



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

EMAIL: info@tacomabt.org

WEB: www.tacomabt.org



MYOKYO 明鏡

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

June 2023

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



Summer Begins

Rev. Tadao Koyama

Happy June everyone! I sincerely hope that you all are doing well and keeping cool during this warm summer weather! June is a time that we all begin to relax a little bit. For students, they go on summer vacation. For adults, it's also a time for vacation and travel, maybe a wedding! How are we going to spend our summer vacation? I think for temples, we still stay busy. While some temples go on a bit of a break in terms of Dharma School and Sunday services, this is the usual time for bazaars, fundraisers, and Obon!

While we can all use breaks, and we should try our best to balance our time between leisure and work, I would like to highlight our mother temple's hard work and efforts to spread the teaching of Jodo Shinshu throughout the world. Last month, many of our sangha friends and ministers made a trip to Japan to participate and observe the 850th anniversary of Shinran Shonin's birth, as well as the 800th anniversary of the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu sect. This was clearly a busy time for Nishi Hongwanji. If you were able to watch any of the live-streamed services, you would see the many moving parts of the service and all of the people who came together to make it happen.

While this was a momentous occasion, we should also keep in mind that Nishi Hongwanji never takes a day off. While the priests can take breaks and vacations throughout the year, there is never a time that Nishi Hongwanji is without a staff to open the temple doors and to hold services. Service is held at the temple every day! Even on what we would consider to be holidays! At first this might seem unreasonable, but thankfully, Nishi Hongwanji has many staff members who can cover for each other and ensure that there will always be services every day.

This, to me, reflects the everlasting working and direction of merit that is given to us by Amida Buddha. Amida Buddha never took a holiday and never took a vacation to reach the perfect enlightenment. This was purely for our benefit. Wisdom and compassion reaches us on a daily basis because of this non-ceasing working.

This does not mean that I advocate that we should not take breaks. All of us, including myself, need to take vacations and decompress from the everyday stresses of life. Otherwise, we lead an unhealthy and unbalanced life. However, we should also remember that we can relax, and we can sometimes take it easy, because the nembutsu is still working constantly for our benefit. We often hear ministers say we live a life of gratitude and one of the main reasons for that gratitude is Amida's never ending wisdom and compassion.

Namo Amida Butsu.

President's Message



In mid-May, we sadly lost one of our longtime members, Jim Akagi. Like several of our older members who attended temple regularly before COVID, we missed seeing him once we reopened for in-person services. Jim had an active, keen mind and was a man with many interests. From playing the ukulele, watching old westerns, and most of all, a love of going on "business trips", which consisted of flying to Las Vegas to play craps. I always looked forward to sitting next to Jim during temple service. The pew now feels emptier with his absence.

Also, thanks to all who volunteered, purchased or told friends and family about our Sukiyaki Drive-thru. It was a great success and terrifically organized by our event leads Karen Yoshitomi, Lynne Tanino, Tracy Ling, Kaila Yoshitomi, with a terrific team of volunteers. In a follow up survey of purchasers, we learned that not only did they enjoy the sukiyaki dinners and the efficiency for picking up their meals at curbside in front of the temple, nearly 70% said that in the future they would prefer drive-thru than eating in our social hall. We will make sure to incorporate this information into our plans.

Gassho,
John

Buddhist Women's Association News



Throughout the month of June, BWA will be collecting peanut butter and jelly to donate to local food banks. Donation bins will be in the foyer.

In Gassho,
Denise Cline, Tacoma BWA President



Dharma School News



Now that it is the month of May, I can feel the anxiety of the kids with only a few more weeks of school...THEN summer fun, vacations, new friends, going to bed and waking up at a different time, and just enjoying the outside with sunshine!!!

Thank you to ALL the students who helped at our Sukiyaki Take Out on May 7th. I really appreciate your willingness to help out at our first fundraiser of the year. Thank you.



