



What is Life Like Living in the Real World?



Hello, everyone! It's been awhile since I have had an opportunity to prepare an article for the Temple Newsletter.

My topic this time deals with the struggles and pleasures found in living life.

About 2,600 years ago Lord Shakyamuni founded the Buddhist Mission in India. Born a prince, his father, the king, was told by a prophet that if he didn't keep his son at home, the son would leave and not return. Lord Shakyamuni was never allowed out of the palace alone; always accompanied by a servant. The first time Lord Shakyamuni left the palace, he left through the east gate. The second time he left through the south gate, the third time through the west gate, and the last time from the north gate. In those excursions he saw how people got older, became sick and passed away.

It was the sights from these four gates that Lord Shakyamuni turned into Buddha. As Buddha, he defined life in the real world as suffering from the moment we are born. We have to realize this while we are alive, but when we are dying, we find that life was actually wonderful.

You might feel that this is a contradiction, but when we think of the suffering we endured, there are also moments of happiness, like recovering from a severe illness or injury. Without the suffering there would be no happiness from a good outcome. We often cannot control the suffering we encounter, but as John Lennon said, "Let it be." Eventually things will turn around and you will find happiness, sometimes small, sometimes great, but we should never quit searching for it. Opportunities always abound to find happiness even in the worst of situations. Hope is always needed to find our happiness or ability to cope.

During this current crisis of the pandemic and how it has disrupted our daily lives, we need to hold on to hope for a better tomorrow. It will eventually come, and we need to stay safe and motivated to achieve that better outcome. We should continue to care about others, not just ourselves, and offer our thoughts and prayers as well.

Until this crisis has passed, please stay safe and healthy. I look forward to being able to see you all again in person.

With Gassho,
Rev. Kanpo Mimatsu

Online Zoom Monthly Services

Since the shelter-in-place restrictions began in March, the Temple has not been able to hold its monthly services in the sanctuary. In April, with the help of **Kaori** and **Dave Sakauye**, the Temple was able to stream the Shomie-ku Service via Zoom. This method received positive feedback from many members, especially those who live in the outer areas of the Sacramento region.

After the April online service, Temple member **Chris Sunahara** offered his expertise and service to set up a more stylized version with a presentation deck and visuals to help members follow the service online – chants were posted, Shotsuki/Anniversary memorial members were listed, and a general program was established that greatly improved the online version. Plus, Chris chaired the service online to help members through the



service program and Cabinet President Frances Nakashoji offered words of comfort and acknowledgment at the close of the service.

This new way of conducting our monthly service has received wonderful reviews. The June Aoba Matsuri service was recorded and then offered for viewing at the viewer's discretion, in other words, you could watch it whenever it was most convenient.

Due to the positive feedback, the Temple anticipates being able to stream services online via Zoom from now on so that all members can see and participate, even after the health restrictions are lifted. The Temple will then have the capability to conduct services in the sanctuary as well as on Zoom.

After the June Aoba Matsuri service, Frances Nakashoji offered the following words of encouragement and hope for the future:

Our willingness to take a leap of faith together (with the offering of church services via Zoom during this period of uncertainty to provide reassurance and hope), has profoundly enhanced our interconnection. The importance of sharing time together, planning and the organization of content, as well as timing and the delivery, has renewed our sense of community. In addition, staying encouraged to help ourselves and others are fundamental needs for our sense of belonging and commitment. Our unique human need and ability to cooperate have assisted and thus enabled us to faithfully practice the core teaching of Shingon Buddhism, thereby providing us a sense of awareness, compassion, comfort, and peace.

Masks Required in the Temple



Due to the mandate from the County of Sacramento and the State of California, anyone visiting or attending activities at the Temple must wear a mask.

The Temple recently acquired 500 two-layer white cotton masks from a Sacramento emergency services organization for use by temple members and visitors entering the Temple. A mask will be available if needed, while the supply lasts.

We will continue to keep you updated of the directives on the Temple's website and Facebook.

Thank you for maintaining social distancing and wearing a mask as directed by the public health experts and Governor Newsom.



