



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 March 3rd 10:30am
Shotsuki Memorial Service
Monday March 4th 7:00 pm
SBT Board Meeting

Monday April 1st 7:00 pm
SBT Board Meeting
Sunday April 7th 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**

Contact: Hiroko Kawamoto
(604) 204-0219.

Spring Higan

Due to an unusually busy schedule, I am re-issuing an article I wrote in 2016 for the Spring Higan Equinox service. I hope you will be able to join us for the Higan service on March 17th at 10:30 am.

*I take refuge in the Tathagata of Immeasurable Life!
I entrust myself to the Buddha of Inconceivable Light!
(From Shiran Shonin's Shoshinge)*



As the calendar page shifts from February to March, we rejoice with the thought that spring is upon us once again. Soon the cherry blossoms will be in full bloom. Since the month of March is when we spring forward with Daylight Savings Time (DST) as well as when we celebrate the spring Higan service, I thought it would be appropriate to write this month's article on the subject of time.

As many of you may be familiar with, the Higan service is observed twice a year, once around the time of the Spring Equinox and the other around the time of the Fall Equinox. The following are a few facts about the Equinox and the DST that you may find interesting.

Did you know that the word Equinox is derived from the Latin *aequus* (equal) and *nox* (night), because at the equinox the night and day are equally long. The term equinox can also be used in a wider sense, as the date (day) that such a passage happens. It occurs twice a year once during spring and again in the fall. The equinox is the time of the year when the sun shines directly over the equator. However, due to our elliptical orbit, the equinox lags about six hours every year, hence the addition of the February 29th every four years to correct the lag in time, this year happens to be a Leap Year.

What's also very interesting is that the Earth's seasons are caused by the rotation axis of the Earth not being perpendicular to its orbital plane. This tilt is called the axial tilt. As a consequence, for half a year (from around March 20 to around September 22) the northern hemisphere tips toward the Sun, while for the other half year the southern hemisphere has this honor. The two instances when the Sun is directly overhead of the equator are the equinoxes.

That's enough about the equinox, what is even more interesting is the information I was able to find out about DST. It is said that the prominent English builder and outdoorsman William Willett conceived DST in 1905. During a pre-breakfast ride, Willett saw that many Londoners slept in during the summer. Being an avid golfer, it was said that he disliked cutting short his round at dusk. His solution was to advance the clock during the summer months, a proposal he published two years later. Who would have thought a golfer being responsible for our DST.

What is even crazier is that DST is largely politically motivated. For instance, it was 7 Eleven and another fast-food chain that started a coalition for lengthening the period DST as it would allow people longer time in the afternoon to shop at their stores. This is why the spring DST was moved forward from April to now the beginning of March.

Also, what's really kooky about the DST issue is that it is not standardized in any fashion. In Canada alone, we have the province of Saskatchewan which does not use it, as well parts of BC, a small village in Ontario, and the Eastern tip of Quebec also does not use it.

So why am I writing about the equinox and the DST? It is to show that time is all relative. In Buddhism we have different measurements of time, the shortest being a *Ksana* or *Setsuna* in Japanese and this is translated as an instant (actual measurements are 1/75th of a second) and a *Kalpa* which is an infinitely long period. <continued on P2.>

HANAMATSURI 2024

Please come and join us for The Hanamatsuri Weekend, celebrating the birth of the baby Buddha, on the weekend of April 13th and 14th. Come join us on this important event.



We are honored to have as our guest, retired minister, Rev. James Martin formerly from the Calgary Buddhist Temple. Please join us for the weekend of events.

Saturday, April 13th

3:00 pm Lecture by James Martin Sensei
5:00 pm Potluck Dinner with Martin Sensei.

Sunday, April 14th

10:00 am Dharma School Service
10:30 am Hanamatsuri Service
12:00 noon Hanamatsuri Luncheon

Come meet James Sensei at our potluck dinner on Saturday, April 13th at 5:00 pm. The food will be delicious as usual. In addition, it's an opportunity to meet and talk with James Sensei in an informal setting. There will be a sign up sheet in the kitchen so please come out and give the Sensei James a warm SBT welcome.



