

The White Path

Living the Life of the Nembutsu

WHITE RIVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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Minister's Greetings

Happy Pride Month!

This month it is important in our Jodo Shinshu community to highlight that our teachings are for everyone, regardless of a person's gender identity or sexual identity.

Some people in society might label me as a female who has always stayed "between the lines" because I am married to a man (who I love very much). But I identify myself as a cis heterosexual female who has explored my own sexual and gender identity throughout my life and have found that the line between identifying oneself as gender fluid, bisexual, pansexual, et-cetera is often blurry and that this is okay.

It is hard to not put labels on people when we go out. It is the reason why some people get angry when these labels do not conform to their own thinking. For example, when we go to the mall and assume two passing people are friends but we see them later showing signs of affection to each other, or we go to the restroom and we see a trans person in the gendered restroom they identify with.

Though it is tough for some people to do, we, ourselves, have to realize that we need to try to let go of our own automatic labeling of other people. This will allow us to see the people around us just as they are.

Because we are human beings with clouded vision who cannot completely let go of these labels and are often focused on our own expectations, we turn to Amida Buddha's Infinite Wisdom and Compassion. Amida Buddha sees us just as we are; no matter how we identify ourselves. Though we are not an enlightened being like Amida Buddha, we can listen to their call of wisdom and compassion and try our best to lessen the suffering we inflict upon ourselves and others by clearing our own vision to see people as they would like to be accepted.

So take refuge in Amida Buddha, the Buddha who accepts us as we are.

Gassho,
Rev. Cyndi Yasaki



Greetings from the President

Happy June!

June is Pride month which celebrates the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) community. Last month, our sister Temple Pasadena Buddhist Temple was targeted by an individual who set fire to their Pride flag which they hung outside their Temple. This was a direct targeted attack on the values of our BCA temples as well as the LGBTQ+ community. I want to reiterate that White River Buddhist Temple is a sangha that welcomes and accepts everyone - regardless of background or identity. We do not tolerate discrimination or prejudice of any form. As we continue to embrace the "you are

welcome here" mantra, we will be showing our support this month by displaying the Pride flag at our Temple.

We have an exciting line up of Summer events including our ABA picnic on June 4th (bring a side dish and your families!), annual rummage sale on June 10th (please bring your items to donate), and we are opening up our Bon Odori back to the public on July 22nd (please consider volunteering).

Finally, we have done a substantial amount of planning ahead of hosting the Northwest District Convention in 2024. We have a lot of exciting ideas and look forward to sharing some exciting news with you in the coming months.

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President’s Message continued

We continue to need your support, time, and talent to keep our Temple one of the most innovative in the country. Please always feel free to contact me at president@wrbt.org if you have any questions/ideas/comments.

Gassho,
Kendall

June Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service

IN PERSON (and Streamed Live) Service

June 4th 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 June. If any names have inadvertently been omitted or if you have any questions about Shotsuki services, please contact office@wrbt.org

Shizuko Natsuhara	1979	Ben Tsutomu Nishimoto	1998
Kitaro Tsuji	1979	Shizuka Nishimoto	2001
Darlene Jan Ibuki	1980	Aiko Horiuchi	2005
Harry Ikuma Shimomura	1984	James Garcia	2010
Gary Watanabe	1990	Yuki Kitagawa	2011
Naomi Shima Martin	1992	Barbara Jean Blanchard Ferrell	2016
Rose Fusaye Teraoka	1998	Lillian Asato	2017

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

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.

Summer Solstice Sit

All are welcome to attend our summer solstice meditation sit on June 17, Saturday at 5am. We will set up on the field at the west side (back) of temple. The sun is due to rise that morning at 5:15 so we will be there right before the sun comes up. The sit will last about 30 minutes. A few hearty people have already volunteered to cook up a light breakfast for us afterwards, so please come! Dress for the weather, an extra blanket may be a good idea. We will have tarps, cushions, chairs, and camaraderie all ready for you. No registration necessary.

Buddhism Discussion

June 25th

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.

