



Tacoma Buddhist Temple

(Jodo Shinshu)

タコマ 仏教会 (浄土真宗)

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

TEL: [\(253\) 627-1417](tel:2536271417)

EMAIL: info@tacomabt.org

WEB: www.tacomabt.org

MYOKYO

明鏡

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

September 2019

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



Bonbu on the Bodhisattva Path

Rev. Takashi Miyaji

Jodo Shinshu, or Shin Buddhism (Pure Land Buddhism), is a religion that provides a path with direction for those who live in this world with uncertainties about their spiritual existence. However, Pure Land Buddhism often gets misunderstood as a teaching that focuses *only* on the afterlife. That is, when one dies, he/she goes to a heaven-like paradise called "the Pure Land," in which one lives out the rest his/her days in absolute pleasure. Therefore, one should look to the afterlife and wait-out this cruel existence.

We should note that Shin Buddhist doctrine does in fact affirm birth in the Pure Land at the end of life. Shinran does mention in a letter he composed, that he will wait for his Dharma friend in the Pure Land. But what is important to note is the guidance or direction that this teaching provides for its followers. For example, when we go on a vacation trip to a place we have never been before, if we do not know where we are going to stay for the night, we spend all day worrying about where we should stay. We concern ourselves with that anxiety instead of enjoying the different sites, the exotic meals, and new experiences. But if we know we have a place to stay for the nights that we are there, we can spend the days in true leisure, relaxed and enjoying the day's activities. Here, there is direction in that there is a plan for us as to where we will stay for the evenings that we are there. Because there is a plan, we have the comfort of knowing that we will be okay at night, and so we can enjoy the day to its fullest. Another example is when one uses the GPS guidance in the car to get to a specific destination, as opposed to not using this tool. When there is direction, there is focus, there is confidence, there is poise. Similarly, the Pure Land and its teaching, provides direction for those of us who feel a drive to seek spiritual fulfillment.

Who then, guides us along this path to the Pure Land? The other week, our temple observed the *hatsubon* service, where we recognized those who died within this last year. This year, our temple saw a large number of older members who passed away and we lit a candle for each of them. Amidst the sadness of seeing the many lit candles, it struck me that the area where the candles were, was getting brighter and brighter. In that somber moment, there was at the same time, the reassurance received by the light that was

shining brightly for us all. In other words, we are being guided by those who go to the Pure Land before us. As Buddhists, we understand this point very clearly. We understand that we are always being guided. Our hands are being held by our loved ones as we walk on the path to the Pure Land. Our bodies are being embraced in the warmth of the light and compassion. We are being taught that this life is not all there is and that once it is over, then it is “lights out.” We are being guided to the world of infinite wisdom and compassion: Amida Buddha’s world.

What this means then, is that as Buddhists, we must recognize that we are currently on the path to eventual birth in the Pure Land and Buddhahood. We may not be aware of this all the time, nor should we presume to be wise and compassionate like the Buddha. But Shinran does explain in one of his many letters that he wrote, that nembutsu practitioners of shinjin are the “same as Maitreya Bodhisattva.” We are the “same” as this bodhisattva precisely because we are both destined to eventual Buddhahood. In the perspective of the Buddha, Maitreya and this ignorant self (also called *bonbu*) will both become Buddha in the future and in this sense, we are the same. Conversely, in the human perspective, as *bonbu* we are currently walking on the bodhisattva path.

This point has significant meaning. In knowing this as Buddhists, we now have direction—direction that gives us purpose and meaning here and now in this life. When we have direction, we have spiritual identity as Shin Buddhists. Also, we now have focus and determination to live out our lives to its fullest. In addition, there is confidence in the sense that amidst the uncertainties that this life brings, we can have the audacity to walk forward one step at a time. Finally, we can have the poise to say, “This life is great, this life is mine, this life was worth every moment.” When we recognize that we are walking on the bodhisattva path called the nembutsu, the journey itself becomes invaluable.

