



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)

July 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

Obon, Obon, It's Festival Day!

Rev. Tadao Koyama



Happy July everyone! It is now full-on Summer and now that it is July, you know what that means! Obon season is upon us! While I love Obon for the dancing, the food, and spending time with friends, it is also important for all of us to remember the Buddhist significance of this season.

Shakyamuni Buddha's disciple, Mogallana, was distressed to find his mother dwelling in the realm of the hungry ghosts. "How can this be?" Mogallana asked the Buddha. His mother was the best mother to him. She would always give him constant attention, make sure he had the best foods and best education. What could she have possibly done to deserve to dwell in this realm of suffering?

The realm of the hungry ghosts is a realm where we have large bellies, tiny mouths, and very thin necks. We are surrounded by large amounts of delicious looking food, but when we raise the food to our mouths, it immediately bursts into flame and turns to ash. What a horrible realm of existence to be in.

The Buddha explained to Mogallana that while his mother was wonderful to him, she was greedy and selfish towards others. She would use her power and cunning to ensure that only her son would have the best things in life and not care about anyone else. It was this greed and selfishness that caused her to be born in the realm of Hungry Ghosts. Filled with great sadness, Mogallana pleaded with the Buddha to help him free his mother from this realm.

To do this, the Buddha said, Mogallana had to provide meals and other acts of generosity towards his fellow sangha members to undo his mother's selfish acts in life. When he accomplished this task, he was able to see that his mother was freed from the realm of Hungry Ghosts. Overcome with joy, he began to dance with joy. Thus, the legend of this tradition was born.

This Obon time is a time of happiness and reflection. As we traverse this bumpy road we call life, we must reflect on our ancestors long past and endeavor to repay their kindness to us, and then to also reflect that we are constantly given wisdom and compassion by Amida Buddha from the Pure Land. As wisdom and compassion never cease in our lives, whether we can feel it or see it, truly knowing this, will also cause us to dance for joy! Namo Amida Butsu.

President's Message



I will admit there is something so nice about the Northwest this time of year. The sun always seems to be up. Walks taken early in the morning that are pitch black in the winter are now bright & sunny. Conversely, even after living in the Northwest for over 30 years, I have also never quite gotten used to the skies being light at 9:30 pm. I feel like a dolt for mentioning this nightly phenomenon to my wife Crystal (who kind of sighs a half-hearted response), but for me anyway, it's one of the wonders where we live.

Speaking of highlights at this time of year, we recently had our annual temple picnic. As the first time we've held this event since 2019, I was a bit concerned that the muscle memory of people attending this get together might be lost, but June Akita, Donna Sasaki and Junko Yotsuuye and an army of others rallied to make this a successful event. So fun to see the 45+ people who attended, making this such a successful get together, where infants to seniors can find joy in sharing potluck meals, playing bingo, kickball, badminton, volleyball or just relaxing in conversation with others.

Something so nice about the Northwest this time of year.
Gassho,
John

Buddhist Women's Association News



I want to thank each and every one of you for all the hard work you all did to make this bento a super fun weekend and delicious success. I want to especially thank Kazuko for all her support and guidance. June Akita, Donna and Patti, as always – for keeping me on track and gently nudging me in the right direction.

A huge thank you to David Campbell and the rice crew for turning up on short notice and making our bento so tasty with amazing rice! Thank you to Lynne Tanino for helping me figure out how much rice I really needed. Phew!

And finally thank you, Rev. Koyama for all your support and access to Temple at odd hours to accommodate my schedule and keep me safe. I appreciate you!

This was a huge learning experience that I will always value. Mostly though, I will remember all the fun we have when we work together.

Reminders:

- July 9** BWA meeting following service (lunch provided by Jul/Aug/Sept toban)
- July 22** Daifuku mochi making – 8 AM.
- July 29** Strawberry mochi making – 10 AM

Thank you everyone and WELL DONE!!!!
Now..... bus trip planning!!!

