



# 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)

May 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

### May is Here! Happy Birthday!

Rev. Tadao Koyama



Hello to the wonderful members of Tacoma Buddhist Temple. May is now upon us! The weather outside is nice and sunny (at least it was when I wrote this)! It is a joy to see so many flowers blooming and birds singing! I am reminded of those cartoons from Disney when the cold harsh winter is soon followed by spring! They generally depict this as a happy time and the perfect opportunity to get out and go about. Sadly, it seems that we are still confined to the restrictions of COVID-19 and that we aren't quite ready to go back to normal yet!

While this is definitely disappointing, I can't help but think of our founder Shinran Shonin. In May we celebrate Shinran Shonin's birthday, which is commemorated on May 21<sup>st</sup>. As a quick refresher, Shinran Shonin was not born in a happy time in Japan. During his childhood he lost his mother. The country was on the verge of civil war, and the country was experiencing other torments like famine, drought, and disease!

Wow! That sounds a lot like the time we are living in now! I am certain if Shinran were here now, he would have definitely been able to empathize with us. The concept of birthdays has gotten my attention since last month we celebrated the birthday of Prince Siddhartha and this month we celebrate the birth of Shinran Shonin! Do you all remember how we used to celebrate birthdays?

I am certain that many of us celebrate birthdays in similar ways. With younger children, we have big parties with lots of balloons, sometimes a magician comes to our party to perform magic tricks, obviously there is the singing of happy birthday with blowing out candles on the cake, and most anticipated, PRESENTS!

For adults, there is probably a birthday trip that is taken! Lots of times a group of friends and family will go out to a restaurant and celebrate with wine and delicious food. Sometimes people will buy themselves a new car! However, we celebrate, I think all of us have been affected because of the change in our lifestyles now. Birthday parties cannot be too big. We have birthday Zoom gatherings. All of us are eagerly waiting when we can start having big parties with lots of friends and relatives again.

While we do not know when the exact date is that we can return to “normal”, we can take comfort in the fact that the vaccine is still getting into people’s arms and that we are still on the road to recovery! While we are starting to prepare ourselves for the eventual day we can give our loved ones a hug, I hope that we can all take away some lessons from each other during this time as well.

If anyone thinks that I, myself, have been able to handle this time with grace, patience, and fortitude, they would be very wrong! I have also experience COVID fatigue and am just as eager as everyone else to go out to a nice restaurant, go on vacation to Japan, or Hawaii. I want to have a huge party where all of my friends from California come up here to Washington and meet my new friends here. I want a big birthday too!

I ask us all to once again deeply reflect on the many messages we have heard time and time again when we went to temple in the past and ask ourselves, “Was I really listening? Or did I just hear what our Dharma teachers said and forget it?”

I look forward to our return to the temple where I will have the privilege of meeting you all again in person and seeing all of your smiling faces. Until that time, let’s all have safe birthday celebrations, practice health measures, and say the nembutsu!

Namo Amida Butsu!

## President’s Message



Spring has certainly sprung upon us! I hope you’re all enjoying the spring weather – the sun and rain tease us for sure. April was busy with lots of activity such as the Hanamatsuri service highlighting the BWA’s effort decorating the Hanamido and Les Hitsman’s floral demonstration. Both are on our YouTube channel. We also had our first live Sunday Service and virtual coffee chat via Zoom. Nearly 40 people attended so if you haven’t joined, please do! Sign up on our homepage to receive the Zoom link.



We look forward to the **Gotane Service on May 16<sup>th</sup>**, Shinran Shonin’s birthday. This is a very special day and we thank you for donating in honor of this occasion. Also, in May, we have a series of new classes including “Cooking with the Taninos” (a cameo by Sean!) and mediation class with Kjirsten Winters. Rev. Koyama will be visiting the cemeteries at the end of month and unfortunately, we cannot hold services for members at each location.

I hope you’ve been able to engage with a few of the online Zoom classes or watch the videos of the services. Please stay involved and call your member friends to stay connected to our Sangha.

Gassho,  
Crystal

## Buddhist Women's Association News



I hope everyone has been able to enjoy the brilliant sunshine and warm, sweetly scented breezes. It has been perfect weather for enjoying the outdoors and taking a walk. Speaking of walks, the BWA is gearing up for several small walks throughout the month of May as we participate in the Hunger Walk & 5 K to support the Emergency Food Network.



