



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

## Buddhist Churches of America

1710 Octavia Street • San Francisco, California 94109

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April 1, 2020

Dear BCA Members,

Today I begin my term as your next Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America. It is an honor, privilege, and great responsibility that I have received. May I thank all of you for giving me this opportunity to serve in this capacity.

We are living in an unprecedented time, facing a global pandemic that has hit our nation, state, and communities. In order to do our part to help prevent the spread of the virus, we have cancelled all of our services and gatherings at our churches and temples and are all abiding by the “stay at home” directives. We deeply miss seeing one another and being able to gather for a Sunday service or to be able to pay our respects to a dear loved one at their funeral service. Our Sanghas are living “communities” and now we must be isolated and apart from each other. It is a painful and difficult time for all. Many have lost their jobs or their jobs are threatened by recession. Perhaps some of you know or have a loved one suffering from the virus and you were not even able to be with them during their time of need.

It is exactly during times of great duress that over the centuries in our Buddhist tradition many have turned to the Buddha-Dharma, for solace, for peace, for meaning. This time is no different.

Shinran Shonin wrote in one of his poems, or *wasan*, the following:

*When we say “Namu-amida-butsu,”  
The countless Buddhas throughout the ten quarters,  
Surrounding us a hundredfold, a thousandfold,  
Rejoice in and protect us.*

p. 355, Collected Works of Shinran

What this poem is saying to me, is not that saying *Namuamidabutsu* will prevent me from getting the virus, but it is saying that for the person who recites and receives the Nembutsu, that they are embraced within the world of Buddha, the world of wisdom and compassion, no matter what. If I get the virus, *Namuamidabutsu*, I am embraced within the world of Buddha. If I don’t get the virus, *Namuamidabutsu*, I am embraced within the world of Buddha. Either way, get it or not get it, I am one with the timeless truth of immeasurable life and immeasurable light. That is the ultimate source of peace and solace.

May we face this challenging time together and may it give us even greater resolve to dedicate ourselves to support our temples and the BCA, so that we can continue to share the Dharma in whatever medium or manner that we can. May I ask for your support, understanding, and cooperation during my term. Humbly, I bow my head to all of you in saying, “Doozo, yoroshiku, onegai itashimasu.” (May I humbly ask for your kindness and consideration).

In Gassho,

*Rev. Marvin Harada*

Rev. Marvin Harada



# Tacoma Buddhist Temple

(Jodo Shinshu)

タコマ 仏教会 (浄土真宗)

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

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## MYOKYO

明鏡

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

May 2020



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

### Sensei's Message

#### “When It Rains, It Pours”

Rev. Takashi Miyaji



Greetings everyone and I hope you are staying safe during this turbulent time in our world. It is interesting and downright unsettling at times to think that we were living our normal lives just over a month ago. Then suddenly, society was forced to stop in its tracks due to an illness that was sweeping across the globe. In our solitude confined in our homes, we are forced to think about our lives in different ways and how to adjust to the given circumstances. These changes all make me all the more aware of the truth of the principle of impermanence and to rely wholeheartedly on Amida Buddha's teaching of Great Compassion.

There is a common phrase, “When it rains, it pours.” I like to think that we here in the northwest are very familiar with this phrase, but not in any kind of negative way. It is the understanding that nature has a way of doing things, so we either get with the program or make a whole lot of fuss about nothing. In other words, the principle of impermanence is an undeniable truth; so, we must find a way to accept this with our whole being, or we end up causing more suffering by not accepting the situation we are in. This is why I believe Buddhism can and has flourished here in this area. The people here have a way of understanding the importance of nature and have a great respect for it. Similarly, the sanghas here have a great respect for the truth of the Buddha Dharma and appreciate its deep teaching.

For me, the phrase “when it rains, it pours” particularly rings true in recent days. I have a heavy heart when I have to say that my time here at the Tacoma Buddhist Temple will soon be coming to an end. I will be transferring to the bay area to fill the role of a part-time faculty member serving at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, CA as well as a part-time minister of the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church located in Union City. This will be effective July 1, 2020, pending the ongoing problem of the Covid-19 situation both in Washington and California.

