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Vancouver Buddhist Temple

May 2018, Issue #417



<u>2018 Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada</u> <u>Office of the Bishop Report</u>

Continued from April 2018 issue of the Bodhi Mind

<u>Regarding Kaikyoshi Ministers</u>

Through observations at the local temples, it is very clear that all of the ministers across Canada are working tire-

lessly for the sake of the temple, for the members, and for the community at large. I'm sure you would all agree with me on this point. May I ask you for your continued support for our ministers.

In Eastern Canada, due to personal reasons, Rev. Christina Yanko submitted her resignation effective as of January 1st, 2018. With this resignation, the Toronto Buddhist Church has submitted a request to have a native English speaking minister be assigned to their temple.

In December 2015, the Manitoba Buddhist Temple was devastated with the sudden passing of Rev. Michael Hayashi due to cancer. Since then, the temple has been continuing by having ministers from across Canada take turns going to Winnipeg to conduct services at least once a month. The Manitoba temple has submitted a formal request to find a part time resident minister.

Rev. Yoshimichi Ouchi has completed his one year orientation in Eastern Canada and has received official designation as a Kaikyoshi (Overseas) minister by the Hongwanji and has officially been appointed as the resident minister for Eastern Canada as of September 1s, 2017. Rev. Ouchi comes from the Oita Prefecture in Kyushu, Japan. He has received his certification as a specialist in the area of ritual and chanting, known as "Tokubetsu Homuin". In Canada, he is the only minister with this certification. While he was still a university student at Ryukoku University, Rev. Ouchi spent a year studying English in the United States. He has a good understanding of English and is very skilled in communicating his messages. I am very happy that he chose to come to Canada.

From Calgary, Robert Gubenco has expressed his desire to become a Kaikyoshi minister. Mr. Gubenco is a member of the Calgary Buddhist Temple, and has been supporting the temple as an assistant. In 2014, he received his Tokudo Ordination and has been helping as a Tokudo Minister Assistant since. His next step is to undergo the Kyoshi Ordination which he plans on receiving in November in Japan. For the past two years, Gubenco Sensei has been studying for his Kyoshi Ordination and will be coming to Vancouver in April to further his studies in the rituals and doctrinal teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

Comparing Kaikyoshi Ministers from the Past and the Present

In the past, when a Kaikyoshi minister resigned from a temple, the Socho would contact Hongwanji to request a Japanese minister _{Cont'd on pg 2} Bishop's message Cont'd from pg 1 be sent to replace the outgoing minister. However, today most of the services and temple meetings are done in English. Long gone are the days when it was considered acceptable for Japanese ministers to come to Canada and learn English while pursuing their career as an Overseas minister. Local temple members expect ministers to be able to communicate in English and to adapt to the changing culture. In such conditions, we must produce Kaikyoshi ministers who are born and raised in this country. Another development that we are witnessing is the increase in the number of those who are receiving Tokudo Ordination and becoming Minister Assistants. One cannot just become a Minister Assistant because they want to be. Presently a candidate must receive approval and support from the resident minister as well as the local temple board. Once the individual has completed the required studies to receive their Tokudo Ordination from the Hongwanji, they may serve as a Tokudo Minister Assistant under the guidance of the mentoring resident minister.

Unfortunately, the Minister Assistant Program as it currently stands has a number very high hurdles to overcome and must be reviewed further to enable more interested individuals to become Minister Assistants.

<u>Regarding the World Buddhist Women's Association</u> <u>Representatives Meetings</u>

From August 31st – September 2nd, 2017 the biannual World Buddhist Women's Association Representatives Meeting was held in San Francisco. From Canada, Lori North (Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple), Susan Huntley (Calgary Buddhist Temple) and myself (Overseas Bishops act in the

Message from the VBT Board

Our members celebrated the birth of baby Buddha (Hanamatsuri) in conjunction with the annual Keiroukai on April 8th. The attendance was approximately 140 including the honoured senior members, over the age of 75. Special recognition was bestowed on those becoming 77, 88, 99, 100 and over. The oldest man in attendance was Mr. Sam Oyama (97) and the oldest woman was Mrs. Sayo Hattori (105). The day was very successful, highlighted by the attendance of guest minister, Rev. Nobuya Mitsuda of the Department of Ritual and Liturgy of our mother temple, Nishi Hongwanji, in Kyoto.

