



# 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 2021

**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

## A Rough Start To 2021

Rev. Tadao Koyama



Hello everyone! Wow what a way the year has started. January was definitely a turbulent month to say the least. In the first month of 2021, we have seen political unrest as we watched in horror as secessionists sieged the United States Capitol building. The Coronavirus is still running rampant throughout the United States and has taken more lives. It seems like we just can't catch a break!

During this time, more and more people seem to desire coming to temple or their respective places of worship to somehow make sense of all of the chaos we have seen in the past few months. The irony being of course is that we are now restricted from coming to the place we probably want to go to the most. While I am eagerly waiting to be able to open the temple doors again and to pack the temple pews, your health and safety are still my top priority. This means we have to hold off from coming back to the temple a little while longer.

While vaccines are slowly being distributed, we still have to do our part in making sure that we act as safely as possible in order to help quell this virus. To put it bluntly, we have had a rough beginning of the year, 2021.

I am not going to lie; I along with all of you have shared feelings of anger and frustration over these past few weeks. I can't help but think of the times of Shinran and how he was also born into a world of strife. All of the suffering he must have witnessed during his childhood and during his days in Kyoto. During these times it is important we turn our attention back to our teachings of Jodo Shinshu. It is important that we remember that we all are bonbu beings drowning in our own egos and harshly judging the world for what it should be!

With that being said, we also turn to the teachings as a source of inspiration of how to conduct ourselves in society. Our teachings turn us to truth, not to be understood in a manner that places us above the human condition, but to guide us in how we can best live our own lives but to also help those around us as well. Our teachings are never meant to be used as tools of strife, apathy, or hedonism. Shinran also condemned such thinking.

When we turn our thoughts to the thought of Namu Amida Butsu, it isn't a call for us to just be lazy and act in self-serving manners because Amida universally accepts all beings to the pure land. It is an indication that we put all of our trust into the working of Amida's Wisdom and Compassion. As we reflect on this, I ask that we also heavily consider that we take the lessons we have learned from our previous teachers and Shinran himself and deeply think as to how to apply it in our daily lives.

We have seen a lot of strife and unrest at the beginning of this year. Some of us are starting to assume that this year is going to be just as bad as the last one. However, that largely depends on all of us and how we are able to interact with one another. Will we continue the pattern of division and violence? Or will we come together as a nation in a peaceful way? The scary thing is that I do not know what the future holds. All I know is that no matter what happens, no matter what the fate of this nation will be, Amida will always still embrace me.

Namu Amida Butsu.

## President's Message



Thank you supporting our temple in 2020 as we ended the year having accomplished a lot of things under David Yotsuuye's leadership. I summarized these in a "Year in Review" in this edition.



Sadly, on December 17, 2020, Miyo Kanda, our long-time temple and BWA member passed away. Mrs. Kanda raised her children at the temple and was very active especially with the BWA, events and food prep. Always graceful in her demeanor, she will be greatly missed. I send my condolence to her children Gene and Cheryl and extended family.

While still in the planning stages, stay tuned for live Sunday services, interactive online classes and how-to's with temple members, and more. The book club, BEC speakers and engagement through Dharma School and BWA are other ways to get and stay connected.

Last, apologies for not including a letter and donation request about our Hoonko special service, the memorial service for Shinran Shonin. Please watch the service on our YouTube channel as well as the joint service by the NW District Ministers Association on their channel.

Stay healthy and safe!  
Gassho,  
Crystal

## Buddhist Women's Association News



While we can't yet be together for things like our annual BWA New Year's Party, I have been thinking about all of you and beginning to cautiously, yet optimistically think ahead to the things we will be able to do when it is safe to be together again. I have received several great suggestions for future bus trip ideas and other BWA activities. Keep them coming!



Thank you to all BWA members that have already sent dues in! There is still time to send dues if you haven't had a chance to do so yet. As a reminder, **dues are \$12** and are used primarily to cover our association dues to the NW District BWA and FBWA. A packet with reports and the 2021 toban will be mailed out to all members in February. Please mail your check made out to **Tacoma Buddhist Women's Association** to:

Tacoma Buddhist Temple  
Attn: BWA  
1717 S. Fawcett Ave  
Tacoma, WA 98402

**SAVE THE DATE**

On March 21, 2021, please join us for a special BWA Memorial Service honoring Lady Takeko Kujo, Lady Yoshiko Ohtani. This annual memorial service would have been one of the first services cancelled last year at the onset of the pandemic. With that in mind – we will honor BWA members that we have lost since the March 2019 BWA Memorial service.

