Tacoma Buddhist Temple
(Jodo Shinshu)
タコマ仏教会 (浄土真宗)
1717 S. Fawcett Ave., Tacoma, WA 98402-1706
TEL: (253) 627-1417
MAIL: tacoma.buddhist.temple@tacomabt.org
WEB: www.tacomabt.org/

MYOKYO 明鏡
(MYOKYO, the Bright Mirror of Buddha Dharma always illuminates our LIFE)
April, 2017

Wonder of Life
Rev. Kojo Kakihara

Tacoma Buddhist Temple is holding the Hanamatsuri Service on April 9th at 2 PM to celebrate the birth of Sakyamuni Buddha who founded Buddhism more than 2500 years ago. After the service, there will be entertainments by our Dharma School students and Pot-luck dinner. I hope you can participate.

Regarding this Hanamatsuri, when I think of the birth of Sakyamuni Buddha, it often reminds me of the time when my own children were born. My daughter, Satone is 5 years old now, and will start going to a kindergarten this April. After we found out that my wife, Masayo was pregnant in 2011, Because it was the first time for both of me and Masayo to experience such a thing, we were full of joy, but at the same time, we had worries or anxieties, too. Especially because Masayo had very bad morning sickness and I could not stay with her all the time as I was in the US and she was in Japan, I think it was hard for Masayo. At the second check-up after we found the pregnancy, the doctor told “The baby has not grown up since the last check-up, so we may have to give up this time.” We were so shocked and I thought that I would have to be ready for the worst situation. But at the next check-up, we got relieved when we heard the doctor saying “The heart is beating and the body is growing well.” It took Masayo a long time to be delivered since labor pains began. But because of that, I was able to go back to Japan and attend the delivery. When Satone was born, I was just so moved with seeing the new life. I could not stop crying while thinking “Thank you for being born, and thank you, Masayo for delivering the new life with enduring pains.”

Our son, Shujo was born in Tacoma. I was able to attend the delivery this time, too. When he was born and cried, tears overflew in my eyes naturally. He will turn 3 years this summer. I was thinking that he was still a baby. But now he has been able to talk a lot. He likes playing with Satone They often scramble for toys, and Shujo cries or makes Satone cry. I wonder that they have different characters in spite of being growing in the same circumstance. At present, they live in Japan being apart from me. The other day, we talked through Skype seeing each other’s face, and Shujo talked such things like “Dad, I ate Gyoza today,” “Dad, let’s go to haircut together again.” I was relieved that he had not forgotten that I was his father.
I do not know how they will grow up from now on, but I just hope them grow healthily. Seeing Satone and Shujo, I am made to think again how wonderful it is and how grateful I am that they were born to me and Masayo and are growing well. And it makes me think of my own life. As inconceivably countless conditions that are beyond our imagination were fulfilled perfectly, the life of “I” was born in 1978, and I have been living for 38 years since then. If by any chance even one of those conditions had been missed, I might have not been here today. Thinking of such things, it makes me realize how wonderful it is and how grateful I am that I am here now because of countless causes and conditions.

This is not only about my life, but every life is a precious life that was born because of countless conditions and link of countless lives. Although we are different in our looks or characters, life is precious and noble just as it is. At the occasion of Hanamatsuri in April, may we all not only celebrate the birth of Sakyamuni Buddha who taught what our Life really is, but also think again of the wonder of Life, and appreciate Life that we receive here now.

Gassho with palms together,

Buddhism 101

Rev. Kojo answers your questions on Buddhism or Jodo Shinshu at Dharma Exchange mostly once a month. Put your questions in the box at the foyer or send to Rev. Kojo by email. The next will be on April 30.

Buddhism 101
Your Amazon Purchase Can Give Back to Our Temple:
Sign Up with AmazonSmile!

By using AmazonSmile, Amazon’s Foundation, all of your Amazon purchases, our Temple will get .05% of the purchase price. It’s this simple:

1. Go to [www.amazonsmile.com](http://www.amazonsmile.com)
2. You can use your current Amazon account will all information remaining the same
3. Find your “charitable organization” – type in Tacoma Buddhist Temple
4. Select Tacoma Buddhist Temple
5. Start purchasing!

