



# West L. A. Connections

Where **N**urturing **E**mpowerment **W**elcoming **S**ervice Happens!

A Monthly Publication of the West Los Angeles United Methodist Church

April 2013

## **West Los Angeles United Methodist Church**

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Los Angeles, CA 90025  
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Website: [www.wlaumc.org](http://www.wlaumc.org)

### **Office Hours**

Monday–Friday, 9AM to 1 PM

### **Pastors' Office Hours:**

Rev. Gary: Tues-Fri, 9 AM to 1 PM  
Rev. Janet: Tues-Fri, 9 AM to 1 PM  
Rev. Becky: Sat, 10 AM to 12 PM

### **Sunday Worship Services**

#### ◆ 9:30 AM

English Language Worship  
Child Care and Sunday School

#### ◆ 10:30 AM

Fellowship Time for both congregations

#### ◆ 11:00 AM

Japanese Language Worship

### **Staff**

**Rev. Gary Oba**, Senior Pastor  
Email: [obagary@gmail.com](mailto:obagary@gmail.com)

**Rev. Janet Cromwell**, Associate Pastor  
Email: [jlcromwell8@gmail.com](mailto:jlcromwell8@gmail.com)

**Rev. Rebecca Hirata**, Local Pastor  
Japanese Language Ministry  
Email: [pastorwlaumc@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:pastorwlaumc@yahoo.co.jp)  
Home Phone: 310-370-7351

**Lina Yamaguchi**,  
Secretary and Newsletter Coordinator  
Email: [wlaumc@aol.com](mailto:wlaumc@aol.com)

### **Our Mission Statement**

Our Mission is to promote spiritual growth - Building a community of faith and making disciples of Christ by reaching out with compassion, forgiveness and love. At West LA UMC, building a community of faith is what we are about.

## **The Power of Forgiveness**

*“Forgiveness is power. ...It can heal both the forgiver and the forgiven. In fact, it could change the world if we allowed it to.”*

- Johann C. Arnold in “Why Forgive” in *Alive Now*

*“Forgiveness. It just might be the most transformational strategy for personal and spiritual well-being.”*

- Connie Domino in *The Law of Forgiveness*

Lenten disciplines take many forms and, for some people this year, it has taken the form of participating in a reading group on *The Law of Forgiveness* by Connie Domino. For five weeks, two groups have met to intentionally explore the transformational power of forgiveness in life, relationships and, potentially, the world. Together we have discussed and experienced how forgiveness can release past hurts, provide a sense of peace, and free us to move forward in life.

Connie Domino’s book suggests that forgiveness is the key to a healthier, happier life. By forgiving others, we break the bond of negativity that holds us captive to our own anger, pain, and resentment. Upon forgiving, positive energy is immediately released, freeing us (and possibly the forgiven person too!) to achieve our highest good.

Interestingly, Connie Domino notes that you do not have to reconcile the relationship in order to forgive. Actually, as she suggests, it may not be appropriate or possible to contact the person you wish to forgive (as in the case of an abusive relationship or if the person has already passed away). However, lifting up a prayer (or affirmation) of forgiveness for that person can transcend time and distance, and enable the process of healing to begin.

Connie Domino acknowledges that forgiving can be difficult to do. It takes time, patience, and a genuine desire for change. Jesus understood that too. He repeatedly spoke about the importance of forgiveness – in his teachings, in The Lord’s Prayer, while gathered around the table at the last supper, and even as he hung on the cross. He preached forgiveness of others so that we might be forgiven (Luke 6:37), and to be persistent in our forgiveness (Matthew 18:21). And by his own example, he demonstrated one of the most miraculous acts of forgiveness when, with one of his final breaths, he said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)

As we prepare our hearts for Holy Week, Easter, and beyond, let us be forgiving people so we may walk in the way of Christ.

Grace and peace,

**REV. JANET CROMWELL**

Associate Pastor

# Prayers

Connecting and Nurturing through Prayers

*As a community of faith, we support one another through prayer. To add or remove a prayer request, please contact one of the pastors or the church office.*

## **We give thanks to God and rejoice for:**

- Those who prepared and served the meal at PATH on March 11.
- The many volunteers who worked at Habitat for Humanity on March 16, and Ken Ho and John Tsukahira for organizing the mission project.
- Friends of WLAUMC who recently celebrated birthdays, especially Rev. Becky Hirata.
- Library Committee members who prepared and served Sunday refreshments in the month of March.
- Praise Band for leading worship on the last Sunday of each month.
- Guests and friends attending West LA UMC.

