

Spokane Buddhist Temple

Volume 68, 2021 - Issue 11
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

November 2022



November Service Schedule - 10:30 am

- 11/6 Sangha Service
- 11/13 Shotsukihoyo Service
- 11/20 Sangha Service
- 11/27 Sangha Service

Fun Events in November

- Wed 11/9 - 6 pm Buddha & Beer with Reverend Opel
- Wed 11/16 - 6 pm Book Study Group with Reverend Opel @ Temple
- Sun 11/6 - 12:30 pm - Bon Odori Dance Class - See Pg 5
- Sat 11/12 - 2:00 pm - Bon Odori Performance - See Pg 5

Email SpokaneBuddhistTemple@gmail.com to get the weekly emails. Most services will be live on Facebook.

BUDDHA & BEER - See Page 4

Join Reverend Melissa Opel on **Wed. November 9th at 6 pm** at
Lumberbeard Brewing, 25 E 3rd Street, Spokane

Buddhist BOOK STUDY GROUP - See Page 4

Join Reverend Melissa Opel on **Wed. November 16th at 6 pm**
Downstairs at the Temple for a Buddhist Book Study Group

We will be asking for your
2023 Pledge Form
Soon

The dues and donations you contribute throughout the year keep the lights on, support our minister's education, and allow us to continue to spread the Dharma. We could not do it without your generosity.

Also, **Board Member Elections** are coming up. Watch for your ballot if you are a dues paying member.

Spokane Buddhist Temple

NOVEMBER 2022 VOLUME 68 ISSUE 11



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 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.



Left to right:
MA Chad Donoho,
MA Eric Kerkove,
Rinban Katsuya Kusunoki,
Reverend Melissa Opel,
MAA Amanda Goodwin

Rinban Katsuya Kusunoki
our Supervising Minister



Spokane Buddhist Temple Team

--Supervising Minister--

Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki
Seattle Betsuin

---Minister Assistants---

Reverend Melissa Opel
MA Chad Donoho
MA Eric Kerkove
Sensei Paul Vielle (ret.)
Amanda Goodwin (Aspirant)

---2022 Board of Directors---

Chad Donoho, President
Joe Bracco, Vice President
Shawn Boltz, Secretary
Tina Rodeen, Treasurer
Becca Opel
Susan Hales
KNona Liddell
Ryan Campanella
Amanda Goodwin

Mari Haworth, Bookkeeper

Have questions: Email Chad at
bronzetiger23@yahoo.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/

Congratulations
Reverend Melissa Opel
For receiving Kyoshi Ordination

We appreciate all of the hard work and time it took for you to earn this honor.



Reverend Opel (far left) with some of the other Kyoshi Reverends

Reverend Opel said, “I’m excited to announce that my classmates and I received word today on our Kyoshi Kyoshu and I have passed! It made for a stressful summer but am grateful to all who were a part of this process. There are simply too many people to list that were of great support but I want to especially thank my wife, Becca Opel for all she did to make space and walk alongside me, my supervising minister Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki for help in preparing, as well as Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara for his hard work making this possible to happen in the US, Buddhist Churches of America and our Mother Temple, Nishi Hongwanji. For each moment in life, we can always look back and see the amazing efforts of our friends, family and communities supporting us and cheering us on. I am grateful and lucky to be part of a wonderful, loving Buddhist Tradition.”



(Reverend Opel, on her way to California, the first time Kyoshi has ever been held in the U.S.)

BUDDHA & BEER



Join Reverend Melissa Opel on **Wed. November 9th at 6 pm**
Lumberbeard Brewery
25 E 3rd Street, Spokane

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

They also have a food menu and serve wine, hard seltzers, hard ciders, and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages

BOOK STUDY & GROUP



Join Reverend Melissa Opel on **Wed. November 16th at 6 pm**
Downstairs at the Temple - New or Not New To Buddhism? - All Are Welcome

We will be reading either:
Crossing Over To Jodo Shinshu: Discovering the Buddhist Path
OR

Everyday Suchness: Buddhist Essays on Everyday Living by Gyomay M Kubose

These both have short essays that we will read together, so there is no preparation required.
If you have the book, bring it to this open discussion.

November Shotsuki-Hoyo

On November 13th, as part of our service, we will have the monthly Shotsuki-Hoyo remembrance service. According to Temple records and other sources, a total of 17 people passed away during the month of November of their respective year:



(Mrs.) Ine Furumasu
Hideo Ekinaka
George Kubota
Dick Shimizu
Roy Soejima
Max B. Taylor
Rev. Eiyu Terao (Founder of SBT)
Harold Tokunage
Michio Yamagiwa

Leslie Green
Chiyoko Kiyabu
(Mrs.) Haruyo Oba
(Mrs.) Reiko Shimizu
James "Jim" Tamura
Helen Marie Hart
Hidejiro Yamagiwa
Caitlin Anne Packer

Dues and Donations



We appreciate any donations to offset our expenses that keep the doors open at the Spokane Buddhist Temple.

To donate, either click on the Donation button on the website, or email a check to us. If you want 100% of your donation to go to the Temple, please send a check or do a BillPay transaction through your bank.

