This year the BCA National Council Meeting was held in Phoenix, Arizona and its theme was “Major League Buddhism.” I would like to thank the President David Yotsuuye and NW District President John Inge for taking time out of their busy schedules and attending this conference. Many of the readers are already familiar with this event, but this meeting is a major event where representatives gather to talk about logistical, financial, and administrative issues for the organization as a whole.

During this time there are services held with ministers giving a Dharma talk and the last day’s talk is reserved for any retiring ministers. This year it was Rev. Ken Fujimoto from the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin and he gave a very memorable talk. In one episode he recalls doing a memorial service and there was a man who came up to do oshoko, or offering of incense. This man lost one of his arms due to an accident. Fujimoto
sensei said that when this man came up and put his hands together, he put up one hand and it was the most perfect *gassho* he had ever witnessed. The man, without any hesitancy, as if he had always done so, put his hands together in *gassho* in perfect unity. Fujimoto sensei was very impressed with this person.

We often hear stories about the phantom limb, where if we lose a leg or an arm, there is the sensation that we still believe that we have that arm. Perhaps neurologically our brain functions as if we still had that limb. But we often do not truly appreciate something until it is gone or it is far too late. The man who did the one-handed *gassho*, understood how grateful one should be for the things that the person does have in life. This is what made him do such a splendid *gassho*. He was truly grateful for what he has been given and that feeling emanated from his body; he naturally expressed his gratitude. This is what a nembutsu practitioner is.

There are many things that we can say in regards to this. We do not truly appreciate day light until we see the night. We do not truly appreciate mom’s home cooking until we are forced to live by ourselves. We never truly appreciate the love of our family and friends until we feel abandoned and lonely in this vast world. How peculiar life is, for even if we told ourselves to be appreciative of every-day, every-thing, or every-one around us, we somehow find a way to forget, often we get lazy, and somehow we revert back to our usual way of thinking about “me.” Such is human nature. This is what is meant by the phrase *bonbu* 凡夫, or “ordinary and ignorant being.”

This is why we need the teaching of the Pure Land path. The imagery of the Pure Land can be likened to a quiet and tranquil pond that reflects our naked self as it is. Because we have a true teaching that shows us who we really are, we can be honest with ourselves and to the people around us. The pond shows us our true nature—the good and the bad—and we recognize through our imperfections that this pond becomes the quiet resting place that brings clarity in our chaotic lives. We can then drink the pure water from the pond, which sustains and gives us strength to live out our lives with confidence and settled-ness. We now know that if we get tired, we can come back at any time to the pond, rest, hang out, and catch a breather. This is the Pure Land teaching we call Shin Buddhism. It is the teaching clarified by our founder Shinran Shonin; the teaching lived out by the one-armed nembutsu practitioner who put his hands together in *gassho*. It is the life of simply gratitude. *Gassho.*

合掌

今年の「BCA National Council Meeting」はアリゾナ州フェニックス市で「大リーグ仏教」というテーマで開催されました。まずタコマ仏教会の会長である四つ上・デビッドさん、そして北西教区の会長であるインジ・ジョンさんにお忙しい中この大会に出席されたことにお礼を申し上げます。読者にとってもうご存知だと思いますが、この大会では北米開教区の組織全体制的、財務的、そして管理的な行事を認定する期間でありました。

この時に朝のお勤めをしますが、最後の日にその年に退職された僧侶からご法話を聞くことになっております。今年はサンノゼ別院の藤本ケン先生からご法話を聴聞させていただきました。そのお話の中で紹介された一つのエピソードはある時の法事のことででした。お勤めの時に、ある男性の方がお焼香をされ前に来ました。ところが、その人は職場の事故で腕をなくしてしまいました。どのように合掌をされるのかなと先生が思いました。しかし、彼が合掌した時に片手で自然なポーズを取り、最も美しい合掌をされたと先生が説明されました。その人は腕一つなかったが、まるで二手を合わせたように、とても素晴らしい合掌をされたと先生が関心されていました。
人が手足をなくして、体がそのなくした一部がまだある感覚を「幻肢 phantom limb」といった現象があると聞いたことがあります。それは脳に関係すると証明されています。しかし、私たちは何かが無くなってからそのものの大切が分からないことは多いのではないでしょうか。片手で合掌された方は、この人生はいかにありがたいものであるのかが分かったのであります。ですから、素晴らしい合掌ができたのではないでしょうか。彼の体から自のずから感謝の気持ちが表現されたと思わざるを得ないのです。これが念仏者であります。

