Minister Naoya Okano**, learned about appreciating and conserving natural resources, and enjoyed a talk by **Sr. Deacon Jackson Ito** about *Benzaiten* on Mars.

“The camaraderie and companionship that grew over the four days was remarkable,” said San Francisco member **Pauline Tomita**, who planned and organized the Camp. “Hearing the kids laugh and seeing them smile was so rewarding.” Many thanks to the following individuals for their contributions to the successful event: **Reverends Okano, Sebe and Yamada; Sr. Deacon Jackson Ito, Alaric Akashi, Janet Hirayama and Yoko Yamada.**

Q

There is a constant battle of wills between my children and me, especially about rules, doing homework and bedtimes. What can I do?

A

Gedatsu Kongo said, “If you tell your children, ‘Do this’ or ‘do that,’ they will not listen.

They are your mirrors and will do what you do. Children are connected physically and spiritually to their parents, so self-reflect on your own behavior by looking at your children’s behavior.”

Whenever I see that my children are not following the family rules, doing their homework or respecting bedtimes, I recall the Founder’s words: my children are mirrors of myself. When I stop and self-reflect, I always notice how I can be a better role model for my children. Surprisingly, when I change my bad habits and try to be a better father, my children also change their bad habits. I recommend that you look first at your daily behavior, make a change to improve, and see what happens.

***“Self-reflect on your own behavior
by looking at your children’s behavior.”***

My Gedatsu teacher instructed me that when talking to your children, avoid giving orders like “do this, do that!” or “don’t do this, don’t do that.” Instead of saying, “Do your homework NOW!,” say, “Why don’t you begin your homework after taking a break?” Even if your children won’t listen to you, don’t scold them. Instead, show them that you are concerned. That is the approach my wife and I have been trying with our children at home.

Some people say that discipline is very important for children. That is true, but it is necessary to empathize with your children before disciplining them. There must be a reason why your children won’t do their homework or won’t go to bed. Try to communicate with your children and respond to their behavior with empathy. Treat your children the way they want to be treated. That does not mean spoiling your children, but rather, understanding and respecting their needs. In turn, they will understand and respect you, and you will be able to build trust with your children. Remember: “Children do what their parents do.”

Parenting is tough . . . but, in the end, immensely rewarding. Good luck!

Rev. Tatsunori Kamiya

A Brief Biography of Gedatsu Kongo

Chapter 9

War

In April of 1941, President Okano fulfilled a long-cherished aspiration: Pilgrimage to the Three Sacred Sites in Japan. These sites were the Ise Shrine (Japan’s most important Shinto shrine), Kashihara Shrine (where Japan’s first emperor is enshrined) and Sennyuji Temple (the only Imperial Family temple). The pilgrimage became one of the most significant annual events of *Gedatsu-kai*.

On the evening of April 1, President Okano delivered a sermon at the Tokyo *Dojo* Appreciation Service, and then departed for Ise with six leaders, including Takeo Kishida. Taking the night train, they arrived at Ise the next morning. The group was greeted by the chief priest, who guided them slowly along the approach to the Inner Shrine. President Okano walked silently, deeply impressed.

After visiting the Ise Shrine, the party left for the Kashihara Shrine, where they paid their respects. From there, they traveled to Kyoto. The next morning, they visited the Sennyuji Temple, where they were greeted at the temple gate by Head Priest Hirano. After visiting the Imperial Mausoleum of Emperors, Superior Priest Mukumoto warmly greeted them. In response, President Okano thanked him for allowing them to visit the temple for a private pilgrimage for the first time.

Preserving, honoring the nation’s treasured sites

The leaders’ visit constituted the first Gedatsu Pilgrimage to the Three Sacred Sites. Shortly after their visit, President Okano spoke to members, telling them, “Even if the constitutional structure of our country is overturned, we will do our utmost to protect the Ise Shrine, Kashihara Shrine, and Sennyuji Temple.”

In 1938, the government legislated the National Mobilization Law, imposing control over the national economy to fund Japan’s massive military effort and put the nation on a war-time footing. By 1941, the government enforced a rationing system over living necessities, such as cooking oil, fish, clothing, sugar, miso, soy sauce, rice, wheat, etc.

