

The White Path

Living the Life of the Nembutsu

WHITE RIVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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Minister's Greetings

Greetings,

Wow April is here! Just a few days ago, I saw my first robin. A wonderful sight indeed.

I grew up in Western North Carolina where the winters are usually harsher than in the Puget Sound area. Early Spring days were always filled with excitement looking for the first sign of Spring. Waiting for Mr. Robin Redbreast to appear. We delighted in hearing the robin's song. This sign would bring joy to our hearts because we knew that new life and warm days of Spring were just around the corner.

In Buddhism, there is a fantastical immortal creature, possessed of a human head and a bird's torso, with a long flowing tail. The Japanese name for this creature is karyōbinga and it is said to dwell in the Western Pure Land. The name is the transliteration from the Sanskrit kalavinka (wonderful sound). It starts singing in the eggshell before it is hatched. Its beautiful voice surpasses that of humans, Gods, devas, and all other birds, and is likened to the wondrous tones of Buddhas and holy Bodhisattvas. Like the robin's voice is a sign of spring, this wondrous birds voice singing the Dharma fills our hearts with joy as we hear Amida Buddha's promise of our birth in his pure land of perfect peace.

Another sign of Spring is flowers. So many flowers bloom in April. Flowers are a welcome sight as they mark the beginning of spring and the arrival of warm weather. This month we celebrate "Flower festival".

Hanamatsuri or "flower festival" along with the celebration of Buddha's birth began around 566 CE and is celebrated by Jodo Shinshu followers and other Mahayana Buddhists the world over. It is said the original purpose of the festival was to encourage fruiting flowers to blossom and stay in bloom. The belief was that the longer the flowers blossomed in spring, the more prosperous the harvest would be in the fall.

The most important part of the Hanamatsuri celebration is the observance of Buddha's birthday.

Legend has it that when the Bodhisattva was born, immediately after birth, he took seven steps. With each step, lotus blossoms sprang from the earth, proclaiming the glory of his birth. He took these steps in each of the four directions and proclaimed, "In heaven above and earth below, I am the most honored one. I shall dispel the suffering that fills the world." The first six steps refer to the six realms of samsara; the seventh step, humanity's potential to transcend this world of suffering.

We celebrate the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha, the greatest of sentient beings, because the birth of Shakyamuni represents the birth of Buddhism. With the coming of Shakyamuni began the spread of Buddhism. Buddhism became available to all people with his birth. Happy 2587th Birthday Buddha!

Gassho,

Reverend James Hozen Warrick



Hanamatsuri Virtual Service Sunday, April 11th at 10:30 am

www.wrbt.org/service

In this month's newsletter you will find an invitation for our Virtual Hanamatsuri service. Join us as we commemorate the birth of Siddhartha Gautama who later became enlightened as Shakyamuni Buddha.

Please join us at www.wrbt.org/service



Greetings from the Chairman!

Hello, temple members.

During the month of April, we commemorate the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, who later become enlightened as Shakyamuni Buddha. Hanamatsuri, or the “Flower Festival” brings back many childhood memories. At that time, Hanamatsuri was a celebratory event involving skits and sketches performed on stage by Dharma School members in front of the Sangha. It was quite a growing up experience.

Just for your information, the March Board meeting was busy this month. During the meeting, the Board approved a Religious Committee request to hold a temple wide fundraising effort to support donations to the Auburn Foodbank’s “Backpack Program.” The Backpack Program provides lunches to underprivileged children in the Auburn area. Highlights from the National Council Meeting included BCA dues being reduced from \$157 to \$151 for general membership and \$50 to members under 30. Kendall Kosai is also heading a crane-folding display at the temple to commemorate those who have passed away from Covid-19. The Board also approved a fresh flower fundraiser sale during Memorial Day weekend. Finally, the Board approved a statement denouncing recent anti-Asian events perpetrated against the Higashi Honganji Temple in Los Angeles.

Even though Covid-19 vaccines are being widely administered, the virus remains a significant risk to the community. As a result, the Temple will remain closed for the near future. President Biden, however, believes that if the inoculation programs continue to increase as expected, group gathering restrictions may ease up sometime around the Fourth of July. In the meantime, I encourage everyone to sign up to be vaccinated. It doesn’t hurt and it is the only way we can reduce community spread enough to re-open the temple.

In the meantime, stay safe, stay at home, or WEAR A MASK!

In gassho,
Randy

**April Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service
IN PERSON SERVICES - CANCELLED
View online on April 4th at 10:30am
www.wrbt.org/service**

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 ~ 2020 | 3 year ~ 2019 | 7 year ~ 2015 | 13 year ~ 2009 |
| 17 year ~ 2005 | 25 year ~ 1997 | 33 year ~ 1989 | 50 year ~ 1972 |

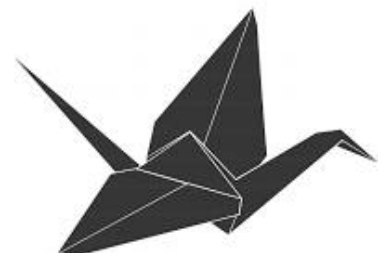
DESIGNATED MEMORIAL SERVICE YEARS To schedule a family memorial service, please contact office@wrbt.org

White River Buddhist Temple Tsuru (Crane) Making Drive Begins

In dedication to those we lost this last year, White River Buddhist Temple is starting a tsuru (crane) making drive. The tsuru will be hung in the Temple hondo for display during virtual services. Help us reach our goal of 5000 tsuru!!