凡夫として菩薩道を歩む

浄土真宗または浄土教は人生において悩みを感じる人たちのために方向の定まった道を示す宗教であります。これに対して浄土真宗は死後のみに注目する教えであるとよく誤解されることがあるのです。それは、人が死んだら、天国のような楽しい「お浄土」に往き、永遠に苦しみのない生活を送ることができると思っっているのであります。つまり、死後の楽な生活を待ち望みながら、今の苦しい人生を我慢しなさいと教えられていると思われることがよくあります。

確かに、浄土真宗は死後にお浄土に往生（いく）すると教えます。親鸞聖人がお書きになられたお手紙の中では、御同行の方をお浄土でお待ちすると述べられています。しかし、この大事な点は、このお手紙が信者たちに与える「方向性」というところにあります。例えば、旅行に行くとき、その時に夜どこに泊まるか決まっていなかったら、その日ずっと夜の宿のことを心配しなければなりません。頭にそのことがいつもあるため、昼間どこに行っても、何を食べても、何を経験しても心から楽しめることができません。しかし、夜泊まる場所があれば、その日一日何をしても思いきりに楽しめることができます。この場合の「方向性」というのは夜泊まる場所の予定であります。そしてそれが決まれば、1日の予定がスムーズにいくということです。もう一つの例は、GPS（カーナビ）のことです。これがあれば、目的地に安全に心配なく楽に行くことができます。方向性とい

うのがあれば、その人は進むべき道にフォーカスができ、自信があり、また安心があるとと言えます。
同じように、お浄土という教えは、悩みを感じる者に方向性を与えるのであります。

それでは誰が私たちにそのお浄土への道を示してくれるのでしょうか？何週間か前にタコマ仏教会で初盆法要をお勤めしました。今年の初盆には、このお寺と長年のお付き合いがあった多くのメンバーの方が亡くなりました。亡くなられた方一人一人のためにろうそくに火を付けてもう一度しのばせていただきましたが、そのろうそくの数が増えていけばいくほど、火の輝きがもっと強く明るくなり、お参りに来られた方のためにますます明るさが増していくような感じがしました。それを見て私は、「亡くなられた方が私たちを今でも導いてくださっているのだな」と味わさせていただきました。私たちはこのように先にお浄土に行かれた方々に常に導かれています。私たちに深いご縁のある方々が、私たちの手をとって共にお浄土の方向に向かって歩いてくださるのです。ですから、私たちは暖かい光とお慈悲に包まれています。「この人生が終わったらもうおしまいなんだ」ではないと知らせてくれているのが、先に亡くなった方々であります。真実の智慧と慈悲の世界、つまり阿弥陀仏の世界というのがあるのだと教えてくれようとしています。

つまり、仏教徒として今の人生というのは、いつかお浄土に往き仏になるという道歩いているのだということであります。もちろんいつもこのことを認識しているということは不可能であるでしょうし、また今悟りを開いているというような思い上がった解釈は避けなければなりません。しかし、親鸞聖人はご執筆されたお手紙の中に信心を慶ぶ念仏者は弥勒菩薩と「同じ」であると説明されます。この凡夫である自分が菩薩と「同じ」なのだというのは、一見ありえないと思いますが、仏様の目からは両者がいつか成仏するという意味からすれば、同じ立場なのだということであります。一方、私たちの目からすれば、今凡夫でありながらも、いつか仏になる道（菩薩道）を歩んでいるのだと理解することができます。

FUTURE SCHEDULE

August 31-Sept. 2

International Buddhist Women's Assoc. Conference,
San Francisco

(Tues) September 3

Gomonshu Visitation at TBT 11:30 AM, Kikyoshiki
Service at Seattle Betsuin at 5:30 PM

(Sun) September 22

Fall Ohigan and Socho-ki

(Sat-Sun) October 5-6

Fall Seminar and Eshinni/Kakushinni Memorial
Service

President's Message



I hope everyone had a great summer and survived the hot weather.

