

The White Path

Living the Life of the Nembutsu

WHITE RIVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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Minister's Greetings

Greetings,

Last year in my May 2020 newsletter article I wrote the following “Well, here we are in May hoping desperately that this coronavirus pandemic will soon be over and we can get back to some sort of normalcy.” Here we are a year later and as the COVID disruption subsides, back to normal is still elusive.

Bill Hanage, an epidemiologist at Harvard, describes what he thinks getting back to normal might look like when he says “We will suddenly realize that we are laughing, indoors, with people we don’t know and whose vaccine status is unknown, and we will think, ‘Wow, this would have been unimaginable back when ...’

We have been and are still all in this together! Our internet connections bring us the awareness of the immensity of suffering happening on our planet at this present time caused by the environment and climate change, racial injustice, power grabs, hunger, species degradation, and disease such as the current pandemic that has swept across the globe. This awareness reminds us that we are all in this together, given that we travel around the world, share economic and cultural activities, that we are one human family living with countless beings inhabiting our precious planet that has its limited sustainability. Realizing our interdependence and interconnectedness might be overwhelming, this fact that we are bound to one another.

The promise made as we recite the Golden Chain emphasizes this interconnectedness of all life.

I am a link in Amida Buddha’s golden chain of love that stretches around the world. I keep my link bright and strong.

I will try to be kind and gentle to every living thing and protect all who are weaker than myself.

I will try to think pure and beautiful thoughts, to say pure and beautiful words, and to do pure and beautiful deeds.

May every link in Amida Buddha’s golden chain of love be bright and strong and may we all attain perfect peace.

We do not know when things will return to normal, and all this will end. Singer John Lennon’s words offers hope when he said “Everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, it's not the end.”

Gassho,

Reverend James Hozen Warrick



Greetings from the Chairman!

Hello, temple members.

To me, the month of May is springtime in the Northwest. The weather is warm, the flowers are blooming, and the gardens are planted. It is my favorite time of year.

It has now been 13 months since we held our last in-person Sunday service. With the percentage of persons having been inoculated with the very safe and effective

Continued on Page 2....

Gotan-E Service

Sunday, May 16th at 10:30 am

In this month's newsletter you will find an invitation for our Virtual Gotan-E service. Join us as we commemorate the birth of Shinran Shonin, who dedicated his life to propagating the teachings of the Nembutsu to ordinary people. www.wrbt.org/service

Greetings from the Chairman continued from Page 1

Covid-19 vaccine increasing every week, the light at the end of the tunnel is becoming ever brighter. Currently, approximately 25% of King County residents have been vaccinated. We need significantly more vaccinations to obtain that illusive “herd immunity.”

So, I encourage everyone to sign up to be vaccinated. It does not hurt, and it is the only way we can reduce community spread enough to re-open the temple. Hopefully, that will be sometime this summer. And if you need help getting an appointment, please contact me at reokimoto@comcast.net or 253 859 2605.

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

In gassho,
Randy

**May Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service
IN PERSON SERVICES - CANCELLED
View online on May 2nd at 10:30am
www.wrbt.org/service**

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

Hanako Yanagawa	1974	Frank Fujimura	2003
Sachiko Hirose	1978	George Mitsuo Hiranaka	2003
Tokuyo Komoto	1985	Masaru Kato	2008
Takeyoshi Jack Koga	1993	Bill Yaguchi	2011
Gladys Gisi	1999	George Shoji Terada	2014
Risako Kawasaki	2000	Betty Tanaka	2020
Masao Mikami	2001		

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

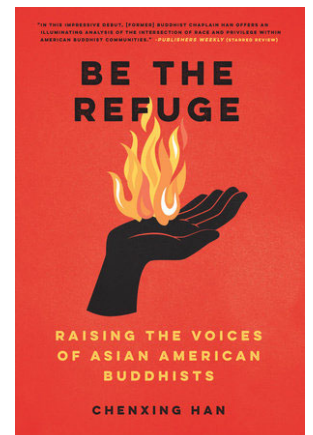
WRBT Virtual Book Club

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

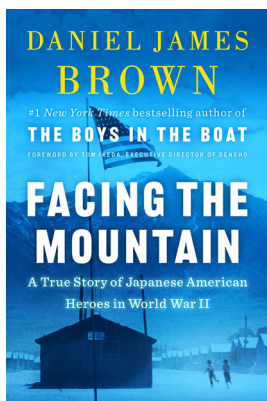
Parts 3-4 Sunday, May 2 @ 7 PM

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.



