

# The White Path

## Living the Life of the Nembutsu

### WHITE RIVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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### Minister's Greetings

I would like to continue the topic of why we say or think, “itadakimasu” and “gochisou sama deshita” before and after every meal. Why it is important for us to thank everyone and every being that gave up their life or used energy so that we can have our meal. This month, the world observes Earth Day on April 22 to think upon the many environmental issues that hurt our planet. I thought I would touch on the topic of octopus farms.

Last year, it was announced that the world's first octopus farm will be built in Mexico sometime in 2023. As someone who loves getting Takoyaki from Kizuki Ramen, I thought that it would be a good idea to mass produce octopus for the consumption of this being. Unfortunately, many people agree that though it would help with the accessibility of octopus, like fish farms, the lifestyle of the being would be dramatically decreased compared to their ocean living counterparts. The octopuses would be forced to reproduce as often as possible meaning that more females would be forced to live shorter lives and those chosen to be “farmed” would have to live in overpopulated tanks. How horrible is this for a being to live?

A year before the announcement of the first octopus farm, the United Kingdom recognized octopuses, as well as crabs and lobsters, as sentient beings. Though this law does not change anything about the consumption of the beings, it does make us all stop to think about consuming other sentient beings.

Jodo Shinshu does not force us to be on strict diets nor does it command us to eat certain foods. But this teaching does allow us to reflect on not only ourselves, but the lives of all the beings around us. This includes sentient beings like the octopus who give their lives for us to eat delicious Takoyaki. This is why we say and think, “itadakimasu” and “gochisou sama deshita” before and after every meal. It is to remind us that our lives are not just ours, that we live in a world in which we have to consume the lives of other beings to live. So please say or think “itadakimasu” and “gochisou sama deshita” in gratitude to the wisdom and compassion shown to us by all these beings.

Gassho,  
Rev. Cyndi Yasaki



### Greetings from the President

With the weather \*finally\* turning toward the better, it is a time of renewal and optimism. My optimism is fueled by not only the weather, but also the progress that the Temple has made. Looking back to last year at this time, we were still conducting service online and Rev. Warrick was a couple months from retirement. It was a time of much uncertainty, and coming back to the Temple seemed like a daunting task. Would our sangha return?

A year later, we welcome a consistent stream of new faces to the Temple each week, have a new Resident Minister in Rev. Yasaki, and we have a great slate of public-facing events planned for this year. There is an air of excitement at the Temple and we hope that you will join us! Services are every Sunday at 10:30 am. Come for the Dharma, stay for the fellowship.

Gassho,  
Kendall

### Buddhism Discussion

#### April 23rd After Service

Right after service on 4/23, we will be having our 8th group discussion (a portion of the WRBT Education Plan) on Applying the Eightfold Path in Everyday Life (Part 1). Everyone is welcome.

**April Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service**  
**IN PERSON (and Streamed Live) Service**  
**April 2nd 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 April. 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)

Richard William Arima	1983	Misao Tsukamaki	1999
Reiko Yamamoto	1989	Roy Fujisawa Bingo	2000
Dennis Tanaka	1990	Fujie Yabusaki	2004
Barbara Kimiko Tsuji	1993	Tetsuo Yanagawa	2006
Kenzo Kinoshita	1995	Kaoru Yanagawa	2010
Frank Masaru Arima	1995	Shari Watanabe	2010
George Akio Taketa	1997	Goro Kinoshita	2021
Frank Senji Natsuhara	1999	Kerry Taniguchi	2022

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

**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](mailto:rev.jikaku.yasaki@wrbt.org).

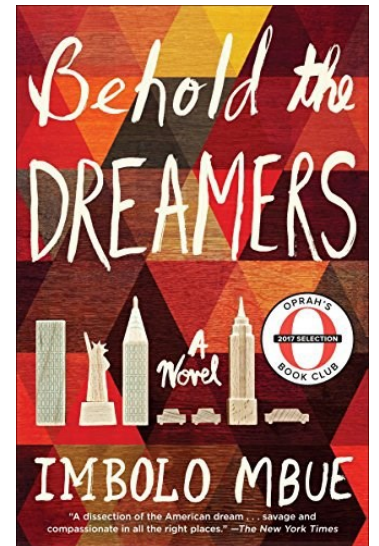
***Behold The Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue**

April 9, 2-23 @ 7pm

“A debut novel by a young woman from Cameroon that illuminates the immigrant experience in America with the tenderhearted wisdom so lacking in our political discourse . . . Mbue is a bright and captivating storyteller.”—The Washington Post

Jende Jonga, a Cameroonian immigrant living in Harlem, has come to the United States to provide a better life for himself and family. In the fall of 2007, Jende can hardly believe his luck when he lands a job as a chauffeur for a Clark, a senior executive at Lehman Brothers. Jende is eager to please. Clark’s wife even offers Neni temporary work at the Edwardses’ summer home in the Hamptons. With these opportunities, Jende and Neni imagine a brighter future. However, the world of great power and privilege conceals troubling secrets, and soon Jende and Neni notice cracks in their employers’ façades.

When the financial world is rocked by the collapse of Lehman Brothers, the Jongas are desperate to keep Jende’s job—even as their marriage threatens to fall apart. As all four lives are dramatically upended, Jende and Neni are forced to make an impossible choice.



**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 & August** - break

**Service Volunteer Sign Up**

Sign up to help with weekly services.

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



Sign Up at [bit.ly/WRBTservice](http://bit.ly/WRBTservice) (case sensitive) or contact [office@wrbt.org](mailto:office@wrbt.org).

