



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:(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)

October 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

Changing Seasons

Rev. Tadao Koyama



This past month of September was quite a difficult month. We endured fire danger along the entire west coast, smoke clouded the skies and made the air unhealthy to breath. Not to even mention the fact that COVID-19 is still here with us, as well as the racial bias and violence against our black brothers and sisters has not gotten much better. Then on September 18th, of this year, the nation lost a supreme court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She will always be remembered as a fighter for women's rights in this country and as the voice of progressiveness within the courts.

This just doesn't seem to be our time does it? However, during this time, we can definitely turn to the teachings of the Buddha for comfort and hope. Yes, yes, it seems cliché and corny for me to say that, but, stay with me for just a moment. When we look at the teachings of Shinran, we can definitely see that acknowledgement of these feelings of helplessness are valid, normal, and dare I say, healthy! I often think that Buddhists have this false reputation for being able to take everything in stride because we are armed with the practice of "meditation" or have the knowledge of the Buddha on our side. This is false.

Monks get mad, nuns get mad, laypeople get mad, we weep, we cry, we laugh, and love! We are people too! We also feel relief! With the change of the weather, and as we approach the season of Autumn, we might be starting to breathe better. The weather will cool, the fires will die out, and the rain that hopefully comes will once again quench some thirst of the earth! With all of the unfortunate events that have befallen all of us, we might start to ask questions internally; "What did I do to deserve this?" "Why do all these things happen to me?" "Are we being punished for something?"

As Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, we do not subscribe to the belief that we are punished or rewarded by gods or deities. All of our reliance is on Amida Buddha. Buddhism also teaches us that there are countless causes and conditions that have led to the circumstances we all find ourselves in today. Framing it with a punishment reward system is counter to our teachings. What I can say for sure, is that there is a lot of suffering that is occurring because of all of the events that have transpired in the past months. We suffer and want this year to be over.

Yet, when we turn to the teachings of the Buddha, we can also come to realize that Amida's compassion is still embracing us. Even during these hard times. This embrace is not one that makes miracles happen spontaneously like the fires disappearing or making the smoke go away. It largely has to do with our settlement. We will inevitably feel sad, and angry at times because of our human nature. However, there are reminders that Amida's working is still working, a smile from a friend to you, the love you feel. The embrace one feels is all part of the working from the pure land.

We can take this feeling as well and put it into positive action in this life as well. Largely, I feel that the Tacoma Buddhist Temple's community is extremely caring and continues to engage with each other. Making sure we are all doing okay. In some ways, because of the social distancing and remote services, we have possibly become even more communicative amongst our members out of necessity. With the change of seasons, with the change of our normal, we are all getting a hard lesson of interdependence, and Buddhism.

We do not like many of these changes. We want things to go back to the way they used to be before all of this. This cannot be, and intellectually we know this, but our egos are also longing for things not to change. Luckily, we have not just the teachings of Shinran, but also each other to rely upon for comfort and kindness. I encourage all of us to reach out to our family members and friends with messages of love, kindness, and care (of course. now more than ever, we need each other.)

Let's all together recite the nembutsu in gratitude for those we still have in our lives and the memories we keep of the ones who have gone to the pure land before us.

Namo Amida Butsu

President's Message



Virtual Services Continue

We are still not having in person services. We want to keep everyone safe and healthy, so in person services will not be held until local regulations and the Board of Directors determine that it is safe for everyone to return to the Temple. Please continue to view the weekly virtual services on YouTube to keep connected with the Temple and Dharma.



Dharma School

In September, our Dharma School began virtual classes via Zoom. Thank you to Dharma School Superintendent June Akita, Rev. Koyama, all Dharma School teachers, students, and their parents for their participation in the Zoom classes. Since students are already having regular school classes via Zoom, it is appreciated that the students and their parents are willing to participate in another Zoom class. The efforts of everyone to provide opportunities for the Dharma School students to stay connected to the Dharma is greatly appreciated.

Fall Bazaar

Our Fall Bazaar and Rummage Sale fundraiser will not be held this year. It was scheduled for November 1, 2020. The Board of Directors are working on a substitute fundraiser for this year's Fall Bazaar and Rummage sale. Look for more information in November's Myokyo.

Final Notes

Thank you for all your generous Obon donations. With your generosity the Temple can continue to function while not being able to hold our fundraisers.

I am grateful that it rained and the temperature came down from the 90's. It is strange what we are grateful for. When it is raining for days on end, we wish for a sunny and dry day. When we have a streak of dry and smoky days, we wish for a rainy day to clear the air and lower the temperature. We are all fortunate that we live in such a beautiful corner of the country with a diverse and moderate climate.

