MYOKYO 明鏡
t(MYOKYO, the Bright Mirror of Buddha Dharma always illuminates our LIFE)

April, 2016

Sensei’s Message

Hanamatsuri -Buddha’s birthday- Rev. Kojo Kakihara

It is said that Sakyamuni Buddha who founded Buddhism was born on April 8 about at the place of Lumbini Garden, in the present Nepal about 2,600 years ago. Tacoma Buddhist Temple will hold our Hanamatsuri Service on April 3 to celebrate the birth of Sakyamuni Buddha. Entertainments by our Dharma School children and Pot-luck dinner will follow the service. I hope everyone to attend the service.

It is said that right after Sakyamuni Buddha was born, he stood up, took steps, and while pointing to the heavens with his right hand and to the earth with his left hand, he said in a loud voice; “In the heavens above and on the earth below, I alone am the World-Honored One.” These words mean that each and every living being is equally honored and precious. Our life is made to live in countless connections of lives. Each life, whether it is a stranger or an animal, is possible to live with supporting, being supported, and being interdependent on each other. Sakyamuni Buddha’s words, “In the heavens above and on the earth below, I alone am the World-Honored One” teach us the preciousness and the interconnectedness of all lives.

One day, while Sakyamuni Buddha was walking by the Ganges River with his disciple, Ananda, he told Ananda, “Take some sands of the Ganges at your feet and put it on your palm.” Ananda took some sands and put it on his palm as he was told. Then Sakyamuni Buddha asked, “The sands of the Ganges River and the sands on your palm, which is more?” Ananda answered, “The sands of the Ganges is, of course, much more, as much as it is countless. But the sands on my palm is a little.” Sakyamuni Buddha continued, “Ananda, take some sands on your palm and put it on your nail.” As Ananda was told, this time he picked some sands on his palm and put it on his nail. Then Sakyamuni Buddha asked, “The sands on your palm and the sands on your nail, which is more?” Ananda said, “There is no need to compare, but the sands on my nail is much less.” Sakyamuni Buddha told Ananda, “You are right. Lives that exist in this world are as countless as the sands of the Ganges River. But among the countless lives, the lives that can be born as humans are as little as the sands...
on your palm. Furthermore, among the humans, those who are truly grateful for being born as a human and realize the preciousness of it in a true meaning, are just a little like the sands on your nail. We are living such precious lives. The teachings of Buddha that I am teaching is like this.”

Of course, these words do not mean that humans are precious because they are superior to other living beings. Every life is equally precious and honorable. The Threefold Refuges that we recite at our Sunday Service starts with “Difficult is it to receive a human life, now we are living it. Difficult is it to hear the Dharma of the Buddha, now we hear it.” Through the story on the sands of the Ganges, Sakyamuni Buddha teaches us that how inconceivable and precious it is that “I” have received a life as a human that is difficult to receive, and have now encountered the Buddha Dharma that is difficult to encounter.

Hanamatsuri Service is a precious occasion when we listen to the Buddha Dharma and reflect on what my present life really is in celebrating the birth of Sakyamuni Buddha.

Gassho with palms together,

**Buddhism 101**

Rev. Kojo answers your questions on Buddhism or Jodo Shinshu during Sunday Service mostly on the last Sunday of every month. Put your questions in the box at the foyer or send by email. The next will be on April 24th.

**Basic Buddhism Class**

We have Study Class at 7pm mostly on the 1st Wednesday of every month. The next class will be “Introduction to Tannisho” at 7 pm, April 6th in the Rev. Pratt Room, and May 11th in May. Please enter through the side walk on the left side of the building.
すくって 掌に載せました。すると仏は、「阿難よ、ガンジス河の砂と、お前の 掌の上の砂と、どちらが多くであろう」と尋ねられました。すると阿難尊者は、「それはもちろんです、ガンジス河の砂は数え切れないほど多いです。私の 掌の砂はわずかです」と答えられました。すると仏は、「それでは阿難よ。その 掌の砂を、お前の爪の上にのせてみなさい」と仰いました。阿難尊者が言われた通り、 掌の砂をひとつまみし、爪の上にのせられます。すると仏は、「阿難よ。お前の 掌の砂と爪の上のかなれ、どちらが多いであろうか」と尋たずねられます。阿難尊者は、「それはもちろんです。ガンジス河の砂は数え切れないほどますが、私の 掌の砂はわずかです」と答えられます。すると仏は、「その通りだ。この世界には、ガンジス河の砂ほどの数え切れない命があるが、その中で、人間に生まれた命を本当に尊いる者は、お前の爪の上の砂くらい、ほんのわずかしかない。それほど尊いのちを生きているのだ。私の説いている仏の教えとは、そういうものなのだ」と仰ったそうです。

