



Tacoma Buddhist Temple (Jodo Shinshu)

タコマ 仏教会 (浄土真宗)

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

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

EMAIL: info@tacomabt.org

WEB: www.tacomabt.org



MYOKYO 明鏡

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

August 2022

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



The Ever Embracing Light of the Dharma

Rev. Tadao Koyama

Happy August everyone! I certainly hope that everyone is doing their best to keep cool during these hot days! We are already at 8 months into this year and we certainly have seen some hard times around the world and locally here in Tacoma as well. It's no secret that we are experiencing some chaotic times, even with businesses and events beginning to open up again.

I usually do not like to have my Myokyo articles or talk about heavier subjects, but sometimes it is necessary to address and even confront the difficult events and situations that occur in our lives at times.

In these hard and chaotic times, one of the best ways to stay stable is to surround yourself with close friends and family, friends and family who genuinely care for you as you would care for them. The Buddha-Dharma teaches us that no matter where we are, or what we do, we are never alone. It's easy to descend into pessimism at times, but the Dharma brings us back to reality, and not just any reality, but a comforting and settled reality.

For us as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, this reality is that we are always and forever braced by the wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha. The warmth of the Dharma never ceases to benefit us with wisdom and kindness. While we may intellectually know this or know this from a textual basis, one of the best ways to remind ourselves of this is to surround ourselves with wonderful supportive friends who can help us.

When we interact with kind friends and relatives, we can receive wonderful inspiration to impart kindness onto others as well. With this continued act of understanding and friendship, we are reminded of Amida's continuous working to save us from the world of rebirth and samsara.

Yes, let's still continue to be careful about our health and Covid-19, but if we are and we are able to surround ourselves with loved ones and good company, we can ease our troubled minds and turn our thoughts more to the warmth of Amida's light.

Have a great August everyone!

President's Message



Happy August!



July is usually a busy time as we typically hold our public Bon Odori festival. I hope you were able to catch the online programs from the BCA, attend our NW District temples like Spokane or Portland or watch our 2020 and 2021 videos featuring our Fuji Taiko, cooking, and other fun aspects. Next year, I hope we will be able to hold our 70th Bon Odori Anniversary.

A few items to note:

The Membership Committee kicked off an initiative to understand, define and plan how we can best create a growing membership. They gained insights from the other temples and are putting a road map in place. This will be a thoughtful approach with small and deliberate steps that take time. Meaning – more to come!

Convention 2022! Please save the date of September 16-18. Idaho-Oregon temple is host and will send more information out about the program. And guess who is the guest speaker? Bishop Marvin Harada (aka brother to Donna Sasaki!).

We received a generous donation from Ron and Karen Murakami to support tech improvements for our online services. This kick starts our efforts to improve our sound, software platforms, etc. Options are being reviewed by our BEC and other advisors.

Spirit, Mind and Body classes. Look for updates on a fall Yoga series. Thank you, Kara O'Toole! We are also looking for anyone who would like to lead a class. Cooking, art, card making (June Akita?), or anything else. If you are game, we'd love to include our members and community in this series. Please contact me or Tracy Ling.

Services in Full Swing! We will resume weekly services starting Sept 11. It's been so nice to see people and enter the hondo. Exercise your muscle memory of going to Temple – I look forward to seeing you soon. Enjoy the warm days of August!

Gassho,
Crystal

Buddhist Women's Association New



It will be here before we know it! In 2025 the BWA will celebrate our **100th Anniversary!** As we begin thinking about plans to celebrate, please enjoy this short history compiled by June Akita:



The Tacoma Buddhist Temple's first women's association (Fujinkai) was organized in 1925 as a fellowship and service organization to direct its activities toward assisting in various Temple functions and community affairs. The organization consisted mainly of Issei (first generation) ladies and was usually under

the guidance and leadership of the okusama (minister's wife). (The Temple Toban system was used from 1925-1934 and 1938-1955.) Martha Yoshioka was the first Nisei (second generation) elected as President to manage the organization in 1974. In 1996, the name was changed nationally to the Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) concurrently as our Fujinkai celebrated their 70th anniversary. Under the leadership of Patti Wong, first Yonsei (fourth generation) elected President, BWA continues to practice and carry on the legacy left by the Issei ladies with the same dedication and vision that was created nearly 100 years ago.

