

Weekly Cultural News

Substitute for monthly Cultural News

September 07 - 13, 2020

Keep Japanese Culture Alive in Southern California

Conversion plan of former Japanese American senior facility proposed by current owner

In spite of a big opposition in the Japanese American community, non-profit Keiro Services sold four senior care facilities to San Diego-based Pacifica Company in February 2016 with the condition that the current services incorporating Japanese language and culture would be maintained for five year.

When February 2021 that ends this five year period is approaching, Pacific Company has applied to Los Angeles City to convert the senior care facility into a multifamily building.

This action by Pacific draws a big attention in Japanese American community in Los Angeles, and community-focus newspaper The Rafu Shimpo reports this issue on Sept. 5 as following:

Pacific Planning to Convert Sakura ICF to Multifamily Housing

Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council Committee to hear public comments Sept. 10

By J.K. YAMAMOTO, Rafu Staff Writer

Pacifica Companies, owner of the Sakura Intermediate Care Facility in Boyle Heights and the other former Keiro facilities, has applied to the City of Los Angeles to convert the ICF into a multifamily building.

The project description: "Conversion of 48-unit

Pacifica Planning to Convert Sakura ICF to Multifamily Housing

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By J.K. YAMAMOTO

RAFU STAFF WRITER

Pacifica Companies, owner of the Sakura Intermediate Care Facility in Boyle Heights and the other former Keiro facilities, has applied to the City of Los Angeles to convert the ICF into a multifamily building.

The project description: "Conversion of 48-unit and 90-bed intermediate care facility to a 45-unit multifamily building. Construction of 50 units, 40,000 SF (square-foot) multifamily building. Construction of parking garage."

Pacifica purchased the ICF, Keiro Retirement Home (now Sakura Gardens), adjacent to ICF in Boyle Heights, and Keiro Nursing Homes in Lincoln Heights and Gardena (now Kei-Ai Los Angeles Health-care Center and Kei-Ai South Bay

ning and land use chair of the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council, I feel it is necessary to inform the Japanese American community about this proposal as it not only is altering the site, but may affect the current culture of facility (this remains unknown).

"The Sakura Gardens project is on our Planning and Land Use Committee meeting agenda for [Thursday] Sept. 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

"I encourage members of the Little Tokyo Historical Society to attend, and let members of the Japanese American community know about this project as there will be a section for public comment."

"Discussion and possible action on 325 S. Boyle Ave. is No. 5 on the agenda. Scheduled speaker is Ryley Webb of Pacifica Senior Living.

Each individual who wants to make a comment will be allowed two minutes. Japanese and Spanish translation will be available.

To participate via Zoom, go to: <https://zoom.us/j/99385767952>

To participate via phone, call: (888) 475-4499, Meeting ID 993

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Pacifica purchased the ICF, Keiro Retirement

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Conversion plan of former Japanese American senior facility proposed

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Home (now Sakura Gardens), adjacent to ICF in Boyle Heights, and Keiro Nursing Homes in Lincoln Heights and Gardena (now Kei-Ai Los Angeles Healthcare Center and Kei-Ai South Bay Healthcare Center) in 2016 with the California Attorney General's Office stipulating that the current services incorporating Japanese language and culture would be maintained for five years. That period ends in February 2021.

Keiro ICF opened in 1977. It was closed in 1995 for major refurbishment and reopened in 1999. Intermediate care facilities are licensed by the California Department of Public Health, as are skilled nursing facilities. As defined by licensing, ICFs provide inpatient care to persons who need skilled nursing supervision and supportive care, but do not require continuous nursing care.

As is the case with the nursing homes, activities for residents and entry by family members and volunteers are currently restricted due to the COVID-19 situation.

In an Aug. 24 email to the Little Tokyo Historical Society, David Silvas of the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council said, "As a planning and land use chair of the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council, I feel it is necessary to inform the Japanese American community about this proposal as it not only is altering the site, but may affect the current culture of facility (this remains unknown).

