



Tacoma Buddhist Temple (Jodo Shinshu)

タコマ 仏教会 (浄土真宗)

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Happy Valentine's Day!



MYOKYO 明鏡

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

February 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



A Year of Gratitude and Hope

Rev. Tadao Koyama

Can you all believe that it is February? I can't! This means that we are already finished with the first month of the year! While we definitely have some ways to go, let's not try to rush to the finish line of the year just yet! I would first like to reflect on the previous month of January since we commemorated our annual Hoonko service. Every time this service comes around, it really reminds me that I am here because of Shinran Shonin.

It is entirely possible that I could have been born into a family who was not Buddhist or another sect of Buddhism. How fortunate I was born through countless causes and conditions that paved the way for me to encounter the wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha and the many teachings of our founder, Shinran Shonin.

This is not to disparage other religions or schools of Buddhism. All of them have beautiful teachings and chants as well! However, for myself, Jodo Shinshu is the school of Buddhism that speaks to me the most. This is because of Shinran's message of trusting in the nembutsu path. In the past year, we have seen much hardship in our society. We have seen the terrible after-effects of COVID-19 and its many forms. We have seen lots of political schisms that have divided our country heavily. We have also read about, encountered, or even witnessed violence in our society and community. In times such as these, we must heavily rely on the teachings of Shinran to guide us in our daily life.

This is not to say that we just believe and we are good. We must look deeply into the teachings and the texts and have discussions about it. We must actively listen to the messages as they are given to us on a daily basis. Once we truly open our hearts and minds to the Buddha-Dharma, then we are able to continue living this life without fear. Listening to the messages of Shinran can truly guide us in our daily lives of how we treat other people and ourselves.

We are definitely imperfect beings and are prone to bouts of foolishness and ego-centric thinking. Yet because of our shortcomings and our ideas of the self, Amida continues to work tirelessly to guide us to the pure land. Amida will never cease to accept us for who we are. Our ties and attachment to this world are indeed strong, but the light of Amida will still reach us even in the darkest of times.

With this in mind, and as we enter into the second month, I will do my best to enter this time with a sense of deep gratitude and hope for the future for our temple and for the message of Buddhism.

This is the hope that the teachings and messages of Shinran give me.

Namo Amida Butsu

President's Message



What a difference a year makes. Twelve months ago, we were making plans mindful of yet another spike in COVID infections, holding services online and making plans for no-contact events. This year, with infections down, we are beginning a cautious transition to in-person services and events. Earlier this month we celebrated our Keiro members at the first in-person New Year's luncheon in three years. We recently revised our temple service COVID protocols, which while requiring masks to be worn, no longer involve taking attendee's temperatures and tracking COVID vaccinations. All signs of our temple coming to terms with accepting of life coexisting with COVID, rather than waiting for it to end.



This shift though, is mindful of some of the positive lessons learned during these past three years. We learned how to operate being in a Zoom meeting. We saw people outside of the Northwest able to attend our services and classes. We were able to reach our sangha members no longer able to attend services in-person.

Therefore, as we make plans for 2023, with the return of in-person coffee hours, Bon Odori and hosting this fall's Northwest Convention, we will integrate the lessons learned these the last several years, through hybrid services, classes and lectures. When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

Gassho,
John Inge

Buddhist Women's Association News



Throughout the month of February, BWA is partnering with BEC for our annual Pet food, toy and towel drive to support local animal shelters. Donations of clean towels, pet food and new toys can be left in the bins in the foyer.



BWA members can drop in on February 19th at 9 am for coffee and a quick craft in the social hall. If you have an idea for a future craft you would like to suggest, please let me know!

In Gassho,
Denise Cline, Tacoma BWA President

Dharma School News



Happy New Year, everyone!! Hope most of you rang in the new year with lots of food and fun! Our family made mochi and ate and ate and ate. Warm mochi is so good!! I am really hoping to hold on to my resolution this year (at least more than a month) so my 2023 year will be more peaceful. Did you make a resolution?



On New Year's Day, Sensei prepared the buckwheat noodles, garnish and lots of homemade juice. Everyone enjoyed the gathering and 'slurped' up the noodles to gratification. Omedetou everyone!!

We also had a celebration on January 8th recognizing the start of 2023, our Keiro Honorees, and a special recognition of Rev. Fred Pelger who retired as one of our Minister Assistants. He has given some very interesting Dharma talks and also did activities with our students. Thank you, Rev. Fred.

