



Scattering Petals

Hello everyone, I hope that you are all doing well.

I would like to introduce one of my favorite Japanese poems ...

“散る桜、残る桜も、散る桜”

“*Chiru Sakura, Nokoru Sakura mo Chiru Sakura*”.

Its literal meaning is when you see “the scattering petals,” though many petals are left on the branch, they too, will become “the scattering petals.”

This poem was written by Reverend Ryokan, a Zen monk and poet during Japan’s Edo Period. It refers to how beautiful, fragile, and short human life is. I believe that he was also expressing the significance of departure in life as well. As the Sakura blooms, it is also preparing for its departure so that a new life can begin.

During the Sakura or Cherry Blossom season in Japan, families, friends, and company colleagues gather at parks to welcome in Spring and to celebrate Hanami or flower-viewing. Sitting under the Sakura tree with beverages, bento boxes, and Sakura mochi, they reflect on their own precious lives.

As they watch the scattering petals of the Sakura blossoms, people's hearts are touched both by the beauty of the flower and sadness as the blossom withers and falls to the ground. It reminds us of one of the Buddha's most important teachings about the impermanence of life that like the *Sakura* blossom all things will constantly change. Therefore, no matter what hardships we might encounter, we must try our best to live in this world with the precious life we have been given.

Please stay healthy and safe.

□ Reverend Mimatsu



In the Spotlight – Frances Nakashoji We've Been Meaning to Tell You ...

Frances, there are some things we at the Koyasan Temple have been meaning to tell you. Like how much we have appreciated your leadership and your devotion to the church!

That leadership began in 2014 when you first assumed the Koyasan Cabinet Presidency. You served until the end of 2021 with just a two year respite in between from January 2018 through December 31, 2019, while Donald Tateishi served as President.



As our President, we've been meaning to say thank you for all that you have done for us. It was you at the helm when a true leader was needed to guide us through trying times. We need only say "2020!"

We know that you were instrumental in bringing services into our homes via Zoom. You inspired us with your messages at each service; and your messages contained words that were meaningful, supportive and impactful. You conveyed warmth, kindness and gratitude with each message. Now it's our turn to convey wishes of good thoughts and gratitude towards you.

We would like to acknowledge all your contributions. They include your strong leadership skills as administrator while helping to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Temple. During your tenure, you were also instrumental in reorganizing the church and other accomplishments that include:



- Creation of new Cabinet positions such as a Website Administrator and Controller positions just to name a few
- A new Temple Website
- Filling empty Cabinet positions
- Implementing various committees to co-ordinate needed tasks such as Website design and operations; Zoom services and Covid protocols
- Enhancing financial and security oversight measures
- Overseeing Temple deferred maintenance needs

This list by no means incorporates all your accomplishments! Did we mention that you're also a fabulous writer? We were gifted and treated with your creative writing in the Temple's Newsletter. Your submissions to the Newsletter included touching stories and poems that touched our hearts and souls.

You are a "wonder" Frances!! So we've been meaning to tell you - good luck in your future endeavors; and we send you a very huge Arigato Gozaimasu from each and every one of us.

A Special Thank You ...

The Northern Koyasan Temple sends Stuart Noda, Steve Miura and Larry Sunahara a big THANK YOU for clearing the main drain line for the Temple's Social Hall. The stoppage was quite significant, and they worked on in for hours to remedy the drainage problem. Thanks again!



The Wisdom of the Buddha

A generous heart, kind speech and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity.

Conquer anger through gentleness, unkindness through kindness, greed through generosity and falsehood by truth.

You must love yourself before you love another. By accepting yourself and fully being what you are, your simple presence can make others happy.

Everything that happens to us is the result of what we ourselves have thought, said, or done. We alone are responsible for our lives.

Every morning we are born again. What we do today is what matters most.





Koyasan's Hidden Treasures

Look at the treasures found in our Secret Closet! There are many more items and will be featured in future newsletters. If you would like any of these limited items, please see below.



