

Spokane Buddhist Temple

Volume 67, 2021 - Issue 6
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

June 2021

*Due to Covid-19, the Temple building is closed until further notice.
There will be Some Outdoor Services in May.*

Virtual Services at Spokane Buddhist Temple



We are now holding virtual services via Zoom. Services are each Sunday through at least May 2021, at 10:30 am.

The service is also being live-streamed on Facebook. You can view this service live stream anytime afterwards on Facebook or YouTube. After the service, we will turn off the live feed and you may stay and socialize and discuss the Dharma Message. Please email the temple for the Zoom login at SpokaneBuddhisttemple@gmail.com

****Tentative** June Schedule—All services at 10:30 am— Zoom or Outdoors**

- | | |
|------|--|
| 6/6 | Virtual Service |
| 6/13 | Shotsukihoyo Service - OUTSIDE |
| 6/20 | Virtual Pet Memorial Service - OUTSIDE |
| 6/27 | Sangha Service – OUTSIDE |

Most of the June services will be **IN-PERSON OUTDOOR SERVICES, weather permitting**. Be sure to check Facebook and open the “chat emails” from the Temple to know of any changes to the schedule. Email SpokaneBuddhistTemple@gmail.com to get on the chat & Zoom list. The outdoor services will also be live on Facebook. All services are later uploaded to YouTube.

****Outdoor Services: Masks required, bring your own chair.



June 20th - Pet Memorial Service

See Page 3 for details

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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 meet after service for refreshments and sometimes a dharma discussion.

- ◆ **GET THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL**
Email: SpokaneBuddhistTemple@gmail.com
- ◆ Check out our new 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:
Amanda Goodwin,
Minister Assistant in
training,
MA Chad Donoho,
Reverend Melissa Opel

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
Sensei Paul Vielle (ret.)
Amanda Goodwin (Aspirant)

---2021 Board of Directors---

Becca Opel, President
Chad Donoho, Vice President
Shawn Boltz, Secretary
Lisa Geiss, Treasurer
KNona Liddell
Tina Rodeen
Patricia Ohashi
Curtis Cooley
Susan Hales

Have questions? Contact
Becca Opel
509-294-1461
alwaysalotus@gmail.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/



Pet Memorial Service June 20th - 10:30 am Outside (and on Zoom)



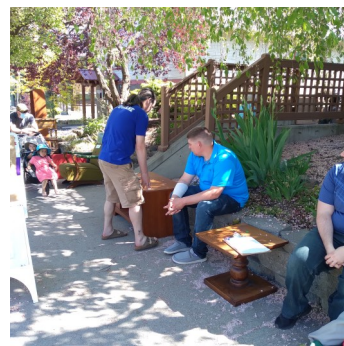
We will observe our annual Pet Memorial during our Sunday Service on June 20th. This is a chance to honor all that our pets have contributed to our lives.

The Buddha taught that all sentient beings have Buddha nature and may become a Buddha in a future life.

Bring a photo of your pet to the service, and send the following information via email to SpokaneBuddhistTemple@gmail.com. If you are not attending in person, send this info:
Name of the pet, year of death, your name and one photo of the pet.

If your pet's name was read in 2019, then Rev. Opel already has your pet's name, but email a photo if you are not coming in person. We will post a slide show on Facebook.

Thank you to all of the volunteers, those who donated items and those who bought used items at the RUMMAGE SALE on May 15th.



June Shotsuki-Hoyo

On June 3th, as part of our service, we will have the monthly Shotsuki-Hoyo remembrance service. According to Temple records and other sources, a total of 18 people passed away during the month of June of their respective year:



Bill Bartholomew	Gay Todd
Eugene Bergman	Yoshio Hamamoto
Jack Hattori	Shozo "Sho" Higashi
(Mrs) Toshie Kanagae	Peter Key
Nobuichi Kiyabu	Yoshiro Mori
Tsumayo Nakai	Archie Okawa
Kozo Soejima	Jean Taeko Soejima
(Mrs) Riku Takeshita	(Mrs) Oto Uyeji
Lachen Joy Verdery	(Mrs) Tsuneye Wada
Accidentally left off the list in May - Satoshi Terao	

Although we are closed, many of our monthly bills continue to be owed. We appreciate any donations to offset those costs. 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.