Aoki Sensei performed the Hatsumairi ceremony which is a formal welcome of young infants to Amida Buddha and the sangha community. Infants presented were Miyuki Marlee Komori Quigley, Charlotte Penelope Hikari McGrath and Owen Alistair Akira McGrath. Welcome to our sangha family!

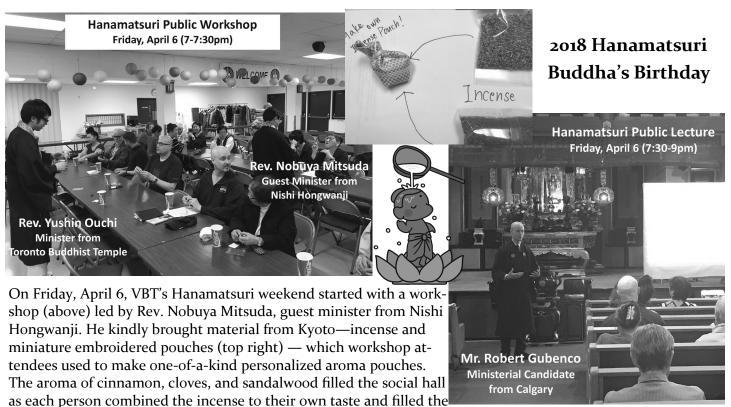
At the April monthly meeting the board discusses ways to improve our presence to the general public, Plans for the 2019 115/40th anniversary were discussed, including implementing an anniversary fund-raising project to finance improvements and purchase commemorative items. We will accept contributions now, so long as they are ear-marked for the fund, which will be tax deductible. The target amount is yet to be announced.

In Gassho, the VBT Board

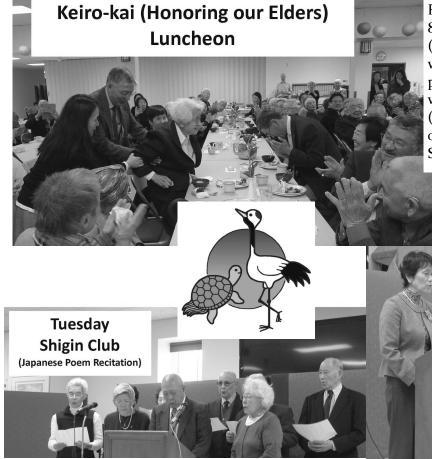
role of advisor) attended on behalf of the JSBTC. Since there were a number of items that still need to be resolved, a special meeting will be held this April at the Hongwanji. Susan Huntley and myself will attend representing Canada. The next World Buddhist Women's Convention is scheduled to be held in San Francisco from August 31st to September 1st, 2019. At the present time, we still have only received confirmation of the dates and are still waiting on the registration packages.

<u>A Final Thought...</u>

Recently, regardless of which temple I visit (not limited to just the Canadian temples), it seems everyone is worried about the rapidly declining membership. Even when those who come out regularly to the temple who have yet to sign up as a member are approached to join, we often hear comments such as, "What benefit is there in becoming a member?" The temple is not like a fitness club where membership gives the rights to members for the usage of the facility and equipment. In the case of the temple, even if one is not a member, one can read the newsletter online, attend Sunday services, or volunteer at various events such as cleanup, chow mein making or manju (Japanese pastry) making. Because of this people may question, *"What's the point of paying a membership?"*



delicate pouches. These pouches are traditionally used to add scent to small spaces such as dresser and cabinet drawers. A lecture by ministerial aspirant Robert Gubenco from the Calgary temple was given after the work-shop (left) Surely for all who were at VBT, the aroma of their pouch will remind them of this special evening marking the birth of the Buddha.



Following the Hanamatsuri Service on April 8, the VBT held the annual Keiroukai (Honouring Elders) Luncheon (left) during which everyone was treated to a Shamisen performance by Noriko Kobayashi (below) as well as Shigin, Japanese Poetry recitation (below centre and left). Congratulations to our most senior member, 105 year old Mrs. Sayo Hattori (left, centre of photo).



