



Ichigo-ichi-e

Hello everyone! I hope everyone is doing well. This month's article is about Ichigo-ichi-e which is an old Japanese proverb that means a "once-in-a-life-time-meeting."

Have you ever wondered how many people you have or will have met during your lifetime? According to one theory, there are approximately three million people whom we could come across including those just passing through our life. The chance, however, to meet people whom we can actually get along with is probably less than one hundred.



Within the multitudes of people in existence, finding someone we can build a good relationship with is not an easy task. Since we cannot foresee who or when we will encounter someone, we should treat them kindly when we meet them. If we don't, we may lose an opportunity to meet someone who might become a good friend, or even someone we may want to marry, or a person who may help us in difficult times. Therefore, we must treasure these encounters and its moments.

Because of this pandemic, we can no longer meet and see each other face-to-face. Even if we could see one another on Zoom or on some other kind of online application, we cannot have a real conversation where we can feel a person's warmth and kindness. Since it can't be helped, we should accept this fact. After this pandemic is over and we are able to meet in-person once again, I want you to realize that one meeting can change your life or even save you, in other words "Once will be Forever."

Please have faith in Buddha's teaching that there are always invisible connections. These connections are called "En" in Japanese and is one of the most significant teachings of Buddhism. It expresses how people are interconnected by some kind of reason. We may never know where these connections come from, but it absolutely exists between us. For example, it could be a connection from the past at a time when our ancestors were living. The encounters that they may have had with people whom they came across during their lifetime might also be the reason for these connections in our present life. By believing in "En," it enables us to realize how precious we are to each other.

Thank you, and please stay safe and connected to each other.

With Gassho,

Rev. Kanpo Mimatsu



Toro Nagashi Ritual



Each summer, two traditional services, Obon and Toro Nagashi, are observed by Buddhist temples to commemorate the memory of our ancestors. During Obon, it is thought that the spirits of one's ancestors return home from the spirit world for a short visit. Toro Nagashi is observed at the end of Obon when their ancestors return to the spirit world. To assist them, candle-lit floating lanterns are prepared and placed in water to guide them on their journey.

The Toro Nagashi ceremony has been held by Koyasan Temple for several decades. It was first celebrated at Miller Park and began with a feast of potluck dishes prepared by its members. This was followed by the Toro Nagashi service and ended with the floating of candle-lit lanterns, tolled down the river by boat. This event was later changed to the American River. It was finally transferred to its current location at William Land Park because of concerns over the safety of floating the lanterns by boat in the midst of the river's changing current.

In the Spotlight – Chris Sunahara *by Jill Sunahara*

My brother, Chris Masayuki Sunahara, carries the heart of the NC Koyasan Temple with him every day. If you recognize his middle name, Masayuki, you know that's our grandfather's name. Grandpa 'Mas' as he liked to be called, was a devout practitioner of the Shingon Buddhism practice and the oldest son of Hatsuno Sunahara, who as you may recall from the recent Zoom church service, was one founders of our NC Koyasan Temple. Grandpa Mas was a temple President for over 10 years and for Chris being his only grandson, he instilled a deep respect for the religion and its teachings, and for the Temple that he and his parents worked hard to establish and maintain. The photo shows Grandpa holding 5-day old Chris with a subtle smile and lots of love.

About 10 years ago, Chris heard a calling and started educating himself on the Shingon Buddhism practice. He ordered every English-translated book he could find, set up a butsudan at his home, learned to chant the Hannya Shingyo sutra and others from memory, and started learning to meditate and study with Sensei Fukuda. In the back of my mind, I hoped he was on a path towards becoming a priest!





In 2011, we visited Japan together (our first time!) and standing on Mount Koya amongst the beautiful temples, trees, and snow (it was early March), it felt as if we had come "home" and renewed Chris's connection to the Buddhism practices and teachings of his ancestors. Though work led him to the Bay Area in 2015, he still maintains strong connections to the religion and helps Sensei Mimatsu and the Temple Cabinet members in many ways. It's wonderful that he's helping us all stay connected during these trying times. Thank you so much, Chris!



See how Grandpa is holding 5-day old Chris in this picture? It looks as if he's imparting all his wisdom and hopes into baby Chris! Thanks to Grandpa, Chris lives his life to the fullest and has always embraced the religion and our Temple.

