



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)

April 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 Has Sprung! Amida's Love is Always in Bloom**

Rev. Tadao Koyama



Happy Springtime everyone! I am certain that many of you are eager to see beautiful flowers bloom during this season! Rev. Cyndi and I have been enjoying the many cherry blossoms and other beautiful flowers on trees when we go out for grocery shopping or other essential errands. I also recall fondly my time in Japan when beautiful sakura would bloom and some of the most scenic places I would visit would be tourist spots like Kiyomizu dera.

One of the biggest occasions we celebrate in this season of flowers and bloom is *Hanamatsuri*. We all know that this is the time Prince Siddhartha (who would later become Shakyamuni Buddha) was born in Lumbini. We all celebrate with beautiful flowers and many of us look forward to the big celebration at the temple where we see a beautiful hanamido with flowers adorned and instead of oshoko with incense, we show our gratitude by pouring sweet tea over the prince Siddhartha's head.

As Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, we celebrate this auspicious occasion because Shakyamuni Buddha would eventually expound the three pure land sutras. One of the truths that we know of beautiful flowers that do not last forever. Even with these new roses that are supposed to last for a whole year now! As wonderful and aesthetically pleasing these flowers may look, they will eventually wilt and die. However, when it comes to Amida Buddha's wisdom and compassion, that stays with us no matter what.

While we have seen much hardship and sadness during these times of pandemic, we can definitely take heart to know that the Dharma is still working completely for our benefit. In times of chaos, we know that the world of samsara is adorned with much suffering. For many of us we might have experienced this suffering firsthand.

As the days get warmer and the sun comes out more, I hope that we are reminded of the wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha when we look at these beautiful flowers in bloom. The only difference is that Amida's love for us does not wilt and die, it constantly goes on and constantly works for the benefit of all sentient beings. I am reminded of a passage from Shinran Shonin's *Shoshin Nembutsu Ge*:

*The light of compassion that grasps us illumines and protects us always;
The darkness of our ignorance is already broken through;
Still the clouds and mists of greed and desire, anger and hatred,
Cover as always the sky of true and real shinjin.*

*But though the light of the sun is veiled by clouds and mists,
Beneath the clouds and mists there is brightness, not dark.
When one realizes shinjin, seeing and revering and attaining great joy,
One immediately leaps crosswise, closing off the five evil courses.*

I take great heart in this passage from Shinran's writing as it reminds me, that every time I fall into despair, every time I succumb to feelings of anger, the working of Amida does not stop. I am human and am imperfect and will fail occasionally from time to time. However, I am also extremely fortunate to be born in a circumstance where I have heard the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha and the writings of Shinran to lean upon in my times of weakness.

This isn't to say that I won't try harder to do better in life. I highly encourage all of us to try and constantly self-reflect and self-improve ourselves. However, if we sometimes make a mistake, or are blinded by our blind passions, Amida's love for us still continues. Amida's wisdom and compassion never wilt like the flowers in our lives. So, as we look at these beautiful flowers this season, as we feel the warmth of the sun, know that the realm of the Dharma is also working on our behalf and also constantly teaching us.

Namo Amida Butsu.

President's Message



On behalf of the Temple, I would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family of Mrs. Kats Fujita who passed away on March 17. Mrs. Fujita was a long-time active member who enjoyed being with friends and her family at the temple since. We will miss her happy and sweet disposition.

Thank you to the BWA for putting together a wonderful Spring Ohigan Memorial service. The recognition of members who passed away in 2019 and 2020 was so nice and a great tribute with history and photos. Thank you to Rev. Koyama and Rev. Cyndi Yasaki for their participation to make this service happen. Please watch it on our YouTube channel.

Our first live online service was Sunday, March 28th. This Myokyo is produced before this date so I'm hopeful many attended and enjoyed seeing each other in the virtual coffee hour. You only need to register once to attend each monthly service (last Sunday of every month). Sign up via tacomabt.org – it's easy!

The board started a new committee to develop the Spirit, Mind and Body series. Yoga, led by Kara O'Toole, was a hit so #2 will be held on April 10th. Check out the flower arranging class led by our Les Hitsman on April 18! Read more on other classes in this newsletter.

Stay tuned for our Hanamatsuri service video on April 11th. You'll see a special cameo of Denise Cline on how our hanamido is decorated with donated daffodils from Knuston farms in Sumner.

