



Tacoma Buddhist Temple

(Jodo Shinshu)

タコマ 仏教会 (浄土真宗)

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WEB: www.tacomabt.org

MYOKYO

明鏡

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

December 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



An End to Another Year! Goodbye 2021! Rev. Tadao Koyama

Hello to the wonderful members of the Tacoma Buddhist Temple. Season's greetings and a congratulations to everyone for successfully making it through another year! As this year closes, I would like to look back on this past year with a sense of deep reflection.

I know that many of us were hoping that by this year, the pandemic would be over and that we would be able to return to normal activities the way we used to enjoy. Even though the pandemic did not end, many of us were able to receive the vaccine and were able to think of innovative and safe ways we could get closer to our sense of normal. With the great leadership of our president and board, we were able to have successful and fun events like a drive-through Obon and Fall food bazaar fundraiser for our members.

It was really nice to be able to learn and dance the Obon odori that were unique to the Tacoma Buddhist Temple and to be able to see our long-time members face to face (masked up of course).

It was also a pleasure being able to have one outside service in the month of July where over 60 members (fully masked and social distanced) were able to gather and share in the dharma with each other. I am certain for many people it was a wonderful nostalgic feeling being able to once again see each other, chant with each other, and just talk to each other and catch up on our lives and check in to see how we have all been coping with the pandemic.

Once again this teaches me as a priest that the real reason for the temple's success and continuation is because of the members and their dedication to this wonderful place. It was very apparent to me when I

began over a year ago that all of the members of this temple care deeply for the dharma, for the temple, and most importantly, for each other.

As we look to the end of 2021 and begin to mentally prepare ourselves for 2022, I would like to thank everyone at the temple for their continued support for the continuation of the Dharma in Tacoma. Speaking to that, I believe that while I can definitely see us being able to gather in person again, I am confident that our online presence will continue as well.

Since going into this pandemic, the temple has had to change in many ways we share the dharma and stay connected with one another. Impermanence, right? Yet we still cannot make this journey of walking the path of the nembutsu all by ourselves either. Despite the fact that we had to stay home many times. We have all become Zoom experts and now most likely have a YouTube account. This is interdependence as well!

I have a very optimistic feeling about 2022 and am hoping that it will bring about positive changes for all of us and hopefully will be able to be the year that we can open our temple doors again and say a warm welcome to all who enter.

Until that time, please take care everyone! Have a wonderful holiday season with family and friends and have a happy new year!

President's Message



We held our Fall Bazaar Bento Fundraiser on November 7, and met our goal of 500, selling 503 bentos! I would like to thank everyone who volunteered and purchased a chicken teriyaki or beef curry bento. And a very special thanks to Lynne Tanino for her detailed organization on all facets of the event.

Bodhi Day: On December 5th, we look forward to recognizing Bodhi Day. This is a special service where we commemorate Siddhartha Gautama's enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree where he became the awakened one known as The Buddha. The Lotus class, grades 9-12, will continue the tradition of conducting this service with Nao Wainer and Ezra Winters as co-chairs. Please watch the recording via our YouTube channel. Bodhi Day is a recognized service and we appreciate your donation to the temple.

General Meeting: On December 5th, 10:00 am, we will also hold our member Temple General Meeting via Zoom. All temple members are invited. During this meeting, we will be presenting the 2022 budget, new board members, highlights of 2021, reopening considerations, membership pledges and other items. The same zoom link for live services will be used. We will also email the link to members only.

New Board members: We welcome and thank new board members for 2022-2025: Jane Burster, Mayumi Ikeda, Brett Johnson and David Yotsuuye.

The end of the year is almost here – which is crazy. Another fast year with lots of work accomplished by Rev. Koyama, Rev. Cyndi, volunteers, the board and our community. COVID continues to create new challenges and opportunities in how we remain relevant as a Jodo Shinshu temple. We will soon welcome the new year but until then, enjoy the last days of 2021.

Gassho,
Crystal

Buddhist Women's Association News



Hello BWA members and Happy December!



BWA will have a scaled back and adjusted **New Year's Celebration** on **JANUARY 30, 2022, at 11:00 AM**. 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 or show proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR Test within 72 hours of the event. As we've become accustomed to, things can change rapidly, so 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.

