



REMEMBERING REVEREND MYOKYO SHIGEMITSU-COY

November 21, 1947 – April 8, 2026

Reverend Myokyo (Yasuko) Shigemitsu-Coy, beloved Head Minister of the Northern California Koyasan Temple, passed away on Wednesday, April 8, 2026. She was 78 years old.



Reverend Coy was born on November 21, 1947 in Kobe, Japan, where she was raised and completed her education. She graduated from Konan University in Kobe with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature. Her education, international experiences, and deep curiosity about people and culture shaped a life devoted to communication, service, and connection.

Before beginning her long career as a Realtor, Reverend Coy worked as a secretary at a language school in Kobe and later served as the General Manager's Secretary for Mitsubishi Corporation's Central American Headquarters in Guatemala. She also lived in Taiwan and Central America, experiences that gave her a broad view of the world and a deep appreciation for people from many backgrounds.

In 1990, Reverend Coy became a full-time Realtor with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokers, where she built a successful career and became a member of Coldwell Banker's International Diamond Society. Her professional philosophy reflected the values she carried throughout her life: honesty, service, and helping others. She believed that honesty was the best way to solve problems, and she dedicated herself to serving people, helping them realize their dreams, and sharing in their happiness.

Reverend Coy's spiritual journey with the Northern California Koyasan Temple began in August 1994 when she first visited the Temple while Reverend Seicho Asahi was serving as Head Minister. Although she did not know much about Koyasan Shingon Buddhism at the time, she began learning little by little through Temple services, chanting sutras and mantras, and participating in the Temple community.

In February 1995, she became a disciple of Reverend Asahi and began her formal studies in Shingon Buddhism. In January 2006, she began the Shido Kegyo practice at the Northern California Koyasan Temple. She later traveled to Koyasan Shingon Buddhism's headquarters on Mt. Koya in Wakayama, Japan, where she completed the examination required to receive her ministerial certification. Becoming a minister was one of the most meaningful experiences of her life.

After Reverend Asahi left Sacramento to become Bishop at the Los Angeles Betsuin Koyasan Temple, Reverend Coy served as Assistant Minister to Reverend Fukuda. She continued in this role until 2015. Encouraged by former Bishop Imamura and Reverend Asahi, she continued her practice as a Koyasan Shingon Missionary Minister, conducting English-language services and holding meditation classes at her home.



In July 2024, Reverend Coy began serving as Head Minister of the Northern California Koyasan Temple. She was grateful to support the Temple community and admired the positive energy of the new generation of Cabinet members, volunteers, and longtime temple groups, including the Taiko Group and Karate Group. She deeply valued the work of those who helped sustain the temple established by its original members.

Beyond her professional and spiritual life, Reverend Coy enjoyed ballroom dancing, scuba diving, tennis, traveling, and meditation. She was an International Standard-style ballroom dancer and also taught dance on a cruise line. Her life reflected grace, discipline, joy, and a sincere openness to the world.

Reverend Coy will be remembered for her kindness, honesty, devotion, and lifelong commitment to serving others. She touched many lives as a minister, teacher, friend, realtor, mentor, and member of the Temple community. Her legacy lives on in the many people she guided, helped, encouraged, and loved.

In gratitude, we honor Reverend Coy's life, her ministry, and her many years of service to the Northern California Koyasan Temple.

Reverend Coy

(By Dr. Francis Nakashoji, Ed.D)

*Her multiple dimensional contributions
A Transcending Visual Moment
Arriving in the parking lot of this Temple
With several dignitaries from LA many years ago
Now returning "Home" of Multiple Dimensions
Contributions-Shared Values -
Relationship
Strengthened-Commitment-Determination
Rooted with Gratitude
"Now Realized"
"The defining images of vibrant cherry blossoms"
as designed and not forgotten
Her Journey
Fulfillment-Destination
Domo Arigato*



FAREWELL TO A GREAT LADY

Reverend Coy's memorial service was held on May 30, 2026 officiated by Reverend Asahi, former minister of the Northern Koyasan Temple who returned from Japan to conduct the service. Members of the Temple along with her friends and associates paid our respects to the sincere and thoughtful Reverend Coy who worked tirelessly to bring us back to chanting the sutras together in the services and provided sermons that inspired us to become better human beings.