If you need instructions on making cranes, here’s a helpful site. <https://origami.me/crane/>

Please contact office@wrbt.org for more information. Contactless tsuru drop-off will occur at the temple on **May 29, 2021**



Buddhist Women's Association

BWA@wrbt.org

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

White River BWA gratefully acknowledges a donation from Yoshiko Yamada. Your generosity will keep our spirits strong and bright.

Lady Kujo Service, Feb 14, 2021. Thank you to our guest speaker, Rev. Cyndi Yasaki of Tacoma Buddhist Temple. Her dharma talk introduced us to Lady Kujo, shared one of her poems and placed her efforts in the larger scheme of our faith. The BWA appreciates having this annual service to recognize the contributions made by Lady Kujo and the countless number of women, past and present.

Virtual Crafts and Coffee, Thursday, April 22, 2021, 1030am. Please join us for a Zoom session. Show off a craft, enjoy seeing and conversing with temple members. All are welcome to participate. BWA membership is not required. Please see the temple website calendar for the link. Questions, please contact Georgette at oz.georgette@gmail.com or 206-854-7913.

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

Currently no in-person BWA activities are scheduled in 2021. We will follow the guidance of the re-start committee.

YEAR-ROUND COLLECTIONS

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

Newspapers: Thank you for your donations of newspapers. You can donate directly to Inca's Secret: 8433 S 212th St #105, Kent, WA 98031, (253) 437-1312. Collections at the temple will resume when it opens to the public.

ABA

The ABA had a virtual meeting on March 8, 2021. The members voted to support the Religious Committee's proposal to support the Auburn Food Bank for its "Backpack Program." Discussions regarding the Temple Picnic and an ABA Fall Field Trip were postponed until our next virtual meeting on May 10, 2021 at 1 pm.

\$5,000.00 to Auburn's Homeless Outreach Fund

White River Buddhist Temple has learned, through interfaith meetings that Rev. Warrick has been attending, that the City is reaching out to faith organizations in the Auburn area asking for support for their Homeless Outreach program. This program is part of the City's larger plan on addressing the homelessness issues.

As part of our Community Outreach efforts, White River Buddhist Temple has decided to focus on our continuing support for the Auburn's Homeless Outreach Program and Food Bank for 2021-2022. The Temple submitted a grant proposal to the BCA, requesting \$5000.00 from the Social Welfare Fund. The Social Welfare Fund Committee approved the grant proposal, and the BCA mailed a check to Debbie Christian, Executive Director, Auburn Food Bank who is managing the funds for the Homeless Outreach program.

Thank you to all who participated in this effort and a special thank you to Char Grinolds for preparing the grant proposal and communicating with the Social Welfare Fund Committee.

Restart and Bon Odori Committees

There has been no activity in January or February for the Restart Committee; the next meeting is planned for the end of April.

Randy Okimoto has volunteered to be chairperson of this year's Bon Odori Festival.

April Timeless Favorites

Join us for our next Timeless Favorites virtual cooking class on **April 24th** at 11 am. We have rescheduled Instructor Memi Yamashita who will be teaching us how to make **Matcha Shiratama Dango** (green tea mochi)!

Register at www.wrbt.org/timelessfavorites! Hope to see you there!

BCA Educational Offerings

Each event requires registration which can be found at:

<https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/buddhist-education>

Buddhism Beyond Mindfulness: An introductory course about Buddhism for college students and young adults. Questions - Contact WLADharmaCenter@gmail.com

Part 1: Intro to Buddhism

April 10 10:30 am -12:00 noon

April 17 10:30 am - 12:00 noon

Part 2: Introduction to the Pure Land Teachings

April 24 10:30 am - 12:00 noon

May 1 10:30 am - 12:00 noon

Part 3: Chanting and Reflection Session

May 8 10:30 am - 12:00 noon

Socially Engaged Buddhism: Speakers - Prof. Mitsuya Dake and Rev. Kiyo Kuwahara. Questions - Contact cbe@bcahq.org

April 10 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

3 Bishops: What is the Future of Buddhism in the West: Rev. Marvin Harada (Bishop, Buddhist churches of America) Rev, Eric Matsumoto (Bishop, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii) Rev. Tatsuya Aoki (Bishop, Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada). Questions - Contact cbe@bcahq.org

April 17 11:00 am - 1:00 pm



Thursday Night Medical Series

“Living Each Day Well”

Thursday, April 22, 2021 6:30 pm

Introduction to Shojin Ryori Cooking - Buddhist Vegetarian Cuisine

Featuring Rev. Michael Endo, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America