As a reminder, the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention will be held in Kyoto Japan in May 2023. Please let me if you are thinking about possibly attending. At the FBWA Representatives Meeting in October two tour companies gave very nice presentations on the services they will be offering. One of the agencies will have tours and packages for groups (Kintetsu International Express) while the other has options for individuals that are not part of a larger group (JTB USA). Another possibility is to join with another temple's BWA tour.

Save the DATE(s)

January 30, 2022, at 11:00 AM in the Social Hall: BWA New Year's Social Gathering & Gift Exchange

October 14-16, 2022, FBWA Conference (Virtual) – "Winds of Change"

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 – 17 th 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



November is the best because it makes me think of everyone who has been a part of my life. As I get older, my umbrella gets bigger and bigger. And then, I think – now I have all of the Dharma School kids and teachers under my umbrella! Now, how great is that? I am one fortunate person for sure...



A big thank you to **Rev. Koyama and Alex** for setting up the Bodhi Day students with our Lotus Students. As last year, it will be presented via ZOOM on December 5th at 10:00 AM. It's always a pleasure to watch our high schoolers do their thing!!!

Another thank you to YBA for presenting a very fun Halloween Treasure Hunt!!!! It was a fairly 'warm' day with lots of sunshine and a chill in the air. Families enjoyed a fun time running through cobwebs and 'finding' treasures in Sensei's back yard!

On December 12th, we will have our annual Gingerbread House making via ZOOM! I always look forward to that gathering. Pick up for your house 'package' is December 5th – time to be determined. Please remember to have some frosting to put your house together... Also, I INSIST on having a picture of you with your creation. I cannot wait to share the pictures in the Myokyo.

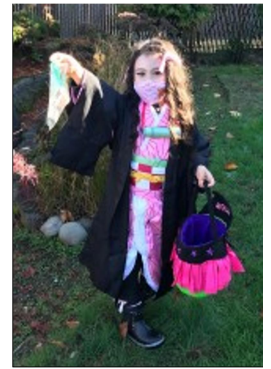
DS Calendar:	December		(Temple is closed the month of December)
		5	NO DS Bodhi Day Service with Lotus Class
		12	DS Gingerbread houses
		19	NO DS
		26	NO DS

Teachers will meet after November 30th when the Temple Reopening Committee will meet. I will contact you for the best day and time to plan for January 2022 onward. Junko will contact each family with all decisions and directives for the new year.

Please enjoy pictures from last month and this month. Our kids are really the best!!
Please be safe and take care of each other – *and take a few moments for yourself as well.*

Gassho,
June

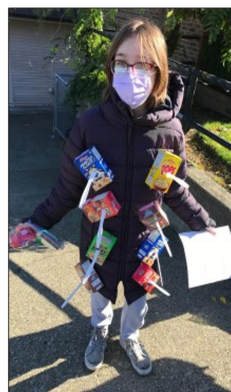
Thank you, YBA, for a very fun Treasure Hunt – and you even ordered *SUNSHINE!!*



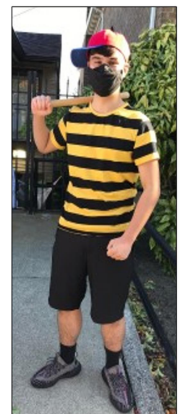
YBA's fearless leader...



ZAP!!!!



'Cereal' Killer



Josiah returns....

Young Buddhist Association News



Hello everyone! I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving break and are prepared for the upcoming winter break!



The Halloween Candy Drive-By hosted by the YBA was a resounding success! A total of 11 children showed up in their costumes to participate in the event and had a blast! I would like to thank all the families for participating in our event and the YBA members that made this event possible.

The YBA is now hosting our annual Holiday Greeting Fundraiser. By filling out the application form, you will be able to create a New Year's greeting that will be posted on the January Myokyo. The deadline for submitting the form will be on December 19th. **(see page 15)**

Happy Holidays everyone!

