



Getting Back to the First Place

By Reverend Mimatsu



During the month of May, I went to Los Angeles to assist Bishop Matsumoto, head minister of the Koyasan Shingon Mission of North America, with the *Tokudo* ceremony. *Tokudo* is an ordination ceremony for people who are studying Buddhism and aspire to become Buddhist monks. After the ceremony, each person receives their Buddhist name and begins their practice as trainees of *Shingon* Buddhism.

As I watched the ordination of these individuals by Bishop Matsumoto, it took me back to when I received my ordination in Japan. At that time, my father took my older brother and me to Mt. Koya to be ordained. In this ceremony, our heads were shaved by some assistant monks, and our hair was preserved as proof that we were ordained and had entered the Buddhist path. To make it easy for our heads to be shaved, our hair needed to be prepared in a specific manner. Therefore, we went to a barber and had our hair cut. The barber trimmed our hair and shaved our heads except for three spots which were on the right side, left side, and center of our heads. We felt very embarrassed when we were walking around the temple where we had stayed and had to endure sitting on the floor in Japanese fashion for one and a half hours. I was very agitated when it was done.

When I saw these individuals experiencing the same thing that my brother and I had at our ordination, I felt sorry for them, but it also made me remember how significant and strict the first step was to becoming a Buddhist monk. This type of experience can be applied to any new thing that you start such as a job. However, we must remain motivated and continue doing the things we should until we get used to them or we can easily forget what motivated us and become lazy.

During the *Tokudo* ceremony, I felt appreciation for these individuals who were being ordained because it gave me the opportunity to look back at my own *Tokudo* experience. I would, therefore, like you to embrace the opportunities that are given to you because they may also have the possibility of reminding you of your first steps.



2nd Annual Hokubei Sokanbu Gathering and Goma Service

By Carol Ito

On March 13, 2022, the Northern California Koyasan Temple hosted the 2nd Annual Hokubei Sokanbu Gathering and Goma Service. This event was designed to provide ministers and members from the affiliated temples of Los Angeles, Sacramento, Seattle, Redmond, and Fresno. The gathering provided an opportunity to connect and get to know each other by interacting and socializing, communicating ideas, sharing information and establishing a relationship between the temples and its members.



The Annual Sokanbu Gathering was first held in Los Angeles in March 2019 and attended by ministers and members from Koyasan's affiliated temples. The Goma Service was held in the morning and a reception in the afternoon.

The 2nd Annual Gathering was to be held originally in March 2020, but the Covid pandemic prevented this event from taking place. The Gathering was finally held this year on March 13th. In attendance were Bishop Matsumoto, Head Minister of the Koyasan Shingon Mission of North America, from Los Angeles; Reverend Imanaka, Minister of the Seattle Koyasan Shingon Buddhist Temple from Seattle Washington; and Reverends Coy and Mimatsu from Sacramento. Due to the continuing presence of Covid, the Goma Service was broadcast live via Zoom. However, the reception was cancelled because of concerns related to the pandemic.



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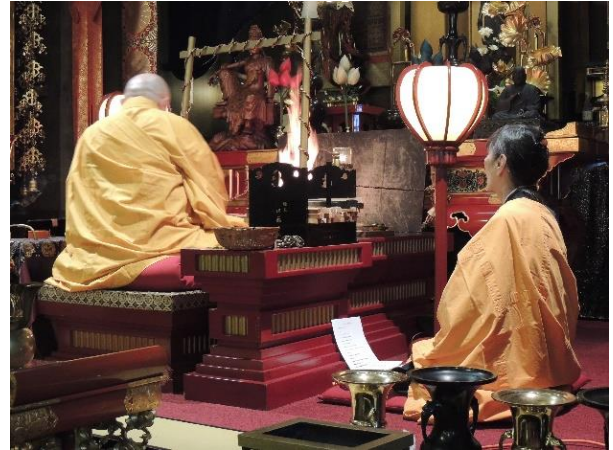
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Bishop Matsumoto & Rev. Imanaka



Bishop Matsumoto & Rev. Coy



Introduction by Reverend Imanaka



Introduction by Bishop Matsumoto

Prior to the service, the Koyasan Temple Fujinkai prepared a delicious lunch for our guests. Fujinkai and participants pictured below:



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In the Spotlight – Kevin Trivedi

Introducing our new Cabinet Website/Facebook Administrator



Kevin Trivedi took Sumi-e painting classes from former Sensei Fukuda, who invited him to a service for Saraswathi to celebrate artists. As an artist, Kevin was curious about this service and became interested in Shingon Buddhism. Kevin attended many temple services and in time volunteered to help Sensei Fukuda around the temple.

