

# The White Path

Living the Life of the Nembutsu

WHITE RIVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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## Minister's Greetings

May 2023 is a very special month for Jodo Shinshu Buddhists! Every year on May 21, we celebrate Shinran Shonin's, the founder of Jodo Shinshu's, birthday which is called Gotan-e. This year, it is very special as we are celebrating his 850<sup>th</sup> birthday!!! It is important to celebrate such an occasion because if Shinran Shonin was not born, there would have never have been a sect of Buddhism called Jodo Shinshu nor would we have such a great Sangha or community like White River!

To honor this historic event, the mother temple in Kyoto, Japan is celebrating Shinran Shonin's 850<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2023 and into 2024 (along with the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Jodo Shinshu). If you would like to watch these celebrations, the mother temple in Kyoto has livestreams on YouTube every so often (though it is in Japanese). This month, many temples and Sangha members of the Buddhist Churches of America are making a pilgrimage to Kyoto to celebrate these historic events.

If one were to attend the celebrations, not only will you see Gomonsu-sama (the Head of Jodo Shinshu), you will be chanting the Shoshin Nembutsu Ge (The Hymn on True Nembutsu and Shinjin), a hymn written by Shinran Shonin. You will also witness Gyodo or the circumambulation around the statue of Amida Buddha. This ritual is only used during special celebrations making it a very special ritual to witness.

Though we will not be doing a big celebration like this for White River's Gotan-e, we will be having a joint celebration of Shinran Shonin's 850<sup>th</sup> birthday and the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Jodo Shinshu at the Northwest District Convention this September. So please join us on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> as well as in September for our celebration of these historic events.

How rare it is to encounter such an event! And how rare it is to encounter the Jodo Shinshu teachings!!

Gassho,  
Rev. Cyndi Yasaki



## Greetings from the President

While it has been unseasonably cold the past few months, the sunbreaks of Spring and longer days signal a shift toward more activity at the Temple. Our Hanamatsuri service last month was very well attended and a special thank you to our BWA for providing snacks and tea after.

This month, we're pleased to hold our annual plant sale on May 13th at 10 am! Volunteers and plants are needed, please volunteer for a shift at [www.wrbt.org/plantsale](http://www.wrbt.org/plantsale). We'll also be selling flower bouquets for Memorial Day as well - more information to come.

With so much happening at the Temple, we hope that you will continue to support us by becoming a member today - allowing us to keep engaging with the community and sangha in different ways. More information about membership can be found on our website at [www.wrbt.org/membership](http://www.wrbt.org/membership).

As always, please feel free to always contact me at [president@wrbt.org](mailto:president@wrbt.org) with any comments or questions that you may have!

Gassho,  
Kendall

## Gotan-E Service

May 21st at 10:30am

Enclosed in this newsletter, you will find an invitation to our Gotan-E Family Service commemorating the birth of Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. We hope you will join us!

**May Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service**

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

**May 7th 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 May. 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)

Hanako Yanagawa	1974	Frank Fujimura	2003
Sachiko Hirose	1978	George Mitsuo Hiranaka	2003
Tokuyo Komoto	1985	Masaru Kato	2008
Takeyoshi Jack Koga	1993	Bill Yaguchi	2011
Gladys Gisi	1999	George Shoji Terada	2014
Risako Kawasaki	2000	Betty Tanaka	2020
Masao Mikami	2001	Yoshiko Yamada	2021

<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).

**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:5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**

**June 25th**

**(May Discussion Canceled)**

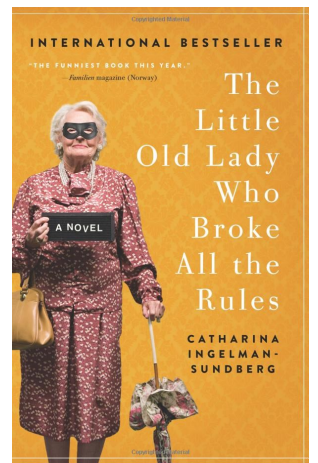
The next Buddhism Discussion is JUNE 25th right after service; we will be having our group discussion (a portion of the WRBT Education Plan) on “Using the Eightfold Path to solve everyday life problems (Right Livelihood and Right Endeavor).” Everyone is welcome.

