



Tacoma Buddhist Temple



(Jodo Shinshu)

タコマ 仏教会 (浄土真宗) 1717 S. Fawcett Ave., Tacoma, WA 98402-1706 <u>TEL:</u> (253) 627-1417

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明鏡

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

March 2020

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

Miyaji

Transformation of the Self

Rev. Takashi



One time when I was a young boy, I went on a trip to Japan with my Japanese school. I was very excited to go to Japan, but I was also pretty frustrated with all of the things that the organizers of the trip said we had to attend. I was complaining that there was not enough free time. On the plane trip over there, I remember an episode where the teachers forgot that we were going to visit the atomic bomb museum and peace memorial in Hiroshima, and that we were supposed to bring 1,000 paper crane *origami* as a tribute to the memorial. The teachers frantically ordered every student to make about 300 or so cranes each. It is at that point that I lost it.

I got really mad and complained, "Why do we have to make these cranes and they should have told us to do this a long time ago! Now look, we have to make these stupid cranes on the airplane ride over there and I can't enjoy my time! I want to watch this movie, I want to sleep and talk to my friends!" and on and on my complaining went. I looked over to my best friend and asked him, "Why aren't you as mad as you should be? This is outrageous!" He turns to me calmly and says, "It's really not that big of a deal. In the time you spent wasting energy on complaining, I made like...ten cranes. Just calm down and they will get done," which is really weird that he said that, because he's usually the fiery one in the group. But at that point, he was very calm and indeed, finishing his cranes.

Awakening to our egocentric self is similar to this situation. It is so easy to get caught up in this idea of "me, me, me!" and become full of ourselves in all sorts of different ways. It really does take a slap in the face by another person, to wake us up and be aware of the situation we are in. The *Gomonshu*, or current head priest

of our denomination, states the following relevant quote. He writes, "The spiritual enlightenment of eradicating blind passions might be an almost impossible goal to reach, but not being attached to blind passions is essentially the same thing (*Moving Forward Just as You Are*, 65)." What this means is that cutting-off our attachments altogether is next to impossible. However, becoming aware of this egocentric self of blind passions and not becoming so attached to it is essentially the same thing. When we become aware that there is a problem in the first place, we now know what kind of situation we are in. From here we can work towards mitigating the problem as best as we can.

When we put this into the context of Shin Buddhist ethics, this kind of transformation of the self helps us to see the outside world in a different way. Many people are unaware of their ignorance altogether. However, when we do awaken to our state of ignorance, in other words our egocentricity, that is the transformation in ourselves that Buddhism is referring to. Now we see that the battle is not with me and someone else, or with some group of people, or some ideology. Rather, the battle begins and ends with myself. This ironically, makes us softer and gentler ultimately towards ourselves and other people, because we see just how powerful our egocentricity is and what it is capable of doing. Indeed, it is next to impossible to extinguish our blind passions. But if we become aware of the situation that we are engulfed in blind passions, we can become calm, collected, and humble in how we engage with our lives. In fact, we will come to see that our helplessness in ignorance becomes the very source in which we find deep meaning in our lives. Shin Buddhist ethics begins with this kind of transformation of the self. Namo Amida Butsu.

首義の「転」に向かう

ねがまだ中学生の時に起きた話です。ある夏、ねが通っていた日本語学校から日本に旅行をする ことになりました。日本に行くことは楽しみでしたが、日程表を見ますと、毎日の予定が忙しすぎ てフリータイムがないのではないかと思ってガッカリしていました。さらに、日本に向かっている 流行機の中で、先生方が生徒たちに次のようにアナウンスしたのです。広島の原爆ドームと平和公園 に行くため、ギ羽鶴を作らなければならなかったのですが、そのことを皆に伝えるのを忘れてしま っていたのですみませんが、流行機の中で300値ずつの折り鶴を作ってください、と言われたので す。それを聞いて私は大変腹が立ちました。「なぜ僕たちが作らないといけないんだ!僕たちに作 ってもらいたかったら前から言うべきだったでしょう!楽しい飛行機の中で何でこんなことをやらさ れないといけないんだ!」と怒りながら文句を言い続けました。そして隣に座っていた友人に対し ても、「お箭は荷でもっと怒らないんだ?こんなことあり得ないじゃん!」と言いました。すると微 は静かに次のように答えました。「そんなに大したことないでしょう。若が完からずっと文グ言っ てるけど、その間、俺は鶴を10値も作ったよ」と今まで見たことのないクールさで言いました。 彼し従ったんたんと鶴を折っていました。

