



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)

December 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

Season of Giving and Receiving

Rev. Tadao Koyama



Season's greetings to you all! What a year it has been! It is true that this holiday season will most likely be quite difficult as many of us may not be able to or are being discouraged from traveling to wherever our hometowns are to see and celebrate with our family members. Many of us, including myself and Rev. Cyndi, are planning on staying here instead of returning to California to meet with our family. I will admit that I am disappointed and feeling quite sad that I will once again have to miss a big Christmas and New Year's with my family. I had to get used to it for the first time when I was studying in Japan for the past two years. Coming back to the United States and realizing that I will once again have to miss a holiday season with my extended family is frustrating to say the least!

I am certain I am not alone in this frustration, as many of you all may also have to break certain family traditions in order to help bend this curve of COVID-19 infections throughout our nation. During times of Christmas we sometimes think of full houses filled with friends and family, presents under Christmas trees, and a large selection of delicious food to eat. Sadly, for many, this will not be what happens this year. However, I cannot emphasize this enough, this is largely necessary for the safety and health of all of our relatives and fellow sangha members.

As Buddhists, we must once again really come to the realization that our actions and our choices have effects. We may not be able to see them up close or immediately, but they do have effects and at time consequences. We often think to ourselves, "I am safe! I will practice all safety measures! Other people may not be safe but I am!" However, it is that kind of thinking that often acts as a justification for not following safety guidelines or for going to a gathering of some kind. I get it. We are feeling upset and we are probably mad that now the CDC is recommending we not travel for the holidays. I am upset too. However, we really need to think as Buddhists in this situation and realize that we are still very far from being out of the woods yet in terms of being safe from this virus.

Let me be clear, I am not trying to dictate how all of us should be spending our holidays. It is all entirely up to you. I am asking that we deeply consider just how much we can affect others and what may also happen to ourselves when we go out. I stated before in a previous article, but I will state it again; we as a nation and as Buddhists are getting a hard lesson in the concept of interdependence. Many of us are seeing the devastating effects this virus can have on a person.

While my message might sound like doom and gloom, I also think in many ways we are very lucky right now to live in an age where technology can keep us so readily connected. For those of us who know how to operate Zoom and other online communication mediums, we are still able to see each other and be able to check in with each other. We definitely should be doing this on a more regular basis.

For those of us who do not have access to this technology, we can definitely still write letters and communicate by the phone. All of these forms of communication are still very much possible and should now be practiced more than ever. We should communicate with our loved ones that we miss them and we cherish them.

For the younger folks reading this newsletter, I realize that the PS5 has recently come out and many of you are probably fanaticizing about getting your hands on some of them now and delving into hours of screen time, but I encourage you all to try and reach out to your elder relatives this holiday season instead. I issue you all a challenge, this year, try not to expect or receive any gifts, only think about giving your words of care and love for your parents and your elders. I know this may sound like I am a nagging parent or a stern uncle, but I want you all to know that those words of care, those gestures of love mean more to your parents and relatives than anything else. To let them know that you appreciate them for all of the protection that they give you and for the unconditional love they have for you. So, to all the Dharma School students of Tacoma Buddhist Temple, take some time, don't think about getting things, think about giving instead.

This has been a very strange, uncertain, stressful, and tragic year for all of us. However, it doesn't mean that we can't continue to appreciate the lives we still have. As Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, this year has helped us to see that we are still very much ruled by our blind passions. However, with the piecing light of Amida Buddha, I hope we can become inspired to really consider just how much we are affected by others and how much we affect others.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for once again, welcoming Rev. Cyndi and myself to the Tacoma Buddhist Temple. It was a difficult time for a transition, and we were not able to have a nice thank you celebration in honor of Rev. Dr. Miyaji for all that he has done for the temple as well. However, we were still able to continue with having the temple run and function, even with closed doors, and I have felt nothing but warmth and openness from you all. It has been a true pleasure being able to get to know you all and to serve the temple during the latter half of this year. Once again, thank you to all of you and I hope everyone as a safe, healthy, and warm holiday season.

