

**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

タコマ仏教会 (浄土真宗)

1717 S. Fawcett Ave., Tacoma, WA 98402-1706

TEL:(253) 627-1417

MAIL: [buddhist.temple@tacomabt.org](mailto:buddhist.temple@tacomabt.org)

WEB: <http://www.tacomabt.org/>



# MYOKYO 明鏡

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

February, 2016

### Sensei's Message



By becoming foolish

Rev. Kojo Kakihara

As I talked before, my daughter, Satone has been attending a pre-school since last September. She goes five days a week, from 9 am to 3 pm. Although she has been getting used, because she cannot communicate in English as well as other students yet, when I pick her up, she first says, "I've got tired~." But she has never said that she does not want to go, so she seems to be enjoying herself. She learns a lot every day, learning songs of numbers or the name of months, and playing with a jump rope or a hula hoop. Coming back home, she tells me like, "I did this today," or "I learned this song today." A child absorbs various things and grows every day.

As for me, after graduating a university, I worked at a trading company for 3 years. And then, I went to Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin, a Buddhist special school of Hongwanji in Kyoto for 2 years, where I studied Jodo Shinshu and Buddhism. But this Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin was a little different from a regular school. I still remember well what the principal of the school told us at the entrance ceremony. He said, "This school is a little unique. Why? Because this school is where the young and the old, the men and the women, all enter together, learn the teachings of Jodo Shinshu and Buddhism together, and graduate all together by becoming foolish." When I heard these words from the principal, I was surprised.

At a regular school, we study hard and accumulate lot of knowledge, so to speak, become smart and graduate. In a society, we try to acquire something useful or make effort to be smarter than others. Even in Buddhist sects of Path of Sages, as Shinran Shonin did for 20 years at Mt. Hiei which was the highest institute of Buddhism in Japan at that time, they perform Buddhist practices hard, study hard, and aim enlightenment by cultivating virtues. However, Jodo Shinshu tradition is completely opposite. It is not that we pile up knowledge and become smarter, but it is that the more we listen to Buddha Dharma, the more we are made to realize our foolishness, the humbler we become, and the lower our head is made to bow. It is not what we aim enlightenment somewhere far from here, but what we, here and now, as we are, meet the Truth of Amida, and are made to realize what we really are.

Honen Shonin, the life-time teacher of Shinran Shonin left the following words.

*Persons of the Pure Land tradition, attain birth in the Pure Land by becoming their foolish selves.  
("Lamp for the Latter Ages", CWS p531)*

The more brightly the Sun shines, the darker the shadow becomes. The more brightly our life is shined by the light of great wisdom called Amida, the more we become are of our true self.

A Jodo Shinshu sensei said as following; "Jodo Shinshu is the teaching with which we get awoken to Life and are born in the Pure Land. However, we are born in the Pure Land or attain enlightenment not with our knowledge or understanding, but with the power of Truth called Amida." It is, of course, important to learn the teaching and ritual manners, or to deepen our understanding. But the teaching of nembutsu is what the more we listen, the emptier we become. The emptier we become, the more widely the eyes of our minds are made to open, and the more we become aware of own foolishness, the preciousness of our Life, and boundless connection of our lives. We recite the nembutsu, the name of Amida Buddha. Amida Buddha is the embodiment of Truth, the Buddha of immeasurable Life and immeasurable Light.

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. Submit your questions in the box at the foyer. The next will be on **February 28<sup>th</sup>**.

## **Basic Buddhism Class**

We have Study Class at 7pm mostly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month.

The next class will be "Introduction to Tannisho" at 7 pm, Feb. 3rd in the Rev. Pratt Room, and March 11<sup>th</sup> in March. Please enter through the side walk on the left side of the building.

### ぐしゃ おうじょう 愚者になりて往生す

かきはらこうじょう  
柿原興乗

いぜんも はな ちようじよ さとね きよねん がつ ほいくえん かよ しゅういつか あさ じ ごご じ  
以前もお話ししましたが、長女の慧音は、去年9月から保育園に通っています。週5日、朝9時から午後3時  
まであるのですが、慣れてきたとはいえ、まだまだ英語でのコミュニケーションは十分には出来ないので、  
いつもお迎えに行くと、「疲れた〜。」と言っています。ですが、行きたくない、と言ったことは一度もない  
ので、楽しんでるようです。数字や月の名前の歌を習ったり、縄跳びやフラフープをしたりして、帰ってく  
ると、「今日はこんなことを勉強したよ。」と教えてくれます。子どもは、毎日、色々なことを吸収して、  
日々成長しています。

