

Dharma Service with Rev. Aoki on Zoom

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

(The Services take approximately 40 minutes
 - Meditation, Sutra Chanting, and Dharma
 Talk)



In-person Service @ 10:00 am:

Sunday, August 18th

Sunday, August 25th

Zoom Service @ 10:00 am:

Saturday, August 3rd

Saturday, September 7th

Sunday, August 11th

@ 11:00 a.m.

at the Vancouver Buddhist Temple

Shotsuki/Memorial Service (& lunch)

The Zoom link is:

Meeting ID: 692 059 0986

Passcode: shinran

Vancouver Buddhist Temple

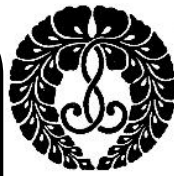


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Bodhi Mind



Vancouver Buddhist Temple

August 2024, Issue #484

Is There Really Such a Thing as the Curse of a Spirit?



It was good to see many people at the Obon services at Vancouver, Fraser Valley, and Steveston Buddhist Temples in July. While I was talking to some people, this conversation took place. The topic we were discussing dealt with spirits and curses.

A: "There are such things as ghosts and spirits! After all, there are people who say that they've seen them."

K: "I don't think so. I've never seen a ghost."

J: "But there are people who say that they sense things. So maybe there are ghosts. Why else would there be exorcists and spiritual healing ceremonies?"

M: (Laughing) "Then, what about those who claim that they can contact the dead? And yet, when they call up Beethoven or Helen Keller, they're not even speaking English!"

T: "At a seminar one time, didn't someone say that Shinran once saw a spirit?"

K: (Laughing) "They were referring to a dream he saw."

J: "Don't people often say that they are carrying or being followed by the spirits of an animal?"

You know, like if you kill a snake, your life becomes shorter or something."

J: "A curse, is something that befalls you for some wrongdoing."

O: "It's just my opinion, but I think that a curse is to teach you a lesson."

Do you believe in spirits and curses? There seem to be many television programs dealing with spirits and ghosts, and it seems to me that this is a topic of interest to many people.

As Buddhists, let us think about how we should deal with this topic. First of all, in Buddhism, we learn about karma. However, in Shintoism (Japanese indigenous religion), spirits are the focus, with the idea that the life of a spirit is eternal. Things such as bad health, fires, poor farming crops and fishing, automobile accidents, and even a business going bankrupt, are all caused by curses of the infinite spirits. That is why Shintoism is said to be a religion that believes in curses, and through faith, one can rid oneself of such curses.

Buddhism is not a teaching that believes in curses. Rather, Buddhism is a religion that sees things just as they are (*sonomama*), making clear what truth is.

Many people today hold a scientific view toward things. As a result, when dealing with religion, the beliefs that some religions hold true are seen as being irrational. If animal curses really did exist, eating things like pork, chicken and beef is unimaginable. If the curse of a deceased person really existed, a murderer would be unable to live. If there were such things as curses, Buddhists, who do not believe in curses, would not exist. And yet, we are all here. Seeing Buddhists living their lives not worrying about curses, I can only begin to think that those who hold beliefs in curses are being deprived of the enjoyments in life.

In Jodo Shinshu, the reasoning that arises from beliefs in spirits and curses is referred to as delusion and perplexity (*mayoi*). Being able to release oneself from such worries as "Would I get cursed?" "Would I be haunted?" is something that Shinran had set out to teach us and make us aware of. Wouldn't living a life without reason, like grass that has no roots, be exactly like the life of a ghost? Living a meaningful life, by planting my roots of life into Amida's teachings of wisdom and compassion, I will firmly walk down life's path.

Namo Amida Butsu

Tatsuya Aoki



Message from the VBT Board

It's hard to believe we are halfway through summer! We had a great turn-out for Obon. Many thanks to the VPD Lion Dance group for starting off our Bon Odori, and to Derek Iwanaka for acting as our emcee. Once again we would not be able to do the things we do without our tireless volunteers. We will be counting on our volunteers to help us with the upcoming Powell Street Festival - Saturday, August 3rd - Sunday, August 4th.