**White River Buddhist Temple Book Club**  
***The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules***

May 21st at 7:00pm

[wrbt.org/bookclub](http://wrbt.org/bookclub)

“Martha Andersson may be seventy-nine-years-old and live in a retirement home, but that doesn’t mean she’s ready to stop enjoying life. So when the new management of Diamond House starts cutting corners to save money, Martha and her four closest friends—Brains, The Rake, Christina and Anna-Gretta (a.k.a. The League of Pensioners)—won’t stand for it. Fed up with early bedtimes and overcooked veggies, this group of feisty seniors sets about to regain their independence, improve their lot, and stand up for seniors everywhere.



Their solution? White collar crime. What begins as a relatively straightforward robbery of a nearby luxury hotel quickly escalates into an unsolvable heist at the National Museum. With police baffled and the Mafia hot on their trail, the League of Pensioners has to stay one walker’s length ahead if it’s going to succeed....”

**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.** We had a great turnout for both Hanamatsuri (Flower Festival commemorating Buddha's birth) and our Spring Tea. Glad to have Rev and Rona Warrick attend. We got great comments from them and many attendees. So good to have a room full of happy conversation and good appetites. There were plenty of smiles and bright faces.

The BWA thanks everyone who attended, contributed delicious dishes, created the table decorations, helped with setup and cleanup, kept the buffet and dessert tables full. The team that came in early to setup was cheerful and had much fun and camaraderie. So good to see the event come together in the kitchen and dining room. It was wonderful have an opportunity to celebrate together.



The BWA gratefully acknowledges the generous donations from Norma Geenty, Yuri Shiotani, Eva Chun, Georgette Magnin, and Pat Kawabata

If you have ideas for outings or other activity, please contact any BWA officer or email Georgette at [BWA@wrbt.org](mailto:BWA@wrbt.org). We would love your ideas to bring learning and fun to our gatherings.



**Service Volunteer Sign Up**

Sign up to help with weekly services.

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

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



**ABA**

An ABA ZOOM meeting was held on Monday, April 10, 2023.

A steak-lunch BBQ and in-person meeting is scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup> at 12pm. All temple members and friends are invited. A \$5 ingredients fee is requested in addition to advance sign-up.

A planned joint field trip to the Rhododendron Botanical Gardens and the Pacific Bonsai Museum in Federal Way was rescheduled to mid-June (June 14<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>). The event was re-scheduled because unseasonably cold weather delayed the rhododendron flowering schedule and the hope that warmer weather will make the field trip more enjoyable. Both tours will be guided and open to all members and friends. Costs and details to be determined.

The ABA sponsored spring picnic is scheduled for Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> after service.

A fall field trip to the Seattle Asian Art Museum in Volunteer Park is planned for the fall in addition to a trip to a Seattle Mariners baseball game.

**White River ABA Steak BBQ**

The White River Adult Buddhist Association (ABA) invites all temple members and friends to its annual steak BBQ and meeting to be held at the temple on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 12 pm. The event marks the first ABA in-person meeting since the Covid 19 pandemic began. It signals that we are truly getting back to normal. The BBQ will be followed by a short ABA meeting. A \$5 donation for ingredients is requested. Attendees may RSVP on a sign-up sheet in the back hallway or by sending an e-mail to [reokimoto@comcast.net](mailto:reokimoto@comcast.net) by Saturday, May 6, 2023.



**Hanamatsuri 2023**

Rev. Yasaki, Sara Perrot, Ruth Terry

### Member Visits

Char has been scheduling visits to introduce Rev. Cyndi to long time members who haven't been able to come to Temple. So far they have visited Rosie Kato, Lilly Kato, Yuki Iwai & Michiko Toyoshima. Rev. Cyndi participated in a Hanamatsuri service at Nikkei Manor with Rev. Kusunoki & Rev. Koyama. All four ladies are doing well and look great! Stay tune for more visits!



Michiko Toyoshima and Yuki Iwai



Rosie Kato



Lilly Kato

### Auburn Clean Sweep 2023

This hard working group planted flowers at Veteran's Memorial Park as part of Auburn's Clean Sweep Day.



### Adopt a Road April 2023

Here we are ready to clean up the roads surrounding our Temple! We'll be doing this about once a quarter so we hope our can join us next time!



