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, December 11th at 10AM Saturday, December 18th at 10AM

Sunday, December 5th @ 10:00 a.m. at the VBT November Shotsuki/Memorial & Bodhi Day

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/ 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



Vancouver Buddhist Temple

December 2021, Issue #455

2021 Holiday Season: "Dana" Generosity



As Buddhists, we try to live respecting and admiring the truth and the goodness of people of all religious backgrounds. So please enjoy the winter holiday season and its many diverse cultural and religious traditions! We make a choice of a gift—not knowing precisely what is desired by the receiver. In return, we will be receiving gifts from others who do not know

exactly what it is we desire. The important thing to remember is the 'spirit' of the season which it to give with no conditions and to have a sense of gratitude and appreciation as the receiver.

What better time is there to practice *dana*, the Pali word for generosity. *Dana* is about giving with no attachments or from any thought of receiving anything in return. It's a gift of gratitude and of letting go of the sense of self that feels the need to acquire more and more in our perpetual scavenger hunt for happiness. It is my wish that all temples in Canada share the Buddhist practice of 'giving' with a hope that we can use this joyful time to expand our generous hearts and give to the local charities of our choosing.

This is a time when we are able to express our appreciation to so many people who have helped us throughout the whole year. I would like to thank you all for the support you have given to your local sanghas. I would like to express my appreciation to the senseis and temple directors for their dedication in maintaining and keeping our temples vital and moving ever forward. As we enjoy wonderful family time during the festive season, I would like to wish all of you a very happy holiday season and New Year!

In gassho,

Tatsuya Aoki, Bishop Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada

Vancouve

SOCIETY

Message from the VBT Board

One of the benefits of the quick passage of time (approaching holiday season) is that it gives us all an opportunity to connect with family and friends, to greet them and pass on wishes for good health and happiness for the new year. The big news from our temple is, thankfully, we have survived the COVID pandemic and we are slowly returning to a 'new' normal.

Following the heaviest rainfall in our recorded history, we did suffer much water leakage/damage to our temple, our heating system failed us and the security (camera) system needed upgrading. However, we have been able to stem the tide, literally. We had yet another successful manju-making gathering this month including a bento fund-raiser. The sales were good and help came from our members where called upon. Thank you very much for offering your time. The bento sales will continue in 2022 as a once-a-month fundraiser. We seek any and all help for these events.

With the holiday season fast approaching, we must turn our thoughts to those in our community who are less fortunate than we. For that reason, a motion was made and unanimously approved to give \$500.00 each to the Union Gospel Mission, the Vancouver Food Bank and the Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society. Even with the uncertainty of our sources of revenue to cover our operating costs, this past year, thank you to our members, supporting friends and the hard work of our board of directors we have maintained financial buoyancy. The renewal of annual membership starts on the 1st of January. We are now accepting the membership due for 2022. Please submit your due before the hectic holiday season begins. The fee will remain at \$100.00 per adult member.

The board thanks the membership for their continual support throughout the year. In turn, thank you to the board for its hard work and dedication. And finally a huge thank you to Aoki Sensei and his family for the guidance and his tireless dedication to move our sangha forward during these trying times. Everyone please have a happy and safe holiday season!

Greater

Society

Domo arigato gozaimashita.

Namo Amida Butsu



Feeding hope. Changing lives.

<u>Dana</u>



The word **<u>dana</u>** in the Buddhist context means giving. It is not simply giving for the sake of giving. Rather, it means giving from the heart without motive or reward. Since the severe weather phenomenon this past week in the province of BC, we have witnessed so many heroic acts of kindness and giving in rescuing and simply helping victims from the flooding and devastation that occurred.

