



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 2024

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



Nirvana. What Does it Mean?

Rev. Tadao Koyama

Happy February everyone! I hope you were all able to ride out the storms of winter in warmth and comfort with your family.

Our January was quite busy! I always feel like we hit the ground running because we have so much to do in so little time. First, we have the New Year's Eve and New Year's Day services. It definitely feels like more and more folks are attending these services to ring in the New Year!

What a wonderful feeling! The other event that is so important for us as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists is our annual Hoonko service. This is the service that commemorates our founder's birth in the pure land.

This year we were originally planning on hosting this service with the ministers of Seattle, White River, and Tacoma at the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple. However, due to the tragic event of the fire that occurred at Seattle we were unable to have the service we originally intended. Yet, in times of great hardship, I have also seen acts of great kindness and compassion. The fire at Seattle Betsuin also spurred an immediate reaction from the other temples and sanghas in the northwest to reach out and offer help.

We all felt that this service was so important that with the quick working of Rinban Kusunoki, Rev. Cyndi Yasaki, and the generous community of the White River Buddhist Temple, we were able to hold the service at their temple and still offer a wonderful tribute to our venerable master Shinran.

February is usually the month we celebrate Nirvana day. This marks the day that the Buddha passed into Parinirvana and achieved the highest level of enlightenment we could possibly know. This also marks the time that the Buddha died in his physical body. Yet his teachings continue to live on to this day.

We see this term "Nirvana" a lot. A popular band was formed in the 80s from this state actually! However, what does this term actually mean? I have heard this term used in a multitude of fashions. Some have used it to refer to the "Buddhist Heaven", which I definitely don't agree with. It's also been used to describe this euphoric state of mind that is equal to enlightenment. I am not sure I fully agree with this term either.

If we look at the direct translation of Nirvana, it literally means, “to blow out”, which is often associated with the blowing out the flame of a candle. It implies the snuffing out of all of our blind passions and imperfections that hinder us from enlightenment. So, in a sense, for us as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, it is something that occurs after we die. Yet at the same time, we do not wait around and lament of our existence and wait for death.

In our tradition’s teachings, Amida Buddha achieved the perfect state of Nirvana ten kalpas ago and is still working in the pure land to send us wisdom and compassion in our life right now. So, while we ourselves as bonbu or unenlightened beings cannot hope to achieve true Nirvana by our own means and in this lifetime, we do not need to despair as the enlightened wisdom and compassion continues to come to us at this very moment, purely for our benefit.

President’s Message



The arson fire that took place at the Seattle Betsuin on New Year’s Eve was a devastating and unfortunate occurrence. Irreplaceable temple records and mementos were lost, and the rebuilding and recovery that must occur will take months, if not years. The disruption for the temple ministers, employees and sangha is profound. When occurrences like this happen to us, as either a group or personally, it is natural to see them in a wholly negative light.

While sitting in the recent Hoonko service, it was striking to me that even through the unfortunate context of events; I felt I was witnessing a feeling of togetherness. At the service, held at White River Temple due to the fire, there was a real collaboration and sharing between members from each of the temples participating in the truly special service, as well as preparing the meal afterward. The circumstances of an already collaborative service emphasized the interconnectedness and community through our collective sangha.

I have also seen this same sense of connectedness and sharing at our temple services, through the outreach of our Dharma School, inviting their Seattle counterparts to join in mochi making, or by our BWA inviting Seattle’s BWA members to take part in their New Year’s Party. We hope to continue this type of connectedness with our sister temples as we move forward.

Please consider supporting Seattle Betsuin in the rebuilding of their temple through donations to their Arson Restoration fund: <https://seattlebetsuin.com/fire/>

Gassho,
John

Buddhist Women’s Association News



BWA members will gather for our first General Meeting of 2024 on **February 25th**.

The meeting will be held in the Reverend Pratt room following service, with lunch provided by the January/February/March 2024 BWA Toban. We will do some activity planning including the BWA Bus Trip and June Bento Fundraiser.

Throughout the month of February, BWA has once again teamed up with the BEC for our annual pet food, supplies and toy drive. The complete list of most wanted items can be found in the foyer of the temple. Donations will be taken to the Tacoma Humane Society at the end of the month.

