



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 2023

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



Why Jodo Shinshu?

Rev. Tadao Koyama

Happy March everyone! I am so happy that we were all able to come together and share in the warmth and love of Amida Buddha's wisdom and compassion during the cold months of December, January, and February. Despite the cold, the rain, and the snow, you made your way to the temple to participate in the services, chant, sing, and recite the nembutsu. Why is this?

The theme this year for our organization, The Buddhist Churches of America, is **"The Benefits of Following the Shin Buddhist Path"**. While we feel very strongly towards the wellness of our temple buildings and sangha members, there is a deep connection to the teachings of Shinran that keeps bringing us back again and again to our community.

The Jodo Shinshu teachings state that Amida Buddha accepts us wholeheartedly for who we are. There is no one rejected from Amida's Pure Land and there is no discrimination of any kind in terms of where Amida's wisdom and compassion are directed. In our usual way of thinking, we are taught that we have to earn our way to the top, pay our dues, and work hard for the reward.

While I definitely don't discourage donating to the temple or supporting the organization by any means, Amida's universal compassion for us is not measured in how much we donate, how long we meditate, or even how many times we say the nembutsu. Amida's working from the Pure Land works purely for our benefit and our liberation from this world of samsara. In many ways this is thankless work. However, when we read the story of Bodhisattva Dharmakara, we see that to be a Bodhisattva is to make vows to benefit all sentient beings in a totally selfless way.

When we look at our lives and the way we live honestly, we know that it is very difficult to do things selflessly. I definitely don't think that it's impossible for people to do selfless acts of kindness, but it is really hard and difficult. Naturally, we are self-interested, and self-benefiting beings. This is due to us being filled with the three poisons of greed, anger, and ignorance.

Our human condition is the whole reason behind Amida's working. The working of the vow power ceaselessly works to awaken us to the realm of the dharma. Through all of our times of happiness and heartache, Amida's wisdom and compassion is ever present to navigate us through those times.

When we realize this working and this benefit, what else can we do, but place our hands together in deep gratitude and recite "Namo Amida Butsu". The benefits of the Shin Buddhist path allows me to look deep within myself and to be reassured that because of my shortcomings and human condition, Amida Buddha works to wake my shinjin (entrustment) and bring me to the pure land.

President's Message



I hope you have been able to enjoy our in-person services and monthly coffee hour we just restarted in February. The BWA put on a cooking class for the Dharma School and we all enjoyed the fruits of their labor after service in the social hall. I have to say, eating and socializing as a community is so nice to see.

The board is actively planning more opportunities to connect with our sangha and engage with our community. This includes our upcoming take-out Sukiyaki event, spring lecture, Spirit, Mind & Body classes and of course our weekly services. Looking for ways to engage our sangha and those interested in learning more about our temple and Shin Buddhism. Please check out the details in this Myokyo.

This renewed outreach has also brought up the topic of how to we manage services, classes, lectures and events for the health and safety of our sangha and visitors. In the coming months, we will share plans as we adjust our Covid protocols, as well define procedures in case of fire, earthquake, or medical emergencies and intrusions.

It is indeed exciting as we make plans to engage our community in-person. By taking these steps to help ensure our safety in potential emergencies, we will further assure success in our upcoming events.

Gassho,
John

Buddhist Women's Association News



In February, BWA and Dharma School joined together for our first cooking class of the year. Kazuko, with help from June A, Thelma, Donna, Alex and Fujiko guided students in preparing over 75 servings of delicious udon, which was shared with the sangha after service. Thank you to all the students, teachers and BWA members for your hard work in the kitchen!

In March, BWA members have three events:

March 12th – BWA General Meeting after service. Lunch provided by Jan/Feb/March BWA Toban

March 18th – Daifuku Mochi making at 9am in the kitchen.

March 19th – BWA Memorial and Lady Takeko Kujo & Lady Yoshiko Ohtani Service. Daifuku Mochi plates to be given to Sangha following service.



In Gassho,
Denise Cline, Tacoma BWA President

Dharma School News



Well, the Groundhog saw his shadow so we will be experiencing 6 more weeks of winter. Guess that's a blessing in disguise. Since I won't travel too far on windy, cold and snowy days, I can clear out some things in the backroom. Since my oven is not working, I will be saving on my flour, sugar, eggs and butter consumption. These are difficult lessons for me (to find 'good' in a negative), but I am accomplishing a LOT. So, thank you...??



We had a very fun mochi tsuki in January. This has been an annual event for the kids thanks to **Bobby Yotsuuye, David Yotsuuye, Masa Sugano** and **all the adults** who helped. **Jet** helped me make the mochi balls and **Junko and Karen** helped the kids dip their mochi in a sugar/soy sauce base or adding 'an' to their mochi. Kids were excited and had a nice treat! Let's do this again!!!