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Also serving on the BHNC are board members Vivian Escalante and Alma Catalan and stakeholders Armando Martinez, La Tanya Hill and Paul Keilbach, with one stakeholder seat vacant.

Silvas said that the issue will eventually go to the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee.

Concerned individuals and organizations have also been asked to email questions to Pacifica leaders, particularly what will happen to the current residents and staff of ICF and whether the attorney general's conditions could be extended one more year due to the COVID-19 crisis.

The Rafu has also reached out to a Pacifica executive and is awaiting a response.

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Cultural News faces financial difficulties amid COVID-19 outbreak
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Cultural News, 328 1/4 South Alexandria Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90020-2673

**Essential book for both new and experienced Zen practitioners
published by former Bishop of Soto Zen North American Mission**

**A Blueprint of Enlightenment:
A Contemporary Commentary on
Dōgen Zenji's Gakudō Yōjinshū
“Guidelines for Studying the Way”**

Published by Temple Ground Press

Paperback – May 27, 2020

By [Gien Inoue](#) (Author), [Daigaku Rummé](#)
(Translator), [Keiko Ohmae](#) (Translator)

Following is a message from Rev. Daigaku Rummé of Confluence Zen Center in Saint Louis, MO, and former Bishop of Soto Zen North American Mission:

It is a great pleasure to announce the publication of *A Blueprint of Enlightenment: A Contemporary Commentary on Dogen Zenji's "Gakudo Yojinshu" or "Guidelines for Studying the Way"* by Inoue Gien Roshi.

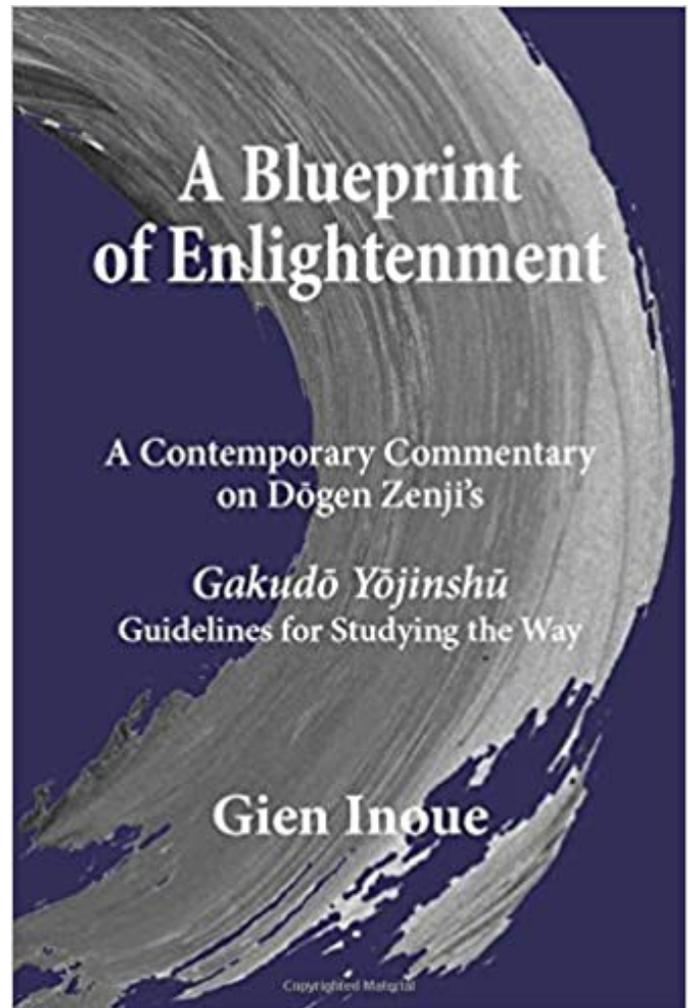
Inoue Roshi was the Zen master from whom my teacher, Harada Sekkei Roshi, received certification of realization (inka-shomei). This is the first book of Inoue Roshi's to appear in English.

