



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 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



Every Wish Fulfilled

Rev. Tadao Koyama

Happy April everyone! As I write this article, I am noticing that all of the blossoms on the temple trees are in full bloom now and they are just beautiful to look at. It really does seem like the season of Hanamatsuri. In our tradition, Shakyamuni Buddha was born as Prince Siddhartha. Interestingly, one of the translations of Siddhartha is "every wish fulfilled".

This might seem very attractive at first to our bonbu minds when it comes to wishes. We wish we could have more money, we wish we had the higher management position at a job, we wish that we didn't have to deal with coworkers or family members we don't like. The list goes on. For students, we wish it could always be summer vacation, we wish we could have more money to go on fun trips and get nicer toys! Most of the time, our wishes revolve around our gain and our accumulation of things.

This was certainly true for prince Siddhartha at the very beginning. His father, a king, wanted his son to have the finest things and finest pleasures in life. Nothing was denied him. When often describing Prince Siddhartha's upbringing, I ask the Dharma School students to envision a childhood where if they asked for anything, their parents couldn't say "no". This might seem desirable!

Yet, if we also continue the story of Prince Siddhartha, we see that he eventually becomes tired and weary of palace life. That having everything handed to you, is actually not that satisfying and does not lead to the happy life we think it will. In fact, having everything handed to us and having our "every wish fulfilled", could lead us to be even unhappier!

All of that being said, there are good wishes out there too. After Prince Siddhartha realized that the life he was currently living was not leading him anywhere, he came to discover a spiritual path that would eventually lead him to liberation of our suffering. This was not just for his own sake, but for all sentient beings of this world. Ultimately it was the Buddha's wish to share his teachings with everyone and anyone so that they may be freed from the cycle of birth and death that tethers us to this existence! This is not a bad or selfish wish by any means.

In the story of Bodhisattva Dharmakara, a wish to save all sentient beings was also the launching point for the creation of the Pure Land that leads all of us to liberation. While I do believe that to live in a harmonious society takes lots of work and sacrifice, it can begin with a genuine wish that all beings live peacefully and happy. The less self-centered our wishes are, the more influential our actions become in creating a society we can be happy to live in.

President's Message



This time of year provides me with hope that we are finally making it out of the gloom and gray for another year. Waking up to sound of birds again, after months of silence. Seeing the annual renewal of plant life outside. Such as spotting the first cherry blossoms appearing or daffodils coming up out of the garden beds. It somehow makes me positive about the future.

Today I was reminded of this sentiment as I took a bunch of wilting tulips from our kitchen counter out to the compost bin. Wondering why is it that we enjoy something that we know will last only a few short days. Then it occurs to me, it's this fleeting connection that makes things like flowers so special. That just like all precious moments, they are made more precious by that fact that they have come and gone.

How startlingly beautiful impermanence can be. Happy spring everyone!

Gassho,
John

Buddhist Women's Association News



As we enjoy the fresh spring weather, please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- April 14th** – 8 am Decorate Hanamido (April/May/June BWA toban group)
- June 1st** – Bento preparation
- June 2nd** – Annual BWA Bento Sale



Announcement: Virtual Community Fundraiser for Federation of Buddhist Women's Association

When
Friday, April 12, 2024
Place your order for pickup or delivery on Friday, April 12

Where
Available at Panda Express Express locations nationwide.
www.pandaexpress.com

How
Online orders only
Apply code **920186** in the fundraiser Code Box during checkout at www.pandaexpress.com

28% of sales will be donated to the FBWA to raise money for the 2024 FBWA Conference October 4-6, 2024 in San Jose, CA

or via the App

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



We had a great time making yummy Fried Rice thanks to BWA for hosting a cooking class for DS! Especially we want to thank Alex, Denise, Emma, Kate, June, Kazuko, and Tracy for taking time to prepare and create such a great hands-on experience for DS students!!!



In conjunction with Joint Spring Ohigan service, we had **Joint DS with Seattle Betsuin** here in the Temple on March 24th at Tower Lanes (6323 6th Ave, Tacoma, WA 98406) for a lunch/bowling social.

Hanamatsuri will be on **April 14th**. Each class will make a presentation on stage. DS is also in charge of setting and cleaning up the following potluck. We appreciate your involvement and support to make this event fun and memorable.

TBT's main fundraising event, **Sukiyaki**, is April 21st. This is one of our biggest fund-raising events of the year! Those who signed up to volunteer at the event, thank you! Those of you who haven't but might be able to take part in supporting the event, please reach out to Junko or myself.

