

# The White Path

## Living the Life of the Nembutsu

### WHITE RIVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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### Minister's Greetings

2023 sure has gone by so quickly!! When I think of this year, I can think of the many good and bad things that happened in the world and to our temples (the Maui Fires come to my mind).

Bonenkai is the perfect time to “forget” the bad things in the year. Literally translated to “forget the year gathering” (Bō means “to forget”, nen means “year”, and kai means “gathering”), Bonenkai is the time when people come together to drink and have a fun time.

First, I do have to say that we should discourage the intoxication of alcohol for the use of forgetting something. Please never use alcohol as a way to forget something and if you do, please seek the help of a therapist. Secondly, as a Buddhist, there has to be a realization that though we mean “forget”, it does not mean to fully forget. It may hurt people to remember certain bad events, but this is why it makes it important to seek help when one cannot get past it.

This is what the Buddhist community is here for. Not to forget the bad events, but to help you get through them. Everyone has had something good happen to them, everyone has had something bad happen to them. All these make you who you are, what makes the community what we are. The White River Buddhist Temple community will be here for both of these events in your life.

Unfortunately, we will not have alcohol at our Bonenkai to forget the year (I do not drink anyway), but we will use the gathering to have a fun time to end the year. It will be the best day to look back on the year and remember all the fun we had with everyone and wish everyone a good New Year. I look forward to partying with you all this month at our Bonenkai to finish our year with something good, something to not forget!

Gassho,  
Rev. Cyndi Yasaki



### Greetings from the President

I want to share my recent experience of returning to Nishi Hongwanji in Kyoto during my trip to Japan last month. My wife and I were fortunate enough to get a private tour from Tabitha Kobata, daughter of Rev. Ron Kobata, who works at the International Office of Nishi Hongwanji. We toured the grounds, were brought into historical chambers, and given a history of the site. Themes that we know well were symbolically apparent throughout the grounds - the fading art showing impermanence, the complaining statues representing our ego, the familiar smells of incense wafting through the Hondo. It felt all so familiar. The next morning at 6 am, I attended the daily morning service in the Founders Hall.

While it was a cold morning, there were over two dozen ministers and ministers in training chanting Shoshinge in a beautiful melodic tone. It was a special moment as it held the familiar sound of back home at White River.

The history of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism has not always been easy and it has been the dedication of religious leaders, Sangha members, and the community who have kept it strong. This is the case with White River as well. Our past ministers, our Sangha, our community have kept our Temple going for over a century - and this is certainly the case over the last few years.

In the final message of my term, I want to give a heartfelt thank you to all who have played a role in helping the Temple thrive these last few years.

If we look back in January 2021, we were not yet back to in-person services, Rev. Warrick had just announced his retirement, and there was much uncertainty around if the Sangha would return. However, with

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**President’s Message continued**

the support of the Temple’s Board, we were able to return to in-person services and events safely while readjusting our fundraising strategy that created long term sustainability and generated some of the highest revenues we’ve ever seen. I want to also thank our outgoing Board Members Kelsey Asato, Mary Cogger, Sara Perrott, and Valerie Yamanaka for their service to the Temple.

As we look toward toward the future, the Temple continues to welcome new visitors to the Temple each week and we’re continuing to engage thoughtfully with the Auburn community. Our continued momentum perseveres through dedication during these challenging times.

Gassho,  
Kendall

**December Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service**  
**IN PERSON (and Streamed Live) Service**  
**December 3rd at 10:30am**  
[www.wrbt.org/service](http://www.wrbt.org/service)

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)

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
Joyce Anahori Ding	2007		

<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).

**Shotsuki Service Changes Starting in January 2024**

Shotsuki Services will still be on the first Sunday of each month. What will be new starting with the January Shotsuki is that the Service chair will read all of the names at one time and then ask members to come forward to do Oshoko after all of the names are read. We will remind everyone before each Shotsuki Service. This will help people from coming up multiple times to do Oshoko for multiple family members and friends. We hope this will simplify the process.

**Weekly Announcements**

If you have an announcement for the Sangha, we encourage you to utilize the Weekly Announcement half sheet which is distributed at each service. This will help those in attendance from having to take notes or remember the dates/times of the multiple events coming up, as well those who need to leave immediately after service.

To be included in the weekly announcement half sheet, please send your announcement to [office@wrbt.org](mailto:office@wrbt.org) by the Thursday before each service.

We hope that this will be a more efficient way to get your message out! Thank you!

**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
- ◆ Ring Kansho before service



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

**Newsletter Reminder**

January newsletter articles are due **Sunday, December 17th**. Please send articles to [newsletter@wrbt.org](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@wrbt.org) or call 253-833-1442 to opt out of the hard copy newsletter.**

## Congratulations Dennis Yamashita!

On November 3, 2023, the Government of Japan announced that Mr. Dennis J. Yamashita, long time White River Buddhist Temple member and supporter, has been awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, in recognition of his contributions in promoting regional exchange and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States.

Dennis has been active with the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington for over 30 years, involved with Nikkei Concerns for over 40 years, and serves with the Japanese Community Service of Seattle, taking leadership roles in each of these organizations over the years.

Congratulations Dennis!

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## Buddhist Women's Association

BWA@wrbt.org

WR BWA Fall general meeting, was held on Sunday, November 19. A budget was approved. A \$200 donation will be made to the Auburn Food Bank.

