

Dharma Service with Rev. Aoki on Zoom

Please contact Rev. Aoki at:
rev.aoki@gmail.com
to receive the Zoom link
or email the temple

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

Saturday, April 3rd at 10AM
Saturday, April 17th at 10AM
Saturday, May 1st at 10AM



Sunday, April 11th
@ 10:00 a.m.

Hanamatsuri and Shotsuki Memorial

via Zoom

Please email Rev. Aoki or the temple for
the Zoom link.

Stay up to date on temple events,
message us and each other by
finding us at:

Facebook -

[https://www.facebook.com/
VancouverBuddhistTemple2016/](https://www.facebook.com/VancouverBuddhistTemple2016/)

Instagram -

[@vancouverbuddhisttemple](https://www.instagram.com/vancouverbuddhisttemple)

Twitter -

[@VanBuddhistTemp](https://twitter.com/VanBuddhistTemp)

Vancouver Buddhist Temple



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Vancouver, BC, V6A 3B3

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604-253-7033

Email:
temple.vbt@gmail.com

Website:
vancouverbuddhisttemple.com



Bodhi Mind



Vancouver Buddhist Temple

April 2021, Issue #447

Welcome to the Month of April 2021!



You may have heard that the Provincial Health officials issued a Variance to permit Outdoor and Indoor Worship services. However, there are still many restrictions and guidelines that prevent our temple from reopening at this time. With the increase in the number of vaccinations each day in our province. I look forward to seeing all our members at the temple in the near future.

This month, we observe our Hanamatsuri (lit. "Flower Festival") service on "Zoom" on April 11th in conjunction with our April Shotsuki memorial service. The Hanamatsuri service is our celebration of the birth of Sakyamuni Buddha. It was April 8th, in the middle of the 5th or 6th century BCE in present-day Nepal, where the baby Buddha was born in Lumbini Garden. According to the sutras that describe the event, baby Buddha took seven steps as soon as he was born. Pointing to the Heavens and to the Earth, he proclaimed in a loud voice, "In the Heavens above and on the Earth below, I alone am the World-Honored One. All that exists in the Three Worlds is suffering, but I will bring comfort." The Heavens were said to have been so moved by these words that they rained down sweet tea in response. This is why we pour sweet tea over baby Buddha's statue during the Hanamatsuri service. Hanamatsuri is not only a celebration of the birth of Buddha, but it is another opportunity to listen to the Buddha-Dharma.

Shinran Shonin, as our founder of Shin Buddhism emphasized what we call the Nembutsu Teaching. This is the expression we regularly hear at our temple — people reciting "Namo Amida Butsu." This phrase, Namo Amida Butsu, is considered the very essence of Buddhism. So what is "Namo Amida Butsu"? And how is Nembutsu the heart of Shinshu Buddhism? Sometimes I define Nembutsu (Namo Amida Butsu) as, "that level of gratitude where the words 'Thank You' are just not enough." It may sound easy enough, but when was the last time we felt so thankful that there were no words to describe our gratitude? When was the last time we could not find the words to express our deepest feelings of appreciation?

The Dalai Lama was once asked, "What is Buddhism?" and he responded, "My religion is kindness." I like that. Simply put, Buddhism is kindness. There is not enough kindness in the world today. But where does kindness come from? Kindness comes from living life with a deep sense of gratitude. The deeper the gratitude, the deeper the kindness. In other words, the essence of kindness is gratitude. The essence of Buddhism is Namo Amida Butsu!

Namo Amida Butsu,

Tatsuya Aoki



Message from the VBT Board

Fully one year has now passed since the Covid pandemic was declared all over the world. Many lives have changed, daily routines have been altered, and many lives have been lost. Our temple is managing to survive thanks to the generous support of our members and friends. We have now received the election ballots and a committee is about to count the ballots for a new board of directors, new executive officers and appointed chairpersons for the many member committees that exist within our temple. Thank you members for your selection of leaders who will be your voice in the direction our temple will take for the next two years.

