



# 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)

### March 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**    **Spring Ohigan: A Time of Transition**    **Rev. Tadao Koyama**



Happy March everyone! I am certain everyone is excited about the spring arriving and warmer days in the distance. This winter was quite cold for Rev. Cyndi and myself! Especially with the snow! Despite the cold of the snow, it was extremely beautiful to look at! It definitely made me think about how lucky and blessed I am to live in a nice warm house. I was told that the snow was quite late this year! Either way, it made for some great pictures of our temple covered in snow.

Now that it is the month of March, our temple observes our biannual Ohigan service.

For those of you who do not remember, "Higan" means "other shore". This represents the shore of enlightenment we cross to from the realm of samsara (the realm of birth and death). During this time in Japan, many temples and their members gather for sutra chanting, and for about a week many Buddhist followers go on a vegetarian diet to observe the precepts.

While Jodo Shinshu doesn't participate in this practice, we still celebrate Ohigan by gathering at the head temple of Nishi Hongwanji, chanting the sutras and scriptures written by the seven masters, and listen to dharma talks. I certainly hope that many of the members of this temple will one day be able to experience one of these holidays at the head temple.

During this time of transition and Ohigan, what should we as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists do? Should we go on a vegetarian diet? If that is what you wish to do, I fully support you. Should we chant more sutras in front of our Obutsudan? If that is what you wish to do, I fully support you! However, in our tradition there is one thing we should do, it is to once again deeply consider and reflect on the meaning of "Namo Amida Butsu". We say this wondrous and beautiful phrase every time we have gatherings at the temple (in person or virtual). However how many of us say it with a full understanding of what it means?

In observance of Ohigan, let us deeply reflect what Namo Amida Butsu means when Shinran tells us that we are all accepted without any discrimination to the pure land. For all of us, who are ignorant bonbu beings, Amida continues to teach us the depth of the Dharma and continues to show us wisdom and compassion. I certainly look forward to warm days ahead and to once again meet in person and gather at the temple.

Until we can meet again in person, please continue to wear masks, use hand sanitizer, practice social distancing, and most importantly, say the nembutsu.

Namo Amida Butsu

## President's Message



Temple member, Mrs. Miyoko Sato just celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Sadly,  on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, she passed away. On behalf of the temple, I extend my condolences to the family. Mrs. Sato was a revered senryu poet, oyster grower and supporter of our temple for decades.

We welcome March and look forward to warmer weather and spring blossoms. During this month, I hope you'll join our Buddhist Women's Association and Rev. Koyama on Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. This BWA Memorial service honors Lady Takeko Kujo and Lady Yoshiko Ohtani and is in conjunction with Spring Ohigan, led by Rev. Koyama via YouTube.

A new committee was formed in January to brainstorm ideas to connect with members and community. With board generated ideas, an online series titled "Spirit, Mind and Body Health" was created. To kick off the series, a Yoga for Compassion online class will be held on March 6<sup>th</sup> led by temple member, Kara O'Toole. Look for more information about the entire series in this Myokyo.

Exciting news here! Rev. Koyama and others will put on our first live temple service on Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. The idea is that the last Sunday of every month will be a live service and coffee hour. More details are shared in this Myokyo.

Lastly, thank you for your membership annual pledge and any donation for the special Spring Ohigan Service. With our fundraisers in a bit of limbo, your pledge and donations are very appreciated. Please feel free to contact Tracy Ling, Pledge Administrator at [tlinge12005@gmail.com](mailto:tlinge12005@gmail.com) if you need assistance or have questions on your pledge.

Stay warm and healthy!

Gassho,  
Crystal

## Buddhist Women's Association News



A packet filled with BWA reports, information, and activities was mailed to all BWA members in February. If you are a BWA member and did not receive your packet, please contact me and I will get a copy to you. Thank you in advance for filling out the included survey and returning it as soon as you are able. 

