



Northern California Koyasan Temple

1400 U Street, Sacramento, CA 95818-1417
(916) 444-0111 info@nckoyasan.org

**JUNE 2023
NEWSLETTER**

WE ARE READY TO GROW

By Reverend Mimatsu

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

We are about to welcome summer as it gets hotter and hotter. I hope this summer will be a great time for everyone.

This month on June 15th we are going to celebrate our master, Kobo Daishi's 1250th birthday. This special anniversary event will be held at Mt. Koya. If you have a chance to visit Japan this season, I recommend going there.

Usually, his birthday service is called the "Aoba Matsuri" Service. It literally means the "new leaves festival." Around this time of year, new leaves start to grow in the wake of their blooming. This is why the service is named after this season.

As we know, Master Kobo Daishi absolutely believed in our potentials and possibilities. In other words, his emphasis was on our Buddha nature. As he said at his last service at Mt. Koya, "My wishes will never go away until our world is gone. When all of us reach enlightenment, the concept of Nirvana will disappear."

I believe that this idea of his will help us to keep going and achieve something great. Let us move on!

Thank you, and please stay hydrated.





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Greetings from Reverend Asahi

I hope everyone is doing well. Sixteen years have passed since I left Sacramento. I stayed in Southern California until the beginning of 2017 and moved to my home temple in Hiroshima, Japan. My home temple, Risoin Temple, has a long history. The oldest building is a gate which is about 680 years old. The other buildings were all rebuilt during the last 65 years by my father and older brother. The temple is located in a mountainous area of Hiroshima Prefecture. It takes 1½ hours from Hiroshima City by car or train.

My nephew was running the temple, but he passed away suddenly from heart failure 7 years ago. There were no priests in my family other than myself. I decided to take care of it and returned home alone. Even though I was born and raised in Japan, life in modern Japan is totally different and difficult for me because I spent 35 years in USA. The Japanese Government does not recognize dual citizenship. Therefore, I had to register as a foreigner and need to renew my status every five years at the immigration office.

My job is taking care of my members, and another task is to train novices. My American students visited me twice for discipline, and I am training Japanese students, too. Several Sacramento members visited me before the coronavirus disaster, and I met some other members in Hiroshima City. Travel restriction has lifted. If you have a chance to visit Japan, please come to Hiroshima. I am more than happy to take you around. You can contact me at asahiseicho@yahoo.com. My prayers are with you for your health and prosperity. Please stay healthy until the next time I meet you.

In Gassho.
Seicho Asahi

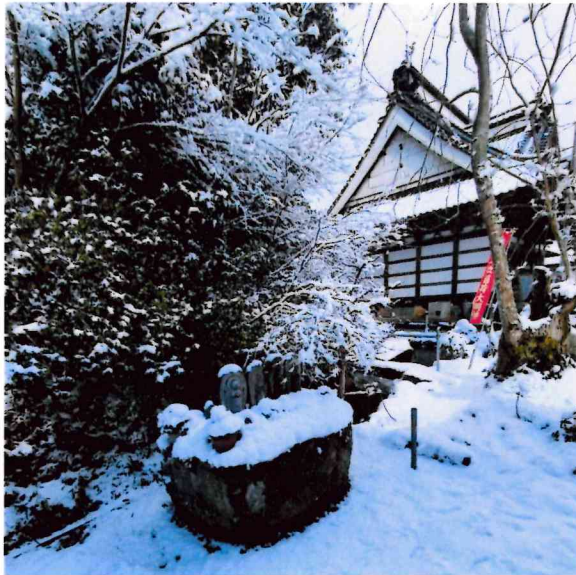


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Photos of Reverend Asahi's Temple in Japan





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“Koyasan Spirit of Children Taiko”

The Koyasan Taiko Group has been very busy performing at several events these past few months. They performed at Japan Day at Sacramento State University; Asian Pacific CultureFest in Elk Grove; Parkway Half Marathon; and at David Reese Elementary. Here are a few photos taken from some of the events.



David Reese Elementary





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Asian Pacific CultureFest

The event served to celebrate and uplift the diversity of Asian American and Pacific Islander arts, culture, heritage and contributions throughout the Sacramento region. It also kicked off the national observances of May as Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage month.





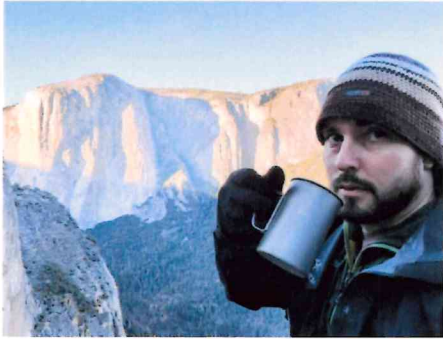
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Meet David Baldrige



If you've had an opportunity to watch the karate group members practicing their karate skills or lending a helping hand during our temple fundraising activities, you may have noticed David Baldrige. David is our newest addition to the Koyasan administrative team. We now have in our midst a very talented webpage designer. He will be working alongside our Online Media Coordinator, Kevin Trivedi in improving the Koyasan Temple website. Plans are currently underway to make our webpage more user friendly by streamlining the resources found on the

site. Additionally, the site will soon be able to allow direct online purchases of merchandise at the click of a button.

Here's what we know about David in his own words:

I've been training with the karate club under Gary Matsumoto Sensei since 2001. When I was young, my parents became friends by chance with Reverend Asahi and his family; and we attended Sunday services for a good while in the 90's. In 2015, I spent 3 weeks in pilgrimage by bicycle in Shikoku and visiting Koyasan in Wakayama and the heart sutra echoed deeply from my memories at NC Koyasan.

