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# Bodhi Mind



Vancouver Buddhist Temple

Sept. 2017, Issue #411

## Message for 2017 Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Day



I hope everyone is enjoying the beginning of the new fall season, which illustrates the transient nature of all life. Leaves change their colour and eventually fall to the ground. The fallen leaves then provide nourishment for the tree. In the spring new leaves will spring from its branches to display its beautiful greenery.

At the present time, there are a number of issues throughout the world, specifically to do with racism, terrorist activities, nuclear threats, hate, and violence. These concerns remind me of a story of a bird in the *Amida Sutra*. It reads:

Furthermore, Shariputra, in the land of Ultimate Bliss there are various birds of brilliant colouring, such as white egrets, peacocks, parrots, *sharikas*, *kalavinkas*, and *jivamjivakas*.

The birds sing six times a day in exquisite voices. Their very singing expresses *Amitabha's* teachings, such as the Five Roots of Goodness, the Five Powers, the Seven Factors of Enlightenment, and the Noble Eightfold Path.

When the people of the land of Ultimate Bliss hear the birds' voices, all of their thoughts are dedicated to the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha."

To further illustrate, there is a story of a mythical bird, *jivamjibakas*, which goes like this...

Once upon a time, there lived a strange bird in a huge banyan tree which stood beside a river. The strange bird had two heads, and only one body.

Once, while the bird was flying high in the sky, he saw an apple-shaped fruit lying on the bank of the river. The bird swooped down, picked up the fruit and began to eat it. It was the most delicious fruit the bird had ever eaten. As the bird had two heads, the other head protested, "

I'm your brother head. Why don't you let me also eat this tasty fruit?" The first head of the bird replied,

"Shut up. You know that we've only one stomach. Whichever head eats, the fruit will go to the same stomach. So it doesn't matter which head eats it. Moreover, I'm the one who found this fruit. So I have the first right to eat it." Hearing this, the other head became silent. But this kind of selfishness on the part of the first head displeased him very much. One day, while flying, the other head spotted a tree bearing poisonous fruit. The other head immediately descended upon the tree and plucked the fruit from it.

"Please don't eat this poisonous fruit," cried the first head. "If you eat it, both of us will die, because we have a common stomach to

Cont'd on next page 3

## Pillow-side Service (枕経 “Makura-gyo”)

by Rev. Tatsuya Aoki

“The thought of Amida coming to the person at the moment of death, are for those who seek to gain birth in the Pure Land through various self-effort practices. The moment of death is of central concern to such people, for they have not yet attained true *Shinjin* (entrusting heart) during their life. Some speak of Amida’s coming at the moment of death, though they have committed the ten transgressions and the five grave offenses throughout their lives, when they encounter a teacher (zenjishiki) in the hour of death. They are said to be born in to the Pure Land at the moment of the spontaneous utterance of ‘Namu Amida Butsu’..

“The practitioner of true *Shinjin*, however, abides in the stage of the ‘truly settled’, for he or she has already been grasped, never to be abandoned. There is no need to wait in anticipation for the moment of death, no need to rely on Amida’s coming. At the moment *Shinjin* becomes settled, birth too, becomes settled; there is no need for the death-bed rites that prepare one for Amida’s coming.”



(Shinran Shonin’s Lamp for the Latter Ages;  
*Collected Works of Shinran Shonin*, p. 523)

With the cooler morning air and the changing colours of leaves on the trees, we are reminded that fall is arriving. I have been writing a series of articles this year about *Makura-gyo* (Pillow-side Service) in the Japanese issue of the Bodhi Mind. I have been often asked about the pillow-side services that we conduct at the time an individual passes away. The most-often asked question is, “When a person passes away, when should the pillow-side service be observed?” “Is it before or after the individual has passed on?” Once, Rev. Grant Ikuta, when he was resident minister in Toronto, wrote an article on this subject. With his permission, I took part of his explanation and added some of mine to the foregoing.