We are still not able to gather physically for any meetings, social activities, or religious observances. However, Aoki Sensei is within reach via telephone or email for personal requests e.g., private services or personal consultation. Please call or email the temple.

In the meantime, the board is still gathering virtually on Zoom for monthly board meetings. While we are unable to organize any fund-raising events, such as Hanamatsuri, Keirokai, spring and fall food bazaars, Sensei continues monthly Shotsuki services, regular weekly Dharma services, etc... We encourage all members and friends to join these observances via the internet. For information to join these services, please contact the temple.

We have appointed a small number from our board to form a committee to study the possibility of relocating our temple to another location because we are finding the present location has suffered as a desirable location for our membership. If any member is interested in participating on this committee please contact the temple or any of the directors.

Gassho,

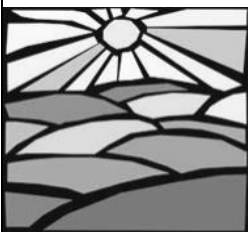
From the Board

Our Shinshu History

The scroll on the back wall in our naijin located to the far right is a picture of Prince Shotoku (574-622). He is regarded as the Father of Japanese Buddhism. Prince Shotoku introduced Buddhism to the Japanese nation from China via Korea. He had developed a deep understanding of Buddhism which was new to Japan. As the Prince Regent, he influenced the country to adopt this new culture moving from a centuries old feudal system to one recognizing the needs of all citizens. He was known to start all meetings of importance by chanting a Buddhist sutra. During that time, Buddhism was little known - thought to be nothing more than idol worship of a strange god. Shotoku felt that it was a teaching that would allow people to understand their true nature, which would give direction to their lives. He encouraged the philosophy of Buddhism which promoted social harmony in Japan. His emphasis on Buddhism as a religion for lay people greatly influenced later generations. Prince Shotoku encouraged Buddhism to the people of Japan by inviting visiting priests and monks to lecture for the purpose of cultivating Buddhist scholarship and commissioned the construction of temples and works of art throughout Japan.



Greetings from the Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple



Greetings from the Valley

Daffodils are blooming, the days are getting longer, and Hanamatsuri is just around the corner. Spring is coming, and with spring the anticipation of warmer days with more socializing. BUT, we must still keep our good social distancing and mask wearing habits until everyone has been vaccinated and our provincial and federal health officials say that life is back to pre covid-19 days. BUT, will the normal be the same.

Some of the positives from this difficult year... more time with immediate family (eating meals together and working from home), more care for cleanliness (washing your hands while singing 'Happy Birthday'), learning and using technology to keep in touch with friends and family far away (travelling across the country and the world while seated in your chair in front of the computer) and a deeper appreciation of the actual connections we want to keep... like our temple and temple family. We must remember that the inter connectedness of us is what supports us. Thank you to all of our ministers who have worked so hard to connect us to the Dharma during this year. We must keep these lessons alive.

Our March service was held on March 13th with Reverend Aoki officiating. Although, it was held on Zoom, he was able to show the temple during the service and we were treated to a beautiful video of 'Ondokusan' being sung.

Hanamatsuri service for the Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple will be on April 10th at 2:00 also on Zoom. Reverend Grant Ikuta will be officiating and we hope to have the Hanamido with the baby Buddha on-line.

We will also hold our annual general meeting immediately after the service. As we look forward to an exciting new/old life, our temple could use new faces and new ideas so please join us.