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これから先、二人がどのように成長するか分かりませんが、ただただ、健康に大きくなってほしいと思います。子どもを見ていると、私と優代のもとへ、無事に生まれてきていて、大きく育ってくれていることが、どれほど不思議で、ありがたいことか、ということを改めて思います。私自身のいのちもそうです。想像もできないほど多くのご縁が完全に重なって、私というのちが1978年に生まれ、こうして今まで38年間生ききてきました。その数え切れないご縁の中の一つでも欠けていたら、私の今のいのちはなかったかもしれません。そう思うと、多くのご縁のおかげで、私がここに存在していることが、どれほど不思議で、ありがたいことか、と思います。

私のいのちだけでなく、全てのいのちは、こうした多くのご縁、限りないいのちのつながりの中で生まれてきた、尊いのちです。見た目や性格は違っていても、いのはただそのまままで尊いものです。4月の花まつりは、私たちのいのちの本当の姿を説かれたお釈迦さまの誕生をお祝いするだけでなく、改めて、全てのいのちの不思議を思い、ここにある私のいのちに感謝する、とても大切な機会であるように思います。

合掌、

月に一度（可能な限り）日曜礼拝の後に日本語法話をいたします。次回は、4月2日、5月28日です。

### Future Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Apr 8</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Omigaki (Brass Buddhist fittings Polish)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, Apr 9</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Hanamatsuri Svc. (Buddha’s Birthday), Pot-luck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Apr 16</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>Temple Open House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Apr 23</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>Coffee Hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 7</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>Dharma School Open House, Coffee Hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 20</td>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>Spring Seminar “Open Eyes, Open Heart” by Rev. Hamasaki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 21</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Gotan-e Service (Shinran Shonin’s Birthday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 28</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Parents Appreciation Luncheon</td>
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<td>Memorial Day Cemetery Visitation</td>
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President's Message

Many Temple members are finally able to breathe a huge sigh of relief with the March 5 Sukiyaki fundraiser successfully now behind us. The Sukiyaki fundraiser marked the end of a series of major events hosted by our Temple members over the past half year starting with the Federation of Buddhist Women’s Association national conference in October, our November Fall Bazaar, and the February 2017 NW District Buddhist Convention. Thank you to all the Temple members who worked to make these events happen and be successful!

We now have a short break to work on other Temple matters that have been on hold. I hope to use these articles in the monthly Myokyo to report back to you, the membership, about things we are working on. Some of them are covered in the Board minutes printed in the Myokyo, but hopefully, these articles might give a little more information and insight into these issues.

Fundraising events re-tooling: This is something that has been talked about from time to time for as long as I’ve been a member at the Temple. Over recent years, some good work has been done on modifying some aspects of our fundraisers to make them more manageable. But it’s always difficult to find the time and energy to tackle it from an overall perspective before we need to mobilize again to plan the next event coming up.

There are many benefits that result from the Temple community coming together and the teamwork needed to plan these events. And, we wouldn’t be able to do them if it weren’t for the many family and friends in the community who volunteer to work on the event day. However, it’s been becoming more and more difficult to recruit Temple members willing and able to be event chairpersons, and for the help needed for the pre and post event planning and work that needs to be done.

Spring Sukiyaki Dinner, Summer Bon Odori, and the Fall Food & Crafts Bazaar raise funds that account for a major part of our total operating budget. So, changing them in such a way that decreases the workload and labor required but maintains or increases the revenue is a challenge.

This was discussed at the last Board meeting. We are forming a sub-committee to work on this issue with hopefully some recommendations being presented in early Fall. We will be reviewing again input from the three membership forums held over the past ten years and other feedback from members. If you have any idea, suggestions, comments -- please contact me.

Buddhist Churches of American (BCA) National Council meeting -- Increase in per member dues assessment: Rev. Kakihara, John Inge and myself attended the BCA National Council meeting in early March. It provided an invaluable opportunity to network with other Temple leaders. The major voting item was the budget and the proposed per-member dues assessment needed to support the budget. Many members may not realize that part of their membership dues/pledge to the Temple goes to support the NW District Council (coordinating body for the NW Temples) and mostly, to the BCA. The current BCA assessment is $114/member. With the increase voted at the National Council meeting, this assessment will increase to $134 (rounded off to the next dollar). So, it’s quite a jump, and represents more than half of our membership dues. The increase is due to a drop in total BCA membership and increase in one time and ongoing expenses. There were compromises made. And while most of us were unhappy with the increase and its potential impact on our Temple budgets and our members, ultimately, our “yes” vote indicated our support for the work BCA does.

It is the only national organization that supports and works for Shin Buddhist Temples in the United States, provides us with our ministers, and supports the Center for Buddhist Education and Institute for Buddhist Studies which promote Buddhism and Shin Buddhism studies in the United States.