If you haven't had a chance to send your dues yet, please mail your check for \$12 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



I was privileged to attend Maitreya Class a few weeks back. The lesson was on the “seven steps of spiritual dana.” A few of the responses from the students were so sincere and thoughtful. **Enzo** said he could show gratitude to his mom by helping with dinner...**Tamsin** said she could help her sisters with their homework so they wouldn’t have to bother their mom or dad...**Nao** said she could walk the dogs...**Ivan** said he would pay more attention to their dog...**Mr. Kenji** said he could help out more with meals or cleaning to give his wife a break...’I even got to share that I like to make dinners for my daughter so she wouldn’t have to cook meals while being mom, teacher, wifey, cook, worker-bee, plus. It just warmed my heart that the kids thought of their parents and siblings in such an endearing light. So proud. I also liked item #4: Dana of the body – *Treating people with good manners shows respect for them.* I see this in our kids more and more. Powerful words. Thank you for letting me join your class!

So fun to attend Prajna Class today! Ms. Kjirsten encouraged her students not to procrastinate - to “just get started...it doesn’t have to be perfect!” Students shared how procrastination of doing schoolwork last minute makes for tension and pressure. After some discussion and a fun activity, I believe her kids had a feel for what she was saying. Great class!! (I need to listen to her message so I won’t be so late submitting my DS article...)

Students are making cards and writing messages to our Keiro Honorees and to a few DS Teacher’s parents. They are connecting to Keiro Honorees they haven’t met yet, and Keiro folk are receiving DS ‘treasures’ to enjoy ☺ Hopefully these cards are putting smiles on their faces during a trying time. “Round of applause” to all our students!!!

### DS Calendar for March:

March 7	ZOOM Class
March 14	No Class
March 21	ZOOM Class Spring Ohigan (BWA)
March 28	No Class

**Special Request:** Be thinking of how you will be celebrating Hanamatsuri April 11 at home. **Pictures please.**

### DS Fun Fact:



My apologies as I *correctly* share information on the *Dharma School Service Book* which was completed in 2008. “This project was established in commemoration of the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of our temple. Chairperson **Michiko Yukawa** recognized the Service book Committee members, **Rev. Shinjun Fukuma, Rev. Kosho Yukawa, Vickie Kim, Hisato Miki, Yaeko Nakano, Donna Sasaki and Ted Tamaki** who gave untiring efforts in composing, translating, revising, and programming the gathas.” *Thank you for your dedication for the completion of this project.*

## “Student of the Month”



Hi! My name is Marina. I am in second grade. One thing I did during the pandemic that I normally would not do is homeschooling. However, I did learn how to type!! My favorite meal is pizza and my favorite subject is Science. I like to do experiments and seeing the reactions. I like playing outside – jumping on the trampoline, playing badminton, etc. In five years, I think I will learn about fractions and division!!! I want to learn how to make a really ‘hard to do’ cake!!! (Like a tiered cake!) My favorite temple flashback was when my dad was a helper in Prajna Class. I am very grateful for Rocky because I can play with him. I am also very grateful for Brad Meltzer because he writes awesome “I Am” Books. One way I showed Dana is when I gave Xevi a Batgirl telescope because she likes Batgirl! A few things you don’t know

about me are: My favorite color is blue...I really like the musical ‘Hamilton’...***I don’t like eggs!!!***  
Glad to meet you, Marina!

Gassho,  
June

## Young Buddhist Association News



I hope everyone had the chance to enjoy all the snow we had recently while still staying safe! Luckily, it appears that warmer weather may finally be coming around the corner which is something to look forward to.



The YBA has continued to make progress on our screen-printed t-shirt project that we began last month. We are currently in the process of creating the designs for the t-shirts we will be making in the upcoming months. Our plan is to use some of our old designs in addition to the new ones to sell at temple while also looking into the possibility of curbside pickup or delivery. The other medium of selling we have been researching is opening an online store for the t-shirts, which could allow us to not only sell a wider variety of items, but also expand our reach thanks to the audience the internet can provide us. This is something we are excited on looking into as a long term project for the future.

Gassho,  
Josiah

## Buddhist Education Committee News



Habit - (noun): “a settled or regular tendency or practice, especially one that is hard to give up.” “An acquired behavior pattern regularly followed until it has become almost involuntary”.



I’ve acquired many new habits this past year – wearing a mask, staying 6 feet from others, and washing my hands more. The habit I miss the most is waking up early on Sundays and attending temple. For the past year, new Sunday morning habits have emerged - sleeping in, eating a leisurely breakfast or going on a walk. Sometimes I watch a service on YouTube Sunday morning, other times I binge watch several services while wearing pajamas, eating popcorn and enjoying a glass of wine.

