



# Tacoma Buddhist Temple

(Jodo Shinshu)

タコマ 仏教会 (浄土真宗)

1717 S. Fawcett Ave., Tacoma, WA 98402-1706

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## MYOKYO

明鏡

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

June 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](#)

**Tadao Koyama**

### **June is Bustin' Out All Over!**

**Rev.**

June is here everyone! And dare I say, I think there is more hope in the wind! In most recent news reports, more people are receiving the vaccine and because of this the CDC has relaxed some guidelines in terms of people getting together after they have received their second dose and the two weeks have passed. I will admit that I am feeling a lot better and a bit happier since both Rev. Cyndi and I have received our vaccine! Could this be the beginning of the end of the pandemic? Let's hope so! But let's also not get too ahead of ourselves either! Let's all still practice safety measures when we go out and about and still take cautions to ensure that we really get this pandemic under control! By the way if you didn't recognize the title of this article, it is from the Rogers and Hammerstein musical, *Carousel*. It is a fun song and dance to watch!

June marks the beginning of summer and we see the various businesses and even temples beginning to prepare for their annual summer activities (obon matsuri!). When we first entered into this new type of lifestyle, we were probably unsure, scared, disheartened and sad. We weren't sure how long this pandemic was going to last and many of us coped with it in different ways. It is definite that we experienced some anxiety and fatigue from being cooped up indoors for so long. Not being able to see our friends and loved ones in person was very upsetting for all of us.

Now that the warmer months are approaching, and the COVID restrictions relaxing a little bit more, I am certain many of us cannot wait to get out, run around and go to large parties and get together. Personally, I am looking forward to hosting a backyard BBQ party for all of the temple members where I will finally have the pleasure of meeting you all in-person and get to know you face to face! I have also (after a couple of years of absence) stepped back onto the Aikido mat at a local dojo here in Tacoma! Wow! I really need to get back into shape!

For many, school is out as well! For many of the students, I am certain that they are eager to get out of the house go to parties and even explore the beautiful nature that Washington State has to offer. It seems odd doesn't it? Sometimes, it can seem like a chore to get kids out of the house and away from screens but now because we have been inside for so long, our kids and students probably can't wait to do fun outdoor activities like hiking and camping.

While I am also planning and looking forward to fun activities, I am also reflecting on the past year and a half. First, I must acknowledge, that as close as we are to the finish line, the pandemic is not quite over yet. Just like senior year in high school, we can't get lazy or negligent of our responsibilities to each other in our society. As Buddhists, we must not forget the absolute truth of interdependence and that our actions don't affect just us. I am not saying this to discourage us from making plans or going away on vacations.

I, like all of you, am really eager to begin hosting Sunday Services here at the temple again. I look forward to welcoming you all, chanting the sutras together, and continue our path in living the life of nembutsu! I sincerely look forward to seeing all of your maskless smiling faces and to continue learning all of your family histories! I am also preparing many fun study classes and fun programs with the BEC for the future when we can get together in person including, learning new chants, fun outdoor activities, and seminars for all of us to participate in.

Let us continue to do our part in getting this pandemic under control so that sooner rather than later we can open up our temple doors, greet each other in person, and say the nembutsu together.

## President's Message



On behalf of the temple, I would like to extend my condolences to Teresa Mizukami on the passing of her mother, Violet Mizukami. Mrs. Mizukami enjoyed coming to temple to see her community friends and when she came, she was always with her husband Frank. We will miss her greatly.



Over the past couple of months, we have held classes centered on the Spirit, Mind and Body series. Kara O'Toole, Les Hitsman, Ken and Lynne Tanino, Kjirsten Winters donated their time and expertise to lead members and friends in a variety of experiences – keeping us connected and mindful. Classes will taper during the summer but please stay tuned for two more in June!

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, we look forward to the Summer Seminar, with Rev. Hibiki Murakami from the Los Angeles, Homba Hongwanji. The seminar is: "Shin Buddhism's Future, How Can We be a Part of It?".

