

Spokane Buddhist Temple

Volume 69, 2021 - Issue 5
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

May 2023

May Service Schedule


- 5/7 10:30 am Sangha Service followed by Social Time
- 11:45 am **Intro to Shin Buddhism Class**
- 5/10 6:00 pm Buddha & Beer at Lumberbeard Brewing
- 5/14 10:30 am Shotsukihoyo Sangha Service followed by Social Time
- 5/21 10:30 am **Gotan-E Service (see Pg 4)**
Reverend Opel's last Service - Potluck after Service
- 5/28 10:30 am Sangha Service followed by Dharma Discussion
- 10:30 am **Dharma School** for Ages 4-11

Other Events in May

Wed 5/10 Buddha & Beer at Lumberbeard. Study Group will return in June.
Look for a new event: "Sangha Hangout" on the 2nd Wednesday.

Every Tuesday at 10 am - Come Make Sandwiches for the unhoused. The
basement door opens at 9:30 am.

Email SpokaneBuddhistTemple@gmail.com to get the weekly emails. Most
services will be live on Facebook.



Dharma School

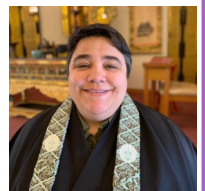
DHARMA SCHOOL
One Sunday Per Month
May 28th - 10:30 during service
Ages 4 to 11
Welcome Lena as our new teacher

We are continuing our goal of learning the "Golden Chain #1" and working on acting out the story of "The Brave Buddha Bird". We will also check in on our "Bee Friends".

Email: SpoBuddhistTempleDharmaSchool@gmail.com

May 21st is Reverend Melissa Opel's last service at the
Spokane Buddhist Temple
You Are Invited to a Farewell Potluck after Service on Sunday 5/21

Come thank her and Becca for the many years of service to our Temple.
Although we are sad to see her go, we are also excited about their new
adventure in San Francisco. Congrats Rev. Opel! She will be the new Resident
Minister at the San Francisco Buddhist Temple.



Spokane Buddhist Temple

MAY 2023

VOLUME 69 ISSUE 5



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 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 Chad Donoho,
MA Eric Kerkove,
Rinban Katsuya Kusunoki,
Reverend Melissa Opel,
MA Amanda Goodwin

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
Reverend 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/

Social Welfare Seeks New Project Ideas



Sandwich-making for the Homeless continues full-bore with over 8,400 sandwiches distributed since January 1, 2022. And now, the Social Welfare Committee is looking to expand our Temple's community involvement through new projects serving those less fortunate than ourselves.

Members of the Sangha brainstormed after Service on January 22nd and proposed several new exciting projects. Volunteers leads are busy making calls to gather information about how each project might work. Look for updates soon!

If you missed the brainstorming session and have new project ideas, please reach out to the Social Welfare Committee members: Tricia Ohashi, Celeste Sterrett, Shawn Boltz, Tina Rodeen and Susan Hales, Chair. And if you would like to join the Committee, we would be delighted!

Dues and Donations

We are grateful for your donations and dues, which offset our expenses. You are helping us keep the doors open at the Spokane Buddhist Temple and continue to spread the Dharma.



To donate, 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 or do a BillPay transaction through your bank. We are grateful to those anonymous people who leave cash donations in the koro each week.

Dues & Donations received in April 2023



Kris Birdsell
Wednesday Meditation Group
Melissa & Becca Opel
Stacy Carr
Paul & Karen Vielle
Lisa Geiss
Liz Marez
Chris Nerison
Ken & Jackie Endersbe
Narong & Ura Norasak
Tyler Hanson

Mary Naber
Tuesday Meditation Group
Kevin Tremblay
Eric Inaba
Richard Terao
Celeste Sterrett
Loren & Carolyn Nishimura
Lena & Curtis Cooley
Kyle Brown
Michelle Madeen
Jeremy Phillips

We are grateful for an anonymous donation of \$2000 that was brought to us at Ramen Fest.
Paul & Karen Vielle in memory of Ken Clark and Fumi Uyeji.
Melissa & Becca Opel in memory of John Naber & Mary Terao.
Celeste Sterrett for Hanamatsuri.
Jun Yugawa for Hanamatsuri.



GOTAN-E SANGHA SERVICE
Sunday - May 21st - 10:30 am
Celebrating the Birthday of the founder of Jodo Shinshu
Buddhism, Shinran Shonin

Gotan-E means birthday gathering. Gotan-E is the celebration of the birthday of the founder of the Jodo Shinshu school of Buddhism. Shinran's actual date of birth is said to be May 21, 1173; he was believed to be born in Hino near Kyoto, Japan. Until he died at the age of 90, Shinran's life was lived simply and humbly.

One important contribution that Shinran made was his effort to spread the path of Buddhahood to all beings. He understood that enlightenment was not meant just for those few who could abandon their home and family life, and live within the confines of the temple wall. Shinran understood that regardless of whether one is male or female, young or old, rich or poor, educated or illiterate, good or evil, all can attain Buddhahood through the working of Amida Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion. It is through the untiring efforts of sharing his insight that we can hear, today, the truth of the Nembutsu and gather together for the birthday of Shinran Shonin.