Thank you to ALL **the Lotus class students** who chair our Dharma School portion of the service. For some of you, this is your first experience chairing a service, and you are doing GREAT!! Thank you so much!!

For the Nirvana Day/Pet Memorial Day service, many students and adults submitted pictures to Sensei and he made all the pictures into a slide show! We all had the opportunity to see each pet and could see much they were loved and cared for.

BWA ladies (Thelma Abe, Fujiko Yoshikawa, Denise Cline, Donna Sasaki, Alex Theisen) under the supervision of **Kazuko Inoue**, showed the *Lotus and Maitreya* classes how to prepare the toppings for an udon bowl. In groups of two, they were chopping, measuring, cleaning their area, and presenting a beautiful, tasty treat for the sangha! There were so many compliments to the kids – they were pleasant and polite to their 'guests' waiting until all were served **and then** enjoyed a hardy bowl themselves!! BWA sponsors this annual cooking class to Dharma School in remembrance to **Rennyō Shonin**. Thank you, again, BWA, for this fun class!

We had a Faculty Meeting earlier this month and many items were discussed. Because we cannot get a date where all DS Temples' students can get together, it was decided to postpone it to next year. We will have an end of year activity for the students, and we will have an appreciation dinner for the teachers probably sometime in June. All if the teachers will return and this will be confirmed in August. For Nate and Erina who prepare the birthday bags, it was decided to do the birthdays gifts at the end of the school year when students are present and their names could be noted in the Myokyo.

Sunday Service Program:	10:00	Dharma School and All sangha arrive in Hondo
	10:40	Dharma School students dismissed to class
	11:30	Students dismissed to parents/guardians
March	5	DS
	12	DS Baked Potato lunch
	19	Joint Service for Ohigan
	26	DS

Please be safe and take care of each other – and take a few moments or hours for yourself.
Gassho, June



Young Buddhist Association News



Hello everyone,

I hope you all are staying warm during our next 6 weeks of winter! As the second semester of school is now underway, I hope all the middle and high school students enjoy their new classes, and that my fellow seniors are looking forward to completing their final semester of high school.

The YBA held a second meeting regarding narrowing down design ideas for this year's T-Shirt and tote bag fundraiser. We have agreed on a few designs which are in the process of being finalized. We will continue to meet to organize and begin planning ideas for production.

Gassho,
Odessa

Buddhist Education Committee News



I can't believe it is already March!! Time really does fly by so fast! I hope you all are doing well and remembering to stay safe with the virus still at alert. The weather is finally starting to lighten up a bit with spring approaching and then before you know it, summer will be here! I'm sure everyone is eager to participate in the upcoming temple activities and get back to some sense of normalcy. This is my first Myokyo I've had the pleasure of writing so I'll try my best to follow in everyone's footsteps.

I've had a wonderful time getting properly acquainted with everyone in the Buddhist Education Committee (BEC), many of the faces I've already seen before. I'm so happy that everyone is so eager to help out in whatever way that they can for the temple. During our Pet Memorial/ Nirvana Day service I was so pleased with all the individuals who were willing to share pictures of pets that they lost this year. I know that it can be so hard to lose a loved one and keep going on with life without them. I believe the immense support of the temple always provides a space for people to share parts of themselves and a place for us all to heal. I often forget how significant we all are for our religious faith. We don't just attend service to sing the chants and listen to Sensei's wonderful Dharma talks. We enjoy the company of seeing one another every week and learning different ways to understand Buddhism from each other. We also enjoy annual events such as the Sukiyaki Dinner and Obon. These events afford an opportunity for community members to visit and interact with church members. These many reasons are why our temple is so beautiful and unique. Our gratitude and devotion to help spread Buddhism as well as our meaningful connections to one another when we have the opportunity.

The BEC is working very hard to make sure things run smoothly for the temple including upcoming events such as Obon and the NW Annual Buddhist Convention in Tukwila this coming September 15-17, 2023, which I hope you all will attend!! I'm so glad to be a part of the Buddhist Education Committee. I hope I can add a different unique flavor to our work and help make the temple even better! Thank you all so much for all that you do for the Tacoma Buddhist Temple!! We so appreciate you!

