



Tacoma Buddhist Temple (Jodo Shinshu)

タコマ 仏教会 (浄土真宗)

1717 Fawcett Ave., Tacoma, WA 98402-1706

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)

April 2023

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



Happy Hanamatsuri 2023!

Rev. Tadao Koyama

Happy April everyone!

I hope that everyone enjoyed or is enjoying the sight of the beautiful cherry blossoms that are starting to come out everywhere. April is also the time that we celebrate the birth of Prince Siddhartha who would later become Shakyamuni Buddha, or the historical Buddha. Many myths and legends surround his birth and his life, but as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, we should always remember the great gift of the teachings that the Buddha freely gave to us thousands of years ago.

When think about the Buddha's birth, we think about the famous story of Lumbini Garden and Queen Maya giving birth to the small child who walked seven steps, pointed to the heavens and the earth saying, "I alone, am the exalted one." As previously stated in a past Dharma talk, I think that people often become too perplexed with the literalness of this story. Asking questions like, "Did it really happen that way?" "Did the Buddha even exist?" There have been many documentaries examining the realness of the Buddha and trying to find the actual site of his birth and death.

While I am fascinated by these documentaries and very much believe in the stories of the Buddha, I sometimes think asking how literally we should take the teachings takes our focus away from the actual message of the teaching. This isn't to say that we shouldn't have critical minds and examine things, but I think we should ask ourselves, what the purpose of the story is. Often times when we hear stories with a fantastical narrative or out of our realms of reality elements, we tend to turn our minds off, and turn away, because we believe ourselves to know better or understand what's really going on.

As people in the modern age, we often think we are better, more enlightened than our ancestors of the past, yet, today, the harm from our humanness is still very apparent today. With wars happening, sickness occurring regularly, and a heavily divided society, Shakyamuni's message and teachings are still very relevant to us

today. Our ego or sense of the self, and superiority is still with us to this day, and I don't see it changing anytime soon.

However, this is why the Buddha came to this world, to teach us all about the truth of this world, and to guide us to the realm of enlightenment. With this in mind, I can't be more grateful that Prince Siddhartha was born into this world and made the spiritual journey to ultimately free all of humankind to sufferings we experience on a daily and spiritual basis.

Namo Amida Butsu

President's Message



During the pandemic, our temple's membership, like most Shin temples in the Northwest, saw a membership decline. Causes vary from members facing economic challenges, fatigue from the years when our temple largely connected over Zoom and YouTube, as well as several of our longtime members passing away. The result is that our membership has dropped nearly 15% since 2020.



To address this decline, the temple board's Membership and Communication committees are in the process of coming up with a targeted plan to attract community members to the temple. This starts by trying to bring greater awareness of the temple's existence, then generating interest through our Shin Buddhist teachings, the classes and lectures we offer and of course our annual events, such as Sukiyaki or Bon Odori.

The Membership plan is to generate interest or curiosity with those in the Tacoma community, which motivates them to come to the temple. This is where our membership plan ends.

For once someone enters our temple, the success of the plan is really up to all of us. All of us, who attend services & lectures, participate in classes, or help at our temple's community food events, individually play a role in welcoming our visitors. Engaging them in conversation. Connecting and creating a sense of shared belonging. It's up to all of us.

Gassho,
John

Buddhist Women's Association News



On March 19th, Tacoma BWA honored Yasuko Morita and Hana Yoshida at the Spring Ohigan/BWA Memorial and Lady Takeko Kujo & Lady Yoshiko Ohtani Service. BWA members spent the previous day making daifuku mochi which was distributed to all sangha members following the service.



Hanamatsuri Service will be April 9th. Members of the BWA will gather to decorate the hanamido in preparation for this special service.

April 23rd at 9 am will be our third Coffee and Craft session. Please come early for to enjoy this fun time to socialize with each other and do a quick craft.

In Gassho,



Dharma School News



Now that spring has sprung, seems like allergies have also sprung! Although I do not care for the watering eyes and cough, it is nice to see the sunshine.



Dharma School students have been busy with practicing for the Hanamatsuri program. The teachers and kids came up with some unique entertainment planned. Can't wait to enjoy!!

