

# GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA  
www.gedatsu-usa.org

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Gedatsu Kongo's  
Thought for the Month

*"God divided us into many  
different types so that we could  
help each other."*

Our world is full of diversity.  
A variety of plants and animals live on  
the earth. Many people inhabit this  
world, but we are all different in  
appearance, character, intelligence . .  
. everything.

Regardless of differences in  
races and cultures, we all breathe the  
air, drink water and eat food to live in  
the same way. Warm blood circulates  
throughout our bodies in the same  
way. What a wonder.

Diversity is a sign of life. We  
are all different because we are alive.  
Our differences allow us to help each  
other and learn from each other.

Let us respect others and  
learn from them. This is the path  
toward our mutual growth and world  
peace.

## APRIL 2020

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	5	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service Clean-up for Spring Grand Festival
Sat	11	9:00 am	Preparation for Spring Grand Festival
Sun	12	9:00 am	141st Service (Note earlier time)
Sun	19	1:00 pm	Regional Board Meeting
Sun	26	10:00 am	Church Closed (in lieu of Memorial Day)

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	5	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	12	9:00 am	Spring Grand Festival (Sacramento)
Sun	19	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English)
Sun	26	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service "Brunch with Youth" / L.A. Regional Board Mtg.

## MAY 2020

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	3	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sat	10	9:30 am	Appreciation Service Mother's Day Service
Sun	17	1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	24	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / Plaque Burning Service Regional Board Meeting
Mon	25	9:00 am	Inter-religious Memorial Day Service ( <i>Nikkei</i> Pioneer Monument, Odd Fellows Cemetery)
Tue	26		Church Closed (in lieu of Memorial Day)

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	3	10:00 am	Japanese <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	10	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	17	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English) Mother's Day Service
Sun	24	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service "Brunch with Youth" / L.A. Regional Board Mtg.
Tue	26		Church Closed (in lieu of Memorial Day)



### April "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.

The Sacramento Spiritual Center will hold its "Never Forgotten" Memorial Service on **Sunday, April 5, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Norma Tellez, Natsuko Nakatani, Masashi Russell Ota, Arthur Ota, Susumu Suyeyasu, Henry T. Ota, Tomu Ben Tsuboi, Sally Yukiko Ota, Ota Suzuki, Katherine Ota, and Takahashi.**

The L.A. Church will hold its "Never Forgotten" Memorial Service on **Sunday, April 5, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **John Macias Castillo, Maria Lechuga Covos, Sameko Hamaoka, Ted Tadashi Hayashi, Kazuye Ito, Will Karger, Fumiko Kawamura, Karen Mineko Kawamura, William Masami Kawamura, Yoshimi Richard Kikuchi, Masaichi Richard Kikuta, Mokubei Kumashiro, Shikazo Kumashiro, Thomas Mahoney, Matsuko Yamashita Miyasako, Clifton Mizokami, Kinryo Mizuki, Haruko Nagura, Yoshinobu Nakamura, Osamu Naruko, Harry Odama, Otomatsu Odama, Tomoyo Ogura, Akiko Okazaki, Emiko Okimura, Helen Shiroishi, Hidemi Pat Shiroishi, Dayna Slotnik, Tsutako Sherrie Takimoto, Bobby Kiyoshi Tanji, Shigeno Tomita, Henry Tsujimura, Joseph Harold Wessman, Jr., Tsuyoshi Yamashita, Enes S. Sarvello Zeto.**

### Hawaii Church Welcomes Visiting Minister

The Gedatsu Church of Hawaii, which has been without a minister since last fall, welcomes **Rev. Youichi Tanabe** and his wife, **Toshie**, from *Gedatsu-kai* Japan. Rev. Tanabe, a veteran traveling minister throughout Japan, is serving a three-month term at the Honolulu church from March 3 through May 29.

### Obituary

Members of the Sacramento Spiritual Center mourn the loss of member **Roy Akio Nakatani**, who passed away on February 19, 2020, at the age of 88. Roy is survived by his wife, **Ritsuko**, and their children, **Tom Nakatani** and **Debra Sells**.



### Spring Grand Festival – Sunday, April 12 at 9 a.m. Earlier Start Time, Free Lunch

The Spring Grand Festival will be held at the Sacramento Spiritual Center on Sunday, April 12. The festival will begin at an earlier start time of 9 a.m. and that long-distance travel from the Sacramento area to Southern California will be easier. In addition, a free lunch will be served at the conclusion of the Festival.

