



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)

January 2023

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."*

Sensei's Message



Happy New Year!

Rev. Tadao Koyama

Happy New Year everyone! Or as the Japanese people say, "Akemashite Omedetou Gozamaisu"! I sincerely hope that everyone here was able to gather (safely of course) with friends and family to ring in the New Year! I know that it is part of Japanese culture to eat toshikoshi soba on New Year's Eve and ozoni on New Year's day.

For me, I have fond memories of my mother cooking ozoni for breakfast on New Year's Day. She would add the secret ingredient of clams and clam juice to the broth. I miss my mother's cooking so much! As we begin the new year, I remember that my mother took the helm of hosting Shogatsu (new year's family gathering) at our house in Sacramento once my grandparents were too old to do so. She took this job very seriously.

When she first started hosting, she would actually kick, myself, my brother, Kazuo, and my dad out of the house so she could prepare it the way she wanted to. The three of us would go to a movie, and my mother would prepare the whole house, and still have the energy to host the guests too!

The day would consist of countless relatives visiting us, lots of delicious food, and laughter! One of the things I have sadly noticed though, is that as the years continued, the number of guests began to decrease. When I was able to attend the last Shogatsu a few years ago, I was sad to see that so many of my older relatives were no longer with us to share in the celebration of ringing in the New Year. However, this also brings us back to the teachings of the Buddha.

The lesson of impermanence is not here to make us feel detached or to feel apathetic towards the changing nature of ourselves or of our environment, if anything, it brings us back to the awareness that change happens and that we should take the time to spend with our loved ones and cherish these moments that we have.

In some ways, I feel like having Sunday service every weekend is like hosting a mini Shogatsu. Every weekend I can look forward to wonderful temple members visiting and enjoying each other's company. Let us continue to celebrate this new year with each other and not forget that while impermanence is a reality, it does not have to stop us from cherishing the precious moments we have now.

Let us begin this year with a renewed sense of gratitude and welcoming!

President's Message



I'd like to wish you all a Happy New Year!



As a time of new beginnings and a time for optimism for all that the coming year holds, I'd like to introduce myself as your new temple president. This past month, the temple's board underwent its annual update. This includes welcoming new board members – Alex Theisen, Jim Doyle, Kara O'Toole, Nate Foote and thanking Barry Weled, Brett Johnson, Crystal Inge and June Akita for their time and energy during the challenging Covid years.

Speaking of which, as our Sangha is coming out of our collective pandemic hibernation over the past few months, taking cautious steps towards normalcy, this can't help to fill one with optimism for what's in store for us in 2023. While we've been challenged living with Covid over the last three years, an in-person Bon Odori and Tacoma Temple hosted NW Convention in September are looking more like a real reality, than wishful thinking.

So just as the transition of the board is an annual rite, with current members taking on new responsibilities and the exiting members, no doubt, relishing their newfound spare time, it also reinforces the interconnected nature of our Sangha. One where we all share in the Dharma and each in our own way plays a role in working towards a vibrant and healthy future for the temple. Again, the happiest of New Years to you all.

Gassho,
John

2023 Tacoma Buddhist Temple Board

Officers

- President: John Inge
- 1st Vice President: David Yotsuuye
- 2nd Vice President: Tom Hubbell
- Treasurer: Kaila Yoshitomi, Nate Foote (Associate Treasurer)
- Secretary: Alex Theisen
-

Committees

- Membership: June Weled, Gavin Morgan, Jim Doyle, Alex Theisen
- Administration: Mayumi Ikeda
- Communications: Bobby Yotsuuye, Mayumi Ikeda, Nate Foote
- Events: David Yotsuuye, Kara O'Toole
- Facilities: Tom Hubbell, David Yotsuuye, Lynrae Hubbell
- NW District/BCA: Kara O'Toole
- Pledge: Jane Burster, Tracy Ling
- Toban: Michael Shiogi

Buddhist Women's Association News



Happy New Year!!!



I am truly looking forward to a new year and new BWA activities! This year, I am adding a monthly drop-in BWA activity called BWA Coffee & Crafts. It will be a fun, social hour for BWA members to have a coffee and do a quick craft. The first Coffee & Craft session will be January 22nd at 9 am in the social hall. The craft will be making origami paper glass bead refrigerator magnets.

