

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



(Service takes approximately 40
minutes - Meditation, Sutra
Chanting, and Dharma Talk)

Zoom Service @ 10:00 am:
Saturday, April 5th
Saturday, April 19th

In-person service only @ 10:00 am:
Sunday, April 20th

Sunday, April 13th

@ 11:00 a.m.

**Hanamatsuri/Keirokai/
Hatsumairi &
Shotsuki/Memorial
Service with Guest Minister
Rev. Brian Nagata
of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai
(BDK) America
(& lunch)**

The Zoom link is:
Meeting ID: 692 059 0986
Passcode: shinran

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

April 2025, Issue #491

The Power of Listening and Entrusting



“Hard is stone, soft is water; water will wear away stone. If one has plumbed the mind, the Enlightenment of Bodhi is certain.” If true entrusting is at a distance, intensive listening to the Buddha Dharma ends in entrusting due to the Buddha’s compassionate activity. All we need do is expend our efforts in listening to the Buddha’s teaching.”

Rennyō Shōnin (1415-1499)

I would like to reflect on a passage from Rennyō Shōnin, 8th abbot of Jōdo Shinshū Buddhism, and whose wisdom continues to resonate with us across centuries. “Hard is stone, soft is water; water will wear away stone. If one has plumbed the mind, the Enlightenment of Bodhi is certain.” These words convey the quiet but persistent power of softness and patience. Hardness and rigidity are like stone, unyielding and resistant to change. But water, which is soft and adaptable, can wear away even the hardest stone with persistence. In the same way, our minds, though often rigid and fixed in their views, can be transformed through the softening influence of Buddha’s wisdom and compassion. The Enlightenment of Bodhi—the realization of awakening—is not achieved through brute force, but through consistent, gentle effort. This effort requires patience, like water flowing over a stone, gradually but surely bringing transformation.

Rennyō Shōnin offers a key insight for those of us on the path to awakening: “If true entrusting is at a distance, intensive listening to the Buddha Dharma ends in entrusting due to the Buddha’s compassionate activity.” What does it mean to “entrust (Shinjin in Japanese)”? To entrust is to surrender our will, our efforts, our understanding, to something greater than ourselves. In the context of the Buddha’s teachings, it means placing our faith in the Buddha’s wisdom, compassion, and guidance, knowing that through that faith, we will find the path to liberation.

Rennyō Shōnin emphasized the importance of listening. The path to true entrusting is not one of mere intellectual understanding or self-willed effort; it is the humble act of listening to the Buddha’s teachings. But what is meant by listening in the deepest sense? Listening here is not just hearing words; it is deeply attending to the teachings, allowing them to penetrate our hearts and minds. It is about opening ourselves to the teachings with the same softness that water has toward stone. When we truly listen, we allow the teachings to wear away the hardness of our delusions, our attachments, and our fixed views.

However, there is something even more powerful in Rennyō Shōnin’s words: “due to the Buddha’s compassionate activity”. This reminds us that it is not solely through our own efforts that we come to entrust ourselves fully to the Dharma. We are held and supported by the Buddha’s compassion, which works through the teachings, through our practice, and through our community. Even when our efforts feel distant or weak, the Buddha’s compassion is there, guiding us, calling us back to the truth.

All we need to do is listen—listen deeply, with patience, humility, and openness. The Buddha’s compassionate activity will do the rest. The water will wear away the stone. The teaching will penetrate our hearts. And in time, the true entrusting, the complete faith in the Buddha’s path, will naturally arise. In our daily lives, we often rush, distracted by the noise of the world. Yet, in the stillness of listening, we find the power of transformation. We do not need to force ourselves into enlightenment. Like water flowing over stone, the truth will slowly soften us, revealing the wisdom and compassion that are our true nature.

Let us remember that the path to Enlightenment is not a journey of force or struggle. It is a journey of trust, of listening, and of allowing ourselves to be softened by the Buddha’s compassionate teachings. May we all continue to listen deeply, entrusting ourselves to the Buddha’s guidance, knowing that through this, the transformation of our minds will be certain.

