



法のともしび LIGHT OF THE DHARMA

NOTICE TO MEMBERS:

We are again conducting services in person as well as per ZOOM. Please contact Sensei for links.

REGULAR SCHEDULE

ENGLISH SERVICES
Sundays 10:30am

JAPANESE SERVICES
Sundays 11:30am

SEIZA MEDITATION
Thursdays 7:30pm

MORNING MEDITATION
Fridays 10:00am

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday Feb 4th 10:30am
Shotsuki Memorial Service
and Nirvana Day Service
Monday Feb 5th 7:00 pm
SBT Board Meeting
Tuesday Feb 6th 7:30pm
Spring Lecture Series Starts
Thursday Feb 15th 7:00pm
SBT Movie Night
Sunday Feb 18th 10:30
Dana Day Service
Sunday March 3rd 10:30am
Shotsuki Memorial Service

Your Donations are needed and appreciated!
Donations are the single largest source of income for the temple. Although there are no scheduled events, expenses do not stop. We want to be able to restart programs as soon as possible, so we thank you in advance for your contribution.

**FUJINKAI
TOBAN 2**

Contact: June Ikuta
604-277-5077

What is Salvation in Buddhism?

Beneath the Sala trees in Kushinagar, in his last words to his disciples, the Buddha said:

"Make of yourself a light. Rely upon yourself; do not depend upon anyone else. Make my teachings your light; do not depend upon any other teaching. My disciples, my last moment has come, but do not forget that death is only the end of the physical body. The body was born from parents and nourished by food; just as inevitable are sickness and death. But the true Buddha is not a human body; it is Enlightenment. A human body must die, but the Wisdom of Enlightenment will exist forever in the truth of the Dharma, and in the practice of the Dharma. One who sees merely my body does not truly see me. Only those who accept the Dharma truly sees me."



Hello to all the readers of our Newsletter. One of the more pleasurable aspects of being a minister is that I get plenty of opportunities to reflect on the Buddha Dharma and how it moves in ways that are way beyond my conceptualization, and yet it continues to guide me in the journey of life.

Just the other day, I was invited to give a talk on Buddhism to a theology class at St. Mike's College at UBC. The fascinating part was how I was invited in the first place. It goes back to last year, we have had a young gentleman who started attending our temple from around early September (for the article I will just call him SM). After one of the first services that SM had attended, we were talking over tea when I found out that he had been studying East Asian Religions and had completed a post graduate degree at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. Because his family was in Vancouver, he had returned here following his graduation. He said he had studied Buddhism as an academic but wanted to experience what it felt to be part of a sangha community. He has been coming regularly to our events and services and became a member of our temple. One day, when we were talking, he brought up the fact that his father is an academic scholar who teaches Christian Theology at UBC and that he would like to invite me to one of his classes to give a talk on Buddhism.

So, it was through this encounter that I was invited to give a talk to a class of theology students. I spoke on the basic tenets of Buddhism and was well received by all the students. At the end of the class, I believe it was a graduate student or a teacher's assistant who asked me, "How does Buddhism understand salvation, or is there even a concept of salvation in Buddhism?" He went on by saying, "In Christianity, salvation is seen as the saving grace of God, saving us from our sins." There was no animosity in his voice, he was just wanting to know if we had such a concept in Buddhism. Very interesting and thought-provoking question. I could tell I was amongst academic scholars by the nature of the query. After a moment to contemplate on the question, I replied to him, "In Buddhism, salvation is liberation from our ignorance." Through his enlightenment, Sakyamuni Buddha was able to liberate himself from the suffering of his ignorance and laid the foundation for the Buddha Dharma, which has been passed down for centuries and to all corners of the world.

On February 4th, we will be commemorating the Nirvana Day service in conjunction with the February Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service. The Nirvana Day service is a service in memory of the passing of the historical Buddha, Sakyamuni. It is said that on the fifteenth day of the second month, sometime around the year, 543 BC, in a Sala Grove in Kushinagar, Sakyamuni Buddha gently lay down on his right side with his head to the North and facing the West taking his last breaths and entering the perfect enlightenment known as Parinirvana.

<Continued on P.2>

Upcoming Events and Lectures

After a hiatus for winter break, Rev. Grant will resume the winter lecture series focusing on the Tannisho and the core teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

The lectures will be on Tuesday evenings starting on February 6th, 2024 at 7:30 pm. Lectures will be held on the following schedule: February 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th.

Seiza Meditation is also continuing every Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm, except on February 15th when we will be hosting another Movie night from 7:00 pm.

We hope you will be able to join us for these events.