In Buddhism, 'dana' is the first of the Six Paramitas or Perfections, which explains the processes required to reach the other shore of Enlightenment from this near shore of the world of illusion. The paramitas include dana (giving or sharing), conduct (sila), effort (viriya), patience (ksanti), meditation (diyana), and wisdom (prajna). Who today is able to successfully reach the Other Shore using this approach as Bodhisattva Dharmakara did? By great self-effort Bodhisattva Dharmakara completed the

six paramitas successfully to gain the Other Shore. He thus became heralded as Amida Buddha. Shinran, after twenty years of difficult study and practice came to realize how difficult it was for himself to achieve this ultimate goal, and that in his lifetime it would be impossible for him to achieve this pinnacle through his own efforts. He realized that for himself, the less difficult path more suitable for ordinary beings such as himself, was this very path developed by Bodhisattva Dharmakara. Sutras show that Bodhisattva Dharmakara meditated and practiced for many kalpas (eons) to fulfil all the virtues needed for all sentient beings to reach the Other Shore. In response to this great act of dana, we express our gratitude by reciting 'Namo Amida Butsu'.

Namo Amida Butsu

Robert Akune

Information/Communication For the Members of the VBT

Dear Members,

Following consultations with you, our Members, the Board of the VBT embarked on an exploration of a strategic path for the organization.

We met over two sessions and with the help of a facilitator, we looked at the different avenues for action by the Temple.

We know that many of our Members would like us to remain in our current facilities and others would want us to move to an area



where we can offer expanded services that will attract new members and allow us to continue to be a vibrant part of our community. Our initial conversations led us to explore the following possibilities:

- * Sell the current building and use the proceeds to rent elsewhere;
- * Sell the building and use the proceeds to buy another location;

* Retain ownership of the building, hire a commercial facilities management company to maximize the rental to third parties and use the proceeds to rent or buy elsewhere.

Before we can entertain any of those options, we require information about the Vancouver for rent/lease landscape; the commercial real estate market and what commercial management companies can offer us as agents. We will be embarking on that information gathering in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for more information to come.

Parallel to this information-gathering endeavor, we also began discussing how we can realize our vision of creating meaningful space for community engagement through Shin Buddhism. Our Temple and our spiritual teaching and practices are at the core of all our activities; as such, we are musing with ideas around creating a Buddhist Education and Practice Centre; a community hub/open house where all are welcomed to participate in the programs and activities we would offer and to continue our outreach and engagement with our community for potential growth and stability.

We are moving ahead with all of this work in the coming months so that we can bring concrete information to the table. That information, coupled with the results of the survey you completed six months ago, will allow us to gain clarity and make the best decisions for the future of our Temple.

Your Board of Directors is working hand-in-hand with Reverend Aoki to chart a course ahead and we will be coming to you with more information as we progress.

We look forward to coming back to you with concrete recommendations as we plan our future together.

Regards,

Future of the VBT Committee, Chair

Dave Ohori



Greetings from the Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple



We are happy to announce that we plan to have an IN PERSON service on Saturday, December 4th starting at 2 pm. Please keep an ear to the announcements by our Provincial Health Office for any changes to Orders that may affect us. If things change, we will have our service via Zoom at the same time as the live service. We will make our final decision 3 days before the service. For those of you on the email list, you will receive a confirmation of our plans on that date. If you are not on our email list, please call Lucy at 604-856-6492 after December 1st to confirm that the live service is being held. We know this bulletin will probably be delivered to you on or around December 1st

so we will be attempting to contact our members via email or phone as well.

Please note, this will be a service only. For everyone's safety, there will not be a pot-luck meal or year-end bingo games. Hopefully, we will be able to go back to our usual events in 2022. If you do plan on attending the December service, we ask that you have had both of your Covid-19 vaccination shots and that you are not experiencing any cold/flu/Covid-19 symptoms within 2 days of our service. If you have been sick or have not had your shots we ask, for the safety of our sangha, that you do not attend.