れなくなる世界のことなのでしょう。」これはどういう意味なのかと言いますと、煩悩を切り捨てる ことは大変難しいかも知れないが、煩悩による自己中心的な自分がいると分かって、それにできる だけこだわらないということなのでしょう。まず自分の中に問題があるということに気づかなければ なりません。そして自分の本当の姿が分かって、そこから少しでもその問題を緩和しようとするこ とができるのです。

このことを真宗倫理という課題に当てはめて考えますと、このような首三の「転回」によって世の やを違う視点から見ることができるようになるのであります。世界の多くの人たちは、この首義の題 かさというものに気づいていないのです。あるいは気づこうとしないのです。しかし、この本当の 首分の姿を分かること、つまりこの首三中心的な自分がいると知ることが、現代の世界倫理を考 えるときに最も必要なものとなるのではないでしょうか。そしてこのことが仏教の「転」の教えで あります。この立場に立ちますと、他人や首分たちとは違う他のグループ、または何か私したちとは 違う考えなどの問題があっても、それをすぐさま間違いだと決めつけてやっつけるのではないので す。実は、本当に大事なことは首分にあるのだということが分かるようになるのです。これが「転」 です。これを分かることによって、本思議なことに、首分や他人に対しても柔らかな首で見ることが 奇能となるのです。なぜかと言えば、首我の「エゴ」というものがいかに強くて尼介なものなのかが 分かるからであります。

th mに、 煩悩を切り捨てることは 難 しいことです。 しかし、そのように 煩悩を滅してしまおうとす るのではなく、 煩悩が満ち満ちている存在が自分であるということに 気づけば、 自分というものに対 して落ち着いて観ることができ、他人のこともゆっくり 考えることができるようになるのです。 む しろ、 この 煩悩に 追いつくことができないというような 焦燥感 こそが、そのままこの 人生の 深い う 意味を見出すツールとなるのであります。 なので、 真宗倫理はこの 自我の「 転」というものからはじ まると言っていいのであります。 合掌。

	FUTURE SCHEDULE
(Sun) March 1	Sukiyaki Dinner fundraiser – No Service
(Tues) March 3	Sukiyaki Clean up - 7 PM
(Thur) March 12	Book Club-King's Books - 7 PM
(Sun) March 15	Spring Ohigan and Lady Takeko Kujo/Lady Yoshiko Ohtani/BWA Memorial Service - 10 AM
(Sun) March 22	DS/Sangha Service - 10 AM, Coffee hour to follow
(Sat) April 4	Omigaki - 10 AM, Cleaning the Onaijin Adornments
(Sun) April 5	HANAMATSURI - 10 AM, potluck lunch to follow

President's Message





Condolences to Ichiro Nakayama's Family and Friends

My deepest condolence goes out to Ichiro Nakayama's family and friends. Mr. Nakayama supported the Temple with generous donations for his farm. We are very grateful to Mr. Nakayama and his family. He was part of our Nisei generation that has very few members remaining.

Sukiyaki Lunch Fund Raiser

By the time you read this we will have had our Sukiyaki Fund raiser on March 1. Thank you to co-chairs Lynne and Ken Tanino and all the volunteers that help make this another successful event.