Please sign-up at BetsuinPrograms@buddhistchurch.org

Northwest District Ministers Association

Prince Shotoku Memorial Service

April 25th at 10:00 am

The Northwest District Ministers have collaborated to present this virtual service for all of you. The link to the service is on their YouTube channel: bit.ly/nwdservices (case sensitive)

WRBT Virtual Book Club

Be the Refuge-Raising the Voices of Asian American Buddhists, Xhenxing Han

Parts 1-2 Sunday, April 4 @ 7 PM

Parts 3-4 Sunday, May 2 @ 7 PM

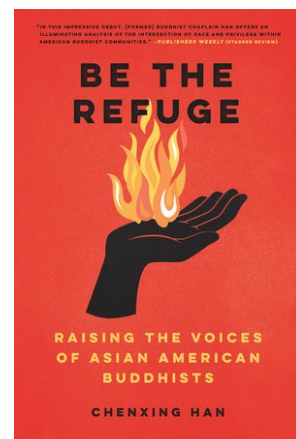
All are welcome. Please sign up at www.wrbt.org/bookclub for the link to the meeting.

In her book, *Be the Refuge-Raising the Voices of Asian American Buddhists*, Xhenxing Han explores the question, “Will the real Asian American Buddhist please stand up?” She weaves her personal experiences and reflections in with the interviews of 89 other young adults.

“This book centers young Asian American Buddhists’ own voices, with insights from multigenerational, second-generation, and socially engaged Asian American Buddhists. It includes the stories of trailblazers, bridge-builders, integrators, and refuge-maker who hail from a wide range of ... backgrounds.” Back cover

“Encouraging frank conversations about, race, representation and inclusivity among Buddhists of all backgrounds...” Back cover

“...Han offers an illuminating analysis of the intersection of race and privilege within American Buddhist communities.” *Publishers Weekly*



Donations

The Temple gratefully acknowledges the following donations received and recorded from February 16th through March 15th. 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 Assistant Treasurer, regarding omissions or corrections by phone (253) 833-0789, or by email to finance@wrbt.org

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

Total Donations Received - \$680

Shotsuki (Monthly) Memorials

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Mr. Don Kato | In memory of Satoru Kato, Ted Komoto, Steve Kato |
| Mrs. Lorraine Blackler | In memory of Hiroto Mizoguchi |
| Ms. Laurie Tanaka | In memory of Maki Yamada and Yoshio Horiuchi |
| Mrs. Tomeko Taketa | In memory of Ben Taketa |
| M/M Karen and Tom Little | In memory of Toshi Terayama |
| M/M Sharon and Mark Kosai | January, February, March Shotsuki |
| Mrs. Lilly Kato | March Shotsuki |

Ho-onko and Ohigan Service

M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai

Memorials

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| M/M Itsuo & Yuri Shiotani | In memory of Ritsuko Hamamura |
| Ms. Laurie Tanaka | In memory of Ritsuko Hamamura |

General Donations

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Ms. Patricia Cosgrove | In Appreciation |
|-----------------------|-----------------|

2021 Pledge Totals

February 1 - 28, 2021

Thank you for your support in 2020!

| PLEDGES DECLARED | | | DOLLARS COLLECTED | | |
|--|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Date | Additional | Total | Contributors | Additional | Total |
| March 3, 2021 | \$22,900 | \$28,100 | 31 | \$22,275 | \$23,500 |
| Name and Amount Not Specified for Publishing: | | | Anonymous #1 | Anonymous #2 | Anonymous |
| #3 | Anonymous #4 | Anonymous #5 | Anonymous #6 | | |
| Amount Not Specified for Publishing: | | | Georgette I. Magnin | Wayne Mizuki | Sally Mizuki |
| | Anika Klix | Joan Rodgers | Monica Furtick | | |
| Under \$500: | Dennis Yamashita | Carolyn Yamada | Yukiko Iwai | Kiyomi Taketa-Ozanich | |
| \$500- \$999: | Gayle Takemura | Anonymous #7 | | | |
| \$1,000- \$4,999: | Charlene Grinolds | Anonymous #8 | Anonymous #9 | | |
| <u>For Comparison</u> | | | | | |
| February 18, 2020 | \$8,550 | \$23,800 | 31 | \$2,370 | \$12,740 |

Facilities Committee

Randy met two representatives from the Auburn Fire Department on Thursday, March 11, 2021. They made a preliminary inspection of the property. They measured an area bordering on a line running from 20 feet west of the garage to the street and to the western edge of the grass field. Unfortunately, that covered only 1.1 acres and they are seeking about 1.5 acres for their project. If the line ran from the eastern side of the garage to the street it would make 1.4 acres available. They would pay for replacing the garage. They are serious and plan on having the area appraised soon. Anyway, let us know what your thoughts are.

JR, Charles, and Randy are planning to begin work on the Wisteria trellis soon.

Newsletter Reminder

March newsletter articles are due **Sunday, April 18th**. Please send articles to newsletter@wrbt.org. Save a tree and a stamp - receive your newsletter via email! Contact newsletter@wrbt.org

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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