

**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)

February, 2017

### Sensei's Message



#### Beyond our visible world

Rev. Kojo Kakihara

February 15 is said to be the day when Sakyamuni Buddha passed away. But people considered that Sakyamuni Buddha who had attained enlightenment at the age of 35, not just passed away, but reached perfect enlightenment by losing its body. And it is expressed as "Entering Pari-Nirvana." Tacoma Buddhist Temple is holding its "Nirvana Day" Service combined with Pet Memorial on February 5.

Sakyamuni Buddha passed away in a town called Kushinagar, Northern India at the age of 80, and his body was cremated. As the notice of Sakyamuni's passing spread, representatives from 8 nations in India gathered requesting to be given his remains. But people of Kushinagar insisted that they had a right to keep all remains because Sakyamuni Buddha passed away in Kushinagar. Then, a Barahmin named Drona who was known for his wisdom, said, "*It is precious that all of you adore Sakyamuni Buddha. But if we really adore him, we have to value the teachings that he taught. Wasn't it what he taught that we have to value harmony without fighting nor hating each other?*" Saying so, he divided the remains into 8 in front of representatives of 8 nations, and he himself received a bowl used to divide the remains. A representative from the nation of Pippali was given the ashes left. Like this, right after Sakyamuni's passing, 10 Stupas (Buddha tower) where Sakyamuni's ashes was contained, were built.

100 or 200 years after that, the King Asoka opened those Stupas, gathered the remains, and divided it into even smaller. And it is said that 84,000 stupas were built all over India, and all over the worlds later. the Stupa became a place where Buddhists gathered to show their reverence while connecting more people with Buddha Dharma. I think not many people know it, but there is a stupa on the rooftop of the building of the Buddhist Churches of America headquarter in San Francisco, where the remains of Sakyamuni Buddha is contained. The stupa in which Sakyamuni's remains is contained, is the

place or the object of reverence where Buddhists gather, but the truly important is that through the visible stupa, we sincerely appreciate the teachings taught by Sakyamuni Buddha and practice it.

At Jodo Shinshu temples, the statue of Amida Buddha is enshrined in the center of Onaijin altar. Because of that, there are some people who think that Buddhism worships an idol. But we do not worship an idol. The Buddha statue which is visible represents the teachings of Buddha, Truth, or the working that transcend visible world. And we realize and appreciate those by the visible form of Buddha statue. Gold shining Onaijin altar represents the Pure Land, the world of Enlightenment. This is also what expresses the invisible world of Enlightenment in a visible way. Of course, we have to take good care of the Buddha statue and the Onaijin altar. But Sakyamuni Buddha taught us that we see or realize Buddha Dharma through something impermanent which has the form, and that our lives are interconnected beyond our physical life or death when we live in Buddha Dharma.

In living our physical lives in this world, we sometimes have to experience sad partings from our loved ones. But the sad opportunity is also the precious opportunity given by our loved ones for us to meet our true Life. Through Nirvana Day, let us again ask ourselves what Life is.

Gassho with palms together,

### Buddhism 101

Rev. Kojo answers your questions on Buddhism or Jodo Shinshu at Family Service or Dharma Exchange mostly once a month. Put your questions in the box at the foyer or send by email. The next will be on February 26.

### めみせるせかいこ 目に見える世界を越えて

かきはらこうじょう  
柿原興乗

2月15日は、お釈迦さまが亡くなられたご命日とされています。しかし、35歳の時にさとり<sup>とうたつ</sup>に到達されたお釈迦さまは、単<sup>たん</sup>に亡くなられたのではなく、肉体<sup>にくたい</sup>を離れた完全<sup>かんぜん</sup>なさとり<sup>とうたつ</sup>に到達されたと考えられ、「大般涅槃<sup>だいぱんねはん</sup>に入られた」と表現<sup>ひょうげん</sup>します。タコマ仏教会<sup>たこまぶつぎょうかい</sup>でも、2月5日に涅槃<sup>ねはん</sup>会の法要<sup>ほうよう</sup>が、ペット追悼法要<sup>べつとついでうほうよう</sup>と一緒に<sup>いっしょ</sup>お勤め<sup>つと</sup>されます。