New Minister search: There is the possibility that we may have the opportunity to host a visit by a possible new minister in late Spring or early Summer. We’re working on it! Stay tuned ……
The tears have dried for now, the temple is quiet without Satone’s footsteps and Shujo’s voice, and the presence of Masayo nearby. The farewell party was a sweet sorrow event. Thank you to Alicia Wood for organizing it along with the help her family. The decorations were simply beautiful and I chuckled at the idea of “it sucks that you’re leaving” centerpiece because it sure was a clever way to reveal the feelings of the sangha without having to say it. The Lotus class did a super job producing the video presentation. The BWA has gifted Masayo a gold rimmed platter etched with the wisteria and Tacoma Buddhist Women’s Association and sent her off with best wishes. But, perhaps we also should extend Rev. Kojo best wishes and ‘ganbare’ to continue without his family’s support nearby. Let us keep him nutritiously fed.

Thank you to all members who came to help make and mold the daifuku mochi as well as serving it with tea on Sunday at our BWA Memorial/Lady Takeko Kujo and Lady Yoshiko Ohtani Service. When we can all pitch in to help it makes the job a little lighter on all. A practice run of making fresh strawberry mochi was a rewarding treat for everyone who came out to help on Saturday.

For those who missed our general meeting, here’s looking ahead:

**April 9**  Hanamido decoration – **TIME: 9 am.**
Hanamatsuri potluck – ALL BWA members to help set/clean up along w/ temple toban.
**May 21**  Gotane/Parent’s Day/Honoring high school graduates
**June 3/4**  Bento preparation & fundraiser: Co-chairs: Denise/Patti
**June 4**  Lunch for yard clean-up workers
**June 3 – 25**  Peanut Butter & jelly drive [May/June toban to deliver]

**Bus trip** coming up in August to pick peaches in Yakima, visit Snoqualmie falls and casino and perhaps a visit to Inaba farm. Date to be determined.
Your participation and support to our chapter is greatly appreciated. Invite a female friend or relative to join, membership is $12/year in addition to being a regular temple member.

In Gassho,
Patti Wong
With great sadness, we said farewell to Masayo, Satone and Shujo on March 12th. The temple gave them a fond farewell with a potluck lunch and program. The Dharma School presented Masayo, Satone and Shujo with a video that expressed much appreciation for being such a wonderful part of our temple family, and sharing their bright light of friendship, spirit and compassion during their stay with us. We will never forget them and hope that they will return as often as they can to visit. Special thanks go to the Lotus class, especially cameraman, Ryan Ling and video producer Emma Inge, for putting together the montage of pictures and video clips as memories of the Kakihara’s stay in Tacoma.

There are many upcoming Dharma School events to place on the calendar for the months of April and May:

April 9 - Hana Matsuri service and Dharma School program
April 30 - Visitation by Seattle and White River Dharma School families. They will attend class and we will have a joint pizza lunch.
May 7 - Dharma School Open House

Each year the BEC takes on one or two projects beyond our normal tasks of planning weekly and special services, and annual lectures. This year, we have decided to being working on temple archives. Buddhism teaches us that all things must change, but it is important to remember the causes and conditions that have made the Tacoma Buddhist Temple the strong community it is today. These causes and conditions include the many elders, Issei and Nisei, whose efforts built the foundation for our temple, where we are all fortunate to encounter the Buddhadharma.

There are many stories about the temple’s early days, but there are also photographs, documents, and records collected in boxes scattered throughout the temple. These need a proper home, proper protection, and proper cataloging. This is a big task, and as we are all busy, we have started small. We began by taking a rough inventory of the historical materials currently housed at the temple. We opened every cupboard and box we could find. Along the way we found some surprising items, including some “historical” cookies from a picnic several years ago and 100 Betamax videocassettes of Japanese TV. We also found important and meaningful objects, including three Buddhist service books from Minidoka Internment Camp, and a book listing, in beautiful Japanese brushwork, the names of those for whom memorials were conducted in the 1930s.

We hope to work with you, the temple members, as well as the Washington State Historical Society, to preserve the temple’s legacy and history.

- Erik Hammerstrom
Hanamatsuri: All monthly toban chairs - Please contact your toban group members and coordinate main dish and sides/salads for the Hanamatsuri potluck. The potluck will be immediately following the Hanamatsuri service.

March 2017 & April 2017 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 Alisha Wood know the clean-up dates to check for other activity conflicts and to add to Temple calendar.

March Members: Alisha and Brandon Wood (chairs), Darlene Matsumoto, David Campbell, Thelma Abe, Gary and Gail Ichinaga, Brandon Villarreal

Phone tree members – Toshie Fujita, Larry and Kiyomi Fujita, Hana Yoshida, Frank and Betty Nomiyama, Linda Teal

March Group Responsibilities:
- Monthly clean-up with April toban group.
- Hanamatsuri: Help with set up and clean up with BWA.

