

## Dharma Service with Rev. Aoki on Zoom

Please contact Rev. Aoki at:  
[rev.aoki@gmail.com](mailto:rev.aoki@gmail.com)  
to receive the Zoom link  
or check the temple website

(Service takes approximately 30  
minutes - Meditation, Sutra Chanting,  
and Dharma Talk)

Saturday, January 2 at 10AM  
Saturday, January 23 at 10AM  
Saturday, January 30 at 10AM  
Saturday, February 6 at 10AM



Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>  
@ 10:00 a.m.

### Hoonko and Shotsuki/ Memorial

via Zoom

Please register on the VBT website to  
receive a link to the service.

### *The following services/ activities at the VBT are*

#### **cancelled**

- **Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
- Bell ringing at UBC
- **Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**  
- New Year's service

## Vancouver Buddhist Temple



220 Jackson Avenue  
Vancouver, BC, V6A 3B3

Phone:

604-253-7033

Email:

[temple.vbt@gmail.com](mailto:temple.vbt@gmail.com)

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# Bodhi Mind



## Vancouver Buddhist Temple

January 2021, Issue #444

### **A New Year's Message From Gomonsu sama :**



Happy New Year, everyone! At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my best regards to you all.

Throughout the last year, the world suffered from the pandemic of COVID-19, which brought tremendous hardship to many people, and we still are not able to see when normalcy would return to our world. On this occasion, I would like to offer my deepest condolences to those who fell victim to COVID-19 and express my sympathies to those who are currently undergoing treatment.

When social activities have been largely restricted as measures for preventing the spread of infection and protecting people's lives, many temples have been struggling for continuing their propagation. It concerns me that many people have been left isolated in the midst of hardship.

'Dependent origination' is a universal truth that Buddha Sakyamuni presented. This fundamental Buddhist principle expresses that every thing, matter, and phenomenon arises from various causes and conditions. None of us lives by ourselves. We are living being interconnected and mutually supported by one another.

Here in Japan, a new type of lifestyle called the 'new normal' has been introduced to protect people, their loved ones, and communities from infection. Considering the reality that we cannot even fathom when the pandemic will decline, it is important that everyone deeply reflects on the principle of Dependent Origination that represents the true state of the world.

Even though having been introduced to the truth by Buddha Sakyamuni, ordinary people like us are still not able to accept it as it is. Therefore, to guide us to cope with the suffering caused by our own ignorance, Shinran Shonin clarifies Amida Buddha's compassion that always embraces all of us. When the world is facing this unimaginable crisis, it is crucial that each of us experiences Amida Buddha's great compassion ourselves, and live each day to the utmost, having that joy and sensation in our hearts as the basis of our life.

It is my hope that your temples will continue serving as your spiritual home, and therefore, I sincerely ask for your understanding and cooperation to allow them to be so. With my heartfelt appreciation for each one of you, I would like to conclude my new year's greeting.

OHTANI Kojun

Monshu

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

## **A Message from Rev. Aoki - Everyday is Happy New Year!**



On behalf of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, I wish to thank all of you for your support and understanding throughout this unusual year. Due to COVID-19, there have been so many changes and challenges in our lives. As December brings the year to a close, we naturally find ourselves quietly looking back remembering and reflecting on the many changes we have had to live through during the year we called “2020.”

As we look back at the past year, we also look forward to the new year. In the first few weeks of the New Year, we greet everyone with a “Happy New Year!” It’s a wonderful expression that has such a feeling of “freshness.” In addition, as I get another year older, the time seems to pass quicker than ever.

I remember during the long and hot days of my first summer in Kyoto, one of my senseis began greeting us all with a hearty “Happy New Year, Everyone!” Needless to say, being greeted with this expression in July seemed most unusual. No one in the classroom said anything, so I too kept quiet while thinking, “This is very strange.”

After a few days, the sensei finally responded to the puzzled looks on the many faces around him - whenever he used his off-season greeting. After a joyful greeting of “Happy New Year Everyone!” he added, “Remember ... Everyday is Happy New Year!”

And so it is... To a Buddhist, everyday and every moment is a new beginning. Every heartbeat and every breath is an end and a new beginning. We are taught that life is a series of meetings and partings, and of endings and beginnings. With such a clear awareness of life’s nature, we are encouraged to live each year, to live each day, and to live each moment not taking for granted the gift of this precious and unrepeatable time we have together. Such is a life of Nembutsu.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year . . . every day of the year!