April - May Dharma School Schedule:

| | | | |
|--------------|----|-------|---|
| April | 7 | DS | Regular DS Class |
| | 14 | DS | Hanamatsuri presentation by class |
| | 21 | NO DS | Sukiyaki (participation counts towards attendance) |
| | 28 | DS | Regular DS Class |
| May | 5 | NO DS | Presentation from Emergency Committee |
| | 12 | DS | Gotan-e (Ochigo) , Regular DS Class |
| | 19 | | Parents Day Luncheon |
| | | DS | <i>Regular DS for Lumbini & Maitreya</i> |
| | | NO DS | <i>Lotus prepares for luncheon</i> |
| | 26 | NO DS | Memorial Day Weekend |

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

In Gassho,
Coco & Junko

Young Buddhist Association News



Hello everyone!



Happy spring, I hope you all are loving the change in weather as much as I am! Anyway, on to YBA things. We are very excited to be helping out with Sukiyaki as much as we can and give all the assistance needed to make it another successful year! In fact, I have the utmost confidence that this year will be the temple's best year. To be completely transparent though, not much else is going on with YBA so Sukiyaki is pretty much the only event that I can talk about this month. But, not to fret because I'm sure next month I will have more to inform you all on! In the meantime, we are focusing ourselves on trying to help as much as possible for Sukiyaki!

Gasho,
Nao:)

Buddhist Education Committee News



Hanamatsuri, the Flower Festival, is coming up on April 14. On this day we celebrate the birth of Siddhartha Gautama who became the Buddha. Buddhists around the world celebrate his birth on the eighth day of the fourth month. In Japan, since the late 19th century, Buddhists have used the Western calendar, so at our temple we observe his birth on April 8. But Buddhists in other countries where they still use various lunar calendars tend to celebrate it a month or two later. Why do we as followers of Jodo Shinshu, who focus on Amida Buddha, celebrate the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha? There are a lot of reasons. We only know about Amida because of Shakyamuni's teachings in this world. We are also taught that all buddhas share the same existence as manifestations of the true reality that teaches us every day through the events in our lives. It is for this reason that Shinran composed this wasan, or hymn:

*When we take refuge in the Pure Land of Amida,
We take refuge in all the Buddhas.
To praise the one Buddha, Amida, with the mind that is single
Is to praise all the unhindered ones.*

The idea that all buddhas are present in a single buddha is common across Mahayana Buddhism. You see it in Tibet a lot, for example, and in East Asia. So, we hope you can join us for the celebration of Shakyamuni's birth, and the birth of Buddhism on Earth for our time, on April 14. We look forward to seeing the Hanamido, beautifully adorned with flowers by the BWA, and pouring sweet tea, which reminds us of amrita, the nectar of enlightenment, on that cute little prince once again.

- Erik Hammerstrom

Facility Committee Update



If you believe that Sparky the Fire Dog doesn't have a tail to wag, you better think again. When he found out our temple is at the top of its game in fire prevention, that spotted tail popped out and whacked a gremlin upside the head. What got Sparky so happily hopping with glee? Our semi-annual kitchen hood, exhaust fan, and fire extinguisher inspection was completed on schedule.

Lynrae Hubbell's litter patrols continue along Fawcett Avenue and Court D Street. With the recent warm temperatures, Rick Tanabe, Delbert Sasaki and Jeff Hiroo's won't let vegetation go rogue. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, and Del Sasaki keep our buildings and grounds in prime condition.

~Dave

Toban News



April 14

Hanamatsuri Service w/potluck to follow, Board Mtg., 8:30 AM
NO COFFEE HOUR

April 20

Sukiyaki Prep

April 21

Sukiyaki Fundraiser

April 28

Board Mtg. 8:30 AM; Spirit, Mind, & Body. Meditation 11:00 AM

May 5 Sumi-e w/ Lois Yoshida
May 5 Emergency Prep with Sangha & Students after first service
May 11 Spring Seminar, Dr. Rev. Takashi Miyaji, 2 PM – 4 PM
May 12 Farewell Party for Rev. Miyaji & Family, Gotan-e Service
May 18 Spirit, Mind & Body, Yoga 9:00 AM
May 19 Board mtg. 8:30 AM
May 26 Memorial Day Service 10 AM

June 2 Last day of DS, BWA Fundraiser, Temple Garden Clean up (**TBA**)
June 9 Temple Picnic, **TBA**
June 16 Board Mtg. 8:30 AM; Coffee hour

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW 2024 TOBAN ROSTERS AND CHAIRPERSONS.