## **We pray for those seeking healing and comfort:**

- For those with on-going health issues we pray for their health and strength.
- For the family and friends of those who recently passes away.

## **Lectionary Readings for April**

*These readings serve as the foundation for the Wednesday morning Bible Study and Sunday morning Worship Services. By reading these scripture lessons during the week, you can prepare your heart and mind for Sunday worship.*

Apr. 7	Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 150	Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31
Apr. 14	Acts 9:1-6, 7-20 Psalm 30	Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19
Apr. 21	Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23	Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30
Apr. 28	Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148	Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35

## **West LA Prayer Ministry**

Each Thursday morning at 9:30 AM, a small group gathers in the sanctuary to pray for persons on the church's prayer list. If you would like to be a part of this prayer ministry but are unable to meet at the church on Thursday mornings, please contact Lina Yamaguchi, Church Secretary at 310-479-1379. An updated prayer list will be emailed to you.



# Worship & Studies

Growing in Faith through Worship and Studies

## April 9:30 AM Worship Services

**April 7 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**Family Worship / Holy Communion**

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: John 20:19-31  
Theme: When we believe Christ has been raised from the dead, we can do anything!  
Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.  
Children remain in worship.

**April 14 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: John 21:1-19  
Theme: The risen Christ appears to encourage us to move forward with his mission.

**April 21 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Rev. Julie Elmore, pastor of Nome (Alaska) UMC is Guest Speaker.  
Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

**April 28 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Worship with Praise Band**

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: John 13:31-35  
Theme: Jesus' disciples are known by the love they have for one another.  
Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

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## **Chancel Choir**



The Chancel Choir welcomes new members. If you think you may be interested, please join us at a rehearsal. We rehearse one evening during the week and 30 minutes before the Sunday morning worship

service. For more information and a rehearsal schedule, contact Pam Sase-Ryder or Chris Heckman.

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## **Rev. Julie Elmore, Guest Preacher**



West LA UMC looks forward to welcoming Rev. Julie Elmore as our guest preacher on Sunday, April 21. Rev. Elmore is the pastor of Nome Community Church in Nome, Alaska. Our church has supported her ministry by providing layettes that are distributed by the church to new

mothers and with funds that have supported her salary and other outreach ministries.

## Sunday School and Bible Studies

### **Children's Sunday School**

Sunday School is the perfect place and time for children to learn about God, the life of Jesus, and important lessons in the Bible. Children of all ages will enjoy these Sunday School classes:

Toddlers Nursery (located next to the sanctuary)  
Grades K-5 Explorer Room 3  
Grades 6-8 Trekker Room 2  
Grades 9-12 Youth Room 8 (located upstairs)

### **Women's Bible Study Group**

Mondays 1:00 to 2:30 pm

In April we will study the Kingdom of God with two lessons from the Book of Daniel. We then begin a study of Resurrection Hope with lessons from the Gospel of Luke. The women take turns leading the class discussion using the Adult Bible Study series. Please join us for fellowship and discussion.

### **Men's Bible Study Group**

Mondays, 7:15-8:15 PM in Learning Center.

The Men's Study Group will begin viewing the video series on the book of Revelation which they postponed from last year from the 1st of April. For more information, please contact Fred Hifumi.

### **"Alive Now" Study Group**

Wednesdays, 9:00-10:15 AM in Room 2.

This study focuses on the lectionary text that will be the basis for Sunday's sermon. (See page 2 of this Newsletter for a list of scripture lessons.) New members are welcome.

### **Wednesday Bible Study**

Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00 PM in the Learning Center.

Rev. Gary continues to lead a study on the books of 1 and 2 Corinthians using the Immersion Bible Studies Guide by James L. Evans.



# Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Supporting Families in Spiritual Growth and Discipleship

## **A NEW Children's Choir! Calling All Singers!**

In April, a new Children's Choir will begin to prepare for our first performance on Mother's Day. All children are welcome to participate.

The Children's Choir will be directed by West LA UMC's Music Director, Chris Heckman. Rehearsals are scheduled after Sunday School on April 21, April 28 and May 5. We will meet in Room 3 from 10:45-11:15 AM to we prepare for our first performance at the worship service on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12.

"I love singing in the Choir and I dream of a Children's Choir where children find pleasure from singing in our worship services, too."