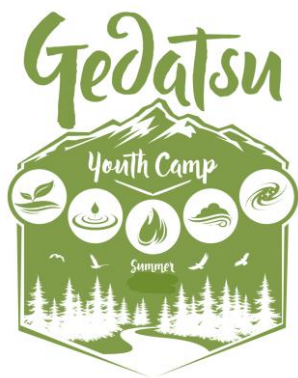
A chartered bus from Los Angeles will leave the L.A. Church at 10 p.m. on Saturday night, April 11. Both the bus ride and luncheon are free of charge, through the generosity of **Senior Deacon Jackson Ito**.

### Okano Family Returns to L.A. Church as Permanent U.S. Residents

The **Okano family** – **Rev. Naoya, Yuko** and their children, **Ryunosuke** and **Nanami** – returned to the U.S. in February and were warmly welcomed back by L.A. Church members. After an 8-month wait in Japan, the Okanos were issued green cards by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, allowing them to reside in the U.S. as permanent residents.

We are grateful to the ministers, staff, board members and congregation for managing and coordinating the services, programs and operations of the L.A. and Sacramento churches during the Okanos absence.





### Gedatsu Summer Youth Camp 2020 Thursday, July 23, to Sunday, July 26

*If you have teenage children, grandchildren, nieces and/or nephews, urge them to participate in the Gedatsu Summer Youth Camp. Let them experience a wonderful opportunity to meet and bond with other Gedatsu youth, as they enjoy activities and deepen their faith together.*

Gedatsu Summer Youth Camp will be held over four days – from Thursday through Sunday, July 23-26 – based at the Sacramento Spiritual Center.

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

The camp is free for participants. The church will provide all meals, transportation to outings, and sleeping /shower accommodations. Youths provide their own sleeping bags. All activities will be under the supervision of church leaders and youth counselors.

Further details will be announced at the Spring Festival, at Sunday services and in future *Companion* issues.

Questions can be directed to **Pauline Tomita** at [patomita58@gmail.com](mailto:patomita58@gmail.com).

### Redesigned, Guest-friendly Website Promotes, Enhances “Gedatsu Brand”

Our Gedatsu website has been updated with an inviting new look and feel to appeal to today's internet users and with a host of guest-friendly features that make the site informative, easy to navigate and compatible with a variety of mobile devices.



Our new site also has been optimized with dynamic features that make it easier for users to find our site, analytics to provide us with valuable insights about traffic performance and user details, and greater security aspects throughout the site.

Screens contain stunning images of our facilities, members and activities, as well as clear explanations about our core beliefs and practices, church history, events, ministry, services, member benefits and more. In all, the dynamic new website promotes a compelling and consistent image of our “Gedatsu brand.”

We encourage you to experience our new site. Visit [www.gedatsu-usa.org](http://www.gedatsu-usa.org).

[Many thanks to our website team, led by **Joyce Reid**: **Cookie Barthel**, **Jason Detwiler**, **Rev. Naoya Okano**, **Joy Sebe**, **Rev. Hisakazu Taki**, **Pauline Tomita** and **Hisato Tsujimura**. Special thanks to **Jason** and **Jeffrey Mukai**, who developed our original website in 2012.]

### **“Welcome to Gedatsu”**

**By Rev. Hisakazu Taki**

#### Chapter 10:

#### Gedatsu, a Religious Study through Daily Life

### **We Are the Continuation of Ancestors**

Gedatsu Kongo established Gedatsu as a religious study that should be learned through one's daily life. Neither harsh training nor learning abstract theology is required to master the teaching. Master Gedatsu Kongo always said, “Religion should be studied and practiced in our daily life.” He strongly believed that this should be a genuine religious study for everyone.

Our Founder valued “home” as the base of our Gedatsu study, stating: *“Home is not only the place where parents and children live together, it is where lives connect ancestors to descendants. Our present life connects the past to the future. We should learn from our ancestors’ footsteps, develop their spirits, and pass them down to our descendants. This is why it is shameful to disgrace the family name. The home should be valued.”*

He further stated: *“People who decry societies’ degeneration in the world have biased and prejudiced visions. Who made the world, nation, society and family?”*

*“The family is truly a small society. A family is made up of husband and wife. A group of families form a society and, in turn, a nation.*

*“Today’s society is a group of people born to couples, who lack proper understanding. Realize that couples shaped these people, this society. I ask you to reform the family and society. People, who are only looking at the deterioration of society, are looking in the wrong direction. They should look into themselves first.”*

This is Master Gedatsu Kongo’s fundamental view on reforming society and attaining world peace. Thus, he said, “You are the world.” The degeneration of society was caused by our incorrect attitude. We should first self-reflect, then reform ourselves and our families. These are the basic steps we should take toward world peace. This is why Gedatsu as a religious study through our daily life is very important.