Developing Web sites since the late nineties, Kevin Trivedi continues to study the developments of Web 3.0 while he recovers from major surgery. His industry related experience includes positions such as Art Director, Fine Artist,

Production Artist, Graphics Artist, Web Designer, Illustrator, Painting Instructor, Drawing Instructor, Graphic Design Instructor, Adobe Software Workshops Instructor and Lead Web Design Department head.

Kevin Trivedi earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Center for Creative Studies (AKA College for Creative Studies) in Detroit, Michigan. Later he graduated from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco in 2010 with his Master of Fine Arts in studio painting.

Kevin has exhibited in the Sacramento region since 2005. He currently is a resident artist at the Kennedy Gallery in Sacramento. To see some of Kevin's paintings visit, <https://kevin-trivedi.pixels.com/>.





A Drop of Water in the Wrong Place

by Stuart Noda



In the early 1970's, plans were created for the expansion of what now is the Northern California Koyasan Temple from an Italian Church. Architects drew plans, funds were donated, and many builders and construction workers got busy. Larry Sunahara was one such worker.

One minor detail escaped the eyes and minds of many involved with this major construction project. Architects, engineers, Sacramento City inspectors, sheet metal fabricators, and construction managers approved the design and installation of this major construction project. But - a drop of water - was allowed to penetrate the armor of the exterior of the Koyasan Social Hall. The rain gutters that were designed to port the water from the massive roof area were in fact only 2 inches wide and 2 inches deep. In the rainy season, rainwater would overflow the gutters to the point of it getting backed up to a very small area between the gutter flashing and the asphalt roofing material. The seal, fresh with asphalt caulking, provided an adequate seal from the overflowing rain when newly installed. But after a few years, heat/cold contractions can separate the metal from the caulking due mostly from the elastic capacity of asphalt-based caulk. Today caulking has been improved with superior adhesion to dissimilar materials. The rain gutter design in 1970 set in motion damage that would accumulate over 52 years. "A Drop of Water in the Wrong Place!"

To the non-discerning eye, water damage can be difficult to spot, a little discoloration of the paint surface or maybe a small crack or buckling in the wall board may be the only clue. The symptoms of water damage caught the eye of Larry Sunahara some time ago in the Reverend's office by the upper window. He investigated further into the basement storage area for the Koyasan's Taiko Group. The same 2" gutter design was used in the two north-side and south-side roofs of the Social Hall and Reverend's Office area. Larry, a professional kitchen and bath remodeler, planned a remodel of the Koyasan Social Hall's Rain gutter system. He re-designed this system and then imagined what the sheet metal flashing and capable gutter size was in order to handle the quantity of water that may occur in Sacramento's rainy season.

Hacking into an original design is no easy matter. Larry used his experience to devise a way to tap into the existing roof to solve the issue and not contribute to another exposure to water damage. For the sheet metal materials Larry has a friend, Lloyd Okimura, who knew how to fabricate sheet metal flashing. Lloyd asked his various sheet metal vendors if they could donate material for the Koyasan Temple. He got the donations for both North upper and lower roofs and South gutter redos and would donate his time in fabricating the flashing to Larry's specifications.



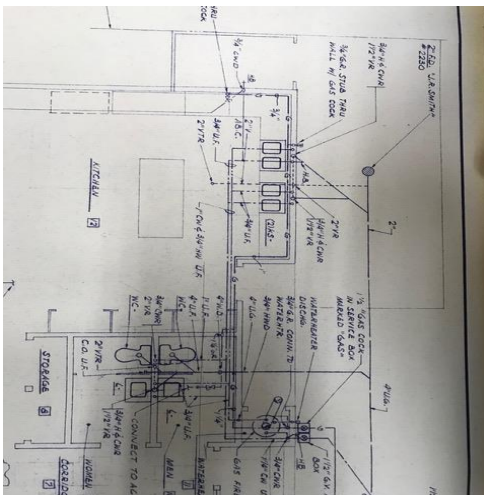
The Damage.