**Join the Shirakawa Strummers!**

The Shirakawa Strummers have been rehearsing lately but have also recently been welcoming Sangha members who would like to sing with the group. We are looking forward to performing Gathas as a part of our services and would like to extend an invitation to fellow Sangha members who might like to contribute vocally without necessarily have interest in playing ukulele. All are welcome. Interested? Contact Judy Gardner. [judykaygardner@gmail.com](mailto:judykaygardner@gmail.com)

### Buddhist Women's Association

BWA@wrbt.org

**BWA Spring Tea following the Hanamatsuri service on April 16.** All are welcome to attend. It's been a while since we've had an opportunity to celebrate together. Come and enjoy food, company, and hopefully sunshine.

If you would like to help with the preparations, please see the notice on the bulletin board near the temple library or contact Georgette or other BWA officers.

BWA General meeting was held on Sunday, March 19, 2023 with 11 members. We had lively discussions on ways to support children and our Sangha, and proposed future trips to museums and cultural landmarks. More details as we continue planning.

If you have ideas for outings or other activity, please contact any BWA officer or email Georgette at [oz.georgette@gmail.com](mailto:oz.georgette@gmail.com) or phone 206-854-7913. We would love your ideas to bring learning and fun to our gatherings.

### ABA

An ABA ZOOM meeting was held on February 13, 2023. The group voted to approve 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 8<sup>th</sup> and ABA picnic on June 4<sup>th</sup> are also in the works.

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

### RUMMAGE SALE

**June 10, 2023**

Remember us when you're 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 - Small Furniture - Purses/Bags - Garden Supplies and Shop Tools - Housewares - Pet Supplies - Books/Media/Office Supplies - Jewelry/Accessories - Collectibles - Seasonal and Home Décor - Toys/Games/Musical Instruments/Sports Equipment - Electronics and Small Kitchen Appliances

Please be sure that all items are in clean useable condition. There are certain items that we will not be able to accept; please check the March newsletter for more details or if you have any questions, please contact Sharon at 206-947-2461 or [office@wrbt.org](mailto:office@wrbt.org).

### Facilities Committee

Kendall has organized an "adopt the street" cleanup (37<sup>th</sup> Street N.E) event for April 2, 2023 after service. 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. JR has also agreed to take over the Facilities Committee Chairmanship. He will perform all management duties including filing a monthly Facilities Committee report to the Board (Kendall) and writing a monthly news article for the *The White Path* (Sharon). Thank you JR. Mary is working on installing hooks for displaying items on the temple walls. Dave Weibel has arrived and is currently occupying the caretaker's house. He is retired military and will be providing both security and maintenance services in exchange for using the house.



### Join us for our Plant Sale!

**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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:coggermh@nventure.com) or at temple.

**Sign up:** for a shift at [www.wrbt.org/plantsale](http://www.wrbt.org/plantsale)

**Donations**

The Temple gratefully acknowledges the following donations received and recorded from February 15<sup>th</sup> through March 19<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 - \$ 1,020**

**Shotsuki (Monthly) Memorials**

Mrs. Lilly Kato	Steve Kato -3 year memorial
M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai	March Shotsuki
M/M Mitsuko & Alvin Terada	March Shotsuki
M/M Alva & Dennis Nishimura	In memory of Yasumi Kinoshita & Shigeru Nishimura
Ms. Lorraine Blackler	In memory of Hiroto Mizoguchi
M/M James & Ikuko Dodobara	In memory of Tsutae Tiny Taketa
M/M James & Chiho Pewitt	March Shotsuki
Ms. Laurie Tanaka	In memory of Maki Yamada & Yoshio Horiuchi
Ms. Emiko Phillips	In memory of Tsutae Tiny Taketa
Mrs. Tomeko Taketa	In memory of Ben Taketa, Tsutae Tiny Taketa, and Steve Kato
Al Yamada and Family	In memory of Maki Yamada
Mrs. Audrie Hayes	In memory of Itsuko Funai and Stan Tsujikawa
Mrs. Monica Furtick	In memory of Stan Tsujikawa

**Memorials**

M/M Ilene & Donald Grome	In memory of Karen Sakuma
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**Ohigan**

M/M Mitsuko & Alvin Terada	M/M Wayne & Sally Mizuki	Mrs. Charlene Grinolds
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**General Donations**

Mr. Minh-Tniet Vo	In appreciation
Ms. Georgette Magnin	In support of Ray of Hope meals

**2023 Pledge Totals**

**February 1 - 28, 2023**

**Thank you for your support in 2023!**

Date	PLEDGES DECLARED		Contributors	DOLLARS COLLECTED	
	Additional	Total		Additional	Total
Mar 1, 2023	\$3,025	\$18,695 <sup>1</sup>	22	\$3,075	\$16,135

**For Comparison**

Mar 3, 2022	\$14,060	\$25,500	31	\$11,950	\$20,750
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**Name and Amount Not Specified for Publishing:** Anonymous #4

**Amount Not Specified for Publishing:** Joe Watanabe    Joan Rogers    James Dodobara  
Ikuko Dodobara    Setsuko Hamamoto

**Under \$500:** Dennis Yamashita

**\$500- \$999:** Anonymous #3                      Gayle Takemura.

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

<sup>1</sup> Adjusts for transposition error in January report.

**Newsletter Reminder**

April newsletter articles are due **Sunday, April 16th**. Please send articles to [newsletter@wrbt.org](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@wrbt.org) or call 253-833-1442 to opt out of the hard copy newsletter.**

**\*\*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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Rev. Cyndi Yasaki

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