*Submitted by Pamela Sase-Ryder.*

## **Parenting Beyond Your Capacity**

The March Newsletter described "Orange-ology" as the combination of two vital influences in the lives of children and youth – the **red** heart of the home and the **yellow** light of Christ in the church. Combined together, **orange** becomes a dynamic way to guide and nurture the next generation in the Christian faith!

The Christian Education Committee wants to draw attention to the potential of Orange-ology for our congregation by distributing copies of "*Parenting Beyond Your Capacity: Connect Your Family to a Wider Community*" to parents, Sunday School Teachers, Youth Leaders, and other church leaders. This insightful book by Orange founder, Reggie Joiner, provides concrete examples of how parents and the church can partner to develop healthy relationships and support families in growing in faith.

Reggie Joiner writes, "[This book] isn't a self-help book. It's a get-help book. It's about how you can increase your parenting capacity by connecting with available resources, some of which you know about and some of which you might not." He recognizes that parenting can be hard work, and that a parent's influence is best realized in partnership with the church.

On Easter Sunday, March 31, the Christian Education Committee will begin distributing books to parents after worship in preparation for two book discussions at the church on April 28 and May 5 at 11:00 AM. The focus on April 28 will be sharing impressions of the book. May 5 will include a presentation on Orange-ology and how the ideas presented in the book may guide our ministry with families at West LA UMC!

*Rev. Janet Cromwell*

## **A Fun Night Out!**

**April 26, 5:30 – 9:30 PM**

Children, Youth, and their friends are invited to A Fun Night Out on Friday, April 26 at West LA UMC. The fun begins at 5:30 PM with games, followed by a delicious pizza dinner at 6:00 PM.

Together we will watch "*Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted*," a fun-filled movie about friends and neighbors. Come and see how being BRAVE and finding our own special gifts connects to our 2013 VBS theme! This will be an exciting preview for both VBS participants and youth helpers.

While the children and youth are at A Fun Night Out, parents may want to plan their own evening of entertainment. There are many dining opportunities on Sawtelle Blvd. Plus, parents may also enjoy attending the Japanese Film Night at the church. April 26's feature film is "*After The Rain*." It begins at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary and is free!

A Fun Night Out for Children and Youth ends at 9:30 PM – just as the Japanese Film Night concludes. How's that for perfect timing!

A Fun Night Out is hosted by Sharon Kinoshita Gill, Jeri Okamoto Floyd, and Rev. Janet Cromwell. RSVP is requested so that we may plan dinner, games, and snacks. Church Office – 310-479-1379.



## **Asian Camp**



Last year, eight West LA UMC youth attended Asian Camp and had a fabulous time meeting new friends and growing in faith. We look forward to another great experience at Asian Camp this year when it is held July 28 – August 2 at Camp Sierra. This camp is open to students who have completed 9<sup>th</sup> Grade through their second year in college.

A Jr. High Camp is scheduled for June 30-July 5 at Camp Colby.

More information and registration materials will be sent to parents and youth when it is received at the church. In the meantime mark your calendar and plan to attend! Contact Rev. Janet Cromwell if you are interested in either camp program.

# Outreach & Social Service

Serving Our Community and World

## **P.A.T.H. Meal Service Project**

People Assisting The Homeless is all about people. It's about individuals giving of themselves helping other individuals. PATH has been in existence for more than 28 years. The WLA facility where our church members prepare dinner once each month houses 30 adults. The residents are all previously homeless and are now temporarily living at the facility on Cotner Avenue near Pico Boulevard. PATH provides housing and meals for 90 days while the residents seek employment and permanent housing, and save enough money to get started.

It is a very challenging time for the residents. Our church's volunteer efforts in providing a hot meal give them some stability in their journey. The families, groups, and organizations of our church who prepare a meal are blessed by being able to participate in this community stewardship project.

Church members are encouraged to work together to prepare and serve meals on the second Monday of each month. If you or your family would like to be a part of this rewarding ministry, please contact Gisele Narisawa at [giselenarisawa@hotmail.com](mailto:giselenarisawa@hotmail.com).

## **Ralph's Shopping "Profits" WLAUMC**

Ralph's Supermarket donates a percentage of every dollar you spend there to our church, IF you ask them to. If you are a Ralph's Club Card member, all you have to do is take this newsletter to the cashier and ask him/her to scan the bar code at the bottom of this article.