FUJINKAI NEWS

Hiroko Yoshihara

Dana Day service was held on Sunday, February 18. Misaye Hamaura was the chairperson. June Ikuta gave words of appreciation. The funds raised will be directed to social welfare. The organization will be determined soon. Thank you to everyone who left donations.

The ladies will be getting together to make mochi manju and karinto so there will be chatter in the kitchen every month or so.

With spring season coming, outdoor garage sales will be held, along with a "Japanese items only sale" so if you have any unwanted items, please put them aside for us.

Japanese grocery items are always available in the temple kitchen. A list will be posted on the bulletin board along with a page for anyone to write down any suggestions.

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.

<SENSEI from P.1>

In The True Teaching, Practice, and Realization of the Pure Land Way, Shinran Shonin writes in the chapter on the True Shinjin of the Pure Land Way,

"The passage on the Vow's fulfillment that reveals the Shinjin of the Primal Vow states: All sentient beings, as they hear the Name, realize even one thought moment of Shinjin and joy."

The "one thought moment of Shinjin and joy" referred to in this passage is the instant (Ichinen) that we entrust ourselves to the infinite working of Amida Buddha as is described in the opening passage of this article from the "Shoshinge". In that moment when we take refuge in the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Light, both the present and infinite come together within us.

Just as in the moment when the cherry blossoms begin to bloom, in that instance is the beauty of the whole Universe, it is the same in the moment when we put our hands together in gassho, in that moment we are truly one with Amida. I hope during this Higan period, you will think upon this and truly awaken to the infinite which is not separated from us.

In Gassho,
Grant Ikuta

Moe No Kai

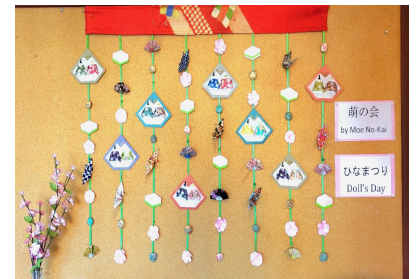
Keiko Go

The days are getting longer, and the cute white snowdrops in full bloom in temple backyard now. Before know it, adorable peach flowers start to bloom here and there. We about 20 seniors on Feb. 22nd for No-Kai. Since March 3rd Doll's is coming soon, we made pretty Hina doll hanging decoration with Japanese chiyopapers. It looks a lot prettier than we expected and it makes us feel as if spring has arrived in the temple corridor already. Ohinasama and Odairisama (Lord and Princess) were folded by seniors and the rest were folded by our volunteers. If you have a chance to come to the temple, please take a look at what our seniors made. Moe No-Kai is usually held on the 3rd Thursday of the month. We sing, play games and make crafts and towards the end of the morning, we usually have teatime to chat with others. Our next Moe No-Kai will be held on Thursday, March 21st at 10am. Please bring a toonie (\$2) to join us.

We are always welcoming new seniors at Moe No-Kai. See you soon.



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OBITUARY

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

Mr. Susumu Tabata

February 5, 2024

98 Years Old

Daffodils in March

Here we are days into the month of March, the third month according to the Gregorian calendar. March reminds us of the beautiful daffodils that sprout their yellow and orange flowers. (Some years they may be delayed depending on the winter weather). How many recall the daffodils that beautified the south fence of the temple property? it grew profoundly under the trees and could be seen in its full splendour as one walked along the park walkway. And, I can still visualise Hiroko Yoshihara and Jeanne Ryan cutting the stems for the Hanamatsuri services and being locked out as the gates were closed. These daffodil bulbs were donated by the Fraser Valley temple. Do you miss them? I surely do. Where did the bulbs go when Wisteria was built?