73rd Annual Northwest District Convention and BCA National Council Meeting

I hope you had the chance to attend the 73rd Annual Northwest Convention. It is an opportunity to meet members and Ministers from other Temples and to renew friendships. If you were not able to attend, please plan on attending future conventions. Beginning in 2021, the Convention date will move from February to September. This is being done to, hopefully, have better weather during the Convention. In 2021, Portland is hosting, date is September 17-19. In 2022, Ontario will be hosting, September 16-18. In 2023, Tacoma is the host and we have a tentative date of September 15-17 at the Double Tree in Tukwila. Please reserve these dates and I hope you will be able to attend.

The BCA National Council Meeting was held in conjunction with the NWD Convention. I'll have updates in the next Myokyo. One item was approving the selection of Rev. Marvin Harada from Orange County Buddhist Church as the next BCA Bishop.

Gassho, David

Buddhist Women's Association News



I want to begin with a very warm greeting and to thank all of you for the years of encouragement, support and kindness you have extended to me since I first became a member of Tacoma Buddhist Temple. I am honored for the opportunity to serve the temple and all of you as President of the BWA. I look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible to help guide and teach me.

On January 26th the BWA celebrated our annual New Year's Luncheon in the temple Social Hall. The hardworking Toban members tasked with this year's celebration treated us to a delightful luncheon that was beautifully planned and decorated. Thank you to all that participated in the planning and preparations as well as to everyone that joined us for this fun annual event. Please enjoy a glimpse of the festivities in the photos.

At halfway through the month, the bins are overflowing for the **BEC and BWA** pet food, supplies and towel drive in honor of our "Pet Memorial" service **February 9th**! Items collected will be given to the Humane Society of Tacoma/Pierce County and Sunny Sky's Animal Rescue. Thank you for your donations!

We will be making **daifuku mochi on Saturday, March 14**th for **Ohigan**. We will begin at 8:00 AM and be done before noon. The daifuku mochi are shared with the sangha the following day after the BWA Memorial Service.



Our first 2020 <u>General Meeting will be Sunday, March 8th</u> after service in the Rev. Pratt room. *Please mark your calendars.* The 2020 January-February-March Toban will provide a light lunch. Speaking of the General Meeting: if you have thoughts or ideas for our annual Bento Fundraiser or our annual bus trip, please let me know. I would value your ideas and suggestions as I look forward to getting started on the planning for these events.

Lastly, if you haven't already done so, please remember to send your BWA 2020 dues. BWA Membership dues remain at \$12 and can be mailed to the temple or handed to Patti Wong or myself. Let me know if you need the 2020 BWA Toban and calendar booklet.

Save these dates:

March 8	BWA General Meeting after service – Lunch provided by Jan/Feb/Mar toban
March 14	Daifuku mochi making – 8:00 AM
March 15	BWA Memorial Service and Lady Takeko Kujo and Lady Yoshiko Ohtani
April 4	Hanamido decoration (April/May/June Toban group)
April 5	Hanamatsuri/Temple Potluck dinner – BWA hosts

Gassho, Denise Cline

Young Buddhist Association News





Greeting to everyone, as winter comes to a close, spring is quickly approaching with its warm weather. And, with this several events come to the forefront. First, in February we had George and Ezra go and attend a YBA camp retreat for a weekend. And at the end of the month we are having the wonderful annual Northwest Convention where many YBA members will be attending.

This next month brings up Sukiyaki where we cannot wait to have wonderful meals as well as volunteer with all of the other temple members. With the following Sunday the YBA will be teaching an all-encompassing class for the whole Dharma School with a wonderful project in store for all the students to participate in.

We cannot wait to see everyone at Sukiyaki, Convention, as well as seeing everyone at our class in early March

Gassho, Ryan Ling

Dharma School News





Happy Belated New Year and Happy Belated New Decade!!

In November 1926, under the leadership of Rev. Yudo Komatsu, our first Sunday School with 9 children was formed! This decade, under the guidance of Rev. Dr. Miyaji, we will celebrate **100** *years as a Dharma School!*

It is going to be a new direction for me this year as your Dharma School Superintendent. I appreciate the confidence that both David Yotsuuye and Rev. Dr. Miyaji have in me to guide our Dharma School organization this coming year.

