

The White Path

Living the Life of the Nembutsu

WHITE RIVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE

3625 Auburn Way N., WA 98002

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Minister's Greetings

Why did we start introducing our new membership at our Gotane Service (the birthday of the founder of Jodo Shinshu, Shinran Shonin) as opposed to Hoonko (the annual memorial day for Shinran Shonin) or our New Year's Party like other temples?

There are two reasons why we started introducing our new members to everyone during our Gotane Service and one reason why we should continue to do it during this service.

Reason 1: Last year, we celebrated the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's birth. We thought it would be nice last year to celebrate our new members (especially those who joined during the pandemic) during this momentous celebration.

Reason 2: At the beginning of 2023, the White River Buddhist Temple was still wading out of the pandemic. By May 2023, we felt we were able to recognize all who joined since right before the pandemic.

Reason 3: Just as Hanamatsuri is the birth of Prince Siddhartha Gautama who became the being known as Shakyamuni Buddha who started Buddhism, Gotane is the birth of Matsuwakamaro of the Fujiwara clan who became known as Shinran Shonin whom unknowingly became the founder of our school of Buddhism, Jodo Shinshu. Introducing new members during our Gotane service is not only someone's first steps into Buddhism, but more specifically their first steps into Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

Having our new members announced at Gotane is very fitting. If they are entirely new to the Jodo Shinshu school, what better day to remember it by having them announced during the service of the day of the birth of the founder of our school. If they were part of a sister temple of ours, then it is a good day to welcome our new members because it is such an important service to our school of Buddhism.

Every temple has their traditions and this will be a new tradition for White River. In the future, this tradition may turn into an older, outdated tradition, but we live with the truth of impermanence. What may be useful for one time, may not be useful at another time. So please join us at our Gotane Service to welcome White River Buddhist Temple's newest members!

Gassho,
Rev. Cyndi Yasaki



Greetings from the President

We had a very busy April. So many community activities. We brought back our Community Speaker Series, Sensei and I went to an Asian Jewish Initiative event, we celebrated Hanamatsuri and the BWA had their annual Tea after Hanamatsuri service. We also participate in the City of Auburn's Clean Sweep event.

On April 7 we had Miri Cypers, Regions Director, ADL Pacific Northwest as our first speaker. Miri told us what the Anti-Defamation League is doing to build stronger & healthier communities. It was interesting to learn about the Jewish journey and all of the trials and tribulations they have been through. It was interesting to learn how we are more alike than different.

On Tuesday April 9 Sensei and I went to the Inaugural Asian Jewish Initiative Passover Seder. A Seder is the traditional Passover meal that includes reading, telling stories, eating special foods, singing and other traditions. Seder means "order" in Hebrew because they go through 15 steps as they retell the story of their ancestors' liberation from slavery in Egypt. What a wonderful learning experience. I hope more members will be able to attend this event next year.

Continued on Page 2

President's Message Continued

We held our Hanamatsuri service on April 14 followed by the BWA Tea. Thank you everyone who helped decorate the hanamido and the BWA ladies for the wonderful Tea.

Last but not least we participated in the City of Auburn Clean Sweep event on April 20. We planted plants at Memorial Park. Thank you to all of the members who participated. It was a beautiful morning, sunny & warm.

Up next is our Plant Sale on May 4 and the Flower Bouquet Sale for Memorial Day.

Thank you to all of the Sangha members and friends for your help. It is very much appreciated!

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

May Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service

IN PERSON (and Streamed Live) Service

May 5th at 10:30am

www.wrbt.org/service

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

Sachiko Hirose	1978	George Mitsuo Hiranaka	2003
Tokuyo Komoto	1985	Masaru Kato	2008
Takeyoshi Jack Koga	1993	Bill Yaguchi	2011
Gladys Gisi	1999	George Shoji Terada	2014
Risako Kawasaki	2000	Betty Tanaka	2020
Masao Mikami	2001	Yoshiko Yamada	2021
Frank Fujimura	2003		

1 year ~ 2023	3 year ~ 2022	7 year ~ 2018	13 year ~ 2012
17 year ~ 2008	25 year ~ 2000	33 year ~ 1992	50 year ~ 1975

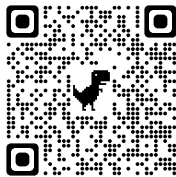
MEMORIAL SERVICES To remember those that we have lost, Jodo Shinshu has the tradition of holding memorial services in certain years after their passing. If you would like to schedule a service for your loved one who passed in the following years, please contact Rev. Cyndi via email at rev.jikaku.yasaki@wrbt.org.