Daffodil is the birth flower of March. As early as February, I saw the tight buds beginning to form in the fields and under the trees; it is the symbol of renewal and joy as they herald in the season of Spring. The bright yellow and orange colours recall sunshine and warmth and are a cheerful reminder that the winter months are coming to an end. Optimistically, the daffodil is considered a powerful symbol of hope, courage and fortune. And, it is also a reminder of humility as the blooms hang facing downwards. For this



reason, I think it is appropriate that each of us presents these flowers to the statue of the baby Buddha along with the warm tea that we pour on the statue. Indeed the daffodil is symbolic of Hanamatsuri which is held in April. It gives us the assurance of hope, happiness, love and humility.

Let me share with you the first and fourth (last) verses of the poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" (also commonly known as Daffodils) written by the famous English poet, William Wordsworth. These words imply an inherent unity and oneness between nature and man and teach us to be grateful and humble as we take pride in our simplicity. Be happy just the way you are. I think these words say it all!

"I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

...
For oft, when on the couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils."

Please attach the photo of the daffodils which will be sent separately.

In Gassho,
Roy Akune

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	

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

Akizuki, Kinuyo	Hikida, Tatsuo	Kishiuchi, Michio	Nakamura, Miyuki	Sakai, Ei	Ueyama, Tokue
Atagi, Kazuko	Ikari, Senichi Roy	Kishiuchi, Yoshiko	Nakanishi, Harue	Sakai, Terry Teruo	Yamada, Shizuyo
Atode, Yasutaro	Ikari, Tsuru	Kitade, Sute	Nakatani, Sam	Sakamoto, Hirotaka	Yamaguchi, Junshiro
Ayukawa, Margaret	Rev. Ikuta, Kyojo	Kitagawa, Michiko	Nakatsu, Tsunenobu	Sameshima, Margaret	Yamaguchi, Nobuye
Etori, Chiyo	Ito, Tamotsu	Kondo, Fujikazu	Narukami, Teruo	Sameshima, Merry	Yamashita, Harry
Fukakusa, Akio	Iwata, Genevieve	Koyanagi, Mutsuo	Nishi, Misako	Minori	Yamashita, Heijiro
Hama, Kenzo	Kakino, Chiyoko	Maeda, Toshimatsu	Nishi, Nancy	Shiyoji, Koito	Yesaki, Sunae
Hamada, Chiyoko	Kariya, Ayako	Matsumura, Matsuo	Nishi, Shigeo	Shoji, Matsue	Yokota, Ayako
Hamade, Tokuno	Kariya, Chiyoko	Matsuo, Kametaro	Nogami, Miekio	Suzuki, Richard	Yokota, Shige
Hamanishi, Shinjiro	Kariya, Isamu	Miyazaki, Susie Shi-zuko	Ohara, Masao	Tanaka, Eddy	Yoshida, Mitsuo
Hamano, Kiyoshi	Kariya, Sadasuke	Mori, Kahoru	Oikawa, Hisashi	Tani, Seikichi	
Hashimoto, Shizue	Kariya, Yonekazu	Morizawa, Choichiro	Okano, Tokiko	Tezuka, Michihiko	
Haya, Yoshimatsu	Kawasaki, Takeo	Murao, Mon	Oura, Chiye	Tsukijima, Shigeko	
Hikita, Takeo	Kimura, Yoshio		Oye, Yasuo	Urata, Minoru	

STEVESTON BUDDHIST TEMPLE MINISTER'S OFFICE

2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

From 2023, the temple has started to return to pre-pandemic activities, and we are seeing more people attending the various temple functions. The following are some of the activities that took place at our temple following the AGM in February 2023.

April 2023 was quite a month. We had plans for a spring concert by the Shamisen duo Kiki and Taiko drummer Keita Kanazashi. The concert was scheduled for April 13th and was immediately followed by our Hanamatsuri weekend on the 15th and 16th. Our guest was Rev. Satoshi Tomioka. Unfortunately, I contracted Covid and began feeling unwell on the day of the concert. Not only was I unable to enjoy the concert, I missed Hanamatsuri all

together. On top of all that, our temple was scheduled to host the 2023 JSBTC AGM from April 20th to the 23rd. I was unable to participate with the AGM as well. My sincere appreciation to Roy Akune Sensei and to all those who pitched in to make the Hanamatsuri as well as the National AGM a success, despite my absence.

