

The White Path

Living the Life of the Nembutsu

WHITE RIVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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Minister's Greetings

Greetings!

In preface to his epic poem "Light of Asia" published in 1879, Sir Edwin Arnold says this about Buddhism:

"Prince Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism was born in 640 BCE. Most other creeds are youthful compared to this venerable religion, which has in it the entirety of universal hope, the immortality of a boundless love, and an indestructible element of faith in final good, and is the proudest assertion ever made of human freedom".

The Buddha, declared himself, even when on the threshold of Nirvana, to be only what all other men might become. Throughout Asia and now the world, forests of flowers are laid upon shrines, and countless millions of lips daily repeat the words "I take refuge in Buddha".

This month we celebrate Hanamatsuri "Japanese flower festival" along with the celebration of the Buddha's birth. The original purpose of the Hanamatsuri festival was to encourage flowers such as the cherry blossom to stay in bloom. The idea being that the longer the blossoms stayed in bloom the more prosperous the harvest would be. This in itself being a message of hope.

In celebrating Shakyamuni Buddha's birthday, we pay tribute to the man who according to our Jodo Shinshu tradition, "appeared in this world solely to teach the ocean-like Primal Vow of Amida Buddha".

Since Sir Arnold wrote his poem, there have been two world wars and three pandemics all of which killed millions upon millions of people worldwide.

During this current scourge that is sweeping the globe, our leaders are encouraging us to keep ourselves clean by washing our hands often, avoid crowds and maintain social distancing to keep the virus from spreading and be calm not give in to panic. In addition, we should be self-reliant and take responsibility for ourselves and those close to us. Following these basic guidelines should keep our bodies healthy and keep us safe from the coronavirus.

At the end of his life, The Buddha gave this advice: "be islands unto yourselves, refuges unto yourselves, seeking no external refuge; with the Dhamma as your island, the Dhamma as your refuge, seeking no other refuge." The advice here is simple yet profound. "Be islands unto yourselves" reflects the self-reliant approach we as practicing Buddhists should take for our spiritual as well as our physical well-being.

From the Nirvana Sutra:

If there are beings who offer a piece of incense
And scatter a blossom before the three treasures of Buddha,
Dharma, and Sangha,
They will give rise to a mind resolute and fearless,
Which cannot be defeated even by all the maras....(demons)

Please be safe and well.

Rev. James Hozen Warrick

Live Internet Streaming - Hanamatsuri Service

April 5, 2020 10:00 am

Seattle Betsuin is live-streaming this year's Hanamatsuri service: <https://www.youtube.com/c/SeattleBuddhistTemple/live>

Although we will not be having an in-person Hanamatsuri service, we are grateful for any donations to support the Temple. Thank you!



Greetings from the Chairman!

First, I want to thank everyone for their understanding and cooperation regarding the temporary shutdown of Temple activities during the coronavirus pandemic. I know it is a hardship for everyone. However, the shutdown of Temple activities is necessary to preserve the health of our Sangha as well as its surrounding communities. Regarding the length of the shutdown, no one knows for certain. Most authorities believe it may be several weeks or even months before things will get back to normal. The Board will meet next week to determine future suspensions. However, I believe that it is probable that Temple activities will continue to be suspended

throughout the month of April and perhaps into May. Consequently, it is also probable that the Spring Bloom Day/plant sale will be canceled. During this time, Reverend Warrick will continue to be available via telephone at (253 833 1442) for questions, consultations or advice. Please check the temple website www.wrbt.org and social media accounts for updates.

We have also received some guidance from BCA regarding funerals and memorial services. Since the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has indicated that gatherings of more than 50 persons are discouraged, if a funeral or service cannot be postponed, it should be limited to a small, private service for immediate family only.

Finally, I would like to thank Kendall Kosai for coordinating the initial temple shutdown and Board meeting during the time I was on vacation in Arizona.

Randy Okimoto

**April Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service
CANCELLED**

According to our Temple records, the following people passed away in the month of April. If any names have inadvertently been omitted or if you have any questions about Shotsuki services, please contact office@wrbt.org.

