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# 和 Central Harmony

*Newsletter of Central Japanese-American Community Church of SDA*

## *Annual Mochitsuki Festival January 14, 2018*



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## *Easter Social April 1, 2018*



## *Baby Dedication Harper Akari Stewart March 31, 2018*



## 「与える方が幸いである」

主イエスは「受けるよりも与える方が、幸いである」(使徒行伝 20:35)と言われました。皆様はこのお言葉をどのように受け止められますか。

今から二千五百年余り前、イスラエル北方の小さな町ザレパテに、やもめと息子が住んでいました。当時、雨も露も降らず、ひどい飢饉に見舞われていました。哀れにも彼らの乏しい食糧はほとんど底を突き、二人の生きるための戦いはもう終わろうとしていたのです。

そこへエリヤがやってきました。預言者は町の入り口で薪を拾い集めていたやもめに声をかけて、「器に水を少し持ってきて、わたしに飲ませてください」(列王紀上 17:10)と言いました。干ばつときの水はとても貴重でした。一滴の水も無駄にはできません。エリヤはその大切な水を少し分けてくださいとお願いしたのです。

彼女は素直に応じて、水をもって来ようとしたのですが、旅人は更に彼女を呼び止めて、今度は「手に一口のパンをもってきてください」(列王紀上 17:11)と言いました。彼女の家にはパンはありませんでした。かめに一握りの粉と、瓶に少々のお油だけしかありません。そのわずかなもので、婦人はこれから薪を焚いて調理をし、子供と一緒に最後の食事を取ることにしていました。彼女はその貧困の有様を旅人に必死で説明をしたのです。

しかし彼はそれでも「まず、それでわたしのために小さいパンを、一つ持って持ってきてください。その後、あなたと、あなたの子供のために作りなさい。『主が雨を地の面に降らす日まで、かめの粉は尽きず、びんのお油は絶えることがない』とイスラエルの神、主が言われるからです」(列王紀上 17:13-14)と言いました。

やもめは貧窮の極みに達していましたが、主の約束を信じて、言われる通りにしました。すると、奇跡が起こりました。主が約束された通りに、壺の中の小麦も瓶の中のお油もなくなりませんでした。やもめも子供もエリヤも、食べ物に十分に満たされて、飢饉を乗り越えられたのです。

主は与えるお方です。今もわたしたちの一切の必要を満たしてくださいませ。皆様も主に倣って、受けることよりも与えることを求めてみませんか。与えることによって、わたしたちは大いなるものが与えられるのです。

「わたしの神は、ご自身の栄光の富の中から、あなたがたのいっさいの必要を、キリスト・イエスにあって満たして下さるであろう。わたしたちの父なる神に、栄光が世々限りなくあるように、アメン」(ペリピ 4:19-20)

## It is More Blessed To Give

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Do you think the giver is happier than the getter? Is there any mistake?

It was about 2,500 years ago. There were a widow and her son living at a Phoenician town called Zarephath, located above Israel. The weather was terrible. There were neither dew nor rain for years. In that disastrous famine the family had a very hard time to get food. Actually, they were about to give up the struggle to sustain life.

Then they were visited by a stranger, whom we know as Elijah, asking the widow by saying, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink" (1 King 17:10). Water was very precious in the time of the drought. One dip of water should not be wasted. Elijah asked the widow to share the valuable water with him.

Amazingly the widow stepped out of her own suffering to provide this man whom she didn't know with a drink. But as she was about to bring some water to him, Elijah made even further request and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand" (1 King 17:11).

His request could have upset the woman. But she did not ignore him and told him that she had no bread in the house, but only a handful of flour left in the bin, and a little cooking oil in the jar. She also said that she was gathering a couple of sticks to kindle the fire to cook the last meal for herself and her son. She had indeed little to share with him. She was in extreme of poverty.

Yet Elijah said again to her, "Make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.'" (1 King 17:13-14).

Now the widow believed, gave up her last bit of food, and did as Elijah requested. Then, a miracle happened. As she made a bread for Elijah, she could also make a bread for herself and her son, because the flour and oil did not run out. She was rewarded by having all things that they needed.