Namo Amida Butsu, Tatsuya Aoki

行事予定

4月6日(日) 9AM 饅頭づくり(焼き・みかさ)

4月13日(日) 11AM 4月祥月・花まつり・敬老会・初参り・敬老会昼食会&ビンゴ (講師:永田ブライアン)

* 敬老会昼食会と初参りの受付締め切り4月3日です。

4月23 - 27日 開教使会議・カナダ開教区総会(トロント)

5月4日(日) 11AM 5月祥月・降誕会(昼食) * 第二日曜日は母の日の為、第一日曜日

5月10日(土) 9AM 饅頭づくり(蒸し)

5月24日(土) 9AM バザー準備 & 5月25日(日) 7AM バザー準備(一般の方は5月25日正午開始)

* 今年もバザー開催は一回だけです。出来るだけ事前注文をいただき、食品の口スを減らすよう努めます。

6月8日(日) 11AM 6月祥月(昼食)

7月13日(日) 2PM お盆・初盆・7月祥月・盆踊り(弁当)

8月2 - 3日 パウエル祭

Message from the VBT Board

My name is Mayumi Dar (formerly Yokogawa). I grew up attending the Temple during the 80s and 90s, and after starting a family of my own, I recently returned with a desire to give back. It felt amazing to come back into the community I grew up in and was honored to join the board as a Director.

Returning to the Temple has been an interesting journey. I vividly remember attending every Sunday as a child, surrounded by familiar faces and the comforting sense of ease that came with being in a place that felt like home. The building itself hasn't changed but seeing so many new faces, some of whom I didn't know, and others I remembered but couldn't recall their names was quite nerve-wracking. I knew at that moment that I had to let go of my over confidence, thinking that reintegrating myself was going to be easy.

At first, it felt overwhelming. Volunteering, trying to earn the approval of the queens who rule the kitchen, or learning the names of the men who have cared for our building for decades. All of it was a lot to take in. But little by little, I began to integrate. I learned names, gathered the courage to say hello, throw myself into the mix when volunteering and slowly but surely started to find my place within the community.

Then one day, someone called out my name in greeting. I had no name tag, no introduction, just a warm acknowledgment that I was meant to be there. In that moment, I felt a rush of nostalgia, the familiar sense of community, laughter, and safety that I remembered from my childhood. It was a moment of pure gratitude and love. That was a good day.

As this is my turn to send a personal message, I wanted to reflect on the meaning of Spring. For many, Spring represents a time of renewal, growth, and transformation. Concepts that mirror the Buddhist teaching of impermanence. Spring's blooming flowers, the warmer weather, and the fresh life that emerges after a cold winter are constant reminders that nothing stays the same, and change is an inevitable part of life. For Buddhists, it's an invitation to reflect on how to embrace this transience within our own lives.

The part I truly want to focus on today is the idea of letting go. Letting go of old attachments whether it be material, emotional, or even mental burdens. Letting go of outdated ideals or habits that no longer serve us. And perhaps most importantly, letting go of negative thoughts or self-concepts that settle in our minds like an endless cold winter.

For me, personally, the hardest part has always been the first step—recognizing the need to let go. It's not easy, and sometimes even the thought of releasing the old can feel exhausting. But I encourage you to reflect on what letting go might feel like for you this month. If everything around us is constantly changing, then even as we settle into our routines, we too are capable of change. Spring offers the perfect opportunity to shed the weight of the past, breathe in the fresh air, listen to the birds singing their songs, and witness the beauty of transformation. And as you embark on this journey of letting go, remember to please be kind to yourselves.

In gassho,
Mayumi Dar

法話

「かたいものは石である。やわらかいものは水である。その水が石に穴をあける。そのように、心をひとすじにつらぬけば、さとの道も成就しないはずがない。」蓮如上人「御一代記聞書」

桜のつぼみが色づいてきました。着々と春の訪れを感じます。パンデミック中から今まで仏教に縁が無かった方が土曜日のオンライン通信、日曜日の仏教会での礼拝に訪れます。私の印象では、人生において何か難しい局面にあった方たちが多いように感じます。一度の参拝で「どうしたら」「次になにを」という質問も受けるのですが、そこが仏教の難しいところでもあり、大事なところでもあります。