Service Volunteer Sign Up

日本語法要

Sign up to help with weekly services.

- ◆ Chair service
- ◆ Bring and arrange flowers for the onajin - we can help arrange if you wish.
- ◆ Bring fruit for the onajin
- ◆ Ring Kansho before service



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

一緒に親鸞聖人のみ教えを聞きましょう！

いつ：5月16日午前11時

なぜ16日？毎月の16日は親鸞聖人のご命日です。その日に親鸞聖人が作った正信偈と和讃を唱えみ教えを聞き蓮如上人の御文章を聞く一日です。

*** LAST CHANCE ***

Obon Odori Exhibit

June 19 – October 13, 2024

This is a reminder to submit any old obon photos to office@wrbt.org or bring it to ther Temple. The White River Valley Museum will be having an Obon Odori exhibit “Dancing with our Ancestors” which will feature interviews, photos, and artifacts from the temple’s Obon Odori festivals through the years. **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.

Engaging with the Dharma

May 19, 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 "Buddhism's View on: Abortion, LBGTQ+, Drugs, Violence." RSVP is not necessary; meet us in the back of the Hondo after service!

Buddhist Women's Association

BWA@wrbt.org

BWA Spring Tea was held following Hanamatsuri (Flower Festival) service on April 14. Two new BWA members, Emi Carrell and Anika Klix were presented at the Service to the Sangha.

Thanks to all who prepared the delicious variety of sandwiches, salads, and desserts. So many people helped with setup, serving, and cleanup to make those tasks easier. And, as usual, there was plenty of food available after the event. Many left with snacks to extend the joy and warmth of the day. The BWA is glad to host the Spring Tea. Seeing the happy faces, sharing a meal, and hearing the lively conversations is all in the spirit of Dana (giving).



Anika and Emi presented as new BWA members by Georgette, BWA president Hanamido (flower shrine)

BWA Spring Tea buffet. Special thanks to Sara, Janice, Vivian, and Eva for the organizing this splendid offering.

The WR BWA gratefully acknowledges receipt of donations from:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Eva Chun | Charlene Grinolds | Irene Goto | Kanako Kashima |
| Lilly Kato | Pat Kawabata | Sharon Kosai | Georgette Magnin |
| Kemi Nakabayashi | Joan Nakano | Charles Natsuhara | Kathryn Natsuhara |
| Frances Shintaku | Rev. Anne Spencer | Darlene Yamada | Mae Yamasaki |
| Osaisen (Service offerings) | | | |

ABA

The ABA docent-guided field trip to the Seattle Asian Art Museum in Volunteer Park is scheduled for Friday, April 26, 2024 at 1 pm.

The Bill Geenty Memorial Steak BBQ is scheduled for May 13, 2024 at 12 pm. The cost of the food will primarily be borne by the ABA and Norma Geenty, but a donation envelope will be made available at the BBQ. A sign up sheet will be posted on the back bulletin board so that we can accurately determine the amount of food required.

The ABA picnic is scheduled for June 9, 2024 after service. Next ABA meeting is Monday, May 13, at 1 pm, after the Steak BBQ.

An ABA sponsored Mariner game field trip is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 24, 2024 at 1 pm.

Shirakawa Strummers & Singers

The Shirakawa Strummers will resume rehearsals on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month at 9:30 in the back classroom. All are welcome to join!

Newsletter Reminder

June newsletter articles are due **Wednesday, May 15th**. Please send articles to newsletter@wrbt.org. Contact newsletter@wrbt.org

Virtual Book Club

The temple book club will take a break for another few months. If you would like to suggest a book to read, contact office@wrbt.org.

Obon Modernization/Bon Odori Planning

The Obon Modernization Committee is progressing nicely in its efforts to update White River's Bon Odori equipment. Two new ice shaving machines have been ordered. Converting our Bon Odori lighting system to LED bulbs and an easier installation process is well under way. The Committee has purchased LED string lights and designed an easier set up process. A test of one L-string of lights on April 11th was very good and we plan a full implementation dry run sometime in May. The Committee is still evaluating replacement lanterns, though.

Our next meeting is a combined Obon Modernization and Bon Odori Planning meeting and is scheduled for April 30, 2024, at 7 pm. It will be a combined ZOOM and in person meeting at the temple.

Be a Convention Booster!