She did not do what made sense to her. She did not keep the food for herself and her son. She entrusted the last food to the care of the Giver of everything.

If you had been the widow, what would have done? Would you have kept the ingredients to yourselves?

The Lord is the Giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17). Even now, He meets all our daily needs. Don't you want to imitate His life and seek to give rather than to receive? It is in giving that we will be given greater things.

Remember what Apostle Paul said to the church of Philippi. "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen" (Philippians 4:19-20).

## The Rocky Journey to 2016 (Part 3) by Dennis Hokama

(ハーモニー2017年号の続き)

ウォルター・イタガキの1994年の退任後、やはりPUC卒業生であるイサオ・ホリノウチが代わりに牧師になり、10年間LACJに献身されました。彼はパスファインダークラブやMVソサエティを結成したりと、過去のどの牧師ともまったく違う牧会を行いました。スポーツチームを組織し、リーグ参加のソフトボールチームまでも教会で組織しました。キャンプなどの野外活動も行き、若者向けのリトリートも行いました。

1964年にホリノウチ牧師がUCデービスで社会学を学ぶためにLACJを去ると、ヒデオ・オオシタが妻のウィンフレッドと共にLACJの指導者になりました。ウィンフレッドは、1965年よりサンガブリエルアカデミーの小学5年生の担任になりました。活発でいつも明るい性格、安息日学校で熱心に子供たちを指導する姿、理事の立場などを通してMrs.オオシタはやがて事実上のLACJの顔となりました。

1978年オオシタ牧師が引退すると共に、ハロルド・コウノ牧師がLACJの牧師に就任しました。コウノ牧師は、1953年にPUCを卒業したハワイ系二世でした。彼は、よく土曜日のよるに若者とバスケットボールをしたりしました。コウノ牧師は、当時サンガブリエルアカデミーの学生だった末息子のグレッグと一緒に日曜日の朝、フラッグフットボールを楽しんだりしました。またコウノ牧師は、南カリフォルニア教区のアジア教会コーディネーターにも就任しました。

1978年には、日本から伝道学生の渡辺清美が伝道スタッフとしてLACJに加わりました。

ディーンが三世デイキャンプ(SDC)を始めて、夏のバイトを探している若者に職場を提供したり、LACJの教会員の子供や孫達が参加するなど、様々な側面で教会員の絆ができるきっかけになりました。

ディーンと妻のキャシーは、1991年の5月、沖縄での伝道を受け入れることを発表しました。当時ブレント・キムラとクリス・イシイが牧師として働いていましたが、ディーンのアシスタントとして働いていたジーン・タムラとスタンリー・マツダがSDCをディーンの後継けるよう要請されました。

### 移転と統合についての会合の開始

移転と統合の話し合いは、1996年1月LACJの教会理事会の決議にて始まりました。それは、当初日系移民が多数を占めていたイーグルス・ストリート教会の周辺がラテン系の地域と変化していったからでした。日本人向けの福音伝道をするのであれば、ガーデナ周辺を考慮に入れ移転するのが効果的と思われましたが、そこにはすでに東西学園を運営する日本人SDA教会がありました。当然2教会が近所に存在する事についての質問が持ち上がりました。

### アルハンブラ フレンズ教会

1996年10月、LACJは、ガーデナ教会との統合を諦め、アルハンブラ フレンズ教会(クエーカー派)を検討し始めました。便利な立地でしたが、建物購入が条件でした。アルハンブラ フレンズ教会は良い支払い条件を提示し、熱心を買うように勧めましたが、駐車場がなく、拡張がするスペースがないなどを理由に1997年4月、LACJは購入することを否決しました。

(continued from Harmony 2017 issue)

When Walter Itagaki left the ministry in 1954, Elder Isao Horinouchi, another graduate of PUC, accepted the call to replace him, and stayed for 10 years. He was an entirely different kind of minister from those that had preceded him. He organized the Pathfinder Club, and the MV society. He had no problem with organized sports and the church also had a softball team that played in a league. There were camp outs, and retreats that were youth oriented.<sup>1</sup>

When Elder Horinouchi left in 1964 to begin his doctoral studies at UC Davis in sociology, he was replaced by Elder Hideo Oshita, and his wife Winifred, who began teaching the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at San Gabriel Academy in 1965. Because of her outgoing nature, her perennially sunny disposition, her love of teaching the juniors, and then the primary Sabbath school classes, coupled with her position on the church board, Mrs. Oshita soon became the defacto face of LACJ.

