

Spokane Buddhist Temple

Volume 66, 2019 - Issue 7
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

July 2020

We are closed until further notice. See these pages:

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Until further notice, the Spokane Buddhist Temple is closed for services and all other activities, due to concerns for the well-being of our Sangha.

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. Many 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

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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
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/



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.

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.

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.



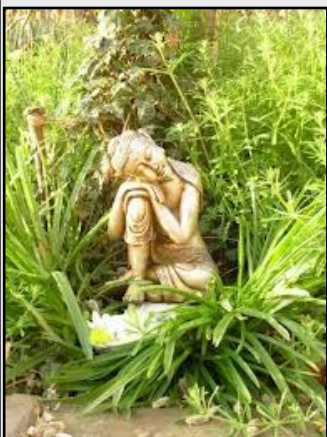
Join in by emailing Sensei Opel at Melissajoshinopel@gmail.com
You'll be notified of the Dharma Discussion login by email.



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.

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 14 people passed away during the month of July of their respective year:

Shelby Craig
Paul "Skip" Glenn
Teruichi Kayahara
(Mrs) Katsuko 'Katie' Nakagawa
Takeo "Dan" Terao
Osamu "Paul" Yamagiwa
Sutematsu "Pat" Uneno

Jan Gauthier
(Mrs) Fumiko Heyamoto
Taki Mayeda
Kasue Ogohara
Sutematsu Uyeno
Jerry Potvin
Edith Landfried



Dear Sangha,

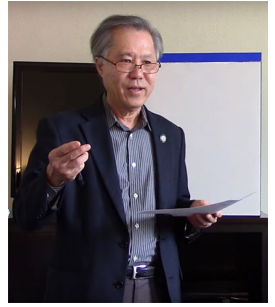
After much thought, consideration and discussion, the consensus for the upcoming Oshoko offering, that was set to begin in July, has been canceled. In some ways, it wasn't an easy decision to make, and in other ways, it was a no-brainer. But what changed? For me, the biggest change was we had not moved into Phase 3 and our cases of Covid-19 are rising in Spokane County. Also, I learned that the smoke from incense carries Covid-19 particles in the air longer. It was a great lesson in the ever-changing expectations of where we are now. I think we can all agree that this pandemic has tested our desire to control, make plans, and feel comfortable. The lessons of impermanence, interconnectedness, and attachments too are a constant.

About a month ago, Becca came home from the grocery store and I was so disappointed that many of the items I had asked for were not in her bags. At first, I thought she had been forgetful in getting key ingredients for meals and I had already had a long day. When I told her I didn't feel thought about, she reminded me that things were sold out and we can't just have what we want right now. I cried. Not because I would miss out on a sandwich I wanted to make, or a beverage I wanted to drink, it was the fact that life was and is so different than what I am used to and it feels chaotic and unknown. Perhaps this is why our experience with the Dharma is the most important feature to the teachings. Our experience allows us to put the teachings into our own perspective. It's a fact that items were sold out, but it was also true that despite that being a completely rational reason, I cried and felt like there was some mistake made. I filtered it through my own thoughts and feelings. It took a while for me to accept that when Becca came home with the groceries, there might not be everything I asked for or needed at the time—I'm sure those of you who were out of toilet paper or dangerously close to it can relate. Sometimes it takes a while for the truth to sink in and I have to wrestle with it for it to become true for me. How we wrestle with the Dharma is up to each of us. When I am confronted by things I don't like, don't want to hear, or maybe don't understand, I have to remember that the teachings aren't wrong, and I am not broken either. I need to figure out where it sits in my life, what it means to me, what parts of my thinking it challenges, etc.

When it came to canceling Oshoko, the teachings reminded me that what I do affects others, and that thought can work to both reopen the Temple or not reopen the Temple. Ultimately, the decision I came to was filtered through my understanding of the science being offered to us right now, but the science can change. In that same regards, as we deal with Covid-19, the science will continue to change and how we deal with protecting each other will also change. In that way, we are like the science and laws. We will change as we evolve and receive new information. But the Dharma is steadfast and does not change. It is a constant. What changes is how we interpret our practice. So, in this uncertain time, it is okay to take each day as it comes and try to figure out where I am in understanding the world around me. I can change my mind as new information becomes available and I can be sad or angry when I don't like the new information too. But keep yourself grounded in the dharma, remember to say nembutsu and keep practicing gratitude and deep listening. These are the things that are true and real in our uncertain world.

Namo Amida Butsu
In Gassho,
Rev. Melissa Opel

New book by Reverend Tanaka:
***Jewels: An Introduction to American Buddhism for Youth, Scouts and the Young at Heart (With a Bit of Humor)* by Kenneth Kenshin Tanaka**



Message from Kenneth Tanaka:

- 1) It is published by BDK America (Society for the Promotion of Buddhism). I chose this publisher because my interest is to share the teachings, rather than making a profit from the book. <https://www.bdkamerica.org>
- 2) The pdf version of the book can now be downloaded here for free:
<https://www.bdkamerica.org/book/jewels-introduction-buddhism-youth-scouts-and-young-heart>
- 3) Up to 5 printed books will be available around June and free of charge when requested by temples, schools and other organizations. Please visit the same site in June.