Facing the Mountain Book Launch



Densho is hosting the official book launch for Facing the Mountain, a new book about WWII incarceration and the 442nd RCT by Daniel James Brown, NY Times bestselling author of The Boys in the Boat. The May 11, 2021 virtual event will feature a conversation between Brown and Densho Executive Director Tom Ikeda, who has conducted previous oral histories with many of the men highlighted in the book. Facing the Mountain grew out of conversations Brown had with Ikeda in 2015.

Facing the Mountain is an unforgettable chronicle of war-time America and the battlefields of Europe. Based on Brown’s extensive interviews with the families of the protagonists as well as deep archival research, it portrays the kaleidoscopic journey of four Japanese American families and their sons. While some fought on battlefields as members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, others fought to defend the constitutional rights of a community. Regardless of where their battles played out, these individuals were exemplifying American patriotism under extreme duress by striving, resisting, standing on principle, and enduring.

Find out more information about the event and register at densho.org/mountain

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 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

No activity. The next ABA virtual meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2021 at 1 pm.

Facilities Committee

The Auburn Fire Dept. has inspected our grass field and have determined that 1.4 acres of the lot is needed for their intended purposes. They want to build a fire station with some training facilities and parking. They have hired an appraiser. 1.4 acres includes all property west of a line approximately 6 feet east of the garage running from the southern chain-link fence to the street. This would include the area where our current garage sets. They would agree to pay an amount toward replacing the garage in addition to the price of the land.

Front sign repair: JR Pewitt will be coordinating a repair project of the wooden sign in front of the temple. He plans to disassemble the sign, repair and paint it and also rebuild the roof. He could use some volunteer help. If interested contact JR at pewittjr@gmail.com.

Wisteria Trellis project: Charles is coordinating this project. After reviewing the layout, he will be reducing the size of the original project to allow access to the exterior temple walls. He could also use some help. If interested contact Charles @ csejni@aol.com.

Garden Maintenance & Fence Repair: Mary and Randy are doing some weeding and re-barking of the garden area. They are also working on repairing the fencing. If interested in volunteering contact Mary @ coggermh@nventure.com.

Restart & Obon Committee

A combined Restart and Obon Committee met on April 7th. The meeting was primarily a brainstorming session and no decisions were made. Everything is dependent on the status of the Covid-19 infection rates.

Restart Committee: The Committee is thinking about recommending to the Board that traditional outdoor Memorial Day activities at four local cemeteries be held on May 31, 2021. Outdoor services at the Temple during June/July are also being considered. A recommendation to the Board on both issues will be discussed at our next meeting to be held on May 5, 2021.

Obon Committee: The committee is thinking about holding a hybrid Obon consisting of an Online video and some limited onsite dancing. It would not be open to the public. There would also be no food. The date would also be moved back to Saturday, August 14, 2021.

Timeless Favorites

May 22nd at 11:00 am

Save the date - we will be announcing our May Timeless Favorites class soon! Watch your email and our website for more information. www.wrbt.org/timelessfavorites

2021 Memorial Day Flower Fundraiser

Help support White River Buddhist Temple and Fresh Flower Farm this Memorial Day by purchasing a beautiful flower bouquet!

Pick up will occur on **Saturday, May 29th from 10:00 - 11:30 am** at White River Buddhist Temple, Tacoma Buddhist Temple, and Seattle Bet-suin Buddhist Temple.

Either order online <https://wrbt.square.site/> or use the order form included in this newsletter.

Thank you for your support!!

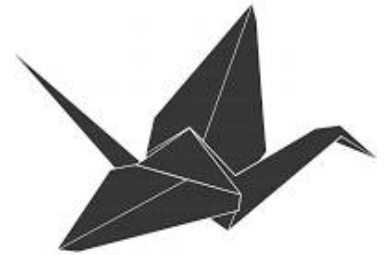


White River Buddhist Temple Tsuru (Crane) Drop Off

In dedication to those we lost this last year, White River Buddhist Temple is having 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 10:00 - 11:30 am (same date/time as Flower pick up)**.



As indicated in our April newsletter, we will continue our support of the Auburn Food Bank. The following article, written by Debbie Christian, Executive Director of the Auburn Food Bank provides some background on one of their programs, the Weekend Backpack Program called "Food-to-Go." Stay tuned for more information on how we will be supporting this important program!

FOOD TO GO – WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

By Debbie Christian, Executive Director, Auburn Food Bank

Food-to-Go provides backpacks filled with food that is child friendly non-perishable and easily consumed. Backpacks are discretely distributed to children on Friday afternoons and or before holiday vacations.

