

Spokane Buddhist Temple

Volume 66, 2020 - Issue 12
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

December 2020

*Due to Covid-19,
the Temple building is closed until further notice.*



Services Resume Virtually at Spokane Buddhist Temple

We are now holding virtual services via Zoom. Services are each Sunday through March 14, 2021 at 10:30 am.

The service is also being live-streamed on Facebook. You can view this live stream anytime afterwards. After the service, we will turn off the live feed and you may stay and socialize and discuss the Dharma Talk.

Please email the temple at SpokaneBuddhisttemple@gmail.com or melissajoshinopel@gmail.com to get the Zoom login by email. If you want to participate, but do not know how to use Zoom, please let us know and we will try and help you get it figured out.

Namo Amida Butsu,
Reverend Melissa Opel
MA Chad Donoho
Amanda Goodwin, MA in training



**Order Your Traditional Mochi
For New Years
4 Pieces/Package - By Donation**



*****Order by Sunday December 20th*****

Pick up on Sunday, December 27th - 11:30 am - 1 pm

Reservations Required - Email: SpokaneBuddhistTemple@gmail.com

Fundraising for our Minister's Education



******SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS******





Spokane Buddhist Temple
927 S Perry, Spokane, WA 99202

Order Your Traditional Mochi For New Years

4 Pieces/Order - By Donation (Min. \$5)

*****Order by Sunday December 20th*****

Pick up on Sunday, December 27th - 11:30 am - 1 pm

**Reservations Required - Limited # Being Made
Email: SpokaneBuddhistTemple@gmail.com**

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This is a **Japanese** New Year's Tradition. Around the start of the New Year, many **Japanese** households will take part in the **annual** tradition of **mochitsuki**, the pounding of rice to make mochi. Mochi, also called a rice cake, is pounded sweet rice that can be eaten in a sweet or savory dish.

Some ideas of what to do with your mochi. Crumble or cube this mochi and add it to:

- Miso soup. A typical recipe is 4 cups water or broth, 3 tablespoons miso paste, 8 ounces tofu cubed, sliced green onions for garnish, and (optional) 2 teaspoons dashi granules (dried seaweed & bonito). Boil the broth, add the miso and tofu and cook for 2-3 minutes; add the green onions as garnish.
- Ozoni Soup (a thick soup usually eaten on New Year's Day). Nearly every prefecture in Japan has a different version of Ozoni or Zoni Soup. It could contain tofu, have a miso base, and also contain a variety of meats and vegetables.
- Hot Udon noodle soup (made with thick wheat flour noodles).
- Or you could toast the mochi and top it with a sweet or savory topping, or add it to any other dish.



JUSTONECOOKBOOK.COM

Spokane Buddhist Temple

DECEMBER 2020 VOLUME 66 ISSUE 12



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.



Reverend Melissa Opel and MA Chad Donoho



Amanda Goodwin
Minister's Assistant in training



Rinban Katsuya Kusunoki
our Supervising Minister

Spokane Buddhist Temple Team

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

---Minister Assistants---
Sensei Melissa Opel
MA Chad Donoho
Sensei Paul Vielle (ret.)
Amanda Goodwin (Aspirant)



---2020 Board of Directors---
President Becca Opel
Vice President Chad Donoho
Secretary Shawn Boltz
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Tina Rodeen
Patricia Ohashi
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/



JOYA-E NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE
“Bell of the Last Night”
THURSDAY – DECEMBER 31st - 7 PM
A Family-Friendly Virtual Service

BYOB - Bring Your Own Bell. Have a bell ready and we will call on you to ring your bell once during the Zoom Joya-E Service. Each member of your family can ring the bell once.

Ring out 2020! Ring in 2021! with the “Bell of the Last Night Service,” a cultural, spiritual Buddhist observance called Joya-E. In past years, everyone who attended participated in the ringing of the “calling bell” a portion of 108 times during the service. This year, we will do this virtually, via zoom.

This symbolically rings out the 108 delusions of woman and man and rings in our aspiration to overcome ignorance, greed and anger in the coming year. It’s a way to reflect on the events of 2020 and “move away from our selfish and ego-centered ways.”

Message from the Board President

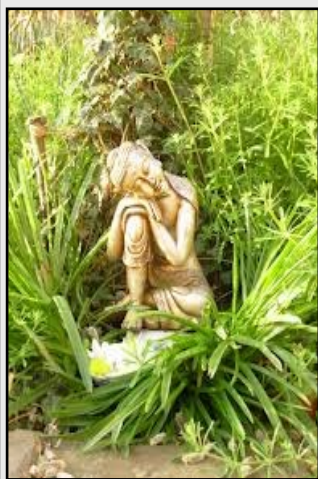
Hi Sangha-

Just wanted to give you all a board update as we aren’t doing our “All Sangha Meetings” during Covid times.