このように、何かが無くなってから初めてそのものに対するありがたさがあらわれることがよくあります。例えば、日のありがたさは夜を見ないと分からない、母親の手料理に対するありがたさは一人暮らしをしてから初めて分かるのである。また、家族や友人の愛情は、世の中に出て孤独さを経験してから初めて分かるものであるなどといった多数の例をあげられることができます。しかし、一日であれ、すべてのものであれ、周りの人であれ、これらに対してありがたく思いなさいと自分にそうさせても、私たちはよくその気持ちを忘れたり、怠けたりして、ついにいつものように「自分」という自己中心的な考え方に戻る傾向があります。これを仏教でいう「凡夫」であります。

そうであるからこそ、私たちにとって浄土教というものが必要であります。「お浄土」というのは、よく池に例えられます。静かで穏やかな池を見たら、その水の表面に自分のありのままの姿が反映されます。このような私の本当の姿を見せてくれるものがあるからこそ、自分や他人に対する正直さ誠実さが出てきます。池は自我の良し悪しを見せてくれます。そしてその自分が「パーフェクト」じゃないことに気づくことによって、この「池」がいかに大切なのかが分かってきます。この池は静かで穏やかな場所であり、自分の生活がカオスのようにありながらも、この池に来ると心が落ち着きます、と思える自分。そして、池の清浄な水を飲み、自分の心が強くなり、落ち着きの元気が出ます。なぜならば、生かす生活の中でくたびれたら、いつでもその池に戻って、力を回復することができるからであります。これが浄土真宗でいう「お浄土」というものであります。それは宗祖親鸞が明らかにしてくださった教えであり、また片手で合掌された方が実現された念仏の生き方でもあります。それはただ「感謝」の生き方になる教えであります。合掌。

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**Future Schedule**
(Sat) April 6
Omigaki at 10 AM
(Sun) April 7
Hanamatsuri at 10 AM (*NOT 2 PM) /Temple Potluck lunch & DS program to follow
(Fri) April 12
Movie Night at 7 PM—“Groundhog Day”
(Sat) May 18
Spring Seminar with Rev. Nobuo Miyaji 3-5 PM
(Sun) May 19
Gotan-e at 10 AM
I extend my thanks to everyone that helped make our annual Sukiyaki Dinner Fundraiser a success again. Special thanks go out to Tracy Ling and Bobby Yotsuuye, the Sukiyaki co-chairs. Our Sukiyaki Dinner is a major source of income to help keep our Temple financially sound.

Please consider volunteering to be a chair or co-chair for an upcoming event. Our next events are our annual picnic in June, Obon in August and Bazaar in November. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know.

During March, Rev Miyaji, John Inge, our Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) representative and I attended the BCA National Council Meeting in Phoenix, AZ. At this meeting the BCA budget for 2019-2020 was approved. Based on this budget, each member of BCA will be assessed $143.06. Also, the estimated Northwest District Council (NWDC) assessment is planned to be $8.00, this amount will be voted on in our May meeting. This total, $151.06, is taken from your membership donation to support BCA and NWDC. The remaining amount is what is left to support our Temple. Also, at the BCA National Meeting, a new Minister Salary Guideline was approved. The Salary Guideline was last revised in 2011. Basically, the average Minister salary has increased approximately 3% per year since 2011 or about $1000 per month. Tacoma Buddhist Temple will do its best to meet the new guidelines, but it may take a couple or more years. We have been fortunate that our members have been generous with their membership donations to allow Tacoma to keep up with the salary guidelines. This has allowed us to present our new Ministers a compensation package that follow the guidelines. This is important since there is a shortage of ministers in BCA and there are many Temples without a minister.