Condolences to Mrs. Yaeko Nakano's Family

I send sincere condolences to Mrs. Yaeko Nakano's family and friends. Mrs. Nakano was our Temple's organist for 50 years, she led the campaign to purchase our current organ, she was the organist at many of the Temple member's weddings, mine included, and was a piano teacher to many of us. Mrs. Nakano's sons brought her to Temple until very recently. I was glad her sons were able to bring her from Seattle to attend Temple. It was great to see her at Temple. She will be sincerely missed.

Obon Odori

Thank you to Obon Odori co-chairs Crystal Inge and Jim Doyle for another very successful event. Also, thank you to all the volunteers that helped staff the booths, prepare the food, sell the food, and helped with setup and take down. Without your dedication, we would not be able to hold these important fund raisers. I understand that we had a record turnout. We were fortunate to have good weather.

Gomonshu Ohtani Visit

Depending on when you are reading this, Tacoma Buddhist Temple will have or may have already had the honor of hosting a visit from Gomonshu Ohtani, the spiritual leader of Jodo Shinshu, which was held on Tuesday, September 3, 2019. I'll have more on this visit in next month's report.

Fall Bazaar Co-chairs

Our next fund raiser is around the corner. Our Fall Bazaar will be held on Sunday November 3, 2019. Me, David Yotsuuye and June Akita will again be the co-chairs for the Bazaar. The Event Retool committee will be looking at changing the Bazaar format to an all takeout format. June and I will be asking for committee chairs in September. Please prepare yourself for our call. Thank you for your support.

New Board Members

We will be building a slate of new board member nominees to replace the board members completing their term. This is for a 3-year commitment 2020-2022. Please consider becoming a board member. If you are interested in being a board member, please let me know. Thank you for considering joining our Temple's Board of Directors.

Gassho, David

Buddhist Women's Association News



Fall brings on the colors!!! It is so pretty and calming after a busy summer. Kids go back to school, Dharma School begins and before you know it- here comes bazaar!!

Thank you, **June Weled and the April-May-June Toban** for delivering 143# of **Peanut Butter and Jelly** to the Emergency Food Network. We collected 49 jars of peanut butter and 27 jars of jellies of various sizes. *Thank you, everyone, for your generous donation!*

Our July 13 **BWA Annual Bus Trip** to the Purple Haze Lavender Fields in Sequim was busy and fun. The weather was perfect, the U-Pick fruit was so sweet, the food was delicious, and the shopping and sight-seeing completed our day! Again, thank you **Helen Motokane and Merlaine Cook** in helping plan this trip!

Our daifuku mochi and strawberry mochi once again sold out at obon. We made more daifuku and more strawberry mochi, but the demand again exceeded our efforts. Thank you to everyone who helped with this final BWA fundraiser for this year.

There were many preparations for the **Gomonshu** visit on September 3. There was an all Temple Clean Up on August 25, our new kitchen refrigerator and new convection ovens arrived, our new service gatha books were nicely displayed, and a delicious lunch was served by our members. Thank you to **Lynne Tanino and Mayumi Ikeda** for helping organize and prepare the meal with our BWA ladies as many of us were attending the FBWA Convention in San Francisco that weekend.

A date or activity has not been set for the Fall Bazaar Craft. If you have an idea for a craft item that we can make, please let me know so it can be scheduled and prepared.

Save **October 6th** as this is our BWA Memorial service honoring Eshinni and Kakushinni.

Our next general meeting will be **October 13**. This will be an election meeting so please attend so you won't be surprised. Also plans for our 2020 New Year's Celebration will be discussed.

Our final 2019 Daifuku mochi making will be **October 26th**. All proceeds will go to the Temple.

Future Events:

- Sept. 3 Gomonshu Visit
- Sept. 22 Fall Ohigan
- Oct. 5 Fall seminar with Rev. Kory Quon
- Oct. 6 Eshinni/Kakushinni Memorial Service
- Oct. 13 General meeting
- Oct. 26 Daifuku mochi for Bazaar – 8:00 AM

In gassho,
June Akita



Young Buddhist Association News



As the cold and rainy months approach that can only mean one thing, Temple is starting up again. The fun Dharma school classes and services especially with great messages from Sensei. And finally, a new school year coming up with new students entering new classes and new YBA members.