A special thanks to BWA members June Weled, Carrie Mori, Lynn Blick and Jane Burster for their talented work decorating the Hanamido for this year's online Hanamatsuri service. If you haven't had a chance to see the service, you can still view it on the temple YouTube channel. It is a perfect opportunity to get a behind the scenes look at how the Hanamido comes together – in fast motion! Thanks to Knudson farms for their generous donation of daffodils, and to Patti Wong for her contribution of accent flowers. BWA thanks Les Hitsman for his many contributions planning and setting everything up for our BWA members to decorate. We are grateful for Rev. Koyama and his leadership coordinating many different people to make this service possible, for the thoughtful service message and video production. I want to also extend my sincere thanks to Rev. & Mrs. Yukawa for providing background and history of the BWA involvement in this service and to Temple President Crystal Inge for her message.

Thank you to June Akita for taking these great photos!



Respectfully submitted by,  
Denise Cline, Tacoma BWA President

## Dharma School News



Over a year ago, we just shut our Temple doors. There was no right or wrong in what we did to continue Dharma School. We didn't even know what we were dealing with! *Dharma School did survive* and continues to strive to keep our students connected to the temple. That is because of the wonderful lessons our teachers prepare, the Dharma messages from Rev. Koyama, and mainly because of the dedication of our families giving their children opportunities to listen to the Dharma and keeping all of us connected. Thank you so very much!!



Hope all of you had an opportunity to see the Hanamatsuri Service! Thank you so much to **Zodie, Dennis and Dillon** for presenting the flowers and the fruit to the beautiful Hanamido that BWA ladies created.

Unfortunately, the 'Grammarazzi' was caught filming the event, and fortunately, the kids still did a wonderful job!!! Thank you for representing the Dharma School – you represented all of the temple members as you poured the sweet tea over the Baby Buddha. You were just awesome!!

Looks like the Pen Pal Partners are really enjoying the exchange of notes and pictures! Hopefully you will get to meet and actually recognize your Pen Pal when we once again open our doors. This is exciting!! Once again, thank you, **Kara O'Toole** for conducting your second yoga class. Everyone truly enjoys your gentle demeanor and **skill** in teaching the yoga forms. We are looking forward to **Les Hitsman's** flower arrangement class and to **Lynne and Ken Tanino's** cooking class. We have such a talented sangha!!

If any DS families has easy and/or fun recipes that can be shared and that our students can do, please submit a copy to me so I can share in the Myokyo. I hope you enjoyed 'making' dinner last month with the tuna noodle casserole!

**DS Fun Fact:** To commemorate the upcoming 75th anniversary of the temple, the Dharma School **PTA published a cookbook, Tacoma Temple Treats** in 1989. The first printing of 1,000 copies sold out in about a year.

**A Pandemic Recipe: Kimchee** shared by **Mrs. Jeanne Nakayama to Pen Pals Justin & Ethan Shen**

2# cucumbers (diced and seeded)	¼ c. sugar
1 Tbl. Hawaiian salt	2 Tbl. Kimchee base
1 Tbl. Rice vinegar	

Sprinkle salt, vinegar and sugar over cucumbers in a large container. Shake until well mixed. Leave out on counter for 2 hours – shake occasionally. Add Kimchee base and mix well. Refrigerate. Ready to eat several hours after adding Kimchee base. (You can also add more Kimchee base or red pepper flakes if you like your kimchee spicier. Regardless, it is a very tasty side dish!)

<b>DS Calenda for May, June:</b>	May 2	ZOOM Class; Faculty Mtg.
	May 9	No DS
	May 16	ZOOM Class; Gotan e Service; Honoring HS Graduates
	May 23	No DS
	May 30	Memorial Day Weekend – No DS
	June 6	<b>LAST ZOOM DS CLASS!!!!</b>
	June 13	No Annual Temple Picnic

***Please please please send me pictures of family happenings so I can keep everyone in touch during the summer months.*** So many members enjoy seeing your happy faces or your pets or your summer activities or **YOU just being YOU!**

Challenge: Count how many times you say "You're welcome!" to someone by the end of April. What does this mean?

Gassho, June

## **Young Buddhist Association News**



As vaccines are rolling out and the weather we've been having has gotten even nicer, I hope everyone has been able to have the chance to spend a bit of time with friends and family or simply enjoy the sun!



The YBA has had a more laid back month so far as all of us had our spring vacations to catch up on sleep and homework. We plan to meet up on either the 24th or 25th of April in order to begin silk screening the T-shirts now that we have all the materials and designs ready. We will be working in the social hall of the temple while wearing masks, staying social distanced and following all other necessary



protocols. We hope to be able to have the shirts available for purchase within the near future. In addition, the Lotus class will be helping to remove invasive plants from Franklin Park as a weekend project.