No one was born from nothing. Every one of us was born from parents and ancestors. We are the continuation of generations of ancestors. Our life will also continue to our descendants. We are responsible to pass on the ancestors’ spiritual and physical legacy for future generations. This understanding is important for our happiness and prosperity.

Actually, very few people in modern society have this understanding. Instead of scrutinizing themselves, many blame others and criticize society. Gedatsu Kongo said that this attitude is the cause of suffering and confusion in the current world.

It may be hard for us to become aware of our selfishness. This is because we are the physical and spiritual continuation of generations of ancestors. Therefore, Gedatsu Kongo stressed the importance of self-reflection and self-understanding. Gedatsu is the path of self-reflection through our everyday life.

### **Home, the Base of Gedatsu Study**

Home is the base of human existence. It is where our life continues from ancestors to descendants. Our existence connects ancestors’ lives with future generations. We are, so to speak, the “relay runner of life” from the past to the future. We are responsible to inherit ancestors’ spiritual heritage and develop it for future generations.

Gedatsu Kongo stated: *“Home is where we learn basic human morality. Our character is cultivated through family life. Children learn love and sincerity through their life with parents. Therefore, home is the base to cultivate all the human virtues.”*

*(Continued on page 5)*

In a word, home is the palace where we live our daily life, where we raise children, and where love, morality and religious faith are cultivated within us. This is why Gedatsu Kongo stressed the importance of our everyday family life.

We experience various events through everyday life: conflicts between husband and wife or between parents and children, health or financial problems of the family members, or happy events of the family. We experience joy and sorrow through our family life. Through experiencing these various events in our daily life, our spiritual richness is cultivated, and we can grow as a person.



Husband and wife are the smallest unit of a family. A man and a woman who have different backgrounds meet together and create a family. Having children, their family life becomes enriched materially and spiritually. Many events in life happen through our family life, or relations between husband and wife, or parents and children. Through these experience in our family life, humanity is cultivated more and more deeply within us.

It may be great and valuable to cultivate our character and spirituality by learning abstract theology and practicing harsh training in deep mountains. But, as long as we are humans, nothing is more valuable than love and affection between husband and wife, and between parents and children.

This is why Master Gedatsu Kongo stressed the importance of our family life and established Gedatsu as a religious study through daily life.

Gedatsu Kongo stated: *“Home is the place of refreshment and comfort, the place to recover ourselves. Home should be the shrine of peace and harmony.”*

*“Parents love their children. Children love and respect their parents. Husband and wife love and respect each other. This is the Gedatsu life.”*

### **Gedatsu Should be Studied and Practiced in Daily Life**

While Gedatsu Kongo established Gedatsu for everyone’s happiness, we should remember that he earnestly desired to render service to the country. He believed that Gedatsu is the path to contribute to the country and world peace through our daily activities. And he stressed the importance of our “home” as the base to practice this path.

Gedatsu Kongo stated: *“Home is the foundation stone of the country. When the family prospers, the country is strengthened.”*

Our world consists of many countries. Our country is responsible to contribute to the peace and prosperity of the world. Each one of us comprise this country. We were raised by parents through our family life. This is why Gedatsu Kongo urged us to build our family and country through Gedatsu.

Gedatsu Kongo stated: *“Home should be the shrine to study and practice Gedatsu. Gedatsu should be practiced from morning till evening every day. Home should be the place of spiritual comfort, and the place to recover ourselves. Thus, home is the foundation of human life. Therefore, it is important to practice Gedatsu through our everyday life.”*

At the time when Gedatsu Kongo established Gedatsu, there were already various religions throughout Japan and the world. All religious theories and doctrines were thoroughly studied at that time. Why did Gedatsu Kongo establish Gedatsu under those circumstances?