わたし だいがく そつぎょう あと いっぱん かいしゃ ねんかん はたら ご ほんがんじ せんもんがっこう  
私は、大学を卒業した後、一般の会社で3年間ほど働いていました。その後、本願寺の専門学校、  
ちゅうおうぶつぎょうがくいん ねんかん じょうどしんしゅう ぶつぎょう べんきょう わたし い ちゅうおうぶつぎょうがくいん  
中央仏教学院で2年間、浄土真宗、仏教の勉強をしました。しかし、私が行った中央仏教学院は、  
ふつう がっこう とは少し違っていました。入学式の時、校長先生がこう言われたのを、今でもよく覚えてます。

「この学校はちょっと変わった学校です。なぜか。この学校は、若い人も若くない人も、男性も女性も、みんな  
いっしょ にゅうがく いっしょ じょうどしんしゅう おし まな みんな おろ いっしょ そつぎょう がっこう  
一緒に入学して、一緒に浄土真宗の教えを学んで、みんなでおろかになって一緒に卒業する学校です。」

こうちようせんせい い とし わたし  
校長先生がこう言われた時、私はびっくりしました。

一般の学校では、私たちは、一生懸命勉強して、知識を詰め込んで、言ってみれば、賢くなって卒業します。一般の社会でも、私たちは、何か役立つものを身に付け、賢くあろうと努力します。聖道門の仏教でも、親鸞聖人が比叡山での20年間にされたように、一生懸命修行をし、勉学に励み、徳を積んで、悟りを目指します。しかし、浄土真宗の教えは全く逆です。知識を詰め込んで、偉くなるのではなく、聞けば聞くほど、自分の愚かさに気づかされ、頭が下がる。どこか遠くに悟りを目指すのではなく、今ここで、私のままで、阿弥陀という真実に出会い、自分の本当の姿に気づかされていく教えです。

親鸞聖人の師匠、法然上人が以下の言葉を残されています。

浄土宗の人は愚者になりて往生す (『親鸞聖人御消息』注釈版P771)

太陽の光が照らせば照らすほど、影が濃くなるように、阿弥陀という限りない智慧の光に照らされれば照らされるほど、本当の自分の姿に気づかされていくのです。

ある浄土真宗の先生がこう言われました。

「浄土真宗は、いのちに目覚めて、浄土に生まれる教えです。しかし、自分の知識や理解によって、浄土に生まれるのではなく、阿弥陀という真実の力によって、往生するのです。」

もちろん、仏教を勉強して理解を深めたり、作法を習うことは大切です。しかし、お念仏の教えは、聞けば聞くほど、自分が空っぽになる教えです。空っぽになればなるほど、心の眼は開かれて、自分の愚かさに気づかされていく。そして、自分のいのちの尊さ、いのちの無限のつながりに目覚めていくのです。

私たちはお念仏、阿弥陀さまの名前を称えます。阿弥陀さまとは、限りないいのちと限りない光の仏さまです。

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2月28日です。お聴聞ください。

### Future Schedule

Every Monday at 7pm

Wednesday, February 3 at 7pm

February 12-14

Sunday, February 14

Sunday, March 6 at 11 am

Wednesday, March 9 at 7pm

Sunday, March 13

**Mindfulness Meditation (Not on Feb. 15)**

**Basic Buddhism Class "Introduction to Tannisho"**

**Northwest District Buddhist Convention in Ontario**

**No Sunday Service (NWD Buddhist Convention)**

**Sukiyaki Dinner (No Sunday Service)**

**Basic Buddhism Class "Introduction to Tannisho"**

**Coffee Hour after the Family Service**

### Nirvana Day & Pet Memorial Service February 7

We are observing our Nirvana Day Service combined with Pet Memorial on February 8.

Please bring pictures of your loved pets that have been gone. The pictures will be displayed in the altar during the service.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The late Steve Jobs, innovator, disrupter and often irritant to those closest to him had many memorable quotes. Reverend Kakihara has shown his 2005 Stanford Commencement Speech in our service and recently reminded us of one quote: "Stay hungry. Stay foolish." There is another quote from this speech that also seems relevant for the temple and for what we need to achieve in 2016.

"You can't connect the dots looking forward, you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something: your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. Because believing that the dots will connect down the road will give you the confidence to follow your heart, even when it leads you off the well-worn path."

