

GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA
www.gedatsu-usa.org

COVID-19 NOTICE: During the indefinite timeline of stay-at-home orders, our churches are closed, and all church services and activities are subject to cancellation and/or change. Read more on page 2.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 News and Announcements
- 3 Words of Support from our Ministers
- 4 Message from Bishop Okano
- 5 "Welcome to Gedatsu" – Respect Tradition and Live Creatively
- 7 Sermon: "Lessons on Life through the Study of Water"
- 9 Offerings and Upcoming Events

Gedatsu Kongo's
Thought for the Month

*"Gedatsu is to practice
appreciation and gratitude
with sincerity."*

The Gedatsu study is to self-reflect and be aware that we receive immeasurable blessing from many people and things in the world.

As a token of appreciation, we should try to be of service to all through our daily work and activities. This is everything about Gedatsu.

We should always keep in mind that Gedatsu is to practice appreciation and gratitude in everyday life. This is the path for our happiness and world peace.

MAY 2020

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	3	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	10	9:30 am	Appreciation Service Mother's Day Service
Sun	17	1:00 am	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)

JUNE 2020

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	7	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sat	14	9:30 am	Appreciation Service Mother Kiyota Memorial Service Father's Day Service / Regional Board Meeting
Sun	21	1:00 am	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	21	9:30 am	Clean-up / Set-up for <i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar
Fri	26	9:00 am	Preparation for <i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar
Sat	27	11:00 am	<i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar
Sun	28	11:00 am	<i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	7	10:00 am	Japanese <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	14	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	21	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English) Mother Kiyota Memorial Service Father's Day Service / L.A. Regional Board Meeting
Sat-Sun	27-28		<i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar in Sacramento

Dear Members and Friends,

During this unprecedented time of global pandemic, the Gedatsu Church is taking precautions to reduce the spread and impact of the coronavirus by suspending church services and activities in line with government stay-at-home orders. Our ministers, officers and staff will continue to pay close attention to public health reports and will advise you of changes to this timeline and when our activities will resume.

During this uncertain time, we will continue to be your church. We will simply do things differently for a while – providing you with access to online services, prayers, sermons and messages. We will stay in touch through our website, emails, newsletter and social media. And as always, please reach out to us if you need our support. We are only a phone call away.

Our hearts go out to all those impacted by this pandemic. We hope you remain safe and healthy during this time.

Joyce Reid
Chairman, Board of Directors



April and May “Never Forgotten” Memorial Services

“Never Forgotten” Memorial Services are held monthly at the Gedatsu Church to honor the memory of those who passed away during that particular month.

Because of church closures, the April service is rescheduled and may be combined with the May service. Only ministers will be in attendance to perform the April and May services. Members are encouraged to offer their prayers from home.

The services will be video recorded and uploaded to the Gedatsu Church USA YouTube website: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIbbFt3XLUWin8_OGPmifGw. Watch these and all recent Gedatsu Church videos on the YouTube site.

The Sacramento Spiritual Center will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on Sunday, May 3, honoring the souls of **Masao Taketa, Kenneth Taketa, Ben Tsutomu Ide, Natsuko Nakatani, Betty Ozaki, Norma Tellez, Larizlado Rodriguez, Ramona Rodriguez, Masashi Russell Ota, Arthur Sakamoto, Susumu Suyeyasu, Henry Toshio Tateishi, Shigeno Tateishi, Tsutomu Ben Tsuboi, Sally Yukiko Tsuboi, Keiji Tsuboi, Chiyoko Suzuki, Raymond Kaname Nakamoto, Isami Suzuki, Hyozaburo Hirose, Akino Ogawa, Katherine Kazue Tanaka and Thomas Taro Takahashi.**

The L.A. Church will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on Sunday, May 10, honoring the souls of **Satsuki Akiyoshi, Keiji Ariyasu, Marilyn S. Ariyasu, Tsugu Endo, Andrué Gutierrez, John Kuritani, Chih-ming Lai, Sumako Matsumoto, Tamotsu Matsuura, Kikuye Miyamura, Nobuichi Miyashita, June Junko Morioka, Teruo Arthur Murayama, Tameharu Nagao, Hitomi Nakaguchi, Ronald Yoshio Nakamura, Shigemi Nakamura, Shizuyo Nakamura, Sumiko Nakamura, Seiko Notoya, Mitsuji Okada, Joyce Okimura, Miyoko Okimura, Adeline Sanchez, David Harry Schonbach, Rev. Jerry Shiroishi, Joe Mitsuhide Takara, Kiyo Tanji, Yozo Tsujimura, Jane Harue Wakasa and Hiroshi Yamamisaka.**