"Without You"

(Poem by Francis Nakashoji)

C ommitted	S incere
H earfelt	U plifting
R espectful	N irvana
I nclusive	A ttentive
S killful	H appy
	A nimated
	R ooted
	A azing

Northern California Koyasan Temple Website

by Lorraine Sonoda

Our Temple has an informative public website, www.nckoyasan.org. As the digital technology continuously evolves, we realize the need for current software to enhance our home page. The Cabinet appointed a Website Review Committee which will seek guidance and design from a professional web developer. The goal is to inform our members and public about our religious practices and services, personal counseling and contact information for weddings and memorial services. In addition, the Temple sponsors the Spirit of Children Taiko and Okinawan Shorin Ryu Karate. The website serves to provide information for both groups as to their activities, performances and membership.

Our Temple continues in the tradition established by our founders whose story is included on this site. Everyone is invited to make suggestions to this committee. Please contact Bill Taylor by email to Webmaster@nckoyasan.org for any questions you may have.



In Memory ...

Our deepest condolences to the family of:

Tokie Sunahara - January 12, 1927 - July 28, 2020



Tokie was a long time Koyasan member starting at the Perkins Temple and then the Northern California Koyasan Temple. She was also a member of the Goeika Group and Fujinkai. She loved coming to the Temple with her husband, June, who passed away in December 2016. After June passed, Tokie continued to support Temple activities and attend services. Tokie enjoyed supporting the fundraisers and baking pies, and donating hand crafted crocheted, knitted and sewn items, toffee cookies, caramel popcorn, and dried persimmons. Tokie is survived by her children Russell, Dennis (Lynn), Margie (Darrell Matsuda), Michael (Cathy) and Cindy (Kenny) Kakutani, nine grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. The Temple, family and friends were an important part of her life. We will miss her quiet manner and pleasant smile.

Fujinkai “Aji Corner”

Teru’s Apple Pizza Pie

Topping:

½ cup sugar
1 stick butter
1 cup flour

Filling: (You can cook this filling ahead & cool before using)

6 -7 Granny Smith apples, peeled and sliced (¼” thick)
1 tsp cinnamon
¾ to 1 cup sugar (taste apples to see if more is needed)
2 Tbsp. corn starch

Mix all ingredients together. If you are cooking the topping first, stir occasionally and cook until apples are soft around the edges but still a little crunchy. The apples will cook more when baking.

Crust: (This recipe makes two 9” inch crusts. You will need the full recipe for the pizza pie).

2 cups flour
1 tsp salt
½ cup oil, either vegetable or canola oil
3-4 Tbsp. cold water

Mix flour and salt and make a well and add oil. Mix fast to blend oil into dry ingredients. It will be sort of crumbly. Add cold water to make a dough. Roll dough and place in pizza pan. Crimp around edge of pan, fill with apples and top with crumb topping.

Bake at 425 degrees for 50 – 60 minutes or until golden brown.

About this Recipe

This recipe was contributed by Teru Yamamoto, who has been making this family favorite for more than 40 years. Teru received a Pyrex pizza-sized plate from her older sister, Kayo, as a gift. She decided to use it to make something for a family potluck Christmas dinner. When she placed the dessert on the table everyone started asking what the dessert dish was called? She said it’s an “Apple Pizza Pie.”





It's been a hit ever since! Although Teru is famous for her many culinary skills, this amazing recipe is famous and is well known to several members of the Temple

Thanks Teru, I'm sure your Apple Pizza Pie will be showing up on many tables for years to come.

September and October Services

September 5, 2020 – San Jose *Daishiko* Service: The cemetery visitation will begin at 11:00 a.m., followed by the *Daishiko* service starting at 12:00 p.m. at the Miyahara residence.

September 20, 2020 – Autumn *Higan* Memorial Service: The Temple will observe the Autumn *Higan* Memorial Service starting at 1:30 p.m. The Autumn *Higan* is a time when we remember those who have passed on and pay our respects to them.

October 18, 2020 – *Eitaikyo* Service: The Temple will observe its annual *Eitaikyo* Service, starting at 1:30 p.m. *Eitaikyo* is the perpetual prayer for those who have passed on.

For more information about the Northern California Koyasan Temple, please visit our website at www.nckoyasan.org

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

Newsletter Staff

Editors:

Rev. Kanpo Mimatsu
Liz Yokoyama

Editorial Contributors:

Jill Sunahara, Margie Sunahara,
Carol Ito, Caren Yamamoto

Photos:

Caren Yamamoto, Jill Sunahara, Carol
Kawano