



## **One Hundred Years Later**

*By Reverend Mimatsu*



There is a phrase that says " If there are people who think of our future in ten years from now, they would plant a lot of trees. If people contemplate our future in 100 years, they will educate their children or people." If you think this phrase came from someone famous, you might be surprised. This phrase came from one of my favorite cartoons.

We are surrounded by many challenges that may never be solved in our lifetime and will have to be passed on to the next generation. I think that taking our future into consideration in 100 years implies that we need to raise people's morale to overcome various problems, which we or the next generation will encounter. These problems can be solved by using our abilities to face the challenges before us.

In Buddhism, life is defined as suffering, but there are many possible ways to improve our lives with the inherent abilities given to us. Most people have not realized this and have not been able to believe in their true potentials. We must believe in ourselves and the potential talents that we have to face the challenges in our future. The most important thing is not so much focusing on solving those problems as valuing how we face the problems.

Thank you, and please stay safe



*In Gassho  
Arigato Gozaimashita  
Shigetoshi Sensei*

Reverend Eishun Shigetoshi was born in 1943 in Okayama, Japan. He was sent to Shinoin Temple, founded by Priest Kukai, after his father passed away during World War II. He studied Shingon Buddhism under Abbot Zenkyo Nakagawa, professor of Koyasan University and the head minister of Shinoin Temple.

Upon his graduation and acquiring his Minister's license in 1968; he continued his ministry at the Los Angeles Koyasan Temple and met his future endearing wife, Fumi, and they moved to Sacramento.

At his timely arrival, there were two Daishikos: Perkins/Sacramento (Sunahara) and Yolo/West Sacramento (Yamamoto). It was through his efforts that a successful merger took place; also, the purchase and renovation of an old Italian church were possible. We are forever grateful, as he played a prominent role in the establishment of the Northern California Koyasan Temple.

In addition, he was the creator of the Koyasan's cultivated seasoning. Food preparations were always artistically and esthetically presented; "aji" always flavorful!

Even after his so-called "retirement," he assisted in the monthly services, attended Cabinet meetings, supported the Food Bazaars, Pancake Breakfasts, and other fundraisers. He will be missed!

*His legacy and bestowment profound!  
His philanthropy and generosity unquestionable!*

*Frances Nakashoji*



## **Toro Nagashi**

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, the Temple's annual Toro Nagashi Event was held at the Mayor Anne Rudin Peace Pond in William Land Park. The Toro Nagashi is a Buddhist ceremony held during Obon to commemorate the spirit of one's ancestors. It is believed that our ancestor's spirit temporarily returns to this world to visit with relatives. The Toro Nagashi ceremony is held at the end of Obon to help guide the spirit of our ancestor's as it returns to their world. Candle-lit lanterns are placed in the river to light the way as they travel back to the spirit world.

This year marks the return of the event since the Covid outbreak in 2020. Not only was the Toro Nagashi well attended by members of the Temple, members of the late Mayor Rudin's family also attended and participated in the floating of lanterns. The Rudin family have attended and supported this event for years.

Next year the Temple hopes to resume its annual picnic event; hear the beating of taiko drums; and participate in obon dancing at the park in conjunction with the Toro Nagashi Service and Floating Lantern Ceremony.



Reverend Mimatsu performing service at William Land Park.



Temple members and their family and friends watching the floating of the lanterns.



## Northern California Koyasan Temple

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SEPTEMBER 2022  
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A view of the lanterns floating on the Mayor Anne Rudin Peace Pond.





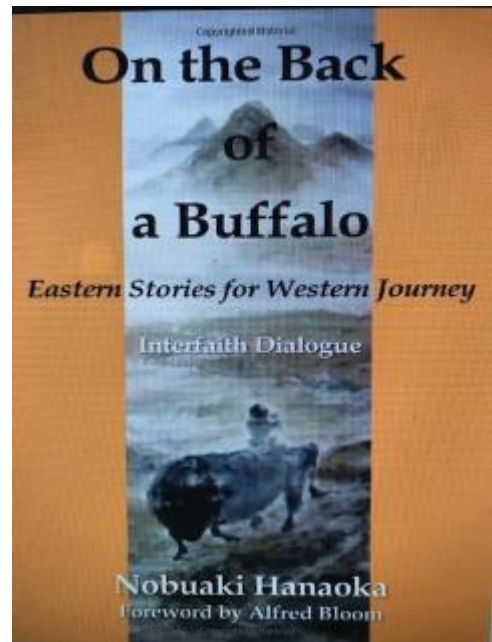
## “On the Back of a Buffalo – Eastern Stories for Western Journey”

Written by Nobuaki Hanaoka - A Book Review

by Stuart Noda

This book was published in 2007 by Nobuaki Hanaoka, an ordained United Methodist minister. He grew up Christian in the predominantly Buddhist culture of Japan. After finishing his seminary training in Japan, he traveled to the United States for additional theological studies. He subsequently served as pastor for 35 years, mostly in Northern California. In Sacramento I remember him as minister of the Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church.

Reverend Hanaoka had a very difficult early life. He was born in 1944 in Nagasaki, Japan. At eight months old, the second nuclear weapon used in warfare was detonated in 1945 over Nagasaki killing 226,000 people. Reverend Hanaoka was eight months old. His mother and sister died from Leukemia six years later and his brother died of radiation poisoning sometime after. His father was in the Japanese Imperial Navy and a long-time practicing Buddhist.



