

The White Path

Living the Life of the Nembutsu

WHITE RIVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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Minister's Greetings

March is here and that means Spring is here!! This means the season of beautiful colors of blooming flowers and foliage!

Speaking of flowers, as someone who grew up learning Japanese as a second language, I have always had a problem with one simple rule. One of the first rules you learn is that there are two different verbs for living beings and nonliving things. For living beings, you use the word “imasu” and “arimasu” for nonliving things. Both verbs basically mean “is” and can be used in more complicated sentences to mean a variety of different things. But I did (and still) stumble to say the right verb in conversations.

What confused me when learning this simple rule was that flowers and plants were put in the category as a non-living thing. I am not saying that the Japanese language is wrong, but even as a child, I always thought that plants and flowers were living because they grow. How can something not living grow and how are we able to eat an inanimate object?

Influenced by Buddhist rituals and now an everyday part of Japanese culture, we say the word (or if we forget, we mentally think the word) “itadakimasu.” To “itadaku” means to graciously receive. This means that before we eat, we thank the beings whose lives were sacrificed for us to continue to live. At the end of the meal, we say “gochisousama deshita.” This word means “we have graciously received” and is used to not only thank those that have prepped and gave you the meal, but also a reminder of the lives lost to make a meal so delicious.

The question I pose is, should we say “itadakimasu” and “gochisousama deshita” at each meal even if the meal is vegetarian? If the Japanese language does not see plants as a living being, then should we have to thank the plants for sacrificing their lives to sustain ourselves?

As Amida Buddha embraces us as we are, I think we should embrace all meals as if a living being sacrificed themselves for us. The reasoning for this is because a vegetarian meal doesn't magically lay itself down on our plates. People have to grow it, insects have to pollinate the flowers, someone has to harvest the vegetables or fruit, etc, etc, until it reaches the plate in front of us. Saying “itadakimasu” and “gochisousama deshita” is our realization of the amount of time and effort that was put into making our meal. To realize that we are always connected to so many different beings and that we are not able to fully sustain our own needs by ourselves.

So when you eat your next meal or snack please put your hands together in gratitude and say the word “itadakimasu” before eating and “gochisousama deshita” after eating.

Gassho,
Rev. Cyndi Yasaki



Greetings from the President

Last month, temple members met for a half-day planning retreat to discuss 2023 events and priorities. The discussion centered around fundraising, membership, and convention. We accomplished a lot and will be doing our best to move forward in an efficient manner! Thank you to all who were part of the conversation.

One of the major priorities for this year is around membership. As a major source of the temple's revenue, we are working to make it more accessible, understandable, and modern. I'm excited to announce that we are now providing the option to pledge online at www.wrbt.org/membership with one-time or automatic recurring monthly dues. This will

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President's Message continued

make it easier than ever to support the temple. You can also get a new membership pledge form in the lobby of the temple.

Finally, as mentioned at the Temple's membership meeting, we have set the dates for all of our upcoming fundraisers. They are:

- May 13, 2023 - Plant Sale
- May 27, 2023 - Flower Sale
- June 10, 2023 - Rummage Sale
- July 22, 2023 - Bon Odori
- October 22, 2023 - Bazaar

We look forward to your support and energy to make the temple a success this year! As always, please feel free to reach out to me at president@wrbt.org if you have any questions!

Gassho,
Kendall

March Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service
IN PERSON (and Streamed Live) Service
March 5th at 10:30am
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 March. If any names have inadvertently been omitted or if you have any questions about Shotsuki services, please contact office@wrbt.org

Tatsu Sato Abe	1981	Ted Tadao Komoto	2006
Masanuki Yamada	1984	Kimi Teraoka	2006
Tazo Nishimura	1986	Tokie Nakai	2007
Yoshio Horiuchi	1986	Bobbie Akira Tanabe	2008
Tamayo Mikami	1991	Benjamin Tsutomu Taketa	2008
Mitsuwo Ikuta	1993	Toshi Terayama	2011
Harry Susumu Anzai	1994	Itsuko Funai	2013
Tsutae Tiny Taketa	1996	Satoru Kato	2014
Hiroto Mizoguchi	2001	Stan Tsujikawa	2017
Kai Honore Hansen	2005	Yasumi Kinoshita	2017
Shigeru Nishimura	2005	Steve Kato	2020

1 year ~ 2022	3 year ~ 2021	7 year ~ 2017	13 year ~ 2011
17 year ~ 2007	25 year ~ 1999	33 year ~ 1991	50 year ~ 1974

DESIGNATED MEMORIAL SERVICE YEARS To schedule a family memorial service, please contact office@wrbt.org

Memorial Services

To remember those that we have lost, Jodo Shinshu has the tradition of holding memorial services in certain years after their passing. If you would like to schedule a service for your loved one who passed in the following years, please contact Rev. Cyndi via email at rev.jikaku.yasaki@wrbt.org.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1st year—2022 | 17th year—2007 |
| 3rd year—2021 | 25th year—1999 |
| 7th year—2017 | 33rd year—1991 |
| 13th year—2011 | 50th year—1974 |

初めての日本語法要

一緒に親鸞聖人のみ教えを聞きましょう！

いつ：3月16日午前11時

なぜ16日？毎月の16日は親鸞聖人のご命日です。その日に親鸞聖人が作った正信偈と和讃を唱えみ教えを聞き蓮如上人の御文章を聞く一日です。

Buddhism Discussion

March 26 After Service

Right after service on 3/26 we will be having our 7th group discussion (a portion of the WRBT Education Plan) on “The Eightfold Path”. Everyone is welcome.

