

Spokane Buddhist Temple

Volume 66, 2019 - Issue 5

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
email: spokanebuddhisttemple@gmail.com
www.Facebook.com/SpokaneBuddhistTemple

May 2020

While We Are Closed

We are grateful for the volunteers who have been maintaining the Temple and for the dues that members have been sending since we closed. We are awaiting word from the state and the BCA about when to re-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).

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 |



Join Sensei Melissa Opel 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.

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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---
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Have questions? Contact
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Transcending Worldly Wishes



We often chant the Juseige in our services. I love the first line of the Juseige. It goes, GA GON CHO SE GAN. Let me explain this one line from the Juseige.

To begin with, we have to know the context of the Juseige. The Juseige is a short song, or poem, that appears in the Larger Sutra of Immeasurable Life, one of the three main sutras of Shin Buddhism. The sutras are the sermons of Shakyamuni Buddha. In this particular sutra, Shakyamuni Buddha tells a profound story to express his innermost heart of enlightenment. The hero of the story, the “Luke Skywalker,” if you will, of the Larger Sutra, is a Bodhisattva by the name of Dharmakara. Shakyamuni Buddha expresses his own heart through the fictional character of Dharmakara.

In the line, GA GON CHO SE GAN – Dharmakara expresses his deepest wish to first become a Buddha, an enlightened one, and second, as a Buddha, to liberate, or “save” all beings from a life of suffering, from the world of samsara.

This wish is something that transcends worldly wishes. In our unenlightened life, we have many “worldly” wishes. We might wish for a new car, or a bigger home, or maybe to win the lottery. Others might wish for their dream job, to meet the love of their life, or maybe to make a hole in one. There is nothing wrong with those wishes. We all have them at various phases of our life.

But Dharmakara does not ask for such worldly wishes. Dharmakara specifically expresses a wish that “transcends,” that is “beyond” such worldly wishes. What does this mean?

Right now, with the Coronavirus, doctors, nurses, and medical staff are on the “front lines” of the battle in the war against this virus. Daily, they risk their own lives, exposing themselves to potentially getting it themselves, but yet they work to save the lives of others.

Let’s say that there are two nurses going to work at the hospital, Nurse A and Nurse B. Nurse A became a nurse because the pay was good and there was a demand for nurses. Nurse A goes to the hospital and thinks, “They give me too many patients to take care of. These doctors are too demanding. I should be getting paid more for all that I am doing. Gee, isn’t it quitting time yet? Oh no, four more hours on my shift.”

Nurse B, on the contrary, became a nurse because of a deep wish to heal the sick. Nurse B dives into work, helping this patient and that patient, helping this doctor and that doctor, working tirelessly throughout the day. Finally, at the end of the day, Nurse B looks at their watch and thinks, “Is it time to go home already? But there is still so many patients to care for. I will work a little more and then go home.”

Thankfully, we have many nurses and doctors like Nurse B, for whom their work is not just a job, but they are fulfilling their deep wish of life, to heal the sick, to care for the sick, to save lives.

Having a deep wish for your life can apply to any occupation. Right now, so many occupations are so important in keeping all of us safe and alive. Farmers aren’t raising crops just for the money, but they are feeding the world. Truck drivers are making it possible for us to receive the food in the stores. Store workers risk their lives to keep food and supplies on the shelves for all of us.

May we find our own deepest wish of life, something that transcends worldly wishes. When we discover that, then our life is always meaningful, always gratifying, and always fulfilling.

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

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, so if you find items you'd like to donate, we will be happy to store them for you once the quarantine is over.



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/

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/18KI4SOj0EyQPmaF9NHcC5m1nLBJL6PDA/view?fbclid=IwAR2aD6JKqj-RQqapONoYXe98r5vKpR0xmBr7AKLpZBjpdA1_WDkPvphfPQQ

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

See our **Facebook** page for news from the Temple leadership and postings from other Temples.

PHOTOS FROM YOUR SANGHA

We asked the Sangha to send photos of what they have been doing during the Stay-At-Home time.



Board President Becca and Sensei Melissa Opel: We've been doing yard work, working from home, and checking in at the temple.

Jeremy Philips: (1) Just another day wearing Covid PPE at the hospital (2) Trying on our new "going shopping" masks (3) Kat with a teenage chicken in the new coop. Jeremy is a Respiratory Therapist in the Covid-19 ICU.



Mary Naber: She ran the Bloomsday Course on Sunday May 5th, and has been sewing masks. She says "Missing you all. Love, Mary"



Amanda Goodwin: First let me say that our family has been missing temple and the Sangha immensely! It was great to see everyone on the Zoom Meeting.

We've been having fires in the backyard. Lots of good Buddhist reading! I made index cards with different gathas written by Thich Nhat Hahn for me to put up around our house. I took advantage of the extra quaran-

tine down time and finished my schooling as a Meditation and Mindfulness Teacher. We've also celebrated both boy's birthdays on quarantine! We officially have a 9 year old and 1 year old.

Lena & Curtis Cooley: Playing Catan with the family. Dressing up and watching our favorite Ren Faire artist play a virtual set.



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 16 people passed away during the month of May of their respective year:



Gunemon Fujita
 Dick Imada
 Hatsutarō Kajita
 Yoichi Oba
 (Mrs.) Chizuko Shegenobu
 (Mrs.) Toyo Sugikawa
 Toshio Uyeji
 Frida Kohl Oldsen

Paul Noboru Gow
 (Mrs.) Fumiko Itano
 (Mrs.) Sayoko Oba
 (Mrs.) Taneyo Sato
 Tatsuhei Sugikawa
 (Mrs.) Fumiko Takasugi
 (Mrs.) Sadako Yamamoto
 Satoshi "Sat" Terror