When we examine Shinran Shonin’s writing, we see in the above-mentioned quotation that, Shinran was very clear on his viewpoint. He believed that it did not matter what rituals were conducted at the time of death. Those who put emphasis on waiting to see Amida and his attendants, were those who tried to attain rebirth through various self-effort practices. Also included in this category were those who encountered a true teacher of the ‘Nembutsu way’ at the last hour of one’s death. For Shinran, the focus was not on the ‘moment of death’, but rather on the receiving of true *Shinjin* in our daily lives. Once an individual has encountered true *Shinjin*, there is no need for any deathbed rites, since their birth into the Pure Land has been settled at the ‘one-thought moment’ when *shinjin* is settled. (*To be continued in a future issue*)

## Encountering The Buddha

Continued from Jul/Aug 2017 Bodhi Mind  
Issue #410

### “6. One Candle Can Light a Thousand Lamps”

The splendors of the adornments in the Pure Land described in great detail in the *Smaller Sukhavativyuha Sutra* (Jpn. Amida-kyo). Reading this part of the sutra, I suppose some people might think that the Pure Land is a place where they can rest and relax.

However, *The Teaching of Buddha* tells us:

Though this Pure Land is the place for taking rest, it is not the place for idleness. Its beds of fragrant flowers are not for slothful indolence, but are the places for refreshment and rest, where one regains energy and zeal to continue the Buddha’s mission of Enlightenment.

And so it clearly says:

The children of Buddha, who have crossed to the Pure Land by means of the great power of Amida, may be zealous to return to the land whence they came and where they still have ties. There they will take their part in the Buddha’s mission. As the light of a small candle will spread from one to another in succession, so the light of Buddha’s compassion will pass on from one mind to another endlessly. (*The Teaching of the Buddha*)

(Taken from “Encountering the Buddha—108 Teachings of Buddha” by T. Numata. Published by Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (The Society for the Promotion of Buddhism))



## Message from the VBT Board

Mikyla Tak was recently awarded the Vancouver Buddhist Temple University Scholarship of \$1000. She is the daughter of temple members, Brad and Nichol Tak. Mikyla graduated from high school this past June and the VBT Scholarship Selection Committee approved her application on the basis of her academic achievements, in addition to her community voluntary services. Mikyla participated in youth activities at our temple and helped at our major fundraising events. She has enrolled at the University of Alberta in Edmonton and plans to study nursing this fall term. We congratulate Mikyla and wish her the best in her university studies.



## Introduction to Buddhism

5 week course - November 1 to November 29, 2017 [7pm to 9pm]



### Session 1 (Nov 1) with Casey Collins (Ph. D Candidate)

A general introduction to Buddhism

### Session 2 (Nov 8) with Dr. Adrienne Ross

An introduction to Vipassana or Insight Meditation.



### Session 3 (Nov. 15) with Lama Bev Komori

Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism

### Session 4 (Nov. 22) with Tatsuya Aoki Sensei

An introduction to Shin – Pure Land Buddhism



### Session 5 (Nov. 29) with Michael Newton Sensei

An introduction to Zen Buddhism.

Cont'd from page 1

digest it."

"Shut up!" shouted the other head. "Since I've plucked this fruit, I've every right to eat it."

The first head began to weep, but the other head didn't care. He wanted to take revenge. He ate the poisonous fruit. As a result, both died.

I leave the story like this for you, the reader, to figure out.

Namo Amida Butsu

Tatsuya Aoki

Wednesday Evenings at  
Vancouver Buddhist Temple  
Cost: \$40.00 (+ nominal booking  
fee) for the 5 sessions

Students \$25

Register Online or at the VBT Office

Please NO Drop-ins



### Can You Help?!?!

The Vancouver Temple is in need of a Deep Freezer. If you or anyone you know is able to donate a freezer, please contact the VBT office.

**Vancouver Buddhist Temple**

# FALL FOOD BAZAAR

Sunday, October 29  
12 Noon ~ 2:00 PM

Udon, Teriyaki,  
Sushi, Manju,  
Vegetables, fish,  
Plants, Books,  
And Much More!

うどん  
照り焼き  
寿司各種  
まんじゅう各種  
野菜、等等

10月29日(日) 正午より

Vancouver Buddhist Temple  
220 Jackson Avenue  
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バンクーバー仏教会  
秋のバザー



## Greetings from the Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple

It has been a very busy past few months. Our temple celebrated our Obon Service and July/August Shotsuki Monthly Memorial service with Bishop Aoki officiating. We enjoyed listening to Rev. Kojo Kakiyama from Tacoma, Washington.