Gassho, Jet Yotsuuye

Buddhist Education Committee News



I hope that you have been able to attend and enjoy our temple's online services so far! We are grateful that even in this difficult time of COVID restrictions we are still able to meet virtually to see each other's wonderful faces and receive the dharma. Rounding off this year we hope to see you again in our next live service on December 19th or by watching the recorded service on Youtube.



As we move into the holiday season and become busy finishing tasks before the year ends, I ask that you reflect on what were some challenges that you had to address this year? After recognizing those challenges, what were some positives that have come from this last year? Personally, recognizing and coming to terms with the good and the bad has allowed me to come face to face with how I got to where I am now. In **The Dharma of Star Wars** by Matthew Bortolin he states, "*Whether in your mind or in real life...if you try to deny the way things are now and make them the way you'd prefer them to be, you'll never experience the peace you want.*" Because of all of the causes and effects to get you where you are it is important to reflect and attempt to make peace with it. While living through COVID there are a number of uncertainties that we have and will continue to face but it is important to live in the present and not get distracted by the things you have no control over.

I would like to end my message with one of my favorite quotes about living in the present. "*Yesterday is a History, Tomorrow is a Mystery, But, today is a gift that's why it is called the present.*" - Master Oogway

In Gassho, Kenzo

Toban News



Thank you all for being safe and socially distant in this very confusing time with COVID restrictions and guidelines always in flux. If you have any ideas or comments on how the Toban Committee can help, please let us know!



When we return to full-time in-person services and events at the Temple, please keep an eye on your email inboxes and Myokyo articles about how we will start using the Toban groups again and when the monthly cleanups will start.

Please feel free to reach out to any of us on the Toban Committee if you have any questions.

Toban Committee: Crystal Inge, Donna Sasaki, Barry Weled & Kaila Yoshitomi.

In gassho, Kaila

Facility Committee Update



Well, those gremlins were racking their brains trying to figure out ways to hamper Tom Hubbell's meticulous efforts to gain Tacoma's approval to upgrade the parsonage deck. In one their brainstorming sessions (nothing more than a light drizzle) someone came up with fairy dust. So, they jetted over to the head fairy to see if it would be kind enough to hand over some magical dust. A little sprinkle and the USPS might misroute the parcel to Dodoma Tanzania. So, in order to get Tom on the bad side of the head fairy, the gremlins crafted a tale recounting how little Tom Hubbell rigged a trap that snared the tooth fairy. Tom then, it was claimed, took the coins and spent them at the candy store.

However, the chief already knew the real deal. Actually, Tom woke up one morning to find the hapless fairy had left coins and a ledger containing all recipients' information. All but 50 names were crossed out. Tom ensured the remaining 50 addresses got their coins. He did think it was strange that Santa Claus was listed. What he didn't know was two of the coins were intended for a US Senator and a member of the Soviet Politburo. He assiduously copied the Cyrillic so the coin would end up in hands of the Russian "child". As it stands the permit has been approved and facilities is deliberating on an appropriate color. Crystal Inge is employing her discerning eyes, along with a refined sense of aesthetics to pick out the desirable hue.

Robert Yotsuuye has been working on a perennial issue that drought-stricken California can only dream of. Occasionally, when it rains the stage area floods due to poor drainage. Currently, the existing drain is too old to reuse. Robert plans on sawing the cement in front of the stairs to allow him to channel any excess water to the newer downspout. In the meantime, he has masterfully constructed a temporary barrier. Robert's minor civil engineering feat is sure to keep rouge rainwater outside.

Sometimes the facilities crew is insensitive beyond belief. Our wisteria, hoping to show kindness and love for the occupants, tenderly extended its branches to roof of the parsonage. Well, how do we react to its loving embrace? Well, someone trimmed it back. Sorry wisteria. You know I would go and talk to you to mitigate the pain, but I never get an answer back.

With Tom and Lynrae Hubbell on the prowl so trash doesn't last long on our stretch of S Fawcett Ave. David Yotsuuye, Robert Yotsuuye, Gary Ichinaga, Tom Hubbell, Tony Gregg, Rick Tanabe, Del Sasaki, and Mike Shiogi can always be counted on to bust through any maintenance challenge. Kurt Osaka and Osaka Gardens labor to keep the temple and parsonage lawns in great shape.

