

UPCOMING
SERVICESDharma
ServicesSundays, start-
ing Sept. 9 at
10:30 am

September Shotsuki
Memorial in conjunction with
Fall Higan (Equinox) Service
**Sunday, September 16 at
10:30 am**

October Shotsuki Memorial in
conjunction with Jodo
Shinshu Buddhist Temples of
Canada Day Service
**Sunday, October 14 at
10:30 am**

Please note:

Rev. Aoki will be attending
to family matters in Japan
from October 1-12.

In case of urgent ministeri-
al assistance, namely Ma-
kura-gyo (pillow-side ser-
vices), please contact Rev.
Grant Ikuta of the Ste-
veston Buddhist Temple at
604-908-4140.

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Bodhi Mind



Vancouver Buddhist Temple

September 2018, Issue #420

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?” 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 another issue*)

Message from the VBT Board

Sadly, we must say good-bye to Joanne Yuasa Sensei as she departs for Toronto to embark on her Masters' studies at the University of Toronto. Her departure leaves a large hole in the duties and responsibilities she had performed over the last several years. One important duty was co-editor of the monthly newsletter, the Bodhi Mind. If there is anyone able and willing to volunteer in that capacity, please let Hiroko, our office secretary know.

Recently we enjoyed our largest attended event of the year, Obon. It was very successful; thank you to the efforts of all of our hard-working members and Dharma friends. The annual Powell Street Festival followed soon after. Our temple plays a significant role in the festival and we are able to enjoy good revenue from food sales which are only possible through the hard work of our members and friends. Domo arigato gazaimashita!

As part of the PSF, we have a Hondo Open House of Saturday and Sunday during the festival. Aoki Sensei, with the help of Patrick Couling have hosted and offered information about our temple tradition and Shinshu Buddhism. It is estimated that we had over 500 visitors during the two day festival. Patrick observed that there was quite an interest in Buddhism as a teaching, rather than simply a curiosity of the physical appearance of the hondo and temple in general.



In Gassho,
the VBT Board

Only Namo Amida Butsu

This summer, as I was preparing to move to start my studies at the University of Toronto, there was as much looking back, as there was looking forward. I think this is quite a natural thing to do in life's significant moments. I don't think it's too much of an exaggeration to call a move to Toronto to start a graduate program one of my life's milestones.

Another major milestones was when I started attending the Vancouver Buddhist Temple in 2007 (the very first service I attended was Fall Higan). Many of you know that I started attending as a path to health after a prolonged period of mental and health issues. While I will never be cured of my Social Anxiety Disorder and Depression, being accepted as part of the temple community has given me what I need to live without being constantly overwhelmed by the issues. There is no doubt that being exposed to the Dharma with and through the Vancouver temple sangha (community) has been an integral part of forming who I am today. I am grateful that in health my love of school returned, and that I was struck with the inspiration to focus and further pursue an education involving Buddhism. Particularly, I am grateful that I was made aware of the Masters of Pastoral Studies program in the University of Toronto through which I will learn how to apply Buddhist teachings to mental health issues in practical and therapeutic ways. I hope I will be able to draw on my own experiences and combine them with professional training and academic study so that I may help others access the Dharma to help alleviate their suffering, just as the Vancouver Temple and the sangha did for me.

Although I will miss the Vancouver Temple and sangha, I am certain I will not be lonely here in Toronto. The Toronto Buddhist Church is here; I have a place where I can put my hands together in gassho in front of Amida Buddha, and chant the words of Shinran. I have made very close friends here over the years through temple activities, and they make me feel supported and cared for, as I feel in the Vancouver sangha. I am truly in awe of the sense of community—even family—I feel when I think of how we are connected to each other as Nembutsu followers.

I am acutely aware of the care and support I have received to have been able to become strong enough to take this next step and make this move. I had not foreseen this next chapter but here I am, sitting at my friend's dining table *in Toronto (!! I still can't believe I'm here!!)*, trying to find the words to convey the deep gratitude I feel for everything the Vancouver temple has given me. There are no words to acknowledge all of the causes and conditions that allow me to be here today. There is only Namo Amida Butsu.

It has been my greatest honour to serve the Vancouver Temple, and I will continue to be of service when I can.

