



Northern California Koyasan Temple

1400 U Street, Sacramento, CA 95818-1417

(916) 444-0111 info@nckoyasan.org

SEPTEMBER 2025

NEWSLETTER

THE ORIGINS OF SEGAKI KUYO

By Reverend Myoko Shigemitsu-Coy

Every year we have Obon and Segaki Kuyo service in July and August at our temple. As we know where the word “Obon” came from. The Urabon Kyo or Ullambana Sutra. The story of one of the great Shakyamuni Buddha’s disciples, Mokuren and his mother. He could save his mother from being “Gaki” hungry ghost by advice of Shakyamuni Buddha.

How about word “SEGAKI”? SE means offering or feeding and GAKI means Hungry ghost or beast. The ghost suffering by an insatiable hunger, because his neck is too narrow and cannot swallow any food or water. They are hungry and thirsty all the time.



The Segaki Ritual forces them to keep the spirits of dead from falling into the realm of the Gaki. All living being suffering the karmic consequences of greed and competitions have made life difficult to live interdependent, relying on each other and trusting others, focusing on the liberation of all living beings.

We prepare by cutting different vegetables into small pieces and offer for “Segaki Kuyo” with water to the deceased. The merit of this great act of generosity will be dedicated to one’s present father and mother and the parents of seven generations of the past, as well as, other relatives and friends. All of these will be liberated from the three lower realms of existence. The animal realm; the realm of hungry ghosts and the hell realm. They will receive food and support from them in their practice. Seven generations of your parents and grandparents, relatives, friends will be able to be born by transformation and will enter the beautiful and peaceful lotus flower’s world and enjoy there.

We see that all beings suffer as we do, we offer the merit of our practice to all beings. We wish all be able to realize the “True Nature of Existence”, let go the attachments and keep calm and peaceful mind. We are very fortunate to have a chance to receive “Buddha’s Teaching” and live an ideal life in this very life.

IN REMEMBRANCE

We have sadly lost two long standing members of the Temple. Both were long time pillars of the Koyasan Temple and shined as role models to our members, friends and families. The glowing lights were Donald Tateishi, former Koyasan Temple Cabinet President; and Bill Taylor, who was a valued member of the Koyasan Temple and also served on Cabinet. Mere words cannot express our loss and sadness. On behalf of the Koyasan Temple, we extend our sympathies to their respective families.



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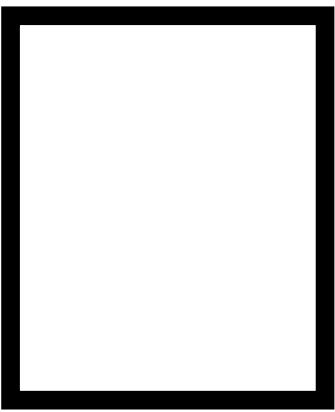
NEWSLETTER

We acknowledge the many contributions these two men have made to the Koyasan Temple and share a brief summary of their achievements.

Donald Tateishi

Donald was born on November 25, 1945, in the Tule Lake Segregation Center. He was the second child of three children born to Stanley and Grace Tateishi (long standing members of the Koyasan Temple).

Donald was married to his wife, Alice for 55 wonderful years. Alice too served on the Koyasan Cabinet as Treasurer for several years and continues to assist in the temple's bookkeeping and various other tasks. We can all attest to the fact that both Donald and Alice dedicated much of their lives in service to the Temple and to Buddhism. No job was too small or too big to tackle for either of them.

 Donald served as both Cabinet Vice President and President. Under his leadership, he capably handled the many aspects of managing the day-to-day operations of the Temple; helped to organize fundraisers; ensured that temple grounds and building were maintained; and ensured that the services ran smoothly. We can also remember Donald cooking and helping out at all of our fundraisers. He was an expert at the grill during pancake breakfasts; he monitored and managed the purchase of temple supplies; and generally worked wherever he was needed.

Outside of his many accomplishments and dedication to the Temple, Donald was a loving and supportive father to his sons, Roger and Marty; and a wonderful and nurturing grandfather (*gichan*) to his grandchildren Aya, Kai, Knox and Cannon. On many an occasion we saw him with his grandsons during temple services or events and he always kept a watchful eye on them.

Donald will be remembered fondly for many years to come. You were our friend and mentor, and we are very grateful to you.

Arigato!

Bill Taylor

William "Bill" Taylor was a devout member of Koyasan Temple for many years. His interest in the Temple began after attending a lecture where he met Reverend Seicho Asahi, the temple's Head Minister at the time. Soon after, Bill became a member of the



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NEWSLETTER



Temple and with Reverend Asahi's guidance, he began his study of Shingon Buddhism. He later became a disciple of Reverend Asahi and was given his Buddhist name "Jitsudo."

Bill was not only a member, but he was also an active participant in the temple's many activities. He joined the Cabinet and served on the Religious Coordinating Committee. He also helped manage several of the temple's business accounts. When the temple saw a need for a website, Bill was invited to join in its development because of his technical knowledge and computer skills. He later became the website's first coordinator and also managed our Facebook page. Bill also liked helping at our pancake breakfast fundraisers and could be found at the kitchen stove happily flipping pancakes. As you can see, Bill wore many hats. He was our go to expert and was knowledgeable in a multitude of ways.

One of Bill's greatest assets was his ability to look beyond today. He always brought our attention to various matters that required attention in order to avoid problems later. On many an occasion, he was able to alert cabinet members to various things that needed our immediate attention.

Bill had other talents too! He even did a bit of acting! As you may recall, he played the *oni* (demon) for many years during our February *Hoshi Matsuri* Service & *Mame-maki* Ritual.

The temple members and staff acknowledge his many years of service and dedication to the Temple. We extend our appreciation to your service and send our sympathies to your family. You will be missed.



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TAIKO HAPPENINGS

A Return to Self through Movement & Creativity

Photo and article by Janene DelMundo



On August 9th the Advanced Taiko Class members performed at “A Return to Self Through Movement & Creativity”, hosted by the Self Love Club at Arden Fair Mall. Our members spoke about how playing taiko with others was a form of wellness and what it meant to them. They played “*Ohenka*”, which means rooting for you, where they shout encouraging words to show support to those who are having a challenging time. This piece was originally written in 2011 by Sensei Kaori to show the support for those affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Thank you Self Love Club for having us!



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Echoes of Japan

Photos and article by Janene DelMundo and Gregory Wada

We performed at International House Davis on July 14, at Kodama: Echoes of Japan, a family friendly night of music and dance.

We were honored to open a performance featuring artists showcasing Japanese music and dance with a special performance from Takumi Kato, a renowned taiko drummer and lion dancer from Gifu Prefecture, Japan, who is performing alongside his three young sons. Their group — Peaceful Forest — is touring the U.S. with a mission to share 1,000 performances that inspire peace and understanding across cultures.



Zumba to Taiko Party

Pictures by Janene DelMundo, Jason Jong. Article by Janene DelMundo



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On July 31st, we did a “Zumba to Taiko” party to send off a couple of our members. Izzy has been playing for 11 years and is heading off to college. Suzuka has been with us for a few years and has been helping with classes; she is going to be focusing on her advanced degree. To send them off, we Zumba'd (led by our very own Gaby), and of course, we taiko jammed. Thanks to everyone who came to wish them off, thanks to Gaby for teaching us some new moves, and thanks to Jan and others who brought treats.



AJI CORNER

Contributed by Janet Y Uriu-Adams

CRANBERRY, WHITE CHOCOLATE & MACADAMIA COOKIES

Makes 32 cookies



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SEPTEMBER 2025

NEWSLETTER

Ingredients

2 cups (10 oz) flour
½ tsp baking soda
½ tsp salt
12 Tbsp unsalted butter, melted and cooled slightly
1 cup (7 oz) packed light brown sugar
½ cup (3.5 oz) granulated sugar
1 large egg plus 1 large yolk
2 tsp vanilla extract
1 cup (6 oz) white chocolate chips
1 cup dried cranberries, chopped coarse
1 cup macadamia nuts, chopped



Directions

Adjust oven rack to lower-middle position; preheat oven to 325°.

Whisk flour, baking soda and salt together in a bowl.

Using stand mixer fitted with paddle, beat melted butter, brown sugar, and granulated sugar on medium speed until smooth, 1 to 2 min. Add egg, egg yolk, and vanilla and beat until combined, scraping down bowl as needed. Reduce speed to low, slowly add flour mixture, and mix until just combined. Add white chocolate chips, cranberries, and macadamia nuts and mix until incorporated.