In gassho,

Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple



Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple Donations Received in Gratitude

December Shotsuki

Jenny Fujita & Mike McSkimmings
Amy Nagamatsu
Carole Hamanashi
Denise Cork
Irene Ryoko Tateyama
John & Donna Dubbelboer
John (Shoichiro) & Masuko Kamimura
Lori North
Marion Fujita
Naomi Shikaze
Roberta Nasu
Sam & Pat Yoshika
Stan & Lucy Yoshioka

January Shotsuki Memorial Service

Mrs. May Mukaida
Sam & Pat Yoshika

February Shotsuki Memorial Service

Amy Nagamatsu
Denise Cork
John (Shoichiro) & Masuko Kamimura
Marion Fujita
Sam & Pat Yoshika
Stan & Lucy Yoshioka
In Memory of Akio Kamimura: John (Shoichiro) & Masuko Kamimura
In memory of Roy's Shotsuki: Amy Nagamatsu

March Shotsuki Memorial Service

Jenny Fujita & Mike McSkimmings
John (Shoichiro) & Masuko Kamimura
Naomi Shikaze
Sam & Pat Yoshika
In memory of father, Gilbert (April): Naomi Shikaze

2021 Service and Meeting Dates

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 3rd -

Dharma Service @ 10 am

Sunday, April 11th -

Shotsuki Service @ 10 am

Saturday, April 17th -

Dharma Service @ 10 am

Sunday, April 18th -

Dharma Café @10 am

Sunday, April 25th -

National Memorial Service
@ 10:30am

Saturday, May 1st -

Dharma Service @ 10 am

*** All services will be via

Zoom. Please
email the VBT
to receive the
link, or use
the QR code:



Saturday, April 10 th	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
Sunday, April 11 th	10:00 a.m.	Hanamatsuri / Shotsuki *Combined (we used to have separate Shotsuki service)
Saturday, May 8 th	10:00 a.m.	Toban and Board Meeting
Sunday, May 9 th	10:00 a.m.	Gotane (Shinran's Birthday) and Shotsuki
Saturday, June 12 th	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
Sunday, June 13 th	10:00 a.m.	Parent's Day and Shotsuki
Saturday, July 10 th	10:00 a.m.	Toban and Board Meeting
Sunday, July 11 th	TBA	OBON / Shotsuki
Saturday, August 7 th	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
Sunday, August 8 th	10:00 a.m.	August Shotsuki
Saturday, September 11 th	10:00 a.m.	Toban and Board Meeting
Sunday, September 12 th	10:00 a.m.	Fall Ohigan and Shotsuki
Saturday, October 9 th	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
Sunday, October 10 th	10:00 a.m.	JSBTC Day and Shotsuki
Saturday, November 6 th	10:00 a.m.	Toban and Board Meeting
Sunday, November 7 th	10:00 a.m.	Eitaikyo and Shotsuki
Saturday, December 4 th	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
Sunday, December 5 th	10:00 a.m.	Bodhi Day and Shotsuki
Friday, December 31 st	10:00 p.m.	Bell Ringing at UBC

Memorial Years of 2021

1st Year - 2020

3rd Year - 2019

7th Year - 2015

13th Year - 2009

17th Year - 2005

25th Year - 1997

33rd Year - 1989

50th Year - 1972

VBT Future Plans

To all temple members:

A very important letter/survey will be mailed out to all temple members. The VBT board is seeking input on the possible relocation of the Vancouver Buddhist Temple. The resolution that was to be voted on at the AGM has been tabled.

Your feedback and opinions are very important.

Please complete and return your survey in the self-addressed stamped envelope as soon as possible.

How To Make Donations to VBT Online

1. **e-transfer** to: temple.vbt@gmail.com
(this is our preferred on-line method of payment)



2. Paypal @ VBT Website



www.vancouverbuddhisttemple.com



3. **"Canada Helps"** online donation site for charity groups
www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/vancouver-buddhist-temple/



April Shotsuki (Memorial) List

The April Shotsuki monthly memorial service will be held virtually (via Zoom) on Sunday, April 11th at 10:00 am.