お釈迦さまは、北インド<sup>きたいんど</sup>のクシナガラ<sup>くしなガラ</sup>という町<sup>まち</sup>で、80歳<sup>さい</sup>で亡くなられ、火葬<sup>かそう</sup>されました。お釈迦さまが亡くなられたことが知れ渡<sup>しわた</sup>ると、お釈迦さまのご遺骨<sup>いこつほ</sup>を欲しい<sup>ほ</sup>と言って、インド各地<sup>いんどかくち</sup>の8つの国々<sup>くにくに</sup>から使者<sup>ししや</sup>が集ま<sup>あつ</sup>てきました。しかしクシナガラ<sup>くしなガラ</sup>の人々<sup>ひとひと</sup>は、お釈迦さまはクシナガラ<sup>くしなガラ</sup>で亡くなられたのだから、そのお骨<sup>こつ</sup>は全て<sup>すべ</sup>私<sup>わたし</sup>たちのものだ、と主張<sup>しゅちよう</sup>しました。そこへ、賢者<sup>けんじや</sup>として知られるドローナ<sup>どろーな</sup>というバラモン<sup>ばらもん</sup>がこう言<sup>い</sup>いました。「皆さん<sup>みな</sup>がお釈迦さま<sup>しやか</sup>を慕<sup>した</sup>う心<sup>こころ</sup>はとても立派<sup>りっぱ</sup>だ。しかし本当<sup>ほんとう</sup>にお慕<sup>した</sup>いするのであれば、お釈迦さま<sup>しやか</sup>が説<sup>と</sup>かれたみ教<sup>おし</sup>えを大切<sup>たいせつ</sup>にしなければならない。お互<sup>たが</sup>いに争<sup>あらし</sup>ったり、憎<sup>にく</sup>みあわないこと、平和<sup>へいわ</sup>を大切<sup>たいせつ</sup>にすることこそ、お釈迦さま<sup>しやか</sup>の説<sup>と</sup>かれたことではないか。」こう言<sup>い</sup>って、ご遺骨<sup>いこつ</sup>は8か国<sup>こく</sup>の使者<sup>ししや</sup>の前<sup>まえ</sup>で、八等分<sup>はちとうぶん</sup>され、ドローナ<sup>どろーな</sup>自身<sup>じしん</sup>は、ご遺骨<sup>いこつ</sup>を分<sup>わ</sup>ける時<sup>とき</sup>に使<sup>つか</sup>った鉢<sup>はち</sup>をもらいました。遅<sup>おく</sup>れてきたピツパリ<sup>びつぱり</sup>国<sup>こく</sup>の使者<sup>ししや</sup>には、残り<sup>のこ</sup>の灰<sup>はい</sup>が与<sup>あた</sup>えられました。こうしてまず、お釈迦さま<sup>しやか</sup>のご遺骨<sup>いこつ</sup>を納<sup>おさ</sup>めたストウーパ<sup>すとうーぱ</sup>（仏舎利塔<sup>ぶつしゃりとう</sup>）が10基<sup>きた</sup>建てられました。

それから100年か200年後、アショーカ王は、これらのストゥーパを開いてお骨を集め、それをまた細かく分けて、インド各地に8万4千ものストゥーパが建てられたと言われています。そのストゥーパは、仏教徒たちの礼拝の対象として、多くの方に仏法とのご縁を作っています。ご存知の方は少ないかもしれませんが、サンフランシスコの米国仏教団本部建物の屋上にもストゥーパがあり、お釈迦さまのお骨が納められています。お骨が納められたストゥーパは、仏教徒が集まる礼拝の対象ですが、本当に大切なのは、目に見えるストゥーパを通して、お釈迦さまが説かれた教えを大切にいただき、実践していくことです。

浄土真宗のお寺のお内陣の中心には阿弥陀さまの像が安置されています。そのため、仏教は偶像を崇拝している、と思われる方がいらっしゃいますが、仏教は偶像を崇拝しているのではありません。目に見える仏像は、目に見える世界を越えた仏教の教え、真理、はたらきを表して、私たちは仏像によって、その教えをいただくのです。金ぴかのお内陣は、悟りの世界、お浄土を表したものですが、これも同様に、本来は目に見えない悟りの世界を、私たちの目に見えるようにあらわしているのです。もちろん、仏像、お内陣は大切に扱わなければなりません、お釈迦さまは、形ある無常なものを通して、法（ダルマ）を見ることを教え、私たちが仏法に生きる時、私たちのいのちは、肉体の死を超えて、永遠につながっていることを、教えられました。

