

"RAMEN FEST"

Spokane Buddhist Temple
Sunday - April 23rd - 11am - 3pm
***** Take Out Only *****



927 S. Perry Street, Spokane

FEATURING TRADITIONAL JAPANESE
RECIPE RAMEN - \$15 - *Chicken or Tofu*
Butter Mochi & Other Desserts - \$7
Inari Sushi - \$7

34th Annual Spring Food Festival
***** Cash Preferred *** Cards Accepted *****
Temple Open House 11 am—3 pm

VOLUNTEERS STILL
NEEDED



FOR RAMEN FEST ON APRIL 23RD
Email: SpokaneBuddhistTemple@gmail.com

Spokane Buddhist Temple

Volume 69 - Issue 4

This newsletter is published monthly by the Spokane Buddhist Temple
927 S Perry Street
Spokane, WA 99202
509 534-7954



Everyone is welcome to attend all activities and services. Visit us online at:
www.spokanebuddhisttemple.org
email: spokanebuddhisttemple@gmail.com
www.Facebook.com/SpokaneBuddhistTemple

April 2023

April Sangha Services



- 4/02 Sun 9 am Shoshinge Chanting Service
10:30 am Sangha Service
- 4/09 Sun 10:30 am **Hanamatsuri** Sangha Service (See Pg 4)
- 4/16 Sun 10:30 am Shotsukihoyo Service
- 4/23 Sun NO SERVICE - **RAMENFEST** 11a-3p (See Pg 1)
- 4/30 Sun 10:30 am Sangha Service & Dharma School (Kids 4-11)
11:45 am Intro To Buddhism

Other Events in April

Wed 4/12 - 6 pm Buddha & Beer with Reverend Opel @ Lumberbeard Brewing
Wed 4/19 - 6 pm Book Study Group with Reverend Opel @ Temple
Every Tuesday at 10 am - Come Make Sandwiches for the unhoused. The basement door opens at 9:30 am.

INTRO TO BUDDHISM & SHIN BUDDHISM 4/30 & 5/7

Are you new to the Temple? Have questions about Buddhism?
Join Rev. Opel and MA Kerkove for two intro classes after service.
There will be time for questions.



Hanamatsuri – Flower Festival Sangha Service
Sunday — April 9th —10:30 am
See Pg 4

With Special Guest Reverend Katsuya Kusunoki
Our supervising minister from the Seattle Betsuin
Come decorate the Hanamida with flowers at 9 am

Dharma School



DHARMA SCHOOL for kids is now
One Sunday Per Month
April 30th
10:30 during service
Ages 4 to 11

Spokane Buddhist Temple

APRIL 2023

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Sangha Services— Our Sangha Service (Sangha is the Sanskrit word for Buddhist community) is a traditional Jodo Shinshu service with chanting led by a Doshi. Services are at 10:30 am on Sundays at the Temple. We often meet after service on some Sundays for a dharma discussion.

- ◆ **GET THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL**
Email: SpokaneBuddhistTemple@gmail.com
- ◆ Check out our website at **www.SpokaneBuddhistTemple.org**
- ◆ **For the latest Temple Information visit our Facebook page:** www.facebook.com/SpokaneBuddhistTemple
- ◆ Visit the **Buddhist Churches of America** Website: www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org
There is a wealth of information, podcasts, and information about Shin Buddhism on this site.



Left to right:
MA Amanda Goodwin,
MA Chad Donoho,
Reverend Melissa Opel,
MA Eric Kerkove

Rinban Katsuya Kusunoki
our Supervising Minister



Spokane Buddhist Temple Team

--Supervising Minister--

Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki
Seattle Betsuin

---Minister Assistants---

Reverend Melissa Opel
MA Chad Donoho
MA Eric Kerkove
MA Amanda Goodwin
Sensei Paul Vielle (ret.)

---2023 Board of Directors---

Chad Donoho, President
Joe Bracco, Vice President
Sadina Henderson, Secretary
Tina Rodeen, Treasurer
Susan Hales
KNona Liddell
Ryan Campanella
Amanda Goodwin
Celeste Sterrett

Mari Haworth, Bookkeeper

Have questions: Email Chad at bronzetiger23@yahoo.com



Chanting At Home

Follow these links to access recordings of the following:

- Juseige https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/home/001_juseige_chanting/
- Sanbutsuge https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/home/002_sanbutsuge_chanting/
- Junirai https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/home/003_junirai_chanting/
- Ondokusan https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/home/004_ondokusan_gatha/



**Hanamatsuri – Flower Festival Sangha Service
Sunday — April 9th —10:30 am
With Special Guest Reverend Katsuya Kusunoki
Our supervising minister from the Seattle Betsuin**

*****Come Decorate the Hanamida with Flowers at 9 am*****

Hanamatsuri, literally flower festival, is celebrated in April, commemorating the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, who became enlightened and is known as Buddha.