Member update

BWA member Riu Pittman is getting better every day. She is now walking without a walker and her stamina is steadily improving. She misses Temple and everyone, saying it is her favorite place and that it gives her so much joy. She wants to thank everyone for the cards and wishes and for thinking about her throughout her illness and recovery. She hopes to be back to Temple in September.

Upcoming Events

The **46th FBWA Conference "Winds of Change"** will be held October 14-16, 2022, via Zoom. Keynote speakers are Rev. Ko'e Umezu, Rev. Etsuko Mikame, and Rev. Candice Shibata.

Please note the registration deadlines below for the **17th World Buddhist Women's Convention in Kyoto, Japan**. If you are interested in attending any part or all of the 2023 Joint Celebrations, please email Rev. Koyama or myself to let us know.

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, 2023

3rd session April 24–April 29, 2023

4th session **May 6–May 11, 2023 – 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention**

5th session May 16–May 21, 2023

2nd registration period: April 1, 2022 – March 2023

Respectfully submitted by,
Denise Cline, Tacoma BWA President

Dharma School News



Cannot believe we are halfway through our summer season!! Days seem to drag by, and yet, the months fly. Feels like an oxymoron for sure. Waiting for the Back-To-School specials soon so I can replenish our supplies for Dharma School. It's just nice to relax, enjoy the days and look forward to returning to the temple and seeing people!



We will be having a ZOOM teachers' meeting in early August to update the DS Calendar for 2022-2023. We plan to begin In-Person service and our first Dharma School session on September 11th. There will be NO YBA served breakfast. Instead, we will have a social gathering in the Social Hall starting at 9:00 am. No food or drinks will be served, but an opportunity for you to spend some time with your dharma friends.

Planning to get in touch with all families in early August for In-Person Dharma School Service. We will be following safety protocols so please be fully vaccinated (with boosters) and wear your mask. Member and non-member families are all welcome to join our classes.

Dharma School Calendar: (please be flexible)

September 4	NO DS ; Labor Day holiday
11	First DS
19	NO DS ; Convention service at temple
25	DS ; Ohigan

Hope everyone is staying safe and healthy.

Gassho, June

Young Buddhist Association News



The YBA will be participating in Seattle Betsuin's Junior YBA Summer Retreat on July 22nd and 23rd. To cap-off this wonderful re-start of this annual event all Jr-YBA members will be helping out with White River's Bon Odori on the 23rd. Since this article will be written prior to this event, we will update you as to how this exchange with Seattle and White River members went. The YBA is also looking forward to helping with Tacoma's own Bon Odori by putting together games for the Dharma School children.

As of July, we have still not elected our new election of YBA Cabinet members but expect results soon. Our t-shirts sales are going well, we oversold some and will have to silk screen a few more to meet orders taken. Thank you all for your support in this fundraising event. Proceeds from this event will go to supporting the temple and future YBA exchanges and activities.

The YBA comprises of high school students from our temple's Dharma School Lotus class, and they participate in temple and local projects throughout the school year. If you are interested in joining or know of someone who is, please contact us at: tacomayba@outlook.com

Gassho,
Bobby & Junko

Buddhist Education Committee News



July was Tacoma Pride month and the Book Group discussed *This Monk Wears Heels: Be Who You Are*. The author, Rev. Kodo Nishimura, is a well-known makeup artist and Jodo Shu priest. The book's main message is that people should be proud of who they are even in the face of the denigration and insults of others. Sadly Rev. Nishimura, who is gender nonbinary, has firsthand experience with both. Reading this book led me to think about Amida Buddha, but first I will explain the term "nonbinary" for those who aren't familiar with it.

Nowadays a lot of people, especially young people, draw a distinction between a person's sex and their gender. "Sex" refers to the parts and shape of one's body, but "gender" refers to one's identity in terms of society and expression of self. Traditionalists and conservative folks usually insist that your sex and your gender must be the same, but many people recognize that our bodies are only part of the story of who we are. In terms of gender, Rev. Nishimura does not identify as either male (he/him) or female (she/her), so we say that they are "nonbinary". I don't know what pronouns Rev. Nishimura prefers, but I will use "they/them" as you usually can't go wrong that way. (For folks who think "they/them" should only be used for the plural, "they" has been used in the singular in English since at least the 14th century; and remember, "you" also began as plural, but we have come to use it for both plural and singular.)