Steveston Buddhist Temple

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, February 25th at 1:00 pm

Please join us on the afternoon of Sunday, February 25th at 1:00 pm for our Annual General Meeting. The AGM is the most important meeting for our membership to attend. It is an opportunity for you to learn how the temple operations are proceeding, but just as importantly, your attendance is an expression of support for the board members who are sacrificing their time and effort to ensure the smooth running of the temple. We hope to see you at the AGM.

In Gassho,
Steveston Buddhist Temple



FUJINKAI NEWS

Hiroko Yoshihara

Our Fujinkai annual general meeting was held on Sunday, January 28 at 1 pm. Toban restructuring, the need for younger members to take on activities and fundraising were few of the topics discussed by those attending. Dana Day service will be held on Sunday, February 18 at 10:30 am.

Moe No Kai



Due to heavy snow on Jan. 18th, our first Moe No-kai of the year was postponed and held on Thursday, Jan. 25th. Last year at this time of the year, a new ukulele group was formed by three members from Moe No-Kai. Along with these ukulele players, the seniors sang two popular Japanese winter songs and a birthday song to celebrate few seniors whose birthdays were in January. We were able to have our New Year's luncheon with the money accumulated from the \$2 monthly enrollment fee. Usually, the luncheon is held in the months of December and June. We played Fukuwarai game which was suitable for the New Year Party. Later in the morning, we had our New Year luncheon with delicious norimaki rolls and karaage chicken from Takeya Sushi restaurant and wonderful homemade potluck dishes and desserts from volunteers. I thank all the volunteers for supporting Moe No-Kai and most of all, I thank all the seniors who attend Moe No-Kai regularly. I hope to have an exciting year with you all so stay healthy and well. Our next Moe No-Kai will be held on Thursday, Feb. 22nd. Anybody is welcome. Just bring \$2 to join the local seniors. See you soon and let's have fun together.

<SENSEI P.1> As we observe the passing of the Buddha, we are reminded of the impermanent nature of all beings. Yet at the same time, we are reminded of his final words before his passing, "Those who only see the physical body, do not see the true Buddha. Only those who accept the Dharma truly sees the Buddha."

Namo Amida Butsu.
In Gassho,
Grant Ikuta

Special Request

As many of you probably read in our December newsletter, the president of our temple, Mr. Ted Akune will be stepping down following the completion of his third term as president at the end of February. Thank you, Ted, for all your dedication and effort as our temple president. You are one of the many distinguished individuals who have stepped up to the plate and dedicated your services to insure the ongoing growth and survival of our temple. You have been the president through a most trying period with the Covid-19 Pandemic and the effects which still lingers on today. I know at times it has not been easy and your gentle demeanor and kindness has been truly appreciated. Thank you, Ted!!

Our temple could not exist without our wonderful volunteers, which brings me to this special request, in the next couple of months you may receive a phone call from myself or someone on the board asking you to join our temple board of directors. If you are called upon, please consider the request seriously as we will not be able to continue providing services without people willing to pitch in. Better yet, instead of waiting for a phone call, if you are willing to, please step forward and volunteer your services. It would be most appreciated.

In Gassho,
Grant Ikuta

Donations and Legacies

We would like to express our appreciation to all those who continue to donate to the temple at our various activities and events. At present, donations are our main source of income, as we have tried to keep membership fees consistent.

Expenses that exceed donations, cause us to dip into our 'Rainy Day Fund', but this is not sustainable in the long run. Over the past few years, a number of members have left a legacy to the Temple in their will, and these have covered our budget shortfalls.

If you are considering a legacy donation, please don't hesitate to contact the Sensei or the temple office to see if a donation for a specific purpose or a general donation would make the most sense. We appreciate that you keep us in your thoughts and appreciate your support.

LEARN ABOUT THE WOMEN'S FEDERATION

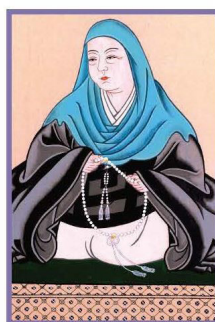
Have you ever wondered about the Women's Federation and what they do? The Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC) Women's Federation, Women's Fed or simply the WF, began in 1976 and is now an active standing committee, under the JSBTC, made up of member temple representatives.

The committee endeavors to follow in the footsteps of prestigious Buddhist women such as Eshinni, Shinran Shonin's wife, Kakushinni, Shinran's daughter, and countless women who have dedicated their lives to the practice of the Jodo Shinshu teachings and the spreading of the dharma. They are an inspiration, and the WF honor and endeavour to follow their example.

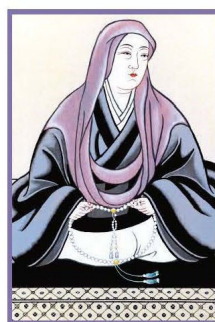
Why is it important that the WF exist?