私たちは、この世に生きる限り、愛する人との悲しい別れを経験しなければなりません。しかし、その悲しいご縁は、私たちが、本当のいのちに出会う、亡くなった方が下さった尊いご縁でもあるのです。涅槃会を通して、改めて、いのちとは何なのかを問うてみましょう。

合掌、

月に一度（可能な限り）日曜礼拝の後に日本語法話をいたします。次回は2月26日です。お聴聞ください。

### Future Schedule

Sunday, February 5 at 10 am	<b>Nirvana Day &amp; Pet Memorial Family Service Coffee Hour after Dharma Exchange</b>
February 17-19	<b>Northwest District Buddhist Convention in Southcenter</b>
Sunday, February 19	<b><u>No Sunday Service</u> (NWD Buddhist Convention)</b>
Sunday, March 5 at 11 am	<b>Sukiyaki Dinner Fundraiser (No Sunday Service)</b>
Sunday, March 12 after Service	<b>Farewell Potluck for Masayo, Satone, and Shujo</b>
Sunday, March 19 at 10am	<b>Spring Ohigan Service (Rev. Ogui, White River)</b>

### Nirvana Day & Pet Memorial Service February 5

We are observing our Nirvana Day Service combined with Pet Memorial on February 5. Please bring pictures of your loved pets that have been gone. The pictures will be displayed in the altar during the service.

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Farewell potluck lunch for Masayo, Satone and Shujo**  
After service – **Sunday, March 12**

Members will be contacted via email and/or Toban chair

## President's Message



We had a fun New Year's party on January 8 and enjoyed the contributions of many talented members for entertainment! Thank you Mayumi Ikeda (Toban Chair) and the January/February Tobans for organizing this.

Everything has been on high speed since the start of the year. Here are some major updates that you should be aware of:

**Rev. Kakihara is now Acting Rimban (head minister) of the Seattle Buddhist Church (SBC) Betsuin** ("Betsuin" is the largest temple in a district). Bishop Umezu of the BCA made this appointment a couple of weeks ago, effective January 1, 2017. This was a vacancy created by the retirement of long time minister and Rimban, Rev. Don Castro.

We have been meeting and talking with the President of SBC to work on an agreement about what Rev. Kakihara's duties will be for conducting services, supervising and coordinating the work of their resident minister and Minister Assistant staff, working with their Board and being available to their members. This also includes supervision of Spokane Buddhist Temple. Needless to say, this creates another large challenge for the coming year as we also try carry on with our usual events, prepare for his leaving at the end of the year and at the same time strategize for our Temple's future. But, please rest assured that we are working hard to arrive at an arrangement that tries to address the needs of all involved in the best way possible. Again, your understanding and support will be needed and appreciated....stay tuned.

**70<sup>th</sup> NW Buddhist Convention and Sukiyaki Fundraiser dinner** is just around the corner. The Convention is on February 17-19 and the Sukiyaki fundraiser is just two weeks later on March 4! Planning for the Convention has been going on for some time now and the first planning meeting for the Sukiyaki fundraiser was just held. This is an awesome example of how Temple members pull and work together not only to get the job done but to make it successful. Many members will be very tired! Thank you!

**Capital Fund campaign.** We are very close to achieving our goal of \$45,000. Hopefully by the time you're reading this Myokyo, we'll be there! We will start more work on the long list of projects to preserve our precious and historic Temple. Thank you to so many of you who have contributed to this fund!

**Volunteers needed.** We will be starting a monthly notice in the Myokyo for volunteer opportunities at the Temple. Many of our Temple members have hidden talents and skills....as so aptly demonstrated by Erik Hammerstrom with his singing and ukulele playing at the New Year's party! All of us volunteer our time to support the Temple and our community by taking on large and small responsibilities. What we do varies from time to time depending on what other life responsibilities pull on us. But putting all these efforts together is what makes it work! Please don't wait to be asked. Look out for volunteer opportunities that you can help with.