On January 29th we will celebrate the full return of BWA New Year's Luncheon! This will be a catered luncheon (menu chosen at our October meeting) and we will have a raffle, optional gift exchange and door prizes! We will collect membership dues and luncheon fees and hand out the 2023 BWA Member booklet and calendar and year end reports.

Dues: \$15 (note the new dues amount)

Luncheon fee: \$15 (complimentary for new members!)

Gift Exchange: Gift value between \$8-\$10 (participation in gift exchange is optional)

I would like to thank everyone that donated to BWA's winter Food & Clothing Drive. Two large shopping carts of food was delivered to the Fircrest Methodist Church food bank. They were overjoyed to receive this donation as it came at a time when they were running low – so your support truly supported those in need right here in our own community. ❤️

In Gassho,
Denise Cline, Tacoma BWA President

Dharma School News



Cannot believe it's time to say goodbye to 2022- we came back in-person and that was the best! Now, we can look forward to a new year, a new calendar and new leaders to our Temple!! **Happy New Year everyone!!!!** Stay toasty warm.....



Lotus class did a great Bodhi Day service on December 4th. Everyone took their part of the service seriously under guidance of **Ms. Alex, Mr. Gavin and Mr. Kenji** but mainly learned from **Sensei**. After service, everyone gathered downstairs to do our annual gingerbread houses. Students were excited and many 'grand' houses were built! **Gma Harriet** also brought a few other grandchildren to join the fun. YEAH!!

Everyone is welcome to join the **New Year's Eve service December 31 at 4:00 pm** and **New Year's Day service January 1 at 10:00 am**. When we return to our regular service on January 8th, we will be celebrating our Temple New Year's Party with a delicious bento or KFC Chicken meal. What makes this gathering so special, is we also honor and recognize our Keiro members (members 88 years and older). Many are responsible for keeping our temple 'alive' and well!

Just a reminder, **Mr. Gavin** will start collecting pet pictures for our **Pet Memorial/Nirvana Day Service** on February 5. If you would like a picture of your pet to set on the onaijin, please give them to **Mr. Gavin** with your name and your pet's name on the back or with a stickie note by the end of January. If you already submitted a picture in years past, we would like to honor them again if you'd like.

Also in January, we will be **making mochi** – participating in the pounding, making the mochi and of course, eating the mochi. The day is tentative – depends on when Bobby Yotsuuye will be here, but this will happen in January for sure. DS families can ‘order’ a few bags of mochi so let me know ASAP if you are interested.

Sunday Service Program: 10:00 Dharma School and All sangha arrive, oshoko
Kansho
Class representatives and Adult go up for oshoko
Lotus student presents Osaisen to minister
Message from Sensei, chanting, gatha
Announcements

10:40 Dharma School students dismissed to class

11:30 Students dismissed to parents/guardians

DS Calendar: January

1 NO DS

8 DS Temple New Year Celebration (Shinnenkai), Keiro

15 DS **Ho onko**; eat ozenzai after service.

22 DS (Tent.) Mochi tsuki

29 DS (BWA will be using the Social Hall

February

5 DS

Nirvana Day/Pet Memorial

12 DS

Lotus helps make yakisoba; LuMa makes decorations

19 DS

26 DS

Lotus help set up for Sukiyaki?

Please be safe and toasty warm, help take care of each other – and take a few moments for yourself as well.
Gassho, June

Young Buddhist Association News



As 2022 comes to a close, I hope everyone has been able to enjoy the holiday season. The YBA has successfully concluded our first fully in person Bodhi Day service since the pandemic! We thank all YBA members for their contribution to a wonderful Bodhi Day, as well as a big thank you to all those who attended.

We would also like to thank everyone who helped with the holiday fundraiser this year, we were able to raise a total of \$240 and we are thankful for everyone's contributions.



The YBA will be meeting soon in the new year to discuss plans around the T-Shirt and tote bag sale and will most likely have another fundraiser with new designs.

Happy New Year!

Gassho,
Odessa

Buddhist Education Committee News



The Buddhist Education Committee wishes everyone health and contentment in 2023!

