



Tacoma Buddhist Temple

(Jodo Shinshu)

タコマ 仏教会 (浄土真宗)

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明鏡

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

November 2019

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."

Not Hindering the Buddha's Compassion Rev. Takashi Miyaji

Sensei's Message

hinder the Buddha's compassion from spreading to others.

sentient beings. (Collected Works of Shinran, 168).



I would like to continue on the topic of Shin Buddhist Ethics and move on to the fifth point that one does not hinder the spread of Amida Buddha's Compassion. In other words, this means

that the person will work to share the compassion of Amida Buddha to other people. This is not to say that one now has possession of Amida's compassion and somehow gives that to others but rather, that the person knows that Amida directs Great Compassion to all beings. Therefore, one does not

To help explain this point, I would like to share an example that was given by Tanluan, one of the Pure Land Masters. In it, Tanluan likens Amida Buddha's vow to that of a torch that burns away the shrubs of blind passions. There may still be many sentient beings that remain in the world of delusion and although the torch itself is exhausted, the flames of the Buddha's wish still continues to burn throughout the generations of

To explain this example a little more, imagine there is a large incense burner. Inside, there are rows of incense that zig-zag, creating a long line of incense. Ministers will sometimes do this if they know that a service will run long and they want a long consistent burning of incense during that time. Now, imagine that the minister lights a piece of coal and places that at one end of the zig-zagging line of incense. Over time, as the incense burns slowly but surely, the initial coal will turn white and eventually burn out before the long line of incense do. This does not mean the Buddha is gone. Rather, it means that the bodhisattva has completed the process to becoming Buddha. Also, the flames that the Buddha started continues to burn on down the line of incense and it will continue to do so, until all of the incense are thoroughly burned away. This is what is meant by the process of all sentient beings having a path to spiritual liberation. Amida Buddha has vowed to become Buddha, which includes that he will establish a path that will enable all beings to be freed from their shackles of blind passions. All beings will be freed, it is just a matter of how long this will take.

The incense that have burned away depicts the previous generations and our ancestors who have heard the



Buddha Dharma, thoroughly received it, and are now in the Pure Land working to awaken each and every one of us now. Their physical bodies may be gone, the incense itself may be completely burned away. But the flames of the initial coal and the fragrance they leave behind becomes their working to attract us to the Pure Land. The later generations who have yet to burn away can look forward to becoming this same flame and fragrance for the generations to come. In this way, we pass on Amida Buddha's wish for all beings to become Buddhas. This is what is meant by Tanluan's explanation and precisely why Shinran cited this very important point. Shinran wants us to know that Amida Buddha is the initial igniter, the torch, that will set ablaze and

thoroughly exhaust the fields of blind passions and endless suffering.

Thus, our very existence as beings of blind passions, become the very fuel that allows Amida's wish for our spiritual liberation to burn on with great ferocity. We then help to spread this profound teaching to the world we live in. But we must become aware that we have this potential within us by first listening and understanding the process that is taking place. When we truly hear and receive Amida's wish for all humanity, we allow the flames of Great Compassion to spread wildly. This is what is meant by not hindering the Buddha's Compassion.

窓仏者は阿弥陀仏のお慈悲を錺げない!

真宗倫理の題を今月も続けてさせていただきます。今回の五番目の倫理特徴は「念仏者は阿弥陀仏のお慈悲を妨げない」ということです。つまり、信心を得たものは阿弥陀仏のお慈悲というものを他人に広めるということであります。もちろん、これは阿弥陀仏のお慈悲というものを私たちのものにして、それを他人に与えるのではありません。むしろ、信心を得るという事は、阿弥陀仏の大慈悲が一切衆生に与えられているということに気づくということを言っているのであります。ですから、全ての人が阿弥陀仏のお慈悲の対象であるということを妨げないということになります。

これを説明するには、親鸞聖人が尊敬されていた浄土教における七人の高僧の中の一人である とんらんだいし 曇鸞大師があげた例を紹介させていただきます。大師は、阿弥陀仏の願いを衆生の煩悩を燃やす たいまっ 松明(torch)のようなものだと説明します。この松明は一切衆生の煩悩全でがまだ消滅していないの に、燃え尽きてしまいます。しかし、その松明の移り火が次から次へと燃え続けるように、仏様の 願いは代々の衆生の煩悩を燃やし続けていくのであります。【『浄土真宗聖典(註釈版)』327頁】