In Gassho and thank you for your support,

Wendy Hamai

## Buddhist Women's Association News



If I could put time in a bottle it would be a very marketable product, but such is not the case. However, the Myokyo deadlines keep me on my toes and makes me aware of time, how mindful I must be and how difficult it is to focus on the present. What will happen after I retire when every day is a Saturday?



After reading Sensei's article last month about the characteristics of a rooster one being "planning without hesitation", that was me, and now must retract what I wrote. I am sorry, this is not a good start for a new year. Thus, due to the Sukiyaki set up on February 26, our general meeting is rescheduled to **March 19** after the Spring Ohigan, Lady Takeko Kujo/Lady Yoshiko Ohtani & BWA Memorial service. A light lunch will be served by the Mar/Apr toban.

Thank you to members Anita Nakayama, Michiko Saito and Pauline Yamashita who helped with the zenai preparation/serving along with the Jan/Feb temple toban members. Making a large quantity definitely takes skill, not like cooking a 2 quart pot. But with everyone's cooperation and help, we did it and received thumbs up reviews and satisfied appetites. Maybe we can get on "Cooks vs Cons" one day.

Upcoming events to save the date:

- February 5-26** Clean, used towel drive donated to our furry friends at the Pierce County Humane Society. Bins will be in the foyer. The Jan/Feb toban to arrange delivery.
- February 17—19** NWD Convention conducting the NWD BWA meetings at Double Tree, Southcenter
- March 4** Interfaith Women's Conference @ Curtis High School-\$35 registration includes lunch. Limited to 500 participants.  
[www.AssociatedMinistries.org/IWC](http://www.AssociatedMinistries.org/IWC) for additional information.

May the months to come be filled with new experiences and everyone living in harmony.

In gassho,  
Patti Wong

## Dharma School Report

Thank you to the Dharma School students who participated in the temple New Year's party entertainment for 2017!

Piano solos by Jet and Enzo Yotsuuye  
Song by Ashley and Aaliyah Bozeman  
Marimba band with Rio and Kalea Shimizu  
Tacoma Fuji Taiko with Kenzo Yoshitomi



Many students will be active participants in the NW District convention hosted by our temple. They will be attending various workshops for their age groups and are also stepping forward to volunteer for special duties at the services and banquet. More on their involvement next month!

## Buddhist Education Committee News



As I write this, I realize that we are only about two weeks in to the New Year but I am already seeing a lot of **change** taking place at the Temple. I am also acknowledging a lot of **change** in my personal life as well.

One our most important Buddhist teachings, the universal truth of impermanence, reminds us that everything, everyone, and every situation is constantly **changing**. Nothing as we know it escapes **change**; nothing stays the same.



At the temple, one of the things we are changing is the way in which we will conduct Sunday services. This new format is in its early stages and will probably undergo some ongoing change as we work out the bugs and the kinks. Will it be uncomfortable? It might be for some, but coming to grips with the frustration of change is often what allows us to evolve in to something better.

Our service will now consist of some sutra chanting, a shorter Dharma message that is suitable for our young dharma students as well as our adult sangha members, maybe a gatha and a reading followed by announcements.

At this point the dharma students will proceed to their dharma classes as usual and the adults will remain in the hondo for their own form of dharma school, which we will refer to as Adult Dharma Exchange.

It would be our wish that the adults move closer to the front to hear what Reverend Kojo or one of the minister's assistants is presenting. This way we hope to open some exchange of dialogue between the presenter and the sangha members. Everyone will have their chance to comment and to ask questions.

As for changes taking place in my personal life.....I will have a final eye surgery soon, but the prognosis is that my vision will most likely not improve anyway.

You will all just need to get used to me holding my sutra book at strange angles and at varying distance from my face when I am on the Onaijin.

I don't see how my changing/worsening vision (or hearing for that matter) will make me a better person but I will do my best to be on the lookout for anything positive that comes from it.

As we all experience change and impermanence, lets make it easier on ourselves by knowing we are always surrounded by Nembutsu and keeping our feet firmly planted somewhere along the Eight Fold Path.

Change comes in many forms, shapes and sizes. Some change is uncomfortable but fortunately, some change is joyful and exhilarating.

