



# 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)

June 2022

**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



#### **Hotter Weather, Hotter Tempers, and the Warmth of Amida! By Rev. Koyama**

Happy June everyone! I was filled with an endless amount of joy in May because our temple was able to open its doors for our annual Gotan-e Service. It was very nostalgic to be in a temple with happy members eager to see each other and share stories about where they have all been the past two years. I am eager and almost can't wait until the next in-person service.

As the days begin to heat up, we are starting to predict the heat wave that will once again come over this region. I would first like to gently remind members to drink plenty of water and do your best to keep cool. As the weather becomes hot, our tempers and our patience can become shorter. With the heat it's almost as if our sense of the dharma is also being tested. This is probably why we like seasons like spring and autumn so much. Neither are too hot or too cold.

It is this balance that we as Buddhists seek each day in our lives. While our bonbu side continuously wants things "my way", the side that takes refuge in the Dharma knows that we can't always have things our way, and that sometimes we need to let things go. Shinran could clearly see his own ignorance and his pride as results of the human condition. Realizing that he alone could not extinguish these passions, he took refuge in Amida's wisdom and compassion.

There will be times that we will not initially be able to see our own blind spots. Yet we also know that we are filled with them. What do we do in these times of great anger? Well after our spot of anger, we should do our best to take a step back and realize that there might be other contributing factors to the situation. The heat certainly doesn't help. Maybe you were already having a bad day and lashed out in anger, maybe the other person was having a bad day too! We can never know the full story, but we know how we react and that our own perspective is already biased.

This is solely the reason why we must continue to rely on the warmth of Amida's wisdom and compassion. We realize that we alone are incapable of fully extinguishing our egos and passions. While we must all, including myself, must take responsibility in the mistakes that we all make, we as bonbu will inevitably make more. As we begin to traverse this hot season, let us all remember that we are surrounded by loved ones and fellow travelers in the Dharma.

As more and more businesses and community-based events begin to open up again, we will have to re-learn how to interact with one another after over two years of isolation. Yes, we have been able to communicate via Zoom and phone, but there is a big difference when we are physically walking about in the world where there are many strangers and friends alike who surround us for extended periods of time. Already we have begun to experience things like, traffic, long lines, and wait times again.

If there is one thing that the Dharma always reminds us of, it's the ever-changing nature of our existence and spaces around us. The heat is coming for sure, but we can prepare ourselves for the heat by once again looking towards the wisdom and compassion of Amida.

I congratulate all of our graduates and wish you all well on your next adventure! Please know that Tacoma Buddhist Temple will always welcome you home and that you will always have a place here!

Namo Amida Butsu

## President's Message



Thank you to everyone who purchased, donated, volunteered, spread the word for our first ever Sukiyaki drive thru fundraiser. Because of the seamless organization, preparation and team of volunteers, guests enjoyed our individually cooked sukiyaki, mochi cupcake and tsukemono. 500 meals were prepared and delivered within a 2-hour time frame. Wow. Thank you to especially Lynne Tanino for her focus on the process and entire workflow. Thank you to Tracy Ling for overseeing the cooks. David Yotsuue for leading the delivery and Kaila Yoshitomi for leading the mochi cupcakes. Amazing effort!

We also enjoyed our first in-person/in-temple service on May 15. This was Rev. Koyama's first live service with people in the hondo. When he arrived in 2020, we were closed for services, so this was a very special day for him. We also recognized high school graduate, Kalea who will be starting at the University of Washington this fall and wished her well on her future as a collegiate.

I'd like to also recognize Rev. Cyndi Yasaki for graduating from the Institute of Buddhist Studies. Her graduation is a celebration of her focus in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Congratulations Rev. Cyndi!

At the end of May, we recognize our veterans during our Memorial Day service in their service to our country. Please see the list of our members who served.

Last, there are more ways to connect –Vintage Sale with Asian and American housewares, and plants and garden art. And on June 25<sup>th</sup>, from 2-4 pm our own TYABA (Tacoma Young Adult Buddhist Association) is hosting our traditional June Seminar. Check out the speaker and famed author of "Be the Refuge."

We will continue to monitor health and safety of events and activities, and hope you have a great start to hopefully better summer weather.

