



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)

February 2022

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



February, a Time of Nirvana and Coping With Loss

Rev. Tadao Koyama

Happy February everyone! I can't believe we are already in the second month of the year of 2022! I thought that 2021 was just yesterday! February is a time for our temple where we observe the passing of Shakyamuni Buddha where he entered the stage of ultimate enlightenment called Parinirvana. This is also a time our temple commemorates the lives of our past pets who have brought us much joy while they were alive.

These are two very important occasions for our temple. One of the main teachings that we gain from Nirvana Day is realizing the impermanence of all things. With Shakyamuni Buddha, he advised his followers and students that they should not become attached to the person himself but to the teaching of the Dharma that he expounded. Then to also help continue the sharing of the teachings. If we rely solely on the physical form of the Buddha, then we are missing the point of his teachings. The Buddha's body or his human form was not meant to last forever. While we still have statues and memorials to the Buddha to help remind us of the great teacher, we are still only left with his great teachings to help guide us in life.

When we lose someone we love to death, we are stricken with a great sense of sadness and loss. We initially cannot accept this reality because of the attachments and bonds we created with this person over our lives. Our love for the person does not go away after the person passes. One of the misconceptions about us as Buddhists is that we are able to detach ourselves from our emotions and live a life free of the human cares of

the world. This is untrue. We are human beings who have the same fears, anxieties, and stresses that everyone else shares. We also experience these emotions like everyone else does.

Pets are one of the most precious forms of life that teach all of us about responsibility and love. While many of us want a cat, a dog, or another pet, I sometimes think that we don't fully grasp the work and responsibility that goes into adopting until it actually occurs. Over the limited years in my life, I have had many cats and one dog. They were all able to bring much joy in my life as well as teaching me about responsibility and care.

My cats and dog relied on me for food, love, and exercise (well not my cats so much) and I came to expect seeing them every day I came home from school. In fact, my cats and dog were wonderful outlets for me to calm down and become present to escape the many stresses of the day. Many of them would look at me with a deep sense of love and commitment that we as humans don't often give to one another.

When my first cat, Neko, died, I was heartbroken and was inconsolable for a bit. The concept of loss was still new to me, and it was hard for me to come to terms with the idea that Neko was not going to greet me at the door again or sleep with me in bed to keep me warm. I remember my mother crying as well and we had a special ceremony in the back yard where we buried him. I remember coming back from school almost thinking Neko was going to be there and was overcome with a great sense of sadness and even anger that life had taken Neko from me.

One of the things that I was most grateful for, was the fact that my parents and brother were there to support me in this time of sadness for our beloved cat and over time, I was able to think more positively and was able to give my love and affection to new cats. I am still grateful to all of them today for teaching me that I was not alone in my suffering and sadness.

The Buddha also taught us that even though he would be gone and succumb to death, that we must also ultimately rely on each other to continue the message of the Dharma. When we experience loss, of course at first, we take it very personally and go into a period of grief, but my biggest advice as a Buddhist priest is to not allow ourselves to go through this grief alone. It isn't about making these feelings of sadness and loss go away, we as human beings will inevitably feel these at one point or another. We just have to be willing to share our grief and our support for each other so that not one person goes through feeling these emotions and experiences alone.

Be kind to one another and support each other. My thoughts and support go out to everyone and with this thought in mind, please say the Nembutsu with me.

Namo Amida Butsu.

President's Message



I hope you have kicked off your 2022 with a positive frame of mind. While Omnicron continues to challenge how we remain positive, know that our temple community and Rev. Koyama provide avenues to connect and hear the Dharma and feel a sense of comfort.

I would like to thank members for supporting temple member Riu Pittman, as she grows stronger each day in the hospital. Her daughters send their gratitude.



February earmarks a couple things –historically, the Northwest District Convention is held on President's Day weekend. The district convention schedule changed so this will be held in September, hosted by the Idaho-Oregon temple. We would also be feverishly preparing for Sukiyaki the first Sunday in March. Due to health concerns, we look forward to the possibility of having a take-out Sukiyaki in late spring.

