



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)

October 2021

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

The Masks We Wear but Amida Sees Our True Selves



Koyama

Rev. Tadao

Happy October everyone! I can't believe that there are only three more months left in the year! The month of October is usually associated with Halloween in this country! I have fond memories of this holiday in the past from elementary school to college days! This time is usually filled with candy, trick or treating, putting up scary decorations outside of the house, and of course COSTUMES!

Every year at the temple, our Dharma School and YBA have enjoyed having Halloween parties where we all dress up in fun costumes and spend some time imagining that we are a monster, a mummy, or a ghost! It's definitely fun to fantasize about being a Marvel superhero and pretend to have the powers that they portray in the movies. However, when the day is done, the masks come off, the costumes are hung in the closet, and we return to being ourselves. Our ordinary selves we are on a daily basis... Or do we?

When we think about it, we wear "costumes" and "masks" almost every day! Before the pandemic, when we would go to school, we probably had a school uniform we had to wear. However, we would not wear that uniform at another function, correct? When we go to our jobs, there is often a dress code that states that we have to be in professional attire. When we work in customer service jobs, many times we may have to deal with angry or unpleasant customers with politeness and calmness, when we are really tempted to snap back at them with a snarky comment.

The truth is, we conduct ourselves very differently depending on where we are and who we are with. In many ways, this is necessary because it means that the space is safe for people to interact without having to worry

about inappropriate conduct between them all. Now we SHOULD wear masks at most outside functions or when we go to the grocery store because we should all do our part in preventing further spread of COVID. But then it begs the question, who is the real us?

In our teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, we are taught that we are, in reality, bonbu, or foolish beings who are consumed with our self. This may sound like a judgement or a criticism of us, but it's probably the most truthful way of saying that we are ordinary beings. One of the main reasons for this is because we have elevated ideas about ourselves as well. Truthfully, we have our own views of who we, we are the best, and we are always right.

Fully embracing this truth about ourselves is probably the hardest to accept. Yet Amida Buddha sees our true selves. The Dharma calls to our true selves. In our journey of walking the path of nembutsu, we are fully embraced with wisdom and compassion. It's actually because of our true selves that Bodhisattva Dharmakara crossed ten kalpas to create the pure land.

For our school, when we fully accept our true selves and then realize that the Dharma works for our benefit, we are overcome with a profound sense of gratitude for the lives we are currently living. I certainly hope that as we go into this October and can celebrate Halloween in a fun and safe manner, we don't forget about the masks and costumes we wear on a daily basis and then eventually come to see our true selves!

Namo Amida Butsu

President's Message



On behalf of the temple, I'd like to extend my condolences to the family of Mrs. Shoko Yamasaki, our longtime member. Mrs. Yamasaki was 86 and resided in Kirkland to be near her children and we will greatly miss her.

Thank you to all who participated in our Obon Drive-Thru fundraiser. We were very successful – a bit shy of our standard goal but this is not a standard year.

Even though we remain closed for services and activities, the rest of the year brings opportunities for you to engage with the temple. Young, old, near, far, new member, long-time member – there's something for everyone. The overarching theme of "Connections" remains central to the Board and BEC planning. While mostly virtual, I hope you'll join classes, services, and events to learn and be reminded of our interconnectedness.

Please watch for:

- **Mind, Body, Spirit Classes:** yoga with Kara O'Toole, a new "Cooking with Junko" class and others the first of the year.
- **Zoom Services** – October 10th (Eshinni and Kakushinni Memorial service by the BWA), October 24, and November 14 (Eitai-kyo Muen Hoyo Memorial)
- **Rev. Koyama's study class** – 2nd Wednesday of each month, 6 pm. Oct 13 – sign up and send him an email!
- **Fall Bazaar Bento Fundraiser** – check out the flyer and order form in this Myokyo. Please support and enjoy this new twist on bazaar favorites. **Order deadline, Oct 27.**

Thank you very much and enjoy the changes of the season (although I much prefer the sun!).

Gassho, Crystal



Temple Reopening Update

Greetings to the wonderful members of Tacoma Buddhist Temple. Now that autumn is upon us we hope that you are all staying warm and enjoying the rainy weather. The reopening committee met at the beginning of September and we came to the decision to not hold any in-person services for the rest of 2021.

We are very sad to come to this decision but due to the number of COVID infections not decreasing in Pierce County, we felt it was the safest option to continue with virtual services twice a month. Please know that in addition to our online services, we have several fun upcoming classes in our fall series of **Spirit, Mind, and Body Health** classes taught by the wonderful members of our Sangha!