Thank you to those who have paid their dues and/or given donations
from 4-24 to 5-26-2021:

Richard Terao	Yakima Buddhist Temple
Celeste Sterrett	Paul and Karen Vielle
Stacey Carr	Steve Verhoef
Becca and Melissa Opel	Judith Broverman and Marji Mitchell
Mary Naber	Tyler Hanson
Joan Schilling	Michelle Madeen
Marie Ellis	Narong and Ura Norasakkunkit
Deborah Zaretsky	



Check out the new Website for the
Buddhist Churches of America:
<https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/>

Other on-line sources of the Dharma you might want to check out:

Website "Everyday Buddhist" <https://www.everydaybuddhist.org/>

Buddhist Churches of America website
<https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/>

SERVICE BOOK TO DOWNLOAD:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/18Kl4SOj0EyQPmaF9NHcC5m1nLBJL6PDA/view?fbclid=IwAR2aD6JKqj-RQqapONoYXe98r5vKpR0xmBr7AKLpZBjpdA1_WDkPvphfPQQ



SEEN BUDDHIST
SERVICE BOOK



The Universality of Namuamidabutsu

By Bishop Harada

If Shin Buddhism is to make an impact on Buddhism in the West, it will have to express in a meaningful manner, what is Namuamidabutsu, to those who don't read or speak Japanese.

Those of us who are Japanese Americans, we have grown up hearing the Nembutsu. Of course, it was a foreign word to us as well, but many of us have heard and seen our devout grandmothers or grandfathers saying with depth and conviction, Namandabutsu, Namandabutsu, when they went before their Obutsudan or in the temple Hondo.

I have such memories of my own grandfather, whose depth of Nembutsu I will never equate. We have all gone through our lives, maybe never thinking about it very deeply when young, but in time having come to feel and appreciate the depth and meaning of Namuamidabutsu.

From my 33 years of ministry, I know that this is an initial roadblock for those who are new to our Shin Buddhist tradition. Maybe many of you may have felt that way when you first began attending a Jodo Shinshu temple.

“What is it that they are saying in the service? Some kind of word that begins with an ‘N.’ What is that? What are they saying? What does it mean?”

Recently I had that conversation with a non-Nikkei person attending the temple. He said that he didn't say the Nembutsu, because it felt too foreign and that it felt like he was paying homage to some kind of deity, which he really resisted, having left the Judeo Christian tradition. It made me realize that we must communicate what is Namuamidabutsu in a meaningful manner.

“Namu” literally means “to bow one's head.” “Amidabutsu” is “Amida Buddha.” But what is Amida Buddha? Amida Buddha is not a being or a deity. Amida Buddha is a metaphor for the truth of enlightenment, or wisdom and compassion. “Namuamidabutsu,” then means, “I bow my head to the truth of enlightenment. I bow my head to a truth beyond my limited ego self. I bow my head to great wisdom and great compassion.”

If Namu represents unenlightened, lost in delusion me, and if Amidabutsu represents the opposite of that, meaning the truth of enlightenment, then I think that all people experience Namuamidabutsu. If you have ever felt that something is missing in your life, if you have ever felt unfulfilled or that you were lost without direction in life, then you have experienced Namuamidabutsu.

Being aware that you are lost or that something is missing in your life, is evidence that the light of truth, the light of the Dharma is trying to break through the shell of your ego self, to illuminate your heart and mind. In that sense, all people, at some point in their life, experience Namuamidabutsu.

Namuamidabutsu,
Rev. Marvin Harada, Bishop
Buddhist Churches of America



The Buddhist Churches of America was honored to participate in a Vesak candle lighting ceremony held on May 25th in Washington, DC. Bishop Rev. Marvin Harada joined Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff and representatives of Theravada and Vajrayana Buddhism to celebrate the birth, Enlightenment and passing of the Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama. The ceremony was held in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. President Biden issued a statement on the occasion (see below). This was the first time that The White House has held a Vesak ceremony.