もちろんこの言葉は、人間が他の生き物より優れているから尊い、という意味ではありません。すべての命は平等に尊いものです。日曜礼拝でお唱えする礼讃文に「人身受け難し、今すでに受く、仏法聞き難し、今すでに聞く」とあるように、受け難い人間としての命をいただき、聞き難い仏法に、今、私が出会っていることが、どれだけ不思議で、尊いことであるかを説かれているのです。

花まつりは、仏の誕生をお祝いする中で、私の今の 命の本当の姿を聞かせていただくご縁です。

お知らせ：月に一度、日曜礼拝の後に日本語法話いたします。次回は4月24日です。お聴聞ください。

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<tr>
<td>Every Monday at 7pm</td>
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<td>Saturday, April 2 at 10am</td>
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<td>Wednesday, May 11 at 7pm</td>
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<td>Saturday, May 21 at 3pm</td>
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<td>Sunday, May 22 at 10 am</td>
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Mindfulness Meditation
Omigaki (Polish Brass Buddhist fittings)
Hanamatsuri Family Svc.
(DS entertainments and Pot-luck dinner will follow)
Basic Buddhism Class “Introduction to Tannisho”
Coffee Hour after the Family Service
Buddhism 101 during Family Service
Japanese message after Family Service
Coffee Hour after the Family Service
Basic Buddhism Class “Introduction to Tannisho”
Spring Seminar with Rev. Kuwahara (CBE co-director)
“What Happens When I Die?”
Gotan-e Service
Parents Appreciation Luncheon
**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

On Sunday, March 20, we celebrated spring Ohigan and recognized the Buddhist Woman’s Association (BWA). The BWA or Fujinkai was founded in Japan in the early 20th century by the daughter of the 21st head abbot of the Nishi Hongwanji. Establishing the BWA in her 20’s, she must have been progressive and steadfast, given the environment and the economic times. After World War II, Lady Yoshiko Ohtani (1918–2000) the spouse of the 23rd abbot, continued to support and build the network of BWA’s in Japan and then in America as many immigrated in the early 1900’s. Since that time, the BWA has become the backbone of temples nationwide as well as our own. The umbrella organization of all chapters is the Federation of BWA and in October of this year, our Northwest District is host of the national meeting with our own June Akita as co-chair.

Lead by President, Patti Wong, our BWA supports almost every scenario at our temple and without them, we would be at a loss. From preparing specialty foods to creating events and experiences that bring our female members together to taking care of the temple like their home, the BWA is a major organization that has endured the test of generational times. The benefits of being a BWA member is that you belong to a smaller group within the temple, often making it even easier to get know people. Our BWA is open to all interested and welcomes any new members so they too can be introduced to the customs and knowledge that have been built over decades. And not to mention, distribute the duties!

Special thanks to Patti Wong, President; June Akita, Vice-President; Riu Pittman, Recording/Corresponding Secretary; Denise Cline-Treasurer; Jane Burster, Auditor; Merlaine Cook, Religious Chairperson; Linda Teal, Social Welfare; Kazuko Inoue, Historian and Masayo Kakihara and Michiko Yukawa, Advisors. And thank you to all members who are a part of this organization and work behind the scenes and beyond.

In Gassho,

Crystal

**BCA Updates:**

**BCA Minister’s Association Meeting and National Council Meeting, March 2-5**

Crystal as temple president, Fred as BCA representative from our temple, and Rev. Kakihara attended BCA National Council Meeting held in Visalia, CA, March 4 & 5. The highlights are as following;

BCA’s annual budget for 2016-2017 was kept the same as the last year. But because of decrease of entire memberships (14,627 (2014) – 14,103 (2015)), BCA membership dues per member will increase from $109.34 to $114.29.

