

Spokane Buddhist Temple

Volume 70 - Issue 5

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

May 2024

May Service Schedule - 10:30 am

| | | |
|------|----------|--|
| 5/5 | 10:30 am | Sangha Service |
| 5/12 | 10:30 am | Shotsukihoyo Sangha Service |
| 5/19 | 10:30 am | Gotan-E Service |
| 5/26 | 10:30 am | Sangha Service |
| | 10:30 am | Dharma School for Ages 4-11 |
| | 11:30 am | White Ashes End of Life Planning Workshop—see Pg 4 |

INTRO TO BUDDHISM & SHIN BUDDHISM 5/5 & 5/12 **11:30 am After Service**

Are you new to the Temple? Have questions about Buddhism?
Join MA Kerkove for two Buddhism classes after service.
There will be time for questions.



GOTAN-E SANGHA SERVICE

Sunday - May 19th - 10:30 am

**Celebrating the Birthday of the founder of Jodo
Shinshu Buddhism, Shinran Shonin**

Gotan-E means birthday gathering. Gotan-E is the celebration of the birthday of the founder of the Jodo Shinshu school of Buddhism. Shinran's actual date of birth is said to be May 21, 1173; he was believed to be born in Hino near Kyoto, Japan. Until he died at the age of 90, Shinran's life was lived simply and humbly. (See pg 3)

Want more Buddhism?

Check out the on-line workshops at the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA):

<https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/buddhist-education>

And subscribe to their emailed newsletter "BCA Connect":

<https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/bca-connect>

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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 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

Spokane Buddhist Temple
Minister Assistants Team:
Chad Donoho
Eric Kerkove
Amanda Goodwin



Spokane Buddhist Temple Team

--Supervising Minister--

Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki
Seattle Betsuin

---Minister Assistants---

Amanda Goodwin
Chad Donoho
Eric Kerkove

Reverend Paul Vielle (ret.)

--Your 2024 Board of Directors---

Joe Bracco, President
Sadina Henderson, Vice President
KNona Liddell, Treasurer
Ryan Campanella, Secretary
Tina Rodeen
Susan Hales
Celeste Sterrett
Izumi (Jacqui) Pierce
Ally Rice

Mari Haworth, Bookkeeper
Chad Donoho, Religious
Education Committee
Representative



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/



Gotan-e (Shinran Shonin's Birthday)

The following is text by Rev. Dennis Shinseki, from a 1983 pamphlet published by the Northwest Ministerial Association, Buddhist Churches of America.

The teaching of Nembutsu, which is the saving power of Amida's compassion, has its origin in ancient history. Many great people from India, China and Japan have relied on this teaching to gain peace of mind and have shared this teaching with everyone they encounter. This teaching was taken up by Shinran Shonin who taught Amida's great vow will save people through their own faith. When we find ourselves limited in our understanding or limited in our capabilities, Shinran's way of the Other Power guides us through his clear

understanding of cause and effect. When we question our own life, old age, sickness and death it is this teaching that takes us from agony to peace of mind. It does this by giving us a vision of the Pure Land. When we realize our limits, this teaching provides for us the Name of Amida. We find joy, consolation, life and gratitude~ all through this great way of salvation. If we take a moment to think we owe a great deal to Shinran. Therefore on his birthday we join in sincere celebration of the occasion.

This vow of saving all beings taught by Shinran to some may seem strange. Such things as relying only on Amida, his total acceptance of all beings evil and not, his paradise and his hell, may be regarded as nonsense. However when the questions of life and death are actually experienced, and the psycho- logical agonies have taken their toll, then one will marvel at the compassion of Amida. Then one will find a deep significance hidden in the Other Power. Gratitude will flow naturally when we realize Amida's acceptance of us unqualifiedly. All that was doubtful will be seen in its true significance. Everything will become as vivid as the moon on a cloudless night, without any shadow of doubt.

As there may be a person who doubts the sweetness of sugar there are people who doubt the compassion of Amida. There will always be that doubt until the person just tastes the sugar for himself. Then everything will be clear as to the taste of sugar. It is the same way with those who doubt Amida's Com- passion as incompatible with common sense. Common sense and even higher learning will not give peace of mind, so religion must be tried, to see if it really tastes sweet or not.

Some people find no value in the images, the scriptures, and in the religious services. These are like people who try to hide from their own shadow. Just as the shadow, these images, scriptures, and services are a part of our being an indication of what is in our hearts and minds.

Religion is an experience in the mind. When Shinran's teachings are seen this way they give us peace and gratitude. They give us everlasting life.

Namu Amida Butsu
Rev. Dennis Shinseki
Seattle Betsuin



May Shotsuki-Hoyo

On May 12th, as part of our service, we will have the monthly Shotsuki-Hoyo remembrance service. According to Temple records the following people passed during this month:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Gunemon Fujita | Paul Noboru Gow |
| Dick Imada | (Mrs.) Fumiko Itano |
| Hatsutarō Kajita | (Mrs.) Sayoko Oba |
| Yoichi Oba | (Mrs.) Taneyo Sato |
| (Mrs.) Chizuko Shegenobu | Tatsuhei Sugikawa |
| (Mrs.) Toyo Sugikawa | (Mrs.) Fumiko Takasugi |
| Toshio Uyeji | (Mrs.) Sadako Yamamoto |
| Satoshi “Sat” Terao | Chip (Murray) Madeen |

If you wish to have someone added to the Shotsukihoyo list, see one of our Minister Assistants.