この例話をもう少し説明しますと、お寺の本堂にある音がを想像してください。その中にお繋えるを Z 空形のように並べていきます。お勤めの時間が長く続く時に、このようにお線香が長く持つように並べることがあります。次に、炭に火をつけ、並べたお線香が順番にゆっくりと燃えていきます。つまり、この炭自体は燃え尽くしますが、その火を受けたお線香が順番にゆっくりと燃えていきます。つまり、この炭は仏様のお慈悲に例えるられています。炭が燃える。こという事は、仏様がおられなくなるという事です。そして炭が燃え尽きるという事は、仏様がいなくなるという説ですが、実はそうではありません。なぜなら炭がのしたがのいた次の線をが順番に燃えていくように、仏様のお慈悲の火が付いた線香のように、仏様がおられなくなるよびはありません。なぜなら炭がのいた次の線をが順番に燃えていくように、仏様のお慈悲の火が付いた線香のように、全ての人間が菩薩から仏様になっていくことを意味します。そして、その燃え始めたお線香はそのままほっておけば、全部なくなるまでに淡々と燃え続けていきます。そうなるということを意味します。ですがら、時間の問題だけのことです。

お線香が全部燃えてしまったということは、先祖や先に亡くなられた方が仏法の道を歩み、そして今私たちのためにはたらきかけているのであるということです。その方たちの体はもうないかも知れません、つまりお線香そのものは消えているかもしれません。しかし、その燃え続く火と線香から出る香りが残ります。そして次の世代の衆生は同じようにそのはたらきと同体になることを期待することができます。このようにして、一切の衆生が仏と同体になるようにと願われた阿弥陀仏の本願を満たすのであります。これが曇鸞大師が説明された例話であり、宗祖が取り上げた理由でもあります。宗祖は、阿弥陀仏が私たちの煩悩を焼き尽くす松明であるということを知らせてくだされたのです。



そうであるから、私たちにそのような可能性があるということに気付かなければならないのであります。ですから仏法を聴聞しなければなりません。世の中の生きとし生けるもののための願いを聞いて受け入れたら、その大慈悲の火を元気よく燃やし続けさせることができるのであります。これが「念仏者は阿弥陀仏のお慈悲を妨げない」という意味です。

FUTURE SCHEDULE

(Sat) November 2 Fall Bazaar Prep, 8 AM

(Sun) November 3 NO SERVICE – FALL BAZAAR (11 AM-3 PM)
(Sun) November 17 Eitaikyo (Perpetual Memorial Service) 10 AM

(Sun) December 8 Bodhi Day Service 10 AM/ General Meeting 10:45 AM/and

Potluck to follow

(Sun) December 22 Temple Clean Up

(Tue) December 31 Year End Service with soba noodles, at 7 PM

(Wed) January 1, 2020 New Years' Service at 10 AM

President's Message





BCA Bishop Election

You may not have been aware, but our current BCA Bishop, Rev. Umezu, term as Bishop is about to end. The process to elect a new Bishop has begun. This past September, the new Bishop should have been selected, but, the Bishop nominee did not receive the required number of votes to be elected. So, as prescribed, the process will begin anew and hopefully by the end of this year a new Bishop will be elected.

Fall Bazaar

By the time you read this our Fall Bazaar will have been held on Sunday November 3, 2019. June Akita and I extend our thanks to everyone that helped make our Bazaar a success and working with the new format. I'll have more on the Bazaar in December.

2020 Membership Pledges

This is an early request asking members to consider increasing your 2020 Membership Pledge. The Pledge requests are usually distributed in December and will be due in January 2020. This year the BCA Reverend Salary Guidelines were updated and approved. This results in a higher salary for Reverends. Tacoma has done its best to follow these guidelines. To do this will require more funds. Also, the membership pledges that we send to BCA (Buddhist Churches of America) and NWDC (Northwest District Council) have increased. In the December Myokyo I'll share more details about the amounts. I'll also share a chart that shows the amount of Membership Pledges from 2019. Please consider increasing your 2020 Pledge during your family budgeting. Thank you.

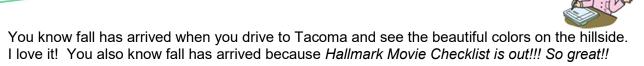
New Board Members

We are still looking for nominees. Please consider this opportunity. We are building a slate of new board member nominees to replace the board members completing their term. This is for a 3-year commitment

2020-2022. If you are interested in being a board member, please let me know. Thank you for considering joining our Temple's Board of Directors. Without membership participation, we cannot run the Temple.