1978 saw the retirement of Elder Oshita, and the calling of Elder Harold Kono to replace him.

Elder Kono was a 1953 Hawaiian Nisei graduate of PUC. He sometimes played basketball with the young people on Saturday nights,<sup>2</sup> and his youngest son Greg, who was then enrolled at San Gabriel Academy, joined us in our Sunday morning pick up flag football games.<sup>3</sup> He also became the Conference Asian Coordinator.<sup>4</sup>

Kiyomi Watanabe, a ministerial student from Japan also joined the ministerial staff in 1978.

Dean started Sansei Day Camp (SDC), that it hired church youth, who badly needed summer jobs, served the children and grandchildren of members from all sides, and bound the youth and the young children together.<sup>5</sup>

Dean and Cathy stayed until May, 1991, when Dean suddenly accepted a call to Okinawa.

By this time, Pastors Brent Kimura and Chris Ishii had joined the pastoral staff, they asked Gene Tamura and Stanley Matsuda, who had been Dean's SDC assistants to take on the responsibility of running SDC in Dean's place.

### The Relocation/Merger Discussion Begins

The relocation/merger controversy began when the LACJ church board voted to look into a relocation or merger in its January, 1996 meeting.<sup>6</sup> The reason for this initiative was that the Eagle Street property, which had originally been in the midst of a heavily Japanese immigrant community, was now in a primarily Hispanic neighborhood.

But if it was going to move on the basis that it needed to be more efficient for Japanese evangelism, the reasoning went, then it needed to consider the Gardena area, where there was already another Japanese SDA church that ran a Japanese language school (Tozai Gakuen). Since there already was a Japanese church there, the obvious question that needed to be asked was to have two Japanese churches so close together.

**ハシエンダ ハイツ SDA 教会**

アルハンブラ・フレンズ教会を断念したその後、ハシエンダ・ハイツ SDA 教会の存在が持ち上がりました。ハシエンダ SDA 教会は、サンガブリエルバレー郊外のアジア系エリアにあり、教会員が減少している白人系教会でした。ハシエンダ SDA 教会は教会統合にオープンで、建物建設ができる2エーカーの未開発な土地がありました。8月下旬に、LA 中国人 SDA 教会との交渉が決別し、ハシエンダ教会は、新たに統合できる教会を探し始めていました。

**日本人教会再建が理事会で発表される**

2005年、9月6日、デニス・イマイが日本人教会が再建される事を発表しました。教会員達は、これから再建される日本人教会と共にハシエンダ教会を去るか、このままハシエンダ教会に残るかの選択が任せられました。教会資産については、後に決定するという事で保留になりました。

**サン・ゲブリエル・アカデミー時代**

2006年1月21日「ピット」での礼拝後、LACJはSGAでの初めての理事会を開きました。LACJは、新たな定住の場所を決めるまで、毎6ヶ月間更新の賃料10万ドルを提案することにしました。

ケビン・カカズと妻アマダが7月8日よりLACJの牧師に就任しました。ケビンは、LACJの第一長老であったケン・カカズの甥で、ロイとアイリーン・カカズ夫妻の息子でした。

2007年6月21日の理事会で、ケビン・カカズ牧師に代わり、サム・チャン牧師がLACJの牧師に就任し、中村徹牧師が副牧師として就任することが発表されました。

**イーグル・ストリート教会の売却**

2007年12月8日、LACJ理事会にて、サウスセントラルスパニッシュ SDA 教会がLACJのイーグル・ストリート教会の購入を希望していると発表されました。LACJはステンドグラス一枚を除いた、それ以外の物を含めた状態で、1.75百万ドルの希望価格を提示する事にしました。買主もSDA教会であり、売主、買主双方がSDA南カリフォルニア支部の管轄内であったため、条件付き捺印証書が不要でした。