We will have only two class sessions in May. On May 21, we will be celebrating Gotane with everyone. At this service, we will start with a procession with our younger students following Sensei into the hondo wearing special ochigo clothing. It is also a special time to recognize our high school graduates this year: George

Alexander, Odessa Cook, Gus Hendrie, Tae Pedrozo, Maya Winters, and Jet Yotsuuye. They all have plans after high school whether it's college OR taking a year off OR doing whatever comes their way. We hope to see them at different times next year and many years thereafter. Congratulations to ALL SIX graduates!!

The following weekend, we annually take a Memorial Day pass. We come back on June 4th as our final DS session. Can't believe a whole year has passed. Students will be doing some cleaning of their Dharma School class to start the next year clean and ready for another Dharma school year!!!

The Lotus class will also prepare a Parents' Appreciation Luncheon where everyone is invited. They will be very busy all morning and there's no better way than with food!!! Thank you so much for honoring your parents, aunties and uncles, grandparents, and those adults who have been a large part of your life. On June 11th, once again we will not have Dharma School, but Maitreya class will be selecting some fun games for our kids and adults at our temple picnic at Five Mile Lake. We hope to meet up again and will look forward to a nice day and lots of yummy food! This is a new location so mark your calendar.

Sunday Service Program: 10:00 Dharma School and All sangha arrive in hondo
10:40 Dharma School students dismissed to class
11:30 Students dismissed to parents/guardians

May – June **May 21** NO DS Gotane – honor graduates, Parents' Appreciation Lunch
 This will be a combined service
 28 NO DS Memorial Day break

 June 4 DS Final class for students
 11 NO DS - Temple picnic; Maitreya in charge of games

Thank you to everyone who supported our Dharma School program! It is much appreciated!
Gassho,
Junko, Karen, Meesa, Kjirsten, Merlaine, Alex, Gavin, Kenji, June

Young Buddhist Association News



Hello everyone! I hope everyone has been trying to survive the hot weather these past few weeks. As a student, I cannot wait for summer break to be here already!



In YBA news, a few volunteers worked at this year's Sukiyaki fundraiser. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered, organized, and participated in the event to make it run smoothly and successfully.

Further, our date is set to begin screen printing for our T-Shirt Fundraiser. There is an **order form on page 17** and you can pick up your shirts at Obon, or they can be mailed to you. This year's designs are variations of the Lotus flower for the T-Shirt and the Tote-Bag. Also, a big thank you to Maya Winters for designing our TBT Logo!

We will be having elections for the 2023-2024 school year YBA cabinet soon. I'd like to say thank you all, for your support and kindness through not just my time as president, but for all the years I have attended the temple. I wish all the incoming YBA cabinet members the best of luck and strength in next year's endeavors. Thank you all YBA members and advisors for your help and compassion, I could not be more grateful.

Namo Amida Butsu,
Odessa

Buddhist Education Committee News



Out in New Tacoma Cemetery, there is a headstone dedicated to the “muen”, meaning people without known families. Tacoma Buddhist Temple laid this marker in 1978. Whenever I see it, I am struck by the care that this temple showed toward people whose connection to the temple were unclear, or even non-existent.



According to the Dharma, none of us is truly an independent creation, we are nothing without all the causes that came together to make us. The material of our bodies comes from the food we eat and the air we breathe. Our ideas and our habits come from our schooling and education, the influence of our friends, and our experiences in life. We are especially the product of the elders who raised us. And those elders only exist because of *their* elders. Just as we were created by our ancestors, so too was the Tacoma Buddhist Temple. Some of today's members are blood descendants of the temple's original founders, but most of us are not. And not all of us are Japanese American, even though this remains an essential part of our temple culture. We are a community of Buddhists.

There are many Buddhist communities in Tacoma, but our temple is a very special place to encounter the Dharma. Some of the Buddhist communities in our area are very small and focus on activities that can be challenging for families to participate in, like meditation. There are several large and vibrant communities in the South Sound, but in most of these much of the socializing and ritual occurs in languages other than English. Our temple is good for families, and more importantly it is a place where one can encounter a Dharma teaching that is applicable in everyday life, not just on a mountaintop or in solitary meditation.