***** Service followed by a Potluck Lunch *****



May Shotsuki-Hoyo

On May 14th, 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 May of their respective year:

Gunemon Fujita	Paul Noboru Gow
Dick Imada	(Mrs.) Fumiko Itano
Hatsutarō Kajita	(Mrs.) Sayoko Oba
Yoichi Oba	Frida Kahl Oldsen
(Mrs.) Taneyo Sato	(Mrs.) Chizuko Shegenobu
Tatsuhei Sugikawa	(Mrs.) Toyo Sugikawa
(Mrs.) Fumiko Takasugi	Toshio Uyeji
(Mrs.) Sadako Yamamoto	Natalie Houle
Murray (Chip) Madeen	Satoshi "Sat" Terao

If you wish to have someone added to the Shotsukihoyo list, see Reverend Opel or one of the Minister Assistants.



The Benefit of Being Part of a Sangha

Reverend Marvin Harada, Bishop

This month, I would like to reflect on another benefit of following the path of Shin Buddhism, which is the benefit of being a part of a Sangha.

First of all, let me share something about the meaning of Sangha. I have learned a wonderful teaching from one of Thich Nhat Hanh's writings, in which he teaches that the Three Treasures — the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha — cannot exist without each other. All three must be present for one of them to exist.

The Buddha needs us, the Sangha, to truly be the Buddha. If there is no one to receive and hear the Buddha's teachings, the Dharma, then the Buddha is not the Buddha.

The Dharma needs the Buddha, an awakened one to expound it, and it needs a Sangha to receive and practice it. Without the Sangha, the Dharma is merely sutras or books sitting on the shelf. For the Dharma to truly be the Dharma, there must be a Sangha to receive and live the teachings.

The Sangha needs the Buddha and the Dharma to truly be a Sangha. Without the presence of the Buddha and the Dharma, we are not a Sangha. We are just a group of people, like any civic organization. Because there is the presence of the heart of the Buddha, and because we are listening to and receiving the teachings, the Dharma, only then can we call ourselves a Sangha.

To be a part of a Shin Buddhist Sangha is to be connected to all three of these treasures.

Over the years, while serving as a minister at the Orange County Buddhist Church, I have met many people who came for the first time to attend a service or class, and they shared that they had read many books on Buddhism, and even considered themselves "nightstand Buddhists" (because they have many books on Buddhism on their nightstand), but felt that there was something missing in their study and seeking of the teachings.

They said that they had never been a part of a Sangha, and now, after years of just reading about Buddhism, were looking to be a part of a Sangha. After joining, they felt such joy in being a part of a Sangha, to make new friends, to be able to share in the path with others.

That is the great benefit of being a part of a Sangha that Shin Buddhism in particular offers. I love Zen Buddhism, but I have met many who have said that in practicing Zen, they never felt like they were a part of a Sangha. They would go to the Zen Center, sit in meditation, in zazen, and then after that, leave. They never got to experience Sangha in that tradition. In Zen, you have to live at the monastery, practice Zen full-time to be able to experience Sangha in the Zen tradition.

In Shin Buddhism, Sangha is virtually everything. We listen to the Dharma together. We discuss the Dharma together. We have coffee and potlucks together. We work together at the bazaars and the fundraisers. We encourage each other, we support each other on the path. The new people learn from the wisdom and experience of the longtime members. The longtime members learn from the questions and freshness of the newcomers.

We are all on the path together, no better or no worse than one another. We come from all backgrounds, all ethnicities, all socio-economic classes, all genders, all sexual orientations, all ages. As adults, we enjoy the children's Dharma messages. As children, we learn the depth of the Nembutsu from grandpa or grandma.

Continued on Page 6

Without a Sangha, we cannot experience that. That is the great benefit of being a part of a Sangha.

In the future, we want to try and create such a Sangha, virtually, especially for those who do not live near a BCA church or temple. We hope to create that same feeling, that same atmosphere of a Sangha for those who participate virtually. But for our existing churches and temples, we will continue to provide the experience of being a part of a Sangha, sharing in our lives and the teachings, and being enriched by each other.

This is an **in-person 2-day workshop** about discovering Jodo Shinshu after coming from other religious traditions. Reverend Opel is part of this seminar. Stay at the Jodo Shinshu Center.



CROSSING OVER

5/26/23 - 5/27/23

Discovering Jodo Shinshu from other Religious traditions

THE PANEL

Rev David Quirk-Thorton
Rev Melissa Opel
Rev Carmela Javellana
Rev Jerry Hirano

PANEL INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:

From the UK as a former Franciscan friar, an active Evangelical Minister, or raised as a devout Catholic in the Philippines, listen to the stories of how these ministers discovered Jodo Shinshu.

<https://forms.gle/E4yNXkScU9cDg9LQA>

IN-PERSON EVENT:

Jodo Shinshu Center
2140 Durant Ave
Berkeley, CA 94704



SHINJIN

PART 4



Rev Dr David Matsumoto

Online Seminar

**CBE Online
Seminar
Register Below**

**Saturday
May 6, 2023
11am - 1pm (PT)**

About

Rev Dr. David Matsumoto is the president of the Institute of Buddhist Studies. He will continue his series about the meaning of Shinjin. This is part 4 of his 4 part online series. Parts 1-3 are on the CBE Youtube Channel if you wish to view them.



REGISTER & INFO HERE:

<https://forms.gle/1uAW37E2wp2YMffq8>

SEE THE BCA'S EVENT PAGE for info and links to the many workshops & learning opportunities:
<https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/buddhist-education>

BCA: Center For Buddhist Education

LEARN ABOUT

Buddhist Holidays



Rev Jerry Hirano

CBE Youtube: 05.13.2023 @ 11am

<https://www.youtube.com/@BCACenterforBuddhistEducation/videos>



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.

Spokane Buddhist Temple, 927 S. Perry, Spokane, WA 99202

Email: SpokaneBuddhistTemple@gmail.com