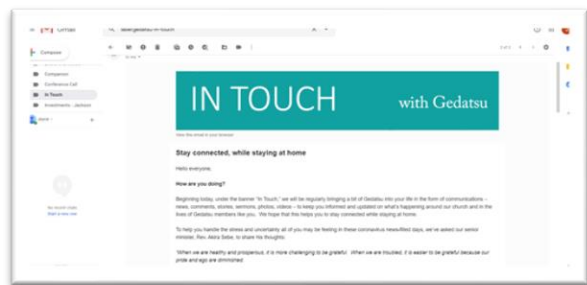
Saito Goma Fire Ceremony Postponed

Due to the cancellation of the Spring Festival in April and the closure of the Sacramento Spiritual Center, the *Saito Goma* Fire Ceremony will be held at a later date, yet to be determined. If you already applied for *Saito Goma* plaques, they will be held for the Fall Festival’s Fire Ceremony. Or you may request a refund of your payment by contacting the L.A. branch office.

2020 Memorial Tower Enshrinements

Applications for enshrinement in the Gedatsu Memorial Tower at this year’s Fall Grand Festival in Sacramento will be accepted until June 14. The fee is \$300 per application. Application forms are available at your church office.

New “IN TOUCH” Email Bulletin Keeps Members Informed, Updated



Members have a new way of keeping up to date on the latest information on church activities. Our IN TOUCH digital bulletin brings you short, easy-to-read articles and announcements, links to recent sermons on YouTube, colorful graphics and images, and entertaining videos that you can catch on your laptop or mobile devices. Launched in March, recent IN TOUCH editions describe the church’s response to the pandemic and “in shelter” stories. If you want to be added to our IN TOUCH email list, email: naoya_okano@gedatsu-usa.org

Yamadas to Relocate to Hawaii in August

Sacramento minister, **Rev. Kazuo Yamada**, announced that he and his wife, **Yoko**, will be transferring to Honolulu at the end of August to serve the Gedatsu Church of Hawaii.

Rev. Yamada originally intended to conclude his ten-year ministerial term – six and a half years in Los Angeles and three and a half years in Sacramento – at the end of this year. However, at the petition of Hawaiian members, who have been without a resident minister since last fall, the Yamadas requested the early transfer to Hawaii to help members prepare for their 40th anniversary celebration event in September. Hawaiian members are eager to welcome the Yamadas back to Hawaii, where Rev. Yamada served as resident minister for five and a half years prior to serving in the States.

Price Increase for Amacha Holy Tea

Beginning this year, the price for a package of *Amacha* holy tea (loose leaf) has increased to \$30. The price for a package of *Amacha* tea bags (80 count) has increased to \$29. The higher prices are due to increased tax in Japan on products sold by *Gedatsu-kai*.

Words of Support from Our Ministers

Even though the Gedatsu Church has closed its doors and suspended services and activities in compliance with government “stay home, stay safe” mandates, our ministers remain active in serving our church.

- **Rev. Hisazaku Taki** shortened his stay in the U.S. and returned to Japan on March 24 amid concerns of imminent travel restrictions. He self-quarantined for two weeks as a cautionary measure before venturing out. *“The situation in Japan has been getting worse day by day, as it is in the U.S.,”* says Rev. Taki. *“I fear this will be a long battle against the coronavirus, so it is important for each of us to keep our minds and bodies healthy. I believe this is the time to practice the Gedatsu that we’ve learned.”*
- In Los Angeles, **Rev. Naoya Okano**, his wife, **Yuko**, and children, **Ryunosuke**, 4, and **Nanami**, 1, are currently residing in the adjacent church apartment. Rev. Naoya continues his daily routine at the church, making altar offerings, paying bills, watering plants, etc. *“In addition,”* he says, *“because of COVID-19, I call members to ask how they’re doing. I offer prayers and Amacha blessings for the victims of the virus, all unrested spirits and ancestor souls of church members – chanting Hannya Shingyo about 15 times a day. I pray that the pandemic will be eradicated.”* Watch Rev. Naoya’s entire message on YouTube: *“In Touch Message by Naoya”* <https://youtu.be/Cuh0QaAA8UI>
- Taking advantage of the temporary closure of the Sacramento Spiritual Center, **Rev. Kazuo Yamada** and his wife, **Yoko**, are in Japan until mid-May to tend to the reverend’s much-needed dental treatment. Says Rev. Yamada: *“The threat of the invisible virus has swept away the everyday life that we had been clinging to. But it has also made us aware of the preciousness of our values, like family ties, health, love and connecting with people. After this virus, the ways of our society and world will change gradually, but dramatically. As we appreciate the immeasurable blessings from Nature, let us also live each day by valuing, above all things, the richness of our hearts.”*

(Continued on back page)

A Message to U.S. Members from Bishop Teruo Okano

First of all, I would like to thank you for your dedication to the church and its development.

