

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

Reverend Jim Warrick, Minister

Temple Office Phone: 253-833-1442

Website: www.wrbt.org

E-mail: office@wrbt.org

E-mail: Rev.Warrick@wrbt.org



Minister's Greetings

Greetings,

Well, here we are in June. Across our country there will be many students graduating from either High School or college this month.

With seven grandchildren, it seems like every June Rona and I have someone graduating. Because of her Polynesian upbringing, Rona likes to give the lei. Giving a lei is a great way to show friendship, love or to celebrate or honor someone. It is also a useful gift for greeting someone warmly. Giving a lei to a graduate is a beautiful way to show love and admiration for them. Sometimes it can also represent good luck for the future. A lei is usually made of flowers, but we make our lei out of money and give them as gifts when each of our grandchildren graduate.

When we first started making the lei out of money, we wanted to use only relatively new bills. But this creates a lot of work for the tellers at the bank. They would go through several stacks of bill looking for the crisp notes. Eventually we realized it was too much to try and get the newer ones, so we started using all the bills as we received them. Wrinkled, written on, crumpled or new we used all of them.

When I think of the bills used in that way, I think that they are just like the human race. Each bill could represent an entire culture, ethnic group, nation or even more. However, there is a part of the lei which is not easily seen that is also vital. The string or twine which connects each bill to all the other bills and thus giving the lei its beautiful shape and form is also an especially important part of the lei.

The string represents the teaching/dharma of interdependence that we are all interconnected and interrelated. One bill does not make a lei. For a lei, we need each other (all the bills, beads and string) and only when we come together do we have a beautiful lei.

We might be a little different and little worn but we; as with the bills have the same value.

Our teacher, Shinran speaks to that value when he reminds us that the Primal Vow of Amida makes no distinction between people young and old, good and evil. For it is the Vow to save the person whose karmic evil is deep and grave and whose blind passions abound. He reminds us that all beings are welcomed to his Pure Land, just as they are.

To all graduates, congratulations. You have just finished an important chapter in your life and now you are ready to begin the next one.

NAMO AMIDA BUTSU

Reverend James Hozen Warrick



Greetings from the Chairman!

Hello, temple members.

The month of June brings the summer solstice and warmer weather. It is a time for tending to plants and nurturing the garden. It is a time for outdoor activity.

It has now been 14 months since we held our last in-person Sunday service. The percentage of persons having been inoculated with a very safe and effective Covid-19 vaccine increases every week. At the time of writing this, approximately 57% of King County residents have been fully vaccinated. The CDC recently issued an advisory that fully vaccinated individuals incur only minimal risk of infection from socially distanced outdoor activity. Consequently, the White River Temple Board has authorized some initial steps in what we hope will be a re-opening process. The first event at the Temple will be the Summer Solstice Sit on June 19th.

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President’s Message Continued from Page 1

The first guideline is that all participants must sign up in advance online at www.wrbt.org/summersolstice or by contacting the office - office@wrbt.org or 253-833-1442. All attendees must provide contact information prior to attendance. There will be a limit on the number of attendees so please sign up as soon as possible. Other restrictions include completion of a screening questionnaire, masks at all times, social distancing, and no physical interaction with other households. Although we will not be checking vaccination cards, it is requested for the safety of others, that only fully vaccinated individuals sign up to attend. A full list of guidelines will be posted on our website.

Finally, 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 fully re-open the temple. Hopefully, that will be sometime this summer.

In the meantime, stay safe, stay at home, wear a mask, and GET VACCINATED!

In gassho,
Randy

With Heartfelt
Sympathy

The Temple sends its deepest sympathy to the family of **Yoshiko Yamada**. She and her late husband Ben were long time members of the Temple, putting many hours into helping the Temple flourish. We will miss her smile, generosity, and great sense of humor.

