



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

October 2013

**West Los Angeles
United Methodist Church**
1913 Purdue Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90025
Phone: 310-479-1379
Email: wlaumc@aol.com
Website: www.wlaumc.com

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

Rev. Janet Cromwell, Associate Pastor
Email: jlcromwell8@gmail.com

Rev. Rebecca Hirata, Local Pastor
Japanese Language Ministry
Email: pastorwlaumc@yahoo.co.jp

Lina Yamaguchi,
Secretary and Newsletter Coordinator
Email: 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.

Many families in our church are dealing with issues related to caregiving. This may involve a spouse, parent, child, or relative. These loved ones may have health problems such as dementia, cancer, a chronic illness, or a mental disability. Families are facing decisions about such things as doctors, insurance, savings, assisted living, and transportation.

Caregiving is complicated by the values of our culture. In Asian cultures, children are expected to care for their parents. They are not to seek outside help. They are to keep their difficulties to themselves.

While laudable in some respects, in many cases these values place a greater burden on families. Caregiving is difficult to shoulder alone. We must be able to recognize when a loved one's needs exceed what we can provide. We should be encouraged, not ashamed, to seek or ask for help.

Recently, the clergy of our sister churches on the westside, including the Venice Santa Monica Free Methodist Church, West LA Holiness Church, West LA Buddhist Church, Venice Buddhist Church, and West LA UMC, met with representatives of Keiro's Institute for Healthy Aging. The purpose was to plan a Westside *Genki* Conference: Caregiver's Edition on Sunday, April 27, 2014. The clergy recognize this is a community-wide issue. By working together, we hope to gather between 250 – 300 people to learn about and discuss various issues related to caregiving.

At the conference, attendees will have the opportunity to hear experts talk about such topics as long-distance caregiving, family dynamics, parents and adult children living together, financial issues, and decision-making. There will be a Resource Fair and health screenings. Each church has been asked to refer speakers, consultants, and health care providers who would be willing to volunteer their services for this event. Please see me for more information on how to volunteer.

At this time in the history of our community, caregiving has become a dominant concern. Let us assist each other in making the burden of caregiving lighter.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Gary Oba

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.

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## Lectionary Readings for October

*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.*

|         |                                                      |                                           |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Oct. 6  | Lamentations 1:1-6<br>Psalm 137                      | 2 Timothy 1:1-14<br>Luke 17:5-10          |
| Oct. 13 | Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7<br>Psalm 66:1-12                  | 2 Timothy 2:8-15<br>Luke 17:11-19         |
| Oct. 20 | Jeremiah 31:27-34<br>Psalm 119:97-104 or<br>Psalm 19 | 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5<br>Luke 18:1-8         |
| Oct. 27 | Joel 2:23-32<br>Psalm 65                             | 2 Timothy 4:6-8,<br>16-18<br>Luke 18:9-14 |

## West LA Prayer Ministry

Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM, a group prays 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.



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West LA UMC Website and Facebook

You can find lots of information about church activities, plus lots of photos, on the church website at www.wlaumc.com. "Like" our Facebook page to receive periodic updates on special events and worship services.

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## Rally Day Potluck Lunch



# Worship & Studies

Growing in Faith through Worship and Studies

## October 9:30 AM Worship Services

**October 6 – 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**World Communion Sunday/Joint Family Worship at 10:30 AM/ Holy Communion**

Rev. Becky Hirata preaching. Special guest giving children's message. Children remain in worship.

**October 13 – 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Luke 17:11-19  
Theme: Faith includes thanksgiving as well as petition.  
Special guest giving children's message.

**October 20 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Luke 18:1-8  
Theme: God is moved by persistent prayer.  
Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

**October 27 – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Worship with Praise Band**

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Luke 18:9-14  
Theme: God favors the humble in heart.  
Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

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Welcome Music Director **Ashley Ramsey**

We are delighted to welcome Ashley Ramsey as our new Music Director! Ashley comes to West LA UMC with experience in teaching Middle and High School Music, and leading Children's Choirs at two churches. She is a graduate of Centenary College in Louisiana with a major in Music Education. Ashley is a life-long United Methodist.