Japanese Doll (24" tall)
in glass case - \$150



Man (6") and Woman (4") playing
drums - \$30



Boy's Day Doll (6") - \$20



Iwachu Nambu Matte
Black Cast Iron Tea Pot
SOLD



Black Cast Iron Tea Pot
(20 oz.) - \$25



Fukujinzuke (1 pint) - \$12.50



Northern California Koyasan Temple

1400 U Street, Sacramento, CA 95818-1417

(916) 444-0111 info@nckoyasan.org

**MARCH 2022
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Mugs (12 oz) - \$1 each
Dog, Baby, Monkey, Dragon,
Cat, Boar, Ogre, Kangaroo,
Snail, Kangaroo



Mugs (12 oz) – \$1 each
Bird, Cat, Tiger



Gift Card Holders -
\$.50 each



His (4 oz) and Her (3 oz)
Tea Cup Set - \$10



Chidori Zukushi Tea Cup Set (5 oz) - \$25



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Sake Set - \$10



Koyasan Apron (3 pockets) - \$10



Hanging dish towels (more colors available) - \$3 each



Dish Scrubbies (more colors available) - \$2 each



Assorted Zippered Purses \$5 each

If interested in any of the items, please call Elizabeth Yokoyama at (916) 254-0102 or email michi49yo@icloud.com Donations are payable through PayPal, Venmo or check sent to the Temple with the notation "Secret Closet." Items must be picked up at the Temple or if mailed, additional mailing cost will be added.



Fujinkai “Aji Corner”

Apricot (or Strawberry) Mochi Recipe

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. mochiko (16 oz. box)
- 2 apricot-flavored gelatin (3 oz. box)
- 1 can Kern’s apricot nectar (12 oz.)
- 12 oz. water (use nectar can)
- 1 ¼ c. sugar
- *Katakuriko* (potato starch) for sprinkling

Note: For Strawberry flavored mochi substitute strawberry flavored gelatin and Kern’s Strawberry Nectar instead of the apricot flavored ingredients.

Directions:

Combine all ingredients except the *katakuriko*. Mix ingredients thoroughly and pour into a 9 x 13-inch greased pan. Cover pan tightly with foil and bake at 350° F. for 55 minutes. Remove from oven and cool with cover on for 15 minutes. Remove foil and continue cooling several hours before cutting with a plastic knife that has been coated with potato starch. Sprinkle the *katakuriko* on the cut ends to prevent sticking.

About this Recipe

This mochi recipe has been a big hit at family potlucks. The apricot has a mild refreshing taste that I think you’ll enjoy.

By: Liz Yokoyama



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- If you have not purchased your 2022 *omamori* yet, the order form and photos of the various types of *omamori* and *ojuzu* can be found on our website at nckoyasan.org
- The Temple continues its search for the following Cabinet positions:
 - President
 - 2nd Vice President

If you are interested in any of the above referenced positions, please contact Liz Yokoyama at (916) 254-0102.

- Special blessing services are held at the Temple throughout the year such as the Children's Blessing, Pet Blessing and Car Protection Blessings. Should you desire a special blessing, contact Reverend Mimatsu and set up an appointment.
- The Koyasan Newsletter welcomes any/all suggestions for future news articles in the Newsletter. Please contact Liz Yokoyama at the phone number above for submissions to our next Newsletter.
- We are currently looking for recipes from you to incorporate into a future Koyasan Temple Cookbook. We would love to have a copy of your favorite recipes to share. Please contact us to submit your delicious recipes!
- Due to the pandemic the Temple has not been able to hold many of its fundraising events. The Temple continues to hold services via Zoom. The Zoom services and normal expenditures (utilities, mailings, office supplies, etc.) have increased. Your donations are gratefully accepted through PayPal, Venmo or U.S. mail.



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Upcoming Services

March 13, 2022 – 2nd Annual Koyasan Hokubei Sokanbu Gathering & Goma Service

March 20, 2022 - Spring *Higan* Memorial Service at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

March 27, 2022 – Special Blessing Service (details to be determined)

April 17, 2022 – Shomieku Commemoration Service at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom

May 15, 2022 – Monthly Daishiku Service at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

June 12, 2022 – Aoba Matsuri Service at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom

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

Newsletter Staff

Editor:

Liz Yokoyama

Editorial Contributors:

Rev Kanpo Mimatsu

Margie Sunahara,

Carol Ito, Gary Matsumoto

Photos:

Frances Nakashoji