



Welcome to your Sangha! After much reflection, I have decided to build a local sangha in my hometown of Naperville, Illinois. There, I will invite seekers to share their journey with one another. A sangha is a community of people that holds space to encourage spiritual growth. If you are in need of a tribe, look no further. You are welcome here.



This community will have no leader, per se, and is in line with Reverend Kubose's vision of perfecting studentship through teaching. I have created this site to develop my message and grow this community.

I hope to hold space for those seeking spiritual growth in this sangha. There are very few Buddhist communities in my area, so I find myself yearning to create one.

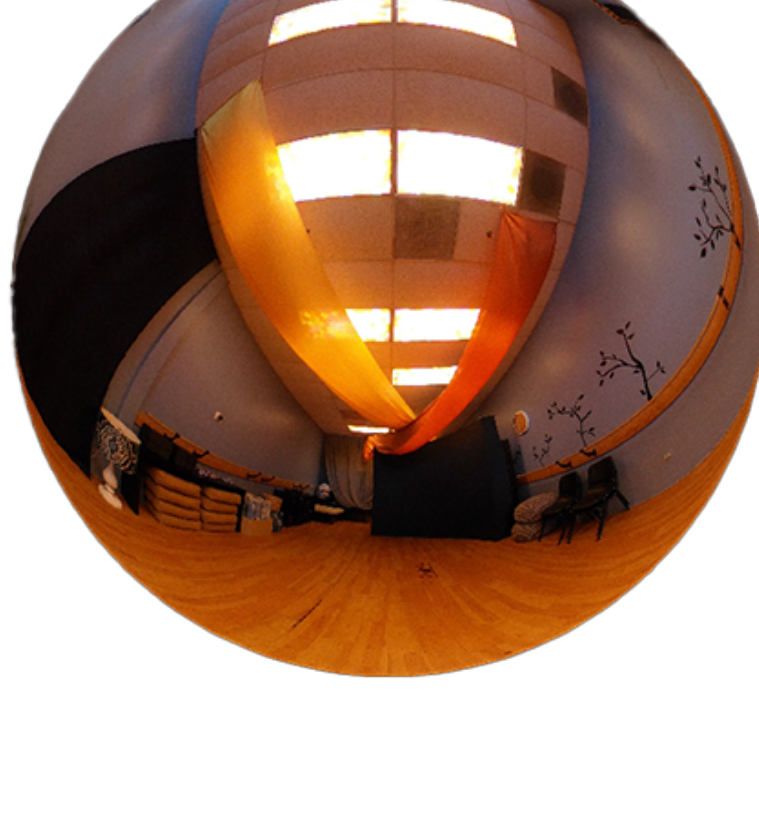
My focus will be one of community where sans (members) may share their experiences in daily life with one another. Through lecture, lab, and practicum, we will offer a chance to learn, practice, and demonstrate these teachings. With any good fortune, it will include robust conversation, good food, meditation, and tea ceremony.



I have been teaching for many years, but when I opened my yoga school many years ago, I got a tattoo in Japanese that reads "student." It is there to remind me that I am the student before I am the teacher, and will continue to learn from this sangha.

As Reverend Kubose says "There are causes for everything and it is not up to chance. What we do, our karma, our actions, our causes and conditions. It's important that we make the right decisions. Plant large potatoes, get a large crop."

I hope to plant a spiritual garden that may be enjoyed by all who choose to root there.