As you know, the rapidly spreading COVID-19 pandemic has created fear and anxiety in people throughout the world. Despite the efforts of every country to eradicate the virus, many precious lives have been taken.

I have great respect for the selfless efforts of many people, especially our health care workers. My thoughts are with all the victims, and I pray for the recovery of those who are affected.

Even though we are fearful and anxious as our society faces this difficult situation, the virus itself does not exist to make us suffer and sad.

Our universe is overseen by a Divine Will that governs all phenomena in Nature. When we are challenged by natural disasters and situations like today, we must recognize them as divine signals of God's compassion, showing us that now is the time to make changes.

Gedatsu Kongo taught us that Universal Will exists in every corner of our God-created universe. In this year of 2020, the vibration of that universal force has reached an intensity that wakens us – forcing us to self-reflect and ask ourselves: Why was I born? Why do I exist? Now is the time to examine our values, beliefs, thoughts and feelings and to develop and grow.

In times of difficulty, we tend to lean on and unite with others. In past natural disasters, strangers would get together and start helping one another. That's what we are required to do now. We must exist for one another. We must wake up to what is happening and connect with the Divine Will.

The unity of the visible and invisible worlds is the absolute law of the universe. The chaos we see in our present world reflects disturbances in the spiritual world. I believe that COVID-19 is a result of deep-seated feelings of resentment held by the spirits of those who were cruelly mistreated and killed. We must be careful not to be influenced by such negative vibrations. We need to purify these unrested souls so that the COVID-19 pandemic can be eradicated as soon as possible.

We humans are not perfect. We may be affected by negative vibrations and the virus. But let us not give in to undue worry. Let us offer our prayers to the Universal Life Force and pursue our Gedatsu faith under Gedatsu Kongo's guidance and blessing.

Now is the time to realize the true value of our Gedatsu teaching and apply it. Please try your best. I sincerely wish for your happiness.

“Welcome to Gedatsu”

By Rev. Hisakazu Taki

Chapter 11:

Respect Tradition and Live Creatively

The Ultimate Foundation for Your Life

Master Gedatsu Kongo respected religions from all ages and cultures. At the same time, however, he critically viewed many aspects of established religions, such as conservatism, obstinacy, formalism, close-mindedness and dogma.

This is why, independently, he established Gedatsu. He stated, *“Religion should be based on the Universal Law, because the universe is selfless and eternal.”*

This is Master Gedatsu Kongo’s basic view on Gedatsu. Based on this, he stated as follows:

“The Universal God is present when and wherever sincere prayer is offered. How wonderful it is that, when you live with sincere appreciation, any human sufferings – physical or spiritual – are completely resolved through the grace and compassion of God.”

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

“When you sincerely and deeply scrutinize yourself, you will be aware of the very source of your existence, which generates life and power. It is the Universal Life Force. This awareness will enable you to live and work freely with appreciation.”

“When you recognize the inner divinity within you – the very source of love and freedom – you need not be afraid of anything. You can live and work freely. When you sincerely pray, you will love all. When you love people, you will advance spiritually. You will then be protected and guided by the divine spirit. Without divine guidance, you can achieve nothing.”

This is Gedatsu. Master Gedatsu Kongo encouraged us to live and work freely and vigorously according to our spiritual awareness. When you become aware of the inner divinity within you, you will be able to live your life fully and freely with appreciation.

Respect for Tradition

Master Gedatsu Kongo respected the Japanese traditional spirit. He started the annual pilgrimage to Ise Shrine, Kashihara Shrine and Sennyuji Temple. Ise Shrine is the Shinto shrine that Japanese revere as the “Soul of Japan.” Kashihara Shrine enshrines Emperor Jimmu, Japan’s first emperor. Sennyuji Temple is the only royal family temple of Japan. Through this annual event, Gedatsu Kongo encouraged Gedatsu members to cultivate their respect and appreciation for the tradition of the country.

“Tradition” in this sense differs, however, from the stubbornly narrow viewpoint of traditionalism. As Gedatsu Kongo explained:

“Gedatsu is not to cling to old customs and traditions. Gedatsu discourages stagnation. Gedatsu is free from conventionalism, while avoiding trendiness.”

“Gedatsu is to harmonize both the new and old and be in tune with the times.”

