

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)



Online (Zoom)
May Shotsuki
Gotane
Service
Saturday, October 2nd at 10AM
Saturday, October 23rd at 10AM
Saturday, October 30th at 10AM

Sunday, October 10th

@ 10:00 a.m. at the VBT

October Shotsuki/Memorial & JSBTC Day Service

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

Instagram -

@vancouverbuddhisttemple

Twitter -

@VanBuddhistTemp

Vancouver Buddhist Temple



220 Jackson Avenue
Vancouver, BC, V6A 3B3

Phone:

604-253-7033

Email:

temple.vbt@gmail.com

Website:

vancouverbuddhisttemple.com



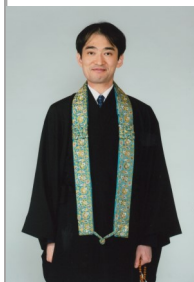
Bodhi Mind



Vancouver Buddhist Temple

October 2021, Issue #453

Message on "Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching"



This year we will once again have the opportunity to observe the Commemorative Service of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching together. This service's name, 'Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching,' refers to Shinran Shonin's systematic presentation of the Jodo Shinshu teaching through his main writing, *Kyōgyōshinshō*, or *The True Teaching, Practice, and Realization of the Pure Land Way*. In this work, he clarified how Amida Buddha's compassionate working, or Other Power, reaches and guides each of us. This annual observance is a great opportunity for us to deepen our gratitude for the teaching.

The founder of Buddhism, Sakyamuni Buddha revealed the reality of this world as "everything is changing" and "all things are without self." However, ordinary beings like us are not able to accept this reality, and that is why we struggle constantly. Typical examples are the four difficulties expounded by Sakyamuni Buddha, that is, birth, aging, illness, and death. We, who possess blind passions of greed, anger, and ignorance, cannot escape from suffering until the moment that life ends.

Shinran Shonin used the expression 'foolish beings filled with blind passions' to describe us, those who are not able to accept this reality. Amida Tathagata wishes to save us, who are drowning in the darkness of blind passions, and continues to work with compassion in the Nembutsu, "Namo Amida Butsu." As Shinran Shonin wrote in a hymn,

*Karmic evil is from the beginning without real form;
It is the result of delusional thought and invertedness.
(Hymns of the Dharma-Age, Verse 107)*

The compassion of the Tathagata is grounded in true reality, which begins to work prior to human cognition, and thus embraces all life equally and takes it as it is without abandoning anyone.

Shinran Shonin described his understanding in another verse as "attaining Buddhahood through the nembutsu is the true essence of the Pure Land way."

*Since shinjin [entrusting heart] arises from the Vow,
We attain Buddhahood through the nembutsu by the [Vow's] spontaneous working.
The spontaneous working is itself the fulfilled land;
Our realization of supreme nirvana is beyond doubt. (Hymn of the Pure Land Masters, Verse 26)*

Jodo Shinshu is the teaching that we will attain enlightenment beyond form and become buddhas in the "Pure Land of naturalness" through shinjin alone. In shinjin we accept without doubt the heart of Amida Tathagata's Vow of "Namo Amida Butsu" – "Entrust yourself to me. I will liberate you just as you are"

When we are touched by this warm compassion and learn of Amida Tathagata's wish for our life, we are empowered to live at ease, share joy and sadness with people, and a world of mutual respect and support opens up. With ease and joy, Shinran Shonin walked the path of gratitude for being saved by Tathagata's compassion. Aspiring to learn from his way of living and transmit his teaching to the next generations, I would like to express the essentials of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching in the following passage.

... Continued on page 2

Continued from page one...

Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching

Namo Amida Butsu.

"Entrust yourself to me. I will liberate you just as you are." This is the calling voice of Amida.

My blind passions are embraced in the Buddha's awakening,

So the Buddha calls to me "I will liberate you just as you are."

Gratefully responding to the Buddha's call,

I find that I am already on the path that leads to the Pure Land.

And the Nembutsu flows freely from my thankful heart.

Living with the Dharma as my guide

Softens my rigid heart and mind.