The BEC is Sensei's advisory council on religious matters and assists with planning religious services and adult education at the temple. Our membership has changed since last year: Fred Pelger and Patti Wong have left the committee after many years of dedicated service, and Rachel Meatte has joined as the newest member. The committee now consists of myself, Lynrae



Hubbell, Rachel Meatte, Donna Sasaki, and Kenzo Yoshitomi, with June Akita often sitting in to help our coordination with Dharma School. As is our policy we will be electing one of our number to serve as Director for 2023 later this month.

We continue to make incremental upgrades to our AV setup for recording and live-streaming services for those who are not able to attend on Sundays for whatever reason. We are also planning a range of educational opportunities this year, including the Spring Seminar with Rev. Rosalie May, Minister Assistant at Seattle Buddhist Temple on May 21. This year our temple will also host the District Convention, and the BEC will help plan the educational sessions.

The BEC is paying close attention to the advice of the Reopening Committee regarding our temple's response to this winter's "tridemic" of respiratory viruses, and we remain committed to responding to the changing circumstances to ensure that our membership continues to have opportunities to encounter the Dharma, and our tradition's teachings about the light of True Reality that surrounds and embraces us all. Namu Amida Butsu.

- Erik Hammerstrom

Facility Committee Update



With another year behind us it's time to brag...ahem...or, should I say, to humbly recap the heap of tasks your Facilities team and the rest of the sangha tackled together. While 2022 was deemed the Year of the Tiger according to the Chinese Zodiac, under the Facilities Zodiac, it was the "Year of the Busy Beaver". Holding water back and construction are two activities we associate with beavers. That fits perfectly with a couple of accomplishments. Puget Sound's rainy weather poses a challenge, but our team sealed water out of various places. Beavers are the boss of water and can build high-quality dams with zero carbon footprints. But the ever-competent beavers have nothing on Tom Hubbell whose wellspring of planning and inspiration allowed our parsonage deck to be partially demolished and almost rebuilt. Once a little bit of Trex decking and the handrail are installed, the project will have crossed the finish line. Tom Hubbell and David Yotsuuye are the core of that project while others have stepped in as needed.

Another outdoor activity involved the sangha pulling off a safe and productive garden cleanup. As branches were culled and weeds yanked out, those with a gift for the gab managed to catch up and "solve" the world's problems while accomplishing those tasks.

Now for indoors. We all know appliances eventually give up the ghost. When Sensei tried to activate the parsonage dishwasher "on" setting, the old appliance, just like some people we know, didn't do much activating. Storing dishes, as opposed to washing them, became its newly adapted *raison d'être*. So as long the machine was intentionally set to "off" it worked as designed and engineered. However, the dishwasher needed to do more than just take up space. Tony Greg worked with Sensei to replace the cranky dishwasher. Another appliance would have become cantankerous if not for some preventive tender loving care. On schedule, the temple's furnace filters were changed out. Additionally, the temple door at the Hondo level east stairway was removed to improve emergency egress.

Litter doesn't stand a chance with Lynrae Hubbell's dauntless efforts to remove debris along Fawcett Avenue and S Court D Street. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, Del Sasaki, and Mike Shiogi put their collective shoulder to the wheel to ensure a successful facility maintenance program. With our section of Fawcett Avenue now paved, Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens might

be able to resume maintaining our grounds. If not, David Yotsuuye, Jeff Hiroo, Mike Shiogi, Del Sasaki, and Rick Tanabe are sure to step up and get it done.

~Dave

Toban



Barry and I will be stepping down as Toban Chairs and gratefully pass the baton to Tracy Ling and Mike Shiogi who will definitely keep your toban groups on task. Between toban pairs, set a cleaning date/time for both toban to meet at the temple to clean. Once coffee hour is approved by the board, check the temple calendar for a date. You will provide snacks, set up and clean afterwards.

January Chair Jim Doyle & Tony Gregg February Chair Jerry & June Akita

Lynn Blick

Meesa Pedrozo

Nate & Erina Foote

Brian & Etsuko Willis

Jill Case

Brett Johnson & Megumi Azekawa

Erin Shen

Diane Taniguchi

Toban Volunteers: We are asking each toban team to do **regular cleaning**. You have the option **not** to participate in cleaning for health concerns (*please let your chair know*).

