

# The White Path

## Living the Life of the Nembutsu

WHITE RIVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE

3625 Auburn Way N., WA 98002

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Reverend Jim Warrick, Minister

Temple Office Phone: 253-833-1442

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### Minister's Greetings

Greetings,

Well here it is July again.

At WRBT most of us when we think July, we think Obon and Bon Odori. There is always a great deal of planning and work that goes into our annual Bon Odori Festival. Much eating, drinking and dancing goes on during the festive atmosphere at our celebration. Obon too is a time for homecomings, visiting family gravesites, storytelling and decorating the temple.

Legend has it that at the start of Obon, the spirits of our relatives and ancestors come back to the physical world and visit us. Afterward we hang lanterns to help guide them back to their world.

Our Obon has deep cultural and religious roots but is primarily a Buddhist celebration. Buddhism teaches us that all things are interconnected and interdependent. That is everything on earth from humans, animals, nature, the elements including the spirits. At Obon we give honor and express our gratitude not only to our immediate relatives who have recently passed away but also to our earliest human ancestors who lived decades, centuries and millenniums ago.

The origin of Obon is believed to come from the Urabon sutra, which tells the story of Mokuren, who envisions his recently deceased mother suffering in a hell-like realm because of her selfish affection for him above all others. Being distressed he asked for The Buddha's help. The Buddha advised him to make offerings to monks in his mother's memory, which he does, after which his mother is liberated to the Pure Land. Mokuren's heart fills with joy and he begins dancing. This "dance of joy" becomes Bon Odori which spread all over Japan in the Kamakura period.

Through natural disasters and manmade ones our Bon Odori festival has been a tradition celebrated for over 500 years. This year will be our 51<sup>st</sup> year at WRBT.

However, this year, due to the Pandemic, we are not able to assemble in large crowds. So, sadly we will not be able to all be together at one time as in the past. Our temple leaders are working hard to find ways that we can preserve this important celebration of our loved ones and our history this year and on into the future. By holding tightly to our Nembutsu teaching we will all be able to dance Mokuren's "dance of joy" in our hearts even though we all might not be physically together.

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. James Hozen Warrick



### 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. Remember, high health risk individuals and anyone 65 and over are advised to stay at home until Phase IV is achieved. This seems likely to be sometime next year.

Getting back to Temple business, it has now been over three months since we held our last in-person Sunday service and nearly 12 weeks since Governor Inslee issued his statewide "stay at home" order. If you are wondering when Temple services 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 be based on Governor Inslee's 4-phased re-opening guidelines for individual counties. Currently, King County is in Phase 1A. **Phase 1A** was implemented on June 5, 2020. It allows outdoor service up to 100 participants, provided that all re-opening

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guidelines are met. King County has recently applied to advance to **Phase two** in the re-opening process. Phase two allows indoor services at a place of worship with up to 25% capacity or 50 individuals, whichever is less. However, Governor Inslee’s guidelines require that before reopening, all churches must develop a Comprehensive COVID-19 Exposure Control, Mitigation and Recovery Plan. Because that plan was being developed and had not been approved, the Board decided put safety first and cancel a planned outdoor Solstice service rather than rush through the process.

The Temple Board will meet on July 8<sup>th</sup> and if King County has progressed to Phase two, the Board will decide whether and when 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 late 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, stay at home or WEAR A MASK!

In gassho,  
Randy

**July Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service  
In person service CANCELLED; will be available to view online**

According to our Temple records, the following people passed away in the month of July. 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)

Tsuruichi Komoto	1974	Tokio Toyoshima	2005
Minoru Terada	1979	Nancy Mikami	2005
Kiyomi Mizoguchi	1980	Noriko Tanabe	2005
Mike Arima	1987	Yooko Watanabe	2010
Isamu Suyematsu	1989	Stanley Doi	2010
Yoneko Terayama	1990	Sayoko Kawasaki	2011
George Takeshi Watanabe	1991	Kazuko Watanabe	2013
Misue Komatsu	1995	Hiroshi Nakai	2014
Mitzi Mitsuko Ibuki	1998	Ben Yamada	2015
George Tonojo Kawasaki	2002	Doris Sagara	2019
		Yae Mikami	2019

**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](mailto:office@wrbt.org)

**Restart Committee Report:**

The Restart Committee met on June 8, 2020. Norma reported that we have 40- 50 facemasks in the process of being fabricated. If you would be willing to sew a facemask, please contact Norma [wiliamgeenty@comcast.net](mailto:wiliamgeenty@comcast.net) or (253 840 4386), who is coordinating the production and distribution of facemasks for the temple. We would greatly appreciate your sharing your talents.