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

March 17 – Dharma School Cooking Class

March 23rd – Daifuku Mochi preparation day for BWA Memorial

March 24th – BWA Memorial Service honoring Lady Takeko Kujo and Lady Yoshiko Ohtani



Two other events to start planning for later in 2024:

September 13-15, 2024 – NW District Buddhist Convention, hosted by White River Buddhist Temple

October 4-6, 2024 - Federation of Buddhist Women's Association (FBWA) Conference in San Jose, CA

In Gassho,
Denise Cline, Tacoma BWA President

Dharma School News



How was the **Mochitsuki** event in January to start the new year? I hope you enjoyed freshly made mochi and had a chance to experience pounding mochi! Thank you so much, June, Yvette, Masa, David Y., Bobby, Kazuko, Tracy, Karen, Kjirsten, Mrs. Abe, Diane, and Jill for helping us make this event so fun! By the way, have you heard of “speed pounding”? In Japan, a mochi shop *Nakaya-do* in Nara prefecture is famous for speed pounding and can make mochi in 2 minutes! (you can watch their performance on YouTube).



Our Dharma School has extended our invitation to all Dharma School students at Seattle Betsuin to join us during their temple restoration period. Thank you, DS teachers and students, for your support and we certainly hope that they will be able to join us!

February 18, Lotus class members will be teaching younger classes. Thanks, Lotus class!

February 25, we are celebrating **January/February/March/April Birthdays**. Please join us in the celebration, especially if your birthdays fall in these months!

Lastly, thank you so much, YBA, for donating your fundraising money to replace the Rev Pratt room windows. It was completed at the end of last year, right on time for the cold winter we are experiencing! Your generosity and kindness is truly appreciated!

February - March Dharma School Schedule:

February	4	DS	Regular DS Class
	11	DS	Regular DS Class
	18	DS	All DS (Lotus students teach younger class)
	25	DS	Regular DS Class
March	3	DS	Regular DS Class
	10	DS	Regular DS Class
	17	DS	All DS (BWA cooking class)
	24	DS	Regular DS Class
	31	DS	Regular DS Class

If there are any changes in the future, we will contact you accordingly.

In Gassho,
Coco & Junko

Young Buddhist Association News



Hey everyone! I hope you all are having a great February so far and are pumped for the leap day happening this year!



Anyway, a couple things happening with YBA; as you may or may not know, YBA did get new windows in the Reverend Pratt Room! If you haven't seen them yet I really think that you should make a quick trip there sometime after service or something because they are beautiful!

Besides the windows, YBA has also made a unanimous vote to donate all of the \$520 we raised from the Season Greetings and Holiday Wishes Fundraiser to the Seattle Betsuin Temple to help fund their repair from the fire that happened on New Year's. Moreover, I would like to acknowledge everyone who participated in the fundraiser, it's because of our generous Sangha that we are able to support our sister temple, so thank you from the YBA and from Seattle Betsuin!

Gassho,
Nao:)

Buddhist Education Committee News



Since the last published Myokyo, much has happened in our Northwest District. Recently, Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple celebrated Hoonko and re-dedication of its temple since their devastating fire a year and a half ago. The remodeled hondo and social hall are absolutely beautiful and welcoming spaces.

And then, a fire at the Seattle Betsuin on New Year's eve caused much damage, including smoke and water damage in the temple. So grateful that no one was hurt, but saddened by the loss of archives, equipment and use of the temple for some months to come. Despite this news, there has been much support from NW district temples, organizations and communities far and wide. It is our hope that Seattle Betsuin will be able to open its doors again soon!

The joint Hoonko service (Shinran Shonin Memorial) originally scheduled at Seattle Betsuin was moved to nearby White River Buddhist Temple with participation by Seattle, White River, Tacoma and Oregon members. I could not attend but was able to watch via zoom and experience a one-of-a-kind special service that included live gagaku music.

Saturday, Jan. 13 events included workshops, a Dharma message by Rev. Cyndi Yasaki and service that included chanting of Ojoraisan: Shoya Raisen. There are a series of 6 Ojoraisan from Shan Tao's (one of the seven masters) collection of poem songs written to praise Amida Buddha. These chants are done at different times of day. This particular chant is usually chanted at 8 pm.

Sunday's service included music service Shuso Sango Saho - Ongaku Hoyo, a newly established chant first done during Shinran Shonin's 750th memorial service. It includes keyboard, gagaku, taiko and choir. Rev. Kusunoki stated that outside of Japan, this is the only district that has offered this chant with live music. Historic!

Rev. Yoshimichi Ouchi of Toronto Buddhist Church was the guest speaker and also one of the gagaku players. His message if you were unable to attend is worth every minute of your time to listen to him. He expressed his gratefulness to be able to place his hands in gassho with everyone. And he shared endearing life encounters with his parents and his recent trip to Japan to see his 4-year-old nephew he had not yet met. In his message he shared different ways he encountered the Buddha Dharma with others and the deeper meaning of "itterashai" and "ittekimasu".

