

# Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Letter # 38- July 15, 2020

(You may click on the links in this letter to take you to the website listed)

## In Today's Letter

### IN TODAY's Letter:

"A Changing Paradigm for Spirituality.." by Rev. Roger Morimoto

From Ann Shimakawa... "Family History and Immigration Information Research..."

From Tsuru for Solidarity...

"Glenn Hamamoto's Inner Child..."

Birthdays

Children's Time Video's Needed!

Prayer List

Upcoming Zoom Schedule

Please Note! Choir STARTS AT 6:25PM Wednesday, July 8th

Koyukai Gather: Mask Making by Patsy Obayashi, Tuesday July 21, 2020 at 10:30 AM

Other Worlds Module of SLF - "Earth's Energy Grid and Ancient Monuments" - Monday, July 27th 7:30 PM

For past videos and Letters click on the following: **Online Worship Experience** or **Past Letters of Hope**



## Roger's Greeting

### "A Changing Paradigm for Spirituality.."

Written on Sunday, July 12, 2020

Whenever there is a great social crisis and change such as our current era of a pandemic, social unrest, and economic uncertainty, it is often accompanied by a shift in how we experience spirituality and religion. In the time of Jesus and the early Church, for the Jews, the centrality of the Temple was giving way to the crushing power of the Roman empire. For the Jewish faith, the synagogue became central.

For emerging Christians, this new faith started as an underground hidden movement.

Centuries later, as Emperor Constantine found a purpose in adopting Christianity as the state religion, Christianity begins its reign of power eventually creating great cathedrals reflecting direct control of its subjects.

As the Enlightenment emerges from the dark ages, faith becomes influenced by education and the sciences. The struggle between the rational and the blind faith becomes the conflict that carries us to this very day.

As we work our way through these moments, I believe we are witnessing another transformation of

spirituality and religion. The new emerging forms are being influenced by social distancing, the internet, a reckoning of the history of racism on a global scale (ie. - colonialism), and possibly a post-capitalist economy.

This is a big deal. So much will and has to happen to get to this new place, new economy, and new spirituality; but at the same time, is "God Years", it is happening very quickly.

So we are witnessing a big shift. Let us not just be afraid, but let us be open to finding new ways of being community and just people. Let us be open to a new spirituality - ways of connecting to our creator. Let us be open to new ways of understanding who we are in this world and even what our purpose is in this world.

Yes, this is a big deal and a lot is happening!

Be safe, stay healthy, and be kind.

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**From Ann Shimakawa:**

Dwight has been researching his family history and immigration records. He attended a webinar, led by Marty Wolf, that covered the Japanese family records ("koseki"?) and other resources for tracing Japanese-American family history. Perhaps you've already heard of these - but I thought you (other sanseis?) might be interested. Apparently, the Japanese records are not kept forever - once the family line leaves Japan, I guess the records are retired and eventually destroyed.

I don't think there was a fee for this webinar.

Note that Dr. Wolf offered to run a customized session for smaller groups - maybe something other members might be interested in attending? I/we can help coordinate if there is interest within the congregation.

This class presentation is going to be an introductory overview of Japanese family history with an emphasis on koseki (family register) documents. It will be moving pretty quickly, so please don't feel bad if there are things that you don't understand the first time through. There is another class on August 23rd.

If you can determine the village (mura) of your ancestor from, say, an emigration document or ship manifest, you can email him to find out where to mail your request for the koseki/joseki. He and a partner are trying to create a website with this information.

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.  
When: Aug 23, 2020, 03:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMuf-mvpjktG9LbZeorIHqvlInzm8kjU8xHa>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

From Marty Wolf, about these seminars:  
Thanks for your continued interest in Japanese family history - I appreciate the support.  
I wanted to announce that I am teaching the introductory class on August 23rd.

Please pass the Zoom invitations (at the end of the email) along to your family and friends of Japanese ancestry. There are not too many things that I know with absolute certainty - but I know for sure that there are more

than 223 people of Japanese descent (the cumulative number of people that signed up for my classes) who want to know more about their ancestors. I just don't know who they are...

Also, I wanted to mention that Linda Okazaki is presenting a series of Japanese family history webinars through Densho. The current Densho series is being produced in conjunction with the current JAMPilgrimage 9-week online event.

Link to the Densho events page: <https://densho.org/upcoming-events/>

Link to the JAMP events: <https://www.jampilgrimages.com/>

Linda has been kind enough to promote my koseki class to various groups, so I am passing this information along. I don't know all of the details, but Linda did attend one of my earlier classes and she indicated that the class material is complementary and not duplicative. If you have questions, please contact her directly at [linda-hokazaki@gmail.com](mailto:linda-hokazaki@gmail.com).