In Gassho,
Rachel



Facility Committee Update



We can only be inspired at how surrounding communities and various Sanghas rose to the challenges in the aftermath of storms that buffeted California and damaged BCA temples. According to the "Wheel of Dharma" Watsonville Buddhist Temple was overwhelmed by a flood that deposited mud in the parsonage garage, storage areas, and the parking lot. Temple members and community volunteers evicted the trespassing mud. I'm sure if our temple was impacted by some natural disaster our Sangha would react with same level of urgency and selflessness as the Watsonville Buddhist temple. I have heard recollections of how Tacoma Buddhist Temple responded to the damage in the wake of the 2001 Nisqually earthquake. That's how I learned that pipe clamps can equal duct tape in versatility. After a falling piece of chimney dislodged a rail for the social hall south stairway some enterprising individual resecured it with a pipe clamp. Even though twenty-two years have passed the rail is still fastened in place and wrapped with tape. Talking about repurposing, a small pipe clamp could even stand in place of an engagement ring. Just superglue a glittery plastic rhinestone on top of the adjustment screw (after ensuring the correct diameter) and voila-time to pop the question.

Our parsonage deck is almost completed. Tom Hubbell informed us that the final two pieces of Trex decking arrived and that handrailing materials have been purchased. As of this writing the next work party is tentatively scheduled for March 4th or 5th.

Lynrae Hubbell exhibits a rare level of civic pride with her efforts to remove trash along Fawcett Avenue and S Court D Street. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, and Del Sasaki can always be counted on to keep our temple in prime condition. With our section of Fawcett Avenue now paved Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens should be able to resume maintaining our grounds when the weather warms up.

~Dave

Toban News



Upcoming Dates

March 12	March 5	Emma Inge, India trip presentation during coffee hour
March 19	March 5	Coffee Hour March/April Tobans provide snacks/beverage
		Potato Lunch, after service, everyone invited
		Spring Ohigan with BWA Memorial – Lady Yoshiko Ohtani and Lady Takeko Kujo
March 19		Board Meeting - 8:30
March		Arrange clean-up time of the temple with April Toban
April 2		Coffee Hour March/April Tobans provide snacks/beverage
April 9		Hanamatsuri Service, Potluck to follow
April 16		Board meeting - 8:30
April		Arrange clean-up time of the temple with March Toban
May 7		Sukiyaki Fundraiser, Drive thru pickup
May 13		Spring Seminar
May 14		Coffee Hour May/June Toban provide snacks/beverage

May 21	Board meeting - 8:30
May 21	Gotan-e, Parent Appreciation Luncheon (YBA)
May 28	Memorial Day Service, Cemetery Visitations
May	Arrange clean-up time of the temple with June Toban

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 ALTER.

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.

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

***There are new clean-up procedures for the large walk-in refrigerator and the one in the kitchen posted on their doors (after major events and use). Content sign in sheet is also posted in the same place (please review the rules).**

Safety Protocols have changed. Members do not need to be checked in or have their temperatures taken. **CONTINUE TO WEAR MASKS THROUGHOUT THE TEMPLE.** Continue to check in visitors and to issue masks when needed.

MARCH TOBAN	APRIL TOBAN	MAY TOBAN
Richard/Tracy Ling	Karen Yoshitomi	Les Hitsman/Fred Pelger
Chikako Inoue	Kaila Yoshitomi	Henry/Wendy Stoll
Kjirsten Winters	Kenzo Yoshitomi	Rui Pittman/Victoria Evert
Shizuka Faria	Al/Donna Sasaki	Gail Ichinaga
June/Barry Weled	Kazuko Inoue	Anita Nakayama
Ellen Shigeno	Rose Kishi	Michiko Saito (call)
Frank Shigio	Ed/Kimiko Fujinaga	
Peter Lee	Ted Matsumoto	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND HELP WITH OUR TEMPLE.
Tracy Ling/Michael Shiogi

Greeter's List

March	5	Bobby Yotsuuye/Gavin Morgan
	12	Del Sasaki/Lynn Blick
	19	Jeff Hiroo/Coco Inoue
	26	Kara O'Toole/Kt Hendrie

Greeter's List continue

April 2 Barry/June Weled
 9 Mike Shiogi/Debby Abe
 16 Lynrae/Tom Hubbell
 23 Mayumi/Kevin Ikeda
 30 David Campbell/Shizuka Faria

May 7 **No service**
 14 Tracy/Richard Ling

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)
- 1/2-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.

