



# GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA  
www.gedatsu-usa.org

## MARCH 2020

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Gedatsu Kongo's  
Thought for the Month

*"The parent-child affection  
comes from the natural bond  
between them."*

No one is without parents. Even those who may have been orphaned in infancy were born from two parents. And no matter how terrible your parents may be, you cannot deny that they gave you birth.

Mutual love between parent and child is conditional. But even when you do not have a good relationship with your parents, think deeply about the fact that you exist because of them. Gradually, as you feel grateful to be alive, your relationship with your parents will be restored.

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	1	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	8	9:30 am	Appreciation Service
Sun	22	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / <i>Higan</i> Service
			Regional Board Meeting
Sun	29		Church Closed

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	1	10:00 am	Japanese <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	8	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Fri	13	10:00 am	Propagation Meeting
Sat	14	10:00 am	Board of Directors Meeting
Sun	15	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English) <i>Higan</i> Service
Sun	22	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service / "Brunch with Youth" / L.A. Regional Board Mtg.
Sun	29		Church Closed

## APRIL 2020

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	5	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
			Clean-up for Spring Grand Festival
Sat	11	9:30 am	Preparation for Spring Grand Festival
Sun	12	9:00 am	<b>141st Spring Grand Festival (Note earlier time)</b> <i>Saito Goma</i> Fire Ceremony
Sun	19	1:00 am	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	26	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / Regional Board Meeting

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	5	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	12		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.



### March “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, March 1, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **John Chin, Kumagoro Takagi, Sumiko Sebe, Takeo Sekikawa, Eleanor Ikesaki, Fred Shigeru Tanaka, Muneo John Hatae, Rin Ide, Kotsuru Noritake, Mary Mitsue Tsuboi, Toyota Kino, Tamimasa Tsuboi** and **Richard Shinichiro Kitasoe**.

The L.A. Church will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, March 8, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Meiko Arakawa, Vincent Giroux, Ayako Hamamoto, Shikazo Hamaoka, Ernest Hirayama, Naoe Kimura, Lily Yuriko Kuritani, Bill Long, Norma Long, Jean Emiko Matsune, Hisano Miyashita, Tomiko Mizokami, Masao Mori, Shigeru Nakamura, Hiroshi Nakatani, Tong Hon Nghe, Masao John Onishi, Antonio Palumbo, Giulia Palumbo, Joe L. Sanchez, Joseph Sanchez Jr., Terry Fumio Shiroishi, Shigeru Fred Tanaka, Tokutaro Tsujimura, Yoshio Wakasa** and **Hiromi Whitaker**.

### Minister Schedules

- L.A. Church resident minister, **Rev. Naoya Okano**, and his wife, **Yuko**, have been issued permanent-resident status (green cards) by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. They and their children returned to the U.S. from Japan in February.
- Consequently, **Rev. Kazuo Yamada** and his wife, **Yoko**, return to the Sacramento Spiritual Center.
- Guest minister, **Rev. Hisakau Taki** remains in the U.S. through April. He returns on July 23 and will remain through October 7.
- **Bishop Teruo Okano** will visit the L.A. Church to attend the Propagation and Board of Directors meetings on March 13 and 14. He will attend the L.A. English/Japanese *Higan* Service on Sunday, March 15.
- **Rev. Yasunori Miyasaka**, chief director of Religious affairs from *Gedatsu-kai* Japan, will attend the Spring Festival on April 12. He will be in Sacramento from April 10 and will visit Los Angeles on Monday, April 13, returning to Japan on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

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

The Spring Grand Festival will be held at the Sacramento Spiritual Center on Sunday, April 12, beginning at an earlier start time of 9:00 a.m. to benefit long-distance travelers. A free buffet 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. Through the generosity of **Senior Deacon Jackson Ito**, both the bus ride and luncheon are free of charge.

### Obituary

*Gedatsu-kai* Japan announced the passing of **Tadashi Okano Sensei**, honorary adviser and former chairman, who passed away on January 27 at the age of 88.

As patriarch of the **Okano** family, *Okano Sensei* was the grandson of **Gedatsu Kongo's** older brother, as well as the eldest brother of **Bishop Teruo Okano** and uncle of **Rev. Naoya Okano**. His funeral was held on February 5 at the Okano family home in *Goreichi* in Kitamoto, Japan.



