



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)

March 2024

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



Our Perceptions, Our Reality

Rev. Tadao Koyama

Happy March everyone! We had a very busy two first months of the year. I would first like to thank all of the Tacoma Sangha for their dedication to the Dharma and their willingness to help our sister temple, Seattle Betsuin, in their time of need! I was able to visit the temple recently and saw the Hondo and the main building totally stripped down to its wood planks! While the sight was somewhat unsettling at first, it also means that there is definite progress in the renovation and reconstruction of the temple.

When we see our temple buildings, we are so used to how they look on the weekly basis we go. However, when the context or the situation changes, it can cause a lot of anxiety and stress! This is because we are bonbu, or unenlightened beings. It is hard for any of us to accept change as it comes, or for us to see reality for what it is. When seeing Seattle Betsuin in a different state than I am used to, I too also had a sense of unease.

The reality of the situation though, is that a temple is more than just the mere structure or adornments of the building. While many of these aspects of the building could be gone forever, they can still be replaced and given anew. It is also the reality that a temple is the community that comes to it. Don't misunderstand me, the building and structure are absolutely necessary for a temple to exist. Yet, if it did not have the compassionate, caring, and kind community who goes there every weekend, what good is a building alone?

We must always remember the most important aspect of a building is the people who come in to utilize the space, and what they are utilizing the space for. The building's purpose is to be a center for gathering so that we can all listen to, study, and engage with the Buddhist teachings handed down to us from generation to generation.

It is a totally valid emotion to be angry, upset, and scared for what transpired at our sister temple. All of us, surrounding the temple went through this type of anxiety. At the same time, however, we immediately went into help and support mode. Our first instinct was to reach out to our friends and make sure that they were okay and ask if there was anything we could do.

This is because there is a recognition that all of us are travelers of the Dharma. All of us say Namō Amida Butsu. I don't mean to say that we should only help Jodo Shinshu members, but to say that us having a common bond in the Dharma helps us to feel our fellow nembutsu travelers' sense of being. It is important for us to recognize at first that a building is more than just a building, it's also the people who come to the building. Yet for that very same reason, the building is of vital importance and is needed.

I thank all of our sanghas for showing sincere solidarity and a desire to continue to walk the path of the Dharma together.

President's Message



The arson fire that took place at the Seattle Betsuin on New Year's Eve was indeed a devastating and unfortunate occurrence. Unreplaceable temple records and mementos were lost, and the rebuilding and recovery that must occur will take months, if not years. The disruption for the temple ministers, employees and sangha is profound. When occurrences like this happen to us, as either a group or personally, it is natural to see them in a wholly negative light. This can be due to the wide reaching impacts of the fire, and of the immediate outcomes, we see.

For this reason, it was striking to me that even through the unfortunate context of events; sitting in a recent service, I was witnessing some positive impacts of the fire. A connectedness and sense of sharing between our area temples beyond what has taken place in recent years. Our temple pews more full than they have been in years. There was a joint Seattle-Tacoma YBA Mochi making taking place in our social hall. Our recent coffee hour was larger and livelier than it has ever been. Furthermore, our BWA has invited Seattle's BWA to join them for their New Year's party to what promises to be a large shared gathering.

For years we have talked about our temples doing more together, but it took the unfortunate instance of Seattle Betsuin's fire to make this interconnectedness a reality.

Gassho,
John

Buddhist Women's Association News



Announcement: Virtual Community Fundraiser for Federation of Buddhist Women's Association

When

Friday, April 12, 2024

Place your order for pickup or delivery on Friday, April 12

Where

Available at Panda Express Express locations nationwide.
www.pandaexpress.com

How

Online orders only
Apply code **920186** in the fundraiser Code Box during check at out
www.pandaexpress.com
or via the App

28% of sales will be donated to the FBWA to raise money for the 2024 FBWA Conference October 4-6, 2024, in San Jose, CA

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

March 17 – Dharma School Cooking Class

March 23 – Daifuku Mochi preparation day for BWA Memorial – 9 am

March 24 – BWA Memorial Service honoring Lady Takeko Kujo and Lady Yoshiko Ohtani

April 14 – 8 am Decorate Hanamido (April/May/June BWA toban group)

Calendar update: the May 5th Cards & Correspondence event will be rescheduled so members can attend the Sumi-e session. Stay tuned for information on the new date and time!

Two other events to start planning for later in 2024:

September 13-15, 2024 - NW District Buddhist Convention, hosted by White River Buddhist Temple

October 4-6, 2024 - Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations (FBWA) Conference in San Jose, CA

In Gassho,
Denise Cline, Tacoma BWA President

Dharma School News



I would like to welcome our new DS students, **Charlie** and **Jamie**. Both will be in Maitreya Class. We are very excited to have you!