Shigin Master Sensei Tei Domitsu

Bishop's message Cont'd from pg 2

It's not as though these individuals are against supporting the temple, most who ask such questions donate regularly, it's just that we live in an age when people look for concrete benefits for paying things like a membership. The thinking towards donations versus membership is quite different. Donations are determined by the individual who is giving the donation, whereas membership is a set fee determined by the organization. Because of this, people have certain expectations of receiving some sort of special benefit from paying a membership fee.

The other day, I happened to be at the Sick Children's Hospital to give an introductory talk on Buddhism to the new medical staff. While I was waiting at the reception area to get instructions on which room the talk was to be held, a gentleman approached me. Seeing me in my robes, the man began asking me questions on Buddhism. During our conversation, I happened to ask him if his child was in the hospital, to which he replied, "No, no, my child is very healthy, and I am grateful that he has never needed to come here." What he said next was most interesting. He said, "It's exactly for that reason that I am donating to the hospital, to express my gratitude for the health of my child".

During our services at the temple, we often recite the Homage and Three Treasures. The first line of the Homage begins with "Hard is it to be born into human life, now we are living it. Difficult is it to hear the Teachings of the Buddha; now we hear them." To be born into this world as a human being goes beyond our simple conceptualization. On top of that to have had the opportunity to encounter the Buddha Dharma is truly a most significant occurrence. We shouldn't be asking what benefit I receive from becoming a member, instead we should want to become members out of gratitude for encountering the Buddha Dharma, and we should be encouraging others to share in the joy of receiving the teachings. This is known as benefitting the self, while benefitting others, or "Jiri Rita" in Japanese. Perhaps we can find the true meaning of becoming a member when we think of it as repaying our gratitude to the Buddha.

Gassho,

Tatsuya Aoki, Bishop Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada

Toban Groups

From lunches at our monthly Shōtsuki services, to wiping down tables and cleaning the washrooms, the temple would not be the warm and welcoming place for gathering if it were not for the dedicated hard work of our members. When people come to the temple—whether it's for the first time or the 100th time—the care we put in our temple expresses how precious we hold the Teachings of the Buddha.

The following activities are the responsibility of **Tōban #2**

<u>May</u>

12 Sat. 10:00 am—Toban + Board Mtg 13 Sun. 9:00 am—Shotsuki

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Akune Ms. Alexandra Chor Mr. Patrick Couling Ms. Kiyoko Hanazawa Ms. Shirley Hanazawa Mrs. Masako Hattori Mrs. Tokiko Hayashi Mr. Shinobu Homma Mr. & Mrs. Narhari Joshi Mr. Suresh Joshi Mr. Tom Kadota Mrs. Mary Kawamoto Mr. & Mrs. Takehisa Kawasaki Mrs. Sharon Kawasaki-Chan Mr. Mits Kazuta Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kitamura Mrs. Fujiko Kitano Mrs. Eleanor Kondo Ms. Fumie Kondo Mr. Paul Kondo Ms. Toshiko Koriyama Mrs. Yoshiko Koyanagi

Mrs. Kazue Kozaka Mr. Takeshi Kumano Mrs. Shu MingLai Mr. Doug Maruno Mrs. Terumi Matsunaga Mr. & Mrs. Sadao Minato Mr. Kazuo Mori Mrs. Noriko Natsukoshi Mr. & Mrs. Richard Nomura Mr. Tom Okada Mrs. Fusae Sameshima Mrs. Tsuneko Soyama Mr. Tetsuo Takemori Ms. Joyce Takeshita Ms. Marilyn Teramura Mr. Eiji Tsuji Mr. & Mrs. Keith Tsukishima Mrs. Toshiko Tsukishima Mr. Dave Wong Mrs. Masako Yada Mrs. Keiko Yagi Mrs. Kuniko Yuasa



Greetings from the Valley

Just a little note from the Valley. The wind is strong and rain subdued, which allowed the many daffodils to grace our Hanamido for service



on April 7, 2018 at the Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple.