Gedatsu Kongo felt unsatisfied with religions in his time. He keenly felt that genuine religion was not actually practiced in people’s everyday life. Most people believed that religion is in churches or temples,

*(Continued on back page)*

### How to Live According to the Universal Will

Sermon by **Bishop Teruo Okano**  
Los Angeles Church – Sunday, March 15, 2020

Hello, everyone. I am so happy to see you again. Today, I would like to talk about how our life experiences can become the source of creating joy, hope and peace of mind in our lives.

Our universe is governed by a divine will. We may call it “Universal Will,” “God’s Will” or “Law of Nature.” This Universal Will governs all things: humans, animals and plants, as well as all phenomena in Nature. In truth, the movement of the Universal Will exists in every corner of our God-created universe.

Great historical figures, successful individuals in modern times, and common individuals whose lives are filled with happiness – their lives conform to the Universal Will. Conversely, those who materially prosper through malicious behavior find that their success is only temporary. Ultimately, their prosperity wanes, and their names are forgotten in history.

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***“. . . when we live our lives in tune with the Universal Will, the divine Law of Nature responds accordingly.”***

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This shows us that when we live our lives in tune with the Universal Will, the divine Law of Nature responds accordingly. The universe never ignores our sincere and earnest effort. Those who energetically and cheerfully put forth their best effort every day will be blessed with a happy future and rich-minded life.

However, if our thoughts and actions are counter to the Universal Will, we will encounter hardships, and our lives will be full of complaints and dissatisfaction.

We must always be aware of God in our lives and realize that living in accord with the Universal Will is essential to our happiness.

How, then, should we think or behave to conform to the Universal Will?

There are many ways, such as: Having a positive, agreeable and constructive attitude. Being good, kind and cooperative. Being earnest, honest, humble and unselfish. Sparing no effort and having an appreciative mind.

No doubt, there are many more answers, but “love,” “goodness” and “sincerity,” which are preached by world religions, are certainly the kinds of thoughts and behaviors that conform to the Universal Will and should guide our lives.

Our way of thinking and our behavior today are based on the values that we developed through our life experiences from the time we were born – from our parents, family background, society and friends. Everything we have experienced around us, consciously or unconsciously, have been planted in our subconscious minds. Our thoughts and behaviors continually draw from this subconscious source.

Our lives today are the product of all these collective circumstances, ways of thinking, values and experiences. Therefore, if we examine ourselves and find that we are truly happy, it means that we have driven on the path that was destined for true happiness.

On the other hand, if we feel unhappy and disappointed, we have been driving on the path that was destined for unhappiness. We must get out of that car and off that path immediately.

Even though we earnestly try to live our lives in a good and positive manner, things may still not work out as we hope and expect. We may become suspicious and dissatisfied or tormented by negative feelings. This is because our thoughts and behaviors are strongly influenced by the elements in our subconscious mind, which may have even greater control over our thoughts than our conscious mind.

Because our subconscious mind consists of hereditary factors from our ancestors, it is difficult to eliminate its influences. That is why Gedatsu practices such as *Hiho* meditation, *Goho* practice and *Amacha* blessing are so important. Through these practices, we purify our minds and thoughts, including our subconscious. This allows us to reach spiritual awakening, enabling us to live lives full of joy, hope and peace of mind.

So, let us stay focused on practicing the Gedatsu teaching and living our lives according to the divine Universal Will.



### The Sanctity of Our Holy Grounds – Goreichi as Symbol of Universal Laws – Part 3

By Archbishop Eizan Kishida

*In 1979, the late Archbishop Eizan Kishida wrote a series of articles on the unique spiritual qualities of the Goreichi Holy Grounds of the Gedatsu Spiritual Center in Sacramento, California.*

*The first two articles (published in the February and March 2020 issues) dealt with the spiritual power of the site through the enshrinement of the Universal Life Force. The following article explains the purpose and efficacy of the guardian spirits that are enshrined on the Holy Grounds.*

When you walk onto the *Goreichi* Holy Grounds, bear in mind that the Universal Life Force gives life to all beings and is the spirit of all existing things. With this feeling, you realize that all things existing in this universe have a vital link to one another. Whatever their form – humans, birds, animals, insects, plants, trees and weeds – all have their lives given from the Universal Life Force. If you have an understanding of this, you have some idea of the significance of the Holy Grounds.

This is merely a general interpretation of the phenomenon of the greatness of the Universal Life Force. The true significance of the Holy Grounds can be felt by fully realizing and appreciating its spiritual powers in action. You may wonder where such power is manifested. The embodiment of this power is in the various guardian spirits enshrined on the grounds.