In deep gassho, Joanne Yuasa



2018 Summer at VBT



July 8 Obon Service & Bon Dance



Silent Auction
Fund Raiser
Over \$4,000 raised



Silent Auction Sponsors

JAL / JTB / Listel Hotel / BiiG Financial
Kintetsu Travel / Glenhaven Funeral Home
Fujiya / Yamato Trading / Sakanaya
Aritzia / Tantalus Lodge / Car-San Garden
MURATA / les amis du FROMAGE / Strathcona Beer
Baxter Kobe / Black Sheep Pub



August 4-5
Powell Street Festival



Tōban Groups

From lunches at our monthly Shōtsuki services, to wiping down tables and cleaning the wash-rooms, 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 #4

September

Sat. 15—10:00 am Toban + Board meeting

Sun. 16—9:00 am Fall Higan/ Shōtsuki Service

Sat. 22—9:00 am Manju making

Ms. Kayoko Akagi

Mr. & Mrs. Yasuhiko Bando

Mrs. Martha Banno

Mrs. Sachi Chiya

Ms. Jenni Chor

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Hamanishi

Mrs. Mitsue Ikegami

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Kajiwara

Mrs. Sandra Kawasaki

Mrs. Yasuko Komori

Mr. Rick MacDonald

Mr. & Mrs. Yukito Maruno

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Meugens

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Mukai

Ms. Yvonne Nakano

Mrs. Yoshiye Nakata

Mrs. Kazuyo Nakatsu

Ms. Cathy Nishikawa

Mr. Saburo Nishimura

Mr. & Mrs. Shiro Nishimura

Mrs. Tomiko Noda

Mr. Robert Nomura

Mr. Minoru Oyama

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pedersen

Mrs. Mitsuye Sakata

Mr. Gentaro Shimizu

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Soga

Mrs. Toyoko Terada

Mrs. Jean Wakahara

Mrs. Kiyoko Yada

Mrs. Keiko Yakumo

Ms. Cathy Yamamoto

Ms. Christine Yoshida

Ms. Kazuye Yoshida



October

Toban #5

Sun. 14—9:00 am JSBTC Day/ Shōtsuki Service

Sat. 20—9:00 am Manju making

Fri. 26, Sat. 27—9:00 am Bazaar Preparation

Sun. 28—6:00 am Fall Food Bazaar

Introduction to Buddhism

5 Wednesdays 7pm to 9pm -

October 17 to November 14

\$40



Who should attend? Anyone who would like a broad understanding of the spiritual and practical aspects of Buddhism. Most important – Course participants will be shown actual techniques and will practice under supervision. The series host Patrick Couling, will introduce each speaker.

General Buddhism (Oct. 17) with Casey Collins (PhD Candidate in Asian Studies at UBC)

A general introduction to Buddhism. This will include Dharma Centre Etiquette, a short history of Buddhism and the 4 Noble Truths. This evening will form the foundation for the evenings to follow.

Shin Pure Land Tradition (Oct. 24) with Tatsuya Aoki Sensei

An introduction to Shin – Pure Land Buddhism. Aoki Sensei will discuss the history of Shin Buddhism and how it came to Vancouver. He will also discuss the Nembutsu, its benefits and how to do it. He will then lead participants through a Shin Buddhism practice session.

Zen Tradition (Oct. 31) with Michael Newton Sensei

An introduction to Zen Buddhism. Michael Sensei will discuss the history of Zen Buddhism and how it came to North America. He will provide Zen meditation instructions. Participants will then practice under supervision.

Theravada Tradition and Meditation (Nov. 7) with Dr. Adrienne Ross

An introduction to Vipassana or Insight Meditation. Dr. Ross will discuss the benefits of mindfulness and insight. She will provide instructions and then lead participants into active meditation. Of particular note, she will also lead participants in “Loving Kindness Meditation”, which is healing and calming.

Tibetan Tradition (Nov. 14) with Lama Bev Komori

Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism. Lama Bev will talk about some of the iconic symbols and concepts used in Tibetan Buddhism as a focus for meditation, and as a path to spiritual transformation. Participants will be introduced to the Extraordinary Shamata practice, a special meditation practice taught by the previous Kalu Rinpoche.



September Shotsuki (Memorial) List

1958

KARIYA, Tsune
Baby Okamoto
SATO, Saburo

1960

IINUMA, Chusaburo
KOHARA, Maju

1961

KAWASHIMA, Masaki
Baby Yamamoto

1963

UCHINAMI, Kazumi

1964

KAGETSU, Tsurutaro

1965

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

1966

ITO, Yukie

1967

OKANO, Moritaro

1968

HAYASHI, Eikichi
1969 (50th Year)
NAKASHIMA, Asa

1970

MIYANO, Tetsuro
OMOTO, Kanshiro

1971

IKEGAMI, Matajiro

1972

KOMINAMI, Jiroichi
MIMOTO, Torasu

1973

KAWASAKI, Tokusuke

1974

TAZAWA, Haru
YANO, Minoru

1976

NAKANO, Heiroke
HAYASHI, Tatsuo
TAKAHASHI, Genza

1977

RYUJIN, Shinaye
YADA, Takao

1979

TOMITA, Mariko

1980

KITAGAWA, Yosokichi

1981

IDA, Tsunejiro
FUJII, Tetsuo

YOSHIDA, Hari

1982

UYESUGI, Ryu
TANAKA, Yoshie

1984

INAMASU, Yoshio
YOSHIZAWA, Shizuyo

1985

MINESHIBA, Ichiro

1986 (33rd Year)