Namo Amida Butsu

Tatsuya Aoki

Rev. Yasuhiro Miyakawa of BC Okanagan district, is retiring as of January 1, 2021. I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to Rev. Miyakawa for his 35 years of service in Canada.

### **Hoonko Service**

The Hoonko Service is the memorial service of the founder of Shin Buddhism, Shinran Shonin, who passed away on January 16, 1263, at the age of 90.

For over 700 years, Shin Buddhists have observed the Hoonko service for Shinran, allowing us to recall and appreciate the Teachings. This service is the most important in the year for Shin Buddhists.

### **Vancouver Buddhist Temple Annual General Meeting Notification**

The 2021 AGM will be held on Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> @ 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. This an election year. Ballots and voting information will be mailed out to members in early February. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting. More details to follow.



## Message from the VBT Board

Without a doubt this has been an exceptional year. Who could have predicted the unfolding of events? However, after being careful and diligent for ten months, there is a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel. Before too long, hopefully, we will have a vaccine to protect everyone. Without physically gathering at the temple, the board has met every month with the exception of January and February via Zoom conference calls. We have been able to keep on top of issues that have occurred during the year. Thank you directors.

As we are now in the last month of the year, it behooves us to recognize the efforts of Aoki Sensei in keeping things together at otera dealing with essential services under stressful conditions. Obviously we have cancelled all public gatherings and services. That means no Mochitsuki, no New Year's eve service, and no New Year's Day service. At the present time, COVID restrictions means no physical gatherings of any kind until further notice from the government. We ask for your patience. Soon we will be able to come together at the temple, our sangha home. Meanwhile, we are still having monthly memorial services (shotsuki) via the internet using Zoom and YouTube services. We continue to seek your support and contributions (dana) to cover our costs and to keep our temple safe and sound. For family and private matters, Aoki Sensei is present at the temple. Please call him if you or your family wish to speak to him. The upcoming schedule of online services can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

“HAVE A SAFE FAMILY HOLIDAY AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!”

Gassho,

The Board of Directors

## About our Tradition - Gobunsho



The **Gobunsho bako** is a black lacquered box which is seen on the alter table used by the minister. The box contains the **Gobunsho** which are the letters of Rennyo Shonin, the 8th Monshu of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha. These letters are generally read by the minister in a formal reading style at the end of a special service. The **Godensho bako** is a similar lacquered box which contains the **Godensho**, the traditional biography of Shinran Shonin. The Godensho is traditionally read in formal style at the **Hoonko service** which is the memorial service for Shinran held annually in January. At the end of the reading from the

Gobunsho, the minister closes the reading with the words, “*Ana ka shi ko*” repeated two times as he closes the book and raises it to his head. Roughly translated the words mean, “*these venerable and awe-inspiring words are wasted on lowly beings such as we.*” It is a formal expression of extreme indebtedness and gratitude to Amida Buddha. The two official crests of Jodo Shinshu, the Paulownia and Wisteria crests are beautifully decorated on the boxes.



## **JSBTC President's Diary, November 2020**



Even though several COVID vaccines are nearing the approval stage, our infection rates are terrible, and it is likely that the next month will be a dire time for Canadians. Several provinces are back in lockdown, which means that most of the Temples are once again closed. I know that we are all tired and frustrated, wishing that life was “normal” again. But it is not, and instead we have to work towards what will be our new “normal”. The JSBTC Board, the Ministerial Association, and the Women's Federation held their interim fall meetings via Zoom, necessitating limited agendas. As well, we have decided that the AGM in April, 2021 will also be held via Zoom.

As was mentioned in the last edition of the Nenju News, the JSBTC urgently requires more board members. The JSBTC bylaws state that there must be at least six directors, but as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, there will only be five, and another director will be retiring at the AGM. The Board and the Temple presidents are meeting (Zoom of course) on December 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss this; if you want more information or can help in any way, please contact me or your Temple president.

On a positive note, good things are happening. The new JSBTC website has launched, thanks to the dedicated work of Robert Miyai and Harvey Kaita. Check it out: [www.jsbtc.ca](http://www.jsbtc.ca). Thank you Robert and Harvey. Also, we continue to build the national sangha through national events. Socho has arranged for Rev. Henry Adams of San Mateo Buddhist Temple in California to speak to us, via Zoom, on December 19<sup>th</sup>, entitled “Waking up to Peace of Mind in the Age of Conflict and Distorted Views”. This talk is open to everyone (not just temple members), but pre-registration is required.