#### Fudo Guardian



The *Fudo* guardian is enshrined as the principal object of reverence in the *Saito Goma* Fire Ceremony, which is performed during our Spring and Fall Festivals.

The *Fudo* guardian is a sacred symbol of power – referring not only to its strength, but an all-encompassing power that is latent within the great Universal Life Force. It represents God's power of great mercy and compassion, which seeks to save all beings by overcoming obstructions. No human strength can compare with this mighty power.

During the course of one's life, disputes may arise from egotistic illusions. Grudges and jealousies may result from sexual anguish. All these are useless and wasteful uses of energy in life. Nonetheless, many people suffer from these mental struggles.

In those moments of mental turmoil, if you were to sincerely and wholeheartedly invoke the aid of the *Fudo* guardian and deeply self-reflect, you would find yourself invigorated in mind and body as if an electric current were being transmitted through you. Finally, you would be able to liberate yourself from your suffering – not only at the time of the *Saito Goma* Fire Ceremony, but at any time that you fervently prayed to the *Fudo* guardian. You can avoid sudden unforeseen negative occurrences in your daily life through the aid of the *Fudo* guardian.

#### Rokujizo Guardian



The *Jizo* guardian is enshrined and revered as a savior of the transmigration of one's soul in the six lower planes of earthly existence. The *Rokujizo* (meaning six *Jizos*) renders salvation to humankind wandering in these six lower realms of existence.

*(Continued on page 8)*

The six planes of earthly existence indicate six different categories of life's difficulties, but do not mean that human life is predetermined to follow a certain pattern.

Among earthly living beings, the most intelligent are human beings. This human intelligence creates all kinds of suffering, such as attachments, grudges, jealousies and disputes caused by greed. These sufferings create negative activity within the different planes of existence in life, which mirror the realms of existence in the spirit world. Thus, the *Rokujizo* renders guidance and salvation in both the physical and spiritual realms.

The *Rokujizo* guardian teaches that humans will find happiness only when they patiently endure whatever affliction they may experience and awaken to their own worth. For this reason, the *Rokujizo* indicates the duties of humankind according to the gestures and the objects carried by each of the six *Jizo* statue.

Under any kind of weather condition – whether hot or cold, rainy or windy – the *Rokujizo* is always exposed to the elements, without a roof over its head. This symbolizes the guardian's dedication and steadfast duty to provide aid. It symbolizes its benevolence to perform the work for the Universal Life Force.

### Water Guardians



In the interior of the *Goreichi* Holy Grounds is a pond. In the middle of that pond is an island, on which the water guardian spirits – *Ryujin*, *Suirejin* and *Benzaiten* – are enshrined. Collectively, these represent the spirit of water that exists and works as one united body within the great Universal Life Force.



The water of both land and sea rises into the sky through the force of *Ryujin* and turns into clouds which cause rain. This rain becomes ground water that gushes forth. The *Benzaiten* is the deity that preserves the vital phenomena of water.

For this reason, at the mouth of a lake or river, where water flows out and is used as a reservoir, exists the spirit of *Benzaiten*. The names *Ryujin*, *Suirejin* and *Benzaiten* originated in India and were brought to Japan via China.

With life-giving moisture, water saturates everything for generations, giving sustenance to all forms of life on earth from trees and plants to birds, animals, fish, insects and human beings. Wherever water is found exists the *Ryujin*, *Suirejin* and *Benzaiten*. Even in America, where until now these deities were never worshipped, these spirits are very much in existence.

The various shrines and monuments on the Holy Grounds are not merely physical structures. They are sacred spiritual symbols and qualities.

Those who pay homage at the *Goreichi* Spiritual Grounds should practice as follows. Express your appreciation for being given life each day at the Universal life Force shrine. To *Fudo*, pray for the ability to awaken and free yourself from illusion. To *Batokanon*, pray for traffic safety. To *Benten-Suijin* (pond area), pledge not to spend money uselessly or to waste water. To *Rokujizo*, pledge to treat all people with equal kindness without personal preference. At the All Souls Monument, pray for harmony and dissolution of discord between friends. And do not forget to pay your respects at the Gedatsu Memorial Tower, where Founder Gedatsu Kongo's soul and the souls of your ancestors are enshrined.