If anyone needs one or two (it can be used for any activity, not just for services) contact Norma. The committee is reviewing Governor Inslee’s Re-start process and guidelines and is in the process of drafting a required Safe Work Plan and a Comprehensive COVID-19 Exposure Control, Mitigation and Recovery Plan for approval by the Board. It is very comprehensive and will require the purchase of some additional equipment, including temperature thermometers, face shields, and some protective equipment. We will also have to recruit and train some COVID-19 leads to supervise any on-site temple gatherings and also volunteers to perform regular cleaning and sanitizing before, during and after the event. So, if you are interested in volunteering for these critical re-opening positions, please contact me at [reokimoto@comcast.net](mailto:reokimoto@comcast.net). We will not be able to reopen without performing these necessary safety activities.

### White River Virtual Offerings

While we are unable to physically be together at this time, Rev. Warrick and others have been providing virtual services, meditation sessions, and other relevant content to help all of us maintain connected.

#### White River Launches Read Aloud Series

In these challenging times, White River is working to find new ways to share the dharma with our sangha and wider community. That's why we've launched our new Read Aloud series - where members of our sangha read a Buddhist book for individuals of all ages! In the first episode, Temple Secretary Tessa Asato reads "Where's Buddha?" by Marisa Aragon Ware. Check it out on our website: [www.wrbt.org/readaloud](http://www.wrbt.org/readaloud)

#### Virtual Services Videos Available Online

While the temple continues to suspend operations during COVID-19, Rev. Warrick and temple sangha members have conducted several virtual services that you can view anytime at [www.wrbt.org/virtualseervices](http://www.wrbt.org/virtualseervices)

#### Virtual Meditation Sessions

Join us for our virtual weekly meditation service. During this “stay at home” time, our Sangha is conducting virtual Meditation Services each Sunday morning at 9:00am. 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.

If you would like to join us, contact Rev. Warrick ([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!

#### Social Media

Make sure that you subscribe to White River's social media pages.

Youtube: [youtube.com/whiteriverbuddhisttemple](https://youtube.com/whiteriverbuddhisttemple)

Instagram: [instagram.com/WhiteRiverBT](https://instagram.com/WhiteRiverBT)

Facebook: [facebook.com/WhiteRiverBT](https://facebook.com/WhiteRiverBT)

### BCA Virtual Offerings



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

**July  
 18 & 25  
 2020**

## BCA VIRTUAL OBON DANCE

**AUG 15TH @ 6PM PDT**  
 (OBON IN YOUR LIVING ROOM)



**Obon Instructors from BCA temples  
 will be sharing their dances.  
 Sangha members will zoom in from  
 all over the country.**

A zoom link will be sent to your temple leaders.  
 For more information contact: [cbe@bcahq.org](mailto:cbe@bcahq.org)  
 510-809-1460

### A STUDY OF ŌJŌ IN SHIN BUDDHIST THOUGHT



Special Guest Speaker:  
**Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto**  
 President, Institute of Buddhist Studies

These lectures will examine the significance of 往生ōjō (“birth”) in Shin Buddhist thought. A brief survey of notions of “birth in the Pure Land” in Buddhist scriptures and commentaries will serve as a backdrop for a detailed study of the innovative perspectives and insights on ōjō in Shinran Shōnin’s writings. Later commentaries and interpretations of Shinran’s thought will also be considered.

**\*LECTURE ONE:**

**Sat., July 18, 11 am- 1 pm (PDT)**

A survey of the foundations of Mahāyāna Buddhist thought and the development of the notion of “birth in the Pure Land” in Pure Land Buddhist scriptures and commentaries. A close reading of the *True Teaching, Practice and Realization* and other writings of Shinran Shōnin that will demonstrate the doctrinal and religious significance of his perspective on ōjō.

**\*LECTURE TWO:**

**Sat., July 25, 11 am - 1 pm (PDT)**

A survey of commentaries that will reveal a range of interpretations on Shinran’s teaching of ōjō – including thinkers from the Hongwanji and Ōtani branches of Shin Buddhism and other religious traditions.

Required text: *Collected Works of Shinran, Vols. I & II.*  
 Other readings TBD

\*This seminar recommended for minister’s assistants and other serious students of Buddhism\*

[Click to register](http://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org) or visit [buddhistchurchesofamerica.org](http://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org)  
 Registration is Free ~ Donations gratefully accepted ~ [Click to Donate](#)  
(Scroll campaigns to select CBE. Donations are processed by BCA Endowment Foundation)

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



**Buddhist Women's Association**

BWA@wrbt.org

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

Thought the photos would catch your attention. Alva has been busy baking bahn mi rolls and sourdough bread. They look great and taste yummy--she shared some with me. For the recipe or more information, please contact her at 206-251-6557 or email: [alvanishimura@yahoo.com](mailto:alvanishimura@yahoo.com)



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

There are no BWA activities in June and mid-July 2020 due to suspension of temple operations.