Thank you, Lotus Class, for running classes for Lumbini and Maitreya on February 18th. It was wonderful to see them work together.

Looking ahead, we will have a **BWA cooking class** on March 17th in the kitchen downstairs. Please come prepared to learn a new recipe! Thank you, BWA, for providing our DS with this annual event.

There will be a **joint DS with Seattle Betsuin** here in the Temple after the Joint Spring Ohigan service on March 24th. After DS class, we will head out to Tower Lanes (6323 6th Ave, Tacoma, WA 98406) for a lunch/bowling social. The details are TBD.

Hanamatsuri will be on **April 14th**. Each class will make a presentation on stage. Please start planning what you would like to show the Sangha. DS is also in charge of setting and cleaning up the potluck.

TBT's main fundraising event, **Sukiyaki**, is April 21st. **ALL** DS students are asked to help out with this event. Please reach out to me or Coco Inoue if you are able to help.

March-April Dharma School Schedule:

March	3	DS Regular DS Class
	10	DS Regular DS Class
	17	DS All DS (BWA cooking class)
	24	DS Joint DS Class/Bowling Social with Seattle Betsuin DS
	31	DS Regular DS Class
April	7	DS Regular DS Class
	14	DS Hanamatsuri presentation by class; set/clean up - potluck
	21	NO DS Sukiyaki (participation counts towards attendance)
	28	DS Regular DS Class

If there are any changes in the future, we will contact you via email.

In Gassho,
Junko & Coco



Young Buddhist Association News



Hello all!

I hope everyone is having a great start to March, I know I'm excited for spring to arrive already! Anyways, there are a few things happening with your YBA currently that you are about to read. Firstly, we plan on inviting the Jr. YBA from Seattle to experience the Joint Service/ Dharma School and Bowling Social on the 24th. I know that this kind of meshes with Dharma school stuff, but I feel like it's still kind of considered YBA. Secondly, YBA is very excited to help in whatever we can during the upcoming Sukiyaki fundraiser on April 21st! Lastly, I don't know how many of you reading this read the last YBA Myokyo article, but just to touch base again, the YBA members have made a unanimous decision in a recent vote to donate all of our \$520 proceeds from the Season Greetings and Holiday Wishes fundraiser to the Seattle Betsuin Temples fire relief. Anywho, I think that's all for now for YBA matters, I hope you all have a great month and I look forward to writing to you all next month!

Gassho,
Nao:)

Buddhist Education Committee News



Hello, everyone! I'd like to start off by acknowledging special events that are coming up this month. First, we have the BWA cooking class with Dharma School on Sunday, March 17th after service followed by the BWA Daifuku Mochi making on Saturday, March 23rd. That same weekend on Sunday, March 24th, we will have our Joint-Spring Ohigan and BWA Memorial Service, so please make sure to mark your calendars for these upcoming events.

This past month I have personally made it a goal to think more intentionally about why I do specific things. For example, why do I drink coffee every morning? Do I feel the need to have caffeine to wake myself up? Or do I simply enjoy the taste? There is no right or wrong answer to a lot of these questions but I find it powerful to recognize these thoughts and really think about how it affects the things that I do.

Recently I have been thinking about what it means to be a young adult who grew up going to temple and who continues to do so. What motivates me to keep coming back? Why do I continue to do this specific thing? As I ponder about that question, I realize that there is no definite answer and even within other young adults or people like myself, our answers may differ because of our unique experiences. For myself, what compels me to remain involved in the temple is the sense of community and wanting to give back to the community that has helped shape who I am today.

I hope that you also take a moment to think about what motivates you to come to temple. Once you have come up with an answer and feel comfortable sharing, I urge you to chat about it at our next coffee hour on Sunday, March 10th. If you are unable to attend our coffee hour this month, they are held on the second Sunday of each month, and we look forward to seeing you sometime.

In gassho,
Kenzo



Facility Committee Update



Our temple's Facility Committee is always on the lookout for inspired expressions of words and visual art. No, we are not curators. On rare occasions, we are in the censorship business. So, after someone tagged the temple's back wall with graffiti, their creation was painted over and erased. Of course, as we learn in Buddhism, the result will most likely be temporary. But there's one thing a coat of paint won't fix: a set of jumbled electrical cords. They draw Gremlins like cat hairs to a wool coat. Now the most meticulous individual can look in the temple's foyer and appreciate the neatly organized electrical cords.



Lynrae Hubbell sure doesn't whistle Dixie as she scouts for debris along Fawcett Avenue and Court D Street. With Spring around the corner, Rick Tanabe, Delbert Sasaki and Jeff Hiroo's itchy garden tool trigger fingers are ready for some action. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, and Del Sasaki are geared up to attack facility issues, large and small.