Surrounded by the strong spiritual forces of the Universal Life Force, the *Goreichi* Holy Grounds are far different from an ordinary park. Wonderful feelings of peace and harmony are felt by all those who pay homage there.



## FEBRUARY 2020 OFFERINGS

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**\$5–\$49:** S. Yabut, K. Kitasoe, S. Tanaka, T. Nagao, A. Cool

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

**\$100+:** M/M S. Sekikawa, M/M J. Horner, M. Rodriguez,  
H. Sakamoto (Japan), Rev/M K. Yamada, T. Wakabayashi,  
J. Detwiler/J. Sebe

#### Special Acknowledgment

M/M P. Tateishi Never Forgotten service (\$100)

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**\$5–\$49:** M/M K. Chinen, M/M M. Harada,  
M/M V. Mizokami, M/M L. Muronaka, M. Nakamura,  
A. Okimura, T. Oho, N. Takara, M/M P. Young

**\$50–\$99:** M/M B. Hamamoto, M/M T. Hiram, J. Kaku,  
M/M S. Mukai, M/M M. Murakami, T. Murakami, Y. Oishi,  
T. Nakamura, M/M S. Shalkan, T. Toyama, M/M H. Tsujimura

**\$100+:** M/M F. Barthel, M/M T. Fukushima, M/M M. Ishida,  
T. Ishida, S. Kaku, M. Kimura, M/M K. Kuritani,  
M/M T. Matsumoto, E. Ogawa, M. Okada, M/M N. Okano,  
M/M R. Tsujimura, M/M K. Yamada

**\$200+:** K. Fujii, D. Shiroishi

**\$300+:** M/M R. Allum, *Yuujou Daiko, Gedatsu Kendo Dojo*,  
T. Okimura

**\$600+:** J. Ito

**\$9,000+:** Anonymous donation of 100 shares of NovoCure  
stock for Gedatsu Kongo Appreciation Fund (*Hosankai*).

#### Special Acknowledgment

M. Okada/J. Hirayama *Senjin-shiki* for Kimiko Hirayama (\$100)  
Arlene/Rudy Tsujimura Ancestor blessing (\$100)

Tadao Ishida Never Forgotten: Tadayoshi Ishida (\$100)

Jackson Ito In memory of Nancy Michiyo Ito (\$200)

Kaku/Mahony Families Never Forgotten: Morio Kaku (\$100)

Shu/Dian Mukai Never Forgotten: Karl Tanaka (\$100)

J./A./U. Shiroishi Never Forgotten: Sayo Shiroishi (\$100)

Chinen/Kinjo Families Special appreciation (\$100)

Naoya/Yuko Okano Appreciation for safe return (\$100)

Gwen Hass Session with Rev. Yamada and  
ancestor blessing (\$300)

Irene Kawamura Appreciation for Never Forgotten (\$300)

#### Goreichi Care Fund

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

H. Graham \$100

Rev. A. Sebe \$5,000

## 2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

**Apr 12 (Sun)**

**Spring Grand Festival**

**Cancelled**

May 10 (Sun)

Sacramento Mother's Day Service

May 17 (Sun)

L.A. Mother's Day Service

May 24 (Sun)

Sacramento plaque burning (*Joen-no-gi*)

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) *Rokujizo* Bazaar Sacramento 11 am

Jul 4 (Thu)

Church Closed (Independence Day)

Jul 12 (Sun)

Sacto *Obon* Service/Graduates Honored

Jul 19 (Sun)

L.A. *Obon* Service / Graduates Honored

Jul 23-26 (Thu-Sun) Youth Camp in Sacramento

Aug 1-2 (Sat-Sun) Lake Tahoe *Benzaiten* Service (TBD)

Aug 16 (Sun) L.A. *Benzaiten* Service

**Sep 6 (Sun)**

**142<sup>nd</sup> Fall Grand Festival 9:00 am**

Sep 8 (Tue)

Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day)

Sep 13 (Sun)

Hawaii Church 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Sep 20 (Sun)

L.A. *Higan* Service

Sep 27 (Sun)

Sacramento *Higan* Service

Oct 3-4 (Sat-Sun) L.A. Autumn Moon Festival

Oct 13 (Tue)

Church Closed (in lieu of Columbus Day)

Oct 18 (Sun)

L.A. *Ujigami* Service

Oct 25 (Sun)

Sacramento All Souls Service

Nov 1 (Sun)

L.A. Gedatsu Kongo Service

Nov 8 (Sun)