Gassho, David

Buddhist Women's Association News



Thank you to **Carrie Mori** chairing the BWA Memorial service honoring Eshinni and Kakushinni. Rev. Kory Quon from the Venice Buddhist Temple was our guest speaker. Thank you to **Kazuko Inoue** for her generous donation of delicious and crunchy fuji apples. The apples are

such a treat each year.

Our general BWA meeting was held on October 13th. The 2020-2021 cabinet was elected as follows:

President June Akita Vice President Donna Sasaki Secretary Riu Pittman Treasurer Denise Cline Historian June Weled Auditor Shizuka Faria Social Chair Religious Chair Kazuko Inoue Carrie Mori

Advisors Kaori Miyaji, Patti Wong, Rev. Miyaji

Our final 2019 Daifuku mochi making will be **October 26**th at 8:00 AM with proceeds going to the Temple Bazaar event. It is always so nice to know that everyone enjoys our daifuku mochi. Many BWA ladies are very involved with other Bazaar activities as well. Thank you, everyone, for giving so much of your time and energy to this fundraising event.

Our **Food and Clothing Drive** continues through December 1st. The warm clothing is so appreciated by our local shelters. Thank you in advance for your generous donations.

We continue to collect unused **toiletries** year-round. You can put your items in the basket in the Maitreya class anytime.

Plans are being made for our 2020 New Year's Party. The date is set for January 26, 2020.

If you have any suggestions for our next **Bus Trip**, please share with me as soon as possible.

Our deepest condolences to the family of **Mr. Robert Nakayama**. Bob was a very active member of our temple, served as Temple President, and worked beside Anita at Obon and Bazaar for many years. Bob's leadership, guidance and friendship at the temple will be dearly missed.

Future Events:

Nov. 2-3 Help with Bazaar Nov. 17 Eitaikyo Service

Dec. 8 Bodhi Day Service and Potluck – 10:00 service

Dec. 22 Temple Year End Clean up

In gassho, June





Happy Halloween!!

Young Buddhist Association News



<u>HOLIDAY SEASON'S GREETINGS</u>

e Young Buddhist Association (YBA) will be collecting Holiday Season's ings messages from those interested in wishing MYOKYO readers a Happy Holiday Season. This year we will be slightly different.

See below:

Samples: Standard Greeting (2 in x 1.5 in)



Sample:£arge Greeting (3 in x 1.5 in)

The Greetings will be included in the January MYOKYO or a separate mailing depending on available space. Please indicate which options you would like to choose and provide greeting's message.

Options (circle): STANDARD /LARGE SINGLE/FAMILY

Greetings:

If you would like to include a digital image/mon please provide copy to: jetyotsuuye@icloud.com. Please enclose payment with your order form and mail to: 3014 43 to AVE NE, TACOMA WA 98422, or give to any YBA student. Please make checks out to: Tacoma Buddhist Temple YBA

Deadline- December 15th, 2019

Thank you for your support.

Ryan Ling YBA President.

Buddhist Education Committee News



The BEC welcomed Rev. Kory Quon to the temple in October for the fall seminar, Eshinni/ Kakushinni Memorial Services. We are already planning next year's talks, and we are excited to announce that Rev. Dr. Mark Unno from the University of Oregon will be our speaker for the spring seminar on May 16. A respected scholar of Shin Buddhism in his own right, Rev. Dr. Unno is also the son of the late Shin intellectual Rev. Dr. Tai Unno. The younger Rev. Dr. Unno is sure to inspire with his erudite and heartfelt approach to the Shin Buddhist tradition.

Coming up much sooner, on December 8 we will observe Bodhi Day, a commemoration of the enlightenment of Śākyamuni Buddha. We want to remind everyone that our Bodhi Day observances are now taking place at **10 am**, during our normal service time. This event is celebrated on different dates in different parts of the Buddhist world. For us, recognition of the Buddha's enlightenment is important because it was his enlightenment that gave him the knowledge to speak the *sūtras*, the scriptures, that form the basis for our own Jōdo Shinshū tradition. We hope to see you all there!

