

# Spokane Buddhist Temple

Volume 66, 2019 - Issue 3  
This newsletter is published monthly by  
the Spokane Buddhist Temple  
927 S Perry Street  
Spokane, WA 99202



Everyone is welcome to attend all  
activities and services. Visit us online at:  
[www.spokanebuddhisttemple.org](http://www.spokanebuddhisttemple.org)  
email: [spokanebuddhisttemple@gmail.com](mailto:spokanebuddhisttemple@gmail.com)  
[www.Facebook.com/SpokaneBuddhistTemple](http://www.Facebook.com/SpokaneBuddhistTemple)

## Calendar of Events

March 2020

- Mar 1st Sun 10:30 am Sangha Service & Dharma School  
11:30 am Volunteer How To  
12:00 pm REC Meeting
- Mar 4th Wed 6:00 pm **Buddha & Beer** at Bennidito's Brew Pub (see Pg 6)
- Mar 8th Sun 9:00 am **Shoshinge Chanting Meditation**  
10:30 am Shotsuki Hoyo Service & Dharma School  
12:00 pm Board Meeting
- Mar 9th Mon 6:30 pm South Hill Library talk by Sensei Opel (see Pg 4)  
"Is Buddhism A Religion?"
- Mar 15th Sun 10:30 am **Ohigan Service with Rev. Miyamura** (see Pg 3 )  
10:45 am Dharma School  
11:30 pm Potluck Lunch  
12:00 pm "The Only Dumb Question is the One You  
**Didn't Ask, So Ask Now**" discussion with Rev. Miyamura
- Mar 21st Sat 10:00 am **Forza Coffee Meet Up**, 2829 E 29th Ave (see Pg 6)
- Mar 22nd Sun 10:30 am Service & Dharma School  
12:00 pm Dharma Exchange
- Mar 28th Sat 2:00 pm **Shin & A Show - Godzilla** (See Pg 5)
- Mar 29th Sun 10:30 am Service with guest speaker Patricia Robinson, Volunteer  
Program Manager from Meals on Wheels  
10:45 am Dharma School



### WHAT IS THE BOARD WORKING ON?

2020 Budget  
New building signage & a new website  
Volunteer Coordinators were assigned

Board President Becca Opel says: The Dharma School led the service project on February 23rd, and found it to be a real success. It's something they'd like to continue to do. Shout out to Aiko for running it! If anyone wants to find a place to give "dana" to, reach out to Becca Opel or Shawn Boltz, who are the volunteer coordinators.

# Spokane Buddhist Temple

MARCH 2020

VOLUME 66 ISSUE 3



**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.

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◆ **GET THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL**

**We no longer mail out the newsletter.**

IT IS EMAILED IN COLOR. Email:

SpokaneBuddhistTemple@gmail.com

◆ **For the latest Temple Information**

**VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:**

[www.facebook.com/SpokaneBuddhistTemple](http://www.facebook.com/SpokaneBuddhistTemple)

◆ Visit the **Buddhist Churches of America** Website:

[www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org](http://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  
Secretary Shawn Boltz  
Treasurer Lisa Geiss  
KNona Liddell  
Tina Rodeen  
Patricia Ohashi  
Curtis Cooley  
Celeste Sterrett

Have questions? Contact  
Becca Opel  
509-294-1461  
[alwaysalotus@gmail.com](mailto:alwaysalotus@gmail.com)

## DHARMA SCHOOL

We need additional teachers. Please talk to a Minister Assistant if you are interested in 1 Sunday/month.

*Thank you Aiko, Jacqui, Marji & Harumi*

*Welcome Amanda, our new Dharma School volunteer teacher!!*



## Ohigan Service

Sunday - March 15, 2020 - 10:30 AM

**Guest Speaker: Reverend Ron Miyamura**  
From the Midwest Buddhist Temple in Chicago



Ohigan honors the Buddhist notion of crossing over to the Other Shore (i.e., Enlightenment), away from This Shore of impermanence, stress and dissatisfaction, and is traditionally observed during the Spring and Fall equinoxes, because the weather is more pleasant and people have more time to rest and reflect.

