

Temple Mission Statement

"To offer those in the Pacific Northwest an enduring community that values inclusiveness and acceptance in seeking enlightenment through Japanese Shin Buddhist teachings."



Tacoma Buddhist Temple
(Jodo Shinshu)

タコマ仏教会 (浄土真宗)

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MYOKYO 明鏡



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

May, 2016

Sensei's Message



Nembutsu

Rev. Kojo Kakihara

Tacoma Buddhist Temple is holding the Gotan-e Service on Sunday, May 22 to celebrate the birth of our founder, Shinran Shonin. But this is not only an occasion to celebrate the birth of Shinran Shonin but also a precious opportunity for us to listen again carefully to the teachings of Jodo Shinshu that Shinran Shonin conveyed.

To say simply what Shinran Shonin's teaching is, it is the teachings of Nembutsu. As you know, nembutsu is to recite the name of Amida Buddha, Namo Amida Butsu, but nembutsu is not just what we recite, but also what become our way of life as it is said "life of Nembutsu." "Namo" comes from a Sanskrit word, "namas," and originally means "to respect" or "to solely rely." But Shinran Shonin understood that "Namo" is the call of "I am sure to lead you to enlightenment" from Amida Buddha to me rather than a word that I say from my side "I solely rely" towards Amida Buddha. That is because Amida Buddha is the dynamic working itself of Truth (Dharma) or the world of immeasurable light and life that leads me to Truth, and I am already in the working of Truth even before I say "I solely rely on Amida Buddha" from my side. We are all being led to the world of Truth by Namo Amida Butsu. That is to say, Namo Amida Butsu is what I recite, yet not my word but Amida Buddha's call and the working itself that leads me to Truth.

Shinran Shonin states that reciting the Nembutsu is the True Practice. But this does not mean the nembutsu as "my practice." Shinran Shonin states that the nembutsu recited as "my practice" in order to get salvation as the return or reward for reciting hard as many as possible is called nembutsu of self-power. The Nembuts that Shinran Shonin taught is called the Nembutsu of Other Power (Tariki). My reciting Namo Amida Butsu is my action, yet in truth it is what Amida Buddha is working in me and leading me towards the world of Truth. Saying from my side, my reciting the Nembutsu is what I accept and appreciate the working of Amida that leads me to Truth.

What I wrote above may not be easy to understand. But the relation between Amida Buddha and me is often compared to relation between a parent and a child. My son, Shujo will turn two in July. He is very active, and plays a lot and cries a lot every day. He speaks some words and is getting to understand what we say. But he calls me “Tohto” as he cannot pronounce “O-to-san (dad)” yet. But this is not what he started saying spontaneously, but because I repeated saying to him, “I am your “O-to-san (dad),” Shujo came to reply saying “Tohto.” A parent’s call, “I’m your dad” or “I’m your mom” is not just a word, but parent’s love, wish, and working of leading itself transcending a word. Because the child is in the middle of the working, the child receives it and replies saying “Tohto.”

Unfortunately, the Nembutsu is not what grants our desires or makes us a better person no matter how many times or how hard we recite. But the Life of Nembutsu is the way of life that even if we face troubles or difficulties, we can accept and overcome them, and we appreciate our present life which is in the working that makes us attain the world of Truth, that is Amida. Gotan-e is a Goen, a precious opportunity when we think again of what the nembutsu is for our present lives through the life of Shinran Shonin.

Namo Amida Butsu

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 **June 26th**.

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, May 11th** in the Rev. Pratt Room, and June 1st in June. Please enter through the side walk on the left side of the building.

ねんぶつ
お念仏

かきはらこうじょう
柿原興乗

たこまぶつきょうかい がつ にち にちようび しゅうそしんらんしょうにん たんじょう いわ ごうたんえ ほうよう つと
タコマ仏教会では、5月22日の日曜日、宗祖親鸞聖人のご誕生をお祝いする、降誕会の法要がお勤めされま
す。このご縁は、ただ親鸞聖人の誕生をお祝いするだけでなく、親鸞聖人が伝えてくださった浄土真宗の
おし であらた き とうと えん おも
教えを、改めて聞かせていただく 尊いご縁でもあるように思います。

