

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, August 21st at 10AM
Saturday, August 28th at 10AM

Sunday, August 8th

@ 10:00 a.m. at the VBT

August Shotsuki/Memorial

If you would like to attend the service,
please call 604 253-7033
or email temple.vbt@gmail.com
to RSVP. There will be limited seating.

The Zoom link is:

Meeting ID: 692 059 0986
Passcode: shinran

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

Facebook -

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

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

Instagram -

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

Twitter -

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

Vancouver Buddhist Temple



220 Jackson Avenue
Vancouver, BC, V6A 3B3

Phone:

604-253-7033

Email:

temple.vbt@gmail.com

Website:

vancouverbuddhisttemple.com



Bodhi Mind



Vancouver Buddhist Temple

August 2021, Issue #451

Prospectus for the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching

The year 2023 will mark the 850th anniversary of the birth of Shinran Shonin, the founder of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition, and the following 2024 will be the 800th anniversary of the establishment of the teaching. Accordingly in 2023, the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist organization will observe commemorative services for those occasions.

As a human, it is our nature to see things through a self-centered viewpoint, and that is why our life is filled with suffering. Buddhism is the wisdom that guides us to living in a way that transcends suffering. Amida Buddha is the one who continuously calls out to us saying, "I accept you as you are. I will never abandon you. Remember that I am always with you no matter how sad and lonely you may feel." This message from Amida takes the form as the Buddha's Name, Namo Amida Butsu. By frankly listening to that message just as it is, without any calculation, we naturally come to entrust ourselves to the Buddha's guidance, and this entrusting heart enables us to become settled, allowing us to feel confident, safe, and able to cope with any situation. Furthermore, this settled mind becomes the spiritual foundation that facilitates our ability to stand up to and endure various hardships we experience in this world. As our expression of gratitude and indebtedness for that benevolence, we recite the Buddha's Name, and this recitation is called nembutsu. Shinran Shonin is the one who detailed how Amida Buddha's salvific compassion reaches and works on us, as well as concretely presented how we should live as a Jodo Shinshu or Nembutsu follower in this world. Thus, he established the teaching doctrinally as well as spiritually, and this is the significance of the establishment of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism by Shinran Shonin.

More than 2,500 years ago, Sakyamuni Buddha awakened to the truth of this world and human beings, that is, the principles of impermanence and dependent origination. They lead us to the principle of 'no-self,' which explains that nothing in this universe has its own unchangeable and original substance. Despite this fact, we cannot detach ourselves from the illusionary 'self' that our own relentless human desires create. As a result, we bring suffering to ourselves and cause hostilities to erupt in the world. This is the universal reality that remains true even in today's world.

Approximately 800 years ago, Shinran Shonin deeply looked into himself and became aware through his own experiences that we cannot free...

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... ourselves from our blind passions, that is, our self-promoting way of thinking. However, he also encountered Amida Buddha's aspiration, which the Buddha pledges to guide everyone to realization, leaving no one behind. Shinran Shonin expressed his appreciation for the Buddha's boundless compassion through the way he lived his life, and we should follow his example for living our own. The dual commemorative services will be conducted in the spirit of expressing our gratitude for his guidance, as well as our joy of encountering the Jodo Shinshu teaching.

Today, many nations and communities are placing importance only on their own economic growth and cultural standards, and this tendency has brought about a tenacious atmosphere of exclusiveness, intolerance, and even hostility to the international society, resulting in a variety of violent conflicts. On the individual level as well, under the pretext of self-effort and self-accountability, people's sense of beneficial coexistence is diminishing and being disregarded, causing the feelings of loneliness and isolation to spread. Thus, what prevails in the contemporary world is a sense of despair that drives us to self-destruction. Under such circumstances, it is the responsibility and obligation of every religious leader and organization to bring that inclination to a halt and turn it in the opposite direction, toward building a harmonious society. However, traditional religious orders not only in Japan, but also in many other places in the world, have not been able to fully respond to people's needs. Unfortunately, we are seeing many followers distancing themselves from those religions.

In light of this situation, it is now more than ever imperative that we recognize our responsibility as a community of Nembutsu followers who endeavor to walk in harmony with everyone by upholding the fundamental concepts of the Buddha Dharma, and strive for the realization of a society in which everyone can live a life of spiritual fulfillment.

Now we would like to conclude this message with the following words of Shinran Shonin, "May there be peace in the world, and may the Buddha's teaching spread." Keeping this in our minds, let us move forward steadily to fulfill our responsibility.