Tacoma Buddhist Temple is a special place, and for this we should give thanks to the temple's ancestors. This is a perfect season to reflect on our temple ancestors. On July 12, we will head out to the Eatonville and Orting cemeteries to show our respect to Japanese American pioneers through cleaning and chanting. Then, after service on July 16, Sensei and others will travel to four cemeteries in Tacoma and Sumner to honor past members of the temple and other loved ones. If you have never attended any of these, the BEC encourages everyone to consider coming out, to stand beside the living descendants of these past elders, our own temple ancestors.

- Erik Hammerstrom

Facility Committee Update



Although our temple furnace blowers might not be able to blow the house down like the Big Bad Wolf claimed to do, they still do a great job of keeping the temple nice and toasty. So, when one of the four blowers succumbed to a mechanical malfunction, Old Man Winter rubbed his icy hands together in anticipation of transforming part of the temple into a walk-in freezer. However, your facilities team wiped that frosty smile off his face after the equipment was repaired and put back in operation.



Now with summer around the corner, our furnace blowers can take a break, but it's time for our sprinkler heads to earn their keep. Some broken sprinkler heads got fixed or replaced and are primed to keep our grounds green.

For many years Kurt Osaka and his crew maintained our grounds in splendid condition. They have bowed out but not to worry. We have a team that's already ensuring rogue plants and lawns are kept in check: Rick Tanabe, Delbert Sasaki, Mike Shiogi, and Jeff Hiroo. Besides taking care of the temple lawns, they subjected all that wild and woolly vegetation in the lot next to the parsonage to a serious buzz cut.

One thing that hasn't changed is Lynrae Hubbell's litter patrols along Fawcett Avenue and S Court D Street. As always, David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, and Del Sasaki maintain constant vigilance against maintenance issues.

~Dave

Toban News

Upcoming Dates:



June 4 ***** GARDEN CLEAN UP 9-12, BWA fundraiser, last day of Dharma School
June 11 Temple Picnic at **5 Mile Lake #2**. 9 AM - 2 PM
June 18 Board Meeting, 8:30 AM
June Arrange clean up time of the temple with May Toban

July 9 BWA General Meeting
July 12 Eatonville/Orting Cemetery Visit/Clean Up
July 16 Obon Cemetery Visitations, Board Meeting, 8:30 AM
July 23 Hatsubon & Urabon-e Service
July 29 Obon Dance 4-8
July Arrange clean up time of the temple with August Toban

August Sunday Services 10 AM
August Arrange clean up time of the temple with July Toban

*** JUNE, JULY, & AUGUST TOBANS WILL BE SUPPORTING OUR OBON CHAIRS FOR OUR UPCOMING FESTIVAL ON JULY 29, 2023. FYI

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.

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.

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

JUNE TOBAN

Erik Hammerstrom
Kevin/Mayumi Ikeda
Masahiro Sugano
Rachel Meatte
Debbie Abe
Elsie Taniguchi
*Kosho & Michiko Yukawa
*Akemi Ikeda

(*corrected list from last month)

JULY TOBAN

Patti Wong
David Campbell
Jackie & William Poe
Ken & Lynne Tanino
Darlene Matsumoto
Kiyomi Fujita
Harriet Hatch

AUGUST TOBAN

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

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

Greeter's List

June 4 Gavin Morgan/Del Sasaki
11 **Temple Picnic**
18 Patti Wong/Jeff Hiroo
25 Kara O'Toole/Kt Hendrie

July

2	Barry/June Weled
9	Coco Inoue/Mike Shiogi
16	Debby Abe/Tom Hubbell
23	Mayumi/Kevin Ikeda
30	No Service

August

6	Lynn Blick/Shizuka Faria
13	Tracy/Richard Ling
20	David/Bobby Yotsuuye
27	Tony Greg/Jim Doyle

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)
- 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.