New members, Nate, Erina and Jasper Foote, Trish, Dennis and Dillon Tisdale were also acknowledged at the service as new members in 2021-2022. Harriet Hatch, and her granddaughter, Harumi; Zodie and Akio could not attend. It's so nice to see our Dharma School growing and growing a little bit at a time!!

Odessa Cook and Jet Yotsuuye were sworn in as new YBA officers. Others were not in attendance, but I'm sure the organization is in good hands.

At our last board meeting on January 15th, we had confirmation on our Sukiyaki fundraiser. They have decided May 7th as a Take-Out only. Thanks to this decision, we can now decide our next few months for 2023.

We will have a mochi tsuki on January 22nd thanks to the help of Bobby Yotsuuye and his crew. Students will be able to pound, make and eat mochi as their snack for the day. Please come and enjoy!!

Sunday Service Program: 10:00 Dharma School and all sangha arrive, oshoko
Kansho
Class representatives and an Adult go up for oshoko
Lotus student presents osaisen to minister
Message from Sensei, chanting, gatha
Announcements
10:40 Dharma School students dismissed to class
11:30 Students dismissed to parents/guardians

February	5	DS	
	12	DS	Nirvana Day/Pet Memorial
	19	NO DS	Cooking class (all DS classes/ details are TBD)
	26	DS	

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!

As 2023 starts up, the YBA held our first meeting on January 15th! In the meeting, we decided to donate half our proceeds from the Holidays Greetings Fundraiser to the temple. We would like to thank everyone for their generous support of the temple.



We have also decided to officially start the YBA T-Shirt Fundraiser and are starting to turn the gears for design ideas. We look forward to keeping everyone updated on this year's production.

Thank you,
Odessa

Buddhist Education Committee News



Happy New Year! So many temple events happening this year! Our main hurdle is that we can't remember how we did certain services and events because of the 3-year Covid hiatus and Rev. Koyama joined us during that time and he didn't know how we did things. So, just go with the flow and it will all work out!

Our Nirvana & Pet Memorial Service is coming up February 12, and I have to say, this is my favorite service. The BEC and BWA will be collecting items in the lobby for the Humane Society of Tacoma & Pierce County through the month of February. Our local Humane Society works hard to take care of those animals that need the most help. I receive emails from them recounting stories about taking in dozens of mistreated pets and providing a safe place for them to heal and find new homes. Many years ago, I stopped by the Humane Society to offer my time to grooming the cats. As soon as I stepped in the front door, I could hear cats meowing and dogs barking, and I burst into tears and left. Since then, my help has been to donate money every year, collect items for their pet store and participate in our temple's Pet Memorial Service.

Last February, during this service, we were still meeting on Zoom and many people, including myself, sent pictures of their pets who had passed away, to Rev. Koyama so he could upload them to a video. During a part of the service, pictures of pets were shown on our screens. I was very touched and sad to see so many animals that were loved and missed. This year, we will have our pet pictures displayed up on the onaijin, in front of Amida Buddha – a perfect setting for those beings who have brought so much compassion to our lives.

We hope 2023 will bring interesting speakers and teachings of the Dharma. Our temple is hosting the NW Convention this September. The schedule, workshops and speakers are already in the planning phase. We hope all members will be able to help run this event – we plan to have lots of fun together!

In Gassho,
Lynrae

Facility Committee Update



As we enter the Year of the Rabbit your Facilities crew will surely display some attributes of this workaholic rodent. While the current year of the Chinese Zodiac is considered the luckiest, we will not be overly complacent about the high prospect of good fortune. Your Facilities team is about science and action, not wishful thinking. Therefore, we have found a way to employ science to bog those rascally gremlins down. It's called Pin the Tail on the Gremlin. Someone sneaks up on the gremlin and pins a long string which is tied to an object that's easy to break. Watches and smart phones are contraptions they love to sabotage. As the discombobulated troublemaker dervishly spins around fruitlessly grasping at the tantalizing target the string remains taut, and the object remains beyond reach. All the while Facilities will strive to accomplish various projects. Age and climate events have done a number on the exterior steps leading up the Reverend Pratt Room and the temple office. Repairs are slated to reverse the ravages of time and ornery weather patterns. In the Facilities crystal ball, we see a new roof over the stair well at the stage right exterior door. Also new

railing will be installed at the left front side of the temple. Last but not least the mid-rail portion of the handrail for the stairs along the parsonage will be replaced.

Lynrae Hubbell continues to remove trash along Fawcett Avenue and S Court D Street. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, and Del Sasaki are at the forefront of keeping ahead of the vagaries of maintenance issues that come with our old, beautiful temple. With our section of Fawcett Avenue now paved Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens might be able to resume maintaining our grounds. If not David Yotsuuye, Jeff Hiroo, Del Sasaki, and Rick Tanabe are sure to step up and get it done.