Although the WF is not active in every JSBTC temple, they offer opportunities for all temples to participate.

- Directs donations to national charities supporting social well-being.
- Offers financial assistance to the Canadian ministers and youth through available funding programs.
- Offer coordination across Canada regarding involvement in the World Buddhist Women's Conventions (WBWC).
- Coordinate activities across Canada such as the Minister's Appreciation Month.
- Provide presentations that are of interest to a national audience.
- Provide two WF Secretary Generals who represent Canada at international meetings.



Eshinni



Kakushinni

Being part of WF

- Membership to the WF is \$15 per person. Your temple can collect from individuals in their temple, or the temple can pay their membership - by doing this your temple has a temple representative on the Women's Federation committee.

- Individuals do not have to go through a temple and can become a member as an individual with no voting privileges. A person does not need to be a Temple member

to join the WF nor be female. The WF is open to all.

- The fee is used to support internal operations such as the Zoom account, office expenses such as mailings, in addition to supporting travel for temple representatives to attend an annual committee meeting.
- By being a WF member, individuals can participate in activities exclusive to WF members such as attending the WBW Convention (motion pending). The 18th WBWC will be in 2027 in Hawaii!
- The WF is a proud District of the World Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) which includes Japan Buddhist Women's Federation, Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Association, South America Buddhist Women's Association, and Buddhist Churches of America.

WF Aspiration

- The WF strives to honor all Buddhist women and share the teachings of the Buddha. The wish is to be a vibrant and inclusive organization that promotes Jodo Shinshu Buddhism for all Canadians.

FEBRUARY 2024 MEMORIAL SERVICE (Please bring your "Homyo".)

Akizuki, Osamu	Kariya, Yukio	Murakami, Fumie	Nomura, Junichi	Suzuki, Masao	Uyeda, Masako
Akune, Shizuka	Kawabata, Hiroshi	Murao, Toshimi	Nomura, Tsutaye	Takasaki, Yukihiro	Wakita, Saijiro
Araki, Merv Masato	Kawabata, Yonekichi	Nakano, Yasuno	Ogawa, Etsuko	Takashita, Nobuo	Yamamoto, Carole
Domae, Iwao	Kimura, Shinkichi	Nakata, Kiku	Ohara, Takashi	Tamaki, Sunao	Toyomi
Harada, Satoru	Kishi, Yoichi	Nakatsu, Yoshiko	Ohara, Yoichi	Tamaki, Tsurue	Yasui, Tsuyu
Haya, Nobby	Kokubo, Hideo	Nishi, Hideko	Okano, Haruo	Tanaka, Yonekichi	Yasui, Ukiyoshi
Higo, Haruko (Ruby)	Maeda, Sachiko	Nishi, Kunio	Oyama, Fujiyo	Tasaka, Jennifer	Yesaki, Shiro
Higo, Miteru	Maruyama, Takao	Nishi, Masahiko	Ozeki, Tomi	Tasaka, Kuniko	
Hori, Tome	Miyazaki, Kiyoko	Nishi, Senkichi	Saito, Toshimi	Tasaka, Yukio	
Ikari, Rokumatsu	Miyazaki, Takeo	Nishi, Shizuko	Sakai, Hayao	Tomihiro, Yoshiro 'Doc'	
Kariya, Iwao	Mori, Rihe	Nishihama, Yoshiko	Sakamoto, Nancy	Toyoda, Yoshinobu	
Kariya, Yasushi George	Morishita, Kimiyo	Nishii, Iyo	Natsue	Tsumura, Yasue	
Kariya, Yone	Morizawa, Shigeo	Nishii, Larry	Shinde, Kumiko	Uchida, Shiro	

MARCH 2024 MEMORIAL SERVICE (Please bring your "Homyo".)

