2024 Volume 44

Wheel of the Sangha

June Issue 6

Seattle Betsuín Buddhíst Temple, A Shín Buddhíst Temple Jodo Shínshu Níshí Hongwanjí-ha

An online monthly newsletter of Seattle Buddhist Church

It is OK to be weak as we are

by Rimban Katsuya Kusunoki

It is graduation season in June. Graduating students are going to part from their classmates and teachers and move on to a new school and a new life. They may be experiencing both



excitement and nervousness as they start their new life in September. I was born and raised in Japan, so I am still learning the school system in the U.S. One Japanese mother who has three children held a class for people like me to understand the process of children walking from elementary school to university. She carefully listened to our questions and gave us her guidance based on her experiences. It was such a great opportunity to think about my son's future.

Later, she sent us a follow up E-mail. She shared some useful information and websites with us. In her E-mail, she also said, "In addition, I would like to share a short video. I showed it to my son when he was suffering from his distress and worries." When I clicked the link, I could watch the short video message delivered by a famous Japanese actor/comedian, Mr. Chosuke Ikariya. It was words from a Japanese TV drama.

"You do not have to be a strong person. It is important to suffer from and see your weakness.

Human beings are naturally all weak. But everyone tries to be strong to deny and escape from their pain.

Being strong means to become insensitive. When you become an insensitive person, you don't feel your pain.

If you don't feel your pain, you also cannot feel other people's pain.

When people are deluded that they are strong people, they attack others.

People become insensitive and lose their gen tleness.

It is OK to be you as you are.

It is OK to be weak as it is.

Being aware of your weakness and cherish ing them.

It is OK for all human beings to be weak as they are.

It is a precious world where human beings who are weak are hand in hand and live together."

(Translated by Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki)

They became some of my favorite words. I keep them in my mind. When I think about myself, I am also a person who wants to be a strong person and don't want to show my weakness. At school, people naturally think that they have to get better school records than others. In sports, people always try to master better skills than others and defeat their opponents. In business, people try to earn more money than others. Otherwise, people feel that they would become the losers. We are all living in a competitive world and try to be strong and not to be left behind. All countries in this world are also the same. They try to be stronger than other countries in economy, politics, and armed force. Whatever we see, wherever we are, it seems that people are expected to be strong to defeat others. In the long history of human beings, they (we) attack others to show our power and selfcentered righteousness. And they (we) try to force others to obey.

Being strong is a symbol of human's self-centeredness where people think they are right, and they are better than others. When we continue seeking our self-centered strongness, we keep losing something important. It is gentleness and the heart to care for other people. People who know and acknowledge their weakness can feel and realize other's sadness and pain. These people can accept other people as they are, using their open and gentle heart. Their gentle hearts are vast and sturdy like ground.

Continued...

...It is okay to be weak as we are... continued

In Buddhism, it is called wisdom (view) to see our weakness and human nature as it is. It is called compassion to accept our weakness and other's weakness and be gentle to ourselves and others. "Knowing and accepting my weakness" means to know who I am and cherish my life. It is not Buddha's teaching to look away or eliminate my weakness. While listening to Buddha's teaching, we reflect upon ourselves and awaken to our human nature (Bonbu nature,

*Bonbu=imperfect being). It is the Buddhist Path. Buddha's Compassion accept us as we are. It is OK to be as we are. It is OK to be weak as it is. Human beings who are weak help each other and live together.

Gassho,

See Rimban Kusunoki's podcast, "Mind of Minister" with Jason Yokoyama at www.SeattleBetsuin.org.

Dharma School News

Submitted by Joan Nakano

On behalf of the DS board, teachers and families, we want to thank our sangha for your support.

Although it has been quite difficult to hold regular Dharma school classes, we have had new community opportunities. We appreciated Tacoma and White River for inviting and welcoming us to their weekly services. Seattle DS joined Tacoma DS in classes and joint activities since the fire, and we look forward to them joining us at North Bend this month.

We would also like to thank the many compassionate neighbors who shared their resources and space with DS, such as Densho, Wisteria View Manor, Nisei Veteran's Committee Memorial Hall and Koyasan Buddhist Temple, to name a few.

Thank you to our teachers who had to pivot their activities for our youth and congratulations to our high school seniors: Jared, Mika, Corinna, Maia and Kaya. They will be recognized at our end of the year service, lunch and activities at North Bend.