The guidance and support that I received here has been invaluable in my understanding and studies of the Buddha Dharma. One thing that I learned to appreciate during my studies while in Japan and here in America is that as much as it is important to learn how to open a book, it is just as important to learn how to close one. What I mean by this is that learning is not done just through books. As a matter of fact, no amount of learning about the Seven Masters or what Shinran Shonin said on what exact page in what exact section will prepare me for a *makuragyo* service or a funeral. This religion only comes to life when you look up and see the world through the lens of Buddhism.

The Buddhist Churches of America is facing a time of serious challenges. Trying to respond solely to the trend in the decline of the numbers of members within the BCA will not truly resolve the bigger goal of how to help Jodo Shinshu Buddhism spread outside of Japan. I think my colleagues will agree that we must show why and how Buddhism is relevant to our lives here in this country.

We may not have a Ten Commandments of sorts that stipulate a prescriptive code of conduct for our followers. It is true, at times it is hard to say in casual conversations with people who have little to no understanding of Buddhism, what we are about and what exactly our religious identity is. But where we may seem to be unclear, we have a firm teaching that can flourish and be understood by our American or Western values. What this religion provides for its followers is the assurance that upon awakening to the true reality of Great Life, they can live in a spiritually free and authentic way, grateful of their individual journeys. In other words, we understand that in the end it is not about the egotistical “me.” Rather, it is—and always has been—about the selfless Great Life that embraces all beings. This is the teaching of Amida Buddha’s Great Compassion.

I am grateful to the members of the Tacoma Buddhist Temple for their loving care and support they have shown me and my family. We have grown to love everyone here and are certainly proud to have been raised by the sangha of the Tacoma Buddhist Temple. As we take on the new and daunting challenges that we face together, let us always remember the one anchor that will never waver: Namo Amida Butsu. Gassho.

## 降れば土砂降り

皆さん、この頃の不安な状況の中、いかがお過ごしでしょうか。つい1ヶ月前の日常がガラリと変わったことが精神的に大きな混乱を招いているような感じがします。新型コロナウイルスが世界中で猛威をふるっていることで世の中が突然停止しました。そして、この突然の変化にどう対応していくのかが、我々の一つの大きな悩み事ではないかと思います。このような急な変化を思う時に、仏教が教える「無常」と阿弥陀如来様の大慈悲に帰依する大切さがいかにその通りなのかが分かっていただきます。

英語では「“When it rains, it pours” 降れば土砂降り」ということわざがあります。ご存知の通り、これは何か悪いことが起きると、さらに悪いことがつづけて起きるという意味です。しかし、ここでは悪い意味で理解するよりも、「それが人生というものですよ」という捉え方で考えてみましょう。ワシントン州といった西北地域（northwest）の人々はこのことをよく分かっているという印象を私は受けます。これは何か悪い意味で言っているのではなく、やはり自然というものが私たちの

思う通りにはいかないで、それをそのまま受けとるほうが無難だよという理解をしておられるのです。いくら自然に対して文句言っただって無理ですよということでしょう。これを仏教に当てはめて考えてみますと、「無常」というのは真実のことです。これを受け入れる方法を探るか、それともこれに対して文句を言うのかということになります。ですから、仏教はこの地域の人たちの考え方に応じているのではないかと思います。西北の人々は「自然」を大切にし、それに対する尊敬の念を大事にしています。これと同じく、この地域のそれぞれのサンガは仏法の真実さに対する尊敬を持ち大事にしておられます。

一方、私にとっても最近には特に「降れば土砂降り」という感じがします。一つは先ほど申しましたコロナウイルスのことです。そして二つは私がお世話になっているタコマ仏教会から移動することが決定となったことです。米国仏教大学院（IBS）の非常勤講師および南アラメダ仏教会の開教使として今年の7月1日に北カリフォルニア州に移ります。タコマ仏教会の皆さんとお別れすることとは大変寂しいことです。