Yearly Memorial Service

General Memorial Service Years for 2023

1 st Year – 2022	17 th Year – 2007
3 rd Year – 2021	25 th Year – 1999
7 th Year – 2017	33 rd Year – 1991
13 th Year – 2011	50 th Year – 1974

March 2023

3 rd Year	Katsumi Fujita	March 17, 2021
7 th Year	Kimiko Tanbara	March 21, 2017
33 rd Year	Fumiko Azuma	March 22, 1991

April 2023

1 st Year	Kim Kawada-Schauer	April 2, 2022
1 st Year	Tom Osaka	April 19, 2022
13 th Year	Yukiko Abo	April 17, 2011
25 th Year	Nobuo Yoshida	April 18, 1999
50 th Year	Samu Asahara	April 27, 1974

May 2023

3 rd Year	Violet Mizukami	May 17, 2021
13 th Year	Ronald Michael Bollick	May 21, 2011
25 th Year	Gladys Gisi	May 23, 1999
50 th Year	Yuki Okada	May 1, 1974



Special Presentation by Emma Inge

Date: Sunday March 5,
2023

Time: 11am/during coffee
hour after service Location:
Temple Social

Our temple member, Emma Inge, has
successfully completed her month-long
study abroad program in India!

Come welcome her back virtually and be
dazzled by the amazing pictures she took
during her trip!



Book Club

March 9, 2023

@King's Books - 7 pm

**The Inner Work of Racial Justice: Healing
Ourselves and Transforming Our
Communities Through Mindfulness**

Author: Rhonda V. Magee

Tacoma Buddhist Temple's

Spirit, Mind and Body Health Series



Yoga for Compassion

Monthly, Saturday 9:00 am - 10:00 am in the temple social hall or via Zoom

You will learn the fundamentals of yoga postures and experience connecting movement and breath. The class will begin seated in a chair and then progress to standing. Please save these dates and connect with Tracy Ling to register or if you have questions.

MARCH 11, 2023

2023: Apr 8, May 13

Instructor and Temple Member, Kara O'Toole.

Free class! Register www.tacomabt.org for Waiver and Zoom Link.

Contact Tracy Ling to register or if you have questions: tling12005@gmail.com





Better than Ever!

Special Open Taiko session for seniors

Have you ever thought you're too old to try taiko? Forget that thought!... NOW is the time. It's never too late to enjoy the fun and power of drumming ... done in a way that pays attention to physical concerns of older adults.

The Tacoma Buddhist Temple's community **Open Taiko** program will host a special session for seniors (age 65 and above). Due to high interest, we are having two sessions: **Saturday, March 25, 9:30 am-11:00 am. and Saturday, April 1, 9:30 am-11:00 am.** Your fun time will be run by Wendy Hamai, Donna Sasaki, and Rev. Cyndi Yasaki.

How to register or have any questions? Contact Wendy at wfhamai@rainierconnect.com or call (253) 678-2891. A registration form will be emailed for you to complete and mail back OR a link can be sent to you for on-line registration.

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, March 15 (for either session). **Don't delay! Space is limited.**

Fees: \$0 Though donations are gratefully accepted and help to support the temple general fund.

Tacoma Buddhist Temple's
Spirit, Mind and Body Health Series
2023

Cooking with Koyama Sensei

Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 1pm
Tacoma Buddhist Temple Social Hall
Hybrid option available!

In-Person attendance donation: \$15 Come join Rev. Koyama in the temple social hall for a fun afternoon of cooking and socializing. He will be teaching us how to cook one of his favorite dishes, Chicken Karaage with Japanese potato Salad!



Register at:
<https://forms.gle/ZBcWbhXZbz5LSc54A>
Or signup sheet in the temple foyer





Preparing UDON



THANK YOU, BWA LADIES, FOR TEACHING US TODAY!!



Thelma Abe



Alex Theisen
Dishwasher



Kazuko Yoshikawa

Chef Kazuko Inoue



Donna Sasaki



Denise Cline

*March 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 YouTube Shotsuki Service
5 Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School Coffee Hour after service	6	7	8 Study Class Via Zoom 6 pm	9 Book Club at King's Books 7:00 PM	10	11 <i>Spirit, Mind, and Body Yoga for Compassion</i> 9:00 AM
12 Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School BWA General Meeting 11 am	13	14	15 Open Taiko 7:15 PM	16	17	18 BWA Daifuku Mochi making 9 am-1 pm
19 Board Meeting 8:30 am Spring Ohigan/Lady Kujo and Lady Ohtani Service 10 am Dharma School	20 Myokyo Deadline	21	22	23	24	25 Open Taiko for Seniors 9:30 AM
26 Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School	27	28	29	30	31	1-Apr Open Taiko for Seniors 9:30 AM

*April 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School Coffee Hour After Service	3	4	5	6	7	8 <i>Spirit Mind and Body Yoga For Compassion</i> 9:00 AM
9 Hanamatsuri Sunday Service 10 am	10	11	12 Study class via Zoom 6 pm	13 Book Club at King's Books 7:00 PM	14	15 <i>Rev. Koyama's Cooking Class 1 pm-4 pm</i> Social Hall
16 Board Meeting 8:30 am Sunday Service 10 am	17 Myokyo Deadline	18	19	20	21	22
23 Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School						