In 2010, I helped found Yoyostorerewind.com, and since then have been consulting for Japanese businesses such as Hanko-Square.com and the Naganuma Language School.

I've been volunteering to help improve the NC Koyasan web page to make it easier to use since having some trouble ordering my favorite apple-blueberry pie. Aside from general maintenance and tidying up the site to make it more user-friendly, the two biggest improvements we're working on are integrating google calendar for the temple schedule, and adding a shopping cart system so people can make donations in exchange for temple goods like omamori, ojuzu, and delicious pies!



We're so lucky to have David on our team!



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Fujinkai “Aji Corner”

Banana Bread

Contributed by Liz Yokoyama

Ingredients

- 5 tablespoons room temperature butter
- ½ c. granulated sugar
- ½ c. firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 2 egg whites
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 ½ c. mashed, very ripe bananas
- 1 ¾ c. all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. baking powder
- ½ c. heavy cream
- ¼ c. chopped walnuts



Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Grease and flour a 9 x 5 x 3-inch loaf pan with non-stick cooking spray.

Beat butter in large bowl with an electric mixer set at medium speed until light and fluffy. Add granulated sugar and brown sugar, beat well. Add egg, egg whites and vanilla; beat until well blended. Add mashed bananas and beat on high speed for 30 seconds.

Combine flour, baking soda, salt and baking powder in medium bowl. Add flour mixture to butter mixture alternately with cream, ending with flour mixture. Add walnuts to batter and mix well. Pour batter into loaf pan. Bake until browned and toothpick inserted near center comes out clean, about 60 to 75 minutes.

Enjoy 😊



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About this Recipe

This banana bread is a crowd pleaser and is very moist and delicious. It's one of my favorite recipes. Enjoy it with a piping cup of coffee in the morning!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Fujinkai's next activity will be on Saturday June 17th at 1:00 p.m. at the temple. Details of the next activity will be communicated to you by email.
- Our service on June 11th will be held at the Anne Rudin Peace Pond at William Land Park. Don't forget to submit your order for your bento box lunches by the end of May and bring chairs for everyone in your party. We're looking forward to enjoying a nice family day at the park and celebrating Kobo Daishi's birthday. For more details, please refer to the email notification that was sent to you previously or check the temple's website.
- Reverend Mimatsu offers Special Blessing Services throughout the year. If you or a family member is interested in your own individual blessing (car blessings, relationship and financial blessings etc.), please contact Reverend Mimatsu.
- The safety of all members is very important to us. Please be aware of your surroundings when attending or visiting the temple. As you may be aware, there are many homeless encampments in the surrounding area so please stay vigilant. Please keep the entrance doors to the temple closed and/or locked at all times. If you wish to enter the temple outside of our regular service dates, please enter through the back door entrance in the parking lot and ring the doorbell for entrance.
- A special thank you to both Stuart Noda and Larry Sunahara for several building and security improvements recently made. They include:
 - New locked mailbox on the temple's front entrance
 - Installation of new doorbells on both front and rear doors
 - Placement of a larger parking lot monitor and additional camera to the rear of the doorway donated by Stuart Noda. The larger monitor will allow a split view of the rear doorway and parking lot.
 - Additional monitor (also donated by Stuart) placed on the northwest wall of the Social Hall that provides an easier view of the parking lot during karate practices.



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- A July Rummage Sale & Food (chirashi, spam musubi & baked goods) Fundraiser is currently being planned for July 9th. We are currently requesting donations for our rummage sale of gently used items such as dishes, home décor, artwork etc. If you would like to contribute articles towards the sale, please contact the temple for delivery times and dates. Please note that the temple will not accept electronics, clothing, furniture or medical equipment for the rummage sale.

Upcoming Services (In-house & Zoom at 1:30 p.m. unless posted otherwise)

June 11, 2023 – *Aoba Matsuri* Service & Picnic at Ann Rudin Peace Pond – William Land Park (1:30 p.m. - there will be no Zoom broadcast of this service)

June 25, 2023 – Special Blessing Service (11:30 a.m. Zoom & 1:30 p.m. in-house)

July 16, 2023 – Obon Memorial & *Segaki* Service (1:30 p.m.) (details to be distributed by email)

July 22, 2023 – *Obon* Service at Cemetery in San Jose

July 23, 2023 – *Obon* Service at East Lawn Cemetery (9:00 a.m.) and Memorial Service at Sacramento Memorial (10:30 a.m.)

August 12, 2023 – Tentative: Picnic & *Toro Nagashi* Ritual Service (details to follow)

August 27, 2023 – Special Blessing Service (11:30 a.m. Zoom & 1:30 p.m. in-house)

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



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Activity Calendar – Mark Your Calendars!



June 13 (Tues) 7:00 p.m. - Meditation Class (in person)

June 17 (Sat) 1:00 p.m. - Fujinkai Workshop

June 24 (Sat) 1:00 p.m. – Hands on Healing Class

June 24 (Sat) 3:00 p.m. - Meditation Class (Zoom)

July 9 (Sun) 1:30 p.m. – *Toro Nagashi* Lantern Workshop

July 29 (Sat) 1:00 p.m. - Hands on Healing Class

June 29 (Sat) 3:00 p.m. - Meditation Class (Zoom)

August 8 (Tue) 7:00 p.m. - Meditation Class (in person)

August 19 (Sat) 1:00 p.m. – Fujinkai Workshop

August 26 (Sat) 1:00 p.m. Hands on Healing Class

August 26 (Sat) 3:00 p.m. - Meditation Class (Zoom)

Newsletter Staff

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