皆さんからの指導と支えは私にとって大変勉強になりました。仏教の勉強をし始めてから約10年経ちますが、その間一つ習った大切なことは勉強というものは本だけでなく、いろいろな面で学ぶものであるということでありです。七高僧が書かれたことや、宗祖の書物の細かい点などいくら勉強したとしても、枕経やお葬式のための心の準備が養われるわけではありません。この宗教は、仏の教えを通して直にその目で世の中を見ていくことでその意味があらわになる教えです。

北米開教区または世界における浄土真宗は現代難しい状況に入っております。しかしBCAのメンバー数が減少していくことにばかり注目しすぎると、日本以外の地域で浄土真宗がどう広がっていくのかといった本当の問題を掘り探げることができないのです。開教使の皆さんは同意されるかと思いますが、仏教がどのように私たちの生活に応じるのかということのアピールしていかなければなりません。

真宗には「十戒」のような当為的（しなければならないこと）な生活基準はありません。また、仏教にあまりご縁がない方々にこの宗教を説明することは実に難しいことです。そのため、浄土真宗の信者というものは一体何なのか、何をする者なのか明瞭にならない傾向があります。

しかし、<sup>わたし</sup>私<sup>おし</sup>はこの教えがアメリカ社会、または西洋社会に住む人々の価値観に<sup>しゃかい</sup>応じるものがあると信じています。それは無限の「いのち」に<sup>むげん</sup>気づくことによって、その信者がまさにその人らしく<sup>しんじや</sup>生きることができ、自分の人生というものを深く感謝して<sup>ふか</sup>いける生き方が保証されるということだからです。つまり、この自己中心の「我」というよりも、一切の衆生を抱く「無我の大きないのち」が中心となっていく生活です。これが阿弥陀如来様の<sup>あみだ</sup>大慈悲を<sup>だいじひ</sup>拠り所とする生き方です。この生き方がこれからの世界の中心にならなければならないのです。

タコマ仏教会の皆さんに深く感謝の御礼を申し上げます。家族共々大変お世話になりました。今は皆さんと共にこれからの多大なチャレンジに向かわなければなりません。その際、決してブレることのない「南無阿弥陀仏」といった<sup>なもあみだぶつ</sup>真実のものを<sup>しんじつ</sup>拠り所として互いに<sup>よりどころ</sup>頑張っていきたいと思ひます。  
合掌。

### *Future Schedule*

(Sat) May-16	Spring-Seminar-with-Rev. Dr. Mark Unno, 3-5 PM
(Sun) May-17	Gotan-e-with-guest-speaker-Rev. Dr. Mark Unno, 10-AM
(Sun) May-24	Memorial-Service-Cemetery-Visitation
(Sun) June-7	Garden-Clean-up
(Sun) June-14	Temple-Picnic

### 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."**

### *~~~~~Special Notice~~~~~*

The BCA has informed Tacoma Buddhist Temple that Rev. Dr. Miyaji has been re-assigned, effective July 1, 2020.

Rev. Dr. Miyaji has been re-assigned to be a part-time Professor at the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) and to be Resident Minister at Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church in California.

The transition plan, which is subject to change from the COVID-19 issues, is to have Rev Miyaji and family move to Southern Alameda County around June 15, 2020.

We will all be very sad to see Rev. Miyaji, Kaori and Keisai move to California, but this is a recognition of Rev. Miyaji's accomplishments through his rigorous studies to receive his Doctorate Degree. Rev. Miyaji is and will be an ongoing asset to BCA through teaching at IBS to help ensure that BCA Temples will have Ministers in the future.

Thank you to Rev. Miyaji, Kaori and Keisai for all your support of Tacoma Buddhist Temple during your time here. You will be missed.

Hopefully, Tacoma Buddhist Temple will be able to have a "Farewell Party" for the Miyaji's before they leave, but the plans will be dependent on the COVID-19 situation.

On a happier note, Tacoma Buddhist Temple is very fortunate to be able to welcome recent graduate, Rev. Tadao Koyama to Tacoma. Rev. Koyama has been assigned as our new resident minister. Rev. Koyama's start date is July 1, 2020. Rev. Tadao Koyama is the nephew of our past minister Rev. Dean Koyama. We look forward to welcoming Rev. Koyama to Tacoma.

Pleased note, because of COVID-19, the dates are subject to change.