In Gassho,
Denise Cline, Tacoma BWA President



Dharma School News



Cannot believe this DS school year is over. My greatest gratitude goes to **Junko Yotsuuye** who has held my hand as we conquered this In-Person year. My second greatest gratitude goes to all the teachers and parents who have supported us in so many ways. My bestest gratitude goes to all the DS students who have come under my umbrella and I hope know that they are very special to me today and in the future.



Our temple picnic was a little cooler this year, but we had a lot of food, games and chitter chatter – who can ask for more. In this month's Myokyo, there are some pictures of the picnic. The one pictures that I missed was the KICKBALL game that **Meesa Pedrozo** set up. Adults and students of all ages participated and had a great time. You can hear the laughter across the field as others snacked or just gathered around. It was a great day!!!

Just in case you missed the students' names who received their Certificate of Excellent Attendance and consistent yearly attendance pins, I am going to 'shout' their names once again!!

CONGRATULATIONS to Dharma School students for Excellent Attendance awards! Jasper Foote-1 yr.; Odessa Cook, Maya Winters, Tae Pedrozo, Ivan Winters and Nya Zaei-3 yrs; Tamsin, Briony, and Aislin Shippe-5 yrs; Nao Wainer-8 yrs; Enzo Yotsuuye-12 yrs; Jet Yotsuuye-14 yrs

THANK YOU to our teachers as well. We survived the past three years with patience, creativity, and great kids! Most of the teachers have agreed to stay on as the faculty for this coming year. Merlaine Cook, who has been a teacher for 8 years has decided to step back- we will truly miss her calm nature and creative lessons for these past 8 years! Thank you so much, Merlaine, for sharing yourself and your children with our temple.

Congratulations to our Staff: Gavin Morgan-2 yrs; Alex Theisen, Meesa Pedrozo, Kjirsten Winters and Kenji Shippe-4 years, Merlaine Cook-8 yrs.; Junko Yotsuuye-13 yrs.; Karen Yoshitomi-24 yrs. Whew...

As I will also be stepping down this fall, I must admit this was a very rewarding year for myself as I had the opportunity to know the youngest student to the oldest student. I would never have had such a great opportunity to know the parents as well. Thank you so much to all the families and especially the students for being a memorable part of my life. I am happy to announce that **Junko Yotsuuye and Coco Inoue** will be the following year's co-superintendents. I know they will be awesome and on top of things.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Dharma School program! It is much appreciated!

Gassho,
June

Young Buddhist Association News



Hello everyone! One final update before summer is in full swing.



Once again, the YBA t-shirt and tote bag sale has started, and forms are available on **(page 19)**. Please include payment when turning in the forms. The t-shirts will be available at Obon at the YBA booth. Additionally, the YBA will also be running the shave ice stand at Obon for the first time in years and we hope to see you all there!

Thank you all and have a wonderful summer!

In Gassho,
Odessa

Buddhist Education Committee News



The older I get, the more I have to write things down or else they will be forgotten. I have notepads all over the house with “to-do” lists, a wall calendar, and my cellphone calendar. If I don’t write an appointment down as soon as I make it, it will leave my brain and float off into the ether.

Since I assume everyone is like me, here is a reminder for you of some upcoming events the BEC has planned:

July 12 (Wednesday): Eatonville & Orting Cemetery cleanups and visitations.

July 16 (Sunday): Obon cemetery visitations, starting at 1:30 at Old Tacoma.

July 23 (Sunday): Hatsubon & Urabon-e Service – new this year is that members’ memorial candles will be displayed during this service since most members miss out on the candle observance at the end of Bon Odori.

September 15 – 17 (Friday – Sunday): NW Convention – we are hosting!

September 24 (Sunday): Fall Ohigan & Socho-ki Service

October 7 (Saturday): Fall Seminar with Rev. Blayne Higa of Kona Hongwanji.

Of course, there will be more events later in the year, but please, go to your calendars right now and write these events down before you forget!

The BEC is also looking for more volunteers to run tech during the Sunday services. There is a flyer in the temple lobby listing all the benefits.

The BEC members: Rev. Koyama, June Akita, Erik Hammerstrom, Rachel Meatte, Donna Sasaki, Kenzo Yoshitomi and I, wish everyone a great summer! Stay cool!