We look forward to seeing everybody throughout the summer and for the 2024-2025 school year.

Gassho,

Claire and Yvette

Temple Restoration Update For the week of May 12 - 18, 2024



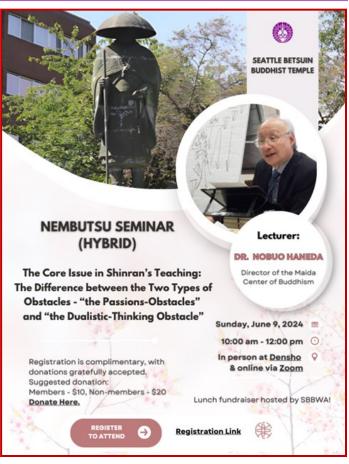
Ozone treatment to neutralize smoke odor is being performed in the temple gym.

Asbestos abatement continues in Memorial Hall and other rooms in the temple. Old asbestos-wrapped pipes and unused radiators are also being removed

throughout the temple.

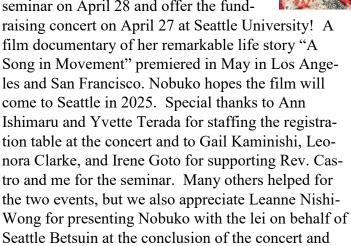
Submitted by: Tyler Moriguchi, Seattle Betsuin Chairperson





Musical Notes

Submitted by Kemi Nakabayashi How fortunate we were to have Nobuko Miyamoto in Seattle for the EcoSangha seminar on April 28 and offer the fund-

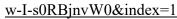


Ileene Tanabe and Marissa Wong for their graphic

skills to prepare the programs for the concert and the

Emma Inge prepared the featured gatha video "Life of Shinran" for the Gotan-E service on May 19 was "Life of Shinran" by Donna Sasaki using audio recorded in 2020 by Megumi Azekawa, vocals and piano. We appreciate the support of our Dharma friends from Tacoma Buddhist Temple for supporting the service music with this special video which also included lovely photographs of wisteria taken by Ron Murakami from White River Buddhist Temple. The video is on the Tacoma Buddhist Temple YouTube channel and also has been added to the BCA Music YouTube channel gatha playlist: https:// www.youtube.com/watch?

v=euBGc2PMfVc&list=PLUP6bBfcX20CkMYqa3ie



seminar.





Note: See more from BCA's Music Committee at Buddhist Churches Of America Music - YouTube

ON BEHALF OF THE **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

We would like to "thank" the following for contributing their 2024 sustaining membership dues the basic dues towards Temple maintenance/

Loraine Jacobs, Janet Hiroko Kosai, Art & Lori Kozai, Yoshiko Kozai, Fusako Kusumi, Mabel Nishizaki, Dean O'Shields, Carolyn Schwab, Franklin Shinoda, Dennis Yasukochi & Lynne Goodrich

> (Compiled by Howard, Ileene, Joan, Pauline & Steph)

WEEKLY DHARMA MESSAGES AVAILABLE ON SEATTLE BETSUIN YOUTUBE AND SPOTIFY



Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association SBBWA's

Mission is to cultivate religious awareness as Jodo Shinshu Buddhist women and promote fellowship among its members; to serve and support the Seattle Betsuin, and contribute services to the welfare of the community. Submitted by Susie Yamane

Our New Member/All Member lunch was held April 28th at Wisteria View Manor after the Eshinniko Kakushinni-ko service. We enjoyed celebrating our



"Beju" (88 year old) members, (above) and 90+ year old members, (below).



We are continuing with our Woodland Park Zoo Senior Walks with one more gathering planned for May 7th.

Walk for Rice takes place on June 29th, 9am – noon at Seward Park. Team "Seattle Buddhist Temple Women's Association" will be walking. By donating, we are helping provide foods familiar to Asian diets for more than 5,200 community members each year! The ACRS Food Bank in the Chinatown-International District is the only food bank in Seattle dedicated to

serving Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander communities.

Plans are underway for fundraising ideas for Obon, being held on July 20 and 21st. Members are busily gathering Asian themed fabrics to create and sell yukatas and kimonos for our furry family members.