Toban



FEBRUARY 2023 TOBAN NEWS

Upcoming Dates:

- February 12** Nirvana/Pet Memorial Service
- February 12** Coffee Hour January/February Tobans provide snacks/beverages (upon approval of the board)
- February** Arrange clean-up time of the temple with January Toban
- March 5** Coffee Hour March/April Tobans provide snacks/beverages (upon approval of the board)
- March 19** Spring Ohigan with BWA Memorial – Lady Yoshiko Ohtani and Lady Takeko Kujo
- March** Arrange clean-up time of the temple with April Toban
- April 2** Coffee Hour March/April Tobans provide snacks/beverages (upon approval of the board)
- April 9** Hanamatsuri Service, Activities (TBA)
- April** Arrange clean-up time of the temple with March 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.

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

*There are new clean-up procedures for the large walk-in refrigerator and the one in the kitchen posted on their doors (after major events and use). Content sign in sheet is also posted in the same place (please review the rules). **Safety Protocols are still mandatory.**

FEBRUARY TOBAN

JUNE/JERRY AKITA – Chair
Jill Case
Brett Johnson/Megumi Azekawa
Erin Shen
Diane Taniguchi
Tets/Martha Tamaki
Thelma Abe

MARCH TOBAN

RICHARD/TRACY LING
Chikako Inoue
Kjirsten Winters
Shizuka Faria
June/Barry Weled
Ellen Shigeno
Frank Shigio
Peter Lee

APRIL TOBAN

KAREN YOSHITOMI
Kaila Yoshitomi
Kenzo Yoshitomi
Al/Donna Sasaki
Kazuko Inoue
Rose Kishi
Ed/Kimiko Fujinaga
Ted Matsumoto

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND HELP WITH OUR TEMPLE.

~Mike & Tracy

2023 TOBAN GROUPS

January		May		September	
Jim Doyle & Tony Gregg	2023 Chair	Les Hitsman & Fred Pelger	2023 Chair	John & Crystal Inge	2023 Chair
Lynn Blick	2024 Chair	Henry Stoll & Wendy Hamai	2024 Chair	Emma & Kate Inge	2024 Chair
Meesa Pedrozo	2025 Chair	Riu Pittman & Victoria Evert	2025 Chair	Mike Shiogi	2025 Chair
Nate & Erina Foote	2026 Chair	Gail Ichinaga	2026 Chair	Rick Tanabe	2026 Chair
Brian & Etsuko Willis	2027 chair	XX	2027 chair	Carrie Mori	2027 chair
Jane Burster		Anita Nakayama		Alan Oshima (email)	
Glenn Morita		Michiko Saito (call)		Jim Akagi	
x		x		Edward and Yoshiye Mayeda	
February		June		October	
June & Jerry Akita	2023 Chair	Erik Hammerstrom	2023 Chair	Alex Theisen	2023 Chair
Jill Case	2024 Chair	Kevin & Mayumi Ikeda	2024 Chair	Kim & Cindy Nakamura	2024 Chair
Brett Johnson & Megumi Azekawa	2025 Chair	Masahiro Sugano	2025 Chair	Todd & Marcia Nakamura	2025 Chair
Erin Shen	2026 Chair	Rachele Meatte	2026 Chair	Vicki Yoshioka	2026 Chair
Diane Taniguchi	2027 chair	Debby Abe	2027 chair	Harumi Sasao	2027 chair
Tets & Martha Tamaki		Elsie Taniguchi		Don Arima & Susan Bogni	
Thelma Abe (call)		Kosho & Michiko Yukawa		Asako Arima (call)	
x		Akemi Ikeda (out of country)		Danny Otsuka (call)	
March		July		November	
Richard & Tracy Ling	2023 Chair	Patti Wong	2023 Chair	Kara & Kt Hendrie O'Toole	2023 Chair
Chikako Inoue	2024 Chair	David Campbell	2024 Chair	Merlaine and Josiah Cook	2024 Chair
Kjirsten Winters	2025 Chair	Jackie & William Poe	2025 Chair	Claire Silver	2025 Chair
Shizuka Faria	2026 Chair	Ken & Lynne Tanino	2026 Chair	Gavin Morgan	2026 Chair
June & Barry Weled	2027 chair	XX	2027 chair	Tom & Lynrae Hubbell	2027 chair
Ellen Shigeno		Darlene Matsumoto		Fujiko Yoshikawa	
Frank Shigio		Kiyomi Fujita		Nancy Butterfield	
Peter Lee(out of country)		Harriett Hatch		x	
April		August		December	
Karen Yoshitomi	2023 Chair	Mike Shiogi	2023 Chair	Jeff & Vivian Hiroo	2023 Chair
Kaila Yoshitomi	2024 Chair	Kenji Shipp	2024 Chair	Denise Cline	2024 Chair
Kenzo Yoshitomi	2025 Chair	David & Kathy Yotsuuye	2025 Chair	Delbert & Cynthia Sasaki	2025 Chair
Al & Donna Sasaki	2026 Chair	Bobby & Junko Yotsuuye	2026 Chair	Craig O'Hanlon	2026 Chair
Shinobu & Kazuko Inoue	2027 chair	XX	2027 chair	XX	2027 chair
Rose Kishi		Leroy & Penny Kawaguchi		Tad & Joan Kajimura	
Ed & Kimiko Fujinaga		Chizuko Yotsuuye		Trisha Tisdale	
Ted Matsumoto		Tada & Yoshie Yotsuuye		x	