According to our tradition, the historical Buddha, Sakyamuni, was born in Nepal on April 8, 566 B.C. He was born the son of King Suddohana and Queen Maya. There are many flowery descriptions of the scene at his birth, including celestial birds singing beautiful songs, beautiful flowers, and a sweet gentle rain bathing the baby Buddha. It is not necessarily the beauty of the flowers, the sounds of the celestial birds, nor the sweet gentle rain that fell, but the vibrant fact that on this day was born the greatest of sentient beings who became the Enlightened One, the Buddha.

A special altar—the **Hanamido**—is erected and decorated with flowers representing the garden in Lumbini, southern Nepal, where it is said that Queen Maya went into labor. A statue of the infant Buddha is placed in a pan and, in a ritual known as kanbutsu, water or sweet tea is poured over it in remembrance of the “sweet rain” that descended from heaven at the moment of his birth. Everyone has the opportunity to bathe the baby Buddha.

Reverend Katsuya Kusunoki is the Head Minister of the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple. Sensei was born in Nagasaki, Japan, the second son of a temple family. Today his older brother Naoya is the 17th generation of their family to serve their family temple. Sensei is a graduate of Miyazaki University where he majored in primary education and his hobby is to watch and play baseball and softball. While a college student he took a break and spent almost two and a half years in a Japanese volunteer program similar to the Peace Corps in America coaching baseball in Zimbabwe before returning to Japan to complete his studies. After graduating he spent three years teaching 3rd and 6th grade classes before deciding to become a minister.



Sensei’s advanced training includes the Hongwanji-ha Rituals course for leaders (Gonshiki). He is a Hongwanji-ha certified Special Rituals Minister, a certificate only he and our former minister Rev. Sala Sekiya hold within the Buddhist Churches of America. Sensei’s first assignment in America was to the Lodi Buddhist Temple in 2010 and he was transferred to Seattle in April of 2017. Sensei and his wife Ayano have a son, Yuiya, who was born in September 2016.



April Shotsuki-Hoyo

On April 16th, as part of our service, we will have the monthly Shotsuki-Hoyo remembrance service. According to Temple records and other sources, a total of 19 people passed away during the month of April of their respective year:

Craig Bruebaker	Koji Hayashi
Takeshi Kan	Akira Katayama
Isako Mary Kimura	Kazuo "Kaz" Kuwada
Mariechen Oldsen Morgenstern	Walter Kurt Morgenstern
Yasumasa Moriya	John Naber
Chiyono Nakanishi	Minoru Terao
Mary Barna Twiner	Bradley Whitehouse
Chiyono Yamaguchi	Fumi Uyeji
Tomiko Yamamoto	Kenneth Clark
Joyce Mitsuko Terao	

Dues and Donations

We appreciate any donations to offset our expenses that keep the doors open at the Spokane Buddhist Temple. Either click on the Donation button on the website, or email a check to us. If you want 100% of your donation to go to the Temple, please send a check.

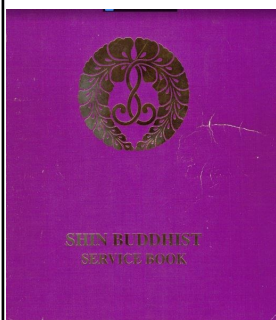
We received dues and/or donations in March from:



Kris Birdsell	Mary Naber
Wednesday Meditation Group	Tuesday Meditation Group
Melissa & Becca Opel	Izumi Pierce
Stacy Carr	Eric Inaba
Paul & Karen Vielle	Mari Haworth
Ami Summerfield	Chad Donoho
Tyler Hanson	Ken & Jackie Endersbe
Patricia Ohashi	

Karen & Paul Vielle in memory of Gracye Hattori, Bob Ohashi, Eileen Tanaka & Marcelline Burdett
 Melissa & Becca Opel in memory of Eileen Tanaka & Bob Ohashi
 Mary Naber in memory of Marcelline Burdett
 Izumi Pierce in honor of Jeffrey Lee Pierce & Robert Cole Pierce

We are grateful to those anonymous people who leave cash donations in the koro.



SERVICE BOOK TO DOWNLOAD (new link):

<http://spokanebuddhisttemple.org/recommended-reading/shin-buddhist-service-book/>

During service, we will tell you the page we are on.