Top photo: U.S. members, (from left) Janice Tomita, Theo O'Leary and Avalon Akashi, enjoy meeting with *Okano Sensei* in October 2018 in Japan. Bottom photo: Funeral services for *Okano Sensei* inside the Okano family home.

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ***Saito Goma* and *Manbu Kuyo* Applications Due**

Please submit your prayer applications for *Saito Goma* and *Manbu Kuyo* services by March 15. The *Manbu Kuyo* service is explained below.

### ***Manbu Kuyo* Service**

Twice a year, as part of the Gedatsu Spring and Fall Grand Festivals in Japan, a memorial rite for spirits is conducted on the *Goreichi* holy grounds. Called *Manbu Kuyo* – literally meaning ten thousand expressions of respect – the ceremony is performed to liberate all spirits from suffering and to transform them into protective spirits who benefit the living.



Members who would like to apply for *Manbu Kuyo* should complete the application form (inserted in this issue) and are urged to consult with one of the ministers, who can explain the significance of the service and various categories on the form.

### **Gedatsu Kongo Appreciation Fund**

The Gedatsu Kongo Appreciation Fund (*Hosankai*) was established to allow members to show their appreciation to Gedatsu Kongo and demonstrate a higher level of commitment and support for the church. Participation in the Fund requires an annual pledge of \$50 per month, or \$600 a year, in addition to the general membership dues.

### 2019 Appreciation Fund Donors

Katsuo/Kazumi Chinen	Minae Okada
Dan/Mary Harada	Tom Okimura
John/Nancy Horner	Paul/Joyce Reid
Dave/Penny Ide	Micaela Rodriguez
Tadao Ishida	Sam/Harriet Sekikawa
Jo Ann Kaku	June Tanaka
Mary Kimura	Sadaye Tanaka
Tetsuya/Sachiyo Matsumoto	Dennis/Judy Tsuboi
Victor/Marian Mizokami	Howard/Carole Tsujimura
Reiko Nakamura	Kazuo/Yoko Yamada

## AROUND OUR CHURCH

### **L.A. Church Members Celebrate Young Adults in Traditional Coming-of-Age Ceremony**



Following the coming-of-age traditions observed by various cultures around the world – and with prayers of appreciation to God and ancestors – the congregation of the L.A. Church celebrated in January the coming of age of **Kimi Hirayama** and **Jonathan Shaklan**, who will each turn 20 years old this year.

Kimi is the daughter of **Janet Hirayama**. Jonathan is the son of **Pam** and **Stuart Shaklan**. The “new adults” were introduced to the congregation, given gift cards and congratuated by fellow members.

The celebration was inspired by the coming-of-age tradition of *Seijin no Hi*, which is observed as a national holiday in Japan, as well as by similar traditions of various other cultures.



Rev. Kazuo Yamada asks God and ancestors “to allow Kimi and Jonathan to practice their faith with purity and sincerity of heart and encourage them to fulfill their mission to serve and benefit others and the world.”

### **“Welcome to Gedatsu”**

By Rev. Hisakazu Taki

#### Chapter 9:

#### Learning from the Heart Sutra – Part 2

### **Doctrine Should Not Be Fixed**

The main concept of the Heart Sutra is “*Emptiness*.” “*Emptiness*” means empty of a separate self. To be empty does not mean non-existent.

Emptiness is the basis of everything. Thanks to emptiness, everything is possible. If we are not empty, we become a block of matter. We cannot breathe, we cannot think. To be empty means to be alive. We cannot be alive if we are not empty.

Emptiness is impermanence, it is change. Without impermanence, nothing is possible. When you have a grain of corn, and you entrust it to the soil, you hope that it will become a tall corn plant. If there is no impermanence, the grain of corn will remain a grain of corn forever, and you will never have an ear of corn to eat. Impermanence is crucial to the life of everything.

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***“Religion should not be fixed. Religion should always lead and move forward with the times.”***

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**Master Gedatsu Kongo** stated the following:

*“Religion should not be fixed. Religion should always lead and move forward with the times. I respect all religions and their doctrines, but I do not consider them as unchangeable truth.*

*“Water goes bad easily unless it flows. Water should be always running. Doctrines should not be fixed. No teachings or scriptures should be considered as rock-ribbed law.*

*“If your religion is not addressing the current society and the times, it is already dead. Modern society demands religion that solves its problems. Can religions truly meet those needs? By sticking to ancient scriptures and doctrines, how can you compete with the modern times?”*

Gedatsu Kongo’s statement – “*Doctrine should not be fixed*” – is the Founder’s basic view on religion.