We remain closed for June services, but the Board and Reopening Committee are having conversations on how and when to reopen. We will keep all members updated as more information is solidified.

Thank you again for staying connected!

In Gassho,  
Crystal

**Book Club**  
**Via Zoom**  
**Thursday, June 10, 2021**  
**7 pm**  
**Street Zen: The Life and Works of Issan Dorsey**  
**author: David Schneider**

## Buddhist Women's Association News



BWA members went on several small walks throughout the month of May as we participated in the Hunger Walk & 5K to support the Emergency Food Network. Our team raised \$1,078 as of May 17<sup>th</sup> and will apply for a BCA matching grant to further support Emergency Food Network's mission "to provide Pierce County with a consistent, diverse, and nutritious food supply so that no person goes hungry". Please enjoy the pictures below of a few of our walks.

**BWA IN PERSON MEETING:** Be on the lookout for news of an in person BWA meeting, date & location TBD. The plan is for a short outdoor meeting, hopefully in July, to facilitate the election of a new BWA Cabinet. Please contact Denise if you would consider serving as Cabinet member. In September, Tacoma BWA will take our turn as NWD Headquarters for a two-year term.

Looking forward: The **17<sup>th</sup> World Buddhist Women's Convention** will be held in Kyoto, Japan, **May 11-12, 2023**. The event coincides with celebrations of the 850<sup>th</sup> birthday of Shinran Shonin and the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hongwanji. It is not too early for Tacoma BWA to start planning and fundraising. We had so much fun at the 16<sup>th</sup> WBWC in San Francisco!



Dune Point, Tacoma

Nisqually Refuge  
Respectfully submitted by,  
Denise Cline, Tacoma BWA President



Wright Park

## Dharma School News



Thirty some days until summer!! Finally looking forward to some family time!! Just happy to be able to connect with friends and especially our DS kids - REALLY looking forward to that! We are at the end of a very unusual year, but we *did survive* and we did a great job! Thank you, teachers and families for loving and keeping the kids connected to the Temple. You 're the best!

Thank you to **Kara O'Toole and Kjirsten Winters** being part of our Temple Health series. It takes time to plan and execute a class, and you were on top of it all! Also, I appreciate the beautiful flower arrangements on the onaijin after watching **Les Hitsman** 'create' his masterpiece floral design – he makes it look so easy!!! Of course, **Ken and Lynne Tanino's** cooking class was a delicious and tasty treat for everyone – "Amazing" says **Gavin Morgan!!!!**

This year, we honor **Josiah Cook** who will be graduating from South Kitsap High School. Congratulations and the best of the best to your future. Please do not forget to join us anytime for service, or 'helping at an event', or joining us at a potluck when you have a break! Your leadership in YBA and your model behavior at the Temple are highly commended!

"Lotus Class braved the wilds of Sen. Rosa Franklin Park for their Earth Day project. Students, teachers, and parents alike removed English ivy from the trees and forest floor. Removing the invasive ivy

makes it easier for native plants to re-establish and form the plant communities needed by local wildlife. Everyone masked up, worked hard and had a good time catching up in the great outdoors!" Thank you, Brett Johnson, for sharing your expertise and organizing a fun day for the kids!! And you even ordered SUNSHINE!! (see picture, page 14)

**Pandemic Joke of the Month:** What do you call a rabbit with fleas? (Bugs Bunny)

**Pandemic Recipe: Creamy Fruit Salad** Allrecipies  
Prep time: 5 minutes Yield: 6 servings

2 c. Cool Whip, thawed	1 – lg. can mandarin oranges, drained
1 c. sour cream or Greek yogurt	1 c. red grapes, washed and cut in half
1 c. shredded coconut	1 c. mini marshmallows (save to end)