To listen to Rev. Ouchi's message and to watch the joint Hoonko service, go to YouTube.com and search "White River Buddhist Temple". You will see a list of live streams including the services on 1/13/24 and 1/14/24.

Gassho, Donna Sasaki

Facility Committee Update



Due to Robert Yotsuuye and the YBA, the Reverend Pratt Room is sporting some new windows. Our YBA graciously funded this much-needed improvement. Additionally, a sign-up folder has been mounted on the front door. Along with that various signs have been printed and laminated.



Bakashmukatelli can't win for losing. Lady Luck has been leaving him high and dry at the casinos, and the aforementioned Facility Committee projects were completed without any hitches. Now there are allegations that our team has successfully bribed Bakashmukatelli to stay on the sidelines as we complete our tasks. As a result, the reputationally-damaged gremlin has been canvassing the swampy gremlin gossip scene to ferret out the allegators (the beady-eyed kind, not toothy variety). However, the gremlin's ill-fated attempts to sabotage the facilities crew is rooted in him being set up to fail. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, and Del Sasaki checkmate that troublemaker at every turn.

With all that let's not forget the outside. When spring arrives, Rick Tanabe, Delbert Sasaki, and Jeff Hiroo will be primed to slice and dice unruly plants into submission. Unlike the grass and weeds, litter doesn't slow down during the winter. But Lynrae Hubbell is keeping ahead of that litter along Fawcett Avenue and Court D Street

~Dave

Toban News



Upcoming Dates:



February 11 Nirvana Day/Pet Memorial, Coffee Hour
February 17 Spirit, Mind, & Body-Yoga, 9 AM
February 18 Board Meeting, 8:30, Onenju workshop
February 25 BCA Eitaikyo service stream

February February Toban set up cleaning of the temple with January Toban

March 3 Chanting workshop after service
March 10 Coffee Hour after service
March 16 Spirit, Mind, & Body - Yoga, 9 AM
March 17 Board Meeting, 8:30 AM
March 24 Spring Ohigan/BWA Memorial Lady Yoshiko Ohtani & Lady Takeko Kujo Service with Seattle & White River (in Tacoma)
March March Toban set up cleaning of the temple with April Toban

April 7 Hanamatsuri Service, potluck after service
April 14 Coffee hour after service
April 20 Spirit, Mind, & Body - Yoga, 9:00 AM
April 21 **Sukiyaki Fundraiser**
April 28 Spirit, Mind, Body - Meditation, 11:00 AM
April April Toban set up cleaning of the temple with March Toban

COFFEE HOUR UPDATES: Toban Chairs - **February 11** (Chikako Inoue), **March 10** (Kaila Yoshitomi), **April 14 (TBA)** (Henry Stoll & Wendy Hamai)

Coffee Hours: All coffee hours will be held in the social hall for now. Set up tables and chairs (take down after it's over). Provide coffee, tea, etc. Snacks can be made or store bought.

OTHER FEBRUARY TOBAN CLEAN UP DUTIES: Help with set up and clean up at the New Year's Party and Keiro Luncheon, work with January Toban to clean the Temple.

MARCH TOBAN CLEAN UP DUTIES: Set clean up times with April Toban of the Temple (clean windows and dust windowsills). Sukiyaki duties (TBA). Hanamatsuri activities (TBA) Potluck lunch (TBA)

APRIL TOBAN CLEAN UP DUTIES: Set clean up times with March Toban of the Temple (dust and vacuum pews in the Hondo), Sukiyaki duties (TBA), Hanamatsuri activities (TBA), Potluck lunch (TBA)

All Toban Chairs: Please email or call your Toban Groups to let them know of the above activities, especially for the set-up and clean-up of temple events occurring during your Toban months. Also arrange times for the monthly clean-up of the temple. Clean-up duties and supply list are posted in the kitchen ONLY. **NEW PORTABLE VACUUM CLEANERS ARE LOCATED IN THE CLOSET BEHIND THE ALTAR.**

Questions/concerns, please contact Michael Shiogi (253) 226-5812, mshiogi@comcast.net or Tracy Ling (253) 370-0933, tling12005@gmail.com

FEBRUARY TOBAN

Chikako Inoue
Kjirsten Winters
Shizuka Faria
Tracy & Richard Ling
June & Barry Weled
Ellen Shigeno
Peter & Hiromi Lee

MARCH TOBAN

Kaila Yoshitomi
Kenzo Yoshitomi
Al & Donna Sasaki
Karen Yoshitomi
Kazuko Inoue
Rose Kishi
Ed & Kimiko Fujinaga
Ted Matsumoto

APRIL TOBAN

Henry Stoll/Wendy Hamai
Rui Pittman & Victoria Evert
Gail Ichinaga
Les Hitsman & Fred Pelger
Anita Nakayama
Michiko Saito

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND HELP WITH OUR TEMPLE.

