



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)

August 2020

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



New Beginnings in Uncertain Times

Rev. Tadao Koyama

I would first like to start this message by thanking the Tacoma Buddhist Temple for accepting me as your new minister. I am very sad that I will not be able to meet many of you in person and shake your hands or even see your smiles. If we do meet in person, please know that I am smiling at you from under my mask.

I would like to also take this opportunity to thank Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji and his family for their kindness. Rev. Miyaji and I have spent countless phone calls with each other and he has gone above and beyond to help prepare me for my first assignment! I definitely would not have been as prepared to come up without his guidance and knowledge.

A large thank you to the board members of Tacoma Buddhist Temple as well for taking the time to introduce yourselves to me through Zoom meetings and for making Cyndi and myself feel welcome to your temple. We certainly look forward to meeting you all in person in the future and to one day be able to chant with you in person, eat with you in person, and most importantly, say the Nembutsu in person.

As I begin my first assignment at the Tacoma Buddhist Temple, I can't help but feel a little bit nervous! Yes, I am a Buddhist priest and have gone through training to become one. However, I am still nervous. I want to make sure that I serve the sangha members and the temple to the best of my abilities. I certainly have big shoes to fill in terms of following Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji's service to you all! I am also nervous as to what the rest of this year will bring!

When will we all be able to get together again? When will we be able to see and hug our friends? When can we have large special services with a packed temple? When can we have bazaars where we eat lots of good food together, and play games, and dance the wonderful obon dances? Next year? I hope so! However, I cannot know for sure! Not knowing when things will go back to normal is very scary! I am scared. I am disappointed that this virus causes so much suffering both in a medical sense, but also in a societal sense.

However, I am certain of one thing. I am certain that Amida Buddha's embrace has not let go of us. I am certain that Amida Buddha's compassion has not stopped. Despite these circumstances, the dharma has not abandoned us.

As Buddhists, we are taught time and time again about the nature of change and how it may come when it is not suitable for us. This is definitely true with the current situation. We must all do our parts to help flatten the curve of COVID-19 by staying home, or practicing social distancing, wearing a mask, washing our hands etc. These actions are all necessary and essential for our survival. However, even the virus does not have to stop our appreciation of Amida Buddha's wisdom and compassion.

We are sad we cannot come to the temple to hear the ringing of the kanshō, the chanting of the sutra, the dharma talk (that is hopefully not too long!), the laughter and voices of our friends in person. That is okay! It is okay to feel sad. It is okay to feel upset. We collectively share this sadness and disappointment that we cannot gather in our usual Sunday service space to hear and chant the Nembutsu. However, there is nothing in any rulebook that says we cannot say the Nembutsu outside of the temple.

So while I am nervous for many reasons about my first assignment at the Tacoma Buddhist Temple, I still bring to mind the wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha and know that while my feelings may ebb and flow, the working of Amida Buddha is constant and unceasing.

I thank you all again for welcoming Cyndi and me to the Tacoma Buddhist Temple and while these times are uncertain and harsh now, know that both of us will be here for your spiritual care and needs! Please everyone, stay safe, wash your hands, wear a mask, and practice social distancing as much as possible! We look forward to meeting you all!



Future Schedule

August 1 (Sat)	Virtual Obon for Tacoma Buddhist Temple: YouTube
August 9 (Sun)	BEC meeting, 9:30 a.m. Welcome for Rev. Koyama & Cyndi, 10:30 a.m. via Zoom
August 13 (Thu)	Book Club via Zoom, 7 p.m.
August 15 (Sat)	BCA Virtual Obon Dance, 6 p.m.
Sept. 10 (Thu)	Book Club via Zoom, 7 p.m.

Tacoma Buddhist Temple Zoom Welcome for Rev. Tadao Koyama and Cyndi Yasaki

To adhere to COVID-19 restrictions, Tacoma Buddhist Temple will be holding a Zoom Welcome for Rev. Tadao Koyama and his wife Cynthia (Cyndi) Yasaki.

The Zoom Welcome will be held on Sunday August 9, beginning at 10:30 AM. (See details below.)