Last, thank you for your donation to this special service – Hanamatsuri, the birth of Gautama Buddha. You may ask – why we donate to services? It is a special recognition of this important date in the history of Jodo Shinshu. Any level of donation is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Gassho,
Crystal

In light of past and most recent events, our Temple would like to present this statement.

TACOMA BUDDHIST TEMPLE’S RESPONSE TO ANTI-ASIAN RACISM

We at the Tacoma Buddhist Temple stand firm against the anti-Asian discrimination and violence that has been on the rise in our country. We oppose discrimination and violence of any kind.

We endeavor to be a safe and welcoming space for everyone and do our best to embody the teachings of the Dharma. Every day we strive to support peace and harmony for everyone.

A core Jodo Shinshu Buddhist principle is interdependence, meaning we are interconnected to each other. Therefore, when one person suffers, we all suffer.

We will continue to be a place of refuge and welcome those who wish to learn the wonderful teachings of the Buddha and Shinran Shonin.

Let us walk together in the path of peace and gratitude to Amida Buddha’s wisdom and compassion and realize that we are all interconnected.

Namo Amida Butsu

Buddhist Women’s Association News



The Tacoma Buddhist Women’s association invites you to support us for the Hunger Walk & 5K. You can participate by joining our team (Tacoma Buddhist Women’s Association) or donating to our team fundraiser. Navigate to the website below to sign up or donate. Contact Denise if you need help signing up or would like more information. Because this year’s event is virtual – Tacoma BWA plans to host several small walks throughout the month of May!



SAVE THE DATE

Tune in to the Tacoma Buddhist Temple YouTube Channel on April 11th for our Hanamatsuri Service and get a behind the scenes look at BWA members decorating the Hanamido.

Please take care of yourselves and stay safe and healthy!

Respectfully submitted by,
Denise Cline, Tacoma BWA President

Join us for the Hunger Walk & 5K!

The 2021 Hunger Walk & 5K will be held virtually with **fun virtual walk and run opportunities** being held throughout the month of May.

Register today & begin fundraising! efoodnet.org/HungerWalk5K

| INDIVIDUAL PRICING | ADULT | YOUTH (3-15) |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------|
| January 15 - February 28 | \$20 | \$10 |
| March 1 - April 8 | \$25 | \$15 |
| April 9 - May 31 | \$30 | \$20 |

Team pricing is available for teams of five or more people. Create or join a team to automatically receive \$5 off your registration!

Thank you to our sponsors!

Dharma School News



Welcome Spring!! Seeing sunshine makes my day so much brighter. Attending a DS Class also brings happy smiles to me. Had the opportunity to attend Maitreya students play Buddhist Video Games with **Ms. Erin**...her students are pretty quick with their answers! Of course, Ms. Erin asked me for an answer and of course, I had no clue...sigh. I've also attached a requested recipe for students to 'make dinner' to show their gratitude to Mom. Enjoy!!



Thank you, **Kara O'Toole** (Gus' mom), for leading the Yoga Class last month!! Although I could not attend, attendees said it was so welcoming and open to all levels of yoga experience. Thank you for sharing your expertise, Ms. Kara!

Dharma students continue to make cards and sending to our Keiro Honorees. Honestly, *you have made so many members so happy!!* A few of the comments: "It just makes me cry to read the message!" "Just look at these beautiful cards!" "I keep everyone of them, you know... It's in my box... Hey, where's my box?☺" To ALL of our Dharma School students participating in this act of kindness, respect and gratitude, thank you for being you! We have four sets of **Pen Pal Partners** – I hope they will get to meet in person soon!! We would love to hear about your journey of getting to know each other! Enjoy your connections!

Lotus Class Reminder: Earth Day Work Party on Sunday April 18th, 10:30am-12:30pm at Senator Rosa Franklin Park! Students and teachers are invited to help restore a local natural habitat! We will remove invasive plants and install new plantings at Senator Rosa Franklin Park. For more information, contact Mr. Johnson.

Our deepest condolences to the family on the passing of **Mrs. Katsumi Fujita**. Mrs. Fujita was very proud to have received her Ten-Year DS Teacher Certificate from BCA years back and continued to be a welcome supporter of Dharma School. Her warm smile and her gentle presence will always be remembered. Her Dharma School Message (from the 2021 Keiro Booklet): **Dear Dharma School students:** “Go to church...Enjoy Sensei’s Dharma talks...Enjoy your friends”.

