

DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

The Mossy Temple

By Reverend Mimatsu

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Taiko Group Performances

By Kaori Kubota-Sakauye



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During my time playing taiko, I was fortunate to learn from many wonderful teachers and groups who have pioneered the art form in North America, including Seiichi Tanaka sensei from the San Francisco Taiko Dojo, from many generous San Jose Taiko members through workshops and performing at San Jose Obon, and from our local taiko legend Tiffany Tamaribuchi sensei. I also studied

composition and music production during the pandemic with Isaku Kageyama sensei from the Los Angeles taiko institute. All of my teachers have shown how wonderful the world of taiko can be! In my life, taiko has really helped me grow and find my voice, and hope that I can help provide that experience for others as well.

At the core of it, drumming with others is such a beautiful way to live in the moment and be present together. A single sound is fleeting, gone almost as soon as it begins. But we keep hitting together and make something memorable. Coming back week after week, we grow together, and there comes a time where a simple sound is more than just a sound. We experience something differently because of the time we take to listen to it and really hear it. The drum makes a sound, but so do the *bachi*, and the room around it. People can be the same way.

I don't mean to mistake the drum for *dharma*, but I think there's a beautiful history of *taiko* in Buddhism, both classically and in recent history. The style of drumming that most people recognize as taiko largely spread in North America through Buddhist networks in the 1970's, including the wine barrel drum, which made taiko possible for so many people. As *taiko* grows more and more popular and spreads around the world, I hope we as taiko players can remember its history and continue to come back to the drum to be together in our communities.

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The 'kimochi" she brought to our annual

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Forever grateful!

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"SHIKATAGANAI" (Can't Be Helped)

By Frances Nakashoji

Our Journey: Reflection with Inspiration, Humbleness, and Gratitude

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Once a loud, rambunctious house, now silent with disbelief, shock, anxiety, emptiness and filled with regrets of leaving the islands, where we were surrounded by a large extended family. My mother was the oldest of 13 and my father had 10 siblings resulting in nearly a 100 cousins, only four months ago. He was only 7! Now with four ranging from 10 to 5 years old. Life forever changed.

We, frantically traveled to San Francisco to Mayhew in search of answers: Why? Ultimately finding empathy and inclusion at Perkins *Daishiko* with Mrs. Hatsuno Sunahara. It has been a life journey seeking understanding and comfort with embracement of Kobo Daishi and the endearment of the Sunahara Family. With daily prayers before breakfast and after dinner and bathing; we prayed at our home-built *Obutsudan* (*Obutsudan* is a personal/family Buddha house) of plywood, memorizing prayers including "*Hannya-Shin Gyo*," Golden Chain," and "The Texture of the Life." Our family passion and commitment centered around Koyasan Shingon Mission, The Heart Sutra "Guidance and comfort of Kobo Daishi" to find solace, gratification and peace of mind. The influence of life experiences play a large part of our spirit, determination and resiliency. Finding acceptance, appreciation with remembrance and love and understanding. Brother Henry has an enormous presence in our hearts.

Arigoto gozaimasu!



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Mabo Harusame

Recipe contributed by Shirley Kodani

Ingredients:

200 grams (about 6 oz.) *Harusame* bean threads placed in boiling water, let stand for a few minutes and when cool to handle cut in manageable length

1 lb. ground pork

1 medium carrot, cut into matchsticks

½ onion, chopped

½ green or red pepper, cut into strips

50 grams Black fungus (wood ear, *kikurage*), reconstituted and chopped

2 cloves minced garlic

1 small piece of ginger, minced

1 Tbsp. sesame oil

1 Tbsp. vegetable oil



Sauce Ingredients

1 Tbsp. Tenmanjan or Korean miso, mix well before using

1 Tbsp. Tobanjan or Korean chili, mix well before using

1 Tbsp. Oyster sauce

1 Tbsp. Sake or dry wine

1 Tbsp. Mirin

10 grams chicken bouillon or use any chicken bouillon such as Better than Bullion

1 packet Chuka Dashi

Heat sesame and vegetable oil in low heat in a wok or large frying pan and sauté garlic and ginger. Turn the heat to high and add ground pork and cook until no longer pink. Add the vegetables. When vegetables are tender crisp add *harusame* and the sauce mix. Taste and correct for seasoning. If spicy is preferred, add some *ra-yu* (Japanese chili oil or equivalent). If it looks dry add ¼ cup water.

Put in a serving platter and garnish with chopped green onion.

<u>Note</u>: This is an *okazu*-like dish so amount of ingredients are variable. Eyeball the amount of *harusame* and black fungus based on the amount in the package.

Tenmanjan and Tobanjan maybe difficult to obtain as they are only available in Japanese stores. You may substitute with Korean miso or Korean chili paste which works well.



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Photos:

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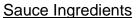
Mabo Harusame

Recipe contributed by Shirley Kodani

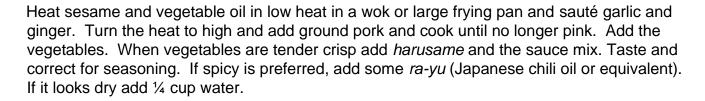
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