The students enjoyed participating and eating at our **Annual Mochi Tsuki** January 19. Masa Sugano explained the cultural aspect of the pounding of the mochi gome with the help of Nori Kimura, Kenzuke Shimizu, David Yotsuuye (turner), Bobby and Junko Yotsuuye (organizers), Tracy Ling and myself (squeezers). All the students had the opportunity to pound the mochi gome and 'massage' the mochi, filling some with 'an' (sweetened bean paste) and eating some with shoyu-sugar or kinako-sugar or nori. It was a fun, cultural, tasty time for everyone!!

Thank you, Temple Board for funding our Dharma School program and for supporting all Dharma School teachers' and my registration to attend the **NW Buddhist Convention**. All Dharma School students' registration are fully funded by our Dharma School treasury. Teachers and students are required to attend *all* workshops, meals and services to be fully reimbursed *after* the convention. I will also attend the annual Northwest District Dharma School Teachers' League meeting and will report back any district news to our staff.

I look forward to getting back into 'teacher' mode and appreciate Donna Sasaki and the DS teachers for their guidance and encouragement to make Dharma School an inviting and enjoyable place for our students.

"Student of the Month"



My name is Ezra. I am 15 in grade 9. My favorite character is R2D2 because he's a funny robot. I love sushi!!! I like the book "<u>Dune</u>" by Frank Herbert. One thing I'd like to learn is sound design. My dream is to be a producer! My role model is MC Ride who is a rapper/singer for the band Death Grips. He is my hero because I want to make music like he does and the genre of music he makes is some of my favorite! My recent 'kind moment' was when I chaired service so no one else had to!! :) One thing I like about the Temple is the people. I am grateful to my parents because they take care of me.

In ten words or less, to describe Rev. Miyaji: A compassionate DJ!

Thank you, Ezra. Glad to know you better!

Gassho, June Akita

Buddhist Education Committee News





It's a Sunday morning and I opted out of going to the Temple today. I went to bed last night with a tickle in my throat and woke up with a runny nose, a cough and achiness all over. So, I will probably spend most of my day just laying around in a pair of sweats and a t-shirt. It will also be my goal today to have appreciation and gratitude for what will help make me the most comfortable; heat, plumbing, electricity, a comfortable bed and yes!.... a brand new bottle of Vicks Nyquil.

If you know Les and me very well, you know that we have two dogs: Poncho and Shu-Mai. Poncho is about fifteen, he is diabetic, blind and needs an insulin injection twice a day. It requires a lot of time, energy and money to keep him alive. Shu-Mai is going on seventeen; he is deaf and has extreme dementia. It takes much patience and energy to keep him going also. He gets lost behind doors, stands and just stares at walls and even forgets to eat. At the moment, the only thing he likes is turkey drumstick meat. Sometimes the only way to get him to eat it is to hand feed him small bits at a time.

I like to think they feel some gratitude for receiving what makes and keeps them the most comfortable. In reality however, I'm pretty certain that as dogs, they don't really have the rational to feel gratitude.... but who knows? Regardless, even with all the work and attention these two boys need, I am grateful that they have been a big part of my life.

In the beautiful gatha Ondokusan, the words go as follows:

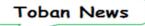
The debt of gratitude I owe to Amida's great Compassion, I will proclaim until my life disintegrates into dust.

The debt of gratitude I owe to my Dharma teachers, I will express until my bodily form is finally shattered.

Living with a sense of gratitude can sure make living a lot more comfortable and a lot more enjoyable, even when you're sick in bed.

Let me just wrap this up by saying how grateful the Buddhist Education Committee is for having the opportunity to plan and present great religious services. We have some fantastic speakers scheduled for this year and we hope to see each one of you at these speaking events.

With Love and Gassho, Fred Pelger; BEC chair.