- Erik Hammerstrom

Toban News

Toban News





Upcoming Dates:

- November 2 Bazaar Prep
- November 3 Annual Fall Bazaar
- November 5 Bazaar Clean-up
- November 17 Eitaikyo Service
- December 8 Bodhi Day Potluck/General Meeting after service
- December 22 General Temple Cleanup
- December 31 at 7pm New Year's Eve Service

All Toban Chairs: Please email/call your Toban group to invite them to our Bodhi Day Potluck on December 8. (1 salad, 1 dessert, rest – main dish per Toban group)

November & December 2019 Toban Groups: Toban chairs are responsible for calling group members for set-up and clean-up of temple events occurring in their Toban months. The Toban chairs for each group will coordinate with each other to set up the dates for the monthly clean up. Please let Erik Hammerstrom know the clean-up dates to check for conflicts with other activities and to add to the Temple calendar.

November 2019
**Chikako Inoue
Richard & Tracy Ling
Ellen Shigeno
Kjirsten Winters
June & Barry Weled
Email or Phone Tree Members
Frank Shigio (call Jeanette Hirano)
Peter Lee

December 2019
**Kevin & Mayumi Ikeda
Masahiro Sugano
Elsie Taniguchi
Diane Taniguchi
Kosho & Michiko Yukawa
Erik Hammerstrom
Aimee Hamilton
Email or Phone Tree Members
Ed & Kimiko Fujinaga
Violet Mizukami

November Group Responsibilities:

- Monthly clean-up for November and December
- Fall Bazaar: Provide snacks for November 2 & 3rd for volunteers
- Coffee hour (to coincide with Eitaikyo service November 17th)

December Group Responsibilities:

- Monthly clean-up for November and December
- Dust and vacuum pews in Hondo
- Bazaar: Provide snacks Tuesday for Bazaar clean up.
- Coffee hour (December 15th)

Monthly Book Club

Buddhism Today!

November 14 (Th) at 7pm at Kings Books

Featured Book:

Buddha Standard Time Lama Surya Das



From Your Facility Committee

Those of you who like to talk to plants should go and welcome a new tree that got planted in the parsonage backyard. I went back there to start an icebreaker conversation, but the tree was acting all stuck up and wouldn't answer back. Silly me. I thought this one might be different

than all the other trees I've attempted to converse with. Well, next time I see a tree I'm going to tell it that I just love the smell of burning wood. On the other hand, I take that back. I'd much rather trees be a carbon sink than a carbon source.

Well, talking about smells someone must love the odor of paint because our temple front doors got some repairs and a coating. We don't have to wait for people to enter to temple to earn a good first impression. Now folks will deem our temple to be uptown even before they walk through the doors.

But not so uptown was a parsonage washing machine that croaked after one too many loads. Of course, the slow-witted gremlins had to inject their unsolicited opinions and recommended a washtub and wringer as a replacement. After I informed them the human-powered retro contraption was too simple to ruin they settled on some kind of buggy artificial intelligence vacuum tube-based washtub and wringer technology. This idea got rejected as well and the temple bought a machine that depends on a human to make all the decisions.

A blinking light can mean a couple of things. One theory might be the electrical system of the parsonage was hacked and the perpetrator was sending temple event cooking recipes via Morse code. But that idea went kaboom when I realized the parsonage is not incorporated into the Internet of Things. Additionally, temple members readily share cooking ideas with anybody who asks. Therefore, we'll go with Occam's razor-a broken light which was changed out.

Temple security is a major necessity considering that we have some folks in the neighborhood who possess prolifically sticky fingers. So, a security plan is in the works and I'm sure we'll checkmate any potential thief. Jeff Hiroo and Fred Pelger are still using their weekly visits to harass dirt in every nook and cranny of the temple. Tom Hubbell sweeps in every Sunday and executes litter control in the section of Fawcett Ave that runs in front of the temple. Mike Shiogi, David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, and Del Sasaki apply their multiplicity of skills to complete facility projects. Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens are still expertly exerting their efforts and knowledge to maintain our beautiful temple grounds.

~Dave

Temple Funds Updated Descriptions

The following are the changes to the descriptions and allocations of the current Temple special financial accounts that were approved in our September 2019 board meeting. The intent in making the changes is to provide more specificity in defining the purpose for each of the funds and to update their purpose to more fully reflect the needs of the temple.