President's Message



Condolences to Rev Koyama and Rev Yasaki



On behalf of Tacoma Buddhist Temple and myself, I extend our deepest condolences to Rev Koyama and his family. Rev Koyama's Great Uncle Mel passed away on November 6. Rev Koyama wrote this about his great Uncle: "My Uncle Mel was my great uncle who married into the family. He and my Auntie Kei were very close to my family and are

largely the reason why I was able to complete my studies as a minister these past years. He was always supportive of my studies and my career choices."

On behalf of Tacoma Buddhist Temple and myself, I extend our deepest condolences to Rev Yasaki and her family. Rev Yasaki's Grandmother Edna Kami passed away on November 12. Rev Yasaki wrote this about her Grandmother: "Mrs. Kami was a kibei (a person who was born in the US but was sent back to Japan to be raised and grow up with Japanese culture). She worked as a hairdresser in the United states in the Los Angeles area."

2020 TBT Bizarre Bazaar

Thank you for all the generous donations to our Bizarre Bazaar. At the time of this message, we have already exceeded our estimates for donations. I hope that we will be able to have an in-person Bazaar next year.

Poinsettia Fundraiser

A big thank you to Todd and Marcia Nakamura and Star Lake Greenhouse for their generous donation of the Poinsettia's for our fundraiser. The Temple and our membership appreciate and are grateful for this generous donation. Thank you, Todd and Marcia.

2020 General Meeting

Our 2020 General Meeting will be held via Zoom on December 6, 2020 at 10 AM. Our Temple's General Meeting has traditionally been held the same day as our Bodhi Day service, we will continue this tradition, only it will be held virtually. Please look for meeting details contained in an email and this Myokyo. Please plan on Zooming in.

Final Notes

This is my last message as President as my two-year term ends. I appreciate and am grateful for all the help I have received during my time as President. The Board members, chairs of our fundraisers and committee members have worked hard to keep our Temple running smoothly. Also, without the continuing extraordinary financial generosity of our members and supporters, we would not be able to maintain our Temple's financial stability. Thank you all for your continuing support. I look forward to and hope we will be able to safely have in-person services again in 2021. Please continue to stay safe and healthy.

Gassho,
David

Buddhist Women's Association News



Hello friends and BWA members. I hope you are doing well and staying warm, safe, and healthy. This month I wanted to share a resource that I learned about at the most recent NW District Representatives meeting. For those that have been unable to hear the dharma due to lack of internet or technology, you can listen to a short Dharma message from Bishop Harada. Details here:



DIAL THE DHARMA

Call the toll free number - 800-817-7918 to hear Bishop Harada's message

Push "1" for English and "2" for Japanese

Please share this phone number with friends, family, and those Sangha members who may not use computers or the internet, to be able to listen to a short Dharma message during this time of sheltering at home.

At this time, we have no current or upcoming BWA events scheduled.

Respectfully submitted by,
Denise Cline, Tacoma BWA President

Dharma School News



I love November because I love Thanksgiving!!! It truly makes me realize many of the things I am thankful for – but sometimes I take things for granted (a HUGE mistake!) and sometimes I fail to recognize what I should be grateful for until it is gone (a BIGGER mistake) I missed cooking Thanksgiving dinner – I never thought I'd be sad for ‘not’ being so exhausted after a meal.



Thank you, **Jet and Megumi**, for creating the video for Rev. Yukawa’s birthday surprise! Thank you to all the students and parents who sang “Happy Birthday, Sensei Yukawa” and for the individual ‘portraits’ you drew. You just know how to make a person feel so special...thank you.

Thank you, **Josiah, Odessa, Kalea, Jet, Gus, Ezra, Tae, George, Merlaine, Sensei, Cyndi, and Advisors Junko and Bobby**, for planning and organizing a safe and fun Halloween Candy Dash October 25th. You made it safe, fun and exciting!!!