DS Fun Fact: In January 1977, the ‘Sunday School’ officially changed its name to ‘Dharma School’ per a decision at the 1976 NW District DS Teachers’ League Workshop.

A Pandemic Recipe: Tuna Noodle Casserole submitted by Mr. John Inge (Kate and Emma’s Dad)

| | |
|---|---|
| 2/3 package of egg noodles or thin spaghetti noodles – boiled | Mix tuna and soup in an oven safe casserole bowl |
| 1 can tuna | Add boiled noodles. Gently stir together. |
| 1 can cream of mushroom soup | Cover with shredded cheddar cheese |
| Shredded cheddar cheese | Bake 375° for 20-25 minutes. PRESTO!!! DINNER!!!! |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| DS Calenda for April: April 4 | DS ZOOM Class |
| April 11 | NO Class; Hanamatsuri - PLEASE send me pictures of your home celebration |
| April 18 | DS ZOOM Class; Birthdays |

“Student of the Month”



Hi, this is Odessa, and this is my pet cat, Andy. I am a sophomore this year!! One thing I have done during this Pandemic that I normally have not done is cook my own lunch!! I also learned how to survive ZOOM calls!! My favorite dinner is Pho or udon. My favorite subject in school is art because I get to be creative! I enjoy painting or baking when I have some free time. In five years, I think I will be in college – hopefully. I really want to learn how to make bread. My Temple flashback are the Temple picnics! I am very grateful for my mom because she looks after me. I am also grateful for my teachers because they help me grow as a person. One way I showed Dana is by doing the dishes and helping keep the house clean. Some things you may not know about me: I am 15 and I’ll be 16 in November! I love hiking and swimming, but I don’t like team sports! I love art and painting and drawing etc.! (Odessa has shared some her artwork during the year – she is extremely creative AND super talented!) Thank you, Odessa!

Gassho, June



A ‘long’ time ago, Rev. Kakihara and Satone planted some daffodils and crocuses in front of their home in anticipation of spring. Every year they bloom, and every year we ‘remember’ Sensei and his family’s presence in our lives. *Thank you for the memories.*



Satone and Shujo, March 2021



Prajna Class
Dennis and Dillon show off their spring plants that they planted and nurtured a while back during a ZOOM class. Great job, guys!!! What a great way to **WELCOME SPRING!**



Young Buddhist Association News



Now that it finally looks like we have started having weather that's consistently warm enough to spend time outside, I hope everyone has had the chance to enjoy the spring air and weather!



The YBA has begun progress on the silk screen printed t-shirts project. This month we received our first designs created by the YBA. As time goes on, we hope to continue to integrate t-shirts designed by the YBA into our catalogue of shirts. We will be meeting up after spring vacation in the middle of April to begin the process of using the silk screens to print our t-shirt designs. We will make sure to continue to social distance while meeting in person and follow all the necessary precautions.

Once again, I hope everyone can continue to enjoy our warmer weather and make sure to stay safe!

Gassho,
Josiah

Buddhist Education Committee News



For most of us in Washington state, it has been approximately a whole year since the initial lockdown/pandemic beginning. Looking back there have been moments where we could see the Dharma being shown in our society as well as within ourselves. I'm specifically thinking about how the pandemic connects with the teaching of the golden chain. As I break down what the golden chain means to me please also reflect for yourself how what I am explaining can connect to your life or thinking.



The golden chain starts as:

"I am a link in Amida's Golden chain of love that stretches around the world. I will keep my link bright and strong."

This first sentence is really important because it shows that we are all connected and that no matter what background we come from the pandemic still affecting us. Thus, to move on from where we currently are, we have to be this golden chain that connects everyone and that we are helping are other chains to make sure that we are united and strong. However, if this is to happen, we have to be able to advocate for ourselves to maintain being bright and strong.

"I will be kind and gentle to every living thing and protect those weaker than myself."

Personally, this part was hard at the beginning of the pandemic because protecting others meant not being there physically for others. With Washington going into a stay-at-home order this made it hard to practice being kind and gentle to others however it did mean to me that I would be protecting those that I love and care about.

"I will think pure and beautiful thoughts, say pure and beautiful words, and do pure and beautiful deeds."