Planning for the year is focused on finding ways for our members to stay connected to the Sangha and Dharma, being mindful of safety while balancing individual needs. If you have ideas for programs, creative ways to connect or something you'd like to share via our Spirit, Mind and Body classes, please let me know! We welcome new ideas as this is the time to try new things.

Gassho,
Crystal

Buddhist Women's Association New



Hello BWA Members!



We continue to adapt and shift with the circumstances. Because of the current Omicron wave – our scaled back New Year's Celebration will now be held on **FEBRUARY 20, 2022, at 1:00 PM.** To stay safe and healthy, we will not have any food or drink. Instead, we will meet for a one-hour gathering in the social hall to visit and simply be together with one another.

Like past years, **we will collect membership dues (\$12)** and distribute year end reports and the 2022 BWA Membership Booklet. Also, in keeping with tradition, we will have a gift exchange (\$8-10). Masks will be required (non-cloth masks will be available for you when you arrive) and participants must be fully vaccinated (and boosted if eligible) or show proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR Test within 72 hours of the event. If conditions are not suitable for this social gathering, I will send out a notification in advance. Please note that since this is heavily scaled back, NO Toban assistance is needed for preparation or planning. If you are unable to attend, please mail your dues to the temple by February 20th, 2022.

The **46th FBWA Conference "Winds of Change"** will be held **October 14-16, 2022, via Zoom**. Keynote speakers are Rev. Ko'e Umezu, Rev. Etsuko Mikame, and Rev. Candice Shibata.

Please note the registration deadlines below for the **17th World Buddhist Women's Convention** in Kyoto, Japan. If you are interested in attending any part or all of the 2023 Joint Celebrations, please email Rev. Koyama or myself to let us know.

2023 Joint Celebrations at Hongwanji - Shinran Shonin 850th birthday and 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition

1st session	March 29–April 3, 2023
2nd session	April 10–April 15
3rd session	April 24–April 29
4th session	May 6–May 11 – 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention
5th session	May 16–May 21

1st registration period: October 1, 2021-February 28, 2022 | 2nd registration period: April 1, 2022 – March 2023

Respectfully submitted by,
Denise Cline, Tacoma BWA President

Dharma School News



Happy New Year!!! It's been another difficult year, but we survived with family, friends, and a lot of hope that our temple doors will soon open. I made a resolution that I will

write one thing that I am grateful each day on a little calendar. I've been pretty loyal...so far, I wrote Groggu, Call the Midwife, FoodSaver, and others...☺ .

It was so peaceful when it snowed, but it was also very cold. I wondered how some of my 'older' friends were doing – if they had enough food, if they had a means to stay warm; if they were safe. The NICEST thing was when some of our 'younger' friends called to see if we needed anything from Safeway, or if we had enough blankets or generally, how were we doing. Our daughters kept calling to make sure we didn't go outside (or drive) or eating enough or how the house was holding up. Made me sit back and appreciate all the calls and texts and concerns that were shared our way. Pure gratefulness...just like Sensei's Dharma message...

Dharma School has continued with ZOOM classes – it is so great to see so many of our students join!! A few weeks back, we talked about the difference between a 'house' and a 'home' – student answers were clear that a house is just a structure, and a home is a place where you feel safe and can enjoy the company of your family. Kind of reminded me of coming to church and sitting in the hondo with our temple family... Patiently looking forward to the time when we can be together once again.

On February 6th, we will be observing Nirvana Day AND our annual **Pet Memorial**. If you (*students and all adults*) have any pictures of your pets who have passed, please send to Sensei so he can include them at the end of the service. If you would like their name attached to the picture, please let Sensei know as well. If you do not have an actual picture, you can also draw a picture.

February	6	DS Class via ZOOM (Pet Memorial/Nirvana Day)
	13	Live Service
	20	DS Class via ZOOM
	27	Live Service
March	6	DS Class via ZOOM
	13	Live Service
	20	DS Class via ZOOM
	27	Live Service

Please stay safe and warm. *Extremely grateful for all of you!!*

Gassho, June

Young Buddhist Association News



Hello everyone!
I hope everyone is bundled up nice and warm as we push through this winter season.