Upcoming Dates:

- March 1 –
- March 3 –
- March 15 -Service

March 22 –

- April 5 Hanamatsuri Service & Potluck
- April 19 Coffee hour

March Toban News



Sukiyaki 11am – 3pm Sukivaki cleanup – 7pm Ohigan Service/Lady Takeko Kujo, Lady Yoshiko Ohtani/BWA Memorial

- Coffee hour
- **Update:** The Toban Committee formed a subcommittee to evaluate the Toban administration process to make improvements and provide transparency for Toban chairs and Temple members. We will be making announcements as new updates are made regarding tips and tricks for cleanup, documentation on where cleanup supplies and tools are kept and what the Toban chair responsibilities are. If you have any suggestions or ideas for improvements, please reach out to any of the Toban subcommittee members. Your input is greatly appreciated!

Subcommittee: Crystal Inge, Donna Sasaki, Lynne Tanino, Barry Weled & Kaila Yoshitomi

March, April & May 2020 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.

March 2020	April 2020	May 2020
**Brett Johnson & Megumi	**Kjirsten Winters	**Kenzo Yoshitomi
Azekawa		
Merilee Tanbara	Chikako Inoue	Kaila Yoshitomi
June & Jerry Akita	Richard & Tracy Ling	Karen Yoshitomi
Cheryl Kanda	June & Barry Weled	Shinobu & Kazuko Inoue
Joshua & Yoshino Kretchmar	Ellen Shigeno	Alvin & Donna Sasaki
Erin Shen	Frank Shigio (email Jeanette Hirano)	Shizuka Faria
Tets & Martha Tamaki	Peter Lee	Allan & Rose Kishi (email Karen Yoshitomi)
Thelma Abe (call)		Ed & Kimiko Fujinaga
Sam Shimizu		Sam Uchiyama
Miyo Kanda (email Cheryl Kanda)		

March Group Responsibilities:

- Monthly clean-up for March and April
- Wash windows and dust railings around windows
- Sukiyaki Dinner: Setup/cleanup/provide snacks for Saturday the day before Sukiyaki
- Hanamatsuri: Help with set up and clean up with BWA. Set up tables and chairs.
- Coffee hour

April Group Responsibilities:

- Monthly clean-up for March and April
- Sukiyaki Dinner: Setup/cleanup/provide snacks for Sunday- the day of Sukiyaki
- Hanamatsuri: Help with set up and clean up with BWA. Set up tables and chairs.
- Dust and vacuum pews in Hondo
- Coffee hour

May Group Responsibilities:

- Monthly clean-up for May and June
- Gotan-E Service & Ochigo: DS children involved. Help if requested
- Parents' Day Luncheon: help YBA as needed.
- Honor high school grads: Dharma School and BWA. Help if requested
- Coffee hour

From Your Facility Committee





Do Chihuahuas make good guard dogs? How about a moat surrounding the temple grounds? As far as I was concerned that two-factor deterrent system was sure to keep the riff raff out. However, my facilities committee associates thought this idea was a prime contender for the Rube Goldberg prize. Some others might have concluded that the DNA of yours truly might look like a broken step ladder. Well it seems we won't get in a pickle with PETA and Tacoma

with all its red tape. David Yotsuuye engineered an elegant solution. He obtained some new padlocks for the temple gates.

Smoky the Bear is really rubbing it in on Smokin' Bear, his pyromaniac twin brother. Our fire extinguishers got recharged and recertified.

Jeff Hiroo and Fred Pelger's contribute their weekly labor of love keeping the dust and dirt at bay. Tom Hubbell continues to ensure that Fawcett Avenue looks great. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, and Del Sasaki provide critical support in maintaining our temple. Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens provide a premium level of expertise in keeping our grounds a sight to behold.

