

Spokane Buddhist Temple

Volume 66, 2019 - Issue 8
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

August 2020



We are closed until further notice. See these pages:

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Help Needed While We Are Closed

We are grateful for the volunteers who have been maintaining the Temple and for the dues and donations that you have been sending since we closed. Although we are closed, the monthly bills are still owed.

DUES: Dues are \$240 annually, or \$20/month per adult. Keeping up with your dues keeps the doors open.

DONATIONS: Since we stopped having services on Sundays, donations have been down. Please consider sending a donation, which will help keep our temple thriving and available for you and for future generations. Financial contributions are gratefully accepted by mail or you can make a secure donation using a credit card on our website (using PayPal).

LANDSCAPING: We need help with yard work. Please email spokanebuddhisttemple@gmail.com if you can help.

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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.



Rinban Katsuya Kusunoki
our Supervising Minister

(Left to right)
Sensei Melissa Opel (MA with Tokudo), Minister Assistant Eric Kerkove; Minister Assistant Chad Donoho



Spokane Buddhist Temple Team

--Supervising Minister--
Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki
Seattle Betsuin

---Minister Assistants---
Sensei Melissa Opel
MA Chad Donoho
MA Eric Kerkove
Sensei Paul Vielle (ret.)



---2020 Board of Directors---
President Becca Opel
Vice President Chad Donoho
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Tina Rodeen
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Curtis Cooley
Celeste Sterrett

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/

Coffee Talk: The Power of Words

10 a.m., Aug. 1,
Register: <https://bit.ly/3fU2USV>

Rev. Melissa Opel to speak on the
“The Power of Words”
August 1st 10:00 AM

Rev. Melissa Opel will be one of the panelists on the Spokane FāVS Zoom Coffee Talk on Aug 1st. Registration is required so that they don't get Zoom bombed; register at
(www.Facebook.com/SpokaneFaVS)



The words we use, in conversation and on social media seem especially powerful right now, as we grapple with a pandemic the president has labeled “The Chinese Virus,” and as many Americans join in the Black Lives Matter Movement and continue to fight for equality.

On the first Saturday of every other month, SpokaneFāVS hosts “Coffee Talk,” which is a community forum about issues of faith and ethics. They are currently holding these forums on-line.



Join Sensei Melissa Opel & Sangha Members for a “Zoom”
DHARMA DISCUSSION WEBINAR
Thursdays 6:30 pm

It's been a joy to see Sangha members
& hear how they are doing.

Join in by emailing Sensei Opel at Melissajoshinopel@gmail.com
You'll be notified of the Dharma Discussion login by email.



Are you spending your quarantine time de-cluttering your home and getting rid of attachments?

The temple has scheduled a **RUMMAGE SALE** sometime this summer or fall, so if you find items you'd like to donate, we will be happy to store them for you once the quarantine is over.

Many of the Temples are live streaming their services. Watch local services or explore the dharma being shared at temples and churches throughout the United States. You are able to join a service, chant and sing along, and listen to dharma messages from your home. We recommend you stream one of these services on Sunday. May of them are available after Sunday, as well.

The links to all of the services is on the Buddhist Churches of America site at:
<https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org> (click on the logo at the bottom of the page)

For example, you can see and hear these service at the Seattle Betsuin or the Tacoma Buddhist Temple at 10 am on Sunday and they are saved for later viewing:

Seattle Betsuin	youtube.com/seattlebuddhisttemple
Tacoma Buddhist Temple	youtube.com/channel/UCSjeUsyIkbG_e74q-CM1Sig
Oregon Buddhist Temple	youtube.com/user/OregonBuddhistTemple

LIVE DHARMA SERVICES

STREAMING SUNDAY MORNINGS

Check temple websites to confirm weekly schedules

RECENT SERVICES & TALKS

Posted regularly on temple websites and social media



Jacqui Izumi Pierce

The Spokane Buddhist Temple is indeed fortunate to have Jacquie Izumi Pierce, a qualified Obon dance instructor, in our sangha. Jacquie's new name, *Izumi*, means "Water Fountain." Recently she shared a little of her background.

Izumi grew up in Los Angeles and has been interested in dancing since childhood. During her school years, she studied several styles of dance including ballet, tap, Flamenco, aerobic, and modern jazz. Dancing was (and still is) her passion.