“Ask Sensei” is a new You Tube feature where Sensei answers Dharma Student questions. If you have any questions or even comments you’d like to share with Sensei, please let your teachers know and they will relay your questions to Sensei. Some of you also had some questions for Rev. Cyndi as well – thank you for getting to know your senseis!!!

DS Fun Fact:



In 1999, the Tacoma Buddhist Temple Dharma School won a BCA National poster contest celebrating the Centennial Celebration of the BCA. **Kevin Hiroo, Brandon Inoue, Darren Takagi and Colleen Yoshioka** created the winning poster under the direction of their teacher, **Michi Osaka**. Mrs. Osaka was also presented the Rev. Kyogoku Award for 27 years of dedicated service to the Dharma School program.

Dharma School Calendar :

November 22	Dharma School class; teachers' meeting
November 29	NO DS Class; Pick up of Gingerbread materials at temple
December 6	Lotus Class conducts Bodhi Day Service
December 13	Dharma School Class – Gingerbread house making
December 20	NO DS Class
December 27	NO DS Class

“Sensei of the Month” – Reverend Kosho Yukawa



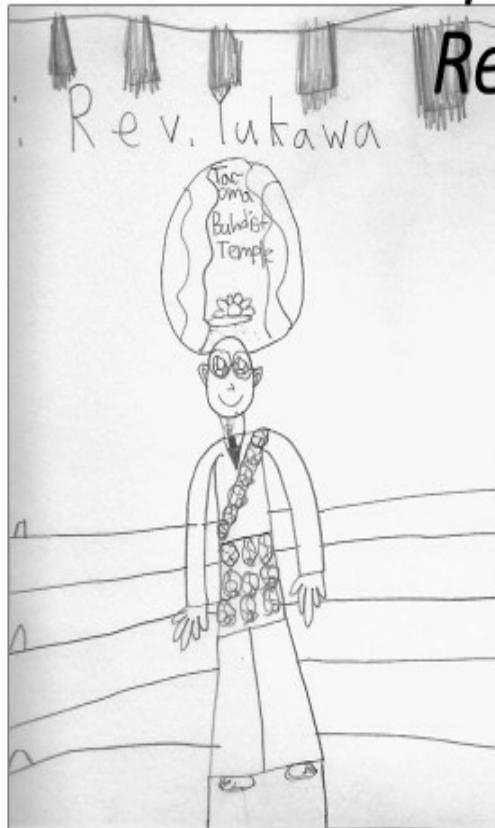
Some questions from our DS students: What is it like being a minister? It was very meaningful and enjoyable. I became a minister for multiple reasons, but most of all, I was raised as a son of a temple family and lived with my grandmother at the family temple in Japan when I was growing up. I have many good memories being in the ministry. I made many good friends and received so much rather than given. I began studying Buddhism at the age of 23 and continue learning more each day. When I

was growing up in Japan during WWII, food was very scarce, and we ate everything available at the time. Now, I like to sit at a Sushi Counter and order what sushi I like to eat. One thing I did during this Pandemic that I normally would not do is watch more sports programs and western movies on TV. My favorite past time is playing golf, but I also want to learn how to ride a horse if my back does not hurt. I wish I had a ‘power’ to be like Rennyo Shonin who spread Shinran Shonin’s teaching of Nembutsu to the masses. A favorite temple flashback: I met so many wonderful members. A favorite YBA flashback: Our retreats at the Yakima Buddhist Temple and many other wonderful encounters. A favorite DS flashback: I enjoyed telling Dharma stories to the students. I am so grateful that people gave me much more than I gave. Three things I’d like to share with you: (1) Learn from the good and also the bad. (2) Try to be a REAL person. (3) Let go of greed.

