

# The White Path

## Living the Life of the Nembutsu

WHITE RIVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE

3625 Auburn Way N., WA 98002

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 855, Auburn, WA 98071-0855

Website: [www.wrbt.org](http://www.wrbt.org)

E-mail: [office@wrbt.org](mailto:office@wrbt.org)

Reverend Jim Warrick, Minister

Temple Office Phone: 253-833-1442

E-mail: [Rev.Warrick@wrbt.org](mailto:Rev.Warrick@wrbt.org)



### Minister's Greetings

Greetings,

Well, here we are in June still hoping desperately that this coronavirus pandemic will soon be over and we can get back to some sort of normalcy.

The month of June reminds us of summer and the clear skies and the warmth of the sun.

In 2020, the Summer Solstice is Saturday, June 20 here in the Northern Hemisphere, the day when Earth arrives at the point in its orbit where the North Pole is at its maximum tilt toward the Sun, resulting in the longest day and shortest night of the calendar year.

With the easing of the pandemic restrictions, we are hoping to have our annual Sunrise Summer Solstice Sit. Being that it is outside, social distancing should be easier and safer. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

There is a term called, June Bug, which is given to many large bugs found in the United States, during May and June. The bugs get this name because the transition of larva to adult happens in this month. These bugs are usually seen in the dark when they are attracted to light.

During the warm days of June, in my youth, I remember we would play outside until darkness fell catching June bugs. Regrettably I also remember tying a string to their legs, having my own bug on a leash. When I was very young, folks used to say "why he is no bigger than a June bug". When I think about those times, I miss them. Just as I miss our recent "normal" times here at the temple.

These days I hear a lot about getting back to normal. Folks lament the past normal when we seemed more carefree. We are afraid and worry about what the future may bring as the new normal. We must not cling to these types of thoughts; we must let them go. But letting go can be a really painful part of life. We are taught that we must let go of these types of attachments and desires if we are to experience happiness.

Buddhism offers many paths to liberation. Shinran points us toward the Pure Land way when he says:

The dharma-gates, each distinct, number eighty-four thousand,  
 But the keen blade for severing ignorance, its effects, and the karmic causes of suffering,  
 Is the Name of Amida:  
 In a single utterance, one's karmic evil is completely swept away.  
 Gone are countless traces of past karma and the designing thoughts arising from them;  
 Even without being instructed, we turn and enter the gate of suchness.

So, come on let's get outside, get some (rare) sunshine and enjoy our current suchness (reality) whatever its, as much as we can.

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. James Hozen Warrick

### Condolences

On behalf of the White River Buddhist Temple, we send our deepest condolences to the family of Betty Tanaka. Betty was a long time Temple member who we remember for her generosity and friendliness towards everyone. We will miss her greatly.



## Greetings from the Chairman!

Hello, temple members!! I hope that you are all doing well and able to keep busy during this “stay at home” time. One positive note is that I have been able to catch up on my gardening. It looks like a good year for blueberries, cherries, and asparagus.

Getting back to Temple business, it has now been over two months since we held our last in-person Sunday service and nearly eight weeks since Governor Inslee issued his statewide “stay at home” order. In compliance with that order, the Temple Board suspended Temple Sunday services and has now extended that suspension through Sunday, July 12. The Board also cancelled Memorial Day cemetery services and this year’s Bon Odori community event. However, Kendall Kosai is chairing a committee to look into the possibility of a smaller and limited alternative event.

If you are wondering when Temple activities will resume, the Board has formed a Re-start committee that will guide the Board on the process. However, it is anticipated that a Temple re-start will largely be based on Governor Inslee’s 4-phased re-opening guidelines for individual counties. Currently, we are in Phase One. **Phase one** was implemented on May 5, 2020 and will continue for a 3-week evaluation period. It does not allow group gatherings but does allow essential businesses and essential travel. High risk individuals (Health risk individuals or anyone over 65) are advised to “stay at home.” **Phase two**, if the spread rates and hospitalization rates are ok, is anticipated to be implemented on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. Phase two allows all outdoor activities involving not more than 5 persons. It also allows social and spiritual gatherings of not more than five persons outside of the household once per week with physical distancing (6 feet between individuals). It allows limited non-essential travel and opens more businesses, including restaurants at 50%. [High risk individuals are advised to “stay at home.”](#) **Phase three**, if the spread rates and hospitalization rates remain good, could possibly be implemented on June 23. More outdoor activities are allowed and social and religious gatherings up to 50 people are allowed with physical distancing. Non-essential travel is ok. More business activities are opened with some restrictions. High risk individuals are still advised to “stay at home.” **Phase four**, essentially opens everything back up, with physical distancing and clean hygiene. High risk individuals may resume participation with physical distancing. Most believe that Phase four will not be implemented until a vaccine is discovered, which is expected sometime in 2021.

