



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)

July 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."*

Sensei's Message **Don't forget to breathe! Also don't forget the Nembutsu!**



Rev. Tadao Koyama

Hello everyone! I am so happy we are now in the month of July and that our country seems to be coming back from being in a lengthy pandemic! I am certain all of us have been waiting and eager to get outdoors, go on vacation, and see our loved ones in person again!

As we are starting to run around and preparing ourselves for coming back to temple, I invite all of us to take a quick step back and breathe. In our excitement and motivation to do everything at once, we start thinking of everything piling up at once and all of a sudden our minds feel heavy and stressed! I am very excited and eager to come back to temple in-person and seeing all of you face to face (with a mask on of course)! However, in the planning and scheduling while still keeping all of the guidelines and surrounding situations I begin to become tense and stressed!

What do I do? I take a step back and breathe a bit. When we take a breath we sometimes can slow down, and relax a bit. This doesn't make the millions of things we have to do go away, but it does help us to begin taking the many tasks and life events that are thrown our way one at a time. We can slow down a bit more!

Once our minds calm down a little bit more, we can then come to realize that these feelings and anticipations are all part of our *bonno* (blind passions). While we can never extinguish these flames, it does help to remember that the Dharma is still continuing to work for our benefit. That Amida still guides us through our lives with both wisdom and compassion.

As we begin to watch the TV or read the newspaper with excitement to hear the words, "The Pandemic is over!", I ask us all to bring our thoughts back to the dharma. What lessons have we learned during this time? About how to treat others? What have we learned about who we are? When we are forced inside for a long amount of time sometimes by ourselves, we realize that we are only able to be with just ourselves! Then we begin to see ourselves for who we truly are! Sometimes, it can be unpleasant to look at.

Yet that's when we put our hands together in gassho and say "Namo Amida Butsu". It is the time when we know that we universally accepted to the pure land without any discrimination on who we are.

It will be very easy for us to fully enjoy going outside again, see friends, family, go to weddings, even funerals. In that rush it can almost be easy to forget that there was even a pandemic to begin with! Hopefully sooner rather than later we can look at this time as a bump in our lives that we unfortunately had to live through. I hope that we can ultimately take the Buddhist lesson of interdependence more seriously than just this concept that we are taught regularly at Sunday services.

Let's start enjoying the sun and the warmer weather but let's not forget the measures to help us stay on the road to recovery! Take care everyone!

Namo Amida Butsu!

President's Message



First 6 months – What a Year Already!



I can't believe it is already July! The first half of the year was busy trying new things such as live online services through Zoom and many classes in the Spirit, Mind and Body series to stay connected. In addition, young leaders of our temple started a new association – the Tacoma Young Adult Buddhist Association. Spearheaded by Rev. Koyama, this energetic group of young adults are focused on bringing back YBA students and encouraging new members to engage in meaningful conversations and connections to the Temple. Highschool graduates – 40 years old are welcome. Please contact Rev. Koyama if you're interested.

Can you believe Rev. Koyama arrived at our temple one year ago? Time flies for sure and a lot has been accomplished. Online services, Zoom memorials and online Dharma School classes became the norm. In fact, I think June Akita said attendance may have been higher this year! The BWA lead wonderful services, held a Hunger Walk Fundraiser, and most recently provided to-go lunches for our garden clean-up in June.

Sunday, July 25th: First In-Person Sunday Service in 16 Months

The board of directors have also worked hard in preparing for what's next for our temple in terms of re-opening. While details and sequencing are being confirmed, I am happy to announce that our first in-person service will be outdoors in the temple garden on Sunday, July 25th. Find more information about expectations in this Myokyo and in email. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or Rev. Koyama. For other Sunday services, please view on our YouTube account. Future in-person services will be announced.

Special Note

For members, you should have received a poster and order form in the mail about an upcoming summer fundraiser. Please read the information and support this special event. We can't formally advertise or directly release to non-members due to Pierce County regulations so please share with your friends, family and community. Feel free to contact me at crystal.inge@gmail.com for copies of the poster and form.

Thank you again for your support!