Please take care of yourselves and stay safe and healthy!

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise Cline  
Tacoma BWA President

## Dharma School News



We made it through a solid 10 months of questions, of wonder, of Zoom Church. As we begin a new month, a new year, did you reflect on the past year? Did you change? Did you grow? Did someone make a difference in your life? Did you make a difference in someone's life? I applaud how families rallied together and friends helped friends. I applaud how we figured out ways to still have our services and stay connected. I applaud our DS students who had to adapt to a new learning style and yet, came back on Sundays to be with their temple friends. *I applaud you!* Thank you and "Happy New Year!"

Normally, the month of January is busy, busy, busy. This year we had **no** New Year's Service/ Keiro luncheon. We could not install our new TBT cabinet, meet new members nor could we enjoy a New Year's bento and listen to our DS students perform. But we are resilient, and we will celebrate with more appreciation *next year*.

Classes resumed on January 10<sup>th</sup> – it was so fun to see the kids and teachers!! As mentioned before, we will continue to hold classes bi-weekly through the end of Dharma School, June 6<sup>th</sup>. *Please look at the DS Calendar as there could be changes from month to month.*

We welcome **Trisha, Dennis, and Dillon Tisdale** to our Temple and to our Dharma School! They have been at our Dharma School classes since the beginning and bring much energy and delight to their classes! We look forward to seeing them (and maybe Gma Joyce) in person when we can open our doors safely for our families.

**DS Calendar for February:** February 7 ZOOM Class  
February 14 No class Nirvana Day, Pet Memorial Day, Valentine's Day  
February 21 ZOOM class  
February 28 No class

**Special Request:** Please send me some pictures of you and your pet(s). real or stuffed. I realize some of you cannot have 'real' pets, so stuffed is perfect as well! Pet Memorial Pictures needed by **January 31**. Also, if you do something special for someone or put a smile on a face or showed gratitude in some way, **a picture please**.

### DS Fun



**Fact:** The year 2008 witnessed two major temple events: (1) Minister's Assistant **Tetsuo (Ted) Tamaki** received his confirmation at the NWD Convention in February. (2) A new Dharma School Service Book was published. Several original and uplifting gathas, *composed by Donna Sasaki*, were also included. The Service Book Committee included **Rev. Shinjun Fukuma, Rev. Kosho Yukawa, Yasuko Morita, Michiko Yukawa, Vickie Kim, and Donna Sasaki**.

**“Student of the Month”**



Hi. I am **Enzo Yotsuuye** and in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. One thing I did during the pandemic is ‘wear a mask!’ One thing I learned this year was that I can’t hike very far with 15 pounds on my back!! My favorite dinner is spaghetti! My favorite subject in school is PE because I don’t have to learn very much. A favorite pastime is gaming! In five years, hopefully, I will be getting straight A’s in my senior year. I want to learn how to make any dessert!! A ‘temple flashback’ I recall is when I was able to make soup in Dharma School. I am very grateful for my mom because she does stuff I don’t like to do, like laundry. I am also very grateful for my dad because of his BBQ!! One way I showed Dana is by playing with the little kids if need be. My handwriting is not very good. I like water sports!!!

(Enzo’s birthday wish to **Rev. Yukawa**: “Thank you for teaching us these past years.”)

Have a great month, Everyone. Stay safe.  
Gassho, June

**Young Buddhist Association News**



As the YBA returns from winter vacation, we have picked things up where we left off by discussing our options for future projects to take on. Firstly, I would like to congratulate Jet for organizing and executing a very successful “Holiday Greetings” project. Furthermore, we have decided to postpone the Obutsudan Renovation for the time being as the project will be much more convenient to work on once we are able to meet in person.



In its place, we have decided to bring back our screen-printed shirts that we have created for events in prior years. We are currently weighing our options for how we would like to create and distribute the shirts due to our inability to meet in person, with the idea of an online store being a possibility that we will look into. We look forward to innovating the shirts and their distribution as we move forward in the year.

I hope everyone has been able to enjoy our marginally warmer weather recently!