蓮如上人(れんによしょうにん)の言葉に学んでみましょう。「硬いは石、柔らかいは水、水は石を穿つ」は、仏教の教えや実践における深い智慧を表しています。石は硬く、逆に水は柔らかいのだが、長い年月をかけると「水は石を削って穴をあける」という意味です。穴を開けなくても、ざらざらだった石の表面を滑らかにします。仏教の教えでは、例えば「信心」や「修行」も、この水のように持続的で柔軟な努力を通して、心の頑固さや無知を取り除くことができると教えています。いまはどんなに不信の人であっても、心をこめて仏法を聞き続ける

Hatsumairi - Infant Presentation Ceremony 初参り受付

We cordially invite all families with infants up to one year of age to participate in our annual Hatsumairi Ceremony, which will take place during our Hanamatsuri (Sakyamuni Buddha's Birthday) service on **Sunday, April 13th 2025**. Hatsumairi literally means "first Buddhist service". Often translated as "Infant Presentation Service", Hatsumairi represents the first opportunity for families to bring infants who were born during the previous year to Temple. At the same time, it gives our Temple the opportunity to give expression to the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha, which embraces people of all ages, genders, races, and social strata.



If your family wishes to participate, please contact the temple office by **Thursday, April 3rd**.

Hanamatsuri, Hatsumairi, and Keirokai Luncheon 昼食会 (要受付)

RSVP - 2025 Hanamatsuri/Hatsumairi/Keirokai/Shotsuki/Memorial Service with Guest Speaker: Rev. Brian Nagata of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) America



SERVICE: Sunday, April 13th @ **11:00 am** & luncheon

EVENT ADDRESS: Vancouver Buddhist Temple (220 Jackson Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6A 3B3)

CONTACT: 604 253-7033 or temple.vbt@gmail.com **DEADLINE:** April 3rd @ 12:00 p.m.

Hanamatsuri, Hatsumairi, and Keirokai Luncheon 昼食会 (要受付) REGISTRATION

Name (first name last name): _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____ or Cell #: _____

Number of people attending (including yourself): _____

Please indicate if you born in: 1948 (77 years old) _____ 1937 (88 years old) _____ 1926 _____ (99 years old)

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 5th -
Zoom Service @ 10 a.m.

Saturday, April 12th -
Fraser Valley Service with
Rev. Aoki @ 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 13th -
Hanamatsuri/Hatsumairi/
Keirokai/April Shotsuki
Service & Lunch @ 11:00 am

Saturday, April 19th -
Zoom Service @ 10 a.m.

Sunday, April 20th -
In-person Service @ 10:00

JSBTC Meetings @ Toronto
Buddhist Church (TBC)
April 23rd - 25th - Minister's
Meeting (TBC)
April 26th - AGM (TBC)
April 27th - JSBTC 120th
Anniversary Memorial
Service (TBC)

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

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 April are the responsibility of **Toban #5**

- **Manju making** (yaki & mikasa) - Sunday, April 6th @ 9:00 a.m.
- **Hanamatsuri/Keirokai/Hatsumairi & Shotsuki/Memorial Service** - Sunday, April 13th @ 9:00 a.m.
- **Manju making** (mushi) - Saturday, May 10th @ 9:00 a.m.
- **Gotan-e & Shotsuki/Memorial Service** - Sunday, May 4th @ 9:00 a.m.
- **Seniors' Luncheon** - Sunday, May 18th @ 9:00 a.m.
- **Spring Bazaar** - Saturday, May 24th @ 9:00 am and Sunday, May 25th @ 7:00 a.m.



Please contact Toban 5's captains, Mayumi Dar and/or Izumi Low if you are able to help.

Movie and Lunch 映画と昼食 (4月26日土曜日 メンバー\$5 非会員\$10)



A gentle reminder that part 3 of 5 of our **Movie and Lunch** program will continue on Saturday, April 26th @ 10:30 a.m.

'**99 Years of Love**' (5 episode NHK series) - This is a story of Japanese immigrants who endured the horror and tragedy of war, overcame deep prejudice, and attained their dreams in a new land through love and courage. The movie will start at 10:30 a.m. with a light lunch to follow.

Cost: Members \$5 Non-members \$10

Dates to Mark on Your Calendar...