April Members: Erik Hammerstrom (chair), Tets and Martha Tamaki, Jerry and June Akita, Cheryl Kanda, Merilee Tanbara

Phone tree members – Tom Shimizu, Erin Shen, Miyo Kanda, George and Kimi Tanbara, Sam Shimizu

April Group Responsibilities:
- Monthly clean-up with March toban group.
- Hanamatsuri: Help with set up and clean up with BWA.

May Members: Riu Pittman (Chair), Herb and Michiko Saito, Henry Stoll and Wendy Hamai, Bob and Anita Nakayama, John and Emiko Kurata, Victoria Evert

Phone tree members: Leroy and Penny Kawaguchi, Sam Uchiyama

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.

Welcome new temple members Masahiro Sugano and his two daughters, Minara & Qatari!

Thank you for your continued support of our temple!
Am I being penny wise but pound foolish? We’ll find out. When Facilities was informed the exterior lights outside of the Reverend Pratt room weren’t working I embarked on a failed, exhaustive effort to find and hire Uncle Fester from the Adams Family. After being informed he was merely a character from a TV show that aired about 50 years ago I headed to Home Depot. Upon procuring some light bulbs I trapped a squirrel and tried to convince it to change the bulbs for me, but it ran away at the slightest mention of work. That lazy critter seems stuck on the idea it must be a monkey to accomplish that task. Alas I had to change them out myself. I installed the lights expecting to be blinded by brilliance only to find that I wouldn’t be getting a service animal after all. I’m sure there were some electricians rubbing their hands in gleeful anticipation of conducting an expensive repair of that light fixture. But yours truly had other plans. Instead of paying a least 80 bucks how about purchasing a 20-dollar battery-operated exterior motion detecting light? We’ll find out if we can use the metaphor of buying a bright light above my head. On the other hand, if the idea doesn’t pan out, we might better envision an image with that clunky, defunct light fixture being suspended by a frail thread, ready to drop in my noggin at any time. Please take a couple of minutes to thank Jeff Hiroo and Fred Pelger for their weekly visits to spiffy up the temple. Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens continue to maintain our grounds in beautiful condition. Others who are important in maintaining our facility are Tom Hubbell, Rick Tanabe, Delbert Sasaki, Gary Ichinaga, Bob Yoshioka and Tad Kajimura.

The Tacoma Buddhist Temple would like to extend its heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of

Kimiko Tanbara

who passed away on March 21, 2017

May you find comfort in the light of the infinite Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha.
Namo Amida Butsu

Greeters Schedule

Note: Please have new visitors sign up their name and give them the following booklets:

- Temple Information Booklet
- Messages from the Buddha (mini booklet with pale pink cover)
- 1/2 page list of Temple activities
- "Want More Info.." (1/2 sheet form)

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

April
2 Brandon / Alisha Wood
9 Jim Doyle / Tony Gregg (Hanamatsuri Svc. at 2 pm)
16 Merlaine Cook / Tracy Ling
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Names</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Bobby Yotsuuye / Jane Burster</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Karl Smith / Tom Hubbell</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Denise Cline / Rick Tanabe</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Henry Stoll / Michael Shiogi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>David Campbell / Les Hitsman</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>John Inge / Wendy Hamai</td>
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**Yearly Memorial Services**

**General Memorial Service Years for 2017**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>25th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>33rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>50th</td>
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**May 2017:**

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Yoshida, Sachiko</td>
<td>Shakuni Jo-Ko</td>
<td>May 14, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Bollick, Ronald Michael</td>
<td>Shaku Jo-Sen</td>
<td>May 21, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33rd</td>
<td>Murakami, Murakichi</td>
<td>Shaku Tai-Ju</td>
<td>May 30, 1985</td>
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**May 2017:**

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**June 2017:**

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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Kosai, Wesley</td>
<td>Shaku Ken-Kyo</td>
<td>June 4, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Yotsuuye, Akinobu</td>
<td>Shaku Myo-Kyo</td>
<td>June 19, 2015</td>
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<td>25th</td>
<td>Fujita, Yoshio</td>
<td>Shaku Gi-Ju</td>
<td>June 20, 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33rd</td>
<td>Yamasaki, Mitsuko</td>
<td>Shakuni Chi-Jo</td>
<td>June 23, 1985</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Welcome to Tacoma Buddhist Temple!**

We introduce our new members who joined the temple recently.