Pack 252 Update

Submitted by Mai Ketcherside

The month of May was an activity filled month for the scouts. We got to spend a lot of time in the great outdoors; besides regular pack/den meetings, we hosted a Day Camp at the temple's North Bend property, and together with the Troop & Campfire, we hosted a booth at JCCCW's *Kodomo no hi* event.







2024 Seattle Betsuin Scholarships Awarded

The Betsuin scholarships, awarded through generous donations from the Shimokon and Tsujihara families, recognize Betsuin high school and college students. The selection criteria includes leadership and participation in the temple, BCA, school and the community, along with scholastic achievement and a commitment to stay involved in the temple. The applicants also submit an essay to show their understanding of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. This year's essay featured two messages written by Rev. Bob Oshita from his book *Dharma is Everywhere*. High school students were asked to reflect on the message "Game of Life" and college students were asked to reflect on the message "Being Human".

The Harold N. & Yoshiko Tsujihara Memorial High School Scholarship recipients:

Jared Nakashima (Newport High School) is currently the co-president of the Seattle Betsuin Young Buddhist Association. He is a Boy Scout, earning the Eagle Scout and Arrow of Light Awards. He has also been involved as the main pianist for the Bodhi Ensemble. At his high school, Jared was the senior class secretary and team captain of the track and cross country team. Jared plans to attend University of California, Irvine and major in Biomedical Engineering.

Corrina Tanabe (Cleveland High School) served in multiple officer positions, including co-president, of the Seattle Betsuin Young Buddhist Association. She has been a member of the SBC Camp Fire group, earning the Gold President's Service Award and the WoHeLo Award. She also served as co-president of the Northwest Young Buddhist League. At her high school, Corrina served as ASB president and served as lieutenant governor for Key Club International. She founded the Japanese Student Association and served as president. She also was team captain of her Varsity Volleyball Team. Corrina plans to attend Kyoto University of Advanced Science and major in Mechanical Engineering.

Maia Taylor (Lincoln High School) is currently secretary of the Seattle Betsuin Young Buddhist Associa-

tion. She was a Dharma School Board student representative and earned the Sangha Class Dharma Award. Maia plans to attend the University of Alaska Fairbanks and major in Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Kaya Terada (Kentridge High School) has been very involved in Dharma School, earning perfect attendance, and also the Seattle Betsuin Young Buddhist Association, serving as co-president as well as multiple other officer positions. At her high school, Kaya was captain of the Varsity Volleyball Team and was involved in National Honor Society and Key Club. She is currently serving as a Seattle and King County Public Health Youth Ambassador. Kaya plans to attend Gonzaga University and major in Nursing.

The Masaru and Mitsuma Shimokon College Scholarships recipient:

Nicholas Hamakami (University of California, Los Angeles) is studying Computer Engineering. At UCLA, Nicholas has been involved in various clubs including ACM Teach LA, Foundations Choreography, Vietnamese Student Union Modern and Nikkei Student Union.

A big congratulations and good luck to Jared, Corrina, Maia, Kaya and Nicholas!



Tyler Moriguchi, Corrina Tanabe, Jared Nakashima, Tomi Zumoto (daughter of Harold N and Yoshiko Tsujihara), Maia Taylor, Kaya Terada, Reverend Kusunoki (not pictured Nicholas Hamakami)

Submitted by Lani Carpenter

HATSUMAIRI CEREMONY

Wednesday April 17, 2024

Gunnar James Svenkerud Welcome to the Sangha!



Hatsumairi Child:

Gunnar James Svenkerud

Born: July 28, 2023

Parents: Tom and Nicole Setsuko Svenkerud

Hatsumalrl or "First Visit" is a Jodo Shinshu tradition that acknowledges the child's first visit to the temple. Parents present their children before the image of Amida Buddha and members of the Sangha as an expression of their gratitude and desire to expose them to the teachings of the Buddha.

Ceremony order

- Presentation of the Nenju and Monto Shikisho
- Chokyo (Receiving of the Dharma)
- Presentation of Certificate
- Reading and Recitation of Pledge

Pledge

Minister: Today you have come to present your loving child before the shrine of Amida Buddha.

Vow: (Parents repeat after the minister)

I make this solemn vow To do all in my power

To guide the spiritual growth of my child

According to the high ideals

As set forth in the Teachings of the Buddha.