To give different Temple groups more opportunity to interact with Rev. Koyama and Cyndi, each group has been assigned a timeslot. Please try to connect during your timeslot, but feel free to join when you are available.

Here are the timeslots:

BWA Members	10:30 AM - 10:50 AM
Dharma School/YBA/Teachers	10:50 AM - 11:10 AM
General Membership	11:10 AM - 11:30 AM

Temple Board – Please join in during the General Membership or one of the other timeslots. The Board members will have time for more interaction at the August 16 Board meeting.

BEC - introductions during the August 9 BEC meeting.

Fuji Taiko – please mention you are a member of our taiko group during another timeslot.

Since there may be too many participants to have lengthy individual discussions, please be prepared to introduce yourself and make a short comment. As time allows, more discussion may follow.

This method of introduction was chosen over a drive-by welcome so that Rev. Koyama and Cyndi can better see your faces and hear your voices.

Here are the **Zoom details**:

The meeting link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82889345865?pwd=VnJ0dEYxY044QjdVTXBuc1FzZ2JsZz09>

The meeting passcode is: 596891

You can also call in on your phone at: +1-253-215-8782

Meeting ID: 828 8934 5865

Passcode: Same as above

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Zoom. If you need assistance with Zoom, please contact David Yotsuuye at yotskendo@aol.com.

President's Message



Welcome to our new resident Minister, Rev Tadao Koyama and his wife, Cyndi Yasaki



To Rev Koyama and Cyndi, welcome to Tacoma. The Koyama's plan, as this is written, was to arrive in Tacoma on July 30. Rev Koyama's official starting date is August 1.

I know everyone is eager to meet the Koyama's. Please check elsewhere in this Myokyo for information on how we will be welcoming the Koyamas. Also, check your email for more details.

Condolences to Midori Komoto's Family

On behalf of Tacoma Buddhist Temple and myself, I extend our deepest condolences to Frank and all of Midori's relatives and friends. Midori Komoto passed away in late May. Midori and her husband Frank have been long time Tacoma Temple members. Midori will be greatly missed.

Condolences to Dr Sam Uchiyama's Family

On behalf of Tacoma Buddhist Temple and myself, I extend our deepest condolences to all of Dr Uchiyama's relatives and friends. Dr Uchiyama passed away on July 12. Many Tacoma Buddhist Temple members had Dr Uchiyama as their dentist. Dr Uchiyama was my dentist until his retirement. Another longtime sangha member will be greatly missed.

TBT Virtual Obon Odori (Dance)

If you have not had a chance to view Tacoma Buddhist Temple's virtual Obon Odori, please check it out on YouTube. A big thank you goes out to all those that contributed to the video. A big thank you also goes out to Emma Inge for putting the video together and to Crystal Inge for coordinating the video production.

Farewell to Rev Dr Takashi Miyaji, Kaori and Keisai

Thank you to everyone that was able to drive by the Temple on July 12 and say goodbye to the Miyajis. I know they appreciated seeing everyone, at least as much of your face that they could see behind your masks. The Miyajis left on July 16 to head to California and safely arrived in Southern Alameda on July 17. On behalf of Tacoma Buddhist Temple, we send our deepest gratitude to the Miyajis and wish them all the best.

Gassho,
David

Buddhist Women's Association News



Tacoma Buddhist Women's Association wishes a very warm

Welcome

to Rev. Tadao & Cyndi Koyama!



~Denise

Dharma School News



The fact that Rev. Miyaji, Kaori and Keisai are settled in their new home by now is such a bittersweet thought. There were at least 7 DS families wishing them their final farewell at the Temple Drive by. **Thank you, Jet**, for creating the YBA/DS Send Off video for the Miyaji family and **Thank you to all the students** who participated. It was very well done and very much appreciated – thank you. Southern Alameda has acquired a very caring family. “We will miss your smiles, your teachings and your compassion that you have shared these past two and half years.”



Happy belated summer birthday wishes to our DS students: **June:** *Kalea, Tamsin, Max*; **July:** *Ethan*; **August:** *Enzo*. We hope you had an opportunity to share some joy in your special day.