Much Love and Gassho.....

Fred Pelger

## Toban News



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

All toban members are asked to help with Sukiyaki Construction, **Sunday, Feb. 26** after service and with Sukiyaki clean-up on **Tuesday, March 7, 7 p.m.**

### **February 2016 & 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 Alisha Wood know the clean-up dates to check for other activity conflicts and add to Temple calendar.

**January Members:** Ken and Lynne Tanino (chairs), Matthew and Merlaine Cook, Jill Case,  
Tom and Lynrae Hubbell, Trisha Bender

Phone tree members – Toyoko Nakagawara, Devi Dawady, Kim and Cindy Nakamura, Pauline Yamashita,  
Ed and Kimiko Fujinaga

### **January Group Responsibilities:**

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

**February Members:** Patti Wong (chair), Allan and Rose Kishi, Bob and Vicki Yoshioka, Danny Otsuka,  
Todd and Marsha Nakamura, Carrie Mori

Phone tree members – Tom Osaka, Hiroshi Nakagawara

### **February Group Responsibilities:**

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

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

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

**March Group Responsibilities:**

- Sukiyaki Dinner: Provide snacks for Saturday, March 4 - the day before Sukiyaki

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

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

**April Group Responsibilities:**

- Sukiyaki Dinner: Provide snacks for Saturday, March 4 – the day before Sukiyaki.

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

Phone tree members: Leroy and Penny Kawaguchi, Sam Uchiyama

**May Group Responsibilities:**

- Sukiyaki Dinner: Provide snacks for Tuesday, March 7 evening clean up after fundraiser.

**From Your Facility Committee**



Next year when we are planning the New Year Party let's make sure not to forget Old Man Winter. He's been really cranky this year and I'm sure there's more in store. Now he was plenty mad about being left off the list. On January 8, the day of the party, folks entered the temple and found Old Man Winter right in the Hondo. Needless to say he was giving everyone a chilly reception. It seems he conspired to induce an unsuspecting individual to flip the furnace switch on the breaker panel. Perhaps his/her eyeballs got frosted over, and were so blinded, he/she was unable to see the breaker panel labels that Lynrae Hubbell painstakingly placed. Maybe next summer we can make it up to him with an invitation to the Obon festivities. In fact we might be able to snooker him into helping out in that hot kitchen in exchange for a snow cone. While we are on the subject of extremes in temperature by January 15 the Capital Funds account was sitting at a very hot 43,200 degrees. Whoops...sorry I got thrown off by that thermometer. How about \$43,200? That puts us at just \$1,800 short of that \$45,000 goal. The top two priorities for utilizing the money are to retile the social hall and to refurbish the stage. That would entail replacing curtains, installing a floor overlay, and upgrading to a remote operated screen. As an alternative to electrically operated screens yours truly proposes obtaining some eastern gray squirrels that will operate wheels attached to pulleys. Since we have more squirrels on Joint Base Lewis McChord than the red necks can ever eat a few of them can be repurposed for a noble task. Unfortunately, we can't use rodents to clean the hood in the social hall kitchen. It is a fire department requirement that must be accomplished by the professionals. The facilities committee is currently obtaining quotes. We'll have to complete this every year. On the inside of our temple Jeff Hiroo and Fred Pelger continue to assault and terrorize dirt and dust on a weekly basis. Additionally, on the outside, Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens maintain our grounds in beautiful condition. Others who are important in maintaining our facility are Tom Hubbell, Rick Tanabe, Delbert Sasaki, Gary Ichinaga, Bob Yoshioka and Tad Kajimura.



## Sukiyaki Fundraiser, March 5, 2017

Out Temple's *first* fundraiser for the year, our annual Sukiyaki Dinner, will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Our menu will include our tasty sukiyaki dinner, chicken dinners and chicken sides, mochi ice cream, mochi cupcakes and of course, Sensei's tasty miso soup.

Thank you to Lynne Tanino for distributing the \$13 tickets. Posters are also available if you could help advertise this special event in your neighborhood or work place.

Committee chairs may be contacting you to help make this a successful event. Please help if you can, even for part of a shift will be helpful. If you have not been contacted and are available to help, please contact June Akita or Karen Yoshitomi. Friends and non-members are also welcome to help.