You may have done this previously, but Ralph's requires that you update your card every year. They clear their data base at the end of August every year. We suspect that a number of church members have not re-registered because the amount of our Ralph's dividend checks has dropped significantly in 2013. So if you have not renewed, or if you don't remember, simply take this bar code and ask the friendly cashier or manager to scan it.

WLA UMC uses the Ralphs dividends to support Social Action activities. We thank you and our care recipients thank you. Any questions? See Cooke Sunoo or any other Social Action Commission member.

NPO# 90163  
WEST LOS ANGELES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Thank you for your support!

## **Caring For The Environment:**

### **A Christian Perspective**

**May 5 at WLA UMC; May 25 LA River Tour**

Caring for the environment is important to most all of us. Global warming is a serious concern for us; we recycle and re-use to reduce our carbon footprint. We know that protecting the earth is protecting a sacred gift from God, but integrating it into our everyday spiritual and ethical practices isn't always on our minds.

West LA UMC's Social Action Commission is presenting what promises to be a fascinating dialogue on these important topics. Doug Christie of our congregation will join with environmental writer Jenny Price in a conversation unlocking some of the fundamental questions of nature and our faith. Doug has done extensive writing on ecology and Christian thought while Jenny has spent years writing about nature in LA. Together they hope to involve our congregation in seeing our faith and environment with new focus and deep connections.

The May 5 (1:00-3:00 PM) presentation will be followed by a May 25 LA River field trip to see places of restored natural beauty and wildlife and sites of wonderful potential. The River Tour will provide an opportunity for our congregation to see first-hand the possibilities of transformation of the concrete flood control channel into a thriving urban oasis.

The May 5 presentation is free and open to all. The cost of the May 25 field trip is \$10 per person/\$25 per family. The Social Action Commission is subsidizing the fee to make it affordable for everyone to participate. Invite friends to join us, but the number of participants is limited, so first-come first-served. Sign-ups will take place after church on Sundays.

*Submitted by Cooke Sunoo*

P.S. To learn more about Jenny Price, please see her article, "Thirteen Ways of Seeing Nature in LA" at [www.believernag.com/issues/200604](http://www.believernag.com/issues/200604).

## **Fair Trade Sale**

**Sunday, March 24, 10:30 AM**



A Fair Trade sale will be held on March 24 after the 9:30 AM worship service. This is the perfect time to purchase chocolate bars for all of your Easter Baskets, along with coffee, tea, and olive oil for your home. Most of the products are organic, and ALL are grown by small farmers from around the world. Special orders are available; see any Social Action Commission member.

## Recycle Ink Cartridges

West LA UMC collects used ink cartridges, so bring them to church. Collected cartridges are taken to Staples and also sent to a cartridge recycling company. Those not recyclable for cash are taken to a hazardous waste recycling center. The proceeds pay for subscriptions to "The Upper Room" devotional magazine for homebound members and to support the Social Action Commission. Thank you for caring for the earth by recycling. Questions? Contact Harriet Woo at 310-827-3101 or woosoo@gmail.com.

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## Healthier Living Workshop

West LA UMC Outreach & MemberCare Committee is hosting a six-week workshop presented by The Institute for Healthy Aging at Keiro, a course for lifestyle management and healthy living! Developed by Stanford University, Healthier Living is designed to help people with one or more chronic health problems to manage their health problems to lessen their impact on life.

You will learn how to cope with the "blues," frustrations, and worries; reduce fatigue, anxiety, and pain; communicate better with doctors, friends, and family; set goals and problem solve to make positive changes; and maintain a healthier diet.

The workshop begins on April 9, from 9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon in the West LA UMC Social Hall.

For more information and to RSVP, please call Kanako Kusano at The Institute for Healthy Aging at Keiro at 323-980-2353 or email kkusano@keiro.org

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## Japanese Film Nights

Friday, April 26, 7:30 PM



Japanese Film Night on April 26 features "After the Rain" aka "Wandafuru Raifu." This film was directed by Takashi Koizumi, is 100 minutes long, and in color.

An introduction to the film, including background information on the director and actors, is provided at the beginning of each film.

The movie starts at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Admission is free and open to the public.

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## WLAUMC Website

Be sure to check the church's website at [www.wlaumc.org](http://www.wlaumc.org)! Many upcoming events and our monthly newsletter are available online. Thanks to Susan Lui for maintaining the church's website.