OYE, Yakichi
SHIMIZU, Kimiteru
UYESUGI, Naosada

1987

EBATA, Masukichi
HAYASHI, Matsujiro
HAMANISHI, Shizuka
ISHIDA, Tomiye

KITAGAWA, Shosuke

1988

MATSUTANI, Hidehiro

1989

UYESUGI, Bunshichi
HAMA, Seitaro
TAKEUCHI, Itsu

1992

HAMANISHI, Katsuji
KURAMOTO, Roy
NAGASHIMA, Ishi

1994 (25th Year)

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

The September Shotsuki monthly memorial service will be held on **Sunday, September 16 at 10:30 am.**

1995

NISHIMURA, Emiko
SUGIMOTO, Kanao

1996

TAN, Misao
OKAHORI, Yoshie
KADOTA, Kunio
CHOI, Jong Hee

1997

MURATA, Miyako

1998

YAMASHITA, Iwataro
HAMADA, Hideichi

1999

MASUDA, Maria Masako
YAGISAWA, Christopher
Akira

TERAI, Shige

AYUKAWA, Funi

2000

ANDO, Eiichi
AMANO, Emi
OHASHI, Hatsuko

2001

MINATO, Toshimi
YADA, Yoshiko

2002 (17th Year)

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

2003

HAMA, Shigeo

2004

NAKATA, Toyoko

2005

NAKAMURA, Kimi
KOMORI, Haruo

2006 (13th Year)

KOBAYASHI, Toyoko
TSURUSAKI, Nobuya

2007

TANABE, Lily Sachiko
KAGAWA, Ayaka

2008

NASU, Katsumi
UYEYAMA, Toshio

2009

UYENO, Kenneth Akira

2010

MORISHITA, Kimiye

2011

MURACHI, Matsuri

2012 (7th Year)

MATSUBARA, Teruko
KOYAMA, Keiko
KOGAWA, Natsumi

2014

GOMYO, Yoshie
OBARA, George
SHIKAZE, Hisako

2015

UYEDA, Sayomi
MATSUI, Kikuye

2016 (3rd Year)

YAMAMOTO, Michiyo
Mike

OYA, Osamu

KOGAWA, Natsumi

Passings

Our deepest
condolences go to the
families and friends of

Ray Kojima (72)
July 11

Kazuko Komatsu (75)
July 27

Mark Ando (84)
July 27

Sayoko Yoshikawa (83)
August 2

James Kawahira ((57)
August 9

Sun.	Mon.	Tu	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
2 No Service @ VBT	3 Labour Day VBT Office closed	4	5	6 12:00 Noon Japanese Service and Seniors' Club	7	8 BCJSBTF Convention in Vernon, BC Sept. 7-9
9 10:30 am English Sunday Service	10	11	12	13 12:00 Noon Japanese Service and Seniors' Club	14	15 10:00 am VBT Toban/Bazaar + Monthly Board Meeting 2:00 pm FVBT Shotsuki Service (Rev. G. Ikuta)
16 10:30 am Fall Higan and Monthly Memorial Shotsuki Service	17	18	19 11:00 am Nikkei Place Service (Rev. G. Ikuta)	20 12:00 Noon Japanese Service and Seniors' Club	21	22 9:00 am Manju Making
23 10:30 am English Sunday Service	24	25	26	27 12:00 Noon Japanese Service and Seniors' Club	28	29
30 10:30 am English Sunday Service	September 2018					

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
October 2018				4 12:00 Noon Seniors' Club	5	6
7 10:30 am English Dharma Service	8 Thanksgiving VBT Office closed	9	10	11 12:00 Noon Seniors' Club	12	13 10:00 AM VBT Board Meeting 2:00 pm FVBT Shotsuki Service (Rev. Aoki)
14 10:30 AM Jodo Shinshu Day + Monthly Memorial Shotsuki Service	15	16	17 11:00 am Nikkei Place Service (Rev. Aoki)	18 12:00 Noon Japanese Service and Seniors' Club	19	20 9:00 am Manju Making
21 10:30 am English Dharma Service	22	23	24	25 12:00 Noon Japanese Service and Seniors' Club	26 9:00 am Bazaar Prep	27 9:00 am Bazaar Prep
28 6:00 am Bazaar Prep 12:00 Noon Fall Bazaar	29	30	31	<u>November 1</u> 12:00 Noon Japanese Service and Seniors' Club	2	3
4 10:30 am Monthly Memorial Shotsuki Service	5	6	7	Please note that the September Donation List will be enclosed with the December Bodhi Mind issue. We are sorry for the inconvenience.		