In Gassho,
Lynrae

Facility Committee Update



Some of us look at April 15th with dread and wish we could kick that tax-related can up the road just a little bit more. Our obnoxious weeds just hate the annual Garden Cleanup and hope we’ll kick that can into the next millennium. But alas temple members showed up on time ready to cut, slash, chop, and rake those pesky weeds into oblivion. Even the weeds on the Court D embankment got the treatment. Their sentiment is, “Just go ahead and pave us over and get it done with.” Another feather in



the temple’s cap is the parsonage deck. All structural work is complete, and the final inspection, courtesy of the City of Tacoma, is scheduled. We could grease the wheels by offering some fine cooking from the Buddhist Women’s Association. But no need for that. Tom Hubbell’s and David Yotsuuye’s exquisite attention to detail ensures the deck will pass with flying colors (for you smarty pants we are not talking about flying pink elephants).

Your facilities team might not specialize in origami, but it can still find great uses for paper. For example, the Special Event permit for Obon has been submitted.

We should all be grateful for the time Rick Tanabe, Delbert Sasaki, Jeff Hiroo, and Mike Shiogi devote to keeping our grounds in tip-top shape.

Lynrae Hubbell continues to keep litter in check along Fawcett Avenue and S Court D Street. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, and Del Sasaki are always on deck when things need fixing.

~Dave

Toban News **Upcoming Dates:**



- July 9** BWA General Meeting
- July 12** Eatonville/Orting Cemetery Visit/Clean Up
- July 16** Obon Cemetery Visitations, Board Meeting, 8:30 AM
- July 23** Hatsubon & Urabon-e Service
- July 29** Obon Dance 4-8 PM
- July 30** **NO SERVICE**
- July** Arrange clean up time of the temple with August Toban

- August** Sunday Services 10 AM
- August** Arrange clean up time of the temple with July Toban
- August 20** Board meeting, 8:30 AM

- September 10** Dharma School Starts, Emergency Preparedness Presentation
- September 15 -17** NWD Convention, Tacoma Hosting
- September 24** Fall Ohigan Service
- September 24** Coffee Hour
- September** Arrange clean up time of the temple with October Toban

FYI*** JUNE, JULY, & AUGUST TOBANS WILL BE SUPPORTING OUR OBON CHAIRS FOR OUR UPCOMING **FESTIVAL ON JULY 29, 2023.**

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.c

JULY TOBAN

Patti Wong
David Campbell
Jackie & William Poe
Ken & Lynne Tanino
Darlene Matsumoto
Kiyomi Fujita
Harriet Hatch

AUGUST TOBAN

Michael Shiogi
Kenji Shipp
David & Kathy Yotsuuye
Bobby & Junko Yotsuuye
Leroy & Penny Kawaguchi
Chizuko Yotsuuye
Tada & Yoshie Yotsuuye

SEPTEMBER TOBAN

John & Crystal Inge
Emma & Kate Inge
Rick Tanabe
Carrie Mori
Alan Oshima (email)
Edward & Yoshie Mayeda

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND HELP WITH OUR TEMPLE.

~Tracy Ling/Michael Shiogi



Library News



Have you read a good book lately? Our library has more than 500 books to choose from.

The books are shelved by subject matter.

- Japan: country, culture, language, arts
- Buddhism: Shin, Zen, Tibetan,
- Shinran Shonin
- Dalai Lama
- Thich Nhat Hanh
- reference books

You can sign them out on the clipboard and keep them as long as you like.

~Jane

Membership Message

The Membership Committee would like to thank the following greeters for yet another year of making sure that our visitors and sangha were welcomed. The committee is especially grateful to the greeters who worked triple time to staff and do health checks at the front and kitchen doors during our covid opening. Without the six greeters every Sunday, the temple would not have been able to open our doors safely.

The Membership Committee is looking for more volunteers. As our temple is run by our sangha, being a greeter is one of the ways in which we can take ownership of our temple. Please contact June Weled, Jim Doyle, Alex Theisen, or Gavin Morgan to add your name to our Greeter list.