In August 29, 2020, Reverend Hanaoka posted a YouTube video that described his experience of being an atomic bomb survivor. The YouTube title is “Stories of Hibakusha”. Hibakusha is a support system for survivors who suffer from “Survivor’s Guilt” and probably the Japanese culture’s suppression tendencies. He was told “Don’t tell anybody that you lived through the atomic bomb, no one would want to marry you or employ you”. He says the lucky ones were those who perished that day. Those who were exposed to radiation lived in agony until their death. In the book he recalls the moment Christianity touched his life through the hand of his sister as they walked down a path. In the 2020 video he said he lives in Daly City and is 75 years old.

The book is a collection of Buddhist short stories that have origins in India, China, Burma, Korea, and Japan. The stories and history have common subjects such as reincarnation, tea ceremony, and sutras or wisdom taught through stories. One such story is “A Celestial Nymph”. A Celestial Nymph eavesdrops on a dialog between two of Buddha’s wisest disciples. A statement was made “One must live equality of all beings.” The Celestial Nymph make an appearance and one of the disciples says, “With your supernatural powers, do you not wish to become a man?”. The heavenly maiden the did not appreciate a comment made by the male disciple when he insinuated that men were superior to women. So, the maiden



transformed the disciple into a woman. After a while she changed the disciple back to a man. He said, "When you changed my appearance, I remained the same person inside." The Celestial Nymph said, "You are who you are regardless of what gender you happen to be". This story teaches about compassion by using magic to transform a male disciple into a woman and thus, putting the disciple in the shoes of another.

I am learning that compassion is helpful in improving interpersonal communications. This can lead to improved understanding and mutual respect.

The author relates his travels in Japan and his studies of Christianity with the eastern stories into an interfaith dialogue. Reverend Hanaoka shares his journey with spirituality through his inciteful comments at the end of each story. This book is available on Amazon.

Youtube Video: [Stories of Hibakusha - Rev Nobuaki Hanaoka - YouTube](#)

## **Fujinkai "Aji Corner"**

### **Apple Cake**

#### Cake:

1 pkg yellow cake mix  
3 oz instant vanilla pudding  
4 eggs  
1 tsp baking soda  
1/2 tsp cinnamon  
3/4 c vegetable oil  
3/4 c water



Mix above ingredients. Add 3 cups coarsely chopped red delicious apples. Pour into greased & floured 9x13 baking pan. Bake at 350 for 50 minutes. Cool cake. Frost with below frosting.

NOTE: glass baking pan, bake @ 325 for 55 minutes.

(Recipe continued on the following page...)



Cream Cheese Frosting:

1/2 c butter (1 stick softened)  
8 oz cream cheese  
1 tsp vanilla  
2 c powdered sugar

Cream butter, cream cheese, & vanilla. Mix in powdered sugar.

**About this Recipe**

This delicious cake recipe comes from the kitchen of Carol Kawano. This cake has been a favorite for many of us at the Temple. The serving platter quickly becomes a plate of crumbs! Enjoy each delicious bite. It will soon become one of your family's favorites!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- In-House services have resumed at the Temple. The services will also be carried on Zoom. We request that while attending In-House Services that masks are worn during the service.
- A drive-through udon fundraiser will be held on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Details and order form will be sent to members soon.
- The annual mochitsuke will be held in December. Look forward to delicious mochi!
- 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.
- Should you wish to make donations to the Temple, donations are accepted through PayPal, Venmo or U.S. mail.



## **NC Koyasan Temple Taiko Group – Upcoming Performances**

*By Kaori Sakauye*

The Taiko group will be busy performing this fall! Confirmed public events are listed below. I hope many of the Temple members can come see our performances!

- Sunday 9/11, Brazilian Street Festival, @downtown Sacramento, around 2:00 pm  
<https://www.braziliandaysacfest.com/>
- Saturday 9/24 Festival de la Comunidad, Winters Rotary Park and Community Center. 5:30 pm  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/winters-rotary-park/carnitas-festival-de-la-comunidad/841163235985052/>
- Saturday 10/1, 9am, Walk to End Alzheimer's River Walk Park, West Sacramento  
[https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2022/CA-NorthernCaliforniaandNorthernNevada?pg=entry&fr\\_id=15422](https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2022/CA-NorthernCaliforniaandNorthernNevada?pg=entry&fr_id=15422)
- Saturday 10/22, 19th Annual Run for a Safe Haven by My Sister's House. 8:30 am - Land Park  
<https://www.runforasafehaven.com/event-info/>
- Saturday 11/5, between 11:00am and 3:00 pm. My Sister's House Treasures, one year anniversary/J-Town Street Festival
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## **Upcoming Services - All services held at 1:30 pm (In house & Zoom)**

**September 18, 2022** – Autumn Higan Service

**October 16, 2022** – Eitaikyo Memorial Service

**November 20, 2022** – Monthly Daishiko Service

**December 18, 2022** – Osame Daishiko Service & General Meeting (via Zoom)

For more information about the Northern California Koyasan Temple, please visit our website at [www.nckoyasan.org](http://www.nckoyasan.org)





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