Shakyamuni Buddha, the historical Buddha, was born in this world, on this shore of impermanence. Observing profoundly the sorrow of this world of illusion, he reached that distant shore of nirvana. He showed all humankind the means of crossing the ocean of darkness to the realm of light on that shore. These are called the Six Paramitas to nirvana. The Six Paramitas serve as a bridge spanning this wide ocean; they are Charity, Morality, Patience, Right Effort, Meditation, and Wisdom. These constitute the universal way for humans to attain ultimate peace, but it is not easy for us to keep them in mind and carry them out, because we are busy living and working everyday. For this reason, we set aside a special day twice a year, in Spring and Fall, so that we may reconsider these teachings, reflect upon ourselves, and pay respect to the innumerable people from the past to the present who have come into our lives and in some way or other influenced it to be better.

\*\*\*POTLUCK LUNCH\*\*\*AFTER SERVICE\*\*\*

**"The Only Dumb Question is the One You  
Didn't Ask, So Ask Now"**

**Interactive Discussion with Rev. Miyamura**

Sunday - March 15, 2020 - Noon

Stay after the Potluck for an interactive discussion with Rev. Miyamura & hear about his Temple in Chicago.



Rev. Ron Miyamura is the current resident minister at the Midwest Buddhist Temple. He also serves as supervising minister of the Cleveland Buddhist Temple and the Twin Cities Buddhist Association (Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN). He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley and attended the pre-ministerial candidate version of the Institute of Buddhist Studies, before going to Ryukoku University in Kyoto, Japan where he earned his master's degree in Shin Buddhist Studies. He received his ministerial ordination in 1973.

From 1973 to 1975, Rev. Miyamura served as associate minister at the Midwest Buddhist Temple with the late Rev. Gyodo Kono, the temple's founding minister. After Rev. Kono's sudden passing in 1975, Rev. Miyamura served as MBT's resident minister until 1981, when he resigned from the active ministry. During his official absence from active ministry, Rev. Miyamura continued ministering the Twin Cities Sangha and continued to assist Midwest Buddhist Temple ministers. In 2009, Rev. Miyamura became the part-time minister of the Cleveland Buddhist Temple. In 2010, he became the supervising minister of Midwest Buddhist Temple and then, in 2011, MBT's full-time resident minister. Rev. Miyamura and his wife, Elaine, live on the North Side of Chicago.

## *Shotsuki-Hoyo*



The monthly Shotsuki-Hoyo remembrance service will be held on March 8th. According to Temple records and other sources, a total of 20 people passed away during the month of March of their respective year:

Eileen Kiyoko Tanaka	Jeffrey Lee Pierce
Wilson Burdett	Iku Horiuchi
Shoichi Kayahara	Kengo Kato
(Mrs.) Asano Kirihara	(Mrs.) Tayeko Kayahara
Charlie Nakanishi	Yoshito Norisada
(Mrs) Marguerite Peterson	Joe Takeshita
Kuhei Tschida	Toshiko Uyeno
Kana Yamamoto	George Heyamoto
Fumi Hara	Grayce Hattori
Mrs. Kiuyo Osumi	Bruce Jerial Waters

## **Come Support Sensei Melissa Opel**

**who is speaking at the South Hill Library, 3324 S. Perry St.**

Monday, March 9, 2020, 6:30 – 7:30pm

### **“Is Buddhism A Religion?”**

This talk is part of the City Library’s Religions & Philosophies Series. Reverend Melissa Opel from the Spokane Buddhist Temple will discuss whether Buddhism is a religion or not and outline core beliefs and practices.



## Your 2020 Board of Directors (with Minister Assistants)



Sensei Melissa Opel, Treasurer Lisa Geiss, Board President Becca Opel, Secretary Shawn Boltz, Curtis Cooley, Knona Liddell, Patricia Ohashi, Celeste Sterrett, Minister Assistant & Vice President Chad Donoho, Minister Assistant Eric Kerkove, and Tina Rodeen (not present that day)

## Mark your Calendars for 2020

4/1	6 pm	Buddha & Beer (Location TBA)	
4/5	11 am	Volunteer How To	
4/5	12:30 pm	Sakura Sakura Cherry Blossom Dance Class	
4/16	7 pm	Get Lit! is bringing two Japanese-American authors to our Temple plus a Photographic Exhibit	
4/18	10 am	Coffee Meet up at Forza	
4/18	TBA	Workshop with Reverend Akahoshi	
4/19	10:30 am	Hanamatsuri Service with Reverend Akahoshi	
4/26	12 pm	All Sangha Meeting downstairs	
5/3	11 am	Volunteer How To	
5/6	6 pm	Buddha & Beer (location TBA)	6/20 Temple Rummage Sale
5/13	6 pm	Welcome To the Spokane Buddhist Temple Class	7/11 Make Senbei
5/16	10 am	Coffee Meet up at Forza	7/18 South Perry Street Fair
5/17	10:30 am	Gotan-E Service	August Annual Obon Festival
5/31, 6/7 & 6/14		Introduction to Shin Buddhism Classes	