During the month of August, there will be many improvements made to the temple such as lighting, flooring repairs and upgrades, HVAC in the offices, and more. To assist with the costs, we have applied and been approved for grant money. Thank you to Greg Chor and Mayumi Dar for all their work on the grant applications.

On Saturday, August 24th, we will have our day trip to Tashme. The bus is scheduled to leave the temple at 9:00 a.m. We hope to arrive back around 4:30 p.m. A bento lunch, water, and light snacks will be provided. Please dress for the weather.

Lastly, on Sunday, September 8th, we will have our Summer Picnic at Central Park. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Also, there will be games and prizes. Let the office know if you would like to take part (or complete and send in the form attached to this newsletter. We hope to see many of you there.

In gassho,
the Board



VBT Obon &
Bon Odori
Sunday, July 14th

Photos Courtesy of:
Preston Chan
&
Yvonne Nakano

Greetings from the Valley...



The new air-conditioning system was a great success at this year's Obon as we had a full house of attendees. While the outside temperature was 28, we were a cool 21 in the service hall and even cooler downstairs in the social hall. It was so nice indoors that we decided to have our Obon Dancing indoors rather than face the outdoor sun and heat. This renovation was made possible by the JC Legacies Infrastructure Grant for which we are very grateful.

Although we will not be holding a service in August, we hope to have a couple work parties to do some painting and repair to the exterior stairs so that they will be ready when we have our next service on September 14th.

We wish everyone a healthy and safe summer and look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Offered in gassho,
Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple



Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple Donations Received in Gratitude

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations and apologize for any mistakes or omissions.

July Obon Service – Masami Miyagi, N Shikaze, Byron Kagawa, L North, J Fujita/M McSkimming, Paige Perry, Ryoko Tateyama, Amy Nagamatsu, Irene Rohrer, R Okada, Carole Hamanishi, Marion Fujita, Kae Chinen, Greg & Lynn Smith, Ruth Honkawa, Jean Nakatsui, R & M Fujita, Ananya Roy, Tom & Yoko Matsuno, Sherry Stanczyk, Rebecca Stanczyk, Denise Cork, Chieko Takasaki, Y & G Kariatsumari, Stan/Lucy Yoshioka, Itoko/Roy Akune

In memory of May Mukaida – Byron Kagawa, Pat Yoshioka

In memory of Hiroshi Honkawa – Reiko Honkawa

In memory of John Kamimura – Byron Kagawa

In memory of Sam Yoshioka – Byron Kagawa, Pat Yoshioka

In memory of Jack & Hideko Yoshioka – Pat Yoshioka

In memory of Kenny Yoshioka – Pat Yoshioka

In memory of Hideo Nishi – June Nishi

In honor of the 20th anniversary of our temple rebuild – Manitoba Buddhist Temple

VBT Summer Barbeque and Picnic - Sunday, September 8th

With our return to 'normal', we would like to invite our members to join us at Burnaby's Central Park (Picnic Site #1) (weather permitting) on Sunday, September 8th starting @ 11:00 a.m. Please let the temple know if you and your family would like to join us for fun, food, and old-fashioned family time. There is a sign-up sheet by the Office door, or complete the form below and return it to the temple ASAP. The picnic site is by the parking lot near the Kingsway park entrance. The cost is \$5.00 per temple member and \$10.00 for non-members. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Please bring your own sides and beverages. We hope to see many of you on September 8th!



RSVP - 2024 VBT Summer Picnic at Central Park - Sunday, September 8th @ 11:00 a.m.

DEADLINE: 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 3rd COST: \$5.00/member \$10.00/non-member

Name (first name last name): _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____ or Cell #: _____

Number of people attending (including yourself): _____

Upcoming Events

Saturday, August 3rd -
Zoom Service @ 10 a.m.