The Issei and Nissei set down many dots for us to learn from and appreciate. And it's up to us to use those dots to make the future work for us. Their perseverance, hard work and sense of community helped to build the temple legacy. The dots we hope to connect include our long-time non-member families, our Northwest district temples, our new and old members and our own board committees. While it may seem that the temple will run and operate as usual, we may mark some dots that lead us off that well-worn path and I appreciate everyone's support in taking these leaps.

In Gassho,

Crystal

### **One Step at a Time!**

For many years, the temple has researched and estimated different options to help those with mobility challenges to safely use stairs to enter and exit our temple. The building layout, construction limitations and financial cost have made it difficult to find the right sized solution. But in December, Lynn and Ken Tanino researched options to transport people one-by-one. And through their diligence, the Evac Chair was selected as the best option for our needs.

On top of that, Mrs. Toyoko Nakagawara donated funds to purchase the chair and make available for any visitor or member to use. We are very fortunate for this donation and appreciate her generosity. To operate this non-electronic chair, there are members who are trained and are available on special events, Sunday morning and after temple to help. To use the chair, please let Ken Tanino, Mike Shiogi, David Yotsuuye or Tom Hubbell know in advance, and we (they) will be ready for you!

Thank you very much Mrs. Nakagawara for making it possible for many others to come to temple with fewer restrictions!

In Gassho,  
The Temple Board

## **Buddhist Women's Association News**



Hello Ladies~hope life is treating you 'good' as we are gearing up for another active year. Thank you to everyone who helped with the zenzai refreshments for Hoonko and to June for making the takuwan. An odd combination but the flavors complement each other.



In February, there are ten members registered to attend the NWD convention hosted by the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple. Let's go "**Seeking the True and Real**" while making new friends and meeting old acquaintances and for some, family. As well as taking part in the voting process of the proposed NWD BWA by-law amendments.

In conjunction with the pet memorial service next month, the BWA will be collecting **clean**, used old towels to donate to the local Humane Society. On February 7-28, a bin will be in foyer to drop off your donations. All sizes accepted, be kind and be sure it is washed.

Our first **general meeting will be on the 28<sup>th</sup>**. Hope to see all of you there. A light lunch will be served by the February BWA toban ladies: Barbara Madsen, Anita Nakayama, Michiko Saito, Yaeko Nakano, Nancy Butterfield, Pauline Yamashita and I.

The BWA would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of Jim Itami. We are thinking of you during this time of sorrow.

In gassho,  
Patti Wong

## **Buddhist Education Committee News**



The BEC is absolutely thrilled to see a record number of new members join our Temple. To see so many people make such an important commitment to experience the true Buddha Dharma of Jodo Shinshu says a lot for our Temple community.



It's important that we all reach out and do what we can to insure our newest sangha members are comfortable here at TBT.

We all have those moments when we are a little unsure of what we are doing. Something even as routine as Oshoko or sutra chanting can be a little un-nerving when you're not totally confident that you are doing it correctly.

My experience at the Temple has been that no one here stands in judgment of another. Simply making your best effort to learn and help out when help is needed is the best way to gain support and to become an integral part of this dynamic Temple family.

With Love and Gassho,  
Fred Pelger

## **Dharma School News**



The Temple New Year's party entertainment was a great time to showcase our talented youth. Fuji Taiko opened the show with Kenzo Yoshitomi, the youngest player in the group. We enjoyed wonderful piano music from Enzo and Jet Yotsuue and Josiah Cook. Then Rio and Kalea Shimizu showed their expertise on unicycles, and Kalea performed a beautiful ballet dance. To end the program with flair, the two girls and their dad played the marimbas! Great program!



Several classes worked to make beautiful Valentines for Veterans, a project that was brought to our attention by Barbara Madsen. Thanks Barbara for sharing this Tacoma Public Library project with us.

We will not have Sunday service or class on February 14<sup>th</sup> as many of us will be traveling to Ontario, OR for the NW Buddhist convention.