Add all ingredients in a large bowl and stir to combine. Gently fold in marshmallows just before ready to eat. *Refrigerate until ready to serve.* This lasts 5 days in the refrigerator – a perfect make ahead dish. You can substitute or add any other fruits you like (like any *canned and drained* fruit, or any fresh fruit in season). *Enjoy this summer treat!*

### “Student of the Month”



Hi! My name is Tamsin Shipp. I am in the seventh grade. One of the things I did during the pandemic that I normally would not do is have virtual game sessions with my cousins. Something I learned this year was how to use Microsoft Teams. My favorite dinner meal is chicken wings!!! A favorite past time is drawing and reading. In five years, I think I will be deciding where to go to college. I want to learn how to make macarons. One of my favorite Temple flashbacks is this past Halloween scavenger hunt! I am very grateful for my mom because she gave me life AND I am very grateful for my dad because he takes me to Temple. One way I’ve shown Dana is when I shared my water bottle with my sister when we were at the park. A few things you may not know about me: I love to read! I want to be a teacher when I’m an adult! My favorite animal is the alpaca!! **A few questions for Rev. Koyama:** What do you like best about being a minister? What is your favorite thing about Japan?

Thank you, Tamsin. So very glad to know you a little better.

So, how many times did you say “You’re welcome!” last month? It means you gave something to someone who appreciated your kindness. Good job, Dharma School students!!!

Gassho, June

## Young Buddhist Association News



With the new regulations regarding masks and the wider availability of vaccines, I hope everyone has been able to have the opportunity to enjoy the sunshine!



The YBA is still in progress with the silk screen printed shirts project. With over half of the shirts fully printed, we will be meeting again in person in the social hall in order to complete the first round of shirts. We look forward to making them available to purchase for everyone! In addition, we also are looking into gradually adding in new shirt designs and colors in the upcoming years. We have also considered branching out into other items such as sweaters and mugs, as well as expanding the clothing to be available online. Hopefully, it is something everyone can look forward to in the years to come!

Gassho,  
Josiah

## Buddhist Education Committee News



Hello everyone! We at the BEC would like to wish a Happy Father's Day to all of the fathers and father-figures! We would also like to extend our Congratulations to all the 2021 Graduates!

Talking about Dads and Grads, it reminds me of a passage from the *Kyogyoshinsho*. Within the Chapter on Practice, there is a section called the **Twofold Analysis of the Cause of Birth**. Here Shinran Shonin himself states, "*The karmic-consciousness of true and real shinjin is the inner cause. The Name and light-our father and mother-are the outer cause. When the inner and outer causes merge, one realizes the true body in the fulfilled land. (Collected Works of Shinran, 54).*"

After this explanation, Shinran quotes from Master Shan-tao and Fa-chao the reasons why saying Namu Amida Butsu is an important and necessary practice for sentient beings. Here, the Founder describes the Name as our father and the light as our mother as outside causes for birth in the Pure Land. The true and real shinjin given to us by Amida Buddha is the inner cause. Because these two causes meet within us, we are born in the Pure Land. This is all possible because we say the Name, Namu Amida Butsu, which contains the light of wisdom and compassion from Amida. Throughout the Chapter on Practice, Shinran defends nembutsu recitation and the karmic power given to us by Amida Buddha through this practice. Because of this reason, the Founder concludes recitation of the Name as the only true practice within this Last Dharma Age (Mappō).

Though we tend to fight with our parents and feel that we know everything (especially now with the Internet at our fingertips), we realize that they are there for us during our times of struggle, just like Amida Buddha. They are people we can rely on when we feel a variety of emotions both negative and positive. So just like we say "Namu Amida Butsu" in gratitude to the workings of Amida Buddha, we should also say "Thank you" to the parents and students who have shared their knowledge and compassion to us. So, thank you, parents, for all that you do, and to the graduates, the temple is always open to you.

In Gassho,  
Rev. Cyndi Yasaki

### TEMPLE YARD CLEAN UP JUNE 6, 2021 - 9 AM

Please bring your favorite tools and refillable water bottle.  
A light lunch is provided.