~Dave

Toban News

Upcoming Dates



March 3	Chanting workshop after service
March 10	Coffee Hour
March 16	Spirit, Mind, & Body - Yoga 9 AM
March 17	Board Meeting, 8:30, BWA Cooking Class w/DS

March 23 BWA Daifuku Mochi Making – 9 AM

March 24 Spring Ohigan with Seattle, White River, Tacoma, BWA Memorial Service/Lady Kujo & Ohtani

April 14 Hanamatsuri Service, Potluck to follow – DS hosts

April 14 Board Meeting, 8:30, No coffee hour

April 20 Sukiyaki Prep

April 21 Sukiyaki Fundraiser

April 28 Spirit, Mind, & Body, Meditation 11:00 AM

May 5 Spirit, Mind, & Body - Sumi-e w/ Lois Yoshida

May 12 Coffee Hour

May 18 Spring Seminar, Spirit, Mind, & Body - Yoga 9:00 AM

May 19 Board Meeting, 8:30

COFFEE HOUR UPDATES: Toban Chairs - **March 10** (Kaila Yoshitomi), **April 14 No Coffee Hour** (Henry Stoll & Wendy Hamai), **May 12** (Kevin & Mayumi Ikeda)

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.

****OTHER MARCH TOBAN CLEAN UP DUTIES:** Set up clean up times with April Toban of the Temple (clean windows and dust windowsills, Sukiyaki duties (see below) Hanamatsuri activities (TBA)

****OTHER APRIL TOBAN CLEAN UP DUTIES:** Set up clean up times with March Toban of the Temple, dust and vacuum pews, Sukiyaki duties (see below), Hanamatsuri activities (TBA)

**** OTHER MAY TOBAN CLEAN UP DUTIES:** Set up times with June Toban to the temple, Dust and vacuum pews

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.**

Event Reminder: Sukiyaki, Hanamatsuri

MARCH/APRIL - Sukiyaki Responsibilities - Tobans to provide small lunch on Saturday, April 20th for volunteers, leftovers will be used on Sunday, April 21, in the Rev. Pratt room for workers.

MARCH/APRIL - Hanamatsuri Responsibilities (TBA)

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

MARCH TOBAN

Kaila Yoshitomi
Kenzo Yoshitomi
Al & Donna Sasaki
Karen Yoshitomi
Kazuko Inoue
Rose Kishi
Ed & Kimiko Fujinaga
Ted Matsumoto

APRIL TOBAN

Henry Stoll & Wendy Hamai
Rui Pittman & Victoria Evert
Gail Ichinaga
Les Hitsman & Fred Pelger
Anita Nakayama
Michiko Saito

MAY TOBAN

Kevin & Mayumi Ikeda
Masahiro Sugano
Rachel Meatte
Debbie Abe
Erik Hammerstrom
Elsie Taniguchi
Kosho & Michiko Yukawa
Akemi Ikeda

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND HELP WITH OUR TEMPLE.
Tracy Ling/Michael Shiogi

Library News

Can't make it to the Book Club? Check out the selections in our library.



Zen And The Art of Saving The Planet - Thich Nhat Hanh
When I'm Gone, Look For Me In the East - Quan Barry
Standing At The Edge - Joan Halifax
The Buddhist on Death Row - David Sheff

Start a conversation with readers from the Book Club.
Jane

Greeter's List

March	3	Del Sasaki/Patti Wong
	10	Jeff Hiroo/Coco Inoue
	17	Kara O'Toole/Kt Hendrie
	24	Mike Shiogi/Debby Abe
	31	Barry/June Weled
April	7	Mayumi/Kevin Ikeda
	14	Lynn Blick/Tracy Ling
	21	Sukiyaki Fundraiser
	28	David Yotsuuye/Bobby Yotsuuye
May	5	Jim Doyle/David Campbell



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)
- ½-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

Memorial Service Years for 2024

1st Year - 2023

3rd Year - 2022

7th Year - 2018

13th Year - 2012

17th Year - 2008

25th Year - 2000

33rd Year - 1992

50th Year - 1975



March 2024

25th Year Molly Takako Asahara

33rd Year Fumiko Hanson

March 8, 2000

March 19, 1992

April 2024

3rd Year Kim Kawada-Schauer

3rd Year Tom Osaka

17th Year Takeshi Ikeda

17th Year Irene Ichiko Fujioka

April 2, 2022

April 19, 2022

April 10, 2008

April 26, 2008

May 2024

No May Memorials



Welcome New Members!!



The Izumizaki family moved here from the Bay Area over eight years ago. Michelle grew up in Sacramento and Eddie grew up in Albany/Berkeley in California. They moved to Gig Harbor where Eddie's parents still reside shortly after Jamie was born. They love the PNW and raising their family here.