August 2019

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist organization
Ryukokuzan Hongwanji

Let the Dharma Be Our Guide



During the pandemic, I received many phone calls and emails asking me about Buddhism. There are so many Buddhist books, teachers, and information on the internet, that it can sometimes be overwhelming and confusing. When I was studying Buddhism at Ryukoku University in Kyoto, I too, was confused by the plethora of Buddhist books and writers, since one author would say this and another author would say the opposite. Then, a mentor of mine said to me, "Why are you confusing yourself by reading all these different interpretations which may or may not be right? Much of Buddhism today bears little resemblance to what the Buddha originally taught. If you can stick with the Original Teachings of the Buddha from the Sutras themselves, you won't go wrong." And he was right.

The Buddha spoke to his disciple, the Venerable Ananda, saying: "It may be, Ananda, that some will say, 'without the Buddha, the Sublime Teacher, there is no teacher for us'. "No, Ananda, you should not think in this way. Whatever doctrine and discipline taught and made known by me will be your teacher when I am gone."
- Maha-Parinivana Sutra (DN 16)

Let the Dharma continue to be our guide.

In gassho,

Rev. Tatsuya Aoki

Greetings from the Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple

Greetings and happy summer wishes from the valley,

Summer landed with a bang... the heat has been a little more than we would have liked, but with COVID numbers falling and some social restrictions lifting, we are grateful for all we are enjoying. However, our sympathies go to the fire ravished communities as we hear of the dreadful losses experienced by these interior British Columbia towns.

The FVBT held our first Obon service, the Zoom Obon, on Saturday, July 10th and were treated to the chanting of Sanbutsuge by the ministers across Canada on Zoom. It was quite moving to hear the chorus in unison from Toronto to Steveston. Such a tremendous accomplishment arranged by Bishop Aoki, Reverend Grant Ikuta, and Grant sensei's daughter, Erin. Thank you so much. It will be treasured by all who hear it in the 12 Canadian temples for Obon. Then, because this was a virtual service, Paige Perry arranged to have Miyoko Perry practice Tanko Bushi and video taped it for us to use as our Obon Odori. Well done, Miyoko. Thank you to Aoki sensei for helping us have a virtual Obon service.

Hopefully, this will be just a prelude to our in-person Obon service which will be held on August 7th. We will have all "contagious diseases" protocol in place with restricted numbers and sanitizing stations, as well as only pre-ordered commercial bentos for Otoki. Not the same as our famous after-service buffets, but still an enjoyable shared meal for all of us who have not been able to socialize for 18 months.

Our next shotsuki service will be held on September 11th, but it has not been decided whether it will be by Zoom or in-person so just keep watching the FVBT emails.

in gassho,

Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple



The VBT Will Be Selling Bentos For the Powell Street Festival

For our first fund-raiser of the year, we are selling bentos for the Powell Street Festival. Here is one of the descriptions from the Powell Street Festival Society website:

Deluxe Curry Beef Bento

Looking for a hearty meal to satisfy your hunger? Our Deluxe Curry Beef Bento includes rich beef curry on rice, two savoury fried korroke, a wakame seaweed salad, and two gyozas with pickled fukujinzuke. Each pre-ordered bento is prepared with care by the Vancouver Buddhist Temple.

Available for pick-up only on July 31 and August 1. Please choose your pick-up time during checkout.

\$15.00

**** There is a vegetarian option, as well.*

All food orders must be placed by July 24th, 2021. The temple will not be taking orders. This must be done through the Powell Street Festival Society website. Click on the QR code:



SCAN ME

Or go to: <https://powellstreetfestival.com/order-food/>



How to Donate to the VBT

1. e-transfer (our preferred method) temple.vbt@gmail.com



2. PayPal @ VBT Website www.vancouverbuddhisttemple.com



3. Canada Helps: www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/vancouver-buddhist-temple/



2021 Service and Meeting Dates

Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 31st -
Dharma Service @ 10 am

Sunday, August 8th -
Shotsuki/Memorial Service
@ 10 am at VBT (RSVP)
& on-line

Saturday, August 28th -
Dharma Service @ 10 am

*** All services, except where indicated, will be via Zoom.

The Zoom link is:

Meeting ID: 692 059 0986
Passcode: shinran

Also, you can dial-in to the service.