Akizuki, Tom Fumitaka	Handa, Noriyuki	Lee, William	Naka, Satsue	Ojiro, Anthony Kusuo	Tasaka, Arizo
Amadatsu, Tsunemori	Hashimoto, Masaaki	Maede, Toyoko	Nakano, Chitose	Omae, Kinuyo	Wakayama, Tamio
Atagi, Kaya	Hori, Masami	Maede, Yoneharu	Nakata, Masayo	Omura, Yukiko	Yamamoto, Hajime
Baker, Alice	Horikoshi, Taro	Maeno, Hajime	Nakata, Minosuke	Oyama, Tsuruko	Yamamoto, John
Domae, Toyokazu	Ikuta, Makoto	Matsumura, Seitaro	Nakata, Tokiko	Sato, Rex Hiroyuki	Yamamoto, Nuiko
Domai, Hisae	Inouye, Susumu	Morishita, Shigeo	Nakatsuru, Satoru	Sakamoto, Aiko	Yamanaka, Takao
Furukawa, Jun	Kakehi, Makoto	Mukai, Teruo	Niguma, Toshio	Sakamoto, Makoto	Yoshida, Kazuo
Hamade, Lorne	Kariya, Sonoye	Murakami, Asamatsu	Nishi, Masao	Sakamoto, Roy	Yoshida, Yoshio
Hamakawa, Yukiko	Kitagawa, Tadao Tad	Murao, Kimiyo	Nishi, Takeshi Bill	Shirakawa, Hatsune	
Hamanishi, Hiroichi	Kobayashi, Harue	Murao, Yoshiyuki	Nishihama, Mankichi	Shiyoji, Dennis	
Hamanishi, Kazumi	Koyanagi, Tadatoshi	Murao, Nagako	Nogami, Hiroshi	Suzuki, Shigeo	
Hamaura, Robert	Kurahashi, Tomiko	Nagata, Kazuo	Ogawa, Tsurue	Takasaki, Mitsuo	
Hiroshi	Kurahashi, Yoneji	Nagata, Toshiko	Ogawa, Masaharu	Takasaki, Toshiko	

DONATIONS & Memberships

The Steveston Buddhist Temple sincerely appreciates and thanks the following for their generous donations: All donations deposited after January 22, 2024 will be announced in the next newsletter. Any donations with notations stating that they are in memory of several individuals, these names will be acknowledged in the month that the cheque was deposited. If you wish to have the donations acknowledged in the newsletter corresponding with a particular Shotsuki month, we ask that you make donations during that actual Shotsuki memorial month. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

最近一年を通じた法要と祥月御懇志を小切手にて一括で送られてくるケースが多くなりました。その場合は入金されたその月のニュースレターにまとめてお報せ致しますのでご了承下さいませ。尚、祥月御懇志袋上に差出人のお名前、ご住所の他、どの月の祥月御懇志もお忘れなく記載して下さいませ。有難うございました。

General donation (\$1,175): Akune Ted & Rose, Fukuma Kojiro & Midori, Hashimoto Junichi & Atsumi, Inouye Emiko, Matsuno Yuki, Oda Jennifer, Sakai Mike & Fe, Sakai Tomiko, Watanabe Keiko, Yasui-Davies Laureen, Anonymous (2)

Naijin Flowers: Nishi Kayoko

January Shotsuki donation(\$3,865): Akizuki Casey, Akune Roy & Itoko, Butler Linda, Colpitts Donna, Domai Kiyo, Domai Koji, England Carol, Esson Karen, Go Keiko, Hamade Midori, Hamaura Misaye, Hirose Mary, John Annie, Kawaguchi Ren, Kawaguchi Family, Kemp Norine, Kimura Sueko, King Hiroko, Kondo Kaoru, Kojima Jim & Michiko, Kuramoto Isao, Kuramoto June, Kuramoto Martin & Elsie, Lum George & Hitomi, Matsumura Laverne, Matsuo Corey, Matsuo Ken & Akiko, McLean Jenny & Duncan, Morimoto Anthony, Morimoto Cathy, Morimoto John, Morimoto Mas, Mukai Diane, Mukai Henry, Mukai Sadao & Shioko, Mukai Tom, Murao Mary, Murao Ray, Nadiger Josephine, Nakano Alison, Nevins Julie, Niguma Kazuko, Nishi Eric, Nishi Greg & Mary, Nishi Julie, Nishi Kayoko, Nishi Susan, Niwatsukino Family, Nomura Dan & Colleen, Nomura Mark & Chris, Nomura-Rejto Cathy, Obayashi Jo-Ann, O'Brien Audrey & Michael, Quan Toshiko & Ernest, Ryan Larry & Jeanne, Terai Kay, Sakamoto Bud, Sakamoto-Singh Crystal, Sakiyama Nobby & Liz, Sameshima Masumi, Sameshima Raymond & Famey, Sameshima Teresa, Sameshima Yoshiko, Sano Masayoshi, Sato Helen, Satosono Sam & Aya, Tabata Ian, Tabata Tosh, Takasaki Charlotte, Takasaki Keith & Sandra, Takeuchi Ken & Sachiko, Tanaka Emiko, Tasaka Kaz & Chic, Tasaka Rick & Naomi, Teraguchi Jean, Tipple Pat & Chris, Tsukijima Judy, Okabe Mary, Yamanaka Sachiyo, Yesaki Arthur, Yesaki Tom, Yoshihara Ken & Hiroko

