



Tacoma Buddhist Temple

(Jodo Shinshu)

タコマ 仏教会 (浄土真宗)

1717 Fawcett Ave., Tacoma, WA 98402-1706

TEL: [\(253\) 627-1417](tel:(253)627-1417)

EMAIL: info@tacomabt.org

WEB: www.tacomabt.org



MYOKYO 明鏡

(MYOKYO, the Bright Mirror of Buddha Dharma always illuminates our LIFE)

May 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



The Sounds of the Pure Land

Rev. Tadao Koyama

*"Pure winds blow in the jewel-trees,
Producing the five tones of the scale.
As those sounds are harmonious and spontaneous,
Pay homage to Amida, the one imbued with purity."
-Shinran Shonin, Jodo Wasan*

Happy May everyone! I hope everyone enjoyed the blooming of the various flowers and blossoms in the trees and in recent weeks. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers, guests, and supporters of our Annual Sukiyaki fundraiser here at Tacoma Buddhist Temple. It was truly a wonderful success!

The poem that is written above comes from Shinran Shonin's Hymns of the Pure Land. In this poem, Shinran describes the beautiful sounds that are heard in the Pure Land. He is also referring to the five heavenly tones that all of our chanting and gagaku classical Japanese music is based off of.

Many of you are already familiar with our service format for our weekly Sunday service. We start with chanting, followed by incense offering, a Dharma talk, and announcements of the various activities our temple has to offer. One of the aspects that can confuse first-time visitors the most, could be the chanting. Often, our chanting is in a language we do not speak on a daily basis. For a guest, these could be just sounds to them that have no meaning. They could read the English translation of the sutra at the bottom of the page, but without context, it can be just as confusing! So why do we do it?

A big part of our ritual has to do with expressing our deepest appreciation and gratitude towards the wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha. In the sutras, they also describe the beauty of Pure Land and the majestic sounds that are heard there. When attending a service at a Jodo Shinshu temple, it is part of all of the priests' job to help create a pleasant religious experience for the temple member and visitor. Part of this is the chanting of the sutras or gathas written by the Pure Land Masters.

While most of the time we hear a chant that is somewhat monotone but, on special occasions we hear more melodic chants that elevates the significance of the service. One of the best examples of this was during our

joint-Hoonko service with our temples in the Northwest district. The service was musical and melodic. Our members could tell that we were celebrating an auspicious occasion!

As we continue to attend service and enjoy the Dharma, let us listen and chant with an open heart!

President's Message



I am writing this as our temple members, family, friends and dedicated community members recently concluded hosting our annual Sukiyaki event this past Sunday. I will admit that I woke up the next morning a bit worn out, as I am sure many others felt, from the previous day's activities.

As a temple, we have many dedicated members, who spent countless hours planning and prepping for the event. From planning the staffing needs, setting up the stations for cooking sukiyaki, logging the online orders, buying the needed meat, vegetables & rice, to those coming out the day prior to prep the food and cleaning the social hall. All these activities taking place prior to hosting the event on Sunday were key to its success.

On Sunday, the day of the event, I had the great fortune of being able to interact with the attendees - from helping seat those who ate in our temple's social hall, to providing those who drove up to the front of our temple with their to-go orders. Throughout the day, I was struck by the positivity and appreciation of the attendees. From the comments on how nice it was that they could once again attend a sukiyaki event in our temple, to those expressing how anxious they were to take their to-go orders home to family and friends.

The definition of community has many meanings, but I felt that this past Sunday our temple played a small role in creating a real sense of community in Tacoma.

Thank you all for your efforts and attendance!

Gassho,
John

Buddhist Women's Association News



Tacoma BWA has been very busy the last two months!



In March, BWA hosted a cooking class for all Dharma School classes. Kazuko started the class with a lesson on how to properly make rice including great tips on washing the rice and the measuring the rice and water to make a perfect batch every time!



The main dish for this cooking class was Fried Rice. Students were given instructions and guidance on the techniques for chopping, slicing and dicing all the various ingredients and given lots of tips on different combinations of ingredients they could use. They moved through stations to choose and prepare all their vegetables and proteins and then given the opportunity to cook their own fried rice creations! It was a deliciously fun day in the social hall kitchen! Special thanks to Tracy Ling, Kate and Emma Inge, Kazuko Inoue and Alex Theisen for organizing and leading the cooking class!

