

# The White Path

## Living the Life of the Nembutsu

### WHITE RIVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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Rev. Cynthia Yasaki, Resident Minister

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### Minister's Greetings

The end of another year has come. December is not only the month to reflect on a year (quickly) gone by but also as a reminder of impermanence.

2022 was a big year for White River. Our first in person service since we closed in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic was our Hanamatsuri service in April. Everyone was happy to see each other in person after two years apart. It was also nice to hear everyone chanting the sutras and reciting the nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu, in a room together.

Another big change for our Sangha was the retirement of Rev. Jim Warrick at the end of May. Warrick-sensei and Rona have been with White River for quite some time and they were pillars in the community. Though we would miss them dearly, we wished them well and hope they enjoy their retirement together.

Lastly was the addition of a new minister in November. Though I have only been here for a month, I already feel welcomed into the Sangha. Again, I look forward to working with you all to create a community centered around the Dharma and will do my best to tend to your needs in regards to services (memorials, funerals, etc.).

These changes this past year may not have been easy for members in the Sangha. Change itself, is hard to adjust to. Hence, the Buddhist understanding of impermanence, that life is dynamic, that it changes constantly. We might categorize these changes as good or bad, or sudden or inevitable, but it is important to realize that changes are changes, nothing more or nothing less.

2022 has given the White River Sangha many changes and we expect 2023 to give us more (unexpected) changes. As we start turning toward 2023, we should remember that change happens and even through these changes, the White River Sangha, Temple, and the Dharma will still be here for you.



### Greetings from the President

The end of the year is typically a time of great reflection. I'd like to take a moment to reflect on what a year 2022 has been! From transitioning from online to in-person services in April, to celebrating our first in-person Bon Odori in three years, to celebrating Rev. Warrick's retirement and welcoming Rev. Cyndi to the temple, to holding our rummage sale, plant sale, and fall bazaar - this year has been busy! We're continuously learning to do things new kinds of ways and welcoming new guests to the temple weekly. I hope that you can feel the progress and change at the temple!

As we look toward the future, we're excited that we have many enthusiastic individuals who feel the same. All dues-paying members should have received their ballots in late November for the new Board of Directors slate. I'd like to thank Don Gardner, Judy Gardner, and Joan Hoskin for their dedication and support as they complete their terms this year. I'd also like to thank our three excellent candidates - Norma Geenty, Anika Klix, and Randy Okimoto for stepping up to be on the ballot. Please remember to return the ballot to the temple no later than December 4th. The dedication and wisdom of our members is one of our greatest assets.

Finally, we hope to continue to keep our members and guests safe at the temple this Winter season. I encourage all of you to get your updated bivalent booster shots which are now widely available.

As always, feel free to reach out to me anytime with any questions, concerns, or comments at: [president@wrbt.org](mailto:president@wrbt.org).

Gassho,  
Kendall

**December Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service**

**IN PERSON (and Streamed Live) Service**

**December 4th at 10:30am**

**[www.wrbt.org/service](http://www.wrbt.org/service)**

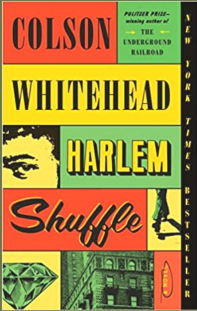
COVID protocols will remain in place with well fitting masks and social distancing.

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 | Michi Chihara        | 2021 |

|                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>1 year ~ 2021</b>  | <b>3 year ~ 2020</b>  | <b>7 year ~ 2016</b>  | <b>13 year ~ 2010</b> |
| <b>17 year ~ 2006</b> | <b>25 year ~ 1998</b> | <b>33 year ~ 1990</b> | <b>50 year ~ 1973</b> |

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



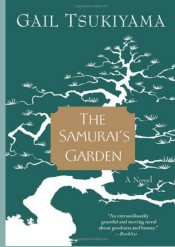
**WRBT Virtual Book Club**

**Harlem Shuffle**  
By Colson Whitehead

January 8th at 7:00pm  
Sign up at [wrbt.org/bookclub](http://wrbt.org/bookclub)

**Harlem Shuffle by Colson Whitehead**

From the two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Underground Railroad* and *The Nickel Boys*, this gloriously entertaining novel is “fast-paced, keen-eyed and very funny ... about race, power and the history of Harlem all disguised as a thrill-ride crime novel” (*San Francisco Chronicle*).



**WRBT Virtual Book Club**

**The Samurai's Garden**  
By Gail Tsukiyama

December 11th at 7:00pm  
Sign up at [wrbt.org/bookclub](http://wrbt.org/bookclub)

**The Samurai's Garden by Gail Tsukiyama**

The daughter of a Chinese mother and a Japanese father, Tsukiyama uses the Japanese invasion of China during the late 1930s as a somber backdrop for her unusual story about a 20-year-old Chinese painter named Stephen who is sent to his family's summer home in a Japanese coastal village to recover from a bout with tuberculosis. Here he is cared for by Matsu, a reticent housekeeper and a master gardener. Over the course of a remarkable year, Stephen learns Matsu's secret and gains not only physical strength, but also profound spiritual insight. Matsu is a samurai of the soul, a man devoted to doing good and finding beauty in a cruel and arbitrary world, and Stephen is a noble student, learning to appreciate Matsu's generous and nurturing way of life and to love Matsu's soulmate, gentle Sachi, a woman afflicted with leprosy.