しんらんしょうにん おし ひとこと ねんぶつ おし ぞんじ ねんぶつ あみだ なまえ
親鸞聖人のみ教えは、一言でいうとお念仏の教えです。ご存知のように、お念仏とは、阿弥陀さまのお名前、
「南無阿弥陀仏」を称えることですが、ただ単に称えるだけでなく、「お念仏の人生」というように、それが
わたし い かた なも いんど ことば なます そんけい
私たちの生き方になっていくものです。「南無」とは、インド の言葉では「ナマス」で、もともと「尊敬
する」とか「よりどころにする」という意味です。しかし親鸞聖人は、「南無」は「よりどころにします」
という私から仏さまへの言葉ではなく、「私が必ず悟りにいたらす」という、阿弥陀如来から私への
よ ごえ い あみだぶつ しんじつ せかい かぎ
「呼び声」であると言われてしています。それは、阿弥陀仏は、真実の世界、限りないひかりといのちの世界の、
わたし しんじつ みちび わたし がわ い わたし
私を真実に導くはたらきそのものであり、私の側から「よりどころにします」と言わなくても、私はすで
に、その真実の世界のはたらきの中に生かされているからです。私たちは、南無阿弥陀仏によって、真実の

せかい みちび 世界へ導かれています。つまり、南無阿弥陀仏は、私が称えていながらも私の言葉ではなく、あみだぶつ よ ごえ 阿弥陀仏の呼び声であり、私を真実に導くはたらきそのものなのです。

しんらんしょうにん ねんぶつ しんじつ ぎょう 親鸞聖人は、お念仏は真実の行であると言われてます。しかし、それは「私の行」としてのお念仏のことと言われてるのではありません。親鸞聖人は、念仏を「私の行い」として、たくさん、熱心に称えることによって、その見返りとして救いを得ようとするのを、自力の念仏と言われてます。親鸞聖人が説かれたお念仏は、他力の念仏と言われます。南無阿弥陀仏と称えることは、私の行いでありながら、実はそれは阿弥陀さまが私のいのちにはたらき、真実の世界に導いている姿なのです。私の側からいけば、お念仏を称えることは、その阿弥陀仏という、真実の世界へ導くはたらきを受け入れ、喜ぶ姿なのです。

すこ むずか 少し難しいことを書いたかもしれませんが、阿弥陀さまと私の関係は、よく親子の关系到例えられます。わたし ちょうなん しゅうじょう がつ さい 私の長男、修乗は7月で2歳になります。まいにち あそぶ よく遊び、よく泣きます。すこ しずつ ことば おぼ 少 ずつ言葉も覚えてきて、こっちが言うことも分かるようになってきました。しかしまだ「お父さん」とは言えず、私のことを「とうと」と言います。しかしこれは、しゅうじょう じぶん から 言 い出したのではなく、親の私が「お父さんだよ」と呼び続けたから、しゅうじょう が「とうと」と返すようになったのです。親の「お父さんだよ」、「お母さんですよ」という呼び声は、単なる言葉ではなく、言葉を越えた親の愛、願い、導くはたらきそのものです。そのはたらきのなかにいるから、それを受け取って、子どもは「とうと」と返すのです。

ざんねん ながら、お念仏をどれだけたくさん、どれだけ一生懸命称えても、何か願いが叶ったりするわけではありません。お念仏を称える人生とは、どんな困難があっても、それを受け入れ、乗り越えて、阿弥陀如来という、真実の世界へ導くはたらきの中にある、今現在の自分のいのちを喜ぶ生き方です。降誕会は、親鸞聖人の生き方を通して、あらためて、私たちの今のいのちにとってお念仏とは何なのか、を考えるご縁でもあるように思います。

なもあみだぶつ
南無阿弥陀仏

お知らせ：月に一度、日曜礼拝の後に日本語法話をいたします。次回は5月8日です。お聴聞ください。

Future Schedule

Every Monday at 7pm	Mindfulness Meditation (No Meditation on May 30)
Wednesday, May 11 at 7pm	Basic Buddhism Class "Introduction to Tannisho"
Sunday, May 15	Coffee Hour after the Family Service
Saturday, May 21 at 3pm	Spring Seminar with Rev. Kuwahara (CBE co-director) "What Happens When I Die?"
Sunday, May 22 at 10 am	Gotan-e Service (Speaker: Rev. Kuwahara)
Sunday, May 29	Parents Appreciation Luncheon Dharma Exchange during Family Service "In Time of War, The Laws Fall Silent" by Dr. James Akagi
Wednesday, June 1 at 7pm	Basic Buddhism Class "Introduction to Tannisho"
Sunday, June 5	Garden Clean-up, Dharma School Service only
Saturday, June 11 at 1pm	Interfaith Dialogue Event at social hall

