

# The White Path

## Living the Life of the Nembutsu

### WHITE RIVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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### Minister's Greetings

Happy New Year everyone!! I look forward to another great year with you all!!!

This year it is the year of the Dragon! Speaking of dragons, they have been a fascination of mine ever since I was a child. A being that we hear lived in the past though legends and stories but also presently lives in dreams and nightmares. Growing up as a child of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, I think it was hard to not be mesmerized by these creatures. Now as an adult, I understand that there is no physical evidence that dragons ever existed, but I am still awed by how different religions and cultures believed in such a

magnificent beast!

For us Buddhists, dragons are a mythical being that we believe are able to fly freely between the heavenly and human realms of existence. The most popular places they are said to be witnessed are high up in the mountains where you can see them flying above the clouds (a reason why tall mountains are often sacred places for Buddhists). It is also said that there were dragons dancing in the sky when Prince Siddhartha Gautama was born.

We as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists also adore dragons. The college affiliated with our school of Buddhism is called Ryukoku University; "Ryu" means dragon and "koku" means valley (since Kyoto is in a valley). And you might not have known that the mother temple in Kyoto has the same name, Ryukokuzan (with "zan" meaning mountain). The Gomonsu's (head of our sect of Buddhism) commemorative monto shikisho and wagesa (the Buddhist sash lay members and ministers wear respectively) for his ascension is purple with white dragons.

Dragons are amazing creatures and some of us may still believe they exist. Still it is interesting to know that the fascination of dragons are alive today in Buddhism!

Gassho,  
Rev. Cyndi Yasaki



### Greetings from the President

Happy New Year!

As I write my first article for the newsletter I would like to congratulate our five new board members, Judy Gardner, Dave Hoskins, Sharon Kosai, Ruth Terry & Matthew Zyskowski, they will be joining Tessa Asato, Norma Geenty, Anika Klix, Georgette Magnin, Charles Natsuhara, Randy Okimoto and me. I would also like to thank Kendall Kosai for his great leadership as our president for the past two years. He had the task of getting us out of Covid and back to normal in person services and events, which was not an easy

task. We have become more mindful of our community and doing community service in Auburn. I would also like to thank the outgoing board members, Kelsey Asato, Mary Cogger, Sara Perrott & Val Yamanaka for their tireless service over the last three years.

As I look at our calendar for 2024 it will be a very busy year. In January we will have a joint Hoonko Service & seminar with Seattle, Tacoma & White River at the Seattle Betsuin on January 13 & 14. We will be hosting the Northwest District Convention in September, Val Yamanaka & Sharon Kosai are co chairs and they have been busy forming committees and starting the planning process. They will be asking folks for assistance so I hope all of you will say yes when they ask for your help. Remember the convention is in addition to all of our normal fundraisers and events that we have every year.

I look forward to serving as your President and welcome your thoughts and ideas. I want to hear from you! Let's make 2024 a growth year for our sangha!

Gassho,  
Char Grinolds  
[president@wrbt.org](mailto:president@wrbt.org) | 253-229-7340

## January Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service

IN PERSON (and Streamed Live) Service

January 7th 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 January. 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)

Harry Nakagawa	1977	Takio Hank Nishimoto	2006
Hajime Nakai	1977	Yoshi Porky Nishimoto	2007
Jack Kaoru Arima	1979	Shizuko Higuchi	2007
George Satoru Miyaki	1980	Masami Iida	2008
Ura Toyoshima	1983	George S. Ikuta	2008
Masao Tsuji	1987	Dorene Nakayama	2010
Yoshito Tanaka	1991	Katherine Dodobara	2010
Minoru Koga	1992	Duane Hamamura	2011
Yoshiko Mary Matsuyama	1994	Frank Okimoto	2011
Mary Yukie Hiranaka	1996	Roy Hajime Taketa	2012
Chie Onchi	1996	Hiroshi Takashima	2014
Shizumi Fujimura	1998	George Tsunoru Komoto	2016
Akiko Shimatsu	2001	Willard Creighton Ferrell	2018
Masao Tom Sutow	2001	Frank Tokio Komoto	2018
Sunao Iwai	2001	Cheri Mizuki	2020
Masako Shimomura	2004		
Sachiko Nakayama	2005		