Gratitude for the gift of life I have received

Frees me from becoming lost in greed and anger,

And allows me to share a warm smile and speak gentle words.

Sharing in the joy and sadness of others,

I shall strive to live each day to its fullest.

In 2023 we are going to conduct a Joint Celebration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching. In gratefulness for the birth of Shinran Shonin and his expounding of the teachings of Jodo Shinshu, let's recite "Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching" together, work together, and live a life of Nembutsu together to spread his teaching. As for "Our Pledge," delivered in my Dharma message at the 2018 Perpetual Memorial and Autumn Service, it is my hope that it will continue to be recited by everyone on various occasions, particularly by young people and those who are not familiar with Buddhism or Jodo Shinshu, and that it will lead to closer connections with the teaching.

April 15, 2021

OHTANI Kojun

Monshu

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

Message from the Office of the Bishop - 2021 JSBTC Day



On October 10, 1904, fourteen local Buddhist leaders met and came away with two resolutions: one, to build a local temple and two, to request a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist minister for the community. They sent their request to our mother temple, Nishi Hongwanji in Kyoto, Japan. In the following year, Reverend Senju Sasaki was appointed as *kaikyoshi* (overseas minister). Rev. Sasaki arrived in Vancouver, with his wife, Tomie, on October 12th, 1905. He delivered the first Dharma talk in Canada on the steps of the Vancouver city hall - just two weeks after his arrival. Soon after, the local Buddhist families formed the Vancouver Nihon Bukkyo-kai (Japanese Buddhist Association), and thus, began our history.

We are observing the founding of our national organization during the month of October. I would like to express my most sincere appreciation to all the Jodo Shinshu Temples of Canada (JSBTC), ministers, ministers' assistants, national board of directors, and all temple members and non-members for keeping our organization active and accessible, especially during this difficult time with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through my observation of the local temples and the national organization, it is very clear that all the ministers and national board of directors across Canada are working tirelessly for the sake of our temples, for all members, and for the community at large. Nishi Hongwanji will be observing two major celebrations in 2023. They are the 850th anniversary of Shinran Shonin's birth, and the 800th anniversary of the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teachings.

With the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention scheduled for May 11th and 12th, 2023 in Kyoto, Japan. Many seats have been secured for the overseas delegations during the following dates: May 10th, 2023 10 AM Morning Observance OR 2 PM Afternoon Observance. Please notify your resident minister of your plans to attend by Monday, November 15th, 2021.

May I ask for your continued support to our ministers and directors, and may we rediscover, our joy by listening to the Dharma and walking the path of the Nembutsu together!

In gassho,

Tatsuya Aoki, Bishop

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada



Message from the VBT Board

Currently, we are experiencing a fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The move to Step 4 of BC's Restart Plan has been delayed. As a result, we will continue to have limited attendance for Shotsuki/memorial services. We will keep this plan in place until further notice.

The bento program will be up and running again. About 160 bentos were prepared for September. The October order form can be found at the end of this publication. While proof of vaccination is not necessary for services, we will be asking volunteers to provide proof (one-time only) with bento or manju making.

The temple's board of directors will be meeting with the Vantage Point facilitator on Sunday, October 24th and November 21st to assist us with our strategic plan. This plan will help with the temple's future and decision-making.

Baxter-Kobe Florists was one of the florists that had been providing floral arrangements for the temple for many years and for many different occasions. They recently announced their retirement. We appreciate their service to the temple and wish them well.

In gassho,

From the Board

2021 BCJSBTF Convention Hosted by the VBT

The 2021 BCJSBTF Convention was held Saturday, September 18th and Sunday, September 19th. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the convention was held virtually via Zoom. To start off, the BCJSBTF held their AGM. The executive of Ted Akune - President, Larry Ryan - Vice President, Trish Keizer - Secretary, and Phylliss Ohashi - Treasurer were re-confirmed.

After the AGM, the VBT sponsored and arranged for Reverend Dr. Henry Adams to speak on "Re-opening Our Hearts: Living With Peace of Mind in the Nembutsu". The inspirational talk helped the listeners understand how the teachings of Buddha help with transformations we have in our lives - living by following the White Path.

