

# The White Path

Living the Life of the Nembutsu

WHITE RIVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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## Minister's Greetings

Did you know a very popular tourist destination in Japan used to be owned by the Hongwanji?

I am not very adept at history, especially Japanese history, so when I visited this site, I was unaware (or ignorant) of the historic connection to our school of Buddhism, Jodo Shinshu. And quite possibly, if you have been to this place too, you might have not known that a temple belonging to the Hongwanji used to stand at the same location.

This famous place which brings a little under three million visitors a year and was once a place many Dai-myo (feudal lords) wanted due to its strategic placement is Osaka Castle. This famous castle which is now a wonderful museum about its history was once a temple called Ishiyama Hongwanji (Honganji) and before that an imperial palace.

Ishiyama Hongwanji became popular when Rennyo Shonin, the eighth head of Jodo Shinshu, moved from Kyoto which attracted many priests and followers. This coincidentally helped start the establishment of the town which would eventually be known as Osaka. Among these priests and followers were members of the Ikko Ikki, an army of Jodo Shinshu followers, which helped protect the temple.

Ishiyama Hongwanji stood for a little over eighty-five years with the last eleven years under siege. Oda Nobunaga, a Daimyo during the Sengoku Jidai or Warring States period of Japanese history, laid siege to the temple after unsuccessful attempts to penetrate into the grounds due to the strategic placement and defenses of the temple. The siege only ended when Kennyo Shonin, the eleventh head of Jodo Shinshu, surrendered the temple, but not before it mysteriously went up in flames as the priests were escaping. A few years later, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, another Daimyo, started construction on the grounds where the temple once stood and built the structure what we know today as Osaka Castle.

Since I first went to Japan, I have become more interested in the rich history of Japan and the Hongwanji. I hope in the future that if I am able to take a group to Japan with me, one of the places we will go will be Osaka Castle. There, I hope to revisit this place and enjoy the rich history with you all.

Gassho,  
Rev. Cyndi Yasaki



## Greetings from the President

February was another busy month! Thank you to the BWA for sponsoring the Joint Lady Kujo and Lady Otani Memorial Service with Seattle BWA. Rev. Spencer was our guest speaker and she gave a very interesting seminar the day before. We had our general meeting on Sunday February 18th. Wakabayashi came to the Temple to evaluate our Onaijin since they were in town packing up Seattle Betsuin's Onaijin for shipment to Japan for restoration. Two funeral services were held for Seattle members.

Rev. Cyndi, Kelsey and I just got back from the BCA National Council meeting in Sacramento over this past weekend. It was the first in person National Council meeting since the last meeting the Northwest District hosted with our District Convention in February of 2020, just before the COVID shut down. It was nice to see people in person and have Kelsey get a chance to attend and meet many people from all of the other Temples. It was nice to see some younger delegates in attendance as they are our future leaders.

Items voted on during the National Council meeting:

Ratified 2nd term for Bishop Marvin Harada

Continued on Page 2

**President's Message Continued**

Ratified the 2024-2026 BCA Executive Committee Officers:

- |                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| President - Steve Terusaki     | Treasurer - Jeff Matsuoka   |
| President Elect - Glen Inanaga | Secretary - Darlene Bagshaw |
| Vice President - John Arima    | Bishop Harada               |
| Vice President - Bradley Menda | Gicho Rev. Adams            |

Approved the budget - Dues will increase 3.4% to \$183.27 for the 2024-2025 year. Membership total is \$10,586

Voted for three Directors-at-Large

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Arlene Miya, Gardena     | Jeff Kawahara, San Mateo |
| Peggy Okabiyashi, Florin |                          |

Voted for two By-Laws changes

Expansion of the Eligibility of Candidates from National Officers to include BCA Committee Chairs and Co Chairs and individuals who are currently or previously serving National Officers

Allowing Electronic (Hybrid or Online) National Board and National Council Meetings

Thank you everyone who has been helping at the Temple with all of the added activities as we help Seattle accommodate their members while the Betsuin is closed; it is much appreciated.