Thank you to Reverend Aoki who brought our guest minsters to our Hanamatsuri and April Shotski service. We enjoyed a Japanese message and chanting from Reverend Nobuya Mitsuda from the Nishi Hongwanji Mother Temple in Kyoto and an English message from Sensei Robert Gubenco from Calgary, Alberta. Even though our group is small, our chanting resonated in the temple; and we all enjoyed listening to a Dharma talk about patience.

We are busy replacing our new stair flooring, so come out to see the changes. We look forward to seeing more of you.

Our next service will be on Saturday, May 12 with Rev. Grant Ikuta. We will be celebrating Kerokai along with our regular Gotan-e and May Shotksi service at 2:00 pm.

In Gassho, Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple

Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple Donations Received in Gratitude Apr. 7, 2018 Hanamatsuri and Monthly Shotsuki Service

Stan & Lucy Yoshioka, Denise Cork, Irene Rohrer, Hiroshi & Ruth Honkawa, Genevieve Iwata, May Mukaida, Ron & Marilyn Fujita, Vivien Nishi, Jean Nakatsui, Jenny Fujita & Mike McSkimming, Kim Conway, Hideko Yoshioka, Sam & Pat Yoshioka, Amy Nagamatsu, Mr. & Mrs. H. Miyagi, Byron Kagawa, Konshi Donation Box

In memory of Jack & Kenny Yoshioka: Hideko Yoshioka, Sam & Pat Yoshioka In memory of father Gilbert: Naomi Shikaze In memory of Hisako Kawamoto: Amy Kawamoto In memory of Greg Kawamoto: Amy Kawamoto, Marion Fujita

Membership: Kim Conway, Amy Kawamoto

In Gassho, Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple



B.C. Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples Federation Announcements

2018 Post Secondary Scholarships

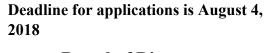
The British Columbia Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples Federation awards two Post Secondary Scholarships annually.



These scholarships are **open to any resident of BC** who:

- Is a full-time student attending a recognized post -secondary institution and enrolled for this coming fall semester in a program leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate; and
- Participates in religious/spiritual events and activities through a church, temple, or other recognized religious group.

For more information, or to have an application emailed to you, please contact Lori at scholarships.bcjsbtf@gmail.com



Board of Directors

We are seeking new nominations to the BC Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temple Federation Board of Directors. The nomination will take place at BC Fed Con-

vention <u>in Vernon on Sunday, Sep 9, 2018.</u>

2018 BCJSBTF Convention

"Buddhism and Moving Forward

Just As You Are" Living in These Uncertain Times

> Guest Speaker: Dr. Kenneth Tanaka





September 8-9, 2018 Vernon, BC

Contact:

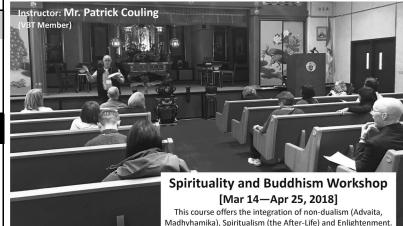
2018 OBON Cemetery &								
Temple Services								
Friday, June 22								
10:00 AM	Maple Ridge メープルリッジ							
10:30 AM	Whonnock ウォーノク							
11:00 AM	Hatzic (Mission) ミッション							
Sunday, June 24								
9:30 AM	Forest Lawn フォレストローン							
10:00 AM	Ocean View オーシャンビュー							
10:30 AM	Mountain View @ North							
	マウンテンビュー							
10:40 AM	@South by the crematorium							
	Sunday, June 24							
4:00 PM	Valley View(Surrey) バレービュー							
4:40 PM	New Westminster ニュー・ウェストミンスター							
5:00 PM	Coquitlam コキットラム							
	Saturday, July 7							
2:00 PM	Aldergrove Cemetery オルダーグローブ							
3:00 PM	FVBT Obon Service & Bon Dance							
	フレイザーバレーお盆・盆踊り	l						
	Sunday, July 8							
2:00 PM	Vancouver Obon & Shotsuki Service							
	バンクーバーお盆・祥月法要							
4:00 PM	Vancouver Bon Dance							
	バンクーバー 盆踊り							

Buddhist Studies at VBT



(Above) April 4-7 : Senseis from Calgary, Steveston, Seattle, Toronto and Vancouver gather at VBT to receive lessons on chanting and rituals from visiting liturgies specialist from Nishi Hongwanji, Rev. Nobuya Mitsuda.