We received dues and/or donations from 10/2/22 to 10/31/22 from:

Loren and Caroline Nishimura
Stacey Carr
Mary Naber
Tuesday Meditation Group
Kris Birdsell
Izumi Pierce
Wednesday Meditation Group
Kyle Brown
Tyler Pester

Sadina Henderson
Paul and Karen Vielle
Melissa & Becca Opel
Eric Inaba
Tyler Hanson
Jackie & Ken Endersbe
Narong & Ura Norasakurkit
Kevin Tremblay

Thank you to those who came to the Halloween Party and donated to our Minister's Education Fund, and to the organizers and those Sangha members who donated prizes.

We are grateful to those anonymous people who leave cash donations in the koro each week.



*We are dancing at the
Spokane Folklore Society's
2022 Fall Folk Festival on Nov. 12th at 2 pm
Cafeteria Stage*

**Last Practice before the Festival:
November 6th
Spokane Buddhist Temple
12:30 pm Downstairs after Service**

I look forward to dancing with you all again. Let's Dance!

In gratitude,

Izumi J Pierce, Instructor

Spokane Bon Odori Dancers

Member of Wakahisa-kai Asian Traditional Dance and Music Foundation

Questions: Contact Jacqui at jacquipierce@yahoo.com 310-866-5022

See the full schedule at <https://www.spokanefolkfestival.org/>



The Meaning and Importance of ‘Nyo-Ze-Ga-Mon’

Reverend Marvin Harada, Bishop

Our Buddhist sutras start with four Chinese characters that are pronounced, “Nyo-Ze-Ga-Mon,” which have been translated as, “Thus have I heard.”

They are the words of one of the Buddha’s disciples, usually Ananda, who was relating to the Buddha’s followers what he remembered Shakyamuni Buddha to have stated on that particular occasion. The fourth character, “Mon,” means “to listen,” or “to hear.” This is a most important part of Buddhism, but especially in our Shin Buddhist tradition, it becomes even more central. Our tradition is one of listening, of hearing.

Ananda is relating the teachings, the truth of the Dharma that he not only heard, but what hit his heart. Contained in the words that he relates is something beyond words, something very deep and profound.

Shinran Shonin, in the same manner, shared in his writings the teachings that hit his heart and mind. He shared countless passages from sutras and commentaries, not because he was trying to show off what a great scholar he was or what a great memory that he had, but he quoted the passages that resonated with him, the passages that he “heard” deeply in his heart and being.

Rev. Haya Akegarasu, in his commentary on the Larger Sutra, talks about these words, “Nyo-ze-ga-mon,” and he says that “We must never forget the importance of hearing.” It is not, “I’m going to make you listen to this, but it is ‘I heard.’ The path of Buddhism is not to make others hear, but it is to hear for oneself.”

He also shares something that his teacher, Rev. Manshi Kiyozawa, used to tell his students. He used to say, “Don’t sermonize! When ministers sermonize, Buddhism dies! Just listen. Hear. When you listen, then Buddhism prospers.”

Those are harsh words for we who are ministers. What, don’t sermonize? Aren’t we supposed to give sermons? I think what Kiyozawa Sensei was saying was that as ministers, our sermons are not supposed to be messages like, “You should be this way or that way, or you are wrong on this or wrong on that.”

Instead, he was pointing to a way of giving sermons by sharing what one has “heard” deeply in one’s heart and mind. We should be sharing the teachings, the words of our teachers and masters that hit our heart. In that sense, we are always listeners, and students, rather than being experts and in a “teaching” posture.

In that sense, it is almost like a Zen Koan, in that we should give a sermon without sermonizing, or to teach without being a teacher.

Shinran Shonin always had this posture of being a listener, of being a recipient of the teachings, of even being a recipient of the heart of the Buddha, which he calls “shinjin.”

I remember Rev. Tets Unno once said in a lecture that we should listen to the Dharma with the same attitude as if we are hearing the results of our biopsy from our doctor.

Continued on Page 6

Continued from Page 5

Maybe some of you have experienced that already. You had a biopsy done and now your doctor is going to give you the results of that biopsy. If it is malignant, then that is like hearing a death sentence by a judge. If it is benign, then you are safe. It is not cancer. Now you have a new life. No one would listen to such words from your doctor as you are reading your email on your phone or are day-dreaming about something and are half listening. Wouldn't we be on the edge of our seat, waiting to hear the results from our doctor? Rev. Unno was saying that is the kind of attitude we should have when we listen to the Dharma.

May we listen to the Dharma with such sincerity, such conviction, such urgency, and when we do, we will come to receive the Dharma and be able to say for ourselves, "Nyo-Ze-Ga-Mon." Thus have I heard.

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

Seattle Betsuin

Autumn Speaker Series

Explore Buddhist concepts and topics with our excellent teachers from the Northwest District! Sign up for the series today to reserve your spot



Rev. Rosalie May
Seattle Betsuin

Wednesday, November 9th

"Discovering the Pure Land Sutras"

You can register for this series or learn more by
visiting: seattlebetsuin.org/seminars



Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple

Zoom Registration



2022 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**