On March 23rd, the Tacoma BWA invited our friends from the Seattle Betsuin BWA and White River BWA to join us to make Daifuku Mochi for the joint Spring Ohigan/BWA Memorial Service held the following day. Every counter in the kitchen was filled with 30+ BWA members from the combined three temple BWA organizations

working together as we cooked, pounded, shaped, and plated over 1,000 mochi. We are so incredibly thankful for this time spent together making mochi and more importantly creating lasting memories and strengthening our ties and friendships! Once we finished all our work making mochi, we sat down and enjoyed a chili dog lunch with salads and plenty of desserts!



BWA members decorated the Hanamido for the April 14th Hanamatsuri service. Special thanks to June Weled, Les Hitsman, Patti Wong, Kazuko Inoue, and Victoria Evert for leading the artistic vision this year! It seems quite daunting each year when we look at the buckets of flowers and the blank canvas of the Hanamido... but it always seems to come together beautifully!



Upcoming Events

June 1st – Bento preparation

June 2nd – Annual BWA Bento Sale

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 Associations (FBWA) Conference in San Jose, CA

In Gassho,

Denise Cline, Tacoma BWA President

Dharma School News



Hanamatsuri was held on April 14th, and each Dharma school (DS) class made a presentation during the potluck: **Lumbini class** presented a slide show narrated by Dennis, **Maitreya class** created a song accompanied by Briony's flute, **Lotus class** presented a trivia quiz emceed by Ivan. **Thank you, students and teachers**, for putting great efforts into this event.



Please note that there will be regular DS classes after Gotan-e Service on May 12th. There will also be regular DS classes for **Lumbini** and **Maitreya** on May 19th. The Parent Appreciation Lunch will be hosted by the YBA/Lotus on **May 19th**. All Sangha members are welcome, you don't have to be a parent of a DS student. Please join us!

Our DS kids are invited to join Seattle Betsuin's DS at their property in **North Bend** on our last DS day, **June 2nd**. This is the Betsuin's outdoor facility similar to a campground that butts up to the Snoqualmie River. Outdoor service will start at 10 am followed by a BBQ hosted by the Seattle DS. Our DS is asked to bring **side dishes**. A detailed email will be sent to all DS families later in May. The end of the school year is quickly coming to an end, we look forward to the Temple Picnic on **June 9th**. Bring your friends and families!

May / June Dharma School Schedule:

May 5	NO DS Presentation from Emergency Committee
12	DS Regular DS Class
19	DS Regular DS for Lumbini & Maitreya Lotus class prepares for Parent Appreciation Lunch
26	NO DS Memorial Day Weekend
June 2	DS Last DS at North Bend
9	NO DS Temple Picnic



If there are any changes in the future, we will contact you via email.
In Gassho,
Junko & Coco

Young Buddhist Association News



Hello all!

I hope everyone is doing well this spring! I am so glad to write in here that Sukiyaki was indeed a success! HUZDAH! I am so happy that YBA could contribute to another wonderful year of doing this fundraiser, and we can't wait to do it all again next year!

Moving on, so if you read my last article, I know I kind of promised I would have some more news on YBA activities coming up, but sadly I do not have much else to inform you all on. :(Nevertheless, I will keep everyone posted on anything I hear of or comes to mind later on, whether that be in an announcement after service sometime or in the next Myokyo. I'm sure that we have a bunch of stuff coming up but I'm just drawing a huge black right now, either way, I will definitely let you all know what the news is on your YBA!

Gassho,
Nao:)

Buddhist Education Committee News



It is Spring – Achool! The cherry trees are blooming, flowers are emerging, and garden supplies are on display everywhere I shop. Even our dog, Hudson, is affected by spring. During our daily walks he has to stop and sniff EVERYTHING. We pass by the same trees, plants, and rocks, but during this time of year something is different!