White River Buddhist Temple is thrilled to be hosting the 77th Annual NW District Buddhist Convention on September 13 - 15, 2024, at the Muckleshoot Casino Resort in Auburn, WA. Such an event is not possible without the generous support of our community! You can help defray the costs of hosting our convention by making a donation towards the event as a Convention Booster! Your name will be listed along with other Convention Boosters on a special page in the program booklet.

Giving levels include the Wisteria level (\$25), Peony level (\$50), and Lotus level (\$100+). Deadline to submit your donation is **August 4, 2024**.

We also offer the opportunity to become a Convention Sponsor. Convention sponsors support our convention by supporting the hospitality room, bags for attendees, and more!

Learn more and become a booster or sponsor today by visiting www.nwdconvention.org! Forms are also available at the Temple.

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

White River Buddhist Temple Presents:

ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE

MAY 4, 2024 | 10 AM - 2 PM

Vegetables, Flower Starts, Hotdogs, & More!

White River Buddhist Temple

3625 Auburn Way North
Auburn, WA 98002



Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser

Our annual plant sale will be held this year on Saturday May 4 from 10-2. You can help by donating items for the sale as well as come to purchase plants or other items.

We will need potted plants, bedding plants, vegetable starts, flower starts, perennials and more.

Decorative pots, tools and any other garden related items are also welcome.

Volunteers will be needed on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, May 1-3, from 10-12, to help receive donated items and categorize the plants. We will also need volunteers on Saturday May 4 to help with set-up, sales and cleanup.

Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board in the back hallway.

If you have any questions please contact :

Gayle Takemura pgtakemura@gmail.com or Janis Yamada yamadajanis@gmail.com

Thank you.

Memorial Day Flowers

We will be having a Memorial Day Flower Fundraiser again this year. A large bouquet of colorful flowers will cost \$45 and a small bouquet will cost \$30. Purchases may be made online or forms will be available at the Temple. Pick-up procedures will be similar to prior years; on Saturday May 25th, flowers can only be picked up at the White River Temple. **NEW THIS YEAR**, however, we will be offering an additional option of picking up pre-ordered flowers at the Hillcrest Cemetery in Kent between 9:30-11 am on Memorial Day morning. More information coming!

New Category!

Check out what we will recycle for you!

Thank you for helping us with recycling! This program has been very popular and we have been able to recycle your used items that would normally end up in the landfill!

We are now adding two new categories - Used Oral Care and Writing Instruments.

Used Oral Care—toothbrushes, electric brush heads, toothpaste tubes, mouthwash & floss containers, floss picks. Remove extra toothpaste and mouthwash from containers.

Writing Instruments—pens, pencils, markers, highlighters, permanent markers, all pen caps.

Bring these items to church and we'll have labeled boxes available to drop them into.

We will continue to accept plastic bags, light bulbs, Styrofoam, and household batteries. Please see the guidelines at left for what we can accept.

If you have any questions, please contact 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
-  ***NEW* Used oral care** - toothbrushes, electric brush heads, toothpaste tubes, mouthwash & floss containers, floss picks
Remove extra toothpaste and mouthwash from containers
-  ***NEW* Writing instruments** - pens, mechanical pencils, markers, highlighters, permanent markers, all pen caps

Bring your items to the Temple and we'll recycle for you!
Questions? office@wrbt.org

“Exploring Shared Histories: Building Community”



The Asian Jewish Initiative will be hosting a community event to celebrate Asian American and Jewish American Heritage Months on Sunday, May 5 from 1:00-3:00PM on Mercer Island.

The program will feature a moderated conversation with Josh Tuinga, author of *We Are Not Strangers*, a graphic novel about Jewish and Japanese families coming together in Seattle during World War II. After the program, we invite participants to enjoy conversation, coffee, tea, and desserts. This program is age appropriate for middle schoolers and above. [Register today to get your tickets](https://support.adl.org/event/exploring-shared-histories-building-community/e573976) <https://support.adl.org/event/exploring-shared-histories-building-community/e573976> and enjoy a program that uplifts cross-cultural learning, community building, and allyship. This program is sponsored by the Asian Jewish Initiative of Seattle, formed in 2022, which consists of 15 Asian and Jewish organizations working to promote education, advance social justice, and combat discrimination and co-hosted by the Samis Foundation.

MAP Session

Thank you, Sara for updating us on your recent trip to California for the MAP session.

On March 14-16, I went to the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, CA for a MAP session (training for minister's assistants). We learned more about the objects in the naijin, led services, chanted Shoshinge, and got to enjoy some great talks. Of the 12 participants that went this time, 5 of us were from Pacific Northwest temples, which was great representation!