This is the pre-registration link which can also be found under “Events” on the JSBTC website:  
<https://uso2web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZEqduGhqz4oGtyCGO7fAou6u8XTX2i4nZxR>.

In addition to our regular services via Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube, Buddhist Churches of America has shared its Dial the Dharma program. This program works through telephone and is especially meant for people who do not have access to a computer or internet. The program has 5-minute Dharma messages, one in English and one in Japanese, and they are changed every week on Wednesday. The toll-free number is 1-800-817-7918, press “1” for English and “2” for Japanese. Please make use of this service which BCA has so kindly shared with us.

I hope that you are all well and staying safe. As always, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please email me. I like to hear from you!

With gratitude and in Gassho,

Laura

[Laura.a.sugimoto@gmail.com](mailto:Laura.a.sugimoto@gmail.com)

## **Special Message from the Board**

The temple Board's term of office ends in March, 2021. We thank all the directors for their hard work and dedication. We ask that all of our members vote for those members who they feel will best provide leadership and direction for our future. Thank you to the executive officers for the last two years. The executive consisted of, President - David Otori, Vice-president - Frank Hamanishi, Secretary - Derek Iwanaka, and Treasurer - Yvonne Nakano. The directors were, Bob Akune, Martha Banno, Lorna Bishop, Greg Chor, Tim Hirata, Tom Kadota, Mits Kazuta, Patricia (Trish) Keizer (Tanaka), and Paul Kitamura. A special mailing of the election ballot, accompanied by our complete membership list, will be sent in early February to complete the election process before the annual general meeting. We kindly ask that each and every member respond by voting. Our future depends on our members' voices to give us direction for a promising future.

Yoroshiku Onegai Shimasu!

Namo Amida Butsu

The Board



## **Greetings from the Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple**



### **Greetings from the Valley**

Our temple hosted our very first Virtual Event on December 5th with both Rev. Aoki and Rev. Ikuta leading our Bodhi Day Service. We had 24 participants from BC and Alberta join in by video and phone. Before and after the service participants had a chance to socialize and chat with each other... something we had not done since our last service in February 2020! It was so nice to see so many familiar faces and to hear familiar voices. The feedback after the event was very positive so we are planning to continue to have virtual services each month until we can meet again in person. At the time of the writing of this article, the dates of our 2021 services had not been set yet so the date and time will be emailed out in late December. If you are not already on our email list for updates, please email Lori at [lori.north@gmail.com](mailto:lori.north@gmail.com)

Thank you everyone for your continued financial support. Your donations ensure we will be able to continue and resume our activities when we are able to open our doors again. Our ongoing bottle drive continues through the Express Drop Off program at the Return-It Depots in BC. Place your empty deposit bottles in a clear bag and enter the phone # 6043517183 at the kiosk and place the label generated onto the bag and leave it on the counter. If you would prefer to make a donation by cheque, please mail it to:

FVBT  
P.O. Box 1619  
Aldergrove, BC  
V4W 2V1.

In gassho,

FVBT Board

## **Donations to the Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple**

### **In memory of Mrs. Hideko Yoshioka**

Sueko Yamamoto  
Irene Rohrer

### **In memory of Mother Hisako**

Naomi Shikaze

### **September Donations**

John & Masuko Kamimura  
Alain & Keiko Hashimoto

### **October Donations**

John & Masuko Kamimura  
Mrs. May Mukaida  
Jenny Fujita & Mike McSkimming  
Denise Cork

### **November Donations**

Jean Nakatsui  
Keiko Hashimoto  
Mrs. May Mukaida  
Sueko Yamamoto  
John & Masuko Kamimura  
Irene Rohrer  
Byron Kagawa  
Joanne McAllister  
Denise Cork

### **December Donations**

Naomi Shikaze

## **2021** **Service** **and** **Meeting Dates**

### **Upcoming Events**

Saturday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> -  
Dharma Service @ 10 am

Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> -  
January Shotsuki and  
Hoonko @ 10 am

Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> -  
Dharma Service @ 10 am

Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> -  
Dharma Service @ 10 am

Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> -  
Dharma Service @ 10 am

Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> -  
VBT AGM @ 1 pm

\*\*\* All services will be via  
Zoom. Please register on  
the Vancouver Buddhist  
Temple website to receive  
the link.