1958

*HIRAYAMA, Michiyo

1960

NOMURA, Yaozo

1961

*HARA, Tadashi

1963

*MATSUNO, Riu

*TABUCHI, Kizo

1964

*YONEMURA, Senzo

1967

*KANEKO, Seki

*SHIMIZU, Zenzo

1969

*SUGIMOTO, Tome

1972—50th Year

*NAKASHIMA, Yasumatsu

*SAKATA, Ryoza

*YAMAMOTO, Isamu

*YOSHIDA, Keijiro

*YOSHIOKA, Teruo

1973

*KOBAYASHI, Isuke

*YAMAGUCHI, Kiyoko

1974

*SHIRAHAMA, Tomomi

1975

*HASEBE, Yukio

*TERADA, Kentaro

1976

*EDAMURA, Jujiro

1977

*KOYANAGI, Toru

1978

*KAMATA, Genzaburo

1980

*IKEDA, Toyoharu

INOUE, Yoshinobu

KOMORI, Fujihiko

MARUNO, Michiko

1981

*TATEYAMA, Shigeyoshi

*WAKABAYASHI, Masa

*TANAKA, Kiyo

1982

*HASEBE, Noburo

*IWABUCHI, Shimpei

MATSUI, Sadao

1983

NUKINA, Yoshiko

1984

*HAMANISHI, Fusaye

*HAYAM Yoshimatsu

*KADA, Fude

*MIDORIKAWA, Kono

NAKANO, Reizo

1985

*HIROKADA, Shigeo

NASU, Chiyo

1986

KOMORI, Haru

*NISHIKAWA, Hine

*SOKUGAWA, Toshiro

1987

*LEE, Kinju

*OHIRA, Yu

*TATEBE, Yonehiro

1988

*MORIYAMA, Kenichi

*WADA, Masaye

1990

*ASANO, Matsue

*MURATA, Miyano

1991

BANNO, Magohachi

*DOI, Sumiko

*GODO, Moichi

*UTSUNOMIYA, Kinuye

1992

*OSATO, Hiroko

TSUJI, Sumi

YADA, Katsutoshi

1993

*CHIAI, Asae

KOYANAGI, Mitsuru

*TANIYAMA, Shigeru

1994

*FUKUHARA, Asano

*SHISHIDO, Kiyoko

TANIZAWA, Mitsuyoshi

1995

MATSUNAGA, Shigekazu

1996

KONDO, Masaru

TERAKITA, Hideo

1997—25th Year

KITANO, Yaeno

TSUJI, Tadao

1998

NISHI, Kenichi

FUJIWARA, Akira

1999

MATSUSHITA, Naka

2000

EGAMI, Yukio

FORSYTH, Aiko Mary

KAWABATA, Eijiro

YOSHIOKA, George

MATANOJO, George

MORIUCHI, Chie

2001

NISHI, Diane

TAKAI, Sumiko

TSUJI, Soto

2003

FUJII, Kiyosada

SHIMABUKURO, Toshio

2004

BABA, Kohei

HAMAZAKI, Kazue

NAKASHIMA, Yasuharu

2005—17th Year

MORISHITA, Sawa

2006

IKEGAMI, Sachiko

KIKUCHI, Toru

KOMORI, Tadahiro

2007

FUCHIHARA, Mike

KAZUTA, Matsuko

2008

NISHI, Masaru

TAKAKI, Yukio Frank

YAMASHITA, Shunichi

2009—13th year

FUNATSU-MEYER,

Shohei

TAKAHARA, Kiyokazu

2010

NOMURA, Emily

2012

SATO, Sumiko

TAMAKI, Michiko

ABURAMOTO, Reiko

2013

YUZA, Jihei

NISHIZAWA, Chieko

TAKEUCHI, Akio

2014

KURAHASHI, Akio

MORI, Akira

2015—7th Year

NISHIMURA, Ayako

2017

NAKAGAWA, Shoko

NAKAGAWA, Fumie

2018

TERANISHI, Tamotsu

HIDEMI IMAI,

Jacqueline

KOYANAGI, Terry

2019—3rd Year

NARUKE, Yasumasa

KASUYA, Ken

2020—1st Year

MATSUI, Otokazu

Passings

Our deepest
condolences go to the
families and friends of

Mr. Takashi Toki
(83 years old)
February 16th

and

Mr. Minoru Tanaka
(95 years old)
March 5th



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

Please
email Rev.
Aoki or the
VBT to
receive the
link, or use the QR code.