Finally, as I have previously mentioned, I am also open to offering this class on a "private basis" for religious congregations, kenjinkais, JACL chapters, college Nikkei groups, etc. who would be interested. If possible, I would prefer a sufficient number of participants (at least 10-15 people). Please contact me individually in a new email thread if you are interested in this. Three people have already approached me about this.

Thanks again for your interest. Marty Wolf

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### **From Tsuru for Solidarity...**

(apologies from Brad... most of the links do not work in this article...)

Tsuru for Solidarity is excited to present the first of four sessions in our educational/discussion series: Tsuru Rising! Community Conversations

The series will provide an opportunity for deeper community conversation around identity and intergenerational trauma, anti-Black racism in our own community, and an exploration of what it means to be in solidarity with other communities historically targeted by racism and state violence.

Our first session is Japanese American Identity & Intergenerational Trauma July 25th 10am-12pm PDT | 1pm-3pm EDT



Conversation with Dr. Donna Nagata, psychologist and scholar, and Dr. Satuski Ina, Co-organizer, Tsuru for Solidarity, moderated by Brian Niiya, Content Director, Densho.)

Dr. Nagata, Professor at the University of Michigan, psychologist is the author of the landmark study, Legacy of Injustice: Exploring the Cross-Generational Impact of the Japanese American Internment. Dr. Ina, activist and practicing psychotherapist has specialized in the field of collective historical trauma. She produced the documentary film, Children of the Camps: An exploration of the impact of the WWII incarceration on Japanese American children. Facilitated by Brian Niiya, Content Director at Densho, Dr. Nagata and Dr. Ina will engage in rarely discussed issues of the psycho-social impact of the traumatic mass incarceration on Nikkei individuals, families, and communities shaping Japanese American identity and the intergenerational transmission of the trauma.

1pm-3pm PDT | 4pm-6pm EDT

Opportunity for participants to share in a safe and facilitated small group process, to share their responses to the workshop presented earlier on identity and intergenerational trauma.

Registration will open on Wednesday, July 15th at 12pm PDT. Registration is limited.

We will have three more Community Conversations in August and September. Details forthcoming. Please continue to check our website for updates.

### **Shut Down Berks: We Demand Freedom for Detained Black and Brown Families**

On July 17th from 11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. Tsuru for Solidarity members from Philadelphia, Washington D.C., and NYC will hold a protest at the Berks Family Residential Center in Leesport, Pennsylvania in partnership with other members of the Shut Down Berks Coalition. The protest will be live-streamed, please tune in.

As Japanese American survivors and descendants of U.S. concentration camps, we know that imprisoning parents and children causes deep harm. Separating children from parents is an additional devastating trauma that is passed on from generation to generation. We stand in solidarity with the families in ICE detention, and demand that our government close down the family detention centers altogether rather than perpetuate the cycle of indefinite detention and family separation that the U.S. government has inflicted upon our Black, Brown, Indigenous, and immigrant communities.

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#### **From Glenn Hamamoto:**

This video was submitted by Glenn Hamamoto. I have titled it, "Glenn's Inner Child During SIP..."

[CLICK HERE FOR THE VIDEO!](#)

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On July 26th, we'll celebrate July Birthdays. Please send me the names (and month) of your and other friends and family members' birthday (no years please).

(NOTE: If you or your family member's birthday was in Jan-June but you missed sending it, please still send it and we'll include on the July 26th.)

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#### **Response to Online Worship Experience(OWE)...**

We need your Tik Toks, talents, humor, and fun videos. People have truly enjoyed our OWE and Fellowship Time has helped us know each other and just appreciate getting through this pandemic together even in the age of SIP.

Rev. Roger needs some Children Time videos! So if you have an idea, go for it and share it with Rev. Roger.

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### Our Prayer List:

Haruye Ng, Paul Osaki, Sue Nakamura, Tak Nishiura, Kiyo Shizuru, Lea Haratani, Kamila Young, Hitoshi Tachibana, Chloe Gong, Ginger Powell, Jieun Lee, Jamie Campbell, Mel Imai, Harry Hatasaka, Sue Lemba, Martha Tanji, Bonnie Pennebaker, Nagi Hashiba, Tim Ome, and Angel Baquiran.

Prayers for the tragic passing of Kyle Leventhal, a friend of several young families in the church.

Post Recording of OWE: Prayers for Rev. **Saburo Masada** who is on hospice care. Rev. Sab has decided to decline further treatments and is ready to be “called home.” Rev. Sab along with his spouse, Marion, served the Calvary Presbyterian Church (Stockton) for many years and then in retirement, helped at UJCC (Clovis) for many years.

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### Back-to-School Drive

Every year, we have supported the Back-to-School Drive sponsored by The Family Giving Tree (FGT). This year is not different EXCEPT we will be doing it online. The FGT has created an online link specifically for Aldersgate. If you click the link below you will be taken to a website where you can select the age group and backpack style. FGT purchases in bulk and then assembles everything.