Welcome home to Miriah Conway and Carter Perry who were the two youth participants who traveled to Japan with Bishop Aoki for the Hongwani Temple Tour. The smiles from the pictures are proof that they had a wonderful time.

The volunteers have been putting in many hours preparing for the BCJSBTF Convention and AGM on September 15-17 at the Coast Hotel and Convention Center in Langley, BC. The AGM and closing service will be held at the FVBT on September 17. The last day for registration is Sept. 5 so please get the word out and encourage people to attend. Registration is \$125.00.

Dates to mark on your calendar:

**Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> O-Higan and Sept. Shotsuki service @ 2pm**

**Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> Food Preparations for bazaar**

**Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> Fall Bazaar @ The Fraser Valley Temple 12-3pm**

**In Gassho, Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple**

### Toban Groups

The following activities in September are the responsibility of **Toban #3**

#### September

9 Sat— 9 AM Toban, Bazaar, Board mtg

10 Sun— 9 AM Fall Higan  
Sept. Shotsuki

23 Sat—9 AM Manju Making

Rev. & Mrs. T Aoki  
Mrs. Tei Domitsu  
Mrs. Kazue Egami  
Ms. Patricia Keizer  
Ms. Lorene MacDonald

Mrs. Yasuko Masuhara  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Matsuda  
Mr. & Mrs. Otokazu Matsui  
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Matsumoto  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray McDonald  
Ms. Frances Minato  
Mr. Harry Minato  
Mr. & Mrs. Kaoru Minato  
Mr. Hitoshi Mitsui  
Mrs. & Mr. Karen Mizushima  
Mr. & Mrs. Hiroyuki Morimoto  
Ms. Orrin Morishita  
Mrs. Yukie Morishita  
Mrs. Kazumi Nakano  
Mrs. Yachiyo Nishi  
Mrs. Tomi Niwatsukino  
Ms. Asako Nomura  
Mr. & Mrs. David Ohori

## Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple Donations Received in Gratitude



### July 8, 2017 Obon

Mitsuo Saito, Irene Tateyama, Pat Yoshioka, Hideko Yoshioka, Chieko Takasaki, Genevieve Iwata, Ross & Ruth Honkawa, Stan & Lucy Yoshioka, Amy Nagamatsu, Kim Conway, May Mukaida, Carole Hamanishi, Ritsuko Okada, Denise Cork, Teruko Ikuta, Mak Ikuta, Byron Kagawa, Naomi Shikaze, Ben Shikaze, Greg & Lynn Smith, Irene Rohrer, Ron & Marilyn Fujita, Mike McSkimming & Jenny Fujita, Tom & Yoko Matsuno, Henry Ikeda, Hiro & Masami Miyagi

In memory of

Masao & Hisako Kawamoto: Amy Kawamoto

In memory of

Fumi & Ken Honkawa: Reiko Honkawa

**Hanamatsuri:** Byron Kagawa

**May Shotsuki:** John & Masuko Kamimura

**June Shotsuki:** John & Masuko Kamimura

**In Gassho,**

**Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple**

Mrs. Junko Ohori  
Mr. & Mrs. Norio Renovich  
Mrs. Kazuko Takahara  
Mr. & Mrs. Mikio Takeda  
Mr. & Mrs. Shizuo Tanaka  
Mrs. Michiko Tanizawa  
Mr. Kaoru Tatara  
Mrs. Tomiko Uyeyama  
Mrs. & Mr. Adrien Vittone  
Mr. & Mrs. Tatsuya Yamazaki  
Ms. Joanne Yuasa



