

The White Path

Living the Life of the Nembutsu

WHITE RIVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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Minister's Greetings

It is only February and already I feel that 2024 will be a horrible year!

First, the arson at Seattle Betsuin. We would like to continue to support Seattle Betsuin as they navigate these hard times. Secondly, was the earthquake and tsunami that occurred in Noto, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan. News continues to update the world on the devastation that the earthquake and tsunami has caused. Thirdly, I caught a cold and awoke New Year's without a voice. I would like to thank White River's MAs for stepping up and running service at a moment's notice.

Going into this year, I already thought 2024 was going to be an unlucky year. This "bad luck" I believe is attributed to the number 4 in 2024. In Japanese, the number 4 is an undesired number because 4 and the word "death" are both pronounced as "shi (SHĒ)". This is why when you go to Japan, there is usually not a Fourth Floor just as in America some places do not like to have a Thirteenth Floor.

These events are independent of each other, but internally, I have already decided that these three events and my knowledge on Japanese culture make 2024 a "bad year". And why is this?

This is because I am a foolish being. A being who thinks that these are all connected, when each has their own causes and conditions for happening. With the Seattle arson, someone broke into the temple and was possibly trying to find a warm place to spend the night. With the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, two tectonic plates shifted on each other at such a scale that caused a major earthquake and a tsunami. With my cold and loss of voice, I caught a virus from someone which progressed to laryngitis. All of these events did not happen because of the "unlucky" number 4.

Even though I still continue to make these irrational connections, Amida Buddha still embraces me as the foolish being that I am. No matter what illogical connections I make, Amida Buddha's infinite wisdom and compassion continues to shine on me. This is why I continue to say "Namo Amida Butsu", to show gratitude to Amida Buddha who continues to embrace a foolish being like me.

Gassho,
Rev. Cyndi Yasaki



Greetings from the President

What a start to 2024! As most of you know the Seattle Betsuin had a fire late on New Year's Eve, which was started by a distressed person who broke into the Memorial Hall. Then, the fire reignited again on January 2nd from smoldering embers. Thankfully no one was hurt in either fire. The Temple sustained massive smoke damage and loss of archival items, Scouting equipment and Bon Odori items. Unfortunately, the Betsuin is closed indefinitely while they assess the damages. Our hearts go out to the Betsuin Sangha. We have opened our Temple to them for their use and welcome them with open arms

to our Sunday Services. Please welcome Seattle members and introduce yourselves to them, just like you do for our visitors.

The Betsuin and White River moved into relocation mode for events that had already been set up to take place at the Betsuin. This includes 4 funeral services and the Joint Hoonko Service. I want to thank Charles, Sharon, Kendall and Rev. Cyndi for their assistance in working with the Betsuin folks to transition these services with little disruption to our Temple. We have a process in place going forward so things should be much easier. We may be asking some of you for your assistance in letting Seattle folks into our Temple and navigating our kitchen.

Continued on Page 2

President's Message Continued

Although the Joint Hoonko Service was supposed to be at the Betsuin, we were able to move the weekend's events to White River and I think it went very well. Those who attended seemed to enjoy the musical service on Sunday and the social time after enjoying the bento snacks that were made by the Seattle folks.

This tragedy reminds all of us about our Buddhist teaching of impermanence and interdependence.

I hope all of you survived the freezing cold weather we had in January. Last weekend we had our own Hoonko service and Shinnenkai (New Years) party with a wonderful bento prepared by our own Sangha members and Ezell's chicken dinner. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the bentos and organized the bingo after lunch, we couldn't have done it without all of your help. It was so nice to have some of the Seattle Betsuin members come to our service and join our party afterwards! Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

As always please reach out to me any time as this is our Temple and I want to know your thoughts and suggestions.

