

OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE PRESENTS

74th ANNUAL NORTHWEST DISTRICT (virtual) CONVENTION

The
Appreciation
Realization
Transformation
Of Buddhist Living



SEPTEMBER 12 - 19, 2021

WELCOME ATTENDEES!

The Oregon Buddhist Temple welcomes you to Portland and the 74th Annual Northwest District Convention.

The last time we all met here in Portland, the region was experiencing a severe snow storm. Even with the snow and ice, many of you persisted and came to the convention. To prevent inclement weather threatening future conventions, the Northwest District Council moved the convention date for 2021 and future conventions to September. In spite of this change, we are again faced with an unusual situation: the Covid pandemic and its restrictions.

As the saying goes: When you are given lemons, you make lemonade.

So now, here we are with the first virtual Northwest District Convention. Unfortunately, we cannot be together to meet each other, chat and even hug in person. However, by utilizing on-line platforms YouTube and Zoom, we will be able to hear from several well-known, knowledgeable and well-versed speakers who will present their thoughts and interpretation of this year's theme: The Art of Buddhist Living. Moreover, we can see each other, hear the Dharma and discuss our thoughts of the theme at the closing weekend of the convention, Saturday, via Zoom.

So welcome to Portland in these unprecedented times. We hope you will learn and enjoy this 74th Annual Northwest District Convention.

Gassho,

Ryan Davis, Ken Garner, Angie Hughes, Alfred Ono,
Carol Saiget, Rev. Yuki Sugahara, and Cathy Yarne

OBT Convention Committee



Please Support The 74th Annual NW District Convention

~ Click the DONATE button on the convention website

OR

~ Click the Convention PayPal QR coded below



OR

~ Mail check to: Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Ave
Portland, OR 97202
USA

A portion of all donations will be given to the
BCA Zaidan Fund (BCA Endowment Foundation)



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Buddhist Churches of America®

1710 Octavia Street • San Francisco, California 94109

www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org

(415) 776-5600 • info@bcahq.org

August 31, 2021

Fellow Buddhists,

It is my pleasure and honor to welcome all of you to this year's Northwest Convention hosted by the Oregon Buddhist Temple. In this year's innovative convention, you are meeting in September, different from the usual gathering in February, as well as meeting virtually, which has never been done before.

As you all know, I grew up in the Northwest, at the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple, and attended the conventions when I was in YBA. I have known many of you since those days. How quickly life passes and to think of where we all are now. I am sure my old friends from YBA are thinking, "Marvin became the Bishop?" I too am surprised.

Your theme for this year, "The ART of Buddhist Living," is a wonderful theme, focusing on appreciation, realization, and transformation of Buddhist Living.

Like an artist creates a work of art on a piece of canvas, we are the artists of our own life. What will be the final piece that we will leave behind, that reflects what our life has been? Our spiritual journey on the path of the Nembutsu allows us to create our own work of art that is our life, deeply appreciating the teachings, realizing its depth, and allowing it to transform our life from a world of delusion to a world of awakening.

Gassho,

Marvin Harada

Rev. Marvin Harada
Bishop



SEATTLE BETSUIN BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-Ha

1427 South Main Street

Seattle, WA 98144

(206) 329-0800

September 12, 2021

Dear NW Buddhist Convention Participants,

The Northwest Minister's Association would like to welcome everyone to the 74th Northwest District Virtual Buddhist Convention. We would especially like to thank the Oregon Buddhist Temple for hosting this event.

I believe it is the first convention to be held in September instead of February as well as to be held virtually. It is our new challenge to hold this convention in a different way, but no matter how we hold it, we must always remember that the core purpose of this convention is to keep the Nembutsu thriving.

The theme for this convention is "ART ~ the Appreciation Realization Transformation of Buddhist Living." When you are deeply touched by something, how do you express your feelings? You may talk to someone, write a diary, use your body language, take photos, draw pictures, or sing a song, etc. Everyone must have their own ways to express their feelings. All these expressions could become art.

In my Nembutsu life, I listen and encounter the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. This encounter makes me realize who I am. The encounter transforms every day from my ordinary life to the path to enlightenment. The encounter makes me appreciate all causes and conditions for me to be able to be here today. It reminds me of the Jodo Shinshu Creed.