#1



#2



#3



#4



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#5



#6

In photo #1, Larry replacing the Header. The drops of water that seeped past the caulking allowed a dry rot fungus to grow and eventually ate away the structural integrity of the wall board and window header. These large headers are critical to earthquake safety. The header that was extracted is rotted in half. Larry found that the original header was probably not to the proper load specification to today's engineering standards. He replaced the header within proper specification for that size of opening. Moisture in a confined area is the principal reason for the growth of fungus. The constant drip every year for 52 years turned what was sturdy timber into dust.

In photo #2 - Larry has carefully cut into the existing gutter infrastructure to setup the new gutter and flashing. He has used the newest polyurethane caulking to seal the gaps. This new gutter is 7" deep and 4" wide; and probably provides 7 times the water carrying capacity of the old gutter system. All gutters are now fitted with screens to prevent big leaves and sticks from causing backups. Photos #5 and #6.

Not shown in photos is the damage from the 1 of 2 North Social Hall gutters. Larry had to replace the floor of the Reverend's office due to the inadequate design of the roof gutters. The basement sustained minor water damage to the wall board and was not replaced. There is some dry rot damage in the upper window area discovered during the painting of the Social Hall by Boy Scouts lead by David Sakauye Jr. Both Social Hall's two rain gutters were remodeled about 3 years ago by Larry, Lloyd and Michael.



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Additional modification while the kitchen wall was open, is the installation of a positive vent fan to remove excessive heat and smoke generated by the Koyasan's major cooking events such as Pancake Breakfast, *udon*, *mochi* and pie making.

While on-site Larry noticed mud tunnels forming on the south wall of the Temple. A sure sign of sub-terranean Termites! I was called to either find a Pest Control firm or treat them. We first wanted an assessment of the scope of Termite invasion. As I came to learn, subterranean Termites are attracted to - guess what? "Drops of Water" A leaky bathroom or kitchen faucet will surely bring them to your home. We inspected the basement of the Temple, located directly below the Social Hall. This area's foundation is made of cinder block and concrete. A storage room below the kitchen provides some viewable area under the kitchen. No sign of termites yet! We then looked for an access under the Temple area and one of the places we looked was the HVAC closet on the south-east side of the Temple. Someone left a huge heavy wine barrel and a portable sink tub used for clean-up after the Pancake Breakfasts. So, we started moving junk and found a sheet rock lid on the north wall. After removing that lid there was yet another large door / lid but to get to it, one had to crawl a short distance. Sliding the door to the side revealed a stairway.

As some of you might know, Larry Sunahara served in the U.S. Military during the Vietnam War. His job was to find targets behind enemy lines and call-in coordinates for U.S artillery or airstrikes (by himself). So, we were about to go into a dark tunnel under the Temple and down a stairway into an area I have never seen nor heard of. "Nah, I wasn't that scared, Larry was behind me..."

We walked down the stairway into an 8' x 8' x 7' high concrete room. What was this room for? We found some household junk. The room was well built and had a wooden floor with no sign of water intrusion. There is sub-surface water under the Social Hall basement. The basement is equipped with two large sump pumps that port excess water up and out of a 3" pipe on the north side of the building. So this concrete room can serve as some kind of bomb shelter. Or hiding place from invading Russians? You can use your own imagination... From this vantage point we can see under the Temple all the way to the Bathrooms on the north side. We did find one long 4" x 12' support beam that had a least 10 feet of termite tubes but looked really old and broken and are probably inactive. There may be some damage, but we don't know the full extent. It's likely ok. With a general idea of the termite's scope, I performed two anti-termite treatments where the active tubes were found.