Please continue to stay safe and healthy.

Gassho,
David

Buddhist Women's Association News



Tacoma Buddhist Women's Association and the Buddhist Education Committee invite you to watch our special Eshinni & Kakushinni Memorial service on the Tacoma Buddhist Temple YouTube channel.



Traditionally, the Tacoma BWA distributes fresh apples to all attendees following this special service. We eagerly await the day when we can again gather and hear the dharma together. The BWA will have our apples ready!

Service and Dharma message by Rev. Cyndi Yasaki, with a greeting from BWA President Denise Cline and readings by Minister Assistant Lynrae Hubble.

Service Date: October 11, 2020

View online: Tacoma Buddhist Temple YouTube Channel
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSjeUstylkbG_e74q-CM1Sig

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise Cline
Tacoma BWA President

ESHINNI & KAKUSHINNI MEMORIAL SERVICE

October 11, 2020

Officiant: Rev. Cyndi Yasaki



Tacoma Buddhist Temple

1717 Fawcett Ave Tacoma, WA 98402
Tacomabt.org · 253.627.1417 · info@tacomabt.org



*Design by Emma Inge

Dharma School News



How sad how much our lives depend on a computer. They are great in that students are still able to continue their education, Dharma School classes, and various meetings, but what would happen if your computer crashed or if we had a major power outage? Lesson learned: Don't procrastinate. Thank you, Kimi, for typing and sending my report.



We had a very successful Meet & Greet with Rev. Koyama and Rev. Cyndi at our first Dharma School Zoom class. It was so wonderful seeing all of the families - didn't realize how much we missed seeing each other. Guess who also joined us? Rev. Miyaji, Kaori, and Keisai! That was a very special treat!

Welcome to Trish Tisdale and her boys, Dennis (K) and Dillon (Pre-K) from Port Angeles. They will be joining our Dharma School Zoom classes very soon. Looking forward to meeting you in person - welcome!

Our October calendar:

- Oct 4 Zoom class (10:45-11:15)
- Oct 11 No Dharma School class
- Oct 18 Zoom class (10:45-11:15)
- Oct 25 Halloween Party (YBA) (time TBD)

Please be safe and be happy. See you on Zoom!

Gassho,
June

YBA



Hello everyone,

My name is Josiah Cook, and I am a senior from South Kitsap High School in Port Orchard. I currently work at the YMCA in Gig Harbor, and I enjoy playing sports as well as watching my favorite team, the Philadelphia Eagles. Today during our YBA meeting we hosted our elections and I have been chosen to be the new YBA President. I have been the Vice President of the YBA for the two years preceding this one, and now being in the role of President, I look forward to the many things we can accomplish together.

Gassho,
Josiah



From YBA Advisors - Bobby & Junko Yotsuuye:

We would like to welcome our newly elected 2020-21 YBA Officers.

- President: Josiah Cook
- Vice President: Jet Yotsuuye
- Treasurer: Ezra Winters
- Secretary: Kalea Shimizu

Our YBA held their cabinet election on September 20th and voted these members into office.

Their contributions throughout the year will be in support of the various temple, Buddhist, and community activities as well as participating in youth exchanges. We thank these officers and YBA members for their future contributions to a successful and entertaining year.

Our next YBA activity will be putting on the Dharma School's Halloween Event. We will be discussing how to maintain social distancing for this event and will provide more information to all in the near future.

Upcoming Schedule of Events (Lotus Class/YBA Members): May change later

- Sept. 27 (Sun/1045/1130am) All Class/ Zoom: YBA Mtg.
- Oct. 4 (Sun/1045/1130am) DS Class/ Zoom: YBA Mtg.
- Oct. 11 (Sun/None/1130am) DS Class/ Zoom: YBA Mtg.
- Oct. 18 (Sun/1045/1130am) DS Class/ Zoom: YBA Mtg.

Buddhist Education Committee News



“The true beauty of music is that it connects people”

Recently I attended a zoom meeting regarding the formation of a new BCA committee. Bishop Harada and BCA President, Kent Matsuda wanted to start a music committee and asked the Northwest District to take the lead, with Kemi Nakabayashi of Seattle Betsuin who agreed to chair.

Within the main committee there are several subcommittees including gagaku, sutra chanting, service music, new gathas, vocal and instrumental music, taiko, Bon Odori, and music history. It didn't take long to find interested people from every district in the BCA to join these committees. More than a committee, it feels like a music movement!