- ◇ **Hanamatsuri, Keirokai, and Hatsumairi** - Sunday, April 13th @ 11:00 a.m.
- ◇ **Spring Bazaar** - Sunday, May 25th @ 12:00 p.m.
- ◇ **Obon Service** - Sunday, July 13th @ 2:00 p.m.
Bon Odori - @ 4:00 p.m.
- ◇ **Powell Street Festival** - Saturday, August 2nd & Sunday, August 3rd
- ◇ **VBT Barbecue/Picnic** - Sunday, August 31st @ 11:00 a.m.
- ◇ **BCJSBTF Convention** - Saturday, September 20th & Sunday, September 21st
- ◇ **Mochitsuki** - Sunday, December 14th @ 9:00 a.m.



Memorial Years of 2025

1st Year - 2024
3rd Year - 2023

7th Year - 2019
13th Year - 2013

17th Year - 2009
25th Year - 2001

33rd Year - 1993
50th Year - 1976

April Shotsuki (Memorial) List

The April Shotsuki monthly memorial service will be held in-person and virtually (via Zoom) on Sunday, April 13th at 11:00 a.m.

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| 1958
*HIRAYAMA, Michiyo | 1983
NUKINA, Yoshiko | 1998
NISHI, Kenichi | TAKEUCHI, Akio |
| 1960
NOMURA, Yaozo | 1984
*HAMANISHI, Fusaye | FUJIWARA, Akira | 2014
KURAHASHI, Akio |
| 1961
*HARA, Tadashi | *HAYAM Yoshimatsu | 1999
MATSUSHITA, Naka | MORI, Akira |
| 1963
*MATSUNO, Riu | *KADA, Fude | 2000
EGAMI, Yukio | 2015
NISHIMURA, Ayako |
| *TABUCHI, Kizo | *MIDORIKAWA, Kono | FORSYTH, Aiko Mary | 2017
NAKAGAWA, Shoko |
| 1964
*YONEMURA, Senzo | NAKANO, Reizo | KAWABATA, Eijiro | NAKAGAWA, Fumie |
| 1967
*KANEKO, Seki | 1985
*HIROKADA, Shigeo | YOSHIOKA, George | 2018
TERANISHI, Tamotsu |
| *SHIMIZU, Zenzo | NASU, Chiyo | MATANOJO, George | HIDEMI IMAI, Jacqueline |
| 1969
*SUGIMOTO, Tome | 1986
KOMORI, Haru | MORIUCHI, Chie | KOYANAGI, Terry |
| 1972
*NAKASHIMA, Yasumatsu | *NISHIKAWA, Hine | 2001 - 25th Year
NISHI, Diane | 2019 - 7th Year
NARUKE, Yasumasa |
| *SAKATA, Ryoza | *SOKUGAWA, Toshiro | TAKAI, Sumiko | KASUYA, Ken |
| *YAMAMOTO, Isamu | 1987
*LEE, Kinju | TSUJI, Soto | 2020
MATSUI, Otokazu |
| *YOSHIDA, Keijiro | *OHIRA, Yu | 2003
FUJII, Kiyosada | 2021
ARATAKE, Tsuki |
| *YOSHIOKA, Teruo | *TATEBE, Yonehiro | SHIMABUKURO,
Toshio | MATSUTANI, Yoshie |
| 1973
*KOBAYASHI, Isuke | 1988
*MORIYAMA, Kenichi | 2004
BABA, Kohei | 2022
NISHIMURA, Shiro |
| *YAMAGUCHI, Kiyoko | *WADA, Masaye | HAMAZAKI, Kazue | 2023 - 3rd Year
KIMOTO, Percy Miyoshi |
| 1974
*SHIRAHAMA, Tomomi | 1990
*ASANO, Matsue | NAKASHIMA, Yasuharu | 2024 - 1st Year
SHIMIZU, Kiyoshi |
| 1975
*HASEBE, Yukio | *MURATA, Miyano | 2005
MORISHITA, Sawa | NAKATA, Yoshiye |
| *TERADA, Kentaro | 1991
BANNO, Magohachi | 2006
IKEGAMI, Sachiko | OHORI, Robert |
| 1976 - 50th Year
*EDAMURA, Jujiro | *DOI, Sumiko | KIKUCHI, Toru | |
| 1977
*KOYANAGI, Toru | *GODO, Moichi | KOMORI, Tadahiro | |
| 1978
*KAMATA, Genzaburo | *UTSUNOMIYA, Kinuye | 2007
FUCHIHARA, Mike | |
| 1980
*IKEDA, Toyoharu | 1992
*OSATO, Hiroko | KAZUTA, Matsuko | |
| INOUE, Yoshinobu | TSUJI, Sumi | 2008
NISHI, Masaru | |
| KOMORI, Fujihiko | YADA, Katsutoshi | TAKAKI, Yukio Frank | |
| MARUNO, Michiko | 1993 - 33rd Year
*CHIAI, Asae | YAMASHITA, Shunichi | |
| 1981
*TATEYAMA, Shigeyoshi | KOYANAGI, Mitsuru | 2009 - 17th Year
FUNATSU-MEYER,
Shohei | |
| *WAKABAYASHI, Masa | *TANIYAMA, Shigeru | TAKAHARA, Kiyokazu | |
| *TANAKA, Kiyo | 1994
*FUKUHARA, Asano | 2010
NOMURA, Emily | |
| 1982
*HASEBE, Noburo | *SHISHIDO, Kiyoko | 2012
SATO, Sumiko | |
| *IWABUCHI, Shimpei | TANIZAWA, Mitsuyoshi | TAMAKI, Michiko | |
| MATSUI, Sadao | 1995
MATSUNAGA, Shigekazu | ABURAMOTO, Reiko | |
| | 1996
KONDO, Masaru | 2013 - 13th Year
YUZA, Jihei | |
| | TERAKITA, Hideo | NISHIZAWA, Chieko | |
| | 1997
KITANO, Yaeno | | |
| | TSUJI, Tadao | | |