Dial: 778-907-2071
Press Meeting ID#: 692 059 0986 & #

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

August 2021

[Meeting ID] 692 059 0986

[Passcode] shinran



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
AUG 1	2 Civic Holiday	3	4	5	6	7 Meeting No Service
8 10AM August Shotsuki Memorial (Buddhist Temple) RSVP	9	10	11	12	13	14 No Service
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 10AM Saturday Service
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 10AM Saturday Service
29	30	31	SEP 1	2	3	4 10AM Saturday Service



Message from the VBT Board

After a long and hard struggle, through the efforts of medical experts, health-care providers, and all our citizens, we are near the end of this devastating COVID experience. We have much for which to be thankful. Along with other organizations, businesses, and public facilities, restrictions in attendance have eased. For our temple, leaning on the side of caution, gatherings have been opened to a maximum of 50 people for any single event.

In this most unusual year, our temple held its first in-person service with all the current COVID protocols carefully observed. The occasion was our annual Obon observance combined with Hatsubon and July Shotsuki. The service was kept simple, attended by approximately 40 people, which did not include the Obon Odori festival after the service. For those who attended, there was a sense of appreciation and comfort not felt for seemingly ages, gathering with members and friends sharing the loss of family members.

On July 4th, Aoki Sensei conducted the annual cemetery visitations. Stressing the fact that it was outdoors in ideal summer conditions, the attendance to the four services was just under 100 in total - a number not seen for many years. The up-coming August Shotsuki will be an in-person service with a maximum seating for 50 people. Should there be more wanting to attend, there will be a second service following the first. We ask that everyone wishing to attend notify the temple of their intention. Everyone is welcome to attend whether their loved one passed away in the month of August or not. It is our hope that by October, we will be back to our usual procedures with no restrictions.

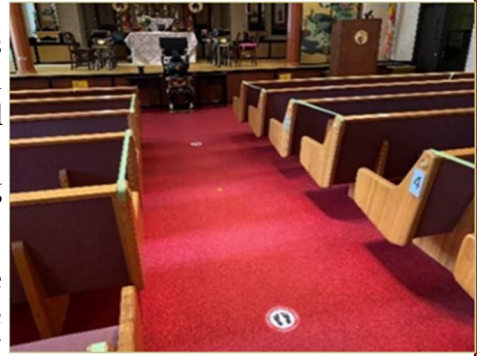
Our temple is planning to participate in the Powell Street Festival - set for the BC Day weekend. The plan is to sell boxed bentos for our fund-raising. See elsewhere in this publication for more details. We ask that you support our fund-raising by purchasing bento orders.

Gassho,
The Board



The Temple is Gradually Reopening for Shotsuki Service

It has been a long time since the start of Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions. Some people have joined temple services through Zoom. Since this does not work for everyone, the temple will have limited openings for in-person Shotsuki Memorial Services. **The August Memorial/Shotsuki Service will be on Sunday, August 8th @ 10:00 a.m. in the temple's Hondo** with adherence to provincial guidelines for physical distancing, self-screening and contact tracing.



Depending upon the demand, the temple may be able to accommodate a second serviced @ 11:30 a.m. The temple will add sessions, if more are required, so **please RSVP well in advance**. The **on-line August Memorial/Shotsuki service will be held simultaneously (Sunday, August 8th @ 10:00 a.m.)**.

Reservations (RSVP) Required

Due to a maximum of 50 attendees (taking into consideration the health and safety of all attendees, the VBT has set 50 as the maximum for an indoor service), those who want to attend must make a reservation and follow the temple's pandemic guidelines. Anyone is welcomed to attend the service. **The final day to reserve a seat is Thursday, August 5th @ 12:00 p.m.**

To make reservations for the August Memorial/Shotsuki service, please contact the VBT office at either (604) 253-7033 or temple.vbt@gmail.com. Only those who receive a confirmation for a specific time and date can attend. For those who would like to join the service on-line. Please use this Zoom link:

Meeting ID: 692 059 0986
Passcode: shinran

Pandemic Guidelines

As restrictions ease, the VBT prefers to take a cautious approach. For August and September, at least, there will be socially distant and limited seating in the Hondo.

Upon entry to the building:

- masks/face coverings must always be worn
- sanitize hands
- complete questionnaire and contact information sheet (one per household)
- follow the direction arrows and go directly to your assigned seat
 - ◊ household members may sit together
 - ◊ please do not leave your assigned seat, and remember to stay socially distant (2 metres)

During your visit:

- line up 2 metres between households/bubbles and use incense from the small cups for Oshoko
- one person at a time in washrooms
- the Social Hall and Kitchen are not available for use

Upon exiting the building:

- sanitize hands
- exit promptly and do not stay and mingle with others
- exit either onto Jackson Street (Hondo exit) or through the garage
 - ◊ follow the direction arrows