In the beginning, we had our annual Obon. With such a great Obon we had lots of Kori, shirts, and tote bags. Thank you to everyone who came to Obon and helped support the YBA. It was so great to see everyone there and cannot wait to see you this fall.

Upcoming in September, we have the stat of the year YBA breakfast on September 8th at 9 a.m. before Temple service begins. Hope to see you all there.

Gassho, Ryan Ling

Buddhist Education Committee News



Traditions

The BEC was delighted to see that Sensei's experiment of holding abbreviated Sunday services in August was a success. The practice of not having service in August came from the agricultural calendar that guided the lives of the many of our temple's founders, and it is one that

had continued to the present. But, as with other traditions, from time to time we may reflect on whether it is still accomplishing its intended goal. We have to decide this on our own: we cannot look back to the Jodo Shinshu traditions of Japan, as Sunday services are themselves an innovation that American Shin Buddhists introduced at the start of the twentieth century, first in Hawai'i, then on the mainland.

We plan to offer shortened services again next August as this year we had much better turnout than we expected. Among other reasons for doing this, we feel that it is important to have a service soon after Obon, as many of the visitors who come for that event ask about them. Obon is a time of celebration and reflection, but it is also an opportunity to educate our visitors and introduce them to the temple. While you are all working and sweating, Rev. Yukawa and I remain in the Hondo for the entirety of Obon in order to answer the many questions that visitors have about the religious life of our temple. While the main event is certainly the dancing, the celebration draws many first-time visitors to our temple from around Pierce County. This year we gave scheduled informal talks to those who wandered into the temple. They heard about the history of immigration from Japan to the South Sound, the story of the founding of the temple, and the basics of Shin Buddhist practices and beliefs. They ended with the story of Obon, and an exhortation to just go outside and dance, to join the wonderful dance instructors in the joyful dance that is the heart of the season!

Obon is about dancing but it is also a time to remember those who came before us. Some of the temple founders, the farmers who I mentioned at the start of this column, are buried in Eatonville and Orting Cemetery. Each year, a few dedicated people from the temple go out to clean up their graves and pay respects on behalf of the entire temple. No one else is taking care of these graves. Sadly, the turnout for this event is getting smaller each year, but we are hopeful that next year more people will be able to take advantage of this chance to care for our community's Buddhist ancestors.

- Erik Hammerstrom

Toban News

September Toban News



Upcoming Dates:

- August 25 – All Temple Cleanup in Preparation for Gomonshu's September Visit
- September 3 – Gomonshu Ohtani Visit
- September 8 – First Day of Dharma School
- September 22 – Fall Ohigan
- October 6 – Eshinni/Kakushinni Service
- October 20 – Halloween Party
 - October 27 – Bazaar Set-up
 -

September & October 2019 Toban Groups: Toban chairs are responsible for calling group members for set-up and clean-up of temple events occurring in their Toban months. The Toban chairs for each group will coordinate with each other to set up the dates for the monthly clean up. Please let Eric Hammerstrom know the clean-up dates to check for conflicts with other activities and to add to the Temple calendar.

September 2019	October 2019
**Denise Cline	**Mike Shiogi
Jeff & Vivian Hiroo	Bobby & Junko Yotsuuye
Delbert & Cynthia Sasaki	David & Kathy Yotsuuye
Erin Berkey	Debby Abe
Email or Phone Tree Members	Bob Gach
Tad & Joan Kajimura	Email or Phone Tree Members
	Ted Masumoto
	Chizuko Yotsuuye

September Group Responsibilities:

- Monthly clean-up for September and October
- Obon: Provide a light lunch for Saturday set up around 11:30 a.m..
- Obon: Clean up kitchen area, bathrooms, social hall and other areas in use for Obon activities.
- Back to Temple Breakfast: YBA provides, sets up and cleans up. Help if requested
- Coffee hour