What is Hatsumairi?

Hatsumairi is composed of the Japanese terms “hatsumairi” meaning “first” and “mairu” meaning to “come” or “go”. Thus, Hatsumairi means “the first coming/going to temple” and is meant more for babies or infants’ first time (or first year) to the temple.

We usually observe Hatsumairi at the same time we observe Hanamatsuri, the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, the baby who would become Shakyamuni Buddha. Since we have not had this celebration in a few years, please contact Rev. Cyndi at 253-833-1442 or rev.jikaku.yasaki@wrbt.org if your family or you know a family would like to participate in Hatsumairi on Sunday, April 16th. If you have questions, please contact Rev. Cyndi.

Buddhist Women's Association

BWA@wrbt.org

Next BWA General meeting is after service on Sunday, March 19, 2023. This meeting is in-person. You must have paid your 2023 dues to vote. There will be no Zoom session.

BWA is sponsoring a tea following the Lady Kujō service on April 16. All are welcome to attend. You need not be a Temple or BWA member. If you would like to help with the preparations, please contact Georgette or other BWA officers.

White River Valley Museum has a new exhibit on 1950s cocktail parties, featuring cocktail dresses from that era. Informal talks are scheduled on Thursday, March 16 and 30th at 2pm. Please RSVP the Museum at <https://www.wrvmuseum.org/events-entry/2023/3/30/gallery-talk-entertaining-gender-roles> if you want to join Georgette at the event. A \$5 donation is requested.

WR BWA gratefully acknowledges an anonymous donation to our general fund.

ABA

An ABA ZOOM meeting was held on February 13, 2023. The group voted to approve planning a joint field trip to the Rhododendron Botanical Gardens and the Pacific Bonsai Museum in Federal Way during late April or early May. Both will be guided tours and open to all members and friends. Costs and details to be determined. A fall field trip is also being planned to the Seattle Asian Art Museum in Volunteer Park sometime in the fall. A steak-lunch BBQ on May 8th and ABA picnic on June 4th are also planned pending approval by the Board.

Next, ABA ZOOM meeting, April 10, 2023 at 1 pm.

Service Volunteer Sign Up

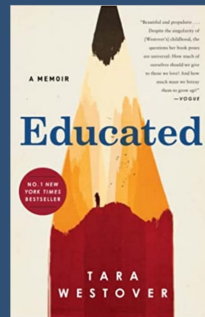
Sign up to help with weekly services.

- ◆ Chair service
- ◆ Bring and arrange flowers for the onajin - we can help arrange if you wish.
- ◆ Bring fruit for the onajin



Sign Up at bit.ly/WRBTservice (case sensitive) or contact office@wrbt.org.

WRBT Virtual Book Club



Educated
By Tara Westover

March 12th at 7:00pm

Sign up at wrbt.org/bookclub

Educated by Tara Westover

Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.

Virtual Book Club

Here’s a preview of the books that we’ll be reading in the coming months!

April 9 @ 7pm - *Behold The Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue

May 21 @ 7pm - *The Little Old Lady Who Broke All The Rules* by Catharina Ingelman-Sundberg

June 18 @ 7pm - *There is Nothing for You Here: Finding Opportunity in the 21st Century* by Fiona Hill

July - break

August - break

Facilities Committee

Kendall will be organizing an “adopt the street” cleanup (37th Street N.E) event sometime this spring. Volunteers are needed. JR Pewitt purchased and installed motion sensitive floodlights on the caretaker’s house and storage garage. This will help with security and Bon Odori parking. Thank you JR.





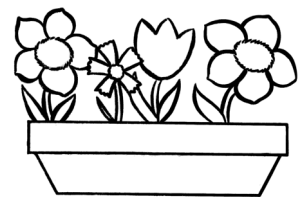
Give your help. You can donate items to our sale and come purchase plants or other items on May 13th. You can also volunteer to help set up before the sale and work on the 13th at the sale. Look for coming information about our planting work party.

Needed: potted plants, bedding plants, divisions of perennials, seedlings, decorative pots, and other garden related items. We also need pots and planters with blooming plants.

For Sale: blooming flower planters, vegetable starts, bedding plants (flowers), perennials, and more.

Contact: Mary Cogger coggermh@nventure.com or at temple.

