



Tacoma Buddhist Temple

(Jodo Shinshu)

タコマ 仏教会 (浄土真宗)

1717 S. Fawcett Ave., Tacoma, WA 98402-1706

TEL: [\(253\) 627-1417](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)

June 2020

Temple Mission Statement *"To offer those in the Pacific Northwest an enduring community that values grace in seeking enlightenment through Japanese Shin Buddhist teachings."*

Sensei's Message

Letting Go and Flexibility

Rev. Takashi Miyaji



I would like to continue with our discussion of Shin Buddhist ethics and what make us Shin Buddhists. Another key feature is learning to let go.

Learning to let go; it's probably one of the hardest things to do in life. Yet letting go is one of the key teachings that Buddhism teaches us. I am trying to start a new tradition within our home. Every year, when it comes time for Bodhi Day, which is observed on December 8th, my family will pick three things to give away to Goodwill or charity or throw away. I got the idea when I saw how much stuff we get on Christmas, so this was a good way to make room for more stuff in our house, recognize a Buddhist holiday, and to remember that material things ultimately don't bring about true happiness. In fact, holding on to things too much brings misery over time. It is a way for us as a family to remember that we have to learn to let go and allocate time for this type of reflection.

In the *Larger Sutra*, the most important Pure Land text for Shinran Shonin, according to the 33rd Vow, those sentient beings who are touched by the Buddha's light will "become soft and gentle in body and mind." What this means is that those who awaken to the truth of the Buddha's teachings, will become gentle towards others and oneself. The individual will have a mind that is more flexible, tolerant, and accepting of others. Why is this so? I believe it is because when one understands the Buddha's teachings, that person understands that much of what causes suffering and pain stems from how much we hold onto our ego selves. When we try to hold onto things: our beliefs, ideas, opinions, as well as our possessions which serve as accessories to our ego (imagine that slick silver Porsche that makes you look cool), that rigidity creates stress within ourselves. We get angry when things don't go the way we want them to. We hold grudges against people who disagree with us or who hurt our ego pride. We get anxious and preoccupied with our things when we feel our possessions might be taken away from us.

But for those who have received the Buddha's wisdom and compassion, these individuals know the nature of the ego self. Nembutsu practitioners know that holding onto things too much is not the natural way of looking at life and that all things must change or pass. They understand that always trying to be in control is simply not realistic, and that they must be able to adapt and adjust to the changing conditions. What is also important to note, is that Nembutsu practitioners know that they *cannot help but* to be attached to their egos. This is the meaning of *bonbu*, the ordinary foolish being.

So, it is not to say that Nembutsu people don't get mad, frustrated, or are humble at all times. It is also certainly not the case that one must be a person who keeps his/her composure in order to be a "good" Buddhist. But as I mentioned above about knowing the nature of the ego self, that means that one understands that the ego tries to be controlling, overbearing, and commandeering. However, if one is shown through the Buddha's teachings that this is the nature of the ego self, that person can be aware of the ego and let go. When we are shown our true nature through reflection prompted by Amida Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion, we can understand that we can let go of our ego selves from time to time. We may forget, and at times we may not want to let go. But every so often when life happens, we remember the importance of letting go. When we do, our hearts and minds become soft and gentle towards ourselves and others. We take things as they come and we know that all things will change. Even though we may not want certain things to change, we know that this is the way life works and there is no sense in trying to fight it by holding on.

I will close by paraphrasing something Bruce Lee said in an interview. He explained that water can flow and crash, and the awesome power of water is that it is formless and it can adapt to the situation. "Be like water my friend," he says. I believe this is true, but it can't be done on our own accord. This is possible only when we receive the Buddha's guiding light. When we receive the world of truth, our hearts and minds become adaptable and flexible, soft and gentle. It becomes resilient and accepting both at the same time. When we awaken to the world of Amida's embracement, we awaken to a world that is much grander than our own ego selves. Gassho.