Gassho,  
Josiah

## **Buddhist Education Committee News**



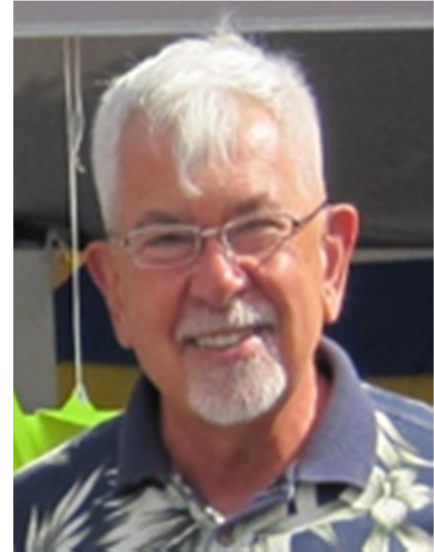
Rev. Fred Pelger has decided to retire as a minister's assistant. We express our deep gratitude for the many dedicated years he has spent in this important role at the temple. Before he totally steps into his retirement, I wanted to interview him with the following questions. Enjoy his honest and heartfelt responses!

### ***How long have you been a minister's assistant (MA)?***

I officially became an MA in February 2011. It was at the TBT hosted convention that Socho Ogui and Reverend Kakiyama designated me a minister's assistant for the Tacoma Buddhist Temple. At the convention I was presented with my robe and kesa. I remember Rev. Ogui holding these two things over the incense smoke while reciting NamoAmidaButsu before giving them to me. As he put the kesa around my neck he whispered into my ear: "Be thoughtful". Then he looked at me straight in the eye and repeated it..."Be thoughtful".

That was my "official" start as MA, but I remember as far back as Rev Dean Koyama, about 2001, being privileged to occasionally take part in a Sunday service.

The first time Rev. Fukuma came to our temple from Japan, Koyama sensei asked if I would speak. I stood at the podium, directly in front of the two senseis and gave a short talk about the concept of 'Zenjishiki'. I was too stupid and green to be nervous.



### ***Why did you want to become an MA?***

I don't exactly know why, but the first time I came for a service it simply felt right, it even smelled right! I knew instantly that it was a place I needed and wanted to be. It felt natural enough that I wanted to discover and learn as much as I could about Jodo Shinshu, the temple members and this crazy NamoAmidaButsu thing I kept hearing.

### ***What were some experiences you remember while earning your Tokudo in Japan?***

There are so many things I remember about going to Tokudo at the Nishi Hongwanji in Kyoto, Japan. Some of these are mundane but they stick in my mind.

- ❖ It was strict, VERY strict! I have never been in the military, but others have compared it to boot camp.
- ❖ Communal bathing by 10:00pm and awake by 5:00am to clean classrooms for an hour before breakfast.
- ❖ Eating meals in complete silence and eating really, really fast. No one in the dining room was allowed to leave their table until the very last person finished eating.
- ❖ Chanting Shoshinge from heart many times a day.
- ❖ Sitting in almost complete and utter darkness as the Gomonshu anointed each of us with powdered incense. To this day, I have never smelled anything so 'heavenly' in my life! Maybe not a Buddhist term but it fits.

***You served with a number of ministers. What were some things you learned in your continued studies with them?***

I have been fortunate to get to work with many wonderful ministers at TBT:  
Rev. Dean Koyama, Rev. Fukuma, Rev. Kakihara, Rev./Dr. Miyaji, and Rev. Yukawa.

As an MA I have learned so much from these guys and I couldn't do any of them justice by attempting to come up with a list. One bit of knowledge I have gained from all of them is this:

Regardless of who we are, regardless of our standing within the temple or within society, regardless of how well trained or educated we may be, or how dedicated each of us is to the Nembutsu path...we are all imperfect beings with limitations. We will all make mistakes as we try to navigate through life. I learned from them all that even ministers get tired and need to step back occasionally to let their hair down and have a good time. I've had many a good time with each one of them.

***In your messages, what were some key things you wanted or hoped to convey?***

I think all of my talks could be boiled down to one thing: **gratitude**. To appreciate any and every given moment in life. Sometimes we need to simply stop dead in our tracks and use all of our senses to take a look around, feel the here and now, recite the Nembutsu and say thank you.

***Did you enjoy giving Dharma messages to both children and adults?***

I love giving talks to both kids and adults alike. Once I learned to relax and not be concerned with impressing anyone, it was fun. It was a true honor. And, you know, when you are giving a Dharma talk, kids and adults are not really that different from one another.