Thank you *Ivan, Mia, Enzo, Erin, Jet, Marina, and George* for completing the **readings for our Sunday Services**. You were incredibly impressive in your readings and made the services very special. We have a few readings ‘on file’ still to share - ALL students/teachers are welcome to do a second reading as well.

Our deepest condolences to the family on the passing of **Dr. Sam Uchiyama**. ‘Dr. Sam’ was the family dentist for many families at our temple. Dr. Uchiyama’s gentle demeanor will be truly missed by all of his temple friends.

Looking ahead, all **Dharma School in person classes are cancelled** for the rest of the 2020 year in consideration of the safety of the students, teachers and friends as per the recommendation of our Board and BCA and Washington State guidelines. A reopening of the temple and in person classes will be reconsidered at a later date. We have combined Lumbini with Prajna Class; Maitreya Class and Lotus Class will remain unchanged. You will be notified when Dharma School **ZOOM classes will begin**.

Our 2020-2021 faculty:

Advisor	Rev. Tadao Koyama
Superintendent	June Akita
Lumbini-Prajna	Merlaine Cook, Kjirsten Winters, Meesa Pedrozo Junko Yotsuuye, Megumi Azekawa – Substitute
Maitreya	Erin Berkey, Kenji Shipp, Kaila Yoshitomi
Lotus	Tracy Ling, Karen Yoshitomi, Brett Johnson



Tacoma Buddhist Temple will not reopen in the month of September

Sept. 13	Virtual service: DS message with Rev. Koyama after Sunday Service TBD
Sept. 20	Virtual service; YBA Virtual Meeting TBD
Sept. 27	Virtual service; DS virtual Class TBD

With the constant daily change in regard to the Covid-19, please be patient and flexible with our calendar year. The safety and health of our students, staff and friends is our foremost priority.

Welcome Rev. Tadao Koyama and his wife, Rev. Cyndi Yasaki

to the Tacoma Buddhist Temple!



It has been a privilege to be able to virtually meet Rev. Tadao Koyama at our May and August Board Meetings. He has opened his arms and his mind to help our temple and our Dharma School with future Dharma messages and activities. We look forward to working together for many years.

“Students of the Month”



Hi. My name is Rev. Tadao Koyama. I have graduated from numerous schools and studied to become a minister under Rev. Yuki Sugahara at the Buddhist Church of Florin. I became an official Minister’s Assistant in 2013, received my Tokudo ordination in 2014, studied at IBS, and received my Kyoshi in 2017. I am the first North American-born minister to receive the specialized chanting and ritual license from Nishi Hongwanji. My favorite Disney character is Flynn Rider because I just love the smolder!! I love to snack on popcorn and read my favorite author, James Baldwin. I would like to learn Tendai Buddhist Chanting. I enjoy practicing Akido and spending time with my family and Cyndi. This summer I married my True Love so my DREAM CAME TRUE! Rev. Cyndi is my role model because she is so kind. I LOVE TO COOK, especially breakfast every day!! I am grateful to my parents and my brother because as difficult as it is to like me, they accept me for who I am!! I am very excited to be at the Tacoma Buddhist Temple and look forward to seeing all of you in the pews!



Hi. My name is Rev. Cyndi Yasaki. I am older and younger than you think. I am a senior in graduate school. I was a Minister’s assistant at the Gardena Buddhist Church in California and received my Tokudo in the summer of 2019. My favorite Disney character is Rapunzel because even though she and Flynn Rider (a.k.a. Eugene Fitzherbert) didn’t always see eye to eye, they would always compromise and support each other which lead to their dreams coming true...PLUS, she’s a strong independent woman! I love to snack on gummies!!! I also enjoy cross stitching. My favorite author is Shinran Shonin. I want to learn more about Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. My dream is to continue to live a happy life with Rev. Tadao Koyama. He is my role model because he is funny and knowledgeable. My kind moment is allowing some of the bokoblins to ‘escape’ while playing ‘Breath of the Wild.’ One thing I like about the temple is being greeted by everyone’s smile. I am grateful to everyone at the Tacoma Buddhist Temple because you are all inviting us into your sangha.