Buddhist Churches of America (BCA)
 Center for Buddhist Education (CBE)

“What is the Future of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in the West?”

Guest Speakers: Three Bishops
Saturday, April 17, 2021
 11 am—1 pm (PST)



Hawaii
Rev. Eric
Matsumoto
Bishop, Honpa
Hongwanji
Mission of Hawaii



BCA
Rev. Marvin
Harada
Bishop, Buddhist Churches
Of America
(North America District)



Canada
Rev. Tatsuya
Aoki
Bishop, Jodo Shinshu
Buddhist Temples
of Canada



 Registration
 Link


Visit: buddhistchurchesofamerica.org email: cbe@bcahq.org

Free & Open to the Public

Membership Renewal Reminder

A gentle reminder to submit your 2021 VBT membership fee.

For 2021, Membership fees are as follows:

- Adult Member \$100
- Family including 2 adults and children up to 19 or the year of graduation from grade 12 \$200
- Student Member (attended full time post secondary education during the last 18 months) \$25 per member


The membership fee supports our temple, and funding the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, our national organization that provides health benefits our temple minister, training and recruitment of new ministers, administration of the Minister Retirement Fund, the Living Dharma Centre and support of the Office of the Bishop. You can read more about this in Nenju News.

You can e-transfer your payment to temple.vbt@gmail.com, mail a cheque with a completed form or by PayPal on the temple's website. Please indicate the membership name on the comment field.


Thank you for your ongoing support of the Vancouver Buddhist Temple.

“JODO SHINSHU GONSHIKI” – “JODO SHINSHU RITUALS”

REVEREND YOSHIMICHI OUCHI



THE HOW, WHY, WHEN & WHERE OF
GASSHO, OSHOKO
TRADITIONAL NAJIN (ALTAR) ARRANGEMENT
DEMYSTIFYING CHANTING SUTRAS AND GATHAS


PART 1: GASSHO, OSHOKO, SUNDAY MARCH 28, 2021
7pm EST, 6pm CST, 5pm MST, 4pm PST
 Part 2: Obutsudan and Offerings – TBA Part 3: Chanting – TBA

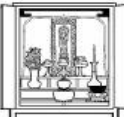
Pre-registration is required. To register see registration link at bottom.

A graduate of Gonshiki Shidosho in Kyoto, Rev. Ouchi received his licence of Tokubetsu Honnin in 2016 and is Canada's only Ritual Specialist. Rev. Ouchi is currently head minister of the Toronto Buddhist Church.

Part 1—Gassho and Oshoko—March 28, 2021
7pm EST, 6pm CST, 5pm MST, 4pm PST
 Do you know why we traditionally place our palms together (Gassho) when we bow or when we offer incense (Oshoko) to Amida Buddha? Why do we burn incense in front of the Buddha during the service? Rev. Ouchi will teach you how to do Gassho and Oshoko in Jodo Shinshu formal style. Q & A will follow the lecture.

Part 2—Obutsudan and Offerings—TBA
 Do you know how to properly set up your home altar (Obutsudan)? Do you know what types of offerings you should prepare? Rev. Ouchi will demonstrate how to set up the Obutsudan and will also explain what the Temple's offerings mean in the teaching of the Buddha. Q & A will follow the lecture.

Part 3—Chanting—TBA
 Chanting a sutra or verses during the Buddhist service is the most important ritual in the service. You will learn why it is important to chant. Rev. Ouchi will explain the meaning of chanting and how to chant. Q & A will follow the lecture.



Presented by Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada's Living Dharma Centre and the JSBTC Women's Federation.

Register in advance by visiting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZwkde6upjwqG9A-062SsE-Fua56cG3lmT4>

