



明澄庵会

MYO CHO AN KAI NEWSLETTER

No. 32

MAY 2010

NEW YEAR'S CHAKAI - 24 JANUARY 2010



Kagura Suzu (bell for hinto dance), Musubi Yanagi (looped willow branches) and flower In the Tokonoma.



Soshin Nitta prepares the charcoal

Ward Sensei and her students hosted members of the California Waki Kyokai, Myochoan-kai, and guests for **Tatezome-No-Shiki**, the traditional New Year's Chakai (tea gathering), on January 24th.

Toko Kazari for Honseki (eight tatami main room):
The **Tokonoma** (alcove) **Jiku** (scroll) - "**Matsu no hana, tsuru to tomo nitobu**" (Pine flowers fly together with the crane).

California Waki Kyokai vice president, Doctor Martin Neft and Ward Sensei welcomed the attendants. Soshin (Katie) Nitta then did **Sumi Temae** (arranging the charcoal) for the **Ro** (sunken hearth) and Sori (Noriko) Nagato, Shoko Takegoshi, Patricia Payne, and Nobuko Clark observed as guests.

Ward Sensei prepared **Koicha** (thick tea) for her students as a way of thanking them for their past and continuing support. Soshin Nitta served as **Hantou** (assistant). **Shokyaku** (first guest) was Sori Nagato then Doctor Neft, Doctor Rapp, Patricia Payne, and then the other students.



Ward Sensei prepares Koicha for Sori Nagato, Waki Kyokai

NEW YEAR'S CHAKAI - Continued

Usucha (thin tea) was then served in the **Daime-seki** (smaller tatami room) and the **Ryurei-seki** (bench and table room). In the **Daime-seki**, **Teishu** (host) was Patricia Payne and Soshin (Katie) Nitta was **Hantou**. In the **Ryurei-seki**, Marcia Ferris was the **Teishu** and Patrick Couch was **Hantou**.

*Patricia Payne**Marsha Ferris**Traditional group photo of students and guests**Students prepare meal in Sensei Ward's new kitchen**Guests enjoy traditional New Year meal*

After the tea, Ward Sensei hosted the guests in her home for an **Osecchi Ryori** (traditional New Year's meal). The event was a delightful way to begin the New Year. ■

BECOME A MEMBER OF MYO CHO AN KAI

Myo Cho An Kai is Ward Sensei's organization, dedicated to practicing and promoting awareness of Urasenke Chado. Members have the opportunity to take lessons in Chado from Ward Sensei 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). ■

TEA DEMONSTRATION FOR LOOMIS CHURCH BAZAAR - 6 MARCH 2010

Ward Sensei and her husband are members of the First United Methodist Church of Loomis, California, which, held their 56th Annual Bazaar at Del Oro High School in Loomis. Mrs. Ward and her students provided tea demonstrations at 1, 2, and 3 PM.



Courtney Olson

Ward Sensei's granddaughters Madison (8 years old), and Alyssa (11 years old) and Nobuko Clark's daughter Jennie (15 years old) served **Okashi** (sweets) and **Tatedashi** (tea prepared by helpers). Church members Courtney Olson (13) and Kyna McNaught (11) also served guests. Nobuko Clark helped in the **Mizuya** (tea kitchen) making tea.



Kyna, Madison, Alyssa, and Courtney



Shokyaku, Patrick Couch, Hantou Shoko Takegoshi, and Teishu Soshin Nitta



Ward Sensei explains origins of Myochoan to guests while Jennie Clark and Courtney Olson serve sweets



It was nice to have the participation of church members this year.

RIKYU HONORED AT RIKYU-KI CHAKAI - 27 MARCH 2010

"The beautiful Spring days, with
 Tranquil sun shining
 Wonder why, without settle
 The Cherry Blossoms falling
 --Ki no Tomonori--

Rikyu-ki Chakai was held on March 27th at **Myochoan**. This **Chakai** honors **Sen-no-Rikyu**, the first Grand Master of **Urasenke**, who we call the Father of Tea.

The **Honseki Tokonoma** was set as a traditional memorial **Chakai**. Under the **Juku** statue of **Rikyu** was placed a **Koro** (incense burner), a **Hana** (flower), and **Okashi** (Japanese sweet).



We also honored our long time friend and supporter Doctor Roger Rapp who passed unexpectedly on 18 February of this year. His picture was placed **Shimoza** (Ro side) in the **Tokonoma**.

The ceremony started with **Hanayose-no-shiki** (flower offering) done by seven students, Soshin Nitta (**Fudamoto**), Nobuko Clark (**Metsuke**), Kyoko Hata (**Teishu**), Shoko Takegoshi, Pat Payne, Chuck Jamison, and Ayako Marshall.

After **Hanayose**, Ward Sensei prepared **Usucha** (thin tea) in honor of **Rikyu** using the **Teamoku Chawan**. Soshin Nitta placed the bowl in the **Tokonoma**. Ward Sensei prepared a second bowl of tea for Doctor Rapp and placed it in the **Tokonoma** for him.