Gassho,
Crystal

Buddhist Women's Association News



Hello BWA members! Please mark your calendars for an in person BWA meeting in July. We will hold a very short meeting **immediately following the July 25th in person Temple service.** We have only two short but important pieces of business for the meeting.

#1. Revise Article IX, section 1. Of the Tacoma BWA Bylaws. This revision will allow for us to hold cabinet elections. Currently the article states that elections be held every other year in **OCTOBER**. Since the NWD convention has been moved from February to September, we need to adjust our election timing, to have a cabinet in place prior to the convention.

#2. Cabinet Elections (pending approval of by-laws change). It is time to elect a new cabinet! For the upcoming term, Tacoma will serve as Headquarters for the NW District BWA for a two-year term, which means five of our cabinet positions will serve double duty for the entire two years.

Here are the Current Cabinet Members, BWA Cabinet Positions and NWD Officer positions:

Current Cabinet	BWA Cabinet Positions	NWD Officer Positions
Denise Cline	President	President
Donna Sasaki	Vice President	Vice President
Riu Pittman	Secretary	Secretary
Patti Wong	Treasurer	Treasurer
Shizuka Faria	Auditor	Auditor
Carrie Mori	Religious Chair	
Kazuko Inoue	Social Chair	
Historian	June Weled	

I will be mailing/emailing By-Law revision and Election details to every member prior to the in-person meeting.

I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful, warm summer weather! I look forward to seeing all of you in July!

Respectfully submitted by,
Denise Cline, Tacoma BWA President

Dharma School News



We closed our DS doors for the 2020-2021 year on June 6th - 29 students, teachers, and guests joined our ZOOM class on this final leg of our journey. It was a bitter-sweet moment for sure, but we all look forward to beginning anew this fall. **Please send me pictures** of your activities this summer – especially of your Flower Bombs!!

This year we recognized all the students receiving 'Excellent Attendance' via ZOOM. It was decided to present all students who attended at least 75% of the ZOOM classes, with an attendance pin and certificate. It was felt that since students had spent all week on their computers for schooling, and still made the time and effort to attend Dharma School's bi-weekly ZOOM lesson since September, should be honored. **Congratulations and much gratitude** to:

Jet Yotsuuye	12 years	Enzo Yotsuuye	10 years	Nao Wainer	6 years
Marina Johnson, Kalea Shimizu, Tamsin Shipp, Briony Shipp, Aislin Shipp			3 years		
Dennis Tisdale, Dillon Tisdale, Zodie Sasao, Gus Hendrie, Odessa Cook, Josiah Cook, Ezra Winters, Ivan Winters, Tae Pedrozo, Nya Zaei					
			1 year		

We also recognized students who participated in our **Pen Pal Partners** program. This was an idea encouraged by **Megumi Azekawa** and proved to be a very rewarding bond between two different generations. **Thank you** and hoping you remain friends and have connections for a long, long time:

Buddhist Education Committee News



For the many folks who grew up in a Shin Buddhist household, you probably have many years' worth of fond Bon Odori memories. The decision to cancel our in-person celebration again this year, while wise, is thus likely to fill many of you with some sense of loss. But we are also excited to be hosting our first in-person service at the temple at the end of July. A few days before this service, the BEC also invites you to join us as we gather to clean up and offer chanting at the Eatonville and Orting Cemeteries. Sensei and Rev. Cyndi will meet everyone in **Eatonville on July 21 at 11am**. Once done, we will head over to Orting for a brief service. Bring your yard tools and work clothes.

Cemetery visitations are a time to visit family, and a time to gather and remember the Buddhists who came to the South Sound before us. Our live Zoom services have also been a time to gather, and we were glad to see that so many members, both the fresh and the seasoned, were able to join them. Thank you, Sensei, Rev. Cyndi, Kenzo, Jeff, David, Lynrae, and everyone who worked to help us maintain this precious connection with one another during these difficult times.

- Erik Hammerstrom

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 cannot wait to see everyone again in person.