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

**March Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service**

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

**March 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 March. 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)

|                    |      |                         |      |
|--------------------|------|-------------------------|------|
| Tatsu Sato Abe     | 1981 | Ted Tadao Komoto        | 2006 |
| Masanuki Yamada    | 1984 | Kimi Teraoka            | 2006 |
| Tazo Nishimura     | 1986 | Tokie Nakai             | 2007 |
| Yoshio Horiuchi    | 1986 | Bobbie Akira Tanabe     | 2008 |
| Tamayo Mikami      | 1991 | Benjamin Tsutomu Taketa | 2008 |
| Mitsuwo Ikuta      | 1993 | Toshi Terayama          | 2011 |
| Harry Susumu Anzai | 1994 | Itsuko Funai            | 2013 |
| Tsutae Tiny Taketa | 1996 | Satoru Kato             | 2014 |
| Hiroto Mizoguchi   | 2001 | Stan Tsujikawa          | 2017 |
| Kai Honore Hansen  | 2005 | Yasumi Kinoshita        | 2017 |
| Shigeru Nishimura  | 2005 | Steve Kato              | 2020 |

- |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>1 year ~ 2023</b>  | <b>3 year ~ 2022</b>  | <b>7 year ~ 2018</b>  | <b>13 year ~ 2012</b> |
| <b>17 year ~ 2008</b> | <b>25 year ~ 2000</b> | <b>33 year ~ 1992</b> | <b>50 year ~ 1975</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).

**Engaging with the Dharma**

**March 17, 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 does Buddhism Say about other Religions? -- Buddhism compared to Hinduism (India) and Shintoism (Japan) 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 onaijin - we can help arrange if you wish.
- ◆ Bring fruit for the onaijin
- ◆ 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).

## Meditation

WRBT is fortunate to have one of our members, Anika Klix, facilitate a virtual meditation practice at 10 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. (Find the link: [wrbt.org/calendar](http://wrbt.org/calendar)) Anika is a Certified Workplace Mindfulness Facilitator (CWMF) through Mindful Leader and has a certificate in Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction (MBSR), which was developed by John Kabat-Zinn in the mid-70s. More recently, she attended a week-long silent meditation and Qigong retreat at Spirit Rock Meditation Center in Woodacre, California. Anika shares some of her broad meditation experience with us at each session. This practice is a combination of guided meditation and silent sitting. No previous meditation experience is required.

We continue to have Meditation Services at 9 a.m. every Sunday led by Greg Watson and Ruth Terry and Wednesday mornings led by either Ruth Terry or Roger Fukai. These sessions consist of a 30-minute quiet sit followed by recitation of the Jodo Shinshu Pledge.

Group Meditation can be especially helpful, even if virtual. Everyone is welcome.

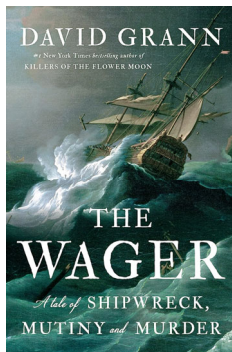
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## Virtual Book Club

April 14, 2024  
7:00 pm

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

### *The Wager* by David Grann




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## Buddhist Women's Association

[BWA@wrbt.org](mailto:BWA@wrbt.org)

**The BWA Lady Kujo/Lady Ohtani seminar and memorial service:** Rev Anne Spencer from Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple held a seminar on Saturday, February 10th and was our guest speaker on Sunday, February 11. Thank you to Kemi Nakabayashi for the service music. Grateful appreciation to all who set up, cleaned up, and served refreshments after service. The BWA fulfills its goals by supporting opportunities to listen to the Dharma and sustain connections with Sangha members.

**Mochi making at Tacoma.** The Tacoma BWA welcomes help with mochi making on Saturday, March 23, 9am. The mochi will be distributed at the Spring Ohigan Joint service at Tacoma Temple on Sunday, March 24, 10am.

**Spring BWA general meeting** follows service on Sunday, March 31. Please send to Georgette ([oz.georgette@gmail.com](mailto:oz.georgette@gmail.com)) any items you want on the agenda by March 1.

## Obon Odori Exhibit

June 19 – October 13, 2024

At the February general membership meeting, Hilary Pittenger from the White River Valley Museum gave an overview of the upcoming Obon Odori exhibit “Dancing with our Ancestors”. The exhibit will feature interviews, pictures and artifacts from the temple’s Obon Odori festivals through the years. We have many of the artifacts that the museum would like to display but we do not have many pictures. If you have any pictures, especially early pictures from the 70’s and 80’s or from the Christopher temple, please let the temple know. As we learn of specific items we need to find for the exhibit, we will let the membership know. Please contact Charles Natsuhara if you have any questions.