Springtime at temple brings both celebration and gratitude. This May we are grateful to finally have Rev. Tadashi Miyaji and his family join us for our **Spring Seminar (May 11)** and **Gotan-e (May 12)**, plus a very late 'going away' party for the Miyaji family after Sunday service. As many of you may remember, Rev. Miyaji was transferred to Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church during the pandemic, so we were not able to see him, Kaori and Keisai off properly. Hopefully, everyone can attend!

We will also be expressing our gratitude to those who fought and lost their lives during the WWII and Vietnam wars at our **Memorial Day service on Sunday, May 26**. Cemetery visits for Memorial Day will be after service – places and times will be announced once they are confirmed. Since many of the families of these veterans are gone, I will be asking members to go up and light a candle in their honor during the service. The BEC would like to recognize Joel Robison as our newest tech team member. Joel will help Erik, Kenzo, Rachel and myself with streaming our Sunday services. If you are interested in being on our tech team, please contact Erik or Lynrae. Thank you, Joel!

Memorial Day Cemetery Visitations

Reverend Koyama and Ministers Assistants will be making Memorial Day cemetery visitations after service on **May 26**, and Obon visitations after service on **July 21**. Both days will follow the same schedule we have used in the past:

Old Tacoma: 1:30 pm
Mountain View: 2:00 pm
New Tacoma: 2:45 pm
Sumner: 4:00 pm

Facility Committee Update



The optimistic proverb, "April showers bring May flowers", expresses a gleeful anticipation of colorful, fragrant flora highly regarded by gardeners and honeybees alike. However, April rains also bring on the gardener's bane-weeds. Tacoma Buddhist Temple's answer to those pesky plants is the annual garden cleanup on **June 2nd**.



A couple of future projects are on the agenda. One is to rewire the plug and the plug ground near the chairperson's podium. Another is to install a third vacuum charging station behind the Onaijin. Therefore, we won't have to worry about anybody taking a spill due to tripping over a vacuum cleaner cord. Thanks to David Yotsuuye we no longer have an accident waiting to happen. Black and yellow safety tape has been placed at the low points in the stairwell from the main hall to the social hall.

Lynrae Hubbell continues her vigilance against litter along Fawcett Avenue and Court D Street. Rick Tanabe, Delbert Sasaki, and Jeff Hiroo are maintaining the temple lawn, adjacent lot, and the wisteria we all love. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, and Del Sasaki can always be depended on to tackle temple and parsonage projects.

Toban News



- May 5** Sumi-e w/Lois Yoshida, Emergency Prep with Sangha after service
- May 11** Spring Seminar w/ Rev. Miyaji. (Note change of date)
- May 12** Farewell Party for Rev. Miyaji, Gotan-e Service
- May 18** Mind, Body, & Spirit - Yoga
- May 19** Board Meeting, Parents's Appreciation Lunch
- May 26** Memorial Day Service, Cemetery Visits



- June 2** Last Day of DS, BWA Bento Sale, BWA PB & J Fundraiser starts, **Garden Clean up**
- June 9** Temple Picnic
- June 16** Sunday Service, Board Mtg., Coffee Hour
- June 23** Sunday Service
- June 30** Sunday Service

- July 7** BWA General Mtg.
- July 14** Sunday Service, Coffee hour
- July 17** Eatonville/Orting Cemetery Visits/Cleanup

July 21 Sunday Service, Obon Cemetery Visits, Board Mtg.
July 27 BWA Mochi Making
July 28 Hatsubon & Urabon-e Service

PLEASE NOTICE THE NEW 2024 TOBAN ROSTERS AND CHAIRPERSONS.

COFFEE HOUR UPDATES: Toban Chairs - **June 16** (David Campbell) - please note the change., **July 14** (Kenji Shipp), **August 11** (Emma & Kate Inge)

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 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, Hatsubon Somen Prep & Serve with July Toban, Obon prep Saturday Break - bring treats (???)

**** OTHER JULY TOBAN CLEAN UP DUTIES:** Set up times with August Toban to clean the temple, Work with June Toban for Hatsubon Somen prep & Serve, Provide Obon lunch (simple & quick). (???)

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

Event Reminder: Rev. Miyaji Party, Spring Seminar, Gotan-e, Parent's Appreciation Lunch, BWA Bento Fundraiser, Temple Picnic, Temple Garden Clean up (???)