So, what about Shin Buddhism? Shinran taught that the primary characteristics of Amida Buddha are infinite light, immeasurable life, and the Name. Like a number of folks, I myself tend not to think of Amida Buddha as a personified being, but as the wisdom and compassion of True Reality that calls to and embraces us all universally. So, it does not make sense to me to ascribe a gender to them, just like it doesn't make sense to Rev. Nishimura to ascribe a gender to themselves.

This column was partly inspired by the essay "Nonbinary Buddha" by Rev. Ken Yamada of Higashi Honganji's Shinshu Center. <https://higashihonganjiusa.org/2022/06/22/nonbinary-buddha/>

- Erik Hammerstrom

Facility Committee Update



Well, when it comes our beautiful temple, form and function meld exceptionally well. The two front doors of the temple are a prime example: they both received extra TLC in the form of new paint plus the added functionality of steel reinforcing plates around the lock. The temple is now secure against Big Bad Wolves or Category 5 storms that might wander into the neighborhood.

Progress continues with the parsonage deck. A work party was scheduled for July 23rd to replace a 6x12 beam. Chances are by the time you lay eyes on this article that portion of work will have been completed. Also planned are a trench drain and another coat of sealant for the north stage stairwell.

Tom and Lynrae Hubbell are taking time during their busy schedules to pick up litter along Fawcett Avenue and the alleyway behind the temple. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, Del Sasaki, and Mike Shiogi are always looking for ways to enhance our facility. One of these days the construction along Fawcett Avenue will end which will allow Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens to accomplish their good work.

~Dave

Toban



At the last Reopening Committee meeting, it was decided to have Toban pairs resume a **monthly cleaning beginning in June**. This means you will do a little more than the restricted cleaning – please refer to the check off sheet in the hallway on the main floor or one in the kitchen. Check off items that are completed to save confusion. Please sign the check in sheet during clean up times. Everyone should also be masked and distanced as best as you can.

September Chair **Bobby & Junko Yotsuuye**

Kenji Shipp
Mike Shiogi
David & Kathy Yotsuuye

October Chair **Carrie Mori**

Rick Tanabe
John & Crystal Inge
Emma & Kate Inge

Toban Volunteers: We are asking each toban team to do **regular cleaning**. You have the option **not** to participate in cleaning for health concerns (*please let your chair know*).

Safety protocols: Must be **vaccinated** with two shots and boosters. Negative testing will **NOT** be accepted nor will a medical deferment.

Must be **masked** at all times while at the Temple (TBT provides masks)
Wearing **TWO** Level 3 masks (blue) or **ONE** KN95 mask

Stay **6 feet apart** from others

Sign In (Check in sheets in Main kitchen. Leave sheet in VP box in office)

Cleaning Duties: **Bathrooms:** Professionally cleaned once a month

Social Hall: Fuji Taiko will sweep and clean floor

Kitchen: Wipe down all counters
Sweep kitchen floor (Mop if needed)
Empty garbage/recycling as needed
Replenish bathroom supplies as needed

Main Floor: Dust pews
Quick sweep wooden floor

Sweep side kitchen
 Wipe down counters
 Replenish bathroom supplies as needed
 Vacuum all carpets including stairwells

Rev. Pratt Room: Vacuum carpet
 Wipe down tables
 Wipe down and sweep kitchen area
 Sweep and mop landing area
 Empty garbage/recycling as needed

Upstairs Classrooms: Vacuum carpet in classrooms and balcony
 Wipe down tables
 Empty garbage/recycling as needed

***Social Hall Cooler:** April, August, December tobans wipe down, mop and clean

Cleaning supply locations are located behind the duty list in the hallway and kitchen. Thank you very much for your understanding and cooperation on these changes as we are getting back to 'normal.'