COFFEE HOUR UPDATES: Toban Chairs - **April 14** (Canceled because of Hanamatsuri) (Henry Stoll & Wendy Hamai), **May 12** (Canceled) (Kevin & Mayumi Ikeda), **June 16** (David Campbell - please note the change.)

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 APRIL TOBAN CLEAN UP DUTIES:** Set up clean up times with March Toban of the Temple, Dust and vacuum pews

**** OTHER MAY TOBAN CLEAN UP DUTIES:** Set up times with June Toban to clean the temple, Dust and vacuum pews

**** OTHER JUNE TOBAN CLEAN UP DUTIES:** Set up times with May Toban to clean the temple

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.**

Event Reminder: Hanamatsuri, Sukiyaki, Emergency Prep. General Meeting, Rev. Miyagi Party

MARCH/APRIL - Sukiyaki Responsibilities - Tobans to provide small lunch on Saturday, April 20th for volunteers, leftovers will be used on Sunday, April 21, in the Rev. Pratt room for workers

MARCH/APRIL - Hanamatsuri Responsibilities - Help set up for potluck, bring dessert for potluck

A NEW RESPONSIBILITY WAS ADDED TO THE MONTHLY CLEAN-UP FOR TOBANS: In the Rev. Pratt Room kitchen, please clean out the refrigerator of outdated food and wipe out the shelves. A CONTENT SIGN IN SHEET will be posted on the refrigerator. It will also be posted on the Temple Clean Up List as one for the jobs. Thanks for your support on this issue.

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

APRIL TOBAN

Henry Stoll & Wendy Hamai
 Rui Pittman & Victoria Evert
 Gail Ichinaga

MAY TOBAN

Kevin & Mayumi Ikeda
 Masahiro Sugano
 Rachel Meatte

JUNE TOBAN

David Campbell
 Ken & Lynne Tanino
 Patti Wong

Andre & Phillip Davis
Les Hitsman & Fred Pelger
Anita Nakayama
Michiko Saito
Akemi Ikeda (out of country)

Debby Abe
Erik Hammerstrom
Elsie Taniguchi
Kosho & Michiko Yukawa

Blanca Noriega
Darlene Matsumoto
Kiyomi Fujita
Harriett Hatch

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

Library News



Library News for April - Mindfulness and Enlightenment

The Accidental Buddhist: Mindfulness, Enlightenment, and Sitting Still - Dinty W. Moore
Buddha - Deepak Chopra
Peace is Every Step: The Path of Mindfulness in Everyday Life - Thich Nhat Hanh

Thank you,
Jane

Greeter's List



| | | |
|--------------|----|------------------------------------|
| April | 7 | Mayumi/Kevin Ikeda |
| | 14 | Lynn Blick/Tracy Ling |
| | 21 | Sukiyaki Fundraiser |
| | 28 | David Yotsuuye/Bobby Yotsuuye |
| May | 5 | Jim Doyle/David Campbell |
| | 12 | Claire Silver/Tom Hubbell |
| | 19 | Gavin Morgan/Jane Burster |
| | 26 | Del Sasaki/Patti Wong |
| June | 2 | Mike Shiogi/Debby Abe |
| | 9 | PICNIC-NO SERVICE at temple |
| | 16 | Jeff Hiroo/Coco Inoue |
| | 23 | Kara O'Toole/KT Hendrie |
| | 30 | Barry/June Weled |

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.

Yearly Memorial Service

Memorial Service Years for 2024

1st Year - 2023

3rd Year - 2022

7th Year - 2018

13th Year - 2012

17th Year - 2008

25th Year - 2000

33rd Year - 1992

50th Year - 1975



April 2024

3rd Year Kim Kawada-Schauer

April 2, 2022

3rd Year Tom Osaka

April 19, 2022

17th Year Takeshi Ikeda

April 10, 2008

17th Year Irene Ichiko Fujioka

April 26, 2008

May 2024

No May Memorials

June 2024

No June Memorials

Thank You for your support!