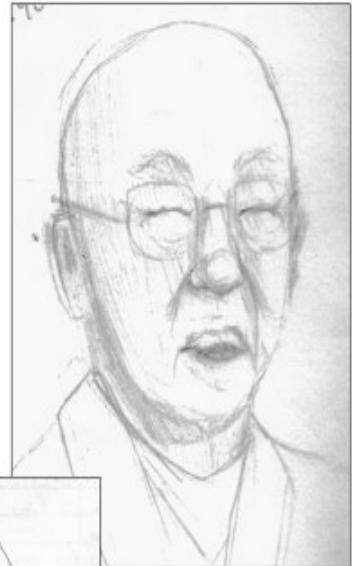
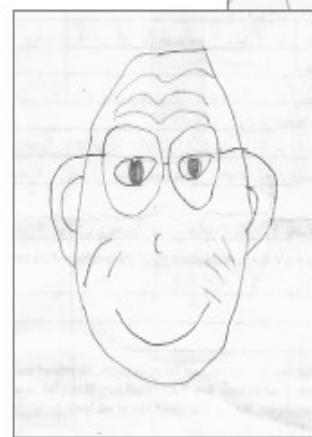
My Dharma School Message of the day: Enjoy the temple activities and learn well.

Gassho,
June

Happy 88th Birthday, Reverend Yukawa



Thank you for all of your
stories and your smiles
and your guidance ‘all’
these years.





Thank you, Sensei and Rev. Cyndi for the donuts!!!

Thank you, YBA



Back row: Rev. Yukawa (as the wise old man with the long white beard!), Larry Cacciola, Laurel Hata, Akemi Takada, Francine Yoshioka, Andy Uchiyama, Daniel Sasaki, Gensho Yukawa?

Next row: Jason Inoue, Kristen Hata, Kristine Yoshioka

Front row: don't know the two little guys with masks (one might be the younger Endo), Patrick Fujita, Dustin Endo, Lindsay Miki, Meegan Miki, Colleen Yoshioka, ???

Young Buddhist Association News



As we quickly approach the holiday season, I would like to thank everyone for a successful Halloween Candy Dash this year! We were able to put together a very smooth and fun event with proper social distancing safety measures, and I hope everyone who participated had a good time.



In additional news, we will be continuing to organize and create our parts for Bodhi Day, which will be presented in the form of a video this year, with all of our parts being recorded from our homes. Furthermore, Jet has been working on the "Holiday Greetings" project, while Odessa has helped lead the "Obutsudan Renovation" project.

I wish you all Happy Holidays and make sure to stay safe!

Gassho,
Josiah

Buddhist Education Committee News



It goes without saying that life can be a little bit hard and challenging to maneuver right now. It's tough and disheartening to see friends go off on vacations to Mexico, it's distressing to know that your neighbors, family members or other close acquaintances are choosing to attend holiday meals or celebrate at a wedding reception. Yeah, maybe I am feeling a bit sorry for myself, maybe I'm just angry or maybe even jealous, but damn it, I have not even got to touch or hug my own two daughters in nine months. The virus hates, or should I say loves everyone equally and I will do my best to stop it from destroying the lives of my family.



It has been a distressing year, especially when you add in all of the political turmoil, the Black Lives Matter issues, the senseless riots and the devastating wildfires, but everyone needs to stay strong.

Just living our lives currently can feel like a very tiring chore, but we Buddhists know, in our hearts, that there is a compassionate brilliant bright light that will reveal itself once again. In fact, it is surrounding you right now, it's never not been there. Like everything that is good in the world, you just need to know where to look.

Within the "Collected Works of Shinran", there are many uplifting passages. The following lines remind me to keep my chin up and to never doubt that I am swaddled at all times in Amida's never ending compassion.

"The light of compassion that grasps us illumines and protects us always".

and

***"Though the light of the sun is veiled by clouds and mists,
Beneath the clouds and the mists there is brightness. not dark."***

With love and Gassho,
Fred Pelger

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.

Hope you have a great holiday season even though it might look a little different this year.