Working with 2 Tbsp dough at a time, roll into balls and space them 2" apart on parchment-lined sheets. Bake, one sheet at a time, until edges are set but centers are still soft and puffy, 15 to 20 min, rotating sheet halfway through baking. Let cookies cool on sheet for 10 min, then transfer to wire rack. Let cookies cool completely before serving.



About the Contributor

If you were at our Toronagashi Service and Picnic at the Anne Rudin Peace Pond in William Land Park, you may have had an opportunity to taste the delicious cranberry, white chocolate & macadamia cookies on the table. The cookies were baked by Janet Y Uru-Adams, pictured in the foreground. Janet is a member of the Koyasan Taiko Group and she is famous for her baking talents. It's always a treat to dine on her delicious baked goods (as many of you can attest to). Enjoy!

This recipe is from the Perfect Cookie Cookbook from America's Test Kitchen.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- On September 6th at 1:00 p.m., there will be a very special lecture and workshop on skin care at the Temple on. The workshop will be presented by Peter (Hideaki) Uchida, Dermatologist. You won't want to miss this very worthwhile/important workshop so plan on attending!

All of us know the importance of skin care for the body. Both men and women of all ages are welcome. Please reserve the date for this opportunity to hear about the latest advances in skin care.

- Our next Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, September 14th. Our normal start time was 7:00 a.m., however beginning September 14th the Pancake Breakfasts will begin at 7:30 a.m. and end at 10:30 a.m. Please make a note of this change.
- Following the September 27th Meditation Class on September 12th at 1:30 p.m., please join us for some delicious tea and treats as part of a traditional Japanese Tea Workshop.



- October 25th - plans are underway for another Calligraphy Class using traditional Japanese calligraphy brushes and ink. Learn the art of calligraphy and you too will be able to write Japanese kanji characters with the stroke of your brush. The class will begin at 2:30 p.m. in the Temple Social Hall.

- A big thanks to Gary Matsumoto and the Koyasan Karate Group for contributing towards the purchase of new security motion detectors for the Temple.
- A special thanks to everyone who helped out at our very successful Toronagashi Picnic and Service.
 - Ken Murakami and Keith & Heather Kurihara for making the tasty bento box lunches and those who helped put the bento boxes together
 - All contributors of the delicious baked goods



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- Koyasan Temple Taiko Group under the direction of Kaori Sakauye and Greg Wada for their awesome playing and performance
- *Sakura Minyo Doo Koo Kai* Odori Dancers who did a great job teaching us all to dance traditional Japanese folk dances.
- Gary Matsumoto and members of his Karate Group **for** the set-up of picnic tables and equipment.
- Larry Sunahara & Marty Tateishi and their helpers **for** setting up the lanterns for the service
- Trent Sunahara & Janis Kubochi **for** the set-up for the lantern workshops at the Temple and during Toronagashi
- Reverend Coy for the service (assisted by Caleb Snider & Trent Sunahara)

Thank you all so much for all that you did and please enjoy these photos taken during the picnic and service.





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

September 21 – Autumn Higan Service

September 28 – Special Blessing Service (“Fudo-myo-o”) with Goma Ritual

October 19 – *Eitaikyo* Memorial Service

November 16 – Daishiku Service

November 23 – *Shichi-Go-San*/Children’s Blessing Ceremony and Prayer Service

December 21 – *Osame Daishiku* Service & General Meeting

December 31 – *Joya* Service (5:00 pm)

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

Mark Your Calendars!



September 6 – Skin Care Workshop for men/women (1:00 pm)

September 14 – Pancake Breakfast (7:30-10:30 am)

September 20 – Temple Workshop - Collage (1:30 pm)

September 27 – Meditation Class & Traditional Japanese Tea Workshop (1:30 pm)



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October 18 – Temple Workshop – *Ikebana* (1:30 pm)

November 2 -- Udon/Curry Sale (10:30 am–1:00 pm)

November 9 -- Temple Mass Clean-Up (9:00 am)

November 22 – Meditation Class & Traditional Japanese Tea Workshop (1:30 pm)

November 23 – *Shichi-Go-San*/Children’s Blessing Ceremony and Prayer Service (1:30 pm)

December 13 – Mochi Sale (11:30 am-1:00 pm)

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