



明澄會

MYO CHO AN KAI NEWSLETTER

No. 30

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NEW YEAR'S CHAKAI 25 JANUARY 2009



The tokonoma in Honseki

Sensei Ward and her students hosted guests for Tatezome-No-Shiki, the traditional New Year's Chakai, on January 25th.

The tokonoma in Honseki was set in the customary way for New Year.

After Sensie Ward welcomed the guests, Mr E. Noduhara sang a New Year shigin to bring peace and prosperity to the new year.

Traditionally, Sensei Ward prepares koicha for her students as a way of thanking them for their support over the past year. This year she asked Soshin (Katie) Nitta to do this in her place because she has not quite recovered from back surgery last year.

Patricia Payne served as hanto, and Sensie Ward was the first guest.

Usucha was then served in the Daime-seki and the Ryurei-seki. Patricia Payne was the teishu in the Ryurei, assisted by Chuck Jamison as hanto. In the Daime-seki, Yoshiko Kamiya was the teishu and Shoko Takegoshi was hanto. In Honseki, Patricia Payne hosted tea, assisted by Soshin (Katie) Nitta.

Sensei Ward then hosted the guests in her home for a traditional new year's meal. As always, the event was a delightful way to begin the New Year. ■



Students listen to the new year shigin



Soshin Nitta prepares koicha



Yoshiko Kamiya prepares usucha



The students, teachers and guests pose for the traditional group photograph.



Guests enjoy traditional meal

BECOME A MEMBER OF MYO CHO AN KAI

Myo Cho An Kai is Sensei Ward's organization, dedicated to practicing and promoting awareness of Urasenke Chado. Members have the opportunity to take lessons in Chado from Sensei Ward and to participate in tea gatherings and other activities throughout the year. Members also receive the Myo Cho An Kai newsletter. To become a member, please contact Sensei Ward (916-663-3436). ■

RIKYU HONORED AT RIKYU-KI CHAKAI - 28 MARCH 2009



The traditional tokonoma setting for Rikyu-ki

Soshin (Katie) Nitta was teishu in Honseki and prepared usucha, assisted by Patricia Payne as hanto. Doctor Martin Neft was the first guest. Sweets and thin tea were served to all guests including special guests Mr. and Mrs. David Lucy who are friends of Sensei and her husband.

Shoko Takegoshi also prepared tea in the Ryurei with the help of Nobuko Clark as hanto



Shoko Takegoshi prepares tea in the Ryurei with the assistance of hanto, Nobuko Clark.

*“For long to remember,
The fragrance of the plum blossoms.
Leave it behind with me when it’s time to fall.”*

This quotation from Kokin Wakashu on the invitation set the tone for Rikyu-ki Chakai, which was held on March 28, 2009 at Myochoan. This chakai honors Sen no Rikyu, the first Grand Master of the Urasenke, on the anniversary of his death.

The tokonoma in Honseki was set in the traditional way for Rikyu-ki. The hanging scroll, done by Koyasan Sanpoin Kusanagi Zenko Daisojo, showed the Japanese character for “flower.” A statue of Rikyu and the sangusoku -- a three-piece set that includes an incense burner, a vase, and a candle holder – completed the setting.



Soshin (Katie) Nitta prepares usucha



The students, teachers and guests pose for the traditional group photograph.

Following tea, Sensei Ward and her students served a traditional Japanese Tenshin meal at Sensei Ward's home. The small size of the group was very conducive to a warm and friendly gathering, which was enjoyed by all. ■



MAY CHAJI-NO-KEIKO (Lesson for Chaji)

Soshin Katie Nitta hosted a chaji in May. She was teishu and Shoko Takegoshi was hanto. First guest was Sensei Ward, then Patricia Payne, Dr. Roger Rapp, and last guest Yoshiko Kamiya. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Being a Guest at Chakai

If there is enough interest, Sensei Ward will teach a class on how to be a guest at Chakai. For more information, contact Sensei Ward at 916-663-3436.

Introductory Series for cooking for the Tea Ceremony

If Sensei Ward's new kitchen remodel is finished on schedule, Myochoan is offering an Introduction to traditional cooking for the Tea Ceremony tentatively scheduled for the later part of September. For more information, call Sensei Ward at 916-663-3436.

Myochoan annual barbecue and pot-luck

Again, if the kitchen remodel is completed on schedule, we will have our annual get-to-gather for members of Myochoan and their families in September.

Sotan-ki

Sotan-ki, the chakai that honors Sotan, the third generation Grand Master of the Urasenke, on the anniversary of his death will be held in November. ■

CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER

We welcome your contributions to the Myo Cho An Kai newsletter, edited by Chuck Jamison. Please contact Sensei Ward if you would like to write an article for the newsletter or have other items of interest to our readers. ■

TEA DEMONSTRATION - 7 MARCH 2009

The First United Methodist Church of Penryn, California, of which Sensei Ward and her husband are members, held their 52nd Annual Bazaar at Del Oro High School in Loomis, California. Since Mrs. Ward was not cooking this year, this was the first time she and her students were able to conduct tea demonstrations.



Shoko Takegoshi was teishu, and Katie, hanto for Chuck Jamison, guest, in the first demonstration. Patrick Couch was teishu, and Chuck Jamison, hanto for Shoko Takegoshi, guest, in the second demonstration. Soshin Katie Nitta was teishu, and Shoko Takegoshi, hanto for Patrick Couch, guest, in the third demonstration.

Sensei Ward's granddaughters Madison (7 years old), and Alysha (10 years old) and Nobuko Clark's daughter Jennie (14 years old) served sweets (okashi) and tea (tatedashi). Alysha helped in the first demonstration, Jennie and Madison helped for all three. Nobuko Clark helped in the mizuya making tea for tatedashi with other students.



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