Because the universe is alive, he believed that we are all alive. Life is flowing like a river. It is not fixed. All religions were originally based on the Universal Truth, fluid and flowing like a river. Over time, however, religions gradually became rigid and dead, losing their original living spirit.

For Gedatsu, like other religions, it is not so easy to keep the original spirit alive. We should continually strive to keep Gedatsu’s original spirit alive as Master Gedatsu Kongo intended.

### **Spirit of Freedom**

*“Bodhisattvas who practice the insight that brings us to the other shore see no more obstacles in their mind, and because there are no more obstacles in their mind, they can overcome all fear, destroy all wrong perceptions and realize Perfect Nirvana.”*

A *bodhisattva*, or *bosatsu* in Japanese, is a person who is on the path toward perfect understanding.

We usually have ideas and concepts concerning birth and death, defilement and immaculateness, increasing and decreasing, above and below, inside and outside, and so on. These concepts are all obstacles that prevent us from seeing things as they are.

When we have the eyes of perfect understanding, these obstacles are removed from our mind and we overcome fear, liberating ourselves forever from illusion, and realizing perfect *Nirvana*, which is the state of non-fear.

*(Continued on page 5)*



Please think about a wave and water. A wave on the ocean has a beginning and an end, a birth and death.

But Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara tells us that the wave is empty. The wave is full of water, but it is empty of a separate self. A wave is a form which has been made possible thanks to the existence of wind and water.

If a wave only sees its form, with its beginning and end, it will be afraid of birth and death. But if the wave sees that it is water, identifies itself with the water, then it will be emancipated from birth and death. Each wave is born and is going to die, but the water is free from birth and death.

We may tend to be swayed by the concepts such as right and wrong, loss and gain, etc., and be out to get what we want. When things do not go as we expected, we get upset. When we have the eyes of Perfect Understanding, we will be free from sufferings.

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***“It is very important to be free from fixed ideas. We should be free from narrow-mindedness and fanaticism. This is the message that the Heart Sutra advocates.”***

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Buddha likened his teaching to a raft that ferries people to the other shore across a river. He did not regard his teaching as absolute truth that we should adore or cling to. This is because we should not fall into intolerant fanaticism or dogmatism. No matter what wonderful teachings we learn, when we are fixed on the idea, we won't be able to see things as they are.

In world history, we see many examples where rigid ideologies caused cruel tragedies, such as violence, genocides and wars. Pondering on these experiences, we see that it is very important to be free from fixed ideas. We should be free from narrow-mindedness and fanaticism. This is the message that the Heart Sutra advocates.

### **Love and Sincerity**

*“Therefore Sariputra, it should be known that the insight that brings us to the other shore is a Great Mantra, the most illuminating*

*mantra, the highest mantra, a mantra beyond compare, the True Wisdom that has the power to put an end to all kinds of suffering. Therefore, let us proclaim a mantra to praise the insight that brings us to the other shore. Gate, Gate, Paragate, Parasamgate, Bodhi Svaha!”*

This is the last paragraph of the Heart Sutra. A mantra is something that you utter when your body, your mind, and your breath are at one in deep concentration.

Looking deeply into the five skandas, Avalokiteshvara saw the interconnectivity of all things and overcame all pain. He became completely liberated. It was in that state of deep concentration, of joy, of liberation, that he uttered something important. That is why his utterance is a mantra.

Avalokiteshvara's mantra is *“Gate, Gate, Paragate, Parasamgate, Bodhi Svaha!”* Gate means gone. Gone from suffering to the liberation of suffering. Gone from forgetfulness to mindfulness. Gone from duality into non-duality. Gate, Gate means gone, gone. Paragate means gone all the way to the other shore. So, this mantra is said in a very strong way. Gone, gone, gone all the way over. In *Parasamgate*, sam means everyone, the entire community of beings. Everyone gone over to the other shore. Bodhi is the light inside, enlightenment, or awakening. You see it and the vision of reality liberates you.

And Svaha is a cry of joy or excitement, like “Welcome!” or “Hallelujah!” *“Gone, gone, gone all the way over, everyone gone to the other shore, enlightenment, Svaha!”*

If you say the mantra with all your being, the mantra will have power and you will be able to have real communication with Avalokiteshvara. You will then be able to transform yourself in the direction of enlightenment.