Safety protocols:: Must have vaccinations and boosters up to date
Must be **masked** at all times while at the Temple (N95 masks preferred)
Stay **6 feet apart** from others

Sign In (Check in sheets in Main kitchen. Leave sheet in VP box in office)

Cleaning Duties: **Bathrooms:** Professionally cleaned twice a month
Social Hall: Fuji Taiko will sweep and clean floor
Kitchen: Wipe down all counters
Sweep kitchen floor (Mop if needed)
Empty garbage/recycling as needed
Replenish bathroom supplies as needed

Main Floor: Dust pews
Quick sweep wooden floor
Sweep side kitchen
Wipe down counters
Replenish bathroom supplies as needed
Vacuum all carpets including stairwells

Rev. Pratt Room: Vacuum carpet
Wipe down tables
Wipe down and sweep kitchen area
Sweep and mop landing area
Vacuum and dust library
Empty garbage/recycling as needed

Upstairs Classrooms: Vacuum carpet in classrooms and balcony
Wipe down tables
Empty garbage/recycling as needed

***Social Hall Cooler:** April, August, **December toban**s wipe down, mop and clean

Cleaning supply locations are located behind the duty list in the kitchen.

As we are gathering more, but also acknowledging the Covid variants, RVC, and the flu numbers during a predicted cold winter, we are still guided by the Board guidelines. In saying this, some expectations of each toban group/pair may change as this year 2023 begins to unfold. Thank you for your patience.

In gassho, Barry Weled and June Akita

Yearly Memorial Service

General Memorial Service Years for 2023

1 st Year – 2022	17 th Year – 2007
3 rd Year – 2021	25 th Year – 1999
7 th Year – 2017	33 rd Year – 1991
13 th Year – 2011	50 th Year – 1974



January 2023

17 th Year	Sarah Sugimoto	January 18, 2007
25 th Year	Kinuko Sasaki	January 6, 1999
25 th Year	Sally Sakaye Kawasaki	January 10, 1999
25 th Year	James Mamoru Hiroo	January 29, 1999
25 th Year	Tommy Sadao Kubota	January 30, 1999
33 rd Year	Chieko Oka	January 24, 1991
50 th Year	Keiko Smith	January 14, 1974

February 2023

1 st Year	Larry Fujita	February 6, 2022
1 st year	Sam Shimizu	February 11, 2022
3 rd Year	Miyoko Sato	February 2, 2021
7 th Year	Yoshiko Sugiyama	February 16, 2017
17 th Year	Mary Yoneko Masumoto	February 9, 2007
17 th Year	Ben Yoshida	February 6, 2007

March 2023

3 rd Year	Katsumi Fujita	March 17, 2021
7 th Year	Kimiko Tanbara	March 21, 2017
33 rd Year	Fumiko Azuma	March 22, 1991

Greeter's List

****note a schedule change was made since the December Myokyo****

January	1	Carrie Mori/Gavin Morgan
	8	Del Sasaki/Jane Burster
	15	John Inge/Patti Wong
	22	Tony Greg/Jim Doyle
	29	Mike Shiogi/Debby Abe
February	5	Lynn Blick/Tom Hubbell
	12	David Yotsuuye/David Campbell
	19	Tracy & Richard Ling
	26	Barry & June Weled
March	5	Bobby Yotsuuye/Carrie Mori

Greeters' Notes:

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."
- Extra supplies are in the ministers' room off the hondo.

Lastly, please do a headcount and enter it in the attendance sheet in the visitor folder.
If you are not available on the day you are assigned, please find your replacement.

Book Club
@King's Books
January 12, 2023 @ 7 pm
The Eightfold Path (graphic novel)
Authors: Steven Barnes & Charles Johnson

Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays!