In May, I participated in the Manning Park Retreat. It was the first one since the Pandemic. There were close to sixty people who came out for the Victoria Day Long Weekend. I had previously participated in the Retreat about 10 years ago. It was amazing to see how some of the youth that had participated ten years ago are now responsible adults who helped organize many of the events during the weekend.

July was another busy month with a successful Obon on the July 15th and 16th weekend. On the Saturday morning, we held the Obon Nokotsudo service, honoring the members whose remains are in our Nokotsudo. About 60 people attended that service. In the afternoon, the Bon Odori festival was held with roughly 400 people in attendance. The Sunday Hatsubon and Obon service was well attended

DONATIONS & Memberships

The Steveston Buddhist Temple sincerely appreciates and thanks the following for their generous donations: All donations deposited after February 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 (\$3,110): Anzai Doug, Anzai June, Chow Nobu & Suezone, Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple, Guy R&G, Hirose Mary, Ikuta Kuni & June, Ikuta Teruko, Katai Ed & Teruko, Kotani Nancy, Kurita Yoshie, Lee Herbert, Oda Jennifer, Ozla Devina, Ryan Larry & Jeanne, Saiki Fusaye, Sakamoto Bud, Tabata Sumiko, Watanabe Keiko, Yoshihara Ken & Hiroko, Anonymous (3)

Dharma service: Akune Roy & Itoko

Naijin Flowers: Nishi Kayoko

Shotsuki service (\$3,615):

February: Akizuki Casey & Ayako, Akizuki Eiko, Akizuki Gary & Gloria, Akizuki Russ, Akune Aaron & Vicky, Akune Roy & Itoko, Akune Ted & Rose, Baumann Elaine & Paul, Challoner Bernice, Doi Louise, Erickson Leanne, Flynn Bob & Sharon, Grant Peter & Wendy, Hamade Naomi, Hamanishi Betty, Hamaura Dean, Hamaura Misaye, Higo Hiromi, Higo Kay & Kelvin, Hokazono Kenji & Gloria, Hori Glenn & Gail, Izumi Basil & Etsuko, Kamachi Sumiko, Kariya Florence, Karia Victor, Kawabata Jack, Kemp Norine, Kimura Sueko, Kishi Leane, Kokubo Christine, Domori Dick & Setsuko, Kumagai Tetsuo & Noriko, Maeda Stacey, Mayede Connie & Don, Morishita Linda, Morizawa Paul, Morizawa Sazare, Murao Dick, Murao Ray, Nakanishi Mike & Frances, Nakano Alison, Niguma Kazuko, Nishi Albert, Nishi Chizuko, Nishi Joe, Nishi Kayoko, Nomura Dan & Colleen, Nomura Mark & Chris, Nomura Rejto Cathy, Ohara Nobuyue, Oye Hanako, Phillips Kim, Ryan Larry & Jeanne, Saito Tokiko, Sakai Alan & Carol, Sakai Tomiko, Sakamoto Bud, Sakiyama Butch & Marilyn, Satosono Sam & Aya, Takasaki Alan, Takasaki Sonoko, Tanaka Mel, Tasaka Chuck, Tasaka Janice, Tasaka Cheryl, Tasaka Joyce, Tasaka Kaz & Chic, Tasaka Randy & Joyce, Tasaka Rick & Naomi, Tasaka Susan, Yamamoto Kevin, Yamanaka Sachiyo, Yasui A., Yasui Fukushima, Yesaki Arthur, Yesaki Mae, Yesaki Mitsuo, Yesaki Tom, Yoshihara Ken & Hiroko

January: Kawabata Jack, Takeuchi Joanne

Major services (\$1,375):

Nehan-e (Nirvana): Akune Roy & Itoko, Hamaura Masako, Ikuta Denise, Ikuta Kevin & Karen, Ikuta Kuni & June, Kakehi Tomoko, Morizawa Sazare, Nishi Chizuko, Nishi Kayoko, Nitta Ayako, Oye Hanako, Sameshima Yoshiko, Whittier Maya,

