

# 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

Greetings,

Well, here we are in December and nearing the end of this year. For millions of people here in the United States and worldwide the month of December means preparations for and the celebration of Christmas. It is a time of peace and joy.

Whether it be printed on a greeting card or on a sign outside a church, the proclamation of "peace on earth and goodwill to all" often comes to the fore around Christmas time. These few short words sum up for many the warm peaceful feeling that comes with Christmas, conveying a spirit of hope and generosity and a kindness toward all people, that is, humanity at large.

We all know that there is a lot of conflict in our country as well as the world over that is especially manifested at this time of year. There is Inner conflict. People the world over are struggling with doubts, fears, and uncertainties. They need inner peace. There is Interpersonal conflict. People struggle against other people. There are family conflicts and conflicts with co-workers and sometimes even conflicts with total strangers. Crime, racism, abuse, and violence are everyday occurrences. These too need inner peace. There is international conflict. What the term peace on earth probably means to most people is international peace. Currently, conflicts rage around the globe, and war is nothing new. All people need inner peace.

Many Buddhists feel the way to inner peace is through the Buddha's Noble Eightfold Path. This path of right views, thought, speech, conduct, livelihood, effort, meditation, and mindfulness is at the heart of Buddhist teachings. These rules help Buddhists to behave in a peaceful way and to live in harmony with others.

Another path to inner peace is observance of the five precepts. These rules of training are the most important system of morality for Buddhist lay people. They constitute the basic code of ethics to be respected by lay followers of Buddhism. The precepts are commitments to abstain from killing living beings, stealing, sexual misconduct, lying and intoxication. It is said that when people observe precepts, the winds and rains come at their proper times, and the four seasons are mild and harmonious. The nourishing rain falls, and rice and grain are abundant; the people enjoy peace, and arms and warfare are put aside. Epidemics do not occur.

This month, on December 8th we Buddhists celebrate Bodhi day. In the Buddhist world it is one of the most important dates we celebrate. This is the occasion when we commemorate the awakening of Shakyamuni Buddha, the exalted one, the enlightened one, the supremely awakened one. Upon whose teachings the great religion of Buddhism is founded. By his example he showed us that anyone can become Buddha, a fully enlightened One. We all have this potentiality within us, known as Buddha-Nature, which when awakened and cultivated will enable us to achieve this same enlightenment.

Enlightenment is the realm of purity that brings peace to all sentient beings. If one did not exert one's mind to extract and free all sentient beings from the pain in birth-and-death, one would diverge from enlightenment. Hence, *to eliminate all sentient beings' pain is to accord with the gate to enlightenment.*

May there be peace in the world and may the Buddha's teaching spread!

NAMO AMIDA BUTSU

Reverend James Hozen Warrick

### Printed Calendar

As we navigate the future opening of the Temple, service formats and dates will continue to change along with the pandemic conditions.

The printed calendar will not be included in the newsletter until the schedule becomes more consistent. Please check the online calendar for the most updated information [www.wrbt.org/calendar](http://www.wrbt.org/calendar) or email [office@wrbt.org](mailto:office@wrbt.org)



**Greetings from the Chairman!**

Hello, temple members.

It doesn't seem possible that my 2-year term as President of the Temple will end on December 31, 2021. But it is clearly so.

Looking back over the last two years, one thing dominates all discussions, the Covid 19 pandemic. It was within my first three months as President that Governor Inslee issued his ominous "stay at home order," thus requiring everyone, including the Temple's Board to cancel all in-person activities, indefinitely. This cancellation included in-person Sunday services, in-person Board meetings and in-person membership meetings of all affiliated organizations. It was difficult, but we swiftly adapted to the emergency and managed to stay connected through telephone calls, teleconferences, and eventually virtual ZOOM meetings. The pandemic also posed significant financial difficulties. We had to cancel or significantly modify all three of our personally interactive fundraisers. Our spring fundraiser became a flower bouquet pick-up event. Our Bon Odori Festival became a video production with dance sponsorships and dessert boxes. We cancelled our Fall Bazaar entirely. Through all this adversity, however, we have persevered together and adapted our processes to minimize in-person contact quite successfully. And now, with Covid 19 vaccination rates exceeding 70 percent in King County, and the number of new infections stabilized, if not declining, it appears that we may have turned the corner. The light at the end of the dark Covid 19 tunnel becomes increasingly brighter.