Shusho-e (New Year) service (\$270): Akune Roy & Itoko, Chow Suezone & Nobu, Ikuta Teruko, Oki Hiroshi

Funerals & memorial services (\$4,560): In memory of the late:

Don Narukami: Akune Roy & Itoko, Akune Ted & Rose, Hayashi Stacey & Bobbi, Hirose Mary, Kanegawa Suyeko, Kawamoto Tobo & Hiroko, Kemp Norine, Minato Akiko, Mukai Diane, Nomura Debbie, Nomura Dan & Colleen, Nishi John & Nancy, Ohara Isao, Ross Janice, Sakai Marge, Sakamoto Bud, Sameshima Yoshiko, Steveston Kendo Club, Tasaka Kaz & Chic, Yamanaka Brian & Lynne, Yesaki Tom, Yoshihara Ken & Hiroko, Anonymous, SBTWA

Chiyoko Morizawa: Morizawa Paul, Morizawa Leonard, Nomura Dan & Colleen,

Miyuki Nitta: Koyanagi Bruce

Teruko Nishikihama: McLean Jenny

Alice Kokubo: Tanami R.

Hideko Nishi: Nishi Pat

Nobuo Domai: Quan Ernest & Toshiko

Yasuo & Minako Nakano: Nakano Sheila

Neil and Diane Matsuo: Matsuo Michelle

Takako Suga: Mehl Rainer, Anderson Masako, Japanese Dementia Support Association, Soda Maki

Father-in-law Mitsuru Koyanagi: Koyangi Susie

49th day service of the late Teruko Nishikihama: Thomas Joy

49th day service of the late Miyuki Nitta: the Family of the late Miyuki Nitta

1st year memorial of the late Reg Matsumura: Matsumura Margaret

Sister Hisako Shikaze 9th year: Tomihiro Kazuko

Brother Hiroshi Niwatsukino 28 year: Koyanagi Susie, Tomihiro Kazuko

**** an apology to Mrs. Kazuko Tomihiro for the late announcement of her sister Hisako Shikaze's 9th year memorial announcement.**

Membership 2023 paid: Matsuo David

Please do not send us 2024 membership until after the AGM held at the end of February.

Your Donations are needed and appreciated!

Donations are the single largest source of income for the temple, and allow us to create our programs, which we hope you also can enjoy, so we thank you for your contribution.



OBITUARY

We would like to express our heartfelt sympathy to the family members of the following deceased:

Mr. Heke Terry Wu	Dec. 17, 2023	38 Years Old
Ms. Una Marjorie MacPherson	Dec. 31, 2023	68 Years Old
Mr. Casey Isamu Uyen	Jan. 10, 2024	80 Years Old
Mrs. Harue Hori	Jan. 17, 2024	103 Years Old
Mrs. Emiko Tanaka	Jan. 18, 2024	98 Years Old

敬 弔

次の方がご逝去されましたので、生前のご苦勞を偲び、謹んで敬弔の意を表します。

吳 赫科	2023年12月17日寂	38歳
ユナ・マクフィルソン	2023年12月31日寂	68歳
上野 ケイシー イサム	2024年 1月10日寂	80歳
堀 ハルエ	2024年 1月17日寂	103歳
田中 エミコ	2024年 1月18日寂	98歳

寄付と遺産

お寺の様々な活動や行事にいつも寄付をして下さる方々にお礼を申し上げます。会費を同じ額にとどめようとしていますので、現在、寄付がお寺の最大の収入源です。

寄付金以上の出費があると緊急用の資金を使うこととなりますが、これは一時的な方法でしかありません。ここ数年間、多くの会員の方が遺言状にお寺に遺産を残すことを記載して下さい、これがお寺の資金不足を補填（ほてん）しています。

もしお寺に遺産の寄付を考えていらっしゃるなら、その寄付をある特定の目的のために使った方が良いか、それとも目的を定めない方が良いか等を考えるために先生がお寺にご連絡ください。

皆様のご支援と暖かい思いに感謝いたします。

Kansho - The Calling Bell

It is a month after Shusho-e, our New Years Day service. Combined with this service, we bid goodbye to 2023 at the Joya-e service. Attending these two services were approximately 200 people, many of whom were following the traditional practice of ringing the Kansho with the intent of ridding themselves of the 108 Bonno - the passions and delusions of one's life.

After our Joya-e service, one of those attending asked me the question - how did the tradition of the Kansho arise? His query was in reference to the tradition of ringing the bell prior to each service - a funeral, a memorial service or a weekly Sunday service.