## Facility Committee Update



Sometimes choices become so difficult that my brain locks up and I end up in a catatonic state for hours on end. In my case, it's choosing between black-eyed peas and cornbread or cornbread and black-eyed peas. However, Tom Hubbell and Sensei, whose skulls are filled with more than ample supplies of brain matter, faced a choice regarding the parsonage fence gate and didn't blink an eye. Would it be a doorknob or a dead bolt? Now as morbid as a dead bolt might sound it ended up being the final choice. After that there'll be a final inspection and the project will be complete.

Planning to replace the decking and handrails of the parsonage deck is still ongoing. Also, to deter peekers with overly nosey peepers, a privacy screen will be added on the side facing the YMCA. Of course, these days folks are more likely to be transfixed on their smartphones than on anything across the street.

However, there might be technophobes or people who made New Year's resolutions to give up their smart phones. In those cases, the premises will be safe from prying eyes.

Sangha members are executing a collective pincer action against the constant assaults of dirt, grime, litter and dust that pester the interior and exterior of the temple. On the exterior, Del Sasaki and Mike Shiogi blasted the asphalt and concrete on the southside of the temple. Additionally, Tom Hubbell displays a rare level of civic pride during his litter runs to spiffy up Fawcett Avenue. Within the interior, don't even think about fingering "dust me" on any surface, Jeff Hiroo and Fred Pelger's weekly visits ensure you will have to find other uses with your forefinger. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, Del Sasaki, and Mike Shiogi are primed and ready to attack any maintenance challenge. Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens employ their tools and well-honed skills to maintain our grounds in impeccable condition.

~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



### June 2021

7 <sup>th</sup> year	Akinobu Yotsuuye	June 19, 2015
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### July

1 <sup>st</sup> Year	Dr. Sam Uchiyama	July 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	Yaeko Nakano	July 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2019
25 <sup>th</sup> Year	Meriko Mary Ikeda	July 17 <sup>th</sup> , 1997
25 <sup>th</sup> Year	Sumiko Walker	July 20 <sup>th</sup> , 1997

### August

13 <sup>th</sup> Year	Shikino Betty Thirkill	August 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2009
17 <sup>th</sup> Year	Dick Tadashi Osaka	August 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2005
25 <sup>th</sup> Year	Miyoko Narimatsu	August 6 <sup>th</sup> , 1997
33 <sup>rd</sup> Year	Tadayasu Abo	August 8 <sup>th</sup> , 1989

## Greeters Schedule

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



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

## Mrs. Violet Mizukami

Passed away on May 17, 2021

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

*Namo Amida Butsu*



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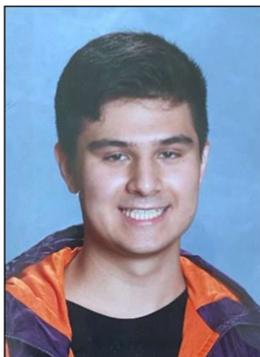
Congratulations,  
Josiah!!



Thank you for  
being part of  
Dharma School,  
YBA and our  
Temple



## Way to Go, Josiah!



I am very proud to introduce to you, Josiah Cook, son of Matt and Merlaine Cook, older brother of Odessa, and accomplished senior at South Kitsap High School. His Junior year was abruptly stopped in March 2020, and Josiah chose to remain virtual throughout his senior year.

His favorite activity is hanging out with his friends; his least favorite activity is anything that involves memorizing 'stuff!!' He enjoyed his marketing classes, one of which related to sports and entertainment. He did NOT enjoy chemistry – not appreciating all the memorization and specific rules.

He played soccer in his sophomore year but could not play the past two years because of the Covid restrictions. He missed playing in his freshman year

because he had overdue library books and they wouldn't let him turn in his

paperwork. ☺

He enjoys watching sports, running, spending time with his friends, playing video games, managing stocks and thinking about the future. He is a **HUGE** Philadelphia Eagles and Philadelphia 76ers fan. His favorite meal is Pho and would love to learn how to make it as well! His favorite color is green and his favorite number is '4.' He used to work at the YMCA and enjoyed helping the kids.