This is also a hard one because of the fact there is a lot of negativity towards the situation we are currently in. Some of us might be frustrated, sad, worried and/or just confused about what our future will hold and how our lives have changed because of the pandemic. However, that doesn't mean that our lives have stopped; we all still have the power to provide pure and beautiful efforts no matter if we are thinking it, saying it, and/or doing it.

“May every link in Amida’s golden changing of love be bright and strong and may we all attain perfect peace.”

This just solidifies the fact that we are all in this together if we are to make a change as a society and as individuals, we have to continue to strive to better for ourselves as well as others. Like many people say in our current situation there is always a light at the end of the tunnel, in this case, it might be the conclusion of the pandemic but as a long-term goal we are all striving to attain perfect peace.

In Gassho,
Kenzo Yoshitomi

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, it seems that we are stuck in neutral regarding buttoning up the parsonage fence. Those picket toppers can still be pulled off with ease. Some of you may have heard about the lady who put Gorilla Glue in her hair because she ran out of hairspray. Even after a month, despite multiple washings, her hair remained plastered to her scalp. That poor lady probably wishes she would have used the same glue the contractor applied for the picket toppers. The contractor is contacting the manufacturer to get to the bottom of the matter. Additionally, the company will increase the edge distance on the driveway lock plate. In the same vein of security matters a streamlining of our keys is being planned. Currently we have more keys for all the different doors than Carters got liver pills (or at least had). Just like debt sometimes when it comes to keys less is more.



Due to our pandemic-induced stasis bathroom cleaning and garbage services are suspended. Tacoma sent a notice stating they want the garbage bin returned. Tom called to get some details on returning the receptacle but has not received a call back. So perhaps they really don't want it back.

Jeff Hiroo and Fred are just plain unstoppable in cleaning our inactive temple during their weekly visits. Tom Hubbell continues to zero in on unsightly trash along both sides of South Fawcett. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, and Del Sasaki team up in their dauntless efforts to keep our temple keep our temple in tip top shape. Additionally, Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens work to keep our grounds in perfect condition.

~Dave

Yearly Memorial Service

General Memorial Service Years for 2021

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 st Year - 2020 | 17 th Year - 2005 |
| 3 rd Year - 2019 | 25 th Year - 1997 |
| 7 th Year - 2015 | 33 rd Year - 1989 |
| 13 th Year - 2009 | 50 th Year - 1972 |



April 2021

| | |
|---|----------------|
| 3 rd year Robert T. Yoshioka | April 17, 2019 |
| 17 th year Tom T. Shigio | April 4, 2005 |
| 50 th year Tamayo Yaguchi | April 12, 1972 |

May 2021

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

June 2021

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 7 th year Akinobu Yotsuuye | June 19, 2015 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|

Greeters Schedule

*The greeters list will resume when the temple reopens.

**Book Club
via Zoom
Thursday, April 8, 2021
7 pm
Songs of Spiritual Experience
(POETRY MONTH)
Jinpa and Elsner**

Happy Spring!! Thank you to over 70 households who have provided 2021 Membership Pledge information. Please continue to send in your 2021 Membership Pledge forms. Forms are found on the TBT website or email me and I will forward you a form.

Tacoma Buddhist Temple understands the COVID 19 pandemic has caused financial changes for individuals and their families. Please don't hesitate to contact me if are in need of financial assistance with your 2021 membership pledge.

Total members: 131

In Gratitude,
Tracy Ling
tling12005@gmail.com
Pledge Administrator

Buddhist Churches of America News

The following are highlights from the recent National Council Meeting, held February 26th – 28th:

Status of BCA Ministers

As has been the case for the last several years, the BCA is currently experiencing a shortage of reverends.

This has forced churches and temples to share ministers or to go without having an acting minister.

Addressing this shortage has led to the creation of new position “Kaikyoshi-ho”, recognized by the Hongwanji that can serve temples. The positions, by increasing seniority are listed as follows:

- **Kaikyoshi-ho** - “Kaikyoshi assistant” – A designated position recognized by the Hongwanji. Can be a person with only tokudo or can be a person with kyoshi. Works specifically under a Kaikyoshi to assist.
- **Tokudo** - Initiate ordination. To become a “soryo” or ordained in Nishi Hongwanji. (Shinran Shonin received *tokudo* at age 9).
- **Kyoshi** - Teaching certificate in the Hongwanji. Shows you have sufficient education to teach Jodo Shinshu on behalf of the Hongwanji.
- **Kaikyoshi** - Recognized by the Hongwanji as an “Overseas Minister.” Ministers from Japan come to this country with Kaikyoshi status, which is necessary to get their visas. U.S. born ministers earn this after serving one year as a full-time minister with “Kyoshi.”