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(Biography – Continued from page 5)

Under these circumstances, President Okano encouraged members to contribute to their country by saying, “Live to let others live. Make the most of things, keep your mind active, benefit the country, and make the best use of whatever you see, hear or touch. This is the path you should follow. This is the Gedatsu life of appreciation and gratitude.”

Rendering aid to an impoverished society

Following this basic principle, President Okano organized the distribution of various products to cities suffering from material shortages and encouraged recycling products normally wasted. He instructed some members to send as much charcoal as possible from charcoal-producing regions to cities and sell it at low prices before it was placed under the rationing system. He told other members to collect a kind of sea weed which was not used before, dry it and send it to various parts of the country as food or fertilizer.

He focused on increasing the production of textile goods through the instruction of silk-lace knitting to assist war widows, who were confronting the difficulties of making a living for their families. Silk-lace knitting, which uses silk cocoon waste, was easy to master. President Okano asked Michiko Sobora, a young woman who had just learned the skill, to come to Tokyo to instruct others. Starting with a training class of 10 female members, her production and students increased. President Okano sent her to various parts of the country to teach the silk-lace knitting method.

Teaching and learning with heart and soul

When President Okano delivered sermons, he did not like members taking notes, because he believed that members should record his words in their hearts and then put those words into practice. Only in this manner could they truly understand his teaching.

He often said, “Listen to me with your eyes,” meaning that members should listen with all their heart and soul to learn from him. When he felt that someone did not practice what he taught, he repeated the same lesson again and again for many years. He never gave that person another lesson until he put it into practice.

On occasion, he allowed certain people to take notes of his sermons. As a result, we are able to read the Founder’s sermons today.

Under President Okano’s guidance, members grew spiritually step by step. Branches increased in number. By June of 1941, there were 101 branches in Tokyo, 112 in other areas, and one in America.

Around that time, President Okano’s personal guidance often contained stern “bitter-pill” advice, such as: “Gedatsu is to practice humility, poverty and death.” He told his attendants, “I feel more pain than the person who receives my bitter-pill advice. When I return home, I think about the person to whom I gave stern advice and pray for him or her to truly understand my thoughts.”

Obligation, requital toward country

One day, Miyoshi Matsuda, a second-generation Japanese-American visited President Okano in Tokyo. He let her stay at the Tokyo *Dojo* for 12 days, while he sincerely mentored her. The day before she returned to the U.S., Matsuda resolved to ask President Okano a question: “In America, newspapers and radios are reporting that America will wage war against Japan in the near future. In that case, should we act as Japanese or should we draw the sword against our ancestral Japan?”

President Okano quietly answered, “As an American, you should fight against Japan.”

The world peace that President Okano wished for was not simple idealism. In a warring conflict between the U.S. and Japan, each nation, first and foremost, should act in accord with its true love of its own country and cultivate humanity within themselves. Without this foundation, he believed, it would be impossible for mankind to realize the world of mutual respect and cooperation. Ideally, there is no war, but when nations of the world progress to a stage where war becomes necessary, we should fight. Through war, each nation should learn how to love its own country and pursue its responsibilities in the world. In this way, war can be a step toward true peace for mankind.

On November 28, 1941, President Okano turned 60, and his 60th birthday was celebrated at *Goreichi*. On the occasion of this celebration, church leaders discussed what they should do in gratitude to President Okano. After much deliberation, they decided to build the Monument of Encomium for him. Immediately after this decision, they informed each branch all over the country, and fund-raising for this project began.

(Continued on page 7)

(*Biography – Continued from page 6*)



On the day of its unveiling ceremony, the monument stood to the left side of the main shrine, covered with a white cloth. After members and guests were seated, President Okano came forward, wearing a white coat of silk-lace knitting made by Sobora. The ceremony started, the white cloth was removed, and the Monument of Encomium was unveiled.

President Okano then stepped away and changed into a red coat, following the Japanese custom of wearing red when one reaches age 60. He then resumed his position in front of the monument. After the congratulatory messages by guests and members' representative, President Okano stood at the microphone and expressed his sincere thanks.

Filled with emotion, he stated, "Today I made the first step of my new life. Please keep going strong. Your responsibility became heavier. I encourage myself to make efforts toward the new world. I am still young. I sincerely express my deepest gratitude to your pious thoughts and pure hearts."