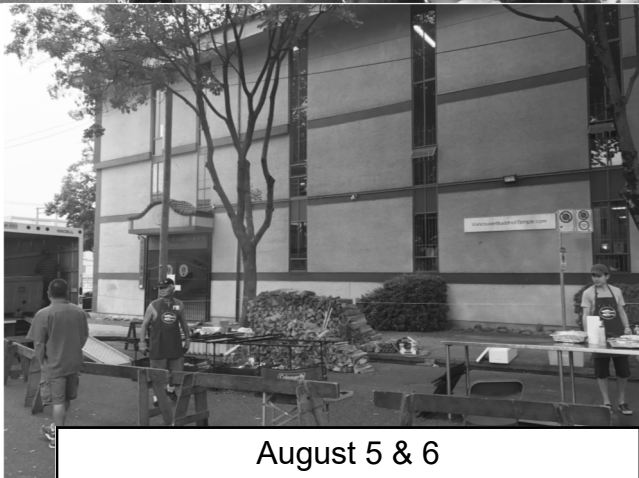
## Memories of Summer 2017



July 9 Bon Dance



Obon Public Lecture



August 5 & 6  
Powell Street Festival



Dharma Talk by Rev. Grant Ikuta

August 9  
Public Obon Service at Nikkei Place



Special thank you to Mrs. Akemi Komori and her  
Odori group!



July 7 Visitation from South Granville Seniors Centre



August 5 VBT Scholarship Presentation



## September Shotsuki (Memorial) List

The September Shotsuki monthly memorial service will be held on **Sunday, September 10 at 10:30 am**

### 1958

KARIYA, Tsune  
OKAMOTO, baby  
SATO, Saburo

### 1960

\*IINUMA, Chusaburo  
\*KOHARA, Maju

### 1961

\*KAWASHIMA, Masaki  
\*YAMAMOTO, baby

### 1963

UCHINAMI, Kazumi

### 1964

KAGETSU, Tsurutaro

### 1965

\*IWASAKI, Kinnosuke  
KASUYA, Kenzo  
\*SHIOZAKI, Minoru  
TANAKA, Tei

### 1966

\*ITO, Yukie

### 1967

\*OKANO, Moritaro

### 1968 (50th Year)

\*HAYASHI, Eikichi

### 1969

\*NAKASHIMA, Asa

### 1970

\*MIYANO, Kyoichi  
\*MIYANO, Tetsuro  
\*OMOTO, Kanshiro

### 1971

\*IKEGAMI, Matajiro

### 1972

\*KOMINAMI, Jiroichi  
\*MIMOTO, Tosaru

### 1973

\*KAWASAKI, Tokusuke

### 1974

\*TAZAWA, Haru  
\*YANO, Minoru

### 1976

\*HAYASHI, Tatsuo  
NAKANO, Heiroke  
\*TAKAHASHI, Genza

### 1977

RYUJIN, Shinaye  
YADA, Takao

### 1979

TOMITA, Mariko

### 1980

\*KITAGAWA, Yosokichi

### 1981

\*FUJII, Tetsuo  
IDA, Tsuejiro  
\*YOSHIDA, Hari

### 1982

\*TANAKA, Yoshiye  
UYESUGI, Ryu

### 1983

\*KOSAKA, Hisa

### 1984

\*AKITAYA, Hidetoshi  
\*INAMASU, Yasuo  
\*YOSHIZAWA, Shizuyo

### 1985 (33rd Year)

\*MINESHIBA, Ichiro

### 1986

OYE, Yakichi  
\*SHIMIZU, Kimiteru  
\*UYESUGI, Naosada

### 1987

EBATA, Masukichi  
\*HAMANISHI, Shizuka  
HAYASHI, Matsujiro  
\*ISHIDA, Tomiye  
\*KITAGAWA, Shosuke

### 1988

MATSUTANI, Hidehiro

### 1989

\*HAMA, Seitaro  
\*TAKEUCHI, Itsu  
UYESUGI, Bunshichi

### 1992

\*HAMANISHI, Katsuji  
\*KURAMOTO, Roy  
\*NAGASHIMA, Ishi

### 1994

KAWAGOE, Kiyoshi  
\*TAKEUCHI, Chisato  
YAGISAWA, Yuri  
YAMASHITA, Akira

### 1995

NISHIMURA, Emiko  
SUGIMOTO, Kanao

### 1996

CHOI, Jon Hee  
KADOTA, Kunio  
OKAHORI, Yoshiye  
TAN, Misao

### 1997

FUKUSHIMA, Iwataro  
MURATA, Miyako

### 1998

HAMADA, Hideichi  
YAMASHITA, Iwataro

### 1999

\*AYAKAWA, Fumi  
MASUDA, Maria  
TERAI, Shige  
YAGISAWA, Christopher

### 2000

AMANO, Emi  
ANDO, Eiichi  
OHASHI, Hatsuko

### 2001 (17th Year)

MINATO, Toshimi  
YADA, Yoshiko

### 2002

INOUE, Hisaye  
KADO, Shizuo  
OMOTO, Teruko  
SHINKODA, Mitsuo  
TSURUGA, Masataro