Kansho is the act of ringing the bell. The bell, the Bonsho, is struck with a wooden mallet in a pattern of 7-5-3. The bell is struck 7 times and after each succeeding sound has subsided, it is followed by a series of fast, loud, and quick beats peaking with three distinct strong ones; the pattern then decrescendos from slow to fast, loud beats. The bell is then again struck 5 times (in a similar pattern as the 7) followed by another crescendo and decrescendo. Finally the bell is struck three times in succession with a strong beat followed by a soft and then a strong beat. The numbers 7, 5 and 3 are pivotal numbers in the ancient Japanese Buddhist culture. One theory is that odd numbers are associated with creativity, uniqueness, and attention seeking. Another is that an odd number cannot be divided equally; thus from a Jodo Shinshu perspective, the Sangha cannot be divided and remains strongly united.



The Steveston temple Bonsho which is made of brass and 24 inches tall and 16 inches wide was specifically designed and manufactured in Japan for our temple. The words Namo Amida Butsu are specifically engraved in Japanese. The Bonsho is suspended in the southwest exterior of the Hondo. In some temples, the Bonsho is suspended in a separate bell tower. On the precincts of the Nishi Hongwanji, in Japan, the Bonsho hangs elegantly in both the Goeido (the Founder's Hall) and the Amidado (the Hall of Amida Buddha) and because of its sacredness, the bell ringing is specifically performed by ministers.

The concept of the Kansho originated in India. The most famous bell was one which hung in the Jetavana Garden in Sravasti - the garden in which Shakyamuni would retreat for serenity and calmness particularly during the rainy season. It is said the bell weighed 50 tons and was struck by a large wooden tree trunk. The sound was purposely designed to create the everlasting reminiscence of the impermanence of life. The sound has such an ethereal effect that world-wide, the Kansho is regarded as the voice of the Buddha calling us to assemble to hear his words. And, so it is that that tradition carries on in our temple.

Indeed the Kansho is a sacred act in Jodo Shinshu tradition and is reverently followed in all Jodo Shinshu temples.

In Gassho,
Roy Akune

Hoonko Service

On the weekend of January 20th and 21st the Hoonko Service, honoring the memorial for Shinran Shonin was observed. Due to the inclement weather, the turnout was smaller than we had hoped for. On Saturday, Rev. Grant gave a public lecture on the history and meaning behind the Hoonko service, and on Sunday, Roy Sensei and Rev. Grant wore their brand-new robes and Gojo Kesa for the first time.

The vestments were purchased at the end of last year through the auspices of the former Bingo Account. When we finally stopped holding the public bingo games in 2019, there were some residual funds left in the bingo account. The volunteers in the bingo committee recommended to the temple board that these funds be used specifically for either the temple altar or for purchases of religious items for the temple, and so the vestments were ordered using some of the funds available. We would like to thank the dedicated bingo volunteers who served for many years volunteering on Wednesday evenings for the public bingo held in our old gym at the temple. Thank you also to the Fujinkai ladies who prepared a delicious Hoonko luncheon following the Sunday service.



報恩講法要

1月20日と21日の週末には、報恩講法要が執り行われました。悪天候のため、参加者は期待していたよりも少なかったです。土曜日には、生田先生が報恩講法要の歴史と意味について公開講演を行い、日曜日には、ロイ先生とグラント先生が初めて新しい依体と五条袈裟を披露されました。この依体は、昨年末に旧ビンゴアカウントの後援で購入されました。2019年にビンゴゲームの開催を終了したとき、ビンゴの口座にいくらかの資金が残っていました。ビンゴ委員会のボランティアは、これらの資金を寺院のお内陣またはお寺の宗教的な品物を購入するために特別に使用するようにお寺の理事会に推奨し、資金の一部を使用して依体を注文されました。お寺の体育館で開催されたビンゴのために水曜日の夜にボランティアを長年務めた献身的なビンゴボランティアにお礼申し上げます。また、報恩講法要の後に美味しい昼食を用意してくださった婦人会の皆さんにも感謝します。

SBT Movie Night Thursday, February 15th, 2024 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

As we endure the chilly winter evenings, why not take the time to come out and join us for one of Rev. Grant's favorite movies, "Saigo no Chushingura (最後の忠臣蔵)". It is a movie that is loosely based on the famous story of the "47 Ronin". It takes place 16 years after the Chushingura incident and tells the tale of 2 individuals and how they led their lives following the fateful night of December 14, 1702.

It is a movie that really expresses the heart of "Bushido", the path of the Samurai warrior, and is a perfect movie to warm you up on a cold February evening.