Yearly Memorial Service

General Memorial Service Years for 2023

1 st Year - 2022	17 th Year - 2007
3 rd Year - 2021	25 th Year - 1999
7 th Year - 2017	33 rd Year - 1991
13 th Year - 2011	50 th Year - 1974



June 2023

7 th Year	Shimi Komatsu	June 28, 2017
25 th Year	Oito Takehara	June 26, 1999

July 2023

7 th Year	George Ayao Tanbara	July 1, 2017
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August 2023

13 th Year	Tayoko Payton	August 6, 2011
33 rd Year	Hajime Suda	August 22, 1991
33 rd Year	Toshiaki Matsumoto	August 27, 1991
33 rd Year	Tamotsu Oguri	August 28, 1991

Book Club

Thursday, June 8, 2023

At King's Books

You Belong: A Call for Connection

Sebene Selassie

Book Club

Thursday, July 13

King's Books 7 PM

**REAL CHANGE: Mindfulness to
Heal Ourselves and the World**

Sharon Salzberg





Issho Open Taiko 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. There is no commitment to regular attendance at sessions.

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.

*Unforgettable -
The Lotus Skyliners Story*

Join Us for the
**BOOK
LAUNCH**

**Free
Admission**

JUNE 11, 2023
3:00PM — 5:00PM

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY:
PAT & RICH2 QUARTET

SEATTLE BETSUIN BUDDHIST TEMPLE
1427 SOUTH MAIN ST, SEATTLE

THIS EVENT IS PARTIALLY FUNDED BY CENERGIOUS GRANTS FROM
THE MUCKLESHOOT INDIAN TRIBE AND 4CULTURE OF KING COUNTY

  FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
WWW.LOTUSSKYLINERS.COM

Endorsements

"I love the stories of the Lotus Skyliners and how post-WWII Japanese American teens found opportunities to build community while their families were rebuilding after the turmoil of concentration camps."
TOM IKEDA, Executive Director, Densho

"Like blooming lotus flowers, the beauty and harmony of the Skyliners' music filled the hearts of the Seattle Buddhist Temple Sangha and the greater community with joy. Namo Amida Butsu."
REVEREND KATSUYA KUSUNOKI RIMBAN,
Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple

"The band members moved beyond their families' shame of wartime incarceration a mere decade before to confidently play the music that saved not only their lives...but their Community's life as well."
LORI MATSUKAWA, Former KING 5
News Anchor



2023 June Seminar

Tacoma Buddhist Temple and Tacoma Young Adult Buddhist Association is proud to present our annual June seminar! This year we are privileged to have a guest panel of young representatives from three of our temples in the Northwest. We will have the opportunity to listen to their temple experiences and what continues to inspire them to continue their involvement as the years go on.

Seminar Information:

Panelists:

Kendall Kosai (White River Buddhist Temple President)

Connor McKinney (Seattle Betsuin Marketing Director)

Kaila Yoshitomi (Tacoma Buddhist Temple Treasurer)

Alex Theisen (Tacoma Buddhist Temple Secretary and DS Teacher)

Date and Time:

June 24, 2023

2 pm-4 pm

Doors open at 1:30 pm

5 pm-7:30 pm; BBQ party to follow.

Seminar only is free.

A \$10 donation to TBT to attend the BBQ party.

Location:

Tacoma Buddhist Temple Social Hall

1717 Fawcett Ave.

Tacoma, WA 98402

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/QpcryagPr4nsG6Nf9>



TACOMA FUJI TAIKO!

KONNICHIIWA: ... from Tacoma Buddhist Temple's own

Fuji Taiko!

Who we are: Founded back in 2009 we're just a bunch of volunteers whose primary function is to have fun playing/performing taiko! We consist of temple members and non-temple members who get together usually after Sunday service and beat on a drum.