Sign up: for a shift at www.wrbt.org/plantsale



RUMMAGE SALE

June 10, 2023

It may not seem like spring yet but if you're getting a jump start on spring cleaning, we will gladly accept your donated items for our Rummage Sale! We'll let you know when we're ready for you to bring your items to the Temple.

- Textiles – clean, in new or gently used condition. (No holes, rips, stains). We can accept adult and children's clothing and shoes, towels, bedding, tablecloths, etc.
- Furniture – clean, smaller pieces of furniture. No large upholstered or heavy furniture pieces
- Electronics and Small Kitchen Appliances – clean and in working condition. No consoles or heavy TVs, no large microwaves, no computers
- Toys, Games, Musical Instruments, and Sports Equipment – clean, unbroken condition with all parts included. No pianos or organs. No treadmills, old exercise machines, or other large heavy pieces of equipment
- Garden Supplies and Shop Tools - No used auto parts, tires or rims
- Purses and Bags – clean, in new or gently used condition with all working parts
- Pet Supplies – crates, collars, leashes in good condition
- Books/Media and Office Supplies
- Housewares – clean, in new or gently used condition
- Seasonal and Home Decor
- Jewelry and Accessories
- Collectibles



While you're gathering items to donate, if you come across styrofoam, used alkaline batteries, old lightbulbs (sorry, no fluorescent tubes), or unusable textiles (we are NOT able to accept wet, mildewed, or contaminated textiles), bring them to the Temple. We'll bring them to recycling locations and keep them out of the landfill!

If you have any questions, please contact Sharon at 206-947-2461 or office@wrbt.org.

Newsletter Reminder

April newsletter articles are due **Sunday, March 12th**. Please send articles to newsletter@wrbt.org. Save a stamp ~ Save a tree ~ Save \$! We encourage you to sign up for our newsletter by email if this is an option for you. **Contact newsletter@wrbt.org or call 253-833-1442 to opt out of the hard copy newsletter.**

Donations

The Temple gratefully acknowledges the following donations received and recorded from January 12th through February 14th. 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. 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>. **For regular donors, year-end letters listing donations made in 2022 have been distributed. Please contact temple treasurer if you did not receive one or if there are errors in your letter.**

Total Donations Received - \$1720

Shotsuki (Monthly) Memorials

Mrs. Katie Komoto	In memory of Lily Komoto
M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai	February Shotsuki
Mrs. Yuki Iwai	In memory of Sunao Iwai
Mrs. Charlene Grinolds	In memory of Steven Tsuji
Mrs. Audrie Hayes	In memory of Kart Funai and Kaz Tsujikawa
Ms. Jill Komoto	In memory of George & Lily Komoto
M/M Yuki & Itsuo Shiotani	February Shotsuki
Mr. Randy Okimoto	In memory of Mary Sakuma

Memorials

Ms. May Terayama	In memory of Sharon Harris
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Hoonko

M/M Mitsuko & Alvin Terada	Ms. Miyuki Peterson	Ms. Emiko Philips
Mrs. Norma Geenty	Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara	Mr. Charles Natsuhara
M/M Alva & Dennis Nishimura	M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai	Mrs. Yuki Iwai
Mrs. Kiyomi Taketa-Ozanich	Mrs. Lily Kato	Mrs. Katie Komoto
Roger Fukai & Shirley Kanda	Mrs. Charlene Grinolds	Mr. Randy Okimoto
M/M Yuri & Itsuo Shiotani	Mrs. Connie Toda	Ms. Darlene Yamada
M/M Mike & Louise Kato	M/M Tamio & Takako Uchida	Mrs. Tomeko Taketa
Anonymous		

Nirvana Day

M/M Wayne & Sally Mizuki

Shinnenkai

M/M Ikuko & James Dodobara	Mrs. Katie Komoto	Mr. Randy Okimoto
M/M Robert & Mitzi Akiyama	Mr. Charles Natsuhara	Ms. Amy Doran
Mr. Darrin Herman		

General Donations

M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai	In appreciation
Mrs. Charlene Grinolds	BCA Endowment
Kroger	Community Give Back

2023 Pledge Totals

January 1 - 31, 2023

Thank you for your support in 2023!

Date	PLEDGES DECLARED		Contributors	DOLLARS COLLECTED	
	Additional	Total		Additional	Total
Feb 3, 2023	\$16,570	\$16,570	13	\$13,060	\$13,060
<u>For Comparison</u>					
Feb 7, 2022	\$10,900	\$10,900	9	\$8,800	\$8,800
Name and Amount Not Specified for Publishing: Anonymous #1 Sharon Kosai					
Amount Not Specified for Publishing: Monica Furtick Georgette I Magnin Ruth Terry Mark Terry					
Under \$500: Joan Hoskin David Hoskin Donald Gardner Judy Gardner Kathleen Taketa-Ozanich Vivian Alexander					
\$500- \$999:					
\$1,000- \$4,999: Anonymous #2					

The 2022 tax statements and newly revised 2023 pledge forms were sent out the first week of February. If you did not receive them, please contact Randy Okimoto reokimoto@comcast.net.

****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

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