Ashley will direct the Sanctuary and Bell Choirs, in addition to selecting hymns for worship. She will also lead music at Vacation Bible School and assist with developing musical opportunities for children and youth.

Ashley moved to Los Angeles in August with her husband John "JR" Ramsey who is a graduate student in Public Relations at USC.

Please greet Ashley and John at church!

Sunday School and Bible Studies

Children's Sunday School

Sunday School helps children to learn about God, the life of Jesus, and important lessons in the Bible.

In October, we will host a new class for Ages 3-Pre-K! Please plan to come as we begin this new Sunday School Class!

Infants & Toddlers	Nursery (next to the sanctuary)
Age 3 to Pre-K	New Room 1
K to Grade 3	Explorer Room 3
Grades 4-8	Trekker Room 2
Grades 9-12	Youth Room 8 (located upstairs)

Women's Bible Study Group

Mondays 1:00 to 2:30 PM in Room 9.

In October we will continue our series on the theme "God's People Worship". Our lessons from the books of Ezra and Nehemiah give us a perspective on worship in Jerusalem after a remnant of Israel returns home from exile in Babylon. The women take turns facilitating the class discussion using the Adult Bible Study series. New members welcome!

"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. See Rev. Gary Oba for more information.

Thursday Bible Study

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

The group continues a study of the gnostic gospels, including the gospels of Thomas, Mary, and Judas. The study meets weekly on Thursday evenings. New members are welcome. Please see Rev. Gary for class materials. No study on October 3.

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## **World Communion Sunday**

Sunday, October 6, 10:30 AM

Mark your calendar and come to the combined English and Japanese Worship Service on Sunday, October 6. Together we will celebrate World Communion Sunday at 10:30 AM and a delicious Potluck Lunch following worship!



# Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Supporting Families in Spiritual Growth and Discipleship

## **New! Parenting Group Beginning**

Friday, October 4, 10:30 AM

**Ohana 2.0 – Where Parents & Kids Connect** is a new group for parents with young children, from newborn to Pre-K. Please join us on October 4, for a casual get-together of parents, babies and young children.

As a parent and parent/grandparent whose children have grown up in the West Los Angeles United Methodist Church community, we are grateful for our extended church family and seek to nurture your young family with the same love that has surrounded our children over the years. In 2005, we originated a pilot program for young families called *Ohana Connections*. Inspired by the Hawaiian word for family, we grew together as an extended family of God. We look forward to facilitating *Ohana 2.0*, a new community of young families where you and your children can grow together in love, faith, and friendship.

We are overflowing with ideas, but our goal for this first gathering is to hear what schedule and programming would best serve your family. We want to make it easy for you to participate! *No pressure, no demands, no extra work, no cooking.* Come as you are, but we hope that you will leave uplifted and ready to tackle the week!

If this date and time aren't convenient for you, but you are interested in participating, please let us know what would work for your family. Our goal is to make it as easy as possible for all to participate!

We look forward to seeing you soon -- and sharing some songs, stories, refreshments, and ideas for future gatherings.

*Jeri Okamoto Floyd and Jane Shimotsu*

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2013 Sawahata Scholarship Recipient

The Sawahata Scholarship Committee is pleased to name John Gozal as the recipient of this year's Sawahata Scholarship award. John graduated from Venice High School and will be attending UC Irvine majoring in science with a goal towards applying for medical school. John has been very active in our youth group, particularly in the Thanksgiving meal project for low-income families. He has provided quiet, effective leadership and has been a good influence on the younger members of our youth group. Congratulations and best wishes to John as he seeks to fulfill his college goals.

Dr. Yosh Setoguchi

Halloween Party – Fun for All!