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



For those who receive the Wheel of Dharma, the BCA's monthly newsletter, you may have read the article on the front page by Rev. Jerry K. Hirano, Chair of the BCA Ministers Association. He spoke at the BCA National Council meeting in Visalia, CA in February where he connected his talk to the conference theme – "Cultivating the Buddhadharma: Buddhism and Agriculture." I have never been to the city nor have flown through Fresno, but I learned it is one of the largest table grape growing regions in the country and the vine ripen oranges and varieties they offered at the conference were amazing.

Rev. Kakihara, Minister Assistant Fred Pelger and I attended the conference representing our Temple and heard Rev. Hirano's message first hand. In this particular session, his speech covered the cost of living (COL) increase for BCA staff in San Francisco, one of the county's most expensive cities. The COL, which hadn't been given in 2-3 years was a fairly lively discussion amongst temple representatives across the country and was ultimately approved. What the increase means is a little more is added to our/your temple dues, but I'm sure you can appreciate that a 2% COL is the right thing to do, even if it means our temple's annual dues to the BCA are increased from \$113.45 to \$114.09 for 2016/2017.

He also acknowledged a great appreciation to Issei and Nissei farmers for their hard work as many helped to start temples before the war. And he said "we must grow our temples so that we can all partake of the harvest." Our Tacoma Temple has many family farmers who know first-hand how much work it takes to grow crops and make a living. But, you don't necessarily need to be a farmer to appreciate the concept of working, growing and partaking. While my brother might say I didn't do any work on our farm in Fife, I did. Really!

Thanks to everyone for your work, big or small to cultivate our temple. Every bit counts.

In Gassho,

Crystal

Buddhist Women's Association News



Happy Mother's Day! We should all be thankful to our mothers like Arashi's Ohno Satoshi. When he is suddenly asked to say a few words he will state, "Thank you, mother, for giving birth to me". (Of course he says this in Japanese.) He does not hesitate to express his gratitude for his mom.



I would also like to express my gratitude to the members who helped with the Hanamatsuri potluck set up/clean up. It was a delicious meal and great variety that was enjoyed by all who attended. And once again, the hanamido crew did a fantastic job with their floral skills and thank you to Jeff Hiroo for obtaining the daffodils.

Since this article is due before our general meeting date, I am sending out a "communications alert". The final decisions on our bento fundraiser and annual bus trip will be passed on via service announcements and email/phone tree. So if you hear or read about it, share it, pass it on. If you are wondering about it, contact someone, sorry we aren't mind readers and my crystal ball is not always clear. Stay tuned for details.

Gassho,

Patti

Buddhist Education Committee News



I was reminded once again by yet another doctor this morning that I am getting old. Her exact words went like this....."You know Frederick, the things that you are experiencing happen to everyone as they age".

She must have caught that brief grimace on my face because then, from some level of professional courtesy, she added; "But of course, you're not really old yet".



Part of my visit was of a very 'personal' nature, and so to lighten things up a bit I said to my very young and pretty doctor and to her very young and pretty nurse; "This would be one hell of a lot easier if the both of you were ugly **OLD** men". I actually felt some compassion in their laughter and felt a little better about being reminded that I was getting old.

Our guest speaker for our Spring Seminar on May 21 and our Gotan-e Service on May 22 will be Reverend Kiyonobu Kuwahara of the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley CA. On Saturday he will be speaking about the Pureland and what happens when we die. I can only hope and assume that our "process of growing old" as we approach death and our ultimate rebirth into the Pureland, will be part of Reverend Kiyō's discussion.

I hope to see many of you there to hear what Kuwahara Sensei has to say about something **we all** will one day experience.

With Love and Gassho.....

Old Fred Pelger

Dharma School News



Our Dharma School will be busy this spring with several upcoming events.

On April 24th, our Dharma School teacher Merlaine Cook, will lead a group project for all the Dharma School classes. The project (just in time for

Earth Day!) is called "kokedama" or plants grown in moss balls, quite popular in Japan. Thank

you Merlaine for presenting this unique idea and gathering all the items needed for this wonderful project!