**Gingerbread**

It's that time of year again... time to have some sugary fun with frosting and candy. At long last we will have gingerbread house decorating in person at the temple! It will happen on Bodhi day, **Dec 11 at 9:30 am**. Please bring a bag of candy for decorating, we will provide everything else you need. Also, please RSVP at [ruthterry@gmail.com](mailto:ruthterry@gmail.com) by December 4 so we have an idea of how many houses to prepare. See you there!

**December Special Services**

Dec 11 (9:30am): Bodhi Day Gingerbread house making. Contact Ruth Terry at [ruthterry@gmail.com](mailto:ruthterry@gmail.com) if you would like to participate. Bring one bag of candy to share for decorating the houses.

(10:30am): Bodhi Day service

Dec 18 (10:30am): Bonnenkai Service with installation of new board members and officers of all Temple Organizations followed by Bonnenkai and Welcome Luncheon for Rev. Cyndi, every one is welcome. Temple will be providing lunch.

Dec 31 (2:00pm): Joyae (year end) Service followed by ringing of the kansho and soba noodles

Jan 1 (10:30am): New Years Day service

**Buddhist Women's Association**

BWA@wrbt.org

**BWA Fall General meeting, November 20, 2022:**

The meeting was held at the Temple with 14 attending, no virtual attendees. Officer election results: President--Georgette I. Magnin; Vice President--Vivian Alexander; Treasurer--Pat Kawabata; Auditor--Janice Yamada; Secretary--Sara Perrot.

We had a door prize drawing with flower arrangement and See's Candy as prizes. Lunch after the meeting gave us an opportunity to see Rev Cyndi and her sister. We all felt eating together was a step towards normalcy.

BWA will be making a \$500 donation to the Auburn Food Bank's Backpack program.

Dues will be collected starting in January 2023. Annual WR BWA are now \$20/year. The \$5 increase was approved at the General meeting.

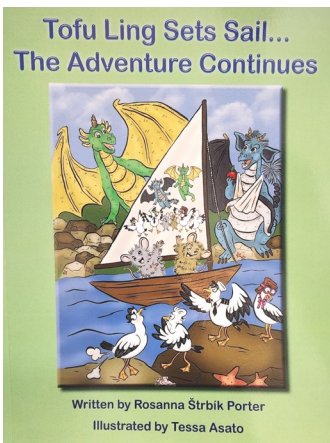
The WR BWA gratefully acknowledges donations from Sharon Kosai and Darlene Yamada.

**ABA**

The ABA held a ZOOM meeting on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. The previously scheduled guided tour to the Bonsai exhibit in Federal Way had to be cancelled because covid-related illnesses & other unexpected events significantly reduced participation. We plan to reschedule. However, during the meeting the committee did approve a spring field trip to the Rhododendron Botanical Gardens in Federal Way and a fall field trip to the Seattle Asian Art Museum in Volunteer Park. Both are open to all temple members and friends as available. Details have yet to be worked out.

Next year's officers are President, Randy Okimoto; Vice President- Charles Natsuhara; Sec. Treasurer- Norma Geenty.

Next year's calendar is as follows: February 13, 2023, April 10, 2023, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (William Geenty Memorial Steak BBQ), June Picnic – TBD, September 11, 2023, and November 16, 2023.

**Children's Book Illustrated by Tessa Asato!**

Check out the latest children's book, "Tofu Ling Sets Sail... The Adventure Continues", written by Rosanna Porter, and illustrated by Tessa Asato.

The story follows the two mice, Tofu Ling and Kenshi, from their previous adventure in "Tofu Ling Sets Sail". Dragon, whom they met while sailing by Dragon Island, asks them to find his missing brother, Sky Dragon.

Our heroes, as the title indicates, set sail once again on their restored boat, "The Friendship". The mice meet a medley of new friends while sailing throughout the Puget Sound. They learn valuable lessons from clams, seagulls, and even dragons.

"Tofu Ling Sets Sail... The Adventure Continues" and many of Rosanna Porter's books are available on Amazon. Many of these books were illustrated by Tessa Asato.

Currently, Tessa is working on many projects. One project to look forward to is "The Tale of Gonza Mushi" by Reverend Bob Oshita.

Rosanna Porter has a long list of publications and will undoubtedly continue the adventures of Tofu Ling.

**Ray of Hope**

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, Char Grinolds, Gayle Takemura, and Vivian Alexander served dinner to about 40 men and women at the Ray of Hope Resource Center in Auburn. Everyone served enjoyed the comforting chicken, vegetable, and noodle casserole, the colorful mixed salad, and the very delicious brownies. We learned that the most favorite salad dressing was Thousand Island! Next time we will take more of that favorite dressing.