In the future, it is likely that some changes necessitated by the pandemic, are here to stay. ZOOM board meetings or some combination thereof, make a lot of sense. ZOOM meetings tend to be shorter and more efficient, in addition to being a much easier commute. This is especially true during those dark winter nights. In addition, the number of labor-intensive fundraisers will also likely diminish. Necessitated by the pandemic and the gradual aging of our Sangha, we have been forced to adopt more efficient fundraising activities. The pandemic forced us to change and some of those changes will stay. A new Board of Trustees, however, will make those decisions. I have full confidence that they will do what is best for the Temple.

In gassho,  
Randy

**December Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service  
IN PERSON SERVICES - CANCELLED  
View online on December 5th at 10:30am  
[www.wrbt.org/service](http://www.wrbt.org/service)**

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

Emon Ikuta	1973	Joyce Anahori Ding	2007
Hatsu Emma Hikida	1977	Phyllis Marie Hansen	2009
Aileen Aiko Fisher	1977	Josie Taketa	2009
Shima Taketa	1978	Hank Miyoshi	2010
Roger Kawasaki	1999	Ritsuko Hamamura	2020
Atsushi Harry Ibuki	2003		

<b>1 year ~ 2020</b>	<b>3 year ~ 2019</b>	<b>7 year ~ 2015</b>	<b>13 year ~ 2009</b>
<b>17 year ~ 2005</b>	<b>25 year ~ 1997</b>	<b>33 year ~ 1989</b>	<b>50 year ~ 1972</b>

DESIGNATED MEMORIAL SERVICE YEARS To schedule a family memorial service, please contact [office@wrbt.org](mailto:office@wrbt.org)

**Buddhist Women's Association**

[BWA@wrbt.org](mailto:BWA@wrbt.org)

**WR BWA General meeting:** A Zoom meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 21, 2021. The newsletter deadline is before the meeting date. Election results will be announced in the January 2022 newsletter.

Karen Murakami continues a weekly BWA Connections e-mail. Requests to be added to the distribution list or to submit articles, please send them to Karen's e-mail: [wrlink4goldenchain@comcast.net](mailto:wrlink4goldenchain@comcast.net)

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

**Newsletter Reminder**

November newsletter articles are due **Sunday, December 12th**. Please send articles to [newsletter@wrbt.org](mailto:newsletter@wrbt.org). Save a tree and a stamp - receive your newsletter via email! Contact [newsletter@wrbt.org](mailto:newsletter@wrbt.org)

## Thank You!!

### A Musical Revue Fundraiser

Benefitting the Auburn Food Bank's "Food to Go" Student Backpack Program

[www.wrbt.org/foodtogo](http://www.wrbt.org/foodtogo)

If you missed the premiere of this event, you can still watch it online! Thank you for all of your support of this important fundraiser for the Auburn Food Bank's "Food to Go" student backpack program to benefit the most vulnerable children in the Auburn School District.

The "Food to Go - Backpack" program provides backpacks filled with single serve, high protein, kid friendly foods on weekends and holidays so children do not go hungry when they aren't able to access school meals.

You can still donate online at [www.wrbt.org/foodtogo](http://www.wrbt.org/foodtogo) or by sending a check to:

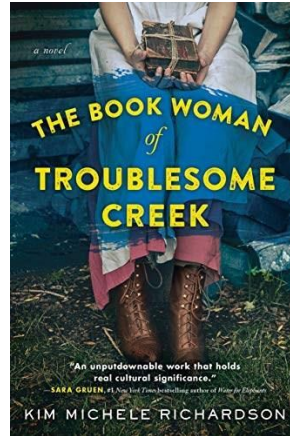
"Food to Go Backpack Program"  
c/o White River Buddhist Temple  
PO Box 855  
Auburn, WA 98071-0855

White River Buddhist Temple is committed to supporting our local community and your support will help provide a child with the food they need to learn and grow! A final dollar amount raised will be in the next newsletter. Questions? [office@wrbt.org](mailto:office@wrbt.org)

## White River Buddhist Temple Virtual Book Club

December 12, 2021 7:00 P.M.

*The bestselling historical fiction from Kim Michele Richardson, this is a novel following Cussy Mary, a packhorse librarian and her quest to bring books to the Appalachian community she loves, perfect for readers of Lee Smith and Lisa Wingate.*



Inspired by the true blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the brave and dedicated Kentucky Pack Horse library service of the 1930s, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* is a story of raw courage, fierce strength, and one woman's belief that books can carry us anywhere—even back home.