1 year ~ 2023      3 year ~ 2022      7 year ~ 2018      13 year ~ 2012

17 year ~ 2008      25 year ~ 2000      33 year ~ 1992      50 year ~ 1975

**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).

### With Sympathy

We send our deepest condolences to the family of Mrs. Michiko Toyoshima who passed away in November. She will always be remembered for her kindness, deep commitment to the children of the Temple, and her hardworking and positive attitude.

### Engaging with the Dharma

Join us for the "Engaging with the Dharma" group discussion after service. A discussion leader (usually one of our Sangha or Minister's Assistants) leads session with a short narrative on the topic of the day. Then the good part begins - asking questions and sharing your thoughts with others. This is truly what learning is all about. This month's topic is "What is Buddha Nature?" RSVP is not necessary; meet us in the back of the Hondo after service!

### 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).

### White River Buddhist Temple Ho Onko Service

January 21st at 10:30 am

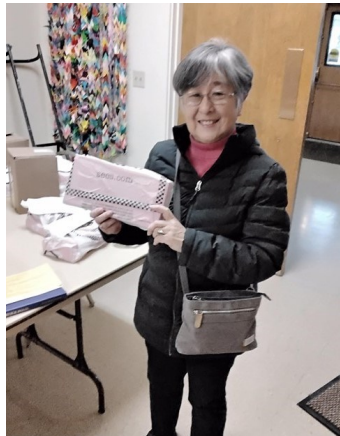
Shinnenkai Lunch Orders Due January 10th

Join us for White River Buddhist Temple's Ho Onko service on January 21st at 10:30am followed by our annual Shinnenkai or New Year Party. We will be offering a Japanese bento for \$13 or an Ezell's chicken dinner for \$13. You will also receive a bingo card with each meal for our annual bingo games. We have a limited number of bento, as these meals are meant for you to enjoy at our Shinnenkai gathering so be sure to place your order by **January 10th**. Order forms are included in this newsletter. Questions? Email [office@wrbt.org](mailto:office@wrbt.org)

**Buddhist Women's Association**

BWA@wrbt.org

**The BWA candy fundraiser:** Candy was distributed on December 3 and 10. Sixteen orders were placed for a total of 60 items, raising \$365 for BWA educational and community outreach programs. Enjoy your treats. Thank you all. Pictured... Gayle Takemura picks up her order.



Auburn Food Bank Director Debbie Christian received BWA's \$200 donation from Janice Yamada and Georgette I. Magnin on December 15th.



The WR BWA appreciates the support and energy of our members. You make the Temple and our community a better place for all. Wishing you a great 2024!

WR BWA thanks Georgette Magnin for her very generous donation. We hope to use it in a meaningful way.

**Upcoming Special Services**

**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!

**Shusho-E (New Year's Day Family Service)  
January 1st (10:30 am)**

Join us for our first service of the year!

**JOINT HO ONKO SERVICE @ Seattle Betsuin and Virtual (see flyer in this newsletter)  
January 14th (10:00 am)**

**WRBT HO ONKO SERVICE followed by Shinnenkai  
January 21st (10:30 am)**

**Newsletter Reminder**

February newsletter articles are due **Sunday, January 14th**. 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.**

**Virtual Book Club**

January 14th at 7:00 pm

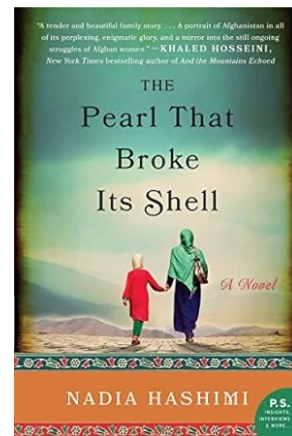
Sign up at [wrbt.org/bookclub](http://wrbt.org/bookclub)