The Temple Board will meet on July 8<sup>th</sup> and if King County has progressed to Phase three, it will decide whether to resume services and under what conditions. The Board will consider Governor Inslee’s “re-opening process”, recent guidelines issued by the BCA, and input from members when making its decision. So, please let us know what you think. [reokimoto@comcast.net](mailto:reokimoto@comcast.net)

Although, we are hopeful, that the Temple will be able to re-open in July, safety comes first and cannot be rushed. Even after re-opening, services will likely be held on a more limited and restricted basis. BCA guidelines suggest smaller gatherings at first with gradual increases. Physical distancing policies, disinfections of chairs and tables before and after service, and the use of facemasks will be mandatory.

In the meantime, stay safe and stay at home!

In gassho,

Randy

## Happy 100th Birthday Rits Hamamura!!

Long time temple member, Ritsuko Hamamura's 100th Birthday is June 26th. Due to "Stay Home, Stay Healthy", we can't go visit her on this special occasion. You may send a card to Rits in care of her daughter, Sharon Harris, who will deliver them to her.

Sharon Harris  
1402 22nd St. NE #512  
Auburn, WA 98002



**June Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service  
CANCELLED**

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

Takeyo Hiranaka	1970	Rose Fusaye Teraoka	1998
Shina Iwai	1973	Ben Tsutomu Nishimoto	1998
Shizuko Natsuhara	1979	Shizuka Nishimoto	2001
Kitaro Tsuji	1979	Aiko Horiuchi	2005
Darlene Jan Ibuki	1980	James Garcia	2010
Harry Ikuma Shimomura	1984	Yuki Kitagawa	2011
Gary Watanabe	1990	Lillian Asato	2017
Naomi Shima Martin	1992		

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

DESIGNATED MEMORIAL SERVICE YEARS To schedule a family memorial service, please contact [office@wrbt.org](mailto:office@wrbt.org)

**Join Us - NEW**  
**- Virtual Weekly Meditation Service -**  
 Every Sunday at 9:00 am (during stay-at-home)



**Impermanence - Everything Changes and adapt we must**

During this "stay-at-home" time, our Sangha has begun conducting virtual Meditation Services each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

In order to better serve everyone we've modified this service to include a 15 minute "Guided Meditation" with spoken instruction and direction for those new to meditation.

We invite you to join us every Sunday 9 a.m.

Just email [rev.warrick@wrbt.org](mailto:rev.warrick@wrbt.org) to receive an invitation and instructions. For audio/video connection all you need is internet access and computer or smartphone/tablet. For audio you need just a telephone.

We'd love to see you next Sunday.

White River Buddhist Temple | 3625 Auburn Way N | [rev.warrick@wrbt.org](mailto:rev.warrick@wrbt.org)

**Northwest Gotane-E Service**

The northwest ministers have provided a recording of the Gotan-E service. You can now watch it online. <https://youtu.be/7GAeg4jgw14>

Gotane-E service is to commemorate the birth of Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. He dedicated his life to propagate the teaching of the Nembutsu for ordinary people.

**June Calendar**

Due to the fluid situation related to COVID-19, a June calendar is not included in this month's newsletter. You can find the latest up-to-date information on our online calendar. [bit.ly/WRBTcal](https://bit.ly/WRBTcal) (case sensitive).

**Donations**

The Temple gratefully acknowledges the following donations received and recorded from April 15<sup>th</sup> through May 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the many people whose financial donations, as well as their donations of goods, energy, and time help us to conduct services, programs and maintain the temple.

Please contact Charles Natsuhara, Treasurer, regarding omissions or corrections by phone (253) 833-0789, or by email to [finance@wrbt.org](mailto:finance@wrbt.org)

Donations can be sent directly to the temple. You can also make a donation by credit card at the temple website <https://www.wrbt.org/donate>.

**Total Donations Received - \$2,900**

**Hanamatsuri**

M/M Mark & Sharon Kosai	Mrs. Setsuko Hamamoto
Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara	M/M Randy & Eva Chun

**Gotan-e**

M/M Bob & Mitzie Akiyama	M/M Itsuo & Yuri Shiotani
M/M James & Ikuko Dodobara	Mrs. Kathleen Taketa-Ozanich
Mrs. Lilly Kato	M/M Alvin & Mitsuko Terada
M/M Mark & Sharon Kosai	Mrs. Carolyn Yamada
M/M Ron & Karen Murakami	Ms. Darlene Yamada
Mr. Charles Natsuhara	Mrs. Yoshiko Yamada
Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara	Anonymous
Mrs. Joan Rodgers	

**Memorials**

Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara	April Shotsuki – In memory of Frank Natsuhara
Mr. Charles Natsuhara	April Shotsuki – In memory of Frank Natsuhara
Mrs. Joan Rodgers	May Shotsuki – In memory of Mas Kato
Mrs. Joan Rodgers	May Shotsuki – In memory of Frank Fujimura
Mrs. Charlene Grinolds	May Shotsuki – In memory of Barbara Tsuji
M/M Randy & Eva Chun	In memory of Steve Kato
Mrs. Sharon Ito	In memory of Katsumi Ito