On May 1st, our Dharma School will go on a field trip to Seattle to tour the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington where Karen Yoshitomi is Executive Director. On this particular day, the center will be celebrating Japan's Children's Day with lots of activities for the kids. We will serve a light lunch at the temple after service and class, then drive to Seattle for our tour and day of fun activities. Thanks Karen for being our tour guide for the day!

The Lumbini and Prajna classes will participate in the ochigo procession for Gotan-e service on May 22nd. After service our YBA will host Parents Day luncheon.

May 29th is Memorial Day service, there will be a family service, no Dharma School classes.

Our last Dharma School service and class will be June 5th. We will gather one last time for the temple picnic at Edgemont Park on June 12th before taking a summer break.

Gassho,

Donna Sasaki

From Your Facilities Committee



Ah...those feelings of purification and catharsis we derive from spring cleaning. Sometimes however, cleanouts that occur in spring don't bring us much satisfaction - especially when they are unplanned events that are forced on us. The social hall kitchen refrigerator, the refrigerator and freezer in the Rev. Pratt room kitchen suffered a power failure for at least 12 hours. Fred Pelger's superhuman senses led him to notice the abnormal situation. He responded by turning off the breaker in the electrical panel. Another hero, Tom Hubbell, replaced the breaker, putting it in a spare location so everything is working again. Unfortunately a bunch of food spoiled, requiring some folks to toss it out. In addition, the Rev. Pratt room now has a bona fide new roof that is very white and shed's water like a duck's back. Using new space age rocket science material that reflects sunlight we expect cooler summertime temperatures in the Rev. Pratt room. 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



Temple Grounds Clean Up: ALL MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO HELP **June 5**.

Obon Fundraiser: ALL MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO HELP July 30.

All toban Chairs:

Please call your group and remind them of the following dates:

- Temple grounds clean up on **June 5**
- Temple picnic on **June 12**
- Obon service on **July 24**
- Obon festival on **July 30**
- Keiro Luncheon on **September 25**

May 2016 and June 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.

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.

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

Phone tree members – Leroy and Penny Kawaguchi, Sam Uchiyama

June Group Responsibilities:

- Monthly clean up with May
- Temple Picnic: DS set up and clean up. Help if requested
- Obon: Help make and serve somen after Obon Service July 24th. (June, July and August Toban)
- Obon: Provide snacks for Friday and Saturday, July 29 and 30. (June and July Toban)
- Obon: Clean up kitchen area, bathrooms, social hall and other areas in use for Obon activities

For the near future:**July Group Responsibilities:**

- Obon Fundraiser: ALL MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO HELP.
- Obon: Help make and serve somen after Obon Service July 24th. (June, July and August toban)
- Obon: Provide snacks for Friday and Saturday, July 29 and 30. (June and July toban)
- Obon: Clean up kitchen area, bathrooms, social hall and other areas in use for Obon activities.

August Group Responsibilities:

- Obon Fundraiser: ALL MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO HELP.
- Obon: Help make and serve somen after Obon Service July 24th. (June, July and August toban)
- Obon: Provide lunch for Saturday set up on July 30 (August and September toban)
- Obon: Clean up kitchen area, bathrooms, social hall and other areas in use for Obon activities.

September Group Responsibilities:

- Obon Fundraiser: ALL MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO HELP.
- Obon: Provide lunch for Saturday set up on July 30 (August and September toban)
- Obon: Clean up kitchen area, bathrooms, social hall and other areas in use for Obon activities.
- Back to Church Breakfast: YBA provides, sets up and cleans up. Help if requested
- Keiro Luncheon: TBT Board Members set up and clean up. Help if requested

2017 NWD Buddhist Convention – WAKE UP!

We had our first meeting on April 10th when we finalized some ideas and welcomed new ideas. Our next meeting is June 19th after service in the Rev. Pratt Room. We will be seeking items for our Silent Auction, will accept any ideas for entertainment, and will accept help to our Hospitality Room. If you have any project ideas for our Dharma School students, please share them with Debby Abe. If you could be a greeter at the hotel for part of the day Friday or early morning Saturday, please let me know. THANK YOU EVERYONE!!