Reverend Kodo Umezu was voted to remain the Bishop of BCA for another 4-year term.

Also the highlights of the Minister’s Association (MA) Meeting held prior to the National Council meeting is as follows;

BCA will welcome six new Kaikyoshi ministers this year, but three ministers will retire. There are 46 ministers at present, but 17 ministers will be 70 years old in five years. There are 131 minister’s assistants (10-Kyoshi certification, 21-Tokudo ordination). Minister’s Association has been working on re-evaluation and development of the Minister’s Assistant Program including setting clear requirements for each level and creating the BCA guidelines for Minister’s assistant.

Minister’s Association also decided to form a committee that focus on Education and Propagational matters, and two of the first major projects are to create a curriculum for Minister’s Assistants Program and a curriculum for Dharma School teachers and adults.
MAP seminar
The MAP, Minister’s Assistant Program seminar was held at Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley on March 17-19, and Fred Pelger attended from our temple.

Because the MAP this time combined with Tokudo training for those who are going to Japan for their Tokudo ordination in July, the program included many practices of chanting Shoshinge. But they also had different sessions like lectures on Tannisho by Dr. Mark Blum, “What is Enlightenment?” by Rev. Bhante Seelawimala, and “How to conduct study class” by Rev. Marvin Harada. They also had Dharmathon where several minister’s assistants gave Dharma messages.

CBE, center for Buddhist Education holds this MAP seminars four times a year. The next will be held in August.

Buddhist Women’s Association News
Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make this year’s Sukiyaki a success. A special thank you to chairpersons June Akita and David Yotsuuye for running a smooth event.

I also want to thank Kazuko Inoue for taking charge of the daifuku mochi making on March 19 and Merlaine Cook for volunteering to deliver the address during the BWA service on March 20. Your willingness to step up to the plate made my vacation more relaxing.

While the weather was rather erratic over the past couple weeks, I hope everyone has found ways to keep a balanced life. No, a tightrope walk fifty feet high is not the way to test your balance. To catch everyone up here are the highlights from our chapter meeting: Tracy Ling has resigned from the Recording Secretary. Riu Pittman was nominated and approved and will cover both secretary positions. A new member orientation list was reviewed and provided to everyone, as well as our chapter bylaws and standing rules. Let June or I know if you would like a copy. For this year’s bus trip, we are looking at the Mt. Rainier train ride in Elbe. Dates to jot down:

**April 23 at 9 a.m.** – Cooking class with Michiko Yukawa, gyoza (dumplings), and Yasuko Morita - chicken karaage
(We are considering these items for this year’s bento fundraiser.)

**April 24 11:30 a.m.** – General Meeting – a **light lunch** will be offered. (Mar/Apr toban)
On the agenda: bento fundraiser and bus trip. Want another topic?
Spread the word, invite a friend, remind one another, put it on a post-it, and see you all there.

Gassho,
Patti Wong

Buddhist Education Committee News
Last Christmas I did a dump thing. After celebrating Christmas morning with my family at my sister’s house in West Seattle, some of us decided to go for a walk to a nearby park. Once there, I spied my favorite playground equipment: a heavy-duty swing set strong enough for an adult. I hadn’t been on a swing in a while, so it took some effort to coordinate pumping my legs and arms to gain height. After swinging as high as I could, I started to de-accelerate. This process became too slow, so I started thinking…if I was close enough to the ground, I could just jump out of the seat like I did as a kid. I really felt like I could do it, so at the top of the next swing forward, I let go of the chains.
Soon, I was flying through the air, suddenly feeling heavy and frail. I landed on my feet, touching down on my hands and one knee to stop my forward momentum. Luckily, I didn’t get injured.

This isn’t the first time I’ve talked myself into some physical feat I shouldn’t do. In my mind, I am still in my 20’s, retaining all the memories of past physical abilities, which still seem doable until my 50-ish year-old body says otherwise.

