

## 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 email the temple

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



Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 10AM  
Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 10AM  
Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10AM  
Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 10AM

Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

@ 10:00 a.m.

**Gotane (Shinran's Birthday)  
and Shotsuki/Memorial**

via Zoom

Please email Rev. Aoki or the temple for  
the Zoom link, or dial-in: 778-907-2071 &  
press the meeting ID#: 692 059 0986 & #

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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[vancouverbuddhisttemple.com](http://vancouverbuddhisttemple.com)



# Bodhi Mind



Vancouver Buddhist Temple

May 2021, Issue #448

## Two Rivers and the White Path



I hope everyone is well and healthy. I am looking forward to seeing everyone back at the temple one day.

I would like to share a story of "Two rivers and the White Path." This is a parable which appears in "The Commentary on the Contemplation Sutra" by Chinese Buddhist monk, and one of seven masters of the Pure Land School, namely Shan-tao (Zendo in Japanese) (613-681). It illustrates how an aspirant for the Pure Land awakens faith in Amida and attains birth in the Pure Land.

The summary of the story goes like this.... "A man was traveling to the west. In the wilderness, he was pursued by bandits and fierce animals and came to a place where two rivers met. One was a river of fire which flowed to the south. The other, was a river of water which flowed to the north. These two rivers were a hundred paces wide but endlessly long. Where they met, there was a narrow white path, about 12 cm wide, leading to the west bank. As fire was raging on one side and water was violently raging, on the path, from the other, he hesitated to take the path, but since death, otherwise, appeared imminent, he decided to go forward on this narrow path. Just then, he heard a voice from the eastern bank, urging him to go forward across the path, and another voice from the western bank, calling him to come across. He was encouraged by these voices, and carefully proceeded along the path, and with determination soon reached the western bank, where he enjoyed leisure and eternal bliss."



The river of fire symbolizes anger, and that of water, symbolizes greed. The white path symbolizes the slim possibility of awakening faith in a mind full of evil passions. The voice from the eastern bank is the Teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha, and that from the western bank, the calling voice of Amida Buddha. The western bank represents the realm of the Pure Land.

This parable became very popular, and together with the painting which depicts it, has been widely used to explain the Pure Land teaching. I can see the sense of urgency that Shan Tao's imagery brings to the story. This is not about just sitting around, passively reciting the Nembutsu. This is about a path of life to which we devote our whole being. Because of this, the insights of the story can apply to all Buddhists, regardless of their school or sect, on the importance of diligently pursuing their chosen path.

Namo Amida Butsu

Tatsuya Aoki



## **Message from the VBT Board**

The election results for the new board of directors has now been completed. Thank you to everyone for voting. The directors on the new board will soon be announced once those unable to serve have submitted their reasons to the board. Following the confirmation of the board, the new executive will be determined. The assignment of chairpersons of all the various committees of our temple will also be confirmed in due course.

The temple has formed a committee to study the future course of our temple. After forty-two years of providing for all our needs for religious observances, socio-cultural and sports functions and recreational events, we have noticed gradually over the years that much has changed in and around our temple. While some changes have been for the better, sadly most changes have been for the worse. To come to our temple, both for our members and friends, has become a concern, especially for the safety of our children, women and senior members. In the early years of our temple existence, most of our members resided in the neighbourhood known as Japantown. Today very few members if any, live in the neighbourhood.

A committee has been struck to study what the future holds for our Vancouver temple. If nothing is done, the demise of our temple is a strong possibility. Meanwhile, the strength and dedication of our members is unquestioned and once the Covid pandemic is behind us, we should come through this difficult time with a stronger and deeper sense of commitment to the Dharma.

Please contact your toban captain or any of the directors of the board to voice your views on the future of our temple. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu!

Gassho,

From the Board

## **Shinshu History**

Of the countless teachers and philosophers over many centuries from ancient India, China and Japan, Shinran chose seven outstanding individuals as having contributed the most towards the teaching of the Primal Vow as the best path to ultimate truth (enlightenment) for ordinary followers. All seven masters expressed a desire for birth in Amida's Pure Land. As teachers, they were all in accord with the primal vow of Amida as being central to Mahayana teachings. They expressed features that led to the development of Jodo Shinshu and wrote special commentaries to that effect.