The movie stars, Koji Yakusho and Koichi Sato. Even if you have seen it before, well worth watching a second or even third time. Hope to see you there. Due to some violence in the movie, this movie is not recommended for children. The movie is in Japanese with English Subtitles

SBTムービーナイト 2024年2月15日(木)
午後7:00 – 午後9:30



寒い冬の夜を耐え忍ぶ中、生田先生が大好きな映画「最後の忠臣蔵」を一緒に見ませんか。話は「忠臣蔵」事件から16年後を舞台に、2人の人物がどのように人生を歩んだかが描かれています。「武士道」の心を見事に表現した映画で、寒い2月の夜に心を温められる映画です。

役所広司や佐藤浩市主演の映画です。(残酷な場面もありますので、子供向きではありません)

Japan Night in Steveston

On a snowy wintery evening in January, about 80 people braved the snow storm and came out to join us for the first "Japan Night in Steveston" which was co-sponsored by the Consulate General's Office of Japan in Vancouver, the Japan Foundation, and our temple. The evening began with a live performance by local artists "Norinori and Komori" who played the Shamisen and Taiko. The performance climaxed with a rendition of Tanko-bushi with Rev. Grant leading the audience in the dancing. Following the performance, the movie, "Ora, ora, de hitori igumo" (Ora, Ora Be Goin' Alone) was shown in Hondo.

As part of the evening events, we were able to raise funds towards the Noto Hanto Earthquake Relief effort.



ジャパンナイト in スティーブストン

1月11日大雪の夜に、約80名の方々が吹雪をものともせず、在バンクーバー日本国総領事館、Japan Foundation、そして当仏教会の共催による第1回「ジャパンナイト in スティーブストン」にご参加いただきました。三味線と太鼓を演奏した地元のアーティスト「ノリノリとコモリ」によるライブパフォーマンスで始まりました。公演後、本堂で映画「おら、おらでひとりいぐも」が上映

されました。今回のイベントでは、能登半島地震の義援金を集めることもできました。

スティーブストン仏教会 年次総会 2月25日(日) 午後1時

AGM
2月25日(日)午後1:00に開催される年次総会に皆様のご参加をお願い致します。年次総会は、会員が出席する最も重要な会議です。お寺の運営がどのように進んでいるかを知る機会ですが、それと同じくらい重要なことは、お寺の円滑な運営のために時間と労力を犠牲にしている理事会の支援の表明であるということです。年次総会でお会いできるのを楽しみにしています。

合掌、
スティーブストン仏教会

婦人会からのお知らせ 吉原ヒロコ

婦人会総会が1月28日(日)の1時から行われました。お当番制の検討、いろいろな活動をしたり資金集めをする若い婦人会会員の必要性等が話し合われました。

婦人会グーナデー法要が2月18日(日)の10:30からあります。



特別なお願い

12月のニュースレターでお読みになった方も多いと思いますが、当寺の会長であるテッド・阿久根氏は、2月末で3期目の会長任期を終えて退任されます。テッドさん、お寺の会長としての献身と努力に感謝いたします。ありがとうございます、テッドさん!!

仏教会は素晴らしいボランティアの皆様のおかげで存在しています。今後一・二月のうちに、私または理事会の誰かから電話がかかってきて、仏教会の理事会に参加するように頼まれるかもしれません。お声がけされた場合はぜひ検討するようにお願いいたします。

合掌、
生田グラント



法のともしび



仏教における救いとは何ですか？

釈尊はクシナガラ郊外の、シャラ（沙羅）樹の林の中で最後の教えを説かれた。

弟子たちよ、おまえたちは、おのの、自らを灯火とし、自らをよりどころとせよ、他を頼りとしてはならない。この法を灯火とし、よりどころとせよ、他の教えをよりどころとしてはならない。「自分を光としなさい。自分を頼りにしてください。」

他の誰にも依存しないでください。わたしの教えをあなたの光としなさい。他の教えに頼ってはいけません。

弟子たちよ、今はわたしの最期の時である。しかし、この死は肉体の死であることを忘れてはならない。肉体は父母より生まれ、食によって保たれるものであるから、病み、傷つき、こわれることはやむを得ない。仏ほとけの本質は肉体ではない。さとりの道である。肉体はここに滅びても、さとりは永遠に法と道とに生きている。だから、わたしの肉体を見る者がわたしを見るのではなく、わたしの教えを知る者こそわたしを見る。

（仏教伝道協会出版の「仏教聖典」より）

皆さん、こんにち。去年の暮に今年の冬は本に穏やかで温かい冬だと思っていたが、一月に入り自分の思いは少し甘かったようでした。大雪も降り自宅に立てこもる日々もありました。皆様はいかがお過ごしでしたか？ ようやく気温も少し上がり雪もほとんど解けて、二月はもう少しましな月になりそうです。それでは本題に入りたいと思います。先月のニュースレターにも載せましたが、今年の9月に私は還暦を迎えます。開教使となって32年目に入ります。最初の16年はトロントのお寺で務めて、スティーブストン仏教会に来てからも16年目になります。本当にあっという間でした。そして、その32年を振り返って見ると仏法の不思議なところは数多くのおかげさまで数多くの御縁をいただきました。