Also, the issues that are listed in the “Wheel of Dharma”, February edition, page 3, top of page, were voted on. All but issue 6 passed. This means that BCA will be organizing a campaign to raise $1 million to make necessary repairs on BCA assets and a capital campaign to pay off the loan on the Jodo Shinshu Center, among other items. When these campaigns begin, we’ll have more information to send out.

We are just completing our 2019 membership pledge drive, but please keep the increase in Minister Salary Guidelines in mind when you make your pledge in 2020.

Again, I just want to remind everyone that next year Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple will host the 73rd Annual Northwest Buddhist Convention at the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington at Seattle Southport. February 21st-23rd, 2020. Please reserve these dates and make your plans to attend. During this time the BCA National Council Meeting will be simultaneously held in the same location. This will offer the Northwest an opportunity to see firsthand how the BCA functions.

I apologize that this message is so heavily focused on finances. Unfortunately, all our organizations cannot thrive without your generous donations. So, thank you for your continued generous support of Tacoma Buddhist Temple and our affiliated associations.

Gassho,
David
The other morning, I heard the robins singing their welcome to spring!! I remember hearing their song on the farm as a little girl—funny how a simple sound triggers such wonderful memories!

Thank you to everyone who donated towels, toys, blankets, food and monies for the Humane Society. Our BWA and BEC organizations delivered over 22 boxes to a very happy group of animals just in time for spring. Your generosities are much appreciated!

Thank you to everyone who assisted in the sale of mixed mochi plates and takuan at our Sukiyaki Fundraiser. We sold most of the items on hand and look forward to the next fundraising opportunity.

At the Spring Ohigan Service, BWA ladies made and delivered daifuku mochi plates to each sangha member and Dharma School student in recognition of our BWA Ladies and past Presidents, Toyoko Nakagawara and Toshie Fujita, who passed away this past year. Thank you, Carrie Mori, for doing an excellent job as our new Service Chairperson.

Happy 100th Birthday, Hana Yoshida!!
As our second Temple member and our first BWA member to reach this momentous feat, we wish you warm wishes and happy moments in your celebration!

Some highlights to our General Meeting:

- Carrie Mori will be our Religious Chairperson for the remainder of the year.
- We are supporting Rev. Miyaji and Kaori to attend the World BWA Convention.
- Anita Nakayama will be teaching DS students how to make sushi April 21.
- June Akita asked for a recipe and words of wisdom from each BWA member so a booklet can be made for the HS graduates of 2019 by March 31.
- June Weled is organizing decorating the Hanamido on April 6.
- BWA is in charge of setting up the Hanamatsuri luncheon April 7. Service is at 10:00 AM.
- BWA will be hosting a Bake Sale at the Hanamatsuri luncheon in support of the World Convention Committee in SF.
- No Bento Fundraiser this year. Kimono Sale, Bake Sale and Plant Sale will take its place June 15. Denise Cline and Kazuko Inoue are in charge.
- BWA will still provide a lunch for the Yard Workers on June 2.
- Annual Bus Trip will be to the Purple Haze Lavender Farm July 13th.
- Gomonshu Visit on September 3 – waiting for directives as to BWA responsibilities.
- We have 11 BWA members going to the World BWA Convention this fall.
- Possible May meeting (date TBD) to give information on Bus Trip, By-Laws changes and Gomonshu updates.

Future BWA Events:
Apr. 6-7 Hanamido decorations and Hanamatsuri set up; BWA Bake Sale
Apr. 21 DS Cooking Class with Anita Nakayama
May 19 Gotan-e Service; HS graduates’ recognition

In gassho, June Akita
The Dharma School has been busy! In Feb our former student, Kenji Stoll, led a sticker making art activity for our pk-12 students, it was a huge hit! Students wrote words such as “gratitude” and “peace” and the brightly colored sticker materials were salvaged, making it an eco-sangha project. Thank you Kenji!