In closing, a sincere thank you to:

Debby Abe	Tom Hubbell	Tracy Ling	Michael Shiogi
Lynn Blick	Coco Inoue	Gavin Morgan	Barry Weled
David Campbell	Mayumi Ikeda	Carrie Mori	Patti Wong
Jim Doyle	Kevin Ikeda	Kara O'Toole	Bobby Yotsuuye
Tony Gregg	Richard Ling	Del Sasaki	David Yotsuuye
Kt Hendrie	Jeff Hiroo		

June Weled

Greeter's List

July	2	Barry & June Weled
	9	Coco Inoue/Mike Shiogi
	16	Debby Abe/Tom Hubbell
	23	Mayumi & Kevin Ikeda
	30	No Service
August	6	Lynn Blick/Shizuka Faria
	13	Tracy & Richard Ling
	20	David Yotsuuye/Bobby Yotsuuye
	27	Tony Gregg/Jim Doyle
September	3	No Service
	10	David Campbell/Gavin Morgan
	17	Service at NWD Convention
	24	Del Sasaki/Patti Wong

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



July 2023

7 th Year	George Ayao Tanbara	July 1, 2017
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August 2023

13 th Year	Tayoko Payton	August 6, 2011
33 rd Year	Hajime Suda	August 22, 1991
33 rd Year	Toshiaki Matsumoto	August 27, 1991
33 rd Year	Tamotsu Oguri	August 28, 1991

September 2023

3 rd Year	Shoko Yamasaki	September 1 st , 2021
17 th Year	Kazuko Jinguji	September 22, 2007
25 th Year	Dolores Marcella Bush	September 16, 1999

OBON NEWS

We are excited to hold our 2023 Bon Odori Festival in-person! Many committees have been formed and plans are underway. Please note the new time we are trying this year.

- 4:00 pm** Food sales, booths and beer garden open
- 4:30 pm** Obon service by Rev. Koyama
- 5:00 pm** Opening performance by Fuji Taiko
- 5:15 pm** Dancing, taiko performance
- 8:00 pm** Memorial candle observance

Dance Lessons in our social hall will be held **July 12 and 13th from 7:00 - 8:30 pm** and everyone is welcome. Questions on dances, please contact Crystal Inge.

We look forward to seeing everyone and if you can't make it, please consider donating to our temple for this special occasion.

Thank you,
Your Obon Committee

Hatsubon Remembrances for 2023

Our temple observes the members who passed in since last year's Hatsubon and this year. We remember them with gratitude and with the Buddha Dharma in mind. We invite all family members to attend our Hatsubon this year on **July 23, 2023, at 10 a.m.** to offer incense.

Hatsubon Members

Hanako Yoshida

Buddhist name: Shakuni Myokaku. 釋尼妙覺

Date of passing: October 10, 2022

Yasuko Morita

Buddhist name: Shaku Koju. 釋康寿

Date of passing: October 27, 2022

Tsuki Sasao

Date of passing: October 28, 2022

Lorus Clifford Hatch

Buddhist Name: Shaku Shugyo. 釋修行

Date of passing: November 3, 2022

Shinobu Inoue

Date of passing: January 9, 2023

Jim Akagi

Date of passing: May 17, 2023



2023 Obon Memorial Candle Observance

Candle order deadline: Sunday, July 16

We are finally able to be together to have our Memorial Candle Observance in the temple garden this year. We have missed this special gathering with the spiritual closure to the end of Bon Odori festivities – remembering with gratitude and respect the memory of people recognized by the several hundred glowing candles placed around the garden and pond.

We will also display candles ordered by temple members on the Onaijin during the Hatsubon/Urabon service on Sunday, July 23 - recognizing that members are rarely able to attend the garden observance because of volunteer duties at the end of Bon Odori.

There are several ways to place and ORDER:

- Complete and form below and **mail** to the temple. (Address on form below.)
- **Email** Lynrae Hubbell lynrae@harbornet.com
- Place your order before or after **Sunday services**. We will start taking orders on most Sundays, starting with the temple picnic on Sunday, June 11 and until the order deadline of Sunday, July 16.

The cost will be \$10 per candle.