Nagarjuna was the first of the Seven Masters who Shinran selected as being instrumental in establishing the Mahayana teaching, which eventually led to Jodo Shinshu as a distinct sect of Buddhism. Nagarjuna was born in Southern India between 150 and 250 CE or about seven hundred years after Shyamuni Buddha. He studied Indian philosophy and became a brilliant scholar. He is known as the father of Mahayana philosophy. The most significant contribution made by Nagarjuna, for Shinran, was the Buddha's truth of interdependence (emptiness). All things and phenomena, the Indian scholar said, are a result of countless causes and conditions and that nothing stands alone of itself. He advocated the principle of the easy path as compared to the difficult path to ultimate awakening. Simply put, the difficult way is like walking to your destination on foot; the easy way is like gliding on a boat. Nagarjuna thus cleared the way for ordinary lay people to pursue a path to enlightenment without having to become a monk or nun and enduring difficult monastic practices. He was able to clarify that the highest truth, which is Enlightenment, is accessible to all ordinary people.

Nagarjuna explained in his commentaries that the difficult practice of relying solely upon one's own effort (self-power) is a slow and painful way to realize awakening. While the easy practice of relying on Amida is simple and absolute without the frustrations of self effort. Among his many volumes of writings, Junirai (Twelve Verses of Reverence) has retained its popularity to this day and is chanted regularly at Dharma services for Shinshu devotees.

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

Greetings everyone,

The weather has definitely changed and I hope all of you are enjoying the sunshine. We had a wonderful Hanamatsuri service last week with new faces joining us. Thank you to Lucy and Carole for setting up the Hanamido at the temple and videotaping the pouring of the sweet tea over the statue of the baby Buddha. Thank you to Rev Ikuta for leading us in our service and it was nice seeing Rev. Aoki and Rev. Gubenko in attendance as well.

Our AGM was held on April 10th. Due to Covid-19 we did not hold many of our annual events last year so there was not much to report. We are looking forward to a better ending in 2021. The Board of Directors for 2021 are Lucy Yoshioka, Lori North, Denise Cork, Jenny Fujita, Naomi Shikaze, and Ron Nishimura (new).

For the coming months we will continue to hold on-line services via Zoom on the second Saturday of each month. Our next service will be on Saturday, May 8th at 2pm. Everyone is welcome and the link to join the service is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81064488518?pwd=WEt1V2luTU1IN3BJQzg5b2UrLzRTQT09>  
Meeting ID: 810 6448 8518  
Passcode: 325947

Without an opportunity to bring people physically together, we will not be holding a Spring Fundraising dinner as we have done in the past. We are not sure if it will be safe to hold a Fall Bazaar as well. Instead, we are hoping that people will support our temple through donations or through purchases of pens (\$5.00), lights (\$10.00), cards (\$5.00/set), or masks (\$10.00) through our Digital Marketplace. For more information on our Marketplace please email [fvbtemple@gmail.com](mailto:fvbtemple@gmail.com) or call Lori at 604-351-7183.

We are now able to receive payments via e-transfer to [fvbtemple@gmail.com](mailto:fvbtemple@gmail.com). Donations, membership fees and purchases may now be made via e-transfer or by cheque. To send a cheque, please mail it to:

PO Box 1619, Aldergrove, BC, V4W 2V1

The vaccines are being administered but the case numbers are still high. Please be safe and patient, and be sure to get yourself vaccinated. We look forward to getting together again as a sangha at the temples, as family and friends at gatherings in homes and in parks, and seeing the full smiles of everyone's faces.

In gassho,

Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple



## **Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple Donations Received in Gratitude**

### **Hanamatsuri & April Shotsuki Memorial Service**

Irene Roher  
Chieko Takasaki  
Amy Nagamatsu  
Denise Cork  
Barbara MacCarl  
Lori North  
Reiko Cheryl Honkawa  
Ron Nishimura  
Pat and Sam Yoshioka  
Stan and Lucy Yoshioka

### **Fundraising & Dana Day**

Amy Nagamatsu  
Carole Hamanishi  
Yoshimi & Gail Kariatsumari  
Denise Cork  
Steveston Buddhist Temple

### **In memory of Jack Yoshioka**

Pat and Sam Yoshioka  
Stan and Lucy Yoshioka

### **In memory of Kenny Yoshioka**

Pat and Sam Yoshioka  
Stan and Lucy Yoshioka



## **From the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Board**



This month marks one year of the world living with COVID. What a year it has been: a tumultuous, chaotic, unthinkable year that has upended our lives and left many people struggling mentally, physically, financially. It has been a difficult year for all the Canadian temples, with some remaining closed for the whole year, while others opened but then closed again in compliance with government restrictions. With Hanamatsuri approaching, I hope that most of the temples will again be open, even if just to a limited number of people.

It is with regret that we announce the retirement of Rev. Miyakawa, who has served the Canadian kyodan so diligently for the past thirty-five years. We are very grateful to him for his work and his dedication, and we thank him for that. We are also thankful that we have the written materials and videos that he prepared and which are so well done and so useful to all the temples.