Gassho,  
Josiah

<p>Happy Holidays and have a Great New Year!</p> <p>From Tacoma Buddhist Temple Fuji Taiko</p> 	 <p><i>Happy New Year We look forward to seeing everyone soon The Ikedas. Kevin, Mayumi, Akemi, Taishi</i></p>
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The Tacoma YBA sincerely apologizes to the Tacoma Fuji Taiko and the Ikeda family for not including your names on last month’s Holiday Greetings.

## Buddhist Education Committee News



In the *Contemplation Sutra*, the Buddha instructs Ānanda and Queen Vaidehī to imagine that they are in the Pure Land, telling them to "...see buddhas and bodhisattvas filling the sky and hear the sounds of the water, birds, and trees, and the voices of the buddhas all expounding the wonderful Dharma in accord with the twelve divisions of the scriptures." While the events of the last year, and certainly of the last month, have shown us that we are not living in a Pure Land, we can nevertheless hear the Dharma speaking to us in our daily lives if we pause to listen. Monpō 聞法 (もんぽう), which means "listening to the Dharma" is one of our key practices as Shin Buddhists. Just as in this passage, the truth is always speaking out to us: in the rustle of leaves, in the sound of a car going by, and in the cries of migrating birds.

One of the easiest ways to hear the Dharma is at temple during Sensei's message. Since arriving in Tacoma, Rev. Koyama has adapted to our pandemic world by releasing services on our YouTube channel every week. The BEC, which supports Sensei, is working with him on other ways for you to hear to Dharma. At the request of our returning President, we are looking into doing a live service each month, as well as guest speakers and other educational opportunities. So, watch this space! Until then, watch the YouTube channel, and keep listening for the Dharma wherever you are.

Erik Hammerstrom

## Toban News



Announcement: Until the Temple resumes in-person services and the stay-at-home order has been lifted, we will be postponing all monthly Toban cleanups, coffee hours and other activities. We cannot wait to see everyone again in person.

~Kaila

## Facility Committee Update



It is 2021 and the facilities team, like an eager racing horse, has bolted out the gate. If the team were a racing horse, you name it Blitzzer, the Gremlinator. By the time you get your Myokyo the new parsonage fence should be installed. Work started on 14 January and was scheduled to be completed on 22 January. Since the fence project hampered the repair of the sprinkler pipes, that project will commence after the fence is completed. Now that fence is not as tricky as a lock on one of the temple gates. It doesn't close properly, but a person with deft hands and the right technique might be able to lock it back in place. WD-40 and duct tape won't fix that situation. For enhanced security we could post a sign that states, "Jobs Available. Inquire Inside."

Jeff Hiroo and Fred Pelger's weekly visits keep the interior of our temple looking good. Tom Hubbell is taking time in his busy schedule to spiffy up both sides of South Fawcett. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, and Del Sasaki provide tremendous work for facilities projects. Additionally, Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens keep our temple grounds something to envy.

~Dave

## Yearly Memorial Service

### General Memorial Service Years for 2021

1 <sup>st</sup> Year – 2020	17 <sup>th</sup> Year – 2005
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year – 2019	25 <sup>th</sup> Year – 1997
7 <sup>th</sup> Year – 2015	33 <sup>rd</sup> Year – 1989
13 <sup>th</sup> Year – 2009	50 <sup>th</sup> Year – 1972

### February 2021

13 <sup>th</sup> year Mary Masugi	February 1, 2009
25 <sup>th</sup> year Raiji Sugioka	February 1, 1997
25 <sup>th</sup> year Kimiko Taka	February 17, 1997
25 <sup>th</sup> year Tsuruyo Shishido	February 18, 1997
33 <sup>rd</sup> year Takeshi Kato	February 1, 1989