This text is not just for chanting, or to be put on an altar for worship. It is given to us as a tool to work for our liberation, for the liberation of all beings.

*(Continued on back page)*

### The Sanctity of Our Holy Grounds – *Goreichi* as Symbol of Universal Laws – Part 2

By Archbishop Eizan Kishida

#### The Universal Life Force

The Universal Life Force shrine located on the Holy Grounds in America is a small shrine (below, upper photo) and cannot compare to the one erected on the Holy Grounds in Japan (bottom photo), but the significance of their enshrinement is the same.



We may interpret the shrine in Japan to be the main shrine and the one in America to be a branch. To explain this as an analogy, in the field of science, a power plant would be the main shrine, and a sub-station of the power plant would be the branch shrine. If you follow this illustration further, the Universal Life Force enshrined in the home of every Gedatsu member has similar significance. It is like an electric light that is fed electrical power into each family home from the sub-station. Just as electric lights in each home brighten the rooms, and the light emitted from the shrine illuminate the soul and mind.

After a day's work is done and when a family engages in pleasant conversation, if the room is lit, the feelings of family members also brighten. For this reason, if you have the Universal Life Force enshrined in your home, your home will become filled with cheerfulness and bright feelings. The reason why this happens can be fully comprehended when you understand the significance of the Universal Life Force.

The Universal Life Force is the source of life, which permeates the great universe. Our so-called "great universe" is composed not only of our earthly world, but also includes the constellations glittering in the sky. Further, the vast sphere of our solar system is still an unknown world. I am convinced that eventually there will come a time when we use scientific advancement to discover another world that is similar to ours. At our present stage, we consider the significance of the Universal Life Force from the standpoint of our world and solar system. Therefore, the Universal Life Force mentioned here is referred to as the nucleus of the solar system.

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***"If you have the Universal Life Force enshrined in your home, your home will become filled with cheerfulness and bright feelings."***

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All earthly beings, such as human beings, animals and vegetation, are dependent upon the moon, which is a satellite of the earth, and the earth, which is a planet in the solar system. According to scientific theory, the sun is a burning gaseous body, and the moon is a dead body on which no living things exist. The movement of the sun and the moon brings about on earth the four seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter. During this time, trees and plants blossom and bear fruit, on which living creatures – human beings, birds, animals, insects and fish – feed and maintain their existence.

This life force was never created by anyone but has existed in the universe since the beginning of time. This powerful life force is precisely the spirit of the Universal Life Force. Humans, as well as all other living beings, received this life force and were born into this world. Consequently, we all possess a fundamental commonality with each other.

*(Continued on page 7)*

In this world exist five different races – white, black yellow, brown and red – which have different physical characteristics, but possess the commonality of feelings, such as the feelings of joy and anger, which is the expression of their emotion and mind. One rejoices when one is happy, becomes angry when feeling vexed, cries when saddened and seeks happiness in life – these are common elements of human life, regardless of race or religion.

Intellect, emotion and mind are possessed by everyone who are born in this world and are not something taught by anyone. They are born out of the spirit of the Universal Life Force. Even animals of lower mental capacity are observed to show feelings and possess natural instincts, which is like the life spirit that humans receive from the Universal Life Force.

Compared with human beings, other living creatures, such as birds, animals, insects and fish, certainly do have a lower level intelligence, but when the capability for survival is considered, they seem to possess a far superior perceptive sensitivity than humankind.

For example, a dog has a keen sense of smell and hearing, a horse can intuitively sense oncoming danger, a crow has the power of perception to sense death, and rats and other rodents are capable of protecting themselves from immediate danger. Ant colonies know how to prevent their holes from being flooded by rainwater before rain falls, and bees construct their hives in the lower branches of trees during years of frequent rainstorms.

These perceptive powers of living creatures were never taught to them but are instinctual abilities possessed by them in accordance with their life environments – probably caused by an innate instinct to value their own lives. The reason why all living things have the instinct to value their lives is that they receive their lives from the great Universal Life Force.

Regardless of what kind of living creature it may be, anything born in this world faces the coming of death. Because the world population keeps increasing, it is expected that the world will face a food crisis. However, in the world of birds, animals, insects and fish, there seems to be no immediate ominous prediction of their overpopulation.