*Thank-you for your support,
Happy New Year
From your friends at the TBT-YBA*

 <p style="text-align: center;">Happy Holidays and Happy New Years! From the Revs. Koyama and Cyndi</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Have a safe and Happy New Year!</i> <i>From the TBT Young Buddhist Association.</i></p> 
 <p style="text-align: center;">Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2023! Jeff and Vivian Hiroo</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Wishing Everyone A Happy and Healthy 2023 David & Kathy Yotsuuye</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Look forward to an in-person 2023 The Inges</i></p> 	 <p style="text-align: center;">Happy Holidays and have a Great New Year!</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">From Tacoma Buddhist Temple Fuji Taiko</p>

 <p>Best wishes for a Happy 2023!</p> <p>Erik Hammerstrom & Aimee Hamilton</p> 	 <p><i>Happy Holidays and Happy New Year The Ikedas</i></p> 	
<p><i>Happy Holidays & all the best For the coming New Year! Alvin & Dona Sasaki</i></p> 	 <p>HAPPY HOLIDAYS!</p>  <p>HAVE A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS 2023 DEL & CYNTHIA SASAKI</p>	
 <p>Season Greetings Kosho and Michiko Yukawa</p>	<p>Wishing you, my friends, all the Special Holidays and a Happy New Year Yoshie and Tada Yotsuue</p>  	
 <p><i>Season's Greetings and Happy New Year! Ken & Lynne Tanino</i></p>	<p><i>Happy New Year!</i></p> <p>Thelma Abe</p> 	
 <p><i>Season's Greetings and Happy New Year! Buddhist Women's Association (BWA)</i></p>	<p>明けましておめでとう</p> <p>From ours to yours</p> <p>Bobby, Junko, Jet, and Enzo</p> 	
 <p><i>"SPARK JOY" In 2023! The Wongs</i></p>	<p><i>Happy Holidays & Best Wishes for the New Year! The Cook Family</i></p> 	<p>Have a healthy 2023! Live Aloha</p>  <p>Mitsue Hanabusa</p>

Tacoma Buddhist Temple's
Spirit, Mind and Body Health Series



Yoga for Compassion

Monthly, Saturday 9:00 am – 10:00 am in the temple social hall or via Zoom

You will learn the fundamentals of yoga postures and experience connecting movement and breath. The class will begin seated in a chair and then progress to standing. Please save these dates and connect with Tracy Ling to register or if you have question

January 14, 2023

2023: Feb 11, Mar 11, Apr 8, May 13

Instructor and Temple Member, Kara O'Toole.

Free class! Register www.tacomabt.org for Waiver and Zoom Link.

Contact Tracy Ling to register or if you have questions: tling12005@gmail.com





Happy Bodhi Day



Winter also attended...



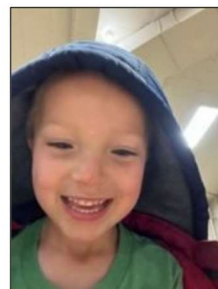
Student gifts
and teacher
gifts are so
much nicer to
do in person –
smiles are
priceless!!



Making
gingerbread
houses is
always fun
for
everyone



Ms. Alex gave all of
her Lotus Class
students a
BIG SHOUT OUT
for doing such an
awesome job for the
Bodhi Day Service



2023 Year of the Rabbit



Born 2011, 1999, 1987, 1975, 1963, 1951, 1939, 1927, 1915.

People born in the year of the Rabbit are the most fortunate. They are smooth talkers, talented, ambitious, virtuous and reserved. They have exceedingly fine taste and are regarded with admiration and trust.

~www.thoughtco.com

*January 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 New Year's Service 10 am	2	3	4	5	6	7 YouTube Shotsuki Service
8 Sunday Service 10 am Shinnenkai (New Year's) celebration after service	9	10	11 Study Class Via Zoom 6 pm	12 Book Club at King's Books 7:00 PM	13	14 Spirit, Mind, and Body Yoga for Compassion 9:00 AM
15 Ho-onko Service Board meeting 8:30 am Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School	16 Myokyo Deadline	17	18	19	20	21
22 Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Sunday Service 10 am Bwa New Year's Party 11:30 am	30	31				

*February 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 YouTube Shotsuki Service
5 Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School	6	7	8 Study class via Zoom 6 pm	9 Book Club at King's Books 7:00 PM	10	11 Spirit, Mind, and Body Yoga for Compassion 9:00 AM
12 Nirvana Day and Pet Memorial Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Board meeting 8:30 am Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School	20 Myokyo Deadline	21	22	23	24	25
26 Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School	27	28				