Just wanted to mention, again, that the Lotus Class worked hard and presented a very tasty Udon bowl for the sangha in February. What I forgot to mention was that they prepared and served over 70 bowls to their guests!! It was THAT good!!

This past month, we had a Baked Potato and toppings bar scheduled but we cancelled because of me!! We will reschedule at some point, I promise.

Sunday Service Program: 10:00 Dharma School and All sangha arrive in Hondo
10:40 Dharma School students dismissed to class
11:30 Students dismissed to parents/guardians

April	2	DS
	9	Hanamatsuri -Rehearse and present program
	16	DS
	23	DS for Lumbini; Lotus and Maitreya on field trip
	30	DS
May	7	NO DS Sukiyaki Take Out
	14	DS
	21	DS Gotane – honor graduates, Parents' Appreciation Lunch
	28	NO DS Memorial Day break
June	4	DS Final class for 2023
	11	NO DS Temple picnic ; Maitreya in charge of games

Please be safe and take care of each other – and take a few moments or hours for yourself.

Gassho, June

Young Buddhist Association News



Hello everyone!

Hope everyone enjoyed the sunny spring days and are looking forward for warmer weather.



The YBA met once again and finalized this year's designs for the t-shirt fundraiser as well as new designs for tote bags! We are also testing new colors for t-shirts but have decided on black and green for this year. We will continue to meet and will be discussing dates on when to start printing this year's shirts soon!

Gassho,
Odessa

Buddhist Education Committee News



April is National Card and Letter Writing Month. Here are some fun facts:

1. The first recorded handwritten letter was written by the Persian Queen, Atossa, 500 B.C.
2. The United States Postal Service was formed in 1775.
3. In 1992, the world's first text message was sent.

I've always admired my mother who faithfully handwrites letters to friends and family, along with those who send her holiday greeting cards each December. Her penmanship is lovely, though these days penmanship seems to be a lost art. And she takes time to make each message a personal one. I, on the other hand, used to send holiday greeting cards starting with last names beginning with "A", but never getting to the latter part of the alphabet. So, the next year I tried starting with the end of the alphabet first, still never finishing my holiday card list. I eventually gave up!

In our Jodo Shinshu tradition, a most important set of 10 letters, dated from around 1254 to 1268 and written by Eshinni, wife of Shinran Shonin, were discovered in the Hongwanji archives in 1921. Eshinni's letters described important historical events in the life of Shinran Shonin, as well as the conditions in Japan during the Kamakura Era. Had Eshinni's letters to her youngest daughter, Kakushinni never been found, we would not have been able to piece together the history of Shinran's life and his life's work.

In our temple library you can find the book, *The Life of Eshinni, Wife of Shinran Shonin*. The author, Lady Yoshiko Ohtani (1918-2000), wife of the 23rd Monshu, Kosho Ohtani, visited many temples in Japan and around the world and worked to revive the Buddhist Women's Association. We just held a BWA memorial service in honor of Lady Takeko Kujo and Lady Yoshiko Ohtani and in the fall, we will hold a memorial service in honor of Eshinni and Kakushinni.

Handwritten letters are wonderful to receive and though I am quick to send a text or email, there are times when only a handwritten note will do. So, for the month of April, take on the letter writing challenge and send a handwritten note to someone you haven't "seen" recently, someone you love, or someone who helped you out. Express your gratitude for having them in your life. And I will do the same.

Gassho,
Donna Sasaki

Facility Committee Update



Some of us store stuff in braincells that flicker out so during attempts to retrieve the information at the most critical times we come up high and dry. With that in mind a white board was installed next to the phone in the social hall kitchen. Messages will now be less likely end up lost in a brain dump.



Our parsonage deck is almost complete. Two final Trex deck pieces are in place. Also, installation of the deck handrail has commenced.

Fawcett Avenue and S Court D Street continue to look great due the ongoing efforts of Lynrae Hubbell. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, and Del Sasaki apply their tremendous skills and drive in rising to the maintenance challenges that pop up at our beautiful temple. With our section of Fawcett Avenue now paved Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens should be able to resume maintaining our grounds when the weather warms up.