The YBA had their first meeting of the year on January 9th! In the meeting, we decided to donate half our proceeds from the Holiday Greetings Fundraiser to the temple. The YBA continues the tradition of giving back to the temple and would like to once again thank everyone for their generous support towards the fundraiser.

We have also decided to officially start the YBA T-Shirt fundraiser and are hoping to have a design done by the next meeting (in February). We hope to get the T-shirt production up and running by late February or early March in order to start sales in April.

Please stay safe and healthy!

Thank you!
Jet Yotsuuye

<p align="center">BOOK CLUB</p> <p align="center">February 10 at 7 pm.</p> <p align="center">Via ZOOM</p> <p align="center">Awakening Together: The Spiritual Practice of Inclusivity and Community</p> <p align="center">Larry Yang</p>
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Buddhist Education Committee News



As 2022 gets under way, we wanted the temple to know what the BEC is up to, the Buddhist Education Committee serves as Sensei's advisory council on religious matters and helps plan religious services and adult education at the temple. Its membership includes myself, Lynrae Hubbell, Rev. Fred Pelger, Donna Sasaki, Rev. Cyndi Yasaki, Kenzo Yoshitomi, and Patti Wong. It has become our practice to elect one of our members to serve as Director each year, and I'm happy to report that Lynrae has been elected to serve as Director for 2022. I'm certain she's going to do a great job!

As we enter the third year of the pandemic as a community, we continue to try and make do with what life brings us. Sometimes to me it feels like we got to keep the least enjoyable parts of being a community (committee work, logistics, etc.) while giving up the most enjoyable parts, like being together and sharing our lives with each other. I hope that it will be safe to gather again at some point this year, in the meantime the BEC remains committed to providing opportunities for everyone to study the dharma and learn from our Shin Buddhist teachings. This year Sensei will continue posting a recorded service to YouTube each week, and the BEC aims to host two live Zoom services every month. We want to thank the team of Jeff Hiroo, Lynrae Hubbell, Kate Inge, Carrie Mori, Del Sasaki, and David Yotsuuye for chairing these services. Every month you can also join virtually Sensei's Jodo Shinshu 101 study class and a book club sponsored by our temple. We are also working with the TYABA to plan a June Seminar. Stay tuned for more information on the timing and modality of the seminar.

I'll close with a comment about the book club. It began in the fall of 2017 and so far, we've discussed 45 books! We went virtual in April 2020 and continue to meet each month on Zoom. We read books from across the Buddhist world, but I wanted to highlight the book we'll be discussing in April, titled *Pure Land: History, Tradition, and Practice* (Shambhala 2021) by Charles Jones. Pure Land is more than just Shin Buddhism. In fact, the *nembutsu* is the most popular form of Buddhist practice in the world. It is central to Buddhism in China and Vietnam and is important in Korean Buddhism. If you've ever been curious how our tradition fits into the broader world of Buddhist history, I highly recommend this easy-to-read introduction. And if you ever want to join the book group, just send me an email!

- Erik Hammerstrom

Toban



Hello and *Happy New Year* to all you Toban fans!! We know you can hardly wait to get back in action. However, our covid pests have still not been tamed and, as you know, has even recruited a new friend, Omicron, to delay our return to full action.



In conjunction with the TBT re-opening committee, the Toban Committee will be on a restricted schedule with two-month teams working together until further notice.

January Chair Erin Berkey	+	February Chair Brian and Etsuko Willis	Schedule: late Feb.
Del & Cynthia Sasaki		Meesa Pedrozo	
Denise Cline		Lynn Blick	
Jeff & Vivian Hiroo		Jim Doyle & Tony Gregg	
Craig O'Hanlon		Jane Burster	

March	Chair Diane Taniguchi	+	April	Chair Barry & June Weled	Schedule: late April
	Erin Shen			Shizuka Faria	
	Brett Johnson & Megumi Azekawa			Kjirsten Winters	
	June & Jerry Akita			Chikako Inoue	
	Joshua Harrison			Richard & Tracy Ling	

Toban Volunteers: Because of limited Temple activity, we are asking each toban team to do *light cleaning*. You have the option **not** to participate in cleaning (*please let your chair know*).