*We owe you, Fred, our debt of gratitude for sharing your understanding of Jodo Shinshu and your life experiences in a most memorable and so often, delightful way. Thank you from all of us at the Tacoma Buddhist Temple!*

Gassho,  
Donna Sasaki

## Toban News



Announcement: Until the Temple resumes 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 cannot wait to see everyone again in person.

~Kaila



## Facility Committee Update



Life might be somewhere between slow and suspended animation during this pandemic, but project planning continues unabated. Time, physics, and our climate are ganging up on us, causing our temple to need constant attention. Several projects are in the queue and will keep the facilities crew productively employed. One project is to reroof south side cover over the doors. One corner of roofing is detached and folded back. Perhaps we could make additional folds and render it into some shingle version of origami. However, all the other members of the facilities crew favor function over form. Therefore, we will need to rebuild the roof and support columns. Additionally, the railing on the left side of the temple entrance needs replacement. Another major undertaking is to rebuild the decking and rails of the parsonage deck. The parsonage fence contractor has fixed the fence toppers and will finish up the remaining work shortly.



If those dust bunnies think they can pull a fast one on us just because of the inactivity of our temple Jeff Hiroo and Fred Pelger have other plans with their weekly visits. Tom Hubbell is still policing up litter as he patrols both sides of South

Fawcett. Tom and Lynrae did a litter run on April 18<sup>th</sup> and he removed some items that might have been debris from a camp across the street from the temple. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, and Del Sasaki are always ready to provide their talents in rising to the multitude of challenges in maintaining our vintage, beautiful temple. Additionally, Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens work to keep our grounds in perfect condition.

~Dave

## **Yearly Memorial Service**

### **General Memorial Service Years for 2021**

1 <sup>st</sup> Year - 2020	17 <sup>th</sup> Year - 2005
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year - 2019	25 <sup>th</sup> Year - 1997
7 <sup>th</sup> Year - 2015	33 <sup>rd</sup> Year - 1989
13 <sup>th</sup> Year - 2009	50 <sup>th</sup> Year - 1972



### **May 2021**

1 <sup>st</sup> year Midori Komoto	May 25, 2020
25 <sup>th</sup> year Norio Hirayama	May 4, 1997
25 <sup>th</sup> year Kiyoko Sugioka	May 26, 1997
25 <sup>th</sup> year Kiyoshi Nagai	May 26, 1997
50 <sup>th</sup> year Naonobu Mizukami	May 17, 1972

### **June 2021**

7 <sup>th</sup> year Akinobu Yotsuuye	June 19, 2015
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### **July**

1 <sup>st</sup> Year Dr. Sam Uchiyama	July 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Yaeko Nakano	July 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2019
25 <sup>th</sup> Year Meriko Mary Ikeda	July 17 <sup>th</sup> , 1997
25 <sup>th</sup> Year Sumiko Walker	July 20 <sup>th</sup> , 1997

## **Greeters Schedule**

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



*Hanamatsuri Offerings by Dharma School Students 2021*



Reverend Kakihara and Masayo proudly share pictures of Satone (4<sup>th</sup> grade) and Shujo (1<sup>st</sup> grade)...where did all this time go????



**Book Club**  
**Via Zoom**  
**Thursday, May 13, 2021**  
**7 pm**  
***Be the Refuge: Raising the Voices***  
***of Asian American Buddhists***  
**Chenxing Han**



## Upcoming demonstrations, classes and services

### May 1<sup>st</sup> - Cooking with the Taninos

This fun interactive session with Ken and Lynne Tanino as part of our Spirit, Mind and Health Series. Learn how to cook Hawaii's Side Street Inn's Fried Rice with Ken and watch Lynne's demonstration making her aunt's delicious lemon chiffon pie. When you register on the temple website ([tacomabt.org](http://tacomabt.org)), you'll receive the ingredients, recipes (so you can cook along with Ken & Lynne) and Zoom link.



### May 12<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Koyama's Jodo Shinshu 101

The Tacoma Buddhist Temple is happy to announce the beginning of monthly study classes taught by Rev. Tadao Koyama via Zoom. This one-hour, evening class will cover the basics of our tradition and core aspects of our teachings. Visit the temple website ([tacomabt.org](http://tacomabt.org)) for more information and to sign up.

### May 15<sup>th</sup> – Mindful Meditation with Kijrsten Winters



Join us for this special class led by Kijrsten Winters, an occupational therapist, mother, artist and active a member of Tacoma Buddhist Temple since 2018. In addition to her Buddhist faith, the pursuit of mental wellness and soul growth practices led her to Kundalini Yoga, which is a type of meditation she practices daily. She has found that this combination of movement, breathwork and chanting has been most effective in bringing the mind into readiness for quiet meditation. To register, visit the temple website ([tacomabt.org](http://tacomabt.org)).