We are pleased to announce that Hirano Sensei will be returning from Japan to Canada in May, after completing his kyoshi training in Kyoto. Socho Aoki has been working with Hirano Sensei to ensure a transition period of in-temple training. In addition, Socho and the JSBTC Board have also been working with the boards of the BC interior temples to determine whether Hirano Sensei can ultimately take over responsibility as minister for those three temples.

Congratulations to Socho Aoki on the publication of his thesis Study of Nagarjuna's Theory of Emptiness, which is now archived in the Chinese Buddhist Encyclopedia. This thesis was written while Socho was studying at the Graduate School of Ryukoku University. It was originally written in Japanese, but he translated and presented a short English thesis which is now approved.

This is the link:

[http://chinabuddhismencyclopedia.com/en/index.php?title=Study\\_of\\_Nagarjuna%27s\\_Theory\\_of\\_Emptiness&fbclid=IwAR3WHSjvEFkCn2\\_EeuXVc3XRogelF2dHxZjXuflgR\\_8z6xCQLO7zmMze6k4](http://chinabuddhismencyclopedia.com/en/index.php?title=Study_of_Nagarjuna%27s_Theory_of_Emptiness&fbclid=IwAR3WHSjvEFkCn2_EeuXVc3XRogelF2dHxZjXuflgR_8z6xCQLO7zmMze6k4)

The LDC Lecture series organized by Socho has been extremely well received and well attended. Since nearly 30% of the people attending the series are new to Jodo Shinshu, Sensei Joanne and Greg Chor are coordinating "Welcome to Jodo Shinshu" sessions, with input from the other Assistant Ministers. Socho emails these individuals directly and invites them to online services in the areas where they live. This is a very exciting development! In addition, the most recent lecture presented by Dr. Jeff Wilson Sensei had American Sign Language interpreters, which enabled hearing impaired attendees to share in the dharma.

Also exciting is the development of several initiatives to engage our dharma school students: a monthly virtual dharma school on the last Saturday of each month, and a Build Your Own Service website hosted by BTSA. Find more information about these projects in this newsletter. Thank you to everyone who has worked to make these initiatives a success!

If you are having difficulty remembering when all these events are occurring, check out the JSBTC website at [www.jsbtc.ca](http://www.jsbtc.ca). A new calendar feature has been added on the home page showing all the lectures and sessions available, as well as providing links for registration.

Thank you!

### **The Future of the VBT Survey**



By now, members should have received the Future of the VBT survey in the mail. Please complete the survey and return it to the VBT ASAP in the envelope provided. Your feedback and opinions are very important to the VBT board. We will accept surveys if they arrive a little later than the May 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline, but please make every effort to return the survey



## 2021 Service and Meeting Dates

### Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> -  
Dharma Service @ 10 am

Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup> -  
Shotsuki Service @ 10 am

Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> -  
Dharma Service @ 10 am

Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> -  
Dharma Service @ 10 am

Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> -  
Dharma Service @ 10 am

Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> -  
Dharma Café @ 10 am

Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> -  
Dharma Service @ 10 am

\*\*\* All services  
will be via Zoom.  
Please email the  
VBT to receive  
the link, or use  
the QR code:



## May Service Schedule



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SAT Dharma Service [Meditation/Sutra Chanting/Dharma Talk] SUN Dharma Café (Monthly) Casual Dialogue with Sensei						May 1 10am Dharma Service
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Meeting *No Service
9 10am May Memorial Shotsuki Service	10	11	12	13	14	15 10am Dharma Service
16 4pm Ritual Semi- nar by Rev. Ouchi Registration Required	17	18	19	20	21	22 10am Dharma Service
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 10am Dharma Service
30 10am Dharma Café	31	June 1	2	3	4	5 10am Dharma Service

## Memorial Years of 2021

1<sup>st</sup> Year - 2020

3<sup>rd</sup> Year - 2019

7<sup>th</sup> Year - 2015

13<sup>th</sup> Year - 2009

17<sup>th</sup> Year - 2005

25<sup>th</sup> Year - 1997

33<sup>rd</sup> Year - 1989

50<sup>th</sup> Year - 1972

## 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/



"JODO SHINSHU GONSHIKI" – "JODO SHINSHU RITUALS"  
REVEREND YOSHIMICHI OUCHI



THE HOW, WHY, WHEN & WHERE OF  
TRADITIONAL NAIJIN (ALTAR) ARRANGEMENT  
DEMISTIFYING CHANTING SUTRAS AND GATHAS

Part 2: TRADITIONAL NAIJIN (ALTAR) ARRANGEMENT  
Sunday May 16, 2021  
7pm ET, 6pm CT, 5pm MT, 4pm PT

Part 3: DEMYSTIFYING CHANTING SUTRAS AND GATHAS  
Sunday June 13, 2021  
7pm ET, 6pm CT, 5pm MT, 4pm PT

Pre-registration is required.