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
- ◆ Ring Kansho before service



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

Bon Odori Committee:

Event date: Saturday, July 22, 2023

Co-chairs: Randy Okimoto & Char Grinolds

A Bon Odori Committee Chairperson meeting was held on May 7, 2023.

This year’s Bon Odori is a public event and will need volunteers from outside the temple to be successful. So please start recruiting helpers from friends and relatives. All volunteers that will be handling food should have a current food handler’s permit from King County Health Department.

The Committee decided to shorten the booth hours to 4:30 to 8:30 pm.

Newsletter Reminder

July newsletter articles are due **Sunday, June 18th**. Please send articles to newsletter@wrbt.org. 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.**



White River Book Club

There is Nothing For You Here by Fiona Hill June 18 @ 7pm

A celebrated foreign policy expert and key impeachment witness, Fiona Hill, reveals how declining opportunity has set America on the grim path of modern Russia—and draws on her personal journey out of poverty, as well as her unique perspectives as an historian and policy maker, to show how we can return hope to our forgotten places.

Hill speaks of her beginnings as a coalminer's daughter from northern England. She describes the turmoil and corruption inside the White House. She answers the question, "How did you get there?"

The book is a long, thoughtful answer to that question. It takes in the story of industrial and political rot in three nations: the UK, the country of her birth; the US, the country of her choosing; and Russia, the object of her lifelong vocation.

The powerful currents driving the modern history of those three states carried her on her remarkable life's journey. The state-assisted euthanasia of the British coal industry in the early 80s drove her from her home town of Bishop Auckland, where her family had been miners. Trump's former Russia adviser charts her journey from County Durham to DC, showing how populism thrives when communities are abandoned. It explains that only by expanding opportunity can we save our democracy.

July & August break — Fall schedule to be announced

Buddhist Women's Association

BWA@wrbt.org

The BWA gratefully acknowledges the very generous donation from Lily Kato. We thank her for her support to help spread the Dharma.

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

Thanks Carpinito Bros.

This year, as in past years, Carpinito's generously donated vegetable starts to our plant sale as well as giving us a discount on flower starts.

They have been a strong community advocate and WRBT friend for many years.

Please support them by shopping at their store for many items. Flower and vegetable starts in the spring. Pumpkins and Christmas items at appropriate times. Produce, sand & gravel, topsoil and bark year around. www.carpinito.com



1148 Central Avenue N.
Kent, Wa 98032
253-854-5692

ABA

The annual ABA Steak BBQ and meeting was held on Monday, May 8, 2023 and enjoyed by 15 participants. A good time and meal were had by all.

The planned joint field trip to the Rhododendron Botanical Gardens and the Pacific Bonsai Museum in Federal Way has been rescheduled to Wednesday, June 14, 2023. The Pacific Bonsai Museum guided tour will begin at 10:30 am and last for 60 minutes. A voluntary donation is requested. The guided tour of the Rhododendron Botanical Gardens tour will begin at 12 pm and last 60-90 minutes. Both tours are open to all members and friends. Space is limited, so there will be a sign-up sheet posted on the back hallway. Or you may sign up by sending an e-mail to me at reokimoto@comcast.net. A \$100 docent fee will be paid by the ABA and senior individuals pay an additional \$10 per person in advance. Afterward, tour participants will meet for lunch at the Pac Island Grill and enjoy some authentic Hawaiian BBQ.

A fall field trip is also being planned to the Seattle Asian Art Museum in Volunteer Park sometime in late September. The ABA-sponsored picnic is scheduled for June 4th after service. It will be a partial pot-luck lunch and a sign up sheet has been posted in the back hallway. A trip to the Seattle Mariners vs LA Angels game is planned for Wednesday, September 13, 2023.

Donations

The Temple gratefully acknowledges the following donations received and recorded from April 18th through May 22nd. 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>.