Tip of the Month: DIY Face Mask Lanyard!



crimps at your local arts & crafts store or you can just tie them onto the loops of your mask. Just make sure to double knot

This blog has step by step directions on how to sew your great photos and tips:

<https://seekatesew.com/face-mask-holder-strap-diy-lanyard/>

Toban Committee Updates:

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

~Kaila

Need a fun way to keep track of your mask? Check out these DIY Face Mask Lanyards! They are very easy to make and can be made with many items you might already have at home!

Ribbon or string with beads, a spare shoelace or a necklace that you don't mind repurposing!

You can find the lobster clasps and ribbon or string it!



own lanyard with

[with-clips/](#)

Facility Committee Update



For humans, music is an inspirational catalyst for putting our brains in the zone. Gremlins are no exception. They love all genres of music but are dismissive of themes concerning the lovelorn and love lost. However, joyful rivers of tears rush out when music inspires them in their ceaseless, devious efforts muck up the workings of human endeavors. We have our Elvis impersonator, Smellvis the Dislocated Pelvis belting "Moneypit House Rock" Punker Gremlins slam dance to the Schlock Amok's "FUBAR Apocalypse." For those who revel in the discordance of poorly played smooth Jazz there is the Sourtone Quartet's "Superglued Sticky Wicket." Our new security fence progress is continuing unabated. Crystal Inge facilitated the groundwork, and as of this writing Tom Hubbell is scheduled to meet with the contractor to review specifications



for the new barrier on November 24th. I'm sure the Gremlins wish that Tom would just shut up already. There's nothing but long faces in response to Tom's technical drawings and exhaustive questions that cover every detail. Perhaps "Tom and Crystal Blues" aptly captures that state of affairs.

Some future projects are to reroof the southside cover over the doors, to clean around the sprinkler heads on the front and south lawns, replace the decking and handrails on the parsonage deck, and to develop a security plan.

Jeff Hiroo and Fred Pelger continue to spiffy up the temple during their weekly visits. Tom Hubbell hunts down trash on both sides of South Fawcett. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, and Del Sasaki are immensely important to the Facilities team. Additionally, Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens work hard to maintain the temple grounds.

~Dave

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



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

December 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

January 2021

1 st year	Ichiro Nakayama	January 21, 2020
7 th year	Anne Marie Seago	January 26, 2015
17 th year	Pete Takashi Sasaki	January 20, 2005
25 th year	Yoshiko Couch	January 25, 1997

February 2021

13 th year	Mary Masugi	February 1, 2009
25 th year	Raiji Sugioka	February 1, 1997
25 th year	Kimiko Taka	February 17, 1997
25 th year	Tsuruyo Shishido	February 18, 1997
33 rd year	Takeshi Kato	February 1, 1989



Zoom Memorial and Funeral Services Now Available!

Seasons Greetings everyone! Tacoma Buddhist Temple would like to make the happy announcement that the wifi at the temple is new and improved! Because of this, we wanted to let you all know that Zoom memorial and funeral services are now available upon request with Koyama Sensei.

While it is not as preferable as an in-person service at the temple, we can definitely find ways to adapt to the times and have memorial services through Zoom. Rev. Koyama will conduct the service from the temple Onaijin (shrine) while not the same, can give us that sense of familiarity with our temple.

Please call Rev. Koyama at (253) 307-4523 or email at revtadaok@gmail.com to schedule your family's memorial or funeral service.



Where Are They Now?



Our past Dharma School Student: Kyla Nakamura

Parents: Kim and Cindy Nakamura - Temple Members

Grandparents: Kaz and Eleanor Nakamura

Great Grandparents: Daiichi and Martha Yoshioka

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

After graduating from Fife High School, I attended my dad's alma mater, Washington State University (GO COUGS!), and received my Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology. While at WSU I met a lot of great people and joined the Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Following graduation, I moved to San Jose, California for three years. While there, I attended Palmer College of Chiropractic West and received my Doctorate in Chiropractic. When I first moved to California for grad school, I thought I was going to want to stay in the sunshine forever, but after being away I missed Washington too much and decided to move back (believe it or not, I missed the rain). I have now been back living and working as a

Chiropractor in the Tacoma area for the past year and a half.