**Brandon Villarreal**

Where do you live? - “I live in Alki Beach.”

Where are you from originally? - “I’m from Odessa, TX.”

What do you do? - “I’m the warehouse supervisor at the Bakersfield Pipe & Supply Seattle branch. I start grad school in June at the University of Washington’s Seattle campus and...”
Tell us about your family. - “I have five brothers and one sister. My four older brothers are scattered across the country due to serving in the military, but fortunately one of them is stationed here at Joint Base Lewis-McChord along with his wife and kids so I bug them every now and then. My eleven-year-old brother still lives in Honolulu, HI with our mom. My dad lives in Texas as well as my sister.”

How did you encounter Buddhism? Or how did you get interested in Buddhism? - “I was fascinated by Buddhism at an early age thanks in part to what I learned in school as well as by what I saw in some of the animes I watched and video games I played. My mom tried forcing Catholicism on me while my dad tried doing the same with Christianity, but the harder they tried the more I knew it wasn't for me. Also, Church got in the way of my Sunday morning cartoons at the time so that didn't help (Digimon wasn't going to watch itself hehe.) I attended the Koboji Shingon Temple in Honolulu, HI with my step-dad throughout high school, and I still visit whenever I'm on the island. Though Shingon and Jodo Shinshu are different styles, both bring people together and promote bettering our society and that’s what I value most.”

Why did you decide to join the temple? - “I was going through a turbulent transition period in my life and wanted to find a sense of purpose in something other than just work. Many of my friends are devout Christians and even though I don't believe in it, I was envious of that sense of higher purpose that they turned to for guidance and meaning. I actually tried joining almost four years ago when I first moved to Washington, but I showed up to the temple on a Sunday morning in August when I found out that there are no regular services during that month. I started dating a girl at that time which complicated many things, and I was never really able to try again until we separated.”

What’s your hobby? - “Fly-fishing on my paddleboard, snowboarding, working out, marksmanship, practicing to be less terrible with the guitar, and playing old school games on the PS4.”

Anything else you want temple members to know about you? - “I just want to thank everyone here at the temple for being so kind and welcoming especially Thelma and Yasuko for pulling me in early on; if it wasn't for Thelma sitting next to me and keeping me company on that very first visit here at the temple, I'm not sure I would have come back. I'm grateful that I did.”

Sukiyaki Preparation
Sukiyaki Dinner, March 4

Hanamatsuri Service
(Buddha’s Birthday)
Sunday, April 9 at 2 PM
Entertainments by Dharma School and Pot-luck dinner following the service

Coffee Hour
Sunday
April 23
May 7
Everyone can mix and mingle after Sunday service!

TEMPLE OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, April 16
11:30 am – 12:30 pm
We would like to invite anyone with an interest or curiosity about Buddhism. There will be a brief introduction to Buddhism, the Jodo Shinshu tradition, and temple etiquette.

Dharma School Open House
Sunday, May 7
after the service
Dharma School students do presentation on their works at their classes.
Open Eyes!  
Open Heart!

“Awakening to the reality of oneself is to awaken the compassion within oneself”

Saturday, May 20, 2017  
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

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

Guest Speaker:  
Rev. Matthew Hamasaki  
(Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple, CA)

Matthew Hamasaki was born and raised in Berkeley, CA. He received his M.A. in Religious Studies at UC Davis, and got his Masters in Buddhism from the Institute of Buddhist Studies. He was then assigned to the Central California District who oversees the Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple, and six other temples in the district.

Rev. Hamasaki will also speak at our Sunday Service on May 21 at 10 am.

Tacoma Buddhist Temple  
(Up the hill from UWT campus)  
1717 S. Fawcett Ave., Tacoma, WA 98402  
TEL: (253) 627-1417  
WEB: www.tacomabt.org  
MAIL: tacoma.buddhist.temple@tacomabt.org
American Muslims: History, Culture, and Politics

Discover four centuries of Muslims in America, and learn the ways Muslims have been integral to the American experience.

PRESENTED BY:
Turan Kayaoglu, University of Washington Tacoma

WHEN:
2:00 pm, Saturday, June 17, 2017

WHERE:
Tacoma Buddhist Temple
1717 Fawcett Ave, Tacoma, WA 98402

humanities.org

This presentation is part of Humanities Washington’s Speakers Bureau program, in which cultural experts discuss history, politics, music, philosophy, and everything in between at venues around the state. Humanities Washington sparks conversation and critical thinking using story as a catalyst, nurturing thoughtful and engaged communities across our state. It is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

Hosted by Tacoma Buddhist Temple