What we do: We perform at temple events like Bon Odori, the New Year's Party and wherever the temple needs us. Sharing the art of taiko throughout the South Puget Sound community, we've performed and run intro-workshops at various public schools, supported internment camp remembrances, performed at UWT/TCC Ethnic events, as well as supporting various cultural events around and for the City of Tacoma.

Upcoming Events: You just missed our Browns Point Elementary and Cedar Heights Middle School gigs. Our next performance will be at our own Tacoma Buddhist Temple's Bon Odori (Japanese Street Dance) on **Saturday, July 29th from 4PM-8PM.** Please come and enjoy the return of Tacoma Buddhist Temple's Bon Odori and enjoy the dancing, food, and taiko! This warm family environment is enjoyable and one of our highlights of the year. We always look forward to interacting with Seattle Betsuin's own Matsuri Taiko.



Welcome to the Group: We would like to welcome the newest member of the group, **Colton!** Congratulations to Jessica and Ryan!!! We'll have those Bachi in your hands as soon as you can grip them!



If you would like to inquire about our group: Please feel free to send an email: Bobby Yotsuuye: yotsuuye@outlook.com.

Gassha: Your friends at Tacoma Fuji Taiko!



これからも、よろしくお願いします。

Yoroshiku!

2023 Obon Memorial Candle Observance

Candle order deadline: Sunday, July 16

We are finally able to be together to have our Memorial Candle Observance in the temple garden this year. We have missed this special gathering with the spiritual closure to the end of Bon Odori festivities – remembering with gratitude and respect the memory of people recognized by the several hundred glowing candles placed around the garden and pond.

We will also display candles ordered by temple members on the Onaijin during the Hatsubon/Urabon service on Sunday, July 23 - recognizing that members are rarely able to attend the garden observance because of volunteer duties at the end of Bon Odori.

There are several ways to place and ORDER:

- Complete and form below and **mail** to the temple. (Address on form below.)
- **Email** Lynrae Hubbell lynrae@harbornet.com
- Place your order before or after **Sunday services**. We will start taking orders on most Sundays, starting with the temple picnic on Sunday, June 11 and until the order deadline of Sunday, July 16.

The cost will be \$10 per candle.

Thank you ALL for your continued support of this meaningful observance since 2008.