The Auburn Food Bank's Ray of Hope offers a drop-in center for homeless individuals in the Auburn area. Laundry and shower facilities are offered on select days. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner is served every day. Dinner is served at 5 pm. Individuals at the Ray are moving into their own apartments with the help of housing vouchers. King County purchased the former Clarion Inn and will be managed by Compass Housing Alliance. This will give a percentage of the homeless in Auburn an apartment of their own and with a variety of services including employment, and referrals to mental health and substance abuse treatment. The former Clarion is being renovated at this time.

If you would like to help prepare and serve dinner please use the sign up sheet in the hallway. We will meet at Temple at 2:30 to prepare the meal and serve at 5 PM on December 14. If you have any questions, please call or text Vivian Alexander at 206-992-6708 or email vivianalexander97@gmail.com.

Donations of toiletries are always welcome. We will collect at Temple or you can take donations directly to 2806 Auburn Way North. These are some of the items needed (NEW only) by Ray of Hope Clients and can be dropped at the Temple.

Hygiene Products ~ Deodorant ~ Toothbrush/Toothpaste ~ Shampoo  
Medicated Foot Powder ~ Neosporin ~ Underwear & T-Shirts ~ Hand & Toe Warmers

**Donations**

The Temple gratefully acknowledges the following donations received and recorded from October 14th 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, 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 or you can also make a donation by credit card at the temple website <https://www.wrbt.org/donate>.

**Total Donations Received - \$3736**

**Shotsuki (Monthly) Memorials**

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai  | November Shotsuki                                |
| Ms. Susie Taketa         | In memory of Harry Taketa and Tad Kato           |
| Ms. Marcia Kato          | In memory of Harry Taketa and Tad Kato           |
| Mrs. Audrie Hayes        | In memory of Koko Sutow                          |
| Mrs. Charlene Grinolds   | In memory of Tomio Hamasaki                      |
| Mrs. Katie Komoto        | In memory of Harry Taketa                        |
| Ms. Laurie Tanaka        | In memory of Mae Yamada and Doug Yamada          |
| Al Yamada and Family     | In memory of Mae Yamada and Doug Yamada          |
| Mr. Seiichi Taniguchi    | In memory of Kimiko Taniguchi and Shotu Meinichi |
| Mr. Randy Okimoto        | In memory of Hatsue Okimoto                      |
| M/M James & Chiho Pewitt | November Shotsuki                                |

**Memorials**

|                     |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Mrs. Gayle Takemura | In memory of Esther Kojima |
|---------------------|----------------------------|

**Bazaar Donations**

|                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki | Ms. Kathryn Li        | Mr. Ross Yanagawa     |
| Ms. Kaila Yoshitomi   | Takako & Tamio Uchida | Mr. Gerry Pearson     |
| Ms. Nadine Miyahara   | Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara | M/M Mark & Ruth Terry |
| Utsugi Family         | Leanne Nishi-Wong     | Mrs. Norma Geenty     |
| Cecilia Kashima       | Mr. Steve Tamaki      |                       |

**General Donations**

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Ms. Georgette Magnin | In appreciation |
|----------------------|-----------------|

**2022 Pledge Totals  
October 1 - 31, 2022**

**Thank you for your support in 2022!**

| Date                             | PLEDGES DECLARED |               | Contributors    | DOLLARS COLLECTED |                       |
|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
|                                  | Additional       | Total         |                 | Additional        | Total                 |
| Nov 14, 2022                     | \$450            | \$37,290      | 49 <sup>1</sup> | \$825             | \$35,065              |
| <b><u>For Comparison</u></b>     |                  |               |                 |                   |                       |
| November 30, 2021                | \$5,780          | \$38,030      | 54              | \$5,455           | \$43,080 <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>Under \$500:</b> David Weibel |                  | Anonymous #12 |                 |                   |                       |

<sup>1</sup> David Weibel is a member of another temple.

<sup>2</sup> 2021 the report combined October and November pledges and included pledges through 11/30/21 whereas this report only includes pledges through 10/31/22.

**Newsletter Reminder**

January newsletter articles are due **Sunday, December 18th.** Please send articles to [newsletter@wrbt.org](mailto:newsletter@wrbt.org).

**Contact [newsletter@wrbt.org](mailto:newsletter@wrbt.org) or call 253-833-1442 to opt out of the hard copy newsletter.**

**Facilities Committee**

JR, Charles, Mary, Sharon and Randy continue to work on the outside maintenance. The water in the rice room has been turned off.

**\*\*Views expressed in articles by individuals do not necessarily represent the views of, and should not be attributed to the Temple or Sangha members\*\***

### **Formal Temple Office Hours by Appointment Only**

For ALL ministerial needs (including emergencies), please call Rev. Cyndi Yasaki's cell phone. If your call is not answered immediately, please leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Temple office

[office@wrbt.org](mailto:office@wrbt.org)  
(253) 833-1442

Rev. Cyndi Yasaki

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