Safety protocols: Must be **vaccinated** with two shots and booster
 Must be **masked** at all times while at the Temple (TBT provides)
 Wearing TWO Level 3 masks (blue) or ONE KN95 mask
 Stay **6 feet apart** from others
Sign In

Cleaning Duties:

- Bathrooms:** Professionally cleaned once a month
- Social Hall:** Fuji Taiko will sweep and clean floor
- Kitchen:** Wipe down all counters
 Sweep kitchen floor
 Empty garbage/recycling as needed
 Replenish bathroom supplies as needed
- Main Floor:** Dust pews
 Quick sweep wooden floor
 Sweep side kitchen
 Wipe down counters
 Replenish bathroom supplies as needed
 Vacuum all carpets including stairwells
- Rev. Pratt Room:** Vacuum carpet
 Wipe down tables
 Wipe down and sweep kitchen area
 Sweep and mop landing area
 Empty garbage/recycling as needed

Please keep an eye in your email boxes and Myokyo articles about further Toban activities as the year unfolds. We will have a copy of where cleaning supplies are located on the hallway bulletin board. Thank you very much for your understanding and cooperation on these changes.

In gassho,
 Barry Weled and June Akita

Facility Committee Update



January was the first month of 2022 according to the Gregorian Calendar. Now that it's February we have the Chinese New Year named by sage individuals after various animals. As of February, it's the Year of the Tiger, or as some would say, Year of the Water Tiger. If you caught the light the right way you might have seen the amphibious feline swimming across the social hall stage during one of those floods. But with a future trench drain and cracks being sealed up to prevent seepage, if you want to see a water tiger, you could get a Bengal cat.



2022 will be a busy year for the facilities crew. First of all, a couple of tasks have been completed. Top-notch MERV-13 furnace filters were installed. Additionally, the hondo bathroom was cleaned and organized. The future punch list involves, among other tasks, investigating FAN mode and return air ducting for temple furnace

system to assist with anti-COVID measures. For those who don't look forward to hassling with the front and rear gate chains there's plan to install easy-to-use latch systems.

Tom and Lynrae Hubbell can always be counted on to keep S Fawcett free of debris. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, Del Sasaki, and Mike Shiogi are unstoppable when difficult maintenance challenges arise. Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens work to keep the temple and parsonage lawns the best in the neighborhood.

~Dave

Yearly Memorial Service

General Memorial Service Years for 2022

1 st Year - 2021	17 th Year - 2006
3 rd Year - 2020	25 th Year - 1998
7 th Year - 2016	33 rd Year - 1990
13 th Year - 2010	50 th Year - 1973



February 2022

1 st Year	Miyoko Sato	February 2, 2021
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March 2022

1 st Year	Katsumi Fujita	March 17, 2021
3 rd Year	Allan Kishi	March 29, 2020
7 th Year	Yukiko Shiogi	March 1, 2016
33 rd Year	Nancy Uchimura	March 3, 1990

April 2022

13 th Year	Chikako Gach	April 7, 2010
33 rd Year	Mutsuko Omoto	April 5, 1990

Greeters Schedule

*The greeters list will resume when the temple reopens.

Temple Reopening Update February Myokyo

Greetings and Happy New Year to the wonderful members of Tacoma Buddhist Temple! We hope that everyone enjoyed the month of January and stayed warm! The reopening committee met back on January 11th and due to the large spike in Omicrom cases, came to the decision to remain doing virtual services for all of February and March.

We are going to meet again this month of February to monitor and track the amount of cases in Pierce County. With the increase in people becoming vaccinated and new treatments and access to medications on the horizon, we hope that we will be able to reopen the temple doors for services soon.