The Pearl that Broke its Shell by Nadia Hashimi

Upcoming Dates:

February 11

March 17



**Ministers Assistant Program Training**

On December 7-9, 2023 Ruth Terry, Sara Perrott and Dave Weibel flew down to the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, CA for the Ministers Assistant Program (MAP) training. They practiced leading services, chanting Shoshinge and learned alot from Rev. Harry Bridge, Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, Rev. Jerry Hirano and Dr. Mark Blum. It was a great experience to learn, practice, and meet other ministers and minister's assistants.



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

**Donations**

The Temple gratefully acknowledges the following donations received and recorded from November 17<sup>th</sup> through December 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>. **For regular donors, year-end letters listing contributions made during 2023 will be mailed by the end of January.**

**Total Donations Received - \$ 9274**

**Shotsuki (Monthly) Memorials**

M/M Don & Kiyono Maekawa	In memory of Kiyono Maekawa
M/M Yick & Nina Chinn	In memory of Kiyono Maekawa
Al Yamada & Family	In memory of Mae Yamada and Doug Yamada
Mrs. Joan Rodgers	In memory of Teki Fujimura
M/M Sharon and Mark Kosai	November Shotsuki
Mrs. Tomeko Taketa	In memory of Harry Taketa
Mrs. Katie Komoto	In memory of Josie Taketa & Shima Taketa
Ms. Susie Taketa	In memory of Josie Taketa & Shima Taketa
Ms. Marcia Kato	In memory of Josie Taketa & Shima Taketa
Mrs. Lilly Kato	December Shostuki\
M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai	December Shotsuki
Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara	In memory of Chiyokichi Natsuhara
Mr. Charles Natsuhara	In memory of Chiyokichi Natsuhara
Mrs. Sharon Ito	In memory of Frank & Shizuko Natsuhara
Mrs. Lorraine Blackler	In memory of George & Mary Hiranaka and Aileen Fisher
Ms. Georgette Magnin	In memory of Joyce Anahori Ding
Mrs. Monica Furtik	In memory of Hank Miyoshi

**Eitaikyo**

Mrs. Charlene Grinolds	M/M Alva & Dennis Nishimura	Mrs. Lilly Kato
M/M Randy & Eva Chun	Roger Fukai & Shirley Kanda	Mrs. Katie Komoto
M/M Itsuo & Yuri Shiotani	Mr. Charles Natsuhara	Mrs. Yuki Iwai
M/M Alvin & Mitsuko Terada	Mrs. Kiyomi Taketa-Ozanich	Mrs. Pat Kawabata
M/M Al & Janis Yamada	Takako & Tamio Uchida	Mrs. Joan Rodgers
M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai	Mr. Joe Watanabe	Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara
Mrs. Tomeko Taketa	Ms. Darlene Yamada	

**Bodhi Day**

M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai	Mrs. Gayle Takemura
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**General Donations**

Mr. & Mrs. Chris & June Yasaki	In appreciation
M/M Jim & Diane Cowles	In appreciation
Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara	In appreciation
Mr. Roger Fukai	In appreciation
James & Joy Nakata	In appreciation
Kiwanis Club of Kent AM	Kitchen use

**2023 Pledge Totals  
November 1 - 30, 2023**

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

Date	PLEDGES DECLARED		Contributors	DOLLARS COLLECTED	
	Additional	Total		Additional	Total
December 1, 2023	\$1,265	\$40,455	55	\$1,685	\$38,320

**For Comparison**

December 4, 2022	\$400	\$37,690	50	\$1,075	\$36,140
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**Name and Amount Not Specified for Publishing:** Anonymous #17      Anonymous #18  
Anonymous #19

**Amount Not Specified for Publishing:**

**Under \$500:** Anonymous #20

**\$500- \$999:** Darlene Yamada

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

**\*\*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

Rev. Cyndi Yasaki

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