It was so wonderful to spend time with the other local MA's and of course to make new friends while I was there.



Pictured left to right are: Rev. Matt May (Seattle Bet-suin), Rev. Rosalie May (Yakima Buddhist Church), Erik Hammerstrom (Tacoma Buddhist Temple), Lynrae Hubbell (Tacoma Buddhist Temple) and me, Sara Perrott (White River Buddhist Temple).

**Tacoma Buddhist
Temple
presents**

**Our Special Guest Speaker
Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji
Resident Minister of
Southern Alameda Buddhist Temple**



The Joy of the Nembutsu Way of Life

Date: Saturday, May, 11

Time: Seminar 2pm-4pm, Dinner 5pm-7:30pm

**Place: Tacoma Buddhist Temple Social Hall
1717 Fawcett Ave, Tacoma, WA 98402**

Cost: Seminar is Free, Dinner \$15 suggested donation

In this talk, Rev. Miyaji will discuss what is the benefit of having the Nembutsu teaching in our lives. Why does this teaching matter? What will result from us turning towards the world of Amida Buddha's Boundless Wisdom and Compassion?

To Register, please email Rev. Koyama at: revtadaok@gmail.com
Please also let Rev. Koyama know if you plan to attend the dinner!

Donations

The Temple gratefully acknowledges the following donations received and recorded from March 19th through April 15th. 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 - \$ 5,510

Shotsuki (Monthly) Memorials

Mrs. Norma Geenty	In memory of Suwako Murashige
Mrs. Lilly Kato	April Shotsuki
M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai	April Shotsuki
M/M Alva & Dennis Nishimura	In memory of Goro Kinoshita
Mrs. Katie Komoto	April Shotsuki
Mrs. Tomeko Taketa & Mr. Micha Bailes	In memory of George Taketa
Mrs. Charlene Grinolds	In memory of Barbara Tsuji
Ms. Laurie Tanaka	In memory of Dennis Tanaka
Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara	In memory of Frank Natsuhara
Mr. Charles Natsuhara	In memory of Frank Natsuhara

Memorials

Mrs. Norma Geenty	In memory of Don Gardner
Oki Family	In memory of Kimi Oki

Hanamatsuri

Ms. Emiko Phillips	M/M Sharon & Mark Kosai	Mr. Randy Okimoto
M/M Robert & Mitzi Akiyama	Mrs. Connie Toda	Mrs. Yuki Iwai
Ms. Kiyomi Taketa-Ozanich	Mrs. Charlene Grinolds	Ms. Darlene Yamada
M/M Roger Fukai & Shirley Kanda	M/M Itsuo & Yuri Shiotani	Ms. Sharon Carrell
Mrs. Lilly Kato	Mrs. Pat Kawabata	Mrs. Katie Komoto
M/M Alvin & Mitsuko Terada	M/M Joe & Margaret Gotchy	Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara
Mr. Charles Natsuhara	Mrs. Tomeko Taketa	Mr. Micah Bailes
Mrs. Sally Mizuki		

Major Services

Ms. Leanne Nishi-Wong	Ohigan
Mrs. Sally Mizuki	Ohigan
Mr. Ron Hamakawa	Ho-onko

General Donations

Mr. Kent Nishimura	In kind – beauty bark
Ms. Darlene Yamada	Flower fund
M/M Joe and Margaret Gotchy	In appreciation
Mr. Dale Kaku	In appreciation for temple use
Kiwanis Club of Kent AM	Kitchen use

Convention Booster

Ms. Georgette Magnin	Mrs. Lilly Kato	Ms. Kathryn Natsuhara
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2024 Pledge Totals

March 1 - 31, 2024

Thank you for your support in 2024!

Date	PLEDGES DECLARED		Contributors	DOLLARS COLLECTED	
	Additional	Total		Additional	Total
April 6, 2024	\$3,100	\$29,620	35	\$2,085	\$25,630
<u>For Comparison</u>					
April 6, 2023	\$7,400	\$26,095	30	\$4,185	\$20,320

Name and Amount Not Specified for Publishing:

Amount Not Specified for Publishing: Joan Rodgers

Under \$500: Laurie Tanaka Anonymous #12 Dennis Yamashita¹

\$500- \$999: Anonymous #11 Gayle Takemura

\$1000 - \$4,999: Norma Geenty

¹ Dennis Yamashita was incorrectly listed as Anonymous #11 in the February Pledge report.

****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
(253) 833-1442

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