(Continued on page 6)

The Chinese philosopher, Confucius, stated, *“He that would know what shall be, must consider what has been.”*

Tradition should not be respected only because it is old. Rather, it should be respected for the wisdom we can learn from it. Gedatsu Kongo valued and respected the traditional Japanese spirit because of the wisdom that tradition imparted to Japanese living and working in modern-day Japan.

Gedatsu does not force us to conform to moralistic “should dos” or “should not dos.” Instead, Gedatsu encourages us to be aware of our inner divinity and live according to its guidance. Master Gedatsu Kongo established Gedatsu so that each of us could develop this spiritual awareness and live freely with appreciation.

Live a Fresh and Creative Life Each Day

Master Gedatsu Kongo passed away on November 4, 1948, at age of 68. At the Appreciation Service in his last message just before his passing, he stated:

“In conclusion, I want to tell you that I have never forgotten to pray for your happiness. I have always tried to embrace each of you so that you will be able to stand on your own feet. As long as I am alive, even if I collapse before the microphone, I cannot stop speaking to you. I sincerely pray for your good health and happiness. How holy and precious Gedatsu is!”

The purpose of Gedatsu is to enable us to become individuals who can stand on our own feet. When we recognize the immeasurable blessings we receive from ancestors, parents, and all people and things in the universe, we will be filled with appreciation and gratitude. This awareness will encourage us to live freely and work for the benefit of others through our daily activities. Such a person is self-reliant. Gedatsu Kongo expected us to become such persons.

When the Buddha was about to pass away, one of his disciples asked him who would become their teacher after the Buddha’s passing.

The Buddha replied, *“Be a lamp and refuge unto yourselves. Look for no other refuge. Let the Truth be your lamp and your refuge. Seek no refuge elsewhere.”*

Buddha’s teaching is the same as Master Gedatsu Kongo’s message of self-reliance.

We were all born and raised in the customs and traditions of our own countries, cultures, societies and families. Our present existence is deeply rooted in the traditions in the past.

Gedatsu Kongo taught us to be aware of and appreciate these traditions as our roots but not to stubbornly cling to them. Rather, he encouraged us to live creative new lives. He said, *“The sun rises newly each morning. Similarly, we should grow and change every day. Gedatsu is to live a fresh and creative life each day.”*

Gedatsu Kongo encouraged us to be aware of immeasurable blessings we receive from everyone and everything in the universe and live fully with appreciation.

Gedatsu is not bound by doctrines or formalities. Gedatsu is to be deeply aware of your inner divinity and live freshly and creatively each day with appreciation. This attitude will be the foundation of our true happiness and world peace.

(Next issue: Gedatsu for Americans Today)



The following address by **Rev. Yasunori Miyasaka** was originally scheduled to be given at the Spring Festival in April in Sacramento. With the Festival's cancellation, Rev. Miyasaka allowed us to publish it here. We thank him, as well as **Rev. Hisakazu Taki** for the English translation.

Lessons on Life through the Study of Water

By **Reverend Yasunori Miyasaka**
Director of the Propagation Department, *Gedatsu-kai*



Hello, everyone. I'm **Yasunori Miyasaka**.

I originally wanted to say a few words on the day of the Spring Festival. However, the Festival was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. President Trump declared a national emergency, and COVID-19 is running rampant worldwide.

It is unfortunate that we had to cancel the Spring Festival. However, I believe it is important to receive this situation as a learning experience, in which we – with people across the globe – face a new age and take positive action to overcome the situation together.

Forty years ago, I was given the opportunity to stay in the U.S. for six months. In January 1980, I arrived in San Francisco from Japan via Hawaii, followed by **Archbishop Kishida**. I stayed at the San Francisco Church, and then came down to Los Angeles. I stayed at the former L.A. Church on Van Buren Place, right next to the **Tsujimura** home, sharing a room on the second floor of the church with **Teruo Okano**, now Bishop Okano. I look back on that time with feelings of great nostalgia.

Bishop Okano and I traveled together throughout the U.S. by Greyhound bus for one month, from May to June. That was a valuable experience for me. Houston; New Orleans; Miami; Washington, D.C.;

New York; Chicago; Salt Lake City, etc. – I still remember those places with nostalgia. And Los Angeles, San Francisco and Sacramento are very special places to me, of course. That six-month experience in the U.S. was a great treasure for me.

One unforgettable memory is when I went to the Grand Canyon. I drove there from L.A. by myself – right after I got a driver's license. It took about 10 hours. Looking back, I feel that was a reckless act. I think I caused many people to worry about me, for which I now feel very sorry. I learned a good lesson. I arrived at the Grand Canyon at dawn, after driving in the darkness. The spectacle of the Grand Canyon made a strong, indescribable impression on me. I was attracted by the beauty of the magnificent landscape. I gazed intently at the scene all day long without getting tired. I never want to forget that scene.