Saturday, October 26, 6:00 PM, Social Hall

Looking for a frightfully good time? Come to the Youth-sponsored Halloween Party for children and their parents on Saturday, October 26, from 6:00-8:30 PM in the Social Hall. Little goblins will enjoy crazy crafts, goofy games, yummy snacks, and a costume parade with prizes!



The High School and Trekker Groups will begin setting up the Mystery House on Sunday, October 20 after worship and finish on Saturday afternoon, October 26 from 4:00-6:00 PM. Youth will help through the party and afterwards to help clean up.

Questions, please contact Youth Leader David Cook or Rev. Janet Cromwell. Tremble thinking about a terribly thrilling time together!

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## **Thanks to our Teachers and Leaders**



West LA UMC is blessed to have many dedicated Sunday School Teachers and Youth Leaders. We want to recognize the time and commitment of the following persons for the 2013-2014 school year:

*Nursery:* Keiko Kano.

*New Toddler Class in October:* Marilyn Fujii and Chris Kohler.

*Sunday School Teachers:* Sonia Dixon, Carlyle Dixon, Jean Dote, Janice Nishida Mayeda, Emily Cook, Kirsten Maeda, Victoria Yamashita (Pageant), and Rev. Janet Cromwell.

*Trekker Teachers:* Sharon Kinoshita Gill and Mike Dote.

*Youth Group:* Dave Cook, Curtiss Rooks, Wayne Nomi, David Shikata, and Valerie Harada.

We also want to express our thanks to Sharon and Chris James who taught in the Trekker's Class and helped with the Christmas Pageant for many years.

If you would like to be a part of the teaching team at WLAUMC, please contact Sunday School Superintendent Sharon Kinoshita Gill or Rev. Janet Cromwell. We welcome new teachers, especially as we look forward to expanding our Christian Education Program..

# Outreach & Social Service

Serving Our Community and World

## Ralph's Market Rewards Program

### Time to Re-Register!

Thank you to all who regularly use their "Ralph's Club Cards" on behalf of WLA UMC. From September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013, Ralph's has rewarded WLAUMC with over \$900 which has been used for the work of our Social Action Commission.

Each year on September 1, Ralph's requires customers to re-register their cards. You can register on the Internet at [www.Ralphs.com](http://www.Ralphs.com) or take the following "bar code" to Ralph's and have the cashier scan it and your Ralph's Club Card or telephone number. Thank you for re-registering your Club Card and for supporting this rewards program!

NPO# 90163

WEST LOS ANGELES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## Special Needs Ministries

October 20, 1:00 PM, Sanctuary

The Christian Education and Family Ministries Team is hosting a series of programs this year to increase awareness and knowledge of special needs ministries. The first program will be held on Sunday, October 20 at 1:00 PM in the Sanctuary and will feature guest speakers Janet Hifumi Gunter and Mariko Yamazaki on the topic of Autism Spectrum Disorder and Learning Challenges.

Everyone is invited to attend – parents, grandparents, church members and friends – as we seek to learn more and expand our outreach to persons and families with special needs.

For more information, please contact Jane Shimotsu, Jeri Okamoto Floyd, and Rev. Janet Cromwell.

## GO GREEN!

Around this time back in 2008, we began this column for the church newsletter. Since then, we haven't missed a deadline, nor have we reused or recycled a single column. Well, there's always a first time! Also, by NOT making the effort to create a brand-new column this month, I am conserving vital resources (electricity, my brain) – how green is that?! The following is the very first GO GREEN! to feature water-saving tips. It is significant that these habits are still vitally important to develop today!

In these warm months, we need to make a stronger effort to conserve water!