Bishop Harada reported that there are currently 11 BCA candidates studying at Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS). That out of the 11 candidates, 6 have aspirations to become full-time Kaikyoshi. Others wish to serve as volunteer or part-time ministers. Therefore, by next summer, the BCA should be able to fill many needed positions for ministers at our churches and temples.

BCA Membership Updates

Due to pandemic related savings resulting from decreased travel, along with additional revenue from the leasing out office space at BCA headquarters and the Bishop’s residence, there will be a slight decrease in BCA dues for 2021 to \$151.18 per member.

Additionally, as membership is the foundation of the BCA, it’s a key performance indicator to be monitored to measure the health of our organization. In a presentation by VP Glenn Inanaga, he reviewed the decline in BCA membership over the past decade and its impact on BCA finances, with thoughts for addressing our financial challenges in the future.

For the last 10 years the BCA has experienced a 28% decline in membership – from 16,994 in 2010 to the current 12,200 members. While other religions have suffered similar membership declines during this period, the BCA’s finances have become precarious due to its over-dependence on membership dues. Currently over 71% of its operating revenue comes from dues, a far higher percentage than other mainstream religions. To address this current state, the following recommendations were given:

Increase Membership

- To decrease assessments, BCA must increase members
- With inflation, reducing costs will not be sufficient

Propagation & Education

- Focus on people not affiliated with a religion, who as a group are trending up
- Prioritize making Buddhist education available to this group

- Using technology to reach those not residing near our temples and churches

Diversify Revenue

- BCA relies too heavily on membership assessments to fund its revenue
- Contributions & business income could offset this reliance
- Create new streams of revenue and membership types

~John Inge, BCA Representative



The Tacoma Buddhist Temple would like to extend its heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of

Katsumi Fujita

who passed away on March 17, 2021.

May you find comfort in the light of the infinite Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha.

Namo Amida Butsu

Welcome New Member!

Meet Rachel Meatte



Where were you born and raised?

I was born and raised here in Tacoma, Washington.

Why have you chosen to join the Tacoma Buddhist Temple?

I became more interested in Buddhism while taking a class in eastern religions in college. Studying Buddhism as an adult versus as a child made me want to start coming back to the temple to fully understand it more.

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

I love history and film and writing a lot. I also enjoy working with kids.

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

I'm a vegan and am interested in animal welfare.

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

April 10th, Yoga for Compassion for all abilities. Class #2. 10:00 a.m.

Kara O'Toole, yoga instructor. Information and register on www.tacomabt.org under Events tab or email Tracy Ling at tling12005@gmail.com

April 18th, Floral Design with Les Hitsman.

"Everyday Nature"

Learn how to use found greens, florals, wood and other natural objects from your garden to create an arrangement for your home.

For many years temple member Les Hitsman has arranged the flowers for our onajin every week and takes care of other floral needs and fundraisers in the temple. He's an avid gardener and enjoys seeing the beauty in everyday objects. With a creative eye and a personal passion, learn from Les simple things to use and do to create a beautiful arrangement.



Stay tuned for registration information on our website and emails.

Coming soon in May!

- Cooking with Lynne and Ken Tanino! May 1st. Don't miss a cooking class from their own kitchen!
- Meditation with Kirsten Winters. May 15th. Learn meditation techniques to enrich your everyday life.

New via Zoom!



Live Sunday Service and Coffee Hour



Happy April Everyone! We would like to continue our new tradition of having a live Zoom service at the end of every month. We hope you will all be able to join us for our next service on April, 25th.

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, April 25th at 10:00 a.m.

Please visit www.tacomabt.org to sign up for the service. **If you already signed up for the previous service, you do NOT have to sign up again.** You will be sent the Zoom link the day prior to service

If you have any questions, please contact us at info@tacomabt.org

We look forward to seeing everyone!

*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 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Youtube Service Dharma School Via Zoom | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Live Zoom Service No Dharma School | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

*May 2021

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