Hoonko: Akune Roy & Itoko, Akune Ted & Rose, Araki Linda, Chow Nobu & Suezone, Hamaura Masako, Hamaura Misaye, Hashimoto Junichi & Atsumi, Hirose Mary, Kawabata Mitsuyo, Ikuta Denise, Ikuta Kevin & Karen, Ikuta Kuni & June, Ikuta Teruko, Kakehi Tomoko, Kondo Kaoru, Mizushima Tatsutoki & Karen, Morizawa Sazare, Murakami Lori, Niguma Kazuko, Nishi Chizuko, Nishi Kayoko, Nitta Ayako, Oye Hanako, Ryan Larry & Jeanne, Sakai Tomiko, Tani Kiyoshi & Mutsumi, Whittier Maya, Yoshihara Ken & Hiroko, Anonymous

Funerals & Memorial services (\$5,328): In memory of the late:

Emiko Tanaka: Tanaka M., Esson Karen, Higo Kelvin, Kawabata Mitsuyo, Morimoto Glenn & Marilyn, Murao Ray, Nitta Ayako, Nitta Michele, Okabe Mary, Oshiro Pat & May, Oye Hanako, Sameshima Raymond & Famey, Sameshima Yoshiko, Tubajon Paul & Julie, Anonymous

Haruye Hori: Hori Glenn & Gail, Nishi Kayoko, Oye Hanako, Sameshima Yoshiko

C. Uyeno: Uyeno Diana & Family, Ikuta Kuni & June, Akune Roy & Itoko

U. MacPherson: Kawabata Jack, Quan Toshiko

Terry Wu: Yamamoto Mami

Chiyoko Morizawa: Kondo Kaoru, Tabata Sumiko

Masato Araki: Araki Maya

Carole & Kiyomi Yamamoto: Kawasaki Kenneth

1st year memorial of Beloved Mom & Obaachan

Toyoko Maede: Maede Judith, Sangelo Diane, Michael & Christopher

1st year memorial service of Jack Harada: Ikuta Kuni & June, Kakehi Tomoko

2nd year memorial of Mother Shizuko Nishi:

Akune Roy & Itoko

3rd year memorial service

of Takako Suga: Mehl

Rainer, Bucci Rie, Harrop

Kaoru, Harvey Junko,

Jaques Mizue, Madey

Michael, Miura Renako,

Ohfu-kai, Poppell Chigusa,

Sakuta Midori, Takayama

Kimiko, Watanabe Naoko,

Takarajima, Anonymous

6th year memorial of husband

& brother-in-law Yoshiro Doc

Tomihoro: Kazuko Tomihoro,

Koyanagi Susie



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.

with Rev. Orai Fujikawa joining us as our guest minister. The temple golf tournament was also back at the end of July and things were starting to feel more normal again. There were 84 golfers who participated in 2023.

Once again, one of the high points of the year was the 2023 Vancouver Island Obon Cemetery Visitation. We rented a 12 seater van for the 2023 visitation and spent 4 days enjoying some sightseeing as well as finding great meaning from the cemetery visitations. We had originally planned on going to Ucluelet, but due to the road closure of Highway 4, we had to change our plans and reschedule the itinerary. Fortunately, we were able to visit some places that we would probably otherwise never have visited.

In September, the BCJSBTF Convention was hosted by the Vernon Buddhist temple, with Rev. James Martin being the guest minister. Though the numbers were small, we were able to enjoy a weekend sharing the Buddha Dharma. We rented the same 12 seater van that we went to the Vancouver Island tour with and a group of us from the coast enjoyed the trip to the Okanagan Valley.

A new fundraising event that was tried in November was the drive through Chow mein sales. As a first-time event, it went very well and we are now in the planning stages of holding another sale in the spring of this year.

We ended the year off in December with the Bodhi Day service followed by an enjoyable fellowship during the Bonenkai year end party. The Bonenkai party was celebrated together with the 60th Anniversary of the present temple on Garry St. It was in December 1963 that the present temple was opened at our present location.

