

The White Path

Living the Life of the Nembutsu

WHITE RIVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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Reverend Jim Warrick, Minister

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Minister's Greetings

Well, here we are in August. We have had a lot of our usual warm, (hot) days this year, which has made for a very pleasant summer.

Even though the pandemic seems to be slowing down and some things are taking on a sort of normalcy, we here at White River Buddhist Temple are both optimistic and cautious about our in-person services.

Because of this, August will be a little different than in the past. In the past we observe both our Hatsubon service and Bon Odori in July. This year Hatsubon will be on August 8th and Bon Odori will be on August 14th.

Hatsubon is a special observance of the First Obon Memorial, held in memory of those who have passed away in the last year (since our last Hatsubon Service in July 2020). It is an opportunity to reflect upon their lives and how we are continually being influenced by our loved ones. This is also an opportunity to reflect on our own life and to recognize just how precious it truly is. Because each one has been touched by death, the realization of impermanence of our physical body gives us a better understanding that our loved ones' life is continuing to work and influence us. The pain of loss will remain in our hearts along with the fond memories and good times and will always be a part of us.

Bon Odori finds its roots in a story which dates to the seventh century Japan or even earlier and has its origin in the following story. It is the story of one of the Buddha's disciples Moggallana.

The story goes that Moggallana was one of the Buddha's most accomplished disciples used his supernatural powers to look upon his deceased mother. He was shocked when he found that she had fallen into the realm of the hungry ghosts. This is a realm of existence of terrible suffering. Greatly disturbed, he went to the Buddha and asked how he could release his mother from this realm. The Buddha instructed him to make offerings to the many Buddhist monks who had just completed their summer retreat. Moggallana did this and, thus saw his mother's release. He also began to see the true nature of her past unselfishness and the many sacrifices that she had made for him.

Then Moggallana, happy because of his mother's release and grateful for his mother's kindness, danced with joy. From this dance of joy comes Bon Odori or Bon Dance.

In our tradition of Jodo Shinshu, we call Obon, Kangi-e, or Gathering of Joy. During Obon we gather and reflect upon the Truth of our existence, the Truth that our loved ones are continuing to influence and take effect upon our present lives. Through recent losses this truth is painfully realized at Hatsubon.

Hatsubon and Bon Odori are like two sides of the same coin. One side sad at our loss. The other an expression of joy. Both come together at Obon. A time to express our gratitude for being given those conditions that have allowed to live this life.

NAMO AMIDA BUTSU

Reverend James Hozen Warrick

Hatsubon Service Letter

A Hatsubon service invitation is included with this newsletter. Hatsubon is the first obon service for families who have lost a loved one during the past year. This will be an in-person, outdoor service and pre-registration is required. Health and safety protocols apply. Please register at www.wrbt.org/hatsubon2021, email the office - office@wrbt.org or call the office 253-833-1442.



Greetings from the Chairman!

Hello, temple members.

Thankfully, because of the widespread administration of vaccines, the threat from Covid-19 appears to be waning. Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, the Temple Board has decided to delay our Hatsubon and Bon Odori programs. As a result, the month of August has become a time for our Hatsubon Service and a Virtual Bon Odori Festival.

The good news is that the Temple’s gradual reopening process is well on its way and there have been no adverse incidents. The Memorial Day cemetery services, the Summer Solstice meditation session, and our first outdoor service at the Temple on July 18th have all been successfully completed. The feedback from all three has been very good. Our most recent outdoor service on July 18th was enjoyed by 38 mask-adorned and socially distanced attendees that were treated to an interesting Dharma talk by Reverend Warrick on how some luck-related superstitions originated from religious events. Although the weather was a bit warm, tents provided shade and a good time was had by all. Next on the schedule is our outdoor Hatsubon Service on August 8, 2021. An entirely virtual video Bon Odori will air on August 14, 2021. That will be followed by our normal August recess during the last two weeks of August through Labor Day. If things continue to go well, we may re-open the Temple for indoor services sometime during the fall. Although, this is a conservative approach, the Board felt that this was the prudent and safest way to re-open the Temple.

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 get back to normal.