On Wednesday, December 29th, a small group of volunteers will be making some mochi for our sangha. If you would like to purchase some mochi or mochi and a kagami set, you will need to pre-order your mochi by December 15th and pick it up from the temple on December 29th. The price is \$10 per order and you may choose (A) 1 dozen mochi plus a kagami set or (B) 18 pieces of mochi. If you are interested in volunteering for the mochitsuki work party or ordering some mocha, please email Lori North at <u>lori.north@gmail.com</u> or call Lucy at 604-856-6492.

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 <u>fvbtemple@gmail.com</u>. Donations, membership fees and purchases may now be made via e-transfer or by

cheque. To send a cheque, please mail it to:

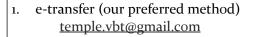
PO Box 1619, Aldergrove, BC, V4W 2V1

I started writing this article during the 2nd week of November. Since then, we have had an unforgettable amount of rain and wind, not only in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley, but across the whole of the BC Interior as well. We hope that our Sangha and friends across BC remain safe and resilient through these challenging times.

In gassho,

Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple





2. PayPal @ VBT Website www.vancouverbuddhisttemple.com



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



anada Helps.org

How to Donate to the VBT

nterac e-Transfer

A Few Words...



"Those who feel that their own birth is completely settled should, mindful of the Buddha's benevolence, hold the Nembutsu in their hearts and say it to respond in gratitude to that benevolence with the wish, "May there be Peace in the world and may the Buddha's teaching spread!" (Shinran Shonin, from A Collection of Letters - Letter 2. CWS pg 560)

In this passage written in a letter, Shinran Shonin reminds the reader that the goal of Buddhism and Buddhists is to live in peace - to have peace of mind, be at peace with ourselves, and live in peace with others. We can all agree that every life is precious and deserves to live meaningful lives to their greatest potential. We can only do this if we live in peace - without the threat of violence and suffering.

Buddhism teaches that violence and suffering happens when we divide the world too starkly into what is "yours and mine," "good and bad," and other divisive thoughts with the self at the centre. In other words, when we are too self-centred, it creates great disparity between people. We can all recognize the importance of "sharing" - it's one of the earliest lessons we teach our young children. Peace and harmony are created when everyone is aware of themselves AND others.

We are encouraged to value every life - starting with our own - as precious and unique and that each life is a part of an immeasurable network of life - the Oneness of Life which we call Amida Buddha. When we are aware of how much our lives are sustained by the love, care and support of others in this network, we feel gratitude and are moved to share with others what we receive.

This does not mean we must make others become Buddhists themselves! "Spreading the Buddhist teaching" could mean that the Buddhist teachings are being spread simply by our living according to them. Our activity as Shin Buddhists when we engage with others is one way we share the compassion of Amida Buddha.

In the spirit of the wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha, let us be grateful that we are able to share warmth and comfort with our neighbours.

In gassho,

Joanne Yuasa

<u>2022 Membership Form</u>

This year, we will continue to keep our membership fees at \$100 per member or \$200 for two and \$25 per student.

2022 Vancouver Buddhist Temple Membership Form

Full Name:		Toban #	New M	/lember	? (Circle): y	ves no
Address:		City:				
Province:	Postal Code:		Phone:			
Email Address:						
ıst Person:		Birthdate: _				\$100.00
			Month			
2nd Person:		Birthdate: _				\$100.00
			Month	Day	Year	
Student's Full Name:		_ School ID a	#:			\$25.00
Cash: Cheque #:					Total: \$_	
Emergency Contact Person:			Phone#:			
To receive the Bodhi Mind, please choose either e-mail or Canada Post. Email: Canada Post:						
To receive by Canada Post, please choose from: English Japanese Both						

2021 Service, Activities, and **Meeting Dates**

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 4th -@ 2 pm Fraser Valley Service (in-person)

Sunday, December 5th -Shotsuki/Memorial & Bodhi Day @ 10 am at VBT (RSVP) & on-line

Saturday, December 11th -Dharma Service @ 10 am

Saturday, December 18th -Dharma Service @ 10 am

Tuesday, December 25th -Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 26th -Boxing Day