Gassho,
Char Grinolds
president@wrbt.org | 253-229-7340

February Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service**IN PERSON (and Streamed Live) Service****February 4th at 10:30am****www.wrbt.org/service**

According to our Temple records, the following people passed away in the month of February. If any names have inadvertently been omitted or if you have any questions about Shotsuki services, please contact office@wrbt.org

Setsu Yanagawa	1979	Kazuo Tsujikawa	1992
Haru Miyoshi	1980	Mary Yukie Sakuma	2002
Kart Funai	1980	Judy Schilthroat	2006
Steven Takeo Tsuji	1987	Dorothy Yaguchi	2010
Michael James Hamasaki	1991	Lily Yoshie Komoto	2016

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.

With Sympathy

We send our deepest condolences to the family of Don Gardner who passed away in December. He had a life filled with talent and the gift of bringing people together through music. He will be sorely missed!

Saturday Virtual Meditation

We are pleased to announce that Anika Klix will be leading our twice-a-month Saturday Virtual Meditation practice.

Anika has been attending WRBT for five years now and currently services on the Board of Trustees. She is a Certified Workplace Mindfulness Facilitator and has a certificate in Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction. She has developed workplace mindfulness programs for the Port of Seattle and the City of Seattle where she currently works. Recently she attended a week-long silent Meditation and Qigong retreat at Spirit Rock Meditation Center which was founded by the well-known Buddhism and Meditation teacher Jack Kornfield. Please join us for practice the first and third Saturdays of each month by clicking "Virtual Meditation" on the WRBT calendar.

Engaging with the Dharma**February 25, 2024**

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!

Newsletter Reminder

March newsletter articles are due **Sunday, February 18th**. Please send articles to newsletter@wrbt.org. Contact newsletter@wrbt.org

The Ray of Hope

Thank you for supporting The Auburn Food Bank’s Ray of Hope Wednesday dinner. On the fourth Wednesday of each month White River volunteers meet at Temple to prepare a dinner for about 40 unhoused people who are staying at the Ray. Kent Hay, Director of Anti-Homelessness, Auburn, stated that “as of 11-20-23, we have housed 89 people from Auburn, and most are from the Ray.”

It costs about \$40.00 for each dinner that we prepare. We are grateful to our Sangha for their monetary donations, and to Debbie Christian, Auburn Food Bank, for donating ground beef and chicken when it is available. Thank you to the Seattle Betsuin for donating ten pounds of chicken!

You will find a volunteer sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the back hallway. We meet at Temple at 3:00 pm and we finish, at the Ray, by 6 pm. Please contact Vivian Alexander, vivianalexander97@gmail.com, with any questions and to find out how you can donate to this rewarding Temple outreach program.



Back row: Eric Kirwan, Dave Weibel, Dave Hoskin; Front row: Gayle Takemura, Vivian Alexander, Char Grinolds, Eva Chun

Obon Modernization Committee

Our first Obon Modernization Committee meeting was held on January 17, 2024. The main issues are replacing the wiring and fixtures for the Obon lights. Randy is talking to Dennis Asato about what the Hawaii temples do. Char will talk to representatives from California Temples at the National meeting in February. Any thoughts or suggestions are welcome. We are planning to switch to LED lighting. Second, we would like to repair or replace the lanterns. Genie and Char will look into this. Third, we want to replace the two Kori machines. Kendall is researching this issue. Fourth, a funding request will be submitted to the Mikami Foundation. Amount to be determined. Fifth, we are looking for a younger volunteer to help chair or co-chair this years Bon Odori. Volunteers are welcome.

Adult Buddhist Association

There was no ABA activity in December or January.

The 2024 ABA meeting dates are scheduled:

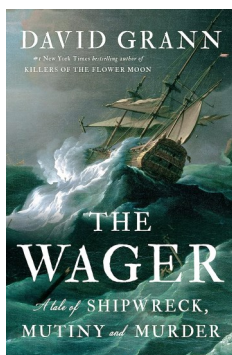
- February 12, 2024
- April 8, 2024
- May 13, 2024 (Steak BBQ)
- June Picnic (TBD)
- September 9, 2024
- November 11, 2024

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

Virtual Book Club
 April 14, 2024
 7:00 pm

Sign up at wrbt.org/bookclub

The Wager by David Grann



Buddhist Women's Association
 BWA@wrbt.org

The BWA Lady Kujo/Lady Ohtani seminar and memorial service: Rev Anne Spencer from Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple will conduct a seminar on Saturday, February 10th and be our guest speaker on Sunday, February 11. Cake, coffee, and tea will be served after Sunday's service.