Officers for 2024 were elected:

President--Georgette I. Magnin,  
 Vice President--Vivian Alexander  
 Co-Treasurers--Pat Kawabata and Gayle Takemura  
 Secretary--Sara Perrott  
 Auditor--Janice Yamada

Thanks to those who brought snacks and raffle prizes. Always fun to find out who gets a prize.

The BWA sincerely thanks all who made donations at the October 15th Eshinni Kakushinni service.

Candy fundraiser: Delivery date information will be emailed after See's has prepared our order for shipping. Thank you for supporting BWA educational and community outreach programs.

**Donations:** WR BWA gratefully acknowledges receipt of generous donations for our Eshinni-Kakushinni Service from:

M/M Alvin & Mitsuko Terada  
 M/M Mark & Sharon Kosai  
 Georgette Magnin  
 Kathryn Natsuhara  
 Katie Komoto  
 Gayle Takemura  
 Charles Natsuhara  
 Norma Geenty  
 Charlene Grinolds  
 Offerings (Osaisen)

## ABA

An ABA ZOOM meeting was held on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 1 pm. Members stated that they enjoyed the Seattle Mariner field trip and asked that it be scheduled again next year. A preference for a day game was expressed. The rescheduled Springfield trip to the Seattle Asian Art Museum in Volunteer Park was discussed. The members are considering a Friday or Saturday docent-guided field trip on April 19, 20, 26 or 27<sup>th</sup>. It would be helpful if members communicated their preferences and likelihood of participation.

The following officers were elected for 2024: President - Randy Okimoto, Vice President - Dave Weibel, Secretary/Treasurer - Norma Geenty.

Donations to the Auburn Food Bank and Oseibo were approved.

The ABA 2024 meeting dates were scheduled:

February 12, 2024	June Picnic (TBD)
April 8, 2024	September 9, 2024
May 13, 2024 (Steak BBQ)	November 11, 2024

Our next scheduled ZOOM meeting is on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 1 pm.

### Auburn Food Bank Fund Drive:

The ABA will be making a \$200 donation to the Auburn Food Bank in its annual assistance to the food bank. Temple members can make additional contributions to the ABA donation. Please make checks out to the WRBT-ABA, with a notation that the donation is for the Auburn Food Bank. Thank you.

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## Upcoming Special Services

### Bodhi Day Service

#### Sunday, December 10th (10:30 am)

Please join us for our annual Bodhi Day service, commemorating the day when Prince Siddhartha Gautama attained enlightenment sitting underneath the Bodhi Tree.

Prior to the service at 9:00 am, everyone is welcome to join us for our annual gingerbread house decorating! Please bring a bag of candy to share for decorating the houses. Contact office@wrbt.org to RSVP.

### Bonnenkai Service

#### December 17th (10:30 am)

Join us for our Bonnenkai (Year End) Service and lunch following service.

### Joya-E (New Year's Eve Service)

#### December 31st (10:30 am)

Join us for our New Year's Eve Service; we will be serving Soba noodles after service where we reflect on the past year and usher in the new year!





**2023 NORTHWEST DISTRICT HO'ONKO SERVICE**  
**JANUARY 13 & 14**



**REV. KATSUYA KUSUNOKI**  
Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple



**REV. TADAO KOYAMA**  
Tacoma Buddhist Temple



**REV. CYNDI YASAKI**  
White River Buddhist Temple



**REV. YOSHIMICHI OUCHI**  
"Toronto Buddhist Temple"

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!  
 REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT SEATTLEBETSUIN.ORG

SEATTLE BETSUIN BUDDHIST TEMPLE  
 1427 S MAIN ST  
 SEATTLE WA 98144

### ECO SANGHA

In our continuing commitment to reduce, reuse, and recycle, we will be collecting plastic bags, Styrofoam, old batteries, and lightbulbs for recycling and appropriate disposal. Please see what we can take; bring them to the Temple and we'll take care of them for you! If you have any questions, please contact [office@wrbt.org](mailto:office@wrbt.org)

**White River Buddhist Temple**  
**Eco Sangha**



**Plastic Bags** – grocery & food bags, produce netting, plastic flexible rings, bubble wrap, air pillows, shipping envelopes, plastic outer wrap from paper towels, cereal bags

*Shake or wipe out crumbs; must be clean and dry.*



**Household lightbulbs** - incandescent, LED, CFL, halogen, flood lights

*No broken or fluorescent light tubes*



**Styrofoam** - Styrofoam packaging, meat trays, peanuts, food containers and cups

*Must be clean and dry, no foam or beanbag beads*



**Used household batteries** - Rechargeable & Alkaline batteries, hearing aid batteries

*No car or damaged batteries*

**Bring your items to the Temple and we'll recycle for you!**  
 Questions? [office@wrbt.org](mailto:office@wrbt.org)

### SAVE THE DATE!


**September 13-15, 2024**

**Contact [convention@wrbt.org](mailto:convention@wrbt.org) to let us know that you'd like to help us with planning the convention!**

White River Buddhist Temple Presents

# CONNECTIONS

BUILDING FOR TOMORROW



**77th NW District Buddhist Convention**

September 13-15th, 2024

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Candice Shibata

Muckleshoot Resort Casino  
 2402 Auburn Way S, Auburn, WA 98002

**\*\*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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