このニュースは感動的なものでした。なぜなら2000年6月6日、CJACCがハシエンダハイツで教会を開いていた時代には、イーグル・ストリート教会は66万5千ドルの希望価格を提示していましたが、買主がそれを受け入れず売却はまとまりませんでした。そのおかげで2008年の株価下落前に最高金額で売却することができたのです。

**ヴィラ・ストリートにあるパサデナの土地**

2010年12月5日のLACJ理事会にて、ヴィラ・ストリートの教会についての話し合いが初めて行われました。既に教会員はその土地を見学に行っていたため、その土地についての意見話し合われました。反対意見はありませんでしたが、ヴィラ・ストリートの土地には運動場がなく、駐車スペースが少なく、また少し修理が必要に思われました。

2010年、12月18日の公開集會にて、ヴィラ・ストリートの教会を購入するかの投票が行われ、賛成43に対して反対1の結果となりました。教区と協議後デニス・イマイが教会購入の申し出をすることとなりました。

2011年1月23日日曜日の理事会(サン・ゲブリエル・アカデミーでの最後の)が行われ、売主の、そのままの状態という条件で1.6百万ドルという提案と、約60日間の審査を条件などが発表され理事会が可決しました。2011年4月24日の復活祭の日曜日、グランド・オープン

**The Alhambra Friends Church**

By October, 1996, LACJ had given up on the Gardena church and began its consideration of the Alhambra Friends (Quaker) church. It was geographically convenient, but unlike the Gardena American church, it would have to be purchased. However the Quakers were anxious to sell, and offered excellent terms. But citing lack of parking, and no room for expansion, LACJ voted in April, 1997 not to even make an offer.<sup>7</sup>

**The Hacienda Heights SDA Church**

The Hacienda Heights SDA church came to the attention of church members after the April rejection of the Alhambra church. It was a Caucasian church in an Asian suburban community in the San Gabriel Valley with a shrinking membership. They were open to merger ideas, and had two acres of undeveloped land on which to build. By late August, their negotiations with the L.A. Chinese SDA church had fallen through, and the Hacienda church was again looking for a new merger partner.

**The Reestablishment of the Japanese Church is Announced to the Board**

In the board meeting of 9/6/05, Dennis Imai announces that the Japanese church has been reestablished, and describes the process by which this will be accomplished. The only decision left to individual Hacienda Heights church members is to decide who wants to leave with the Japanese church and who wants to stay at Hacienda Heights. Asset division will be another matter to be decided later.

**The San Gabriel Academy Era Begins**

On 1/21/06, after worship in "The Pit," LACJ holds its first board meeting at SGA. LACJ is offering a six month lease for \$10,000, with an option to renew it for six more months as LACJ searches for a new permanent location.

Kevin Kakazu's first Sabbath as Pastor is July 8. His wife is Amanda. Kevin is the nephew of Ken Kakazu, former head elder of LACJ, and the son of Roy and Eileen Kakazu.<sup>8</sup>

On 6/21/07 board meeting, it is announced that Sam Chung will replace Kevin Kakazu. Toru Nakamura is asked to be asst. pastor of pastoral care.

**The Sale of the Eagle Street Property**

At the 12/8/07 board meeting, we learn that there has been an offer to purchase from South Central Spanish SDA church. We counteroffer for \$1.75 million with the condition that we take one of their stained glass windows. Since they are an SDA church, and our church is technically owned by the Southern California Conference, as are all Southern California SDA churches, no escrow will be needed.

This is electrifying news, as during the Hacienda Heights era, (6/6/00) the church board had once approved a counter offer of \$665,000 that had been declined by the buyer. In retrospect, we had sold at the top of the market before the 2008 crash.