In keeping with the BEC’s theme of “Peace and Conflict”, I have to look no further than my own mind. There seems to be two distinct voices: my ego mind, which says I can jump out of a swing, and my Buddha-nature mind, which looks at what is true, like I’m getting a bit old to jump out of swings. I think it’s good that I can distinguish between these two voices and can sometimes choose which one to listen to so that I can experience a healthy balance in my life.

Would I jump out of a swing again? Well, if there’s an awesome swing set, I might.

**Dharma School News**

We’re still waiting for warmer spring weather, hoping that it is just around the corner!

Cool rainy weather hasn’t dampened our spirits, however, as our Dharma School classes have been busy with projects and great activities. Now each class is preparing a presentation for the Hana Matsuri program on April 3rd. We hope you will all attend the Hana Matsuri service at 2 pm, followed by the Dharma School program and potluck dinner!

Thanks to all the students for their help with the Sukiyaki fundraiser in March. It was definitely a busy day for all the kids as they helped with making signs and place mats, table setting, clearing tables, running take out orders up and downstairs, selling mochi ice cream, and doing quick errands for those of us who needed the extra help. We couldn’t have done it without you!

Looking ahead, we will do a very interesting group project on April 24th, so be sure to attend. You will not want to miss this day!

Also, we will have the Lumbini and Prajna classes participate in the ochigo procession for Gotan-e service on May 22nd.

Gassho,
Donna Sasaki

**From Your Facilities Committee**

Perhaps the Federal government could take a page from Tom Hubbell. The Social Hall bathroom remodeling project was wrapped up before Sukiyaki fundraiser. Now here’s the thing taxpayers could only wish for—it was completed on time and on budget. How many planes, tanks, and facilities have met those criteria? JDK Services LLC met their promise to have toilets flushing and taps flowing before the event. However, we are running into some snags with the Rev Pratt Room reroof. It seems the weather and a little bit of red tape (waiting on a permit) has thrown some sand in the gears of that project. Some foam insulation, previously stacked on the roof by the contractor, got airborne and blew into the parsonage backyard. Satone found the misplaced material and a rapid-response team placed it in the social hall. If any rogue drivers want to park in
front of the vehicle gate they better take heed, because some new no parking signs have been installed. Anyone foolish enough to disregard the posted proscription will have to deal with Lynrae Hubbell, who can place a call and have the offending vehicle towed away. Let’s thank Kurt Osaka and his crew for keeping our grounds a work of beauty. We are always grateful for the efforts of Tom Hubbell, Delbert Sasaki, Gary Ichinaga, Bob Yoshioka and Tad Kajimura who perform vital work for our temple.

Toban News

April 2016 and March 2016 Toban Groups:
Toban heads are responsible to call group members for set up and clean up for certain Temple events held during the two month period. The chairs for each two month period will coordinate with each other to set up the actual dates of the monthly clean-up for those able in their group. Please let Merlaine Cook and Coco Inoue know the clean-up dates to check for other activity conflicts and add to Temple calendar.

March Members: Todd and Marsha Nakamura (chairs), Patti Wong, Allan and Rose Kishi, Bob and Vicki Yoshioka, Danny Otsuka, Nami Stevenson
Phone tree members – Tom Osaka, Hiroshi Nakagawara

March Group Responsibilities:
• Monthly clean up with April
• Hanamatsuri: Help with set up and clean up with BWA. Set up tables and chairs.

April Members: Linda Teal (chair), Darlene Matsumoto, David Campbell, Thelma Abe, Gary and Gail Ichinaga, Alisha and Brandon Wood
Phone tree members – Toshie Fujita, Larry and Kiyomi Fujita, Hana Yoshida, Frank and Betty Nomiyama

April Group Responsibilities:
• Monthly clean up with March
• Hanamatsuri: Help with set up and clean up with BWA. Set up tables and chairs.