The Benefits of Living a Life of Self-Introspection Reverend Marvin Harada, Bishop

This month, I would like to continue on the BCA theme for this year, “The benefits of following the Shin Buddhist path,” by focusing on the benefit of a life of self-introspection.

The great Zen Master Dogen wrote, “To study Buddhism is to study the self. To study the self is to forget the self. To forget the self is to be awakened to all things.” Dogen is saying that the focus of Buddhism is self-introspection and self-reflection. That is what Buddhism is. You don’t necessarily need books or texts. All you need to study Buddhism is a life of self-introspection.

Shin Buddhism is no different than these powerful words by Zen Master Dogen. Shinran Shonin’s life is a life of deep self-introspection. However, Shinran Shonin did not sit in a cave and meditate for years and years in isolation. In fact, he did meditate for 20 years on Mt. Hiei, but that meditation did not lead to any kind of enlightenment or awakening.

For Shinran Shonin, it was the light of the Dharma, great immeasurable light, that penetrated his heart, which allowed him to see himself deeply.

Our ego self does not want to see itself. I think in psychology it’s called a “defense mechanism,” which is when our ego self tries to defend itself and puts the blame on others and never sees oneself as wrong. But if we can encounter a light or a mirror, then the ego self is made to see itself. Simply put, that is how I see Shinran Shonin’s unique insight and approach to his self-introspection.

Such a life of self-introspection, deeply seeing one’s ego self, is at the same time the encounter with light, with truth, with the Dharma. A dark shadow is created only because there is a bright light that creates that shadow. Similarly, Shinran Shonin’s seeing of his ego self — his “dark side” if we are to borrow from “Star Wars” — is because the radiant, immeasurable light that we refer to as Amida Buddha is illuminating his heart and mind.

The result is that Shinran Shonin is humbled, deeply humbled. That is the spirituality that he offers the world of religion — a deeply humble life.

A humble person looks up at all people. An arrogant person looks down on people. A humble person is a grateful person. An arrogant person is never happy or satisfied. A humble person easily sees themselves, their faults, their self-centeredness. An arrogant person rarely, if ever, sees themselves. A humble person takes the blame and the responsibility even when it is not their fault. The arrogant person neither takes responsibility nor the blame, and is quick to point out the faults of others.

The ironic thing here is that Shinran Shonin is both of these persons. He is both arrogant and humble. This is the structure of Buddhist insight or awakening. One becomes humble only because of awakening to one’s arrogance. There is no humility without a sense of one’s arrogance. That is exactly what makes one humble, seeing and realizing one’s arrogance.

That is a tremendous benefit in the life of a Shin Buddhist. A humble person is really the strongest of all people. The arrogant person is the weakest person. Nothing bothers the humble person. Criticism doesn’t bother them. They simply say, “Yes, you are exactly right. Thank you for pointing that out for me.” An arrogant person never accepts criticism. They say, “How dare you talk to me like that! Do you know who you are talking to?!”

The life of Shin Buddhism is one of self-introspection, seeing oneself, because the light of the Buddha is illuminating our hearts and minds. That is a tremendous benefit for the person who follows the path of Shin Buddhism.



2023 FDSTL CONFERENCE

April 29-30, 2023
Palo Alto Buddhist Temple,
Palo Alto, California

You don't need to be a Dharma School
teacher to join us in our exploration of
Buddhist feelings & social-emotional health!

SPECIAL GUEST:

History Chat with
D. Trinidad Hunt,
granddaughter of
Dorothy Hunt, author of
the Golden Chain!

Hosted by the Bay
District Dharma
School Teachers
League

Registration Link

Donations welcome!

Make donations payable to
"BDDSTL" c/o BDDSTL, 1741
Magnolia Circle, Pleasanton, CA
94566

"Inside Out Buddhism"



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

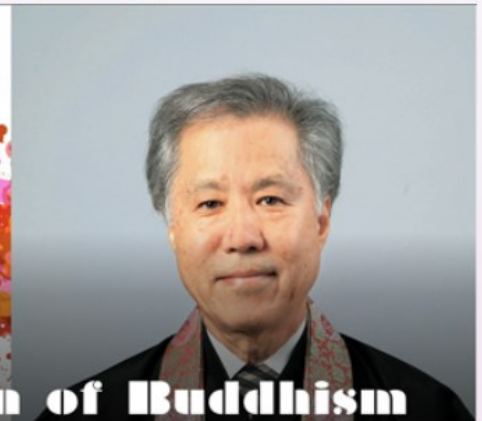
Reverend Candice
Shibata
Buddhist Church of
Stockton