## UMCOR Japan Relief

From providing accommodations for the homeless to investing in sunflowers. That's the broad span of good uses to which UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, has been directing the outpouring of generosity from United Methodists and others of goodwill following Japan's appalling triple disaster almost exactly two years ago.



Donations amounting to a remarkable \$12 million were generated in response to the devastation wreaked by the March 11, 2011, earthquake, and the subsequent massive tsunami and nuclear catastrophe.

Determining just how most usefully to spend that enormous sum in Japan—a country with its own highly developed economy, of course, and its own distinct complexities—has brought fresh challenges to UMCOR and its international and local partners. Notable among those international partners is Church World Service (CWS).

For instance, over the past two years UMCOR's funds have gone via CWS to provide immediate emergency relief for families in northern Japan who had to move into temporary accommodations following the disaster. They also have gone to the urgent repair and, later, longer-term rebuilding of the Asian Rural Institute in Nasushiobara, with whom The United Methodist Church has a long association.

UMCOR also assisted in the effort (among other initiatives) by Japan's ecumenical relief agency, JEDRO—which was launched by the National Council of Churches of Japan about a year after the triple disaster—to provide citizens with Geiger counters and advocacy for responsible nuclear power policies.

As time has gone on, UMCOR's help has turned to more forward-looking assistance, including support for small businesses to encourage fuller economic recovery and development, and a long-term convalescent program for radiation-affected children

One clear emphasis in UMCOR's commitment has been a substantial focus on communities whose particular problems and needs might otherwise remain hidden or unaddressed.

*By David Tereshchuk, UMCOR Staff Writer*

### Please note:

West LA UMC continues to be a proud sponsor of UMCOR relief efforts in Japan and throughout the world. Thank you for your prayers and generous financial support. Your donations to "The One Great Hour of Sharing" special offering supports UMCOR's administrative efforts and communications.



### **UMW MISSION MINISTRIES**

The third purpose of the UMW is "to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church." One of the ways WLA UMW works to fulfill this purpose is by organizing fundraisers to enable us to make monetary donations to local outreach programs and global missions.

Thanks to your generous support of the 2012 Holiday Boutique . With additional donations from individuals, we were able to support the following Outreach programs:

- Alaska Layette Project,
- Epworth Apartments (for emancipated youth),
- Asian Pacific Women's Center (serves abused women and children),
- UCLA Wesley Foundation,
- Step Up on Second (supports persons with mental illness),
- A3M (Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches),
- Keiro, South Bay (purchases items on their wish list),
- Cal-Pac Camps (includes donation from Chimie Hashimoto upon her retirement as Choir Director),
- Mephibosheth in Ghana (school for special needs children through Mariko Yamazaki, includes donation from Tachi Okubo and Family in memory of Kenzo Okubo).

Thank you for sharing in our mission projects.

*Submitted by Sadie Hifumi*



### **The Cradle-to-Prison Pipeline:**

#### ***A community discussion and call to action***

The LA District United Methodist Women are hosting a panel of community and faith leaders in a discussion of "mass incarceration" policies of the criminal justice system, "zero tolerance" school discipline system, and the role of education and early intervention alternatives to the cradle-to-prison pipeline.

The program will be held on Saturday, April 27 from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, with registration beginning at 9:15 AM, at Centenary UMC, 300 S. Central Ave, in Los Angeles. The Registration Fee is \$10 (including breakfast and lunch) before April 13 and \$12 after that. There is no fee for women age 30 and younger.

For more information and to register, contact May Jung at 323-256-5818.

### **West LA UMC's**

## **WOMEN'S RETREAT!**

### ***Spiritual Refreshment April 13-14!***



West LA UMC's Women's Retreat offers a relaxing time of spiritual renewal and quality friendships. Participants will enjoy reading, reflecting, and experiencing God's presence in a cozy lodge in nearby Pacific Palisades.

The Retreat begins on Saturday, April 13 at 10:00 AM and will include worship, Bible study, fun activities, free-time, and lots of great conversation! Sunday morning will include breakfast and a closing program before departing at 11:30 AM.

The cost of the Retreat is \$99.00 per person and includes one night's accommodation, three meals, Retreat journal, and supplies. (The low cost has been arranged through a generous gift from West LA UMC's United Methodist Women and Christian Education Committee!) Spaces are still available and early registrations are appreciated. The Registration deadline is Friday, April 5.

Participants are encouraged to car-pool to the Retreat since parking is very limited at Aldersgate.