Especially during these unusual times with no in-person services, it is the hope that generating audio and video recordings of service music and gathas, for example, could be one way that temples, large and small, can enhance their online services.

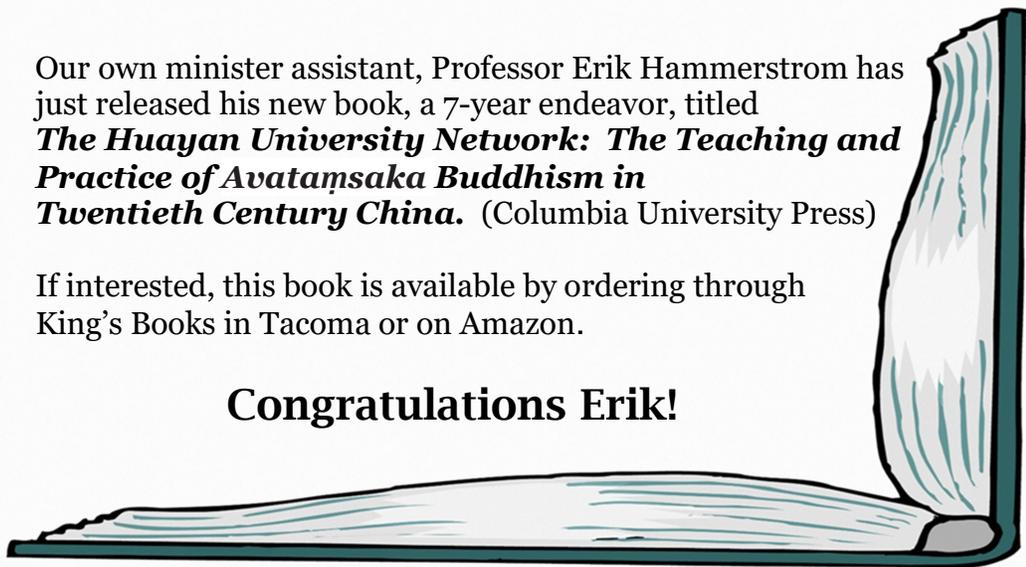
This new committee will be formally introduced in the November Wheel of Dharma. Look forward to some exciting new music and inspiring performances in the not too distant future!

Gassho,
Donna Sasaki

Our own minister assistant, Professor Erik Hammerstrom has just released his new book, a 7-year endeavor, titled ***The Huayan University Network: The Teaching and Practice of Avatamsaka Buddhism in Twentieth Century China.*** (Columbia University Press)

If interested, this book is available by ordering through King's Books in Tacoma or on Amazon.

Congratulations Erik!



Toban News



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.

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to Rev. Cyndi's family for donating a brand new UV Light Sanitizing wand to the Temple!

The Ultraviolet Light Sanitizing wand will be perfect to add to our other cleaning methods to help us sanitize and keep the temple safe for everyone. It will be kept in the Rev. Pratt room kitchen along with instructions on how to use it.

Ultraviolet light kills viruses and bacteria by damaging their genetic material. If you would like one for home, they can be found on Amazon and range in price from ~\$50 to \$100.

Clean Anything That Fits

Just Sanitize whatever you scan.

Please do not directly irradiate the eyes and skin with the product.



Toban Committee:

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

~Kaila

Facility Committee Update



We are about to find out how much of a good neighbor we have in University of Washington. While Mike Shiogi and Del Sasaki were pressure washing, they spotted a broken pipe on a UW facility south of the temple. During a deluge, rainwater will be dumped between the UW structure and the temple storage building. If the pipe isn't fixed we might have an environmentally protected wetland on our hands. Mike informed an individual who was working on site and he said the situation would be addressed.

Tom Hubbell gave the wisteria and various other bushes some much needed trimming. However, much to their disappointment, the plants didn't get any massages.

COVID19 might be throwing sand in our gears, but Facilities is mighty prolific in generating tasks that need tending too. Our social hall kitchen will be getting a slight makeover. First of all, the kitchen will get new coat of paint. Our resident gremlins recommended we render images of fast-food cuisine in the style of Andy Warhol. Of course, that got a big fat raspberry. I'm sure we'll go with a color that doesn't grate anyone's aesthetic sensibilities. Hot pink with mauve polka dots anyone? However, we need to move from form to function-like actually having something to cook with while remaining safe. We'll be procuring a shiny new range and upgrading our fire suppression system.

Sticky fingers are a fact of life in the environs of our temple and parsonage. Therefore, a security fence in in the works. Perhaps we could increase the depth of our physical deterrent with guard skunks. All we need to do is obtain a black and white cat who would attract a slew of paramours. If it worked with Pepe Le Pew we should have it in the bag. Nothing like putrid patrollers to induce the criminal element to move on to some other opportunity.