2023 Memorial Candle Order FORM (\$10 per candle)

DEADLINE: SUNDAY, JULY 16

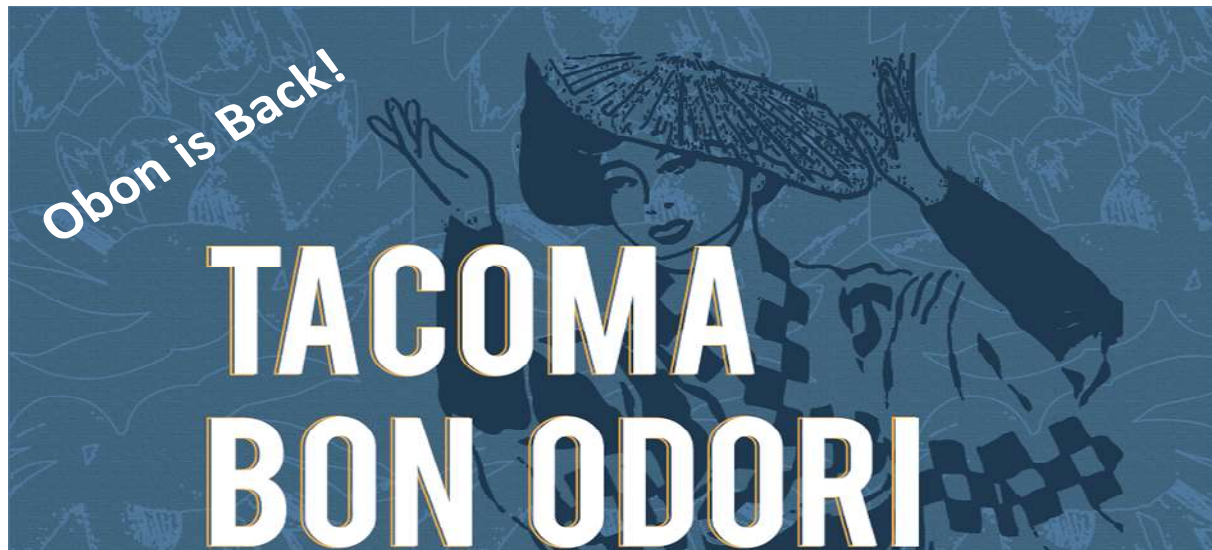
Ordered by: _____

phone # _____ **Email** _____

Names for candles: one name or couple per candle. **PRINT CLEARLY, please!** Use back of form if needed. **Buddhist name flag** will also be included if 1) We already have one on file, or 2) You have a copy of the Buddhist name and include it in your order.

Buddhist name on file?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



Mark Your Calendar!

We are very excited to hold our Bon Odori Festival on Saturday, July 29th.

Please note the new time this year is 4 pm – 8 pm.

We will enjoy our Tacoma traditions such as our food, kori and t-shirt sales by the YBA, memorial candles and service, performances by Fuji Taiko, obon dancing and the beer garden. More details to come!

Committees are being organized and if you'd like to volunteer, please contact Lynne Tanino at ltanino@icloud.com.

Obon Practice: July 12 and 13, 7 pm – 8:30 pm in our social hall. Everyone is welcome.

Obon is a special service to honor those who have passed. Your donation of this service is appreciated. Your check can be sent to the temple or donate at tacomabt.org.

Thank you,

Your Obon Committee

*June 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 BWA Bento Food fundraiser prep 8 am
4 Sunday Service 10 am Final Dharma School Temple Garden Cleanup 9 am-12 pm	5	6	7	8 Book Club at King's Books 7:00 PM	9	10
11 Temple Picnic 10 am Five Mile Park, Stn. 2	12	13	14 No Study Class	15	16	17 Issho Open Taiko Registration required 9 am TBT Social Hall
18 Board Meeting 8:30 am Sunday Service 10 am	19 Myokyo Deadline	20	21	22	23	24 June Seminar 2 - 4 pm Temple Social Hall
25 Sunday Service 10am	26	27	28	29	30	

*July 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 Sunday Service 10 am	3	4	5	6	7	1 8
9 Sunday Service 10 am BWA Meeting	10	11	12 Eatonville cemetery visit Obon Practice 7 pm-8:30 pm TBT Social Hall	13 Book Club King's Books 7 pm Obon Practice 7 pm-8:30 pm TBT Social Hall	14	15
16 Sunday Service 10 am Obon Cemetery Visitations	17 Myokyo Deadline	18	19	20	21	22 BWA Daifuku Mochi 9:00 AM
23 Hatsubon Urabon-e Service 10:00 AM	24	25	26	27	28	29 Obon Festival 4 pm-8 pm
30 No Sunday Service	31					

YBA Obon T-Shirt sale

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



Shirt Back Design by Odessa Cook
Shirt Front Design by Maya Winters

T-Shirt: \$20

Tote Bag: \$10



Order Form:

Name: _____

Address (if getting delivered): _____

Email: _____

___ # of Tote Bags ___ # of T-Shirts

For T-Shirts Only:

SIZE (Black): ___XL ___L ___M ___S SIZE (Green): ___L ___M ___S

T-shirt pickup methods:

Temple Pickup: ___ Delivery: ___ (postage \$6, add \$4 for every 2 additional items)

For Temple Pickup, please come to the Sunday services to pick up your T-shirt.

The T-Shirts and Tote Bags will become available starting in June.

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

Tacoma Buddhist Temple/YBA
1717 S Fawcett AVE
Tacoma, WA 98402

(Please Make Checks Payable to: **Tacoma Buddhist Temple-YBA**)

If you have any questions, please email Jet at: yotsuuye@gmail.com

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