Also, in February was the NW Buddhist Convention in Tukwila hosted by the White River Temple. Many students and families from our temple attended. One workshop included our student, Emma Inge, who sat on a panel to share how temples can engage with young adults. Good job Emma! Duncan Williams, author of American Sutra, provided a history of Buddhism inside WWII “relocation” camps and the prejudice faced by those who practiced our religion. Next year’s convention is hosted by Seattle Betsuin, and Dharma School will continue to provide partial reimbursement to students and teachers for registration fees. Convention is a great way to deepen our understanding of Buddhism through workshops, guest speakers, and meet other Shin Buddhist from the Northwest.

In March, we had a great number of students and families volunteer for our annual Sukiyaki dinner fundraiser, it was a huge success – thank you everyone for your hard work! The following week, the Lotus class led a highly engaging pk-12 drawing activity that distinguished animal classifications from “Vulnerable Species” to “Extinct” to help students reflect upon our interconnection to all living beings and our impact on the world.

Also, in March, Brett Johnson, a Lumbini parent, presented a slide show and artifacts from his time in Nepal as a Peace Corps volunteer. He shared stories of learning Nepalese in three months, the agricultural work he did there and what life is like at 5,000 feet above sea level with no electricity and minimal resources in the Himalayas. His presentation tied in nicely with Assistant Minister Lynrae Hubble’s Dharma message about empathy as a means to see the perspective of, and feel the emotions of another person versus compassion, that takes empathy to the next level by adding the desire to help. Brett’s talk also meshed well with Rev. Miyaji’s message, “Taking a Chance” by allowing bravery into your life where new possibilities can emerge. In closing, we invite our sangha members to our classroom as a volunteer or if you would like to share a story or activity. Please let me or one of the teachers know!

In gassho,

Merilee

In college, I can explore different topics outside of the basic math, English, and science I took in high school. These courses allow me to reflect more on my impact in my community and how I can better myself. One class that I took this quarter was Education 200; I registered for this class in order to fulfill a requirement and did not expect to get as much out of it as I did. If I were to describe this class in a few words I would describe it as resilience for your life. This is because I learned resilience is not just the ability to bounce back, but it is the ability to strive and thrive in any situation. I found the skills that I learned in this class to be helpful in my life and I was able to draw connections to Buddhism.

One of the first things we learned in class was the idea of mindfulness. My professor defined mindfulness as a hyper-focus of the present; this means that we are not dwelling on the past and we are not concerned about the future. All we are focused on is what is happening now at this moment. I was taught that when we are mindful, we make sure to practice mindfulness as non-judgmental, being one at the moment and effectively. This means that we are not judging our self or others, we are not thinking about one thing and we make sure that we do it in the most effective way possible. Another key topic we talked about in class was the idea of the wise mind. When using your wise mind, you are thinking about “what I know to be”. This is different from
using the reasonable mind which is “what I think to be” and using the emotional mind which is “what I feel to be”. The wise mind is the middle ground because it uses both the reasonable and emotional mind in an effective way, so we do not think too logically without emotion or too emotionally without logic.

With that said no one is ever too sure where they would learn something new but the ability to stay open to new ideas is important. I did not expect myself to learn as much as I did and be able to apply it to things outside of my education. Buddhism is a big part of my life and I feel that this class added a new level to it. I’d like to end by sharing a short quote from Winnie the Pooh that reflects living in the moment and being mindful of it.

“What day is it?” Asked Pooh.
“It’s today” squeaked Piglet.
“My favorite day,” said Pooh.

In Gassho,
Kenzo Yoshitomi

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Movie Night
Friday, April 12 at 7 PM
“GROUNDHOG DAY”
In the Rev. Pratt room

April Toban News

Upcoming Dates:
- April 7 – Hanamatsuri – All monthly Toban chairs, please contact your Toban group members and coordinate main dish and sides/salads for the Hanamatsuri potluck on April 7, 2019. The potluck will be immediately following the Hanamatsuri service.

April & May 2019 Toban Groups: Toban chairs are responsible for calling group members for set-up and clean-up of temple events occurring in their Toban months. The Toban chairs for each group will coordinate with each other to set up the dates for the monthly clean up. Please let Eric Hammerstrom know the clean-up dates to check for conflicts with other activities and to add to the Temple calendar.