~Kaila



Facility Committee Update



Well folks we have a general temple cleanup in our future-sometime in August. By the time you read this article the board will have set a date for us to get together and spruce up our facility. All this talk of teaming up for a sangha version of a GI party triggered a pleasant memory. I remember removing a portable Hoover vacuum cleaner from our house and repurposing it for tasks at work. One involved sucking up yellow jackets who took wrong turns and ended up inside buildings. When my wife found out about it she wasn't very happy. When I told her that if I'd asked her I was afraid she would say no, she stated I was right on that score. After that I was on cloud nine. That was the first time in eons that she said that I was right about something.

Many thanks for all the folks who showed up for the annual garden cleanup on June 6th. Weeds were pulled and wacked. Hedges and trees were trimmed or should I say coiffed. For their efforts all volunteers were treated to a great lunch consisting of spam musubi and various snack items.

Tom Hubbell is on the cusp of ordering a shiny new KUCHT 48" Stove - Model KNG-48-W for the social hall kitchen. Once our stove is delivered and installed, AAA Fire will be able to update and bring into compliance our fire suppression system. However, before in with the new, we need to dispense with the old. Our current 520-pound stove has to be unhooked and moved to make room for the replacement. We've all reckoned it'll be a major endeavor. Perhaps we could benchmark off the ancient Egyptian methods of moving those large building blocks of the Giza Pyramids. One theory asserts the clever Egyptians placed the stones on sleds which were pulled along. Friction was reduced by wetting the ground in front of the sled. Perhaps we could dump some sand along the path from the kitchen to the garage, wet it down, and heave ho that sucker along.

Tom Hubbell continues his “treasure hunt” along Fawcett Avenue. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, Del Sasaki, and Mike Shiogi are instrumental in ensuring a high-speed facilities program. Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens are central to our impeccable lawn.
~Dave

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



July

1 st Year	Dr. Sam Uchiyama	July 12 th , 2020
3 rd Year	Yaeko Nakano	July 20 th , 2019
25 th Year	Meriko Mary Ikeda	July 17 th , 1997
25 th Year	Sumiko Walker	July 20 th , 1997

August

13 th Year	Shikino Betty Thirkill	August 16 th , 2009
17 th Year	Dick Tadashi Osaka	August 21 st , 2005
25 th Year	Miyoko Narimatsu	August 6 th , 1997
33 rd Year	Tadayasu Abo	August 8 th , 1989

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

Greeters Schedule

*The greeters list will resume when the temple reopens.

Our First In-Person Sunday Service!



July 25th – 10:00 am

After a year and a half, we will hold our first in-person service outside in the temple garden.

We are very excited to see everyone in person again! Please keep in mind there may be vaccinated and non-vaccinated attendees, so we appreciate everyone following social distancing practices. Please arrive a little early to accommodate our check in process.

We will follow the guidelines per CDC safety recommendations:

- Masks are required
- All attendees are required to check in at the reception table

We look forward to seeing those who can attend!

This document will be presented to participants on the date of our live service.

Tacoma Buddhist Temple
Covid-19 Health Screening

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Phone Number: _____

Information will be retained for 2 weeks, then destroyed. Information will be used for contact tracing, if necessary.

For the health of all those in attendance, please answer the following questions. We appreciate your honesty and concern for all.

If you answer **Yes** to any question, please do not attend today's service.

- Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms today or within the last 3 days:

Fever over 100.4

Shortness of Breath, difficulty breathing

Sudden loss of taste or smell

Cough

Chills

Sore Throat

Body ache

Yes No

- In the last 10 days, have you been exposed or had close contact with someone with confirmed or suspected COVID-19?

Yes No

- In the last 10 days, have you tested positive for COVID-19

Yes No

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This graph provided by the CDC was used to inform our guidelines and safety measures.

Choosing Safer Activities

Accessible link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html>

	Unvaccinated People	Examples of Activities	Fully Vaccinated People
		Outdoor	
Safest		Walk, run, wheelchair roll, or bike outdoors with members of your household	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people, particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission	
Less Safe		Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households	
		Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event	
		Indoor	
Less Safe		Visit a barber or hair salon	
		Go to an uncrowded, indoor shopping center or museum	
		Attend a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people from multiple households	
Least Safe		Go to an indoor movie theater	
		Attend a full-capacity worship service	
		Sing in an indoor chorus	
		Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar	
		Participate in an indoor, high intensity exercise class	

Get a COVID-19 vaccine



Prevention measures not needed



Take prevention measures

Wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart, and wash your hands.