## SHIN & A SHOW

March 28th - 2 pm - Temple downstairs - Showing: GOJIRA (Godzilla)  
Hosted by MA Eric Kerkove



The roaring granddaddy of all monster movies. It's also a remarkably humane and melancholy drama, made in Japan at a time when the country was reeling from nuclear attack and H-bomb testing in the Pacific. Made in 1954, 96 minutes (black and white), in Japanese (with English subtitles).

## FEBRUARY SERVICE PROJECT

By Justin Kropff

On Sunday, February 23rd, the Dharma school at Spokane Buddhist Temple carried out an event built around 'Dana' (giving) to the homeless centered around downtown Spokane. After collecting donations from the Sangha in January and February, care packages were assembled to hand out to people in need. The packages consisted of hygiene essentials, warm clothing, back packs and snack foods. We had a great group of volunteers assembled to put these items together and hand out in teams around town. The focus was to find people on the streets outside of the shelter environments to give kind words and a little boost to their day.

Aiko Terao (one of our Dharma School teachers) was the organizer for the event and has experience working with community volunteer organizations that commit their cause to positive action for the forgotten population of our city. One of the ways that we can engage people who are in difficult circumstances is to simply acknowledge that their struggle is seen and recognized. A large part of the Dharma message is compassion and empathy. This event with the Dharma school was intended to embody that practice with action.



After assembling care packages, volunteers went out in small groups to hand out and engage with folks that we all see on the streets. The day wasn't so much about the items we were handing out, but about sharing the human condition.



We all see people looking for help every day. We see them on street corners with cardboard signs. They catch our glance sleeping in tiny covered spaces and doorways on our way to wherever we're going. Everyday we side-eye the less fortunate as we carry on with our daily lives, perhaps taking a moment reflect on how grateful we are for our own circumstances.

We can't fix everyone's problems with a few items, but we can give a little brightness in someone's day that is otherwise filled with grey. Thank you to everyone who donated and participated in this project to engage some folks in our community who are otherwise all too easily passed over and ignored.

## Spokane Buddhist Temple

927 S. Perry Street

Spokane, WA 99202-3462

Welcome New Members:

Amanda Goodwin, Ryan Camparella,  
Gerald Robinson, Brian Tennant, and  
Heather Beeman with MA's Eric  
Kerkove, Chad Donoho and Sensei  
Melissa Opel



Congratulations! to Spokane Buddhist Temple Board Member Celeste Sterrett who was re-elected as a "Director At Large" to the BCA National Board in February. We appreciate your dedication to this Temple and the BCA.

### **BUDDHA & BEER**

Join Sensei Opel on Wed. March 4th at 6 pm at Bennidito's Brew Pub  
1909 E Sprague, Spokane

Come have a casual discussion about Buddhism. All are Welcome!!



Get together with other folks for a chat  
10 am - Saturday - March 21st  
At Forza Coffee

Lincoln Heights Shopping Center, 2829 E 29th Ave, Spokane. Join Temple Board & Minister Assistant members at Forza Coffee on 29th in Lincoln Heights for an informal chat. All are welcome!

### **Other Groups Using our Space at the Spokane Buddhist Temple**

#### **Passage Meditation Group - Tuesdays**

More information: call Mary Naber: 509-570-6876. Also, "Learn to Meditate" on the web: <http://www.easwaran.org/introductory-passage-meditation-course-introduction.html>. No meditation Christmas & New Year's Eve.

#### **Keiko Von Holt & Sumi-E - Thursdays**

Keiko teaches the Japanese watercolor art of Sumi-E at our temple. Please contact her if you are interested in her classes. Email: keikossumie@aol.com.

**Japanese Language Class For Absolute Beginners - Fridays:** Contact Harumi if you are interested in a Japanese language class - [creativemind1111@yahoo.com](mailto:creativemind1111@yahoo.com) or text 509-599-3678