**The Pasadena Property on Villa Street**

The church board minutes first mention the Villa Street church in its minutes of 12/5/10. There has already been a tour of that property, so comments are discussed. Nobody disliked it, but there

グ式典が行う計画が立てられ、リー牧師をゲスト・スピーカーとして招くことがまりました。同日に献堂式も行う事が決まりました。

### 名称の変更

2011年4月3日理事会は、教会名のLACJにコミュニティという言葉を加え「Central Japanese American Community Church of Seventh-day Adventists—CJACC」に変更する事を教会員に提案する議案を可決しました。

### グランド・オープニングとその後

2011年4月24日、2113 E. Villa Streetの教会でグランド・オープニングが開催されました。教会員は皆喜びに溢れた様子でした。CJACCは、1998年1月3日にイーグル・ストリートにあった教会を離れてからの陰しく曲がりくねった旅路ののち、2011年の4月2日について自分達の教会で神を賛美することができるようになりました。この長い道のりは、13年と3ヶ月、もしくは4837日にも及びました。

私達が創立70周年を迎えるにあたり、困難な時代を切り開いていった教会員達の粘り強い献身と犠牲を今一度心に止めておいて下さい。

is no playground, very little parking and it may need some repairs. At the town hall meeting of 12/18/10, there is a vote by ballot to make an offer. The "yes" vote wins by 43-1. Dennis Imai will make an offer, after consulting with the Conference.

At the board meeting of Sunday, 1/23/11, (the last to be held at San Gabriel Academy) it is announced that there has been a counteroffer by the seller for \$1.6 million, "as is," and a close date scheduled in about 60 days. The board votes to accept it. There is a plan to have a Grand Opening Celebration on Easter Sunday, 4/24/11. Elder Lee will be the speaker. Since the church will be debt free, there will also be a church dedication service.

### The Name Change

In the same board meeting (4/3/11), it is moved and passed that the board will recommend to the congregation that the word "community" be added to the church name: "Central Japanese American Community Church of Seventh-day Adventists."<sup>9</sup>

### The Grand Opening and Beyond

The Grand Opening service for the church on 2113 E Villa Street on April 24, 2011 unfolded as planned, and everyone seemed happy. The Central Japanese American Community Church of Seventh-day Adventists had traveled up a steep, rocky road, since they left their church on Eagle Street on January 3, 1998, and worshiped again in their own church for the first time on April 2, 2011. This marks a time span of 4,837 days to be exact, or about 13 years and three months.

As we celebrate our seventieth anniversary, let us reflect on the persistence, loyalty and sacrifice made by those who got us through the difficult years.

For a more detailed version, please contact Dennis Hokama at dmhok@sbcglobal.net.

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### End Note

1. On our way from Andrews University to Seattle, in 1961, we stopped in Los Angeles and stayed with the Horinouchis and were thus able to observe his ministry. There was a taffy pull at church on Saturday night, and it was full of happy young adults and teenagers. On Sunday, Elder Horinouchi drove us to Disneyland in his Volkswagon bus, and he was the life of the party. It revolutionized my thinking about how much fun church could be. Years later, he was my sociology professor at PUC (1968-9), and I spent many a Sabbath afternoon at his house for lunch and great conversation.

2. For about 15 years, I rented the Roosevelt High school gym on Saturday nights using Better Living Center money, and we used to get Japanese church members from Loma Linda to West Los Angeles to play together on Saturday nights.

3. Greg was known for his "great hands." One of us would pick him up at his house and drop him off. Elder Kono's older children (Harold Jr, Valery, and Johnny) no longer lived with him, but I consider all them family friends

4. This assignment would keep him intimately involved in LACJ politics even after Dean technically became the senior pastor, because the Hawaiian Nisei looked to him for leadership.

5. My daughter Melissa became a camper as soon as she was old enough and went on to become a counselor until she went to Japan as a student missionary. My daughter Krissy was a camper every year until it was discontinued due to the move to Hacienda Heights.