1. Cultivate good water habits -- All the water that goes down the drain, clean or dirty, ends up mixing with raw sewage, getting contaminated, and meeting the same fate. Try to stay aware of this precious resource disappearing and turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving and always wash laundry and dishes with full loads. When washing dishes by hand, fill up the sink and turn off the water. Take shorter showers.
2. Harvest your grey water -- Water that has been used at least once but is still clean enough for other jobs is called grey water. Water from sinks, showers, dishwashers, and clothes washers are the most common household examples. One way or another, avoid putting water down the drain when you can use it for something else (i.e., gardens, lawns, cleaning windows.)
3. Keep your eyes open -- Report broken pipes, open hydrants, and excessive waste. Don't be shy about pointing out leaks to your friends and family members, either.

Have a good green tip? Please send it to [jack@jackong.com](mailto:jack@jackong.com).

By Jack Ong



REUSE! REDUCE! RECYCLE!

## West District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries

### Fall 2013 Classes

Saturdays, October 5, 12, 19, 2013, 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM  
Norwalk UMC – 13000 San Antonio Drive, Norwalk, CA 90650-4335. Phone #: 562-864-1353

For additional information including classes and the registration form, please contact Lina Yamaguchi, Church Secretary during the office hours at 310- 79-1379, Ext 100.

## Church Library Open Hours

The Church Library will be open for reading and borrowing books on Sunday, October 6 from 12:30 PM to 1:00 PM.

Come and see the library and use the many resources that are available to church members. Please contact Jean Dote for more information.



## Asian Camp Reunion

### OUR JOURNEY, OUR STORY, OUR FAITH

Asian American Summer Camp is excited to celebrate its 40th anniversary of inspirational ministry. We are blessed to have a community which has yielded lifelong relationships and empowered both spiritual and emotional growth. This unique experience in which we have come to share is ours.

The Reunion will take place on Saturday, November 9 at the Crowne Plaza Redondo Beach and Marina, 300 North Harbor Drive, in Redondo Beach, from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM.

From 1973 to 2013, we invite our entire camp family and friends to a weekend of fellowship, worship and reunion hosted in Southern California. Register for Saturday's luncheon, and plan on staying for evening socials (times and activities may change) and a camp-dedicated service on Sunday. You'll hear stories, testimonials and music from all generations and truly feel the spirit and magic of camp. Mark your calendars and help us continue the camp legacy.

Tickets for Adults are \$50 and Kids are \$25. You must purchase a ticket to attend the Luncheon. Purchase 8 tickets and reserve an entire table! If you have a seating preference, please email [asiancamp40@gmail.com](mailto:asiancamp40@gmail.com). Bring your family! Free daycare will be available during the Luncheon.

You can make a donation when you buy your tickets online. If you don't plan on attending the event, you can click on "Get Tickets" and put in a donation only, or if you prefer, you can also mail in a donation.

Mail a check to: NJAUMC (memo: Asian Camp Anniversary) Wesley UMC at 566 N. 5th Street, San Jose, CA 95112.

## Café Aloha – Lunch for Seniors



Seniors! Please come and enjoy Café Aloha Lunch on Saturday, October 19, 2013 at 11:00 AM at the West LA UMC Social Hall. We will eat Japanese food, sing, and enjoy fellowship time together under the leadership of Rev. Becky Hirata. If you are able to join the group, please contact Frances Uchida to register.

## AARP Driver Safety Classroom Course

Monday, October 21 & Tuesday, October 22  
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM in the Social Hall

Join us for AARP Diver Safety Classroom Course presented by The Institute for Healthy Aging at Keiro, hosted by WLAUMC. AARP Fee is \$14/person. RSVP by October 14. For more information, please contact Brandon Leong at 323-980-2352 or email [bleong@keiro.org](mailto:bleong@keiro.org).

## ALL CHURCH CLEANUP

The All Church Cleanup that was held on September 7 was a great success due to the many members and friends that came during the hot weather to clean up the church. We would like to thank each one of you for your effort and diligence to have a church ready for the Bazaar.