~Dave

Toban News

Upcoming Dates:



- April 2** Coffee Hour March/April Tobans provide snacks/beverage
- April 8** Spirit Mind & Body, 9 AM
- April 9** Hanamatsuri Service - Potluck to follow
- April 15** Rev. Koyama's Cooking Class 1-4 PM
- April 16** Board Meeting, 8:30 AM
- April** Arrange clean up time of the temple with MarchToban

- May 7** Sukiyaki Fundraiser, drive thru pick up: **ORDER DEADLINE, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26**
- May 13** Spirit Mind & Body, 9 AM
- May 14** Coffee/Hour May/June toban provides snacks/beverage
- May 20** Spring Seminar
- May 21** Board Meeting, 8:30 AM
- May 21** Gotan-e, Parent Appreciation Luncheon (YBA)
- May 28** Memorial Day Service, Cemetery Visitations
- May** Arrange clean up time of the temple with June Toban

All Toban Chairs: Please email or call your Toban Groups to let them know of the above activities, especially for the set-up and clean-up of temple events occurring during your Toban months. Also arrange times for the monthly clean-up of the temple. **Clean-up duties and supply list are posted in the kitchen ONLY.** NEW PORTABLE VACUUM CLEANERS ARE LOCATED IN THE CLOSET BEHIND THE ALTAR.

Coffee Hours: All coffee hours will be held in the social hall for now. Set up tables and chairs (take down after it's over). Provide coffee, tea, etc. Snacks can be made, or store bought.

Questions/concerns, please contact Michael Shiogi (253) 226-5812, mshiogi@comcast.net or Tracy Ling (253) 370-0933, tling12005@gmail.com

Safety Protocols have changed. Members do not need to be checked in or have their temperatures taken. **CONTINUE TO WEAR MASKS THROUGHOUT THE TEMPLE.** Continue to check in visitors and to issue masks when needed.

APRIL TOBAN	MAY TOBAN	JUNE TOBAN
Karen Yoshitomi	Les Hitsman/Fred Pelger	Erik Hammerstrom
Kaila Yoshitomi	Henry/Wendy Stoll	Kevin/Mayumi Ikeda
Kenzo Yoshitomi	Rui Pittman/Victoria Evert	Masahiro Sugano
Al/Donna Sasaki	Gail Ichinaga	Rachel Meatte
Kazuko Inoue	Anita Nakayama	Debby Abe
Rose Kishi	Michiko Saito (call)	Elsie Taniguchi
Ed/Kimiko Fujinaga	Kosho & Michiko Yukawa	
Ted Matsumoto	Akemi Ikeda	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND HELP WITH OUR TEMPLE.

Tracy Ling/Michael Shiogi

Greeter's List

- April 2** Barry/June Weled
- 9** Mike Shiogi/Debby Abe
- 16** Lynrae/Tom Hubbell
- 23** Mayumi/Kevin Ikeda

30 David Campbell/Shizuka Faria

May 7 No service
14 Tracy/Richard Ling
21 David Yotsuuye/Bobby Yotsuuye
28 Tony Greg/Jim Doyle

June 4 Gavin Morgan/Del Sasaki
11 Temple Picnic

Greeter's 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 or a white/green 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.

Yearly Memorial Service

General Memorial Service Years for 2023

1 st Year - 2022	17 th Year - 2007
3 rd Year - 2021	25 th Year - 1999
7 th Year - 2017	33 rd Year - 1991
13 th Year - 2011	50 th Year - 1974



April 2023

1 st Year	Kim Kawada-Schauer	April 2, 2022
1 st Year	Tom Osaka	April 19, 2022
13 th Year	Yukiko Abo	April 17, 2011
25 th Year	Nobuo Yoshida	April 18, 1999
50 th Year	Samu Asahara	April 27, 1974

May 2023

3 rd Year	Violet Mizukami	May 17, 2021
13 th Year	Ronald Michael Bollick	May 21, 2011
25 th Year	Gladys Gisi	May 23, 1999
50 th Year	Yuki Okada	May 1, 1974

June 2023

7 th Year	Shimi Komatsu	June 28, 2017
25 th Year	Oito Takehara	June 26, 1999

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



Yoga for Compassion

Monthly, Saturday 9:00 am - 10:00 am in the temple social hall or via Zoom

You will learn the fundamentals of yoga postures and experience connecting movement and breath. The class will begin seated in a chair and then progress to standing. Please save these dates and connect with Tracy Ling to register or if you have questions.