On Sunday, the VBT hosted the Tsuito Hoyo. The service was led by our own Reverend Aoki. During the service, a short video titled, "Life is a Bumpy Road", reiterated the words of Dr. Adams.

Reverend Grant Ikuta (Steveston Buddhist Temple) gave an informative slideshow on the Vancouver Island Obon Tour. The tour has been postponed for the last couple years due to the pandemic. We look forward to when this tour can be held again.

Next year, the convention will be held in Steveston.

The BCJSBTF operates through the generous donations from temple members. The VBT will accept donations on behalf of the BCJSBTF. Please indicate the donation is to be earmarked for the BCJSBTF on the memo line.

Thank you for your continued support.

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/



From the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Board



Dear Temple members and Dharma Friends,

In October, 1974, Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada was founded as the official organization to bring all Jodo Shinshu followers in Canada together in a national Buddhist community. It was also in October, in 1904, that the first overseas Jodo Shinshu minister arrived in Vancouver and began teaching the Dharma. October is therefore traditionally the month in which the Temples designate a special day in their temple calendars to celebrate JSBTC Day. This day marks the creation of the national organization and reminds us, with gratitude, of all those who have gone before us and who contributed to the propagation of Jodo Shinshu Buddhist in Canada.

As this year has shown, the work of the Bishop and the national organization is very important in supporting the Canadian kyodan and our ministers, as we continue to work together through the pandemic. During this time, our ministers, ministers' assistants, lay leaders, and our JSBTC Board have worked tirelessly with the Bishop to ensure that our temples are on-line, active and accessible. The JSBTC Board is concerned about the stress that this has placed on everyone, particularly the Bishop and the ministers, and we are dedicated to ensuring the continued well-being of our ministers and our sanghas.

To that end, your donations to the JSBTC and all donations on JSBTC Day go towards the health and education of our ministers and to support the work of the Bishop. Your support of the JSBTC is both needed and greatly appreciated in this important effort.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the JSBTC, as the JSBTC continues to support our ministers and local temples.

Please note that cheques may now be made payable directly to the JSBTC.

In gassho,

Laura

Laura Sugimoto, President

Greetings from the Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple

Greetings everyone,

As Covid-19 case numbers continue, with over 500 daily cases in our province, we will continue to hold our monthly services via Zoom. Our next service will be held on Saturday, October 9th at 2:00pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81064488518?pwd=WEt1V21uTU1lN3BJQzg5b2UrL2RTQT09>

Meeting ID: 810 6448 8518

Passcode: 325947

If you would the link and a reminder email sent to you, please email fvbtemple@gmail.com at least 3 days before the service.

Our fundraising efforts this year are through our Digital Marketplace where you may purchase pens (\$5.00), lights (\$10.00), and cards (\$5.00/set). For more information on our Marketplace please email fvbtemple@gmail.com or call Lori at 604-351-7183.

We are now able to receive payments via e-transfer to 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

In gassho,

Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple



2021
Service, Activities,
and
Meeting Dates

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 2nd -
 Dharma Service @ 10 am

Sunday, October 10th -
 Shotsuki/Memorial &
 JSBTC Day Service
 @ 10 am at VBT (RSVP)
 & on-line

Saturday, October 16th -
 Manju Making @ 9 am

Saturday, October 23rd -
 Manju Making @ 9 am

Saturday, October 23rd -
 Dharma Service @ 10 am

Sunday, October 30th -
 Dharma Service @ 10 am

Saturday, November 6th -
 Dharma Service @ 10 am

Saturday, October 2nd -
 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 & #

Seniors' Club Comes to an End

The Seniors' Club was a Thursday fixture at the temple. The club allowed seniors to meet, socialize, have tea, share treats, and play bingo. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the club members could not meet. It is with heavy heart that they have announced the club will be disbanding. The club has graciously donated their remaining funds to the VBT. The temple will miss hearing the laughter and shouts of 'BINGO', and hopes one day the seniors will meet once again in the Social Hall. Thank you Seniors! Until we meet again...

Thank You to...