Thus, the three sacred monuments – Sun Spirit Monument, All Souls Monument and Monument of Encomium – were completed on the *Goreichi* grounds. Representing the virtues of Truth, Goodness and Beauty, they would forever stand to inspire mankind to cultivate these spiritual qualities.

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese army attacked the Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, igniting the war between the United States and Japan. The entire country of Japan was enveloped in a mood of war.

An honored tradition

In April of 1942, the second Pilgrimage to the Three Sacred Sites was performed. Whereas the first pilgrimage was performed with President Okano and six leaders, the second pilgrimage was performed by a group of 600 members. Because it was impossible for a

group of that size to find lodging in the temple, the chief priest, upon the request of President Okano, allowed the group the unprecedented permission to sleep overnight on straw mats on the ground.

President Okano could not join the pilgrimage but waited for their return in formal dress. He told them, "You are making this pilgrimage on behalf of the Japanese people and all mankind. You should be thankful for the honor of this great mission."

The Founder's teaching preserved

At the Spring Festival in May of 1942, President Okano published *Shinko*, or "Sincere Practice." Although it consists of only 32 pages, it remains the most important book on the Gedatsu teaching.

"This is a small book," President Okano said, "but I wrote everything in it. After I die, please read this book again and again until you understand it."

From *Shinko*:

"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."

"It is quite natural that we are constantly together with God, and that we are allowed to exist by God. Live or die, we are at the mercy of God. Even after death, we exist in company with God. Furthermore, we can attain godhood."

After the publication of *Shinko*, President Okano made an overnight trip to the Ito hot springs together with all teachers in celebration of its publication, demonstrating how pleased he was with its publication. This was his first and last trip with all teachers.

From 1941 through 1942, President Okano released 1,100,000 young carp and trout fish into the Suwa Lake to aid in increasing food production. The young fish, called "Gedatsu trout" by local people, increased with each succeeding year. At dawn, they could be seen swimming in a group darkening the surface of the water.

Through public efforts of this kind, President Okano encouraged members to follow his example by working selflessly in their hometowns to combat severe wartime shortages.

(To be continued next month)





*In late June, Exchange Ambassadors from Gedatsu-kai Japan – **Ritsuko Sato** (above left) and **Satomi Takahashi** – spent two weeks in the U.S., hosted by Gedatsu USA. They met with members in Sacramento and Los Angeles and enjoyed sightseeing in San Francisco, Yosemite National Park, Las Vegas, Grand Canyon and Los Angeles.*

Below are their messages to American members.

Ritsuko Sato

Thank you very much for everything you did for us during our stay in the U.S. I want to share my impressions from my two-weeks' travel.

First, at the *Rokujizo Bazaar*, I was surprised to see how everyone of all ages and positions – ministers, members and non-members alike – worked together with full effort and mutual respect. Since this rarely happens in Japan, I thought this was great.

Second, I experienced the magnificence and grandeur of America. The great views of Yosemite's Half Dome and Grand Canyon were beyond my imagination. Everything is so much bigger than in Japan: the width of the roads, the volume of soda, the size of people.

Also, in contrast to Japanese, who hesitate standing out among a group, I found that Americans simply do what they want to do, regardless of what others think.

As a result, during my travel, I found myself actively communicating more with others and wearing brighter clothes than my usual blacks and grays. I was influenced by Americans to be less self-conscious, and emotionally brighter through my interaction with the friendly and kind members. I hope to continue living with this positive attitude.

Finally, in preparation for my trip as an ambassador, I read the writings of Archbishop Eizan Kishida. Until then, I did not fully understand how much he devoted himself for the propagation and happiness of the American people. I was so happy to see both the Sacramento and Los Angeles churches, where Kishida and Kiyota Senseis cultivated the Gedatsu teaching.

I appreciate all the ministers and members who warmly welcomed me. It was my great joy. I would like to return after I improve my English. Again, thank you very much.

Satomi Takahashi

I experienced and learned a lot during the two weeks I traveled in the U.S. I met many local members and friends who really enjoyed volunteering for the *Rokujizo Bazaar*. They were all so friendly and cheerful. It was wonderful seeing non-members, members, young and old alike, working together as equals – everyone contributing however they could. I hope I can improve my workplace like that.