Friday, January 1 <sup>st</sup>	Cancelled	New Year's Service
Saturday, January 9 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Toban & Board Meeting
Sunday, January 10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Hoonko (Shinran's Memorial) and Shotsuki
Saturday, February 13 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
Sunday, February 14 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Nirvana Day and Shotsuki
Saturday, March 6 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Toban and Board Meeting
Sunday, March 7 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Spring Ohigan and Shotsuki
Sunday, March 21 <sup>st</sup>	1:00 p.m.	VBT AGM
Saturday, April 10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
Sunday, April 11 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Hanamatsuri / Keirokai / Shotsuki *Combined (we used to have separate Shotsuki service)
Saturday, May 8 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Toban and Board Meeting
Sunday, May 9 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Gotane (Shinran's Birthday) and Shotsuki
Saturday, June 12 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
Sunday, June 13 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Parent's Day and Shotsuki
Saturday, July 10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Toban and Board Meeting
Sunday, July 11 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	OBON / Shotsuki
Saturday, August 7 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
Sunday, August 8 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	August Shotsuki
Saturday, September 11 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Toban and Board Meeting
Sunday, September 12 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Fall Ohigan and Shotsuki
Saturday, October 9 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
Sunday, October 10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	JSBTC Day and Shotsuki
Saturday, November 6 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Toban and Board Meeting
Sunday, November 7 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Eitaiyo and Shotsuki
Saturday, December 4 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
Sunday, December 5 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Bodhi Day and Shotsuki
Friday, December 31 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 p.m.	Bell Ringing at UBC

### **Remembrance Day at Stanley Park**

On November 11, 2020 I participated in the Remembrance Day Ceremony held in Stanley Park Vancouver, BC. The Cenotaph was erected in 1920 by the Canadian Japanese Association and dedicated to 54 Japanese Canadians who died fighting for Canada during the First World War. I had the great honour of laying a wreath on behalf of the BC Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples Federation. This year was the 100th Anniversary of the Cenotaph.

Hearing the heartfelt speeches of Mitsui, Enros and Yatabe families about their ancestors sacrifice was moving. These men believed that fighting for Canada would give Japanese Canadians the right to vote.

Each November 11<sup>th</sup>, we gather at the Japanese Canadian War Memorial in Stanley Park to remember those who have fought not only in World War 1 but all subsequent Wars and Conflicts.

The Ceremony was an opportunity to express gratitude to those Canadians who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

Ted Akune

President

BC Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples Federation

The Moderator of the program: David Iwaasa,

Speeches: David Mitsui, Kathy Enros and Susan Yatabe - descendants of those who participated in WW1.

Taiko Duet: John Endo Greenaway and Emiko Newman



## January Shotsuki (Memorial) List

The January Shotsuki monthly memorial service will be held virtually (via Zoom) on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