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Monthly Book Club
Buddhism Today!
April 11th (Th) at 7pm at Kings Books
Featured Book:
This Precious Life
by Khandro Rinpoche
April Group Responsibilities:

- Monthly clean-up for March and April
- Sukiyaki Dinner: Provide snacks for Saturday - the day before Sukiyaki
- Hanamatsuri: Help with set up and clean up with BWA. Set up tables and chairs.
- Dust and vacuum pews in Hondo
- Coffee hour

May Group Responsibilities:

- Monthly clean-up for May and June
- Gotan-E Service & Ochigo: DS children involved. Help if requested
- Parents’ Day Luncheon: help YBA as needed.
- Sukiyaki Dinner: Provide snacks for Tuesday evening clean up after fundraiser.
- Honor high school grads: Dharma School and BWA. Help if requested
- Coffee hour

~Kaila

Well, hats off to Tony Gregg. From the city meter to the parsonage we have a brand spanking new waterline. Tony never let any difficulties throw him off his hard drive toward that prized goal. If you conclude that after all that hard work, he'll rest on his laurels think again. It seems the criminal element has a new gremlin to contend with. Tony has volunteered to coordinate a new alarm panel so the Miyaji family can deactivate the system alarm when they enter the house from the garage. Another new item on the agenda is updating some very antiquated equipment in the social hall kitchen. Our convection oven and refrigerator are old and have many years of good memories of all the fun in the kitchen. Of course, there may be some recollections of a faux pas or two, but in exchange for not exposing us, yours truly has promised them they'll be recycled into luxury cars or components for whatever rocket ship will be used for the first mission to Mars. But I cautioned that if they spilled the beans regarding the rice situation, I’d made sure they were recycled as receptacles for unhealthy, surgery drinks.
Trash, dirt, and debris better start going to a casino. Perhaps they’d have better luck there rather than trying to escape the eagle eyes and nimble hands of certain temple members. On the inside Jeff Hiroo and Fred Pelger are putting the whammy on those eye sores during their weekly cleaning visits. Every Sunday, Tom Hubbell has been removing trash along Fawcett. Mike Shioji, David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, and Del Sasaki provide invaluable support to temple projects. Additionally, Bob Yoshioka and Tad Kajimura are important team members. As spring starts to loosen the grip of winter Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens are certain to excel in accentuating the beauty of our temple grounds.

~Dave

Sukiyaki Co-chairs extend their appreciation to all!

On behalf of the Tacoma Buddhist Temple, Reverend Miyaji, and Sukiyaki Co-Chairs, we thank you all for contributing to the success of the 2019 Sukiyaki Fundraising event!

Your efforts helped us to raise approximately $17,301 less expenses. As you may know the temple only holds three major fundraising events per year. Along with membership contributions, we use these funds to provide support for the temple in Buddhist education, Dharma school, funding of National BCA, maintain our 100+ year old temple, supporting our reverend, as well as many other worthy projects within our community.

Successful fundraising takes time, organization, and a lot of support. Thanks to you, the fruits from our Sukiyaki is clear evidence of your contribution and critical to its success. Sukiyaki is very labor intensive and without your generous contribution, we could not have provided such a service to all those who showed up to enjoy the dinner.

Once again, on behalf of Reverend Miyaji and the Tacoma Buddhist Temple, thank-you for your support.

In Gassho,
SUKIYAKI CO-CHAIRS: Tracy Ling and Bobby Yotsuuye

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**Planting Help Request**

**Saturday April 27th, 9am**

Please join us for a fun work morning planting sedum and other plants in preparation for the June 15th Kimono, Bake and Plant Sale. No experience necessary — planting guidance and instructions provided by Les. Location is the gated parking area between the social hall kitchen and garage.