She became interested in traditional Japanese folk dancing and Buddhism, following the sudden passing of her older brother. He was a prominent artist and musician in the LA area. Because of his interest in Buddhism, the family decided to hold his memorial service at the West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple. At the memorial service, Izumi observed a group of people practicing a dance number for their upcoming Obon festival. She was immediately drawn to this new dance and resolved to learn more. After joining the West Los Angeles Temple, she embraced the Shin Buddhist way of life and began looking for a dance instructor.

Eventually, Izumi became a student of Sensei Hisame Wakayagi, of *Wakahisa-kai*. Sensei was one of the founders of the *Wakayagi* school of traditional Japanese classical and folk dancing. Izumi has studied with her for the past 17 years. Recently, Izumi was awarded *Jyun Natori*, a recognition of her attaining entry-level status in the *Wakayagi* school of dance.

She moved to Spokane in 2016 and joined our temple family the following year. Since then, she's become a tireless promoter of dancing at our annual Obon Festival. She brings a joyful exuberance to her teaching which carries over to her students. Every year, more people sign up to learn the dance routines. "Dancing is such a fun activity," she says, "moving the body in time with music helps build physical coordination, mental sharpness, and emotional wellbeing."

Once the Covid pandemic subsides and things return to normal, Izumi envisions a time when she can teach ongoing classes in the arts of Japanese classical and folk dancing at the Spokane Buddhist Temple. Until then, she is considering offering classes online using the popular zoom format.

Izumi is included in the BCA Virtual Obon on August 16th. Be sure to register.

BCA VIRTUAL OBON DANCE AUG 15TH @ 6PM PDT

(OBON IN YOUR LIVING ROOM)

BCA バーチャル(仮想)御盆踊り

(盆踊り、自分の家で)



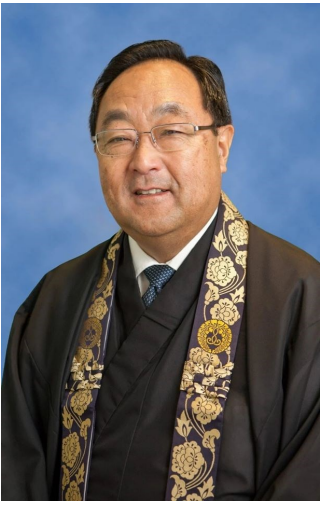
Obon Instructors from BCA temples will be sharing their dances. Sangha members will zoom in from all over the country.

Please register here to receive the zoom link:

<https://forms.gle/93mDAbuVAVrkQvjG6>

questions: cbe@bcahq.org or 510-809-1460

Practical Buddhism and Truth Level Buddhism



All of the great masters and teachers in Buddhism write about and express Buddhism at a very deep, and profound level of truth. However, most of us are more interested in a more practical level of Buddhism. We ask questions like, “Will Buddhism help me to live a happier life? Will Buddhism help me to ease my stress and anxiety? Will Buddhism help me to live a more meaningful life?” We might even ask questions like, “Will Buddhism help me lower my blood pressure? Will Buddhism make me more successful in business?”

We might encounter a “gap” between the profound, truth level of Buddhism, and where we ourselves are at the practical level. How do we bridge that gap?

There are contemporary Buddhist teachers, like the Dalai Lama, who is presenting Buddhism from this very practical side, such as in his bestseller, “The Art of Happiness.” Another writer, Dan Harris, the author of “10% Happier,” is also presenting Buddhism in a very pragmatic manner. Through meditation, he was then led to Buddhism. When someone asked him why he meditates and is into that “Eastern” stuff, he simply answered, “It makes me 10% happier.” His friend said, “Wow, I’d take that.”

I think that Shin Buddhism is behind other contemporary teachers in trying to bridge that gap between the truth level and the practical level of Shin Buddhism. Without seeing some kind of practical benefit for our life, modern man will not be interested or motivated to pursue Buddhism to the “truth” level.

But there are some things that Buddhism “won’t” get you. Buddhism won’t get you a million dollars, but it can make you “feel” like a million dollars, no matter how impoverished you might be. Buddhism won’t cure your cancer, but it can give you the spiritual strength to face, even embrace your cancer, and to accept it, whether you recover from it or not.

I would like to share an example of what it means to encounter the truth level of Shin Buddhism.