The ecology of a wild animal has always been to live with nature as changes occur. Wild animals do not wear clothes, build houses or cook food. They feed on things in their natural forms, and their hides and furs provide protection and warmth so they can cope with cold temperatures. Without being taught by anyone, wild animals instinctively maintain balanced populations. While living creatures live by moving around freely on their own, once trees and plants sprout from the ground, they continue to exist at the same spot until they perish. In due time, trees and plants blossom and emit fragrances. They attract various insects, which act as intermediaries for the purpose of continuing the vegetation's species.

Depending on their type, some plants have wing-like structures attached to their ripened seeds, which help blowing winds carry the seeds to distant places. Some plants have seeds that stick easily to anything with which they come in close contact, often attaching to bodies of roaming animals that enable the seeds to fall and implant themselves in distant areas.

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***“Human’s superficial view of life causes them to think only of their pleasure and to disregard their debt of gratitude to Nature.”***

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Humans utilize their intellect to enjoy their lives, develop better methods of medical treatment to improve their lives and make exhaustive studies on foods and modes of living. And yet human beings as a whole are getting further away from the natural life force and are being driven into tight corners of existence. This is because human's superficial view of life causes them to think only about their pleasure and to disregard their debt of gratitude to Nature. If I may venture to say, this state of mind could probably be called a sin of irreverence.

We are alive within this vast universe that allows all things to exist naturally without their thought or planning. It is only when we stop to realize that within all existing beings – including ourselves, animals, trees and plants – there is a powerful life force that provides for their posterity, do we stop in wonderment. Only then, are we amazed and humbled by the immensity of our debt and gratitude toward the Universal Life Force.

(Next issue: The Sanctity of our Holy Grounds – Our Guardian Spirits)



### Civility Elevates Your Value

Sermon by **Rev. Kazuo Yamada**

Recently, I was awakened anew to the importance of civility in our society and culture.

When I returned to Japan last October, the Rugby World Cup was being held in Japan. Most Americans aren't familiar with the sport, but in Tokyo, there were many rugby fans, who came from all over the world.



Rugby is said to be gentleman's sport. This is evident when the match is over. The game is ruled "no-side, meaning that there is "no side" for winners or losers. The term represents the essence of the game, meaning that players should not forget to behave as gentlemen, even though rugby is a fierce contact sport. This is the height of civility.

Last fall, before returning to the United States, the title of a book at a second-hand bookstore caught my eye: "Civility Is the Strongest Tool," the Japanese title for a foreign work. The original title is "Mastering Civility," written by Dr. Christine Porath, an American business college professor and lecturer.

The book states that civility in modern American society is essential. According to the author, civil behavior is a positive attribute that is (1) valued by others, (2) uplifts society and increases productivity and (3) enhances the quality of one's life.

Individuals who are treated with civility feel inspired and empowered. They, in turn, contribute to creating a culture that values civility and generates greater civility and respect.

Civility facilitates human relationships, creating thriving workplaces where employees are healthier, more resilient and better able to focus on their work.

Therefore, no matter where such persons may go, they will be accepted by the people around them.

That is not the case of uncivil persons. If you have experienced bullying, rudeness or other incivility in school or in the workplace, you know what I mean.

Since returning to the Los Angeles Church, we have been staying on the second-floor apartment of the Kendo Dojo Hall.



It is said that "Kendo begins with a bow and ends with a bow," meaning that this martial art values courtesy and respect above everything.

In the early evening, children who come to Kendo practice greet me like a dear uncle with a respectful "hello." Their simple, polite greeting creates such a refreshing feeling in me, giving me a positive, wonderful impression of the Kendo children. Their show of kindness and respect reinforced what I had read in "Civility is the Strongest Tool."

Gedatsu Kongo also emphasized the importance of civility. For example, he said:

- "Civility is the expression of reverence and is the basis of Gedatsu."
- "Put kindness even into your words. That demonstrates the value of the human being."
- "The heart that respects others shall be respected."
- "Divine blessings are bestowed on those who are mindful of civility and practice it."

A civil person is someone who can control himself or herself appropriately and shows respect to others. That does not mean, however, that we have to bind ourselves in etiquette and manners that unduly restrict our behavior and speech. It simply means being thoughtful of the feelings of others and showing common decency. Acknowledging others with a friendly "good morning," "hello" or "thank you" is often all that is needed.