Thank you **ALL** for your continued support of this meaningful observance since 2008.

2023 Memorial Candle Order FORM (\$10 per candle)

DEADLINE: SUNDAY, JULY 16

Ordered by: _____

phone # _____ **Email** _____

Names for candles: one name or couple per candle. PRINT CLEARLY, please! Use back of form if needed. **Buddhist name flag** will also be included if 1) We already have one on file, or 2) You have a copy of the Buddhist name and include it in your order.

Buddhist name on file?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Checks should be made out and mailed to: Tacoma Buddhist Temple, Attn: Candle Observance,
1717 South Fawcett, Tacoma, WA 98402-1706

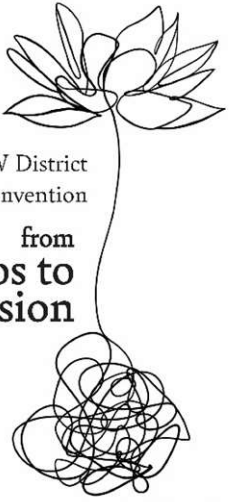
SAVE THE DATES

- WHO:** Tacoma Buddhist Temple
- WHAT:** Hosting the 76th NW Convention
- WHEN:** September 15-17, 2023
- WHERE:** DoubleTree Suites, Tukwila
- GUESTS** *Reverend Dean Koyama and Linda
Bishop Reverend Marvin Harada and Gail*
- NW sanghas from our 7 NW Temple, friends and families
- THEME:** From Chaos to Compassion
- REGISTRATION PACKETS:** In foyer. Please take ***one packet per person*** attending the convention. Contact the temple or David Yotsuuye if you would like a packet sent to your residence.
- DUE DATE:** August 15 or sooner. Please give completed packet information to ***June Akita***
- HOTEL:** We offer hotel rates of \$169.00/night. King or two queen beds.



Reverend Dean

Tacoma Buddhist Temple presents




76th NW District
Buddhist Convention

from
**Chaos to
Compassion**

September 15-17, 2023

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dean Koyama
DoubleTree Suites by Hilton
16500 Southcenter Parkway, Seattle WA 98117



Don't Miss: Seattle Betsuin and White River Buddhist Temple's Bon Odori

The Ninety-First
**SEATTLE
BON ODORI**



Saturday, July 15 2023
Sunday, July 16 2023
2:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple
1427 South Main Street
Seattle, WA 98144

Japanese-folk dancing in the street
Introduction to Buddhism sessions
Great food
Beer Garden featuring Two Story Zori
Taiko performances & interactive demonstrations
Cultural displays and demonstrations
Bachan's Closet – Grandmother's thrift store

seattlebetsuin.org/2023-bon-odori/



Events Schedule



WHITE RIVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE
OBON JULY 22ND, 2023
4 P.M. TO 9:30 P.M.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