Online Donations to the Temple Now Available



Since the shelter-in-place restrictions began in March, the Temple has not been able to hold its monthly services in the sanctuary, so members have not been able to donate osonae in envelopes like they used to. The Temple depends on osonae donations to continue spreading the Shingon mission. We thank you for all your support!

While the Temple still accepts donations through the mail, members and friends can now make donations to the temple online via PayPal or Venmo from your cellphone by clicking on a link on the Temple's website Home Page. There is a large red "DONATIONS" link on the Temple's Home Page that will take you to a page where you can click a button that will take you directly to PayPal to make a donation (you need to have a PayPal account to do this).

Or you can go directly to [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com) in your web browser or on your phone, login and make a payment to nckoyasan@sbcglobal.net. To make a donation using Venmo, you need to have the Venmo app installed on your phone or tablet. Search for "NCKOYASAN" (it will show up as "Alice Tateishi").

We appreciate your support to the Temple with online or mailed in donations (no cash please) while our temple remains temporarily closed during this devastating pandemic. Your patience and understanding are greatly appreciated.

Wonderful News!



We have learned that Rev. Iwasawa is the proud father of a new baby boy! The baby arrived early in the morning on June 10, 2020 and has been named "Kairi" (pronounced like Kyrie). His name means having a generous heart and being kind to others. Because of the COVID situation, the hospital allowed no visitors, although Rev. Iwasawa was able to see the baby for two hours. Everyone is back at home now, and Kayna has been introduced to her new brother. Rev. Iwasawa hopes they will be good siblings. In Japan the COVID restrictions have been lifted, but they are being extra careful, especially with the new baby.

Rev. Iwasawa also thanked all our members who helped being grandmas, grandpas, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters to Kayna when she was born in Sacramento. He said the memories are precious to him and he misses us.





In Memory ...

The Temple recently lost some beloved members. Our deepest condolences to the families of:

Chiyoko Saiki ~ April 16, 1927 – March 29, 2020



Life long Temple member, Mrs. Chiyoko Saiki, a matriarch, influenced and encouraged her family including her late husband Tadayoshi, and their late son, Mickey Jr. as well as her surviving sons, Ricky, Dick and daughter Linda (Greg) Wiegand, and her grandson Gregory (Yesenia), her extended Sunahara family to continue to be actively engaged in serving Kobo Daishi's mission. Mrs. Saiki's family's monthly osonae offerings of fruits and vegetables to insure the altar with Shojiku-symbolic offerings were greatly appreciated. Her generosity included boundless donations of beautiful

handmade quilts, designer's kitchen towels, creative and festive cards, jelly/jams, and home-grown almonds and walnuts as well as recruiting her family members to cook, serve, and pack Udon noodles at the year-end fundraiser. The Temple is forever grateful for her commitment and support. We will miss her.

Gladys Takaki ~ April 7, 1933 – April 11, 2020



A long-time member of the Temple, Gladys Toshiko Takaki was born in Niles, CA, to Noboru and Sumiko Nakashima. For over 30 years, she taught piano. Gladys is survived by her son Todd (Amy) Takaki, granddaughter Lindsay Takaki, and brother Gerald (Sachi-deceased) Nakashima. Also, she is survived by sisters-in-law Mrs. Ayame Nagata, Mrs. Yaeko Inoue, and Mrs. Louise Mikawa, including many cousins, nieces and nephews. Her loving husband, Yoshiharu passed away in 2015. Gladys served as a Northern California Koyasan Trustee. Over the years she faithfully met the Ministers from Sacramento for graveside visits at the Oak Hill (Funeral Home & Memorial) Park Cemetery in South San Jose, bringing floral bouquets and senkos. She regularly attended the San Jose Daishiko and often traveled to Sacramento to attend special

meetings and gatherings. We admired her commitment and dedication. She will be greatly missed.

Toro Nagashi Lantern Workshop – July 12, 2020 [CANCELLED]



Due to the current COVID-19 health restrictions, this workshop has been **cancelled**.



Obon Memorial Service

The annual **Obon** Memorial Services and *Segaki* Rituals will be held on Sunday, July 19, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the service will be streamed online live at 1:30 p.m. and will also be recorded for those who wish to view it at a more convenient time. An *Obon* Memorial Service Form is also enclosed and also available online at the Temple website: <http://www.nckoyasan.org/nckoyasan/Welcome.html>

The Temple expresses its deepest sympathy to the following *Hatsubon* members who have passed on since the last *Obon* service.