A lot of work is required to keep the temple in working order. From time to time things break-down or we need assistance in the kitchen. As well as the board of directors, we are very fortunate to have volunteers answer the call for help.

A huge shout-out and thanks to:

- ♦ Ed Oyama for fixing the dishwasher.

Volunteers Needed...

With the temple slowly opening up, we will be resuming some of our activities. We will need volunteers to help with the preparation of bentos on Sunday, October 31st.

We are also looking for about 15 volunteers to help with manju-making on Saturdays October 16th (please note date change) and 23rd.

Upon entry to the temple, we ask that all volunteers provide proof of vaccination (vaccine passport). Volunteers will only need to do this once. Proof of vaccination is not necessary for services held in the Hondo.

If you are available to help with any of these events, please call the temple at: 604 253-7033 or email at: temple.vbt@gmail.com



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



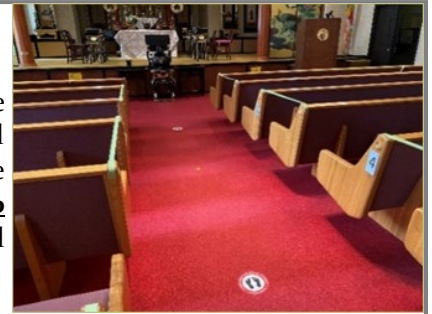
Joint Celebration
850th Anniversary of
Shinran Shonin's Birth
&
800th Anniversary of
Establishment of Jodo Shinshu Teaching

2023

Session 1 March 29 - April 3
 Session 2 April 10 - 15
 Session 3 April 24 - 29
 Session 4 May 6 - 11
 Session 5 May 16 - 21

The Temple is Gradually Reopening for Shotsuki Service

It has been a long time since the start of Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions. The province has not moved to Step 4 of its Restart Plan, at this point. The temple will continue to have limited openings for in-person Shotsuki Memorial Services. The **October Memorial/Shotsuki Service will be on Sunday, October 10th @ 10:00 a.m.** in the temple's Hondo with adherence to provincial guidelines for physical distancing, self-screening and contact tracing.



The temple will add sessions, if more are required, so please RSVP well in advance.

The on-line October Memorial/Shotsuki service will be held simultaneously (Sunday, October 10th @ 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, October 7th @ 12:00 p.m.**

To make reservations for the October 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 the time being and until further notice, 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 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: vancouverbuddhisttemple.com for updates...

October Shotsuki (Memorial) List

1928
 SUZUKI, Genichi
1958
 TSUMURA, Chonosuke
1959
 KISHIUCHI, Shigeichi
1961
 HAMAGUCHI, Minoru
1963
 NISHIMURA, Masao
1964
 CHIBA, Zenshichi
1965
 OCHIAI, Ikushi
1966
 HAMAGISHI, Fujie
 TAKATA, Minoru
1967
 HAMAGUCHI, Takeshi
1968
 NAGANO, Hideo
 FUKUHARA, Takakazu
 MORI, Yasomatsu
 HOMMA, Joe
1969
 NISHI, Tetsuo
 WAKITA, Uno
 ARAKI, Toku
1970
 YAMASHITA, Shintaro
1971
 MIZUNO, Shinichiro
1972 (50th Year)
 TANAKA, Shirosuke
 HAYASHI, Yu
 MOTOKADO, Kichijiro
1973
 YOSHIDA, Toyozo
 TAMAI, Hideo
1974
 KOHARA, Yokio
1975
 HAYASHI, Rinnosuke
 HANAZAWA, Takezo
1976
 TAKAOKA, Shoji
1977
 SUGIE, Yoshi
 TAKAI, Nobukichi
1978
 TOKITO, Takeo
1979
 NODA, Fukuya
 ASANO, Kyosuke
 ITAYA, Wakaichi
 KOBAYASHI, Ryoichi
1980
 TSUJI, Tokichi
 TANAKA, Eiichi
1981
 USUI, Kohei
 SAKIYAMA, Fujino
 SHISHIDO, Ginichi
1982
 NISHI, Tora
 HIKIDA, Shio
 NISHIMURA, Gengo
 OMOTO, Kunihiro
1983
 HORIO, Kunio
1985
 HIRANO, Wataru
 ISHIKAWA, Tomoe Pearl
 AMANO, Teiichi
 NISHIMURA, Masayoshi
1986
 EDAMURA, Shige
 URABE, Kiku
1987
 KARIATSUMARI, Teru
 IMADA, Ito
1988
 HAMAGAMI, Natsu
 UYENO, Sato
 TAZAWA, Kazuo
1989 (33rd Year)
 WRAY, Fred
 KAMO, Yasuhiko
1990
 UCHINAMI, Fujimi
 SHIOZAKI, Kiyomi
1991
 EBATA, Tayo
1992
 TANAKA, Tokutaro
 MORITA, Yukio
 HAGANE, Sumiko
1993
 KOYANAGI, Haruko
 SASAKI, Toshi
 HOMMA, Shingo