Convention Fund

To be used for:

- Startup money for expenses related to hosting a Convention (for example, a deposit needed for reserving convention facilities)
- Paying registration fees for those who attended the convertion including:

- o Elected temple board members
- o Current resident Ministers, spouses and children
- o Retired resident Ministers and spouses
- Minister Assistants
- Paying split costs for individuals who are members of more than one temple organization

Eitaikyo Fund

To be used for:

All maintenance, repair and upgrades specifically related to the preservation of the Onaijin.

Temple Preservation Fund

Combines two funds, the Shorai Fund and the Handicap Access Fund that were intended for temple repair and upgrades. To be used for:

• All maintenance, repair and upgrades related to preservation of the temple facilities, excluding the onaijin, which will enhance sangha member access to and use of the temple.

Shin Buddhist Education Fund

To be used for:

• Subsidizing the cost for Tacoma Buddhist Temple members who seek to pursue educational studies to become certified Minister Assistants and Ministers, as well required education to maintain their certification status. This includes costs material and travel costs related to taking the Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course and IBS Certificate in Shin Buddhist Studies (Kyoshi certificate program).

The Sunya Pratt/Yosh Kosai Dharma School Fund

Combines two funds that provided for Dharma school teachers and school related expenses.

To be used for:

- All materials, including supplies and books for the Dharma School, as approved by the Dharma School Superintendent
- All travel, lodging and registration expenses for teachers to attend the Dharma School Conference and related workshops, as approved by the Dharma School Superintendent

~John Inge

Yearly Memorial Services

General Memorial Service Years for 2019

1st Year - 2018	17th Year - 2003
3rd Year - 2017	25th Year - 1995
7th Year - 2013	33rd Year - 1987
13th Year - 2007	50th Year - 1970



November 2019

$1^{\rm st}$ Year	Saito, Herbert Isamu	Shaku En-Jō	November 7, 2018
$1^{\rm st}$ Year	Fujita, Toshie	Shakuni Kō-En	November 11, 2018
$17^{ m th}$ Year	Takami, Osoye	Shakuni Myo-E	November 24, 2003

December 2019

3 rd Year	Tanino, Ryomi	Shaku Ryo-Sho 良証	December 8, 2017
$7^{ m th}~{ m Year}$	Kawasaki, Leo Ryo	Shaku Ji-Sho 慈照	December 24, 2013
$33^{\rm rd}$ Year	Asaka, Kay	Shakuni Wa-Jun	December 10, 1987
$50^{ m th}$ Year	Kawabata, Hana	Shakuni Shin-Shun	December 17, 1970
January 202	0		
$7^{ m th}$ Year	Higashi, Kimiye	Shakuni Shin-Koh 信香	January 22, 2014
$13^{\mathrm{th}}\mathrm{Year}$	Nakamura, Kazuo	Shaku Wa-Gyo	January 9, 2008

Greeters Schedule

Greeters:

Note: 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." (1/2 sheet form)

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.

November	3	No Service – Fall Bazaar
	10	Del Sasaki & Rick Tanabe
	17	Kevin & Mayumi Ikeda
	24	Tracy & Richard Ling
December	1	Alex Thiessen & Jeff Hiroo
	8	Jim Doyle & Tony Gregg
	15	Lynrae & Tom Hubbell
	22	Yasuko Morita & June Weled
	29	Michael Shiogi & John Inge

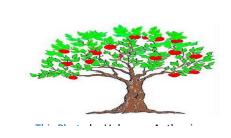
^{*}Please note, a new rotation schedule was started in October. See committee chair with questions.

















		*Nove	mber 2	2019		
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Bazaar Prep 8:00 AM
3 Fall Bazaar 11-3 P No Service Day Light Savings Ends	4	5 Bazaar Clean Up 7:00 PM	6	7 King's Books 7:00 PM	8	9
10 Sangha Service 10 AM	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Eitaikyo Service 10 AM Coffee Hour	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Sangha Service 10 AN Post Bazaar Mtg after ser Dharma School Teachers Seminar, 12:30 PM	vice 	26	27	28	29	30
		*Dece	mber 2	019		
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Sangha Service 10 AM	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Bodhi Day Service by Lotus Class 10 AM General Mtg 10:45 AM	9	10	11	12 King's Books 7:00 PM	13	14
15 Sangha Service 10 AM Coffee Hour	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Sangha Service 10 AM Temple Clean Up	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Sangha Service 10 AM	30	31 Year End Ser. 7:00 PM	1-Jan New Year's Ser. 10:00 AM	2	3	

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