Like clockwork Jeff Hiroo and Fred Pelger show up to spiffy up the temple on a weekly basis. Tom Hubbell's makes time in his hectic schedule to remove trash from South Fawcett. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, and Del Sasaki are always focused on opportunities to improve our temple. Additionally, Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens are ceaseless in their efforts to foster impeccably maintained temple grounds.

~Dave

An Opportunity Just for You!

During this very unusual time with the necessity to cancel temple services and gatherings, more than ever we ask for your support to keep our temple running smoothly and safely.

Please consider volunteering for a position on the temple board of directors. Your help in running necessary temple functions will be much appreciated!

Among these positions, we are looking for someone to be assistant treasurer. If interested or have questions, please contact a membership committee member.

Thank you and please stay healthy and safe!

Donna Sasaki
dlsasaki@comcast.net

Jim Doyle
Blueoak9@gmail.com

June Akita
juneakita@comcast.net

Yearly Memorial Service

General Memorial Service Years for 2020

1st Year - 2019	17th Year - 2004
3rd Year - 2018	25th Year - 1996
7th Year - 2014	33rd Year - 1988
13th Year - 2008	50th Year - 1971



October Memorials for 2020

1 st year	Robert Nakayama	October 23 rd , 2019.
7 th year	Frank Koichi Kawasaki	October 30 th , 2014
13 th year	Masaye Shigeno	October 31 st , 2008
25 th year	Mineo Shimooka	October 3 rd , 1996
25 th year	Yoshiki Yabusaki	October 12 th , 1996

November Memorials for 2020

3 rd year	Herbert Isamu Saito	November 7 th , 2018
3 rd year	Toshie Fujita	November 11 th , 2018
13 th year	Joseph Hideo Kosai	November 4 th , 2008
13 th year	Yoshimi Mayeda	November 5 th , 2008
13 th year	Toshiko Tish Sasaki	November 30 th , 2008
33 rd year	Chiyo Kusumoto	November 23, 1988

December Memorials for 2020

3 rd year	Toyoko Komure Nakagawara	December 25 th , 2018
7 th year	John Kouhei Gibes	December 18, 2014
13 th Year	Hatsue Itami	December 4, 2008
25 th Year	Kiyoko Coyne	December 7, 1996
25 th Year	Shimae Lewis	December 18, 1996
25 th Year	Kameno Hashimoto	December 25, 1996
33 rd Year	Yonezo Taniguchi	December 31, 1988

Greeters Schedule

*The greeters list will resume when the temple reopens.

Where Are They Now?

Highlighted Past Dharma School Student: Sean Tanino

Parents: Lynne and Ken Tanino;

Temple Grandparents: Toyoko and Minoru Nakagawara

1. After graduating high school, remind us what you did (school, activities, etc.).

After graduating high school, I went to college at the University of Washington where I majored in Biochemistry and minored in Music. Following college, I did a year of community service with AmeriCorps' National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) which took me all over the American Southwest doing a whole bunch of projects including construction, farming, and STEM education. It was an incredible experience and I would love to talk with any young person about doing a year of community service. Post-AmeriCorps, I moved to Boston where I completed a master's degree and a graduate research year at Boston University. Now, I'm living in Durham, North Carolina working on my Doctor of Medicine degree at Duke University.

2. What did you enjoy about college? Any special highlights? Funny or interesting??

Going to college in Seattle was great! I met wonderful and passionate people who taught me so much about life and our community. A lot of my favorite moments in college occurred outside of the classroom. I fondly remember activities such as going out to eat with my roommates on The Ave every Friday night, evening rehearsals with the UW Symphony Orchestra in Meany Hall and harvesting fresh produce and preparing meals with the UW Student Food Coop. Don't tell my parents but being close to home was nice too!

3. How did you decide on your major and now post degree? What interested you about this focus?

Honestly, I followed my friends into Biochemistry. It seemed like everyone was doing it and I didn't want to be left out! I started college as a Music major with a focus in cello performance, but quickly switched to Cellular and Molecular Biology before landing in Biochemistry. I have since come to love the structure, organization and problem solving associated with biochemistry. You can create beautiful flow charts of all the biochemical pathways in the human body and how they interact – and it makes sense!

My decision to pursue medicine stemmed from my interests in science and service. There was no single moment which directed me towards medicine, rather, it was an accumulation of many experiences which made me feel that medicine was the right decision. As bit of an aside, the title of my medical school personal statement was "Okagesamade Arigato" where I expressed gratitude for the people and experiences which led me to a career in medicine. I stole this phrase from my time in Dharma School and one of our NW District Conventions!