The following persons came to help: Lisa Asahina, Ed Brewer, Rev. Janet Cromwell, Jean Dote, Mike Dote, Mike Ellis, Steve Fujii, Ihoko Fukuhara, John Gozal, Veronica Gozal, Fusako Hamamoto, Jane Harada, Sadie Hifumi, Rev. Becky Hirata, Keiko Kano, George Kikuta, Keiko Kikuta, Michi Matsuda, Kazue Matsui, Carole Nakano, Eleanor Nakano, Otto Nakano, Rev. Gary Oba, Jeri Okamoto Floyd, Grace Seto, Toshi Setoguchi, David Shikata, Jean Shikata, Stanley Shimotsu, Stuart Shimotsu, Jeanne Roe Smith, Cooke Sunoo, Keiko Takahashi, Mitzi Takimoto, Lois Tateshi, Margaret Toy, Frances Uchida, Doug Yamaguchi, Sets Yamashita, Kay Yang, Rich Yang.

Ken Harada and Rose Honda  
All Church Clean Up Committee Chairpersons

## LA Triathlon Street Closure

Sunday, October 13

Venice Blvd. will be closed to cross traffic from the ocean to Fairfax Avenue on the morning of Sunday, October 13 for the bike portion of the Los Angeles Triathlon. Fairfax Ave. will be closed to cross traffic between Venice and Olympic. Olympic Blvd. will be closed to cross traffic between Fairfax and Staples Center.

Those coming to church from south of Venice Blvd. will need to use the 405 freeway. See the LA Triathlon web site <http://latriathlon.com/> for more information.



**Japanese Film Night**

Friday, October 25, 7:30 PM

Japanese Film Night on October 25 features "LEONIE/Leonie Gilmore." This film based on the true life and relationships of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century American educator, editor, and journalist Leonie Gilmore, was produced by Patrick Aiello, Ashok Amritraj, Yuuki Itoh, directed by Hisako Matsui in 2010.

Greg Shikata, Japanese Film Night Coordinator, provides an introduction to the film, including background information on the director and actors, at the beginning of each film. Come and join us.

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Certificate of Appreciation

Recently West LA UMC received a certificate from Bishop Minerva Carcaño and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in appreciation of our 100% giving to the Ministerial Education Fund.

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**Mark Your Calendars**



Thursday, December 5, 2013 – West LA UMC's All Church Conference with District Superintendent Rev. Kathey Michelle Wilborn. In the Sanctuary. Time to be announced.

Saturday, January 25, 2014 – West District Gathering and Conversation with Bishop Minerva Carcaño. Location and time to be announced.

Saturday, February 8, 2014 – West District Training Conference. Holman UMC, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

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Donate On-Line

It is easy to make a donation or pledge on-line at the West LA UMC web site www.wlaumc.com. The secure site, sponsored by Vanco Services, enables persons to make contributions to the church's general budget or special offerings. It is also possible to make donations in honor or in memory of a loved one. See Diane Yamagata or Harriet Woo for more information.



Neighborhood News

A new mixed-use development is being proposed for the corner of Olympic and Butler (replacing Good Will and adjacent lots) that will have an impact on traffic and safety in the neighborhood surrounding the church. The proposed 6-story building is currently designed to include 88 residential units, five commercial spaces, and two levels of underground parking. The developers have requested a zone change in order to construct this new facility.

Local neighbors are calling attention to the potential negative impact of increased density in an already crowded neighborhood. In the current design, all of the residential and commercial vehicles will exit onto Butler Avenue, causing more traffic on the already congested Butler, Purdue, and Colby Avenues. The possible five new restaurants and shops will add more parked cars to busy residential streets.

Concerns have also been expressed about additional traffic inhibiting response time for police cars and fire trucks, since both public services are located on Butler Avenue.

Members of Faith Tabernacle Church are concerned about the high-rise units looking down on children at their Pre-School and Nursery, as are neighbors with children in the adjacent condominiums.