Turning the calendar to the year 2024, in January we held our annual Hoonko Service this year without a guest minister. Unfortunately, the weather was not cooperating, and it was a cold and snowy time which affected the attendance. Also in January, we held the "Japan Night in Steveston" sponsored together with the Japanese Consulate General's Office in Vancouver and the Japan Foundation. We had live entertainment by Norinori and Komori followed by the movie presentation of "Ora, ora de Hitori Igumo". Even though we had a winter blizzard come through just as we were about to begin the evening's activities, we were happy to have about 80 people brave the weather and came out to join us for the evening.

Other activities throughout the year that have occurred at our temple include numerous funerals, the "Moye no kai" Seniors' Drop in, Seiza meditation on Thursday evenings, Lectures on Tuesday evenings, Fujinkai Garage Sales and chanting on Friday mornings.

In conclusion, may I again thank all of you for your continued participation, and I look forward to continuing sharing the Nembutsu teaching together.

In Gassho,
Grant Ikuta, Minister
Steveston Buddhist Temple

2024 Bishop's Report by Rev. Tatsuya Aoki

I would like to express my most sincere appreciation to all the Jodo Shinshu Temples of Canada (JSBTC), ministers, national board of directors, and all temples and members for keeping our organization active and accessible. All the ministers and national board of directors across Canada are working tirelessly for the sake of our temples, for all the members, and for the community at large.

When we attend temple services, we have short meditation, chanting, and a Dharma talk. While we are meditating, we are exercising "self-reflection." Knowing ourselves is a constant and lifelong process, for we are also constantly changing. Most often we feel that we are pretty much the same as we were yesterday. However, in Buddhism, we are taught that this is not so. I've often asked people to consider looking at our lives in five-year increments. We are different at 5 than we are at 10, 15 or 20. And if we are fortunate, we will be very different at 60 or 80. It is not just physically that we grow and change, but also our knowledge and experience, and our awareness of what is of value. They will also change and grow. As I reflect on the JSBTC, there are some changes I would like to share. This year's JSBTC AGM will be held on Saturday, April 27. Only Senseis and the national board of directors will meet in Lethbridge, and the rest of delegate will join the meeting on Zoom.

Ministers and JSBTC

Ministerial Well-Being:

Some ministers are serving two or more temples in Canada. Post-Covid concerns continue to add to the workload of all of our ministers; preparing Dharma Talks, attending numerous in-person and zoom meetings, and conducting funerals and memorial services. I have been working with the national board on addressing the matter of the physical and mental health of our ministers before it becomes a very real concern. Please continue to be understanding and mindful to your Senseis.

(1) Rev. Yasuo Izumi in Lethbridge retired as of October 31, 2023. I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to Rev. Izumi for 51 years of his dedicated service in Canada.

(2) Rev. Dr. Roland Ikuta in Lethbridge has become the resident Kaikyoshi minister for Buddhist Temples of Southern Alberta as of November 1, 2023.

(3) Rev. Yoshimichi Ouchi in Toronto has resigned from JSBTC and eastern district as of January 31, 2024. He will return to Japan on February 25, 2024.

(4) Rev. Kensho Hashimoto in Japan will come to Toronto on April 1, 2024, and will become a resident minister for the eastern district. Rev. Hashimoto is graduating from Ryukoku University's Master's program in March 2023.

* Senior Kaikyoshi ministers in Canada will be asked help train Rev. Hashimoto until he is familiarized with ministerial duties in Canada. Your understanding and support are very much appreciated.

(5) Rev. Joanne Yuasa received Kyoshi certification in May 2023. She also successfully completed Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) officers' training in December 2023 and is working as a CAF Buddhist chaplain in CFB Kingston as of January 2024. She is the first Buddhist chaplain in the CAF.

<Continued on P6>

(6) Ministers' Retirement Supplementary fund is currently benefitting Rev. Fujikawa, Rev. Izumi, Rev. Ulrich, Rev. Martin and the family of Rev. Michael Hayashi. On behalf of all the ministers, your ongoing support to the fund is greatly appreciated.