Dues and Donations

We are grateful for your donations and dues, which offset our expenses. You are helping us keep the doors open at the Spokane Buddhist Temple and continue to spread the Dharma. 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.

Donations and Dues received through 5/5/24:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Kris Birdsell | Tuesday Meditation Group |
| Wednesday Meditation Group | Izumi Pierce |
| Stacey Carr | Loren & Caroline Nishimura |
| Karen & Paul Vielle | Ami Summerfield |
| Kevin Tremblay | Lisa Geiss |
| Kyle Brown | Jun Yugawa |
| Rev. Melissa & Becca Opel | |
| Hifumi Society | |

Donations in Memory of Eric Inaba:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Leslie & GT Wong | Ms. Gay Taira |
| Stanton & Lucille Linden | Troy & Josphine Taira |
| Dennis & Marianne Fought | Sharonlee E Kotabe |
| Lianne & Fred Inaba | Waterman Family |
| Reiko & Gloria Inaba | K & J Takemoto |
| Judy & Harley Inaba | |

MARK YOUR 2024 CALENDARS

for these upcoming Events & Buddhist Holidays at SBT

| | |
|---------|--|
| 8/18 | Obon Festival |
| 8/25 | Hatsubon Service |
| 9/13-15 | Northwest District Buddhist Convention in Auburn, WA |

SBT Calendar link is: <https://spokanebuddhisttemple.org/calendar/>



White Ashes End of Life Planning Workshop May 26 - 11:30 am

Stay after service for a workshop on Buddhist end of life planning, which will discuss traditional aspects of a Jodo Shinshu funeral, and what services the Spokane Buddhist Temple can offer. We will have handouts to allow you to look at what options might be right for you.

From “White Ashes” from Rennyō’s Letters:

When I deeply contemplate the transient nature of human life, I realize that, from beginning to end, life is impermanent like an illusion.



RamenFest was a Huge Success Thanks To You

Thank you to the over 40 volunteers who weighed noodles, cooked broth, made Inari sushi, held an Open House, sewed goods and brought plants for sale, and so much more! You helped raise over \$9000 for the Spokane Buddhist Temple.

Looking forward to two very special visitors in June



June 2nd - Reverend Ann Spencer (at left)

June 16th - Our new Supervising Minister,
Reverend Cynthia Yasaki from the White River
Buddhist Temple (at right)



April was a busy month at SBT

We volunteered at 2nd Harvest, celebrated the birth of Buddha at Hanamatsuri, put on a very successful Spring RamenFest fundraiser, and welcomed Reverend Melissa Opel & Becca Opel back to visit Spokane.



SPOKANE BUDDHIST TEMPLE 2024 MEMBERSHIP

We are profoundly grateful for your interest in the Spokane Buddhist Temple. By joining or renewing your membership, you honor the legacy of those who founded this Temple in 1945 and help provide a broad and deep base of support to sustain the sangha far into the future. Your membership pledge is an acknowledgment of your commitment to bringing the Dharma to the Spokane area so that everyone interested can hear the teachings of the Buddha and learn about the rich heritage of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

Your pledge is a concrete example of dana, or selfless giving. Dana is usually listed first among the Buddhist paramitas, or virtues to be cultivated. At the Spokane Buddhist Temple (SBT), this takes the form of pledges and monetary contributions, gifts in kind, and volunteer efforts to maintain the Temple and sustain the sangha.

Membership Levels and Benefits

Sustaining Members pledge \$300 per year or more.

Young Members are under 30 and pledge \$50 per year.

Both sustaining and young members are eligible to serve as Trustees and can vote in all Temple elections. They are members of our parent organization, the Buddhist Churches of America, and receive the Buddhist Churches of America's (BCA) monthly publication The Wheel of Dharma.

When To Pledge and How To Pay

Renewals are due in November. This facilitates our planning and budgeting for the upcoming year. New members who join earlier in the year can pledge a prorated amount of \$25 per month; please consult the SBT treasurer or bookkeeper.

Pledge payments can be made in the following ways:

check

credit card

e-check from your financial institution

cash

You can choose the number of separate payments you make:

annual (1 payment)

semi-annual (2 payments)

quarterly (4 payments)

monthly (12 payments)

Where Your Money Goes

Membership pledges and other cash donations from sangha members make up close to a third of SBT's annual revenue. Although as a religious nonprofit we do not pay property tax on the Temple, our expenses include utilities, insurance, building and grounds maintenance, security, travel and honoraria for visiting ministers, subsidies for ministers' education, and dues to the BCA and NW District. SBT spends a total of about \$60,000 each year to bring the Dharma to Spokane.

Tax Info

If you itemize your Federal income tax, you may be able to deduct your contributions to the Temple. If you take a Required Minimum Distribution from your retirement accounts, you may be able to designate those funds to go to SBT. Please consult a tax professional for details applicable to your situation.

What We Do With Your Information

We provide your name and mailing address to the Buddhist Churches of America. We do not share any information about sangha members with any other individuals or organizations.

SPOKANE BUDDHIST TEMPLE 2024 PLEDGE FORM

Amount pledged for Spokane Buddhist Temple membership for 2024: _____

Additional donation to support Temple activities in 2024: _____

Method of payment (check one): check _____; e-check _____; credit card _____; cash _____

Frequency of payment (check one): annually _____; semi-annually _____; quarterly _____; monthly _____

Please return your completed pledge form to the SBT office, and consult the SBT Treasurer for further details, if needed. Members will receive a summary of all pledges and contributions they made in 2024 in January 2025.

Name(s) (PRINTED):

Signatures(s):

Phone(s):

Email address(es):

Mailing address:



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