Please mark your calendars with these very important dates and times:

<b>Construction</b>	Sunday, February 26 <sup>th</sup> after service	A light lunch will be served
<b>Food Preparation</b>	Saturday, March 4 <sup>th</sup> , 8:00 am	A light lunch will be served
<b>Vegetable Washing</b>	Saturday, March 4 <sup>th</sup> , 7:30 am	
<b>Sukiyaki Dinner</b>	Sunday, March 6 <sup>th</sup> , 11:00 – 3:00 pm	Check with our committee chairperson for 'your' starting time
<b>Tear Down</b>	Tuesday, March 7 <sup>th</sup> , 7:00 pm	

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

### **Greeters Schedule**

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

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

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

<b>February</b>	<b>5</b>	Lynrae Hubbell / Michael Shiogi
	<b>12</b>	Erik Hammerstrom / David Yotsuuye
	<b>19</b>	<b>No Sunday Service</b> (NWD Buddhist Convention)
	<b>26</b>	Coco Inoue / Jill Case
<b>March</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>No Sunday Service (Sukiyaki Dinner)</b>
	<b>12</b>	Jeff Hiroo / Ellen Shigeno
	<b>19</b>	June Weled / Yasuko Morita
	<b>26</b>	Ken Tanino / Erin Berkey



## Yearly Memorial Services

### General Memorial Service Years for 2017

1st Year - 2016	17th Year - 2001
3rd Year - 2015	25th Year - 1993
7th Year - 2011	33rd Year - 1985
13th Year - 2005	50th Year - 1968



### March 2017;

1st Year	Shiogi, Yukiko	Shakuni Ko-Toku	March 1, 2016
3rd Year	Nakagawara, Nimoru	Shaku Jitsu-Gon	March 12, 2015
13th Year	Sasaki, Yaeko	Shakuni Ho-Chi	March 5, 2005
	Bush, Stewart William	Shaku Ko-Shun	March , 2005
	Yamasaki, Noboru	Shaku Sho-Shin	March 19, 2005
50th Year	Oka, Toyoshige	Shaku Ho-Sei	March 6, 1968
	Shigio, Seki	Shakuni Myo-Sho	March 30, 1968
	Tamaki, Hisakichi	Shaku Ho-Kai	March 9, 1968

### April 2017;

7th Year	Abo, Yukiko	Shakuni Yui-An	April 17, 2011
13th Year	Shigio, Tom Tsunoru	Shaku Myo-Shin	April 4, 2005
33rd Year	Masugi, Shigeru	Shaku E-Se	April 8, 1985
	Hiroo, Hatsuko	Shakuni Jaku-Shin	April 29, 1985
50th Year	Nakamura, Satoru	Shaku Jo-Kai	April 14, 1968

### May 2017;

1st Year	Yoshida, Sachiko	Shakuni Jo-Ko	May 14, 2016
7th Year	Bollick, Ronald Michael	Shaku Jo-Sen	May 21, 2011
33rd Year	Murakuni, Murakichi	Shaku Tai-Ju	May 30, 1985

## Welcome to Tacoma Buddhist Temple!

We introduce our new members who joined the temple recently.



### Tony Gregg & James Doyle

**Where do you live?** - "We live in the Hilltop district of Tacoma."

**Where are you from originally?** -

**Tony:** "I'm originally from Tacoma."

**Jim:** "I'm from Concord, CA in the Bay Area."

**What do you do?** - **Tony:** "I'm retired from the Travel industry. I was in inventory management for several Seattle based cruise lines."

**Jim:** "I work in federal law enforcement in the Department of Homeland Security. Before that I taught French at the high school level, at Stadium High School, and before that I was in the Army for 14 years. Mostly in Germany."

**Tell us about your family.** -

**Tony:** "I'm married to James. We have one grandson Draven. I have one sister who lives in Tacoma"

**Jim:** "My family on my father's side are Irish Catholics but my father stayed away from church. They came to California in the early years of WWII. My family on my mother's side had been in

California since the Gold Rush. My mother is Episcopalian and I was raised in that church. I have two brothers and a sister, and I have a son and grandson, and a daughter-in-law. Tony and I have been together since 1999 and we got married in early 2013."