### May 30<sup>th</sup> - Monthly Live Service and Coffee Hour

Be a part of our third live Zoom service, which includes many aspects of our traditional in-person service. At its conclusion, you can join in a virtual coffee hour where you can catch up with our special community for a short visit. If you haven't previously registered for our monthly service, go to our website ([tacomabt.org](http://tacomabt.org)) to register and get your link to the Zoom service.

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### WHITE RIVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE MEMORIAL DAY FLOWER FUNDRAISER

Help support White River Buddhist Temple and Fresh Flower Farm this Memorial Day by purchasing a beautiful flower bouquet online! \$25 – Deadline is May 20, 2021.

**Pick-up will occur on Saturday, May 29, 2021 from 10 - 11:30 AM** at White River Buddhist Temple, Tacoma Buddhist Temple, and Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple (select pick-up location at check-out).

Order at: <https://www.wrbt.org/flowers>

## DVDs Now Available!

We are happy to announce that DVDs of our Sunday services are now available! If you would like a DVD of our Sunday Services, please inquire with Rev. Koyama at [revtadaok@gmail.com](mailto:revtadaok@gmail.com) or call at 253-307-4523.



## Rev. Koyama's Monthly Study Classes

### **Class 1: Jodo Shinshu 101: Back to the Basics**

**May 12, 2021 at 6pm-7pm (pst)**

The Tacoma Buddhist Temple is happy to announce the beginning of monthly study classes taught by Rev. Tadao Koyama via Zoom.

Our first class will cover the basics of our tradition and core aspects of our teachings.

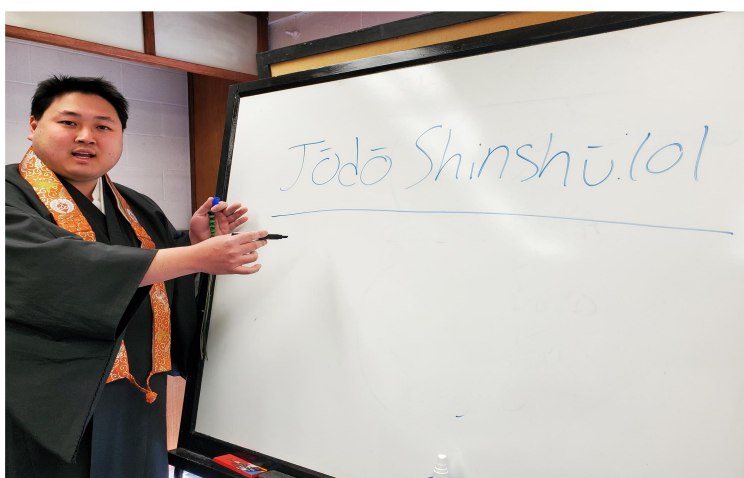
Registration info:

Date: May 12, 2021

Time: 6pm-7pm

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/c3bdYRHvLFE3Mk5c7>

Or contact: [info@tacomabt.org](mailto:info@tacomabt.org)







Tacoma  
Buddhist  
Temple

More info contact:  
[info@tacomabt.org](mailto:info@tacomabt.org)

# Shin Buddhism's Future: How Can We Be a Part of It?

## The future of Jodo Shinshu in America

**Join us for the Tacoma  
Buddhist Temple Summer  
Seminar!**

**Date: Saturday, June 12th, 2021**

**Time: 2pm - 4pm**

**Register: [Here](https://forms.gle/EbHHEt4dMDfNsx90) or in your browser type  
<https://forms.gle/EbHHEt4dMDfNsx90>**

**Keynote Speaker: Rev. Hibiki  
Junkyo Murakami**

**Current Minister at LA Hompa  
Hongwanji Buddhist Temple**



## \*May 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Youtube Shotsuki Service
2 YouTube Service Dharma School Via Zoom	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 YouTube Service No Dharma School	10	11	12 Study Class Via Zoom	13 King's Books, 7 PM via Zoom	14	15
16 Gotan-e Youtube Service Dharma School Via Zoom	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 YouTube Service No Dharma School	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Live Zoom Service No Dharma School	31 Memorial Day					

## \*JUNE 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5 Youtube Shotsuki Service
6 YouTube Service Last Day of Dharma School	7	8	9 Study Class Via Zoom	10 King's Books, 7 PM via Zoom	11	12
13 YouTube Service No Dharma School	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 YouTube Service No Dharma School	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Live Zoom Service No Dharma School	28	29	30			