Namo Amida Butsu

Namo Amida Butsu

Namo Amida Butsu

Submitted by Reverend Katsuya Kusunoki, Rimban Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple



Northwest District Buddhist Convention



White River Buddhist Temple



Connections: Building for Tomorrow

September 13 - 15, 2024

Muckleshoot Casino Resort

Hosted by White River Buddhist Temple



www.nwdconvention.org

<u>Buy tickets – 2024 Northwest District Convention –</u> Muckleshoot Casino Resort (tickettailor.com)

Featured Speakers





Rev. Candice Shibata Keynote Speaker



Lon Inaba akima Buddhist Temple



Judge Kimberly Walden

Reserve Your Hotel Room at the Muckleshoot Casino Resort Now!

Stay at the Convention venue by booking a room today! Reservations are limited, so make yours today! Pricing is \$159 for a Deluxe room or \$169 for a Luxury

Call: 1-800-804-4544 to stay September 13-15. Reference the "2024 Buddhiet



Support the event by becoming a Convention Booster!

The Convention is not possible without the generous support of our community! You can help defray the costs of hosting our convention by making a donation towards the event as a Convention Booster! Your name will be listed along with other Convention Boosters on a special page in the program booklet and website.

<u>Sponsorship</u> — Northwest District Buddhist Convention (nwdconvention.org)

JUNE SHOTSUKI HOYO

The June Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Service will honor the memory of those listed below who passed away in the month of June.

Adachi, Shinsaburo	Hiraga, Noboru	Matsuoka, Toru	Shinagawa, Chieko	
Aiko Shimizu	Hoshino, Akio	Mihara, Minoru	Shinbo, Tamio	
Akada, Same	Hyde, Jane	Jane Minato, Kagei S		
Akada, Shizue	Ichikawa, Satoru	Miyahara, Kiyoko	Song, Linyu	
Akutsu, Mary	Ideta, Henry	Miyamoto, Sumio	Sumida, Hiroyuki	
Amabe, Hisano	Iguchi, Roy	Miyao, Ume	Suto, Bessie	
Aoyama, Katsumi	Imanishi, Yoshio	Mizuki, Hisato	Suyematsu, Mitsuo	
Baba, James	Inaba, Kenkichi	Mizumoto, Fukiko	Suzaka, Frank	
Doi, James	Inaba, Shigeko	Mizumoto, Nobuo	Tai, Hisano	
Dumont, Marion	Ishibashi, Isao	Murakami, Tamae	Takei, Toshiko	
Eguchi, Otome	Ishikawa, Kimiyo	Nagamatsu, Toshiko	Taketa, Arlene	
Endo, Suzuko	Isomura, Mary	Nagasugi, Tokuye	Tamura, Mary	
Eng, Shee	Iwasaki, Sachiko	Nakagawa, Itsuyo	Tanabe, Riso	
Esuye, Hisako	Iwata, Nochi	Nakagawa, Kazuo	Tanaka, Yoshimi	
Fudetani, Yoshio	Kajimura, Gary	Nakanishi, Misuno	Tani, Nobuko	
Fujii, Yukiko	Kajimura, Hiroshi	Nakashima, Suyeko	Taniguchi, Kuma	
Fujikawa, Nobuko	Kanaya, Toshiji	Ninomura, Sue	Tazuma, Masako	
Fujimoto, Kiyoko	Kanegae, Toshie	Nishimura, Iso	Tazuma, Noboru	
Fujino, Mitsutaro	Kato, Michio	Nokichi, Miwa	Terada, Kakichi	
Fujioka, Harumi	Kawahara, Kiyoko	Obata, Rose	Terada, Yayeko	
Fujioka, Momoko	Kawahara, Yoshisuke	Ohara, Masato	Teramoto, Kenso	
Fujita, Kinu	Kawamoto, Masao	Ohara, Rinzo	Terao, Fred	
Furukawa, Shizuye	Kawasaki, Tokuyoshi	Ohmiya, Masasue	Tsuchikawa, Chiyo	
Furuta, Roy	Kianzon, Tatsu	Oiye, Nobuko	Tsuji, Kitaro	
Furuta, Terumasa	Kido, Haruko	Okada, Sadaye	Tsukamoto, Umekichi	
Hamano, Grace	Kiuchi, Janice	Okamura, Ray	Tsuruyama, Miyo	
Hamasaki, Satoko	Kobata, Kay	Okawa, Archie	Uyeji, Kamekichi (Kam)	
Hanada, Ronald	Kosai, Wesley	Ōmura, Kimi	Watanabe, Shoji	
Hara, Don	Kuramoto, Daisy	Pawloski, Junko	Wataoka, Linda	
Harada, Charles	Kurimoto, Aki	Platnick, Tamiko	Yamaguchi, Iwao	
Harui, Zenhichi	Kurosaki, Tsuyano	Saito, Koshige	Yamaguchi, Mamoru	
Hasegawa, Yoriko	Maruko, Sadami	Sawa, Ayako	Yamamoto, Gary	
Hayashi, Roger	Matsuba, Fude	Shibayama, Kamekichi	Yamamoto, Mineyo	
Higashi, Shōzō	Matsubu, Shigeko	Shimizu, Haruko	Yokoyama, Hideyo	
Higo, Seki	Matsumoto, Nobuko	Shimizu, Patrick	Yoshimi, Aiko	
Hirabayashi, Tomonobu		Shimooka, Kazue	Yoshinaka, Catherine	