Sacramento Gedatsu Kongo Service

Nov 15 (Sun)

L.A. 7-5-3 Children's Celebration

Nov 22 (Sun)

Sac'to 7-5-3- Children's Celebration/  
Gedatsu Kongo Birthday

Nov 26-27

Church Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)

Dec 6 (Sun)

L.A. Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service

Dec 12 (Sat)

L.A. Church Clean-up

Dec 13 (Sun)

Sacramento Last Service of Year /  
Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service

Dec 20 (Sun)

L.A. Last Service / Christmas Program

Dec 24-31

Church Closed

#### 4 月度 教会行事予定

##### ロサンゼルス教会

5 日 (月)	10:00A	祥月追善法要
11 日 (日)	9:00P	大祭バス出発
12 日 (月)		春季大祭 (サクラメント)
19 日 (日)		日英感謝会
26 日 (日)		感謝会
		ナショナル委員会
		イズ・ユース

##### サクラメント教会

5 日 (日)	10:00A	祥月追善法要
11 日 (土)	9:00A	大祭前日奉告祭
12 日 (日)	9:00A	141 回 春季大祭
		柴燈護摩供法要
19 日 (日)	1:00P	サンノゼ感謝会
26 日 (日)	9:30A	感謝会・リージョナル委員会

中止になりました。



#### 4 月度 みさとし

「神が人間を多数に分けたのは、互いに援け合うための心使いである」

この世界は多様性に満ちている。地球上には多種多様な生きものが生息しており、同じ人間といっても、髪や肌の色も、顔かたちも、みんな異なっている。しかし同時に、われわれはみんな、同じ空気を吸い、水を飲んで生きているのである。そしてその体内には、みんな同じように、温かく真っ赤な血が巡っている。なんと不思議なことだろう。多様性は生きている証拠なのだ。みんなさまざまに異なっているからこそ、異なった者同士が助け合い、ゆたかな社会を築いていくことができるのである。ケチな根性なんかキッパリ捨て去ろう。そして、自分と異なった相手を尊重し、相手から自分にないものを学ぶのだ。そこに、自己成長と共存共栄の世界をひらく鍵がある。

#### 講 話

#### ロサンゼルス教会

##### 神の意志にかなう生き方を

米国総長 岡野 英夫

**自**分の人生に起こる様々な事柄が、常に安心と喜びと希望を抱けるようなものにする方法についてお話いたします。

宇宙には、意志があります。その意志を宇宙の創造主である神の心、大自然の真理法則と呼びます。

私たち人間も一切の動植物にも、さらには、大自然の運行も現象の奥にも、神の意志が存在します。神によって創造された宇宙の隅々に神の意志の遍満しない理由はありません。

歴史上の偉人も近現代の成功者も、幸せな人生を謳歌する人々も、その神の意志にかなう人生を歩んできた人ばかりなのです。もちろん悪意がありながらも才覚によって成功された人もいますが、その人たちの成功は一時的なもので、決して長続きしませんし歴史に名を遺すこともありません。

**人**間として正しいことをすれば、宇宙は必ず応えてくれます。誠実な努力とひたむきな決意を

決して無視は致しません。常に明るさを失わず努力する人には、神はちゃんと未来を準備してくれます。神の意志にかなう生き方をすれば幸せで豊かな人生を歩むことができます。

反対にそうした神の意志に反したり背いたりする思いを持ち行動すれば、苦痛と困難を伴う人生を不平不満の気持ちで過ごすことになってしまいます。常に神を意識し、神と共に生きることが幸せになる絶対の要件なのです。

**そ**れでは神の意志にかなう思考や行動とは、

どんなものでしょうか。

常に前向きで肯定的で建設的であること。善意に満ちていて、思いやりがあり優しく協調性に富んでいること。真面目で正直で謙虚であること。努力を惜しまず利己的でなく感謝の心を持っていること。その他にも沢山あげられると思いますが、世界の宗教や人生の指南書などに書かれている愛や善念、誠

心がすべて神の意志にかなう思考であり行動であるといえます。

### 潜在意識を浄めること

**私**たちは、生まれてから現在に至るまで、両親や家庭環境、地域社会や交友関係など様々な自己を取り巻く環境によって自然に身につけてきた価値観や感性によって、考え方や行動の仕方、判断の基準などが決められます。自分を取り巻く環境から意識的に学んだことや意識しないでも習慣化して身についた事柄が、潜在意識の中に植え付けられ、その潜在意識によって、思考や感情が決定され左右されるようになってきます。