Hongwanji Young Buddhist Cultural Study Exchange (YBICSE) [a.k.a Japan Youth Tour]

2024: July 4-9 YBICSE (Canada group will depart on June 23 and return on July 10)

Chaperone: Rev. Naoki Hirano (BC Interior temples)

*Application and proposed travel itinerary will be available in March



2024年度年次総会 開教使報告

2023年によりやくコロナパンデミック以前と同じような様々な活動をお寺で再開できました。お寺の行事に参加する方も徐々に増えてきました。以下は、2023年2月の年次総会後に当寺で行われた活動の一部です。

2023年4月はとても忙しい月でした。4月13日に日本から来られた和楽器バンドのコンサートが予定されており、その直後に15日と16日に花祭りの週末が開催されました。ご講師はハワイ教団の富岡聡開教使でした。残念ながら、私はコロナに感染し、コンサート当日に体調を崩し、コンサートを楽しめなかっただけでなく、花祭りも勤めることができませんでした。また、4月20日から23日の間、カナダ開教区の年次総会がここのお寺で行われ、それにも参加できませんでした。阿久根ロイ先生をはじめ、私が病気で参加できなかった間に花祭りと教団年次総会開催のために協力してくだされた、皆様に心から感謝しています。

5月には、マニング・パーク・リトリートに参加しました。ヴィクトリア・デー・ロング・ウィークエンドに約60人がマニング・パークで集まりました。10年ほど前に参加したことがありましたが、その当時に参加した若者の何人かが、今では責任ある大人になり、週末の多くのイベントを手伝っている姿はとてもうれしい光景でした。

七月には15日と16日の週末に盆踊りとお盆法要を開催されました。土曜日の朝には、納骨堂に遺骨を納められている方々を追悼するお参りには約60名が参加しました。午後には盆踊りが開催され、約400人が来場し、にぎやかなお祭りになりました。日曜日の初盆とお盆法要には、不二川往来引退開教使をご講師としてお招き。7月末にはお寺主催のゴルフトーナメントも再開され84名のゴルファーが参加されました。

2023年のバンクーバーアイランドお盆ツアーも無事に八月に行われました。今回の旅は12人乗りのバンを借りて、4日間かけて観光と墓地参拝を行いました。

9月には、バーノン仏教会が主催したBC州門信徒大会が開催。仏法を分かち合う週末を楽しむことができました。

11月に新しい募金イベントとして、スティーブストン仏教会Chow Meinの販売をドライブスルーという形で行いました。初めてのイベントということもあり、非常に好評で、今年の春にまた販売を開催する計画を立てています。

12月の成道会法要で一年を締めくくり、お参りの後に忘年会を行いました。

今年に入って、一月に報恩講法要を勤修いたしました。同月には、在バンクーバー日本国総領事館、共同で「Japan Night in Steveston」を開催しました。ローカルのアーティストによるコンサートの後に続いて、「オラ、オラでひとりいぐも」の映画上映会が行われました。当日はイベントが始まる直前に冬の吹雪に見舞われましたが、約80名の方々が天候をものともせず、イベントに参加してくださったことを嬉しく思います。

最後になりますが、皆様のご参加に改めて感謝申し上げますとともに、引き続き念仏の教えを共に分かち合っていきたいと思ひます。

合掌、
生田グラント



法のともしび



最近いつもより忙しい日々が重なり今月の記事を2016年の春の彼岸会について載せた記事を再度載せさせていただきます。

春の彼岸会

一月と二月はあっという間に過ぎて、気が付いたらもう三月になっています。

三月と言えば、お彼岸の季節です。三月と九月、年に二回春分と

秋分に行われるお彼岸の法要はこの世の迷いの此岸に対して涅槃の境地の彼岸を指します。浄土真宗では彼岸会を讃佛会とも申します。参拝される方々が御仏を褒め称えらるという意味で讃佛会と称されています。仏を褒め称えることも大事ですが、それと同じぐらいに大切なのは、お聴聞することです。そして、春分と秋分の季節では丁度昼と夜の長さが同じで、お聴聞するのに非常にいい季節だと言われています。