レディング・ゴーと柔軟性

今日も真宗倫理という課題を続けさせていただきたいと思います。今回のテーマは「レディング・ゴー」と柔軟性のことであります。「レディング・ゴー」つまり自己中心的なところが自分の中にあることを知り、それにこだわらないようにしようという意味であります。これを実践することは非常に難しいことではないかと思いますが、仏教において最も大事な教えの一つでもありますので、それを取り上げてみましょう。

私の家族の間でやり始めたことですが、毎年12月8日の成道会にみんなで自分達が所有するものの中で三つの物を選び、それを寄付するか、有り難く感謝して思いきり捨てることに決めました。このアイデアは毎年クリスマスや忘年会でプレゼントを交換して、家の中に物が増えていく一方であることから思いつきました。物を処分することで家のスペースが空き、仏教の行事を大切にすることもでき、また物だけでは本当の幸せが得ることはできないよと毎年改めて思わせて頂く良い機会となります。家族として「レディング・ゴー」をするというのは大切な教えとなり、それを認識する時間を設けることが必要だと思えるようになりました。

親鸞聖人が一番大切にされた『仏説無量寿経』の中に書かれている第三十三願によりますと、
仏様の光明を受け入れる者は「身心柔軟」になると説明されています。これはどういう意味な
のかと言いますと、真実である仏の教えと出会う者は自分や他人に対して優しくなるということです
。つまりその人は自分と他人に対して受け入れやすくなり、寛容的になるということです。なぜかと
言いますと、仏教を信受する者は、苦悩というものは、自我に執着するところから来るからだ
と分かるからであります。自分が大切に思うこと、信じること、考えること、または自分が所有する
あらゆる物（これらは自分のアイデンティティを造り出すものです）が、それらがかえって自分の
心を硬くしてしまい、ストレスを作り出してしまふのです。ですから、物事が自分の思う通りに行
かなかつたら怒り、他人から批判されたり傷つけられたと思つたらその人を憎み、また自分の所有す
る物がなくなると思つたら心配ばかりしてしまいます。

しかし、仏様の智慧と慈悲を受け入れる者は「エゴ」の姿が分かるのであります。念仏者にとって
執着することは真実に相応する見方でないこと、そして世の中は無常であるということが知らされ
ます。さらに、物事をいつもコントロールできると思うのが現実的でないことも思い知らされます。
時が経つにつれて物事はどんどん変わっていくものであることもわかるのです。だから我々はそれに
なんとかして合わせていかなければならないと認識するのが念仏者であります。さらにその上で、
念仏者にとって「エゴ」というものにこだわるのが仕方がないと分かることも大事な点であります。
これが「凡夫」という意味であります。仕方がないのですが、その姿が見えることだけでそれにこ
だわらないことが大切なのだと仏教が教えるのです。

ですが、念仏者は怒り、憎み、フラストレーションなどを見せない訳ではありません。いつも大人し
くして、謙虚であるという訳でもないのです。いつも善いことをして従順な仏教徒だと見せてい
るかという決してそうでもありません。しかし、上に申しましたように、この「エゴ」の姿が分
かるということは、そのエゴが物事をコントロールしようとするとうと分かることでもあります。仏法によ
ってその姿が見えてくることで、その人がその時に自分の「エゴ」に対してこだわらないことが
可能となるのであります。阿弥陀如来の智慧と慈悲によって自分の「エゴ」から時々距離を置くこと
ができるのです。「エゴ」を切り捨てることは不可能ですが、仏法を聴聞することで、「エゴ」に
対して「レティング・ゴー」が必要だと教わるのです。それをする事によって、自分や他人に対し
ての対応が少しでも優しくなり、滑らかになり、柔軟的になるのであります。そしてこの世は無常
であるため、時代と共に合わせていくことが大事だとわかるようになるのです。自分の心の中に物事
が変わって欲しくないところも確かにありますが、人生はそう簡単にいかないと分かるのがこの教え
によるのであります。

有名な俳優であったブルース・リーがインタビューで次のように語っています。「水というのはなめらかでありながら、ものすごい力もあります。その強力性は形が固定されてなく、どんな変化にも応じることができるところからくるのであります。コップの中に水を入れれば、そのコップの形をとりますし、違った器の中に入れれば、その器の形になります。あなたも水になりませんか」と言っています。私もその通りだと思いますが、自分の力で水のようになり切ることはできません。やはり仏様が私たちを抱く光でそれが可能となるのだと思います。真実の教えをいただく中、我々の心が安らかになり、柔軟的になるのであります。そしてしっかりと根を仏さまのお心におきながら、ものごとに対して寛容的になれます。阿弥陀如来のはたらきに気づく時、私たちは自分の「エゴ」より素晴らしい世界があることに気づくのであります。合掌。

Future Schedule

(Sun) June 7	Garden Clean-up
(Sun) June 14	Temple Picnic
(Wed) July 15	Eatonville & Orting cemetery visitation Postponed to August
(Sun) July 19	Obon Cemetery visitations Postponed to August
(Fri-Sun) July 24-26	NWD YBL Retreat at Seattle
(Sun) July 26	Hatsubon & Urabon-e Svc.