### 1958

\*IZUMI, Yoshiko  
\*NAKAGAWA, Minosuke  
\*TATEOKA, Hatsutarō

### 1960

\*UYENO, Mantaro  
\*SATO, Jusaburo  
\*HAMAKAWA, Yosokichi

### 1961

\*OZAWA, Shuzo

### 1962

\*BABA, Shosuke

### 1963

\*BANNO, Shizu

### 1964

HONMA, Seiji  
\*UYENO, Takezo

### 1965

\*TERAKITA, Imae

### 1966

KUMANO, Kameo  
\*NAKAYAMA, Shichiro

### 1968

KOYANAGI, Kiyochi

### 1970

\*HORITA, Kazuhide

### 1971

MUKAI, Tomiichi

### 1972 — 50th Year

KAWAMOTO, Koto  
\*FUKUNAGA, Kunikichi

### 1973

\*KITASAKA, Hana  
TANAMI, Ai

### 1974

ARAKI, Buyemon  
\*HASEBE, Sumiyo  
\*MURAO, Tameichi

### 1975

\*NAKANO, Seiichi  
SHIMOKURA, Mitsugu

### 1976

\*MUKUDA, Naosaku

### 1977

USUI, Hiraye

### 1978

\*HASHIMOTO, Tomo

### 1981

\*UI, Shigeichi

### 1982

\*SONODA, Tatsuhiko

### 1983

YADA, Genji  
\*OKABE, Taki  
\*ENDO, Moshichi  
\*NAKASHIMA, Masako

### 1984

\*YAMASHITA, Kenichi  
\*ARAKI, Ichiro

### 1985

\*YUMOTO, Tamaya  
\*HISANAGA, Kura  
\*SONODA, Tadasu

### 1986

OHORI, Genichi  
\*EISHIRO, Yoshiye

### 1987

YAMAMOTO, Yonetaro  
\*SHIMA, Brett  
\*HORI, Yonezo

### 1988

HAMAGCHI, Tsunekichi  
\*KINOSHITA, Tamiyo  
\*MARUYAMA, Shigeru

### 1989 — 33rd Year

\*NAKANO, Jin  
\*ATAGI, Hanaye  
\*TAKEMOTO, Otogusu  
SOKUGAWA, Yuki

### 1990

\*FUJII, Chuichi  
\*MIURA, Yoshitaka  
OYE, Misayo  
\*KOBUE, Motoye

### 1991

\*YAMAMOTO, Risao  
\*KIKUCHI, Shozo  
NAKANO, Kazuo

### 1992

\*WAKAHARA, Betty  
\*HAMAZAKI, Shigeyoshi

### 1993

\*NODA, Tsutomu  
\*MAEHARA, Jun

### 1994

\*IMAOA, Hideo  
\*OIKAWA, Makie  
\*NAKATA, Seiichi

### 1995

YABUNO, Shio  
TERAKITA, Kimiyo  
1996  
KONDO, Yojiro  
NAKAHARA, Kazuko  
NAKATANI, Betty  
SAKAI, Sayuri

### 1997 — 25th Year

TANAKA, Kazue  
NISHIKAWA, Toshio  
\*SHIMIZU, Akemi

### 1998

OGURA, Shunei

### 1999

UYEYAMA, Toshie  
IWATA, Hisaye  
TSUKAMOTO, Mayumi  
NISHI, Haruko  
SUGINOBU, Chizue

### 2000

KUROMI, Shigeru  
YAMAMOTO, Eiji

### 2001

TAMOTO, Saichi

### 2002

ASO, Kazue  
\*BENDIG, Richard  
\*KUROKAWA, Nora H.  
SAKAI, Yasuji Frank

### 2003

YAMAMOTO Kiyoko

### 2004

TANI, Kenzo

### 2005 — 17th Year

FUKUMOTO, Kiyoshi  
MIZUYABU, Tomiko  
IKEDA, Tsutayo  
TAKEDA, Michiko

### 2006

GOTO, Shigeiko  
HANAZAWA, Fumiko  
NISHIMURA, Masao  
URASAMI, Seiji  
NAKANO, Yoshiko

### 2007

NATSUKOSHI, Sakae  
OTSUKA-CAMPBELL  
Kazuko

### 2008

MATSUI, Othiro

### 2009 — 13th Year

IKEZAKI, Hitoshi

### 2010

OYE, Sumiye  
MORI, Kinuye

### 2011

KITAMURA, Michiko

### 2012

SHIMA, Roy  
NOMURA, Toshiharu  
HAYASHI, Yoshiharu

### 2013

ALEXANDER, Hideko

### 2014

OKADA, Raeso  
NAKANE, Mitsuo

### 2015 — 7th Year

OYAMA, Mitsuo

### 2016

IKARI, Sanaye Helen  
TORIUMI, Kazuo

### 2017

KIMOTO, Kaoru  
NAKATSU, Yoshiharu  
UYEYAMA, Kiyoshi

### 2018

TSURUMARU, Chizuko

### 2019 — 3rd Year

KITASAKA, Hiroshi  
NISHIMURA, Shigeru  
KOMO, Ayuka  
NOMURA, Asako  
TAKEMOTO, Masami

### 2020 — 1st Year

OYAMA, Minoru  
NISHIMURA, Saburo



\*\*The 10:00 a.m. Shotsuki Service will be held via Zoom.

Please register on the VBT website to receive the link.

# Bento Box

As many of you know, we had to postpone the November bento due to COVID-19 restrictions. We plan on having the bento on Sunday, January 31st (provided the health order has been lifted).

To order, please return the order form, with payment to the Vancouver Buddhist Temple via mail, email ([temple.vbt@gmail.com](mailto:temple.vbt@gmail.com)) or call (604 253-7033). You do not have to resend the order form in if you already ordered and paid in November.

For January 31<sup>st</sup>, the bento will include:

- Spring salmon teriyaki
- Gyoza (3)
- Asian chicken salad
- Shiraae
- Rice
- Tsukemono (2 kinds)



**Cost:** \$15.00

Orders must be prepaid (cash, cheque, or e-transfer). Last day to order is Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Pick-up:** Between 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on January 31<sup>st</sup> at the Social Hall entrance.

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## January 31<sup>st</sup> Bento Order Form

Number of: Bento \_\_\_\_ x \$15.00

**Total cost:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_