(Below) Wednesday evenings March 14-April 25: VBT member Mr. Patrick Couling facilitated a workshop on "Spirituality and Buddhism"





Gotan-e (Birth of Shinran Shonin) service.

May's monthly memorial Shotsuki service will be observed in conjunction with Gotan-e.

This observation celebrates the birth of our founder Shinran Shonin who was born on May 21, 1173. Reviewing Shinran Shonin's life, he did not live a fortunate life filled with happy environmental conditions. Both his parents were gone at an early age and he encountered many hardships throughout his life. But his spiritual experiences which evolved under many trying conditions and in many places, have given the many followers of the Buddha's Teachings and answer to the purpose of

life in this world.

Shinran Shonin spent his simple and modest life of ninety years with no thought of making himself spectacularly prominent and impressive among the people. But millions of Nembutsu followers are rejoicing over his way of life through the guidance of Amida Buddha and his Teachings. (from the Nishi Hongwanji L.A.website)

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<u>May Shotsuki (Memorial) List</u>

1977

<u>1957</u>

*NAKAMURA, Miss *SUGIHARA, Shichisaburo 1958 *NAKASHIMA, Eikichi *OHASHI, Yuno *OHTA. Masu SAIMOTO, Kunimatsu 1960 *HAMADE, Yoshigoro *NAKANISHI, Mitsugu 1961 *SHIRAKAWA, Hidehiko 1962 *NISHIKAWA, Usaburo 1964 *MARUMOTO, Kameno *YABUNO, Sutekichi *YURUGI, Choichiro 1965 *INOUYE, Kandayu NAKATA, Norman 1966 *MATSUSHITA, Nagashige 1967 MADOKORO, Hiroye *YOSHIDA, Isamu <u>1969 — 50th Year</u> *OGINO. Chozo *ONO, Matsu 1970 *SUZUKI, Isono *TANAKA, Hisa <u>197</u>2 *MISHIMA, Tsurukichi YADA, Kiyoshi 1973 *TANAKA, Haru 1974 HORII, Sumiye *INAMASU, Suye 1975 *KITANO, Jyutaro *KOYANAGI, Toyohisa *MAYEDA, Kiyokazu *UYENO, Ei 1976 HAMAGUCHI, Fumio *TAKEDA, Iwao

KONDO, Yoshio 1979 NAKAMURA, Genzaburo *NISHIMURA, Aiko 1980 *WAKITA, Hajime *YOSHIDA, Yoshi 1981 *AYUKAWA, Kaoru *TAKAHASHI, Kazuo TANAKA, Miki *YABE, (baby) YAMAKAMI, Shotaro 1982 *KAWAGUCHI, Yoshio *OHTA, Takezo TANAKA, Ichijiro 1983 *KITADE, Yaeko *NAGAMATSU, Denshin 1984 *HANADA, Yoshio *OKEGAMI, Hidehiro *SAKIYAMA, Hiroshi *TAKEMOTO, Matsuyo *TERANISHI, Fuji 1985 *KAWAHIRA, Imiko YAMADA, Yukio 1986-33rd Year *EGAMI, Hikotaro *HAMADE, Toyo *MORI, Nobuo *NISHIMURA, Hiroshi *NOSE, Tazo 1987 *HORI, Mika *KITAGAWA, Naka *YURUGI, Moto <u>1988</u> *TSUJI, Gen 1989 *KUROMI, Suino *MIURA, Kaoru 1990 *GREEN, Jordan HIRAI, Ken *NISHIKAWA, Mitsuye

The May Shotsuki monthly memorial service will be held on **Sunday, May 13 at 10:30 am.**