Rev. Koyama describes Rev. Miyaji as “VERY VERY VERY VERY SMART”

Rev. Yasaki describes Rev. Miyaji as very smart and funny like his father!

Looking forward to working with Rev. Koyama and Rev. Yasaki to keep our Dharma School active and connected to our Temple.

Please be well and stay safe!

Gassho, June



Buddhist Education Committee News



For quite some time now, the news and the world around us has been focused on political and social impropriety. Reports and articles of *heart lifting* events seem to be fewer and fewer.

If certain states of affair, do not have me close to tears, they have me feeling extreme rage and anger. I try my best to remind myself that I am surrounded at all times by the wisdom, compassion and **love** of Amida Buddha. Sometimes it snaps me out of it, sometimes it doesn't....but I am, after all, just an imperfect, ego driven human being.

What does help, is to remind myself of everything in life that there is to be grateful for.

Family and friends, our beautiful temple and sangha are good places to start. And of course, the good fortune of being (borrowing from Christian terms) '*blessed*' with a new minister, Reverend Tadao Koyama.

In the meantime, I am reminded that happiness and love really need to be the strong and secure foundation for all sentient beings. Therefore, I will share this ancient Japanese poem of love that was part of my and Les's wedding in January 2014.

Gassho,
Fred Pelger

Iwatsutsuji

Omoi izuru

tokiwa no yama no

iwatsutsuji

iwaneba koso are

koishi mono o

Wild Azaleas

Memories of love revive,

like wild azaleas bursting into bloom

on mountains of evergreen

my stony silence only shows

how much I love you.

*Composed in 850 AD by the priest-poet Shinga Sōzu. The poem was inspired his unspoken love for another man, the handsome nobleman, Ariwara Narihira.

Toban News



Committee Update:

(Crystal Inge, Donna Sasaki, Lynne Tanino, Barry Weled & Kaila Yoshitomi)

Announcement: Until the Temple resumes in-person services and the stay at home order has been lifted, we will be postponing all monthly Toban cleanups, coffee hours and other activities. We can't wait to see everyone again in person.



Here is a very fun and easy DIY cleaning wipes recipe from The Typical Mom Blog!
(<https://temeculablogs.com/diy-cleaning-wipes/>)



What you will need:

1. **2 cups** of water
2. **1 cup** rubbing alcohol (at least 70% strength) (or if you want to clean but not disinfect, you can use vinegar).
3. **1 tbsp.** liquid detergent or dish soap
4. Microfiber cloths
5. A large airtight jar, spray bottle, or size you like to use
6. **6 drops** of lavender oil

Combine all ingredients and submerge cloths in liquid, secure lid and shake. Take out and use one at a time or spray mixture on surface and use cloth

to clean.

For more ideas check out 'The Typical Mom' blog for other fun crafts, recipes, etc!

<https://temeculablogs.com/>

~Kaila

Facility Committee Update



Well, the rush is on to spiffy up the parsonage interior and exterior prior to the arrival of Reverend Tadao Koyama and Cyndi, Minister's Assistant. So hot diggity dog! Looks like we are getting some serious bang for the buck with this esteemed couple. First, all there is major effort to smooth out a carpet idiosyncrasy in the parsonage-Battle of the Wrinkle. We could just place a piece of furniture over the imperfection and inform the new occupants we are applying the ancient principles of feng shui. However, your Facilities Committee has chosen to open up a big can of medieval. First of all, Great Floors, a group well practiced in the art of carpet torture, will employ a contraption called the stretcher. As the carpet is being stretched an Irish step dancing group will tap it down. But after the abuse will come some tender loving care. The temple's cleaning service is scheduled to shampoo the carpets, in addition to, cleaning and sanitizing the house. David Yotsuuye, Tony Greg, and Tom Hubbell met on Sunday afternoon, July 19 for clearing the furniture off the carpet to prepare for the projects.