**June Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service
IN PERSON SERVICES - CANCELLED**

View online on June 6th at 10:30am

www.wrbt.org/service

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

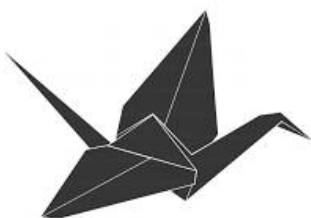
Shina Iwai	1973	Ben Tsutomu Nishimoto	1998
Shizuko Natsuhara	1979	Shizuka Nishimoto	2001
Kitaro Tsuji	1979	Aiko Horiuchi	2005
Darlene Jan Ibuki	1980	James Garcia	2010
Harry Ikuma Shimomura	1984	Yuki Kitagawa	2011
Gary Watanabe	1990	Barbara Jean Blanchard Ferrell	2016
Naomi Shima Martin	1992	Lillian Asato	2017
Rose Fusaye Teraoka	1998		

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

**2021 Memorial Day Flower Pick Up and Tsuru (Crane)
Drop Off**

Remember to pick up your pre-ordered flower bouquets on **Saturday, May 29th from 10:00 - 11:30 am** at White River Buddhist Temple, Tacoma Buddhist Temple, and Seattle Bet-suin Buddhist Temple.



Thank you for your support!!

Newsletter Reminder

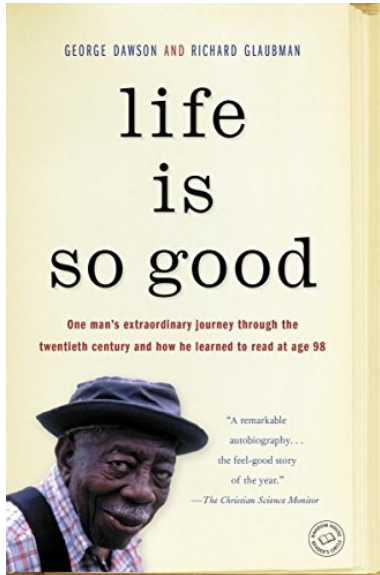
March newsletter articles are due **Sunday, June 13th**. Please send articles to newsletter@wrbt.org. Save a tree and a stamp - receive your newsletter via email! Contact newsletter@wrbt.org

**WRBT Virtual Book Club
Life is so Good**

Chapters 1-12 Sunday June 6 @ 7 P.M.
Chapters 13-24 Sunday July 11 @ 7 P.M.

“George Dawson, a slave’s grandson who learned to read at age 98 and lived to the age of 103, reflects on his life and shares valuable lessons in living, as well as a fresh, firsthand view of America during the entire sweep of the twentieth century. Richard Glaubman captures Dawson’s irresistible voice and view of the world, offering insights into humanity, history, hardships, and happiness. From segregation and civil rights, to the wars and the presidents, to defining moments in history, George Dawson’s description and assessment of the last century inspires readers with the message that has sustained him through it all:

“Life is so good. I do believe it’s getting better.”



Summer Backpack Matching Funds Fundraiser

You read the article from Debbie Christian, Director, Auburn Food Bank in the May newsletter.

Now we have an opportunity to help with the Food to Go – Summer Backpack Program! Each Friday of summer vacation, backpacks are discretely distributed to the most vulnerable children, each receiving a Food-to-Go pack with 2 breakfast items, 2 lunches, and 4 snacks with kid friendly high protein foods. By supporting this program, the Auburn Food Bank will be able to support more children in need!



Summer Backpack Program

Your donations help keep kids from the Auburn School District from being hungry this summer - For every dollar that you donate, a \$2 match will be added!