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

Part 2—TRADITIONAL NAIJIN (ALTAR) ARRANGEMENT—Sunday May 16, 2021  
7pm ET, 6pm CT, 5pm MT, 4pm PT

Do you know how to properly set up your home altar (Obusudan)? Do you know what types of offerings you should prepare? Rev. Ouchi will demonstrate how to set up the Obusudan and will also explain what the Temple's offerings mean in the teaching of the Buddha.

Q & A will follow the lecture.

Advance registration required: <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us02web.zoom.us/j/zoom4E9oU8BP46cPgXen8qAVoK>

Part 3—DEMISTIFYING CHANTING SUTRAS AND GATHAS—Sunday June 13, 2021

7pm ET, 6pm CT, 5pm MT, 4pm PT

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.

Advance registration required: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/zoom4E9oU8BP46cPgXen8qAVoK>

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

## May Shotsuki (Memorial) List

The May Shotsuki monthly memorial service will be held virtually (via Zoom) on Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

**1957**  
\*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, Kamen  
\*YABUNO, Sutekichi  
\*YURUGI, Choichiro

**1965**  
\*INOUE, Kanda  
NAKATA, Norman

**1966**  
\*MATSUSHITA, Nagashige

**1967**  
MADOKORO, Hiroye  
\*YOSHIDA, Isamu

**1969**  
\*OGINO, Chozo  
\*ONO, Matsu

**1970**  
\*SUZUKI, Isono  
\*TANAKA, Hisa

**1972—50th Year**  
\*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

**1977**  
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**  
\*EGAMI, Hikotaro  
\*HAMADE, Toyo  
\*MORI, Nobuo  
\*NISHIMURA, Hiroshi  
\*NOSE, Tazo

**1987**  
\*HORI, Mika  
\*KITAGAWA, Naka  
\*YURUGI, Moto

**1988**  
\*TSUJI, Gen

**1989—33rd Year**  
\*KUROMI, Suino  
\*MIURA, Kaoru

**1990**  
\*GREEN, Jordan  
HIRAI, Ken  
\*NISHIKAWA, Mitsuye

**1991**  
HAYA, Haruko  
\*MIYAGAWA, Ito  
OKADA, Kazuko

**1992**  
\*NODA, Misaho  
\*ONO, Yoichi  
\*SOGA, Zenya  
UYESUGI, Fumio

**1994**  
\*MATSUBA, Shige

**1995**  
SHIMABUKURO, Nabe  
\*UYENO, Shigeo  
YAMADA, Takaichi

**1996**  
\*ITAYA, Masaye

**1997—25th Year**  
SHOJI, Tadashi  
TAKEMORI, Akiko  
TANAKA, Masao

**1998**  
\*MARUYAMA, Bill  
YAMADA, Kazuye

**1999**  
HAMAGUCHI, Hiroshi  
\*KUNIMOTO, Akiko  
YAMADA, Hiroshi

**2000**  
IMAI, Eich  
KAKUTANI, Kiyoshi  
NISHI, Yukio  
YAMASHITA, Toshio

**2001**  
WAKAHARA, Tomohiko

**2002**  
FUKUI, Hisako  
NAKAMURA, Miki  
SAMESHIMA, Tadayuki  
WATANABE, Hiromi

**2003**  
\*NAKATSUI, Toyoko

**2004**  
KITAMURA, Shizuko  
OMOTO, Noboru  
OYA, Chie

**2005—17th Year**  
GRIMSHAW, Rebecca

**2006**  
\*SATO, Yoshiaki

**2007**  
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

**2012**  
OKADA, Katsuko  
TSUJI, Yoshiaki  
WATANABE, Isao

**2014**  
YAMASHITA, Tsunaye

**2016**  
KAWAMOTO, Hisako  
SUGA, Yuriko

**2017**  
NATSUHARA, Lucy  
NISHI, Chiyeko

**2018**  
MINATO, Kaoru

**2019—3rd Year**  
OKANO, Edward Isao

### Passings

Our deepest  
condolences go to the  
families and friends of

Mrs. Tsuki Aratake  
(89 years old)  
April 2<sup>nd</sup>

&

Mrs. Yoshie Matsutani  
(92 years old)  
April 22<sup>nd</sup>



\*\*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.



Also, you can dial-in to the  
service.

(1) Dial 778-907-2071

(2) Press Meeting ID#:  
692 059 0986 & #