NOTICE

DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS, ALL TEMPLE EVENTS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO VIEW OUR WEEKLY SERVICES ONLINE ON YOUTUBE, KEYWORD: "TACOMA BUDDHIST TEMPLE" OR "MINDS OF MINISTERS" OR "NORTHWEST DISTRICT MINISTERS ASSOCIATION."

Tadao Koyama's Biography

Tadao Koyama was born in Sacramento California to Ken Koyama and Stacie Hiramoto. He is also the nephew of Rev. Dean Koyama of the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple. He attended Natomas Charter School performing and fine arts academy with an emphasis in acting. He also grew up at the Sacramento Betsuin.

After he graduated high school in 2007, he attended University of California Santa Cruz to study Political Science but then realized that he loved History more, so he changed majors. He got his Bachelor of Arts Degree in History with an emphasis of Japanese history.

After graduating from UC Santa Cruz, Tadao Koyama worked for the California State Assembly for two and a half years as a field representative to former Assembly member Mariko Yamada. It was also during this time that he switched his temple affiliation to the Buddhist Church of Florin to study to become a minister under Rev. Yuki Sugahara.

Under the guidance and teaching of Sensei Yuki Sugahara, Tadao became an official minister's assistant to the Florin Buddhist Church in 2013. In November of 2014, Tadao received his Tokudo ordination in Kyoto, Japan.

After his time at the Assembly concluded, he began his education at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley California. He studied there for three years. After he graduated, he spent two years in Japan studying first at Nishi Hongwanji's seminary school, Chūōbukkyōgakuin (Chūbutsu), the next year he studied for the year-long program at ritual and chanting school, Gonshikishidōsho.

He enjoys practicing Aikido, spending time with his family and fiancé Cynthia who was the minister's assistant at the Gardena Buddhist Church and received Tokudo in the Summer of 2019. Tadao looks forward to serving the BCA as a Kaikyoshi minister.

President's Message



Rev. Dr. Miyaji and Rev. Koyama Dates

Because of COVID-19 the date of Rev. Dr. Miyaji and family's date to move to California has been delayed. Rev. Miyaji and family are planning to leave for California on July 15. We are fortunate to have another month with the Miyaji family, even though we cannot physically visit with them.

This means that Rev. Tadao Koyama's start date has been moved to August 1. We expect Rev. Koyama and his fiancé Cynthia to arrive in Tacoma sometime at the end of July. More exact dates and how we will recognize Rev. Dr. Miyaji and family will be communicated in June.

Temple and COVID-19

This is a repeat from last month but is still applicable. I hope everyone and their family and friends are all safe and healthy. If anyone needs any assistance, please reach out and we will help you get assistance. If anyone needs to make any changes to your yearly membership pledge, even if you have already submitted your pledge, please contact myself or pledge administrator Tracy Ling.

Tacoma Buddhist Temple continues to remain closed. Check our website, tacomabt.org for updates. If anything changes, an email will be sent to all members.

Obon Odori (Dance)

The Board of Directors voted to cancel the in-person Obon Odori this year. All other Northwest Temples have also canceled their events. But Tacoma will be producing an Obon Video which will be published on our original Obon date of August 1, 2020. If you have ideas on video segments that can be made and included, please let myself or one of the following Obon committee members know your idea, Rev. Miyaji, Crystal Inge, June Akita, Tracy Ling, Kaila Yoshitomi or Emma Inge. We will work with you to get your idea included.

Podcast

Rev. Dr. Miyaji has started a Podcast. The podcasts go into deeper discussions on the highlighted topic. Please check them out at:

Gassho,
David

Buddhist Women's Association News



Coming up with an article to contribute to the newsletter this month has been particularly trying. The time between March and June is usually quite full for the BWA as we find ourselves making mochi, attending meetings, selling bento, preparing lunch for all the hard workers during the yearly garden cleanup and enjoying our yearly bus trip. This month, I have no news or events to report. Instead, I want to share pictures from what looks to have been a very fun bus trip, in 2002! I can't wait to start planning for the next bus trip and more importantly, I can't wait to be together with you all again soon.