Next maintenance issues Larry spoke of rainwater seeping into the foundation area on the south side of the facility contributing to cinder block damage in two places. The first is below the wooden grate where the sewer clean-outs and water shutoff are located. The second is the bamboo patch area by the *Taiko* Trailer. He recommends these areas be back filled with



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gravel-sand and capped off with concrete. The area (parking lot to Temple wall) where the active mud tunnels were found should also be sealed from water intrusion.

I think all of us who use, visit and support the Northern California Koyasan Temple can give a big shout out to Larry and his helper Michael for a job well done!

NC Koyasan Temple Taiko Group Davis Cherry Blossom Festival

On Saturday, April 9, 2022, the Koyasan Spirit of Children Taiko Group performed at the Davis Cherry Blossom Festival. Gregory, their Sensei, is the executive director of this event and he invited us to perform along with other taiko groups from Northern California. Five songs were played, including *Kujaku* (Peacock) which was a collaborative piece with UCD *Bakuhatsu* Taiko Dan and Koyasan Taiko. Our members learned this piece from Sensei Gregory.

We had two members, Sharon and Joanne, return and play; and it was also Toshinori's and Hideaki's first performance.



On Sunday, April 24, 2022

CSUS Japan Day was back in person after two years. Koyasan Spirit of Children Taiko Group played *Buchiawase* Daiko, *Reshu* (featuring the Beginner's Class), *Suzukaze*, *Choshi Hayauchi*, and *Hanami no Utague*. There were 23 members performing, with this being *MaKana*, *Angelina*, and *Sylas*' first performance.



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Koyasan's Hidden Treasures

More items from our Secret Closet! Some items in the March newsletter are still available and posted on the website: info@nckoyasan.org. If you are interested in any of the items, please see below.



Ando's Japanese Cloisonne Picture 9"
– \$25



Celebration 13" x 15" - \$10



Daruma 16" x 18.5" - \$10



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Graphic "Heart Sutra"
Women's
T-shirt Sizes Med and Lg - \$20



Turtle and Ship Plate 16" x 11.5" - \$15



Set of 6 Rice Bowls – Fish
\$10



Graphic "Heart Sutra" Men's T-
shirt
Sizes Med - \$20



Standing Screen - Front and Inside of Kobo Daishi –
11.5" x 11.5" - \$15





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Old Gorgeous Imari Decorative
Japanese Plate 13.5" - \$15



Gold Imari Japanese Dish 12" - \$15



Butsudan (24" x 16") with accessories
- \$100



Tosho Peony Plate 11" - \$15



Koi Picture 18.5" x 5" - \$10



Fan and Crane Picture 8.75" - \$10



Fukujinzuke (8 oz) - \$6 each



Uri - pickled cucumber (approx. 8 oz)



Sakura Mug 12 oz - \$1



If interested in any of the items, please contact Margie Sunahara at (916) 416-2202 or email: mjsunahara@att.net. Donations 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, an additional cost will be added. Thank you!

Fujinkai "Aji Corner"

Jello Dessert Recipe

Ingredients:

- 1 large Black Cherry Jello
- 2 cups boiling water
- 2 cups ice
- 16 oz crushed pineapple (drain)
- 1 can pie filling (cherry) strain
- 8 oz cream cheese
- 8 oz sour cream
- ½ tsp vanilla
- ¼ cup sugar



Directions:

Dissolve Jello in boiling water. Add ice. Add pineapple and pie filling. Pour into 9x13 pan and refrigerate for ½ hour.

Cream the cream cheese and then add sour cream, vanilla and sugar. Spread topping over the chilled Jello. Optional: Add chopped nuts to cream cheese topping for added crunch.

About this Recipe

You will find this Jello dessert recipe not only delicious and refreshing, but also very easy to make. Enjoy!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Annual Toro Nagashi Service with lantern lighting will be held on August 13, 2022. If you wish to prepare a lantern to be floated, please contact Reverend Mimatsu at the Temple regarding how a special lantern commemorating your loved one can be made.
- The Temple continues its search for the following Cabinet positions:
 - o President
 - o 2nd Vice President

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

- 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.

Upcoming Services

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

July 17, 2022 – Obon Memorial & Segaki Service (details to be determined)

August 13, 2022 – Tentative Picnic and Toro Nagashi Ritual (details to be determined)

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



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