

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple
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NEWS RELEASE

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Statement on Seattle Bon Odori Festival and COVID-19

Seattle, WA – The Seattle Betsuin Bon Odori Committee is closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation that is occurring in our community, as well as across the world. Our thoughts are with those who are impacted by this pandemic. During this period of social distancing, we have received questions regarding Bon Odori. **At this time, no decisions have been made regarding our 88th Bon Odori scheduled for July 18-19, 2020.** This is still a very fluid situation and our decision on the status of Seattle Bon Odori will be based on direction from state and local officials, with the health and safety of our community as our top priority.

Seattle Bon Odori is proud to be one of the oldest Seafair Sanctioned Community Events. Earlier this week, Seafair released a joint statement along with several other community partners urging residents to stay home to help flatten the curve. This statement can be found on our Facebook (@SeattleBonOdori) page as well as on the Seafair (@Seafair) Facebook page. As stated in the joint statement, once this virus has passed, it is an important part of the recovery process to reconnect and join together.

During this time of uncertainty, we are reminded of the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha, to save all sentient beings from suffering and reach the Pure Land. In this dark time, may the Light and Life of Amida Buddha guide us to live a life of gratitude, wisdom and compassion to all.

*“The cloud of light is unhindered, like open sky;
There is nothing that impedes it.
Every being is nurtured by this light,
So take refuge in Amida, the one beyond conception.”
(Shinran Shonin, Collected Works of Shinran, p.326)*

Gassho (palms together),

Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki
Rimban, Seattle Betsuin

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