Soshin Nitta continued as **Teishu** assisted by Patricia Payne as **Hanto** and prepared **Usucha** for **Shokyaku**, California Waki Kyokai vice president, Doctor Neft and Doctor Rapp's wife, Yakshi Vadeboncoeur and their daughter Jocelyn. Sweets and **Usucha** were then served to all guests.



Patricia Payne – Hanayose



Ward Sensei



Pat Payne – Soshin Nitta – Dr Neft

After tea in the Honseki, guests moved to the **Ryurei-seki** where **Teishu** Kyoko Hata with **Hanto** Shoko Takegoshi prepared **Usucha** for Shokyaku Reverend Dixie Jennings-Teats, Yakshi, and Jocelyn, The other guests were served by **Tatedashi** (tea made in back room and brought to the guests by other students).

RIKYU HONORED AT RIKYU-KI CHAKAI - Continued

Following the tea, the guests moved to Ward Sensei's home for **Tenshin** (simple Japanese meal). Then Ward Sensei and Gloria Babel shared memories about Doctor Rapp. Reverend Dixie Jennings-Teats offered a closing prayer.

After the meal, Ward Sensei and her students returned to the **Myochoan** tea house for a final bowl of tea shared together in honor of our friend and mentor Doctor Roger Rapp. Past students from Carson City, NV, Vacaville, Sacramento, and Murphys joined regular members for this memorial.



Shoko Takegoshi and Kyoko Hata



Traditional group photo



Guests and students enjoy Tenshin



Members share a bowl of tea in honor of Dr. Roger Rapp

DOCTOR ROGER RAPP - In Memoriam

Roger Rapp of Camptonville, CA and Catalunya, Spain, passed away Feb. 18 of a heart attack. He was 59. His true home was Camptonville where he felt connected to its people and deeply rooted in its forest soil, but he studied, lived, and worked in many cultures around the world where his incredible openness, unfailing kindness, and genuine humility made him beloved by countless communities.

He was a philosopher, teacher, and maker of music and song. He was an amazing husband, father, brother, friend. He lived his life with grace, spoke with integrity, and listened with an uncritical heart.

Shocked sorrow and an outpouring of love lit up a network of caring on four continents.

A CELEBRATION
OF THE LIFE OF ROGER RAPP



NOVEMBER 21, 1950 - FEBRUARY 18, 2010

YOU ARE WHO I AM
BY ROGER RAPP

BETWEEN THE OCEAN AND THE FARTHEST SHORE
BETWEEN FORGOTTEN AND FOREVER MORE
THE OTHER FADES INTO DUST
ALL THE DIFFERENCE IS LOST, AND
YOU ARE WHO I AM

BETWEEN THE EASTERN AND THE WESTERN SUN
AFTER I DIE BEFORE I AM BORN
THE LIVING WATERS NOW BURST
TO QUENCH ALL MY THIRST, AND
YOU ARE WHO I AM

THE LOVE THAT'S BETWEEN US
TURNS ME INTO YOU
I WHO AM SINGING
ARE YOU SINGING TOO

LOOK DEEP ENOUGH AT ANYTHING YOU SEE
IN EVERY BEING DWELLS THE CHRISTOPHANY
EVERYTHING IS MADE NEW, AND
EVERYTHING, THAT IS YOU, AND
YOU ARE WHO I AM

THE LOVE THAT'S BETWEEN US
TURNS ME INTO YOU
I WHO AM SINGING
ARE YOU SINGING TOO

Yakshi and Jocelyn Rapp



Ward Sensei and Doctor Rapp began their friendship while co- teaching a Sierra College class, Zen and Tea.

CALIFORNIA AWARD

Last December, **Sosei Matsumoto** of Los Angeles, received an **Urasenke Chado Bunka Sho** (Cultural Decoration) from **Zabosai Oiemoto**. This is the first time this award has been given to a member outside of Japan. **Matsumoto Sensei** has been teaching **Urasenke Chado** in Los Angeles for over sixty years and her award is well deserved.■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Seichu, Enno, Mugen-ki Chakai will be on 27 June 2010

Myochoan annual Seinenbu (Youth Group) Chakai and pot-luck in September. We plan to have our annual get-to-gather for members of Myochoan and their families this fall.

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

Being a Guest at Chakai and Introductory Series for cooking for the Tea Ceremony

If there is enough interest, Ward Sensei will teach a class on how to be a guest at **Chakai** and now that her new kitchen remodel is finished an **Introduction to traditional cooking for the Tea Ceremony**. For more information, contact Ward Sensei at 916-663-3436.■

Newsletter Editor Chuck Jamison - Myochoan Webpage: www.2jamisons.com/tea

This newsletter as well as links to photos from our activities can be found on the above website. Contributions to future newsletters are welcome. Please contact Ward Sensei at 916-663-3436.■