~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

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



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

January 2022

3 rd Year	Ichiro Nakayama	January 21, 2020
7 th Year	James Masagi Itami	January 1, 2016
7 th Year	Anna Henderson Netter	January 4, 2016
13 th Year	Chiyeko Tadaye Kawasaki	January 7, 2010
17 th Year	Hideko Murakami	January 13, 2006
25 th Year	Shimizu Fujimura	January 24, 1998
50 th Year	Takeshi Mukai	January 16, 1973

February 2022

1 st Year	Miyoko Sato	February 2, 2021
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Greeters Schedule

*The greeters list will resume when the temple reopens.

Year End Temple Cleanup Saturday, December 18, 2021

*Temple members are invited to attend the Year End Temple Cleanup starting at 9 am on **Saturday, December 18, 2021**. Please be dressed for light duty general cleaning activities such as mopping, sweeping, vacuuming, etc. inside the temple. While the temple will provide basic cleaning supplies (soap, mops, vacuums, brooms, etc, please feel free to bring other supplies or your favorite cleaning tool or equipment.*

A list of cleaning tasks will be posted on the wall next to the Hondo level bathroom door - please review, select a task, and check it off before you begin. Please note the bathrooms (all seven) are cleaned once a month by our cleaning service and do not need to be cleaned during the cleanup.

This event is for temple members only and we request all persons attending be vaccinated and use a mask at all times when inside the temple. Please be ready to show proof of vaccination (such as a vaccination card or image of a vaccination card) if requested.

We are also requesting sign up ahead of time - if you can help, please send Tom Hubbell (tomhubbell@harbournet.com) an email indicating you will be attending and he will add you to the list of attendees.

Thank You and Happy Cleaning!

*Tom Hubbell
Facilities & Ground Committee*

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.

January 22, Whole Body Meditation Class. 9:00 am



Whole Body
Meditation Class

Member and instructor, Kjirstin Winters will help you learn meditation techniques to enrich your everyday life. Music, seated movement and quiet meditation is incorporated into the session.

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## Hello from TBT's Tacoma Fuji Taiko

### *Remembrance of Camp Harmony Dedication Ceremony*



We are very thankful to Seattle Matsuri and Leslie Soule of the Puyallup JACL for inviting us to participate in the Remembrance of Camp Harmony Dedication Ceremony at Pioneer Park this past October. It was nice to get out and actually drum during these troubled times. The group has grown with new energetic participants, and we look forward to creating introducing new songs to perform. If you haven't seen one of our performances recently, we received permission to perform a great and exciting song by Gary Tsujimoto of One World Taiko called "Gendai ni Ikiru". It has taken many years to receive authorization to perform this piece, and we are very thankful to Garret & Tyrone Nakawatase of Inochi Taiko for taking the time and making the effort to get us to this point! This photo of both Matsuri and Fuji Taiko groups at the Camp Harmony Ceremony is us performing this piece.

### *Tacoma Light Trail – Light art Downtown*



Our next performance will be for the *Tacoma Light Trail – Light art Downtown* on *January 15<sup>th</sup> between 5-8 pm* at: Tollefson Plaza, 1548 Commerce Street.

A trail of light art and sound that winds around our city. Walkable, rideable, drivable. Live performances. A Light Parade. Tacoma comes together to celebrate the light and hope inside all of us.

<https://www.tacomalightrail.org/performance/>

So please come, join us to help us contribute to Tacoma's vivid downtown community events!

*The Tacoma Moon Festival*



Also, please check out our video contribution to *The Tacoma Moon Festival* celebrating neighbors servicing their communities and perpetuating their heritage traditions. The video is from our performance during our Bon Odori fundraising event this past August! Enjoy.

<https://tacomamoonfestival.org/culture-2021/>

Gassho, Bobby



L-R: June Weled, Mayumi Ikeda (spam musubi chair), Kevin Ikeda.  
Over 55 cans of spam!



L-R: Yuto Kretchmar, Junko Yotsuuye (curry chair) Yoshino Kretchmar.  
Cooking at the new stove.