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## COMMUNITY SPEAKER SERIES

**Miri Cypers – Sunday, April 7, 2024**

Please join us in welcoming, **Miri Cypers, Regional Director, ADL Pacific Northwest**, on April 7th, following service. Services at White River Buddhist Temple (WRBT) begin at 10:30 am.

Miri will speak to us on the work that the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) is doing to build stronger and healthier communities. She will provide a slide and a verbal presentation about the role of ADL Pacific Northwest. Miri’s presentation will include time for questions and answers.

For over 75 years, ADL’s Pacific Northwest Region has provided services and resources to the five states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Hawaii is included in the work of the ADL to combat antisemitism and hate.

Miri Cypers’ office released a report in 2023, stating that antisemitic incidents were up 63% in the northwest region in 2022, with 65 incidents reported. This is the highest number since the Anti-Defamation League did its very first annual audit more than four decades ago.

*Everyone is invited to stay for appetizers and deserts following the presentation.*

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## ABA

An ABA ZOOM meeting was held on Monday, February 12, 2024. The rescheduled Spring field trip to the Seattle Asian Art Museum in Volunteer Park was approved and a request was submitted to the museum for a docent-guided tour on Friday, April 26, 2024.

2024 ABA meeting dates are: April 8, 2024; May 13, 2024, at 11:30 am (Steak BBQ); June Picnic (TBD); September 9, 2024; and November 11, 2024. The May meeting was officially designated as the William Geenty Memorial Steak BBQ. The June ABA picnic was tentatively scheduled for Sunday, June 9, 2024, after service.

Our next scheduled ZOOM meeting is Monday, April 8, 2024, at 1 pm.

## Donations

The Temple gratefully acknowledges the following donations received and recorded from January 19<sup>th</sup> through February 18<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 in 2023 have been sent out. If you did not receive a letter and believe you should have, please contact Charles Natsuhara.**

**Total Donations Received - \$ 6,088**

### Shotsuki (Monthly) Memorials

|                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mr. Randy Okimoto         | In memory of Mary Sakuma     |
| Mrs. Alice Nishimoto      | In memory of Porky Nishimoto |
| M/M James & Chiho Pewitt  | February Shotsuki            |
| M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai   | February Shotsuki            |
| Mrs. Katie Komoto         | In memory of Lily Komoto     |
| Mrs. Charlene Grinolds    | In memory of Steven Tsuji    |
| M/M Yuri & Itsuo Shiotani | February Shotsuki            |

### Memorials

#### **In memory of Michiko Toyoshima**

|                   |                      |                        |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Mr. Tim Toyoshima | Ms. Frances Shintaku | Mrs. Leanne Nishi-Wong |
| Ms. Karen Yamada  | Ms. Kemi Nakabayashi |                        |

#### **In memory of Don Gardner**

|                        |                        |                      |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs. Judy Gardner      | Ms. Darlene Yamada     | Mrs. Pat Kawabata    |
| Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara  | Mr. Charles Natsuhara  | Ms. Kemi Nakabayashi |
| M/M Randall & Eva Chun | Mrs. Charlene Grinolds | Anonymous            |

#### **In memory of Helen Asayama Yamamoto**

|                   |                      |               |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Mr. Alan Yamamoto | M/M Yoshio Nishimura | Mr. Tim Healy |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------|

### Shinnenkai

|                           |                        |                            |
|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mr. Brendan Leber         | M/M Dave & Joan Hoskin | M/M James & Ikuko Dodobara |
| Ms. Kiyomi Taketa-Ozanich | Mr. Charles Natsuhara  | Ms. Sara Perrott           |

### Ho-onko

|                             |                            |                        |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| M/M Bob & Mitzi Akiyama     | M/M Alvin & Mitsuko Terada | Mrs. Charlene Grinolds |
| M/M Yuri & Itsuo Shiotani   | Mrs. Pat Kawabata          | Mr. Randy Okimoto      |
| Roger Fukai & Shirley Kanda | Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara      | Mr. Charles Natsuhara  |
| M/M Tamio & Takako Uchida   | Mrs. Yuki Iwai             | Mrs. Norma Geenty      |
| Ms. Darlene Yamada          | Mr. Dennis Yamashita       | Ms. Irene Goto         |