August 3rd & August 4th -
Powell Street Festival from
11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 10th -
Temple Clean-up @ 10:00

Sunday, August 11th -
Shotsuki/Memorial Service
@ 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, August 18th -
In-person Service @ 10:00

Sunday, August 18th -
Seniors' Luncheon @ 11:00

Saturday, August 24th -
Day Trip to Tashme from
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 25th -
In-person Service @ 10:00

Saturday, September 7th -
Zoom Service @ 10 a.m.

Sunday, September 8th -
VBT Summer Picnic at
Central Park @ 11:00 a.m.

***All services, except where indicated, will be via Zoom.
The Zoom link is:
Meeting ID: 692 059 0986
Passcode: shinran

Dates to Mark on Your Calendar...

- ◇ Powell Street Festival - August 3rd & 4th
- ◇ VBT Barbecue/Picnic - Sunday, September 8th @ 11:00 a.m.
- ◇ BCJSBTF Retreat and AGM at Harrison Hot Springs - September 20th - 22nd
- ◇ Mochitsuki - Sunday, December 8th @ 9:00 a.m.



Return to the Toban System

The temple would not be the warm and welcoming place for gathering if it were not for the dedicated hard work of our members. When people come to the temple - whether it is for the first time or the 100th time - the care we put in our temple expresses how precious we hold the Teachings of the Buddha.



The Tobans will look after Memorial/Shotsuki services. Some of the duties include: cleaning the Hondo, the Social Hall, inside and outside the temple; a parking attendant is needed; as well as a couple people may be needed to act as service receptionist and usher. Help will also be needed for lunch prep for various monthly activities.

The following activities in **August** and **September** are the responsibility of **Toban #1**

- **Powell Street Festival Prep** - Friday, August 2nd @ 9:00 a.m. Saturday, August 3rd and Sunday, August 4th @ 8:00 a.m.
- **Temple Clean-up** - Saturday, August 10th @ 10:00 a.m. (following Board meeting)
- **Shotsuki/Memorial Service Lunch Prep** - Sunday, August 11th @ 9:00 a.m.
- **Seniors' Luncheon Prep** - Sunday, August 18th @ 9:00 a.m.
- **VBT Summer Picnic at Central Park** - Sunday, September 8th @ 9:00 a.m.
- **Fall Ohigan & Shotsuki/Memorial Service Lunch Prep** - Sunday, September 15th @ 9:00 a.m.

Please contact Toban 1's captains, Lorna Bishop and/or Greg Chor if you are able to help.



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:

- ◆ Many thanks to everyone who came out to help at Obon. A lot of work went into readying the temple and food preparation. We are very grateful for everyone's help and support.
- ◆ **Saturday, July 6th Manju making** - JoAnna Bazeley, Joyce Chan, Frank & Pat Hamanishi, Satsu Kanegae, Takiko Kawasaki, Sam Kobayashi, Izumi Low, Akemi Mizuta, Keiko Oyama, Bob Soga, Yuki Tanaka, Kazue Tsurusaki, Ed & Emi Yamazaki, Christine, and Kaz Yoshida
- ◆ **Saturday, July 20th Manju making** - Molly Akune, JoAnna Bazeley, Joyce Chan, Masae Ishii, Reiko Iwai, Satsu Kanegae, Takiko Kawasaki, Michiyo Kishiuchi, Paul & Eileen Kitamura, Len & Masumi Komori, Alamy Liu, Izumi Low, Karen & Tatsu Mizushima, Akemi Mizuta, Haruko Morishita, Cathy Nishikawa, Keiko Oyama, Yohei Tarutani, Kazue Tsurusaki, Sayuri Uchida, Ed & Emi Yamazaki, Christine, Kaz, and Margaret Yoshida

***** Tashme Day Trip Date Change *****

Due to conditions beyond our control, the Tashme day trip originally scheduled for Saturday, August 17th has been **changed to Saturday August 24th**. Our apologies for any inconvenience.