Josiah will be attending the UW Milgard School of Business in Tacoma and then transfer to the UW Seattle Campus where he plans on getting a Masters or PHD in Business Administration.

Josiah would always ask if there was something he could do at any event and 'wanted' to have the responsibility. What he did was well done – always being a good role model to his younger peers.

Odessa says he 'is very passionate about things he cares about and really has attention to detail when he is interested in a project. Growing up we didn't always get along, but as we have gotten older, Josiah and I have grown to be good friends, and I am very proud of who he is.'

"I always had a lot of fun working at Sukiyaki, Bazaar and obon. My favorite was running the shave ice stand during Obon. In YBA, I was vice president for three years in a row before becoming President his year. My favorite YBA activity we have done is the silk screen printed t-shirts which we have done in the past and is a project we are working on currently as well."

His favorite part about coming to the Temple was "being able to spend time in a community. Everyone is always so warm and welcoming, and it was always really nice to be able to learn things and still socialize with friends." One Temple Flashback was the first time he did Kansho – "I was really nervous at first!"

*Josiah's Words of Wisdom to his younger peers:* "Don't get too lazy. It's okay to relax, however, one of the things I regret the most about my time as a child, was that I always tried to find the easy way out of things. Working hard in school as well as things you are passionate about will make life a lot more fulfilling and will also open a lot of career options to help make life more enjoyable in the future as well."

It's been an honor to watch you grow into a caring and fun loving young man, Josiah. Dharma School wishes you the best in life and hopefully, you will come back to visit, come back to help at events, and maybe, eventually, rejoin the Temple and become one of our leaders.



*Congratulations, on your high school graduation,*

*Josiah, and*

*thank you for being part of our Temple!*



# YBA Obon T-Shirt sale

*The YBA is holding a T-shirt sale for our annual Obon fundraiser.  
Get your limited-time T-shirts to celebrate the festivity.*



Shirt Design by Odessa Cook

Price: \$20



Order Form:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if getting delivered): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

SIZE: \_\_\_XL \_\_\_L \_\_\_M \_\_\_S

T-shirt pickup methods:

Temple Pickup: \_\_\_ Delivery: \_\_\_ (an additional \$5.50)

For Temple Pickup, we will email the dates that are available for the pickup.

Please submit this form with the payment to either the temple's YBA drop box or mail it to:

Jet Yotsuuye  
3014 43<sup>rd</sup> AVE NE  
Tacoma WA 98422

**Obon 2021 Memorial Candle Observance**  
**Hatsubon-Urabon Service, Sunday, July 18**  
Candle order deadline: July 3

2020 and 2021 are years unlike any other in recent history in the way our usual gatherings and traditions had to change. Last year, our Hatsubon service and Bon Odori were viewed on YouTube. For 2021, we will be taking orders for candles as usual. However, there will be a special video of our memorial candle observance as part of Hatsubon-Urabon service on YouTube. Hatsubon is the memorial observance for those who have passed since the previous year's Obon, and Urabon is in memory of all of have passed before us.

We will miss gathering with so many of you around the garden pond with hundreds of glowing candles at the end Bon Odori festivities in reflective memory and gratitude to so many people recognized by each candle.

**This is how candle orders and display will be different this year:**

**Orders** can be placed by mail (see form below) or on-line on the Temple's website:

<https://www.tacomabt.org>. If you would like to check on previous years' orders, you can contact -

Lynrae Hubbell [lynrae@harbournet.com](mailto:lynrae@harbournet.com) (253) 232-2328, or  
Wendy Hamai [wfhamai@rainierconnect.com](mailto:wfhamai@rainierconnect.com) (253) 678-2891)

All candles will be **displayed** on a video during the Hatsubon-Urabon service. We will have a still photo of a candle with the names of both the memorialized person and person/s they are being remembered by on an adjacent screen. We will not be able to display the Buddhist name flags on the candles this year. There will be a special display of candles of members whose Hatsubon we are observing on the Onaijin.

