

Arranged marriages: discussion / Observing the Faiths: March 23 - George Kazakos

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Sun Myung Moon and Mrs. Moon of Korea. Approximately 2000 individuals are pronouncing their vows to their partners for the first time.

PASADENA - Dr. Robert Epstein, psychologist, will discuss arranged marriages from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, March 23 at 950 Holly Vista Drive. Pasadena.

Dr. Robert Epstein, former editor-in-chief of Psychology Today and a subject expert on arranged marriages will answer questions about how most people fall in love, factors that contribute to marital bonding, and about what he has learned from surveys involving Unificationist couples.

Also available will be the Rev. Dr. Nicholas Benson, a senior pastor at the First Summit Evangelical Church and the president of the Ministerial Association in Pasadena, Rev. George Kazakos, Los Angeles Loving Life Ministry Pastor and several young couples from Los Angeles planning to pronounce their vows with dozens of other couples at the HSA-UWC Southern California headquarters on March 23. Attendees will view a video of testimonials from several Christian ministers.

Unification Church members from around the world will pledge themselves to their partners in a sacramental wedding event in South Korea they call the "Marriage Blessing," or simply the "Blessing." Most of the 25,000 participants are "rededicating" their marriages to include the vows recommended by Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Mrs. Moon of Korea. Approximately 2,000 individuals are pronouncing their vows to their partners for the first time. The mass wedding event is the best known ritual of the Unification Church, founded in Seoul in 1954.

Since 1992, the ceremony has welcomed participants from many faiths. Unification Church ministers estimate that 165 individuals from the United States are registered for the Blessing. Most of the couples are young adults whose parents were matched and married by Rev. and Mrs. Moon.