Some years ago, we lost a wonderful member at the Orange County Buddhist Church, Scott Morris, to ALS, or Lou Gehrig’s disease. ALS is one of the saddest illnesses to get, because there is no cure for ALS. If you get cancer at least there is some hope of treatment, like radiation, surgery, or chemotherapy. ALS is a very debilitating illness, as it starts first with your feet and legs, paralyzing you, then it moves up your body, to where you cannot use your hands or arms, then you cannot speak, and eventually it takes your life when you can no longer breathe.

When Scott was first diagnosed with ALS, we had just started a support group, called “Living Through Illness.” Scott regularly attended that support group. In one of our sessions, Scott was feeling sad that most likely he would not live long enough to be at his son’s high school graduation, or to walk his daughter down the aisle at her wedding someday. I thought about what I could say to help Scott, so I suggested that, while he was still able to write and use his hands, that he could write a letter to his son that he could read someday when he graduates from high school, and he could write a letter to his daughter that she could read on her wedding day.

Continued next page

Rev. Harada's message continued

One month passed, and at the next gathering of our support group, Scott said, "Sensei, I wrote something." I thought that maybe he had written one of those letters, but instead he shared the following poem.

I have ALS, — and I am grateful.

I am grateful to retire early to be with my family.

I am grateful I have family and friends that are so supportive and hopeful.

I am grateful I can still walk and get around.

When that is gone –

I am grateful I can still use my hands to feed myself.

When that is gone –

I am grateful I can still breathe and laugh and feel.

When that is gone –

I am grateful I had a wonderful life.

And when that is gone –

Namuamidabutsu.

By Scott Morris

For Scott, *Namuamidabutsu* was not just a word or a recitation. It was a deep and profound truth, something that transcended even his own life and death.

That is the point where practical Buddhism and truth level Buddhism merge and become one.

Namuamidabutsu,

Rev. Marvin Harada, Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America

Shotsuki-Hoyo



We will not have the monthly Shotsuki-Hoyo remembrance service at the Temple, but you can remember these people at your home services. According to Temple records and other sources, a total of 17 people passed away during the month of August of their respective year:

David Brady, Sr.

Yuriko Ito

Tomoyoshi "Tom" Kirihara

Yuriko Kirihara

Asao Oki

Tsuneo Otsuki

Joseph Phillip Workman

Robert Hideaki Yamagiwa

Carolyn Sakai

Tokujiro Ikeda

Bobby Gene Jordan

Yoneichi Kirihara

John Francis Munighan

Takashi Osumi

Bob Wheeler

(Mrs.) Fusayo Wakayama

Leo Yukio Kiyohiro



EVERYDAY BUDDHIST

Dear BCA Ministers, Temple Leaders and Sangha Members,

EverydayBuddhist.org is an online educational site sharing contemporary Shin Buddhist teachings and practices for everyday life. Our vision is to provide a path to true happiness.

Launched in 2017, our purpose is to supplement the Dharma studies and services our BCA temples provide, and to reach out to all Buddhist practitioners and new seekers alike. With the COVID19 pandemic and our current stay at home or sheltering in place orders, our temples have shuttered.

EverydayBuddhist.org has over one hundred hours of Shin Buddhist education and Dharma content which is available 24/7. Our response to this crisis is to provide:

New free [Stay at Home](#) course bundle

Frequent blog posts, example: [A Fine Line Between Precaution and Panic](#)

Upcoming livestream "How To" courses and Q&A offerings

Online Dharma support is more important and relevant than ever in the current environment. We invite you to share this opportunity to receive the Dharma through EverydayBuddhist.org by forwarding this flyer to your Sangha members.

Gassho,



Rev. Jon Turner

www.everydaybuddhist.org



SEEN BUDDHIST
SERVICE BOOK

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:

Thank you to Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji for scanning the BCA service book (300+ pages) that we use at the Temple. What a wonderful resource for all to practice while we are at home practicing social distancing. It can be found at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/18Kl4SOj0EyQPmaF9NHeC5m1nLBJL6PDA/view?fbclid=IwAR2aD6JKqj-RQqapONoYXe98r5vKpR0xmBr7AKLpZBjpdA1_WDkPvphfPQQ

See our Facebook page for a direct link to the book as a pdf.