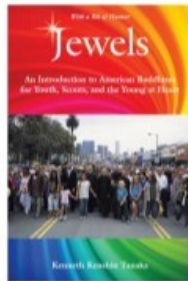
Northwest District Presents:

**Passing the Torch to the Next Generation: Lessons to be learned from
Jewels: An Introduction to American Buddhism for Youth, Scouts and the Young at Heart
(With a Bit of Humor)**

with Guest Speaker

Prof. Kenneth K. Tanaka

Professor Emeritus of Musashino University in Tokyo, Japan, and a Jodo Shinshu priest; author of *Ocean: An Introduction to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in America*, and a co-editor of *The Faces of Buddhism in America* and other books.



**Zoom Lecture on Wednesday, July 22, at
7:30 PM**

Registration required for password access. Register at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZltcumuqzwwEt3Y2D9CmPDWK_FI4cFs29YK

**Admission is free but we kindly ask all donations be made to
your local Jodo Shinshu temple**

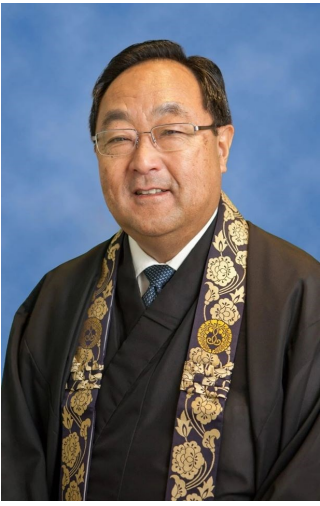
For more information please email: ysobtport1and060117@gmail.com

4) And for individuals, it will be available for purchase at a very modest price of \$6/book, which includes cost of shipping to continental U.S. Very reasonable!

It's my dream that this book can help Buddhist youth to gain greater confidence in their religion, and give any younger persons (whether they are Buddhist or not) a chance to take interest in Buddhism. It's good for adults too, which is why the title includes "for the Young at Heart"!

I am especially pleased that I was able to sprinkle humor into the book. Chapter 11 is all dedicated to humor!

*****REGISTER ASAP
only 100 registrations*****



The Light from a Star

Rev. Marvin Harada, Bishop

For many years I had the great fortune of serving with Rev. Akio Miyaji, who is now retired and living in Japan. Often in his funeral sermons, Rev. Miyaji used to share a true story about an experience he had many years ago while serving at the Seattle Betsuin. While serving there, he had to conduct a very sad and tragic funeral for a young Japanese couple who were both killed in a car accident while traveling to go skiing. This couple had a young son, only 7 or 8 years of age. The boy survived the accident, but the parents didn't. After the funeral service, the little boy went up to Rev. Miyaji and asked him the question, "Where did my parents go? Where are my parents now?" Such a sad and difficult question to answer to a young child who had lost both of his parents.

Rev. Miyaji could have given a doctrinal answer like they are in Nirvana, or they are in the Pure Land, but instead, he took the little boy outside of the temple, and he pointed up in the night sky. He pointed to a very bright star shining in the evening sky. He said to the boy, "Your parents are there. They are that bright star. When you miss your parents, just look up at the shining star and you will be with them." The boy seemed to be consoled. He returned to Japan to be raised by his uncle.

For years and years, every New Years, Rev. Miyaji used to receive a Season's greeting card from that boy, who had grown up to be a young man. He used to write in his card, "Sensei, I have never forgotten that lesson that you gave me that night at my parents' funeral."

When I attended college at the University of Oregon, I took a class on Astronomy, as an elective. It was a fascinating class in which we learned about planets and stars and galaxies. I remember learning that many of the stars that we see at night, those stars have actually died, but because they are so far away from us, light years away, that we continue to receive the light from a star that has actually died long ago.

We might lose dear loved ones, but they too continue to give us light, like a star that has already perished, but continues to illuminate the sky.

Thich Nhat Hanh, the great Vietnamese Buddhist master, also gives a similar teaching. In one of his books, he talks about the light of a candle. A candle burns vertically, and we think that when the wax is gone, and the flame has been extinguished that the "life" of the candle is also gone. But Thich Nhat Hanh says, "No, the candle, as it has been burning, is giving out light and warmth. Even when the flame is gone, the light and warmth that the candle has been giving, continues to spread out into the world.

What a beautiful image that is for us as we live in a world that often becomes dark and cold. The light of the Buddha, the light of the Dharma, the light of wisdom, is an unobstructed light. There is nowhere that it cannot reach. There is no one or nothing that does not receive or is embraced in that light. We may not see it, or be aware of it at all times, but it reaches everywhere, even into the darkness of my own heart.

If we come to receive, to encounter that light in our lives, then like a candle, our life too will give light and warmth to others. May we come to receive, to encounter the light of the Buddha, the light of Namamidabutsu, and may that light be shared with all beings.

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

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



SHIN 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.