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

MAY TOBAN

Kevin & Mayumi Ikeda
 Masahiro Sugano
 Rachel Meatte
 Debby Abe
 Erik Hammerstrom
 Elsie Taniguchi
 Kosho & Michiko Yukawa
 Akemi Ikeda (out of country)

JUNE TOBAN

David Campbell
 Ken & Lynne Tanino
 Patti Wong
 Blanca Noriega
 Darlene Matsumoto
 Kiyomi Fujita
 Harriett Hatch

JULY TOBAN

Kenji Shipp
 David & Kathy Yotsuuye
 Bobby & Junko Yotsuuye
 Michael Shiogi
 Leroy & Penny Kawaguchi
 Chizuko Yotsuuye
 Yoshie Yotsuuye

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND HELP WITH OUR TEMPLE.

Tracy Ling/Michael Shiogi

Library News



Hi, we hope to have the library more accessible to members of the sangha, particularly the new members. Starting April 28, it will be open 1/2 hour before service. Someone will be there to help find books.

This month we received a donation of 10 books. A list of the new ones is in the library. Lynrae gathered our surplus books to help recover Seattle's lost books.

*In March, our book group read **Choosing Compassion**, the latest book by Tibetan teacher Anum Thubten. Thubten entered a Tibetan monastery as a child and moved to the US as a young man. He is the founder and spiritual advisor of Dharmata Foundation. Choosing Compassion is a collection of fifteen short dharma talks and is an easy read at 131 pages. Thubten's perspective may be that of a monk raised in a Tibetan monastery but his talks are relevant wisdom for a modern western audience.*

May's book selection is an appropriate choice, Zen in the Garden by Miki Sakamoto. Please feel free to join us at King's Books in Tacoma on Thursday May 9th at 7:00 pm. We'd appreciate it if participants have read all or some of the book. Copies of the book should be available at King's Books. - Claire Silver

Jane

Greeter's List

Please note changes in schedule & notes



May	5	Barry/June Weled
	12	Claire Silver/Jane Burster
	19	Gavin Morgan/Tom Hubbell
	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
July	7	Mayumi/Kevin Ikeda
	14	Lynn Blick/Jim Doyle
	21	Tracy Ling/David Campbell
	28	Bobby Yotsuuye/Joel Robison

Greeter's Notes

BEFORE GUESTS ARRIVE

- Put out the carpet in front of entrance door.
- Put the "Please knock" sign on front door.

AFTER THE SERVICE

- Bring the carpet back into foyer.
- Bring the "Please knock" sign in.

Please have new visitors sign the visitor sign-in sheet in the binder and give them the following:

- Temple Information Booklet (pale green cover)
- TBT Information Sheet with temple info and recommended books
- Spirit, Mind and Body information flyer

Extra supplies are in the office supply room off the Rev Pratt room in the file drawer labeled Membership. Please do a headcount, including downstairs and balcony, and enter it into the Visitor Sign-In sheet. If you are not available, please find your replacement. More detailed greeter instructions are in the Visitor Binder in the foyer.

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



May 2024

No May Memorials

June 2024

No June Memorials

July 2024

1st year Frank Mitsuo Shigio July 03, 2023

Welcome New Member!!