As Gedatsu students, we practice civility by showing daily respect and appreciation to God and ancestors, as well as to all people and things. Remember, if we are civil and considerate, people will want to be around us. By respecting others, we will be also respected.

If we have difficulties in human relationships or at work, we must try to treat or communicate with others with civility. If we can show civility in our attitude and behavior toward others, we will not only be liked and appreciated by others, but we will also brighten society and enhance the quality of our life.

So, let civility be our guide and elevate our value.





## JANUARY 2020 OFFERINGS

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**\$5–\$49:** J. Yep, J. Arase, S. Tanaka

**\$50–\$99:** M. Fukushima, T./D. Wakabayashi, M/M D. Ide, M/M D. Tsuboi, R. Nakatani

**\$100+:** M/M S. Sekikawa, M/M D. Ide, M/M D. Tsuboi, S. Taketa, J. Tanaka, M/M J. Horner, S. Bush, Akashi family

**\$200+:** J. Ito, *Senkakukan*, A. Sebe

**\$300+:** J. Detwiler/J. Sebe, M/M J. Horner, Uyehara (Japan)

**\$400+:** A. Sebe

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**\$5–\$49:** B. Flores, M/M V. Mizokami, Y. Naruko, A. Okimura, N. Takara

**\$50–\$99:** M/M K. Chinen, M/M M. Hamada, M/M T. Hiram, J. Kaku, M. Kimura, K. Kuritani, Y. Murakami, K. Nagao, T. Nagao, M/M S. Shaklan, M/M A. Shiroishi, F. Sueyoshi, T. Taguchi, T. Toyama, M/M H. Tsujimura, M/M P. Young M/M R. Tsujimura

**\$100+:** M/M F. Barthel, M/M N. Chodor, M/M M. Ishida, M/M T. Fukushima, M/M T. Matsumoto, M/M B. Mizokami, M/M C. Morioka, M/M M. Murakami, M/M L. Muronaka, M. Nakamura, R. Nakamura, T. Nakamura, Y. Oishi, M. Okada, M/M C. Pinedo, De. Shiroishi, J. Shiroishi, M/M G. Wood, M/M K. Yamada, T. Yamada

**\$200+:** M/M R. Allum, K. Fujii, T. Ishida, M/M K. Kuritani, M/M A. Nishino, S. Okimura, Do. Shiroishi

**\$400+:** T. Okimura

**\$500+:** B. Kito, J. Ito, M/M S. Mukai, *Gedatsu Kendo Dojo*

**\$1,000+:** F. Miyamura

### **Special Acknowledgment**

Diana/Shu Mukai    Appreciation for new car (\$100)

Beana Tsujimura    Appreciation for 2019 and 2020 (\$2,000)

Carole/Howard Tsujimura    Appreciation for successful surgery (\$100)

Jeff Mukai    New car offering (\$100)

Mike/Tina Hamada    “Never Forgotten” for Dennis Kochi Toguchi (\$100)

Ikuyo Hiram    Glen Hiram funeral services (\$750)

Tomishi Hiram    Glen’s 49-day service (\$200)

Tetsuya/Sachiyo Matsumoto    Return of old plaques (\$100)

### **Goreichi Care Fund**

H. Graham    \$100

## 2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

**Apr 12 (Sun)    141<sup>st</sup> Spring Grand Festival 9:00 a.m.**

May 10 (Sun)    Sacramento Mother’s Day Service

May 17 (Sun)    L.A. Mother’s Day Service

May 24 (Sun)    Sacramento plaque burning (*Joan-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

### 3 月度 教会行事予定

#### ロサンゼルス教会

1 日 (日) 10:00A	日本語感謝会
8 日 (日) 10:00A	祥月追善法要
13 日 (金) 10:00A	布教会議
14 日 (土) 10:00A	理事会
15 日 (日) 10:00A	日英感謝会・彼岸法要 *講話：岡野総長
22 日 (日) 10:00A	英語感謝会 ランチ・ユース リージョナル委員会
29 日 (日)	教会休み

#### サクラメント教会

1 日 (日) 10:00A	祥月追善法要
8 日 (日) 9:30A	感謝会
22 日 (日) 9:30A	感謝会・彼岸法要 リージョナル委員会
29 日 (日)	教会休み