For more information, contact Retreat Co-Chairs Ms. Stacey Hirose and Rev. Janet Cromwell. Registration materials are available by calling the church.



### **UMW JAM SESSION**

#### ***Friday, May 3, 9:30 AM***



You're invited to a Jam Session – that is a Strawberry Jam-Making Session, on Friday, May 3 beginning at 9:30 AM. If you would like to help make freezer jam, come join us. Just let us know if you are coming so we can make lunch for you.

We will be selling the fruits of our labor, namely Strawberry Freezer Jam, after the Joint Worship Service on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. At the same time, we will have a BAKE SALE. We are sending out a special appeal to all bakers for donations of cookies, cakes, pies, and other homemade goodies. All proceeds will go to mission projects.

For more information on the United Methodist Women, please see the bulletin board in the Social Hall or speak to Sadie Hifumi or Toshie Setoguchi.

## Church Library – New Open Hours



The Church Library will be open for reading and borrowing books on Sunday, April 7 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Come and see the library and use the many resources

that are available to church members. Questions? Please contact Jean Dote.

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## Café Aloha-Lunch for Seniors



Seniors! Please come and enjoy Cafe Aloha Senior Lunch on Saturday, May 4 at 11:00 AM at the West LA UMC Social Hall. We will eat Japanese food, sing, and enjoy fellowship time together. Please

RSVP to Frances Uchida.

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## Message of Love

Ms. Joni Eareckson Tada will be the guest speaker at the Southern California Japanese American Christian Federation 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Program on Saturday, May 25 at Calvary Chapel in La Habra. The program begins at 1:30 PM. Advance tickets are \$15.00 by calling JEMS at 213-613-0022.

A diving accident at age 17 left Joni paralyzed. With God’s grace, Joni learned patience, perseverance, and an appreciation for the small things in life. Through her books, paintings, and presentations, Joni’s life has inspired millions of people with disabilities and given hope to millions more! Together with her husband, Ken Tada, they continue to share God’s message of love, hope, and freedom.

In some ways, Joni is a part of West LA UMC’s extended family as her husband, Ken, is the nephew of Aiko Inouye. Please contact Aiko for more information.

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## Wesley Foundation Serving UCLA

UCLA Wesley Foundation alumni and friends will want to attend the campus ministry’s 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, April 20 at the Westwood United Methodist Church. The reception begins at 4:00 PM, with worship at 5:00 PM and dinner and a program at 6:00 PM. Advance tickets are \$75/person or \$600/table for eight.

## GO GREEN!

In addition to the popular “green” motto, “Reduce! Reuse! Recycle”...it is time to add “Repair”! Do you remember when people darned the holes in socks, sewed on fallen buttons, took needle and thread to torn clothing, and repaired all sorts of things rather than throw them away? It’s a good habit, it can be very creative, and fixing things can give us a great sense of accomplishment.

Are you in the market for a computer? Consider a laptop – it saves space, you can take it anywhere, and it utilizes five times LESS energy than desktop computers!

Instead of sending that old rug to the landfill, check with local animal shelters to see if they can use it. Animal shelters can use old towels, blankets and sheets too.

If those Costco runs result in an overabundance of merchandise, consider a personal network where you buy in bulk and share the extras with friends and family, with all participants saving money! Buying in bulk reduces packaging and gas costs too.

If you take your own reusable coffee mug or container each time you stop for coffee, you can pride yourself for keeping the stores’ paper cups from ending up in landfills!

Washing clothes in cold water eliminates two pounds of CO2 per load. We should consider washing clothes less frequently too...only when they really need it.

Here’s a pretty staggering statistic: if every U.S. home replaced just one light bulb with an Energy Star bulb, enough energy would be saved to light 3 million homes for a whole year!

*By Jack Ong*



REUSE! REDUCE! RECYCLE!

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## Tanoshimi-kai Outing

The next Tanoshimi-Kai will visit the Japanese Garden, Suiho En, and the Nethercutt Collection on Thursday, April 4, 8:45 AM – 5:00 PM. Questions? Please contact Eleanor Nakano.



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## UM Clergy Caucus Meeting

Revs. Gary, Janet and Becky will attend the National Japanese American United Methodist Clergy Caucus April 29-May 1 at Centenary UMC. This gathering provides continuing education, fellowship, and opportunities for planning among the churches.