## President's Message



### Temple and COVID-19

I hope everyone and their family and friends are all safe and healthy. If anyone needs any assistance, please reach out and we'll get you help.

Tacoma Buddhist Temple continues to remain closed. At this time, it is anticipated that we will remain closed, at least through June. Check our website, [tacomabt.org](http://tacomabt.org) for updates. If anything changes, an email will be sent to all members.

To support the response against COVID-19, Tacoma Buddhist Temple donated some of our supplies to United Way of Pierce County & Greater Tacoma Community Foundation. Some items donated were disinfecting wipes, latex gloves, toilet paper, plastic bags, etc. A big thank you to Wendy Hamai for collecting and delivering all the items.

### Condolences to the Allan Kishi Family and Friends

My deepest condolence goes out to the Allan Kishi family and friends. Allan was a long time Temple member and will be deeply missed. I will miss his attendance at our Sunday services.

Gassho,  
David





## Buddhist Women's Association News



The Great Lockdown continues, and during this time apart I miss seeing all of you and look forward to when we can again hear the Dharma together. In the meantime, past BWA President Patti Wong created and maintains a wonderful weekly email connection for our BWA members called TBWA Golden Chain. I can't thank Patti enough for her efforts and for all the members that have shared such great content. There have been beautiful photos of gardens and flowers, amazing recipes to try, funny tv clips, helpful YouTube instructional videos, beautiful music and so much more. Every week I've smiled and enjoyed each contribution. I am including the very first submission at the end of this article for your enjoyment.

BWA would like to express our deepest condolences to longtime BWA and Temple member Rose Kishi on the passing of her husband, Allan Kishi. We keep Rose and her entire family in our hearts and thoughts during this sad time.

When we finally resume service there is a strong possibility that we will all need to wear masks. To that end, if any BWA (or non-BWA members) are able and willing, we would love to create a supply of cloth masks to be available if anyone needs one. We will make them available at the front door and people would then take them home and personally re-use them. I hope to have a rough estimate of how many masks we expect to have available prior to when resume services resume. Please contact me via phone or email to let me know how many you might be able to create. I thank you all in advance!

When there is more news about resuming service and Temple activities, I will look forward to planning and sharing future BWA events. Until then, stay healthy and know how much I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Gassho,  
Denise Cline

TBWA Golden Chain, Week 1, submitted by Patti Wong:

*And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.*

*And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.*

*And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.*

Kitty O'Meara

Monthly Book Club

May 14 (Th) at 7pm at Kings Books

Featured Book:

*Buddhist Care for the Dying and Bereaved*

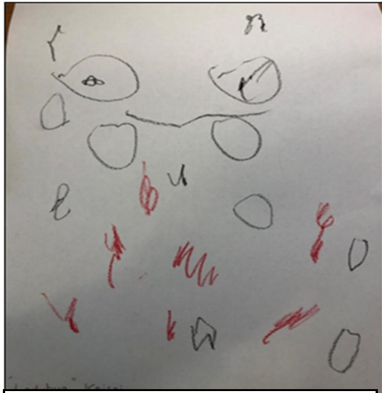
Watts and Tomatsu



## Dharma School News



With the Temple so quiet, some of our students have been busy drawing 'happy' pictures to share or replicating artwork or maybe even tackling the Corona-19 Time Capsule. Enjoy!!



Dancing Ladybugs  
Keisai



Be Strong!  
Ivan



Andy Goldworthy: Natural Sculptures  
Justin and Ethan (recreation)



*"Happy Hanamatsuri"*  
Josiah and Odessa – Keisai – Tae and Nya



Our deepest condolences to the family on the passing of Mr. Allan Kishi. Mr. Kishi enjoyed many temple activities - participating in ping pong, teaching judo, playing baseball, wood crafting, enjoying our pot luck meals and especially being a proud grandpa to Kaila, Joey and Kenzo. Mr. Kishi will be truly missed by all of his temple friends.