These photos were taken in Tokyo in November 1980, the same year that Rev. Miyasaka and Bishop Okano visited the U.S. At top, at the former *Gedatsu-kai* headquarters, Rev. Miyasaka, left, and Bishop Okano greet L.A. Church pioneer, Sumiko Tsujimura, visiting from the U.S. At bottom, they are joined by Rev. Yuji Aoyama, former propagation officer and executive director, *Gedatsu-kai*.

(Continued on page 8)

Human history can be measured by a century or millennium, but the history of Nature is measured in millions of years.

It is said that the uplift of land caused by the earth's crustal movements created the Grand Canyon 70 million years ago, and its erosion by the Colorado River began 40 million years ago. Since that distant period of the past, the unceasing flow of the river has eroded the earth, creating huge canyons which demonstrate water's overwhelming presence. The awesome power of water fills me with amazement.

Master Gedatsu Kongo advised us to "read the unwritten book of the universe," meaning that there are lessons to be learned by observing our changing world and various natural phenomena, which cannot be described by words. This earth and Nature can teach us a lot.

Today, I would like to talk about water. I believe that water gives us many clues on how we can live good and meaningful lives.

Water is always available in our everyday life. Water supports us in various ways. It is essential for our survival. Every day, we need water for cooking, washing, bathing, etc. Water is indispensable for agriculture and industry. Water is necessary for marine transportation. Without water, our daily living is impossible. However, on the other hand, water may create destruction in our lives in the form of typhoons, hurricanes, tsunamis, floods, etc.

Master Gedatsu Kongo stated: *"Rain may scatter flowers, but conversely, it may enable flowers to bloom. Rain may kill people, but conversely, it may give life to them."*

Nature sometimes attacks us in a ruthless manner, but it also enables everything on earth to work in a balanced and harmonious way. Nature works to achieve great harmony on earth, not to create convenience for humans. Water nurtures everything on earth, but at the same time, it sometimes destroys life. This shows us that no one can conquer the Law of Nature.

Rain falls from the sky and drenches the earth. It creates a river and flows into the ocean. The water of the ocean evaporates and rises again to the sky. It then becomes rain again and falls to the earth. Water always circulates through heaven and earth in this manner.

A river always flows downstream, never stopping until it reaches the ocean. Water penetrates everything without bias. Water nurtures all living things on earth in this manner. As it runs, a river sometimes takes in all kinds of dirt, becoming a muddy stream. However, no matter how muddy the stream may become, its water evaporates, rises to the sky, and falls down to the earth again. Through this process, the water is cleaned and purified, never losing its true nature.

Water possesses a nature that is smooth and adaptable. When water is poured into a square box, it assumes the shape of the square. When poured into a bottle, it assumes the shape of the bottle. Water changes its form freely, but it never loses its nature. Water has a smooth and adaptable nature, but it also possesses the strength to erode the earth and drill through rocks. We may say that the nature of water is purity, transparency, tolerance, humility, inclusiveness, penetration, durability, and adaptability.

These are my thoughts on the nature of water and the Law of Nature through my memories of the Grand Canyon.

The Universal Law is unchangeable, but its expression is ever-changing. Regardless of the times, countries or regions, the Universal Law never changes. The Universal Law is unchangeable over space and time. But we human beings, who are allowed to exist under the Universal Law, have changed as times change, and brought about diverse values and cultures.

The Gedatsu teaching is based on the Universal Law. It originated on the soil of the Japanese culture, so it looks familiar to Japanese people. But in America, it should have an expression based on the American culture that Americans can understand and accept. Gedatsu then will become a living and meaningful teaching for Americans today.

The world is changing every minute. The world today requires us to develop the teaching so that it becomes truly meaningful for contemporary society. Let us learn from the Universal Law and, with adaptability and tolerance like water, work together for world peace and people's happiness.

In conclusion, I hope COVID-19 will fade out as soon as possible. I sincerely wish you every happiness and prosperity. Thank you very much.