Memorial Years of 2024

1 st Year - 2023	7 th Year - 2018	17 th Year - 2008	33 rd Year - 1992
3 rd Year - 2022	13 th Year - 2012	25 th Year - 2000	50 th Year - 1975

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, Otoye
 MIZUYABU, Toshio
1969
 MIO, Tomekichi
 UYEHAMA, Yasumatsu
1970
 *KITAGAWA, Kenzo
 HANADA, Kinuye
1972
 AMANO, Katsuyo
 *SHIGEOKA, Heishiro
1973
 *MATSUMOTO, Kingo
 *UYEDA, Tane
1974
 SHINTANI, Niichi
1975 - 50th Year
 ASAOKA, Toichiro
 *NISHI, Yoshizo
 TERANISHI, Yasukichi
 *HAMA, Yasumatsu
1977
 *HASHIMOTO,
 Shusuke
1978
 *HONMA, Chizuye
 *SEKIYA, Tashichi
1980
 MITSUI, 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
 TATSUMI, Eiichi
 *ONO, Fumiye
1990
 HONMA, Shizuye
1991
 IWATA, Motomaru
1992 - 33rd Year
 *TANAKA, Kimiyo
 MOTOKADO, Kiku
1994
 *TAMAKI, Natsuno
1995
 KITAGAWA, Kuri
 TANAKA, Yukiko
 YAMASAKI, Keiichiro
 NASU, Hideo
 SAKATA, Tatsuzo
1996
 HAYASHI, Yasue
1997
 FURUGORI, Shuji
 TAMOTO, Satoru
1998
 YOKOME, Haruka

The August Shotsuki monthly memorial service will be held in-person and virtually (via Zoom) on Sunday, August 11th at 11:00 a.m.

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
 KOYANAGI, Emiko
 NISHIHAMA, Kino
 OHORI, Tadayuki
 SUZUKI, Kazunobu
 WATANABE, Tokiko
2006
 KAWASAKI, Shizue
 KONDO, Emiko
2007
 KUNO, Takao
2008 - 17th Year
 YAMASHITA, Kenji
 SAWAMOTO, Miyuki
 SUGIYAMA, Hiromi
2009
 NAKANO, Matsue
 OISHI, Ishie
 TAKESHITA, Tamiye
2010
 NAKANO, Tsuyako
 AMANO, Sadao
2011 - 13th Year
 TANIZAWA, Ryoji
2012
 MIZUNO, Michika
2013
 MOCHIZUKI, Toshi
2014
 TAMAKI, Shinkichi
2015
 KASUYA, Miwako
2016
 YAMAGUCHI, Ryo
 HASEBE, Hideo
 ATAGI, Misaye
2017
 MAEKAWA, Saburo
2018 - 7th Year
 YOSHIKAWA, Sayoko
 KAWAHIRA, James
 KAWAMOTO, Amy
2019
 TANAKA, Miyoshi
 MARUNO, Hisako
 MIMOTO, Michiho
2020
 TABATA, Shoji
2021
 TAKATA, Masako
2022 - 3rd Year
 KAJIWARA, Toshiko
2023 - 1st Year
 MIZUYABU, Shigekiyo

Passings

Our deepest
condolences go to the
families and friends of:

Mr. John Yoshizo Harada
(89)
July 13th



**The Shotsuki Service will be held
on Sunday, August 11th at the temple
& via Zoom @ 11:00 a.m.

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 & #

2024 Vancouver Buddhist Temple

浄土真宗本願寺派
 パンクーパー仏教会
 創立120周年
 建立45周年

120th / 45th Anniversary



Theme

OKAGESAMA

“Thanks to the many causes and conditions known and unknown, I have the privilege of coming to this moment”

おかげさま

Special Gatherings 行事 9月

Sunday, September 8th at 11:00 a.m.

Picnic at Central Park (Burnaby)

Special Service 法要



Sunday, October 6th at 11:00 a.m.

Anniversary Service

JSBTC Day and Shotsuki Memorial Service

Guest Speaker

Rev. Kodo Umezu

(Former Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America)

Lunch and Bingo



SCAN ME



Vancouver Buddhist Temple

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Tel: (604) 253-7033