- Safety levels assume the recommended prevention measures are followed, both by the individual and the venue (if applicable).
- CDC cannot provide the specific risk level for every activity in every community. It is important to consider your own personal situation and the risk to you, your family, and your community before venturing out.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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LAST CHANCE TO ORDER!

Obon 2021 Memorial Candle Observance Hatsubon-Urabon Service, Sunday, July 18 Candle order deadline: July 3

2020 and 2021 are years unlike any other in recent history in the way our usual gatherings and traditions had to change. Last year, our Hatsubon service and Bon Odori were viewed on YouTube. For 2021, we will be taking orders for candles as usual. However, there will be a special video of our memorial candle observance as part of Hatsubon-Urabon service on YouTube. Hatsubon is the memorial observance for those who have passed since the previous year's Obon, and Urabon is in memory of all of have passed before us.

We will miss gathering with so many of you around the garden pond with hundreds of glowing candles at the end Bon Odori festivities in reflective memory and gratitude to so many people recognized by each candle.

This is how candle orders and display will be different this year:

Orders can be placed by mail (see form below) or on-line on the Temple's website:

<https://www.tacomabt.org>. If you would like to check on previous years' orders, you can contact -

Lynrae Hubbell lynrae@harbornet.com (253) 232-2328, or
Wendy Hamai wfhamai@rainierconnect.com (253) 678-2891)

All candles will be **displayed** on a video during the Hatsubon-Urabon service. We will have a still photo of a candle with the names of both the memorialized person and person/s they are being remembered by on an adjacent screen. We will not be able to display the Buddhist name flags on the candles this year. There will be a special display of candles of members whose Hatsubon we are observing on the Onaijin.

In consideration of the effect that the pandemic shut down has had on temple finances, the **cost of candles this year will be \$10 per candle.**

We thank you all for your continued support of this meaningful observance throughout the years.



2021 Memorial Candle Order Form (\$10 per candle) DEADLINE: SATURDAY, JULY 3

Ordered by: include names to be displayed on video _____

Email _____ phone _____

Names for candles: **1 name or couple per candle please....print clearly! Use back of form if needed.

Checks should be made out and mailed to:

Tacoma Buddhist Temple
Attn: Candle observance
1717 South Fawcett, Tacoma, WA 98402-1706

YBA Obon T-Shirt sale

*The YBA is holding a T-shirt sale for our annual Obon fundraiser.
Get your limited-time T-shirts to celebrate the festivity.*



Shirt Design by Odessa Cook

Price: \$20



Order Form:

Name: _____

Address (if getting delivered): _____

Email: _____

SIZE: ___XL ___L ___M ___S

T-shirt pickup methods:

Temple Pickup: ___ Delivery: ___ (an additional \$5.50)

For Temple Pickup, we will email the dates that are available for the pickup.

Please submit this form with the payment to either the temple's YBA drop box or mail it to:

SAVE THE DATE! THE CONVENTION IS COMING!

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



"The Three Amigos"



'Finally' able to enjoy the view, the food,
the company....



*July 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 Youtube Shotsuki Service
4 YouTube Service Independence day No Dharma School	5	6	7 Study Class via Zoom	8 Bookclub, 7 PM via Zoom	9	10
11 YouTube Service <i>No Dharma School</i>	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Hatsubon YouTube Service No Dharma School	19	20	21 Cemetery: Clean-up Eatonville 11am	22	23	24
25 First in-person Service, Outdoors 10am	26	27	28	29	30	31 Drive-Thru Obon Fundraiser 11am-1pm

*August 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Youtube Shotsuki Service
8 YouTube Service No Dharma School	9	10	11 Study Class Via Zoom	12 Bookclub King's Books 7pm In-person	13	14
15 YouTube Service <i>No Dharma School</i>	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 YouTube Service No Dharma School	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Service TBD No Dharma School	30	31				