In the beginning, I was so nervous about communicating with Americans because of my lack of English. So, I simply did nothing, waiting until someone started a conversation with me. Despite my hesitancy, they attempted to speak to me in Japanese or slowly in English. This helped to relieve my anxiety, and I gradually began to start conversations myself. I really appreciate having the opportunity to experience people's kindness.

I discovered the importance of being active. Nothing happens by just waiting. I learned to take the initiative – that everything depends on me.

I was also impressed with what Rev. Yamada said at the Japanese Appreciation Service. He talked about the importance of sincerely and consciously praying and wishing for a goal or objective. Until now, I was the kind of person who could not express what I wanted. These two weeks became a good opportunity for me to self-reflect. Now, I want to do my best by having a clear goal or objective and working strongly to achieve it.

Yosemite National Park, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Japanese-American National Museum, Disneyland . . . I appreciate being taken to such impressive places. I also appreciate all the members I met during my visit. Every moment has become my precious memory. Thank you very much.

[P.S. I would like to go to a buffet again!]

APRIL 2018 OFFERINGS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: M. Rodriguez, L. Tanaka, M/M R. Nakatani, K. Gibson, S. Tanaka, M/M D. Ide

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

\$100+: S. Nishino, M/M S. Sekikawa, S. Yabut, K. Schubert, M/M J. Detwiler, M/M K. Yamada, T. Wakabayashi, Anonymous

\$200+: M/M J. Horner

Special Acknowledgment

A. Sebe In memory of Sumiko Sebe (\$500)
A. Sebe In appreciation to Gedatsu, purchase of heavy-duty power mower and wooden shed to protect and store machinery/equipment (\$20,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: P. Chen, M/M M. Choy, M/M M. Hamada, M/M V. Mizokami, M. Nakamura, R. Nakamura, A. Okimura, T. Sato, M/M A. Shiroishi

\$50–\$99: M/M T. Hiram, J. Kaku, M. Okada, K. Sato, M/M S. Shaklan, F. Sueyoshi, C. Tsujimura, M/M H. Tsujimura

\$100+: M/M R. Allum, M/M F. Barthel, K. Fujii, M/M T. Fukushima, M/M B. Hamamoto, C. Harada, L. Ito, M/M K. Kuritani, M/M T. Matsumoto, M/M S. Mukai, M/M M. Murakami, T. Murakami, T. Nakamura, Y. Oishi, T. Okimura, J. Reid, L. Sanchez, S. Takahashi, M/M R. Tsujimura, M/M K. Yamada

\$200+: M/M K. Chinen, M/M M. Ishida, T. Ishida, M/M R. Okano, D. Shiroishi

\$300+: R. Sato

\$600+: J. Ito

\$1,200+: Gedatsu Kendo Dojo

Special Acknowledgment

Jackson Ito Japan Ambassadors welcome party (\$500)
Tadao Ishida Never Forgotten service for Nobuyoshi, Michiye Shimohara (\$100)

Goreichi Care Fund

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

H. Graham (\$100)

2018 / 2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 4 (Sun)	L.A. Gedatsu Kongo 70 th Memorial Service
Nov 11 (Sun)	Sacto Gedatsu Kongo 70 th Memorial Service
Nov 17 (Sat)	L.A. Casino Bus trip (TBD)
Nov 18 (Sun)	L.A. Gedatsu Kongo Birthday and 7-5-3 Children's Celebration
Nov 22-23	Church Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)
Nov 25 (Sun)	Sacramento Gedatsu Kongo Birthday and 7-5-3 Children's Celebration
Dec 2 (Sun)	L.A. Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service
Dec 9 (Sun)	Sacramento Last Service of Year Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service / Church Clean-up
Dec 9 (Sun)	L.A. Church Clean-up
Dec 16 (Sun)	L.A. Christmas Service
	Last Appreciation Service
Dec 23-31	Church Closed

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. <i>Higan</i> Service (Japanese & English)
Mar 23 (Sat)	L.A. Casino Bus Trip (TBD) 8:00 am
Mar 24 (Sun)	Sacramento <i>Higan</i> 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 (<i>Joan-no-gi</i>)
May 27 (Mon)	Sacramento Inter-religious Memorial Day Service
May 28 (Tue)	Church Closed (in lieu of Memorial Day)
Jun 9 (Sun)	Sacramento Mothers' Day Service
Jun 16 (Sun)	L.A. Mother Kiyota's Memorial Service
Jun 29-30 (Sat-Sun)	<i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar Sacramento 11 am