In about 2005 businessman Bill Kyle, then a board member for the Auburn Food Bank, had heard of a program out of Tarrant County Texas where "weekend backpacks" were sent home each weekend for students who were the most vulnerable! During the summer, these families could access Summer Meals in the parks, another program that was helping to ensure the most vulnerable children would have access to food. But - during the school year - it was felt that these families didn't have access over the weekends and often the child that was the most vulnerable was that child who was very anxious for the doors to open in school on Monday morning so they could access school breakfast!

The Auburn Food Bank partnered up with Communities in Schools (no longer in existence) to make this program happen! Food-to-Go packs have 2 Breakfasts 2 Lunches and 4 Snacks - with kid friendly, high protein foods.

Our usual foods are: individual oatmeal packages, small cereal packages, pop tarts, can of tuna, can of small sausages, easy Mac-n-Cheese cups, pop tarts, chicken noodle soup, fruits snacks, rice crispy snacks, fig bars...

All of these items need to be individual and it's hard to find the most healthy items when you go to these kind of packages dash but we try our best!

Currently there are 24 schools receiving 20 packs each - and we often hear that they need more but we just don't have the funding or the manpower to make that happen at this time.

We started out with a lot of donations and a little money. A few years ago, we received an estate gift from a woman we did not know. After reading her obituary, we found that she was a school teacher but never had children of her own. It was decided by our board to honor her gift by continuing to support students! We saved that money and only spent it as we needed it - just for the Food-To-Go program. We are down to our last \$3,000. and have been living off that gift for nine years! We do our best to pull from our donation stream first and then purchase what we don't have!

Donations

The Temple gratefully acknowledges the following donations received and recorded from March 16th through April 20th. 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. You can also make a donation by credit card at the temple website <https://www.wrbt.org/donate>.

Total Donations Received - \$1,954

Shotsuki (Monthly) Memorials

M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai	April Shotsuki
Ms. Lauri Tanaka	In memory of Dennis Tanaka
Mrs. Katie Komoto	April Shotsuki
Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara	In memory of Frank Natsuhara
Mr. Charles Natsuhara	In memory of Frank Natsuhara
M/M Kent & Julie Nishimura	In memory of Shigeru Nishimura & Yasumi Kinoshita
Mrs. Charlene Grinolds	In memory of Barbara Tsuji
Mrs. Monica Furtik	In memory of Dorothy Yaguchi (Feb) and Stan Tsujikawa (Mar)

Hanamatsuri Service

Mrs. Tomeko Taketa	Mrs. Charlene Grinolds	Mrs. Lilly Kato
M/M Alvin & Mitsuko Terada	Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara	Mr. Charles Natsuhara
Mrs. Joan Rodgers	M/M Bob & Mitzi Akiyama	Mrs. Yuki Iwai
M/M Yuri & Itsuo Shiotani	M/M Eva & Randy Chun	Mrs. Yoshiko Yamada
Tamio & Takako Uchida	M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai	Ms. Laurie Tanaka
Kathleen Taketa-Ozanich	M/M Ikuko & James Dodobara	Mrs. Setsuko Hamamoto
M/M Pat and Stogie Kawabata	Mrs. Carolyn Yamada	Ms. Darlene Yamada
M/M Ron & Karen Murakami	M/M Roger & Shirley Fukai	

Services

M/M Robert & Mitzi Akiyama	Eitaikyo
Mrs. Katie Komoto	Ho-onko
Mrs. Charlene Grinolds	Ohigan
M/M Randy & Eva Chun	Ohigan

General Donations

Ms. Patricia Cosgrove	In Appreciation
M/M Mitsuko & Alvin Terada	In Appreciation
M/M Yuri & Itsuo Shiotani	Newsletter
M/M Eva & Randy Chun	In Appreciation – Timeless Favorites cooking class
Timeless Favorites Cooking Class	In Appreciation

**2021 Pledge Totals
March 1 - 31, 2021**

Thank you for your support in 2021!

Date	PLEDGES DECLARED		Contributors	DOLLARS COLLECTED	
	Additional	Total		Additional	Total
April 5, 2021	\$2,750	\$30,850	37	\$2,175	\$25,675

Name and Amount Not Specified for Publishing:

Amount Not Specified for Publishing: James Dodobara Ikuko Dodobara Kathryn Komoto

Under \$500: Laura Lynn Tanaka Valerie Yamanaka

\$500- \$999: Sara Perrott

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

For Comparison

April 1, 2020	\$7,550	\$31,350	41	\$7,585	\$20,325
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Newsletter Reminder

March newsletter articles are due **Sunday, May 16th**. 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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