L-R: Harry Jr. Taniguchi, June Weled, Kathy Yotsuuye, David Yotsuuye (delivery chair). It was a very cold day.



Rev. Koyama and Rev. Cyndi Yasaki prepping potatoes for the curry.

## \*December 2021

| SUN                                                              | MON | TUE | WED                                 | THU                   | FRI                                            | SAT                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                  |     |     | 1                                   | 2                     | 3                                              | 4 <i>YouTube Shotsuki Service</i><br>Poinsettia Pick up at TBT |
| 5 <i>YouTube Bodhi Day Temple General Meeting, 10am Via Zoom</i> | 6   | 7   | 8 <i>Study Class 6pm Via Zoom</i>   | 9 <i>No Book Club</i> | 10                                             | 11                                                             |
| 12 <i>YouTube Service Last Dharma School Zoom of 2021</i>        | 13  | 14  | 15 <i>Temple Board Meeting, 7pm</i> | 16                    | 17                                             | 18 <i>Temple Cleanup 9am</i>                                   |
| 19 <i>Live Zoom Service 10am BEC Meeting 11:30am Via Zoom</i>    | 20  | 21  | 22                                  | 23                    | 24                                             | 25                                                             |
| 26 <i>No Service</i>                                             | 27  | 28  | 29                                  | 30                    | 31 <i>New Years Eve Joya-e Youtube Service</i> |                                                                |

## \*January 2022

| SUN                                                                    | MON | TUE | WED                                | THU                                 | FRI | SAT                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                        |     |     |                                    |                                     |     | 1 <i>New Year's Day</i><br>Shusho-e and Shotsuki<br>YouTube Service                                    |
| 2 <i>Service format TBD Dharma School TBD</i>                          | 3   | 4   | 5                                  | 6                                   | 7   | 8 <i>Spirit Mind and Body Yoga For Compassion</i><br>With Kara O'Toole<br>9am-10am Via zoom            |
| 9 <i>Service Format TBD Dharma School TBD BEC Meeting</i>              | 10  | 11  | 12 <i>Study class 6pm via Zoom</i> | 13 <i>Book Club 7pm Format: TBD</i> | 14  | 15                                                                                                     |
| 16 <i>Hoonko Service Fortmat TBD Board meeting (tentative)</i>         | 17  | 18  | 19                                 | 20                                  | 21  | 22 <i>Spirit Mind, and Body</i><br>Whole Body Meditation<br>With Kjirsten Winters<br>9am-10am via Zoom |
| 23 <i>Service Format TBD Dharma School TBD</i>                         | 24  | 25  | 26                                 | 27                                  | 28  | 29                                                                                                     |
| 30 <i>Service format TBD BWA New Year Party 11am Dharma School TBD</i> | 31  |     |                                    |                                     |     |                                                                                                        |

The Tacoma Buddhist Temple - Young Buddhist Association (YBA) invites you to bring in the new year with a Seasons Greetings and Happy Holidays Fundraiser event where you may wish others good cheer for the upcoming year.

Example 1



Large Greetings Example: 3.5 X 2 INCH

Example 2



Medium Greetings Example: 2.5 X 2 INCH

**THIS PAGE IS**

Please submit all information to any YBA member. Thank-you for supporting the Tacoma Buddhist Temple Young Buddhist Association. Gassho: Jet Yotsuuye (YBA President).

Please make checks payable to: Tacoma Buddhist Temple-YBA

**INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.**

And mail to: Jet Yotsuuye  
3014 43<sup>RD</sup> AVENUE  
TACOMA WA 98422

**DEADLINE: Sunday, December 19, 2021**

**YBA HOLIDAY GREETING FUNDRAISER FORM**

**PLEASE CHOOSE ONE:**

LARGE SIZE:  **\$20** MEDIUM SIZE:  **\$10**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO INCLUDE A DRAWING/MON?  YES

IF YES, PLEASE SEND COPY TO: Jet Yotsuuye at: **yotsuuye@gmail.com**  
Or mail together with your check at the above address.

HOLIDAY SEASONS GREETINGS MESSAGE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**note:** No advertisements may be included but companies may wish Season's Greetings. Reduction of font size may be necessary to accommodate an increase of words posted.