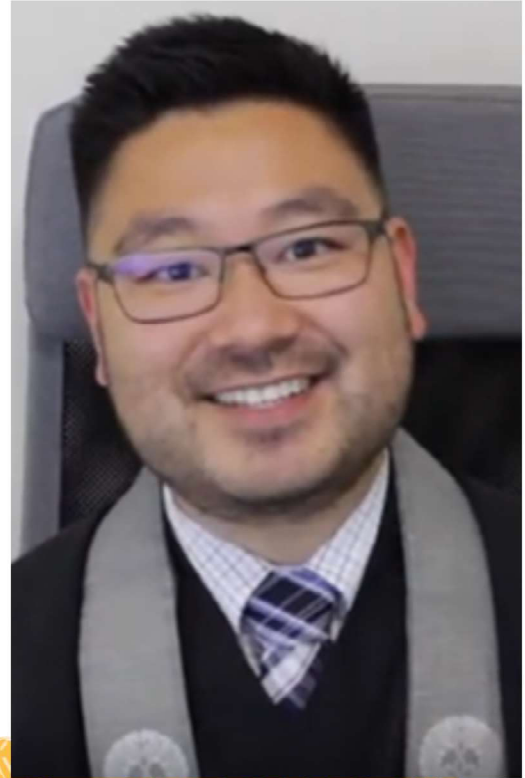
Ian Sok

We welcome our newest member, Ian Sok. Ian was born in South Korea in the South Jeolla province. It was there he learned herbal medicine and acupuncture from local monks. He moved to the United States when he was twenty-four and continued his education in traditional Chinese medicine in California and Oregon, where he earned his doctorate. In 2008, he opened Absolute-Cana Acupuncture Clinic in Federal Way, where he practices acupuncture and natural medicine including vitamin, immune, and cold and flu shots.

He has a significant Buddhist background and chose to join Tacoma Buddhist Temple because it offers more diversity than other temples. His Buddhist background includes being a talented Buddhist drummer and Barachum dancer, who chants Dharani with big, round brass cymbal-like instruments. He can perform at events or ceremonies.

**Tacoma Buddhist
Temple
presents**

**Our Special Guest Speaker
Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji
Resident Minister of
Southern Alameda Buddhist Temple**



The Joy of the Nembutsu Way of Life

**Date: Saturday, May, 11
Time: Seminar 2pm-4pm, Dinner 5pm-7:30pm
Place: Tacoma Buddhist Temple Social Hall
1717 Fawcett Ave, Tacoma, WA 98402
Cost: Seminar is Free, Dinner \$15 suggested donation**

In this talk, Rev. Miyaji will discuss what is the benefit of having the Nembutsu teaching in our lives. Why does this teaching matter? What will result from us turning towards the world of Amida Buddha's Boundless Wisdom and Compassion?

To Register, please email Rev. Koyama at: revtadaok@gmail.com
Please also let Rev. Koyama know if you plan to attend the dinner!

Book Club

**Thursday, May 9, 2024
@ 7 PM**

King's Books

**Zen in the Garden
*Miki Sakamoto***

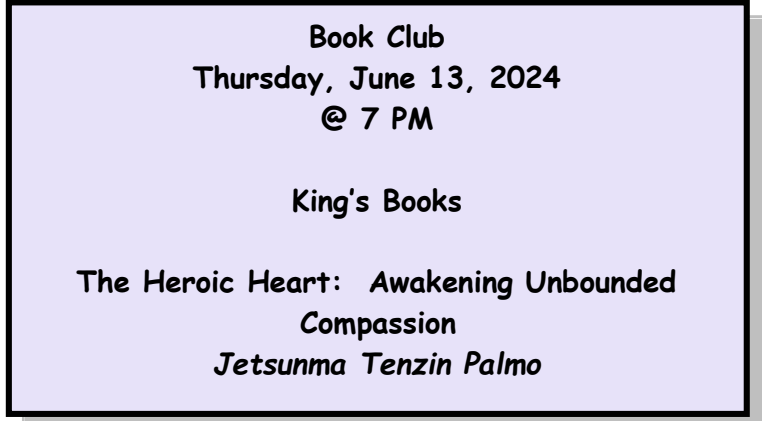


Book Club

**Thursday, June 13, 2024
@ 7 PM**

King's Books

**The Heroic Heart: Awakening Unbounded
Compassion
*Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo***





*May 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5 Sunday service 10 am Emergency Preparedness Dharma School after service Sumi-e painting class after service	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. Miyaji 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 Memorial Day Service 10 am Dharma School after service Cemetery Visitations starting at 1pm.	27 <i>Memorial Day</i>	28	29	30	31	

*June 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 BWA bento prep
2 Sunday service 10am Garden Clean up Final Dharma School Session BWA bento sale	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Temple Picnic 10 am	10	11	12 Study Class Via Zoom 6 pm	13 Book Club King's Books 7:00 PM	14	15
16 Board Meeting 8:30 am Sunday Service 10 am Coffee Hour	17 Myokyo deadline	18	19	20	21	22 June Seminar 2 pm-4 pm Social Hall
23 Sunday Service 10 am	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Sunday Service 10 am						