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

In gassho,

Randy

August Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service

IN PERSON SERVICES - CANCELLED

View online on August 1st at 10:30am

www.wrbt.org/service

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

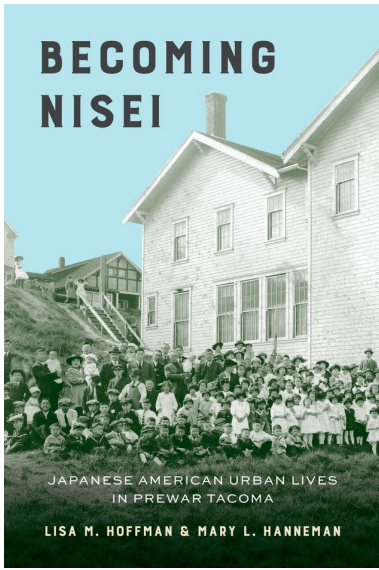
Hiroshi Sagara	1972	Oshie Kiyota	1991
Tomi Tsuji	1974	Zentaro Tom Maekawa	1994
Shizue Hirose	1975	Mikio Mori	1995
Hikoza Kawasaki	1976	George Shikao Uchida	2004
Harumi Karel Ikuta	1978	Susumu Clifford Hayashi	2004
Tsuki Tanaka	1979	Alice Kazuko Arita	2004
Haru Ikuta	1981	Lorraine K. Mikami	2006
Morito Nishimoto	1981	Masami Arima	2006
Misuno Nishimoto	1985	James Komoto	2013
Shiro Murashige	1989		

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

With Heartfelt
Sympathy

White River Buddhist Temple extends its deepest condolences to the family of Shiyoji Kawabata. A long time member, Stogie always had a great story to tell! He worked hard at every fundraiser that we had and often worked behind the scenes to keep the Temple running. We’ll miss your talents, generosity, and especially your jokes and great stories!



WRBT Virtual Book Club
Becoming Nisei
 By Lisa M. Hoffman & Mary L. Hanneman

Sunday, August 29th @ 7 P.M.

Becoming Nisei, based on more than forty interviews, shares stories of growing up in the vibrant Japanese American Tacoma community before incarceration in WWII. Recording these early twentieth-century lives counteracts the structural forgetting and erasure of prewar histories in both Tacoma and many other urban settings after World War II. Lisa Hoffman and Mary Hanneman underscore both the agency of Nisei in these processes as well as their negotiations of prevailing social and power relations.

Please sign up at wrbt.org/bookclub

Hoorah! We Did It!

WE MET OUR GOAL

WE MET OUR GOAL

WE MET OUR GOAL

Debbie Christian, Executive Director, Auburn Food Bank told us about the Food to Go / Summer Backpack Program. Debbie said “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 schoolteacher 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”! (See May White Path for full article).



Thank you, Sangha members, for contributing to this program so that selected students in the Auburn School District will have food items throughout the summer. Char Grinolds and Vivian Alexander presented Debbie with a check, on behalf of White River Buddhist Temple, on 7/19/2021.

Buddhist Women's Association

BWA@wrbt.org

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

Please help the WBA get a head start with re-opening the temple by suggesting your ideas for in-person activities. Pleasereply to Georgette by e-mail: oz.georgette@gmail.com or phone 206 854 7913.

Planning for the Eshinni/Ka-kushinni service in October 2021 has started. Details will be announced after completing arrangements for a guest speaker.

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.

Bon Odori 2021

This year's White River Virtual Bon Odori program consists of an online video, fund raising activities of 1) a memorable lantern program, 2) Sponsorship of individual dances and 3) Sales of Dessert Boxes.

An OBON filming session was held on July 3rd. White River Obon Instructors filmed 9 dances and were joined by about 20 members for two of the dances. The filmed dances will be incorporated into a video with interviews and other events.

Hatsubon Service is scheduled for Sunday, August 8, 2021. This is an outdoor service and masks are required. v

Pie cooking will be done on Friday, August 13, 2021, and pie pick-up will follow on the 14th. We will not do a call out for volunteers.

The White River Bon Odori video airs on Saturday, August 14th on our YouTube channel.

Bon Odori Dessert Box <https://wrbt.square.site>

To help you enjoy your Bon Odori experience, we encourage you to purchase an official White River Bon Odori Dessert Box. Boxes include our delicious pie, Japanese manju, and a special mochi – all available for purchase for \$28. Dessert boxes will be ready for pick up on August 14th 11:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Obon Dance Sponsorships <https://wrbt.square.site>

Our next new program is the sponsorship of individual Bon Odori dances. The names of sponsors will be displayed during our virtual Bon Odori video that airs on our Youtube channel on August 14, 2021. Sponsors can be individuals, families, or groups of individuals or families. There is a minimum sponsorship of \$250 per dance, and you can combine your sponsorship contribution with others to reach the minimum. You may sponsor as many dances as you wish. Please submit a separate web order online or mail-in a form for each dance sponsorship contribution (attached to this newsletter) by July 31st, 2021. You may use the website or US mail to submit order forms.