Membership News



The Membership Committee thanks Brett Johnson for his service on the committee and welcomes Alex Theisen and Jim Doyle. If you have any questions about Membership or the Greeter program, please direct them to Gavin Morgan, Alex Theisen, Jim Doyle and June Weled.

~June W.

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



February 2023

1 st Year	Larry Fujita	February 6, 2022
1 st year	Sam Shimizu	February 11, 2022
3 rd Year	Miyoko Sato	February 2, 2021
7 th Year	Yoshiko Sugiyama	February 16, 2017
17 th Year	Mary Yoneko Masumoto	February 9, 2007
17 th Year	Ben Yoshida	February 6, 2007

March 2023

3 rd Year	Katsumi Fujita	March 17, 2021
7 th Year	Kimiko Tanbara	March 21, 2017
33 rd Year	Fumiko Azuma	March 22, 1991

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

Greeter's List ***** note a change was made since the January Myokyo*****

February	5	Lynn Blick/Tom Hubbell
	12	David Yotsuuye/David Campbell
	19	Tracy & Richard Ling
	26	Barry & June Weled

March	5	Bobby Yotsuuye/Gavin Morgan
	12	Del Sasaki/Patti Wong
	19	Jeff Hiroo/Coco Inoue
	26	Kara O'Toole/Kt Hendrie

April	2	Tony Gregg/Jim Doyle
	9	Mike Shiogi/Debby Abe

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 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.



Tacoma Buddhist Temple would like to extend
our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the
family and friends of
SHINOBU INOUE



On January 9th, our longtime member Shinobu Inoue passed away at the
age of 89. He was born in Hilo, Hawaii.

At the temple he enjoyed prepping for events, working alongside his friends
and years ago volunteered as a Dharma School teacher. He will be greatly missed
for his steady support of the temple.

**May you find comfort in the light of the Infinite Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha.
Namo Amida Butsu**

Book Club

@King's Books - 7 pm

***We Are the Economy: The Buddhist Way of
Work, Consumption, and Money***

Kai Romhardt, PhD.



Student gifts and teacher gifts are so much nicer to do in person – smiles are priceless!!



Making gingerbread houses is always fun for everyone



Ms. Alex gave all of her Lotus Class students a **BIG SHOUT OUT** for doing such an awesome job for the *Bodhi Day Service*



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 question

FEB 11, 2023

2023: Mar 11, Apr 8, May 13

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



*February 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 YouTube Shotsuki Service
5 Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School	6	7	8 Study Class Via Zoom 6 pm	9 Book Club at King's Books 7:00 PM	10	11 <i>Spirit, Mind, and Body Yoga for Compassion</i> 9:00 AM
12 Nirvana Day and Pet Memorial Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School Coffee Hour following service	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Board meeting 8:30 am Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School	20 Myokyo Deadline	21	22	23	24	25
26 Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School	27	28				

*March 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 YouTube Shotsuki Service
5 Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School Coffee Hour following Service	6	7	8 Study class via Zoom 6 pm	9 Book Club at King's Books 7:00 PM	10	11 <i>Spirit, Mind, and Body Yoga for Compassion</i> 9:00 AM
12 Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School	13	14	15	16	17	18 BWA Daifuku mochi making 9 am
19 Board Meeting 8:30 am Spring Ohigan/BWA Memorial Lady Yoshiko Ohtani & Lady Takeko Kujo Service 10 am Dharma School	20 Myokyo Deadline	21	22	23	24	25
26 Sunday Service 10 am Dharma School	27	28	29	30	31	