We thank you all again for your support to our temple and rest assured that even though we have decided to have virtual services for the rest of the year, the reopening committee is still carefully monitoring the situation and will update the Sangha regularly about changes.

Namo Amida Butsu

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

Buddhist Women's Association News



Hello BWA members! I hope you are all doing well and enjoying the beautiful fall weather



On September 19th the Tacoma BWA officially took the reign as the NW District BWA Headquarters. The officer slate is shown below. Our Tacoma chapter elections will be held in October at our general meeting. If you are interested in running for any position for our Tacoma chapter BWA cabinet, please let me know prior to the October elections.

Here are the current cabinet members, BWA cabinet positions and NWD officer positions:

Current Cabinet	BWA Cabinet Positions	NWD Officers 2021-2023
Denise Cline	President	President – Denise Cline
Donna Sasaki	Vice President	Vice President – Donna Sasaki
Riu Pittman	Secretary	Secretary – Riu Pittman
Patti Wong	Treasurer	Treasurer – Patti Wong
Shizuka Faria	Auditor	Auditor – Shizuka Faria
Carrie Mori	Religious Chair	
Kazuko Inoue	Social Chair	
June Weled	Historian	

Meeting & Mochi! – October 30th at 8 am, General Meeting & Elections at approximately 11 am.

On October 30th, we will be making daifuku mochi to support the Temple Bazaar fundraiser. All BWA members are invited to participate, if you are fully vaccinated, feeling well, and have had no known COVID-19 exposures during the previous week. We will adjust our mochi set up to allow for maximum possible social distancing. Participants will be provided a new, non-woven face mask that must be properly worn for the duration of the event. Members are welcome to join for both the mochi making and meeting or just the meeting. There will be no lunch provided. Light snacks and coffee/tea will be available for consumption outside.

Save the DATE(s)

October 10, 2021, 10 am, Eshinni & Kakushinni Service LIVE (Online)

October 16, 2021, 9 am (virtual) – BCA FBWA Representatives' Meeting – BWA members welcome to attend as a non-representative (non-voting).

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



With the coming of cooler and crisper weather and the beautiful colors it brings, also comes the excitement and new ventures of a new school year. This past year was unique and challenging for sure, but our Dharma School students and teachers flourished together to a successful and well attended year. Unfortunately, the Covid virus has not passed and with cases rising each day, it was highly encouraged to continue meeting using ZOOM for the safety and health of our students, teachers, and families.



Our faculty and I met in mid-July and chose to use Zoom class times from **September to December 2021** at 10:45-11:30 AM. Please check the Myokyo calendar each month for the monthly schedule.

September-October:	September	<u>(Temple is closed the month of September)</u>	
	5	NO DS	Labor Day weekend
	12	NO DS	NWD Convention Opening Service
	19	NO DS	NWD Convention Closing Service
	26	NO DS	'Live' Temple Service
			DS Student/Teacher Pick up (11:00-12:00)
	October	<u>(Temple is closed the month of October)</u>	
	3	DS	10:45-11:30 via ZOOM
	10	NO DS	Eshinni/Kakushinni Service – BWA
	17	DS	10:45-11:30 via ZOOM
	24	NO DS	'Live' Temple Service
	31	NO DS	YBA Event TBD

Dharma School sends our condolences to the family of **Mrs. Shoko Yamasaki**. She was a very active member of the BWA and temple for many years – she was in charge of our ohagi making at bazaar for many years and a reliable and 'happy' helper in the kitchen at all temple events. She will be dearly missed by her temple family.

Please be safe and take care of each other – and take a few moments for yourself as well.
See you on October 3rd at 10:45 AM!!!

Gassho,
June



Young Buddhist Association News



Hello everyone! My name is Jet Yotsuuye, and I will be the new YBA President this year! I hope everyone had a great COVID safe summer break and are ready for the cool breeze of fall.



The YBA had our first ZOOM meeting on September 12th, and we are ready to start the new school year!

To start off, we would like to welcome our new YBA members. This year we have not one, not two, but three new members: **Nao Wainer, Mia Alexander and Yuto Kretchmar!** WELCOME!!!

Next, our Obon YBA T-shirt fundraiser was a smashing success! Over the course of a couple months, we received so many orders that we needed to make 15 more shirts on top of our original 60 shirts to accommodate all the orders. We would like to offer our gratitude to everyone that helped make this fundraising event a success. Thank you very much!