MARCH 2020 OFFERINGS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: Anonymous, M/M B. Ide, M/M R. Nakatani, S. Tanaka,

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

\$100+: M/M S. Sekikawa, K. Kitaoe, M/M K. Yamada

\$200+: M/M J. Horner

\$300+: Rev. A. Sebe

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: M/M K. Chinen, J. Choy, I. Long, M. Mizokami, A. Okimura

\$50–\$99: D. Ide, M/M K. Kuritani, T. Murakami, M. Nakamura, T. Nakamura, Y. Oishi, De. Shiroishi, J. Tanaka, M/M H. Tsujimura, M/M R. Tsujimura

\$100+: M/M N. Codor, M/M M. Ishida, T. Ishida, M/M T. Matsumoto, M/M V. Mizokami, M/M S. Mukai, M. Okada, M/M N. Okano, T. Okimura, J. Reid, M/M S. Shiroishi, H. Taki, T. Yamada

\$900+: J. Ito

Special Acknowledgment

Mizokami Family	Appreciation for Tomiko Mizokami First-year memorial service (\$300)
Takako Alcivar	Appreciation for life of Galo J. Alcivar (\$1,000)
Scott Shiroishi	Appreciation for successful surgery (\$200)
Teruko Nakamura	In memory of Horace Nakamura (\$100)
Joyce/Paul Reid	In memory of Tomoyo Ogura (\$100)

2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to the indefinite timeline of social-distancing rules, the following church services and activities are subject to change.

Jul 4 (Thu)	Church Closed (Independence Day)
Jul 12 (Sun)	Sacto <i>Obon</i> Service/Graduates Honored
Jul 19 (Sun)	L.A. <i>Obon</i> Service / Graduates Honored
Jul 23-26 (Thu-Sun)	Youth Camp in Sacramento
Aug 1-2 (Sat-Sun)	Lake Tahoe <i>Benzaiten</i> Service (TBD)
Aug 16 (Sun)	L.A. <i>Benzaiten</i> Service
Sep 6 (Sun)	142nd Fall Grand Festival 9:00 am
Sep 8 (Tue)	Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day)
Sep 13 (Sun)	Hawaii Church 40 th Anniversary
Sep 20 (Sun)	L.A. <i>Higan</i> Service
Sep 27 (Sun)	Sacramento <i>Higan</i> 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. <i>Ujigami</i> 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

Recipe for Kenchinjiru (Japanese Vegetable Soup)

Contributed by Yoko Yamada

A hearty and flavorful vegan soup for your stay-at-home diners. Ingredients are available in most Asian supermarkets.

Ingredients:

- ❖ *Tofu*
- ❖ *Konnyaku* (Japanese yam cake)
- ❖ *Daikon* (Japanese radish)
- ❖ *Satoimo* (taro root)
- ❖ Carrot
- ❖ *Gobo* (burdock root)
- ❖ Green onions
- ❖ *Aburaage* (deep-fried tofu pouches)
- ❖ Pork slices(optional)
- ❖ *Miso* and *hondashi* (fish stock flavoring)
- ❖ Sesame oil

Directions:

- ❖ Cut the ingredients into bite-size pieces
- ❖ Slice *gobo* and soak in water for about 5 minutes
- ❖ Sauté ingredients, except *tofu* and green onion, in sesame oil
- ❖ Add enough water to cover ingredients and boil
- ❖ Cook until veggies are tender
- ❖ Add *hondashi* to taste
- ❖ Add *tofu* and green onions
- ❖ Add *miso* to taste



Do you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share? Email or mail it to the L.A. Church.

5 月度 教会行事予定

*現時点ではウィルス感染拡大防止の在宅命令が解除されておりませんので、5 月度の教会サービスや活動もすべて中止の対象となります。状況に応じた対応がとられますので、予定の実施につきましては教会からの情報をお確かめください。

ロサンゼルス教会

3 日 (日) 10:00A	日本語感謝会
10 日 (日) 10:00A	祥月追善法要
17 日 (日) 10:00A	日英感謝会・母の日サービス
24 日 (日) 10:00A	英語感謝会
	リージョナル委員会
	ランチ・ウィズ・ユース
26 日 (火)	教会休み(メモリアルデイ代休)

サクラメント教会

3 日 (日) 10:00A	祥月追善法要
10 日 (日) 9:30A	感謝会・母の日サービス
17 日 (日) 1:00P	サンノゼ感謝会
24 日 (日) 9:30A	感謝会・浄土の儀
	リージョナル委員会
25 日 (月) 9:00A	日系人先駆者慰霊祭
26 日 (火)	教会休み(メモリアルデイ代休)



5 月度 みさとし

「解脱は実に至誠無言の感謝報恩である」

解脱の学びとは、むずかしい教義を学び、厳しい行を修めなければならないというものではない。解脱とは、日々の生活のなかで自分のありようを見つめ、自分が神先祖のおかげで生を受け生かされていること、そしていかに多くの人々やもののおかげをいただいて生活させていただいているかを自覚し、感謝の念をどこまでも深めていく道である。そして、日々の役目を通じて少しでも世のため人のために献身するという生き方に進むことである。解脱とは、それ以外の何ものでもない。解脱の道を複雑なものとしてはならない。敬神崇祖・感謝報恩というシンプルな日々の生き方をどこまでも深めていくことこそ、自他の幸福と世界平和につながる道であることを、決して忘れてはならない。