<u>Hatsubon Member</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Hatsubon Member</u>	<u>Age</u>
Mrs. Misao Abe	93	Mrs. Gladys Toshiko Takaki	87
Mrs. Chiyoko Saiki	92	Mr. Dennis E. O'Sullivan	72
Mrs. June Sakauye	89		

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, there will be no obon odori performance this year.

Toro Nagashi



The annual **Toro Nagashi** ritual and potluck picnic has been scheduled for Saturday, **August 15, 2020**, at the Mayor Ann Rudin Peace Pond (formerly Boat Lake). However, it is unclear whether this ritual will be allowed due to restrictions on large gatherings to reduce the spread of COVID-19 infections at these types of events.

When the Temple receives information from the County Health Department regarding the guidelines or restrictions for events such as Toro Nagashi ritual and potluck activities, we will post it on the Temple's website.

We would like to encourage the Hatsubon family members to contact the Temple to request a blank lantern shade to prepare for their loved ones. Feel free to design the lantern in remembrances of your loved one. Remember to leave one panel blank for Rev. Mimatsu to add the Japanese memorial information. You may email (nckoyasan@sbcglobal.net) or phone the Temple (916) 444-0111 to request one. If the restrictions are still in place, the August service will be held via Zoom on Sunday, August 15, 2020, starting at 1:30 p.m. Please return your completed lantern shade to the Temple by **Monday, August 10, 2020**, so it can be displayed during the service.

Evening Meditation Classes - Cancelled

All evening Meditation Classes are cancelled until further notice due to the pandemic restrictions.



ACC Nursing Home Visitation

The Temple has scheduled a visitation to the ACC Nursing Home on Tuesday, **August 18, 2020** at 11:00 a.m. at the ACC Nursing Home on Rush River Drive in Sacramento. However, depending on the pandemic situation, this service may be cancelled to keep our ACC seniors safe.

When the Temple receives further guidance and information regarding the suitability of our visitation at the ACC Nursing Home can be continued, we will post the notice on the Temple's website.

Want to see the Newsletter in full color? Check it out on the Temple's web site:
www.nckoyasan.org

Newsletter Staff

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Due to the current COVID-19 Health restrictions, all in-church activities have been cancelled (grayed out) until further notice.

JULY 2020 CALENDAR

7 (Tue)	7:00 p.m.	Cabinet Meeting
12 (Sun)	1:30 p.m.	<i>Toro Nagashi</i> Lantern Workshop
14 (Tue)	7:00 p.m.	Evening meditation session
13 (Sat)	2:00 p.m.	<i>Goeika</i> Practice
19 (Sun)	1:30 p.m.	Obon Memorial & Segaki Ritual Service via Zoom
25 (Sat)	11:00 a.m.	Obon Service at Oak Hill Cemetery, San Jose, CA
	12:00 p.m.	San Jose <i>Daishiko</i> at Miyahara residence
	1:00 p.m.	<i>Fujinkai</i> Crafts Workshop (Sacramento)
26 (Sun)	9:00 a.m.	Memorial Service at East Lawn Memorial Park, Sacramento, CA
	10:30 a.m.	Memorial Service at Sacramento Memorial Lawn, Sacramento, CA

AUGUST 2020 CALENDAR

(All listed activities are tentative depending on the status of the pandemic restrictions)

4 (Tue)	7:00 p.m.	Cabinet Meeting
8 (Sat)	4:00 p.m.	<i>Goeika</i> Practice
11 (Tue)	7:00 p.m.	Evening meditation session
15 (Sat)	5:00 p.m.	Picnic & <i>Toro Nagashi</i> Ritual, Obon Odori at William Land Park, Sacramento
18 (Tue)	11:00 a.m.	ACC Nursing Home Visitation

TENTATIVE

Annual Toro Nagashi Ritual

Saturday, August 15, 2020

Starting at 5:00 pm

William Land Park – Mayor Ann Rudin Peace Pond
Sacramento CA