It was translated by me and Ms. Keiko Ohmae, a long-time student of Zen and presently the student of Inoue Kando Roshi, Gien Roshi's youngest son.

Said by some to be Soto Zen's "best kept secret", Gien Roshi gave teisho commentary on a wide range of Zen records, but concentrated on the teachings of Dogen Zenji and Keizan Zenji.

Dogen Zenji's "Gakudo Yojinshu" is a work I often turned to during my monastic practice. Written early on in Dogen Zenji's career (1234), it clearly and succinctly describes ten essential aspects of Zen practice.

I often think of it as a companion piece of Fukuan-zazengi ("A Universal Recommendation for Zazen"), which Dogen Zenji finished polishing around the time "Gakudo Yojinshu" was completed.



A Blueprint of Enlightenment is published by Temple Ground Press. It is available from Amazon, your favorite bookseller.

With many sincere good wishes for your practice-realization.

Gassho, Daigaku Rummé

Rev. Egyoku Nakao, Senior Teacher of the Zen Center of Los Angeles

“Intimately conveyed in this excellent translation by Rummé and Ohmae, Gien Rōshi's distillation of the essential matters of Zen cuts right to the bone. This book will serve as a true companion for both new and experienced Zen practitioners.”

Ohayashi Juku (Japanese percussion lecture) Kabuki Series #12 talks about “Toki Daiko”

By Mariko Watabe

There are dance videos and shamisen videos. But KABUKI HAYASHI (Japanese percussion) videos are rarely found or discussed especially in English or with English subtitles.

I have decided to make them as I believe this art is too precious to be hidden or lost. With the guidance of Master Katada Shinjuro, I am trying to uncover the world of HAYASHI by producing YouTube videos in Japanese language with English subtitles.

[Oyahashi Juku - Kabuki Series #01 - #05: See Weekly Cultural News Aug 31-Sept 6 issue](#)

Ohayashi Juku - Kabuki Series #06: Spooky Sounds <https://youtu.be/qFiyyB8hitM>

Ohayashi Juku - Kabuki Series #07 Part I: Festival Music <https://youtu.be/3hJpLyAz0dw>

Ohayashi Juku - Kabuki Series # 07 Part II: Festival Music <https://youtu.be/LBcE6l1Zdw4>

Ohayashi Juku - Kabuki Series #08: Debayashi and Kagebayashi <https://youtu.be/w7tEuS0U63k>

Ohayashi Juku - Kabuki Series #09: Why is Hayashi So Special?
<https://youtu.be/SYxojFOy9LQ>

Ohayashi Juku—Kabuki Series #10: Battle Sounds <https://youtu.be/0M7Ua8SIHic>

Ohayashi Juku—Kabuki Series #11: Fighting Sounds <https://youtu.be/aWJqDubYRiw>

This is the 3rd topic of The Sound of Historical Plays of Kabuki, “Toki Daiko”.

Toki Daiko is a group of drum patterns of Kabuki



Bayashi that are used to describe the plays related to castles and samurai stories.

It originates the words of “Toki Daiko” which were used in castles during Edo period to mean time-keeper.

Since it is related to time, this video <https://youtu.be/VblxgwGIQq8> also introduces the other “time”, hours of a day, and what kind of clocks they had and how it was conveyed to the public. It also introduces the different use of bells and drums to the public.

At last it explains the how different patterns of “Toki Daiko” were used to signal samurais the time for their duties.

Such drum patterns were adapted into Kabuki Bayashi to signal and describe castle and samurai scenes in “Historical Plays”.

Mariko Watabe has been introducing Kabuki dance and music to American audiences nationwide for over 40 years. She goes by her stage names such as; Kimisen Katada for Hayashi, Kyosho Yamato for Yamatogaku, Kichitoji Kineya for Nagauta; and Marifuji Bando for dance.

She is currently living in Los Angeles area. Her activities and performances are found at <http://fujijapanesemusic.org>