### Nirvana Day, Pet Memorial

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| M/M Wayne & Sally Mizuki           | M/M Alvin & Mitsuko Terada                    |
| Mrs. Lilly Kato – In memory of Zoe | Ms. Kiyomi Taketa-Ozanich – In memory of Tika |

### General Donations

|                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs. Charlene Grinolds     | BCA Endowment        |
| City of Auburn             | 2023 Bon Odori Grant |
| Ms. Kinue Kuwahara         | In appreciation      |
| Ms. Donna Ohashi           | In appreciation      |
| Tess Honan                 | In appreciation      |
| Anonymous                  | Seminar              |
| Kroger Community Give Back |                      |

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## Obon Modernization Committee

An Obon Modernization Committee meeting was held on January 17, 2024. At the meeting it was decided that we need to make the following improvements:

- Replace 2 Kori machines (Kendall is working on this).
- Replace Bon Odori lanterns (Genie is checking on this).
- Replace the Bon Odori lighting wiring with LED lights (Everyone is working on this).
- Replace the refreshments canopies.
- Purchase a backup amplifier to replace the one we borrowed from Ross Y.
- Electrician labor

Next ZOOM meeting Wednesday, February 28, 2024 @ 5 pm.

**2023 Pledge Totals**  
**January 1 - 31, 2024**

**Thank you for your support in 2024!**

| Date   | PLEDGES DECLARED |          | Contributors | DOLLARS COLLECTED |          |
|--|------------------|----------|--------------|-------------------|----------|
|  | Additional       | Total    |              | Additional        | Total    |
| February 18, 2024  | \$19,420         | \$19,420 | 18           | \$16,260          | \$16,260 |
| <b><u>For Comparison</u></b>   |                  |          |              |                   |          |
| February 3, 2023   | \$15,670         | \$15,670 | 18           | \$13,060          | \$13,060 |
| <b>Name and Amount Not Specified for Publishing:</b> Anonymous #5                                      |                  |          |              |                   |          |
| <b>Amount Not Specified for Publishing:</b> Monica Furtick    Ruth Terry    Mark Terry    Sharon Kosai |                  |          |              |                   |          |
| <b>Under \$500:</b> Alva Nishimura    Dennis Nishimura    Joan Hoskin    David Hoskin                  |                  |          |              |                   |          |
| Stefan Dittmar    Anonymous #2    Anonymous #3    Kathleen Taketa-Ozanich                              |                  |          |              |                   |          |
| Donald Gardner    Judy Gardner   |                  |          |              |                   |          |
| <b>\$500- \$999:</b> Anonymous #6  |                  |          |              |                   |          |
| <b>\$1000 - \$4,999:</b> Anonymous #1  |                  |          |              |                   |          |
| <b>\$5000 - \$10,000:</b> Anonymous #4   |                  |          |              |                   |          |

**FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION**



**“Carving the Divine”**

An event in support of the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple



**SEATTLEU**  
INSTITUTE FOR CATHOLIC THOUGHT AND CULTURE

**IDI: INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE INITIATIVE**

**“Carving the Divine”**

**Film Screening and Discussion**

**Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 3:00pm**

**Seattle University - Wyckoff Auditorium, Bannan Building 244 (E)**

ICTC's Interreligious Dialogue Initiative hosts the local premiere of "Carving the Divine: Buddhist Sculptors of Japan," highlighting the 1400-year-old art of carving Buddhas from wood by the ki-busshi. The award-winning film explores Buddhist healing practices, with director Yujiro Seki joining remotely from Japan for a post-screening discussion. *Donations from this event will go directly to the Seattle Betsuin Arson Fire Restoration.*

**Mikami-Shimatsu Foundation**

A meeting with the Mikami - Shimatsu Foundation was held on February 12, 2024. The good news is that the Foundation approved our request for \$30,000 for the 2024-25 period. The funds will be allocated for Obon Modernization and Building maintenance. The bad news is that the Foundation’s funds have been depleted, thus funding for any future requests is unlikely.

**Temple Clean Up**

**Saturday, March 30th, 9:00am**

Join us as we do some spring cleaning inside the Temple. We will also be cleaning the Onajin fixtures at the same time.

**Newsletter Reminder**

March newsletter articles are due **Sunday, March 17th**. Please send articles to [newsletter@wrbt.org](mailto:newsletter@wrbt.org). Contact [newsletter@wrbt.org](mailto:newsletter@wrbt.org)

**\*\*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

[office@wrbt.org](mailto:office@wrbt.org)  
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