### 2003

HAMA, Shigeo

### 2004

NAKATA, Toyoko  
\*NAKAMURA, Kimi  
KOMORI, Haruo

### 2006

KOBAYASHI, Toyoko  
TSURUSAKI, Nobuya

### 2007

TANABE, Lily  
KAGAWA, Ayaka

### 2008

NASU, Katsumi  
UYEYAMA, Toshio

### 2009

UYENO, Kenneth  
2010 (7th Year)  
MORISHITA, Kimiye

### 2011

MURACHI, Matsuri

### 2012

KOYAMA, Keiko  
MATSUBARA, Teruko

### 2013

--

### 2014

SHIKAZE, Hisako  
GOMYO, Yoshie  
OBARA, George

### 2015 (3rd Year)

MATSUI, Kikue

### 2016 (First Year)

KOGAWA, Natsumi  
OYA, Osamu  
YAMAMOTO, Mike

## Passings

Our deepest  
condolences go to the  
families and friends of

Ms. Kyoko Watanabe  
(64 years) June 12

Mr. Hozumi Tomita  
(87 years) June 27

Mrs. Yoshiko Uyeyama  
(83 years) July 30

Mr. Saburo Maekawa  
(82 years) August 2

## Please Note:

Rev. Aoki will be away  
attending his father's  
13th year memorial  
service in Japan from  
October 3 to 16. In  
case of emergency,  
please contact Rev.  
Grant Ikuta of  
Steveston Temple.  
Cell: 604-908-4140

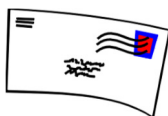


# September 2017



Sun.	Mon.	Tues	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
<b>3</b> No service at VBT	<b>4</b> Labour Day VBT Office Closed	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>12:00 Noon</b> Japanese Howa-kai and Seniors' Club	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> VBT Toban, Bazaar, + Board Meetings
<b>10</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Fall Equinox Hi- gan & Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>12:00 Noon</b> Japanese Howa-kai and Seniors' Club	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> BC Jodo Shinshu Federation Annual Convention (Langley)
<b>17</b> BC Jodo Shinshu Federation Annual Convention (Langley) <b>NO Service @ VBT</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Nikkei Place Service (Rev. G. Ikuta)	<b>21</b> <b>12:00 Noon</b> Japanese Howa-kai and Seniors' Club	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Manju-Making
<b>24</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> English Dharma Service	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>12:00 Noon</b> Japanese Howa-kai and Seniors' Club	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
Oct. 1 <b>10:30 AM</b> JSBTC Day & Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>12:00 Noon</b> Seniors' Club (No Japa- nese Service)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> VBT Board Meeting

## Bodhi Mind Newsletter



Hello Vancouver Buddhist Temple Members and other Bodhimind newsletter recipients. Last year we started a list of people who want to receive a copy of the Bodhimind by email. Also, both the English and Japanese newsletters are posted for free download from our website, [vancouverbuddhisttemple.com](http://vancouverbuddhisttemple.com) and are available at the temple. Anyone who wishes to receive their newsletter via email is asked to email Hiroko at [temple.vbt@gmail.com](mailto:temple.vbt@gmail.com).

Beginning January 1, 2018, The Temple will cease to mail the Bodhimind newsletter by Canada Post to non-members of Vancouver Buddhist Temple and Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple Members. Non-members can subscribe to have the English and/or Japanese Language paper edition(s) mailed to them for \$20 per calendar year. Please print and complete the table below and either email, mail or drop off at the temple. Payments may be included by cheque payable to Vancouver Buddhist Temple, by PayPal on the website or at the temple.

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