May Members: Cheryl Kanda (chair), Tets and Martha Tamaki, Jerry and June Akita, Merilee Tanbara, Erik Hammerstrom, Jim Macchiarella
Phone tree members – Tom Shimizu, Erin Shen, Miyo Kanda, George and Kimi Tanbara, Yoshiko Sugiyama, Sam Shimizu

May Group Responsibilities:
• Monthly clean up with June
• Gotan-E Service & Ochigo: DS children involved. Help if requested
• Parents’ Day Luncheon: YBA will set up and clean up.
• Honor HS Grads: DS and BWA

Welcome new member Nami Stevenson and her son, Keywa!
Temple Directory
If you have not received the 2016 Temple Directory, please contact Lynrae Hubbell, lynrae@harbornet.com or 253 593-0749 and she will get one to you.

Sukiyaki Fundraiser
Our annual Sukiyaki Dinner was held on March 6th, 2016 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. We did not sell out on all of our meals as anticipated, but we still increased our net profit from the previous year. Thank you to everyone who came earlier in the week to wash the dishes, to prepare some of the foods, and to check out the overview of the weekend. Thank you to Bob Yoshioka and Richard Ling for being our Buyers, especially for making numerous trips to the stores making sure our kitchen needs were met. The Health Inspector did not visit us, but a note was sent letting her know that we were in compliance in all areas of food preparation, sanitation, and especially, food temperatures.

A special thank you to all of the Committee Chairs. Without your dedication, this event would not have been as successful. More people are helping with the Sunday Set-Up and more people are helping with Tuesday Take-Down. When we have so many volunteers, it makes a long day shorter, so thank you. Thank you to everyone who gave us some insights for 2017 to make it even a more successful event. You are all so appreciated.

Our next venture is Obon on July 30th so please mark your calendars. You may be contacted soon to help so keep your phones handy and your smiles ready to say “Okay!”

Thank you, again, for your many efforts to make this a very successful Sukiyaki Dinner.
June Akita, Chair

Northwest District Buddhist Convention 2017
We are having our first Convention meeting on April 10th after service. If you are interested to help or just interested to know what the event is all about, please join us. Lunch will be served as this may be a lengthy first meeting.

Thank you to many of you who I have already contacted to be in charge of some part of the weekend.

“Wake Up!” with Reverend Marvin Harada from the Orange County Buddhist Church, February 17-19, 2017 at the DoubleTree Suites in Tukwila.

John and June

FBWA Convention
On October 7-9, 2016, the Northwest District BWA Chapters will be hosting the Federation of Buddhist Women’s Association Conference at the Westin Bellevue. Our theme is “Linked in the Nembutsu: Tsunagatte.” You do not have to be a BWA member to attend this conference, or you can join us for the banquet only if you prefer. Guest speakers are Rev. Mutsumi Wondra from Orange County Buddhist Church and Dr. Sharon Suh from Seattle University. If you would like to be a sponsor, please contact Patti or June. If you would like to know more information about the conference, registration will begin in April or you can ask Patti or June or Sensei.

Greeters Schedule
Note: Please have new comers sign up their name and give them the following booklets;
- Temple Information Booklet
• Messages from the Buddha (mini booklet with pale pink cover)

If you are not available on the day you are assigned, please find a replacement for you.

April
3 Lynrae Hubbell / Michael Shiogi (Service at 2pm)
10 Barbara Madsen / David Yotsuuye
17 Coco Inoue / Jill Case
24 Brandon Wood / Alisha Wood

May
1 Jeff Hiroo / Ellen Shigeno
8 Ken Tanino / Wendy Hamai
15 Erik Hammerstrom / Yasuko Morita
22 Merlaine Cook / Tracy Ling
29 Bobby Yotsuuye / Jane Burster (Family Svc. only)

Welcome!

Yearly Memorial Services

General Memorial Service Years for 2016

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May 2016;

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June 2016;

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July 2016;

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Spring Public Seminar

What Happens When I Die?
- How is Pure Land related to my present life? –

May 21, 2016, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

at Tacoma Buddhist Temple
(1717, S. Fawcett Ave., Tacoma)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara
(co-director of BCA Center for Buddhist Education)

Admission: Temple Members – Free
Non-Members - $10 (suggested donation)

No need to pre-register

Rev. Kuwahara will also speak at our Sunday Service on May 22 at 10 am.