Our goal is to raise at least \$2,000, with a match of \$2,000 from the WRBT Planning Committee and another \$2,000 match from the BCA for a total of \$6,000. Your donation will provide food for 150 of the most vulnerable students, living within the Auburn School District, throughout the summer. **READY – LET’S GET STARTED!!! Please send in your donations by June 20th ~ Thanks!**

Mail your check to: White River Buddhist Temple, P.O. Box 855, Auburn, WA 98071-0855 (please add notation that the donation is for the Summer Backpack Program)

On-line: <http://wrbt.square.site/>



**<Community Event>
World War Bonsai
Remembrance & Resilience**

pacificbonsaimuseum.org

Pacific Bonsai Museum’s special exhibition for 2020 and 2021, *World War Bonsai: Remembrance & Resilience*, traces the cultural practice of bonsai in location and time—in Japan and in the United States, from the pre-war WWII period, through wartime, amid incarceration, and at peace. With bonsai, artifacts, documents, and photographs, the exhibition shares the little-known stories of the people who ingeniously and courageously cared for bonsai, shared their art, and spurred a flourishing, global practice

despite overwhelming hardships. Exhibition on view now through October 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

In honour of Ritsuko Hamamura and at the request of her family, WR BWA made a donation to the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association. Ritsuko had Bainbridge Island in her heart for her entire 100 years.

Northwest District (NWD) BWA held a virtual meeting on May 8. Rev Warrick attended from a truck stop in Oregon, on his way home with Rona after a visit to Salt Lake City. Vivian and Georgette were the BWA representatives from our temple. Motions were passed to fund the creation of a new gatha (song) for the 2023 World Buddhist Women’s Convention and to align the terms of office for the NWD BWA officers to match the NWD Conventions starting in September 2021. These motions will be voted on at the next NWD BWA General Members meeting.

Northwest District BWA usually has a general member meeting at the NW District Convention. Here is the current list: Sept 17-19, 2021-Oregon Buddhist Temple-virtual; Sept 2022-Idaho/Oregon; Sept 15-17, 2023-Tacoma; 2024-White River.

The World Buddhist Women’s Convention is scheduled for May 10-12, 2023, in Kyoto, Japan. The convention will be held in conjunction with services commemorating the 850-year anniversary of Shiran Shonin’s birth and the 800th anniversary of the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu teaching. The Kintetsu International travel agency is offering tours in conjunction with this conference. Their contact is Nomi Takehara at 408 544 2451, email: wbwcdesk@kintetsu.com **This notice is not an endorsement of any kind. It is provided solely as information.**

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

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the ABA has decided to cancel this year’s ABA Picnic. The ABA also tentatively approve a field trip to the Seattle Asian Art Museum during the fall. The next ABA virtual meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2021 at 1 pm.

BCA Offerings

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

<p>Saturday June 19 *11 am - 1 pm Register online</p>	<p>Embraced and Never Abandoned: Jodo Shinshu and LGBTQ+ Rev. Ko’e A. Umezu West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple</p>		
<p>Saturday June 26 *11 am - 1 pm Register online</p>	<p>Kinnara: The Roots of Taiko in the US Discussion with Rev. Masao Kodani, BCA Minister Emeritus, and Johnny Mori & other members of Kinnara Taiko Moderator: Rev. Jerry Hirano, CBE Director</p>		

BCA also has a link to recordings of chanting and gathas - check it out here!

<https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/chanting-music>

Donations

The Temple gratefully acknowledges the following donations received and recorded from April 20th through May 18th. 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 - \$2748.00

Shotsuki (Monthly) Memorials

Mrs. Monica Furtik	In memory of Masaru Kato
Ms. Laurie Tanaka	In memory of Betty Tanaka
Mrs. Gayle Takemura	In memory of Betty Tanaka
Mrs. Ted Rodgers	In memory of Frank Fujimura & Masaru Kato
M/M Janis & Alan Yamada	In memory of Risako Kawasaki & Maki Yamada
Ms. Susan Taketa	In memory of Masaru Kato, Roy Taketa, Ben Taketa Tsutae Tiny Taketa, George Taketa

Memorials

Mrs. Lilly Kato & Ms. LuAnn Kato	In memory of Yoshiko Yamada
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Gotan-e Service