Neighbors have expressed discomfort in the size and scope of a potential six-story building in relationship to the one- and two-story homes in the surrounding neighborhood, and that a zone change for this property may lead to more large-scale projects in this area.

Concerned citizens are invited to attend the Planning and Use Management Committee Meeting (PLUM) on Tuesday, October 1 at 7:00 PM at the Municipal Building, 1645 Corinth Ave. to request that a zone change not be permitted and that the developer redesign the project to better fit within the current architectural environment and zoning codes.

To be added to a mailing list to receive announcements regarding this development project, contact OlympicButlerNeighborhood@gmail.com or speak with Rev. Janet.

United Methodist Women

Women Learning, Growing, and Serving Others

AND A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

Our humble Social Hall was transformed into a vision of a lovely pink tearoom as over fifty United Methodist Women and guests spent a delightful afternoon on August 24 at "A Summer Tea." Beautiful floral centerpieces created by Jane Harada in ceramic teapots graced each table and added to the delightful ambience.

After partaking in a sumptuous tea of chicken salad, egg salad, cucumber and smoked sandwiches, quiche, fresh fruit cup, scone, cookies, and of course, assorted teas, the women enjoyed an enlightening presentation by dermatologist Dr. Margaret Olsen. She offered many practical and unusual "Skin Tips from Head to Toe." Did you know that you can use dental floss to prevent hangnails on your toes and that spritzing your face with green tea is soothing and helps repair damage when you have been out in the sun too long?

After the presentation, everyone had an opportunity to take part in a drawing for numerous and fabulous door prizes, beautifully wrapped by Jeri Floyd. In addition, fifteen lucky people went home with the beautiful centerpieces. No one went home empty handed because Aiko Harada gifted each guest with her beautifully crafted notecard sets. Thank you Aiko for your wonderful party favors.

Of course, many hands worked together to present "A Summer Tea." Our grateful thanks to: The Planning Committee: Kathi, Eleanor, Fusako and Frances and Sadie. Rev. Janet for designing the eye-catching tickets. Lina for designing and printing our program. Eleanor who contacted our excellent speaker, Dr. Margaret Olsen. Grace for the beautiful quilt which we gave to Dr. Olsen in lieu of an honorarium. Jane for the fabulous centerpieces of flowers in teapots and donating the flowers, tablecloths, napkins. Jeri for the beautifully wrapped door prizes (many of which she donated). Eleanor, Stacey, Lois, Rose, Kathi and Sadie for donating door prizes. Our Kitchen and Set-up crew on Friday and Saturday: Jane, Jeri, Eleanor, Pam, Fusako, Frances, Kathi, Sadie, Stacey, Grace, Aya O., Lois, Sharon, Valerie, Diana, Sets, and Kim. To all who shared their card tables, China teacups and teapots that added so greatly to the ambience. And of course, we can't forget our Men power: Mike Ellis, Otto Nakano and George Uchida. Thank you for coming together and working as a team.

Our special thanks to Eiko Iwata, Kazie Kame and Kay Yang for their generous monetary donations in support of our tea.

UMW WORKSHOP AND LUNCHEON

October 18, 9:30 AM, Social Hall

For our last mission project of this year, we will be packing ten sets of layettes for newborn babies in Alaska on October 18 at 9:30 AM. If you wish to donate items, i.e. "onesies," receiving blankets, towels, etc., please see Grace Seto for more information.

In addition, we will be packing toiletry bags for people in need. If you have any toilet articles that you have collected during your summer travels, please let Kathi Yamazaki know.

Luncheon will be served, so please let us know if you are coming to help. Thank you.

Women's Retreat – March 22-23, 2014

Planning Meeting on October 27 at 1:00 PM

Last year's Women's Retreat brought together 23 women for worship, singing, great conversation, and delicious meals at beautiful Aldersgate Retreat Center in Pacific Palisades. We are already looking forward to this year's Retreat on March 22-23! Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

If you would like to be a part of the Women's Retreat Planning Team, please contact Stacey Hirose or Rev. Janet Cromwell. Our first Planning Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 27 at 1:00 PM in the Learning Center. Come to the meeting to get "a taste" of what's in store!