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

My favorite thing about college was stepping out of my comfort zone and meeting so many amazing people. The atmosphere at WSU was amazing and there is nothing like it. Pullman is such a small college town, and everywhere you go, you see someone you know. It truly has a family atmosphere. Going to football games and seeing all of the school spirit was one of my favorite things to do. While at grad school in California, my favorite thing was probably the food! There was an amazing Japanese restaurant with the best Curry! (if you are ever in San Jose you have to go to Demiya) Whenever family came to visit, this is the place they always wanted to go. Another highlight of my time at Palmer was at graduation when I was awarded the Clinical Excellence Award for my class.

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

Growing up I always knew that I wanted to do something within the medical field. Throughout my time at WSU, I was not sure what I wanted to do until later in my schooling. I explored nursing, nutrition, exercise science, business and finally decided to major in Kinesiology because I really enjoyed those classes and knew I could go in many directions with it. My anatomy class was one of my favorite classes and the professor was a Chiropractor. I had been to a chiropractor in high school for my back pain and he was the only doctor that was able to help me with my pain and did not tell me I had to quit playing volleyball. I talked with my anatomy

professor and he talked to me and suggested I look into the profession; I was sold after that. I loved the holistic approach to helping people get out of pain and back to doing what they love.

4. Where do you live and what are you doing now?

I currently live in Fife and work as a Chiropractor at Stemp Family Chiropractic in the Tacoma/Lakewood area. It is a family-based practice, but we also work with a lot of athletes. I have adjusted many patients ranging from a 2-week-old baby to a 96-year-old. I also coach a club volleyball team for Puget Sound Volleyball Academy where I played when I was younger. It has been a great experience giving back as a coach.

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

Being able to be back in the Tacoma area and close to my family has been great! I love being able to play golf with my cousins and going on family vacations! While I was gone, I definitely missed being able to get together with my family and hanging out with my cousins. I missed the community of the temple and all the great food at the events! Now that I am back, I can't wait to attend all the awesome events (as soon as they are allowed after Covid)

SMILE.AMAZON.COM = DONATIONS GO DIRECTLY TO TACOMA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

We've mentioned that you can sign up on smile.amazon.com and select Tacoma Buddhist Temple as your charitable organization. Amazon donates a small portion each time you shop.

BUT... you must type in <https://smile.amazon.com> each time you shop.
Don't forget and happy shopping!

Seasons Greetings and Happy Holidays! Examples

Happy Holidays
and have a
Great New Year!

From Tacoma Buddhist Temple Fuji Taiko



*Have a Happy and
Healthy New Year!
Me and my buddy!*



Large Greetings Example: 3.5 X 2 INCH

Medium Greetings Example: 2.5 X 2 INCH

YBA HOLIDAY GREETING FUNDRAISER FORM

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE:

LARGE SIZE: \$20 MEDIUM SIZE: \$10

WOULD YOU LIKE TO INCLUDE A DRAWING/MON? YES

IF YES, PLEASE SEND COPY TO: Jet Yotsuuye at: yotsuuye@gmail.com.
Or mail to: 3014 43RD AVE NE, TACOMA WA 98422

HOLIDAY SEASONS GREETINGS MESSAGE:

note: Please limit Seasons Greetings wording. No advertisements may be included. Reduction of font size will be necessary to accommodate an increase of words posted.

Please submit all information to any YBA member. Thank-you for supporting the Tacoma Buddhist Temple Young Buddhist Association. Gassho: Josiah Cook (YBA President).

DEADLINE: Sunday, December 13, 2020

*December 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6 <i>Bodhi Day YouTube Service</i> No Dharma School	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 <i>YouTube Service</i> <i>Dharma School Via Zoom</i>	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 <i>Youtube Service</i> No Dharma School	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 <i>YouTube Service</i> No Dharma School	28	29	30	31 <i>YouTube Joya-E Service</i>		

*January 2021

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