Saturday, January 1st -New Year's Service @ 10 am at VBT (RSVP) & on-line

Sunday, January 9th -Shotsuki/Memorial & Hoonko @ 10 am at VBT (RSVP) & on-line

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

The Zoom link is:

Meeting ID: 692 059 0986 Passcode: shinran





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:

- November 7th Memorial/Shotsuki Service Len Komori
- November 13th Manju Making Molly Akune, Setsu Kanegae, Taki Kawasaki, Eileen & Paul Kitamura, Sam Kobayashi, Alamy Liu, Bob & Michi Soga, Michiyo Teranishi, Kazue Tsurasaki, Christine, Kaz, and Margaret Yoshida
- November 20th Manju Making Molly Akune, Joyce Chan, Haruyo Chiba, Setsu Kanegae, Taki Kawasaki, Eileen & Paul Kitamura, Sam Kobayashi, Kazumi Nakano, Keiko Oyama, Michiyo Teranishi, Kazue Tsurasaki, Christine, Kaz, and Margaret Yoshida
- Temple keys and locks Thank you to Art Oyama for the countless hours spent on new keys and locks.



No Bentos For December & January

Because December and January are busy months, we will not be offering bentos for sale in December and January. We will resume our bento fundraiser at the end of February. We look forward to serving you more delicious meals in the New Year.

New Year's Day Service

We are gradually returning to 'normal'. On Saturday, January 1st @ 10 am, the Vancouver Buddhist Temple will have an in-person service. We will still be observing COVID protocols and will not have tea or snacks after the service. Instead, we will have a take-away treat. Please RSVP if you would like to attend. Phone the temple at: 604 253-7033 or email at: temple.vbt@gmail.com

The service will also be on-line. Please use the usual Zoom link (see left side bar)

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 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

2023

to appreciate every encounter

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 Phase 4, at this point. The temple will continue to have limited openings for in-person Shotsuki Memorial Services. The December Memorial/Shotsuki Service will be on Sunday, December 5^{th} @ 10:00 a.m. in the temple's Hondo with adherence to provincial guidelines for physical distancing, self-screening and contact tracing.当月の祥月法要は12月5日(日) 10AMにバンクーバー 仏教会にて参拝できます。



The temple will add sessions, if more are required, so please RSVP well in advance. The on-line December Memorial/Shotsuki service will be held simultaneously (Sunday, December 5th@ 10:00 a.m).参拝希望の祥月ファミリーは事前受付が必要です。

Reservations (RSVP) are 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, December 2nd @ 12:00 p.m.祥月参拝希望者は12月2日正午までに仏教会へご連絡し参拝 登録ください。

To make reservations for the December Memorial/Shotsuki service, please contact the VBT office at either (**604**) **253-7033** or <u>temple.vbt@gmail.com</u>. 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)
 - \cdot 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:

- \cdot sanitize hands
- $\cdot\;$ exit promptly and do not stay and mingle with others
- $\cdot~$ exit either onto Jackson Street (Hondo exit) or through the garage
 - " follow the direction arrows

As requirements are constantly changing, please check our website: <u>vancouverbuddhisttemple.com</u> for updates...

LET'S ALL BE CAREFUL, CALM and KIND

The December Shotsuki monthly memorial service will be held on Sunday,

December 5th at 10:00 am. Please RSVP if you would like to attend in person.