The international United Methodist Women's Assembly will be held in Louisville, KY, at the Kentucky International Convention Center, April 25-27, 2014, with an optional, pre-event Ubuntu Day of Service on Thursday, April 24. Registration for Assembly is now open at www.new.gb-gm-umc.org/umw/assembly/.

If you are interested in possibly attending Assembly, please speak to UMW President Sadie Hifumi or Rev. Janet Cromwell.

JAPANESE MINISTRY

「東京オリンピック」

2020年のオリンピック・パラリンピック開催地を決めるIOC(=国際オリンピック委員会)の投票が9月8日に行われ、東京が開催地に選ばれた。今、スポーツの話題で日本は元気よくにぎわっている。

東京での五輪開催は1964年以来、56年ぶり2回目。日本での五輪は72年札幌、98年長野の2度の冬季五輪を含めて4回目となる。

88年夏季五輪で名古屋、08年夏季五輪で大阪が招致に失敗した。さらに、16年夏季五輪招致で東京が失敗。当時の石原慎太郎知事が再挑戦を決めて、後任となった猪瀬直樹知事も前面に立って2回目の挑戦で悲願を達成したという長い苦労話がある。

調印式での猪瀬都知事の言葉は印象的であった。「いつでもスポーツに親しみ、子供たちに夢を与え、少しでも復興の力になるような、オリンピック・パラリンピックにしたいです。」東関東大震災後、落ち込む日本で、スポーツは子供達に夢を与え、復興の力になるのである。

神様は、おもしろい方法を使って私達を励ます。今、スポーツの話題で夢が膨くらんでいる。一生懸命施設建築の準備に取りかかる時、経済効果を期待している人や自治体。なるほど。。。。

私は何を願っているか。2011年3月に九州新幹線が開通して、大阪-鹿児島は3時間45分で結ばれた。長崎ルートは、これから開通に向けて進むことだろう。長崎は、外国の玄関口として栄えてきた湾岸都市。ヨーロッパから多くの文化が入って来た。1549年以来のキリスト教の歴史を見る事が出来る美しい町である。鎖国、迫害、殉教などの歴史を理解するためにも、是非これから計画を立てて、多くの人が2020年、日本へ行き、長崎を訪問してほしいと思う。福音をたずさえ、日本を訪問し、同時に神様の御手を感じ取って欲しいのである。

平田

Tokyo was selected as the 2020 Olympics site on 9/7. All we hear and read about is a good positive message Nihon is feeling right now. Tokyo Governor, Mr. Inose said that "by hosting the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, we will create hope to the children and accelerate the recovery of Japan's tsunami-affected area."

God sometimes uses a very unique way to encourage us. Japanese boys and girls will enjoy sports and dream about becoming good athletes. For 7 years, Japan will work very hard to build new facilities to prepare for the games.

What do I desire from the 2020 Olympics? I heard that Kyushu Shinkansen has brought Kyushu (South area) very close to us. It only takes 3 hours & 45 minutes from Osaka to Kagoshima now! We hope to see Nagasaki Shinkansen connected soon. Many of you know that Nagasaki (in Kyushu) is a beautiful city with a rich Christian heritage, because many Europeans came to Japan through Nagasaki since 1549. I desire that many will visit Japan in 2020 and travel to Nagasaki city and see how God chose this city to proclaim the Good News in Japan for nearly 500 years. God has done a great thing in Japan.