9 月度教会行事予定

ロサンゼルス教会

2(日)	9:30A	第 138 秋季大祭 (サクラメント)
4(火)		教会振替休日 (レイバーデー)
9(日)	10:00A	祥月追善法要
16(日)	10:00A	日英感謝会・彼岸法要
23(日)	10:00A	英語感謝会・阿字観法 リージョナル委員会
30(日)		教会休み

サクラメント教会

1(土)	9:30A	大祭前日奉仕
2(日)	9:30A	第 138 回秋季大祭 霊廟祭祀の儀 / 柴燈護摩供
4(火)		教会振替休日 (レイバーデー)
9(日)	10:00A	祥月追善法要
16(日)	1:00P	サンノゼ支部感謝会
23(日)	9:30A	感謝会・彼岸法要 リージョナル委員会
30(日)		教会休み



9 月度みさとし

「如何にくるしむ人の心身も、
感謝に過せば真に安心立命を得らるる」

人生は山あり谷ありで、どれほど熱心に信仰行に励んでいても、思いがけぬ苦しみや悲しみに見舞われることがあるものだ。「これだけ一生懸命やっているのに、なぜ？」といいたいくなるのが人間だが、そんなとき、「それでも、今日も生命を与えられ生かされている」「今も心臓は規則正しくはたらくてくれている」と気づくならば、苦しみや悲しみは消えないかもしれないが、からだの底から生きる勇気と力が湧き上がってくるのではないだろうか。それが、信仰の力というものである。人間は常に、自分の都合を中心にしてものごとを考え、都合よくいけば喜び、思い通りにならないと悲しんだり苦しんだりするものである。しかし、そんな「人間のモノサシ」を超えたところで、われわれは今日もこうして多くのおかげをいただき、無事に生かされているのである。生命の地盤への感謝さえ忘れなければ、われわれは、たとえどんな苦難に遭遇しようとも、それを乗り越えて生き切っていく力を与えられるであろう。

米国研修 感想文

人の目を気にせず堂々としている
アメリカの人たちに刺激を受けました

解脱会出版教学係 佐藤律子



今回、米国研修に出させていただきました佐藤律子です。仕事は解脱会本部の出版教学係でお使いいただいています。主に解脱誌の作成に携わっています。

二週間の研修で感じたことを少しお話させていただきます。

一つは、六地藏バザーに参加させていただいた時に、皆さんの奉仕の姿を見て、年功序列や先生、一般会員の差別なく皆さんそれぞれが出来ることを精一杯行われている姿に驚きました。また奉仕には会員さん以外の方もたくさんお手伝いに来られていて、日本ではあまり見ないことで、素敵だなと感じました。

次に、アメリカの広さや大きさを実感したことです。ヨセミテの大きな一枚岩やグランドキャニオンの雄大な景色は、想像を超えた素晴らしさでした。他にも、道路や部屋の広さ、ジュースや人のサイズまで日本ではあまり見ない大きさと、日本とアメリカの違いを実感しました。

また、日本人は、人の目を気にしてあまり目立つことを嫌がる傾向が強いですが、街中で見かけたアメリカの方々には自分を強く持たれていて、周りと違うことをしていてもあまり気にされていないように感じました。皆さん堂々としていて、それは特に私には足りない部分でした。

今回、アメリカの研修に来て、少し自分の考え方が変わりました。最近の私は、積極的に人と接していませんでした。洋服も明るい色ではなく、黒やグレーなどの暗い色を無意識に選んでいました。今回の研修でもかわいい服はほとんど持って来てはいませんが、一緒に行動してくれていた山田洋子さんや高橋

里美さんから刺激を受けて、だんだんと明るい色の服を着てみようと思えてきて、アメリカ滞在中に明るい色の服を選んで購入していました。それはたぶん、人の目を気にせず堂々としているアメリカの方々から刺激を受けたのと、またフレンドリーで温かい会員の皆さんと触れ合う中で、自然と自分の気持ちが明るくなっていったからだと感じます。日本に帰っても前向きに明るく生活していきたいと思います。