December Shotsuki (Memorial) List

<u> 1959</u> HIROSE, Tanejiro MATSUYAMA, Iyo 1960 HARA, Matsuji NAKAZEKI, Ihachi NOGAMI, Sankichi UYEYAMA, Yoshiye <u>1961</u> IWABUCHI, Ichio SHOJI, Kojiro 1962 NAITO, Ise 1963 MIZUNO, Tsuru SAKATA, Yone 1964 NAKAMURA, Hikozo OHASHI, Gengo OYE, Tomi 1966 **ARAKAWA**, Sute KOHARA, Shirayu 1968 FUJIOKA, Kenji TAKIMOTO, Yojiro <u>1970</u> MAEDA, Ko OOKA, Fusaye YANO, Kenichi <u>1972 - 50th Year</u> KARIYA, Gorokichi MATSUI, Sadajiro NEHA, Tomonori <u> 1973</u> MORI, Bun NAGASAWA, Kinsaku <u>1974</u> INOUYE, Teru NAKAMURA, Keizo 1975 MIYATA, Ninosuke UYEDE, Shige <u>197</u>6 KOYANAGI, Kyuichi <u>1977</u> HIGO, Hajime MATSUNO, Takao 1978 NAKATSU, Gen

ROBINSON, Robert <u> 1979</u> AJIMOTO. Haruye HAMANISHI, Kentaro KOYANAGI, Jun MASUHARA, Yohei NAKASONE, Yoriko YAMANOUCHI, Keiji 1980 SHOJI, Tamiko 1982 NAKATSU, Kanichi YOSHIDA, Makio 1984 MORI, Kenji SHIBATA, Yasuhiro 1987 TAKAHASHI, Tsusaburo 1988 KITADE, Yoshiharu MORISUE, Kazuo <u> 1989 - 33rd Year</u> MUKAI, Mine 1990 FUJITA, Kiyoshi NAGASAWA, Tatsu NATSUHARA, Sawaye OHORI, Masa SUGAWARA, Yoshiko TAKASAKI, Takeo 1992 BABA, Masako HAMANISHI, Toshio TAKAGI, Nobue <u>1993</u> MINAMIDE, Toshiye **ONO**, Suye YAKURA, Ko 1994 TAKATA, Takeo Tahara, Toshiyuki 1995 HAMAGUCHI, Kisako 1996 KITAGAWA, Sotojiro <u> 1997 - 25th Year</u> HONDA, Kazuo KAWAMOTO, Masao NISHI, Yoshiko YOSHIDA, Yoshie

2000 ASAOKA, Takashi IWASAKI, Mitsuji KOYANAGI, Saburo MASUHARA, Wakako **OKAMOTO**, Yukio TOMANEKI, Machiye 2001 AKASAKA, Minoru MURAO, Yasukichi TAKAI, Nobuo TAKENO, Hisae YAMAMOTO, Ei 2002 HARA, Miyoko HARAGUCHI, Masanobu NISHIKIHAMA, Sawae SEKIYA, Mitsuo 2003 KOYANAGI, Suyeko TATARA, Eiko NISHIMOTO, Kumeko HATTORI, Allan 2004 TAKEMOTO, Yasuye <u>2005 - 17th Year</u> KAGETSU, Hide TAKEMORI, Ichiro YONEDA, Minoru 2006 MIYAZAKI, Yoshie 2007 KOMORI, Edward NATSUHARA, Kaoru KITANO, Ken 2008 SAKATA, Kazuma HAYASHI, Shigeko <u>2009 - 13th Year</u> GOMYO, Yuichi CHIBANA, Jinjo 2010 YONEDA, George OKABE, Hitoshi <u>2011</u> NUKINA, Roy Masami 2012 NOMURA, George MARTIN, Hunter SAKIYAMA, Mitsuyo

FUJITA, Eileen 2013 HAYASHI, Kotaro UEGAKI, Takuo SHIKAZE, Emiko MATSUNAGA, Takao 2014 TAKATA, Etsuko <u> 2015 - 7th Year</u> **IKEGAMI**, Kinya TAHARA, Yume 2016 TAKAKI, Jean TANAKA, Mike FUKUI, Makoto 2017 TSURUMARU, Chizuko TSUJI, Akiko TANIZAWA, Masaaki <u>2018</u> NATSUKOSHI, Noriko TATEYAMA, Henry FUKUHARA, Toshiro <u> 2019 - 3rd Year</u> HAYASHI, Teru (Terry)



**The Shotsuki Service will be held on Sunday, December 5th 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 & #