Mrs. Setsuko Hamamoto	Ms, Darlene Yamada	M/M Ron & Karen Murakami
Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara	Mrs. Katie Komoto	M/M Mitsuko & Alvin Terada
M/M Yuri & Itsuo Shiotani	Mrs. Ted Rodgers	Mrs. Carolyn Yamada
Mrs. Tomeko Taketa	Mrs. Yukiko Iwai	Mr. Charles Natsuhara
Tamio & Takako Uchida	Ms. Laurie Tanaka	

Hanamatsuri Service

Mrs. Amy Dodobara-Doran

Memorial Day

M/M Ikuko & James Dodobara	Ms. Julie Dodobara	Mrs. Amy Dodobara-Doran
M/M Yuri & Itsuo Shiotani	Mrs. Katie Komoto	Mr. Charles Natsuhara
Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara	Ms. Jean Natsuhara	Mr. Stefan Dittmar
M/M Norma & Bill Geenty	Mrs. Kim Komoto	Ms. Kiyoko Takashima
Ms. Darlene Yamada	Ms. Carol Yanagawa	Ms. Charlene Yoritsune

General Donations

Ms. Patricia Cosgrove	In Appreciation
Mrs. Charlene Grinolds	BCA Dana Program
Puyallup JACL	Hosting "Our Lost Years" movie

2021 Pledge Totals

April 1 - 30, 2021

Thank you for your support in 2021!

Date	PLEDGES DECLARED		Contributors	DOLLARS COLLECTED	
	Additional	Total		Additional	Total
May 5, 2021	\$400	\$31,250	39	\$1,475	\$27,150

Name and Amount Not Specified for Publishing:

Amount Not Specified for Publishing:

Under \$500: Anonymous #8 Anonymous #9

\$500- \$999:

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

For Comparison

May 1, 2020	\$2,000	\$33,350	41	\$3,480	\$23,805
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Facilities Committee

The Facilities Committee has authorized the replacement of our broken office printer.

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 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 @ csejji@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.

Koshido (Japanese window bars): Koshido bars were built and installed on the southeast corner of the Temple. Thank you to JR, Georgette, Charles and Chiho.

Negotiating Committee: The Committee continues to evaluate the best options for the Temple regarding the land behind the caretaker house.

Restart Committee

The Committee is recommending to the Board that traditional outdoor Memorial Day activities at five local cemeteries be allowed on May 31, 2021 with restrictions. Please see Memorial Day Service article in this newsletter.

The Board approved an Outdoor June Sunrise Solstice Meditation Activity on June 19, 2021 at 5:00 am.

Obon Committee

This year's White River Hybrid Bon Odori program is officially re-scheduled to Saturday, August 14, 2021. There will be an online video aired on that date. Depending on Covid-19 restrictions, there may be some limited onsite dancing. Fundraising ideas consists of a Lantern Donation Program and Dance Sponsorships.

Third Annual Sunrise Summer Solstice Sit Open to everyone - PLEASE REGISTER wrbt.org/summersolstice

Saturday June 19, 2021
5:00 a.m.

Yes, that's right! 5 AM in the morning, because sunrise on that day is 05:11 a.m.

All of life on planet Earth begins to awaken as the Sun's early rays begin to fall upon the planet. The atmosphere is highly charged and provides the essential food to all living organisms in nature. Being still and quieting the mind at this auspicious time of day can be transformational on a spiritual level.

Meditation is part of the universal wisdom of the human family and is found in all major spiritual traditions. It therefore offers a direct way into the common ground we all share and that we need to reconnect with today so urgently.

This practice is simple and can be experienced by anyone. Be here on time, sit in a comfortable upright position with a straight spine. You may sit on a cushion, a chair or wherever you choose. Keeping your spine straight is important to lessen pain and discomfort. Partially close your eyes, gently drop the chin a bit, begin to turn your attention inward. Follow your breath and just quietly sit. Sit. Sit.

We hope you can join us for this outdoor event.

This will be our first gathering since we closed last Spring. After the dark night and just as the rising sun gives us another beautiful day, we hope this first gathering after the dark night of the pandemic will renew our spirits as we commit ourselves to live the life of Nembutsu.



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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