The Bon Odori Dances eligible for sponsorship are: 1) Mikokoro, 2) Soran Bushi, 3) Pokemon Ondo, 4) Goshu Ondo, 5) Tanko Bushi, 6) Sakura Ondo, 7) Shiawase Samba, 8) Omatsuri Ondo, and 9) Zenkoku Ondo.

Memorial Lanterns <https://wrbt.square.site>

We are continuing last year's very successful Memorial Lantern Program. Lanterns will be shown during the virtual Bon Odori video and names will be recognized during the program. Please submit your names by July 31st, 2021.

Mailed order forms (included in this newsletter) must be received or website purchases <https://wrbt.square.site> made by Saturday, July 31, 2021. Question? Email office@wrbt.org



White River Buddhist Temple Virtual Bon Odori

August 14, 2021

WWW.WRBT.ORG/BONODORI2021



Restart Committee

Summer Outdoor Service was held on July 18, 2021

The first onsite White River Buddhist Temple service of the year was held outdoors on Sunday, July 18th. It was a great success and enjoyed by all attendees. It also made a good trial run before our Hatsubon outdoor service scheduled for August 8, 2021. Current Covid protocols were used with the following changes or clarifications:

1. The advice on vaccinations was: "Out of consideration for the safety of others, we strongly recommend that attendees be fully vaccinated"
2. Temperature checks and symptom questions were completed by all attendees.
3. Because of the warm weather, bottled water was made available.
4. The location of the service was the outdoor basketball court. Tents, chairs etc. were set up using a minimum of 3 ft social distancing between individuals or household pods.
5. Pre-registration was limited to 30.

The service was preceded by an outdoor meditation session held in front of the Temple.

Attendees enjoyed Reverend Warrick's interesting dharma talk on how some luck-related superstitions originated from religious events.



Facilities Committee

Front Sign Repair: JR Pewitt is coordinating a repair project of the wooden sign in front of the temple. He has disassembled the sign, and begun the repairing process.

Garden Maintenance & Fence Repair: Mary and Randy are doing some weeding in the garden areas. They are also working on repairing the fencing. If interested in volunteering contact Mary @ coggermh@nventure.com. JR and Charles continue to mow the lawn areas.

Security False Alarms: We have had a series of false alarms necessitating the temporary disconnection of the ADT alarm system. ADT was contacted and they thought that it was a low battery in the motion detector sensor located at the east end of the back hallway. ADT is sending replacement batteries which we will need to install.

Negotiating Committee: The appraisal report from the Fire Department and our own appraisal report from GPA Valuation have been reviewed and evaluated. A meeting for further discussions is scheduled for Thursday, July 22, 2021.

ABA

No Activity. The next ABA virtual meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2021 at 1 pm. A planned visit to the Seattle Asian Art Museum is on hold until they begin holding group tours again.

In Appreciation of Rev. Warrick

Even though the Temple has closed our physical building due to the pandemic, we have worked hard to keep you informed and engaged. Many of us haven't had a chance to see Rev. Warrick so we want to keep you updated on what Rev. Warrick has been up to over the last year and a half.

It has been just over three years since Rev. Warrick became our resident Minister on June 1, 2018, when Rev. Ogui retired and moved to Japan. We knew we wanted a full-time minister but also knew that there was a minister shortage in BCA and that we would have to have a supervising minister assigned by BCA, that minister was Rev. Kusunoki. As he and we knew, supervising White River would be more than he could handle so we put our heads together to try and come up with a solution. In this discussion Rev. Warrick's name came up as he was wanting to try being a full-time minister and we were willing to work with him. So, our journey together began on June 1, 2018, immediately he had to help us host the 2019 NW District Convention.

His first year was a learning year for Sensei, getting to know our members & becoming familiar with our temple. As we went into our second year, he was on a roll with teaching classes, bringing new members to the temple and becoming active in our community, joining the Mayor's Interfaith Council and being the face of our Temple. Then midway through his second year COVID 19 hit right at the time of the NWD convention! Right after convention things started to shut down, the Temple closed and little did we know that this would go on for more than a year. We thought this would just be a temporary closure but as we began to realize that this was going to last longer than a few months we wondered how we could continue to do services. This brought about the need to try and do virtual services which was a new experience for all of us. Sensei had to learn how to do services from home and record his messages. We started small with just short messages from Rev. Warrick. Then in his third year we started to realize that we needed regular Sunday services so with the help of Kendall Kosai and some new equipment we started to record virtual services. What a learning experience, especially for Sensei as he was not used to just talking to a camera, he was used to seeing our faces and our reactions to his messages. Also, in 2021 Sensei received his Kaikyoshi Ho certificate.