**The following Fun Fellowship outings have been cancelled:** Yakima trip and Emerald Downs Corgi Races. Karen has refunded monies and checks given to her for the Green River College Theater 'Beehive: The 60's musical'.

**The following events will be rescheduled and you will be notified:** **BWA General Meeting** (Elect Connie as secretary and discuss activities for the year), **Scarf-making** chaired by Vivian.

**Future Events:**

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

**Fall Gift Card Fundraiser:** Date and details pending.

**YEAR-ROUND COLLECTIONS**

Thank you for your past donations; collections will resume when the Temple re-opens

**Green Box Collections:** Items such as canned foods, toiletries, baby supplies

**Newspapers:** You can donate directly to Inca's Secret: 8433 S 212th St #105, Kent, WA 98031, (253) 437-1312

**Diaper/Change Jar:** We collect your loose change to purchase diapers and wipes, etc. for those in need.

**ABA**

No activity. Pending the Temple re-opening plan, the next cooking class and meeting September 14<sup>th</sup> with Katie Komoto as chief chef.

**Committee on an Alternative Obon Working Amid Pandemic**

While White River's in-person, large-scale gathering Bon Odori has been cancelled, the Committee on an Alternative Obon is working to find solutions for an event that everyone can enjoy safely, while filling the expected shortfall in revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will need everyone's support in these efforts - please expect an announcement soon from the committee!

**Facilities Committee**

Thank you to Charles, Randy, Janis, Vivian, and Mary, who have been maintaining the Temple grounds. The ADT alarm system keypad and circuit boards were replaced. The bonsai pine tree outside the Reverend's office needs pruning.

Kerry Taniguchi inspected all of our fire extinguishers. Because many are over 15- 20 years old, he recommends that we replace them all.

The Board approved Mary's proposal to rebuild the wisteria trellis on the Southeast corner of the Temple.

**July Calendar**

Due to the fluid situation related to COVID-19, a July 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).



**Newsletter Reminder**

July newsletter articles are due **Sunday, July 12th.** Please send articles to [newsletter@wrbt.org](mailto:newsletter@wrbt.org).

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

**Donations**

The Temple gratefully acknowledges the following donations received and recorded from May 18<sup>th</sup> through June 15<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 - \$4,280**

**Hanamatsuri**

Mrs. Katie Komoto

**Gotan-e**

M/M Pat & Shiyoji Kawabata

Ms. Laurie Tanaka

M/M Wayne and Sally Mizuki

Mrs. Katie Komoto

Mrs. Yuki Iwai

**Memorials**

Mrs. Monica Furtick	January, February, March, May Shotsuki – In memory of Sunao Iwai, Roy Taketa, George Komoto, Dorothy Yaguchi, Lily Komoto, Tsutae Tiny Taketa, Stan Tsujikawa, Masaru Kato, Bill Yaguchi
M/M Pat & Shiyoji Kawabata	May Shotsuki – In memory of Risako Kawasaki
Mr. Dennis Asato	June Shotsuki – In memory of Lillian Asato
Anonymous	June Shotsuki – In memory of Lillian Asato
Ms. Lorraine Blackler	June Shotsuki – In memory of Yuki Kitagawa
Mrs. Yuki Iwai	June Shotsuki – In memory of Shina Iwai
M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai	June Shotsuki
Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara	June Shotsuki – In memory of Shizuko Natsuhara
Mr. Charles Natsuhara	June Shotsuki – In memory of Shizuko Natsuhara
Mrs. Alice Nishimoto	June Shotsuki – In memory of Shizuka Nishimoto
Mr. Joe Watanabe	June Shotsuki – In memory of Gary Watanabe
Mr. John Higashi	In memory of Betty Tanaka
M/M Paul & Taka Kogita	In memory of Betty Tanaka
Mrs. Nobuko LeMay	In memory of Betty Tanaka
M/M Ron & Suzuko Terada	In memory of Minoru & Yayeko Terada

**General Donations**

M/M Jim & Diane Cowles	Temple Support
M/M Bill & Norma Geenty	Temple Support
M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai	Temple Support
Ms. Georgette Magnin	Temple Support
M/M Sally & Wayne Mizuki	In Appreciation
M/M Mitsuko & Alvin Terada	In Appreciation

**2020 Pledge Totals**

May 1 – 31, 2020

Thank you for your support in 2020!

Date	PLEDGES DECLARED		Contributors	DOLLARS COLLECTED	
	Additional	Total		Additional	Total
June 2, 2020	\$3,450	\$36,800	44	\$5,430	\$29,235

Name and Amount Not Specified for Publishing: Anonymous #14

Amount Not Specified for Publishing:

Under \$500: Betty Tanaka Laurie Tanaka

\$500- \$999:

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

**For Comparison**

June 3, 2019	\$3,300	\$24,965	37	\$3,470	\$19,955
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\*\*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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