Book Club

Thursday, April 11, 2024

@7 PM

King's Books

Choosing Compassion: How to be of
benefit in a world that needs our love

Anam Thubten

Book Club

Thursday, May 9, 2024

@ 7 PM

King's Books

Zen in the Garden

Miki Sakamoto

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS UPDATE

Our committee continues to meet and work on activities to keep people safe. Our next major activity will be on **Sunday, May 5, 2024**. After the first service we will inform the sangha and students about the information that the Tacoma Police Department has shared with other businesses and organizations. The Tacoma Buddhist Temple board met and viewed a 7-minute video on what to do during an active shooter situation. After the police department was done, the committee asked the board for feedback. The committee decided to share this information with the Sangha and the students using members Kevin Ikeda, Alex Theisen, and Nate Foote. We will call this Run, Hide, & Fight. Kevin will do a circle discussion with the students and Alex and Nate with the adults. They will show the video and share other information on what to do. Parents and adults can view the video online at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pY-CSX4NPtg>

This will give you the chance to see what will be presented and a choice to attend or not attend the presentation. You can also attend the presentation given by Kevin Ikeda who will do the student presentations. I can tell you there is nothing inappropriate with the video. We will also talk about what is a “shelter in place” and what to do if one is called.

With the support of the Dharma School, Rev. Koyama, and the Board, we will hold an Earthquake, Fire, Run, Hide, Fight, Shelter in Place review on **Sunday, September 22, 2024** after the first service as Dharma School starts.

We have added two more Incident Commanders to be in charge if there is an emergency at the temple. Delbert Sasaki and Jeff Hiroo have volunteered to help. They join Nate Foote, David Yotsuuye, and Tom Hubbell. They are in charge of all activities dealing with emergencies. We are always looking for younger volunteers to be an Incident Commander.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to talk with any members of the committee. They are Alex Theisen, Nate Foote, Kevin Ikeda, Gavin Morgan, Karen Yoshitomi, and June Weled. Please thank them for their time and efforts with this project.

Submitted by Michael Shiogi





Save the Date!
**2024 Spring Seminar with
Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji**

Join us for a meaningful seminar with our former minister, Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji! More details for seminar coming soon!

Date: May 11, 2024

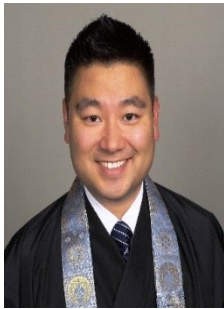
Time: 2pm-4pm

**Location: Tacoma Buddhist Temple, 1717 Fawcett
Ave. Tacoma, WA 98402**

Contact: revtadaok@gmail.com

SAVE THIS DATE! Sunday, May 12

Thank You Luncheon for Rev. Miyaji, Kaori and Keisai



Rev. Takashi Miyaji

From December 2017 to July 31, 2020, Rev. Miyaji was our resident minister and lived in the parsonage with his wife Kaori and son Keisai. With the onset of COVID in early 2020, the temple closed all onsite activities after the Sukiyaki in March and moved to the digital environment to keep everyone connected. In August 2020, Rev. Miyaji began his new assignment as resident minister of Southern Alameda Country Buddhist Church in California.

While their sendoff was streetside with masks and distancing, we were not able to give Rev. Miyaji and his family a proper send off. On Sunday, May 12 after service, we are inviting members to a luncheon to recognize his contributions to the temple. Rev. Miyaji is also our guest speaker for our Spring Seminar on Saturday, May 11 in our social hall. Please mark your calendar for that too!

For the luncheon, we will collect RSVPs in April from temple members and their children. The luncheon is complimentary to temple members. For non-members, donation is \$15/adults and \$10/children 12 years old and under.

Questions? Please ask June Akita or Crystal Inge.



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.

*April 2024

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|-----------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|--|-----|---------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Sunday service 10 am Dharma School after service | 8 | 9 | 10 Study class via Zoom at 6 pm | 11 Book Club King's Books 7:00 PM | 12 | 13 |
| 14 <i>Hanamatsuri Service 10 am</i> Potluck luncheon after service | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Sukiyaki Prep |
| 21 Sukiyaki fundraiser 11 am-4 pm No Sunday Service No Dharma School | 22 Myokyo deadline | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Board Meeting 8:30 am Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School after Service 11 am Meditation with Kjirsten Winters | 29 | 30 | | | | |

*May 2024

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------|---|-----|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Sunday service 10 am Dharma School after service Emergency Preparedness | 6 | 7 | 8 Study class via Zoom at 6 pm | 9 Book Club King's Books 7:00 PM | 10 | 11 Spring Seminar Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji 2 pm-4 pm |
| 12 Gotan-E Service in Hondo 10am Guest Speaker Rev. Miyaji Farewell Luncheon to Rev. and Family after service | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Yoga For Compassion 9 am Temple Social Hall Taught by Kara O'Toole |
| 19 Board Meeting 8:30 am Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School after service | 20 Myokyo deadline | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 <i>Memorial Day Service 10 am</i> Dharma School after service Cemetery Visitations starting at 1 pm. | 27 <i>Memorial Day</i> | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |