



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)

September 2021

Temple Mission Statement *"To offer those in the Pacific Northwest an enduring community that values inclusiveness and acceptance in seeking enlightenment through Japanese Shin Buddhist teachings."*

Temple Reopening Update

Greetings to the wonderful members of Tacoma Buddhist Temple. We hope you are all enjoying your summer and are staying cool! We were so happy to be able to hold our first in-person service in the temple garden on July 25th. It was so nice being able to see friends and family members for the first time in a long time! Nothing will ever substitute being able to share the Dharma with each other in person. We certainly look forward to the day when we will be able to gather with each other again!

Unfortunately, in recent weeks, the Delta variant has been a major cause for concern as Pierce County's number of infections has been rapidly increasing. Due to this fact, the Reopening Committee has made the decision to once again, go back to holding monthly Zoom services to keep our members safe. Our next Zoom service will take place on September 26th and then in starting in October, we will hold live services via Zoom twice a month. Please know that we are just as saddened by this development, but your health and safety are our top priority.

Rest assured the Reopening Committee of Tacoma Buddhist Temple is still monitoring the situation as close as possible and will keep the membership regularly informed about our meetings and decisions in the months to come.

We would like to thank you all once again for your continued support of the temple and we look forward to when we will be able to hold in-person services once more. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us and we would be happy to discuss this decision further with you! Thank you all again for your patience and understanding.

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Tadao Koyama (Resident Minister) revtadaok@gmail.com

Crystal Inge (Temple President) crystal.inge@gmail.com

David Yotsuuye (Chair of the Reopening Committee) yotskendo@aol.com

Sensei's Message



Fall is Here Already??

Rev. Tadao Koyama

Happy September everyone! I hope you all had a great summer vacation and were able to do some fun activities! When fall approaches, what do we usually think of? Well, for the younger kids, it might be a bit of a downer because it usually means going back to school and having to do lots of reading and lots of homework! Unless you enjoy doing homework! Others think about the colors of fall!

I recall during my time in Japan, one of my favorite spots to go to is a place called Takao Zan. On this mountain during the fall, the Japanese maple leaves were the reddest I have ever seen! If anyone in the sangha is able to visit Kyoto when the times get better, I highly recommend this tour site!

Fall is a time that we as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists also observe the season of Ohigan. For those of you who do not remember, Ohigan is the time when Japanese Buddhists celebrate the spring and fall equinox. This is when the day and night period are exactly the same in time length. This also symbolizes the crossing into enlightenment, "Other shore" to be literal. From this shore of blind passions and ego to the other shore of enlightenment and non-self.

Many Buddhists in Japan celebrate this one-week period by going on a vegetarian diet and by constantly reciting the Buddhist scriptures associated with their school. The teachings of many of this school state that this will accumulate good Karma and merit and will assist in a positive rebirth or even enlightenment in this life.

As Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, we also celebrate this week but with a different intention. While we do chant sutras a lot and we constantly recite the nembutsu, we do not do these actions to gain karmic merit. We are humbly acknowledging that we are imperfect beings in the world of samsara and that through other power or *Tariki*, we are still touched by the realm of the Dharma.

I sometimes get caught up in myself and only focus on my desires at times. What do I want to eat today? Where do I want to go today? I don't want to work today! I want to go on a vacation! Lots of these thoughts that run throughout our minds tend to be formulated out of self-interest and the ego. This isn't to say that we shouldn't take breaks, or that we shouldn't go on vacations, because self-care and self-kindness are very important. This is just to say that when we start saying, "me" "me" "me" too much, we are operating from the self. Yet because we are so consumed with our own egos and blind passions at times, Amida Buddha continues to work for our benefit.

When we come into the season of fall, I often wonder what the season will bring and how fast time seems to fly forward again. With the year over halfway finished, I have to once again put my thoughts towards the Dharma and put my thoughts towards Amida. Realizing that with this precious time that I am given, I must say the nembutsu with sincerity and gratitude. Knowing that the changing of the colors of leaves in this season signifies the great impermanence that is taught to us by the Buddha. Enjoy the fall colors everyone!

Namo Amida Butsu

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President's Message



Every month I say – wow, time flies. September marks the fall season and the beginning of school and temple services. In normal times we'd enjoy the YBA breakfast on the first day of service, seeing the Dharma School Teachers get classrooms ready and students eager to leave the hondo for class after their portion of service. We all miss the *kimochi* (feeling) of being in person.

We held our first live service July 25th, just before printing the August Myokyo. We had over 60 members safely participate in the outdoor service in the temple garden. Thank you to Rev. Koyama and Rev. Yukawa for their memorable messages, both which are documented and on our YouTube channel.

As I mentioned in the August newsletter, we held a Drive-Thru Obon. We are grateful to members, families and friends who purchased bentos and helped prepare for the Drive-Thru. Thank you to all who donated in memory of your families and loved ones. If you haven't seen the Hatsubon or the Drive-Thru Obon video, please check it out on our YouTube channel. To do this, go to YouTube.com and type in Tacoma Buddhist Temple in the search bar. Thanks to MC, Kevin Ikeda, and Emma Inge for creating a great Obon video – and all of the participants too!

Due to the fluctuations of COVID-19 and the Delta variant cases, it has been decided to hold off on in-person services. We will however still hold Zoom services (live, online) – please check out the calendar for specific dates. Emails will be sent with notices for the Zoom link. In addition, stay tuned for our fall Spirit, Mind and Wellness classes.

It's been a long road, but our temple always perseveres. We will stay safe and get even more creative in ways to stay connected. Thank you!

Gassho,
Crystal

Buddhist Women's Association News



Hello BWA members! It was so nice to see most of you at the July service in the garden. Thank you all for staying for our first BWA meeting in over a year. At the meeting we discovered that more work on the bylaws is needed. If anyone would like to join the bylaws committee, please let me know.

ELECTIONS

We will hold Cabinet Elections in October as stated in our current bylaws. This means the current cabinet, regardless of the outcome of elections, will serve as NWD Officers for a two-year term once installed in September. If you are interested in running for any position for our Tacoma chapter BWA cabinet, please let me know prior to the October elections. Here are the Current Cabinet Members, BWA Cabinet Positions and NWD Officer positions:

Current Cabinet	BWA Cabinet Positions	NWD Officers 2021-2023
Denise Cline	President	President – Denise Cline
Donna Sasaki	Vice President	Vice President – Donna Sasaki
Riu Pittman	Secretary	Secretary – Riu Pittman

Patti Wong
Shizuka Faria
Carrie Mori
Kazuko Inoue
Historian

Treasurer
Auditor
Religious Chair
Social Chair
June Weled

Treasurer – Patti Wong
Auditor – Shizuka Faria

Meetings

I was hoping to hold an in-person meeting this fall, but with COVID numbers steadily rising, I think it is best for BWA to explore virtual meetings via Zoom. We will have our first virtual Zoom meeting in September. Time/Date and instructions will be sent to each BWA member. If anyone needs help with the technology, please contact me. BWA will hold monthly meetings, all under 1 hour in length, September, October and November. We will evaluate the success/effectiveness of these three meetings and adjust if needed.

Save the DATE(s)

September 12-19, 2021 – 74th Annual NW District (virtual) Convention

October 16, 2021, 9 am (virtual) – BCA FBWA Representatives' Meeting – FBWA members welcome to attend as a non-representative (non-voting)

2023 Joint Celebrations at Hongwanji - Shinran Shonin 850th birthday and 800th Anniversary of the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu tradition.

1st session March 29–April 3, 2023

2nd session April 10–April 15

3rd session April 24–April 29

4th session May 6–May 11 – 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention

5th session May 16–May 21

1st registration period: October 1, 2021-February 28, 2022 | 2nd registration period: April 1, 2022 – March 2023

Respectfully submitted by,
Denise Cline, Tacoma BWA President

Dharma School News



As we look forward to the 2021-2022 school year, our staff and families decided to begin our **Dharma School year on October 3rd** coinciding with the temple calendar and as recommended by the Temple Re-Opening Committee. Because, once again, we are dealing with the uncertainties of the Delta variant, and prioritizing the safety of our students, teachers, and sangha, we will use **ZOOM twice a month until the end of the 2021** year. You will be notified if there needs to be any change in the calendar.



DS Schedule for October:

Oct. 3	DS ZOOM 10:45-11:30 am
Oct. 10	no DS
Oct. 17	DS ZOOM 10:45-11:30 am
Oct. 24	no DS
Oct. 31	YBA Event-Time/Details TBD

The **Dharma School Teaching Staff** for the 2021-2022 School Year is as follows:

Lumbini Class (Toddler-1 st)	*Junko Yotsuuye Karen Yoshitomi
Prajna Class (2 nd -5 th)	*Merlaine Cook Meesa Pedrozo Kjirsten Winters
Maitreya Class (6 th -8 th)	*Erin Berkey Kenji Shipp Kaila Yoshitomi

Lotus Class
(9th-12th)

Advisor:
Superintendent:

*Alex Theisen
Gavin Morgan
June Akita (alternate)
Rev. Tadao Koyama
June Akita

If you would like to participate or teach a class during the year, please notify me and we will make arrangements. Once again, I truly believe Dharma School will have a successful year. Tacoma Dharma School appreciates Oregon Buddhist Temple, hosts of the 2021 Northwest District Convention, for organizing a virtual 'gathering' this year. We will miss visiting with our NW Dharma School friends and look forward to seeing each other again in 2022 when the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple will host.

Thank you **Kalea and Rio Shimizu** for being runners for our Temple Mini-Obon! It was a hot day, and their numerous trips from the kitchen to the street level for two hours was very much appreciated. Thank you very much!

Please keep sending me pictures of your summer activities when you have a moment. I plan to post some next month when I get my computer back!! Please take care and know that our main concern for Dharma School is your safety and health.

Gassho,
June

Young Buddhist Association News



On behalf of the YBA, Junko and I would like to welcome you all to the 2021-22 Dharma School year. Being still in the shadow of the COVID pandemic, we expect the beginning of this school year to be like last year on the hopes that we can soon come together to enjoy each other's company and learn the Dharma.



With the restrictions in place the YBA will **not** be hosting our Welcome Breakfast and instead will be focusing on the socially distanced Dharma School student Halloween Candy Dash to be held on October 31st. More information will be given to each Dharma School student.

Seattle's Jr-YBA held a socially distanced YBA Retreat in July, and 8 Tacoma YBA members joined. We were excited to have so many of our YBA interested in attending this exchange and they enjoyed their experience. The YBA crafted kits for the elderly in assisted living facilities, learned more about the eight-fold path, and interacted with their Seattle counterparts.



We would like to welcome three new YBA qualified members to the group: Yuto Kretchmar, Nao Wainer, and Mia Alexander. Members are eligible upon entering the Dharma School Lotus class. Membership/participation is voluntary, and we encourage young teens to join and enjoy interacting with each other for a worthy cause.

For future posts the following YBA cabinet members will be sharing some insight into YBA activities as well as whatever might be on their minds. President: Jet Yotsuuye, Vice President: Odessa Cook, Secretary: Kalea Shimizu, Treasurer: Ezra Winters.

We look forward to when we meet next....

Gassho,
Bobby & Junko, YBA Advisors

Buddhist Education Committee News



I hope you got to attend, or at least watch on YouTube, our temple's first in-person outdoor service on July 25. It was a beautiful, sunny morning in the parsonage's back yard with 60+ members in attendance. All COVID safety protocols were implemented – health check-ins, new masks, social distancing and being in an outdoor setting. It was so wonderful to see everyone and be together again!

Since closing our temple in March 2020, the Buddhist Education Committee has continued its monthly meetings via Zoom, planning services and special events and finding ways for members to stay connected during the pandemic. Sensei Koyama has worked tirelessly in his first year here to start a Youth Outreach group and a monthly Buddhism 101 study class as well as recording and uploading all our videos on YouTube. We are also very grateful to our members for stepping in to teach classes such as yoga, mindfulness meditation, cooking, and origami.

Though we had planned to start more in-person services in the near future, we are now facing, if you can believe it, the **fifth wave** of this pandemic caused by the Delta variant. This means we are back to wearing masks and debating school re-openings and vaccinations.

Between the fatigue of dealing with the pandemic, wildfire smoke and very hot weather, I can feel myself and others around me fraying a bit from the accumulated stress of it all. As Patti Wong wrote in last month's BEC Myokyo article, we need to keep up on the Buddhist teachings through reading or online lectures and express our gratitude to those around us.

Stay safe! Namo Amida Butsu
Lynrae

Toban News



Toban Committee Updates:
(Crystal Inge, Donna Sasaki, Barry Weled & Kaila Yoshitomi)

We were so excited to see everyone last month at the in-person service in the temple garden. Thank you all for being safe and socially distant in this very confusing time with COVID restrictions and guidelines always in flux. If you have any ideas or comments on how the Toban Committee can help, please let us know!

When we return to full-time in-person services and events at the Temple, please keep an eye on your email inboxes and Myokyo articles about how we will start using the Toban groups again and when the monthly cleanups will start.

Please feel free to reach out to any of us on the Toban Committee if you have any questions.

In gassho,
Kaila

Facility Committee Update



Seems there are all kinds of gremlins out there and the human variety made an appearance at the parsonage while Sensei and his wife were away.

Fortunately, the only damage done was a broken sliding glass door and an old cell phone that has gone AWOL. Lynrae Hubbell swooped in and cleaned the glass. Tom Hubbell and David Yotsuuye expediently installed plywood across the broken sliding door. On an uber cool note, Irving the cat was fine and didn't get out.



Well, a crew met on Thursday August 5th to prepare the stoves for the switch that was to occur on Saturday the 7th. The ambitious team decided to move the stoves on that day to put us ahead of the game. All we had to do on Saturday was to move the new stove into place. Surely nothing could go wrong, right? Those chortling gremlins (non-human) had other plans. It didn't seem fitting to place the shining new stove on a soft, dry rotted floor. Talk about Potemkin situation. After the ever so multi-faceted Tom Hubbell rendered the floor good as new, a crew wrestled the stove in place only to find the cord too short to reach the outlet. I recommended we use an extension and wrap it with duct tape to trick any inspector into thinking it was one continuous stretch of cord. Instead, the team decided to hire an electrician to extend a circuit and install an outlet closer to the stove. Also, with the old stove out of the way, Tony Gregg used the extra room to freshen up the wall with a new coat of paint.

All the trash and litter never get a moment's rest as Tom and Lynrae Hubbell hunt them down, never missing a single one. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, Del Sasaki, and Mike Shiogi are always critical to a successful facilities program. Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens exert a labor of love in keeping temple lawn spruced up

Yearly Memorial Service

General Memorial Service Years for 2021

1 st Year - 2020	17 th Year - 2005
3 rd Year - 2019	25 th Year - 1997
7 th Year - 2015	33 rd Year - 1989
13 th Year - 2009	50 th Year - 1972



September

1 st Year	Frank Komoto	September 22, 2020
3 rd Year	Yoshinobu Henry Kakiuchi	September 3, 2019
13 th Year	Bill Masatoshi Sugiyama	September 3, 2009
17 th Year	Violet Hiroko Tanabe	September 17, 2005
25 th Year	Edwin Michael Arima	September 8, 1997

October

3 rd Year	Robert Nakayama	October 23, 2019
17 th Year	Michiko Osaka	October 29, 2005
25 th Year	Omitsu Taketa	October 8, 1997
25 th Year	Shigeko Kubota	October 12, 1997
25 th Year	Urano Kato	October 25, 1997
25 th Year	Michiko Shelton	October 26, 1997
33 rd Year	Mitsu Fujimoto	October 18, 1989
50 th Year	Kura Itami	October 3, 1972

November

3 rd Year	Linda Mitsuko Teal	November 28, 2019
25 th Year	John Yoshiro Fujita	November 21, 1997
25 th Year	Asa Ikeda	November 30, 1997

Greeters Schedule

*The greeters list will resume when the temple reopens.



Thank you from the Obon Committee

“Obon, Obon it’s festival day.” Indeed, it was at the TBT Obon Drive-Thru on Saturday, July 31. Although for a second year we were not able to host the full traditional Obon festivities we’re accustomed to, the Obon organizers found a way to bring a sampling of the most nostalgic and familiar traditions of the TBT Obon to the Drive-Thru - the music, the odori, the taiko and the food.

If you missed out in this year’s modified festivities, check out the video highlights of the TBT Drive-Thru created by Emma Inge and emceed by Kevin Ikeda who reminds us that next year will be TBT’s Obon 70th year anniversary!

Thank you to Obon donors, Carpinitos Brothers Farm, Puyallup Food Bank and Uwajimaya. And to many other donors, supporters, organizers, entertainers, and volunteers who helped to ensure a safe and successful Obon fundraiser!



Welcome New Member!!

Meet Kate Inge



Why have you chosen to join the Tacoma Buddhist Temple?

I have chosen to join the Tacoma Buddhist Temple as my family and I decided it felt like the right time to become a member having entered college. While I had been a member under my family until the end of high school, my recent involvement in TYABA (Tacoma Young Adult Buddhist Association) and with other temple activities reminded me that I should become a member on my own. Temple has always been a significant aspect of my upbringing and it was only natural to continue to give back to the temple that has helped raise me.

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

I have experiences chairing services but also am interested in organization and related tasks.

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

Ooh. Hard question. I would say that I want the Temple to know that I am all about rallying people and have used my love of music with my enthusiasm to play in the Bulldog Band, Gonzaga University's pep band.

Tacoma Buddhist Temple's Spirit, Mind and Body Health Series

2021

We are pleased to bring back online and Zoom classes!

Starting September 11th, 9 am - 10 am is Yoga for Compassion with Kara O'Toole.

This class is for levels of experience, a place for people to begin their yoga practice or to reconnect with their yoga roots. In Yoga for Compassion, you will learn the fundamentals of yoga postures and experience connecting movement and breath. The class will begin seated in a chair and then progress to standing. The compassionate class environment will provide you with a positive Yoga experience in our diverse Sangha. Grab a member of your "pod" - everyone is welcome! If you'd like to sign up, please email Tracy Ling at tlinge2005@comcast.net to register. Returning students do not need to resign their waiver.

Stay tuned for details on other classes in October - December in the newsletter, emails and website.



There's still time to register....NW convention is happening soon!

The registration link:

<https://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/nw-district-convention2021>

74th Annual Northwest District (Virtual) Convention

The
Appreciation
Realization
Transformation
Of Buddhist Living

**No
Registration
Fee!**



Keynote Speaker

Reverend Peter Hata

Higashi Honganji Los Angeles Betsuin
Founding Member Of The
Legendary Jazz Fusion Group
Hiroshima

SEPTEMBER 12 - 19, 2021

Featured Presenters:

Kim Stafford (State of Oregon Poet Laureate, emeritus)
Nobuko Miyamoto (Songwriter, Dance & Theater Artist, Cultural Activist)
Brian Koichi Mizushima (BCA Youth Coordinator)
Rev. Ko'e Umezu (Asst. Minister WLABT, Illustrator/Storyboard Artist)
Rev. Yuki Sugahara (Resident Minister OBT, Musician)

Registration and Other Details to Follow

www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/nw-district-convention2021
contact us: convention@oregonbuddhisttemple.com

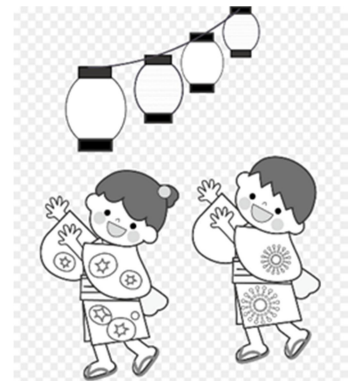
Book Club

Thursday, September 9 at 7 pm

via ZOOM

Black and Buddhist: What Buddhism can Teach us Race, Resilience, Transformation, and Freedom

Yetunde, Giles, et al.





*September 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 Youtube Shotsuki Service
5 YouTube Service No Dharma School	6 <i>Labor Day</i>	7	8 <i>Study Class</i> 6pm via Zoom	9 <i>Bookclub, 7 PM</i> Via Zoom	10	11
12 NW Convention <i>begins via Zoom</i>	13 <i>NW Convention</i> <i>Zoom</i>	14 <i>NW Convention</i> <i>Zoom</i>	15 <i>NW Convention</i> <i>Zoom</i>	16 <i>NW Convention</i> <i>Zoom</i>	17 <i>NW Convention</i> <i>Zoom</i>	18 <i>NW Convention</i> <i>Zoom</i>
19 NW Convention Concludes <i>Temple Board Meeting</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Live Zoom Service 10:00 AM Dharma School TBD	27	28	29	30		

*October 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Youtube Shotsuki Service
3 YouTube Service BEC Meeting	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Live Zoom Service <i>Eshinni Kakushinni</i> <i>Service</i>	11	12	13 <i>Study Class</i> 6pm Via Zoom	14 <i>Book club, 7pm</i> Via Zoom	15	16
17 YouTube Service Temple Board Meeting	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Live Zoom Service	25	26	27	29	29	30
31 YouTube Service						