Rest assured the temple misses each and every one of you and are continuing to find ways to connect with the many wonderful members of the temple in programs like Spirit, Mind, and Body, Rev. Koyama's monthly study classes, live Zoom services, as well as Rev. Koyama's new senior outreach initiative.

Words cannot express our deepest thanks to you all for continuing to remain in contact and your support. This is an ever-changing time, and we will continue to update the Sangha when there are changes to the schedule.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.
In Gassho,

Rev. Tadao Koyama (Resident Minister) revtadaok@gmail.com

Crystal Inge (Temple President) crystal.inge@gmail.com

David Yotsuuye (Chair of the Reopening Committee) yotskendo@aol.com

Tacoma Buddhist Temple's
Spirit, Mind and Body Health Series
2022

Two Classes are Back by Popular Demand!

To register, please email Tracy Ling at tling12005@gmail.com or register at www.tacomabt.org under the Events tab. For those returning and new attendees, updated yoga waivers will be required for 2022 sessions. Tracy can provide the form via email. No waiver is needed for meditation. We look forward to seeing in each class!

January 8th, Yoga for Compassion for all abilities. 9:00 am.

Next class: Feb 12th and March 12th

Kara O'Toole, yoga instructor



This class is for levels of experience, a place for people to begin their yoga practice or to reconnect with their yoga roots. In Yoga for Compassion, 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. This class will most likely return on a monthly basis so please stay tuned for upcoming dates.

Joint Celebration in Kyoto Japan

The Joint Celebration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching will take place as follows:

1st session	March 29–April 3, 2023
2nd session	April 10–April 15
3rd session	April 24–April 29
4th session	May 6–May 11
5th session	May 16–May 21

This will be a great opportunity to express our appreciation for Shinran Shonin, who founded the Jodo Shinshu Tradition. Thanks to this universal teaching that excludes no one, we are enabled to live with peace of mind entrusting ourselves to Amida Buddha's salvific working. We look forward to welcoming as many fellow Nembutsu followers as possible from the overseas sanghas to this only once in fifty-year occasion.

With the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention scheduled for May 11 and 12, 2023, many seats have been secured for the overseas delegation during the following dates:

May 10 Morning Observance
May 10 Afternoon Observance

There is still time to register and if you are interested, please contact Rev. Koyama at revtadaok@gmail.com for more information.

For those interested in the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention, please contact Tacoma BWA president, Denise Cline at denisecline@hotmail.com



Snow much fun!!!!



**New Year's Greetings from
Rev. Miyaji, Keisai and Kaori**



**Had the privilege of attending Lumbini Class
via ZOOM this past month...so serious and so
successful. *Loved it!!!!***

**We wish you and your family
a year of joy and appreciation.
Stay safe and healthy**

Rev. Kakihara, Masayo, Satone, Shujo



*February 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5 <i>YouTube Shotsuki Service</i>
6 <i>Pet Memorial Service</i> BEC Meeting 9am Via Zoom Dharma School Via Zoom 10:45am	7	8	9 <i>Study Class</i> 6pm Via Zom	10 <i>Book Club 7pm</i> Via Zoom	11	12 <i>Spirit Mind and Body Yoga For Compassion</i> With Kara O'Toole 9am-10am Via Zoom
13 Live Zoom Service 10am	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 <i>YouTube Service</i> Board Meeting 8:45am Dharma School Via Zoom 10:45am	21 Myokyo Deadline	22	23	24	25	26
27 Live Zoom Service 10am	28					

*March 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6 <i>YouTube Service</i> Dharma School via Zoom 10:45am	7	8	9 <i>Study Class</i> 6pm via Zoom	10 <i>Book Club 7pm</i> Via Zoom	11	12 <i>Spirit Mind and Body Yoga for Compassion</i> With Kara O'Toole 9am-10am Via Zoom
13 <i>BEC Meeting</i> Via Zoom at 9am <i>Live Zoom Service 10am</i>	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 BWA/Spring Ohigan Board Meeting 8:45am Dharma School Via Zoom 10:45am	21 Myokyo Deadline	22	23	24	25	26
27 Live Zoom Service 10am	28	29	30	31		