1. Entrusting the vow of the Buddha and reciting the Sacred Name, I shall proceed through the journey of life with strength and joy.
2. Revering the Light of the Buddha, reflecting upon my imperfect self, I shall strive to live a life of gratitude.
3. Following the teachings of the Buddha, discerning the Right Path, I shall spread the True Dharma.
4. Rejoicing at the Compassion of the Buddha, respecting and aiding one another, I shall do my best to work towards the welfare of society

Please recite and memorize the Jodo Shinshu Creed. I hope this convention becomes a precious opportunity to promote bonding with Dharma friends and to deepen our appreciation of the Buddha Dharma.

Namo Amida Butsu

Katsuya Kusunoki

Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki
Kyokucho of the NW Minister's Association





The ART of Buddhist Living by Reverend Yuki Sugahara

When I was a university student in Kyoto, I lived in the area famous for Nishijin brocade. When I walked around my neighborhood, I could hear the sound of weaving. To weave fabric, there must be a warp and weft. Beautiful fabric cannot be woven without the warp or weft, as the weft would fall on the ground without the warp.

The word we often hear at the temple, sutra, has the same meaning as warp. Shan-tao, one of the Seven Pure Land Masters, described the sutra (warp) as holding the truth (weft) well and conveying the truth to the people—that is why it is called sutra.

From this metaphor, I believe that we are able to weave a beautiful fabric of life because our

lives (weft) are held well by the sutra (warp). So, all our lives, supported by the sutra, are beautiful fabric, just like an art, and each fabric is unique. At this virtual convention, we would like to hear unique stories of appreciation, realization, and transformation through encountering the dharma.

APPRECIATION is often expressed in Shinran Shonin's writings. Shinran Shonin expressed the joy in life, and this joy came from his appreciation of encountering the teaching throughout his travels of life. By encountering the teaching of the nembutsu, we are nurtured to appreciate others with the mind of Okagesamade (because of the efforts and sacrifices of others). With this in mind, participants would like to hear stories of Appreciation.

REALIZATION of one's limitations and knowing that we are not perfect is why Amida Buddha established the Forty-Eight Vows. Realization of the limitation of the self leads us to appreciation, and realizing and understanding the limitations of our self also leads us to transformation of our actions. Participants would like to hear stories of Realization.

TRANSFORMATION is how our action changes after we encounter the teachings. We will continue to be burdened by our blind passions, such as the three poisons (greed, anger, and ignorance), but, now guided by Buddhas, we realize the importance of caring not only about the self, but also about others. Participants would like to hear stories of Transformation.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Website

Please view all convention information at the website:

www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/nw-district-convention2021

There you will find information on the presenters and the schedule for when their talk is featured, as well as a link to register for the convention. **We ask that each attendee please register so that we may contact you with convention information.**

YouTube

The convention services, keynote speaker, and each featured talk can be viewed via YouTube on the NW District Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1c0U9uHCgJdg2DI2cTC8LA>

To view a talk on YouTube, simply click on the speaker's photo in this booklet, on the website or on the link included in the daily reminder email sent to you. This will link you directly to the talk. It is important to note that while the talks will be featured at the listed times and days on the speakers' page, **they will be available for you to view at any time of the day or night, whenever you want, during the convention.**

Zoom

The live events on Saturday, namely the Panel Discussion, Jr YBA Chat with The Bishop, and Hospitality Zoom Room, will be available via Zoom. Many temple and BCA events have successfully been held via Zoom. The platform is easy to use. For those of you who have not used Zoom, you may sign up for free at <https://zoom.us/signup>. BCA has produced a video "How to Zoom" video (starring convention speaker Koichi Mizushima) which covers how to use Zoom (including Zoom etiquette). This is viewable on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vnv5KZRS1XM>

We recommend that you sign up for Zoom and view the "How to Zoom" video during the convention week before the events on Saturday

The link for each Zoom event will be sent to you on Thursday and again on Saturday via the email address you provided when you registered. When you click on each Zoom link, you will be able to participate in the event. We recommend signing into the event 20 minutes prior to the given start time so any unexpected technical difficulty can be resolved and you do not miss any of the great content being presented.