Finally, the YBA is planning to host the Halloween Candy Drive-By that will occur on October 31st. Unfortunately, we are unable to host a candy dash like last year due to tighter COVID restrictions. However, we are coming up with different ways to keep the event fun and safe for all participants. We will keep you updated on how we will hold it soon.

Gassho,
Jet Yotsuuye

Buddhist Education Committee News



It seems like forever that I got to write a Myokyo letter on behalf of the BEC. Being one who is never short for words, you'd think I had a ton of things to say. Alas, even while sitting here typing my introduction, a topic has not come to mind. So....I'll just start talking.



Maybe living in the shadow of covid 19 and living amongst others who don't share my views on masking and vaccinating has caused me to observe situations from more of a distance. Maybe these things have persuaded me to just keep my mouth shut. If you know me at all, you know how difficult it is for me to keep my opinionated lips buttoned. In whatever way you have been affected by this pandemic, you have to admit one thing; It has been seriously life changing.

My husband Les and I are both retired now, (I even passed 70 this year). So far, our "silver years" have not proven to be what we were hoping for. We both love to travel and discover new places and things to do. I always thought that the retirement portion of our lives would be busting loose with the joys of travel and even the smell of jet fuel at the airport. To put it plainly; we've had to stay home way too much.

We have learned however how to truly appreciate an 80-mile drive just to sit on an ocean beach and watch the birds and waves. Bologna, cheap white bread and a coke taste really great while sitting in the sand. We have discovered how amazing it is to see our goldfish grow bigger in our backyard pond and we appreciate the mystery of walking through a park we have not visited before. By the way, Tacoma has several beautiful ones. Just get yourself an old-fashioned paper map and look for the green areas.

We lost our beloved little Pekingese, Shu-Mai, this year. It was hard as hell to have him pass but it did help remind me once more the importance of appreciating all the good things in life and, that a truly loyal friend is indeed a treasure...horrible breath, fleas and all!

Of course, it goes without saying, returning to the temple and sharing the Dharma with the greatest sangha in the world is one of the things I most look forward to. No one can say though when that might be. Yes, it is a frustrating reality, isn't it?

In the meantime, we can all practice what it means to be a Buddhist: we can gassho before Amida at our home butsudans and recite the Nembutsu.

Namo Amida Butsu
Fred Pelger

Facility Committee Update



By the time you read this article our new stove will be hooked up to the gas line. That is a prerequisite that will allow AAA Fire to install an enhanced, compliant fire extinguishing system. You just never know when a flambé will turn flambé-able – and if one ever does, we'll be ready.



The parsonage will be receiving some care and attention from the Facilities & Grounds team as improvements are afoot for the rear deck and sliding glass door. The north end of the deck will be reconfigured to enhance safety and address accessibility concerns. The glass repair company will soon be making a call to replace the broken rear sliding glass door. Changes to the interior are also being planned though their exact nature and extent are yet to be determined.

Tom and Lynrae Hubbell continue to beautify a small stretch of S. Fawcett Ave. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, Del Sasaki, and Mike Shiogi are part of a formidable team that overcomes any facilities challenge. Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens are keeping the lawn mowed and a sight to behold.

~Dave

Yearly Memorial Service

General Memorial Service Years for 2021

1 st Year – 2020	17 th Year – 2005
3 rd Year – 2019	25 th Year – 1997
7 th Year – 2015	33 rd Year – 1989
13 th Year – 2009	50 th Year – 1972



October

3 rd Year	Robert Nakayama	October 23, 2019
17 th Year	Michiko Osaka	October 29, 2005
25 th Year	Omitsu Taketa	October 8, 1997
25 th Year	Shigeko Kubota	October 12, 1997
25 th Year	Urano Kato	October 25, 1997
25 th Year	Michiko Shelton	October 26, 1997
33 rd Year	Mitsu Fujimoto	October 18, 1989
50 th Year	Kura Itami	October 3, 1972

November

3 rd Year	Linda Mitsuko Teal	November 28, 2019
25 th Year	John Yoshiro Fujita	November 21, 1997
25 th Year	Asa Ikeda	November 30, 1997

December

1 st Year	Miyoko Kanda	December 17, 2020
13 th Year	Fumiye Tanabe	December 22, 2009
17 th Year	Yoshiko Tanabe	December 15, 2005
25 th Year	Masako Osada	December 9, 1997
25 th Year	Hsien Chin Kephart	December 31, 1997