Gassho,  
Crystal

## Dharma School News



Cannot believe it is almost summertime already!!! It is a time to look forward to vacations and sleeping in and no homework and just hanging out...But it is also a sad time as we won't really see each other for many weeks just to chat and catch up. To have to end our Dharma School year is just a happy/sad time. Regardless, I hope all of you have a great summer and can't wait to see you again in the fall.



It was really nice to see **Gus, Nao, Enzo and Jet** helping out at our Sukiyaki Fundraiser. Many of you were NOT asked to help because, basically, we were trying to keep our volunteers to a minimum in respect to others and the COVID guidelines.

We had our first in-person service a couple of weeks ago. It was really nice to see so many people sitting in the pews and hearing Sensei speak 'to' people. We acknowledged **Kalea** graduating from Dr. Delores Silas High School with all of her accomplishments and especially, her success in dance and her dance competitions. Actually, she had to run off as soon as the service was over to compete in a competition at noon – and successfully won a beautiful trophy!!! (See her article on page 12.) It was great to see **Marina, Jet and Enzo** sitting so proudly in the pews as well. The guys did a great job promoting the YBA t-shirt sale. I think they will get a lot of support for the awesome tees!!!

Our special guest last week for our ZOOM class was **Reverend Yukawa**. The kids knew who he was by sight and glad to know him by name! It's been a long time since we had the opportunity to share a screen with Sensei. We will have *two special guests at our final class, June 5th*. Stay tuned and re-meet familiar faces!! Unfortunately, our **temple picnic** was canceled so Maitreya class will NOT have to do games and Ms. Junko will not have to make DS bags. I know many of us were looking forward to a fun day but in thinking of our safety and health, perhaps we can do something special in the fall.

Some of you have asked about **Obon** as well. The Reopening Committee has been discussing the possibilities our temple can do. Road Construction on Fawcett is not expected to be completed until November, and COVID is still a priority for the safety of attendees. I will keep you informed via Ms. Junko but please understand that plans could change in a heartbeat.

### Dharma School Calendar:

**June 5** Dharma School Class via Zoom

Please be safe this summer. I know some of you have had to deal with COVID in your own families and have managed well. Dharma School will hopefully open up in-person in the fall, so please, please, please stay healthy and be smart ٠

In gassho,  
June

## Young Buddhist Association News



Hello Everyone! Summer is finally around the corner and with the consistent sunny weather we have been getting in Washington, I can't wait for summer break to come!



The YBA is almost done with our shirt silk screening, and it is almost ready for sales! Throughout the process we were able to be productive and to keep covid protocols in place, while having fun with an encouraging atmosphere. We will be picking a pickup date for the shirts very soon, so we will keep in touch!

We also had a few YBA members who helped with the Sukiyaki fundraiser that occurred on May 1<sup>st</sup>. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the event and helped move the Sukiyaki smoothly and quickly.

Soon, we will be having elections for the 2022-23 school year YBA cabinet. I would like to say thank-you to all of you for your support through these trying times of the pandemic and wish the new incoming YBA cadre best of luck in next year's projects and events. I still plan on contributing to the success of Tacoma YBA but not necessarily in the capacity of President. Thanks to the YBA members for your participation and enthusiasm this last year.

Have a wonderful June!  
Jet Yotsuuye

## **Buddhist Education Committee News**



Hello everyone. I want to talk about impermanence, as a reminder Google defines it as “the state or fact of lasting for only a limited period of time”. I felt it was most appropriate to write about impermanence if I reflected on what is happening now around me.



Instead of just talking about what I can see in my small college room, I decided to take a short walk to the Quad at the University of Washington. I paused at the top of the stairs at one of the entrances because what I saw was completely different from what I remembered just a few weeks ago. The cherry trees were no longer in full bloom and did not possess that striking white contrast to the leafy grass or brick buildings that surround them. But the biggest difference was that I was the only person in the Quad, but that moment of true silence and peace was coming to a close as I saw groups of people entering the space.