緊急メッセージ

互いに助け合う生き方へ

米国教会総長 岡野 英夫

ご承知の通り、新型コロナウイルス感染症は、瞬く間に世界中に拡散し、その猛威は止まる所を知らず世界の人々は不安と恐怖におののいています。その感染症の終息への各国の対応は壮絶を極め、多数の尊い命が失われています。そうした対策に従事しておられる医療関係の皆さまをはじめ多くの皆さまの献身的なご努力に深く敬意を表しますとともに、犠牲となられた方々のご冥福と罹患された方々の一日も早いご回復をお祈りいたします。

今、私たちの日常生活は、そうした不安と恐れ

の中にあり、社会生活は非常に困難な状態にあります。

新型コロナウイルス感染症は、私たちを苦しめ、悲しませるために発生したものではありません。発生の原因が何であれ、この世に存在するすべての事柄には、大自然の運行や現象の奥にも、神の意志が存在します。天災地変なども同様に、変化しなければならない時代であればこそ授かった試練であり、神の慈悲から出た示唆であることを認識する必要があります。

神によって創造された宇宙に神の意志の遍満しない理由はないと、金剛様は「真行」の中でお説きになっておられます。2020 年は人類の目覚めを促す波動が大きくなるときだからこそ、与えられるものなのです。

人は何故この世に生まれてきたのか、何をする

ための存在であるのかに気づかなければなりません。私たちの価値観や信念、思考や感性を変化させ、再構築し前進する時なのです。

こうした時には、自身のまわりに起きるすべてのことは、私たちを結束する方向に誘います。過去に発生した大災害の時にもそうであったように人々は動き、互いに助け合います。それこそが、今求められていることであり、私たちは、お互いのために存在しなければなりません。今、行われていることを確実に見据えて神の意識と繋がれるように目覚めなくてははいけません。

新型コロナウイルスは、家畜のように扱われ、

命を奪われた人々の怨念から発生したものです。幽現一致の理法は、絶対の法則です。現界の混乱は、霊界

の乱れを意味します。そうした恨みの波動と同調しないように自己の心を戒め、一日も早く感染症が終息するように、その霊を慰め浄化していかなければなりません。

人は完成された存在ではありませんので、不幸にもそうした縁に触れてしまうこともあるかもしれません。しかし、恐れなくてください。金剛さまは太神から授かった御五法の威神力をもって尊い御神宝も神秘的な黒御符も残して下さっています。金剛さまの偉大な御霊力を信じ、祈願文を復唱し神々に祈らせていただきます。今こそ解脱の真価が問われる時です。ご精進ください。皆さまのお幸せを心から祈念いたします。

米 国 教 会 理 事 長 ・ メ ャ ャ ャ ャ ャ

親愛なるメンバーと友人の皆さまへ

ジョイス・リード

現在、米国解脱教会ではこの前例のない世界的パンデミックの時期、政府の在宅命令に沿って教会のサービスと活動を停止することでコロナウイルスの蔓延と影響を減らすための予防策を講じています。

教会の開教師、役員、スタッフは引き続き公衆衛生の報告に細心の注意を払いつつ状況の変遷を見ながら私たちの活動の再開時期を図ってまいります。

この不確実な時期、私たちはあなたの教会であり続けます。しばらくの間、私たちは物事を異なる方法で行うだけです。オンラインサービスを通じ、祈り、説教、メッセージへのアクセスを提供します。ウェブサイト、Eメール、ゲダツ・コンパニオン、ソーシャルメディアを通じて連絡を取り合います。また、サポートが必要な場合はいつでもご連絡ください。私たちはただ電話の向こうにいます。

私たちの心は、このパンデミックの影響を受けたすべての人に向いています。この期間、あなたが安全で健康を維持できることを願っています。

掲 示 板

- **会員向け電子掲示板“IN TOUCH”を開始しました**
教会の活動に関する最新情報を得る新しい方法が開かれました。解脱教会の「IN TOUCH」デジタル掲示板は、短くて読みやすい記事、アナウンスなどがあなたのラップトップやスマー

トフォンを通じて見られます。また YouTube で放映される説教や面白いビデオへのリンクも提供します。3月に皆さまに発信された最近の IN TOUCH では、パンデミックと避難所に関する教会の対応を説明しています。