Pictured left to right: Erika Moritsugu, deputy assistant to the President and Asian American and Pacific Islander senior liaison; the Venerable Bhante Uparantan on behalf of the Theravada tradition; Shekar Narasimhan, President of the Dharma Into Action Foundation (DhIA Foundation); Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff; the Venerable Tarthang Tulku Rinpoche on behalf of the Vajrayana tradition; Wangmo Dixey, President of the International Buddhist Association of America; BCA Bishop Rev. Marvin Harada on behalf of the Mahayana tradition

(Official White House Photos by Cameron Smith)

Statement by President Biden on Vesak MAY 26, 2021

Jill and I extend our warmest wishes to Buddhists in the United States and around the world as they celebrate Vesak, a day honoring the birth, enlightenment, and passing of the Buddha. The ceremonial lighting of a lamp, the symbol of this holiday that has been celebrated for over 2,500 years, reminds us of Buddhism’s teachings of compassion, humility, and selflessness that endure today. On this day, we also commemorate the many contributions of Buddhists in America who enrich our communities and our country as we all work together toward brighter days ahead.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ~ REGISTER FOR ZOOM LINK



2021 CBE Seminars Online For All SUMMER: JUNE ~ AUGUST

All events listed in Pacific Time - Check your local time

<p>SATURDAY JUNE 19 *11 am - 1 pm REGISTER ONLINE</p>	<p>EMBRACED AND NEVER ABANDONED: JODO SHINSHU AND LGBTQ+ Rev. Ko'e A. Umezu West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple</p>	  <p>Rev. Umezu</p>
<p>SATURDAY JUNE 26 *11 AM - 1 PM REGISTER ONLINE</p>	<p>KINNARA: THE ROOTS OF TAIKO IN THE US Discussion with Rev. Masao Kodani, BCA Minister Emeritus, and Johnny Mori & other members of Kinnara Taiko Moderator: Rev. Jerry Hirano, CBE Director</p>	  <p>Rev. Kodani Johnny Mori</p>
<p>SATURDAY JULY 3 *11 AM - 1 PM REGISTER ONLINE</p>	<p>SHINSHU AND CHRISTIANITY Rev. David Quirke-Thornton Shin Buddhist Fellowship, United Kingdom</p>	  <p>Rev. Quirke-Thornton</p>
<p>SATURDAY JULY 24 *11 AM - 1 PM REGISTER ONLINE</p>	<p>CREATING INCLUSIVE SANGHAS: WORKING COMPASSIONATELY WITH OUR THOUGHTS & ASSUMPTIONS Mushim Patricia Ikeda East Bay Meditation Center Rev. Harry Bridge Buddhist Church of Oakland</p>	  <p>Mushim Ikeda Rev. Bridge</p>
<p>SATURDAY AUGUST 7 *11 AM - 1 PM REGISTER ONLINE</p>	<p>THE ESSENCE OF THE THREE PURE LAND SUTRAS & HOW WE CHANT THEM Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara Berkeley Buddhist Temple Rinban Katsuya Kusunoki Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple</p>	  <p>Rev. Kuwahara Rev. Kusunoki</p>
<p>SATURDAY AUGUST 21 *11 AM - 1 PM REGISTER ONLINE</p> <p>[3-25]</p>	<p>RENNYO'S CONTRIBUTION TO HONGWANJI THOUGHT Rev. Dr. Mutsumi Wondra Orange County Buddhist Church</p>	  <p>Rennyō Shōnin Rev. Wondra</p>

VISIT [BCA WEBSITE](#) FOR FLYER, FREE ONLINE REGISTRATION & DONATION LINK
BUDDHISTCHURCHESOFAMERICA.ORG EMAIL: CBE@BCAHQ.ORG TEL: 510.809.1460

2021 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 pledges of \$240 or more are sustaining members of the Temple. Those contributing at lower levels are non-voting associate members of the Temple. Although \$240 is the minimum pledging amount for sustaining membership, additional pledges are greatly appreciated. It costs about \$50,000 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% 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 \$ _____

* 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.

Spokane Buddhist Temple, 927 S. Perry, Spokane, WA 99202
Email: SpokaneBuddhistTemple@gmail.com