Although the space might be physically different from what I remember I know the flowers will bloom again and it will be right back to what it was only a few weeks ago. However, I realized that impermanence is not just applied to living things but can also apply to things happening within ourselves. If I come back to the Quad in a year although the site will look exactly the same my perception of it will likely have changed based on my experiences that had occurred. This also reminded me of the teaching of mindfulness, recognizing my own thoughts and emotions, and realizing what is happening around me and within me. This very moment will no longer be exactly the same as the moment just before it.

So, take a moment and reflect on the things around you because impermanence tells us that nothing will be exactly the same. Whether that be what is physically around us or within ourselves nothing will last forever so it is essential to recognize what is important to you.

In gassho,  
Kenzo

## **Facility Committee Update**



When Tom Hubbell announced that he ordered some Trex decking, a composite of recycled wood and plastic, the gremlins huddled together to figure out a way to degrade this extremely robust material. Gremlin Skunkworks scientists worked feverously to modify the DNA of plastic-eating bacterial to work on wood and plastic. Unfortunately for them and serendipitous



for us, poor control of radiation being used for some other no-good gremlin scheme, deformed the DNA of their bacterial specimens. Instead of plastic, the bacteria developed a strong hankering for banana peels, tools of the trade gremlins use at dance marathons, sports, and other events that require fleet feet. At a certain point everybody's schedules will line up and Facilities will be able to team up to improve the parsonage deck.

David Yotsuuye, Jeff Hiroo, Mike Shiogi and Del Sasaki, weed whacked the vacant lot next the temple on May 10th. Additionally, the ambitious crew ganged up on some tall weeds along the sidewalk on the north side of the lot. After that, the team transitioned from terrorizing tall weeds to providing some tender-loving care to the parsonage lawn. They mowed the grass and applied some broadleaf herbicide, in addition to, moss killer. All that hard work was richly rewarded with a scrumptious bento, courtesy of Reverend Koyama.

Tom and Lynrae Hubbell just won't give that unsightly debris a break as they continue to remove litter along Fawcett Avenue and the alleyway behind the temple. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, Del Sasaki, and Mike Shiogi are pillars of facilities maintenance. Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens would love to maintain our temple grounds but are being checkmated by ongoing construction.

~Dave

## Toban



At the last Reopening Committee meeting, it was decided to have Toban pairs resume a **monthly cleaning beginning in June**. This means you will do a little more than the restricted cleaning – please refer to the check off sheet in the hallway on the main floor and one in the kitchen. Check off items that are completed to save confusion. Please sign the check in sheet during clean up times. Everyone should also be masked and distanced as best as you can.

### **May Chair Shinobu & Kazuko Inoue**

Kenzo Yoshitomi  
Kaila Yoshitomi  
Karen Yoshitomi  
Alvin & Donna Sasaki

### **June Chair Aimee Champion**

Gail Ichinaga  
Riu Pittman, Grace & Victoria Evert  
Henry Stoll & Wendy Hamai  
Les Hitsman & Fred Pelger

**Toban Volunteers:** We are asking each toban team to do **regular cleaning**. You have the option **not** to participate in cleaning for health concerns (*please let your chair know*).

**Safety protocols::** Must be **vaccinated** with two shots and booster. Negative testing will **NOT** be accepted nor will a medical deferment.  
Must be **masked** at all times while at the Temple (TBT provides masks)  
Wearing TWO Level 3 masks (blue) or ONE KN95 mask  
Stay **6 feet apart** from others

**Sign In** (Check in sheets in Main kitchen. Leave sheet in VP box in office)

**Cleaning Duties:**

<b>Bathrooms:</b>	Professionally cleaned once a month
<b>Social Hall:</b>	Fuji Taiko will sweep and clean floor
<b>Kitchen:</b>	Wipe down all counters
	Sweep kitchen floor (Mop if needed)
	Empty garbage/recycling as needed
	Replenish bathroom supplies as needed



- Main Floor:** Dust pews  
Quick sweep wooden floor  
Sweep side kitchen  
Wipe down counters  
Replenish bathroom supplies as needed  
Vacuum all carpets including stairwells
- Rev. Pratt Room:** Vacuum carpet  
Wipe down tables  
Wipe down and sweep kitchen area  
Sweep and mop landing area  
Empty garbage/recycling as needed
- Upstair Classrooms:** Vacuum carpet  
Wipe down tables  
Empty garbage/recycling as needed
- Social Hall Cooler:** April, August, December to buns wipe down, mop and clean

Cleaning supply locations are located behind the duty list in the hallway and kitchen. Thank you very much for your understanding and cooperation on these changes as we are getting back to 'normal.'