SCHEDULE

* All times Pacific Daylight Time

Sunday September 12
10:00 AM* Opening Service



Keynote Speech: Reverend Peter Hata

Monday September 13



Featured Presenter: Kim Stafford

Tuesday September 14



Featured Presenter: Reverend Ko'e Umezu

**Featured presentations & Keynote can be viewed
on YouTube anytime during the convention**

Wednesday September 15



Featured Presenter: Koichi Mizushima

Thursday September 16



Featured Presenter: Nobuko Miyamoto



Featured Presenter: Reverend Yuki Sugahara
(in Japanese)

Saturday September 18

Live Panel Discussion 10:00 AM*

Jr. YBA chat with Bishop Harada 1:00 PM*

Hospitality Zoom Room 7:00 PM*

Sunday September 19

10:00 AM* Closing Service
Dharma Message by Rev. Sugahara

OPENING SERVICE

Sunday September 12, 2021 10:00 am
via YouTube

Chairperson: Brenda Fugate
OBT Minister's Assistant

Order of Service

Kansho

Welcome
Brenda Fugate

Juseige
NW District Ministers

Three Treasures
Reverend Jerry Hirano, Idaho-Oregon

BCA Bishop's Message
Bishop Marvin Harada

Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Ken Garner

Keynote Address
Discovering The Student Within
Reverend Peter Hata

Closing Remarks And Week's Events
Brenda Fugate



Reverend Peter Hata

**“Discovering The Student
Within”**
Sunday
September 12

Reverend. Peter Hata received Kyoshi ordination with Kaikyoshi status in 2012 and was appointed resident minister of West Covina Buddhist Temple. In 2014, he was reassigned as staff minister at Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple - Los Angeles. Rev. Peter recently announced his retirement from full-time ministry in order to devote more time to his music.

Rev. Peter is also a musician and is an original member of the jazz-fusion group Hiroshima. His musical pursuits led him to more traditional jazz styles. He wrote a book on improvisation, [Speaking Jazz: The Natural Way to Jazz Improvisation](#), and in 2006, earned a MA Music degree from Cal State LA. He was invited by the school's music department to become a faculty member and has taught a variety of grad and undergrad music courses there. He also performs locally in LA with his own jazz trio.

Kim Stafford

“Tapping On The Bell
Of Silence”

Monday
September 13



Kim Stafford teaches and travels to raise the human spirit. He is the author of a dozen books, including [Having Everything Right](#), and most recently, [Singer Come from Afar](#). He is the founding director of the Northwest Writing Institute at Lewis & Clark College, and he has taught writing at the Sitka Center for Art & Ecology, the Fishtrap Writers Gathering, a host of colleges and community centers in America, as well as internationally, in Mexico, Scotland, Italy, and Bhutan. He also served two years as Oregon's ninth Poet Laureate.

www.kimstaffordpoet.com



Reverend Ko'e Umezu

“The Art of Shinjin”

Tuesday
September 14

Reverend Ko'e Umezu (pronouns she/her) was born in Los Angeles and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. She attended UC Davis and graduated with a BA in both Communications and Studio Art. Since moving back to LA in 2002 to pursue a career in storyboarding in the film and television industry, she has been freelancing as a storyboard artist. In 2019, Rev. Ko'e received her tokudo ordination in the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha tradition, at the Hongwan-ji in Kyoto, and was assigned as an assistant minister to Rev. Koho Takata at the West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple in August 2020, focusing on young adult outreach.



**Koichi
Mizushima**
“Seeing Is Believing”
Wednesday
September 15

Koichi Mizushima graduated UC Davis in 1995, with a Bachelors Degree in Management Economics, and, over the years, has owned three Japanese restaurants. At the Sacramento Betsuin, he has re-established the Jr. YBA Program, co-taught 1st Grade Dharma school, become a Minister's Assistant, completed the Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course, and has been Programs Director. He is currently BCA Youth Coordinator and is part of the BCA Center for Buddhist Education Staff.

**Nobuko
Miyamoto**

“Relocation, Race, Love,
And Revolution”
Thursday
September 16



Nobuko Miyamoto uses song, dance and theater to reclaim our minds, bodies, histories, and create solidarity across cultures. Originally a dancer on Broadway and in films, she found her own voice as an activist and singer in the Asian American Movement, co-creating the iconic album [A Grain of Sand](#) (1973). This talk shares how Rev. Masao Kodani offered her the social hall of Senshin Temple in LA, to teach dance, becoming the home of Great Leap, launching musicals, concerts, music videos, and new obon pieces such as "Mottainai" and "Bambutsu". In 2021, Nobuko released the album [120,000 Stories](#) (Smithsonian Folkways) and memoir [Not Yo' Butterfly: My Long Song of Relocation, Race, Love and Revolution](#) (University of California Press)

www.nobukomiyamoto.org
www.greatleap.org

Reverend Yuki Sugahara

菅原祐軌師

“Buddhism And Art”