In consideration of the effect that the pandemic shut down has had on temple finances, the **cost of candles this year will be \$10 per candle.**

We thank you all for your continued support of this meaningful observance throughout the years.



**2021 Memorial Candle Order Form (\$10 per candle)**

DEADLINE: SATURDAY, JULY 3

**Ordered by:** include names to be displayed on video\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_phone\_\_\_\_\_

**Names for candles:** **\*\*1 name or couple per candle please...print clearly!** Use back of form if needed.

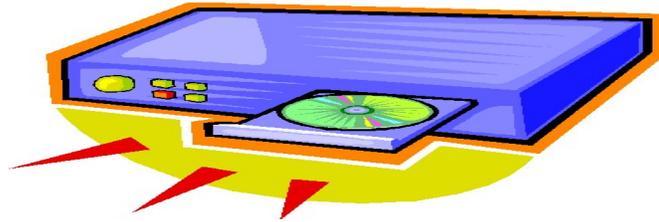
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Checks should be made out and mailed to:**

**Tacoma Buddhist Temple**  
**Attn: Candle observance**  
**1717 South Fawcett, Tacoma, WA 98402-1706**

### **DVDs Now Available!**

We are happy to announce that DVDs of our Sunday services are now available! If you would like a DVD of our Sunday Services, please inquire with Rev. Koyama at [revtadaok@gmail.com](mailto:revtadaok@gmail.com) or call at 253-307-4523.



**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND:**  
TO ALL MOMS, GRANNIES, GREAT GRANNIES, STEP MOMS, FOSTER MOMS, PET MOMS AND THOSE WHO LOST THEIR MOMS. MOMS ARE PRICELESS!



*Happy Mother's Day*



Thank you, Lotus Class students and parents, for helping clear out evasive plants at Senator Rosa Franklin Park!



Curtis, Justin, Linda, Rev. Dean, Tommy and Niko Koyama say "Hi!!!"



## *Welcome New Member!!*

### *Josh Harrison*



#### **Where were you born and raised?**

I am originally from Los Angeles, California.

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

I have been interested in Buddhism for quite some time. I joined the Tacoma Buddhist Temple in order to meet people, to become part of a loving and welcoming community and to learn about Jodo Shinshu.

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

I love photography. I still consider myself an amateur, but I would love to lend my photography skills to the Temple should they be needed.

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

I love languages. I'm fluent in French (I studied in France for a year between high school and college). I can also stumble pretty easily through Spanish and Italian. I am currently teaching myself Swedish. If I could, I would move from country to country, immersing myself in as many languages as I could absorb.

I look forward to the day when we can all meet in person!



Tacoma  
Buddhist  
Temple

More info contact:  
info@tacomabt.org

# Shin Buddhism's Future: How can we be a part of it

## The future of Jodo Shinshu in America

### Join us for the Tacoma Buddhist Temple Summer Seminar!

**Date:** Saturday, June 12th, 2021

**Time:** 2pm - 4pm

**Register:** [Here](https://forms.gle/EbHHEt4dMDfNsx99) or in your browser type  
<https://forms.gle/EbHHEt4dMDfNsx99>

**Keynote Speaker: Rev.  
Hibiki Junkyo Murakami**

**Current Minister at:  
LA Homba Hongwanji  
Buddhist Temple**



## \*June 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5 Youtube Shotsuki Service
6 Temple Yard Cleanup 9 A YouTube Service Last Day of Dharma School	7	8	9 Study Class via Zoom	10 King's Books, 7 PM via Zoom	11	12 Yoga Via Zoom June Seminar 2pm
13 YouTube Service No Dharma School	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Youtube Service No Dharma School	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Live Zoom Service No Dharma School	28	29	30			

## \*July 2021

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