5. What do you miss most about your family and Temple?

I miss my family and temple every day. No matter how much the world changes, coming to the temple is just like coming home. There's something about the smell of incense and the smiling faces of the Sangha that bring me back to some really happy moments in my childhood. There is always love at the temple even as people come and go.



That being said, one thing I REALLY miss about the temple is the food. Bazaar rice curry, hot dogs w/ onigiri from the garage, potluck dinners with the spam musubi at the end of the table – I could go on. But really, the food at TBT is #1.

As a final note, I am happy to have been given the opportunity to check-in. If any Dharma School students are interested in college, health care and community service I would be more than happy to chat! I can always be reached at seantanino@gmail.com

Recognizing a Celebrated Member

Our Temple is especially grateful to Rev. Kosho Yukawa who on November 2, will be turning 88. In Japanese culture, the 88th birthday, or “Beiju” (米寿), is known as the long life celebration. Beiju is a play on the kanji characters for rice and 88. “Bei” (rice 米) is important in Japanese society because it sustains life and represents purity and wholesomeness. “Ju” (寿) means blessing to one’s longevity or congratulations for a long life well lived! And Rev. Yukawa is certainly one that lives his life well and we have all gained from his wisdom. The character for rice can be broken down to its basic components and rearranged as 八十八、 or 88.

To follow with state COVID phases, more of his life and history with the temple will be shared in the November issue of the Myokyo. How meaningful is this 88th birthday? Well, we know Rev. Yukawa likes sake - very good sake. And what is sake made of? Rice!!! Stay tuned for more next month.



Library News

The library will be open with new books when you return to the temple. In the meantime, contact Jane Burster if you want a copy of Deepak Chopra's novel ***Buddha***, Karen Armstrong's ***Buddha***, or Yongey Mingyur Rinpoche's ***In Love With the World*** and she will send it to you.

~Jane

**Book Club
October 8
via
Zoom 7 PM**

**The Buddhist on Death
Row**

David Sheff

Tacoma Buddhist Temple 2020- 2021

Dharma School Student Enrollment & Information

Welcome new and returning Dharma School families!!

We are please that you and your child will participate in the Tacoma Buddhist Temple's **Virtual Dharma School** this year. In order to help ensure a positive, safe and engaging environment and program for all Dharma School children, we'd like you to provide some information about your child and family so the teachers can be informed and maintain good community with you this year. Please read the agreement below and **complete one for per student**. Thank you!

Student Name _____ Preferred Name/Pronoun _____

Date of Birth _____ Grade in School _____

Mailing address _____

Special Interests _____

Allergies to food or environment? Yes No

If 'yes', please provide additional information. _____

Does your child have any **special needs**? Yes No

If 'yes', please provide additional information. _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Primary) _____

Phone/Text Contact _____ Email _____

Approved to Pick up child from Class/Temple Yes No

Additional Parent/Guardian Name _____

Phone/Text Contact _____ Email _____

Approved to Pick up child from Class/Temple Yes No

Please INITIAL here if you would prefer **NOT** to have your child's photograph or have your child's image in TBT Publicity (Temple Newsletter) or social media (FB or Email) _____

If there is a group picture and NOT publishing your child's name, can your child be part of this kind of publication? Yes No

Are there other restrictions that we should be aware? _____

- Because of our current situation with the Covid 19 Pandemic, please be aware that we are looking into the safety of your child, our teachers and our friends.
- We are planning to have ZOOM classes that we hope to 'engage' your child to the temple and to Buddhist practices. We will contact you monthly as to the schedule.
- Thank you very much for your patience and understanding that things *could change* because we are all dealing with a situation that is incomparable to our knowledge.
- Please be safe and take care of you and your family.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

*October 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 <i>YouTube Service</i> Dharma School Via Zoom	5	6	7	8 King's Books, 7 PM via Zoom	9	10
11 <i>Eshinni/Kakushinni Service</i> No Dharma School	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Youtube Service Dharma School Via Zoom	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 YouTube Service No Dharma School YBA Halloween Event for DS	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween

*November 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 <i>YouTube Service</i> No Dharma School Bazaar cancelled	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 <i>Youtube Service</i> Dharma School via Zoom	9	10	11	12 King's Books, 7 PM via Zoom	13	14
15 <i>YouTube Service</i> No Dharma School	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 YouTube Service Dharma School Via Zoom	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 YouTube Service No Dharma School	30	31				