## SPRING PLANT SALE



Saturday, May 13th, 2023

10 AM-2 PM

**Bring:** vegetable & flower plants & other garden items on May 10th or 11th from 11-1.

**Sign up:** online [wrbt.org/plant sale](http://wrbt.org/plant-sale) or  
Mary Cogger 253-248-3088 or  
[coggermh@nventure.com](mailto:coggermh@nventure.com)

# RUMMAGE SALE

**June 10, 2023**

We are getting closer to our Rummage Sale, so get those closets cleaned out! We will start accepting your gently used items from May 14th. If you absolutely can't wait to get those items out of your home, we can make arrangements for an earlier drop off.

- 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 cribs, carseats, or 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
- Garden Supplies and Shop Tools - No used auto parts, tires or rims
- Pet Supplies – crates, collars, leashes in good condition
- Books/Media and Office Supplies
- 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
- Housewares – clean, in new or gently used condition
- Seasonal and Home Decor
- Jewelry and Accessories
- Purses and Bags – clean, in new or gently used condition with all working parts
- Collectibles

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

While you're gathering items to donate, if you come across styrofoam, used alkaline batteries, old lightbulbs (sorry, no fluorescent tubes), bring them to the Temple. We'll bring them to recycling locations and keep them out of the landfill!

## Bon Odori

Saturday, July 22, 2023

Co-chairs: Randy Okimoto & Char Grinolds

A preliminary Bon Odori planning committee meeting was held on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

This year's Bon Odori is a public event and we will need volunteers from outside the temple, to be successful. So please start recruiting helpers from friends and relatives.

Mayor Backus has agreed to make some welcoming remarks.

Char & Sharon will conduct an Obon Food Committee meeting in late April to determine menu items. The next Bon Odori Committee Chairpersons meeting will be held on Sunday, May 7, 2023 after service.

**Donations**

The Temple gratefully acknowledges the following donations received and recorded from March 20<sup>th</sup> through April 17<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 - \$ 1,149**

**Shotsuki (Monthly) Memorials**

Mrs. Norma Geenty	In memory of Suwako Murashige
Mrs. Mitsuko Terada	April Shotsuki
M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai	April Shotsuki
M/M Alva & Dennis Nishimura	In memory of Goro Kinoshita
M/M James & Chiho Pewitt	April Shotsuki
Mrs. Katie Komoto	In memory of George & William Taketa
Mrs. Tomeko Taketa	In memory of George Taketa
Mrs. Charlene Grinolds	In memory of Barbara Tsuji
Ms. Laurie Tanaka	In memory of Dennis Tanaka
Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara	In memory of Frank Natsuhara
Mr. Charles Natsuhara	In memory of Frank Natsuhara

**Memorials**

Mrs. Norma Geenty	In memory of Karen Bingo-Duggins
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**Hanamatsuri**

M/M Randy & Eva Chun	M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai	Mr. Randy Okimoto
M/M Robert & Mitzi Akiyama	Mrs. Connie Toda	Mrs. Yuki Iwai
Ms. Kiyomi Taketa-Ozanich	Mrs. Charlene Grinolds	Ms. Laurie Tanaka
M/M Roger Fukai & Shirley Kanda	Mrs. Gayle Takemura	Mrs. Joan Rodgers
Mrs. Lilly Kato	M/M Tamio & Takako Uchida	Mrs. Tomeko Taketa
M/M Alvin & Mitsuko Terada	Mrs. Alice Nishimoto	Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara
Mr. Charles Natsuhara	Anonymous	

**Services**

M/M Randy & Eva Chun	Nirvana Day and Shinnenkai
Mrs. Norma Geenty	Eitaikyo

**2023 Pledge Totals  
March 1 - 31, 2023**

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

Date	PLEDGES DECLARED		Contributors	DOLLARS COLLECTED	
	Additional	Total		Additional	Total
Apr 6, 2023	\$7,400	\$26,095	30	\$4,185	\$20,320

**For Comparison**

Apr 4, 2022	\$4,440	\$29,940	36	\$1,845	\$22,595
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**Name and Amount Not Specified for Publishing:**

**Amount Not Specified for Publishing:** Wayne Mizuki                      Sally Mizuki                      Anika Klix

**Under \$500:** David Weibel                      Laurie Tanaka

**\$500- \$999:** Anonymous #5

**\$1,000- \$4,999:** Charlene Grinolds                      Norma Geenty

**Newsletter Reminder**

June newsletter articles are due **Sunday, May 21st**. 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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