Many longtime BCA ministers struggled during the pandemic year as they were not able to visit members, conduct pillow services, funerals, memorials or weddings. All the normal things a minister does in person could no longer be done in person but had to be done virtually so all ministers had to learn a whole new way of doing things.

As Sensei goes into his 4th year with us, there is light at the end of the tunnel, we are coming out of the pandemic and on July 18 we had our first in person service outdoors following COVID protocols. It was so nice to actually see people and their smiling faces!!!

Thank you, Rev. Warrick for hanging in there with us as I know it wasn't always easy for you. We so appreciate all you have done for us and your willingness to adjust and adapt to our needs, especially during the pandemic.

Namo Amida Butsu

2021 Pledge Totals

June 1 - 30, 2021

Thank you for your support in 2021!

Date	PLEDGES DECLARED		Contributors	DOLLARS COLLECTED	
	Additional	Total		Additional	Total
July 2, 2021	\$500	\$32,730	43	\$1,325	\$29,450
Name and Amount Not Specified for Publishing:					
Amount Not Specified for Publishing:					
Under \$500: Darlene Yamada					
\$500- \$999:					
\$1,000- \$4,999:					
<u>For Comparison</u>					
July 1, 2020	\$1,050	\$37,850	46	\$1,780	\$31,015

Donations

The Temple gratefully acknowledges the following donations received and recorded from June 16th through July 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 - \$6002.00

Shotsuki (Monthly) Memorials

Ms. Karen Yamada	In memory of Ben Yamada
Ms. Darlene Yamada	In memory of Ben Yamada – 7 year memorial
M/M. Sharon and Mark Kosai	July Shotsuki
Mr. Joe Watanabe	In memory of Yooko Watanabe
Mrs. Katie Komoto	In memory of Naomi Martin
Mrs. Sharon Ito	In memory of Katsumi Ito
Mrs. Monica Furtik	In memory of Amy Kato
Ms. Susie Taketa	In memory of Amy Kato
Anonymous	In memory of Amy Kato and Naomi Martin
Hime Suyematsu and Family	In memory of Ish Suyematsu

Memorials

Ms. Karen Yamada	In memory of Yoshiko Yamada
M/M. Karen & Tom Little	In memory of Yoshiko Yamada
Susan & Mickey Bennett	In memory of Yoshiko Yamada
Mrs. Gayle Takemura	In memory of Yoshiko Yamada
Mrs. Connie Toda	In memory of Yoshiko Yamada
Mrs. Eileen Yamada Lamphere	In memory of Yoshiko Yamada
Ms. Darlene Yamada	In memory of Shiyoji Kawabata
Mrs. Gayle Takemura	In memory of Shiyoji Kawabata
M/M Bob & Mitzi Akiyama	In memory of Dear Friends

Memorial Lanterns / Bon Odori

Mrs. Lilly Kato	Ms. Laurie Tanaka	Mrs. Gayle Takemura
Mrs. Katie Komoto	M/M Yuri & Itsuo Shiotani	M/M Ikuko & James Dodobara
Ms. Connie Myrick	M/M Norma & Bill Geenty	Ms. Leanne Wong
Ms. Naomi Yura	M/M Donald & Judy Gardner	Ms. Stephanie Ikeda
Ms. Naomi Umino	Farrell Lusher	Ms. Darlene Yamada
Ms. Darlene Suyematsu	M/M Mike & Louise Kato	Mrs. Rosie Kato
Mrs. Connie Toda	Ms. Akiko Yabuki	Ms. Karrie Zylstra-Myton
M/M Karen & Tom Little	M/M Diane & Jim Cowles	M/M Ruth & Mark Terry
Mr. Randy Okimoto	Fumi Hyatt Family	

Bon Odori Dance Sponsorships

Mr. Randy Okimoto	Ms. Georgette Magnin	M/M. Charlene & Lorin Grinolds
Fumi Hyatt Family	Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki	

Obon

Ms. Karen Yamada	M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai	M/M Mitsuko & Alvin Terada
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Backpack Program

M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai	Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara	Mr. Charles Natsuhara
M/M Janis & Alan Yamada		

General Donations

Ms. Patricia Cosgrove	In Appreciation
Ms. Kate Danta	Wedding
Mrs. Charlene Grinolds	BCA Dana Program

Newsletter Reminder

March newsletter articles are due **Sunday, August 15th**. 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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