

# Gotan-E Service



May 17, 2026  
10:00am



**Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple**

1427 South Main Street

Seattle, WA 98144

*www.SeattleBetsuin.org*

*206.329.0800*

# GOTAN-E SERVICE

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## Opening Remarks

Rev. Irene Goto

## Kansho

## Sutra Chanting

“Vandana Ti/Sarana” (Page 147 - Purple Book)  
“Juseige” (Page 93 - Purple Book) and on the screen  
Rimban Katsuya Kusunoki with Sangha

## Daihyo-shoko (Incense Offering) by Organization Representatives

Dharma School	Kenji John
Jr. YBA	Nathan Terada
Camp Fire	Miya Butler
Cub Scouts	Yuiya Kusunoki
Scouts	Ervin Nagai
SBBWA	Tina Zumoto-Ko
Gojikai	Marlene Okada
Meditation/Book Study	Rev. Irene Goto
Tea Ceremony	Leonora Clarke
Taiko	Donna Zumoto
Music Department	Greg Oxrieder
Seattle Betsuin	Tyler Moriguchi

## Gatha

“Life of Shinran” (Page 82 - White book)  
Kemi Nakabayashi - Pianist

## Reading

“Golden Chain II” (Page 15—Purple book)

## Dharma Message

Rimban Katsuya Kusunoki

## Announcements/Closing Remarks

## **The Meaning of Gotan-E**

By Rev. Matt Hamasaki

In May, we celebrate Gotan-E, the birth of the founder of Jodo Shinshu, Shinran Shonin, who was born on May 21, 1173. Shinran never saw himself as a founder of anything and was just trying to spread the nembutsu teaching that he learned from his teacher, Honen.

He famously said in the Record in Lament of Divergences (a collection of sayings that his student, Yuien-bo, compiled): “For myself, I do not have even a single disciple. For if I brought people to say the nembutsu through my own efforts, then they might be my disciples. But it is indeed preposterous to call persons ‘my disciples’ when they say the nembutsu having received the working of Amida.”

This is Shinran’s understanding of the working of Amida — that anyone who decided to listen to him, follow him, or found something meaningful in what he did, only did so because of external factors, not from his own efforts.

Ironically, this attitude is what set him apart from Honen’s other students’ interpretation of the teaching. Shinran emphasized absolute entrusting to Amida Buddha over the constant recitation of Namu Amida Butsu.

In other words, he stressed the importance of humility over discipline as a practice. What that means for us as Jodo Shinshu followers is that rather than trying to find a rigid practice that takes physical and mental fortitude, we should be looking for ways to locate and lessen our vanity, our arrogance, our conceit.

This is the way laid out for us to find a life with less suffering. And in the month of May, we express our gratitude to Shinran Shonin for showing us the path.

## **UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES:**

### **All Sangha Memorial Service**

May 31, 2026

10:00am

### **Awards & Recognition Service: Last Day of Dharma School**

June 7, 2026

10:00am

### **Bishop's/Rimbans' Memorial Service (Fathers' Day)**

June 21, 2026

10:00am

## **SAVE THE DATES:**

Additional information available on the temple website

[www.seattlebetsuin.org](http://www.seattlebetsuin.org)

### **Camp Fire Craft Fair**

June 13, 2026 - At the temple

11:00am - 3:00pm

### **Buddhist Seminar (Extended Dharma Exchange)**

**Guest Speaker: Dr. James Dobbins**

June 21, 2026

10:30am - 12:00pm

### **Bon Odori - July 18th & 19th, 2026**

Seattle Bon Odori is a Seafair sanctioned community event. The cultural festival offers a Jodo Shinshu service, dancing, taiko presentations, food, a beer garden and much more. Entry is free! Everyone is welcome!

### **Atomic Bomb Memorial Service**

August 2, 2026

10:00am

Co-hosted by the Seattle Hiroshima Club and the Seattle Betsuin

## **AFTER SERVICE PROGRAMS:**

Dharma School: Memorial Hall Classrooms

Dharma Exchange: Combined Exchange in the Hondo