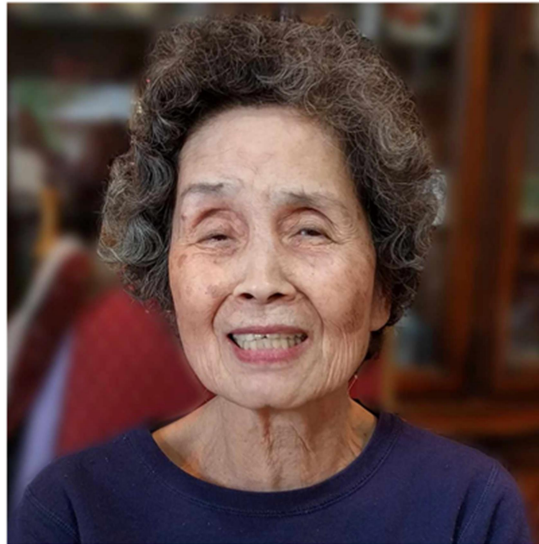
Greeters Schedule

*The greeters list will resume when the temple reopens.



Our condolences to the family of a dear member

Shoko Yamasaki



October 24, 1934 - September 1, 2021

A long-time member of the temple, Mrs. Yamasaki lived in the Fife Valley where she and her husband raised their children. She enjoyed supporting BWA and participating in the food prep for our many fundraisers. She also was known for her homemade anko (sweet red bean paste) that she prepared for the YBA's obon snow cone sales.

Her family would like koden memorial donations to be given to the temple.

*May you find comfort in the light of the infinite Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha.
Namo Amida Butsu*

Message from the Librarian

Hi Sangha members,

Do you know our library contains over 500 books, CDs, DVDs and pamphlets? We have publications from well-known authors as Thich Nhat Hanh, Taitetsu Unno, Dalai Lama and our former ministers.

Reverend Koyama refers to published Shinran teachings in our reference section during his monthly class.

In addition, many of the books read by the Buddhism book club are in our library, such as Tina Turner's *Happiness Begins With You*.

Make note of the books you want and check out the library when the temple opens

Book Club

via ZOOM

Thursday, Oct. 14 – 7 pm

Advice for Future Corpses (and Those Who Love Them):
A Practical Perspective on Death and Dying

Author: Sallie Tisdale

Tacoma Buddhist Temple's Spirit, Mind and Body Health Series 2021



Cooking with Junko

Japanese 'Kare-raisu' (curry rice) & Bachan's Sunomono
October 23, 4:00 pm via Zoom

Junko is chair of our Fall Bazaar favorite – rice curry. Cook along in her kitchen and also learn how to make her mom's special sunomono.

Please register at this [Google Link](#) or www.tacomabt.org to receive the ingredients, recipes and Zoom link. Don't miss this fun interactive session as part of our Spirit, Mind and Health Series. Registration questions, please contact john@seainge.com

New via Zoom!



Live Sunday Service and Coffee Hour



Happy October to the wonderful sangha of Tacoma Buddhist Temple!
We are going back to Zoom services but will be having TWO services this month!

After the service, you can also enjoy coffee hour to catch up with friends and members in Zoom breakout rooms. Just bring a smile and your own cup of coffee and pastry.

Mark your calendar: Sunday, October 10th at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, October 24th at 10:00am.

Please visit www.tacomabt.org to sign up for the service. **If you already signed up for the previous service, you do NOT have to sign up again.** You will be sent the Zoom link the day prior to service.

If you have any questions, please contact us at info@tacomabt.org

We look forward to seeing everyone!

*October 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Youtube Shotsuki Service
3 YouTube Service Dharma School Via Zoom BEC Meeting	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Live Zoom Service Eshinni Kakushinni	11	12	13 Study Class 6pm Via Zoom	14 Book club, 7pm Via Zoom	15	16
17 Youtube Service Temple Board Meeting Dharma School Via Zoom	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Live Zoom Service 10:00 AM	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 YBA Candy Drive-Thru						

*November 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Youtube Shotsuki Service
7 Youtube Service Drive-thru Bazaar	8	9	10 Study Class 6pm Via Zoom	11 Book Club, 7pm Via Zoom	12	13
14 Live Zoom Service Eitaikyo Service	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 YouTube Service Temple Board Meeting Dharma School Via Zoom	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving	26	27
28 Live Zoom Service	29	30				