Gassho,
Denise Cline



Dharma School News



Thank you, Kate, Tamsin and Rev. Fred for reading for our Sunday Services, Megumi for sharing your beautiful voice, and to Keisai for doing oshoko with Mom! You are awesome!

Congratulations to Ryan Ling, High School Graduate from Curtis High School

Happy belated birthdays to our DS students: March: Mia, Aven; April: Ezra, Josiah, Yuto;

May: Ivan, Hana, Tae, Gus, Jet, Keisai and Zodie.

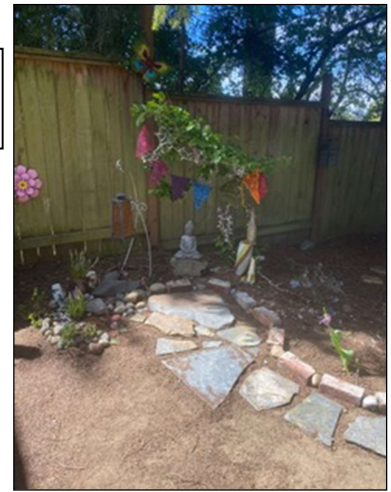


Cleaning the yard
Keisai



Celebrating
Earth Day

Beautiful Arrangement!
Les



Built a Meditation Garden
Tae, Nya, Meesa



"Happy
Pictures"
Marina and
Odessa



Building a
deck

What
have we
been
doing?

Staying balanced

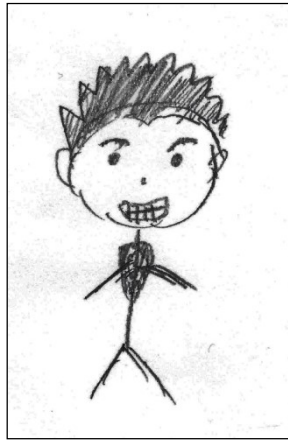
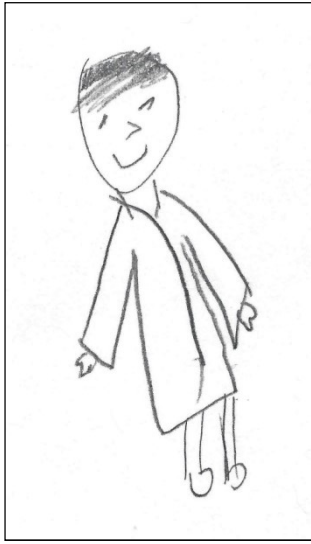
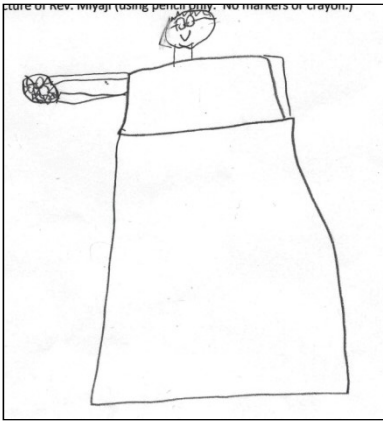


Finished a puzzle!

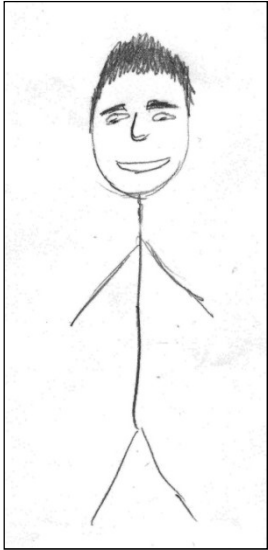


Cooking dinner





**Rev. Miyaji
in our eyes...**



Rev. Miyaji

“Student of the Month”



Hi. My name is Odessa, I am in my Freshman year at South Kitsap High School. My favorite Disney character is Mulan because she’s very strong and independent! I LOVE Udon!! My favorite author is Kathi Appelt who wrote ‘The Underneath.’ My dream is to have a job I enjoy doing. One thing I’d like to learn is what happens when you die. My role model is Michelle Obama because she’s very smart and educated. I enjoy volunteering at the YMCA over the summer to help kids. One thing I like about the temple are my friends. I am very grateful to my mom because she helps me out *all the time!*

In ten words or less, to describe Rev. Miyaji: a very cool guy.

