



Keep Pursuing and Praying with Hope

By Reverend Mimatsu

Hello everyone.

I hope you are all doing well. We are close to the end of 2020, which has been a terribly trying year. We have been facing a pandemic that we have never experienced before. I'm sure some of you have been going through additional suffering which has been hard to endure.



I think life consists of 60% suffering and 40% happiness. The reason I think this way is that people who have gone through a lot of suffering would value happiness and embrace the moment. This could be applied to sports. For instance, you might have heard of Ichiro Suzuki who is a baseball legend. He was not only a genius player but also a hard worker who could hit three or four pitches out of ten.

Let me introduce an idea expressed by the Japanese emperor during World War II: "We have to endure the things that are unacceptable and need to be patient with the things that are hard to put up with." We should know these words like *happiness* and *freedom* were born out of the suffering and restrictions people endured, and the hopes and wishes that enabled them to visualize a better future. That means life presents us with a certain degree of suffering and restriction, which we may not be able to avoid, but we must do our best to be patient, wise and helpful to others, and definitely grateful for all the blessings and gifts that come our way.

Incidentally next year's zodiac is the ox which teaches us that we could gain success by both our efforts and patience. I believe that what we went through during this past year will help us to appreciate how important it is to seek happiness for ourselves and others, and how important it is to face each day with an open mind and loving heart.

Don't forget that someone always prays for your happiness. Kobo Daishi has been praying for the happiness of others, including yours, for over 1200 years.

Thank you very much and please stay safe.

Upcoming Services

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

December 20, 2020 – *Osame Daishiku* Service: The Temple will observe its annual *Osame Daishiku* Service, at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

January 17, 2021 – Combined New Year's Day and Hatsu Daishiku Service: The Temple will observe a combined New Year's Day and *Hatsu Daishiku* Service, starting at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom

February 21, 2021 – *Hoshi Matsuri* Service - The Temple will observe its annual *Hoshi Matsuri* Service, at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom



Zoom Service Tips & Reminders:

- Have your Ojuzu ready to participate in the service
- The chants for the Service will be displayed on your screen
- Donations are accepted through PayPal, Venmo or by mail.
- If you are unable to use Zoom to view during the services (ie: no computer, tablet or smartphone), you can call the Temple a couple of days before the service and request the phone number to participate.
- Did you know that there is a “N.C. Koyasan Shingon Buddhist Service Book” on the Temple’s website? You may find it helpful to view the Service Book during the service. It’s handy to keep a printed copy for reference. Just click on “Buddhism” at the top of our Home Page and it will take you to the Service Book.

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

Upcoming Changes and Announcements

- The Temple’s Internet connection has been upgraded with the installation of new equipment and a switch in the Temple’s Internet provider that has boosted our wi-fi signal in the sanctuary and parking lot. The stronger wi-fi capabilities have greatly improved the transmission of our Zoom services.
- The Temple will soon have a new and improved website. Details of the new website will be forthcoming.
- The Temple currently has one pound packages of mochi for sale. If you are interested in purchasing some for the upcoming holidays, the mochi is being sold on a first come first serve basis for \$3.00 a package. Please contact the Temple for further details on purchase and delivery.
- “2021” Omamori will soon be arriving at the Temple. An email/mail out will be sent out to the members to include prices and types of Omamori being offered. Photos and prices will also soon be displayed on the Temple’s new Website.
- The Temple has a new email address. Our new email address is info@nckoyasan.org Please update your records to reflect this change and *remove* the Temple’s prior email address (nckoyasan@sbcglobal.net)

A Message from President Frances H. Nakashoji

Dear Members and Friends,

Although it has been a volatile year, with exhaustive toil, unrest, and many unknowns, we continue to be inspired with hope, respect and kindness through the teaching, understanding and practice of Kobo Daishi’s wisdom and compassion.

With the generosity and assistance of our youthful generation, we were gifted a new platform via ZOOM enabling the continuance of our spiritual mission and cultivating our fellowship, with acknowledgment of our



50th anniversary of the Northern California Koyasan Temple in Sacramento. We have much to be grateful for your unconditional and unwavering support.

We are filled with gratitude for your patience, your engagement and benevolence.

Domo Arigato,
Frances H. Nakashoji, President

Temple and Altar Clean-Up

Each year various members of the Temple volunteer their time to clean the entire Temple and its contents until it shines. The task of cleaning the Temple is no small feat! This annual task includes the cleaning of the Temple's sanctuary, social hall, kitchen and basement. The altar and all religious objects are meticulously and carefully polished with great care. As you can see from the photos below, cleaning the temple was thorough and it took a crew of volunteers to do it. Our thanks to all of you who took time from your busy schedules to help. We are grateful and appreciative of your help and assistance!