JULY SHOTSUKI HOYO

The July Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Service will honor the memory of those listed below who passed away in the month of July.

Newsletter Wheel of ?	he Sangha Volume 44	Issue 6 June 2024 p. 8
Moriguchi, Sadako		Yuki, Motoitsu
Mori, Kerry	Shintaku, Albert	Yoshino, Minoru
Mizuno, Hatsue	Shinoda, Ronald	Yoshimura, Dick
Mizumori, Nancy	Shimbo, Sakayeko	Yoshida, Seiichi
Mizuki, Tomoko	Seko, Roy	Yoshida, Nobuko
Miyauchi, Tsuru	Sako, Yoshiaki	Yasunobu, Seiji
		Yamashita, Henry
		Yamasaki, Fujie H.
		Yamane, Akio
		Yamamura, Ito
		Yamamoto, Kikuno
		Yamamoto, Ichiro
	-	Yamamoto, Dawn
		Yamaguchi, Kozo
		Yamaguchi, Atsumi
		Yamagiwa, Paul
		Yabuki, Haru
		Uchida, Yoshio
·		Tsukui, Florence
		Tsujii, Janet
•		Tsujihara, Naoto
		Tsuchida, Tsune
		Tsuboi, Tamiye
		Tokunaga, Joe
	·	Terao, Sadao
		Terada, Toshiko
		Terada, Minoru
		Terada, Kimi
		Taylor, Fusako
		Tanino, Katsumi (Kats)
		Tanemura, Toshikazu
·		Tamura, Tadashi Tanaka, Shizue
		Taketa, Shikao
·		Takano, Tomi
		Takana Tomi
Horike, Ayako	Morikawa, George	Tahara, Mitsuzo
	Iboshi, Ralph Idaka, Totaro Inaba, Frank Inaba, Miyoko Inouye, Shizu Ishida, Kenichi Ishii, Miyoko Kajimura, Tsutomu Kajita, Aico Kaku, Yoshi Kanaya, Mary Katayama, Donna Katayama, Yoshiko Kato, Michiko Kato, Sumiye Kawahara, Kikuno Kawahara, Masano Kawanishi, Fusa Kitano, Osamu Kiuchi, Kin Kiyonaga, Hideji Koba, Tsutou Koura, Hatsuko Kurata, Shin Kusumi, Shogo Maruko, Teruo Matsuhira, Ajiro Matsushita, Kan Mitoma, Jay Miyahara, Kiyomi Miyauchi, Tsuru Mizuki, Tomoko Mizumori, Nancy Mizuno, Hatsue Mori, Kerry Moriguchi, Sadako	Iboshi, Ralph Idaka, Totaro Idaka, Totaro Inaba, Frank Inaba, Miyoko Inouye, Shizu Ishida, Kenichi Ishii, Miyoko Ishiin Makagawa, Nami Ishii, Miyoko Ishiin Nakamura, Jimmie Ishii, Miyoko Ishiin Nakamura, Saiji Ishiin Nakamura, Saiji Ishiin Nakashima, Yoneko Ishiin Nakashima, Yoneko Ishiin Nakashima, Yoneko Ishiin Nakawawa, Katsuko Ishiin Nakawawa, Katsuko Ishiin Nakayama, Kozo Ishiin Nakayama, Kozo Ishiin Nakayama, Ishiin Nak