We will track our progress and report to you each Sunday on our progress. This year, with all the uncertainty let’s truly support the education of the children who are most in need. **CLICK HERE FOR THE ONLINE DONATION FOR BACKPACKS!**

**June 7-25th - Received \$976 (approximately 35 backpacks (Amazing Job!) Our initial goal was 25+ backpacks! Let’s keep it up as we surpass our goal! Thank you all for your generosity.**

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# Upcoming Zoom Meeting and Online Gatherings:

**Choir Practice, July 15th at 6:25 PM**

Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/511182912>

Meeting ID: 511 182 912  
One tap mobile cell phone for audio and video:  
+16699006833,,511182912# (San Jose)

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**Next Other Worlds Session**  
**“The Bosnian Pyramids”**  
**Monday, July 27, 2020**  
**7:30 PM**

REPEAT AND “OM” Restart: This session is being repeated for those who missed this opportunity and will also serve as a restart for the “Open Minds” group. Find out about the myriad of pyramids throughout the world including the U.S! Find out the true purpose of pyramids and how scientists are now measuring the energies being emitted by pyramids! Please RSVP.

In 2005, Bosnian born anthropologist Dr. Sam Osmanagich announced to the world’s media his discovery, that a group of hills in the vicinity of Visoko, a small town in central Bosnia, were not hills at all but were in fact buried and forgotten Pyramids of both monumental size and extreme age. The Bosnian Pyramid of the Sun, the largest of the Bosnian Pyramids, is estimated to be at least 300m (900ft) tall. The Bosnian Pyramid of the Moon, though smaller at 190m (600ft) tall, is still over 50m (150ft) taller than the Great Pyramid of Giza.

We will explore “Bosnian Pyramids” and other general ideas related to new emerging archeological discoveries that challenge the traditional idea of the past on this planet.

Please RSVP to [RVM878@gmail.com](mailto:RVM878@gmail.com) or text Roger at 650-575-2250.  
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.  
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/240390733>

You can also dial in using your phone.  
United States: +1 (646) 749-3131  
Access Code: 240-390-733

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:  
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/240390733>

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**Koyukai Gathering!**  
**“Mask Making” by Patsy Obayashi**  
**Tuesday, July 21st at 10:30 AM**

Every step of the process is prepared ahead of time so that it will be less tedious to watch the process (in other words, I won’t actually be sewing on the machine).

Optimal fabrics to use for efficacy in addition to sources for materials  
Demo: several different styles of masks and including no-sew options  
Mask hacks such as how to minimize foggy glasses and ill-fitting masks  
Links to patterns.

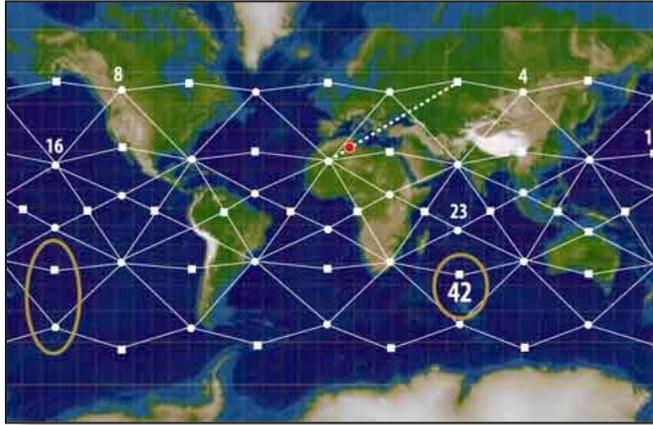
Correct way to wear the mask for optimal protection

There are several people making masks so, please join the KYK Zoom meeting. Share your patterns, any tricks to making masks, suggestions, contact me so I can add you to the Q & A time slot!

Topic: KYK Meeting July 21 - 10:30am  
Time: Jul 21, 2020 10:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87311817130>  
Meeting ID: 873 1181 7130

One tap mobile for video and audio:  
+16699006833,,87311817130# US (San Jose)  
Dial by your location for audio only:  
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
Meeting ID: 873 1181 7130

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**Other Worlds Session**  
**“Earth’s Energy Grid and Ancient Monuments”**  
**Monday, July 27, 2020**  
**7:30 PM**

In this session, we will explore the idea of a natural earth energy grid system and if ancient monuments are both proof of this system and a part of the system. Come join us for another intriguing presentation and discussion of the “Other Worlds” module.

Please RSVP to [RVM878@gmail.com](mailto:RVM878@gmail.com) or text Roger at 650-575-2250.

Roger’s Office

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**Center for Spiritual Life**  
**Healing Arts**

Click here to go to our new website Healing Arts page!

Basic Reiki, Pal Dan Gum Qigong and Mediation

Videos produced/created by

Joy Nakamura and Ben Hashiba

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**see you next letter!**