Though it may take me a while to get back into the habit of attending temple once it’s safe, I am grateful that the Buddha’s teachings are always with me, no matter if I physically attend temple or not. Wonderful reminders of living a life of wisdom and compassion are in Rev. Koyama’s Sunday services, available every week. Also, the board of directors and the Buddhist Education Committee have been busy coming up with ways to rebuild our sense of community – we have Kara’s yoga class March 6 and our first live Zoom service on March 28, which will have a virtual coffee hour after the dharma talk. Also in the works is a monthly study class and a webinar in June for our young adult members.

The BEC members have continued meeting since last March, supporting our minister and running the monthly book club meetings via Zoom. Temple librarian, Jane Burster, has continued organizing our library books and updating a spreadsheet list of all books. New to our library will be the books read by the book club.

Please stay tuned for upcoming special services and classes!

*On a personal note, since I've talked and written about my mom, it seems appropriate to let you know that my mom died on January 1, 2021. She had a heart attack in early November and because of the amount of damage it caused and her advanced dementia, we decided to place her on hospice care at her home. My dad, my siblings and I took care of her for 6 weeks before she died. It was a very emotional time, but we are grateful that her suffering is over. My dad is doing well and I still go down to Oregon City to help him every month. Namo Amida Butsu*

Submitted by Lynrae

## 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



Well, Tony Greg has worked his mojo on the social hall kitchen and it's a real beauty. Now all we need to do is rename it the "Cosmic Kitchen" since all the delectable delights that come that space are out of this world. Our northwest rain is a double-edged sword. Not only does it cause flowers to bloom in abundance those raindrops are a fertilizer for a prolific blossoming of our to-do list. Due to those heavy rains, we found out the roof above the women's bathroom sprung a leak. A contractor arrived and sealed it right up.

With that ticked off there's a couple of other things on the facilities punch list. One is to trim the wisteria that is hanging over the fence gate. The plant has to be lifted prior to closing the gate. I recommended lowering the gate or tying the branch to a helium balloon to lift it out of the way. Of course, at first my facilities associates thought I was joking but then expressed an odd feeling that I was serious due to my Rube Goldberg solutions to simple problems. So obviously a simpler solution would involve a beaver and a woodpecker. Additionally, there is a plan afoot to repair the sprinkler system.

Now the only act that prevents us from deeming the parsonage fence complete is a walkthrough with the contractor. However, there are two discrepancies preventing the contractor from wrapping this with a bow and tie. One is the glue for the picket toppers which can be removed by hand with very little effort. Also, according to Tom Hubbell, the "keyhole on driveway gate lock tang has very little material on one side." Now I can see the problem. No wonder there's no material. Who's the numbskull who approved a food grade locking mechanism? Of course, the whole shebang would melt in response to even the slightest sprinkle. They must have been hypnotized by those pesky gremlins. Perhaps mixing it with Gorilla Glue might do the trick.

Jeff Hiroo and Fred Pelger's remain vigilant in keeping the temple clean during their weekly visits. No trash can escape Tom Hubbell's eagle eyes in his ceaseless efforts along both sides of South Fawcett. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, and Del Sasaki selflessly provide support in maintaining our temple. Additionally, Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens must love what they do since our temple grounds are always looking good.

~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



### 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 2021

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

### May 2021

1 <sup>st</sup> year Midori Komoto	May 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
25 <sup>th</sup> year Norio Hirayama	May 4 <sup>th</sup> , 1997
25 <sup>th</sup> year Kiyoko Sugioka	May 26 <sup>th</sup> , 1997
25 <sup>th</sup> year Kiyoshi Nagai	May 26 <sup>th</sup> , 1997
50 <sup>th</sup> year Naonobu Mizukami	May 17 <sup>th</sup> , 1972

## Greeters Schedule

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

**Book Club  
via Zoom  
Thursday, March 11, 2021  
7 pm**

***Occupy this Body: A  
Buddhist Memoir***

**Sharon Suh**

### *Book Review by Jane Burster, Temple Librarian*

The Buddhism book club is reading ***The Buddhist on Death Row*** by **David Sheff**.

Jarvis Masters at the age of 19 was imprisoned for armed robbery. While in prison he was convicted for his involvement of a murder and sentenced to death.