Richard William Arima	1983	Frank Senji Natsuhara	1999
Reiko Yamamoto	1989	Misao Tsukamaki	1999
Dennis Tanaka	1990	Roy Fujisawa Bingo	2000
Barbara Kimiko Tsuji	1993	Fujie Yabusaki	2004
Kenzo Kinoshita	1995	Tetsuo Yanagawa	2006
Frank Masaru Arima	1995	Kaoru Yanagawa	2010
George Akio Taketa	1997	Shari Watanabe	2010

1 year ~ 2019	3 year ~ 2018	7 year ~ 2014	13 year ~ 2008
17 year ~ 2004	25 year ~ 1996	33 year ~ 1988	50 year ~ 1971

DESIGNATED MEMORIAL SERVICE YEARS To schedule a family memorial service, please contact office@wrbt.org

Condolences

White River Buddhist Temple sends our deepest sympathies to the following families.

To the family of Steve Kato, who passed away this month. Steve grew up in the Temple, and was always willing to support and help out at many of our fundraisers and events.

To the family of Sherry Mizuki. Sherry frequently came to support the Temple and participate in special events.

Meditation Sessions

ALL MEDITATION SESSIONS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Questions? meditation@wrbt.org

Newsletter Reminder

April newsletter articles are due **Sunday, April 12th**. Please send articles to newsletter@wrbt.org.

Receive your newsletter via email!

Contact newsletter@wrbt.org

**Livestreaming Services
Sundays at 10:00 am**

Seattle Betsuin will be livestreaming Sunday services with different ministers joining in to give Dharma messages. <https://www.youtube.com/seattlebuddhisttemple/live>

If you miss the livestream, you can still view the service at <https://www.youtube.com/seattlebuddhisttemple>

SAVE THE DATE

Kent International Festival

May 30, 2020

White River Buddhis Temple Dancing Instructors and The Shirakawa Strummers will perform at the Festival on Saturday, May 30. White River will have a table on the main floor. Gretchen Hansen is coordinator for the children's activities that will take place at the table. Some ideas are calligraphy, stick figures, koi windsocks made of paper. Rona Warrick is coordinator for The Shirakawa Strummers. The Strummers will perform on the Outdoor Plaza Stage from 11:20 to 11:45 am. Genie Lau is coordinator for the White River Bon Odori Dance Instructors. The Obon Dancers will perform on the Main Stage from 3 – 3:30 pm.

We need to set up our table at 8:30 am. Please contact Vivian Alexander if you have a couple of hours throughout the day to help at the table. Gretchen is looking for people to help her with an activity that will focus on the boys and on the girls. We also plan to have a cut out board that we will use for picture taking.

For more information or questions please contact any of the coordinators or wrbt.org.

This event will be so much fun and we need a little fun right now!!!

TIMELESS FAVORITES

Many thanks to all that have contributed to our classes for our lessons. As Greg Watson stated, the comradery we enjoy as we partake in our meal is the most enjoyable time.

We hope all are doing OK even though these are trying times.

We will not be having classes next month as our situation is iffy and our plant sale will be held on May 10. So our next class will be on Saturday, September 12. Hope to see you all then.

We are always seeking volunteers to teach the classes do not hesitate and step up. Thanks again to all.

White River Gardens

It's spring and time to nurture and enjoy our gardens.

WRBT has many gardens to enjoy and care for. You probably notice the Dorothy Yaguchi Memorial Garden as you drive into the temple. It's the garden with the lantern, bench, and water display all dedicated to Dorothy.

There is a raised bed across from memorial garden with a golden chain tree donated by Rev. Ogui and two cherry trees. Lily Kato picks cherry leaves to make sakura mochi. We have two concrete pots in front next to Auburn Way with native plants that don't need much but water in the summer. The north, shady side takes care of itself except for an occasional weeding. There is a native garden on the hillside along 37th.

Our garden crew works throughout the summer to care for the various gardens. We water, prune, weed, deadhead flowers, and do general maintenance. Would you like to help? Maybe you would like to adopt a garden.

If you would like to help, please contact Mary Cogger or office@wrbt.org

Facilities Committee

Tomo has moved into the caretaker's house and has begun his janitorial duties. He has the basics in furniture but could use some additional things. Norma has asked Tomo for a list of his needs, and once she receives the list, you may contact Norma who will be coordinating things. Tomo has temporarily returned to Japan for a few weeks and will be back sometime in March.

Mary Cogger is planning to present to the Board her plan to plant a line of memorial flowering cherry trees along the south side of the parking lot.

The Committee has hired Washington Tree & Lawn Services to organically spray the flowering cherry tree near the West entrance; additional spraying may be required.