Barry Weled and June Akita

### **TBT Re-opening Committee News**

Tacoma Buddhist Temple held its first in-person service on May 15. It was great seeing members in person. We are observing parallel safety protocols to help keep members healthy. These include requiring primary and booster vaccinations, wearing KN95 or higher-level masks, taking temperatures and distancing. We hope you will be able to attend a service in the future. Please check the Temple online calendar or Myokyo calendar for a schedule of services.

### **No Temple Picnic this year.**

The Re-opening committee decided not to hold a Temple picnic this year. It would be difficult to observe our protocols at a picnic, so an in-person service will be held in its place.

We hope that everyone continues to stay healthy and well and will be able to attend an in-person service soon.

Gassho,  
David Yotsuuye



**In Memoriam of Our Veterans**

**We thank you for your courage and  
your service to our country.**

**Names of Veterans**

**World War II**

Yohei Sagami, Shoichi Takehara,  
Shinji Mizukami, John Hashimoto,  
Katsu Tamura, Yukio Fukui,  
Megumi Fukui, Haruichi Imoto

**Vietnam**

Brian Mukai

## Yearly Memorial Service



### **General Memorial Service Years for 2022**

1 <sup>st</sup> Year – 2021	17 <sup>th</sup> Year – 2006
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year – 2020	25 <sup>th</sup> Year – 1998
7 <sup>th</sup> Year – 2016	33 <sup>rd</sup> Year – 1990
13 <sup>th</sup> Year – 2010	50 <sup>th</sup> Year – 1973

### **May 2022 (correction)**

1 <sup>st</sup> Year	Violet Mizukami	May 17, 2021
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### **June 2022**

7 <sup>th</sup> Year	Wesley Kosai	June 4, 2016
25 <sup>th</sup> Year	Miyo Hisata	June 20, 1998
25 <sup>th</sup> Year	Rose Fusaye Teraoka	June 20, 1998
25 <sup>th</sup> Year	Theodore Daiya Kawasaki	June 30, 1998

### **July 2022**

3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	Sam Uchiyama	July 12, 2020
13 <sup>th</sup> Year	Mitsuye Shigio	July 5, 2010
17 <sup>th</sup> Year	Irene Kinuye Masumoto	July 29, 2006

### **August 2022**

7 <sup>th</sup> Year	Hiroshi Fujita	August 7, 2016
7 <sup>th</sup> Year	Sue Osaka	August 28, 2016
50 <sup>th</sup> Year	Chiyo Nakagawara	August 13, 1973
50 <sup>th</sup> Year	Masao Matsuzawa	August 22, 1973

## Greeter's List

July 10	Debby Abe/Lynn Blick
July 24	David Campbell/Shizuka Faria

Date TBD	Jeff Hiroo/Akemi Ikeda
	John Inge/Coco Inoue
	Gavin Morgan/Carrie Mori
	Del Sasaki/Michael Shiogi
	Mayumi and Kevin Ikeda
	Jim Doyle and Tony Gregg
	Lynrae and Tom Hubbell
	June and Barry Weled
	Kara O'Toole and Kt Hendrie
	David Yotsuuye and Bob Yotsuuye
	Tracy and Richard Ling

Greeters:

Note: 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 cover)
- 1/2 page list of Temple Activities & "Want More Info."
- Extra supplies are in the ministers' room off the hondo.

Lastly, please do a headcount and enter it in the attendance sheet in the visitor folder. If you are not available on the day you are assigned, please find your replacement.





## **Congratulations Rev. Cyndi!**

Rev. Cyndi Yasaki has completed her three-year study at the  
Institute of Buddhist Studies.

She received her Master of the Arts in Buddhist Studies on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022.  
We celebrate her next step in her ministerial aspirations and wish her well  
on her training for Kyoshi Kyoshu.



# Congratulations, Kalea



What a pleasure to introduce to you to Kalea, who is graduating from Dr. Dolores Silas High School and will be attending the University of Washington in Seattle this fall, working towards a double major in communications and dance.