The hardscrabble folks of Troublesome Creek have to scarp for everything—everything except books, that is. Thanks to Roosevelt's Kentucky Pack Horse Library Project, Trouble-some's got its very own traveling librarian, Cussy Mary Carter.

Cussy's not only a book woman, however, she's also the last of her kind, her skin a shade of blue unlike most anyone else. Not everyone is keen on Cussy's family or the Library Project, and a Blue is often blamed for any whiff of trouble. If Cussy wants to bring the joy of books to the hill folks, she's going to have to confront prejudice as old as the Appalachias and suspicion as deep as the holler.

## Gingerbread Houses

It's time again for the gingerbread house decorating event! This year we will be meeting on Zoom, Sunday December 11 at 12pm. Please RSVP by December 4 at [ruthterry@gmail.com](mailto:ruthterry@gmail.com) with the number of attendees at your household. Supplies will be delivered to your house the day before. Holiday themed clothes and accessories encouraged. Looking forward to seeing all the creative designs!



## Restart Committee

The Restart Committee approved its first Private Family Memorial Service inside the Temple. The service will be a combination in person (less than 20) and ZOOM service in memory of William Geenty. If things go well on this one, other requests will be approved.

Outdoor in-person services at the temple have been approved for:

Sunday, November 28, 2021 (Oshoko)

Friday, December 31, 2021 (Oshoko and striking the gong)

The outdoor in-person service will be held on the basketball court if weather permits. If it rains, it will be done on a drive-in basis out front.

## ABA

A virtual ABA meeting was held on November 8, 2021 at 1 pm. The following officers for 2022 were elected: President – Randy Okimoto; Vice President – Randy Chun; Sec./Treas. - Norma Geenty. The meeting schedule for next year is: February 14, 2022 (Virtual); April 11, 2022 (Virtual); May 9, 2022 (hopefully in person); June Picnic (TBD); September 12, 2022 (in person); November 14, 2022 (in person).

**Donations**

The Temple gratefully acknowledges the following donations received and recorded from October 18<sup>th</sup> through November 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, Assistant 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 - \$4263**

**Shotsuki (Monthly) Memorials**

- Mrs. Joan Rodgers In memory of Teki Fujimura
- Ms. Laurie Tanaka In memory of Mae Yamada and Doug Yamada
- M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai November Shotsuki
- Mrs. Monica Furtik In memory of Mae Yamada and Harry Taketa
- Mr. Randy Okimoto In memory of Hatsue Okimoto
- Ms. Susan Taketa In memory of Harry Taketa
- Mrs. Setsuko Hamamoto November Shotsuki
- Mrs. Norma Geenty In memory of Suwako, Alan, and Shiro Murashige

**Memorials**

- Mrs. Connie Toda In memory of Bill Geenty
- Mrs. Norma Geenty In memory of Amy Kato, Goro Kinoshita, Shiyoji Kawabata, Yoshiko Yamada

**Bazaar**

- M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai Mrs. Norma Geenty Mr. Charles Natsuhara

**Auburn Foodbank – Food to Go Backpack Program**

- M/M Yuri & Itsuo Shiotani Ms. Georgette Magnin Mrs. Mary Cogger
- Ms. Vivian Alexander Mr. Kendall Kosai Mr. Gary Klontz
- Lynne and Ken Tanino John Allender Gary Alexander

**General Donations**

- Ms. Patricia Cosgrove In Appreciation
- Anonymous In Appreciation
- Kroger Community Give Back Program

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

**Thank you for your support in 2021!**

Date	PLEDGES DECLARED			DOLLARS COLLECTED	
	Additional	Total	Contributors	Additional	Total
Nov 1, 2021	\$0	\$38,030	48	\$200	\$37,625
<b><u>For Comparison</u></b>					
Nov 6, 2020	\$700	\$41,650	52	\$2,505	\$38,735

**Facilities Committee**

**Bus Stop Upgrade:** No further communications with King County Metro. This project has been delayed.

**Garden and Maintenance:** Mary and Randy are doing some weeding in the garden areas. JR and Charles continue to mow the lawn areas and raking leaves.

**Front sign repair:** Jun Patton refurbished the Wisteria emblem in front of the temple and Charles re-painted the background area. Thank you Jun and Charles.



**\*\*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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