June 2024 Seattle Betsuin Schedule

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	Juliauy	•	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	weanesday	marsaay	Titady	1	
JULY 2024 SPECIAL EVENTS July 13 Obon Service at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery (Queen Anne) July 14 Obon/Hatsubon Service								
•	y 13 Obon service at Washington Mem	•	Obon Service at Ever		netery (Northgate)			
•	y 13 Obon service at Washington Wern	•	Obon Service at Sun	~				
July	y 15 Obom service at take view cemete	•	Seattle Betsuin Bo		ark (Believae)			
		Office house are	•		ii Odoii			
		Office nours are	by appointment o	oniy 	I	1		
2		3	4	5	6	7	8	
2		3	9:30 am Japa-	5	O	/	0	
10 am	SUNDAY SERVICE at Densho	Rimban's day off	nese		1:30 pm Nikkei			
20 0	SONDAL SERVICE de Bellsilo	Timbum's day ojj	Dharma Discus-		2.30 pm ranker			
			sion		Manor Service			
			on Zoom					
9		10	11	12	13	14	15	
	Nembutsu Seminar at Densho		9:30 am Japa-					
10 am	- Hybrid	Rimban's day off	nese			11 am Gojikai		
	See flyer for registation infor-		Dharma Discus-		7 pm Religious			
	mation		sion		Dept	(in-person)		
	No Sunday Service		on Zoom		meeting		3 pm Gagaku (Zoom)	
16	Father's Day	17	18	19	20	21	22	
	Bishops' / Rimbans' Memorial		9:30 am Japa-					
10 am	Service at Densho	Rimban's day off	nese					
	Japanese Language service at		Dharma Discus-					
11 am	Densho		sion		1:30 pm Nikkei			
			on Zoom		Manor Service			
			6:30 pm Evening		7 pm Betsuin			
			Study Session		Cabinet Meeting			
			on Zoom					
23		24	25	26	27	28	29	
10 am	SUNDAY SERVICE at Densho	Rimban's day off	Rimban's day off					
		8 pm Newsletter		11 am Merrill	7 pm Betsuin			
		deadline		Gardens Renton Svc	Board Meeting			
30								
10 am	SUNDAY SERVICE at Densho							
	Japanese Language service at							
11 am	Densho							

Seattle Buddhist Church

1427 S Main Street Seattle, WA 98144

2024 June Wheel of the Sangha A Monthly Newsletter of Seattle Buddhist Church

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Rev. Marvin Harada

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BCA EVENTSBuddhist Churches of America

Buddhism | Buddhist Churches Of America

Seattle Betsuin's MEDITATION is temporarily meeting on Zoom only. Please email newsletter@seattlebetsuin.com for the Link.

2024 SEATTLE BETSUIN SUNDAY SERVICES

9:00AM Meditation, via Zoom only June 2 10:00AM Sunday Service at Densho.

June 9 No Sunday Service. 10:00AM Nembutsu Seminar at Densho—Hybrid See flyer on p. 2;

June 16 Father's Day 10:00AM Bishops'/ Rimbans' Memorial Service at Densho; 11:00AM Service in Japanese at Densho.

June 23 10:00Am Sunday Service at Densho.

<u>June 30</u> Sunday Services 10:00AM/English 11:00AM/Japanese, both at Densho

See Calendar p. 9

Dharma Exchange

occasionally after Service 11:00AM in-person Densho Building Personal Services



Personal Services - Seattle
Betsuin Buddhist Temple
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- Memorial Services
- Wedding Ceremonies
- •Home & Hospital Visits
- •Funerals & Pillow Services

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Office Hours: 10:00AM-3:00PM Call for recorded updates and for emergencies

Minister 24 hours 206.329-0800 ext. 2 Rev Katsuya Kusunoki, Rimban

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: June 24, 2024 8:00 PM* Wheel of the Sangha Editors Irene Goto, English: newsletter@seattlebetsuin.org Machiko Wada, Japanese *Deadline varies - usually 4th Monday each month at 8:00 PM