October Group Responsibilities:

- Monthly clean-up for September and October
- Wash windows and dust railings around windows
- Eshin-ni, Kakushin-ni Service & Fall Retreat: BWA in charge of service. BEC in charge of weekend lectures. Help if requested
- Fall Bazaar: Provide lunch for Bazaar set-up Sunday. October Toban chair, please coordinate with November Toban chairs.
- Coffee hour (to coincide with Eshinni and Kakushinni service)

~Kaila

2019 Obon – Thank You!

We had another successful and action packed Obon on Saturday, August 3. Thank you, sub-committee chairs and all volunteers who helped weeks and days before the event and at clean up on Tuesday. Special thanks to June Akita for handling all food and sub-chairs for kitchen, prep, purchasing and cooking spending hours and hours working on details. And thank you to David Yotsuuye for his knowledge and leadership in construction, set up and people flow. There are so many others to mention so apologies for not listing everyone. Truly, this event needs many folks and all efforts were appreciated.

This year our Temple recognized Lori Matsukawa for her retirement of 36 years on-air with King-5 and her support of our community. Also, during the Tonari no Totoro dance, we were visited by the character Totoro bringing many smiles to young and old. (Thank you, Ron Hamakawa from Seattle Betsuin.) Last, at one point, the hillside across the Temple was full of participants watching from this great vantage point.

The wrap up meeting will be after service on Sunday, September 8th, the first day of Dharma School. This meeting is open everyone and any feedback is welcome so please email Crystal (crystal.inge@gmail.com) or Jim Doyle (blueoak9@gmail.com). Committee reports due Sept 4th.

In Gassho,

Obon Co-Chairs
Jim Doyle and Crystal Inge



Yearly Memorial Services



General Memorial Service Years for 2019

1st Year - 2018	17th Year - 2003
3rd Year - 2017	25th Year - 1995
7th Year - 2013	33rd Year - 1987
13th Year - 2007	50th Year - 1970

September 2019

1 st Year	Nakagawara, Hiroshi John	Shaku Ei-Tetsu	September 4, 2018
13 th Year	Jinguji, Kazuko	Shakuni Su-Ri	September 22, 2007
25 th Year	Williams, Kesae	Shakuni Myo-Toku	September 15, 1995

October 2019

13 th Year	Harrison, Rex	Shaku Sui-Kyo	October 3, 2007
-----------------------	---------------	---------------	-----------------

Greeters Schedule

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." (1/2 sheet form)

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.

September	1	No Service
	8	Jim Doyle & Tony Gregg
	15	Lynrae Hubbell & Tom Hubbell
	22	Yasuko Morita & June Weled
	29	Michael Shiogi & Henry Stoll
October	6	Ken Tanino & Coco Inoue
	13	David Yotsuuye & Bobby Yotsuuye
	20	Denise Cline & David Campbell
	27	Wendy Hamai & Henry Stoll
November	3	No Service - Fall Bazaar
	10	Del Sasaki & Rick Tanabe

*Please note, a new rotation schedule has started in October. See committee chair with questions.

Available in the Library

American Sutra by Duncan Ryuken Williams (presented at the convention)

Heard and Recorded During Master Rennyō's Lifetime translated by Fumio Miyagi, Akio Miyaji, Nobuo Miyako

Lasting Fragrance of Broken Lotus Leaf by Rev. Nobuo Miyaji

Time To Stand Up by Thanissara

Also, other books are available for purchase in the foyer. Check them out. \$1. What a deal!

Questions? Contact Jane Burster, Librarian

*The Tacoma Buddhist Temple
expresses our deepest
condolences to the family of
Mrs. Yaeko Nakano*

Namo Amida Butsu

Monthly Book Club

Buddhism Today!

September 12th (Th) at 7pm at Kings

Books

Featured Book:

Pema Chodron

When Things Fall Apart

Fall Seminar

With Guest Speaker:

Rev. Kory Quon

Venice Buddhist Temple

October 5th Sat, 3-5 PM



Congratulations! Way to go!