They visited the Tacoma Buddhist Temple's community events in the past and have always appreciated what it provides for the community. They always found volunteers and temple members very welcoming, which is a big part of them choosing to become members.

Eddie is a realtor and Michelle works in Washington State legislative affairs. If anyone in the Temple or the Sanga has any questions about real estate or legislative bills and laws in Washington

state, they'd be happy to help. They would also like us to know that they are a pretty food-centric family.



Issho Open Taiko (IOT) is an opportunity to learn beginning level taiko, have fun and play together.

Known for 12 years as "**Open Taiko**", "**Issho**" has been added to capture the spirit of these sessions.

Sessions occur monthly. Periodically, there are 3-4 session weekly workshops to focus on learning more taiko skills and longer songs for those interested.

Participants (public and TBT members) have ranged in age from teens to 80. IOT is an informal taiko education and "hands on" program without a requirement for regular attendance.

For more information and to register for a session, contact *Wendy Hamai* at (253) 678-2891 or wfhamai@rainierconnect.com

Donations gratefully accepted by Tacoma Buddhist Temple for sponsorship of this program.

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

Yoga For Compassion: Saturday – March 16, May 18



Please join this gentle seated yoga class for all levels of experience and all ages. You will learn the benefits of yoga practice and experience connecting movement and breath. To participate in person at the Tacoma Buddhist Temple social hall, use the alley entrance. 8:45 kitchen door opens; 9:00 am start. To join via Zoom, please email Tracy Ling for the form. **To register:** please email info@tacomabt.org for registration information.

Chanting Techniques of the Shoshin-ge with Rev. Koyama: Sunday, Mar 3



Have you ever been curious about the chants that we recite at Sunday service at Tacoma Buddhist Temple? Join Rev. Tadao Koyama, a certified chanting expert of Nishi Hongwanji, and explore the Shoshin-ge, one of the most important chants in our tradition. In this one-hour workshop you will learn the history of chanting in Buddhism and how it fits in our tradition today. You will also chant a special version of the Shoshin-ge that is saved special services. Rev. Koyama believes that chanting can be both engaging, and fun!

Meditation with Kjirsten Winters: Sunday, April 28



Kjirsten Winters has attended TBT with her children since 2017 and is an active Dharma School teacher. She works locally as an occupational therapist in pediatric and mental health settings. She enjoys yoga, making art, and travelling. Kjirsten loves the temple most for its inclusive attitude, the history and the amazing community-especially for what it provides for children.

Kjirsten is bringing her experience with kundalini yoga to the Spirit, Mind and Body series. This will include some simple seated movements (kriya), breathwork (pranayama), hand positions (mudra) and chanted meditation (mantra). The closing meditation will be accompanied by a resonant gong. By incorporating all of these processes into the body, we will naturally arrive at a calmer, more uplifted state of mind in the end.

Sumi Painting with Artist Lois Yoshida: Sunday May 5



Lois Yoshida is an award-winning artist with work in private collections in Washington, California, Maine and Hawaii. Raised in the temple, she brings her deep connection and will share her talent in capturing the essence of a subject. Join her after service and learn how brush and ink are both simple and complex. \$5 donation. For more in on Lois visit <https://sumi.org/lois-yoshida/>



Book Club
Thursday, March 14

@ KING's Books

How to do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy
Jenny Odell

*March 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3 Sunday service 10 AM Dharma School after service Chanting Workshop after service	4	5	6	7	1 8	2 9
10 Sunday service 10 AM Dharma School after service Coffee Hour 11 AM	11	12	13 Study class via Zoom at 6 PM	14 Book Club King's Books 7:00 PM	15	16 Yoga For Compassion 9 AM Temple Social Hall Taught by Kara O'Toole
17 Board meeting at 8:30 AM Sunday Service 10 AM BWA cooking class with DS	18 Myokyo Deadline	19	20	21	22	23 BWA Daifuku Mochi making 9 AM
24 Joint- Spring Ohigan Service BWA Memorial/Lady Kujo & Lady Ohtani 10 AM	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Sunday Service 10 AM Dharma School after service						

*April 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Sunday service 10 AM Dharma School after service	8	9	10 Study class via Zoom at 6 PM	11 Book Club King's Books 7:00 PM	12	13 **LAST DAY TO ORDER FOR SUKIYAKI**
14 Board Meeting 8:30 AM Hanamatsuri Service 10 AM Potluck to follow No Coffee Hour	15 Myokyo Deadline	16	17	18	19	20 Sukiyaki Prep
21 Sukiyaki Fundraiser Dine In: 11 AM - 1:30 PM Drive Thru: 2 PM - 4 PM No Service/Dharma School	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Sunday Service 10 AM Dharma School after service 11 AM Meditation with Kjirsten Winters	29	30				