**How did you encounter Buddhism? Or how did you get interested in Buddhism? -**

**Tony:** "I've always been interested in Asia cultures and religions. I'm drawn to Buddhism because its approach is very similar to a scientific approach. Buddhism uses logic, reason, and analysis. Buddhism is also very practical in terms of what is realistic and what will actually help us in our daily lives."

**Jim:** "I think Buddhism was always in the air when I was growing up and I had done some reading when by pure chance I came across T.R.R Murti's "The Central Philosophy of Buddhism" about the work of Nagarjuna. A whole world opened up to me. The first effect was that it reconfirmed my Christianity because every point Nagarjuna makes gave a rational basis to basic points of Christian doctrine. This was the first time I had ever seen them discussed in a truly rational and convincing way. And it made me a Buddhist; that was the second effect. There is a saying that all the best Christians are Buddhist and I can see why that would be true."

**Why did you decide to join the temple? - Tony:** "Basically the initial reason was the proximity to our house. We quickly discovered what a loving and accepting group of people attend."

**Jim:** "I was Tony's impulse and I guess the time was just right."

**What do you like about our temple? - Jim:** "Where do I start? The congregation is warm and welcoming to strangers in a way I had never experienced before, and I think this is an effect of the Buddhist outlook. Although it is a means of passing Japanese culture and identity on to the next generation I find no resentment whatever of so many non-Japanese in the congregation and I have to say I find that very impressive. I think even a sloth would be welcomed into the congregation. It is a truly loving community that appreciates everyone and what they can contribute. The main thing though is that this really all flows from Buddhist principles. And that is a tribute to your work, Sensei. You are an effective teacher."

**What's your hobby? -**

**Tony:** "Foremost gardening. I also like movies and working on home improvements. Caring for our two rescued greyhounds Dash and Saunter is a joy as well."

**Jim:** "I like to garden and I keep a few bonsai. I enjoy cooking though I cannot bake very well. But my real joy is languages. I speak several decently well and I like to study others on a more superficial level, the more unlike English the better. I have constructed two artificial languages, "conlangs" - one fairly simple and one quite thoroughly conceived. I am working up the resolve to begin studying Japanese."

**Anything else you want temple members to know about you? -**

**Tony:** "I'd like them to know how much I appreciate them."

**Jim:** "I want the other temple members to know that I appreciate them, both alive and passed on, and the community they have built and still maintain."

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Do you have some time and a talent or skill that could help?

**Hosts for monthly coffee hour:** Provide light refreshments, set up and host an after service coffee/tea hour. Great time for members to socialize and get to know each other. Occurs on almost monthly basis; you can volunteer to host one or two for this coming year.

Contact Wendy Hamai at [wfhamai@rainierconnect.com](mailto:wfhamai@rainierconnect.com)

**Myokyo editor or formatter:** Rev. Kakihara has been doing this and needs someone to take it over. The job mainly requires using Microsoft Word to format the articles for the Myokyo. He says it takes about 4 hours. Contact Wendy at [wfhamai@rainierconnect.com](mailto:wfhamai@rainierconnect.com)

**NW Buddhist Convention:** that our Temple is hosting in February could still use a variety of volunteers. Contact June Akita at [juneakita@comcast.net](mailto:juneakita@comcast.net)

**Annual Sukiyaki dinner fundraiser:** This is one of our major fundraising events that account for about 25% of our operating budget. Volunteers needed for dishwashing, servers and other jobs. Contact Karen Yoshitomi [kareny@jcccw.org](mailto:kareny@jcccw.org) or June Akita (see above)

### New Members Recognition, Welcome!



### New Temple Officers Installation



Temple New Year's party



Many temple members showed their talent





Don't miss  
Tacoma Buddhist Temple's

# SUKIYAKI DINNER

Sunday, March 5  
11 AM to 3

Please join us for traditionally  
cooked Sukiyaki along with  
other Japanese specialities  
such as Chicken Teriyaki and  
Miso Soup!

We appreciate your support of  
our annual Sukiyaki Fundraiser.  
Take-out is available.

Tacoma Buddhist Temple  
1717 S. Fawcett Ave.  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
(253) 627-1417

Up from UW Tacoma campus

[tacomabt.org](http://tacomabt.org)