Gassho,  
Donna Sasaki

## **From Your Facilities Committee**



Sometimes we tune in to our favorite radio stations and end up with a little more than we bargained for. Last night, in gleeful anticipation of listening to some golden oldies on KIXI 880 AM, I was treated to Elvis Presley intermingled with Mexican pop music. Now I love both, but not coming out of my speakers at the same time. Sweet tea and chocolate ice cream are great but the combination doesn't come across as very palatable. The same goes for dharma talks and transmissions from radio stations. For several weeks Reverend Kakihara was pelted with unsolicited, over-the-air comments from the peanut gallery. Tom Hubbell sprang into action and switched some connection, and voila, the offending comments were silenced. Now if dirt and dust could squawk we wouldn't hear a peep out of them with Jeff Hiroo and Fred Pelger around. Every week they visit and clean the temple. In addition to that we have Kurt Osaska and his crew providing their valuable services in maintaining our grounds. We are always grateful for their efforts. Tom Hubbell, Delbert Sasaki, Gary Ichinaga, Bob Yoshioka and Tad Kajimura continue to perform awesome work for our temple.



## **Toban News**



**Sukiyaki Dinner Fundraiser:** ALL MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO HELP

All toban members are asked to help with Sukiyaki Construction, **Sunday, Feb. 28** after service and with Sukiyaki clean-up on **Tuesday, March 8, 7 p.m.**

**February 2016 and January 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.

**January Members:** Glenn Morita (chair), Renee Moriguchi, Frank and Violet Mizukami, Yasuko Morita, Jane Burster, Brandon and Hisami Sohn,  
Phone tree members - Hiroshi and Kats Fujita

**January Group Responsibilities:**

- Monthly clean up with February
- Sukiyaki: Make lunch Sunday prior to Sukiyaki

**February Members:** Matthew and Merlaine Cook (chairs), Ken and Lynn Tanino, Jill Case, Tom and Lynrae Hubbell, Samuel Laporte  
Phone tree members – Toyoko Nakagawara, Devi Dawady, Kim & Cindy Nakamura, Pauline Yamashita, Ed & Kimiko Fujinaga

**February Group Responsibilities:**

- Monthly clean up with January
- Sukiyaki: Make lunch Sunday prior to Sukiyaki (February toban to coordinate)

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

**March Group Responsibilities:**

- Sukiyaki Dinner: Provide snacks for Saturday, March 5 - the day before Sukiyaki

**April Members:** Linda Teal (chair), Darlene Matsumoto, David Campbell, Thelma Abe, Gary and Gail Ichinaga, Alisha and Brandon Wood

Phone tree members – Toshie Fujita, Larry and Kiyomi Fujita, Hana Yoshida, Frank and Betty Nomiya

**April Group Responsibilities:**

- Sukiyaki Dinner: Provide snacks for Sukiyaki Saturday, March 5.

**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:**

- Sukiyaki Dinner: Provide snacks for Tuesday, March 8 evening clean up after fundraiser



**Welcome new members; Peter Lee's wife, Hiromi; Robert Ragland from Olympia and Harry Taniguchi, Jr from Normandy Park.**

**Happy New Year and thank you for your continued support of our temple!**

***Reminder: Pledge forms are due January 31, 2016.***

**Sukiyaki Fundraiser, March 6, 2016**

Our Temple's *first* fundraiser, the annual Sukiyaki Dinner, will be held March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The menu will include our tasty sukiyaki dinner, chicken dinner and side, mochi ice cream, mochi cupcakes and we are bringing back, Sensei's tasty miso soup. We will not be serving kabobs this year. Dinners prices are based on the increase cost of the ingredients.

Thank you to Bob Nakayama and Lynne Tanino for distributing the \$13 tickets. Posters advertising this event are available for you to post in your neighborhood or work place.

Committee chairs may be contacting you to help. Please volunteer, even if it's only a partial shift. If you have not been contacted and are available to help, contact June Akita 425-271-0720 or Sensei. Friends and non-members are also welcome to help.

Mark your calendars with these very important dates and times:

<b>Construction</b>	Sunday, February 28 <sup>th</sup> after service. A light lunch will be served
<b>Food Preparation</b>	Saturday, March 5 <sup>th</sup> , 8:00 am
<b>Vegetable Washing</b>	Saturday, March 5 <sup>th</sup> , 7:30 am
<b>Sukiyaki Dinner</b>	Sunday, March 6 <sup>th</sup> , 11:00 – 4:00 pm Check with the committee chairperson for 'your' start time
<b>Tear Down</b>	Tuesday, March 8 <sup>th</sup> , 7:00 pm

Thank you for your many efforts to make this a successful fundraising event.

June Akita, Co Chair

## **70th Annual Northwest Buddhist Convention**

Many of us are looking forward to the NW Buddhist Convention hosted by the Idaho Oregon Buddhist Temple on February 12-14th. However, this means Tacoma will be hosting the following year!