### March 2021

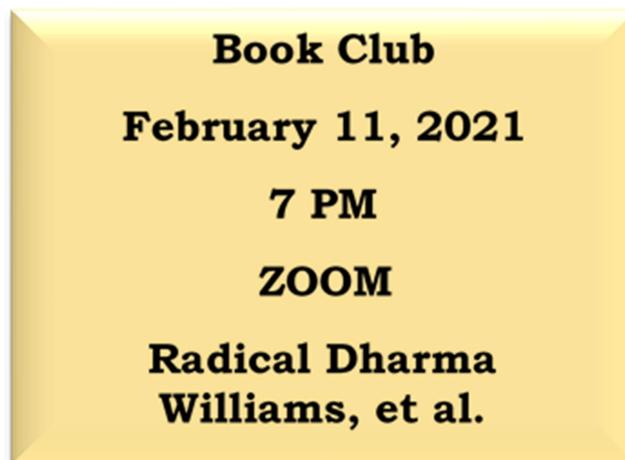
1 <sup>st</sup> year Allan Kishi	March 29, 2020
7 <sup>th</sup> year Minoru Nakagawara	March 12, 2015
17 <sup>th</sup> year Yaeko Sasaki	March 5, 2005
17 <sup>th</sup> year Stewart William Bush	March 5, 2005
17 <sup>th</sup> year Noboru Yamasaki	March 19, 2005
33 <sup>rd</sup> year Harue Shiotani	March 11, 1989
33 <sup>rd</sup> year Kumakichi Kawaguchi	March 16, 1989

### April

3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Robert T. Yoshioka	April 17, 2019
17 <sup>th</sup> Year Tom T. Shigio	April 4, 2005
50 <sup>th</sup> Year Tamayo Yaguchi	April 12, 1972

## Greeters Schedule

\*The greeters list will resume when the temple reopens.





As part of the Temple's security improvements, a 5' tall steel fence is being installed in front of the parsonage. The fence features a central gate at the entrance to the parsonage along with a gate between the temple and parsonage as well as a two part gate at the driveway. Installation began Thursday, January 14, 2021 by the Holland Ornamental Iron company and is expected to be completed by Friday, January 22, 2021.

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## **2020 GOES DOWN IN HISTORY**

We will remember 2020 as a time unlike any other. The pandemic still shakes all of our lives but as trite as it sounds – we will get through this. As Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, impermanence is a principle that reminds us that life is always changing. Difficult as that is, our temple continued to connect members and maintain events and activities. We look forward to 2021 and thank you for being a part of the Temple. While connections will most likely be online for some time, we appreciate your continued membership and energy in maintaining a sense of community. Cheers to connecting in new ways in 2021!

### **2020 A YEAR IN REVIEW**

#### **New Year's Party**

Akemashite omedeto gozaimasu! We kicked off the new year together with entertainment by Fuji Taiko and Dharma students, recognizing Keiro honorees and enjoying bento lunches toasting to the new year.

#### **Welcome New Members!**

While a handful of members dropped their pledge, we are excited new members joined.

Family: Kara O'Toole, Kt Hendrie and son Gus. Individual: Emma Inge. Just last month, Trisha Tisdale and her sons, Dennis and Dillon also joined. Please welcome them all!

#### **Sukiyaki – Just In Time**

Held on March 1<sup>st</sup>, we were able to hold this annual fundraiser just before the regulations and shutdown caused by COVID-19.

#### **Impact of COVID-19**

Beginning March 8, all in-person services were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Our first YouTube Service premiered on March 22 and from this month forward, all events, on-site activities were cancelled.

#### **Rev. Miyaji and Family Farewell**

We thanked Rev. Takashi Miyaji, Kaori and Keisai with a drive-by farewell for his reassignment to Southern Alameda Buddhist Temple and Institute of Buddhist Studies. Our temple was grateful for the 2+ years we had with them.

#### **2020 TBT Obon Goes Virtual**

Nothing replaces obon dancing, eating, listening to taiko drumming and sipping sake in the beer garden. But the virtual video was close to it! Many people helped to create our version of obon into a video with now over 1900 views.

#### **Rev. Tadao Koyama Arrives**

Who would have thought the Koyama family would come full circle? Rev. Tadao's uncle, Rev. Dean Koyama was our temple minister from 1996-2002. We are fortunate to have Rev. Koyama as our resident minister and his wife Rev. Cyndi Yasaki.

**88<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration for Rev. Yukawa**

We celebrated a very celebrated temple minister – Rev. Kosho Yukawa. With a video birthday card, gifts from the temple, BWA and Dharma School and a drive-by festivity at his house, his 88<sup>th</sup> was fun for him and Michiko too!