1. Terao Hall has a new tenant who has signed a lease and moved in. We are looking forward to working with Larissa who owns Bee You Organics (already in Perry but looking for a larger space).
2. Be on the look out for board nomination ballot forms that will be in the mail. Please respond through email or snail mail. We have some pretty exciting nominees this year. Grateful to the candidates for their offer of time!
3. It’s PLEDGE TIME! Every Nov we start to have people renew their pledges/membership if they would like to. Because we are such a small temple this information really helps us create a more successful budget for the following year. We have been so supported by our members this year. Covid has been a scary time financially for us but our Sangha continues to show up and support us. Please either email or mail back your responses if you’d like to be continue as a member or become a member.
4. I miss you guys. I miss sitting in the back row and saying hi and squeezing you while you pass by to Oshoko. I’m grateful for the Dharma that reminds me that things will continue to change and we will all see each other again.

Be well friends, Becca

December Shotsuki-Hoyo



On December 6th, as part of our virtual 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 December of their respective year:

Janis Birkel	Skylar Cullitan
Yukiko Evans	Yoshitaka Inouye
George Lapoint	Otokichi Matsuo
Clarence Nelson	Rachael Phillips
Madelyn Isabella Sapp	Patricia Rose Simonet
James Stewart	(Mrs.) Mary Tsugie Terao
Rev. William Shigeo Terao (Founder of SBT)	
(Mrs.) Michiko Tsuchida	(Mrs.) Yuki Tsuji
(Mrs.) Kayo Tsuji	(Mrs.) Yoshiko Uchida

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.

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



Message from Bishop Marvin Harada The Meaning of “Arigatai”

Japanese Buddhism is rich with wonderful words and expressions that are hard to translate into English. Words like Okagesama, thanks to others, or mottainai, which can mean “don’t waste,” are hard to truly translate. There is something lost in translation.

There is another beautiful expression that I would like to share and explain today. It is the word, “Arigatai.” Arigatai literally means “hard to exist,” or “hard to be,” as in “rare” or “wondrous.” Buddhism is pointing to the “rare” and the “wondrous” in our lives that we do not see, or take for granted.

The first thing that is rare and wondrous, is life itself. We all know that to win the lottery, the odds of winning are astronomically difficult. Something like 300 million to one. Not one in a million. 300 million to one. Sometimes I wonder why I buy a ticket when the jackpot gets really big, but I dream of hitting the lottery just like everyone else.

Did you ever think about the odds of you being born into this world? Buddhism describes it this way. Imagine that out in the vast Pacific ocean, there is one particular sea turtle. This sea turtle comes to the surface only once in a hundred years. Imagine also, that on the surface of the vast, Pacific ocean, there is one particular piece of driftwood, that has a knot hole in it. Buddhism says that the odds of our being born into this world is compared to the following: What if this one particular sea turtle, when it surfaces once in a hundred years, just happens to hit that one particular piece of driftwood floating out on that vast ocean, AND if it also happens to poke its head through the knot-hole of that piece of driftwood, those are the odds of us being born into this world. Makes hitting the lottery of 300 million to one an even better bet doesn’t it?

But think about it. We all know that we have been born from our parents. And our parents have parents so we have four grandparents, and they have parents, so we have eight great grandparents. According to the Japanese poet, Mitsuo Aida, if you count back 10 generations, there are 1024 people directly responsible for you coming into this world. If you count back 20 generations, that number becomes over one million people. I think in math it is called exponential, or something like that. It is 2, to the power of 20. Each generation the number doubles. Two parents, four grandparents, eight great grandparents, and on and on. 20 generations before us, that adds up to over one million people.

To have been born into this world is arigatai, it is the most rare and wondrous thing that could happen.



(Continued on the next page)

The second thing that Buddhism tries to awaken us to, that is rare and wondrous, is to encounter the Dharma, to meet with the teachings. That too, we take for granted, just like our life. This pandemic that we are going through, has positive sides to it, believe it or not. Don't we all miss just going to the temple, attending a service, listening to a Dharma talk, seeing all of our friends, having a cup of coffee and a donut after service? Doesn't it seem like eons ago? Now that we cannot meet, we really appreciate what we had. Now, we have to find new ways to listen to the Dharma, through the internet, reading books, or by calling the Dial the Dharma toll free number.

To encounter Buddhism is just as arigatai, rare and wondrous, as having been born as a human being. It took 2500 years for the Dharma to reach our shores. The Dharma has been transmitted by land and by sea, by countless individuals before us. Now we have to go into the teachings deeply, receive them into our hearts and minds, and then transmit them for future generations. Arigatai, arigatai, arigatai.