Please mark your calendar for February 7-9, 2017 at the DoubleTree Suites to hear Rev. Marvin Harada 'wake' us up to some informative messages.
John/June

2016 Obon Dance Festival

Our Obon will be held on July 30th, Saturday, this year – basically because there are '5' Saturdays in the month of July. Our Obon dance practices will be July 12, 13, 14 from 7:30-9:00 pm in the Social Hall. Many chair people are in place, but we still need some help for chairs and committee helpers. We could also use ice chests, portable fans, standing tents and fruits for our pies—again please let June or Sensei know. If you are interested to be part of a committee, please contact Sensei or myself and you will be guaranteed a spot! Thank you for everyone's support and encouragement for our next fundraising event.

We will have an Obon planning meeting on May ____ after service in the Rev. Pratt Room. Please join us, hear what's happening, and share some thoughts.

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, July 30th.

June Akita

Welcome to Tacoma Buddhist Temple!

We introduce our new members who joined the temple recently.



Sandra Swartz

Where do you live? - "I live near Lincoln High School in Tacoma."

Where are you from originally? - "I'm from Buffalo, New York."

What do you do? - "I work in a call center for a credit union."

Tell us about your family. -

"I have a sister in California and a father in New York."

Why did you decide to join the temple? -

"I looked at many different types of Buddhism for many years and this truly spoke to my heart from the start."

What do you like about our temple? -

"I like the compassion and friendship that has been shown to me from the start.

One of my favorite things is looking at all the different people at services and seeing how they work together to keep the temple going, similar to a wonderful bouquet of wildflowers."

What are your hobbies? -

"I enjoy needlework, knitting and music."

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.

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)
June	5	Karl Smith / Tom Hubbell (Dharma School Svc. only)
	12	Temple Picnic (No Sunday Service at Temple)
	19	Denise Cline / Rick Tanabe (Family Svc. only)
	26	Henry Stoll / Michael Shiogi



Welcome!

Yearly Memorial Services

General Memorial Service Years for 2016

1st Year - 2015	17th Year - 2000
3rd Year - 2014	25th Year - 1992
7th Year - 2010	33rd Year - 1984
13th Year - 2004	50th Year - 1967



June 2016;

1 st Year	Yotsuuye, Akinobu	Shaku Myo-Kyo	June 19, 2015
3 rd Year	Simmons, Mitsuko	Shakuni Bi-Ho	June, 10, 2014
	Suyetsugu, Yukiko	Shakuni Jo-Sen	June 16, 2014

July 2016;

7 th Year	Shigio, Mitsuye	Shakuni Bi-Ko	July 5, 2010
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August 2016;

3 rd Year	Murakami, Cora Kaoru	Shakuni Tei-Do	August 23, 2014
	Kodama, Goji	Shaku Ko-Sho	August 28, 2014
17 th Year	Cooney, Setsuko	Shakuni Shin-Ryo	August 1, 2000
25 th Year	Tanabe, Yoshihiro	Shaku Myo-Tetsu	August 9, 1992
50 th Year	Fujita, Kimiko	Shakuni Myo-Kan	August 8, 1967



Omigaki Brass ornaments polish, we had a great help of PLU students!



Hanamatsuri Dharma School Entertainments after the service on April 3

Dharma Exchange

Sunday, May 29

during Family Service at the Hondo (main hall)

“In Times of War, The Laws Fall Silent”

Speaker: Dr. James Akagi

Presentation on his experience during the war

Everyone is welcome

Public Interfaith Dialogue

“Religious Approaches to Peace Building”

Saturday, June 11 1:00pm – 3:00 pm

At Temple Social Hall

Panel discussion between panelists from different faith traditions

Free and Open to the Public



Tacoma Buddhist Temple

Spring Public Seminar

2016 Theme "Peace and Conflict"



What Happens When I Die?

-How is Pure Land related to my present life?-

Saturday, May 21, 2016
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

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



Guest Speaker:

Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara

(Co-Director of BCA Center for Buddhist Education)

He completed Ph. D. Program in Jodo Shinshu (Shin Buddhism) in 2003 at Ryokoku Univ. in Kyoto, Japan.

He loves American food. He is married and a father of three sons.

Favorite phrase: "Wanting less and realizing that I've already had plenty. (少欲知足)"

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

Tacoma Buddhist Temple

(Up the hill from UWT campus)

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