April 8, 2023

May 13, 2023

Instructor and Temple Member, Kara O'Toole.

Free class! Register www.tacomabt.org for Waiver and Zoom Link.

Contact Tracy Ling to register or if you have questions: tling12005@gmail.com



Tacoma Buddhist Temple's
Spirit, Mind and Body Health Series
2023

Cooking with Koyama Sensei

Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 1pm
Tacoma Buddhist Temple Social Hall
Hybrid option available!

In-Person attendance donation: \$15 Come join Rev. Koyama in the temple social hall for a fun afternoon of cooking and socializing. He will be teaching us how to cook one of his favorite dishes, Chicken Karaage with Japanese potato Salad!



Register at:

<https://forms.gle/ZBcWbhXZbz5LSc54A>

Or signup sheet in the temple foyer



tacoma buddhist temple's

sukiyaki

drive-thru

Sunday, May 7th

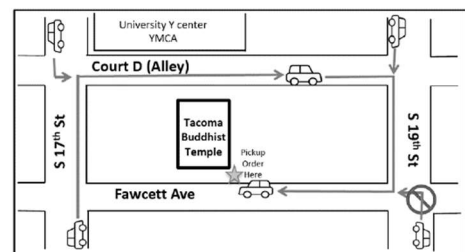
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Order deadline: April 26th

Enjoy our special sukiyaki recipe individually cooked and served to go. The combo meal includes beef sukiyaki in a sweetened soy sauce broth, side of Japanese rice, mochi cupcake with sweet red bean paste and tsukemono. Drive-thru pick up in front of Tacoma Buddhist Temple.

Please order at www.tacomabt.org or mail in your order form. Send questions to info@tacomabt@gmail.com.

1717 Fawcett Avenue. Tacoma, WA 98402



20 MAY



**TACOMA BUDDHIST TEMPLE PRESENTS
2023 SPRING SEMINAR AND
CHOW MEIN DINNER
SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023**

Special Guest Speaker: Rev. Rosalie May What is the Middle Path and How Do We Find it?

Seminar: 2pm-4pm (Social Hall)

Chow Mein Dinner: 5pm-7:30pm (Social Hall)

Rev. Rosalie May, of Yakima Buddhist Church, will look at Shakyamuni Buddha's explanations of the Middle Path, and how we can use it to make decisions that align with our values as Buddhists and bring more peace into our lives.

SEMINAR ONLY: FREE (ZOOM OPTION AVAILABLE) SEMINAR + DINNER: SUGGESTED DONATION: \$15

TO RSVP, PLEASE EMAIL REV. KOYAMA AT: REVTADAOK@GMAIL.COM

Book Club

Thursday, April 13, 2023

@ King's Books 7 pm

**The Spring of My Life: And Selected
Haiku (Shambhala Pocket Library)**

Author: Issa

*April 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School Coffee Hour After Service	3	4	5	6	7	1 Open Taiko For Seniors Social Hall 9:30 am 8 Spirit Mind and Body Yoga For Compassion 9:00 AM
9 Hanamatsuri Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School Potluck after Service	10	11	12 Study Class Via Zoom 6 pm	13 Book Club at King's Books 7:00 PM	14	15 Spirit Mind and Body Rev. Koyama's Cooking Class 1 pm-4 pm Social Hall
16 Board Meeting 8:30 am Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School	17 Myokyo Deadline	18	19 Open Taiko 7:15 PM	20	21	22
23 Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School BWA Coffee & Craft 9 am	24	25	26 SUKIYAKI LAST DAY TO ORDER	27	28	29
30 Sunday Service 10am Dharma School						

*May 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Sukiyaki Drive thru pick up	8	9	10 Study class via Zoom 6 pm	11 Book Club at King's Books 7:00 PM	12	13 Spirit Mind and Body Yoga For Compassion 9:00 AM
14 Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School Coffee Hour After Service	15	16	17	18	19	20 Spring Seminar Special Guest Speaker Rev. Rosalie May TBT Social Hall 2 pm-4 pm
21 Board Meeting 8:30 am Gotan-E Service 10 am Dharma School Parent's Appreciation Lunch	22 Myokyo Deadline	23	24	25	26	27
28 Memorial Day Service 10 am Dharma School Cemetery Visitations 1:30 pm	29	30	31			