### 3 月度 みさとし

「親子の関係は、自然の関係であり、  
そこに親子の情愛が発生する」

この世に親のない人間は存在しない。幼い頃に親を失った人はいるだろうが、それでも、誰もが親から生まれたのである。たとえどんなにひどい親でも、親のことがどんなに嫌いでも、われわれが今こうして存在しているのは親から生を受けたからだという事実を否定することはできないのだ。親子の情愛は、通常、無条件なものである。しかしたとえ現在、互いに情愛が通い合わない関係にあるとしても、親子という厳然たるつながりの事実を深くかみしめ、今こうして自分がこの世に存在していることへの感謝の念を深めていくならば、かならず、親子同士の情愛の交流は次第に回復されていくことであろう。

### 誌 上 講 話

#### 「礼節」は自分を磨き価値を高めます

山田 一雄

私は最近、「礼節」の大切さに改めて目覚めさせられることがありました。

昨年 10 月、日本に一時帰国した時、日本では「ラグビーのワールドカップ」が行なわれていました。

東京には、世界中から沢山のラグビーファンが集まっていました。スコットランドやニュージーランドからの旅行者たちに交じり、私も滞在したホテルの大きなスクリーンで、いくつかの試合を観ました。日本代表チームは世界のベスト 8 に進出し、私は東京にいる間、とてもさわやかな気持ちでおりました。

ラグビーはジェントルマンのスポーツといわれています。試合が終われば「ノーサイド」、つまり、敵も味方もなく、試合に負けても勝っても互いの健闘をたたえあい、相手を尊重するというマナーがあるのです。それが礼儀というものです。私は、タフでしかも優しいラグーマンたちは魅力的だなと感じました。

#### 今のアメリカ社会では礼節ある人が求められている

アメリカに戻る前、古本屋さんで偶然にも、『礼儀正しさこそ最強の生存戦略』という本のタイトルが私の目に留まりました。ちょうど「礼儀」について考えていた時でした。これはクリスティーン・ポラスさんというアメリカのビジネススクールの教授によって書かれた本です。（原題は『Mastering Civility』）

この本には「現代のアメリカ社会においては、礼節のある人こそ求められている」と書かれてあり、いささか驚きました。アメリカ社会においても「礼儀正しい」ということが尊重される価値なのだと、改めて認識させられたからです。

さらに読み進めると、礼節のある振る舞いを示せるということは、①人に気に入られる、②社会を明るくし生産性を向上させる、③自分自身の人生のクオリティを高めることになる——ということが書かれており、だから礼儀正しいことは真の成功と幸せの一步であり、礼節は最強のツールなのだ、と言うわけです。

\*

人は誰かから礼儀正しく扱われると、さわやかな気持ちになります。だから、礼節を示せる人は、相手か

らも尊重されます。礼儀は、人間関係を円滑にし、仕事の効率も向上させます。

それゆえ、そのような人は、どの社会に行っても、周囲の人々から受け入れられるのです。

しかし、無礼な人ではそうはいきません。失礼な人のふるまいやその悪影響を想像してみれば、おわかりのことと思います。ジョンズ・ホプキンス大学のフォー二博士は、「礼節は、成功のために不可欠な人生の要素だ」と言われていました。

＊

ロサンゼルス教会に戻ってきてからは、私は剣道道場の2階に仮住まいしておりました。

夕方になると、剣道の練習に来た子供たちが、私のような知らないおじさんにも、いつも「こんばんは」と丁寧にあいさつしてくれます。

挨拶された側は、それだけで嬉しい気持ちになります。剣道は、「礼に始まり、礼に終わる」と言われるよう、礼節を重んじる武道です。「さすがに解脱剣道の子供たちは、礼儀正しくて素晴らしいな」と、私は彼らにさわやかな印象を持ちました。

本の内容を思い出してください。礼節を示す人は①人に気に入られる。②社会を明るくする。③自分自身の人生のクオリティを高める——ということです。礼節や礼儀を学んだ彼らは、それを忘れぬ限り、今後どの社会に行っても、周囲の人々から受け入れられるだろうと思いました。

＊

解脱金剛さまもあらゆる角度から「礼節」の大切さを説き、強調されました。

「天地宇宙の法則は、忠に孝、仁義礼。これ神代時代以来の国宝」。「礼は敬意の表示であり、解脱の根幹である」。「言葉一つにも親切をこめよ。それが人間の価値を高める」。「人を拝む心は拝まれる」。「礼節の心篤く、これをふみ行う者に衣食足る」などなどです。