Tom and Lynrae applied their pruning skills and gave the wisteria and hedges in front of the parsonage quite a coiffure. My idea was to hire Sergeant Carter's Landscaping and Attitude Adjustment company. Its special operations crew would have swooped in, give the plants a buzz cut, and yell at them as deterrence from growing out like hippies. Tom and Lynrae quickly rejected the "solution." Mike Shiogi weed whacked the lot next to the parsonage and, the word is, it looks great. Our new sensei and Cyndi will be able to feast their eyes on the parsonage garden after Fred Pelger, Les Hitsman, Ken Tanino, and Lynn Tanino gave it some tender loving care.

Whenever we start up temple events social hall kitchen workers will love the improvements. David Yotsuuye's son-in-law, Alex, fixed the drywall after the new electrical panel was installed. David and Alex also patched holes in the kitchen walls and cut the storage cabinet to the right of the stove in half to make room for the updated extinguisher system. After that Tony Greg primed the kitchen walls in preparation for painting.

Tom Hubble has been attempting to obtain a quote to erect additional fencing around the parsonage to improve security. At this point all he's getting is radio silence. Just like ET they are somewhere out there. Perhaps there will be results in the future.

The pandemic isn't stopping Jeff Hiroo and Fred Pelger from grabbing the brooms and vacuums during their weekly visits. Those who live along Fawcett Avenue can't help but appreciate Tom Hubbell's hard work in keeping the street free of trash. Despite being busy, David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, and Del Sasaki continue to support facility projects. Finally, Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens keep our temple's grounds a sight to behold.

~David

Yearly Memorial Service



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

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7 th Year	Murakami, Kaoru Cora	Shakuni Tei-Do	貞道	August 23, 2014
7 th Year	Kodama, Goji	Shaku Ko-Sho	剛証	August 28, 2014
13 th Year	Nakashima, Yoshiye Marie	Shakuni Myo-Ryo		August 14, 2008

September 2020

1 Year	Kakiuchi, Yoshinobu Henry	Shaku Ki-Kō	喜光	September 3, 2019
3 rd Year	Nakagawara, Hiroshi John	Shaku Ei-Tetsu	英徹	September 4, 2018
13 th Year	Yamasaki, Motoshi	Shaku Ken-Jitsu		September 20, 2008

Greeters Schedule

*The greeters list will resume when the temple reopens.

Book Club

August 13 at 7 pm
via Zoom

In Love with the World

Yongey Ming Your Rinpoche



We are saddened to share
Dr. Sam Uchiyama
passed away on July 12, 2020.

Dr. Sam Uchiyama was 94 and a long time
member of our temple. Many members had Dr. Uchiyama as
their dentist.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to Tacoma
Buddhist Temple "In memory of Dr. Sam Uchiyama".
Cards may be sent to Michael and Debbie Uchiyama, 1903 127th Ave., Milton,
WA 98354.

Our thoughts of compassion are with
family and friends.

In Gassho,
Tacoma Buddhist Temple
Namo Amida Butsu

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4. Start shopping on smile.amazon!
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Drive-By(e) Farewell for Rev. Miyaji, Kaori and Keisai

It was a bittersweet send off as temple members drove along Fawcett to say goodbye to sensei and his family. Some got creative and had signs on their cars and one even had music playing! That of course was Michael and Priscilla Shiogi serenading "Happy Trails". A big thank you to Mrs. Yoshikawa for donating balloons, Tracy, Richard and Ryan Ling and John Inge for directing cars, and to Kate and Emma Inge for making festive signs. Ganbatte Sensei!

"Happy Trails to you, until we meet again!"





Book Club

September 10 at 7 pm
via Zoom

Love and Rage
Lama Rod Owens

*August 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Rev. Koyama begins ministerial duties VIRTUAL OBON POSTED YOUTUBE
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 BEC mtg via Zoom Welcome Koyamas, 10:30 AM via Zoom	10	11	12	13 King's Books, 7 PM via Zoom	14	15 BCA VIRTUAL OBON DANCE, 18:00
16 Gomeinichi Minister only	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

*September 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10 King's Books, 7 PM via Zoom	11	12
13 Sangha Service 10 AM YBA breakfast	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Sangha Service 10 AM	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Sangha Service 10 AM	28	29	30			