The October Shotsuki monthly memorial service will be held on Sunday, October 10th at 10:00 am. Please RSVP if you would like to attend in person.

1994
 YAMAMOTO, Kenkichi
 TAHARA, Hiroyoshi Tex
 INOUE, Juichiro
1996
 KAWABATA, Kazuyo
1997 (25th Year)
 MIYASAKI, Mitsuye
 TERASHITA, Satoru Sam
 TAKASAKI, Yoshino
1998
 MIYASHITA, Keiji Joe
 NOMURA, Akio
 OYE, Freddie Shigeyuki
 NAGAMATSU, Sakuo
1999
 NISHI, Toshiko Margaret
 TAMAKI, Yoshio
 IKARI, Masao
 KAGAWA, Masayeki
2000
 SHIGEMATSU, Kiyoko
 KARIYA, Masue
2001
 MORI, Isamu Sam
 TAMAI, Isamu
2002
 HAMAGUCHI, Tamae
 ITO, Sokichi
 IHARA, Masako
 IMAMURA, Kojiro
 STEVENS, Howard
2003
 NOMURA, Daniel N.
 SHIMOZAWA, Wataru W
2004
 HONKAWA, Fumiye
2005 (17th Year)
 NARITA, Noriaki
 YOSHIMURA, Kazuhira
 TSUJI, Mitsuye
2007
 HARADA, Yae
 TATEYAMA, Yukie
 KUSAKA, Toyo
2008
 WAKABAYASHI, Aiko
 Anne
 SAKATA, Hiroshi
2009 (13th Year)
 KAWAGOYE, Frances
 Fusae
2010
 YAKURA, Masae
 SAIMOTO, Cy Hisao
 JOWETT, Tomiko
2011
 NAKAGAWA, Tsuyako
 OGAWA, Fumikado
 ARAKI, Aiko
2012
 KADOTA, Misuko
 TANAKA, Robert
2013
 ONO, Tamotsu
2014
 SHONO, Kiyoshi
 UYEDA, Yaeko
2015 (7th Year)
 SHIBATA, Kenji
 KOBAYAKAWA, Sumi
2016
 OMOTO, Tsutomu
 MASUHARA, Akiyasu
2017
 OMOTO, Reiko
 NISHIMURA, Yasuko
2018
 SHOJI, Akiko
2020 - 1st Year
 OKAMURA, Dean
 SHIMABUKURO, Kimi



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

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 & #

Bento Box

On the last Sunday of each month, we will be selling bento. A delicious way to support the temple.



To order, please return the order form, with payment to the Vancouver Buddhist Temple via mail, email (temple.vbt@gmail.com) or call (604 253-7033).

For October 31st, the bento will include:

Chicken karaage
Korroke (2)
daikon nimono
Tuna salad
Rice
Tsukemono

Cost: \$15.00

We will also be offering manju (2 kinds)

Cost: \$8.00 for 6

Combo (bento and 6 manju)

Cost: \$20.00



Orders must be prepaid (cash, cheque, or e-transfer). Last day to order is Tuesday, October 26th.

Pick-up: Between 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on October 31st at the Social Hall entrance.

October 31st Bento Order Form

Number of: Bento ____ x \$15.00

Manju ____ x \$8.00

Combo ____ x \$20.00

Total cost: ____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____