Namuamidabutsu, Rev. Marvin Harada, Bishop



BUDDHA DHARMA 24-7

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:

- More free content for everyone**
- Frequent blog posts**
- Livestream "How To" courses and Q&A offerings**

Online Dharma support is more important than ever during these stressful times. Come check us out.



EVERYDAY BUDDHIST

www.everydaybuddhist.org

BCA J.A.M.S.

Jodo Shinshu Artists & Musicians Showcase

-Calling All Musicians, Singers, Magicians, Dancers, Poets...

-Perform in the 1st annual BCA Youth Concert.

A fun and exciting virtual event for everyone to enjoy!!!

-Submit your 3-5 min. audition video at the link below (due Nov 1st)

-Questions: email "Koichi" bkmizushima@bcahq.org

EVENT DATE:

1:00PM PST

DONATIONS APPRECIATED

**JAN10
2021**

Audition: <https://forms.gle/UjsjBkAZChbXrKYT8>

GO TO BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org

For notices of upcoming online events and education from the Buddhist Churches of America.

We are appreciative of the Sangha members who have donated or paid their dues since we closed in March.

DONORS AND DUES PAYING MEMBERS SINCE AUGUST



Mary Ahmad	Michelle Madeen
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Knona Liddell	Jun Yugawa
Kendra Cole	Joyce Terao
Linda Ishiguro	Judith Pescador
Judith Broverman and Marji Mitchell	

Thank you to everyone that donated for the New Roof.
Your donations and Ramen Fest purchases helped pay a portion of the
cost of the new roof.

Drive by and see our beautiful new roof.



SAVE THESE DATES!

2021 CBE VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

JANUARY ~ APRIL

All events listed in Pacific Time.

<p>SATURDAY JANUARY 9 11 am - 1 pm Register online</p>	<p>SHIN BUDDHISM AND SCIENCE FICTION</p> <p>Speakers: Rev. Harry Bridge Buddhist Church of Oakland Rev. Jon Turner Orange County Buddhist Church & Rev. Landon Yamaoka Palo Alto Buddhist Temple</p> <p><i>Venture into dharma explorations inspired by science fiction films.</i></p>
<p>SUNDAY JANUARY 10 1 pm</p>	<p>BCA YOUTH CONCERT! JODO SHINSHU ARTISTS & MUSICIANS SHOWCASE (JAMS)</p> <p><i>Enjoy a variety of performances by BCA youth.</i></p>
<p>SATURDAY JANUARY 30 5 pm - 6:30 pm Register online</p>	<p>RELEVANT AMERICAN BUDDHISTS (RAB)</p> <p>Speaker: Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka Musashino University</p> <p><i>Who and what were the RAB? Stories from BCA's 1970s program for young adults.</i></p>
<p>SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6 10 am - 11:30 am Register online</p>	<p>EVERY DAY BUDDHISM BOOK TALK "DISCOVERING BUDDHISM IN EVERYDAY LIFE"</p> <p>Speaker/author: Rev. Marvin Harada BCA Bishop</p> <p><i>Listen to the stories behind this collection of heartwarming essays.</i></p>
<p>SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13 11 am - 1 pm Register online</p>	<p>"HONEN AS RELIGIOUS REVOLUTIONARY: THE PERSON WHO DEFINED THE BUDDHISM WE IDENTIFY AS JAPANESE TODAY."</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Mark Blum University of California at Berkeley</p>
<p>SATURDAY MARCH 6 11 am - 1 pm Register online</p>	<p>ZEN & SHIN BUDDHISM - PART 1 "LETTING GO: A ZEN & SHIN APPROACH TO LIBERATION"</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Duncan Ryuken Williams Author, <i>AMERICAN SUTRA</i></p>
<p>SATURDAY MARCH 13 11 am - 1 pm Register online</p>	<p>ZEN & SHIN BUDDHISM - - PART 2 <i>(Please note change of date)</i> "ZEN PRACTICE"</p> <p>Speaker: Rev. Anton Tenkei Coppens Roshi Zen River Temple, Netherlands</p>
<p>SATURDAY APRIL 10 5 pm - 6:30 pm Register online</p>	<p>SOCIALLY ENGAGED BUDDHISM</p> <p>Speakers: Prof. Mitsuya Dake Ryukoku University Rev. Kiyo Kuwahara Berkeley Buddhist Temple</p>
<p>SATURDAY APRIL 17 11 am - 1 pm Register online</p>	<p>3 BISHOPS: "WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF BUDDHISM IN THE WEST?"</p> <p>Rev. Marvin Harada Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America Rev. Eric Matsumoto Bishop, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Rev. Tatsuya Aoki Bishop, Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada</p>

(v8)

VISIT BCA WEBSITE FOR UPDATES: FLYER, FREE REGISTRATION LINKS & TO DONATE (OPTIONAL)
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**