Barry Weled and June Akita

Yearly Memorial Service

General Memorial Service Years for 2022

1 st Year - 2021	17 th Year - 2006
3 rd Year - 2020	25 th Year - 1998
7 th Year - 2016	33 rd Year - 1990
13 th Year - 2010	50 th Year - 1973



August 2022

7 th Year	Hiroshi Fujita	August 7, 2016
7 th Year	Sue Osaka	August 28, 2016
50 th Year	Chiyo Nakagawara	August 13, 1973
50 th Year	Masao Matsuzawa	August 22, 1973

September 2022

1 st Year	Shoko Yamasaki	September 1, 2021
3 rd Year	Frank Komoto	September 22, 2020
7 th Year	Misao Crider	September 21, 2016
25 th Year	Takeo Kusumoto	September 23, 1998
25 th Year	Henry Moritada Hashimoto	September 23, 1998
25 th Year	Ayako Hayashi	September 27, 1998

October 2022

33 rd Year	Kazue Jenks	October 2, 1990
50 th Year	Zengoro Shimoishimaru	October 11, 1973

Greeter's List

August 14 Debby Abe/Akemi Ikeda
Lynrae/Tom Hubbell

Date TBD Lynn Blick/David Campbell
Tracy and Richard Ling
David and Bob Yotsuuye
Barry and June Weled
Carrie Mori/Gavin Morgan
Del Sasaki/Shizuka Faria
Tony Greg/Jim Doyle
John Inge/Mike Shiogi

~NOTICE~

It takes many people to make sure that the temple can be opened safely for in-person services. We are especially grateful to our dedicated Greeters who are now called upon more often for their services as it takes twice as many Greeters to set up the check-in procedure. If there is anyone who would like to serve as a Greeter, please email June Weled at jweled1@mac.com. We're always looking for a few more friendly faces.

Greeters' Notes:

Please have new visitors sign in their name and give them the following booklets:

- Temple Information Booklet
- Messages from the Buddha (mini booklet with pale pink cover)
- 1/2 page list of Temple Activities & "Want More Info."
- Extra supplies are in the ministers' room off the hondo.

Lastly, please do a headcount and enter it in the attendance sheet in the visitor folder.

If you are not available on the day you are assigned, please find your replacement.

Sunday Services are Back in Full Swing this September!

We at the Tacoma Buddhist Temple are happy to announce that starting September 11, we will return to our weekly Sunday service schedule! To mark this wonderful occasion, we will have a special social hour at 9 am in the downstairs social hall where we can get together and catch up with each other.

We will also be returning to our usual service format where we have a service for Dharma School, as well as one for the adults!

Date: September 11, 2022

Social Hour: 9 am in the downstairs social hall

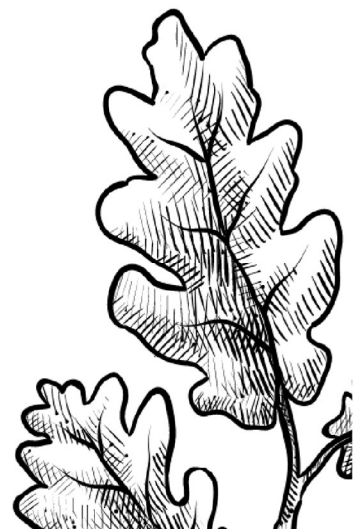
Sunday Service: 10 am in the Hondo

Covid protocols: kn95 mask + vaccination/booster

Each week, our in-person service can be joined online as well.

Please email john@sealinge.com for the Zoom link.

We look forward to everyone joining us!



*August 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 <i>Study class 6pm</i>	4	5	6 YouTube Shotsuki Service
7 YouTube Service	8	9	10 <i>BEC Meeting 9am</i> Via Zoom	11 <i>Book Club 7pm</i> King's Books	12	13
14 In-Person Service at At temple 10am	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Board Meeting 8:45am via Zoom <i>No Service</i>	22 Myokyo deadline	23	24	25	26	27
28 No service	29	30	31			

*September 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 No Service	5 <i>Labor Day</i>	6	7	8	9	10 YouTube Shotsuki Service
11 <i>Social Hour 9am</i> In downstairs social hall In-person Service 10am Dharma School begins	12	13	14	15	16 <i>Northwest</i> <i>Convention</i> <i>Idaho-Oregon</i>	17 Northwest Convention Idaho-Oregon
18 NW Convention Live broadcast of service at Temple 10am	19 Myokyo Deadline	20	21	22	23	24
25 In-person service 10am Dharma School	26	27	28	29	30	