Tracy Ling/Michael Shiogi

Library News

Resolutions - Rest - Relaxation for the new year.



Anger - Wisdom for booking the Flames -Thich Nanh Than

Destructive Emotions: How to Overcome Them - Dalai Lama

Universal Meditation, Key to Mental and Physical Healing – Kawahata, Aiyoshi

Shojin Cooking - Keizo Kobayashi

A Young Woman's Journey with Autism - Christine Motokane

Jane

Greeter's List

February	4	Lynn Blick/Tracy Ling
	11	David Yotsuuye/Bobby Yotsuuye
	18	Tony Gregg/Jim Doyle
	25	David Campbell/Gavin Morgan

March

3	Del Sasaki/Patti Wong
10	Jeff Hiroo/Coco Inoue
17	Kara O'Toole/Kt Hendrie
24	Mike Shiogi/Debby Abe
31	Barry/June Weled

April

7	Mayumi/Kevin Ikeda
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Greeter's 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 or a white/green cover)
- ½-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

Thursday, February 8, 2024
7 PM @ Kings Books

***Standing at the Edge: Finding Freedom Where
Fear and Courage Meet***
Author: Joan Halifax

Yearly Memorial Service

Memorial Service Years for 2024

1 st Year – 2023	17 th Year – 2008
3 rd Year – 2022	25 th Year – 2000
7 th Year – 2018	33 rd Year – 1992
13 th Year – 2012	50 th Year – 1975



February 2024

3 rd Year	Larry Yoshio Fujita	February 6, 2022
3 rd Year	Sam Osamu Shimizu	February 11, 2022
33 rd Year	Fumiko Rauch	February 5, 1992
50 th Year	Kumiaichi Horike	February 6, 1975
50 th Year	Harue Fukui	February 1, 1975

March 2024

25 th Year	Molly Takako Asahara	March 8, 2000
33 rd Year	Fumiko Hanson	March 19, 1992

April 2024

3rd Year Kim Kawada-Schauer
3rd Year Tom Osaka
17th Year Takeshi Ikeda
17th Year Irene Ichiko Fujioka

April 2, 2022
April 19, 2022
April 10, 2008
April 26, 2008

tacoma buddhist temple's

sukiyaki

Save the date: Sunday, April 21st

More info to come next month!

Book Club

March 14, 2024 @ King's Book 7 PM

**How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention
Economy**

Author: Jenny Odell





Issho Open Taiko (IOT) is an opportunity to learn beginning level taiko, have fun and play together.

Known for 12 years as “**Open Taiko**”, “**Issho**” has been added to capture the spirit of these sessions.

Sessions occur monthly. Periodically, there are 3-4 session weekly workshops to focus on learning more taiko skills and longer songs for those interested.

Participants (public and TBT members) have ranged in age from teens to 80. IOT is an informal taiko education and “hands on” program without a requirement for regular attendance.

For more information and to register for a session, contact *Wendy Hamai* at (253) 678-2891 or wfhamai@rainierconnect.com

Donations gratefully accepted by Tacoma Buddhist Temple for sponsorship of this program.



*February 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 Sunday service 10 AM Dharma School after service	5	6	7	8 Book Club at King's Books 7 PM	9	10
11 Nirvana Day/Pet Memorial Service 10 AM Dharma School after service Coffee Hour 11 AM	12	13	14 Study class via Zoom at 6 PM	15	16	17 Yoga For Compassion 9 AM Social Hall Taught by Kara O'Toole
18 Board meeting at 8:30 AM Sunday Service 10 AM Dharma School after service Onenju Making Workshop	19 Myokyo Deadline	20	21	22	23 National Council Sacramento, CA	24 National Council Sacramento, CA
25 BCA National Eitaikyo Service Streaming at temple 10 AM	26	27	28	29		

*March 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Sunday service 10 AM Dharma School after service Chanting Workshop after service	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Sunday service 10 AM Dharma School after service Coffee Hour 11 AM	11	12	13 Study class via Zoom at 6 PM	14 Book Club at King's Books 7 PM	15	16 Yoga For Compassion 9 AM Social Hall Taught by Kara O'Toole
17 Board meeting at 8:30 AM Sunday Service 10 AM Dharma School after service BWA cooking class	18 Myokyo Deadline	19	20	21	22	23 BWA Daifuku mochi making-time TBD
24 Joint- Spring Ohigan & BWA Memorial Service 10 AM	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Sunday Service 10 AM Dharma School after service						