Thank you to BWA members who paid their \$20 annual dues at Shinnenkai (New Year's Party). Dues will also be collected at Sunday services in early February. Please see Pat Kawabata or Gayle Takemura.

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 December 19th through January 18th. 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>. **For regular donors, year-end letters listing contributions made during 2023 will be mailed by the end of January.**

Total Donations Received - \$ 6798

Shotsuki (Monthly) Memorials

Mr. Randy Okimoto	In memory of Ura Toyoshima and Karen Sakuma
Shirley Kanda & Roger Fukai	In memory of Yosakichi and Sui Hamakami
Ms. Jill Komoto	In memory of George and Lily Komoto
Mrs. Lilly Kato	January Shotsuki
M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai	January Shotsuki
Mrs. Katie Komoto	In memory of George and Lilly Komoto, Frank Komoto
Mrs. Charlene Grinolds	In memory of Masao Tsuji
Mrs. Joan Rodgers	In memory of Shizumi Fujimura
Mrs. Yuki Iwai	In memory of Sunao Iwai
Ms. Susan Taketa	2024 Shotsuki

Memorials

Ms. Darlene Yamada	In memory of Michiko Toyoshima
Mr. Randy Okimoto	In memory of Frank and Hatsue Okimoto
Mr. Zach Zakahi	In memory of Christopher Yamamoto
Ms. Nori Nakamura-Suguro	In memory of Ruby Nakamura
M/M Mas & Kathy Yamamoto	In memory of Bill and Dorothy Yaguchi
Mr. Richard Sakuma	In memory of Karen Sakuma

Joya-e Service

M/M Bob and Mitzi Akiyama	Mrs. Barb Aregger	M/M Alva & Dennis Nishimura
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Joint Hoonko Service & Seminar

Ann Shintani & Scott Winner	Ms. Grace Tazuma	M/M Chris & June Yasaki
M/M Calvin & Yvette Terada	Ms. Leanne Nishi-Wong	Ms. Janet Baba
Ms. Kiyoko Takashima	Mr. David Yotsuye	Ms. Frances Shintaku
M/M John & Crystal Inge	M/M Paul & Teresa Mori	Ms. Kemi Nakabayashi
M/M Tetsuden & Kanako Kashima		

Supporter Donations

Mrs. Connie Toda	M/M Karen & Robert Nishimoto	Mr. Gary Komoto
M/M Alvin & Mitsuko Terada	M/M Don & Judy Gardner	Mr. Charles Natsuhara
Mrs. Margaret Teramoto	Ms. Tessa Asato	Ms. Erin Ito
Ms. Irene Goto	Mr. Doug Kanaya	Ms. Darlene Yamada
Saori Matsushita		

General Donations

Mr. Paul Mori	In appreciation
Ms. Susan Taketa	In appreciation
M/M Wayne & Sally Mizuki	Shinnenkai and 2024 Convention
Mrs. Norma Geenty	Shinnenkai
Ms. Karen Yamada	Flower fund

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

Thank you for your support in 2023!

Date	PLEDGES DECLARED		Contributors	DOLLARS COLLECTED	
	Additional	Total		Additional	Total
January 15, 2024	\$4,175	\$44,630	65	\$5,275	\$43,595

For Comparison

January 9, 2023	\$4,265	\$41,955	62	\$5,815	\$41,955
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Name and Amount Not Specified for Publishing: Anonymous #21 Anonymous #22
 Anonymous #23 Anonymous #24

Amount Not Specified for Publishing: Hime Suyematsu Kelsey Asato

Under \$500: Valerie Yamanaka Kathryn Komoto

\$500- \$999: Connie Toda

****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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