Tacoma Bring Home the Tacoma/Seattle Softball Championship Trophy!

This is the 3d Annual softball classic between Tacoma and Seattle. Tacoma has retained the trophy the last three years. Reverend Kusunoki from Seattle is feverishly planning to bring the trophy to Seattle next year. The event started with a three inning game with kids and adults. Enzo Yotsuuye and Keisai Miyaji led the team in hits. This was a fun and exciting game that allowed all the players to hit the ball until Keisai decided that playing in the dirt was more fun!

The adult game was represented by 14 Tacoma players and loud and enthusiastic fans. Tacoma took a 6 – 1 lead going into the bottom of the 4th. Seattle had an 8 run 4th inning rally taking a 9 – 6 lead. Tacoma maintained their composure and in the 5th and 6th scored two runs each inning to take a 10 – 9 lead. Pitcher Meesa Pedrozo closed the game in the 7th with a three and out. The game was competitive but fun. Both sides shared laughs and food. We were treated to cupcakes in celebration of Rev. Kusunoki's birthday. We have to give a shout out to Rev. Miyaji for playing with an injured wrist but toughing it out through the pain. Next year, the game returns to Tacoma and we would like to see more fans as well as players.
Line-up Card: Coaches Kevin Ikeda and John Inge



Name	Position	Batter
John Inge	2 nd base	3-3
Jared Berard	3 rd base	0-3
Kirby Ingham	SS	2-3
Bryce Ikeda	Left Field	3-3
Meesa Pedrozo	Pitcher	1-3
Gensho Yukawa	Right Center	2-3
Ryan Hiroo	Catcher	3-3
Mike Abe	1 st Base	1-3
Kevin Hiroo	Left Center	1-3
Steve Abe	Right	2-3
Kevin Ikeda	Pitcher	1-3
Jet Yotsuuye	Right Center	1-3
Rev Miyaji	Catcher	1-3
Wyatt Inge	1 st Base	2-3

Please donate your Japanese related items for our Fall Bazaar

Our next big fund raiser, our Fall Bazaar will be held on November 3, 2019. Included with our Fall Bazaar is our crafts and rummage sale. Last year our crafts and rummage sale was a great success because of all of your generous donations.

To help make our rummage sale a success again, please donate your Japanese related items, such as dishes, teacups, etc. Items should be in good condition, something that you would be willing to purchase yourself. You can bring these items to the Temple and place them on the Social Hall stage, near the right side door, as you look at the stage.

There are items that we request you not bring. Items like fabric pieces, Japanese language books or videos. We have plenty of these available already. Please bring items that are Japanese or Asian related. These are the items that sell the best.

Thank you for your generous donations.



*September 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 No Service for BWA conference in SF	2	3 Gomonsu Visitation, 11:20 AM Luncheon follows	4	5	6	7
8 YBA breakfast 9 AM Sangha Service, 10 AM Dharma School Begins	9	10	11	12 King's Books 7:00 PM	13	14
15 Sangha Service 10 AM	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Fall Ohigan and Socho-ki 10:00 AM	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Sangha Service 10 AM	30					

*October 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5 Fall Seminar 3-5 PM
6 Eshinni/Kakushinni Memorial Serv, 10 AM	7	8	9	10 King's Books 7:00 PM	11	12
13 Sangha Service 10 AM BWA General Mtg. after service	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Sangha Service 10 AM Halloween Party	21	22	23	24	25	26 Daifuku Mochi making 8 AM
27 Sangha Service 10 AM Bazaar Set up	28	29	30	31		

Come Join Us!

*FALL SEMINAR AND
ESHINNI/KAKUSHINNI MEMORIAL
SERVICE*

with Guest Speaker

Rev. Kory Quon

kaikyoshi minister of Venice Buddhist Temple

Seminar Topic:

“Jodo Shinshu-American”

Spring Seminar: Saturday October 5th from 3-5 PM

Gotan-e Service: Sunday October 6th from 10 AM