**Fall Bizarre Bazaar Fundraiser**

Raising funds to maintain temple operations is hard. But when it is just online – that’s even harder. Nearly 50% of members and over 40 non-members/supporters helped to meet our annual Bazaar revenue goal and we are very thankful!

**Poinsettia Sale**

Thank you to Todd and Marcia Nakamura, owners of Star Lake Greenhouse who donated all of the poinsettias for our fundraiser. Typically, this is a Dharma School Fundraiser but this year the temple sold over 100 plants.

**Junko Yotsuuye, DS Teacher**

The Federation of Dharma School Teachers League recognized Junko for her 10 years as a teacher. Her creativity, music talent and positive energy is appreciated by us all!

**Rev. Fred Pelger Retires**

Fred formally received his Tokudo in 2012 with much training from Rev. Yukawa. In addition to services, Dharma talks and lectures, he’s led numerous Lotus classes with interactive sessions. He remains on the BEC and continues to teach Dharma School lessons. Domo arigato Fred!

**Josiah Cook & Emma Inge, Published**

The Young Buddhist Editorial group selected Josiah’s Bodhi Day message and Emma’s photography to add to their website. Congrats to you both! (youngbuddhisteditorial.com)

**YBA Hosts Safe Halloween Party**

The highlight of the traditional party is the candy run. The YBA didn't let down Dharma students. Instead, they sequenced a very safe way for children to have fun and hunt for candy. Nice work YBA!

**Our Deep Condolences**

We are saddened by the passing of long-standing Dharma members: Frank Komoto, Midori Komoto, Miyo Kanda, Allan Kishi, Ichiro Nakayama and Sam Uchiyama. We honor them and thank their families for their dedication to the temple.

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**Announcing our First Live**



**Service and Coffee Hour!**

**Join us on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Do you miss gathering with sangha members at the temple? Well starting March 28th, the Tacoma Buddhist Temple will begin hosting one live service on the last Sunday of each month at our usual time of 10 a.m. For those who can't join the Zoom meeting, you may also view the service live on YouTube. Further information will be coming soon!**

**Our outreach committee will be sure to email you the link to the service!**

**After service, please stay for our virtual coffee hour.**

# *Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Tom Osaka*



Congratulation on 100 years in which you lived well, laughed often, and enjoyed some really good sake!!

We hope your special day was surrounded by many favorite and happy memories!

Tacoma Buddhist Temple



As we approached the Temple New Year's luncheon, it also was a time we introduced our Keiro Honorees to the sangha. Because we cannot gather, we could not recognize our honorees as they should be. Instead, there was a yearbook created and presented to each Honoree in hopes that it will fill this void and happy occasion. Unchanged, however, is our feeling of much gratitude to each of you. ***Okagesama de, arigato.***

With sincere appreciation  
 for your many years as our Temple Leaders,  
 Tacoma Buddhist Temple recognizes our  
***2021 Keiro Honorees***

**2021 New Keiro Honorees :**



Shinobu  
Inoue



Kazue  
Maesaki



Yoshiye  
Mayeda



Anita  
Nakayama



Rev. Kosho  
Yukawa



Dr. Jim  
Akagi



Asako  
Arima



Katsumi  
Fujita



Rose  
Kishi



Edward  
Mayeda



Vee  
Mizukami



Yasuko  
Morita



Jeanne  
Nakayama



Tom  
Osaka



Miyoko  
Sato



Frank  
Shigio



Martha  
Tamaki



Tetsuo  
Tamaki



Hana  
Yoshida



Fujiko  
Yoshikawa



Tada  
Yotsuuye

Irene Nagai photo unavailable

***Celebrating our Centenarians***



Miyoko Sato  
Sept. 2020



Tom Osaka  
January 2021

## \*February 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 YouTube Service Dharma School Via Zoom	8	9	10	11 King's Books, 7 PM via Zoom	12	13
14 <i>Nirvana day/Pet memorial</i> YouTube Service Valentine's Day DS project	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Youtube Service Dharma School Via Zoom	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 YouTube Service No Dharma School						

## \*March 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 YouTube Service Dharma School Via Zoom	8	9	10	11 King's Books, 7 PM via Zoom	12	13
14 YouTube Service No Dharma School	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 <i>Spring Ohigan/BWA</i> YouTube Service Dharma School Via Zoom	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <i>LIVE service 10 AM</i> YouTube Service No Dharma School	29	30	31			