**General Donations**

M/M Mark & Sharon Kosai	Temple Support
Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara	In Appreciation

**2020 Pledge Totals**  
April 1 – 30, 2020

**Thank you for your support in 2020!**

Date	PLEDGES DECLARED		Contributors	DOLLARS COLLECTED	
	Additional	Total		Additional	Total
May 1, 2020	\$2,000	\$33,350	41	\$3,480	\$23,805

**Name and Amount Not Specified for Publishing:**

**Amount Not Specified for Publishing:**

**Under \$500:**

**\$500- \$999:**

**\$1,000- \$4,999:**

**For Comparison**

May 1, 2019	\$900	\$21,665	35	\$1,200	\$16,485
-------------	-------	----------	----	---------	----------

**Newsletter Reminder**

June newsletter articles are due **Sunday, June 14th**. Please send articles to [newsletter@wrbt.org](mailto:newsletter@wrbt.org).

Receive your newsletter via email! Contact [newsletter@wrbt.org](mailto:newsletter@wrbt.org)

**Buddhist Women's Association**

BWA@wrbt.org

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

Karen Murakami continues a weekly BWA Connections e-mail. For requests to be added to the distribution list or to submit information, please send to Karen's e-mail: [wrlink4goldenchain@comcast.net](mailto:wrlink4goldenchain@comcast.net)



Because of the stay at home situation, please check for updates. No BWA activities in May and June 2020 due to suspension of temple operations.

**All previously planned Fun Fellowship outings have been cancelled.** These include the Green River College musical, Federal Way rhododendron garden tour, Yakima trip, and Emerald Downs Corgi Races. Karen is refunding monies and returning checks given to her for the Green River College Theater 'Beehive: The 60's musical'.

**To be rescheduled**

**BWA General Meeting.** Elect Connie as secretary. Discuss activities for the year.

**Scarf-making** - Vivian chairing.

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

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

YEAR-ROUND Green Box COLLECTIONS in temple lobby. Items such as canned foods, toiletries, baby supplies will be welcome when the temple opens again. Thank you for your past donations.

**We Love Kent Diaper Drive (May 16 - 30th):** Diapers (most needed sizes are 5 & 6), wipes & pull-ups can be dropped off between 1030am - 9:30pm at: Johnny Rockets  
418 Ramsay Way  
Kent, WA 98032

**FACEMASKS**

The Board and BWA has formed a joint committee to produce and distribute facemasks to all temple members and supporters. Once temple activities re-start, facemasks will be required at all temple services and activities. If you don't have a facemask or need an additional facemask, please contact Norma Geenty at [williamgeenty@comcast.net](mailto:williamgeenty@comcast.net) or (253 840 4386). If you would be willing to sew or make a facemask, please contact Norma who is coordinating the production and distribution of facemasks for the temple. We would greatly appreciate your sharing your talents. Thank you very much!

**Facilities Committee**

Thank you Charles for mowing the lawn and checking in on the Temple! Mary is working on re-building a trellis for the wisteria plant at the southeast corner of the temple.

**Bon Odori**

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Board cancelled this year's Bon Odori Community event. However, Kendall Kosai is chairing a committee to look into the possibility of a smaller and limited alternative event.

**ABA**

The ABA teleconference scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>, was cancelled. ABA is now on summer recess and our next cooking class and meeting will be on September 14<sup>th</sup> with chief chef, Katie Komoto.

**BCA Center for Buddhist Education**

**CBE Seminars Online For All**  
BCA members and the public are invited to **FREE** online programs. All are welcome!

**JUNE SEMINARS**

**Saturday, June 13, 2020 \* 11 am - 1 pm (PDT)**

**"Seeing Shin Buddhism in Star Wars"**

Other Power, Self Power, blind passions, and Bodhisattvas going and returning from the Pure Land — are concepts seen in the sci-fi universe of Star Wars.

Guest Speaker: **Rev. Landon Yamaoka**  
M.A. Student, Institute of Buddhist Studies



**Saturday, June 27, 2020 \* 11 am - 1 pm (PDT)**

**"Man's Search for Meaning"**

What is the rationale and process of awakening today? How modern transpersonal psychology clarifies Shinran Shonin's 13th century Buddhist teachings.

Guest Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi**  
Resident Minister, Buddhist Temple of San Diego  
M.A., Transpersonal Psychology Institute



[Click to register](#) or visit [buddhistchurchesofamerica.org](http://buddhistchurchesofamerica.org)

Registration is Free ~ Donations gratefully accepted ~  
[Click to Donate](#) (Scroll campaigns to select CBE)

Contact CBE: email: [cbe@bcahq.org](mailto:cbe@bcahq.org) or phone: 510.809.1460

\*\*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

Mailing Address: White River Buddhist Temple  
PO Box 855  
Auburn, WA 98071 - 0855

White River Buddhist Temple  
PO Box 855  
Auburn, WA 98071-0855