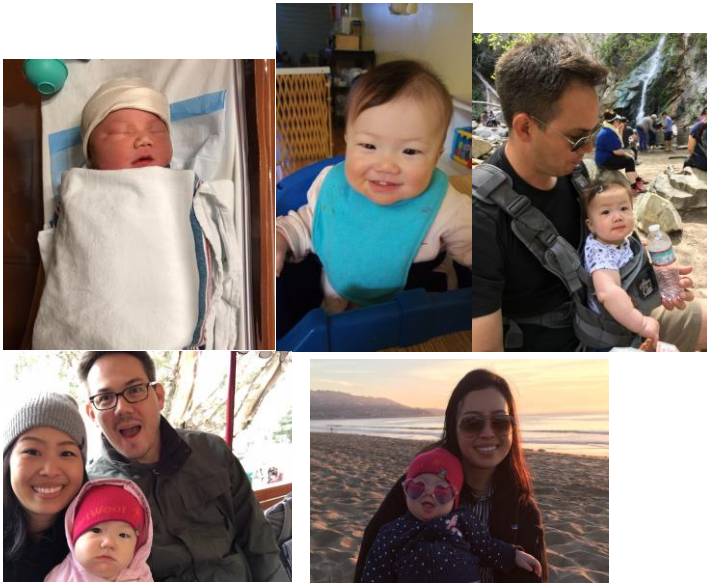
6. I do not yet have the minutes of that meeting and am depending on the Orion Monitor as a secondary source. See <http://orionmonitor.com/01/om9601.htm>. It was also a board meeting in which the Oshita faction was absent, presumably because they knew this issue would come up and thought their absence would deter such a decision or illegitimize it.

7. <http://orionmonitor.com/02/om9802.htm>. "Tis the Season to Be Merging, Tra La La L.A. Central"

8. Roy Kakazu was a long time teacher at San Gabriel Academy, Aileen was a classmate of mine at Pacific Union College.

9. This has become a popular trend in ethnic churches despite the fact that many if not most key members have to travel a long way to get to that ethnic church and are thus not of that community.

# What's happening in CJACC



*Harper, welcome to CJACC!!*

Name: Harper Akari (火丁) Stewart

Birthday: July 18, 2017

Weight at Birth: 10lbs 1oz

Current Weight: 22lbs 4 oz

Height at Birth: 20 inches

## Waku Waku Hiroba

Bi-weekly Mommy and Me

Leader: Yoko Lamn

Staff: Noriko, Udagawa,  
Mutsumi Nakagawa

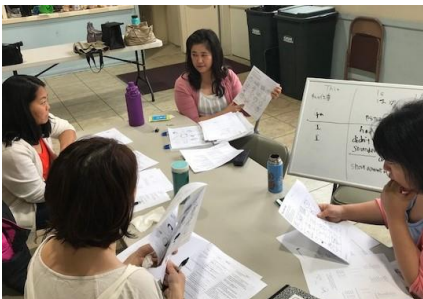


## Monthly ESL class

Instructor: Melissa Hokama, Mika Aoki

Staff: Elissa Hays, Krissy Hokama

Guest instructor: Emi Ikeda (Speech  
Therapist)



## Tuesday Night English Bible Study

Leader: Sean Lehnhoff

Current material: "The Problem of Pain" by C.S. Lewis



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Outdoor Church

Saturday, July 14

Save the date! More details to follow.

### Beach Vespers

Saturday, August 11 at 4:00pm at Bolsa Chica Beach

It's our annual beach vespers! It's always fun to spend time with our church family. We will have a worship, dinner and of course s'mores. Please join us for this fun event!

### Expanding God's Community - Faith Fund

God has presented us the rare opportunity to purchase the adjacent church building. If you believe that God can use CJACC to reach out to our community, we ask that you prayerfully consider how you can directly participate in the Lord's work through monetary contributions to reach our goal. Please refer to the bulletin insert for more information.

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#### Weekly/Monthly/Quarterly Events

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| * Japanese Language Bible Studies      | Tues 11am-12pm          |
| * English Language Bible Studies       | Tues 7pm-8:30pm         |
| * Japanese Language Prayer Meeting     | Wed 1pm                 |
| * Waku Waku Hiroba (Japanese Language) | bi-weekly Thu 10am-12pm |
| * Family Fun Night                     | Monthly                 |

If you would like to be added to our email list for announcements and updates, please contact Melissa at [news@centraljapanese.org](mailto:news@centraljapanese.org).

この教会のイベント情報などをeメールでお送りしています。ご希望の方は以下のアドレスからメリッサ外間まで [news@centraljapanese.org](mailto:news@centraljapanese.org).

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日本人コミュニティー中央教会

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[www.centraljapanese.org](http://www.centraljapanese.org)