The Committee is also planning to update the 20 yr.-old ADT alarm control panel and keypad.

Thank you to Charles Natsuhara who is always checking up on the Temple while activities are suspended!

Bon Odori

This year's White River Bon Odori Festival will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2020. In order to diversify the knowledge and experience of organizing an Obon Festival, we are looking for a volunteer to chair or co-chair this year's festival. Those interested should contact Randy Okimoto. reokimoto@comcast.net or 206 437 9341.

Buddhist Women's Association

BWA@wrbt.org

All are welcome to participate in BWA activities. You do not need to be a BWA member.



BWA Meet and Greet Craft Session at the NW District Convention

We met with BWA members from other temples and shared friendship and talent, creating origami decorated greeting cards. Donations for the Lady Kujo Memorial Food Drive were collected.

Feb 16, Sun 10:30 Lady Kujo Memorial Service with Guest Speaker Minister's Assistant Leonora Clarke & Spring Tea hosted by BWA - Vivian and Pat were co-chairpersons of the Tea. Setup and clean-up lead by Janis, Alva and Vivian. 16 people brought a wide array of tea sandwiches, salads, appetizers and desserts. 50 attended.

Feb 21-23 NW Convention and NWD BWA meetings & Special Gathering -- Hyatt Regency Lake Washington, Renton. Sales of crafts and treats generated \$100.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, please check for updates at bit.ly/WRBTca1

The following activities have been CANCELLED and will be rescheduled.

- BWA General Meeting.**
- Visit the re-opened Seattle Asian Art Museum.**
- BWA Card Making session.**

TBD Scarf-making - Vivian chairing.

May 21, Thursday, 10:00am. Fun Fellowship. Visit the Federal Way rhododendron garden. Signup is requested. We need a minimum of 10 to qualify for a tour. Contact BWA@wrbt.org for more info.

June 28, Sunday. Fun Fellowship. Yakima temple visit. This will be a 2 day event. Details TBD.

Aug 2, Sunday. Fun Fellowship. Emerald Downs Corgi Races. Horses, too. Details TBD.

Oct 11, Sun 10:30am Eshinni-Kakushinni Service with Guest Speaker Rev. Candice Shibata

TBD-Fall Gift Card Fundraiser. Date and details pending.

WR BWA gratefully acknowledges receipt of a donation from Ron and Karen Murakami in Honor of Shig & Hideko Murakami and Pete & Yae Sasaki. Thank you also for the generous donations for our Lady Kujo Service:

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Eva Chun | Roger Fukai & Shirley Kanda | Bill & Norma Geenty |
| Lorin & Charlene Grinolds | Shiyoji & Pat Kawabata | Kathryn Komoto |
| Georgette Magnin | Ron & Karen Murakami | Osaisen contributions |

Green Box Year Round Collections in temple lobby - April - June: non-perishable foods & toiletries -- canned & dried foods, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, etc. Thank you for your donations. 45 pounds donated in February.

Newspapers - Thank you for your donations of newspapers that are delivered to Inca's Secret. Nine bags were donated in Feb and March

Diaper/Change Jar on the lobby table during service days. We collect your loose change to purchase diapers and wipes, etc. for those in need. Thank you very much for your generous donations. We count it at the end of each quarter.

ABA

The scheduled March 9th ABA cooking class and meeting was cancelled due to coronavirus concerns. In addition, it was decided that our spring field trip to the Seattle Asian Art Museum scheduled for Friday, April 3rd should be rescheduled. It is uncertain whether our next cooking class scheduled for April 13th needs to be rescheduled.

Views expressed in articles by individuals do not necessarily represent the views of, and should not be attributed to the Temple or Sangha members

Reverend Warrick's Formal Temple Office Hours (SUSPENDED)

~~Wednesday & Thursday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm~~

~~Sunday 8:30 am – 1:00 pm~~

For religious or other consultations and home visitations, we advise that an appointment be made directly with Rev. Warrick. Reverend Warrick is on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for emergencies.

For ALL ministerial needs (including emergencies), please call the Temple phone (253) 833-1442. If your call is not answered immediately, please leave a message and Rev Warrick will return your call as soon as possible. Note that calls will be forwarded to Rev. Warrick when he is not at the Temple.

Temple office

office@wrbt.org

(253) 833-1442

Rev Warrick

Rev.Warrick@wrbt.org

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