Total Donations Received - \$ 2745

Shotsuki (Monthly) Memorials

Mrs. Norma Geenty	In memory of Alan Murashige
M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai	May Shotsuki
Ms. Darlene Yamada	3 year memorial for Yoshiko Yamada
Ms. Karen Yamada	3 year memorial for Yoshiko Yamada
Tanaka Family	In memory of Betty Tanaka
Mrs. Gayle Takemura	In memory of Betty Tanaka
M/M Alan & Janis Yamada	In memory of Risako Kawasaki
Mrs. Tomeko Taketa	In memory of Masaru Kato
Mrs. Joan Rodgers	In memory of Frank Fujimura and Masaru Kato
Mrs. Sharon Ito	In memory of Katsumi Ito

Hanamatsuri

Mrs. Norma Geenty	M/M Wayne & Sally Mizuki	Ms., Darlene Yamada
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Gotane

M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai	M/M Wayne & Sally Mizuki	Mrs. Joan Rodgers
M/M Itsuo & Yuri Shiotani	Mrs. Charlene Grinolds	Ms. Darlene Yamada
Ms. Kiyomi Taketa-Ozanich	M/M Dennis & Alva Nishimura	Mrs. Norma Geenty
Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara	Ms. Miyuki Peterson	Mrs. Connie Toda
M/M Roger Fukai & Shirley Kanda	Mr. Charles Natsuhara	

Spring Plant Sale

Ms. Karen Yamada	Ms. Darlene Yamada	Mrs. Mary Cogger
Mr. James Iwasaki	Mrs. Norma Geenty	Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara
Mr. Charles Natsuhara	Mr. Randy Okimoto	

General Donations

M/M June & Chris Yasaki	In appreciation
Mrs. Charlene Grinolds	BCA Dana Program
Mr. Dave Weibel	In appreciation

2023 Pledge Totals
April 1 - 30, 2023

Thank you for your support in 2023!

Date	PLEDGES DECLARED			DOLLARS COLLECTED	
	Additional	Total	Contributors	Additional	Total
May 5, 2023	\$2,625	\$28,720	33	\$3,285	\$23,605
<u>For Comparison</u>					
May 6, 2022	\$300	\$30,240	37	\$775	\$23,370
Name and Amount Not Specified for Publishing: Anonymous #6 Anonymous #7 Anonymous #8					



Member Visit



Char took Sensei to meet **Alice Nishimoto** last month. Alice is 95 and doing well despite having had a stroke last year. She said to say hello to everyone and misses us! Her daughter may try to bring her to Obon!

17th Annual World Buddhist Women's Convention (第17回世界仏教婦人会大会)

850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth & 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of Jodo Shinshu (親鸞聖人御誕生850年・立教開宗800年慶讃法要)



Unforgettable - The Lotus Skyliners Story

A piece of local history is appearing **June 11 from 3-5 PM**, at the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple.

A newly released book: "**The Lotus Skyliners — How a Big Band Lifts Up a Small Community**" tells the story of an unforgettable group of Japanese American musicians after World War II. A committee of five former Lotus Skyliners and four volunteers collaborated to help create the book over the past three years.

From 1953 to 1962, the Lotus Skyliners played at dances, school proms, private parties, and even a bar mitzvah. They were one of the most widely recognized bands in the Seattle area. The Lotus Skyliners also toured the West Coast and played at temples in Portland, San Francisco, San Jose, Oakland, Los Angeles, and San Diego.

Within this group were Japanese American teenagers who were among the youngest people incarcerated in concentration camps during World War II.

Purchase a book, have it signed, and meet some of the former Skyliners band members. Listen to live music performed by the Pat & Rich2 Quartet.

For more information visit: www.lotusskyliners.com



RUMMAGE SALE

June 10, 2023

8:30am - 2:00pm

Come and check out our Rummage Sale! This is a great way to help stop consumer waste while helping out the Temple. We have something for everyone; you never know what you'll find!

Rummage Sale Assistance Requested: If you are available to volunteer for a couple of hours during the Rummage Sale, please contact Sharon. We need a few people to assist with snacks, assisting customers, consolidating/straightening, and take down/clean up.

We are still accepting items; please check the temple calendar for Rummage Sale Drop Off dates. 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 or need to make special arrangements for drop off, please contact Sharon at 206-947-2461 or 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!

****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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(253) 833-1442

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