While in high school, Kalea's favorite class/activity was orchestra and her least favorite 'out of school' activity was the dreaded 'homework'... She always enjoyed all of her classes maintaining a 4.0 gpa and graduating first in her class! Her favorite activity out of school was dance where she excelled competing in numerous competitions in her dance career. Naturally with such a strong dance background, her most favorite sport was being part of a dance competition team.

Kalea had a difficult time choosing a 'favorite' pet – as she does have chickens, dogs, and cats and of course, her Grandma's Golden Doodle, Daisy.

Her favorite foods are mangoes and udon. She also loves our BWA's daifuku mochi—actually she likes many sweets—often referred to as the "Carb Queen!"

Kalea named her mom as one of her heroes. Everyone knows what a supportive, kind and loving mom she is. Her mom would go all out to support both of her daughters, and with Kalea, would take time to bring her to her dance competitions with a smile and total support – *fluffing her feathers all the while*.

She also adores her grandma. Kalea loves her grandma (and Daisy!) and insists on including her grandma in every aspect of her life. Her relationship with Grandma is remarkable. I remember speaking with Kalea when her grandpa passed. She truly missed her grandpa and she was so concerned for her grandma. Her bond is so strong with her mom and grandma— all built on love and encouragement.

Finally, she named me as a hero. This really took me back...just because!! Kalea knows I would support her in any way, but honestly, who wouldn't???? She always wears a smile and so gracious—her compassion and concern towards others is exceptional—her responsible nature when she helps at the Temple—her goals she sets for herself are high and attainable. Kalea is just a beautiful person on the outside, and truly beautiful on the inside. It has been my honor to work by you these past few years, Kalea, and to say you have been part of my life as one of my heroes.



Kalea has been secretary of YBA for the past four years. Her record keeping is organized and quickly accessible at all the meetings. She has participated in Lotus Class with great ideas and intuitive questions since 8th grade. She is always helpful at our fundraisers and takes 'any' responsibility seriously. I look forward to hearing what she will bring to the TYABA group this fall.

Her Words of Wisdom to all of her younger Dharma School friends is 'to put your energy into things that you enjoy.' After these past few years, no words could be more important or more fundamental to ALL of our lives.

Thank you, Kalea. You are a shining light in our Dharma School, YBA, and temple. We wish you the best success in your college and future life. We look forward to seeing your return as one of our young leaders and friend – or just to hang out!!!



Gassho,  
June Akita

# Welcome New Member!!

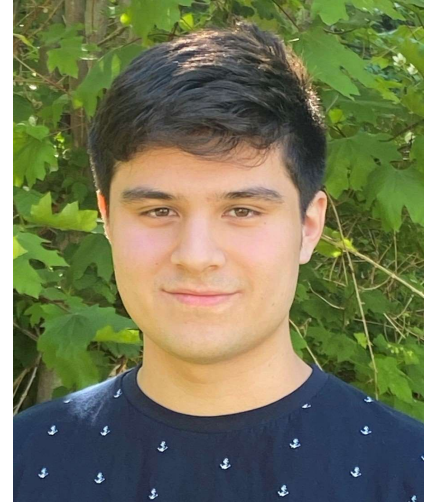
## Josiah Cook

### Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Tacoma, Washington. My family and I moved to Port Orchard, Washington shortly before I began kindergarten, so I was primarily raised in Port Orchard. It's sort of a strange town but that's part of its charm, I think. I would say it had a pretty big impact on my upbringing as I have met many interesting people and made great friends here.

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

I have chosen to join the Tacoma Buddhist Temple because it feels like the natural progression from being a member as a kid. Additionally, Temple has always been a place and community that has welcomed me. It felt like a home in a way, and I greatly appreciate all the time I spent there growing up. I hope I can find a way to help Temple now that I am an adult.



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

I believe I may be able to add business related knowledge to the Temple and the Sangha as this is the field I am planning to get a degree. I still have a lot to learn but it is something I hope will be helpful. In the chance the Temple needs an origami model, I can definitely help.

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

I don't think I have any particularly interesting trivia about myself but the one thing I would like the Temple to know is that I am currently a youth sports coach at the YMCA. I coach kids in soccer and basketball and referee their games which I find a bit stressful. Coaching has taught me a lot about how to teach and how to help kids learn.