Passings

Our deepest
condolences go to the
families and friends of:

Mr. Koji Ito (81)
February 23rd

**The Shotsuki Service will be held on Sunday, April 13th 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 & #



VBT Spring Bazaar - Sunday, May 25th @ 12:00 p.m.

We are bringing back our popular Spring Bazaar. We will have a slightly scaled-back version, but will still offer many favourite food items. So that we can plan and serve you better, please complete the order form below with payment. This will guarantee you receive the items you want. We will have some of these items for sale on the day of the bazaar, but they will be first come, first served. We look forward to seeing everyone enjoying our delicious udon in the Social Hall once again!

2025 Spring Bazaar Order Form バザー事前注文 (開催日5月25日曜日)

<u>Items</u>	<u>Price</u>	# Requested	<u>Total \$</u>
Eat-in udon	\$7.00		
Take-home udon	\$9.00		
Futomaki (8 pieces)	\$10.00		
Hosomaki combo (4 pcs. Kappa maki, 4 pcs. Oshinko maki, & 4 pcs. California roll)	\$7.00		
Inari (6 pieces)	\$6.00		
Chicken karaage	\$6.00		
Shio saba (per piece)	\$5.00		
Korokke (check which one(s)) - corn ___ curry ___ kabocha ___	\$2.00		
Chow mein	\$6.00		
Manju (6 pieces - mix of mushi, yaki, mikasa, & mochi)	\$10.00		
Manju (10 pieces - mix of mushi, yaki, mikasa, & mochi)	\$15.00		
Ohagi (6 pieces)	\$6.00		
Furikake snack mix (small bag - mix of pretzels, corn chips, nuts...)	\$5.00		
Furikake snack mix (medium bag - mix of pretzels, corn chips, nuts...)	\$10.00		
Frozen tuna (- \$20 and up; as marked) – pay on day of pick-up			
Total:			\$

To order, please return the order form, with payment {cheque (made payable to 'Vancouver Buddhist Temple'), e-transfer (temple.vbt@gmail.com), or cash} to the Vancouver Buddhist Temple via mail (220 Jackson Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6A 3B3), email (temple.vbt@gmail.com) or call (604 253-7033). Deadline to order is Tuesday, May 20th. 事前注文締め切りは5月20日

Please bring your own bags

2025 Spring Bazaar (May 25th) Order Form

Total cost: \$ _____

Name: _____

Email: _____