Questions?
Please contact us at:
fdstl2023conference@gmail.com

"AMERICANIZATION OF BUDDHISM -DEFINITION AND PREDICTION-" BY REV. DR. KENNETH TANAKA

April 14th, 7:00pm-9:00pm

Buddhist Churches of America
Northwest District Ministers Association Presents



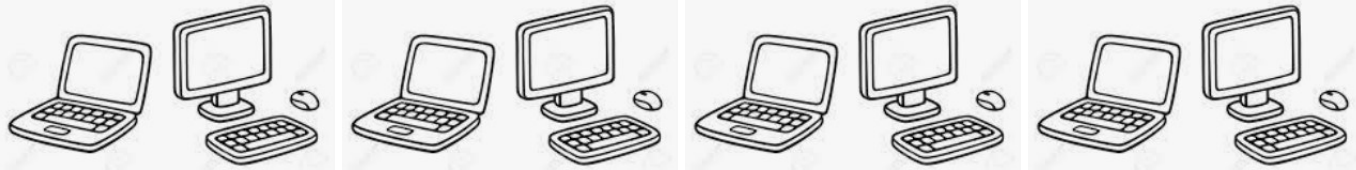
Americanization of Buddhism

- Definition and Prediction -

A Lecture by Rev. Dr. Kenneth Tanaka
7-9pm, April 14, 2023

REGISTER FOR THE LECTURE HERE! →





ARE YOU CONNECTED?

We are often asked “Where can I learn more about Shin Buddhism?”.
Here are just a few of the on-line resources:

Buddhist Churches of America

<https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/>

Learn Tab includes “Suggested Reading” list

News & Media

Monthly newsletter “Wheel of Dharma” - sign up

Podcasts

Bishop’s Messages

BCA Connect News – sign up for emails

Events – lists the on-line lectures & classes

CBE – Center for Buddhist Education – on-line lectures & classes - sign up

And more!

Seattle Betsuin

<https://seattlebetsuin.com/>

Buddhist Education tab

News & Events tab

Includes the Betsuin newsletter – sign up

Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple

Blog from the IOBT

<https://hometownbuddhism.blogspot.com/>

Spokane Buddhist Temple

www.SpokaneBuddhistTemple.org

Newsletters tab – sign up

Contact tab – sign up for the chat emails

Links tab in the About Us tab

YouTube

Many of the Shin Buddhist Temples record their services on YouTube, plus there are many lectures available. Sort on:

Shin Buddhism

Buddhist Churches of America

Northwest District Ministers Association

2023 Pledge Form

Dear Members and Friends:



When you find yourself taking refuge in the Three Treasures (Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha) and feel like this is a place where you would like to grow, then perhaps you'll consider membership to the Spokane Buddhist Temple.

The concept of Dana (selfless giving) is not only a Buddhist teaching but a manner of how we exist and do business. Dana comes in many forms; not only monetary, but also your time and talents. Membership empowers individuals who rely on the nembutsu to remember their responsibility to help sustain the Dharma in Spokane and surrounding area.

By joining or renewing your membership, you honor the legacy of the families and individuals who founded this Temple in 1945 and will help maintain the foundation for the future. Your membership is critical for keeping the Dharma alive in Spokane for the benefit of current and future generations.

In Gassho,
Spokane Buddhist Temple Trustees

Membership pledges are made/renewed on a yearly basis every November and can be paid in numerous ways and increments. Pledges can be paid by check, credit card, or an e-check from your financial institution. You can pay annually, semiannually, quarterly, or monthly.

Individuals who make annual pledges of \$300 or more are sustaining members of the Temple. Those contributing at lower levels are non-voting associate members of the Temple. Although \$300 is the minimum pledging amount for sustaining membership, additional pledges are greatly appreciated. It costs about \$60,000 annually to run the Temple, including: operating expenses, building upkeep, visiting minister costs, our minister's education, and dues to the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) and the NW District. Membership pledges make up about 25-30% of our revenue, and we depend on them to be able to keep the Dharma alive in our community.

Printed Name (s) _____ Signature (s) _____

Address _____

Phone numbers _____

Emails _____

Payment method (please check) check e-check cash credit card

Payment frequency (please check) annually semi-annually quarterly monthly

Pledge amount for current year \$ _____

_____ Check that you understand that your Membership includes membership in the BCA and you will receive the BCA monthly newsletter "Wheel of Dharma" in the mail.

* Please consult your tax advisor for specific questions related to charitable donations.

* If over the age of 70 ½ please consult your financial planner for using your required minimum distribution for charitable donations.

*Members of the Spokane Buddhist Temple are always welcome to request our financial records. Please contact the treasurer if you would like information on the Temple's budget and financial holdings.