### "Student of the Month"



Hi. My name is Briony. I am 9 years old and in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. (You met my sister, Aislin, last week.) My favorite Disney character is Olaf from 'Frozen I' and 'Frozen II' – I like him because he is so funny! My favorite food is apples!! I really enjoy reading the Harry Potter books! I want to learn advanced math. My dream is for everyone to have what they need. My role model is Michelle Obama because she is a great person! One of my 'kind' moments is when I help someone. One thing I like about the Temple is that it teaches about impermanence. I am grateful to go to school because not everyone can.

In ten words or less, to describe Rev. Miyaji: he is a great teacher and is nice.

Thank you, Briony!! Glad to know you better!  
Gassho, June Akita





## Buddhist Education Committee News



Since the beginning of the month I have been thinking a lot about our current situation. Even though we are social distancing from others, I am grateful to be able to convene in nature. Whether that be walking around your neighborhood or maintaining a hand full of plants, there are many benefits of being connected with nature. This past week in my class, we have been talking about nature building resilience. Not necessarily the idea of bouncing back from hardship but the idea of surviving and thriving after experiencing something difficult or challenging. With that said we talked about not trying to make everything perfect but rather controlling what you can. This has given me a lot to think about.

For my class we were asked to interview someone who we think shows resilience and I chose to interview one of my long-time friends. One of the driving questions was about the environment and resilience and she stated that being in nature allowed her to practice mindfulness. It allows her to breathe fully and reflect on what is happening in her own life, to better understand what she has control over. It is in our instinct to want to control everything but in some ways that's impossible, all you can do is focus on yourself and being your best self. Just like nature we might want to make everything perfect but in a lot of ways nature is uncontrollable and wild. This ties in to the Dharma in that all things are impermanent and everything has a reason for being.

Resilience is a process; you cannot learn it all in one night or in one sitting. Being resilient is hard but it is possible. Just like taking care of a plant, when given just the amount of water and sunlight, it is able to thrive even in the harshest environment. Like us being isolated at home is not the easiest to live in but there are many things we can appreciate, like spending time with family and become more in touch with our natural world.

~Kenzo

## Toban News

### MayToban News



**Announcement:** Until the Temple resumes, and in-person services 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.

A huge thank you to Keisei for keeping the Temple clean while we are away!

~Kaila



## From Your Facility Committee



Those gremlins are yukking it up at our expense. "Who needs us when you have the COVID-19" they exclaim as they knock down beers like frat boys. Therefore, that electrical upgrade for the social hall kitchen is on hold due to Governor Inslee's edict. Also, the Temple Garden cleanup has been cancelled. Personally, I think we ought to sneak and do it while the gremlins are in their celebratory drunken stupor. On the other hand, law enforcement might have an issue and do something worse than the gremlins-like take a chunk out of our stimulus checks in the form of fines. But before you conclude that Facilities has not been very productive, we'll have you know the furnace filters have been changed. So there!!! (imagine a 50-decibel raspberry sound at about here).

Now I bet some of you who have watched us in action might conclude that we're pretty slaphappy about safety. Well, we have turned a new leaf starting with a project to trim some trees out front of the temple. I recommended we form a cheerleader triangle and have someone get on top and whack away. My associates thought my idea was just plain wack. After determining that a lift might damage the sidewalk a decision was made to build a work platform from scaffolding in storage outside the garage.

Another pending project is installing charging stations for the rechargeable vacuum cleaners. After that we'll be able to race down the hallway and not worry about running out of cord.

Jeff Hiroo and Fred Pelger's weekly search and destroy missions continue unabated. As far as they're concerned the only proper place for dirt and dust bunnies is out the door. In Tom Hubbell's ongoing war on litter along Fawcett Avenue, trash doesn't stand a chance. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, and Del Sasaki are hardworking and resourceful in supporting facility projects. Proof of Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens' collective green thumb is on full display each time we feast our eyes on the temple's lawn, shrubs, and gardens.