~David

Yearly Memorial Services

General Memorial Service Years for 2019

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



March 2020

1 Year	Fujioka, Tadashi		March 9, 2019
1 Year	Miki, Hisato		March 15, 2019
7 th Year	Jensen, Mitsuko Oku	Shakuni Bi-Sho 美照	March 21, 2014
17 th Year	Nakashima, George Masaru	Shaku Shin-Yu	March 27, 2004
17 th Year	Murakami, Shigeru	Shaku Han-Po	March 31, 2004
33 rd Year	Yamasaki, Kumazo	Shaku Ei-Sho	March 7, 1988
33 rd Year	Fukuyama, Asao	Shaku Myo-Cho	March 7, 1988
33 rd Year	Konishi, Akiye	Shakuni Ji-Ko	March 31, 1988
$50^{\mathrm{th}}\mathrm{Year}$	Kosai, Waki	Shakuni Sei-Myo	March 2, 1971

April 2020

1 Year	Yoshioka, Robert	Shaku Myō-Kaku	明覚	April 17, 2019
13^{th} Year	Ikeda, Takeshi	Shaku Sho-Do		April 10, 2008
13 th Year	Fujioka, Irene Ichiko	Shakuni Bi-Sen		April 26, 2008
17 th Year	Nakao, George Eichi	Shaku Ei-Ho		April 29, 2004
33 rd Year	Osaki, Tatsuo	Shaku Ryu-Sho		April 11, 1988
50 th Year	Komoto, Nobuji	Shaku Jun-Sei		April 17, 1971

May 2020

33 rd Year	Arima, Yoshito	Shaku Jun-Nin	April 26, 1988
	,		1 <i>i</i>

Monthly Book Club *Buddhism Today!* **April 9 (Th) at 7pm at Kings Books** Featured Book: *Buddhist Caring for the Dying and Bereaved* Watts and Tomatsu

Library News

for your support!

Are you interested in what Jesus and Buddha have in common?

Jesus and Buddha The Parallel Sayings

by Marcus Borg is in the library

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.

March	1	Sukiyaki Fundraiser - No Service
	8	Alex Theisen & Jeff Hiroo
	15	Jim Doyle & Tony Gregg
	22	Lynrae Hubbell & Tom Hubbell
	29	Yasuko Morita & June Weled
April	5	Crystal & John Inge
	12	Michael Shiogi & Gavin Morgan
	19	Ken Tanino & Coco Inoue
	26	David Yotsuuye & Bobby Yotsuuye
May	3	Denise Cline & David Campbell
	10	Wendy Hamai & Henry Stoll
	17	Del Sasaki & Rick Tanabe
	24	Kevin & Mayumi Ikeda

31 Tracy & Richard Ling

*Note: A new list has been established. Any questions, please contact Donna Sasaki. <u>The Tacoma Buddhist Temple, and YBA would like to thank the following people for their</u> <u>recent donations:</u>

Installation of Officers - Temple, BWA and DS Superintendent















Sunday, March 1 11am to 3pm

Enjoy traditionally cooked Japanese hot pot along with other specialties such as chicken teriyaki and miso soup.

Dine-in or take-out.

1717 Fawcett Ave, Tacoma, WA 98402

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		*Ma	rch 202	20		
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sukiyaki Lunch 11-3		Sukiyaki clean u	ıp			
No Service		7:00 PM				
8 BEC mtg.	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sangha Service 10 AM				King's Books		Daifuki mochi
BWA mtg. 11:30 AM				7:00 PM		making 8 AM
15	16 Myokyo due	17	18	19	20	21
Sangha Service 10 AM	Gomeinichi 10	AM				
Sp. Ohigan & BWA Mem	orial					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Sangha Service 10 AM						
Coffee Hour						
29	30	31				
Sangha Service 10 AM						
DS Inter-temple Activity						
		*Ap	oril 202	0		
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
						OMIGAKI 10 AM
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
HANAMATSURI 10 AM				King's Books		
Potluck lunch to follow				7:00 PM		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sangha Service 10 AM				Gomeinichi 10 A	AM	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sangha Sandica 10 AM	Myokyo due					
Sangha Service 10 AM Coffee Hour						
Concernou		1				
26	27	28	29	30		
26 Sangha Service 10 AM	27	28	29	30		