最後に、この研修に参加するにあたり、岸田英山先生のご著書、『波濤を超えて』を読ませていただきました。今まで岸田先生のご活躍は人伝てには聞いてはいましたが、先生の本を読んでこんなにまで日本とアメリカの解脱会に尽くされてこられた方だったんだとはじめて知りました。今回、清田先生と岸田先生が開拓されたサクラメントとロサンゼルス教会に出させていただき、本当に幸せでした。

瀬部先生、山田開教師ご夫妻、岡野開教師をはじめ、たくさんの会員の皆様に温かく迎え入れていただき、とてもうれしかったです。もう少し英語を話せるようになってから、また是非アメリカに來させていたきたいです。ありがとうございました。



自ら積極的に動くことを学びました

御霊地 高橋里美

今回の研修では沢山の経験をさせていただきました。現地の会員さんは皆さんフレンドリーで明るくて、楽しく奉仕をされていました。バザーでは80、90歳のご年配の方や会員ではない



方も奉仕されていて素敵だなと感じました。皆さんの関係が平等で、その時に出来る事を力を合わせて頑張っている姿がすごく良いなと思いました。私もお勝手に実践したいです。

最初コミュニケーションを取るのが不安で、思っている事も言えずに相手から来るのを待っている自分がいました。そんな私に皆さん日本語で話してくれたり、英語でも分かりやすくゆっくり話してくれたり、優しく接して頂き、気づけば不安な気持ちも和らいでいて、少しずつですが自分から話しかけられる様になりました。きっかけを作って頂き、人と人との温かさを感じ、とても嬉しかったです。

この経験で、全ての事において自分から積極的に行動すると、勉強になりました。待っていても何も始まらない、自分で気付いて動く。つまりは自分なんだなと、大切な事を教えて頂きました。

それと、感謝会の山田先生の講話で「目標をしっかり持って強く願う」のお話しが強く心に残りました。今までの私は、気持ちを伝えられなかったり、人に流されたり、自分が無いと思う事が多々ありました。今回の研修で沢山の方と触れ合った中で刺激を頂いて、自分を見つめ直す機会を与えて頂きました。自分の目標(気持ち)を明確に強く持ち、願う気持ちを大切にしてい、これから頑張っていきたいです。

ヨセミテ公園、グランドキャニオン、ラスベガス、日系博物館 etc. 感動的、刺激的な場所に沢山連れてって頂き、瀬部先生、山田開教師ご夫妻、岡野尚也先生、沢山の会員の方に大変お世話になり、1つ1つが大切な思い出になりました。2週間、「本当に貴重な経験をありがとうございました」 PS. またバフェに行きたいです。

掲 示 板

- L A教会から秋季大祭の無料バスが出ます
サクラメント秋季大祭に向けロサンゼルス教会から無料バスが9月1日(土)夜10時に出発します。バス代はジャクソン伊藤さんの寄付です。この機会にご家族、友人をお誘いください。利用希望者は教会のサインシートにご記入ください。

訃 報

- サクラメント教会会員・スティーブン・中谷さん(47歳)におかれましては7月13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 **Tomiko Jean Mizokami**, who celebrated her 100th birthday on July 25 with family members at the L.A. nursing home where she resides. Tomiko and her late husband, **Roy**, joined Gedatsu in the early 1950s, raising their seven children just two doors from the original Gedatsu Church in Los Angeles.

For more than six decades Tomiko worked tirelessly for the church and enthusiastically interpreted for the reverends. Her dedication and service to the church helped spread the Gedatsu teaching, especially among English-speaking members and visitors.

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Gedatsu teens, young adults enjoy Gedatsu Summer Youth Camp



*"My camp experience was very enjoyable."
"I talked to everyone and bonded well."
"Everyone grew closer."
"I had a great time meeting new people."*

These were some of the comments made by teen and young adult campers at the end of the Gedatsu Summer Youth Camp, held over four days in late July at the Sacramento Spiritual Center.

At left, campers, ministers and aides enjoy the rafting experience on the South Fork American River. Standing, from left: James Akashi, Rev. Naoya Okano, Vivian McSwain, Kayla Hirayama, Carolann Hirayama, Kady Hirayama, Courtney Ide, Christopher Ide, Alaric Akashi, Janet Hirayama. Front row, Rev. Yamada, Pauline Tomita.

See more photos and article on page 4.