# JAPANESE MINISTRY

## Asian-American Language Ministries

1996年より4年事、全国合同メソジスト総会（General Conference）で、アジア系アメリカ人の伝道計画のために委員会が設けられ、予算が組まれてきた。日本、中国、韓国、カンボジア、フィリピン、モン、ラオス、ベトナム、南アジア諸国など15か国語をターゲットにしている。今回、2013年から4年間、私も委員会のメンバーとして奉仕することになった。

今、アジア系アメリカ人の移民者の数がどんどん増えている。合同メソジスト教団は、新しいグループに伝道したい。しないといけない。伝道は、教会の使命ではないかと、熱が入る。その熱意に負けて、私は奉仕に参加することになった。

ある一人の留学生が中国からアメリカに来た。勉強をしている間に、クリスチャンになった。卒業後、中国に帰って牧師になり、伝道を始めた。家族が救われ、村の人々が救われていった。アメリカで小さい福音の種が蒔かれ、中国で大きく成長した。教会は宣教師を送ってはいない。しかし、アメリカの地で宣教の働きが確実に行われている実感を皆が持った。

日本語伝道も同じである。伝道して救われても、帰国してしまう兄弟姉妹。しかし、Returnee Conferenceという帰国者の修養会は、去年1000名の参加者であった。皆、海外でキリストに出会った。そして、福音の種は、日本で大きく成長している。

こんな宣教方法があったであろうか。仕事や勉強が終わり、帰国する時、福音をたずさえて帰る。アメリカでは見えないが、日本では静かにリバイバルは起こり始めている。福音の種は、ここアメリカで蒔かれている。神様の働きは本当に素晴らしい。

平田

I had a privilege to attend Asian-American Language Ministry Committee meeting in San Francisco. Since 1996, successive General Conferences have continued their support of AALM. Representing 10 ethnic sub-groups (Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Cambodian, Filipino, Formosan, Hmong, Lao, South Asian, and Vietnamese) and 15 different languages, the work of AALM is administered through the General Board of Global Ministries.

The Church wants to reach out to new Asian groups, because Asian population is growing in America. (We cannot forget that the Mission of Church is to go make disciples of All nations.)

One Chinese student came to America to study. During her stay, she became a Christian. When she returned to China, she decided to become a pastor. Her family became Christians. Her village people became Christians. A little seed was planted in America and grew big in China. The Church did not send a missionary to China. But, surely the Mission work was done well in America.

In Nichigo Ministries, we often experience the same thing. Our brothers and sisters return back to Japan after 3-5 years of study or work. The little seed we planted in them, we do not see. But, surely, it grows big in Japan. These returnees from America gather together once a year for a retreat. Last year, there were 1000 participants at the retreat center in Shizuoka. We all felt that quietly the revival is starting in Japan. The seed was planted in America. The Mission work was done in America. This is amazing! God is great!

Pastor Becky Hirata 平田



## Nichigo's April Calendar:

April 6	10:30	Bible Study (Beginners)
April 7	11:00	Nichigo Worship
	12:00	Nichigo Council Meeting
April 13	10:30	Bible Study (Beginners)
April 14	11:00	Nichigo Worship
	12:00	Bible Study
April 20	10:30	Bible Study (Beginners)
April 21	11:00	Nichigo Worship
	12:00	Bible Study
April 27	10:30	Bible Study (Beginners)
April 28	11:00	Nichigo Worship
	12:00	Bible Study

# ***Holy Week and Easter at West LA United Methodist Church***

*Please join us for these special events.*

## ***Palm/Passion Sunday Worship***



Sunday, March 24  
9:30 AM Worship in English in the Sanctuary  
11:00 AM Worship in Japanese in the Sanctuary

## ***Easter Egg Hunt***



Saturday, March 30  
9:00 AM Set-up at Stoner Park  
10:00 AM Crafts, Games, Egg Hunt and Lunch at Stoner Park

## ***Good Friday Worship Services***



Friday, March 29  
11:00 AM in the Sanctuary  
A Service of scripture and hymn singing  
7:30 PM in the Sanctuary  
A Requiem sung by the Choir

## ***Easter Sunday Celebration***



Sunday, March 31  
7:30-9:00 AM Easter Breakfast in the Social Hall  
9:30 AM Worship in English in the Sanctuary  
11:00 AM Worship in Japanese in the Sanctuary

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## **West LA United Methodist Church**

1913 Purdue Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025

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