礼儀正しい人とは、自分をしっかりコントロールでき、相手に敬意を示すことができる人です。

かといって、いつも無理して堅苦しくしてはいましょ、という意味ではありません。

初めと終わり、また要所、要所で、きちんと礼節がとればいいのだと思います。「おはようございます」、「こんにちは」、「ありがとうございます」などの言葉がけや、相手への思慮深い行動、一般的な「品位」を示すことができればいいのです。

解脱における「礼節」の勉強は、神や先祖のみならず、全ての人や物事に敬意と誠意と感謝を示せる自分になることにあります。他を尊重してこそ、あなたも尊重されるのです。

どうか今、いろいろな人間関係や仕事上で悩むことがあれば、ぜひ、礼節に立ち返り人と接してみてください。他に対する態度や行動に礼節を示すことができれば、人々から好かれるだけでなく、社会を明るくし、生産性を高める、と同時に、自分の人生の質を高めることになるのです。「礼節」はあなた自身を導き、あなた自身の価値を高めるのです。

## 掲 示 板

### ● 柴燈護摩と萬部供養の申込み受付中！

所定の用紙にご記入の上、各教会事務所に提出ください。〆切は3月15日です。

### ● 大祭の開始時刻が早くなりました

春の大祭は、4月12日（日曜日）にサクラメントスピリチュアルセンターで開催されますが、長距離からの参加者のために、開始時間が午前9時から、と早まりました。

### ● 大祭のランチは無料になります

大祭の終了時に、無料のビュッフェ式ランチが提供されることになりました。

### ● ロサンゼルスからの大祭バスについて

ロサンゼルスからチャーターされたバスは、4月11日（土曜日）の午後10時にL.A.教会を出発します。ジャクソン伊藤氏（シニアディーコン）の奉納で、バス乗車料金と昼食は無料です。

### ● 開教師のスケジュール

瀧先生は2月27日から4月末までL.A.に滞在されます。

- ・ 岡野総長は理事会のため3月10日より3月17日まで滞在します。
- ・ 今春季大祭には本部より宮坂保徳教務局長が出席されます。4月10日サクラメント入り。4月13日にLAから帰国されます。

## 計 報

- 【日本】 解脱会名誉顧問、岡野ご本家当主、前北本宿支部長の岡野正先生におかれましては、2020年1月27日に霊界入りされました。享年88歳。ここに謹んで哀悼の意を表します。



The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for members like **Delphine Sebe**, who resides in the northern California Bay Area with her husband, **Thomas Heinzl**, and their 6-year-old son, **Tobias**. As the elder daughter of **Sr. Rev. Akira** and **Sumiko Sebe**, Delphine is grateful

to Gedatsu for “keeping my father healthy and happy, especially after my mom’s passing” eight years ago.

A graphic designer for more than 15 years – mostly in the beauty industry and for non-profits – Delphine finds pleasure and inspiration in fashion, nature and watching TV and movies. She enjoys spending her free time with Tobie, exploring tide pools, parks, u-pick farms and the Bay Area.

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***(Heart Sutra – Continued from page 5)***

The insight of emptiness gives us solid ground for making peace with ourselves, for transcending the fear of birth and death, the duality of this and that. In the light of emptiness, everything is everything else, we are connected with each other, everyone is responsible for everything that happens in life. When you produce peace and happiness in yourself, you begin to realize peace for the whole world.

Master Gedatsu Kongo stated:

*“Love is God, and Power. Sincerity is also the essence of God. All religions ultimately converge here. Only by embracing the Universal Life Force’s Benevolent Will and coming in touch with the peoples of the world, regardless of their beliefs, will we be able to guide them.”*

*For experiment’s sake, detach yourself from selfish interests and with all your heart and soul, attempt to persuade just one of the onrushing multitudes. If you cannot persuade just one, you absolutely won’t be able to lead scores.”*

With the smile that you produce in yourself, you begin to work for peace in the world. To smile is not to smile only for yourself. The world will change because of your smile. If you establish serenity and happiness inside yourself, you provide the world with a solid base of peace. If you do not give yourself peace, how can you share it with others? If you do not begin your peace work with yourself, where will you go to begin it?

*(Next issue: Gedatsu – A Religious Study through Daily Life)*