Thursday

September 16



Reverend Yuki Sugahara became the resident minister of the Oregon Buddhist Temple June 1, 2017. Rev. Yuki obtained an M.A. in Buddhist Studies from Musashino Graduate School and Hongwanji-ha Scholarly title Tokugo. He has been sharing Dharma messages daily with Morning Services and weekly with Sunday Services. One of Rev. Yuki's hobbies is playing the bass guitar. After graduating from the university he played in a rock band called Jelly Belly. He also teaches Ying Jow Pai (Eagle Claw School) Kung Fu to children.

Reverend Sugahara's presentation will be in Japanese. He will be giving the Dharma message “The ART Of Buddhist Living” in English at the Closing Service on Sunday September 19.

Do you have questions and/or comments for our presenters?

You can submit a comment via:

[The on-line form available on
the convention website](#)

OR

YouTube Comments

Your submission will help shape the content of the [live panel discussion](#) **Saturday September 18, 2021 @ 10:00 am Pacific Daylight Time**

Panel Discussion with Our Featured Presenters

Saturday, September 18
10:00 -11:30 am PDT

A highlight of the 74th Annual NW District Convention, will be the **LIVE** Zoom panel discussion with our presenters at 10 am PDT on Saturday September 18. This will present an opportunity for the panelists to interact with each other, and for them to answer questions and explore ideas generated by participants throughout the week of the convention.

While convention participants will be muted during this exchange, you are encouraged to chat in to the Zoom conversation with their thoughts and questions.

Zoom meeting information will be sent to you through your registration email address during the week leading up to the 90-minute event.

We hope to make this interactive for you so that you have access to our amazing presenters and are able to have your unique questions answered during the panel discussion. We look forward to engaging with you during this convention and the panel discussion on Saturday the 18th.

Special Jr YBA Event Chat with Bishop Harada

Saturday, September 18 1:00 - 2:30pm PDT

Middle and High School students: If you haven't met Bishop Harada, this is a great opportunity to get to know him and other YBA members at this exclusive **Jr. YBA only** virtual event. Join Bishop Harada for this informal and open chat on Zoom, Saturday at 1:00 pm.

Zoom sign-in information will be sent to registrants 18 years and younger (and parents) on Thursday September 16.



Hospitality Zoom Room

Saturday, September 18 7:00pm PDT
Hosted by members of the OBT Sangha

Everyone is welcome!

Meet up with old friends, make new friends, discuss the great convention presentations or wherever the conversation takes you at this open forum.

Zoom sign-in information will be sent to registrants on Thursday September 16.

CLOSING SERVICE

Sunday September 19, 2021 10:00 am
via YouTube

Chairperson: Shinya Ichikawa
OBT Member

Order of Service

Kansho

Opening Remarks
Shinya Ichikawa

Sanbutsuge
NW District Ministers

Jodo Shinshu Creed I
Reverend Jim Warrick, White River

Dharma Talk
The ART Of Buddhist Living
Reverend Yuki Sugahara

Closing Remarks
Shinya Ichikawa

On behalf of The Oregon Buddhist Temple

THANK YOU

for attending the
74TH Annual NW District
Buddhist Convention

**Please complete our on-line
attendee survey to help us plan
future events.**
<https://forms.gle/vLAa8MZXFISUTh2PA>

For Additional Dharma Talks and
Jodo Shinshu Buddhism Content
Subscribe to the Oregon Buddhist
Temple YouTube Channel
youtube.com/user/OregonBuddhistTemple



Rev. Katsuyei Tada



Rev. Charles K. Hasegawa
1985 - 1996



Rev. Minoru Anzawa
1975-1982



Rev. Tetsuhiro Hirota
1987-1988



Rev. Masahiro Ohbata
1988-1990



Rev. Masamichi Oheta
1991-1993



Rev. Shiroshi Sakumura
1994-1995

**75th NW District
Convention
&
75th Anniversary of IOBT**

**Reflecting On The Past
Looking To The Future**

**Hosted by
Idaho-Oregon
Buddhist Temple**

**Save the Dates
Sept 16-18, 2022**



The

Appreciation

Realization

Transformation

Of Buddhist Living