Reverend Coy became a minister under the tutelage of Reverend Asahi and over the ensuing years he was not only her sensei but a true friend and advisor. To honor his friend and disciple he paid tribute to her. According to Reverend Asahi, he became aware of her illness when he was contacted by her from the hospital. Although she eventually succumbed to her illness, she was comforted by him in her final days and as they both prayed for her return to health. Because of her faith, she informed Reverend Asahi that she was not afraid of death and knew that her faith would guide her path into Nirvana.

Reverend Asahi returned to Japan with her ashes where she will be laid to rest in her family cemetery. Although the circumstances of Reverend Asahi returning to Sacramento were under sad circumstances, it was nice to see our former minister again.

As many of you may recall, Reverend Asahi served as our head minister for a number of years (1991-2007). During his tenure, he was well-liked and accomplished many things. Some of his accomplishments include: training students for the Shingon ministry; conducting Buddhist study classes, formation of the Koyasan Spirit of Children Taiko Group; providing Buddhist services and spiritual guidance to prisoners at Folsom Prison; participating in the creation of the Inner Faith Consul of Ministers; writing and publishing a Funeral and Memorial Handbook, and creating the Red Book, Koyasan's service booklet. He also performed services at the San Jose and Santa Rosa daishikos, regularly visited and ministered to the patients of the Asian Community Center (ACC), participated in the senior lunch program at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, and even taught a vegetarian cooking class for temple members.

We thank you so much for all that you have done!

SPOTLIGHT – LAWRENCE (“LARRY”) SUNAHARA

Photo and article by Margie Sunahara

Larry is a man with many talents. He can be seen around the Temple maintaining, repairing or installing fixtures at the facilities. He is a handyman and gets many calls to do house remodeling and repairs. But his real talent is baking the delicious apples pies, with sidekick and cousin Michael, for our Temple bake shop at the pancake breakfast fundraisers. He volunteers at all the fundraisers, never complaining and always has a big smile.

Larry is the son of Rio and Lillian Sunahara and grew up on the family farm in Perkins, California; husband to the late Judith; father to Rio (Lisa), Trent (Emily), Sanji, and Alex; grandfather to Cece, Izzy, Mari and Noah; brother to Carol Kawano (Gary) and Roy Sunahara (Lisa); uncle to Roy Jr (Trish), Becky (Joe), Jennifer, Brian (Iky), and Kathleen (Rob); and has



many extended family members and relatives. His grandparents, Kaichi and Hatsuno Sunahara, started the Perkins Koyasan Temple on the farm which was later combined with the Yamamoto's West Sacramento Koyasan Temple into the present Northern California Koyasan Temple.

We always said Larry has nine lives: during his teenage years, he was involved in two serious car accidents and came away with only scratches; while working for a construction company, a 1,100 pound pile of lumber fell on top of him collapsing his lungs and breaking his spine in which a titanium rod was inserted; and from water skiing, he dislocated his shoulder and fractured his knee. Now that he is getting older, the injuries are catching up to him causing him discomfort but you would never know it as he is so positive and always smiling.



Larry is a Vietnam Veteran and was assigned to front-line infantry searching for the enemy and directing artillery to the area. He had a guardian angel watching over him as he came home safely. Thank you for your service!

His hobbies include riding his mountain bike, giving his granddaughter Mari a ride on the ebike; kayaking on Lake Natoma and going for nature walks along the American River. He enjoys traveling to Los Angeles Japantown and San Francisco Pier 39 and Japantown and vacationing in Hawaii. His farming roots are still with him as he grows cucumbers, eggplant, and tomatoes in his backyard.

We are lucky to have Larry as a dedicated and reliable member of our Temple! Following in his footsteps is his son, Trent, who is our current President.