1991

HAYA, Haruko *MIYAGAWA, Ito OKADA, Kazuko 1992 *NODA, Misaho *ONO, Yoichi *SOGA, Zenya UYESUGI, Fumio 1994 - 25th Year *MATSUBA, Shige 1995 SHIMABUKURO, Nabe *UYENO, Shigeo YAMADA, Takaichi 1996 *ITAYA, Masaye 1997 SHOJI, Tadashi TAKEMORI, Akiko TANAKA, Masao 1998 *MARUYAMA, Bill YAMADA, Kazuye 1999 HAMAGUCHI, Hiroshi *KUNIMOTO, Akiko YAMADA, Hiroshi 2000 IMAI, Eichi KAKUTANI, Kiyoshi NISHI, Yukio YAMASHITA, Toshio 2001 WAKAHARA. Tomohiko 2002 —17th Year FUKUI, Hisako NAKAMURA, Miki SAMESHIMA, Tadayuki WATANABE, Hiromi 2003 *NAKATSUI, Toyoko 2004 KITAMURA, Shizuko OMOTO, Noboru OYA, Chie 2005 **GRIMSHAW**, Rebecca

<u>2006</u>

*SATO, Yoshiaki 2007 - 13th Year HAMAGAMI, George KITAGAWA, Kotoma MORISHITA, Hatsumi NAKAMURA, Amy NAKATSU, Toshiye WADA, Seiji 2008 KAWASAKI, Ryota KOYANAGI, Hiroyuki TANAKA, Keiichi TANAHARA, Yoshihide 2011 FUJIYAMA, Kie YAMADA, Miyoko OKADA. Katsuko TSUJI, Yoshiaki WATANABE, Isao 2013 --

<u>2014</u>

YAMASHITA, Tsunaye 2015

2016-3rd Year

KAWAMOTO, Hisako SUGA, Yuriko 2017—First Year NATSUHARA, Lucy NISHI, Chiyeko

Passings

Our deepest condolences go to the families and friends of

Mr. Ryoichi Nakamura 79 yrs Mr. Tamotsu Teranishi 86 yrs

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
May	201	8	2	3 12 Noon Japanese Howakai and Seniors' gathering	4	5
6 10:30 AM English Dharma Service	7	8	9	10 12 Noon Seniors' gathering	11	12 10:00 AM Toban and Board Meeting 2:00 PM FVBT Shotsuki (Rev. Ikuta)
13 10:30 AM Gotan-e & Month- ly Shotsuki Memorial Service	14	15	16 11:00AM Service at Nikkei Home (Rev. Ikuta)	17 12 Noon Japanese Howakai and Seniors' gathering	18	19 Manning Park Family Retreat May 19-21
20 *No service at VBT*	21 Victo- ria Day VBT office closed	22	23	24 12 Noon Japanese Howakai and Seniors' gathering	25	26
27 10:30 AM English Dharma Service	28	29	30	31 12 Noon Japanese Howakai and Seniors' gathering	* Rev. Aoki will attend meetings from May 5 to 10. Should you require <u>emergency</u> Makura-gyo (Pillow-side) services during this time, please contact Dr. Bob Akune at 604-940-8350.	
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
June	20	18			1	2
3 9:00 AM BC Children's Hospital Fundrais- ing Run *No service at VBT		5	6	7 12 Noon Japanese Howakai and Seniors' gathering	8	9 10:00 AM VBT Board Meeting 2:00 PM FVBT Shotsuki (Rev. Ikuta)
10 10:30 AM Parents' Day & Monthly Memorial		12 7:30 PM Bon Odori Practice	13	14 12 Noon Seniors' gathering 7:30 PM Bon Odori Practice	15	16 9:00 AM VBT Manju- Making
17 10:30 AM English Dharma Service		19 7:30 PM Bon Odori Practice	20 11:00AM Service at Nik- kei Home (Rev. Ikuta)	21 12 Noon Japanese Howakai and Seniors' gathering 7:30 PM Bon Odori Practice	22 Cemetery Sites Services (See pg 6 for details)	23 12 Noon VBT Temple party
24 Cemetery Sites Services (See pg 6 for details)		26 7:30 PM Bon Odori Practice	27	28 12 Noon Japanese Howakai and Seniors' gathering 7:30 PM Bon Odori Practice	29	30