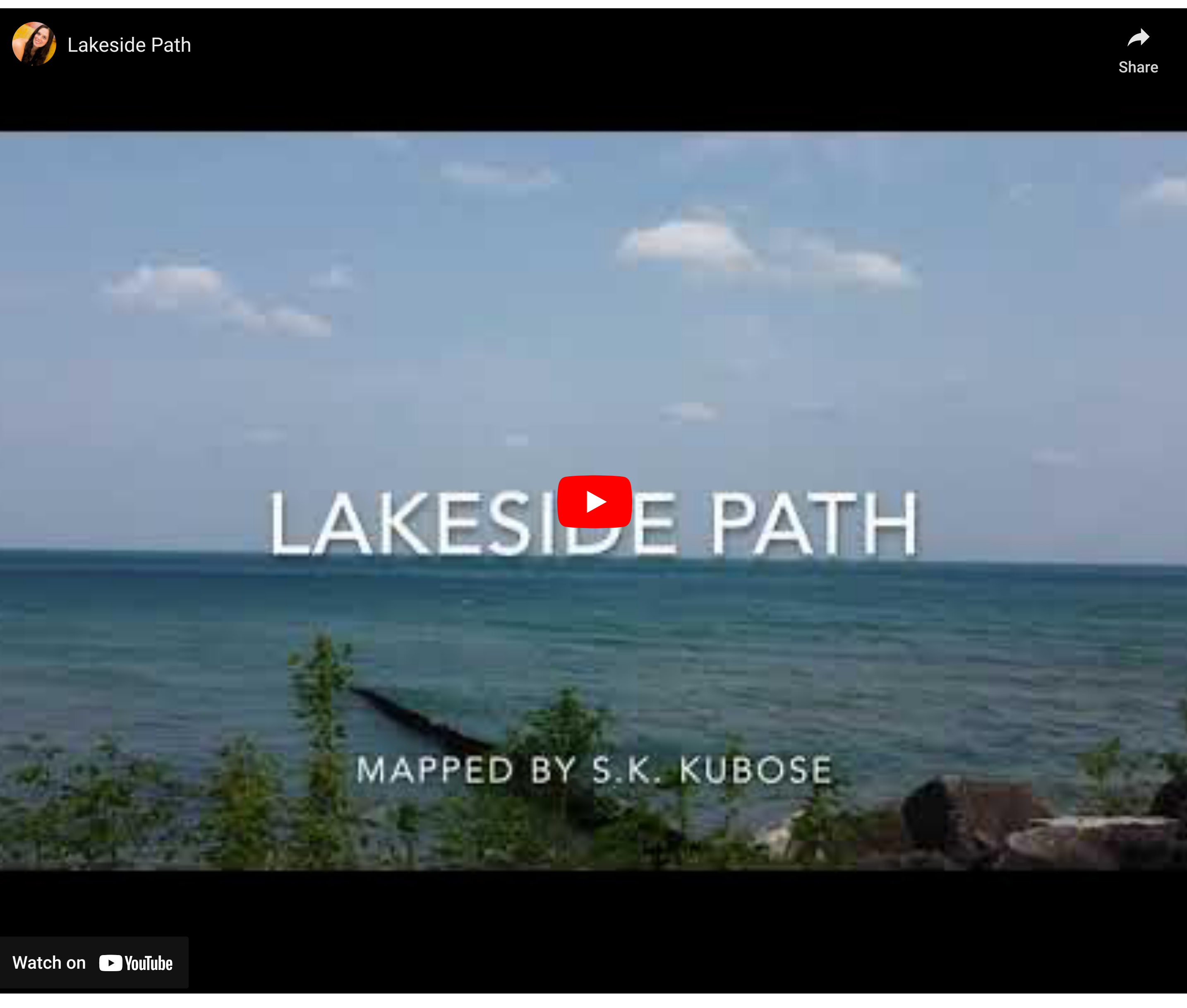
Want to join our Brush Meditations on Friday?

You're Invited.



I want to show my appreciation to the [Everyday Buddhism podcast #69](#) by Wendy Shinyo Haylett. It embodied all I know of Reverend Kubose's hope to share Buddhist teachings with Americans in familiar language and culture. I aspire to share such a message that can be practiced in daily life.

The inclusive nature of the [Bright Dawn](#) lay ministry program has demonstrated that any person choosing to live as a Buddhist may do so. These tools can aid sans in making the active choice to live in the present moment. Living in the present can help the practitioner embrace the oneness of life.



There was one Dharma Glimpse by [Rob Kanyo Sensei](#) that really spoke to me. Specifically, the blog had a reply that I found of particular interest:

*"One thing that has always mesmerized me about smoke, is that due to the laws of quantum physics and the laws of chaos, no two smoke pillars are exactly the same. So while burning incense and watching the smoke rise into the air, what you are witnessing is something no one has ever experienced before, nor will it ever be experienced again. This lends strongly to the concepts of impermanence and interdependence in Buddhism, and I think that's pretty cool."*

It is in this direction that I shall forge ahead. To be in awe of the smoke and all that it has to teach us.



Please watch for posts about our upcoming schedule. In the meantime, may I suggest ordering a copy of [Everyday Suchness](#) from Bright Dawn? This little gem changed my worldview in a few hundred pages.

I'd like to take a moment to express my gratitude to all of the Bright Dawn Sans who have been part of my journey, and the Sensei's who led us. Thank you for helping me grow my garden. Special thanks to my husband, Mark, for being part of the path and cheering me on along the way.

Until Next Time,  
Michelle Rae Sobi, Chiyo  
Bright Dawn Lay Minister