Thank you!! Glad to know you better!

Please be safe and stay healthy. Take care....

Gassho,
June Akita

Young Buddhist Association News



Hello Everyone,



I hope all is going well for everyone amidst much. I know that it is being very difficult in of you are staying extremely safe. As you may know I am the lone graduate from Lotus/YBA this year. I would like to say thank you to everyone who has supported me throughout my life at the Temple. I wish I could say it more in person but given the circumstances that is not possible. Before you all get all feeling bad for me since this happened for my senior year do not worry. Although this may be my senior year, I still have much ahead of me and I know that I will be able to see you guys again once everything clears up. If you have any wise words for my future for me or to send me a congratulations card my address is 203 Casey Ct. Steilacoom, WA 98388.

all that is occurring. I miss seeing everyone so the position we are in, but it is good that I hope all

I miss all of you dearly and hope to see you soon.

Gassho, Ryan Ling

Buddhist Education Committee News



You would think with all this time spent at home one would find delight and motivation to take on new projects or for that matter, at least wrap up and complete the unfinished ones. If you are anything like me, this time of hunkering down in quarantine has done little to motivate me to do much at all. It almost feels as though I am walking in circles surrounded by a dark fog.

If you’re being diligent, as I’m attempting to be, you can’t visit friends, go to your favorite place

for a burger and a beer or take a walk without crossing the street as another person approaches. I can't even hug my children when they deliver groceries to us. All I can do is stand there, say thank you and wave goodbye with a tear in my eye.

My goal here is not to sound depressed and sad. If there is any intention at all to this letter, it's to simply reach out to some of the people I love the most and tell them how I feel. I miss my temple sangha family, I miss my companions that walk the Nembutsu path with me. And, I choke up when I contemplate just how much I will miss Miyaji sensei when he leaves Tacoma.

In the "Hymn of True Shinjin", Gutoku Shinran gives me a little kick in the butt and reminds me to....keep the faith.

He writes:

*"The light of compassion that grasps us...illuminates and protects us always.
And the darkness of our ignorance is already broken through;
Still the clouds and mists of greed, desire, anger and hatred
Cover as always the sky of true and real shinjin".*

As always.

With much Love and Gassho...

Fred Pelger

Toban News



June Toban News



~Kaila

Announcement: Until the Temple resumes, and the stay at home order has been lifted, we will be postponing all monthly Toban cleanups, coffee hours and other activities. We can't wait to see everyone again in person.

From Your Facility Committee



Our temple COVID-19 Hubbell installed cleaner charging



continues to resourcefully adjust to and overcome the vagaries of the pandemic. Now your Facilities folks aren't slackers in that regard. Tom some quad-plex plugs behind the onaijin in preparation for vacuum stations. In the future, assuming we don't forget to charge the batteries, if we get hit with an apocalypse and lose power, we'll be able to transition seamlessly to cleaning the temple without the benefit of electrons surging through its electrical circuits.

As far as Rick Tanabe goes, it's corona schmorona. He laughs and labors on in the face of this little pathogen that has thrown sand in all our lives. Well...maybe Rick doesn't laugh as he's working. People would probably think he's gone loony toons. But he certainly does labor. Rick applied weed and feed on the front lawn, along with, controlling the moss on the back lawn using a fertilizer with iron mix. Additionally, Rick turned on the irrigation system and replaced one the heads that was spewing water all over the place. Never neglecting the need for recurring maintenance our diligent landscaper plans cleaning around the heads.

Although the garden cleanup has been canceled there is talk of forming small groups who practice social distancing to tackle some outdoor projects. Perhaps if we transform ourselves into human Chernobyls by eating a lot of garlic before reporting for duty social distancing will be a real breeze-assuming we don't end up downwind of one another.

On another smelly note, garbage service has been suspended due to COVID-19.

Jeff Hiroo and Fred Pelger's are still working hard to clear out dirt and dust during their weekly visits to the temple. Tom Hubbell continues to engage counter-trash sweeps along Fawcett Avenue. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, and Del Sasaki are always primed and ready for facility projects. We can all look forward to the fruits of Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens' efforts in maintaining temple's lawn, shrubs, and gardens.