IN TOUCH のメールリストに追加されたい方は naoya_okano@gedatsu-usa.org まで連絡下さい

- **5月のネバーフォーゴットン・サービスについて**

4月度のネバーフォーゴットン・サービスの中止に伴い、5月のサービスは、4月の命日のみ魂も合祀し行われます。ただし、政府の在宅指示により会員は参集できません。開教師を中心に各教会とも予定通りの日時に行なわれますので、会員の皆さんは自宅から祈りを捧げる形で、ご参加ください。日時と霊名に関しては本紙2ページを参照ください

- **春季の護摩申し込み分は秋季分へと移行します**

春季大祭中止に伴い、春季分として申し込みいただいた柴燈護摩木は、秋季大祭時の護摩申し込みへと、切り替えさせていただきます。なお、春季分の払い戻しを希望される方は、遠慮なく、ロサンゼルス教会の岡野開教師までご連絡ください。

- **解脱霊廟・斎祀申込み締切りは6月14日です**

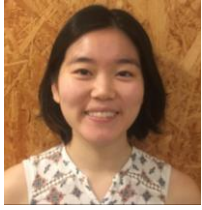
秋の大祭における解脱霊廟・祭祀申込の〆切は6月14日です。1霊につき300ドルをそえて申し込み下さい。申込書は各教会にあります。

- **天茶の値段が上がりました**

日本における増税等の影響により、本年から天茶の値段が上がりました。天茶1袋が30ドル。天茶ティーバッグが1箱29ドルになりました。ご了承ください。

- **山田開教師夫妻8月にハワイ教会へ転任**

米国解脱教会・山田一雄開教師・洋子夫妻は、8月末にホノルルのハワイ解脱教会に転任することになりました。これは昨年9月から常駐開教師の不在となったハワイ教会会員たちからの請願があり、それに応えたいという当人の要望もあって去る3月の理事会で承認されたものです。山田師夫妻は、2010年10月にロサンゼルス教会に赴任し、2017年7月にサクラメント教会に異動、米国教会での赴任期間は約10年に及びます。現在サクラメント教会では、山田師の後任として、ミカエラ・ロドリゲスさんが準開教師として日々修行を続けています。



The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for members like **Avalon Akashi** of San Francisco. The daughter of members **Alaric** and **Pauline Akashi**, Avalon is looking forward to her last semester at the University of Tokyo.

"My personal dream is to be a non-professional plant-based runner, who is conversation-fluent in Japanese," says Avalon. "During my career in food science or marketing, I would like to travel between the U.S. and Japan, and other parts of the world. Gedatsu has had a bigger imprint on my university life than I would have imagined. How lucky I am to be part of this community on both sides of the world!"

Rev. Kazuo Yamada, Editor

Joyce Reid, Editor-in-Chief


Kiyoko Hirayama, Arlene Okimura, Yoko Yamada,
Photographers


Editorial contributors to this issue:

Avalon Akashi, Rev. Yasunori Miyasaka, Rev. Naoya Okano, Bishop Teruo Okano, Mica Rodriguez, Sr. Rev. Akira Sebe, Joy Sebe, Rev. Hisakazu Taki, Calvin Tanaka, Yoko Yamada

(Words of Support – Continued from page 3)

Communicating remotely via emails and phone, Rev. Yamada continues to focus on the ministerial training and doctrinal education of **Mica Rodriguez**, new minister-in-training.

 In addition to her ministerial duties and training under Rev. Yamada, Mica serves half her time as an office staffer. Says, Mica: *"I feel very grateful to have extra time to devote to studying Gedatsu and helping in the church's promotional efforts in social media, an area I enjoy. I miss everyone and look forward to seeing you all again!"*

 While the Sacramento Spiritual Center remains closed, **Sr. Rev. Akira Sebe** is staying in the Seattle home of his daughter and son-in-law, **Joy** and **Jason**, and grandsons, **Nathan** and **Noah**.

Gedatsu Church USA
Los Angeles Branch
7850 Hill Drive
Rosemead, CA 91770

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EL MONTE, CA
PERMIT NO. 110

Rev. Sebe shares his thoughts on the unsettling situation we are experiencing: *"When we are healthy and prosperous, it is more challenging to be grateful. When we are troubled, it is easier to be grateful because our pride and ego are diminished."*

"During this time, I am expressing appreciation for the guardian spirits of our land in the U.S. Most of us live on this land without much thought to our ability to live here. Now, as our country suffers, I continue to express appreciation that we are able to live on this land. Now, as we experience fear and hardship, is the time for us to practice appreciation in our daily lives."



Sr. Rev. Akira Sebe helps prepare a meal with **Joy** and **Nathan**, incorporating appreciation into their daily routine.