He experienced physical ailments, seizures, anger, and panic attacks while in solitary confinement for 22 years. Also, during that time he learned to practice meditation along with the principles of Buddhism: compassion, sacrifice and living in the moment.

His support system included two Buddhist teachers, Pema Chodron and Chagdud Tulku Rinpoche. Jarvis has been able to advocate meditation for his fellow convicts and guards as a means of coping with horrific circumstances.

Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*, stated this gorgeous book displays the miraculous human capacity to find redemption, even joy, no matter who or where we are.

The book will be in the library when it opens. I am happy to send it to anyone who wishes to read it now.



We are saddened to share  
Miyoko Sato  
passed away on February 2, 2021.

Our thoughts of compassion are with family and  
friends.

In Gassho,  
Tacoma Buddhist Temple

Namo Amida Butsu

# Welcome New Members!!

## Meet the Tisdales: Troy, Dennis, Trish & Dillon

### Where you were born and raised?

I was born in Portland, OR and raised in Federal Way. I now live in Port Angeles.

### Why have you chosen to join the Tacoma Buddhist Temple?

We chose to join Tacoma Buddhist Temple because it is such a welcoming community. We have attended events in the past such as Obon. Our kids have been participating in Dharma School and really enjoy it. It is a great community of people and we wanted to be a part of it.



### Do you have any skills or interests that can add to the Temple and the Sangha?

I am a graphic designer so I can help out with any graphic needs.

### What is the one thing you want the Temple to know about you?

We look forward to eventually meeting everyone in person!

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## Remember our Sukiyaki Dinner Fundraiser 1962



We won't be able to hold our Sukiyaki Dinner this year but we certainly will not forget it. Since 1962, our traditional fundraiser has been known for individually cooked dinners to order. For many years, we also served tempura cooked in the kitchen off the hondo. Imagine that! Stay tuned for more photos to enjoy. And If you'd like to donate in memory of our famous Sukiyaki dinners, please visit [www.tacomabt.org](http://www.tacomabt.org) to donate.

Thank you!

New via Zoom!



## Live Sunday Service and Coffee Hour



Do you miss seeing our community and being present at services? We all do! Join us on Sunday, March 28th for our temple's first live online service. We hope to hold these on the last Sunday of every month.

After the service, you can also enjoy coffee hour to catch up with friends and members in Zoom breakout rooms. Just bring a smile and your own cup of coffee and pastry.

**Mark your calendar: Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

Please visit [www.tacomabt.org](http://www.tacomabt.org) to sign up for the service. You will then receive an email with the Zoom login information.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Koyama at [revtadaok@gmail.com](mailto:revtadaok@gmail.com) or Erik too?

We look forward to seeing everyone!

## Tacoma Buddhist Temple's Spirit, Mind and Body Health Series 2021

We are happy to announce that our Temple has started a virtual Spirit, Mind and Body Health Series. This series provides our Sangha and the greater community a fun way to connect with each other and stay healthy. Classes are free for everyone.

The first class in the series "**Yoga for Compassion**" was taught on March 6th by TBT member and yoga instructor, Kara O'Toole. She provided a mindful Yoga Zoom class to over twenty-five participants of all physical abilities. We learned fundamental yoga postures and connected breath with movement.

Coming in April will be a celebration of Hanamatsuri. A video of Sensei Koyama will explain the importance of Hanamatsuri in celebrating the birth of Sakyamuni Buddha and the significance of the Hanamido in this special service. To complement this explanation, Denise Cline, President of our Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) will adorn the special structure that houses the baby Buddha with donated daffodils by Knuston Farms and other locally grown flowers in preparation for the service.

Future virtual Spirit, Mind and Body Health classes will feature cooking, meditation, flower arranging, origami and other topics. If you have any questions or ideas for the series topics, please contact Gavin Morgan, [gavinschmavin@gmail.com](mailto:gavinschmavin@gmail.com) or Tracy Ling, [tling12005@gmail.com](mailto:tling12005@gmail.com)

## \*March 2021

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

## \*April 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 Youtube Shotsuki Service
4 YouTube Service Dharma School Via Zoom	5	6	7	8 King's Books, 7 PM via Zoom	9	10
11 Hanamatsuri YouTube Service No Dharma School	12	13	14	15 Tax Day	16	17
18 YouTube Service Dharma School Via Zoom	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 YouTube Service No Dharma School	26	27	28	29	30	