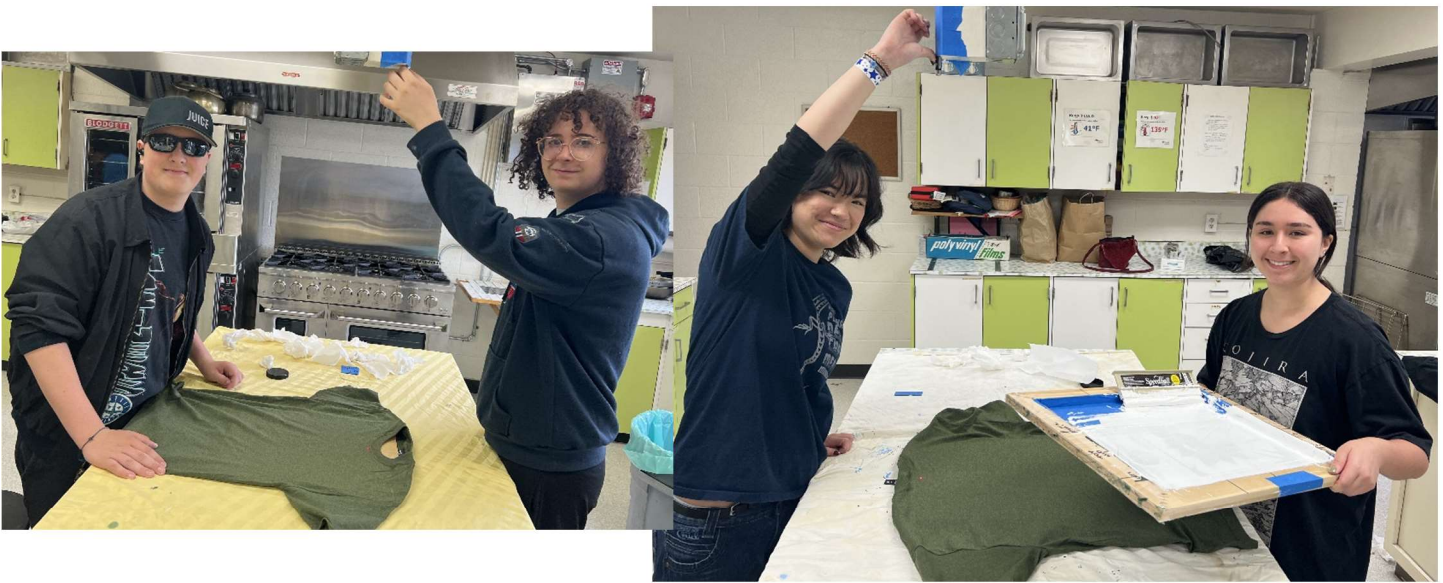
WHITE RIVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE
3625 AUBURN WAY NORTH
AUBURN, WA 98002

FOOD ROOTS & BEER GARDEN (OPEN AT 4:30 - 8:30)
OBON SERVICE | CHILDREN'S LANTERN PARADE
WELCOME CEREMONIES | OBON DANCING
SEATTLE MATSURI TAIKO PERFORMANCE

WWW.WRBT.ORG | OBON@WRBT.ORG | FACEBOOK.COM/WHITERIVERBT







*July 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 Sunday Service 10 am	3	4	5	6	7	1 8
9 Sunday Service 10 am BWA meeting after service	10	11	12 <i>Eatonville cemetery visit</i> <i>Obon Practice 7 pm-8:30 pm</i> <i>TBT Social Hall</i>	13 <i>Book Club King's Books 7 pm</i> <i>Obon Practice 7 pm-8:30 pm</i> <i>TBT Social Hall</i>	14	15
16 Board Meeting 8:30 am Sunday Service 10 am Obon Cemetery Visitations	17 <i>Myokyo Deadline</i>	18	19	20	21	22 BWA Daifuku Mochi 8:00 AM
23 Hatsubon Urabon-e Service 10:00 AM	24	25	26	27	28	29 <i>Obon Festival</i> 4 pm-8 pm BWA Strawberry Mochi 10 am
30 No Sunday Service	31					

*August 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Sunday Service 10 am	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Sunday Service 10 am	14 <i>Myokyo Deadline</i>	15	16	17	18	19
20 Board Meeting 8:30 am Sunday Service 10 am	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Sunday Service 10 am	28	29	30	31		

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YBA Obon T-Shirt sale

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



Shirt Back Design by Odessa Cook
Shirt Front Design by Maya Winters



T-Shirt: \$20

Tote Bag: \$10

Order Form:

Name: _____

Address (if getting delivered): _____

Email: _____

___ # of Tote Bags ___ # of T-Shirts

For T-Shirts Only:

SIZE (Black): ___XL ___L ___M ___S SIZE (Green): ___L ___M ___S

T-shirt pickup methods:

Temple Pickup: ___ Delivery: ___ (postage \$6, add \$4 for every 2 additional items)

For Temple Pickup, please come to the Sunday services to pick up your T-shirt.

The T-Shirts and Tote Bags will become available starting in June.

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

Tacoma Buddhist Temple/YBA
1717 S Fawcett AVE
Tacoma, WA 98402

(Please Make Checks Payable to: **Tacoma Buddhist Temple-YBA**)

If you have any questions, please email Jet at: yotsuuye@gmail.com