そうした思考や感情によって自分の人生が形づくられ現実化してきていますので、もし今が幸せなら、幸せな世界に向かう車に乗って自分の人生という道路を進んできたということです。反対に、もし今が辛く悲しい不幸な状態であるならば、不幸に向かって進む車に乗ってしまっているということです。ですので今すぐに下車しなければなりません。

**そ**れらは、潜在意識に刷り込まれたものです。ですので、自分自身が善い行いをしようと意識して行動しても、思い通りにならず疑心暗鬼になったり、否定的になったり、不平不満な気持ちに苛まれてしまうのです。潜在意識のほうのはるかに大きな思考のエネルギーを持っているからです。

先祖からの遺伝的な要素を含めて自己の思いが潜在意識になっているので、その潜在意識を外すことは大変難しいことです。

**そ**れ故に秘法メディテーションや御五法修業、先祖供養などが大切な信仰行となります。

潜在意識を含めた自己の心を浄めることに努め、自己の魂を覚醒することができれば、必ず安心と喜びと希望に満ちた人生を歩むことができますようになります。うまず弛まず努力させていただきましょう。皆様のお幸せを心から祈念いたします。

### 掲 示 板

- **大祭の開始時刻が早くなりました**

解脱教会は、4月12日日曜日にサクラメント・ロサンゼルスセンターで開催されますが、長距離移動のために、開始時間が午前9時から、午前10時に変更されました。今春季大祭には、岡野尚也部長が出席されます。4月13日に入国。13日にLAから帰国。

- **大祭のランチは無料になります**

解脱教会は、無料のビュッフェ式ランチが提供されます。中止になりました。

- **ロサンゼルスからLAについて**

解脱教会は、4月11日(土)午後5時にLA教会を出発します。ジャック・ニコルソン(アディーコン)の奉納により、バスに昼食は無料です。中止になりました。

- **サマー・ユース・キャンプ2020について**

解脱教会は、夏休み中の7月23日(木)～26日(日)の3泊4日、サクラメント教会で12歳から20代の青少年を対象に「サマー・ユース・キャンプ」を開催します。アメリカン・リバーのラフティングなど楽しい活動と、岡野尚也開教師をはじめ、若いスタッフたちによる若者に焦点を合わせた解脱の勉強がなされるなど、解脱の友との絆や信仰を深める機会を提供します。参加者は寝袋を持参してください。

参加費は無料で交通費の助成もあります。ぜひ、お子さんたちの参加をご奨励ください。詳細は、ポーリン・富田さんまで直接連絡ください。メールアドレス: patomita58@gmail.com

### 訃 報

- サクラメント教会会員、中谷・ロイ・アキオさん(88歳)におかれましては、2020年2月19日、ご逝去されました。ここに謹んで哀悼の意を表します。



The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for members like **Senior Deacon Jackson Ito**, who has studied Gedatsu since he was 10 years old. Following the advice of **Bishop Kishida**, he integrated his study of both the physical world and science at Caltech with religious and spiritual study through Gedatsu.

Since his retirement from his preeminent career as a rocket scientist, Jackson is concentrating his efforts to lead fellow members toward spiritual enlightenment.

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***(Daily Life – Continued from page 5)***

and that religion has nothing to do with their daily life. Gedatsu Kongo respected priests and monks, but he aimed to establish a religious study for everyone to practice through their daily life. He strongly believed that this should be the genuine religion.

Gedatsu Kongo stated: *“Gedatsu may be treated like an amateur religion by professional priests. But how much sincere courage and power do they have to make the best of religious truth? My heart’s desire is to rebuild all the families in the world with Gedatsu.”*

Gedatsu Kongo believed that it is the foundation of our happiness and prosperity to respect and thank God and ancestors for their blessings.

In our Gedatsu prayer, we say, *“I shall reciprocate the profound and immeasurable blessings I receive from my country . . . my parents . . . my teachers . . . society . . . and all creation in the universe.”*

When we live each day with this spirit and do our best through our daily duties, we can enjoy happiness. At the same time, we can contribute to our country and work toward world peace.

This is the path of Gedatsu. We should be fully aware of this great dream of Gedatsu that our founder, Gedatsu Kongo, possessed.

*(Next issue: Respect Tradition and Live Creatively)*