つい先日、UBC大学のセント・マイクス・カレッジの神学の授業に招かれて、仏教の紹介をする機会をいただきました。なぜ私が招待されたかというと、それには訳がありました。昨年にさかのぼりますが、9月上旬頃からお寺に通い始めた若い男性とのお縁がすべての始まりです。彼が初めて参加した礼拝の後、お茶を飲みながら話をしていたときに彼がオンタリオ州にあるMcMaster大学でアジアの宗教を専門に研究し、大学院の学位を取得していることを話されました。彼の家族はバンクーバーに住んでいるので、卒業後にここに帰ってこられたそうです。今までは学問として仏教を学んでいましたが、実際にお寺で人と触れ合いながら聞法したいと思って、去年の9月ごろから出入りするようになりました。お寺のメンバーにも登録されました。ある日、彼は「自分の父親はUBC大学のキリスト教神学の教授であり、生田先生をご招待して仏教について講演してほしい」とのお父様からの話を伝えられました。

そのようなご縁があって、UBCの神学の授業で講演をする事になりました。仏教の基本的な教義について話し、学生たちに好評でした。授業の終わりに、大学院生が「仏教は救いをどう理解しているのか、そもそも仏教には救いという概念があるのか」と質問されました。「キリスト教では、救いは私たちを罪から救う神

の恵みと見なされています」と彼は続けました。彼の声には敵意はなく、ただ仏教にそのような概念があるのかどうかを知りたいというのがあったのです。非常に内容的に深い質問でした。年に何度か高校生たちがお寺を尋ねることがありましたが、このように示唆に富んだ質問は今まであまりありませんでした。私は彼に「仏教では、救いとは私たちの無知からの解放です」と答えました。彼はなるほどと納得されていたので、内面私は少しほっとしました。釈迦牟尼仏は悟りを開いたことで、無知の苦しみから解放され、何世紀にもわたって世界の隅々に受け継がれてきた仏法の基礎を築きました。

2月4日には、2月の祥月法要とあわせて、涅槃会法要を勤めます。涅槃会法要は釈迦牟尼の入滅された日を記念するお参りです。紀元前543年頃、釈迦牟尼仏はクシナガラの沙羅樹林で、頭を北に向け、西を向き右側を下にして静かに横たわり、最後の

息を吸い、パリニルヴァーナとして知られる完全な悟りを開いたと言われています。

仏陀の入滅は、私たちが無常を語り、同時に仏陀が亡くなる前の最後の言葉を思い起こさせます。それは「肉体だけを見る者は、真の仏陀を見ない。仏法を受容する者だけが、真に仏陀を見る」という伝えです。この尊いご縁をいただき、ご一緒にお参りしましょう。お待ちしております。

南無阿彌陀仏

合掌、
生田真見

萌の会 郷 恵子



1月25日（木）に今年最初の萌の会が行われました。そして沢山の方がお見えになり、とても賑やかな萌の会を開催することが出来ました。まず去年の今頃、萌の会のメンバーの3人によりウクレレグループが結成されました。その御三方の伴奏に合わせて日本の歌を2曲合唱しました。更に1月にお誕生日をお迎えする方へバースデーソングを歌ってお祝いしました。本来ならば18日の木曜日に開催される予定でしたが大雪のため25日に延期されました。そして待ちに待った楽しい新年会の雰囲気、昼食会が行われたのでした。お一人様2ドルの毎月の会費を積み立てた資金でこの昼食会が行われていました。年初めに相応しいゲームとして、おかめとひょっとこ面の福笑いをしました。4人組のグループを作り6つに分かれ目隠しをした福笑いは、まるで福の神がやって来たかのように笑い声で盛り上がりしました。その後はリラックスして昼食会。竹屋さんの海苔巻き、唐揚げ、ボランティアさんのお惣菜、デザートなどお腹も気分も満たされたのでした。ボランティアさん有難うございました。そして何よりも、参加して下さいましたシニアの一人一人に感謝です。今年もより一層皆様と愉快地楽しい時間を過ごせることを願っておりますので、是非お友達をお誘いの上いらして下さいませ。来月は2月22日（木）午前10時からになります。来月もお待ちしております。



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Join the Sangha and spread the Dharma



Hoonko Service



January Shotsuki Service



Steveston Japan Day



January Moe No Kai