Planning has already begun and many people have been contacted to chair a portion of the weekend. Our theme for the February 17-19th, 2017 convention is "WAKE UP!" We are fortunate to have Rev. Marvin Harada from the Orange County Buddhist Church as our main speaker. Hopefully, his friend, Fred the Frog will accompany his journey to the northwest. (For some of you who may not realize, Rev. Marvin is our Donna Sasaki's younger brother.) Our very capable BEC committee not only selected the theme and guest speaker, but will be guiding the workshops and discussion topics as well.

We have contracted the DoubleTree Suites in Tukwila again for our convention. Room rates are good and includes free breakfast buffet , (1) free coffee, free parking and many other great amenities as registered guests. So please mark your calendars for February 17-19, 2017, and let John and/or me know if you would like to be part of any committee.

We will schedule our first meeting soon after our Sukiyaki Fundraiser March 6th.

John Inge and June Akita, Co chairs

## **Welcome to Tacoma Buddhist Temple!**

We introduce our new members who joined the temple recently.



### **Allan Oshima**

**Where do you live?** - "I live in Federal Way."

**Where are you from originally?** -

"I'm from Oakland, California."

**What do you do?** - "I am a Supervisor with Public Disclosure Specialist /  
Records Management."

**Tell us about your family.** -

"My uncle and aunt are members of Fremont temple in California."

**Why did you decide to join the temple?** -

"It is close to me and is small, inviting, and very friendly."

**What are your hobbies?** -

"I enjoy a good Texas-Hold'em poker game."



# 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.

<b>February</b>	<b>7</b>	Denise Cline / Rick Tanabe
	<b>14</b>	<b>No Sunday Service (NWD Buddhist Convention)</b>
	<b>21</b>	Henry Stoll / Michael Shiogi
	<b>28</b>	David Campbell / Les Hitsman
<b>March</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>No Sunday Service (Sukiyaki Dinner)</b>
	<b>13</b>	John Inge / Linda Teal
	<b>20</b>	Del Sasaki / Mayumi Ikeda
	<b>27</b>	Richard Ling / Kevin Ikeda



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



### March 2016;

1 <sup>st</sup> Year	Nakagawara, Minoru	Shaku Jitsu-Gon	March 12, 2015
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	Jensen, Mitsuko Oku	Shakuni Bi-Sho	March 21, 2014
13 <sup>th</sup> Year	Nakashima, George Masaru	Shaku Shin-Yu	March 27, 2004
	Murakami, Shigeru	Shaku Han-Po	March 31, 2014
17 <sup>th</sup> Year	Asahara, Molly Takako	Shakuni Ji-Kou	March 8, 2000
25 <sup>th</sup> Year	Hanson, Fumiko	Shakuni Bun-Ei	March 19, 1992
50 <sup>th</sup> Year	Nakao, Chie	Shakuni Myo-Kei	March 15, 1967

### April 2016;

7 <sup>th</sup> Year	Gach, Chikako	Shakuni Ji-Ko	April 7, 2010
13 <sup>th</sup> Year	Nakao, George Eichi	Shaku Ei-Ho	April 29, 2004
33 <sup>rd</sup> Year	Mukai, Setsu	Shakuni Myo-Setsu	April 5, 1984

### May 2016;

50 <sup>th</sup> Year	Tamura, Tamako	Shakuni Ji-Ko	May 16, 1964
	Kawabata, Chojiro	Shaku Myo-E	May 18, 1964



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

## **James Masagi Itami**

**Buddhist Name: Shaku Shin Ju 釈真寿 (Life of Truth)**

*Passed away on January 1, 2016*

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

*Namo Amida Butsu*

Temple New Year's Party, Jan. 10 - Many talented members entertained us!



Tacoma Buddhist Temple invites you  
to our ANNUAL

# SUKIYAKI DINNER

Sunday, March 6, 2016  
11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Please enjoy our

Traditionally Cooked Sukiyaki Dinner

Other Japanese specialties:

Teriyaki Chicken Dinner

Japanese Sweets

and much by popular demand...

Also Kaga's Special Miso Soup

(Take-out available)

We appreciate your support!

Tacoma Buddhist Temple

1717 North Foothill Ave.

Tacoma, WA 98402

(up the hill from UWYT campus)

☎ 252-227-1417

www.tacomabuddhist.org