As requirements are constantly changing, please check our website for updates:

vancouverbuddhisttemple.com

LET'S ALL BE CAREFUL, CALM and KIND

August Shotsuki (Memorial) List

1943

SUZUKI, Kou

1960

*KONDO, Shigeru

1961

*SAKAMOTO, Sadakichi

*ODAMURA, Mine

1962

*ONO, Ihei

1963

HAMAKAWA, Koto

*KONISHI, Hanayo

1965

*ODAMURA, Magoichi

RYUJIN, Eiko

1966

ARAKI, Nui

HAYA, Kumae

1967

*SHIMIZU, Ichiro

1968

*NAKASHIMA, Otoyoe

MIZUYABU, Toshio

1969

MIO, Tomekichi

UYEYAMA, Yasumatsu

1970

*KITAGAWA, Kenzo

HANADA, Kinuye

1972 50th Year

AMANO, Katsuyo

*SHIGEOKA, Heishiro

1973

*MATSUMOTO, Kingo

*UYEDA, Tane

1974

SHINTANI, Niichi

1975

ASAOKA, Toichiro

*NISHI, Yoshizo

TERANISHI, Yasukichi

*HAMA, Yasumatsu

1977

*HASHIMOTO, Shusuke

1978

*HONMA, Chizuye

*SEKIYA, Tashichi

1980

MITSUMI, Wakako

1981

*UYEDA, Mika

*ISHIKAWA, Isamu

1982

*TATEOKA, Den

1983

*SAKAI, Sadao

1984

*SATO, Tadashi

*HANAZAWA, Genichi

1985

TERANISHI, Sayo

*NISHIKIHAMA, Torasaburo

ENJO, Masa

*WAKAHARA, Hidemi

1986

*NII, Shizuko

1987

AMANO, Shizuye

NISHI, Akiko

NOMURA, Tom

*YAMAMOTO, Matsuye

1988

*NOMURA, Reiko

1989 (33rd Year)

TATSUMI, Eiichi

*ONO, Fumiye

1990

HONMA, Shizuye

1991

IWATA, Motomaru

1992

*TANAKA, Kimiyo

MOTOKADO, Kiku

1994

*TAMAKI, Natsuno

1995

KITAGAWA, Kuri

TANAKA, Yukiko

YAMASAKI, Keiichiro

NASU, Hideo

SAKATA, Tatsuzo

1996

HAYASHI, Yasue

1997 (25th Year)

FURUGORI, Shuji

TAMOTO, Satoru

1998

YOKOME, Haruka

1999

NAKANO, Ryoshichi

2001

OKANO, Yoshio

NAKASHIMA, Miyuki

2002

YAMAMOTO, Sumiko

FUKUI, John Yaichi

FUKUI, Chiyoko

YAMADA, Frank Jinsho

SUZUKI, Fred Shoichi

2003

KENNO, Jane Yaye

TAJIRI, Kazuaki

KITANO, Roy Shozo

*YOSHIOKA, Harue

2004

OKAHASHI, George

2005 (17th Year)

KOYANAGI, Emiko

NISHIHAMA, Kino

OHORI, Tadayuki

SUZUKI, Kazunobu

WATANABE, Tokiko

2006

KAWASAKI, Shizue

KONDO, Emiko

2007

KUNO, Takao

2008

YAMASHITA, Kenji

SAWAMOTO, Miyuki

SUGIYAMA, Hiromi

2009 (13th Year)

NAKANO, Matsue

OISHI, Ishie

TAKESHITA, Tamiye

2010

NAKANO, Tsuyako

AMANO, Sadao

2011

TANIZAWA, Ryoji

2012

MIZUNO, Michika

2013

MOCHIZUKI, Toshi

2014

TAMAKI, Shinkichi

2015 (7th Year)

KASUYA, Miwako

2016

YAMAGUCHI, Ryo

HASEBE, Hideo

ATAGI, Misaye

2017

MAEKAWA, Saburo

2018

YOSHIKAWA, Sayoko

KAWAHIRA, James

KAWAMOTO, Amy

2019 (3rd Year)

TANAKA, Miyoshi

MARUNO, Hisako

MIMOTO, Michiho

2020 (1st Year)

Mr. Shoji Tabata

Passings

Our deepest
condolences go to the
families and friends of

Mrs. Yoshiko Toriumi
(90) June 18th

&

Mrs. Fusae Sameshima
(96) June 29th

**The Shotsuki Service
will be held on Sunday,
August 8th at the temple
(RSVP) & via Zoom @ 10
am.

The Zoom link is:

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