~David

## 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

### May 2020

33rd Year	Arima, Yoshito	Shaku Jun-Nin	April 26, 1988
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### June 2020

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

### July 2020

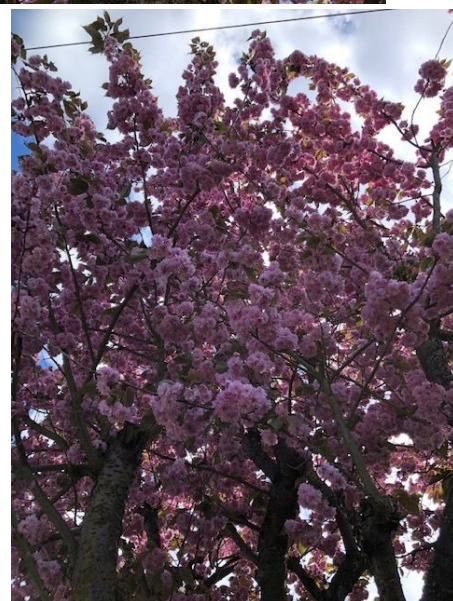
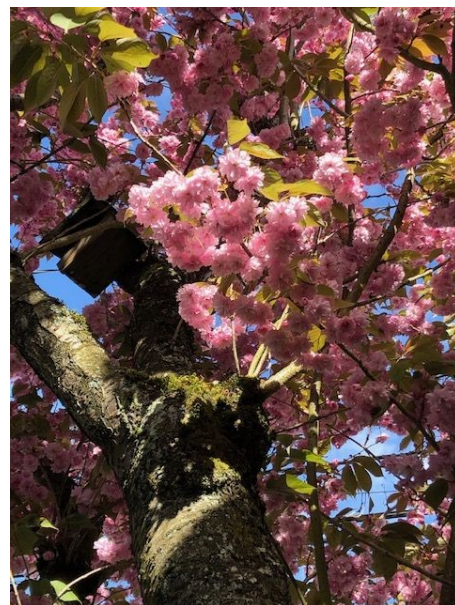
1 Year	Nakano, Yaeko	Shakuni Myō-On 妙音	July, 20 2019
50th Year	Sagami, Mitsu	Shakuni On-Shin	July, 11 1971
50th Year	Mukai, Hikono	Shakuni Myo-Sho	July, 31 1971

## Greeters Schedule

\*The greeters list will resume when the temple reopens.



We are missing spring around the temple and parsonage. Thank you, Sensei for sharing the view in your window.





# \*May 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Sangha Service 10 AM	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Sangha Service 10 AM	11	12	13	14 King's Books, 7 PM via Zoom	15	16 Gomeinichi Spring Seminar 3-5 PM
17 GOTAN-E 10 AM Parents Appreciation Lunch	18	19	20	21 Gotane Service on Youtube	22	23
24 SS 10 AM Mem. Day Serv. Cemetery Visitation	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Sangha Service 10 AM						

# \*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	17	18	19	20
21 Sangha Service 10 AM	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Sangha Service 10 AM	29	30				





## Tacoma Buddhist Temple

PHONE: (253) 627-1417

1717 S. FAWCETT AVENUE

TACOMA, WASHINGTON 98402-1706

### Invitation to the Gotan-e Service

**Thursday, May 21, 2019, via YouTube**

**Keyword: “Northwest District Ministers Association: Gotan-e”**

Dear Sangha Members,

The Tacoma Buddhist Temple extends a cordial invitation to you, your family and friends to the Gotan-e Service to be held on **Thursday, May 21st, 2020 via YouTube.**

Gotan-e is a gathering to celebrate the birth of the founder of Jodo Shinshu, Shinran Shonin who was born May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1173. This is the occasion not only for celebration of the birth of Shinran Shonin but also to look deeply at own present life now. For the service, we typically hold Ochigo, where children will wear traditional ceremonial robes. In addition, the Parents Appreciation Luncheon follows the service. Unfortunately, this year these activities will not take place due to the recent situation with the shelter-in-place order.

The guest speaker for this service will be our former resident minister, **Rev. Kojo Kakihara!** The Northwest District Ministers Association will be holding a joint service and the recording will be posted on YouTube by the above date. We hope you will participate with us in this virtual service.

Once again, the temple asks for your generous donation for this special occasion of the Gotan-e Service. Your dana will help to keep these events going and we are grateful for your contribution during these difficult times.

In Gassho with palms together,

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji, Resident Minister

Mr. David Yotsuuye, Temple President