Pastor Becky Hirata 平田

Nichigo's October Calendar

Oct. 5	10:00 AM	Bible Study
Oct. 6	10:30 AM	Joint Worship
	11:30 PM	All Church Potluck
Oct. 12	10:00 AM	Bible Study
Oct. 13	11:00 AM	Nichigo Worship
	12:00 PM	Prayer Group
	12:15 PM	Nichigo Council Meeting
Oct. 19	11:00 AM	Café Aloha Senior Lunch
Oct. 20	11:00 AM	Nichigo Worship
	12:00 PM	Bible Study
Oct. 25	7:30 PM	Japanese Film Night
Oct. 26	10:00 AM	Bible Study
Oct. 27	11:00 AM	Nichigo Worship
	12:00 PM	Bible Study



October 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1</p> <p>11:30am 80+ Women's Lunch</p> <p>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>*No "Alive Now" Study</i></p> <p>10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> <p>5:30pm Promise AA Mtg</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30am Prayer Meeting</p> <p>10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> <p><i>*No Evening Bible Study</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:30am Ohana 2.0 Parent & Kids' Group First Meeting</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:30am Worship Meeting</p>
<p>6 World Communion Sunday</p> <p>10:30am Joint Family Worship</p> <p>11:30am All Church Potluck Lunch</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1:00pm Women's Bible</p> <p>6:30-9:00pm Kelton AA Mtg</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00am "Alive Now" Study</p> <p>10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> <p>5:30pm Promise AA Mtg</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30am Prayer Meeting</p> <p>10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> <p>7:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9:30am Worship in English</p> <p>9:45am Sunday School & Youth</p> <p>11:00am Worship in Japanese</p>	<p>14</p> <p>1:00pm Women's Bible</p> <p>6:00am PATH Meal Service</p> <p>6:30-9:00pm Kelton AA Mtg</p>	<p>15 Tanoshimi-Kai Outing</p> <p>8:30am Fat Tuesday Men's Breakfast Mtg</p> <p>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00am "Alive Now" Study</p> <p>10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> <p>Tanoshimi-Kai Returns</p> <p>5:30pm Promise AA Mtg</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30am Prayer Meeting</p> <p>10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> <p>7:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30am UMW Meeting</p> <p>11:00am Church Staff Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11:00am Café Aloha Senior Lunch</p>
<p>20</p> <p>9:30am Worship in English</p> <p>9:45am Sunday School & Youth</p> <p>11:00am Worship in Japanese</p> <p>1:00pm Special Needs Ministry Presentation</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00am-1:00pm AARP Driver Safety Classroom Course</p> <p>1:00pm Women's Bible</p> <p>6:30-9:00pm Kelton AA Mtg</p> <p>7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00am-1:00pm AARP Driver Safety Classroom Course</p> <p>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:30pm Altar Guild Mtg</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00am "Alive Now" Study</p> <p>10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> <p>5:30pm Promise AA Mtg</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30am Prayer Meeting</p> <p>10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> <p>7:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:30pm Japanese Film Night</p>	<p>26</p> <p>4:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal</p> <p>4:00pm Party Set-Up</p> <p>6-8:30pm Halloween Party</p>
<p>27 Fair Trade Sales</p> <p>9:30am Worship in English</p> <p>9:45am Sunday School & Youth</p> <p>11:00am Worship in Japanese</p> <p>11:00am Christian Education Mtg</p> <p>1:00pm Women's Retreat Planning Meeting</p>	<p>28</p> <p>1:00pm Women's Bible</p> <p>6:30-9:00pm Kelton AA Mtg</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:00am "Alive Now" Study</p> <p>10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> <p>5:30pm Promise AA Mtg</p>	<p>31 Halloween</p> <p>9:30am Prayer Meeting</p> <p>10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> <p>7:30pm Bible Study</p>		

Have a Terrifyingly Good Time at the **Halloween Party!**



Saturday, October 26
6:00 – 8:30 PM
Social Hall

Don't be left out in the dark! Come to the Youth-sponsored Halloween Party for children, youth, their parents and friends. Little goblins will enjoy a frighteningly good time with crazy crafts, goofy games, yummy snacks, Mystery House, and creative costume parade with prizes! Everyone is welcome!

West LA United Methodist Church

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