The Cat's Bowl – A Story Inspired by Reverend Asahi

In a small village in India, there lived a poor rice farmer and his cat. One day, the wealthy landlord who owned the farmer's land came for a visit and gave the farmer a beautiful ceramic bowl. The landlord returned the following week and looked for the bowl which he expected to see displayed on a shelf for everyone to view, but he did not see it anywhere. So, he asked the farmer where he put the bowl, and the farmer replied that he gave it to his cat because the cat's food bowl was old and cracked. Upon hearing this, the landlord was disappointed and filled with anger and stormed out of the farmer's house.

The following day, the landlord sought out the village wise man to complain about the bowl he had given to the farmer. The wise man said to the landlord, "The Buddha's teachings tell us that desires and attachment are the causes of human suffering. You are suffering from disappointment and anger because of your attachment to a bowl that you gave away as a gift. The bowl no longer belongs to you and how the farmer chooses to use it is now his concern. But you are still attached to it because of your desire to have the farmer show-off the bowl to remind people of your wealth. Let go of your desire and attachment and free yourself from your suffering. ~ Submitted by a member



In the Spotlight – Caren Rhea Yamamoto *by Frances Nakashoji*

Caren Rhea Yamamoto - “Go to Person”

Always willing to meet the challenge
Abstain limelight and chatter
Unveiling and revealing
With diplomacy
With ease



Never disappoints
Demonstrating commitment
Exhibiting benevolence
Endurance and undimmed
Relentlessly passionate

Caren Yamamoto's civic engagement and foresight continue to nurture and sustain the Temple, following her parents, the late Scott Yamamoto and her mother, Mrs. Teru Yamamoto's devout commitment. In 1920, Caren's grandmother, Mrs. Toshie Yamamoto, along with Mr. Sakuma Shimada and Mrs. Eiju Nakashima established the Yolo (Sacramento) Daishiko. The Northern California Koyasan Temple formed in 1970 with the merger of the Yolo and the Perkins Daishiko's.

Her commitment continues to widen the family tradition, serving on the Cabinet and Fujinkai committees. She deeply embraces and generously gives of her time benefiting the Temple with her ingenuity and resilience as a leader behind the scene, often with perseverance, and her sarcastic quip to enhance collegiality for shared value and for social emotional well-being.

*quip: witty remark or comment

*ingenuity: clever, resourceful

Koyasan Taiko Group – Annual Fall Party

by Kaori Sakauye

Koyasan Taiko group held its annual Fall Party on October 15th. It was a zoom party but the students had a lot of fun. We played some online games together, such as Bingo, Spot the Differences and “Where am I?” This year's judge for the costume contest was Reverend Mimatsu. Many students had Halloween costumes on so Sensei had a really hard time. He picked a member dressed up as a black kitten witch as this year's first place! Sensei Kaori and David delivered bags of candy and prizes to all the students in the next few days. We sure hope we can have a Fall Party at the temple next year.



“Winner Winner”



Fujinkai “Aji Corner”

Takuan Recipe

Peel & slice four (4) daikons (16 cups). Put in large container.

Mix together:

- 3-1/2 cups sugar
- 1/4 cup salt
- 1/2 cup vinegar
- 1/4 tsp turmeric

Add mixture to daikon slices and mix well with hands. Place weight on top of daikon slices for 1 day.

Next day, mix daikon well, then using strainer, pour liquid into pan. Add 4 or so chili peppers (depending on taste), heat & bring to boil, turn off heat. Cool solution.

Pack daikon into jars & pour cooled solution over daikon. Ready to eat in 1-2 weeks. Makes 4 pints.

About this Recipe

This recipe was contributed by **Seiko Okimura** who has been making this favorite church daikon pickle since 2015. She got this recipe from her good friend, Aggie Hirotsu, who got it from her favorite uncle. Besides making these delicious pickles for the church, she gives it out as *omiyage* to her family and friends. She loves making different kinds of *tsukemono* and is always trying new recipes

By: Carol Kawano



Newsletter Staff

Editors:

Rev. Kanpo Mimatsu
Liz Yokoyama

Editorial Contributors:

Jill Sunahara, Margie Sunahara,
Carol Ito, Caren Yamamoto, Frances
Nakashoji, Kaori Kubota-Sakauye, Carol
Kawano

Photos:

Caren Yamamoto, Jill Sunahara, Carol
Kawano

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www.nckoyasan.org