* Alternate date May 4th – to allow flexibility for weather and resource availability
Yearly Memorial Services

General Memorial Service Years for 2019

1st Year - 2018  17th Year - 2003
3rd Year - 2017  25th Year - 1995
7th Year - 2013  33rd Year - 1987
13th Year - 2007  50th Year - 1970

April 2019:

25th Year  Hayashi, Akira  Shaku Myo-Chi  April 25, 1995
33rd Year  Takahashi, Sumi  Shakuni Myo-Gan  April 12, 1987

May 2019:

7th Year  Kusumoto, Saburo  Shaku Shin-Sho  May 25, 2013
25th Year  Masumoto, Ted Masaru  Shaku Myo-Gan  May 4, 1995
33rd Year  Iwakiri, Ryoichi  Shaku Ryo-Toku  May 22, 1987
50th Year  Kubo, Goroku  Shaku Kyo-Kaku  May 30, 1970

June 2019:

7th Year  Matsumoto, Edward  Shaku Sho-Gaku  June 1, 2013
          Omoto, Nobuto Rod  Shaku Ken-Shin  June 1, 2013
17th Year  Yamasaki, Yaoko Bette  Shakuni Myo-Kaku  June 11, 2003
          Yoshioka, Masako Martha  Shakuni Ren-Jou  June 17, 2003
50th Year  Sugimoto, Hisao  Shaku Sho-Kyu  June 21, 1970

Greeters Schedule

Greeters:

Note: Please have new visitors sign in 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 your replacement.

April

7  Denise Cline & Merlaine Cook
14 Wendy Hamai & John Inge
21 Del Sasaki & Rick Tanabe
28 Kevin & Mayumi Ikeda

May

5 Tracy & Richard Ling
12 Jill Case & Jeff Hiroo
19 Jim Doyle & Tony Gregg
26 Lynrae & Tom Hubbell

*A new list is implemented starting in May. For questions/concerns, please contact June Weled, Membership.*
What a wonderful milestone for you and your family! Thank you for your guidance, talents, and support you have shared with your Temple friends throughout the years.

Some things you may want to know about Hana:

1. My husband & I were the first couple to marry at Tacoma Buddhist Temple in November 1946.
2. I learned how to drive when I was 13 years old.
4. My mother would find me sleeping amongst the strawberry plants on our farm when I was 2 years old.
5. My father said that since I was 5 years old, I was already punching keys on the cash register at his variety store.
6. I regret not learning how to cook authentic Japanese foods from my mother.
7. About 40 years ago, I enjoyed learning how to belly dance.
PING PONG CHALLENGE!

We will start the PING PONG challenges Post Sukiyaki!
Currently, we have 16 players in 3 different levels (Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced) and are still taking down names of those interested in playing after services.
Sign-up sheet will be located in the HONDO foyer.

Access to these tables will be given on a first come/first serve basis after services. Please give Challengers priority over those practicing.

Security details will be sent to those who sign-up. Happy Paddling!!!
Those interested, please contact Bobby Yotsuuye. email: yotsuuye@outlook.com or call: 253.927.1125.
Welcome New Member!!

Ken Shipp and family

1. Tell us where you were born and raised.
I was born in Richland, WA and raised mostly in Kennewick and Richland, WA, though my family spent a few years in MI, OH, and IL.

2. Why have you chosen to join the Tacoma Buddhist Temple?
I’ve been a member of BCA temples in Salt Lake City and Seattle and decided to join Tacoma Buddhist Temple after we moved from Seattle to Tacoma.

3. Do you have any skills or interests that can add to the Temple and Sangha?
I like to cook and am a passable piano player.

4. What is the one thing you want the Temple to know about you?
I don’t have a great answer for this one. I’m just looking forward to getting to know everyone in the temple better as we settle into our life in Tacoma.
SAVE THE DATE
Saturday June 15, 2019

Kimono, Plant and Bake Sale

NEEDED: Planting Containers. Please contact Les Hitsman if you have any planting containers you can donate now through April 22nd. Size of containers needed include anything from 6 inches to the size of a wok. Can be any type of container - bakeware, cook wear, bowls, cups, tins, colanders, watering cans, woks, etc. If it can hold soil – we can make it work.

Donations of Kimono, Obi, kimono undergarments, zori, geta, etc. are greatly appreciated. Please contact Kazuko Inoue or Denise Cline.

Donations can be dropped off to the temple before/after service, Planting Containers needed by April 22nd. Kimono donations accepted March through May.
### April 2019

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<td>BRD MTG Sangha Service 10:00 AM</td>
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### May 2019

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<td>9 Book Club King' Books 7:00 PM</td>
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