### Post Graduate Plans?

I am currently attending the University of Washington in Tacoma for Business Administration. Several of my friends and I plan to transfer to the Seattle campus in our junior year and rent an apartment in Seattle until we get our degree. My post-college plans are not concrete, but my friends and I have made plans to create and sell machine parts for future recreational space travel.

Temple Garden Clean Up

**JUNE 4, 2022 at 9 am.**

Bring your favorite work tools & refillable water bottle.

**BOOK CLUB**

Thursday, June 9, 2022

**We were made for these times: skillfully moving through change, loss and disruption**

Author: Kaira Jewel Lingo





Our first drive thru Sukiyaki fundraiser was a success! Due to the volunteers, preparation and coordination, our guests seamlessly drove through the alley to pick up their individually packed combo meals. Cooked to order sukiyaki, mochi cupcake, rice and tsukemono were included.

The stats:

- 500 cooked meals in 2.5 hours
- 74 total volunteers (over 3-day period, 58 on Sunday)
- 139 people ordered
- 68 net new guests

Due to Covid, we needed to keep the list of volunteers smaller than our typical in-person event, but we hope next year, we might be able to hold part of it in person. Thank you again for your support of the temple and our fundraising activities. Thank you everyone for creating an amazing event!



Lynne Tanino training the team



Cooking stations



Enzo Yotsuue delivering



Rice leader, David Campbell



Dashi making, Todd Nakamura and daughter Kelli





TACOMA BUDDHIST TEMPLE PRESENTS

# JUNE SEMINAR

with Chenxing Han

Discussing her book *Be the Refuge* and the role of young Asian Americans in Buddhism.

June 25, 2022 at 2pm-4pm

via Zoom





## \*June 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 <i>Open Taiko Revival 7:15pm</i> <i>At Temple</i>	2	3	4 <i>Spirit Mind and Body</i> Yoga for Compassion 9am-10am via Zoom Temple grounds cleanup 9am
5 <i>YouTube Service</i> BEC Meeting 9am Final Dharma School Via Zoom 10:45am	6	7	8 <i>Study Class</i> 6pm Via Zoom	9 <i>Book Club 7pm</i> King's Books	10	11
12 In-Person Service at At temple 10am	13	14	15	16 <i>Open Taiko Intro</i> 7:15pm <i>At Temple</i>	17	18 <i>Vintage Sale at</i> Temple 9am-2pm
19 <i>YouTube Service</i> Board Meeting 8:45am	20 Myokyo Deadline	21	22	23	24	25  June Seminar 2pm-4pm Via Zoom
26 <i>In-Person Service</i> At Temple 10am	27	28	29	30		

## \*July 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 <i>YouTube Service</i>	4 <i>Independence</i> Day	5	6	7 <i>BEC Meeting 7pm</i> Via Zoom	8	9
10 In-Person Sunday Service at Temple 10 am	11	12	13 <i>Eatonville and</i> <i>Orting Cleanup</i> <i>Study Class</i> 6pm Via Zoom	14 <i>Book Club 7pm</i> <i>King's Books</i>	15	16
17 <i>YouTube Service</i> Board Meeting 8:45am Obon Cemetery Visitations	18 Myokyo Deadline	19	20	21	22	23
24 <i>In-Person Hatsubon</i> Service at Temple 10am	25	26	27	28	29	30 Obon Event at Temple
31 No Service						



Do you like thrifting? Finding great old finds of brands like Fire King and Pyrex? We have diner mugs galore, bowls, dinner sets and other fun kitchen finds from '50'-70's+. Explore the Japanese section of lacquerware, dishes, ochawans, teacups, kimonos and more. If that's not enough, check out the custom planters and garden art designed by temple members. Sign up for the temple newsletter at [tacomabt.org](http://tacomabt.org) and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates on this sale.

Proof of vaccinations+booster and kn95 or equivalent mask required  
 No backpacks or big purses please  
 Saturday, June 18, 9 am – 2 pm  
 Tacoma Buddhist Temple Social Hall  
[Info@tacomabt.org](mailto:Info@tacomabt.org)