又、彼岸会は日本仏教独特の法要であり聖徳太子が仏教を日本に紹介した、六世紀ごろに勤め始めたといわれています。日本では彼岸は一週間勤められます。春の彼岸は三月十八日から二十四日までの間、秋は九月二十日から二十六日の期間です。いずれも四日目が中心の日になります。

大乘仏教ではこの間、六波羅蜜の修行を強調します。波羅蜜とはサンスクリット語のParamitaと言う原語の音写でありParamitaはparamとitaの熟語です。paramは彼岸という意味を持ち、itaは到るという意味を持っています。ですから六波羅蜜とは涅槃の境地の彼岸まで到り届けてくれる六つの修行と言うこととなります。その波羅蜜とはDana (布施)、Sila (戒律)、Ksyanti (忍辱)、Virya (毘梨耶)、Dhyana (禅那)、prajna(般若)の六つです。一般にはこの六つの菩薩行を勤めればお浄土に参らせていただけると解釈されていますが、親鸞聖人の教えでは、この六つの修行さえも勤められない自分は阿弥陀様の働きによってお浄土に参らせていただけ他には方法がないと説いておられます。

彼岸会を大切に皆様も是非お聴聞するようにお願い申し上げます。

合掌
生田真見

萌の会 郷 恵子



日も長くなり、現在お寺の庭先には可憐なスノードロップスの花が満開です。もうしばらくすると3月3日の桃の節句で、その頃には愛らしい桃の花がちらほら咲き出すことでしょう。2月22日に行われた萌の会には20名ほどのシニアの方がお見えに

なりました。今回はひな祭りが近いので可愛いつるし雛を千代紙で作りました。思ったより見事な出来具合でお寺のホールに春が一気に訪れた感じです。お雛さまとお内裏さまをシニアの方が、その他のお飾りはボランティアさんに折ってもらいました。お寺にお見えの際は是非この可愛いつるし雛をご覧になって下さいませ。萌の会は毎月第3木曜日の午前10時から行われています。ドロップインでシニアの方でしたらどなたでも2ドルで参加できます。その月のお誕生日の方にバースデーソングを歌ってお祝いしたり、クラフトやゲームを楽しんだり、その後皆さんとお茶菓子を頂き過ぎます。今月はお誕生日の方から日本のカステラを差し入れに頂戴し、皆さんと美味しく頂きました。楽しいお時間を是非皆さんと一緒に過ごしましょう。次回は3月21日午前10時からになります。3月にお会いする頃はきっと春めいていることでしょう。楽しみにお待ちしております。



婦人会からのお知らせ 吉原ヒロコ



ダーナデー法要が2月18日(日)にありました。浜浦みさえさんが司会をし、生田ジュンさんが謝辞を述べました。集められた浄財は社会福祉に使われますが、どの団体に寄付をするかは後ほど決めます。寄付をされた方々に感謝いたします。

今後、毎月キッチンでおしゃべりをしながらご婦人方がお饅頭やカリントウを作る事でしょう。作るのにご興味のある方は吉原ヒロコさんにお電話して日にちを聞いて下さい(604-277-6521)。普通は、祥月法要の日曜日に売りますので、その前の金曜日に作ります。さらに、春にはまた外でガレージセールを行います。今度は日本の物だけを売りますので、ご不要の日本の物がありましたらそれまで取っておいてください。

日本の食品はお寺のキッチンで1年中売っています。日本食のリストを掲示板に貼っておきますのでご覧下さい。また、別の用紙も貼っておきますので、他の日本食とか何でも結構ですので、ご要望がありましたらどうぞご自由に書き込んでください。

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。

田端 進

2024年2月5日寂

98歳



STEVESTON Buddhist Temple

4360 Garry Street
Richmond BC. V7E 2V2
Tel: (604) 277-2323
Fax: (604) 277-0313
info@steveston-temple.ca
www.steveston-temple.ca

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February Moe No Kai