~David



congratulations!
Way to go!

Ryan Ling

By graduating from high school and our temple's Dharma school, Ryan is following a path taken by many before him. Only he isn't, because everything is different. He's graduating during a pandemic.

This means graduation from Curtis High School isn't held with hundreds of other excited graduating seniors, surrounded by family and friends, but rather an event viewed on YouTube. Filmed beforehand and edited in simulated fashion so Ryan appears to collect his diploma with his fellow graduates. This means not knowing if attending college next fall means living at home, taking place online or moving to Tempe, AZ to attend in person.

The challenges of the current day though, do not define Ryan.

During high school Ryan has excelled both academically and athletically. He's a member of the National Honor Society and a National Merit Commended Scholar, by testing in the top 3% in the state. Athletically, Ryan was the captain of Curtis High School's varsity water polo team which were state champions this year and captain of the swimming team, which place 2nd at state.

In high school, Ryan's favorite subject is science, where he's particularly enjoyed chemistry. This fall he is taking this passion to Barrett, an honors college located within Arizona State University, where he plans to major in Bio-Chemistry. There he will have the best of both worlds, being part of a small college community of

high-achieving scholars, combined with the benefits of attending a large Pac-12 university. Also, once there he plans to try out for the school's club water polo team.

With his graduation, Ryan will be concluding his 14 years spent attending dharma school at TBT. During this time, he has served as VP and is presently President of the YBA. Of this time at the temple, he says what he likes best is seeing and interacting with everybody in the sangha. So, as he is about to leave, he has advice for the younger dharma students:

“Interact with as many people at the temple as you can. Learn about the lives and the stories of the older generations. It’s so much more meaningful when you make the effort. Don’t just stay in the dharma school bubble.”

When asked what his three wishes would be if he found a genie lamp, Ryan was quick to answer that his first would be for life to go back to normal, the way it was before the pandemic. His second wish would be to gain the knowledge to find cures for diseases, to alleviate the health problems people currently face. As for his last wish, he said with the problems of others solved with his first two wishes, he'd like a Tesla Roadster.

Needless to say Ryan, hope your dreams and wishes come true. Congrats to you and the Class of 2020!

- 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

June 2020

7 th Year	Simmons, Mitsuko	Shakuni Bi-Ho 美法	June 10, 2014
7 th Year	Suyetsugu, Yukiko	Shakuni Jo-Sen 浄泉	June 16, 2014

July 2020

1 Year	Nakano, Yaeko	Shakuni Myō-On 妙音	July, 20 2019
50 th Year	Sagami, Mitsu	Shakuni On-Shin	July, 11 1971
50 th Year	Mukai, Hikono	Shakuni Myo-Sho	July, 31 1971

August 2020

7 th Year	Murakami, Kaoru Cora	Shakuni Tei-Do 貞道	August 23, 2014
7 th Year	Kodama, Goji	Shaku Ko-Sho 剛証	August 28, 2014
13 th Year	Nakashima, Yoshiye Marie	Shakuni Myo-Ryo	August 14, 2008

Greeters Schedule

*The greeters list will resume when the temple reopens.

New Podcast!

NO DOUBT

—A SHIN BUDDHIST APPROACH—

BY REV. MIYAJI

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/no-doubt-a-shin-buddhist-approach/id1511351502>





Life at the temple before the Covid 19 pandemic.



*June 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Sangha Service 10 AM Garden Cleanup	8	9	10	11 King's Books, 7 PM via Zoom	12	13
14 Temple Picnic 10 AM	15	16 Gomeinichi Minister only	17	18	19	20
21 Sangha Service 10 AM	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Sangha Service 10 AM	29	30				

*July 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5 Sangha Service 10 AM	6	7	8	9 King's Books, 7 PM via Zoom	10	11
12 Sangha Service 10 AM	13	14	15 Eatonville, Orting Cemetery Visit Postponed to Aug	16 Gomeinichi Minister only	17	18
19 Sangha Service 10 AM Obon cemetery Visit Postponed to Aug	20	21	22	23	24 NWD YBL Retreat 24-26th Seattle Betsuin	25
26 Hatsubon, Urabon e Ser.	27	28	2	30	31	