TAIKO - Encina High Performance

By Sunshine Umeda

As Koyasan Taiko it is always a nice evening when you can spend it in the community, sharing the spirit of Taiko through a performance. We were able to do just that at Encina High School during their Multicultural night. There were many diverse performances and families came to share their cultures through food and booths. Then we started playing and you could see the excitement of the crowd. In the middle of our performance, we took time for audience participation and many of the high school students came up on stage. The joy on their faces, making music and having fun, made it worthwhile to volunteer our time. The evening came to a close and as we packed up we were already looking forward to going back again next year.





KOYASAN SPIRIT OF CHILDREN TAIKO

By Kaori Sakaue

The Koyasan Spirit of Children Taiko (KSCT) held its monthly Kodomo Taiko class on May 9th at the Koyasan Temple. They had 12 participants and everyone did great! They all learned how to count in Japanese and played a short song with kiai. The next class will be held on Saturday, June 20th at 1:30 p.m.

For more information regarding the KSCT, please contact us at Koyasan.taiko@gmail.com.



WORDS OF THE BUDDHA

DHAMMAPADA

The Dhammapada is an anthology of verses from the teachings of the Buddha

The experience of life is created by mind.

Thought precedes experience.

*If one speaks and acts with a clouded mind,
suffering follows, as the wheel of the oxcart follows the ox.*

*If one speaks and acts with a clear mind,
contentment follows like a faithful shadow.*

*"He insulted me! He attacked me!
He cheated me! He robbed me!"
One who holds these thoughts
will never be free of hate.*



*One who is free of these thoughts
will be free of hate.*

*Desire permeates a clouded mind,
as rain permeates a badly thatched house.
Desire does not permeate a clear mind,
as rain does not permeate a well-thatched house.*

*Selfish action brings grief.
Grief now, grief hereafter, grief in both.
Seeing the selfishness of one's actions,
one forever grieves.
Selfless action brings joy.
Joy now, joy hereafter, joy in both.
Seeing the selflessness of one's actions,
one is free of grief.*

*He who does evil suffers.
Suffers now, suffers hereafter.
In both he knows, "I have done evil."
He burns in torment at the thought of his evil,
and is born to a realm of suffering.
He who does good is content.
Content now, content hereafter.
In both he knows, "I have done good."
He rejoices in the thought of his goodness,
and exists in a state of contentment.*

*One who recites many religious teachings
but is careless about putting them into practice,
is like a cowherd counting cows that are not his.
He cannot taste the milk of spiritual life.
One who recites few religious teachings
but is faithful to Dhamma,
who has overcome desire, hatred, and delusion,
whose mind is clear,
who clings to nothing now or hereafter,
indeed lives the life of spirit.*



AJI CORNER

Contributed by Mariko Kawamura

RENKON KINPIRA WITH CARROTS

2 Kinpira (Lotus Root Sections)	1 Tsp. Sugar
1 Carrot	1 Tbsp. Salad Oil
1 Tbsp. Soy Sauce	1/2 Tsp. Dashi
1 Tsp. Sake	Chili Flakes(Optional)
1 Tsp. Mirin	



Wash and peel lotus Roots and carrots. Cut lotus roots vertically in halves if too large. Parboil both carrot and lotus roots for 1 minute. After cooling, cut into 1/8 inch slices. Fry in oil until light brown while adding the other ingredients.

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

June 14 – Aoba Matsuri Service

July 19 – Obon Memorial Service & Segaki Service

August 15 (Saturday) –Picnic and Toronagashi Ritual (Picnic at 5:00 p.m., followed by a brief service and the floating of the lanterns at sunset)

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

Mark Your Calendars!



June 6 - Pie baking prep (8:00 am). Volunteers welcomed.

June 7 - Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale (7:30-10:30 am). Contributions of bake goods are also appreciated.

June 28 -Family Potluck Picnic at the Mayor Anne Rudin Peace Pond in William Land Park (11:00 am)

July 11 – Toronagashi Lantern Workshop (1:00 pm)

August 8 - Temple Workshop (1:00 p.m.)



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